KING ALFRED'S OROSIUS

EDITED BY

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PART I

OLD-ENGLISH TEXT AND
LATIN ORIGINAL

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mas on Ægypta lande. Seo fyrre Ægyptus liþ east ondlong þæs Readan Sæs on suþhealfe; 7 on easthealfe 7 on suþhealfe þæs landes liþ garsecg; 7 on hire westhealfe is seo us nearre Ægyptus. 7 on þæm twæm Ægyptum sindon XXIIII þeoda.

Nu hæbbe we awriten þære Asian suþdæl; nu wille we fon to hire norðdæle: þæt is þonne of þæm beorgum þe mon hæt Caucasus, þe we ær beforan sædon, þa þe be norþan India sindon. 7 hie onginnað ærest eastane of þæm garsecge, 7 þonne licgað westryhte oþ Armenia beorgas, þe þa landleode hi hatað Parcoadras. Þær of þæm beorgum wilþ seo ea suþweard Eufrates; 7 of þæm beorgum þe mon Parcoadras hætt licgeað þa beorgas westryhte þe mon Tauros hætt oþ Cilium þæt lond. Þonne be norþan þæm beorgum ondlang þæs garsecges oþ þone norðeastende þisses middangeardes, þær Bore seo éa scýt ut on þone garsecg; 7 þonan west ondlong þæs garsecges oþ þone sæ̆ þe mon hætt Caspia, þe þær upscyt to þæm beorgum Caucasus. Þæt lond mon hætt þa ealdan Sciþþian 7 Ircaniam. þæs landes is XLIII þeoda, wide tosetene for unwæstmbærnesse þæs londes. Þonne be westan þæm sæ Caspia oð Danais þa ea, 7 oþ þæt fenn þe mon hætt Meotedisc; 7 þonne suþ oþ þone
*[Page 12.] Wendelsæ̆, 7 *oþ þone beorg Tauros; 7 norþ oþ þone garsecg is eall Sciþþia lond binnan, þeh hit mon tonemne on twa 7 on þritig þeoda. Ac þa lond on easthealfe Danais þe þær nihst sindon, Albani hi sint genemde in Latina, 7 we hie hataþ nu Liubene.

Nu hæbbe we scortlice gesæd ymbe Asia londgemæro; nu
[1] *Last* e *altered to* o. wille we ymbe Europe londgemære[1] areccean swa micel swa we hit fyrmest witon. From þære ie Danais west oþ Rin þa ea, seo wilð of þæm beorge þe mon Alpis hætt, 7 irnð þonne norþ ryhte on þæs garsecges earm þe þæt lond uton ymblið þe mon Bryttania hætt; 7 eft suþ oð Donua þa ea, þære æwielme is neah Rines ofre þære ie, 7 is siþþan east irnende wið norþan Creca lond ut on þone Wendelsæ̆; 7 norþ oþ þone garsecg þe mon Cwensæ hæt: binnan þæm sindon monega þeoda, ac hit mon hæt eall Germania.

Þonne wið norþan Donua æwielme 7 be eastan Rine sindon

Eastfrancan[1]; 7 be suþan him sindon Swæfas, on oþre healfe þære ie Donua. 7 be suþan him 7 be eastan sindon Bægware, se dæl þe mon Regnesburg hætt. 7 ryhte be eastan him sindon Bæme, 7 eastnorþ sindon Þyringa(s)[2]. 7 be norþan him sindon Ealdseaxan, 7 be norþanwestan him sindon Frisan. be westan Ealdseaxum is Ælfe muþa þære ie, 7 Frisland. 7 þonan westnorð is þæt lond þe mon Ongle hæt, 7 Sillende 7 sumne dæl Dene. 7 be norþan him is Afdrede 7 eastnorþ Wilte, þe mon Hæfeldan hætt. 7 be eastan him is Wineda lond, þe mon hætt Sysyle, 7 eastsuþ, ofer sum dæl, Maroara. 7 hie Maroara habbað bewestan him Þyringas, 7 Behemas, 7 Begware healfe; 7 be suþan him on oþre healfe Donua þære ie is þæt land Carendre suþ oþ þa beorgas þe mon Alpis hæt. To þæm ilcan beorgan licgað Begwara landgemæro 7 Swæfa. Þonne[3] be eastan Carendran londe, begeondan[4] þæm westenne, is Pulgara land. 7 be eastan þæm is *Creca land. 7 be eastan Maroara londe is Wisle lond. 7 be eastan þæm sint Datia, þa þe iu wæron Gotan. Be norþaneastan Maroara sindon Dalamentsan 7 be eastan Dalamentsan sindon Horigti[5]. 7 be norþan Dalamentsan sindon Surpe; 7 be westan him Sysyle. Be norþan Horoti[6] is Mægþa land; 7 be norþan Mægþa londe Sermende oþ þa beorgas Riffen. Be westan Suþdenum is þæs garsecges earm þe liþ ymbutan þæt land Brettania; 7 be norþan him is þæs sæs earm þe mon hæt Ostsæ; 7 be eastan him 7 be norþan[7] sindon Norðdene, ægþer ge on þæm maran landum ge on þæm iglandum; 7 be eastan him sindon Afdrede; 7 be suþan him is Ælfe muþa þære ie 7 Ealdseaxna sum dæl. Norðdene habbað be norþan him þone ilcan sæs earm þe mon hæt Ostsæ, 7 be eastan him sindon Osti þa leode; 7 Afrede[8] be suþan. Osti habbað be norþan him þone ilcan sæs earm, 7 Winedas, 7 Burgendan; 7 be suþan him sindon Hæfeldan. Burgendan habbað þone (ilcan)[9] sæs earm be westan him; 7 Sweon be norþan; 7 be eastan him sint Sermende, 7 be suþan him Surfe. Sweon habbað be suþan him þone sæs earm Osti; 7 be eastan him Sermende; 7 be norþan him ofer þa westenne is Cwenland; 7 be westannorþan him sindon Scridefinnas[10]; 7 be westan Norþmenn.

