

ANGELUS AD VIRGINEM

(GENERAL, MEDIEVAL: ANNUNCIATOR)

(A. G.)

14th century.

Ibid.

ANGELUS ad Virginem
Subintrans in conclave,
Virginis formidinem
Demulcens, inquit, 'Ave !
Ave regina virginum ;
Coeli terraeque Dominum
Concipies
Et paries
Intacta
Salutem hominum ;
Tu porta coeli facta,
Medela criminum.'

2 ' Quomodo conciperem
Quae virum non cognovi ?
Qualiter infringerem
Quod firma mente vovi ?'
' Spiritus Sancti gratia
Perficiet haec omnia ;
Ne timeas,
Sed gaudeas,
Secura
Quod castimonia
Manebit in te pura
Dei potentia.'

4. *Eia mater Domini,
Quae pacem reddidisti
Angelis et homini,
Cum Christum genuisti ;
Tuum exora filium
Ut se nobis propitium
Exhibeat,
Et deleat
Peccata :
Praestans auxilium
Vita frui beata
Post hoc exsilium.

3 *Ad haec virgo nobilis
Respondens inquit ei :
' Ancilla sum humilis
Omnipotentis Dei.
Tibi coelesti nuntio,
Tanti secreti conscio,
Consentiens,
Et cupiens
Videre
Factum quod audio ;
Parata sum parere,
Dei consilio.'

Chaucer mentions this early carol, or rather sequence, in the *Miller's Tale* : 'Nicholas, the Clerk of Oxenford, sang it in the evening to the accompaniment of his gay sautrye' .—

So sweetly, that at the chambre song,
And *Angelus ad virginem* he song.'

It is in the Dublin Troper of c. 1360, a MS. now at Cambridge (Add. 710), and in an early fourteenth-century MS. in the British Museum (Arundel 248), with the lovely tune. We suggest that it is best sung in the original Latin, and, even thus, one verse is here omitted. There is a modern rendering by Gabriel Gillett in the *English Carol Book* (Knoxbray s.). The fourteenth-century translation is more difficult : here is the first verse :
Gabriel from evens King, Sent to the maide swete,
Broude hire blisful tidng, And faire he gan hire greten :
Hell be thu ful of grace arth, For godes sone this evne lth
For mannes loven Vile man becomen
And taken Ples of the maiden brith, Maken fre for to maken
O'sene and dewes miln.