

The Characteristics of Chaucer's Syntax As Observed from the Rime Words

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Résumé.

The object of the present study is to observe, describe and interpret some syntactical facts of Chaucer from the viewpoint of the rime words. First Chaucer's way of riming is described according to the classification of grammar, i. e. nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and so forth. And then come observations on the characteristics of the poet's syntax proper. As my observation in the present paper will clearly show, set phrases and expressions have a tendency to occur at the end of the verse. This, I think, is worth mentioning, since it suggests some possible correlation between the syntax of the poet and the requirement of the rime. I suppose that the wide prevalence of the so-called riming-tags in M.E. poetry has something to do with this tendency. If further supposition is permitted, the poet perhaps made use of conventional phrases quite as readily as if to save himself unnecessary trouble for the rime. Observations on these points have been made in the present study.

The Characteristics of Chaucer's Syntax

As Observed from the Rime Words

Michio Masui

Abbreviations and Books Consulted.

I. Chaucer's Works.

Anel	...	...	...	Anelida and Arcite
BD	...	...	...	The Book of the Duchess
CKT	...	...	...	The Cook's Tale
CIT	...	...	...	The Clerk's Tale
Comp d'Am	...	...	...	Complaynt d'Amours
CYT	...	...	...	The Canon's Yeoman's Tale
FraT	...	...	...	The Franklin's Tale
FriT	...	...	...	The Friar's Tale
HF	...	...	...	The House of Fame
KnT	...	...	...	The Knight's Tale
LGW	...	...	...	The Legend of Good Women
MancT	...	...	...	The Manciple's Tale
Mars	...	...	...	The Complaint of Mars
MchT	...	...	...	The Merchant's Tale
Mi Prol	...	...	...	The Miller's Prologue
MiT	...	...	...	The Miller's Tale
MkT	...	...	...	The Monk's Tale
MLT	...	...	...	The Man of Law's Tale
NPT	...	...	...	The Nun's Priest's Tale
Pars Prol	...	...	...	The Parson's Prologue
Pd Prol	...	...	...	The Pardoner's Prologue
PdT	...	...	...	The Pardoner's Tale
PF	...	...	...	The Parliament of Fowls
PhysT	...	...	...	The Physician's Tale
Pity	...	...	...	The Complaint unto Pity
Prol	...	...	...	The General Prologue
RA	...	...	...	The Romaunt of the Rose A Text
RvT	...	...	...	The Reeve's Tale
Scog	...	...	...	Lenvoy de Chaucer a Scogan
SecNT	...	...	...	The Second Nun's Tale
ShipT	...	...	...	The Shipman's Tale
SqT	...	...	...	The Squire's Tale
SumT	...	...	...	The Summoner's Tale
Tr I, II, etc.	Troilus and Criseyde Book I, II, etc.
WB Prol	The Wife of Bath's Prologue
WBT	The Wife of Bath's Tale

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The object of the present paper is to observe, describe and interpret some syntactical facts from the viewpoint of the rime words.

Though characteristics of Chaucer's syntax are observable in every line, yet once an angle from which to view the syntax is determined, the real aspects of it will manifest themselves as if they stood out in relief. Now I have fixed my standpoint on the rime word; one of the main reasons lies in the supposition that, as the poet may have felt the requirement of the rime, its influences would be in operation upon the selection of some particular words or upon the arrangement of words whether peculiar or proper.

Next, some syntactical facts observed from this standpoint will throw an interesting light on the characteristics of Chaucer's syntax in that clear evidence is noticeable especially at the end of the verse. So far as my observation goes, idiomatic phrases and expressions, conventional or unconventional, seem to have a tendency to stand at the end of the line, not to mention the so-called riming-tags. English poetic language in the Middle English period, it seems to me, had possessed such a great stock of set phrases and expressions as could be applied to whatever purpose any poet might choose; and, as will be observed below, Chaucer perhaps readily made use of such stock all over his poetry, especially his constant care seems to have been bestowed upon the end of the verse; thus, to save himself unnecessary trouble for the rime, the poet placed, in all probability, the set phrases and expressions at the end of the verse,—a fact which, if viewed from the rime words, will be observed well at once.

Now let me illustrate my standpoint in some detail. When we read the

following lines:

He wepeth, wayleth, crieth pitously,
To sleen hymself he waiteth prively. KnT 1221—2.

we shall notice at once that the adverb 'pitously' rimes with the adverb 'prively'; speaking more generally, the adverb in -ly has a tendency on Chaucer's part to rime with each other. This is one of our observations made from the rime words. If further attention is called to another instance, such as:

That fairnesse of that lady that I see
Yond in the garden romen to and fro
Is cause of al my cryng and wo. KnT 1008—1010.

it will be observed here as elsewhere that the phrase 'to and fro' occurs at the end of a line, though, from the standpoint of phonology pure and simple, it seems to be sufficient to note that 'fro' in 'to and fro' rimes with 'wo', i.e. fro: wo, these two being the usual rime words.

However, syntax as a rule is not concerned with an isolated word, but with the relation of one word to the other in a sentence; therefore it is not with 'fro', but with 'to and fro' that we should be concerned here. And, what is more important, such a phrase or an idiom often occurs at the end of a line. This is also the case with 'up and down,' as in:

And gan to caste and rollen up and down: renown, Tr II. 659.

Here 'down', while riming with 'renown', constitutes the stereotyped phrase 'up and down', which, like 'to and fro', often stands at the end of a line throughout Chaucer's works.

The typical examples which are to be dealt with from this point of view are as follows:

1. I dar leye in balaunce Al that I have in my *possessioun*.
He is a man of heigh *discrecioun*. CY Prol 611—612.
2.best is That ye hym love ayeyn for his *lovynge*,
As love for love is skilful *guerdonynge*. Tr II. 391—2.
3. And Zepherus and Flora *gentilly*,
Yaf to the floures softe and *tenderly*. LGW 171—2.
4. As he hadde seyn it chaunge bothe *up and down*
(:transmutacioun.) KnT 2840.
5. The fairnesse of that lady that I see
Yond in the garden romen *to and fro* (:wo) KnT 1008—9.
6. And she to that answerde hym as *hire leste* (:reste) Tr III. 1132.

7. As it is frendes right, *soth for to seyne*, (: peyne) Tr I. 591.
8. And right anon, *withouten wordes mo* (: also) MiT 3408.
9. A Cook they hadde with hem *for the nones*
To boille the chiknes with the marybones, Prol 379—80.
10. And seyde, "I am afraid, *by Seint Thomas*,
It stondest nat aright with Nicholas. MiT 3425—6.

Even a glance at the above examples will make us confirm that there are observed at the end of a line or around a rime word some syntactical phenomena which may have been common in Chaucer or in Middle English poetry. In connection with this, one may bear in mind the fact that the so-called riming-tags are widely prevalent in Middle English verse.

And with such phenomena before us, some difficult problems will arise. One of them, among others, will be: Whether or no there is any correlation between the necessity of the rime (=Reimzwang) and the syntax of Chaucer.

General rules as to the possible correlation between may not be formulated as a certainty, yet in some cases there will be seen the necessities of the rime to which the syntax is required to conform. And to what extent the syntax of Chaucer can be made to conform to the necessities of measure will necessarily lead to the question of the separability of one word from the other, and then to the question of word order. With these questions always in mind, the observed facts on the syntax of Chaucer will be stated in the following study.

NOUNS.

Section I. Nouns in -aunce, -ence, -esse, -nesse, -oun, -ye(ee), etc., chiefly of Romance origin, frequently occur in rime.

The statistics taken roughly in the Knight's Tale (2250 ll.), of the rime words in -aunce, -oun, etc., as compared with those words same in form, which appear in the interior of the line, is as follows:

	(As Rime-word)	Freq.	(As Non-rime-word)	Freq.
Words in -aunce (e.g. observance)	14	...	...	11
" -ee (" chastitee)	43	...	...	28
" -ence (" defence)	15	...	...	3

1) The present study is based on F.N. Robinson's Poetical Works of Geoffrey Chaucer, Boston, 1933. The examples cited in this article are not meant by any means to be exhaustive, but, when it seems necessary, a number of instances will be given.

Words in -esse (e.g. hardynesse)	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
" -ie (" memorie)	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
" -oun (" divisioun)	72	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
" -our (" honour)	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
" -ure (" figure)	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
" -ye (" compaignye)	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
" -ynge (" dwellynge, sb.)	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
" -ynge (" fikerynge, ppl.)	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40

Notes:

1. Monosyllabic words like 'doun' are not counted.
2. The above table shows that nouns especially in -ye (ee), -nesse, -oun, -our, -ynge (sb.), occur in a large number in rime. One cannot doubt but the acoustic effect of Chaucer's poetry depends largely upon such words, for the rime word plays a great role in poetry. Especially this will be true of M. E. verse which was written chiefly to be read aloud.

Section 2. Verbal Nouns and Participles in -ynge, which sometimes occur in rime, rime principally with each other. The following examples are typical.

e. g.

stondynge (ppl.): hire slepynge (sb.) LGW 1332.

tendrelly wepynge (ppl.): hirsleven excusynge (ppl.) Tr I. 111.

answerynge (ppl.): semyng (sb.): mevyng (sb.) Tr I. 282, etc.

In the following instance Chaucer may have coined the word 'guerdonynge' for the sake of the rime:

As love for love is skilful guerdonynge (: his lovyng) (=the preceding rime word) Tr II. 392.

The above instance is cited in the OED. as the earliest quotation. See PF 454 (the guerdonynge: long lovyng).

Note: Verbal Nouns and Participles in -ynge sometimes rime with infinitives like 'synge', 'sprynge', 'stynge', 'bryng', etc.

my compleynyng (: for to synge,) LGW 1356 f.

unsittinge (: bryngé,) Tr II. 307 f.

hire buryng (: for to stynge,) LGW 698 f.

Section 3. Nouns in -nesse (A.S. -nes, -nis, late -nisse) rime principally with each other; but frequently also with nouns in -esse. In the *Troilus* the most usual rime word in -esse is *distresse*, which occurs 29 times according to Professor Kittredge's *Observations on the Language of Chaucer's Troilus*, p. 21. Note.

- 1) holynesse (: clenness) LGW 296.
 unstedfastnesse (: goodnesse) LGW 526.
 lustynesse (: Ydelnesse) KnT 1939.
 bisynesse (: hevynesse) FraT 827.
- 2) gentilesse (: falsnesse) SqT 505.
 sothfastnesse (: humblesse) CIT 934.
 goodnesse (: richesse : sothfastnesse) CIT 793 ff.
- 3) cursednesse (: blesse) Mch Prol 1240, etc.
 bisynesse (: lesse) WBT 933, etc.

Note:

Examples are so many that it is not necessary to quote any more.

Section 4. The Plural of Nouns in -es (-ys, -is) rimes principally with each other. The typical examples are:

- daunces (: daliaunches) PhysT 65. See KnT 1931, etc.
- governynges (: thynges) PhysT 75. See RA 1077, etc.
- flourettes (: amorettes) RA 891. See RA 893, 897, etc.
- two figures (: scriptures) KnT 2042, etc.
- bacheloris (: cheris) RA 935, etc.
- ymages (: wages) KnT 1899, etc.
- knyghtes (: rightes) KnT 1851, etc.
- replecciouns (: complecciouns) NPT 2923 f., etc.
- dremes (: bemes) NPT 2941 f., etc.

Notes:

1. It is interesting to note that 'kne' (=knee), especially in the phrase 'on his, etc. kne', is traditionally used as a rime word; while 'knes' (=knees) usually appears in the interior of a line. This principle is strictly observed not only in Chaucer, but also in other M.E. poetry, as, for instance, *Le Morte Arthur*, etc.

and sat on *knowe* (=knee) (: sowe) Tr II. 1202.

Cf. (in interior)

To Pandarus on *knowes* fil adown, Tr III. 1592.

And doun on *knees* he gan to falle, RA 1514; KnT 1758.

In a gowne of faldyng to the *knee* (: he) Prol 391.

And doun anon he sette hym on his *knee* (: charitee) SumT 2120.

Thus it is very rarely that 'knes' occurs in rime, as in Miller's Tale 3723 (knees: degrees).

