

For that I had accomplisshyd and fynisshyd dyuers
hystories as wel of contemplacyon as of other hysto-
ryal and worldly actes of grete conquesture & pry-
ces / And also certeyn booke of ensamples and doctrine /
Many noble and dyuers gentylmen of thys royaume of Eng-
land camen and demaunded me many and oft tymes / wherfor
that I haue not do made & enprync the noble hystorie of the
saynt greal / and of the moost renomed crysten kyng / Jherst
and chref of the thre lest crysten and worthy kyng Arthur /
whiche ought moost to be remembred emonge vs englyssh
men wofore al other crysten kynges / For it is nowyrtayn knowen
thourgh the Inyuerfal world / that there been in worthy & the
lest that euer were / That is to wete thre paynyms / thre Jellwes
and thre crysten men / As for the paynyms they were wofore the
Incarnacyon of Crist / whiche were named / the fyrst Hectur
of Troy / of whome thys hystorie is comen bothe in bulace and in
prose / The second Alysander the grete / & the thyrde Julius
Cezar Emperour of Rome of whome thys hystories ben wel kno-
wen and had / And as for the thre Jellwes whiche also were wofore
thys incarnacyon of our lord / of whome the fyrst was Duc Jos-
ue whiche brought the chylde of Jherusalem in to the honde of
hys Jette / The second Dauid kyng of Jherusalem / & the thyrde
Judas Machabeus of these thre the byble rehereth al theyr no-
ble hystories & actes / And sythe the sayd Incarnacyon haue
ben thre noble crysten men stalked and admittid thourgh the
Inyuerfal world in to the nomber of the in leste & worthy / of
whome was fyrst the noble Arthur / whose noble actes I pur-
pose to wyryte in thys present booke for folowyn / The second
was Charlemayn or Charles the grete / of whome thys hystorie is
had in many places bothe in frenche and englyssh / and the
thyrde and last was Godfrey of lowyn / of whos actes & byf
I made a booke into the excellent prynce and kyng of noble me-
more kyng Edwarde the fourth / the sayd noble gentylmen
Instantly requyred me to enprync thys hystorie of the sayd noble
kyng and conquestour kyng Arthur / and of his knyghtes
wyth thys hystorie of the saynt greal / and of the deeth and endyng
of the sayd Arthur / Affirmynge that I ouzt nathe tenprync
his actes and noble feates / than of godfrey of lowyn / or
it

any of the other pyght/consydering that he was a man borne
why in this wyame and kyng and Emperour of the same /
And that there be in frensch dyuers and many noble wolu-
mes of his actes / and also of his knyghtes / To whome I
answerd / that dyuers may holde oppynion / that there was
no such Arthur / and that alle such bookes as they maad of
hym / be but fygged / and fables / by cause that somme cron-
icles make of hym no mencyon ne remember hym noo thynge
ne of his knyghtes / wherby they answerd / and one in speyal
sayd / that in hym that Holy say or thynke / that there was ne-
uer such a kyng callyd Arthur / myght wel be awte d grete
folye and blyndenesse / For he sayd that there were many euy-
dences of the contrarye / First ye may see his sepulture in the
monasterye of Glastyngburye / And also in polyconyon in
the 8 booke the 17th chapytre / and in the seuenth booke the
xxii chapytre / wher his body was buryed / and after foun-
den and translated in to the sayd monasterye / ye shall see also
in the storye of bochas in his booke de casu principum / parte of
his noble actes / and also of his falle / Also Galfridus in
his hartyll booke wouncth his lyf / and in dyuers places
of Englands / many remembraunces be yet of hym and shall
remayne perpetually / and also of his knyghtes / First in the
abbey of Westmester at saynt Edwardes thynge remaineth the
pynte of his seat in wedy Waye cheser / in serpt / In which is
wryton Patricius Arthunus / Britannic / Gallie / Germanie /
dacie / Imperator / In in the castel of douer ye may see Gau-
wayns skulke / & Cradoks mantel . At Wyndchester the wunde-
table / in other places Launcelottes swerde and many other
thynges / Thanne al these thynges consydered there can no man
reasonably say but there was a kyng of this lande na-
med Arthur / For in al places crysten and hethen he is re-
pited / and taken for one of the 12 worthy / And the first of
the 12 Crysten men / And also he is more spoken of beyonde
the see moore bookes made of his noble actes than there be in
england as wel in ducte platyn spaynyll and grekyll as
in frensch / And yet of record remaine in wytnesse of hym in
brakes in the tyme of Camelot the grete stones & meruayls
his wyrtys of yow kyng Under the grounde & real fautes

