

¶ If you were to Judge by the Miller and the Squire, you would say they were a merry set of pilgrims, who were bound to have a good time on their way to the shrine of Thomas à Becket. Chaucer, however, introduces to us others who more worthily sustain the characters of pilgrims. I shall just quote his description of two of these, The Parson and The Nun. It is worthy of your notice the close resemblance there is between Chaucer's Parson and Goldsmith's Village Preacher in The Deserted Village. Here is his description of the Nun, p. 6.

" Ther was also a Nonne, a Prioress,
" That of hire smylyng was ful symple and coy;
" Hire gretteſt ooth was but by ſeynt Loy;
" And ſche was clept madame Englentyne.
" Ful wel ſche ſang the ſerviſe devyne,
" Entuned in hire noſe ful ſemyly;
" And Frenſch ſche ſpak ful faire and fetysly,
" After the ſchole of Stratford atte Bowe,
" For Frenſch of Parys was to hire unknowe.