2. The following plurals are worth mentioning for their rimes.

houndes (: yfounde ys) BD 377.

floures (: flour ys) BD 630.

olyveres (: heere is) RA 1381.

clerkis (: clerk is) NPT 3235 f.

dyvynys (: pyne ys) KnT 1323.

countenaunces (: daunce is) RA 1001.
 swevenys (: sweven is) NPT 2921 f.
 beryis (: mery is) NPT 2965 f.
 clerkis (: derk is) MLT 480.
 sones (: wone is) HF 75.
 dytees (: lyte is) HF 622.

In the *Troilus* Professor Kittredge (op. cit. p. 103) cites rimes of the same or similar kind which are as follows.

tolys, 632 f: folys *pl.* : scole is.
 hewys, 1106 f. : newe is.
 hayes, 3193 f. : may is.
 owlys, 6745 f. : foweles *pl.* : foule is.
 halles, 7093 f. : wallys *pl.* : galle ys.
 wellys, 7737 f. : helle ys : ellys.
 stones, 2026 f. : at ones
 bones, 91 f. : on ys
 desertes, 4109 f. : certes.
 pleyes, 7862 f. : lord of Argeys.

I may add to the above list 'al atones: noon is' (Tr IV. 841), 'vices: no vice is' (Ibid I. 687 f.)

3. Exceptions to Section 4 are to be noted:

his *toos* (=toes): his eyen *cloos* (=close) NPT 3331 f.
*brynge*s (3rd Person Sg.): *thynge*s RvT 4130.
 your *foos* (pl.): *loos* (=praise, Sg.) HF 1668.
wightes (sb.): *anonrightes* (adv.) MiT 3479.
oones (adv.): *stoones* (pl.) BD 979.

4. The requirement of the rime sometimes seems to decide the number of nouns:

In making of a glorious Legende
 Of Gode Wommen, maydenes and wyves
 That weren trewe in loveinge al hit lyves. LGW 483—5 b.

Here 'al hir lyves' appears, instead of the more usual 'al hir lyve' (e.g. LGW 438), perhaps being rendered necessary by the preceding rime word 'wyves'.

Similar cases are:

fourty dayes and fourty night (: might) (the following rime-word)
 SumT 1885 f.
 and help to save our lyf (: wyf) (=the preceding rime word)
 MiT 3610.

In the above two examples, the plural is more logical than the singular, though in the case of 'night' it is frequently used as an unchanged plural in Chaucer.

Likewise in 'folk of tendre yeeres (: teeres),' KnT 2828, the case seems to belong here, as, otherwise, 'yere' (unchanged pl.) is more usual in

Chaucer. Cf. SumT 1950.

Compare, 'faire under fete (: swete)' (the preceding rime word) BD 400, with 'under foote (: roote)', Tr II. 347 (the usual phrase). For other cases, see Karpf. *Syntax*, p. 29 ff.

Section 5. Plurals of the n-declension which preserve the Anglo-Saxon ending (-an) in the form -en do not seem to occur in rime, except 'eyen', which, however, rimes chiefly with infinitives in -en.

In the *Troilus*, Professor Kittredge notes, its corresponding rime words are: dryen, dyen, deyen, spyen, asprien, espyen, lyen, bywryen, cryen, ywryen, syen, etc.

The words of the same nature rarely appear in rime, e.g. 'toon', 'foon', 'been', etc. Thus, 'toon' (=toes) is observed to rime with 'anoon' as in 'hys toon: anoon', HF 2028.

As regards 'foon' (=foes), it occurs in rime in Monk's Tale 2706, perhaps because of the necessity of the rime: 'anoon: foon: goon,' where 'anoon' is the preceding rime word. A similar case will be: PF 103 (his fon : gon (the preceding rime word)). Cf. 'foos' in the interior of the line in Monk's Tale 2739.

This will also be the case with 'been' (=bees) in the following instance:

ben (aux. v.): been (=bees): fleen (inf.), Tr II. 191.

Thus considered, in Chaucer such rare formations as 'foon', 'toon', 'been' seem to occur in rime, particularly when the rime requires them.

Note:

In Chaucer 'ere' (=ear) forms its plural in -s; but sometimes it occurs in rime without -s when plural, this perhaps being rendered necessary by the rime:

And every wight that I saugh there
Round everych in others ere. HF 2043-4.
Also, 'to the peples ere (: were)' CIT 727.

In most of the cases, however, 'eres' is common in rime.

PRONOUNS.

Section 6. The dative and accusative forms of personal pronouns, especially such as 'hym, hire, hem' do not seem to occur in rime, except 'me', which on the contrary frequently stands in rime. 'Us, yow and it' sometimes, though each in its varying degree, occur in rime. So that there will be

a tendency on Chaucer's part to avoid these pronouns for the rime, perhaps except the nominative 'he' and 'she'. Professor Manly points out that '*it, hym, hem, and hire*' do not occur in rime in the *Legend* (op. cit. p. 66 s.v. *hire*). But, as for 'me', the professor notes, it frequently occurs in rime.

Thus the pronouns as objects of the preposition, the verb and the infinitive are frequently avoided from taking the rime position. Chaucer's practice is:

hem bitwene (: greene) Tr II. 1706.
with hym she wente (: entente) Tr II. 1725.
hym to pleye (: tweye) KnT 1504.
hire to serve (: deserve) Tr I. 818.
to sufferen hym yow serve (: sterve) Tr III. 154.
us among (: long) CYT 931.
hym bisyde (: pryde) MkT 2747.
hym so lef (: his leef) RA 848, etc.

Cf.

after me (: be) CIT 327.
to me (: be) CIT 345.
to foryeve it me (: degree) Prol 743, etc.

Notes:

1. 'Us', 'yow', and 'it' sometimes, though rarely except 'yow', occur in rime:

amonges us (: Jhesus) CYT 966.
yow (: how) Tr IV. 878, 1326, V. 129.
it (: yit: wit) Tr V. 761.

2. According to Cromie : Ryme-Index to C.T. the frequency of occurrence of such pronouns are:

Nom.: I (47), we (16), ye (16), thow (4), he, hee (186), she, shee (115), it (12).

Obj.: me (70), us (6), yow (12), hym (0), hire (1), hem (0).

The figures in parentheses show their frequency in the C.T.

Section 7. The nominative forms of personal pronouns, especially such as 'he, she, I' comparatively frequently occur in rime, whereas such pronouns as 'they, we, ye, it' are comparatively rare; 'they' as a rime word is extremely rare. See ABC 73 (thei: wey). See the frequency shown in Sect. 6, Note 2.

How myghty and how greet a lord is *hel* (: benedicite) KnT 1786.

That like a thing inmortal semed *she* (: beaute) Tr I. 103.

And to the apostles servant eek was *I* (: feithfully) FriT 1503.

Cf. 'as wel as I' (FriT 1458), 'as am I' (FriT 1419) in rime. For

'he' standing in rime, see RA 880, 890, 920, 923, MchT 1844, etc. For 'she' see MchT 1996, etc. The following is an interesting case of 'it':

And wel ye woot no vileynye is it (: writ) Prol 740.

An unusual case of separation of 'we' from the main sentence :

And al youre werk, and evere han doon, that *we*
Ne koude nat us self devyssen *how*, CIT 107—8.

The same case is seen in:

I wol yow telle a tale which that *I* (: hardily) Cl Prol 26.
Lerned

Notes:

1. Most of these kind of pronouns when occurring in rime seem to bear more stress than when in the interior of a line. Besides KnT 1786 and Tr I. 103, the pronoun 'I' in the following case has an emphatic stress:

No maner conscience of that have I (: prively) FriT 1438.

2. 'He or she' pretty frequently appears in rime as if it had become a riming-tag.

be it he or she (: be: benignite) Tr I. 39, V. 1835,
HF 1002, 1081, RA 36.

Cf. whither he or thow (: now) KnT 1857.

See Karpf: Syntax, p. 10. Cf. *alle and some*,
yonge and olde, etc., which will be dealt with later on.

3. 'She' and 'he' often occur in rime in the combination 'quod he', 'quod she' or 'seyth he (she)'. Indeed such a combination may perform its function as a kind of riming-tag, especially in narrative-poetry.

"Lo, right so as the love of Crist," quod *she* (: thee), SecNT 295.

"Kepeth ay wel this coronas," quod *he* (: bee: me) SecNT 226.

Cf. hadde (=possessed) he (: me) Prol 386, 392, etc.

4. Interesting is the case of an idiom like 'he and he' (=the one and the other) which occurs in rime as in:

In with the polax preseth he and he (: fle) LGW 642.

Similarly PF 166: wher he do bet or he (: be).

5. 'Oon, non, everichon, many on,' etc. are, in most of the cases, placed at the end of the line in the following collocations:

For in my tyme a servant was I *oon*, (: agon) KnT 1814.

With hym wenten knyghtes *many on* (: Palamon) KnT 2118,
2509, Pd Prol 435.

confort ne myrth is *noon* (: stoon) Prol 773.

Ne confort in this tyme hadde he *noon* (: gon) FraT 1104.

And namely the gentils *everichon* (: gon) Mi Prol 3113.

and ye ladyes *everichone* (: allone) MLT 653.

The place of the words 'oon, non' at the end of the line will be in close relation to the inverted word order in Chaucer. Cf. Silver and gold have I none.

Both 'many oon' and 'everichon' in this position became so hackneyed in Chaucer that it seems as if they turned into riming-tags.

ADJECTIVES.

Section 8. Attributive adjectives are frequently postposed in order perhaps to occupy the rime position. Especially two adjectives connected by 'and' are frequent in this position. Examples are very many, which need not be cited exhaustively.

1. Simple Adjectives postposed:

the sonne shene (: greene) KnT 1509.

mayden bright (: knyght) Tr I. 166.

my peynes smerte (: herte) FraT 974.

the nightes longe (: the peynes stronge) KnT 1337.

peynes stronge (: longe) KnT 2771.

Sometimes the post-adjective becomes a noun as in:

Emelye the brighte (: highte) KnT 1427.

An interesting case of the pl. of adjectives in -s in imitation of the French pattern occurs in rime as 'goddes celestials: signals,' HF 460; 'othere places delitables: welles' (the preceding rime word) FraT 899.

2. Two Adjectives postposed:

the asshen dede and coldè (: to biholde) KnT 1302.

hir body gent and smal (: withal) MiT 3234.

fyngeres longe and smal (: bale: pale) Tr IV. 737.

that made hire herte fressh and gay (: a lay) Tr II. 922.

thise ensamples trewe and olde (: withholde) MkT 1998.

arwes brighte and kene (: grene) FriT 1381.

floures....whyte and rede (: hede) KnT 1053, KnT 2901.

Notes:

1. Since about the 14th century the adjective 'shene' seems to have been used extensively as a rime word; especially this is the usual practice with Chaucer.

the moone shene (: grene) Tr II. 920.

his yen sheene (: seene) RA 1518, 1512, etc.

According to Cromie, 'shene' ('sheene') appears in rime about 9 times in the C. T.

2. Also two adjectives are used predicatively at end of line:

that jolif was and gay (: holiday) MiT 3339.
it was as loude and yerne As. MiT 3257, KnT 2892.

3. Such a collocation as '*cares colde*' is firmly preserved:
my cares colde (: holde) FraT 1305.

And also, 'your sorwes smerte: herte' (BD 555) is a felicitous combination in Chaucer. Also, 'his peynes smerte: herte', FraT 1259, 974, etc.

4. Perhaps in the following instance the influence of the rime would be at work when the poet put the adj. 'unmerie' after 'this god,' since 'Cymerie' (prop. n.) as a rime word preceded it:

this god unmerie (: Cymerie) HF 74.

Cf. helle unswete (: Lete) HF 72.

Section 9. Two adjectives are sometimes placed one before and one after the noun. In this case the latter occurs in nine cases out of ten in rime.

the blisful tyme swete (: mete) Tr III. 1668.

a few brighte teris newe (: untrew) Tr III. 1051.

'sharpe speres stronge (: longe) KnT 1653.

the cruell bryddes felle (: helle) MkT 2100, 2105.

our mighty princes free (: he) SecNT 444.

this noble doctour deere (: manere) SecNT 272.

hir yonge suster sheene (: queene) KnT 972, etc.

Sometimes the post-adjective turns into a noun:

this fresshe Emelye the shene (: grene) KnT 1068.

fresshe Antigone the white (: endite) Tr II. 887.

Such a word order is also to be noted: (Is this due to a metrical reason?)

with glad herte and light (: knyght) SecNT 351.

A fair persone he was and fortunat (: estat) SqT 25.

Ful lusty was the weder and benigne (: signe) SqT 52.

