
**The Wyse Chylde and the Emperor Adrian, a Dialogue,
Ed. by J.O. Halliwell**

Hadrianus

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THE WYSE CHYLDE.



THE WYSE CHYLDE AND THE
EMPEROR ADRIAN;

A DIALOGUE

RESEMBLING THAT OF SALOMON AND SATURN;

FROM THE UNIQUE EDITION

PRINTED BY WYNKYN DE WORDE.

EDITED BY

J. O. HALLIWELL, ESQ., F.R.S.



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PREFACE.

THE following version of the curious piece now reprinted is unknown to all the writers on the dialogues of Salomon and Saturn. Its exact prototype has not been discovered, but it bears a very close resemblance to the dialogue of Adrian and Epictus in MS. Arundel, 351, which commences as follows, — “ juvenis homo commendavit se ad utilem virum, ipse Epictus nomine. Utilis homo commendavit illum comiti. Comes commendavit illum episcopo. Episcopus commendavit illum regi. Rex commendavit illum Imperatori. Imperator

commendavit illum. Duci, qui est super milites multos, prudentes, orientales. Qui cum venisset in illam civitatem, nolebat venire ad eum. Tunc perrexerunt, et dixerunt ei. *Interrogatio* :—Juvenis, unde es, aut de qua provincia venisti? *Responsio* :—Ex Patre et Matre, et ex Dei jussu creatus sum.” It is obvious, either that both these versions are derived from some common original, or that Wynkyn de Worde’s is a translation from some adaptation of the dialogue in the Arundel Manuscript. Both of them bear a close resemblance to the prose dialogue of Salomon and Saturn. See further information on the subject in Kemble’s collection of the Anglo-Saxon Dialogues of Salomon and Saturn, 1845-7. The present version should also be compared with the Anglo-Saxon Dialogue of Adrian and Ritheus.

The following tract is reprinted from the

Preface.

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unique edition preserved in the library of the British Museum. The original consists of six leaves. On the first is a woodcut showing the child presented by an elderly man to a king, crowned and holding a sceptre, seated on a throne. Several persons are represented standing behind the child. On the last page is the device of the printer, Wynkyn de Worde.





Here begynneth a lytell treatyse called the Wyse Chylde of thre yere olde. The enfant sage beyng of thre yeres of age demaunded by Adryan Emperoure. The whiche hym answered vnto euery thyng he asked.

HERE foloweth the answers that the enfant sage the whiche ne had but thre yeres of age and was called lytell sone vnto the emperour/ and he was fyrst recommaunded vnto an archebysshop, and the sayd archebysshope recommaunded hym vnto a patryarche of Jherusalem. And the sayd patryarche recommaunded hym vnto a duke ryght sage ryght humble and the beste vnderstandyng hym selfe that was in all the lande. And whan the chylde was comen in to the cyte where this sage duke

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