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A Calender of Solomons Wife, etc.

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Please contact mturner@library.rochester.edu with any corrections, questions, or comments

NB: The transcription below contains only the first text in the Ms, *A Calender of Salomons Wife*

Title Page

A Calender of Salomons Wife,
or Prognostication of a vir-
tuous woman.

Also

Jerimyes Prognostication of
Jerusalems overthrow.

By

A secret Construction of the
Hebrew Letters, for Propriety
and strange Resemblance, moste
curious and elegant.

Page 1

A Touch Pro: 31.

As Musique one the Gammuth, so, behold
A virtuous wife upon an ABC set,
To reed or skan, of all that letters can[n],
By sweet Invention and Allusion fit
Wher every letter doth her partes report,
In every Mood arighte; her Faculty,
What her Devotion is, and what her might
Her Temper and her Tyar, and Complement,
As poor Penelope, the wives of Greece
Bewidowd with the wars, doth signify:

The Prophet so, a proper life for wives
would faine invent, and finely maks to raign
The trade of clothing in the womenhood.
Who, as the trees of old that would not raign
Contented with their Nature, pleased all:
So they, the endles sweetnes of their game
And handy-work, and prays so well do savour
That heer they pitch their mindes y[e] world to cloth
And bewtify the state, in all degrees,

Page 2

And higher thoughtes contemn, and deeming well
So, God and man to pleas, are satisfied.
Then blessed bee shee that the world doth bless.
And of her handy work a part to finde
Of all her travaile and her endles pain,
Som token, as a giverdon for her meed,
That with her virtuous hand and doctrine cheereth.

:x Aleph, a Husband A.

A worthy woman and a valiant wife
Mor worth then perles, and in estimation
Beyond all Gems of Ind and ertly Jewells:
What is her husband made w[hat] is hee becom
That such a Jewell wears, but principall.
In every ranck and rew the goodlyest,
Richest, noblest, wisest and the blessedest?

:2 Beth, a hous B.

Page 3

Mark well her worth as shee a houswife is
What hous of store, how full of all provision,
What charge committed, how shee distributes
What prizes, and what spoiles her force brings in
Her husband to supply, and Family.
His hart in hers deposit(?) an inner hous
Reposeth much, which shee with faythfullnes,
Credit, Troth, and Safety, well dischargeth
Vnseeld, vnnaild, vnbound, vnlockt hee leues her,
And ever finds her fast, this trust is in her.

3. :3 Ghimel, a reward. G.

Not for a day or yeer, or two, or three
As theevish harlots that do serv for spoile
Her wedlock is, but all her dayes and life
Shee will devoutly serve, who shall requite
Her husband so, and so well satisfye,
With so much good, be so far from hurt
And free from guile and trechery as shee?

Page 4

Ther is no end of all her goodnes to him.

4. :7 Daleth, a Dore D.

Shee gets her wooll and flax and works and maks^{it}
And maks it pleasure for her hands to card it,
Begins her skill and opens her profession
Tozing and tawing and perpetuall halling
To her is nothing painfull eror disdainfull
Nor peeking that is calld a hell to indure,
The virtue Patience is so perfet in her.
Her dayly tugging cannot ever tire her
Her hope is such shee hath her reach so far
To make her husband rich in all contentment,
By her indeavour, ever durable.

 :7 He, Behold. H.

Shee, like the Merchants ships returned from farr,
Far gets her bred, with travail infinite
In coms her benefit, to wonder at

Page 5

Shee cannot once be read nor kend, nor known,
What one shee is, but that shee's wonderful.
No stormes ever in her hous arise,
Though shee a sea of buissines occupyes.
Her cariage, privat, sober and demeur,
Secret & quiet, wise and vigilant,
Stout shee is, but yet her husband heareth,
Stately but not proud this mean is in her
Shee pecks her valeur out of many a wight,
Is any wight more notable then shee,

Of so much diligence, of so much pain?

:1 Vau, a pin or naile. V.

And riseth so, to set her house in frame?
And calls to meat her houshold & her maydes?
Which of all causes of the Family,
Is counted Coplative and holds together,
Wher meat is skant, ther will y[e] servants skatter;
And frames vnpind will soon in peeces fall.
From meat to work they are to take direction
Their diet and their deed shee is cun[n]ing in,

Page 6

And unto every one proportion fit
Doth give, and with couragious spirit,

:1 Zam, to hear. Ps: 94. Z.

