

- 65 Gracious, with honor, till he grew to be older,  
 Wielded the Weders. Wide-fleeing outlaws,  
 Ohthere's sons, sought him o'er the waters:  
 They had stirred a revolt 'gainst the helm of the  
 Scylfings,  
 The best of the sea-kings, who in Swedish  
 dominions
- [81] 70 Distributed treasure, distinguished folk-leader.  
 'Twas the end of his earth-days; injury fatal<sup>3</sup>  
 By swing of the sword he received as a greeting,  
 Offspring of Higelac; Ongentheow's bairn  
 Later departed to visit his homestead,
- 75 When Heardred was dead; let Beowulf rule them,  
 Govern the Geatmen: good was that folk-king.

Reference is here  
 made to a visit  
 which Beowulf  
 receives from  
 Eanmund and  
 Eadgils, why  
 they come is not  
 known.

[1] 'Hám' (2326), the suggestion of B. is accepted by t.B. and other scholars.

[2] For 'láðan cynnes' (2355), t.B. suggests 'láðan cynne,' apposition to 'mægum.' From syntactical and other considerations, this is a most excellent emendation.

[3] Gr. read 'on feorme' (2386), rendering: *He there at the banquet a fatal wound received by blows of the sword.*

## XXXIV.

### BEOWULF SEEKS THE DRAGON.— BEOWULF'S REMINISCENCES.

- He planned requital for the folk-leader's ruin  
 In days thereafter, to Eadgils the wretched  
 Becoming an enemy. Ohthere's son then  
 Went with a war-troop o'er the wide-stretching currents
- 5 With warriors and weapons: with woe-journeys cold he  
 After avenged him, the king's life he took.  
 So he came off uninjured from all of his battles,  
 Perilous fights, offspring of Ecgtheow,  
 From his deeds of daring, till that day most  
 momentous
- 10 When he fate-driven fared to fight with the dragon.  
 With eleven companions the prince of the Geatmen  
 Went lowering with fury to look at the fire-drake:  
 Inquiring he'd found how the feud had arisen,  
 Hate to his heroes; the highly-famed gem-vessel
- 15 Was brought to his keeping through the hand of th' informer.  
 That in the throng was thirteenth of heroes,  
 That caused the beginning of conflict so bitter,

Beowulf has  
 been preserved  
 through many  
 perils.

With eleven  
 comrades, he  
 seeks the dragon.

A guide leads  
 the way, but

	Captive and wretched, must sad-mooded thenceward	
	Point out the place: he passed then unwillingly	very reluctantly.
20	To the spot where he knew of the notable cavern,	
	The cave under earth, not far from the ocean,	
	The anger of eddies, which inward was full of	
	Jewels and wires: a warden uncanny,	
[82]	Warrior weaponed, wardered the treasure,	
25	Old under earth; no easy possession	
	For any of earth-folk access to get to.	
	Then the battle-brave atheling sat on the naze-edge,	
	While the gold-friend of Geatmen gracious saluted	
	His fireside-companions: woe was his spirit,	
30	Death-boding, wav'ring; Weird very near him,	
	Who must seize the old hero, his soul-treasure look for,	
	Dragging aloof his life from his body:	
	Not flesh-hidden long was the folk-leader's spirit.	
	Beowulf spake, Ecgtheow's son:	
35	"I survived in my youth-days many a conflict,	Beowulf's
	Hours of onset: that all I remember.	retrospect.
	I was seven-winters old when the jewel-prince took me,	
	High-lord of heroes, at the hands of my father,	
	Hrethel the hero-king had me in keeping,	
40	Gave me treasure and feasting, our kinship	Hrethel took me
	remembered;	when I was
	Not ever was I <i>any</i> less dear to him	seven.
	Knight in the boroughs, than the bairns of his	He treated me as
	household,	a son.
	Herebald and Hæthcyn and Higelac mine.	
	To the eldest unjustly by acts of a kinsman	
45	Was murder-bed strewn, since him Hæthcyn from horn-bow	
	His sheltering chieftain shot with an arrow,	One of the
	Erred in his aim and injured his kinsman,	brothers
	One brother the other, with blood-sprinkled spear:	accidentally kills
	'Twas a feeless fight, finished in malice,	another.
50	Sad to his spirit; the folk-prince however	No fee could
	Had to part from existence with vengeance untaken.	compound for
	So to hoar-headed hero 'tis heavily crushing <sup>1</sup>	such a calamity.
[83]	To live to see his son as he rideth	[A parallel case
	Young on the gallows: then measures he chanteth,	is supposed.]
55	A song of sorrow, when his son is hanging	
	For the raven's delight, and aged and hoary	
	He is unable to offer any assistance.	
	Every morning his offspring's departure	
	Is constant recalled: he cares not to wait for	
60	The birth of an heir in his borough-enclosures,	
	Since that one through death-pain the deeds hath experienced.	
	He heart-grieved beholds in the house of his son the	
	Wine-building wasted, the wind-lodging places	

- Reaved of their roaring; the riders are sleeping,  
65 The knights in the grave; there's no sound of the harp-wood,  
Joy in the yards, as of yore were familiar.

[1] 'Gomelum ceorle' (2445).—H. takes these words as referring to Hrethel; but the translator here departs from his editor by understanding the poet to refer to a hypothetical old man, introduced as an illustration of a father's sorrow.

Hrethrel had certainly never seen a son of his ride on the gallows to feed the crows.

The passage beginning 'swá bið géomorlic' seems to be an effort to reach a full simile, 'as ... so.' 'As it is mournful for an old man, etc. ... so the defence of the Weders (2463) bore heart-sorrow, etc.' The verses 2451 to 2463½ would be parenthetical, the poet's feelings being so strong as to interrupt the simile. The punctuation of the fourth edition would be better—a comma after 'galgan' (2447). The translation may be indicated as follows: *(Just) as it is sad for an old man to see his son ride young on the gallows when he himself is uttering mournful measures, a sorrowful song, while his son hangs for a comfort to the raven, and he, old and infirm, cannot render him any kelp—(he is constantly reminded, etc., 2451-2463)—so the defence of the Weders, etc.*

## XXXV.

### REMINISCENCES (*continued*).— BEOWULF'S LAST BATTLE.

- "He seeks then his chamber, singeth a woe-song  
One for the other; all too extensive  
Seemed homesteads and plains. So the helm of the Weders  
Mindful of Herebald heart-sorrow carried, Hrethel grieves  
5 Stirred with emotion, nowise was able for Herebald.  
To wreak his ruin on the ruthless destroyer:  
He was unable to follow the warrior with hatred,  
With deeds that were direful, though dear he not held him.  
[84] Then pressed by the pang this pain occasioned him,  
10 He gave up glee, God-light elected;  
He left to his sons, as the man that is rich does,  
His land and fortress, when from life he departed.  
Then was crime and hostility 'twixt Swedes and Strife between  
Geatmen, Swedes and  
O'er wide-stretching water warring was mutual, Geats.  
15 Burdensome hatred, when Hrethel had perished,  
And Ongentheow's offspring were active and valiant,  
Wished not to hold to peace oversea, but  
Round Hreosna-beorh often accomplished

