repoort, and if it be so bat he passe bere as he wolde vmbicast and make his turne, and his lymer bifore hym, than he shuld loke if it were be same hert pat he had vmbicast, and if he may not wel see at his ease pan he shuld discouere pe contre in to pe tyme pat he may see at his eese att fulle and pane his lymer opyn nouzt. And if his lymer be dislane1 lat hym vesteye it wip his eye, And if be so pat it be his first hert he shuld not folowe hym but ban he shuld take anober turne and vmbicast, but he must loke pat he take not pe long of pe waies for it is be werst sweing bt is, for the lymer ouersheteb comonly, but he shuld go a litel out of pe way on pat oon side in to the tyme pat pe be with inne his turne for pan is he moost sikerli harboured and his suyt shal be shorter, but if he se pat it be to late for to renne to hym with strength, And if he se pat pe hert goo but soft pesyng toward his strength hym nedib not to do alle pies pinges, and I drede hym where he hathe mette with be hert or harborowid hym within strength or in copeys or in ober strengthes, bt he take al his blenches2 and his ruses biforesaid for to be moor siker, and for to make short suet if he hab tyme for to do as I haue saide. Thus haue I rehersid be redynesse bat longen to be herbouryng of be hert.3 And now wil I deuyse how men may best witte where to fynde hym in belewyng tyme for it is wete pat pei begynne to belowe at xv. daies or grece tyme4 end namely olde aeer, And also if he ende of August and he begynnyng of Septembre be wete and rayny.

ing, and make his report, and if it be so that he pass there where he would cast round and make his turn, and his lymer before him, then he should look if it is the same hart he hath cast round, and if he cannot well see at his ease, then he should reconnoitre the country till he can see easily and plainly, but have a care that his lymer open not, and if his lymer is wild, let him investigate it with his eye. And if he sees that it is his first hart he should not follow him, but then he should take another turn and cast round. He must look that he go not along the ways, for it is the worst sueing that is: for the lymer commonly overshoots. But he should go a little way off the paths on one side or the other, till the hart is within his turn, for then he is more securely harboured and the search shall be shorter. But if he see that it is too late to run him with strength, and if he sees that the hart goes but softly pacing towards his stronghold he need not do all these things. And I pray him where he hath met with the hart, or harboured him in his stronghold or in coppices or in other thickets, that he take all his blenches2 and his ruses before said, to be more secure, and to make a shorter search, if he hath time to do as I have said. Thus I have rehearsed the readiness that belongs to the harbouring of the hart.8 And now will I devise where men will best find them in bellowing time. It is known that they begin to bellow fifteen days before grease time4 ends, especially old deer, and also if the end of August and the beginning of September be wet and rainy.

² Tricks. See Appendix: Blenches.

⁴ After grease time. See Appendix: Grease Time.

¹ Shirley MS. Dislavee—obsolete word meaning going beyond bounds, immoderate.

³ G. de F. adds here: "from the time that they take to covert and that men hunt the hart which is from Easter to the end of August, for when they go to rut men should not quest for them as one does in the season" (p. 146).