//Audience Ose: 2.

Shee taketh fourth a feeld to her manurance,
To compost and to dress: and comprehends,
How to bestow her goodes, and how to plant it
And turn it to a gainfull vineyard. Ps: 94 [3?]
This is her study now amidst her exercise;
To 'mploy her substance, haveing once incresed.
For trades (as many a one consist vpon her)
Do all, heer, close the compass of their labour.
As children by their ABCe lern to reed,
And after to a higher doctrine clime:
Shee now, a higher lesson, Husbandry
And highth of Culture, and afarther aime
Doth dare presume, amidst her huswifry,
From hence, what wants to make her pretious?

a stren: ???
:1 Cheth, fear, [f?y] Ch.

Her coates about her warm and fast she girdeth,
Her loines not loos, nor fraile, nor dissolute,
Invirond strong with modest chastity. Ps: 28.

99.

Page 7

That they to her be no impediment
Shee steps amongst her folk, to bere her part
And cheerfully with them, her arms to try:
Shee puts unto them strength and not the best,
Her self, a talk performeth, comparable
And far more doth, that many a hand dothes
Like as the Musique maister, that must sing
His part, and listen, and the rest admonish
When they their time or tune do falsify;
Or when they loos their part, to take them in:
No less hath shee to doo, to oversee:
To finde their faultes, and them to rectify.

:v Tet. clay. T.

Shee tastes the sweetness of her merchandize,
What her adventure and advantage is
In what request, how good, how vendible,
How well condiciond her commodities
Reported are; what price of prais shee winns.
This maks her ply it close, and cleave vnto it,
And late to wach and also erly wake.
Her hand is never out of work by day
Nor is her candle once put out by night,

Page 8

But day and night doth steek with diligence
To her imployment, as the soldiers sword,
That can not once bee made his hand to leave
So fast it growes vnto, by fighting long,
So well inured, shee is never weeryed,
But all the vse of both her hands shee vseth.

:? Jod. A hand. J.

One out and in, vnto the distaff reaching,
Th'other to maintein the spindle goeing
With drawing, twisting and w[ith] winding up,
Her endless labour thus is finished.
And as her handes doo serve to reach & hold,
And are at all times from her body flowing:
What stay so great as present maintenance?
And that they yeeld her for paines to pleas her
They that will reed the profit of the wheele,
Must think, how in a yeer the world turns ^{round} ~~round~~;
The seednes to a harvest how it bringes

So every web to cloth, and cloth to wearing,
It from the feeling of the spinsters fingers.

:D Caph, a hand. K.

Page 9

And to encounter with her former work,
Shee openeth her hand unto the poor,
And stretcheth it, not shut, nor close, nor griping.
But with the needy leavs her hold behind her,
Shut path of her com[m]odity, for Almes,
That with her mery wheel, shee purchast in
And cheerfully her empty handes draws back
All shee contends, for might and to be able
Seemes much, for love, to shew forth Charity.
How glad shee is, to see her travail worn
By food and raiment on the destitute!
Nay heer in shee is no less diligent,
Then when her wheel shee turns w[ith] the me^ryment

:7 Lamed, Larning. L.

Shee feareth not her hous for leaking in,
By sokeing snow, all clad with honesty,
Her houshold is, and skillfull education
Of scarlet double dyed, and closely woven,
Their clothing is, that will not leak nor stain.
This is her larning and her occupation:
By good example and by close attendance,

Page 10

By industry and conversation
To gard her hous, and save her family.
Which for to doo is not a larning small.
The perfecst coulour and the best contexture,
The manufacture moste com[m]endable,
The rarest wear is not to good, shee weeneth
For her attendants and her skillfull train,
Whos handes are so vnto her handes brought up,
That they doo equall hers in diligence
And are her own by all obedience,
Not silk, nor gold, nor silver must they wear,
That proper are vnto the tabernacle.

:2 Mem. Water. M.

Her own apparell, silk, a higher wear
The finest linnen and the statelyst coulour
Shee maketh for her self all purple weedes,
About her neck and shoulders, for to wear
As clokes and tucks and tippets to becom' her
All may a Lady or a Mistress know her
The finest weve the deepest watry dye,
The gravest coulour for the finest wightes
Doth best becom: a virtuous bashfullnes
The purple hath, with glorious modesty.