	Cruelest massacre. This my kinsman avengèd,	
20	The feud and fury, as 'tis found on inquiry, Though one of them paid it with forfeit of life-joys, With price that was hard: the struggle became then Fatal to Hæthcyn, lord of the Geatmen.	Hæthcyn's fall at Ravenswood.
	Then I heard that at morning one brother the other	
25	With edges of irons egged on to murder, Where Ongentheow maketh onset on Eofor: The helmet crashed, the hoary-haired Scylfing Sword-smitten fell, his hand then remembered Feud-hate sufficient, refused not the death-blow.	
30	The gems that he gave me, with jewel-bright sword I 'Quited in contest, as occasion was offered: Land he allowed me, life-joy at homestead, Manor to live on. Little he needed From Gepids or Danes or in Sweden to look for	I requited him for the jewels he gave me.
35	Trooper less true, with treasure to buy him; 'Mong foot-soldiers ever in front I would hie me, Alone in the vanguard, and evermore gladly Warfare shall wage, while this weapon endureth That late and early often did serve me	
40	When I proved before heroes the slayer of Dæghrefn, Knight of the Hugmen: he by no means was suffered To the king of the Frisians to carry the jewels, The breast-decoration; but the banner-possessor Bowed in the battle, brave-mooded atheling.	Beowulf refers to his having slain Dæghrefn.
[85]	45 No weapon was slayer, but war-grapple broke then The surge of his spirit, his body destroying. Now shall weapon's edge make war for the treasure, And hand and firm-sword." Beowulf spake then, Boast-words uttered—the latest occasion:	
50	"I braved in my youth-days battles unnumbered; Still am I willing the struggle to look for, Fame-deeds perform, folk-warden prudent, If the hateful despoiler forth from his cavern Seeketh me out!" Each of the heroes,	He boasts of his youthful prowess, and declares himself still fearless.
55	Helm-bearers sturdy, he thereupon greeted Belovèd co-liegemmen—his last salutation: "No brand would I bear, no blade for the dragon, Wist I a way my word-boast to 'complish <sup>1</sup> Else with the monster, as with Grendel I did it;	His last salutations.
60	But fire in the battle hot I expect there, Furious flame-burning: so I fixed on my body Target and war-mail. The ward of the barrow <sup>2</sup> I'll not flee from a foot-length, the foeman uncanny. At the wall 'twill befall us as Fate decreeth,	
65	Each one's Creator. I am eager in spirit,	Let Fate decide

	With the wingèd war-hero to away with all boasting.	between us.
	Bide on the barrow with burnies protected,	
	Earls in armor, which of <i>us</i> two may better	Wait ye here till
	Bear his disaster, when the battle is over.	the battle is
70	'Tis no matter of yours, and man cannot do it,	over.
	But me and me only, to measure his strength with	
	The monster of malice, might-deeds to 'complish.	
	I with prowess shall gain the gold, or the battle,	
[86]	Direful death-woe will drag off your ruler!"	
75	The mighty champion rose by his shield then,	
	Brave under helmet, in battle-mail went he	
	'Neath steep-rising stone-cliffs, the strength he relied on	
	Of one man alone: no work for a coward.	
	Then he saw by the wall who a great many battles	
80	Had lived through, most worthy, when foot-troops collided,	
	Stone-arches standing, stout-hearted champion,	The place of
	Saw a brook from the barrow bubbling out	strife is
	thenceward:	described.
	The flood of the fountain was fuming with war-flame:	
	Not nigh to the hoard, for season the briefest	
85	Could he brave, without burning, the abyss that was yawning,	
	The drake was so fiery. The prince of the Weders	
	Caused then that words came from his bosom,	
	So fierce was his fury; the firm-hearted shouted:	
	His battle-clear voice came in resounding	
90	'Neath the gray-colored stone. Stirred was his hatred,	
	The hoard-ward distinguished the speech of a man;	Beowulf calls
	Time was no longer to look out for friendship.	out under the
	The breath of the monster issued forth first,	stone arches.
	Vapory war-sweat, out of the stone-cave:	
95	The earth re-echoed. The earl 'neath the barrow	The terrible
	Lifted his shield, lord of the Geatmen,	encounter.
	Tow'rd the terrible stranger: the ring-twisted creature's	
	Heart was then ready to seek for a struggle.	
	The excellent battle-king first brandished his	Beowulf
	weapon,	brandishes his
100	The ancient heirloom, of edges unblunted, <sup>3</sup>	sword,
	To the death-planners twain was terror from other.	
	The lord of the troopers intrepidly stood then	and stands
	'Gainst his high-rising shield, when the dragon	against his
	coiled him	shield.
	Quickly together: in corslet he bided.	The dragon coils
[87]	105 He went then in blazes, bended and striding,	himself.
	Hasting him forward. His life and body	
	The targe well protected, for time-period shorter	
	Than wish demanded for the well-renowned leader,	
	Where he then for the first day was forced to be victor,	
110	Famous in battle, as Fate had not willed it.	

The lord of the Geatmen uplifted his hand then,  
Smiting the fire-drake with sword that was precious,  
That bright on the bone the blade-edge did weaken,  
Bit more feebly than his folk-leader needed,  
115 Burdened with bale-griefs. Then the barrow-protector,  
When the sword-blow had fallen, was fierce in his spirit,      The dragon rages  
Flinging his fires, flamings of battle  
Gleamed then afar: the gold-friend of Weders  
Boasted no conquests, his battle-sword failed him      Beowulf's sword  
120 Naked in conflict, as by no means it ought to,      fails him.  
Long-trusty weapon. 'Twas no slight undertaking  
That Ecgtheow's famous offspring would leave  
The drake-cavern's bottom; he must live in some region  
Other than this, by the will of the dragon,  
125 As each one of earthmen existence must forfeit.  
'Twas early thereafter the excellent warriors  
Met with each other. Anew and afresh      The combat is  
The hoard-ward took heart (gasps heaved then his renewed.  
bosom):  
Sorrow he suffered encircled with fire      The great hero is  
130 Who the people erst governed. His companions by reduced to  
no means extremities.  
Were banded about him, bairns of the princes,  
With valorous spirit, but they sped to the forest,      His comrades  
Seeking for safety. The soul-deeps of one were flee!  
Ruffled by care: kin-love can never      Blood is thicker  
135 Aught in him waver who well doth consider.      than water.

[88]

[1] The clause 2520(2)-2522(1), rendered by 'Wist I ... monster,' Gr., followed by S., translates substantially as follows: *If I knew how else I might combat the boastful defiance of the monster.*—The translation turns upon 'wiðgrípan,' a word not understood.