Cf. Are you good men and true? (*Much Ado*, III. 3. 1.)

See Franz: Shakespeare-Gram. Sec. 686.

Note:

The adj. 'deere' especially after a noun in the vocative takes the rime position:

leeve brother deere (: preyeere: cleere) SecNT 257.

swete lady dere (: here) BD 108 Cf. brother deere (the usual word-order), etc.

Perhaps 'my lady sweete' (: beete) KnT 2254 is also in the vocative.

Section 10. Numerals are very frequently postposed to take the rime posi-

tion. Examples are many:

- bokes twelve (: myselve) Tr II. 108.
hire eyen two (: wo) Tr IV. 750.
with eyen tweyne (: peyne) Tr IV. 748.
To telle yow a tale, or two or three (: honestee) MkT Prol 1968.
save his handes tweye (: weye) MkT 2024.
neces thre (: to see) Tr II. 814.
corones tweyne (: peyne) Tr II. 1735.
the blisful goddes sevene (: hevene) Tr III. 1203.
bitwixen tweye (: pleye) Tr II. 811.
Goddes eres two (: go) SumT 1941.
longe asses erys two (: namo) WBT 976.
a wowke or two (: wo) FraT 1161.
a two furlong or thre_ (: citee) FraT 1172.
al a day or two (: go) FraT 1348, etc.

Notes:

1. '(With) eyen two (tweye, tweyne),' seems to have become a phrase standing in rime in Chaucer. Also 'in hir handes two' (: go) FraT 1391.
2. 'The sterres seven' (: heven) BD 824 is also a set phrase. 'Many a thousand tymes twelve' (: hemselve) HF 2126 is an emphatic phrase familiar to the readers of Chaucer.
3. 'Alle' (pl. of al) is sometimes placed after the noun as a rime word as in:

worthi folkes alle (: thralle) Tr I. 233, 910, MkT 2004, 2086, etc.

Of course it is used as a pronoun too, especially in such a collocation as:

grevous of hem alle (: calle) RA 934, WBT 1017.

An unusual separation of 'alle' from the noun is observed in the instance which follows: (Or, is this 'alle' to be taken as a pl. noun?)
This wordes seyde he for the nones alle (: to falle.)

Tr IV. 428, I. 561.

Here it is interesting to note that the usual rime-tag 'for the nones' gives place to 'alle'.

4. 'Al' (noun) in the phrase 'over al' occurs in rime as in:

It may so-longe assoilled been over al (: a wal) WB Prol 264, etc.

But the following instance, LGW 1970, whether 'al' is an adj. or an adverb is open to question:

Arian And eek her suster Phedra, herden *al*
His compleyning as they stode on the *wal*.

Prof. Manly hesitates to decide in the above case, rather inclining to regard it as an adv. (op. cit. p. 76, note). Like this case, 'al' is, though rarely, divided between the two verses. Cf. KnT 1937, etc.

Section 11. Adjectives ending in the suffix *-lees* (=less) sometimes occur in rime, usually riming with each other. The adj. 'waterlees' in the following famous line in the Prologue seems to be affected by the necessity of the preceding rime word in *-lees*.

Ne that a monk, whan he is recchelees,
Is likned til a fissh that is waterlees. Prol 179—180.

Though the adj. 'waterlees' appears as early as c 950 (*Lindisf. Gosp.*) in the sense of 'destitute of water', yet such an effective use of it as seen in the above line would hardly be found throughout English literature.

Also in the following example a stylistic effect will be enhanced by the adjective in *-lees*:

Right as oure firste lettre is an A.
In beaute first so stood she, makeles. (: natheles) Tr I. 171—2.

This word 'makeles' (=matchless) is all important since it is used as a rime word in order perhaps to give more effect to the line. At all events Chaucer seems to be in favour of such adjectives in *-lees*, especially at the end of the verse; and this practice of Chaucer's will suggest his subtle power of word-coinage by the use of suffixes. Cf. *horsly*, SqT 194, etc., *hevenyssh* Tr I. 104, etc.

causeles (: graceles: booteles) Tr I. 779 ff.
causeles (: recheles) HF 667.
causeles (: routheles) Anel 229.
causelees (: myrtheles) PF 590 f.
vertulees (: routhelees) Tr II. 344 f.

Here 'myrtheles' in the last example but one is in the O.E.D. recorded as the earliest citation. I may add in passing that the three instances of 'causelees' (adj. & adv.) in the OED. are from Chaucer as the earliest, all of which occur in rime.

Section 12. Similes, such as 'as stille as any stoon', frequently occur at the end of a line; in these cases the noun becomes a rime word.

as stille as any ston (: anon: bygon) Tr II. 600, 1494.
as stille as ston (: to gon: anon) Tr IV. 354, HF 1605.
as cold as ston (: anoon) BD 123.
as stille as ought (: nought) BD 459.
as ded as stoon (: anoon) BD 1300.
domb as any stoon (: anoon) HF 656.
doubm as a stoon (: noon) Prol 774.
as red as rose (: suppose) Tr II. 1256.

as thikke as hayle (: sayl) LGW 655.
 whit as bon (: anon: to gon) Tr II. 926.
 his eyen greye as goos (: shoos) MiT 3317.
 and brighte as any glas (: was) KnT 1958.
 red as blood (: wood) Prol 635.
 as lordly as a kyng (: sermonyng) Rv Prol 3900.
 square as any sparre (: barre) KnT 1076.
 manly as a knyght (: flyght) KnT 987.
 as yelow as wex (: flex) Prol 675.
 as muchel as a gnat (: cat) WB Prol 347.
 as streght as lyne (: to fyne) Tr II. 1451.
 bright as any gold (: old) KnT 2141.
 as fresh as May (: array) SqT 281.
 as swyft as thought (: ywrought) HF 1924.
 upright as a bolt (: colt) MiT 3264.
 falleth as a ston (: al agon) Anel 170.
 rong . . like a belle (: telle: dwelle) Tr II. 1615.

Notes:

1. Here, for convenience, those similes whose descriptive function is either adjectival or adverbial are thrown together.
2. The simile 'as stille as any ston' is a stereotyped phrase not only in Chaucer, but also in other Middle English poetry. Needless to say, this alliterative phrase is often used as a stop-gap when the situation requires it.
3. Chaucer seems to be fond of similes, which, mainly for metrical reasons, have a tendency to be placed at the end of a line.

ADVERBS AND ADVERBIAL PHRASES.

Section 13. Adverbs in -ly usually rime with one another, but sometimes with the pronoun 'I' and, though not so often, with other words ending in -y or -ly like 'enemy', 'only', etc.

1. pitously (: sodenly) KnT 1117, 1221, 1529, 1563, 1713, 2778, etc.

One of the passages where adverbs in -ly occur in rime in succession is:

I sawgh hyr daunce so comlily,
 Carole and synge so swetely,
 Laughe and pleye so womanly,
 And loke so debonairly,
 So goodly speke and so frendly. BD 848—52.

Here, as will be observed, the vivid impressions of the lady in question are most effectively given by these adverbs in -ly.

2. properly (: I) KnT 1459, 1735, etc.
3. povrely (: enemy) KnT 1554, etc.

4. pryvely (: therby) FraT 1116, etc.

Notes:

1. Though occasionally adverbs in -lich, -liche (cf. O.E. -lice, O.N. -liga) also occur in Chaucer, yet in rime -ly only is found. At least this is the case with the *Troilus*. See Kittredge: *Obs. on the Lang. of Troilus*, Section 84.
2. We find about 105 instances of the adverbs in -ly or -lich in BKs I and II of the *Troilus*, of which 25 instances occur in rime, the percentage being no less than 25%: this testimony, which is of considerable importance, will also apply to the other works of Chaucer.
3. The descriptive force of the following line seems to be enhanced by the adverb in -ly: Crawmpysssheth her lymes *crokedly* (: pitously) Anel 171. The OED. cites this instance as the earliest for 'crokedly'.
4. So far as Prof. Kittredge's observation goes, the *Troilus* affords no instance of an adjective in -ly or -lich (-liche) at the end of a verse (op. cit. Section 72).

His observation will perhaps apply to the other works of Chaucer. Indeed in Chaucer the occurrence of adjectives in -ly, e.g. 'goodly', at end of verse, will be a matter of utter impossibility, for the lines cannot possibly be divided by these adjectives in -ly.

Section 14. Adverbs or adverbial phrases expressive of 'time, duration, degree, movement, speed, place,' etc. seem to occur more often in rime than not, especially such adverbs as are followed by an (almost pleonastic) 'as.'

- 1) blyve (: thryve) Tr II. 1605, III. 225, IV. 174, 495, V. 163, 396, 1549; HF 1521; BD 152, etc.

so yerne (: to lerne) PF 3.

yoore (: moore) 403; PF 17.

Cf. of time yoore (: moore) FraT 963.

faste (: at the laste) BD 363, 379, 385, 443, 505, etc.

anon (: goon) SqT 328, 172, 377, 473, FraT 1011, 1150, 1226, 1313, etc.

al aboute (: route) Tr IV. 401, 680, V. 400, HF 1195, etc.

to lye adoun (: dominacioun) SqT 351; FraT 1073, 1080, etc.

aboute (: route) SqT 381, 464; HF 2006. 2035; etc.

faste be (: sky) SqT 504, BD 369; HF 1990, etc.

above (: love) SqT 449, 518, 540, FraT 772 (al above), 795, 1155, 1168, esp. God above (; love) FraT 1321, etc.

soore (: namoore) Tr I. 751, 667, etc.

Notes:

1. 'Away' pretty frequently takes the rime position. In the *Troilus* this adverb occurs about 15 times, while 'here' occurs almost 48 times, 'there' 29 times in rime; See Kittredge: *Obs. on Lang. of Troil.* p. 202. ff.

2. 'Adoun' very frequently occurs in rime. According to Cromie: *Rhyme-Index to the C.T.*, there are 41 instances. This, like 'pardee', 'yferre', etc. seems to be a useful word for the rime.
3. 'Anon' sometimes occurs in rime in such a collocation as 'and that anon': e.g. He slow the grisly boor, and that anon (: stoon) Mkt 2109, Tr II. 1682.

4. The adverb 'up' does not occur in rime as in:

after he up sterte (: herte) KnT 1575.

hire eyen up she caste (: faste) MLT 840.

the sonne up riseth (: suffiseth) ShipT 51. Also, *ibid.* 75.

But with regard to 'up sterte' it may be construed as one word, 'upsterte,' which also occurs in Chaucer.

5. 'Out' also does not seem to stand in rime:

And such a smoke gan out wende (: ende) HF 1645.

- 2) as blyve (: thryve) Tr I. 965, II. 137, 208, IV. 1355;
 HF 1106; RA 706, 992; BD 248, 1277, etc.
 as yerne (: for to werne) Tr IV. 113; HF 910.
 as swithe (: blithe : routhe) Tr V. 1384; MLT 637; CVT 936,
 1030, 1294; Anel 226; PF 623.

Cf. (not in rime): CVT 1309, 1336, 1426.

as faste (: caste) CYT 1235, Tr II. 657, 898, III. 1094, V. 1641, etc.

Cf. so faste (: caste) Tr II. 197, 144; CYT 1235, etc.

as now (: yow) Tr II. 1436; LGW 2397; CYT 944, 1019; BD 216.

Cf. (not in rime) Tr II. 305, III. 637, IV. 606, Manc Prol 29.

as nowthe (: youthe) Prol 462.

- 3) here and there (: were) LGW 2687; RA 328.

west and est (: arrest) KnT 2601, etc.

- 4) day and nyght (: right : wyght) Tr IV. 513, II. 1338, V. 131,
 1755; RA 309, 369; CYT 802, 841.

nyght and day (: may) Intr ML Prol 20, WB Prol 669, MLT 897,
 739, etc.

day by day (: may : say) Tr V. 989, KnT 1349, 1407, etc.

nyght by nyght (: light) Tr V. 640, etc.

Cf. (not in rime): Tr II. 854, V. 1538, etc.

yeer by yeere (: sheere) Mkt 2059, KnT 1203, PF 236, LGW 481.

fro day to nyght (: myght) Tr V. 1436, II. 480 (fro day to day), etc.

Cf. (not in rime): Tr II. 961, 138, etc.

fro yer to yere (: lere) PF 23, 411, etc.

on lyve (: dryve : blyve) Tr IV. 493, II. 138, 1030, IV. 763, V. 269,
 664, 888, 1369, 1863; MancT 122; HF 1167;

SqT 423; FraT 932; FriT 1519.

