[The Tale of Alexander and the Pirate]

Of him whom al this erthe dradde,	*feared*
Whan he the world so overladde	*tyrannized*
Thurgh werre, as it fortuned is,	*Through war*
King Alisandre, I rede this:	
How in a marche, where he lay,	*borderland*
It fell per chance upon a day	
A rovere of the see was nome,	*pirate; sea; captured*
Which many a man hadde overcome	*Who; overwhelmed*
And slain and take here good aweie.	*stolen their goods*
This pilour, as the bokes seie,	*pillager*
A famous man in sondri stede	*places*
Was of the werkes whiche he dede.	*did*
This prisoner tofor the king	*before*
Was broght, and there upon this thing	
In audience he was accused.	
And he his dede hath noght excused,	*behavior*
Bot preith the king to don him riht,	*give him justice*
And seith, 'Sire, if I were of miht,	
I have an herte lich to thin;	*akin to your own*

For if the pouer were myn,
Mi will is most in special
To rifle and geten overal — *steal; everywhere*
The large worldes good aboute.
Bot for I lede a povere route — *poor gang*
And am, as who seith, at meschief,
The name of pilour and of thief — *pillager*
I bere; and thou, which routes grete — *troops*
Miht lede and take thi begete, — *plunder*
And dost riht as I wolde do,
Thi name is nothing cleped so, — *called*
Bot thou art named "Emperour."
Oure dedes ben of o colour
And in effect of o decerte, — *one worth*
Bot thi richesse and my poverte — *poverty*
Tho ben noght taken evene liche.
And natheles he that is riche
This dai, tomorwe he mai be povere; — *poor*
And in contraire also recovere
A povere man to gret richesse
Men sen: forthi let rihtwisnesse — *therefore; justice*
Be peised evene in the balance.' — *weighed*
The king his hardi contienance
Behield, and herde hise wordes wise,
And seide unto him in this wise:
'Thin ansuere I have understonde,
Wherof my will is, that thou stonde
In mi service and stille abide.'
And forthwithal the same tide
He hath him terme of lif withholde,
The mor and for he schal ben holde, — *loyal*
He made him kniht and gaf him lond,
Which afterward was of his hond
An orped kniht in many a stede, — *valiant knight; place*
And gret prouesce of armes dede, — *prowess*
As the croniqes it recorden.