in the forsaid chapiter þe blowinges aboue out taken. And eke who so euer sleeþ þe deer þe ȝemen of þe office shul haue þe skyn þat lieþ vpon þe deer whan þe houndes ben enquirreide and also it is to witt þat þe owrers whan þei han ronne ben rewardid vpon paunches and guttes but it nedeþ not moch els to make a longe abay with an hertes hede as to hem for þei ben made to renne and enchace alle games liche lief and þat is þe cause whi þe maister of hem haþ þe fees of alle deere saaf hert and buk, but if it be in certayn cace afore nempned. And whan þe quirre is don and þe abay made þan is tyme euery man draw homwarde to his soper, and make hym as mery as he may or can. And whan þe ȝemen beerners and gromes han ladde home þe houndes and sette hem wel vp and ordeynne water and strawe after þat hem nedeþ, þan shuld þei go to her soper and drink wel and make hem mery. And as of fees it is to wete þat what man be sette or smytt a deere at his tree with a deeþes stroke, and he be rekeueryd bi the sonne goyng doun, he shal haue þe skynn, and if he be not sette or goo from his tree or do oþer wise þan it is sayde he shalle non haue. And as of feutrers if þei be sette þe first teisoure and þe reseeyuour[1] *þat draweth hym doun shal parte þe skyn. Naþelees in oþer lordis huntyng who pincheth first and gooþ þerwiþ to þe deeþe he shalle haue þe skyn. And þe deeres nekkis ben þe hunters, and þat oon shulder and þe chyne is his þat vndoþ þe deere and þat oþer chuldere is þe forsters or þe parkers fee þat keþeþ þe baly þat is hunted, and alle þe skynnes of hertis slayn wiþ strength of þe hert houndes bone þe maister of þe herte houndes fee þ' is to say his þat haþ þe wages of xiid a day for þe office. And it is to wit þat whan þe kynge hunteþ in park or in forest for þe hert withe bowes and greyhoundes and it happen þat eny hert be slayn with strength withe hert howndes, alle þe hert hunters after þat þe kyng or the maister of his game haue blowe a moote and straked for alle day þei shuld strake þe assise þat longeþ to þe hert slayn wiþ strength as is devised in þe forsaid chapiter but not wiþ viii longe moote but wiþ iiii short and iiii longe as is in þe forsaid chapiter pleynly deuisede. And alle oþer hunters shal strake þe comon strakyng as is aboue deuysed and saide.*

devised in the aforesaid chapter, except that the blowings above described shall be left out. And also whosoever slew the deer the yeomen of the office should have the skin that lyeth upon the deer when the hounds are rewarded. And also it is to know that the harriers when they have run shall be rewarded with the paunches and guts, but there is no need to make a long bay with the hart's head to them, for they are made to run and chase all game that one wishes, and that is the cause why the master of them has the fees of all deer save the hart and the buck, unless it be in the certain case before mentioned. And when the curée is done, and the bay made, then is the time for every man to draw homeward to his supper and to make himself as merry as he can. And when the yeomen berners and grooms have led home the hounds and set them well up and supplied them with water and straw according to what they need, then should they go to their supper and drink well and make merry. And of the fees it is to be known that the man whoever he be, who has smitten a deer while posted at his tree with a death-stroke so that the deer be got before the sun goes down, he shall have the skin. And if he be not posted or has gone from his tree, or has done other wise than is said, he shall have none. And as of the fewterers, if they be posted, the first teaser and receiver[1] that draweth the deer down shall divide the skin.[2] Nevertheless in other lord's hunting whoso pincheth first and goeth therewith to the death he shall have the skin. And all the deer's necks are the hunters, and one shoulder and the chine is his that undoeth the deer, and the other shoulder is the forester's or the parker's fee that keepeth the bailie that is hunted. And all the skins of harts slain with strength of the hart-hounds, belong to the master of the hart hounds as his fee, that is to say he that hath the wages of twelve pence a day for the office. It is to be known that when the king hunteth in the park or in the forest with bows and greyhounds, and it happens that any hart be slain with strength of hart-hounds, all the hart hunters after the King or the Master of his Game have blown a mote and stroked, all day they should stroke the assise that belongeth to the hart slain with strength, but not with eight long motes, but with four short and four long motes, as is in the aforesaid chapter plainly devised. And all the other hunters should stroke the common stroking as is above described and said.

[1] Shirley MS. has "resteynour." Means a Greyhound. See Appendix: Relays and Venery.
[2] This means that the men in whose charge the teasers and receivers were placed were given the skin or fee.

END OF MS. VESPASIAN B. XII.

The following is the concluding passage of the Shirley Manuscript (Add. MS. 16,165):

"Nowe prey I unto euery creature þat haþe herde or redde þis lytell tretys what euer he bee of estate or condicyoun þat þer as to lytel is of good langage þ' of þeyre benignytee and grace þey wol more adde, and þer as to is to muche superfulytee þ' þey wol also abregge hit as hem seme þe best by hure goode and wyse discrecion nought presumyng vpon me þat I hade oper ful knowelegge or konnynge for to put in wryting þis ryale desportful and noble game of huntyng, so effectuelly but alwey to be submitted vnder þe correccoun of alle gentyle hunters, and in my symple manere as I best koude and might bee lerned of olde and many dyuers gentyl hunters, did my bysynesse in þis rude maner to put þe crafft þe termes ond þexercyse of þis sayde game more in remembraunce oponly to þe knowlegge of alle lordes, ladyes, gentylmen and wymmen, affter þe custumes and maners, vsed in þe hye noble court of þis Realme of Engeland."

FINIS

Now I pray unto every creature that hath heard or read this little treatise of whatever estate or condition he be that there where there is too little of good language that of their benignity and grace they will add more, and there where there is too much superfluity that they will also abridge it as may seem best by their good and wise discretion. Not presuming that I had over much knowledge and ability to put into writing this royal disportful and noble game of hunting so effectually that it might not be submitted to the correction of all gentle hunters. And in my simple manner as best I could and as might be learned of old and many diverse gentle hunters, I did my business in this rude manner to put the craft and the terms and the exercise of this said game more in remembrance and openly to the knowledge of all lords, ladies, gentlemen and women, according to the customs and manners used in the high noble court of this Realm of England.

FINIS