[2] B. emends and translates: *I will not flee the space of a foot from the guard of the barrow, but there shall be to us a fight at the wall, as fate decrees, each one's Creator.*

[3] The translation of this passage is based on 'unsláw' (2565), accepted by H.-So., in lieu of the long-standing 'ungléaw.' The former is taken as an adj. limiting 'sweord'; the latter as an adj. c. 'gúð-cyning': *The good war-king, rash with edges, brandished his sword, his old relic.* The latter gives a more rhetorical Anglo-Saxon (poetical) sentence.

XXXVI.

WIGLAF THE TRUSTY.—BEOWULF IS  
DESERTED BY FRIENDS AND BY

SWORD.

	The son of Weohstan was Wiglaf entitled, Shield-warrior precious, prince of the Scylfings, Ælfhere's kinsman: he saw his dear liegelord Enduring the heat 'neath helmet and visor.	Wiglaf remains true—the ideal Teutonic liegeman.
5	Then he minded the holding that erst he had given him, The Wægmunding warriors' wealth-blessèd homestead, Each of the folk-rights his father had wielded; He was hot for the battle, his hand seized the target, The yellow-bark shield, he unsheathed his old weapon,	Wiglaf recalls Beowulf's generosity.
10	Which was known among earthmen as the relic of Eanmund, Othere's offspring, whom, exiled and friendless, Weohstan did slay with sword-edge in battle, And carried his kinsman the clear-shining helmet, The ring-made burnie, the old giant-weapon	
15	That Onela gave him, his boon-fellow's armor, Ready war-trappings: he the feud did not mention, Though he'd fatally smitten the son of his brother. Many a half-year held he the treasures, The bill and the burnie, till his bairn became able,	
20	Like his father before him, fame-deeds to 'complish; Then he gave him 'mong Geatmen a goodly array of Weeds for his warfare; he went from life then Old on his journey. 'Twas the earliest time then That the youthful champion might charge in the battle	This is Wiglaf's first battle as liegeman of Beowulf.
25	Aiding his liegelord; his spirit was dauntless. Nor did kinsman's bequest quail at the battle: This the dragon discovered on their coming together. Wiglaf uttered many a right-saying, Said to his fellows, sad was his spirit:	
30	"I remember the time when, tasting the mead-cup, We promised in the hall the lord of us all Who gave us these ring-treasures, that this battle- equipment, Swords and helmets, we'd certainly quite him, Should need of such aid ever befall him:	Wiglaf appeals to the pride of the cowards.
[89]		
35	In the war-band he chose us for this journey spontaneously, Stirred us to glory and gave me these jewels, Since he held and esteemed us trust-worthy spearmen, Hardy helm-bearers, though this hero-achievement Our lord intended alone to accomplish,	How we have forfeited our liegelord's confidence!
40	Ward of his people, for most of achievements, Doings audacious, he did among earth-folk.	



	The day is now come when the ruler of earthmen Needeth the vigor of valiant heroes:	Our lord is in sore need of us.
	Let us wend us towards him, the war-prince to succor,	
45	While the heat yet rageth, horrible fire-fight. God wot in me, 'tis mickle the liefer The blaze should embrace my body and eat it With my treasure-bestower. Meseemeth not proper To bear our battle-shields back to our country,	I would rather die than go home with out my suzerain.
50	'Less first we are able to fell and destroy the Long-hating foeman, to defend the life of The prince of the Weders. Well do I know 't isn't Earned by his exploits, he only of Geatmen Sorrow should suffer, sink in the battle:	Surely he does not deserve to die alone.
55	Brand and helmet to us both shall be common, <sup>1</sup> Shield-cover, burnie." Through the bale-smoke he stalked then, Went under helmet to the help of his chieftain, Briefly discoursing: "Beowulf dear, Perform thou all fully, as thou formerly saidst,	Wiglaf reminds Beowulf of his youthful boasts.
[90] 60	In thy youthful years, that while yet thou livedst Thou wouldst let thine honor not ever be lessened. Thy life thou shalt save, mighty in actions, Atheling undaunted, with all of thy vigor; I'll give thee assistance." The dragon came raging,	
65	Wild-mooded stranger, when these words had been uttered ('Twas the second occasion), seeking his enemies, Men that were hated, with hot-gleaming fire-waves; With blaze-billows burned the board to its edges: The fight-armor failed then to furnish assistance	The monster advances on them.
70	To the youthful spear-hero: but the young-aged stripling Quickly advanced 'neath his kinsman's war-target, Since his own had been ground in the grip of the fire. Then the warrior-king was careful of glory, He soundly smote with sword-for-the-battle,	Beowulf strikes at the dragon.
75	That it stood in the head by hatred driven; Nægling was shivered, the old and iron-made Brand of Beowulf in battle deceived him. 'Twas denied him that edges of irons were able To help in the battle; the hand was too mighty	His sword fails him.
80	<sup>2</sup> Which every weapon, as I heard on inquiry, Outstruck in its stroke, when to struggle he carried The wonderful war-sword: it waxed him no better. Then the people-despoiler—third of his onsets— Fierce-raging fire-drake, of feud-hate was mindful,	The dragon advances on Beowulf again.
85	Charged on the strong one, when chance was afforded, Heated and war-grim, seized on his neck With teeth that were bitter; he bloody did wax with	



Soul-gore seething; sword-blood in waves boiled.

[1] The passage ‘*Brand ... burnie,*’ is much disputed. In the first place, some eminent critics assume a gap of at least two half-verses.—‘*Úrum*’ (2660), being a peculiar form, has been much discussed. ‘*Byrdu-scrúd*’ is also a crux. B. suggests ‘*býwdu-scrúd*’ = *splendid vestments*. Nor is ‘*bám*’ accepted by all, ‘*béon*’ being suggested. Whatever the individual words, the passage must mean, “*I intend to share with him my equipments of defence.*”

[2] B. would render: *Which, as I heard, excelled in stroke every sword that he carried to the strife, even the strongest (sword).* For ‘*Ponne*’ he reads ‘*Pone,*’ rel. pr.

[91]

## XXXVII.

### THE FATAL STRUGGLE.—BEOWULF’S LAST MOMENTS.

Then I heard that at need of the king of the people      Wiglaf defends  
The upstanding earlman exhibited prowess,      Beowulf.  
Vigor and courage, as suited his nature;

<sup>1</sup>He his head did not guard, but the high-minded liegeman’s  
5 Hand was consumed, when he succored his kinsman,  
So he struck the strife-bringing strange-comer lower,  
Earl-thane in armor, that *in* went the weapon

Gleaming and plated, that ’gan then the fire<sup>2</sup>

Later to lessen. The liegeland himself then      Beowulf draws  
10 Retained his consciousness, brandished his war-      his knife,  
knife,

Battle-sharp, bitter, that he bare on his armor:

The Weder-lord cut the worm in the middle.      and cuts the

They had felled the enemy (life drove out then<sup>3</sup>

Puissant prowess), the pair had destroyed him,

15 Land-chiefs related: so a liegeman should prove him,  
A thaneman when needed. To the prince ’twas the last of  
His era of conquest by his own great achievements,

[92] The latest of world-deeds. The wound then began      Beowulf’s  
Which the earth-dwelling dragon erstwhile had      wound swells  
wrought him      and burns.

