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well as Orm's *dd* point to the second stage of form-development. This stage can have been reached solely through popular etymology, and objections to this hypothesis founded on arguments concerning organic changes, such as that of Dr. Bright need carry no weight.³

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A HITHERTO UNPUBLISHED TEXT
OF THE "ÉVANGILE AUX
FEMMES."

SINCE writing the paper on the "Évangile aux Femmes," of which an abstract was printed in MOD. LANG. NOTES for Jan., 1893, cols. 35-37, I have been so fortunate as to obtain a very satisfactory copy (made by E. Klis, Paris) of a version of the poem which has never before been published; namely, that of the Epinal MS., no. 189, f^o. 37 r^o.—f^o. 37 v^o. (formerly known as no. 59).

This MS. was mentioned by Franz Joseph Mone in his *Anzeiger für Kunde der deutschen Vorzeit*, v (1836), col. 58; a short description of it is given in 'Catalogue Général des Mss. des Bibl. Publiques des Départements,' iii (1861), p. 422, where it is known as no. 59; finally, François Bonnardot gave an extremely detailed account of the MS. in *Bulletin de la Soc. des Anc. Textes Français*, 1876, pp. 64-134, where he prints six verses of our poem.

L. Constans gives a few variant readings

from this MS. in *Ztsch. f. Roman. Phil.*, viii, pp. 24-36; and these, together with the six verses given by Bonnardot, constitute what has hitherto been published of this text. Bonnardot has established the date of 1462 as approximately that of the portion of the MS. containing our poem; the MS. was written in Metz by various members of the Desch family, and is mostly a collection of poems which seem to have struck the writer's fancy and were, therefore, transcribed as he met with them in his reading from time to time.

The quatrains of our poem transcribed by him appear to have been selected from some longer version in accordance with his usual practice. There is, moreover, a gap at the end of the preceding piece, which seems to include the first portion of our poem, which now begins at the top of the recto of a folio, and is without a title of any sort; probably a whole folio has been lost here, and with it, I imagine, about three or four quatrains of our poem (this last surmise was arrived at by comparison with the other versions of the poem).

The text itself is interesting as a specimen of the Lorraine dialect in the fifteenth century, seemingly much influenced by the forms of colloquial language. In the text as given below, I have enclosed in parentheses all resolutions of the abbreviated forms found in the MS.

Constans, 'Chrest. de l'Anc. Français,' 2d ed., pp. 199-201, may be compared.

BIBL. D'ÉPINAL, MS. No. 189.

f^o. 37 r^o.

Moult puet est(re) hom(m)e ioeuz (et) fai(r)e chi(er)e lie
q(ua)nt fe(m)e lait a cure (et) ver lui sumelie
hu(m)ble (com) berbix et con lion herdie
bien doit estre lvy ho(m)me appelle fol si fie

³ Lack of space compels me to withhold my comment on Dr. Logeman's argument for our next number.—J.W.B.

home que feme ait en cur com(en)t auroit mesaixe
 cest vne medessine que de tout malz repaice
 ons y puet anci estre aseur (et) ai aixe
 (com) plain poins destoupe en vne airdant fornaixe

M(ou)lt ait de b(ie)n en fem(m)e maix il est si repus
 a poine lap(er)cevoir le puet oul pot on nus
 lor science resamble la maixont de daulus
 pues co(n) y est entreit ne san puet issir nulz

Sor toute riens est feme de muable tallant
 p(ar) nature vuelt fair ceu co(n) plux li deffant
 vne pance autre dit or vuelt or se repent
 en son p(ro)po se tient (com) cochet auz vant

Nest par droit ne rapont que dez fem(m)e mesdie
 saige sont (et) secreit plaine de cortoisie
 ka (con) die delle fol est que ne si fie
 tout co(m) pastor auz louf q(ua)nt sa beste est mangiee

Ie voy troy b(ie)n en fem(m)e que m(ou)lt font a loweie
 ferme sont (et) estauble (et) seue(n)t b(ie)n celleie
 De riens que on lor die ne se couient douteir
 ne plux que son estoit en .i. panier en meie

fo. 37 v^o.

que ne se fie en fa(m)me b(ie)n ait ou cor la raige
 sa paix (et) son preu heit (et) chaite son damage
 et (com) plux ly samble humble douce cortoise (et) saige
 adont te fie en lie auta(n)t (com) chet auz formaige

q(ua)nt vne fe(m)me fait .i. dinetot ou feste
 sache c(er)tainem(en)t que cest signe de tempeste
 nait en lie seurteit ne quil ait en la beste
 que point deuer la cowe (et) blandit de la teste

que (com) fame vuelt auoir (et) seur (et) sertaint
 a feme le vait querre ne lautait mie en vain
 cez co(n)seille est si boin (et) au soir (et) auz main
 que home nieiet iai hony se fe(m)me ni met la main

The MS. is said to be very difficult to read (as the whole of the poem has been scratched out), and the scribe (a member of the Desch family) must have written it down very care- lessly, leaving to us abundant opportunity for emendation.

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