Page 11

It may suffice a Queen to signifye
Of all the coulours that that the rainbow hath,
Ther is not once the like, for Maiesty
Or to set out a virtuous countenance
Nor Salomon, the wisest could devise
A fit complexion, for to comprehend her
Like this Attiar, for a peerles peer.

:3 Nun, an Offspring. N.

Her husband, as a Peer among the Peers,
And Elders of the land, doth sit adornd,
Amidst the gates, and is amongst them all,
Of all best noted and distinguished,
For virtue of a wife and gracefull Imps.
For Nuriture and houshold discipline,
Which makes him bold and ads incouragement,
Vnto his counsell, sentence and opinion.
That like a sprout or offspring hee, among the[m],
Out strips them all, hee onely flowrisheth
Of greater stature and more eminent;
Is hee then all for port and eloquence.
Hee is not by his troupe at all disturbed,
Nor by his proper train indignified,

Page 12

His wife hath so him graced and furnished,
To bring to honour and to highe degree
From low estate, by her own industry.
As Princes by their people are exalted:

So wives do rais their husbandes & advaunce ^{them} ~~the~~
The world is the soil and they the rootes,
The sucking rootes that mighty substance bear,
From whence all blessings fall, this is their care.

:D Samek. Vpholding. S.

And now to undertake the finishing,
On her foundation of a setled trade,
Her wooll to yarn and her web to cloth,
Her cloth to perfet coulour redy brought:
With concord and with good construction,
Shee playes the Semster and the taylor too,
And to the merchant works and sells vnto the[m]
Both shirts and breeches, silk and linnen fine,
And smocks and vnderpeticoates for maydes.
For vnderclothing thus they trust vnto her,
At rates of her discretion & to pay her
By their retaile, as they did cost in gross.
And yet a greater mystery then this
Of needlwork, that women exercise

Page 13

Of curious facions and of divers sortes
Shee doth depend vpon, and custom gains,
And gaineth much by merchants ignorance

:V Gnayn, an Eye or respect. gn.

: 7 // strength & comylines.

// //

Her Induement is strength and comlynnes
That never old, nor out of facion is,
Shee careth not for change of future times,
Shee feareth not a time of backwardnes
Or improsperity, what ever com[m]eth
But laugheth at the day to com heerafter
So well is shee for every time provided
No day can com beyond her providence
That shee doth not forsee by diligence
Wherby no faultes shee hath to reconcile
Ther is no day to com beyond perfection,
Whatever perfet is and durable
And it a virtue everlasting hath:
That shee respecteth for her proper wear.
And thus a constant favour and behaviour

Her wearing well imports, and habilments,
Her eyes, not likened are to wandring stars,
But strongly-fixed in the firmament:
Hight well, Magnificence and Confidence //

:D Pe, a Mouth. P.
wisdom & kindenes.

Page 14

Her mouth with wisdom only shee doth open,
Or els at all times wanteth vtterance.
Upon her tong is loveing discipline,
Or els shee faileth of deliverance.
By wisdom and by Grace shee edifyes
With sharpnes oft, and oft with tendernes
Of her instruction, shee thus educates
And builds her hous, on Pillars delicate,
Of Judgement, Mercy, and Fidelity,
Of skill of Justice and of Charity,
Must bee the Wisdom shee communicates.
Not Toyes, nor light, nor fals, nor frivolous,
But weighty godly and com[m]odious,
Is all her speech, to pass her time with all,
So well they com in season, that her wordes
Somtime, a banquet, and a feast Kings
Are served in, with Justice to advise.
And other whiles, with safty for a citty
And for an Army, how to winn the feeld,
Which counted is a mess not ordinary.
And still her wordes; to save and not destroy,
Shee shee storeth up, by Oppor^{tu}nity //

:3 Tsade, Meat, venison. 22 Ts.
// Contemplation.

Page 15

Shee looks about th'affaires of hir hous,
What every servaunt hath to goe about,
Shee's in every char² and corner spyeing.
To see their buissines, frame, and save their time
That theevish time, that steals away their paines
Except they travaile hard for to beguile it,
Shee chaseth one, and to an other hyeth,
Them still in work, and at their work to keep.