20 To burn and to swell. He soon then discovered  
That bitterest bale-woe in his bosom was raging,  
Poison within. The atheling advanced then,

That along by the wall, he prudent of spirit      He sits down  
Might sit on a settle; he saw the giant-work,      exhausted.

25 How arches of stone strengthened with pillars  
The earth-hall eternal inward supported.

	Then the long-worthy liegeman laved with his hand the	
	Far-famous chieftain, gory from sword-edge,	Wiglaf bathes his
	Refreshing the face of his friend-lord and ruler,	lord's head.
30	Sated with battle, unbinding his helmet.	
	Beowulf answered, of his injury spake he,	
	His wound that was fatal (he was fully aware	
	He had lived his allotted life-days enjoying	
	The pleasures of earth; then past was entirely	
35	His measure of days, death very near):	
	"My son I would give now my battle-equipments,	Beowulf regrets
	Had any of heirs been after me granted,	that he has no
	Along of my body. This people I governed	son.
	Fifty of winters: no king 'mong my neighbors	
40	Dared to encounter me with comrades-in-battle,	
	Try me with terror. The time to me ordered	
	I bided at home, mine own kept fitly,	
	Sought me no snares, swore me not many	
	Oaths in injustice. Joy over all this	I can rejoice in a
45	I'm able to have, though ill with my death-wounds;	well-spent life.
	Hence the Ruler of Earthmen need not charge me	
	With the killing of kinsmen, when cometh my life out	
	Forth from my body. Fare thou with haste now	
	To behold the hoard 'neath the hoar-grayish stone,	Bring me the
50	Well-lovèd Wiglaf, now the worm is a-lying,	hoard, Wiglaf,
	Sore-wounded sleepeth, disseized of his treasure.	that my dying
	Go thou in haste that treasures of old I,	eyes may be
	Gold-wealth may gaze on, together see lying	refreshed by a
	The ether-bright jewels, be easier able,	sight of it.
[93]		
55	Having the heap of hoard-gems, to yield my	
	Life and the land-folk whom long I have governed."	

[1] B. renders: *He (W.) did not regard his (the dragon's) head* (since Beowulf had struck it without effect), *but struck the dragon a little lower down*. —One crux is to find out *whose head* is meant; another is to bring out the antithesis between 'head' and 'hand.'

[2] 'Pæt pæt fýr' (2702), S. emends to 'pá pæt fýr' = *when the fire began to grow less intense afterward*. This emendation relieves the passage of a plethora of conjunctive *pæt*'s.

[3] For 'gefýldan' (2707), S. proposes 'gefýlde.' The passage would read: *He felled the foe (life drove out strength), and they then both had destroyed him, chieftains related*. This gives Beowulf the credit of having felled the dragon; then they combine to annihilate him.—For 'ellen' (2707), Kl. suggests 'e(a)llne.'—The reading '*life drove out strength*' is very unsatisfactory and very peculiar. I would suggest as follows: Adopt S.'s emendation, remove H.'s parenthesis, read 'ferh-ellen wræc,' and translate: *He felled the foe, drove out his life-strength* (that is, made him *hors de combat*), and then they both, etc.

## XXXVIII.

### WIGLAF PLUNDERS THE DRAGON'S DEN.—BEOWULF'S DEATH.

- Then heard I that Wihstan's son very quickly,  
These words being uttered, heeded his liegelord  
Wounded and war-sick, went in his armor,  
His well-woven ring-mail, 'neath the roof of the barrow.
- 5 Then the trusty retainer treasure-gems many  
Victorious saw, when the seat he came near to,  
Gold-treasure sparkling spread on the bottom,  
Wonder on the wall, and the worm-creature's cavern,  
The ancient dawn-flier's, vessels a-standing,
- 10 Cups of the ancients of cleansers bereavèd,  
Robbed of their ornaments: there were helmets in numbers,  
Old and rust-eaten, arm-bracelets many,  
Artfully woven. Wealth can easily,  
Gold on the sea-bottom, turn into vanity<sup>1</sup>
- 15 Each one of earthmen, arm him who pleaseth!  
And he saw there lying an all-golden banner  
High o'er the hoard, of hand-wonders greatest,  
Linkèd with lacets: a light from it sparkled,  
That the floor of the cavern he was able to look on,
- 20 To examine the jewels. Sight of the dragon  
Not any was offered, but edge offcarried him.  
Then I heard that the hero the hoard-treasure  
plundered,  
The giant-work ancient reaved in the cavern,  
Bare on his bosom the beakers and platters,
- 25 As himself would fain have it, and took off the standard,  
The brightest of beacons;<sup>2</sup> the bill had erst injured  
(Its edge was of iron), the old-ruler's weapon,  
Him who long had watched as ward of the jewels,  
Who fire-terror carried hot for the treasure,
- 30 Rolling in battle, in middlemost darkness,  
Till murdered he perished. The messenger hastened,  
Not loth to return, hurried by jewels:  
Curiosity urged him if, excellent-mooded,  
Alive he should find the lord of the Weders
- 35 Mortally wounded, at the place where he left him.  
'Mid the jewels he found then the famous old chieftain,  
His liegelord belovèd, at his life's-end gory:  
He thereupon 'gan to lave him with water,  
Till the point of his word piercèd his breast-hoard.
- 40 Beowulf spake (the gold-gems he noticed),
- Wiglaf fulfils his  
lord's behest.
- The dragon's  
den.
- The dragon is  
not there.
- Wiglaf bears the  
hoard away.

[94]

- The old one in sorrow: "For the jewels I look on  
Thanks do I utter for all to the Ruler,  
Wielder of Worship, with words of devotion,  
The Lord everlasting, that He let me such treasures  
45 Gain for my people ere death overtook me.  
Since I've bartered the aged life to me granted  
For treasure of jewels, attend ye henceforward  
The wants of the war-thanes; I can wait here no  
longer.  
The battle-famed bid ye to build them a grave-hill,  
50 Bright when I'm burned, at the brim-current's limit;  
As a memory-mark to the men I have governed,  
[95] Aloft it shall tower on Whale's-Ness uprising,  
That earls of the ocean hereafter may call it  
Beowulf's barrow, those who barks ever-dashing  
55 From a distance shall drive o'er the darkness of waters."  
The bold-mooded troop-lord took from his neck then The hero's last  
The ring that was golden, gave to his liegeman, gift  
The youthful war-hero, his gold-flashing helmet,  
His collar and war-mail, bade him well to enjoy them:  
60 "Thou art latest left of the line of our kindred, and last words.  
Of Wægmunding people: Weird hath offcarried  
All of my kinsmen to the Creator's glory,  
Earls in their vigor: I shall after them fare."  
'Twas the aged liegelord's last-spoken word in  
65 His musings of spirit, ere he mounted the fire,  
The battle-waves burning: from his bosom departed  
His soul to seek the sainted ones' glory.