[1] *From C.*; eastfrancna *L.*

[2] *From C.*

[3] 7 þonne *C.*

[4] begeondam.

*[Page 13.]

[5] horithi *C.*

[6] horiti *C.*

[7] him *added in C.*

[8] afdræde *C.*

[9] *From C.* (y)

[10] *From C.*; scridefinne *L.*

Ohthere sæde his hlaforde, Ælfrede cyninge, þæt he ealra Norðmonna norþmest bude. He cwæð þæt he bude on þæm lande norþweardum wiþ þa Westsæ. He sæde þeah (þæt)[1] þæt land sie swiþe lang norþ þonan; ac hit is eal weste, buton on feawum stowum styccemælum wiciað Finnas, on huntoðe on wintra, 7 on sumera on fiscaþe be þære sæ.

[1] *From C.*

He sæde þæt he æt sumum cirre wolde fandian hu longe þæt land norþryhte læge, oþþe hwæðer ænig mon be norðan þæm westenne bude. Þa for he norþryhte be þæm lande: let him ealne weg *þæt weste land on ðæt steorbord, 7 þa widsæ on ðæt bæcbord þrie dagas. Þa wæs he swa feor norþ swa þa hwælhuntan firrest faraþ. Þa for he þagiet norþryhte swa feor swa he meahte on þæm oþrum þrim dagum gesiglan. Þa beag þæt land þær eastryhte, oþþe seo sæ in on ðæt lond, he nysse hwæðer; buton he wisse ðæt he ðær bád westanwindes 7 hwon norþan, 7 siglde ða[2] east be lande swa swa he meahte on feower dagum gesiglan. Þa sceolde he ðær bidan ryhtnorþanwindes, for ðæm þæt land beag þær suþryhte, oþþe seo sæ in on ðæt land, he nysse hwæþer. Þa siglde he þonan suðryhte be lande swa swa he mehte on fif dagum gesiglan. Ða læg þær an micel ea up in on þæt land. Þa cirdon hie up in on ða[3] ea, for þæm hie ne dorston forþ bi þære ea siglan for unfriþe; for þæm ðæt land wæs eall gebun on oþre healfe þære eas. Ne mette he ær nán gebun land, siþþan he from his agnum hám fór. Ac him wæs ealne weg weste land on þæt steorbord, butan fiscerum 7 fugelerum 7 huntum, 7 þæt wæron eall Finnas; 7 him wæs á widsæ on ðæt bæcbord. Þa Beormas[4] hæfdon swiþe wel gebúd hira land; ac hie ne dorston þær on cuman. Ac þara Terfinna land wæs eal weste buton [ðær] huntan gewicodon, oþþe fisceras, oþþe fugel[er]as.*

[*] [Page 14.]

[2] þanon *C.*

[3] *Erasure after* a (= ðam?)

[4] *First stroke of the* m *erased.*

Fela spella him sædon þa Beormas[5] ægþer ge of hiera agnum lande ge of þæm landum þe ymb hie utan wæron; ac he nyste hwæt þæs soþes wæs, for þæm he hit self ne geseah þa Finnas, him þuhte, 7 þa Beormas[4] spræcon neah an geþeode. Swiþost he for ðider, toeacan þæs landes sceawunge, for þæm horschwælum, for ðæm hie habbað swiþe æþele bán on hiora

[5] *Last stroke of the* m *erased.*

toþum — þa teð hie brohton sume þæm cyninge —, 7 hiora hyd[1]

[1] *Here begins the gap in L., and the extract from C.*

*[Leaf 10, back.] * bið swiðe gód to scíprapum. Se hwæl bið micle læssa þonne oðre hwalas: ne bið he lengra ðonne syfan elna lang. Ac on his agnum lande is se betsta hwælhuntað: þa beoð eahta and feowertiges elna lange, 7 þa mæstan fiftiges elna lange. Þara he sæde þæt he syxa sum ofsloge syxtig on twam dagum.

