

LAI.

Lais were the lyric poetry of the old French poets, who were imitated by some amongst the English. They were principally used on melancholy subjects, and are said to have been formed on the model of the trochaic verses of the Greek and Latin tragedies. Père Mourguy gives us a pleasing instance of one of these ancient lais, in his "Treatise of French Poetry":

SUR l'appuis du monde
Que faut il qu'on fonde ?
D'espoir ?
Cette mer profonde
En débris feconde
Fait voir
Calme au matin, l'onde
Et l'orage y gronde
Le soir.