[1] The word 'oferhígian' (2767) being vague and little understood, two quite distinct translations of this passage have arisen. One takes 'oferhígian' as meaning 'to exceed,' and, inserting 'hord' after 'gehwone,' renders: *The treasure may easily, the gold in the ground, exceed in value every hoard of man, hide it who will.* The other takes 'oferhígian' as meaning 'to render arrogant,' and, giving the sentence a moralizing tone, renders substantially as in the body of this work. (Cf. 28 13 et seq.)

[2] The passage beginning here is very much disputed. 'The bill of the old lord' is by some regarded as Beowulf's sword; by others, as that of the ancient possessor of the hoard. 'Ær gescód' (2778), translated in this work as verb and adverb, is by some regarded as a compound participial adj. = *sheathed in brass.*

## XXXIX.

### THE DEAD FOES.—WIGLAF'S BITTER TAUNTS.

	It had wofully chanced then the youthful retainer To behold on earth the most ardent-belovèd At his life-days' limit, lying there helpless. The slayer too lay there, of life all bereavèd,	Wiglaf is sorely grieved to see his lord look so un- warlike.
5	Horrible earth-drake, harassed with sorrow: The round-twisted monster was permitted no longer To govern the ring-hoards, but edges of war-swords Mightily seized him, battle-sharp, sturdy Leavings of hammers, that still from his wounds	The dragon has plundered his last hoard.
10	The flier-from-farland fell to the earth Hard by his hoard-house, hopped he at midnight Not e'er through the air, nor exulting in jewels Suffered them to see him: but he sank then to earthward Through the hero-chief's handwork. I heard sure it throve then	
[96] 15	But few in the land of liegemen of valor, Though of every achievement bold he had proved him, To run 'gainst the breath of the venomous scather, Or the hall of the treasure to trouble with hand-blows, If he watching had found the ward of the hoard-hall	Few warriors dared to face the monster.
20	On the barrow abiding. Beowulf's part of The treasure of jewels was paid for with death; Each of the twain had attained to the end of Life so unlasting. Not long was the time till The tardy-at-battle returned from the thicket,	
25	The timid truce-breakers ten all together, Who durst not before play with the lances In the prince of the people's pressing emergency; But blushing with shame, with shields they betook them, With arms and armor where the old one was lying:	The cowardly thanes come out of the thicket.
30	They gazed upon Wiglaf. He was sitting exhausted, Foot-going fighter, not far from the shoulders Of the lord of the people, would rouse him with water; No whit did it help him; though he hoped for it keenly, He was able on earth not at all in the leader	They are ashamed of their desertion.
35	Life to retain, and nowise to alter The will of the Wielder; the World-Ruler's power <sup>1</sup> Would govern the actions of each one of heroes, As yet He is doing. From the young one forthwith then	
40	Could grim-worded greeting be got for him quickly Whose courage had failed him. Wiglaf discoursed then, Weohstan his son, sad-mooded hero, Looked on the hated: "He who soothness will utter Can say that the liegelord who gave you the jewels, The ornament-armor wherein ye are standing,	Wiglaf is ready to excoriate them.
45	When on ale-bench often he offered to hall-men	He begins to taunt them.

[97]

	Helmet and burnie, the prince to his liegemen, As best upon earth he was able to find him,— That he wildly wasted his war-gear undoubtedly When battle o’ertook him. <sup>2</sup> The troop-king no need had	Surely our lord wasted his armor on poltroons.
50	To glory in comrades; yet God permitted him, Victory-Wielder, with weapon unaided Himself to avenge, when vigor was needed. I life-protection but little was able To give him in battle, and I ’gan, notwithstanding,	He, however, got along without you
55	Helping my kinsman (my strength overtaking): He waxed the weaker when with weapon I smote on My mortal opponent, the fire less strongly Flamed from his bosom. Too few of protectors Came round the king at the critical moment.	With some aid, I could have saved our liegelord
60	Now must ornament-taking and weapon-bestowing, Home-joyance all, cease for your kindred, Food for the people; each of your warriors Must needs be bereavèd of rights that he holdeth In landed possessions, when faraway nobles	Gift-giving is over with your people: the ring- lord is dead.
65	Shall learn of your leaving your lord so basely, The dastardly deed. Death is more pleasant To every earlman than infamous life is!”	What is life without honor?

[1] For ‘dædum rædan’ (2859) B. suggests ‘déað árádan,’ and renders: *The might (or judgment) of God would determine death for every man, as he still does.*

[2] Some critics, H. himself in earlier editions, put the clause, ‘When ... him’ (A.-S. ‘þá ... beget’) with the following sentence; that is, they make it dependent upon ‘þorfte’ (2875) instead of upon ‘forwurpe’ (2873).

XL.

THE MESSENGER OF DEATH.

	Then he charged that the battle be announced at the hedge Up o’er the cliff-edge, where the earl-troopers bided The whole of the morning, mood-wretched sat them, Bearers of battle-shields, both things expecting,	Wiglaf sends the news of Beowulf’s death to liegemen near by.
5	The end of his lifetime and the coming again of The liegelord belovèd. Little reserved he Of news that was known, who the ness-cliff did travel, But he truly discoursed to all that could hear him:	
[98]	“Now the free-giving friend-lord of the folk of the	The messenger

- Weders, speaks.
- 10 The folk-prince of Geatmen, is fast in his death-bed,  
 By the deeds of the dragon in death-bed abideth;  
 Along with him lieth his life-taking foeman  
 Slain with knife-wounds: he was wholly unable  
 To injure at all the ill-planning monster
- 15 With bite of his sword-edge. Wiglaf is sitting, Wiglaf sits by  
our dead lord.  
 Offspring of Wihstan, up over Beowulf,  
 Earl o'er another whose end-day hath reached him,  
 Head-watch holdeth o'er heroes unliving,<sup>1</sup>  
 For friend and for foeman. The folk now expecteth
- 20 A season of strife when the death of the folk-king Our lord's death  
will lead to  
attacks from our  
old foes.  
 To Frankmen and Frisians in far-lands is published.  
 The war-hatred waxed warm 'gainst the Hugmen,  
 When Higelac came with an army of vessels Higelac's death  
recalled.  
 Faring to Friesland, where the Frankmen in battle
- 25 Humbled him and bravely with overmight 'complished  
 That the mail-clad warrior must sink in the battle,  
 Fell 'mid his folk-troop: no fret-gems presented  
 The atheling to earlmen; aye was denied us  
 Merewing's mercy. The men of the Swedelands
- 30 For truce or for truth trust I but little;  
 But widely 'twas known that near Ravenswood Ongentheow  
 Sundered Hæthcyn the Hrethling from life-joys, Hæthcyn's fall  
referred to.  
 When for pride overweening the War-Scylfings first  
 did  
 Seek the Geatmen with savage intentions.
- 35 Early did Ohthere's age-laden father,  
 Old and terrible, give blow in requital,  
 Killing the sea-king, the queen-mother rescued,  
 The old one his consort deprived of her gold,  
 Onela's mother and Ohthere's also,
- [99] 40 And then followed the feud-nursing foemen till hardly,  
 Reaved of their ruler, they Ravenswood entered.  
 Then with vast-numbered forces he assaulted the remnant,  
 Weary with wounds, woe often promised  
 The livelong night to the sad-hearted war-troop:
- 45 Said he at morning would kill them with edges of weapons,  
 Some on the gallows for glee to the fowls.  
 Aid came after to the anxious-in-spirit  
 At dawn of the day, after Higelac's bugle  
 And trumpet-sound heard they, when the good one proceeded
- 50 And faring followed the flower of the troopers.