Cf. (not in rime): Tr V. 885, WB Prol 5, 43, FriT 1519, etc.

my lyve (: thryve : as blyve) Tr II. 205 (here 'my lyve'

means 'in my life.'). I. 594 (al my lyve).

Section 15. 'Yfeere' ('in-feere') (=together) is extensively used as a riming-tag in Middle English poetry. In Chaucer this word occurs most frequently in the *Troilus* as will be shown below. Though curious enough, Cromie gives no more than 5 instances in his Ryme-Index to the Canterbury Tales.

yfeere (: here) Tr II. 168, 910; 1037, 1116, 1249, 1266 (in-fere), 1477, III. 231, 273, 515, 746, 818, 1712, IV. 793, 1204, 1206, 1333, 1354, 1363 (in feere), 1434, 1452, V. 343, 853, 1771, etc. ShipT 341, SecNT 380, MkT 2276.

Notes:

1. This word frequently occurs in the set expression 'alle yfeere' as in Tr IV. 1333, etc.
2. Cf. 'bedene' (by-dene), which like 'yfeere' means 'together', in extensive use in the Northern poetry of Middle English. In *Le Morte Arthur* there are many instances of the word, especially in the phrase: all by-dene: by-twene, l. 2508, etc.

Section 16. The two adverbial phrases 'to and fro' and 'up and down' occur in most of the cases in rime throughout Chaucer's works.

1. to and fro (: two : mo) Tr I. 415, II. 513, 516, IV. 302, 460, 485, 1423, V. 313, KnT 1099, 1071, 2508, 2848; LGW 2358, 2067, 2012, 2414, 2471; ShipT 90; CYT 1322; Manc Prol 53; SecNT 311; RvT 4293; WBT 1085; MLT 558.

Cf. (not in rime): Tr III. 487, IV. 1355.

Cf. such a Northern form in rime as 'til and fra' (: swa), RvT 4039. Further, this phrase, even if in its negative form, occurs in rime: to ne fro (: two) PF 150.

2. up and down (: renown) Tr II. 657, I. 184, 299, V. 432, 1023, 1650; BD 348; HF 140, 1026; LGW 1431; KnT 977, 1069, 1515, 2054, 2241, 2513, 2587, 2599, 2840, 2925; Intr ML Prol 53; WB Prol 26, 119, 305; WBT 119, 305, 878; MLT 212; Fri Prol 1283; FraT 1013, 1145, NPT 2898, 3180 MkT 2469, 2535, 2557; PdT 848, RvT 4100, etc.

Cf. (not in rime): Tr II. 601, III. 1541, V. 1193, 1237, etc.

Interesting is the following example, where a proper noun ending in -up-and-down occurs in rime: Bobbe-up-and-down (: toun) Manc Prol 2. Further, 'up so down' (=upsidedown) is seen to occur in rime as in CY Prol 625.

Note:

These two adverbial phrases seem to have become riming-tags in Chaucer, though, curious enough, the OED. is silent about this fact. Cf. 'withouten more', 'out of drede,' etc. which will be dealt with later on.

VERBS.

Section 17. The Third Person Singular of the Present Indicative ending in -eth rimes usually with itself.

- redeth (: dredeth) Tr IV. 573.
 - threteth (: beteth) Tr IV. 909.
 - foryeteth (: geteth) Tr II. 375.
 - it dwelleth (: Crist... telleth) LGW 1878.
 - syngeth (: bryngeth) PF 342.
 - lyketh (: entriketh : syketh) PF 401 ff.
 - acloyeth (: anoyeth) PF 517 f.
 - yt fareth (: gold that glareth) HF 271 f.
- Similarly, PF 403 f., etc.

Notes:

1. The corresponding rime word sometimes is the Pl. of the Present Ind. in -eth:
 - or men lieth (pl.): it occupieth (sg.), Tr IV. 834.
 - the ayr tobreketh (:men speketh) HF 779 f., etc.
2. The Second Person Singular of the Pres. Ind. in -est rarely rimes with each other.
 - thou writest (: enditest) HF 633 f. 637 f., etc.
3. Exceptions to Section 17.
 - he doth (:sooth) (adj.) Tr II. 185.
 - wrooth (adj.): gooth (v.), SumT 2161, etc.
4. An interesting exception to Section 17:
 - he geth (=goes): unto his deeth (n.), LGW 2145.

Here 'geth', a less usual form in Chaucer, is rendered necessary by the preceding rime word 'deeth'. Also the Northern form 'brynges' (3rd p. sg.) exceptionally appears in rime under the influence of the preceding 'thynges': RvT 4130.

In the line that follows, however, the exceptional form 'gas' (= goes) does not stand in rime, though it seems likely to do: how that the corn gas in (:kyn) RvT 4037. The editor of the OED., perhaps by mistake, takes the word 'gas' in the above line as if for occurring in rime. See s.v. Go. A.2.c.

Section 18. The Plural of the Present Indicative ending in -en or -e pretty

frequently occurs in rime, but rimes with words of various formation.

we rede (: dede) (n.) Tr. II. 100; ye meene (: leene) (adj.), Tr II, 133; they konne (: the sonne) (n.), Tr II. 175, etc.

Notes:

1. Since the rime word as such concerns itself with the form of a word, it will not be out of place to note here that infinitives with or without 'to' ending in -e or -en, or verbs in -e or -en in the subjunctive also occur in rime. Examples are too many.
2. It must also be borne in mind that the so-called final -e, which is in Chaucer retained in almost every kind of word, plays a very important role in rime. Hence the researches on this question by Professors Kittredge and Manly cannot be overestimated.

Section 19. The separation of the principal verb or the infinitive from its subject or auxiliary fairly often occurs: in this case the principal verb or the infinitive is found in rime. This word order which frequently occurs in Chaucer will be more or less in relation to the necessity of the rime as well as to that of the metre.

Criseyde.. Shal now no lenger in hire blisse bathe (: scathe
: rathe) Tr IV. 208.

He nevere yet no vileynye ne sayde (: mayde) Prol 70.

Lat nat this wrecched wo thyn herte gnawe (: awe) Tr IV. 621.

the yonge sonne .. Hath in the Ram his halve cours yronne. Prol 8.

She leet no morsel from hir lippes falle (: alle) Prol 128.

Lat Austyn have his swynk to hym reserved! (: served) Prol 188, etc.

And made hym as hire fool biforn hem pleye (: seye) MKT 2081.

In all the above cases the corresponding rime word e.g. 'mayde' precedes the principal verb, etc. which stands in rime, e.g. 'sayde.' Similar cases are seen in Prol 278, Tr II. 1671, Mars 172, etc.

Section 20. In connection with Section 19, other cases of separation in Chaucer's way of arrangement of words may be compared here for convenience. In these cases the rime word is separated from its close-connected word, perhaps either for a metrical reason or for a rhetorical one. At all events it will be safe to say that such is one of the main features in Chaucer's word order.

1. *unto my deth* in poynt is me to *chace* (: grace) ABC 48.

Upon a book in cloystre alwey to *poure* (: labour) Prol 185.

Of wodecraft wel koude he al the *usage* (: visage) Prol 110.

He yaf nat of that text a *pulled hen* (: men) Prol 177.

Also, Prol 134, etc.

As he that is *of* Cristen folk the *flour* (: honour) MLT 1090.
He was *of* knyghthod and *of* fredom *flour* (: honour) MkT 2642.

Similarly ABC 79.

of, alle *floures flour* (: erreur) ABC 4.

To heeren *of* his cleere voys the *soun* (: Amphion) MancT 115.

The cause yknowe and *of* his harm the *roote* (: boote) (?)

Hath *of* daun John right no *suspecioun* (: toun) ShipT 322.

2. *At Rome* she hadde been, and *at Boloigne* (: at Coloigne) Prol 465.

In Lettow was he and *at Satalye* (: Belmarye) Prol 54.

A shirreve hadde he been, and *a countour* (: vavasour) Prol 359.

Ful longe were his legges and *ful lene* (: ysene) Prol 591, etc.

Note:

As will be observed from the above, the separability of 'of' in particular, is characteristic of Chaucer's syntax. Unlike the modern rigid function of 'of', Middle English might be more loose with regard to the syntax of 'of'. Cf. the M.E. idiom: Philippes sone *of* Macidoyne, MkT 2156; kyng Priamus sone *of* Troye, Tr I. 2; HF 391.

Further it must be kept in mind that the division of the two verses by 'of' frequently occurs in Chaucer's poetry:

e.g.

He hath thee maked vitaire and maistresse

Of al this world, and eek governouresse

Of hevене,..... ABC. 140. Also, Pity 6—7, etc.

This practice is not, at a later period, carried out so freely as with Chaucer.

Section 21. The Infinitive with 'to' or 'for to' often stands in rime perhaps for metrical reasons.

1. With its object placed before:

For routhe or wo, her sorwe for to telle? (: dwelle: helle) Anel 163.

a lusty sight for to see (: benedicitee) KnT 2116.

leyser for to seye (: tweye) KnT 1188.

his felawe to visite (: lite) KnT 1194.

Especially in the phrase 'for al this world to wyne (: synne)

WB 931, Tr I. 504, PF 391.

2. With its adverb or adverbial phrase placed before:

pleynly for t'endite (: Arcite) KnT 1209.

out of his slep to sterte (: herte) KnT 1044.

and as a conqueror to lyven (: yiven) KnT 916.

3. With adjective intimately connected with the infinitive:

grisly to biholde (: colde) KnT 1363.

gastly for to see (: entree) KnT 1984.

glorious for to se (: see, n.) KnT 1955.

ful semely for to se (: she) KnT 1960.
ful pitous to biholde (: colde) KnT 1919.
riche for to see (: chastitee) KnT 1911.
redy for to ryde (: bisyde) KnT 1677.

4. With its prepositional phrase placed before:

on hire for to stāre (: fare) Tr II. 1142.
Upon the tiraunt Creon hem to wreke (: speke) KnT 931.
in Englyssh to endyte (: Arcite : bite) Anel 9 f.

Notes:

1. In case the causative 'make' is followed by the infinitive with 'to' or 'for to', some influence of the metre may also be at work as in:
made al the gate for to rese (: veze) KnT 1986, etc.
make hem-for to grone (:allone) Tr I. 915, etc.
Cf. Money makes the mare to go.
2. Kellner notes in his *Historical Outlines of English Syntax*, Section 460, that in poetry the object is placed between subject and verb, especially before infinitives: "Your presence to behold." Though Kellner adduces only a single instance in the case of infinitives this word order: "your presence to behold" is a great favourite with Chaucer.
3. Unlike 'hire to serve,' etc., 'hire to chepe (: lepe)' (WB Prol) may be a dative phrase in the sense 'for a trade for her'. Cf. to borwe (= as a pledge), etc., which also is seen at end of verse. See Sect. 26.4)

Section 22. 'Be' as well as its changed forms like 'is, was,' etc. sometimes occur in rime. This is especially the case with the dependent clause. In this case the inverted word order which is often to be observed in dependent clauses seems to bear close relation to the place of such verbs. In other words, the inverted word order in dependent clauses remains unchanged, independent of the requirement of the rime; consequently, when dependent clauses stand at the end of the line, 'be, is' etc. naturally tend to be placed at the end.

1. In the inverted order:

By cause that she wolde nat defouled be (: pitee) FraT 1427.
rather than they wolde defouled be? (: me) FraT 1421.
of it yshryven be (: he) PdT 380.

which that yet despeird is (: annys) FraT 1297.
sone, that down descended is (: ywis : his) Tr V. 1514.
whan it passed is (: this : armys) Tr III. 1628.
I have youre servaunt be (: me) LGW 2120.

he sholde anhanged bee? (: a tree) NPT 3140.
That fouler than the devel was (: bras) HF 1638.

2. In the normal order: (rare)

And made wel more than hit was (: glas) HF 1290, 350, etc.

Notes:

1. 'Were' rarely occurs in rime:

whose that it were (: his ere) FriT 1357.

if that they blithe were (: enquere : feere) Tr III. 1682.

2. Especially the inverted order ending in 'be' is frequently found in Chaucer. .See SumT 2214, 2249.

PREPOSITIONS AND PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES.

