Now there was once in Rome a Pope under God’s laws, Gregory he was called and God himself loved him. Now on one occasion the pope wished to travel In order to [further] some business of his; He came to a street which stretched towards Rome And he saw there being led in chains some of the English nation, Three very fair men firmly secured; They were about to be sold, and the coins had been counted.

Then the Pope at once questioned the comely young men, As to where they were from, how they came to be there, And on which distant shore they had been engendered. The one of them answered, a man who was most handsome, ‘We are heathen men and we have been brought here After being sold off, away from Angle-land, And we beg you to baptise us if you would only set us free.’ So spoke the English men; they were nobly born.

Then Gregory felt pity (God loved him much), And this was the reply of the blessed Pope: ‘Certainly you are Angles; in fact more like Angels! Of all of the nations who dwell upon the earth, Your race is the fairest of all quique men.’ The Pope enquired of them much information About their laws and their lands and about this people’s king; And they gave him true answers to everything they knew of, And he had them set free and brought baptism to them, And then turned straight back once again towards Rome,
Anne cardinal cleoped; i-coren of his uolke.
Augustine he was ihotæn; ædelest clærken.
Þe pape him seide; in his som-rune.
Austin þu scalt wende; mid soð-fæste þonke.

14725
in-to Engle-londe; to Æðelberte kinge.
& beode þer Godes godd-spel; þe scal spede ful wel.
And ich þe feouwerti bi-tæche wel gode clærkes.
Nu to-mærþen bið þe dæi; þa þu scalt do þe i þene wæi.
Forð ferde Austin; and his clærkes mid him.

14730
þat him wes ful iwil; at Tanette he com hider in.
& swa he up is iwend; þat he com into Kent.
Swa he uorð to Cantuare-buri; þer him þuhte swiðe muri.
þer he funde Æðelbert þat king wes a þan ærd.
Æðelberde he talde tidende; of þan hæoueneliche kinge.

14735
he seide him þat godd-spel; and þe king him luste swiðe wel. 
wel he þat lar-spel unde(r)-nom an-couste he ȝirnde Cristindom,
Iuulȝed iar[ð] A[ð]elberd king; and al his duþede mid him, 
and anan he gon to wurche; ane swiðe feire chirche. 
a seinte ((Trinet))ðes nome; wel wes þan kinge þuruore.

14740
þa iwende seint Austin vorð; æst and west and suð and norð.
and seok[ð]e þurh-ut Englelond. & turnde hit to Godes hond. 
clærkes he lerde; chirreches he arerde. 
seoke men he helde; þur Halindes mihte. 
And swa he droh suð-ward; þat he com to Dorchestre.

14745
þer he funde þa wurste men; þa on londe wuneden. 
he talde heom Godes leore; and duden him to scare. 
he tahten heom Cristindom; (and heo grenneden him hon)) 
þer stod seint Austin. and his clærkes mid him. 
and spoken of Crist Godes sune; al swa wes ær heore iwune. 

14750
þer heo iwurðen to; to wraðere hele.

He summoned a cardinal, selected from his people,
Augustine he was called, an admirable priest;
The Pope instructed him, in private audience:
'Augustine, you are to go, with pious intention,
Into England, to King Ethelbert,
And there preach God's gospel: you will succeed very well!
And I shall supply you with forty very fine priests.
Now tomorrow is the day when you must set off on your way!' 
Off went Augustine and his clerics with him; 
He accepted willingly, and made landfall here at Thanet, 
And accordingly he went ashore and so entered Kent. 
On he went to Canterbury, which he found most satisfactory, 
Where he found King Ethelbert who was high king in that land. 
To Ethelbert he told the tidings of the heavenly king himself; 
He described to him the gospel and the king listened to him very well; 
Well did he receive the teaching and straightway desired Christianity: 
So King Ethelbert was christened and all his household with him, 
And at once began constructing a very beautiful church, 
In the Holy Trinity’s name: great grace he earned for this!
Then Saint Augustine set forth, east and west and south and north, 
And then all through England, converting it to God's command. 
Clerics he trained, churches he raised, 
Sick men he healed, through the Saviour's power. 
And so he drew southwards till he came to Dorchester 
Where he found the most wickéd men who lived in the whole land: 
He told them God’s teaching and they treated him with scorn; 
He taught them Christianity [and they grimaced at him];
There stood Saint Augustine and his priests alongside him 
Speaking of Christ the Son of God, as it had been their custom, 
And there men approached them to their disadvantage
By taking tails of sting-rays [to the dismay of many],
And hanging them on his cope on either side,
And then running away and pelting him with bones,
And then they yelled at him horrifying taunts,
And so they dispatched him and drove him from that district.
Saint Augustine was annoyed with them and grew very angry;
He walked for five miles away from Dorchester
And came to a hilltop very high and beautiful,
Where he fell on his knees in prayer calling continually upon God
For Him to avenge him on the accursed people
Who had dishonoured him with their harmful actions.
Our Lord heard his voice reaching into heaven
And sent down his vengeance on the [wretched] people
Who had hung sting-rays to the clerics:
Those tails stuck on to them, and for this they can be derided;
All that tribe were disgraced: they all had little muggles,
And in every household people called them ‘mugglings’,
And every gentleman says foul things about them,
And English gentlefolk in foreign countries
Because of that very deed go round with red faces,
And many a good man’s son when he is abroad,
Who never went anywhere near that place, is called by everyone ‘base’.
Augustine remained at the foot of a mountain,
And his priests with him too, who had come with him from Rome,
Calling to the Lord who made the light of day,
Penitent and saddened: they were bitterly ashamed
That that evil group of men should have disgraced them.
So because of that he wanted to return at once to Rome,
And complain to Saint Gregory, the holy apostle,
How the inhabitants of Dorchester thought fit to treat him.

and nomen tailes of rehþen;
and hangede on his cape; an elchere halue;
and bi-halues urnen. and wurpen hine mid banen;
and seoððe ȝeiden him on. mid ȝeomerliche stanen.