[1] 'Hige-méðum' (2910) is glossed by H. as dat. plu. (= for the dead). S. proposes 'hige-méðe,' nom. sing. limiting Wigláf; i.e. *W., mood-weary, holds head-watch o'er friend and foe.*—B. suggests taking the word as dat. inst. plu. of an abstract noun in '-u.' The translation would be substantially



the same as S.'s.

## XLI.

### THE MESSENGER'S RETROSPECT.

	"The blood-stained trace of Swedes and Geatmen, The death-rush of warmen, widely was noticed, How the folks with each other feud did awaken. The worthy one went then <sup>1</sup> with well-beloved comrades,	The messenger continues, and refers to the feuds of Swedes and Geats.
5	Old and dejected to go to the fastness, Ongentheo earl upward then turned him; Of Higelac's battle he'd heard on inquiry, The exultant one's prowess, despaired of resistance, With earls of the ocean to be able to struggle,	
10	'Gainst sea-going sailors to save the hoard-treasure, His wife and his children; he fled after thenceward Old 'neath the earth-wall. Then was offered pursuance To the braves of the Swedemen, the banner <sup>2</sup> to Higelac.	
[100]	They fared then forth o'er the field-of-protection,	
15	When the Hrethling heroes hedgeward had thronged them. Then with edges of irons was Ongentheow driven, The gray-haired to tarry, that the troop-ruler had to Suffer the power solely of Eofor:	
	Wulf then wildly with weapon assaulted him,	Wulf wounds Ongentheow.
20	Wonred his son, that for swinge of the edges The blood from his body burst out in currents, Forth 'neath his hair. He feared not however, Gray-headed Scylfing, but speedily quited The wasting wound-stroke with worse exchange,	
25	When the king of thethane-troop thither did turn him:	Ongentheow gives a stout blow in return.
	The wise-mooded son of Wonred was powerless To give a return-blow to the age-hoary man, But his head-shielding helmet first hewed he to pieces, That flecked with gore perforce he did totter,	
30	Fell to the earth; not fey was he yet then, But up did he spring though an edge-wound had reached him. Then Higelac's vassal, valiant and dauntless,	Eofor smites Ongentheow fiercely.
	When his brother lay dead, made his broad-bladed weapon,	
	Giant-sword ancient, defence of the giants,	
35	Bound o'er the shield-wall; the folk-prince succumbed then, Shepherd of people, was pierced to the vitals.	Ongentheow is

	There were many attendants who bound up his kinsman, Carried him quickly when occasion was granted That the place of the slain they were suffered to manage.	slain.
40	This pending, one hero plundered the other, His armor of iron from Ongentheow ravished, His hard-sword hilted and helmet together; The old one's equipments he carried to Higelac. He the jewels received, and rewards 'mid the troopers	Eofor takes the old king's war- gear to Higelac.
45	Graciously promised, and so did accomplish: The king of the Weders requited the war-rush, Hrethel's descendant, when home he repaired him, To Eofor and Wulf with wide-lavished treasures, To each of them granted a hundred of thousands	Higelac rewards the brothers.
[101] 50	In land and rings wrought out of wire: None upon mid-earth needed to twit him <sup>3</sup> With the gifts he gave them, when glory they conquered; And to Eofor then gave he his one only daughter, The honor of home, as an earnest of favor.	His gifts were beyond cavil.
55	That's the feud and hatred—as ween I 'twill happen — The anger of earthmen, that earls of the Swedemen Will visit on us, when they hear that our leader Lifeless is lying, he who longtime protected His hoard and kingdom 'gainst hating assailers, Who on the fall of the heroes defended of yore	To Eofor he also gives his only daughter in marriage.
60	The deed-mighty Scyldings, <sup>4</sup> did for the troopers What best did avail them, and further moreover Hero-deeds 'complished. Now is haste most fitting, That the lord of liegemen we look upon yonder,	It is time for us to pay the last marks of respect to our lord.
65	And <i>that</i> one carry on journey to death-pyre Who ring-presents gave us. Not aught of it all Shall melt with the brave one—there's a mass of bright jewels, Gold beyond measure, grewsomely purchased And ending it all ornament-rings too	
70	Bought with his life; these fire shall devour, Flame shall cover, no earlman shall wear A jewel-memento, nor beautiful virgin Have on her neck rings to adorn her, But wretched in spirit bereavèd of gold-gems	
75	She shall oft with others be exiled and banished, Since the leader of liegemen hath laughter forsaken, Mirth and merriment. Hence many a war-spear Cold from the morning shall be clutched in the fingers, Heaved in the hand, no harp-music's sound shall	
[102] 80	Waken the warriors, but the wan-coated raven	

- Fain over fey ones freely shall gabble,  
 Shall say to the eagle how he sped in the eating,  
 When, the wolf his companion, he plundered the slain.”  
 So the high-minded hero was rehearsing these stories
- 85 Loathsome to hear; he lied as to few of  
 Weirds and of words. All the war-troop arose then,      The warriors go  
 'Neath the Eagle's Cape sadly betook them,      sadly to look at  
 Weeping and woful, the wonder to look at.      Beowulf's  
 They saw on the sand then soulless a-lying,      lifeless body.
- 90 His slaughter-bed holding, him who rings had given them  
 In days that were done; then the death-bringing moment  
 Was come to the good one, that the king very warlike,  
 Wielder of Weders, with wonder-death perished.  
 First they beheld there a creature more wondrous,
- 95 The worm on the field, in front of them lying,      They also see the  
 The foeman before them: the fire-spewing dragon,      dragon.  
 Ghostly and grisly guest in his terrors,  
 Was scorched in the fire; as he lay there he measured  
 Fifty of feet; came forth in the night-time<sup>5</sup>
- 100 To rejoice in the air, thereafter departing  
 To visit his den; he in death was then fastened,  
 He would joy in no other earth-hollowed caverns.  
 There stood round about him beakers and vessels,  
 Dishes were lying and dear-valued weapons,
- 105 With iron-rust eaten, as in earth's mighty bosom  
 A thousand of winters there they had rested:  
 That mighty bequest then with magic was guarded,      The hoard was  
 Gold of the ancients, that earlman not any      under a magic  
 The ring-hall could touch, save Ruling-God only,      spell.
- [103] 110 Sooth-king of Vict'ries gave whom He wished to  
<sup>6</sup>(He is earth-folk's protector) to open the treasure,      God alone could  
 E'en to such among mortals as seemed to Him      give access to it.  
 proper.

