

space of 25 degrees, yet saien they, that planet is like to him, that is [in] the house of the ascendent ; but soothly, if he pass the bounds of the foresaid spaces, above or beneath, they sayne that thilke planet is falling fro the ascendent ; yet sayne these astrologians, that the ascendent may be shapen for to be fortunate or infortunate, as thus : A fortunate ascendent clepen they, when that no wicked planet of Saturne or Mars or els the taile of the Dragon is in the house of the ascendent, ne that no wicked planet have no aspect of ennemie upon the ascendent ; but they woll cast that they have fortunate planet in her (their) ascendent, and yet in his felicitie, and they say that it is well. Further more, they sayne that Fortune of an Ascendent is the contrary of these foresaid thyngs. The Lord of the ascendent, sayne they, that he is fortunate when he is in good place for the ascendent, and eke the Lord of the Ascendent is in an angle or in a succedent, where he is in his dignitie and comforted with friendle aspectes receyved, and eke that he may seeue the Ascendent not retrograde, ne combust, ne joyned with no shrewe in the same signe, ne that he be not in his discention, ne reigned with no planet in his discentions, ne have upon him none aspect infortunate ; and then they sayne that he is well.' Then follows the declaration already quoted : ' Nathelesse these ben observances of judicial matter and rites of paynims, in which my spirit hath no faith ne knowing of ther horoscopum : for they sayn,' he adds, ' that every signe is departed in three even partes by ten degrees, and the ilk portion they clepen a Face ; and although a planet have a latitude fro the Ecliptike yet saien some folk so that the planet arise in that same signe with any degree of the foresaid face in which is longitude, is rekened, yet is that planet in horoscopo, be it in nativities or in election.' This exposition of details on the part of the astrologians was, no doubt, clear enough to Chaucer ; but he did not care that his son, or any other future reader, should be further initiated in a pseudo-science.

It remains now to say a few words of the little Louis, to whom the 'Treatise on the Astrolabe' was addressed. It appears that he was at the time only ten years of age. The subject discussed may seem to us one above the capacities of a lad of such tender years. But Chaucer understood the boy. He saw that he had inherited a mathematical head ; that he was developing tastes similar to his own. Often, doubtless, had the child stood by while the father was experimenting with