This, shee dispatcheth with all expedition.
 The others answer shee examineth
 And thus with dayly care hath much to doo,
 And eateth not the bred of Idlenes.
 Of Idlenes, that day and night must stand
 Like to a beakon wacher on a hill
 Vpore or Invasion ever fearing?
 Shee sleepeth not, or yf shee sleep, shee dreameth
 Her handes with work, or els her head w[ith] care
 So much to hevy lade, and charged are.
 And, though her eyes do sleep, her hart is wakeing.
 Shee tender is of sect and tenderly,
 The smallest charge doth take, to execute.
 What is the greatest, but a burden to her
 And all her meat, but venson, wh[en] shee eats it?

Page 16

;p Quoph, returning. Q.
 Renown.

What's her return, what comes about vnto hee
 What revolution of her bu'ssines,
 For all, w[hat] hath shee compass'd & to pass
 Hath brought, and gaind, but of her children
 For to ^{be} blesst, and of her husband praised?
 They on their knees, when they do rise, do bless her,
 And God with all that such a mother bare them,
 And virtues are her dayly com[m]endation
 That with their duty are their Exercise.
 Her husbands love can never but co[m]mend her,
 His wife of youth & virtue flowrishing,
 For crowning him with glory and with grace,
 With countenance and ek w[ith] Maiesty,
 Of present life and of Posterity.
 No such a mother and a Wife, say they,
 Can once be found, her hous to dignifye,
 Or for her cariage seen so worshipfull //

:7 Resh. a head. R.

Daughters, full many a one have bravely don,
 And thou above them all surmountest farr
 Above them all that are, thou shewst the cheeff

Page 17

And shewst the head of all the company,
Take thou the leading, and do thou possess
The vanguard, and the front of women kinde.
For thou well worthy art of all that serve,
The rest to traine, and them to discipline
Poor seely women with their servitude
So well contented, and their manageing.
But wherin now consists thy excellence?
That thou, of all, shouldst have preheminance?
In virtues frequent, and in vices rare.
Yf any thing of good report be found,
That onely must, in her bee verified,
And onely ill from her is banished.
In Virtues great, shee's rare of speech (pithy but
Like golden aples in a silver tray,
Her wordes have good complexion & are witty.

:w Shinn to change. Sh.

Flavour is fals and bewty vanisheth
The one doth change, the other is variable
Who is the woman, but of godlynes
That hath the pray? Shee shall alone be prais'd.

Page 18

That doth religion with a zeal profess
And in her protestation duety shew,
With conscience cleer, and with a constant life,
That feareth ^{god} and honoureth his law.
Not like the wether-cok, or like the winde
That every moment moveth, so doth shee:
But like the needle in the Compas rather
That to one pole doth alwayes point aright.

~~That~~ And from the north, cannot by nature vary,
Shee will not turn, but burn, shee will not burn,
But mary, and mar[r]yed her vow to keep
With dayly diligence and perfect sacrifice
Of Faythfulnes in all her handy work
And cogitations, meek and right in deed.
The worldes wicked love, and wicking favour,
And bewty that doth no abiding cary:
Shee all neglects, and inwardly doth dress,
And wholly right: herself, in heavenly dight.

:n Tav, a signe. T.

Give her of all the fruit her handes have wrought
Som part, that in the gates, her works may prais her,
That all her Virtues may be signified,
And well appeer to all, what she enjoyes,

Page 19

As signes of all her work, for recompens.
Should not ech creature that doth labour eat?
How worthy then of maintenance is shee?
For her true service long and diligent
That Citty street and gates may testify
Of her behaviour by her dayly habit
How shee indured, how shee overcame?
By good indeavour what she compassed?
Indow her well that such a portion bringeth,
And make her freely to participate
Of all her paines give her the best to wear,
To one so kinde be not unmercifull.
That gates and markets, and the Judgme[n]t seates
And Temples all may iudge her well deserving.
Wher ever extant, or wher ever worn
Her work yee have, have yee her ther com[m]ended
As mesure is for mesure ever yeilded.
Shee should for virtue, be by virtuous dealing,
Not unrewarded nor unrecompensed,
Her weedes: her deedes, and all her fayth &^{(love}
May well import, her name to magnify.
And while the moste desire, for Memory,
Among their ancient freendes to maketh terme[nt]
Let her be made her husbandes manument.

Finis.