[1] For 'góða,' which seems a surprising epithet for a Geat to apply to the "terrible" Ongentheow, B. suggests 'gomela.' The passage would then stand: *'The old one went then,' etc.*

[2] For 'segn Higeláce,' K., Th., and B. propose 'segn Higeláces,' meaning: *Higelac's banner followed the Swedes (in pursuit).*—S. suggests 'sæcc Higeláces,' and renders: *Higelac's pursuit.*—The H.-So. reading, as translated in our text, means that the banner of the enemy was captured and brought to Higelac as a trophy.

[3] The rendering given in this translation represents the king as being generous beyond the possibility of reproach; but some authorities construe 'him' (2996) as plu., and understand the passage to mean that no one reproached the two brothers with having received more reward than they were entitled to.

[4] The name 'Scyldingas' here (3006) has caused much discussion, and given rise to several theories, the most important of which are as follows: (1)

After the downfall of Hrothgar's family, Beowulf was king of the Danes, or Scyldings. (2) For 'Scyldingas' read 'Scylfingas'—that is, after killing Eadgils, the Scylfing prince, Beowulf conquered his land, and held it in subjection. (3) M. considers 3006 a thoughtless repetition of 2053. (Cf. H.-So.)

[5] B. takes 'nihtes' and 'hwīlum' (3045) as separate adverbial cases, and renders: *Joy in the air had he of yore by night, etc.* He thinks that the idea of vanished time ought to be expressed.

[6] The parenthesis is by some emended so as to read: (1) (*He* (i.e. *God*) *is the hope of men*); (2) (*he is the hope of heroes*). Gr.'s reading has no parenthesis, but says: *... could touch, unless God himself, true king of victories, gave to whom he would to open the treasure, the secret place of enchanters, etc.* The last is rejected on many grounds.

## XLII.

### WIGLAF'S SAD STORY.—THE HOARD CARRIED OFF.

Then 'twas seen that the journey prospered him little  
Who wrongly within had the ornaments hidden<sup>1</sup>  
Down 'neath the wall. The warden erst slaughtered  
Some few of the folk-troop: the feud then thereafter  
5 Was hotly avengèd. 'Tis a wonder where,<sup>2</sup>  
When the strength-famous trooper has attained to the end of  
Life-days allotted, then no longer the man may  
Remain with his kinsmen where mead-cups are flowing.  
So to Beowulf happened when the ward of the barrow,  
10 Assaults, he sought for: himself had no knowledge  
How his leaving this life was likely to happen.  
So to doomsday, famous folk-leaders down did  
Call it with curses—who 'complished it there—  
[104] That that man should be ever of ill-deeds convicted,  
15 Confined in foul-places, fastened in hell-bonds,  
Punished with plagues, who this place should e'er ravage.<sup>3</sup>  
He cared not for gold: rather the Wielder's  
Favor preferred he first to get sight of.<sup>4</sup>  
Wiglaf discoursed then, Wihstan his son: Wiglaf addresses  
20 "Oft many an earlman on one man's account must his comrades.  
Sorrow endure, as to us it hath happened.  
The liegelord belovèd we could little prevail on,  
Kingdom's keeper, counsel to follow,  
Not to go to the guardian of the gold-hoard, but let him  
25 Lie where he long was, live in his dwelling  
Till the end of the world. Met we a destiny

	Hard to endure: the hoard has been looked at, Been gained very grimly; too grievous the fate that <sup>5</sup> The prince of the people pricked to come thither.	
30	I was therein and all of it looked at, The building's equipments, since access was given me, Not kindly at all entrance permitted Within under earth-wall. Hastily seized I	He tells them of Beowulf's last moments.
35	And held in my hands a huge-weighing burden Of hoard-treasures costly, hither out bare them To my liegelord beloved: life was yet in him, And consciousness also; the old one discoursed then Much and mournfully, commanded to greet you, Bade that remembering the deeds of your friend-lord	Beowulf's dying request.
40	Ye build on the fire-hill of corpses a lofty Burial-barrow, broad and far-famous, As 'mid world-dwelling warriors he was widely most honored While he reveled in riches. Let us rouse us and hasten Again to see and seek for the treasure,	
[105]		
45	The wonder 'neath wall. The way I will show you, That close ye may look at ring-gems sufficient And gold in abundance. Let the bier with promptness Fully be fashioned, when forth we shall come, And lift we our lord, then, where long he shall tarry, 50 Well-beloved warrior, 'neath the Wielder's protection."	
	Then the son of Wihstan bade orders be given, Mood-valiant man, to many of heroes, Holders of homesteads, that they hither from far,	Wiglaf charges them to build a funeral-pyre.
	<sup>6</sup> Leaders of liegemen, should look for the good one 55 With wood for his pyre: "The flame shall now swallow (The wan fire shall wax <sup>7</sup> ) the warriors' leader Who the rain of the iron often abided, When, sturdily hurled, the storm of the arrows Leapt o'er linden-wall, the lance rendered service, 60 Furnished with feathers followed the arrow." Now the wise-mooded son of Wihstan did summon The best of the braves from the band of the ruler Seven together; 'neath the enemy's roof he Went with the seven; one of the heroes	He takes seven thanes, and enters the den.
65	Who fared at the front, a fire-blazing torch-light Bare in his hand. No lot then decided Who that hoard should havoc, when hero-earls saw it Lying in the cavern uncared-for entirely, Rusting to ruin: they rued then but little 70 That they hastily hence hauled out the treasure, The dear-valued jewels; the dragon eke pushed they, The worm o'er the wall, let the wave-currents take him,	They push the dragon over the wall.
[106]	The waters enwind the ward of the treasures.	

	There wunden gold on a wain was uploaded,	The hoard is laid
75	A mass unmeasured, the men-leader off then,	on a wain.
	The hero hoary, to Whale's-Ness was carried.	

