

career of an elder brother Thomas, is noted in some of the biographies of the poet; but the boy Louis passes off the stage without giving any further sign. He is seen only, but very clearly, in the 'Treatise on the Astrolabe.' Like one of the tiny ephemera of ages long ago occasionally seen in amber, there he remains embalmed. Perhaps we have a reminiscence of him in the story told by the Prioress, on the way to Canterbury, about the 'little clergion, seven years of age,' martyred by the Jews in a 'great city in Asia,' for singing *Alma Redemptoris Mater*, as he passed through their ghetto.

'This litel child his litel boke lerning,
 As he sat in the scole at his prymer,
 He *Alma Redemptoris* herde singe
 As childern lerned hir [their] antiphoner,
 And as he dorste, he drough hym ner and ner
 And herked ay the wordes and the note,
 Till he the first vers coudē al by rote
 Nought wistē what this Latin was to sey,
 For he so young and tendre was of age;
 But on a day his felaw gan he preye
 T'expounden him this song in his langage
 Or telle him why this song was in usage.'

This sounds very like an incident in the childhood of the little lad, who at ten years of age desired to be told all about the astrolabe.

It is to be hoped that over stimulation of the brain by a too great absorption in matters fitted for riper minds, did not prove the cause of premature decay in little Louis. Here of course is a danger which will attend the case of a precociously clever child in every age.

We are all familiar with the figure of Geoffrey Chaucer himself, from the full length effigy of him supplied by Thomas Occleve, and given in Speght, and often prefixed as a frontispiece to his works. As with Shakespeare, Dante, Caxton, Milton and others, we can fancy we have seen him; his loose hood, his dreamy down-cast eyes:

'What man art thou
 That lookest as thou wouldest find a hare,
 For ever on the ground I see thee stare.'

his forked beard, his short, easy-fitting frock or paletot; his pen-case and pen held daintily over his breast, in the right hand; a rosary of beads in the left, falling lower down; his hosen-clad calves; his