

mon astrologer he says: 'These been observances of judiciall matter, and rites of paynims, in which my spirit hath ne faith, ne knowing of her [their] horoscopum.'

I have not yet given a specimen of the substance of Chaucer's treatise, but only the titles of some of the 'conclusions' which it records, and a description of the parts of the instrument by which they are proved. I now give one or two extracts. The want of fixity in the orthography will be noticed; no peculiarity, however, this of Chaucer's. The English language, as we know, continued to be uncertain long after his time; and the variety in the texts of early writers has been increased by the caprices and errors of the transcribers. Thus, as we shall remember, Chaucer himself rebukes one Adam Scrivener for his carelessness in copying his pieces:

' Under thy long locks may'st thou have the scall
If thou my writing copy not more true!
So oft a day I must thy work renew,
It to correct and eke to rub and scrape;
And all is through thy negligence and rape.'

I select the first passage for the sake of the date which it contains, which takes us back at once into the fourteenth century, and places us, as it were, by the side of the scientific poet busily at work with his little son over the latter's miniature astrolabe: also for the sake of the curious comparative 'downer' for 'farther down,' which occurs at its close. (To be relished fully and judged justly, all my quotations ought properly to appear in **black letter**, as in old Speght's folio.) 'Understand well,' Chaucer says to little Louis, 'that evermore fro the arising of the sunne til he go to rest, the radius of the sunne shal shewe the houre of the plannet; and fro that time forward, all the nyght, till the sunne arise, then shall the very degree of the sunne shew the houre of the planet. Ensample, as thus: the 13 day of March (doubtless as written at length a little while before; in the yere of oure Lorde a thousand thre hundred ninetie and one) fell upon a Saturday paraventure, and at the arising of the sunne I found the second degree of Aries sitting upon mine east orizont, all be it was but little. Then found I the second degree of Libra, nadire of my sunne, descending on my west orizont, upon which west orizont, every day generally at the sunne arising, entereth the houre of any plannet, under the foresayd west orizont; after the which planet the day