- [1] For 'gehýdde,' B. suggests 'gehýðde': the passage would stand as above except the change of 'hidden' (v. 2) to 'plundered.' The reference, however, would be to the thief, not to the dragon.
- [2] The passage 'Wundur ... búan' (3063-3066), M. took to be a question asking whether it was strange that a man should die when his appointed time had come.—B. sees a corruption, and makes emendations introducing the idea that a brave man should not die from sickness or from old age, but should find death in the performance of some deed of daring.—S. sees an indirect question introduced by 'hwár' and dependent upon 'wundur': *A secret is it when the hero is to die, etc.*—Why may the two clauses not be parallel, and the whole passage an Old English cry of '*How wonderful is death!*'?—S.'s is the best yet offered, if 'wundor' means 'mystery.'
- [3] For 'strude' in H.-So., S. suggests 'stride.' This would require 'ravage' (v. 16) to be changed to 'tread.'
- [4] 'He cared ... sight of' (17, 18), S. emends so as to read as follows: *He (Beowulf) had not before seen the favor of the avaricious possessor.*
- [5] B. renders: *That which drew the king thither (i.e. the treasure) was granted us, but in such a way that it overcomes us.*
- [6] 'Folc-ágende' (3114) B. takes as dat. sing. with 'gódum,' and refers it to Beowulf; that is, *Should bring fire-wood to the place where the good folk-ruler lay.*
- [7] C. proposes to take 'weaxan' = L. 'vescor,' and translate *devour*. This gives a parallel to 'fretan' above. The parenthesis would be discarded and the passage read: *Now shall the fire consume, the wan-flame devour, the prince of warriors, etc.*

## XLIII.

### THE BURNING OF BEOWULF.

	The folk of the Geatmen got him then ready	Beowulf's pyre.
	A pile on the earth strong for the burning,	
	Behung with helmets, hero-knights' targets,	
	And bright-shining burnies, as he begged they should have them;	
5	Then wailing war-heroes their world-famous chieftain,	
	Their liegelord beloved, laid in the middle.	
	Soldiers began then to make on the barrow	The funeral-
	The largest of dead-fires: dark o'er the vapor	flame.
	The smoke-cloud ascended, the sad-roaring fire,	
10	Mingled with weeping (the wind-roar subsided)	
	Till the building of bone it had broken to pieces,	
	Hot in the heart. Heavy in spirit	
	They mood-sad lamented the men-leader's ruin;	

	And mournful measures the much-grieving widow							
15	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
20	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
	The men of the Weders made accordingly							The Weders
	A hill on the height, high and extensive,							carry out their
	Of sea-going sailors to be seen from a distance,							lord's last
	And the brave one's beacon built where the fire was,							request.
25	In ten-days' space, with a wall surrounded it,							
	As wisest of world-folk could most worthily plan it.							
	They placed in the barrow rings and jewels,							
[107]	All such ornaments as erst in the treasure							Rings and gems
	War-mooded men had won in possession:							are laid in the
30	The earnings of earlmen to earth they entrusted,							barrow.
	The gold to the dust, where yet it remaineth							
	As useless to mortals as in foregoing eras.							
	'Round the dead-mound rode then the doughty-in-battle,							
	Bairns of all twelve of the chiefs of the people,							
35	More would they mourn, lament for their ruler,							They mourn for
	Speak in measure, mention him with pleasure,							their lord, and
	Weighed his worth, and his warlike achievements							sing his praises.
	Mightily commended, as 'tis meet one praise his							
	Liegelord in words and love him in spirit,							
40	When forth from his body he fares to destruction.							
	So lamented mourning the men of the Geats,							
	Fond-loving vassals, the fall of their lord,							
	Said he was kindest of kings under heaven,							An ideal king.
	Gentlest of men, most winning of manner,							
45	Friendliest to folk-troops and fondest of honor.							

[109] **ADDENDA.**

SEVERAL discrepancies and other oversights have been noticed in the H.-So. glossary. Of these a good part were avoided by Harrison and Sharp, the American editors of Beowulf, in their last edition, 1888. The rest will, I hope, be noticed in their fourth edition. As, however, this book may fall into the hands of some who have no copy of the American edition, it seems best to notice all the principal oversights of the German editors.

**From hám** (194).—Notes and glossary conflict; the latter not having been altered to suit the conclusions accepted in the former.

**Pær gelyfan sceal dryhtnes dóme** (440).—Under 'dóm' H. says 'the might of the Lord'; while under 'gelyfan' he says 'the judgment of the Lord.'

**Eal bencþelu** (486).—Under 'benc-þelu' H. says *nom. plu.*; while under



‘eal’ he says *nom. sing.*

**Heatho-ræmas** (519).—Under ‘ætberan’ H. translates ‘to the Heathoremes’; while under ‘Heatho-ræmas’ he says ‘Heathoræmas reaches Breca in the swimming-match with Beowulf.’ Harrison and Sharp (3d edition, 1888) avoid the discrepancy.

**Fáh féond-scaða** (554).—Under ‘féond-scaða’ H. says ‘a gleaming sea-monster’; under ‘fáh’ he says ‘hostile.’

**Onfeng hraðe inwit-þancum** (749).—Under ‘onfón’ H. says ‘he received the maliciously-disposed one’; under ‘inwit-þanc’ he says ‘he grasped,’ etc.

**Níð-wundor séon** (1366).—Under ‘níð-wundor’ H. calls this word itself *nom. sing.*; under ‘séon’ he translates it as *accus. sing.*, understanding ‘man’ as subject of ‘séon.’ H. and S. (3d edition) make the correction.

**Forgeaf hilde-bille** (1521).—H., under the second word, calls it *instr. dat.*; while under ‘forgifan’ he makes it the *dat. of indir. obj.* H. and S. (3d edition) make the change.

**Brád** and **brún-ecg** (1547).—Under ‘brád’ H. says ‘das breite Hüftmesser mit bronzener Klinge’; under ‘brún-ecg’ he says ‘ihr breites Hüftmesser mit blitzender Klinge.’

[110] **Yðelíce** (1557).—Under this word H. makes it modify ‘ástód.’ If this be right, the punctuation of the fifth edition is wrong. See H. and S., appendix.

**Sélran gesóhte** (1840).—Under ‘sél’ and ‘gesécan’ H. calls these two words *accus. plu.*; but this is clearly an error, as both are *nom. plu.*, *pred. nom.* H. and S. correct under ‘sél.’

**Wið sylfne** (1978).—Under ‘wið’ and ‘gesittan’ H. says ‘wið = near, by’; under ‘self’ he says ‘opposite.’

**þéow** (2225) is omitted from the glossary.

**For duguðum** (2502).—Under ‘duguð’ H. translates this phrase, ‘in Tüchtigkeit’; under ‘for,’ by ‘vor der edlen Kriegerschaar.’

**þær** (2574).—Under ‘wealdan’ H. translates *þær* by ‘wo’; under ‘mótan,’ by ‘da.’ H. and S. suggest ‘if’ in both passages.

**Wunde** (2726).—Under ‘wund’ H. says ‘dative,’ and under ‘wæl-bléate’ he says ‘accus.’ It is without doubt *accus.*, parallel with ‘benne.’

**Strengum gebæded** (3118).—Under ‘strengo’ H. says ‘Strengum’ = mit Macht; under ‘gebæded’ he translates ‘von den Sehnen.’ H. and S. correct this discrepancy by rejecting the second reading.

**Bronda be láfe** (3162).—A recent emendation. The fourth edition had ‘bronda betost.’ In the fifth edition the editor neglects to change the glossary to suit the new emendation. See ‘bewyrca.’

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