which dyuers nobl kyngs hath seen / wherfor it is a meruayle
why he is nomore renowned in his olde contrey / sauf onely
it accordeth to the wordz of god / whiche sayth that no man is
except for a prophete in his olde contrey / Thene al these thyng-
ges forsayd alledged I coude not wel deny / but that there was
such a noble kyng named arthur / and reputed one of the 12
worthy / & first & chiefe of the casten men / & many noble wolu-
mes be made of hym & of his noble knyghtes in frensch which
I haue seen & wode beyonde the see / which been not foun-
den in our matenal tongue / but in walyshe ten many & also in frensch /
& somme in englysshe but no wyth nygh alle / wherfore such as
haue late ben dwalben oute bryfly in to englysshe / I haue after
the symple connyng that godd hath sente to me / Under the
fauour and correctyon of al noble lordes and gentylmen en-
pysed to enpynce a booke of the noble hystories of the sayd
kyng Arthur / and of certeyn of his knyghtes after a coppe
unto me deliuered / whiche coppe Syr Thomas Malory dyd
take oute of certeyn bookes of frensch and reduced it in
to Englysshe / And I accordyng to my coppe haue don set it
in enpynce / to the entente that noble men may see and lerne
the noble actes of chyualtre / the Jentyll and vertuous dedes
that somme knyghtes vsed in tho dayes / by whiche they came
to honour / and holb they that were viciuous were punysshed
and ofte put to shame and rebuke / humbly beseechynge al no-
ble lordes and ladyes wyth al other estates of what estate
or degre they been of / that shall see and wode in this sayd booke
and werke / that they take the good and honest actes in their
remembraunce / and to folowe the same / Wher they shall
fynde many joyous and playsaunt hystories / and noble &
renowned actes of humanyte / gentylnesse and chyualtres /
For therein may be seen noble chyualtres / Curtysye / Humanyte
frendlynesse / hardyngnesse / loue / frendshyp / Colwardyng / Mur-
der / harte / vertue / and synne / Woe after the good and lue
the euyl / and it shall bryng you to good fame and renom-
mee / And for to passe the tyme they booke shall be playsaunt
to wode in / but for to gyue sayth and blyue that al is trewe
that is contyneynd therein / ye be at your lycher / but al is wry-
ton for our doctryne / and for to be ware that the falske not to

Bye no synne / but trewyspe and folowe heru / by whiche we
 may come and attyne to goodz fame and renomme in this
 lyf / and after this shorde and transytorpe lyf to come into
 euertlastyng blysshe in heuen / the whiche he graunte ys that
 wygneth in heuen the blyssyd Trynity Amen /

Thenne to procede forth in this sayd booke / whiche I
 dyrecte into alle noble knyghtes / knyghtes and ladyes /
 gentylmen or gentylwymmen that desyre to rede or here
 redde of the noble and joyous hystorie of the grete conquerour
 and equalent kyng . Kyng Arthur / somtyme kyng of
 this noble wyalm / thenne called brytayne / I wyll saym
 Capon synple persone present this booke folowynge / whiche I
 haue enpryseyd and wygneth / And tractis of the noble actes / fe-
 acts of armes of chualtrye / prowesse / hardynesse / humangite
 hie / curtosye / and very gentylnesse / wyth many wonder-
 ful hystories and aduentures / And for to vnderstonde bry-
 efly the contente of this volume / I haue deuyded it in to vij
 bookes / and euery booke chapytred / as few after shal by god-
 des grace folowe / The first booke shal tracte how withen
 daigon gate the noble conquerour kyng Arthur and conty-
 neth vij chapytres / The second booke tractis of Balyn
 the noble knyght and conty neth vij chapytres / The thyrde
 booke tractis of the mayage of kyng Arthur to quene gue-
 neuer wyth othre maters and conty neth sycarne chapytres /
 The fourth booke how Merlyn was afford / and of Ibare
 maad to kyng Arthur / and conty neth vij chapytres /
 The fyfthe booke tractis of the conqueste of Lucius thempour
 and conty neth vij chapytres / The syxthe booke tractis of
 Syr Launakot and Syr Lyonel and meruayllous aduentu-
 res and conty neth vij chapytres / The seuenth booke tractis
 of a noble knyght called Syr Gareth and named by Syr Kaye
 Beaumayns and conty neth vij chapytres / The eyght
 booke tractis of the hystorie of Syr Trystram the noble knyght
 and of hys actes and conty neth vij chapytres /
 The ix booke tractis of a knyght named by Syr Kaye le cote
 male knyght and also of Syr Trystram and conty neth vij

chapytres / The x booke tractis of Syr Trystram & other mer-
 uayllous aduentures and conty neth vij chapytres /
 The xi booke tractis of Syr Launakot and Syr Galahad and
 conty neth vij chapytres / The xij booke tractis of Syr Laun-
 akot and his madnesse and conty neth vij chapytres / The
 xiii booke tractis how Galahad came first to kyng Arthurs
 courte and the queste how the sangreal was treuonne and con-
 tyneth vij chapytres / The xiiii booke tractis of the queste
 of the sangreal & conty neth vij chapytres / The xv booke tractis
 of Syr Lancelot & conty neth vij chapytres / The xvi booke tra-
 ctis of Syr Lancelot & Syr Lyonel his brother and conty neth
 vij chapytres / The xvii booke tractis of the sangreal and
 conty neth vij chapytres / The xviii booke tractis of Syr
 Launakot and the quene and conty neth vij chapytres / The
 xix booke tractis of quene Guentuer and Launakot and con-
 tyneth vij chapytres / The xx booke tractis of the pyetous
 deith of Arthur and conty neth vij chapytres / The xxi booke
 tractis of his last departyng / and how Syr Launakot came
 to truenge his deithe and conty neth vij chapytres / The somme
 is vij bookes whiche contyne the somme of v hundred & vij
 chapytres / as more playnly shal folowe hereafter /