Section 23. As in the case of numerals, 'two, three' etc., prepositions like 'bitwene', 'biforn', etc. often occur in rime.

hem betwene (: grene) LGW 713.

hym biforn (: born) KnT 1634.

hire biforn (: unborn) KnT 2083.

hym bisyde (: ryde) KnT 874.

me befor (born) PF 486.

Similar cases are KnT 2859, Tr. II. 639, etc.

But as for 'bitwixe' such collocations often stand at the end of the line as:

bitwixe hem tweye (: seye) KnT 1187, 1632.

bitwixe hem two (: Hoo) KnT 1705, etc.

Section 24. Some of the prepositions like 'on', 'in', 'of', 'with', etc. are most unlikely to occur in rime, while 'upon' sometimes and 'to' very rarely, appear in rime.

blisful *on* to see (: tree) MiT 3247.

deedly *on* to see (: thee) KnT 1082.

that I *of* rede (: spede) HF 77.

fayrer *on* to sene (: queene) LGW 2425.

Mo than Ovide made *of* menciuon (: doun) Intr ML Prol 54.

as I spak *of* now (: thow) KnT 1858.

He was tho glad his hornes *in* to shrinke (: wynke) Tr I. 300, etc.

Compare, however, the following cases:

that his yeman rood *upon* (: gon) CY Prol 562.

the lot is fallen hym *upon* (: non) LGW 1946.

that ye may likne youre parables *to* (: tho) WB Prol 369.

Similarly, WB Prol 573, PF 695, FraT 798.

Compare 'therto' (adv.) which is sometimes seen in rime:
FraT 1330, etc.

Notes:

1. The adverb 'inne', however, occurs in rime as in:

Hire to delivere of wo that she was inne (: twynne)

MLT 518; FraT 1075; Tr IV. 1268.

2. 'To' occurs in rime as a pleonasm, perhaps due to the metrical reason:

Unto which place every thyng.. Moveth for to come to

(: therfro) HF 733 ff.

Section 25. Middle English idiomis like 'to shorte withoure weye', 'to quyte with youre kyndenesse,' etc. having 'with' immediately after the verb, may bear some, if any at all, relation to the necessity of the rime. As will be observed from Section 24, the prep. 'with' does not seem to occur in rime.

to shorte withoure weye (: tweye) Prol 791.

to quyte withoure kyndenesse (: gentilesse) CYT 1055.

Similar cases are MiT 3119; ShipT 273, etc.

Especially in the following instance the prep. 'in' is avoided from standing at the end of the line:

Ye, for an heyse clowte to wrappe *in* me (: be) PdT 736.

At all events as to the origin of this idiomatic syntax one can hardly deny that there will be at work some influence, if slight, of the rime; because we have good reason to believe that Middle English syntax as we know it was formed and developed in accordance, firstly, with the development of English as poetic language.

Section 26. Prepositional phrases seem to have a tendency, even though unconscious on Chaucer's part, to stand at the end of a line. Such a pleonastic phrase, among others, as 'see with ye', etc. is especially a happy one to end a line with. As for this phrase in rime, it also abounds in *Le Morte Arthur*.

Though he never erst hadde seyn it with his ye (: espye) NPT 3281.

Similarly SecNT 230, etc.

She saugh hym nat with ye (: maladye) MiT 3415.

Similarly FraT 1192, etc.

he saugh it with his yen (: to wryen) MancT 261, etc.

1) at-phrase:

at herte (: asterte) LGW 1803.

at ese (: leese) Tr II. 750.
atte nale (=ale-house) (: smale) FriT 1349.
set at noght (: thoght) FraT 821.
atte laste (: up caste) HF 1407; Tr II. 145, 691. etc.

2) in-phrase:

have my name in honde (: stonde) HF 1877.
in dede (: rede) LGW 2138.
in mynde (: mankynde) FraT 878.
in comune (: Fortune) HF 1548.
in al (: shal) FraT 749.
in blisse and in solas (: was) FraT 802, etc.

In similar collocations like 'in quiete and in reste (: breste)
FraT 760, etc.

Note: In HF 692, 'holdynge in hondes' (: sondes), the influence of the preceding rime word 'sondes' may be at work, thus the usual phrase 'in honde' being made to change into 'in hondes.'
Cf. holden hym in honde (: fonde) Tr II 477, III. 773.

3) on-phrase:

have .. on honde (: stonde) HF 1009, etc.
Baar .. on honde (: understonde) WB Prol 380, 226;
Tr III. 1154; IV. 1404.

4) fossilized dative phrase:

to borwe (= as a pledge) (: to-morwe) LGW 2105, Knt 1622,
Tr II. 933.
dilicaat to sighte (: myghte) CIT 682.

5) with-phrase:

with al oure myght (: bryght) HF 1694.
with al my myght (: aright) Tr II. 993.
with humble cheere (: deere) FraT 1309.
with sorweful cheere (: heere) FraT 1353.

Notes:

1. These phrases are formed as occasion needs except the stereotyped ones such as 'at herte, in mynde, in honde,' etc. Chaucer seems to be in especial favour of 'IN + Abstract Noun,' by means of which mental conditions, circumstances and manners are aptly expressed. See the place where such phrases occur in the following:

in despeir (: the eir) MiT 3474.
have .. in dispit (: in .. plit) Tr II. 771.
in joye (: in Troye) LGW 1104.

2. It is especially characteristic of Chaucer's syntax not to put the definite article into such phrases.

ALLE AND SOME, etc.

Section 27. Such phrases as 'alle and some' which denotes 'one and all, persons of all the ranks', in most of the cases stand at the end of a line. Similar cases are 'bothe moore and lesse', 'bothe lesse and moore,' 'bothe yonge' and olde,' etc.

- 1) Hire em (=uncle) anon in armes hath hire none (=taken) And after to the soper, alle and some, Tr III. 606—7.

Similarly, Tr II. 1149, IV. 1068, V. 883, RA 740,
KnT 2187, Mi Prol 3136, MLT 263, FriT 1643,
Pd Prol 336, HF 46.

Compare 'alle or some' which also occurs in rime:

For this trowe I ye knowen alle or some (: ynome) Tr I. 240.

Been we ylymed, bothè moore and lesse (: bisynesse) WBT 934.

That may assoille yow, bothe moore and lasse (: passe) PdT 939.

Similarly, FriT 1562, Tr IV. 1544, RA 594, FraT 1054,

MkT 2243, PhysT 53, 275, etc.

In KnT 1756, 'bothe lasse and more' in the less usual inverted order stands in rime perhaps due to the preceding rime word 'soore.'

And alle crieden, bothe lasse and moore (: wyde and soore).

In a substantivized form: the meeste and leeste (: feeste) KnT 2198.

As for the collocation like 'yonge and olde,' see the following:

And to the feeste Cristen folk hem dresse In general, ye, bothe yonge and olde (: biholde) MLT 4167.

Similar cases are seen in MkT 2161, etc.

Cf. olde and yonge (: tonge) HF 1233.

Cf. alle his gestes, grete and smale (: my tale) ShipT 24,

105, RvT 4323.

grete and lyte (: byte) NPT 2932.

- 2) Miscellaneous phrases:

hoot and coold:

But all moot ben assayed, hoot and coold (: oold) KnT 1811.

moore and more:

the soore Encresseth at his herte moore and moore.

KnT 2744, Tr IV. 1345, V. 673; HF 532, 962,

FraT 964, SecNT 416.

new and newe:

And poked evere his nece new and newe (: trewe) Tr III. 116.

worde and ende (=beginning and end):

And al this thyng he told hym, word and ende (: to wende :
to blende) Tr II. 1495, IV. 702. V. 1669. MkT 2721.

Notes:

1. Similar phrases like 'muche and lite' (: visite) (Prol 494), 'hye or lowe' (: crowe) (MançT 361) may belong to Sect. 27. 1.
2. As for 'alle and some' which has the longest history of 'all'-phrases it seems to stand at the end of a line since its earliest appearance about 1325. All the three examples cited in the OED. from c. 1325 to 1460 seem to stand in rime. Indeed, Chaucer as well as any other poet in the Middle English period may have found such phrases useful for riming.
3. 'Word and ende' is a modification of the older formula 'ord and ende', almost all the instances of which occur in rime.

CONCESSIVE PHRASES.

Section 28. Phrases expressive of concession connected by 'or' ('ne', 'nor' in the cases of negative context) stand frequently at the end of a line. Phrases of this nature which are of various formation as, for instance, 'Noun or Noun,' 'Adj. or Adj.' 'Inf. or Inf.', etc. abound in Chaucer, between these nouns, etc. there being an alternative.

a) Noun.

in thocht ne dede (: godlyhede) HF 329.
for wisdom or folye (: ye) Tr V. 473.
in word or dede (: drede) RA 1037.
every worde or dede (: wommanhede) Tr V. 474.
in ernest nor in game (: name) CIT 609.
in ernest or in game (: Fame) HF 822.
for ernest ne for game (: name) CIT 733.
no bet ne wers (: ers) MiT 3733.
ne that ne this (: ywis) HF 1566.
for reyn ne thonder (: asonder) Prol 492.
for lef or loth (: his oth) LGW 1639, MançT 356.

Cf. for lief ne looth (: an ooth) ShipT 132.

b) Adjective.

looth or lief (: leef) KnT 1837.
be hym looth or deere (: clere) Tr II. 808.
soth or fals (: als) HF 2072.
fer ne ner (: daunger) KnT 1850.
foul or faire (: necessaire) Tr IV. 1022, HF 767, 833,
MLT 764.

Cf. for foul ne fair, MLT 525 (not in rime).

moch or lyte (: smyte) HF 778, Anel 107, 174.
better or werse (: reherce) Mi Prol 3174.
either privy or apert (: overt) HF 171.

wroth or blythe (: as swithe) PF 622.
yvel or well (: dell) RA 1295.

c) Infinitive or Verb.

lyve or deye (: seye) Tr V. 1410, II. 1594; FraT 1086;
Mars 40.

flete or synke (: to thynke) Anel 182, Pity 110.

synke or fleete (: heete) KnT 2397.

ride or go (: evermo) KnT 2252, 1351, 1380; Mkt 2651,
Comp d'Am 19.

go or ryde (: byde) RvT 4238.

Cf. go ne ryde (: syde) Mkt 2612.

although I wake or wynke (: synke) Pity 109.

wher-so she wepe or synge (: departynge) MLT 294, TrII. 952.

whether I wepe or synge (: brynge) Comp Lady 48.

prose or ryme (: tyme) Scog 41.

save or spille (: wille) WBT 898.

Notes:

1. A number of these phrases current in Chaucer as well as in Middle English became so hackneyed in the sense 'under all circumstances or in all respects'; cf. phrases of similar nature like 'in hot and cold' which also occurs in rime.

In *Sir Gawayn and the Grene Knyght*, one will come across this phrase at the end of the line:

I am derely to yow biholde
Bicause of your sembelaunt
And ever *in hot and colde*
To be your trwe seruvaunt. 1842—5.

2. Interesting is such a phrase 'thogh him gamed or smerte' in the sense 'in pleasure or pain' which also occurs in rime:

thogh him gamed or smerte (: herȝe) Prol 534.

3. 'Wolde or nolde' elliptically stands at the end of a line as in:

wher-so she wolde or nolde (: sholde) MLT 917.

4. 'He or she', which, perhaps, is rendered necessary by the rime, occurs in rime:

Man or Woman, he or she (: be) (the preceding rime word)
HF 1082.

5. Especially 'ride or go' or vice versa is one of the commonest phrases at the end of the line throughout Middle English poetry. See *Le Morte Arthur*, where 'bothe go and ryde, go ne ryde, ryde or go,' etc. are seen to occur in rime.

Indeed, these phrases are reminiscences of knighthood.

6. An emphatic concessive phrase such as 'for al this world to wyne'

occurs at end of verse : See Tr. I. 504 (to wynne: bygynne).

STEREOTYPED DEPENDENT CLAUSES.

Section 29. Stereotyped impersonal clauses like 'if the liste', 'as hem leste', etc. frequently stand at the end of a line or a stanza in particular. These hackneyed phrases seem to be parenthetical in function with a weakened sense like 'please' or 'as one chooses' etc., often being placed merely for the poet to save himself trouble for riming.

The usual types of such dependent clauses are as follows:

1. Type A: 'if the (yow) liste'

and tel me, if the liste (: triste) Tr I. 693, II. 758, 1110, 1394, III.
368, 846, IV. 1547, V. 1777; KnT 2208
(if yow leste: beste), FraT 1041.

