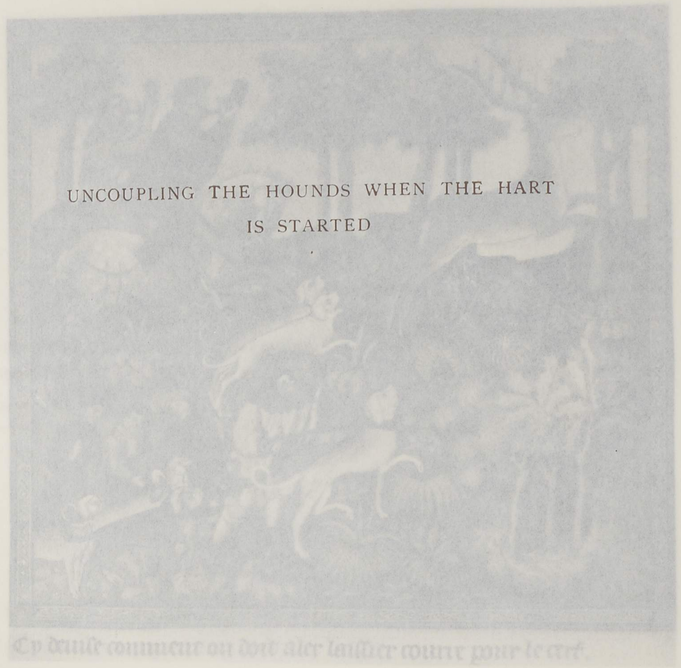
CAP^M XXXIIII.—HOW THE HERT SHULD BE MEUYD WITH þE LYMER AND RONNE TO AND SLAYN WITH STRENGTHE

WHAN þe hert is harboured as bifore is said and þei before nempned come to þe metyng þat som men callen þe assemble, and also þe scantelon[1] *and þe fumes wel liked bi the lord and bi þe maister of þe game þan shal þe maystir of þe game chese of þe sergeauntis or of þe yemen atte hors, which of hem shal be at fyndyng or alle or som. Naþelees of þe deer be like to falle among daungere*[2] *it were good to assygn som of the horsmen among þe relaies to helpe þe more redely þe houndes if þei falle vppon stinte,*[3] *and whan þe hunters atte hors be assingned than he must assigne which of þe yemen be eerners on foot shal be fyndere and which houndes he shal haue wiþ hym to þe fyndeng, and þe lymner and þe pagis to goo with hym, And aftir that to assign þe relaies bi avice of hem þat knowen þe contre and þe flight of þe deer and þer as moost daunger is þer sette þe rediest hunters and þe best forsters and þe boldest houndes wiþ hem atid. At ouery rolay suffisethe ii couple of houndes or iii at þe most*[4] *and it is to do þat amydde þe relaies somdele toward þe hidermost relay, namely if it be in daunger þ^t one of the lymnere Pages be þer with oon of the lymers and þe moor daunger þe elder and þe redier and most tendir nosed hounde, And whan al þis is þus ordeyned þan shal þe lord or þe maister of þe game, if hym like bettire to be at fyndeng þan wiþ a relay, þei shuld go forþ þidere as þe dere is harbourid and sette redy waites about the quarter of þe wode þat þe dere is inne, to se what commeþ out or to se if þe deere þat is harboured wold stirt and stele away, or þe lymer meued hym, and þis doon þan shuld þe lord or þe maister of þe game bid the lynmer bryng hym þer þer as he markid þat þe hert ȝede inne, and whan þei byn þer, the limer shuld take away þe bouȝe that he laide ouer þe trace*[5] *at þe herbouryng, and sette his lymer in þe fues. And þan shuld þe lord if he can blow, blowe iii moot and after hym þe maister of þe game, and after the hunters as þei ben grettest in office, þat byn at fyndyng, and þan þe lymner. And after þat the lymere sewe boldely and lustely þe lynmer shal say to hym loude Ho moy ho moy*

CHAP. 34.—HOW THE HERT SHOULD BE MOVED WITH THE LYMER AND RUN TO AND SLAIN WITH STRENGTH

WHEN the hart is harboured as before is said and they before named come to the meeting that some men call the assembly, and also the scantilon,[1] and the fumes well liked by the Lord and Master of the Game, then shall the Master of the Game choose of the sergeants or of the yeoman at horse, which of them shall be at the finding, or all, or some. Nevertheless, if the deer be likely to fall into danger[2] it were good to assign some of the horsemen among the relays to help more readily the hounds, if they fall upon the stynt,[3] and when the hunters on horseback be assigned, then he must assign which of the yeomen berners on foot shall be finders, and which hounds he shall have with him to the finding, and the lymerer and the pages to go with him. And after that to assign the relays by advice of them that know the country and the flight of the deer. And there where most danger is, there set the readiest hunters and the best footers with the boldest hounds. And at every relay sufficeth two couple of hounds or three at the most.[4] And see that amid the relays, somewhat toward the hinder-most relay, especially if it be in danger, that one of the lymerer's pages be there with one of the lymers. And the more danger (there is) the older and the readier, and the most tender nosed hound. And when all is ordained then shall the Lord and the Master of the Game, if he liketh better to be at the finding than with a relay, shall go thither where the deer is harboured, and set ready waits about the quarter of the wood that the deer is in, to see what cometh out, or to see if the deer that is harboured would start and steal away ere the lymer moved him. And this done, then should the Lord and the Master of the Game bid the lymerer bring them there where he marked that the hart went in, and when they be there the lymerer should take away the boughs he laid over the trace[5] at the harbouring, and set his lymer in the fues, and then shall the Lord if he can blow, blow three motes, and after him the Master of the Game, and after the hunters, as they be greatest in office, that be at the finding, and then the lymerer. And after that if the lymer sue boldly and lustily the lymerer shall say to him loud; "Ho moy, ho moy, hole hole hole." And

[1] Measure of the deer's footprint. In old English, a measure (Strat.)
[2] See Appendix: Venery.
[3] Wrong scent, or check.
[4] See Appendix: Relay.
[5] See Appendix: Branches.



UNCOUPLING THE HOUNDS WHEN THE HART IS STARTED