CAP" XXXII.—HOW A GOOD HUNTER SHULD GO IN QUEST FOR TO HERE ÞE HERTIS BELOWE

Also a good hunter shuld go bifore be day for to here pe hertis belowe pe which bi auenture belowyn in be forest in dyuers parties, and to loke as bi be belowyng of hertis be which semeb hym be grettest hert, and alway herkenyng nere and nere vndir be wynde, in soch a wise þat whan he wil begynne to sew pat hym nede no thyng but to brynge pe lymer to be fues, And a noon whan he seeth bat it is an hert pat he fyndep of, vncouple pe fynders but not many, And pis for bicause of fallyng in daungere shuld be do wel erely, and sone as men myght knowe be briggt day, for in bt tyme be hertys chasyn be hyndes and goon hider and pider and abiden no while in oo place as bei don in right seson. And bicause pat a man may not neghe hem with the lymer, it is good for to vncouple pe houndes, for pe houndes shuld go nygh hem anoon, and þe bold houndes shal anon nigh them quicker and the bolder hounds will disseuere pe hertis from the hyndes. The hertes belowyn in diuers maners, after þat þei byn olde or yong and after pt pei byn in contre pat pei haue not herd be houndes, or bat som of hem have herd hem, som belowyn wip a fulle open mouthe and oftyn casten her hedis vpward, and pise done pei pe whiche haue herd pe houndes but a litel in sesoun tyme, and bat byn wel achaufide, and swelle, And 3it somtyme about hie prime oiber moor bei belowyn as bifore is said. Thies oper belowen lowe and gret stoupyng wib pe hede and pe mosell toward pe erpe, and pat is a tokyn of a grete hert and an olde and malicious, or pat he hap herd pe houndes and perfore he dare not belowe and ne but fewe tymes in be day but if it be in be dawnyng. And be ober belowyn with a ryght mosel bifore hem in bolkyng and rotelyng wibin be brote, and also bt is tokyn of a gret hert and an old pat is assuryde and wel fermyd in his rutte, shortly al hertis pat grettest and myghtiest belowyn by resoun shuld be grettest and oldest.

CHAP. 32.—HOW A GOOD HUNTER SHALL GO IN QUEST TO HEAR THE HARTS BELLOW

Also a good hunter should go before daybreak to hear the harts bellow which peradventure bellow in the forest in divers parts, and to look by the bellowing of the harts which seemeth to him the greatest. And always hearkening nearer and nearer under the wind, in such wise that when he will begin to sue, that he need nothing but to bring the lymer to the fues. And anon when he sees that it is a hart that he findeth, uncouple the finders, but not too many, and this for fear of falling in danger (of losing the right deer) and should be done right early as soon as men can see daylight, for in that time the harts chase the hinds, and go hither and thither and abide no while in one place as they do in the right season. And because a man cannot come nigh him with a lymer, it is good to uncouple the hounds, for the hounds will get soon separate the harts from the hinds. The harts bellow in divers manners, according as they be old or young, and according whether they be in a country where they have not heard the hounds, or where they have heard them. Some of them bellow with a full open mouth and often cast up their heads. And these be those that have heard the hounds only a little in the season, and that are well heated and swelled. And sometimes about high noon they bellow as before is said. The others bellow low and great and stooping with the head, and the muzzle towards the earth, and that is a token of a great hart, and an old and a cunning, or that he hath heard the hounds, and therefore dare not bellow or only a few times in the day, unless if it be in the dawning. And the other belloweth with his muzzle straight out before him, bolking and rattling in the throat, and also that is a token of a great and old hart that is assured and firm in his rut. In short all the harts that bellow greatest and mightiest by reason should be greatest and oldest.