(if hem leste (: reste) KnT 2622.

But who may bet bigile, yf hym lyste (: triste) Tr V. 1266.

Cf. if hym lyke (: sike) Tr III. 811.

if that me lest (: fest) Pars Prol 36.

if that it lyke yow (: now) Tr IV. 101.

This phrase sometimes does not occur in rime:

Tr III. 1292; CYT 891.

2. Type B: 'as the liste (leste)'

a) and love hire, as the liste (: wiste) Tr I. 679.

now do right as the leste (: beste) Tr I. 1029, II. 945.

b) do now as yow list (: trist) Tr III. 588.

c) as hire leste (: beste) Tr II. 1449, III. 1132, KnT 1052.

as hym leste (: reste) KnT 1004, Tr V. 753,

NPT 3073 (as hem leste).

Cf. to durre don that hym leste (: beste) Tr V. 840.

At alle tymes that hym lyste (: kyste) RA 1292.

and seyde that hym leste (: reste) Tr III. 223.

Variants:

as thiselven liste (: treste) Tr III. 259, 1330.

Cf. (in interior of line): Tr III. 373, IV. 583, CYT 1313.

Notes:

1. Especially 'do right as the leste' (Tr I. 1029, etc.) is the usual phrase.

2. The phrase 'as hire leste' in the following instance furnishes evidence that here it is put only for the rime, since such a word order as is seen in it will not be a usual practice with Chaucer.

She walketh up and doun, and *as hire liste*
She gadereth floures, party white and rede. KnT 1052—3.

3. The requirement of rime, in all probability, causes this phrase to be placed parenthetically in the interior of the line in the following:

As to my lady and chief *resort*
.....

And I to han, right as yow list, *comfort*. Tr III. 136.

3. Type C: 'what, etc. the (yow) liste'.

- a) what yow liste (: triste) Tr II. 249, III. 401.
what him leste (: the fayreste) HF 282.
what me leste (: reste) MLT 742.
what hem leste (: beste) Tr IV. 171.

Cf. (not in rime): 'What so hym list', FriT 1291.

- b) whan yow liste (: triste) Tr III. 917.
what that hem bothe leste (: in reste) Tr III. 1679.

Cf. (not in rime): What that hym list, FriT 1485.
What us liketh, FriT 1462.

- c) while that yow leste (: at reste) Tr III. 965.
while hem leste (: the geste) Tr II. 84.
d) goon where hym leste (: beste) KnT 1848, WB Prol 318.

Cf. wher it lyketh me (: free) WB Prol 50.

Note:

In the following a phrase of this nature seems to be added as an afterthought:

,but (=unless) it like unto thee (: pitee), ABC 139.

4. Type D: 'if that I may.'

- a) I shal ben here, if that I may (: say) Tr V. 1188, MLT 89.
if I may (: nay) WBT 1097, FriT 1478, RA 635, Manc Prol 85.
if we may (: day) CYT 803.
if that he may (: alway) FriT 1658.
yif he may (: ay) MancT 173.
b) if she myghte (: sighte) Tr II. 1294, V. 119.
if he myghte (: by nyghte) PdT 857.

Note:

Sometimes phrases of the same nature do not stand at the end of a line as in: 'If that I may, and alle folk be trewel' (Tr II. 1610, etc.), where, after the phrase, a slight pause may be placed and hence the caesura should be expected.

5. Type E: 'if I, etc. konne.'

- a) if I konne (: bigonne) Tr II. 49.
yif I kan (: man) HF 143, 477.

b) if ye konne (: wonne) Tr II. 1742, 1316.

c) if that he kan (: man) KnT 1768.

6. Type F: 'as I, etc. may.'

werken as I may (: ay) Tr II. 1401.

as he myghte (: lighte : syghte) Tr V. 632, WBT 955.

as he wel myghte (: highte) SecNT 551.

Cf. as he kan best (: lest) WB Prol 359.

as I kan (: man) Pars Prol 41.

Compare, however, the following case in which this phrase is parenthetically put in the interior:

The bren, as I best kan, how moste I selle (: telle) WB Prol 478.

7. Type G: 'as thynketh me.'

a) as thynketh me (: be : ysee) Tr IV. 835, WBT 1203.

as it thynketh me (: necessitee) KnT 3041.

Cf. as it semeth me (: he : yse) Tr IV. 1042.

b) as me thoughte (: as the oughte : wroughte) Tr III. 233,

HF 2030, RA 702.

as thoughte me (: Jolyte) Pity 37.

as it thoughte me (: he) Prol 385.

as hem thoughte (: soughte) PdT 771.

as that hym thoughte (: broughte) MkT 2743.

Note:

In Tr III. 380, however, this phrase seems to stand in the caesura:

As thynketh me, now stokked in prisoun (: Agamenoun).

8. Type H: 'as hym oughte.'

right as hym oughte (: broughte) Tr III. 680, MLT 1017.

obeyed as hire oughte (: bisoughte) Tr III. 581.

as us oughte (: boughte) ABC 119.

do now as the oughte (: thoughte) Tr III. 264.

Variant: as hem oughte be (: be) CYT 1340.

9. Type I: 'for (or in) aught I kan espie.'

a) for aught I kan espie (: jalousie) Tr III. 538, IV. 1469, Mars 221.

for aught that I kan see (: me) Tr IV. 568.

b) in aught I kan espie (: syen : yen) Tr V. 814.

in aught that I kan see (: me : be) Tr IV. 1235.

Cf. for aught he kan or may (: weylaway : lay) Tr IV. 1164.

10. Type J: 'as he, etc. was wont to done.'

as he was wont to doone (: soone) Tr III. 1126, 1536, IV. 67, 1126.

as they were wont to doone (: soone) Tr III. 1711.

as it wont is for to doone (: soone) Tr V. 277.

11. Type K: 'til that I deye.'

tyl that I deye (: seye : leye) Tr III. 1607, IV. 444, 1657.
til I sterve (: serve) Tr V. 175.

Cf. unto my lyves ende (: wende) Tr III. 392.

12. Miscellaneous.

Unlike the above examples, here are thrown together different cases of dependent clauses of parenthetical force, some of which express concession.

a) Clauses expressive of concession:

bityde what bityde (: syde) Tr V. 750.
for aught that may bityde (: to ride) Tr V. 59.
of what it be (: see) Tr II. 1333.
wherso that he be (: me) Tr II. 847.
wolde whoso nolde (: sholde) Tr I. 77.
though I wolde (: olde) KnT 2040.
be as be may (: day) MiT 3783.

b) Clauses which mean 'so (as) far as.....'

as I kan knowe (: a throwe) Tr II. 1653.
as fer as I have wit (: yit) Tr III. 997.
as ferforth as I kan (: man) WBProI 56.
as ferforth as ye may (: day) MLT 19.

c) Clauses especially in the construction: 'as Adverb as kan.':

as lightly as I kan (: man) NPT 2939.
as hertely as I kan (: man) Tr V. 941.

Cf. as muche as it was right (: might) Tr III. 998.

d) The so-called 'contact clauses.'

in al the haste he may (: nay : lay) Tr III. 1586.
in the best wise he kan (: man) MLT 346.
withal the haste I may (: day : nay) MLT 737.

e) Other clauses:

as was the beste (: leste : geste) Tr III. 453.
in al that ye may (: day) KnT 1824.

Notes:

1. All the examples above cited of various types clearly indicate that stereotyped (or sometimes even less stereotyped) dependent clauses have, in Chaucer's poetry, a tendency to stand at the ends of lines. This fact will further be observed if examples are multiplied.

2. The hackneyed clause 'as he were wood' (=as if he were mad) frequently stands at the end of the line as in HF 1809, RvT

4231, MIT 3415, KnT 2042, MIT 3817, Prol 636, HF 202 (as thou were wood: blood) etc.

However, not in rime as in MIT 3814, KnT 1578.

Cf. as he were mad (: Jad) RvT 4231.
as it were wood (: blood) Knt 2950.

ASSEVERATIONS.

Section 30. Various forms of asseveration which are characteristic of Chaucer very frequently occur at the end of a line. The main types are (1) 'shortly to seyne' and its variants, (2) 'withouten'-phrases, (3) 'out of drede, etc.', (4) 'parde' (5) 'ywis' and (6) 'trewely.'

These asseverative forms are extensively used by Chaucer as riming-tags, by means of which the poet intended to "give their listeners time to absorb some fact or interesting detail, or to drive home the importance of a statement." (H. S. Bennett: Chaucer and the 15th Century, p. 85.) Thus the poet did not forget to be always in close contact with his audience by giving free play even to such useful rime-tags.

1. Type I: 'shortly (for) to seyne.'

and shortly for to seyne (: tweyne: peyne)

Tr III. 1117, 548, V. 1009,

MLT 564, KnT 1417, MKT 2045, 2355.

PdT 502, CYT 1111, 1217, etc.

Notes:

1. In the above three instances from Troilus, 'and' is used before the phrase as an inseparable part of it.
2. This phrase is sometimes amplified by another riming tag as in Tr III. 1156: *Withouten more*, shortly for to seyne (: feyne).

Cf. (not in rime): RvT 4197.

Variants:

- 1) so pleynly for to seyne (: peyne) Tr III. 1126.
- 2) right platly to seyn (: reyn: certeyn) Tr III. 786.
- 3) soothly for to seye (: weye) Prol 468, PF 270.

Cf. (not in rime): Pity 96.

Cf. if I shal sothly seyn (: ayein: feyn) Tr V. 487,
WB Prol 601, etc.

- 4) finally to seye (: weye) MLT 1147.
- 5) shortly of this matier for to pace (: grace: space)
MLT 205, KnT 1417.
- 6) for to speke al pleyn (: sayn: fayn) MLT 219.

2. Type II: 'shortly (for) to telle.'

shortly for to telle (: to dwelle) Tr V. 1886, ShipT 305,
KnT 1534, RA 1501,
KnT 1119 (without 'for').

Compare the amplified form as in:

For shortly for to tellen, at o word (:bord) MLT 428.

Variants:

- 1) at shorte wordes for to telle (: dwelle) Tr V. 848.
- 2) and in a wordes fewe (: shewe) Tr IV. 1280.
- 3) to tellen short and pleyne (: to seyn) SecNT 360.
- 4) if I shortly tellen shal and playn, (: slayn) MLT 990.

3. Type III: 'soth (for) to seyne.'

soth for to seyne (: peyne) Tr I. *591, *712, II. 621, 986, 1356, *1516,
1559, III. 355, 430, 993, 1530, IV. 503, *797,
V. 1349, RA 117, HF 563, *960, 1917, PF 78,
*Anel 85, HF 1368, CYT 1285, NPT 3021.

Note: * shows the cases where 'for to' is used.

Cf. (not in rime): Tr II. 684, III. 1793, MLT 443,
Tr II. 1137 (perhaps in the caesura).

4. Type IV: 'the sothe for to seyne.'

the sothe for to seyne (: pleyne) Tr I. 12, II. 520, V. 1012, 1035.
And shortly, al the sothe for to seyne (: deye) Tr IV. 953.

5. Type V: '(the) sothe (for) to telle.'

the sothe for to telle (: dwelle) Tr V. 1028, III. *650, 1598, IV. *47;
RA *973, **1463; KnT 3038; HF 1804, ***1842.

Cf. the amplified form:

shortly al the sothe to telle (: welle) RA 1528.

(not in rime): HF 1388.

Note: *shows the phrase without 'the.'

**shows the phrase without 'for.'

***shows the phrase without 'the' and 'for.'

6. Type VI: 'out of drede.'

I am on the faireste, out of drede, (: spede : hede) Tr II. 746, 833,
1175, III. 1720, IV. 72, 1455, V. 759, 980,
1090, 1751, RA 131, 1038, 1322, PF 81, HF
1142, 1456, Anel 303, MLT 893, SecNT 155,
MKT 2286.

Note: .

Chaucer seems to be in favour of this phrase especially at the end of a line. Though the phrase 'no drede' as in 'it is no drede' (PdT 507, 561, etc.) is in the OED. cited as the earliest example c. 1340,

yet as for the phrase 'out of drede' Chaucer boasts of its first contributor to the various stock of similar phrases and, what is important, he makes use of it at the end of a line.

7. Type VII: 'out of doute.'

out of doute (: devoute) Tr I. 152, IV. 1571, V. 63, 1518, 1644, Prol 487, KnT 1141, MiT 3561, HF 812, 1037, 2005, LGW 2502, WBT 978, MLT 390, RvT 3987, PhysT 157, PdT 822.