He wæs swyðe spedig man on þæm æhtum þe heora speda on beoð, *þæt* is, on wildrum. He hæfde þagyt, ða he þone cyninge sohte, tamra deora unbebohtra syx hund. Þa deor hi hatað 'hranas'; þara wæron syx stælhranas; ða beoð swyðe dyre mid Finnum, for ðæm hy foð þa wildan hranas mid. He wæs mid *þæm* fyrstum mannum on þæm lande: næfde he þeah ma ðonne twentig hryðera, 7 twentig sceapa, 7 twentig swyna; 7 þæt lytle þæt he erede he erede mid horsan. Ac hyra ár is mæst on þæm gafole þe ða Finnas him gyldað. Þæt gafol bið on deora fellum, 7 on fugela feðerum, 7 hwales bane, 7 on þæm sciprapum, þe beoð of hwæles hyde geworht, 7 of seoles. Æghwilc gylt be hys gebyrdum. Se byrdesta sceall gyldan fiftyne mearðes fell, 7 fif hranes, 7 an beren[2] fel, 7 tyn ambra feðra, 7 berenne kyrtel oððe yterenne, 7 twegen scíprapas; ægþer sy syxtig elna lang, oþer sy of hwæles hyde geworht, oþer of sioles.

[2] beran.

He sæde ðæt Norðmanna land wære swyþe lang 7 swyðe *[Leaf 11.] * smæl. Eal þæt his man aþer oððe ettan oððe erian mæg þæt lið wið ða sæ; 7 *þæt* is þeah on sumum stowum swyðe cludig; 7 licgað wilde moras wið eastan 7 wið uppon emnlange þæm bynum lande. On þæm morum eardiað Finnas. 7 þæt byne land is easteweard bradost, 7 symle swa norðor swa smælre. Eastewerd hit mæg bion syxtig mila brad, oþþe hwene bradre[3]; 7 middeweard þritig oððe bradre; 7 norðeweard he cwæð, þær hit smalost wære, *þæt* hit mihte beon þreora mila brad to þæm more; 7 se mór syðþan, on sumum stowum, swa brad swa man mæg on twam wucum oferferan; 7 on sumum stowum swa brad swa man mæg on syx dagum ofer feran.

[3] brædre.

Đonne is toemnes þæm lande suðeweardum, on oðre healfe þæs mores, Sweoland, oþ þæt land norðeweard; 7 toemnes þæm lande norðeweardum Cwena land. Þa Cwenas hergiað hwilum on ða Norðmen ofer ðone mor, hwilum þa Norðmen on hy. 7 þær sint swiðe micle meras fersce geond þa moras; 7 berað þa Cwenas hyra scypu ofer land on ða meras, 7 þanon hergiað on ða Norðmen; hy habbað swyðe lytle scypa 7 swyðe leohte.

Ohthere sæde þæt sio scīr hatte Halgoland þe he on bude. He cwæð þæt nan man ne bude be norðan him. Þonne is án port on suðeweardum þæm lande, þone[1] man hæt Sciringes heal. Þyder he cwæð þæt man mihte geseg *lian on anum monðe, gyf man on niht wicode, 7 ælce dæge hæfde ambyrne wind; 7 ealle ða hwile he sceal seglian be lande. 7 on þæt steorbord him bið ærest Iraland, 7 þonne ða igland þe synd betux Iralande 7 þissum lande. Þonne is þis land oð he cymð to Scirincges heale, 7 ealne weg on þæt bæcbord Norðweg. Wið suðan þone Sciringes heal fylð swyðe mycel sæ up in on ðæt lond; seo is bradre þonne ænig man ofer seon mæge. 7 is Gotland on oðre healfe ongean, 7 siðða(n) Sillende. Seo sæ lið mænig hund mila up in on þæt land.

[1] þonne.

*[Leaf 11, back.]

7 of Sciringes heale he cwæð þæt he seglode on fif dagan to þæm porte þe mon hæt æt Hæþum; se stent betuh Winedum, 7 Seaxum, 7 Angle, 7 hyrð in on Dene. Ða he þiderweard séglode fram Sciringes heale, þa wæs him on þæt bæcbord Denamearc, 7 on þæt steorbord widsæ þry dagas; 7 þa, twegen dagas ær he to Hæþum come, him wæs on þæt steorbord Gotland, 7 Sillende, 7 iglanda fela. On þæm landum eardodon Engle, ær hi hider on land coman. 7 hym wæs ða twegen dagas on ðæt bæcbord þa igland þe in Denemearce hyrað.

Wulfstan sæde þæt he geföre of Hæðum, þæt he wære on Truso on syfan dagum 7 nihtum, þæt þæt scip wæs ealne weg yrnende under segle. Weonoðland him wæs on steorbord, 7 on bæcbord him wæs Langaland, 7 Læland, 7 Falster, *7 Scóneg; 7 þas land eall hyrað to Denemearcan. 7 þonne Burgenda land

*[Leaf 12.]