CAP. XXXIII.—HOW PE ASSEMBLE PAT MEN CLEPEN GADERYNG SHULD BE MAKYD BOTH WYNTER AND SOMYRE AFTIR ÞE GISE OF BIYONDE DE SEE

alle and at nyghest of her questes, And be place pat alle men and houndes for be huntyng gadren hem pider for pei that goon in pe quest shuld alle come azen in a certayn place pt I haue spoke of, and also þei þt partyn from home, and alle þe officers pat parten from home, shuld bryng pider al pat hem neden ouerychon in his office wel and plenteuously, and shuld lay be towailes and boordclothes al about vpon be grene gras, and sette diuers metis vpon a grete plater2 after be lordis pouere, and some shuld ete sittyng and some standynge some lenyng vpon her elbowes, some shuld drynk and some laugh, some jangle, some borde, som play and shortly do alle manere disportis of gladnesse. And whan men shuld be sette at tables or bei ete ban shuld come be lynmers and her gromes wip the lymers, be whiche han be in pe quest and eurychon shal say his report to pe lord of bat bei han don, and yfounde, and lay be fumes bifore pe lord, he pat hap eny founde and pan pe hem alle shall chese to be whiche bei wil mene and renne to, and which shalle be pe grettest hert and hiest deer, And whan bei shul haue ete be lord shal deuyse where be relaies shal go and ober bing whiche y shal say more playnly, and ban euery mane spede hym to his place, And bei also hast hem pat shullen go to be fyndeng.

CHAP. 33.—HOW THE ASSEMBLY THAT MEN CALL GATHERING SHOULD BE MADE BOTH WINTER AND SUMMER AFTER THE GUISE OF BEYOND THE SEA

The assemble pat men clepyn gaderyng shuld be The assembly that men call gathering should be makyd in þis manere. The nyght bifore þat þe made in this manner: the night before that the Lord lord or the maystir of be game wil go to wode he or the Master of the Game will go to the wood, he must make come bifore hym alle be hunters her must cause to come before him all the hunters and helpes the gromes and be pages and shuld the helps, the grooms and the pages, and shall assign assigne to euerych one of hem her questes in a to each one of them their quests in a certain place, certayn place, and soner be oon fro be other, and and separate the one from the other, and the one be oon shuld not come vpon be quest of bat ober should not come into the quest of the other, nor ne do hym non noyaunce ne lett.¹ And euerichon do him annoyance or hinder him.¹ And every one shuld quest in her best wise in be maner bat I should quest in his best wise, in the manner that haue said, and shuld assigne hem be place where I have said; and should assign them the place be gaderyng shuld be makyd at moost eese of hem where the gathering shall be made, at most ease for them all, and the nearest to their quests. And where be gaderyng shuld be makyd in a faire mede the place where the gathering shall be made should wel grene where faire trees welex alle about be on be in a fair mead well green, where fair trees grow for from pat oper and a clere wel or some rennyng all about, the one far from the other, and a clear breke besides. And it is clepid gaderyng bicause well or beside some running brook. And it is called gathering because all the men and the hounds for hunting gather thither, for all they that go to the quest should all come again in a certain place that I have spoken of. And also they that come from home, and all the officers that come from home should bring thither all that they need, every one in his office, well and plenteously, and should lay the towels and board clothes all about upon the green grass, and set divers meats upon a great platter<sup>2</sup> after the lord's power. And some should eat sitting, and some standing, and some leaning upon their elbows, some should drink, some laugh, some jangle, some joke and some play-in short do all manner of disports of gladness, and when men be set at tables ere they eat then should come the lymerers and their grooms with their lymers the which have been questing, and every one shall say his report to the lord of what they have done and found and lay the fumes before the lord he that lord or be maistere of be huntyng bi be counsel of hath any found, and then the Lord or the Master of the hunting by the counsel of them all shall choose which they will move and run to and which shall be the greatest hart and the highest deer. And when they shall have eaten, the lord shall devise where the relays shall go and other things which I shall say more plainly, and then shall every man speed him to his place, and all haste them to go to the finding.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Appendix: Limer.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> G. de F. (p. 151) says "in great plenty," not "upon a great platter."