Note: The somewhat rare form 'out of doutaunce' occurs twice in rime as in: Tr IV. 963 and 1044.

8. Type VIII: 'doutelees.'

doutelees (: pees: recchelees) MLT 226, WB Prol 440, KnT 1831, 2667, Tr II. 414, 1529, IV. 102, CYT 1453, SecN Prol 16, NPT 2907, 3103.

Cf. (not in rime): Tr III. 1378, 1788, IV. 76, 430, 1149, 1235, 1650, V. 202, etc.

9. Type IX: 'trewely.'

trewely (: mercy) Tr II. 241, 541, 628, III. 1489, IV. 116, 687, 939, 1055, V. 494, 1075, Prol 76, RA 1236, 1307, HF 615, 1045, 1319, 1542, FriT 1457, CYT 735, 1063, 1307, MKT Prol 1925, KnT 1267, 2288, LGW 317.

Cf. (not in rime): Tr II. 1161, III. 178, IV. 1063, 1415, V. 816, 1051, 1082, 1086, 1704, MancT 150, Pars Prol 27, NPT 3291.

Notes:

1. This word is sometimes used to emphasize a statement, sometimes as a mere expletive, the latter being often the case with Chaucer.
2. Instead of 'trewely,' similar forms, with much the same sense, such as 'hardily,' 'sikerly,' 'certainly,' etc. also stand at the end of a line.

10. Type X: 'certeyn.'

certeyn (: feyn) RA 809, 3495, 3669, HF 160, 502, 929, KnT 2831, MLT 45, ABC 169, MLT 884, FriT 1487, WBT 1005, 1183, Tr II. 1569, IV. 1058, SumT 1793, 1917, 2024, PhysT 89, MKT 2755, Shipt 358.

Cf. (not in rime): Tr III. 1154, IV. 945, 1202, V. 968, WB Prol 331, SumT 1952, Manc Prol 34, NPT 3317, CYT 1463.

Note: We may add that, though curious enough, the similar kind of asseverative form 'certes' does not occur in rime; hence no single

instance of it as a rime word is found in Cromie's Ryme-Index to the C.T. However, Prof. Kittredge pays attention to the word as occurring in rime in *Troilus* (desertes 4109 f : certes).

11. Type XI: 'pardee'

Of every ordre som shrewe is, pardee, (: bee), CYT 995.

Similar cases are: Tr I. 717, 845, II. 669, 732, III. 337, 339, 635, IV. 975, 1368, 1584, V. 142; Prol 563, LGW (F) 16, 508, 515, 533, 2179; PF 509, KnT 1312, 3084, WB Prol 200, 310, 335, 712; FriT 1565, MLT*856, HF 134, 404, 575, 840, 1864, 1896, Mch Prol 1234, CYT 995, 1239, 1447, NPT 2928, etc.

The following are in the interior of the line:

Tr II. 123, 366, IV. 1090, 1613, PF 571, WBT 950, Fri Prol 1280, FriT 1468, ShipT 219, PdT 672, Sum Prol 1675, HF 1002, 1032, CYT 843, 942, 947, NPT Prol 2784, etc.

Notes:

1. This form of asseveration which means simply 'indeed,' etc. frequently occurs in rime; it is especially true of *Troilus*. Hence this small word almost nears the so-called riming-tag just like 'yfeere' (=together) in Middle English poetry. According to Cromie's Ryme-Index to the C.T., 'pardee' as a rime word occurs 17 times, often riming with 'be, he, me', etc.
2. An effective use of 'pardee' is observable in Prol 563:
And yet he hadde a thomb of gold, parde (: he). And I may add in passing that the Wife of Bath, one of the outstanding figures among Chaucer's pilgrims, is a frequent user of this tiny word. See WB Prol passim.
3. This, a corrupted form of 'par dieu,' may at that time have possessed a colloquial tone about it; hence the pilgrims of the lower classes in the Tales seem to be fond of it.

12. Type XII: 'ywys.'

this drede I moost, ywys (: this: is) Tr I. 1019.

Similar cases are: Tr I. 425, 802, 893, II. 128, 228, 312, 365, 387, 729, 891, 1635, III. 170, 500, 1031, 1121, 1181, IV. 380, 1034, 1040, 1051, 1375, V. 367, 935, 961, 1685; RA 44, 69, 160, 281, 350, 470, 519, 555, 630, 645, 708, 960, 967, 982, 1153, 1171, 1182, 1185; HF 809, 827, 835, 864, 882, 1291, 1445, 1470, 1514, 1565, 1838, 1843, 1922, 1988, 2060; FriT 1297, Comp Lady 44; CY Prol 617, 689, CYT 823, 1107, 1363; NPT Prol 2768, NPT 3199, 3442; MancT 277; SecNT 263, 439 (71 times).

Compare the following cases where 'ywys' occurs in the interior:

Tr II. 835, 846, 880, 898, 1096, 1398, 1669, III, 167, 927, 1110, 1211, 1303, 1380, IV. 21, 298, 442, 689, 691, 846, 903, 1074, 1330, 1574, 1660, V. 455, 467, 510, 650, 663, 1401, 1405, 1732; MiT 3705, HF 326, 982, 1084, 1863; PF 6, 697; WB Prol 458, SumT 2001, CKT Prol 4362, PdT 327, CYT 1359, NPT Prol 2817 (45 times).

Notes:

1. Like 'pardee' this word which has a weakened sense 'indeed,' etc. is frequently met with as a rime word, though evidence to the contrary is also noticeable. Cromie's Ryme-Index to the C.T. has 15 cases of the word as occurring in rime.

2. We may see the intensive force of this word in the following instance:

Ther nys a fairer nekke, iwys (: is) RA 555.

In his later works, however, Chaucer is in favour of 'for the nones' in such a case.

Section 31. The preposition 'withouten' often forms stereotyped phrases such as 'withouten more,' 'withouten faille,' etc.

These phrases are chiefly used as riming-tags.

The following are the main types current in Chaucer.

a) Type I: 'withouten more.'

withouten more (: sore) Tr III. 973, IV. 133, 376, 1498,
KnT 2316, 2803, SecNT 374.

withouten mo (: go) Tr IV. 1125, 1641, KnT 2725, SecNT 207.

Variants:

1) withouten any more (: sore) Tr V. 1197, KnT 1541.

2) withouten any mo (: two) RvT 3970.

b) Type II: 'withouten drede.'

withouten drede (: nede) Tr III. 490, 1741; RA 1442, HF 830, 1913,
LGW (F) 464, PF 52, MLT 196, MiT 29.

Variant:

withouten any drede (: nede) Tr II. 672, III. 418, SecNT 329,
CYT 1229.

Note: In the following instance this phrase is amplified for emphasis by another asseverative clause:

Withouten drede, this ys no lye. HF 292.

c) Type III: 'withouten doute.'

withouten doute (: therabout) Tr II. 1392, LGW 721, 1932;
MLT 734, 777, ShipT 406, CYT 915.

Cf. (not in rime): KnT 1322.

Variants:

- 1) withouten any doute (: route : aboute) Tr IV. 404.
- 2) withouten any wene (=doubt) (: quene : shene) Tr IV. 1593.
- 3) withouten wene (: grene) RA 574.
- 4) sanz doute (: theraboute) SumT 1838.

Note: Concerning 'sans' (=without) the OED. says that it was used almost exclusively with sbs. adopted from OF., in collocations already formed in that language, as *sans delay*, *sans doubt*, *sans fable*, *sans pity*, *sans return*. Chaucer sometimes makes use of French idioms with 'sans' like 'sans doute.'

d) Type IV: 'withouten faille.'

withouten faille (: bataille) Tr II. 629, RA 1272, 1275,
KnT 1854, HF 1448, CYT 1163.

Cf. (not in rime): KnT 1644.

Variants:

- 1) withouten any faille (: assaile) Tr IV. 1596,
LGW 1092, Pity 48.
- 2) sanz faille (: Itayle) HF 188, 429, MLT 50.
Cf. 'sanz doute.'

e) Type V: 'withouten lette.'

withouten lette (: mette) Tr I. 361, III. 748.

Variants:

- 1) withouten any lette (: sette : yshette) Tr III. 235.
- 2) withouten lenger lette (: sette) Tr III. 699, IV. 41.
- 3) withouten longe lette (: fette) Tr V. 851.

Note: The Oxford Dictionary says that in M.E. verse the phrase 'withouten lette' is frequent, often as a mere expletive. Our interest here as elsewhere lies in the fact that this phrase, though it means almost little or nothing in itself, does occur more often in rime than in any other place.

f) Type VI: 'withouten lye.'

But wel I woot, expres, withouten lye (: multiplie)
WB Prol 27, CY Prol 599, CYT 1127, 1430.

Variant: withouten any lye (: ye) KnT 3015.

Note: This phrase like 'without fable' is often used as a mere expletive in M.E. poetry. Cf. it is no lye MLT 3391.

g) Type VII: 'withouten les.'

Eneas sothly ek, withouten les,
Hadde sent unto his ship, by Achates, LGW 1128—9.

Similarly, LGW 1518, HF 1464.

Variant: withouten any les (: Achates) LGW 1022.

h) Type VIII: 'withouten wordes mo.'

withouten wordes mo (: two : go) Tr IV. 219.

Similar cases are observable in MiT 3408, 3819, PdT 678, RA 641.

Cf. (not in rime): MiT 3650 (here, perhaps, the caesura will be felt).

This phrase is sometimes enlarged by another similar phrase, often the infinitive:

To telle in short, withouten wordes mo (: so)

Tr II. 1405, III. 234.

withouten wordes more (: yore) Tr V. 56, 1672, IV. 664.
CYT 1255.

Variant: withouten any wordes mo (: two) Tr V. 764.

i) Type IX: 'withouten more speche.'

withouten more speche (: biseche) Tr II. 1421, III. 1510,
V. 388, 1131, 1716, Prol 783.

Variant: withouten lenger speche (: teche) WBT 1020.

FOR THE NONES.

Section 32. 'For the nones' is extensively used as a riming-tag. This phrase sometimes means 'for the time or occasion', 'for the special purpose' and sometimes 'very, exceedingly' for mere emphasis and sometimes only a mere nothing as a colourless tag. It seems evident that Chaucer came to be in favour of this phrase especially in his later works, judging from its frequency of occurrence. By way of illustration, let me quote Cromie's Ryme-Index again. In it he records 11 examples of the phrase from the Canterbury Tales. On the contrary, in the House of Fame, for instance, we have only a single instance for the phrase. At all events, this phrase almost always with humorous association about it seems to have been very much liked by the poet, together with various kinds of swearing, which will be dealt with later on.

A Cook they hadde with hem for the nones

To boille the chiknes with the marybones. Prol 379—80.

On the function of the phrase as seen above the OED. says that it means 'on purpose,' often with inf. or clause expressing object or purpose. In the above example, however, we cannot help feeling also 'something humorous, that is, what we may call 'Chaucerian.'

This phrase often occurs in connection with adverbs and adjectives:

Hym wolde he snybben sharply for the nones (: noon ys), Prol 523.
which a sharp word for the nones (: ones) WB Prol 14.

Here also some humorous effect is noticeable.

Other examples are: Prol 545, MiT 3126, '3469, KnT 879, SumT 2154, MLT 1165, Merry Words Host 1214, RA.709, 1111, HF 2087, LGW (F) 295, 1070, 1116, Tr II. 1381, IV. 185, Mk Prol 1942, NPT 3333.

Cf. (not in rime): Tr IV. 428 (here it means to the literal, i.e. 'for the occasion.')

FORMS OF OATH AND SWEARING.

Section 33. Various forms of swearing, chiefly used to emphasize a statement, were part and parcel of everyday conversation at that time. And these kind of swear-words very frequently stand at the end of the line. Like the above-mentioned asseverations, swearing in its variety was to all intents and purposes akin to 'indeed,' 'truly,' 'verily' in sense, except when some serious occasion needed earnest adjuration by the names of God and saints.

Chaucer's pilgrims especially of lower classes, as, for instance, the Miller, the Reeve, the Wife of Bath, etc. often swore by the names of their patron saints. Most of such forms of swearing have an interjectional as well as an asseverative force.

The following types frequently stand at the end of the line.

a) Type I: 'by seint Thomas', etc.

And seyde, "I am adrad, by Seint Thomas,
It stondest nat aright with Nicholas. MiT 3425—6.

Again the carpenter in the Miller's Tale swears by the name of his patron saint as in:

But yet, by seint *Thomas*,
Me reweth sore of hende *Nicholas*, Ibid. 3461—2.

Similarly, WB Prol 666.

Forms of swearing by the names of other saints who also were popular among the pilgrims are observable in the following:

by Seint Thomas of Kent (: fundament) HF 1131.

by Seint Clare (: fare) HF 1066.

by Seint Jame (: game) HF 885.

- by Seint John (: anon) SumT 1800, 2094, PF 451, KnT 1747,
FriT 1613, HF 1183, PdT 752.
- by Seint Ronyon (: right anon) PdT 320, 310.
- by Seint Gile (: a while) CYT 1185.
- by Seint Austin (: in) ShpT 441.

Interesting is the following:

- by seint Poules belle ! (: telle) NPT Prol 2780.

Note: This is often amplified for emphasis by 'by God.'

- by God and by Seint John (: anon) WB Prol 164, SumT 2252.
- by God and by Seint Jame (: name) FriT 1443, ShpT 355.
- by God and by Seint Joce (: croce) WB Prol 483.

b) Type II: 'by Goddes dignitee,' etc.

- by Goddes dignitee ! (: Benedicitee) MLT 1169, RvT 4270.
- by Goddes sweete pyne (: whyne) WB Prol 385.

Cf. (not in rime): PdT 701, 782.

Note: These phrases do not necessarily occur at the end of the verse as in MkT 1906 (By corpus bones), Ibid. 1897 (By Goddes bones), etc. But the general tendency is towards the end of the verse.

c) Type III: 'for Goddes love,' etc.

- for Goddes love (: above) MiT 3838, CYT 1176.

Cf. (not in rime): SumT 2197, 2053, WBT 1096, NPT 2943.

- for Goddes owene love! (: above) NPT 2954.
- Help! water! water! help, for Goddes herte! (: sterre) MiT 3815
(clearly interjectional).
- for Goddes bones (: nones) MLT 1166, SumT 3153, RvT 4073.
- for Goddes digne passioun (: predicacioun) MLT 1175.
- for his hooly blood (: wood) MiT 3508.
- for cokkes bones (: atones) Manc Prol 9 (vulgar).

Note: These forms of swearing are frequently used by vulgar people.

d) Type IV: 'for Cristes sake,' etc.

- for Cristes sake! (: bake) SumT 1732.
- for Cristes peyne (: reyne) RvT 4084, PhysT 81.
- for Cristes passion (: conclusion) CkT Prol 4327.
- for Cristes sweete tree (: benedicitee) MiT 3767.

Cf. (not in rime): For Cristes saule, RvT 4263.

- for Goddes sake (:make) SumT 1717, CYT 1357.

Variants:

- 1) for seinte charitee! (: me) KnT 1721.

- 2) for seinte Triniteel (: she) SumT 1824.
 3) for Cristes mooder deerel (: Frere) SumT 1762.

Section 34. Unlike the strong forms of swearing, such as 'for Godes bones, for cokkes bones,' etc., here are thrown together such milder forms as 'by my fey', 'by my trouthe,' etc. which also occur at the end of the line.

a) Type I: 'by my fey,' etc.

by my feyl (: away) MiT 3284, KnT 1126, FriT 1335, RvT 4043,
 Ck Prol 4356, SumT 1811, 2236, WB Prol 215,
 PdT 762, Manc Prol 13.

Cf. (not in rime): WB Prol 203.

Variants:

1) by my feith! (: leith) (vb.), SumT 2137, FriT 1403, RvT 4209,
 NPT 2911, 3327, PdT 524, CY Prol 710, MkT
 1921.

2) by your feyl (: wey) WBT 1002.

3) by thy feith! (: seith) (vb.), FriT 1551, SumT 1987, Ck Prol
 4358.

4) by thy feyl (: pley) Pars Prol. 23.

Note: Such a disguised form as 'parfay' (=by (my) faith) occurs
 in rime: parfay (: may : day) MLT 849.

Compare, however, MLT 1037, where it occurs in the interior.

b) Type II: 'by my trouthe.'

by my trouthe (: slouthe) HF 1763, Tr II. 350, 490, V. 1001.

Cf. (not in rime): WB Prol 422, WBT 1240, FriT 1424, Tr II.
 506, III. 636, PdT 823, ShipT 418, Mk Prol
 1928, NPT 3450.

by god and by my trouthe (: routhe) Tr I. 770, III. 1512.

Variant: by thy trouthe (: routhe) HF 613.

c) Type III: 'by myn hood,' etc.

by myn hood (: good) LGW 507, Tr V. 1151 CYT 1334.

by myn hat (: that) PF 589.

by my pan (: man) KnT 1165.

by my hedl (: ded) HF 1875.

Cf. (not in rime): by myn heed, KnT 267.

by my croun (: down) RvT 4041, 4099.

Note: The OED. quotes the above instance 'by myn hood' from
Troilus as the earliest citation.

d) Type IV: 'by thy fader kyn'

by thy fader kyn! (: therin) Manc Prol 37.

by your fader kyn (: skyn) Mk Prol 1931.

Cf. for your fader kyn! (: yn) NPT 2968.

Notes to Section 34:

1. Speaking generally, 'by god' hardly occurs in rime, as, for instance, SumT 2106, 1849, Fri Prol 1292, WB Prol 489, 586, 634, 693, etc., etc. Therefore, 'by God' often precedes another swearing like 'by God and by Seint Jocol (: croce) WB Prol 483, etc.
2. 'God woot,' which also is a form of asseveration, does not seem to occur in rime, except in a very few cases: e.g.

God it woot (: hoot) FriT 1435, WB Prol 538.

Cf. (not in rime): WB Prol 663, 703. WBT 1150, FriT 1555, 1612, Sum Prol 1673, SumT 1784, 2103, etc.

Section 35. Here are included for want of a suitable term of classification such sentences as expressive of prayer in a lighter vein like 'so God me save!' — a kind of asseveration — together with the stereotyped 'so moot I thee' and its variants. These forms, though much longer than any other form mentioned above, have a tendency to occupy the end of the line.

a) Type I: 'so God me save!'

A myrie child he was, so God me save! (: shave) MiT 3325, 3795.

so God yow save! (: have) HF 1760, CYT 1361.

God so me save! (: ygrave) HF 1135.

God so save me! (: she) SumT 1809.

Also God me save! (: have) Anel 202, RvT 4247.

Note: Chaucer seems to be in especial favour of such asseverative phrases, which, naturally, are placed at the end of the verse; 'so God me save' as an asseverative phrase is in the OED quoted from Chaucer as the earliest. Needless to say, these phrases are often used for emphasis or for a mere intensive purpose.

Various phrases of similar nature are observable in the following:

- 1) so God me speed! (: dede) SumT 2205.
- 2) there God hym save! (: nave) SumT 2265.
- 3) so God me wisse! (: blisse) SumT 1858.
- 4) God hem blesse! (: messe) SumT 1787.

Variants:

1) so God yow blesse! (: hevynesse) NPT Prol 2788.

2) so God my soule blesse (: hevynesse) Manc Prol 21,

3) God his soule blesse! (: gentillesse) NPT 3295.

5) God amende it soonel (: to doone) SumT 2193.

Cf. (not in rime): God it amende! CY Prol 651
(here perhaps in the caesura).

6) I shal seye sooth to yow, God helpe me so! (: two) NPT 3425.
(See the asseverative force here).

Variants:

- 1) as wis God help me! (: ye) NPT 3408 (mere intensive).
- 2) so ye me helpe! (: yelpe) KnT 2237.

Note: It is interesting to note that 'as help me God' which is another usual form of asseveration does not occur at the end of the line, perhaps for much the same reason as the non-occurrence of 'by God,' since, in either case, 'God' is required to become a rime-word. Cromie gives only a single instance of 'God' as rime word. (Ryme-Index to the C.T.)

b) Type II. 'so moot I thee (= thrive)'

This set expression was then a formula, by means of which 'hope' (as, I hope to prosper), 'asseveration' (as, I assure you, indeed, truly), and sometimes even 'vengeance' (as in 'yvel moot he cheeve', etc.) were expressed. And the places of these phrases, here as elsewhere, are frequently at the end of the verse.

So moot I thee! (: privetee) WB Prol 532, 361, Tr V. 1160,
NPT 2976.

so moot I thryve! (: alyve) SumT 2034, HF 1320,
Tr II. 185, MancT 255.

as moot I thryve! (: as blyve) Tr II. 135.

also moot I the! (: adversite: beaute) Mars 267,
WBT 1215, FriT 1271,
Manc Prol 1226.

also moot I thryve! (: stryve) Manc Prol 80.

as mot I the! (: ye) Tr I. 341.

Variants:

1) yvel moot he cheeve (= thrive) (: sleeve) CYT 1235.

2) so mot I go (: also) CY Prol 634, NPT Prol 2816.

Note: Interesting is such a contracted form as 'so theech: breech,' PdT 947.

Section 36. Phrases expressing or involving imprecation, like 'with meschance!', 'with hard grace!', etc. along with 'God lete him never thee!', etc. frequently stand at the end of the line. These imprecatory phrases approach practically the interjection, strong and forceful in function.

a) Type I: 'God lete him never thee!', etc.

God lete hym nevere thee! (: be) SumT 2207, 2232, NPT 3432.

God yeve thee sorwel (: morwe) Manc Prol 15.
 the foule feend hym fecche! (: wrecche) CYT 1159.
 ther God yeve hym meschaunce! (: Custance) MLT 602, 914, NPT 3433.
 Jhesu shorte thy lyf (: wyf) WB Prol 365.
 God sende hym lytel myght! (: myght) SumT 2014.
 God yeve it hard grace! (: face) CY Prol 665.
 The foule feend hym quelle! (: telle) CY Prol 705.
 foule moote thee falle! (: alle) Manc Prol 40.

b) Type III: 'with meschance!'

To every man yliche, with meschaunce! (: traunce) SumT 2215.

Similar cases are: MLT 602, 896, Manc Prol 17.

'Sory grace' and 'hard grace' are used in this construction. For instance:

with hard grace! (: face) SumT 2223, CYT 1189.

with sory grace! (: face) PdT 717, 876.

Also 'with sorwe' (: with sore! : morwe) NPT 3253.

Cf. with sorwe and with meschaunce! (: acquitaunce) CkT 4412.

Interesting is the similar phrase expressive of cursing:

And prechest on thy bench, with yvel preef! (: meschief)
 WB Prol 247.

Section 37. 'Benedicitee' whose original meaning 'bless us, etc.', is quite lost sight of is used as a mere interjection often at the end of the verse.

benedicitee! (: tree) MiT 3768, KnT 1785, 2112; WB Prol 241, 280,
 WBT 1087, FriT 1584, SumT 2170, Tr III. 767,
 NPT 3393, CY Prol 628, etc.

Cf. (not in rime): FriT 1456, Tr III. 860, etc.

Note: Cromie has 8 instances of this interjection as a rime word, but examples will be multiplied if every line is minutely examined all over the Canterbury Tales.

CONCLUSION.

From the instances cited above we shall be justified in stating that, first of all, the rime words, apart from the phonological viewpoint, show syntactical characteristics of their own, and this is more important, certain kinds of words or groups of words have a trend towards standing at the end of the line. Although such words or word-groups are also found in the interior of the line, yet I am inclined to assert that, as the above instances clearly show, at least the words or groups of words cited above occur in a much

larger number at or near the end than in the interior of the line or verse. This is especially true of the stereotyped phrases or clauses, not to mention the so-called riming-tags.

This fact furnishes ample evidence that in Chaucer as well as in Middle English verse in general the syntax had possessed its settled structure on the one hand, while on the other it also had another aspect, — a fluctuating or vascillating aspect, so to speak, — the study of which is not the main theme of the present research. And first I have studied the problem of the places where such words and phrases occur and then the words and phrases themselves; and, by doing so, I think I have reached some important conclusions: one of them, among others, is that the settled syntax of Chaucer which had already been formed in English poetic language is to be observed most clearly at the end of the line. Further we have seen above that in such cases the necessities of rime may give occasion to such a tendency and accordingly there may be seen some inter- or cor-relation between the settled syntax and the requirement of the rime.

This tendency, even if unconscious on the part of the poet, should bear close relation to the characteristic of Chaucer's language.

(February 7, 1951)