& swa heo hine gunnen sende; an druien hine ut of þan ende.
Seint Austin heo weoren lāþ; and he iwrað swiðe wrað.
and he ȝif milen iwende; from Dorchester.
and com to ane munte. þe muchel wes & hende.
þer he lai on cneowe ibede; and cleopede auere touward Gode.

þat he hine awreke; a þan a-warriede uolke.
þa hine isend hafðen; mid heore scaðe deden.
Vre Drihte hine iherde; in-to þere heoue((ne)).
and his wreche sende; an wræstliche þan folke.
þa þe ȝihȝen tailes; hangede a þan clarkes.

þa tailes heom comen on. þer-uoren heo mæȝen iteled beon.
Isced wæs þat mon-cun. mug%gles heo hafden.
and inne hirede ælches; men cleopeð heom muglinges.
and euer-elic freo mon; ful telleð heom on.
& Englisce fremen; in uncuðe londen.

for þan ilke dede; heo habbeð ðeb rede.
and monies godes monnes sune; in vncuðe londe.
þe nauere ne com þer neh. is icleoped cuid
Austin him wunede; vnder ane munede.
and his clarkes mid him eke. þeo comen of Rome;

cleopede to Drihtene; þe scop daþes lihte.
þat þat vni-wraste moncun; heom iscend hafden.
þa wolde he þer-after sone. wenden to Rome.
and menen to Gregorie; þan holi appostolic.

hu Dorchestre-seten; hine gunnen greten.
As soon as he was quite ready and about to go upon his way,
In that same night Our Lord came there to him,
Calling him by his own name—at that he greatly rejoiced:
'What are you thinking of, Augustine, what think you, my friend?
Do you want to go away so soon, back again to Rome?
You are not yet to leave, to hasten from the land.
You are very dear to me, and I intend to dwell with you,
And very readily will you come to the kingdom of heaven:
Heaven is all prepared for you; that way your soul is to travel!'
So spoke Our Lord with Augustine his knight.
When Augustine understood what Our Lord had been saying,
And when he looked at Our Lord, who made him this promise,
Our Lord rose to heaven and Augustine stayed on his knees,
Down on the soil, where he'd seen Our Lord standing;
Weeping, he called to the heavenly king,
Earnestly he begged Almighty God for mercy,
Before he fell completely prostrate upon the earth;
On that same spot where Our Lord had been standing
There he stuck his staff, he himself knelt beside it,
And preached his fellows a sermon, which greatly satisfied them.
When he had recounted the speech made by Our Lord,
Taking his staff in his hand, he was about to go to his lodging;
He pulled up the staff: water poured out behind it,
The loveliest fountain which flows upon earth;
Before that there was no town, no person living there.
Soon folk were flocking, gathering round the good Augustine,
And quite with his consent began arriving there
And beginning some building-works beside the glorious stream.
Many a man did the water heal; he called that place Cernel:
'Cerno, cernis': that's Latin, I tell you this;
Corpus of Greenlandic Leoden; ich iseo swa hit is iqueðen.
El is Ebrewisc; þat is Godd ful iwís.
Þene tun he c[l]eopede Ċernel; ich iseo Drihten iwil-del. to þissere weorde lange; þe nome þer scal stonde.
14815
al-se hit is iqueðen; after Godes leoden.
Þene stude to iwerpèi; þer stod ure Drihten.
and his engles mid him; þa he spac wið Austin.
Austin wende wide þeond Englene londe.
he fullehtede kingge; and heore here-dringes.
14820
he fullehtede eorles; he fullehtede boernes.
he fullehtede Englisce men; he fullehtede Sexisce men;
and sette an Godes honde; al þat was on londe.
Þa wes he ful bliðe-mod; þat folc he hafde iblisssed.
Nord in Engle-londe; Bruttis hæftan an honde.
14825
muchel del of londe; and castles swiðe stronge.
Þa Bruttis nalden; þan Enlisce buðen.
imong heom munekes weoren; muchelere weorede.
Seint Austin funde; inne þisse londe.
seouen biscopes to iwisse; singende masse.
14830
and enne ærchebiscop; þe at Karliun at-sto[d].
and at Bangor wes a munecclif; mid muneken uni-u03[e].
Dionot hæfte heore abbeod; he wes of heðe monnen.
he hæftan on seuen hepen; sixtene hundred muneken.
and þet ma þer-to; munekes swiðe balde.
14835
and of Bruttisse streonen; stiðe imodeke men;
Writen sende Austin. to þan seouen biscopen;
and hehte heom comen sone; and spoken wið him-seolue.
& don him hersumnesse; and þurh him singen masse.
for he hauede an honde; þa hehnesse of þissen londe.
14840
he was icleop%ped legat; of þissen londe he wæs primat.

‘Cerno’ in English speech is ‘I see’ as we pronounce it; ‘El’ is a Hebrew word, and in fact it means ‘God’;
So he called the town ‘Cernel’: ‘I see God completely’;
As long as this word was pronounced, after God’s own discourse,
To commemorate the way in which Our Lord stood,
And his angels with him, when he spoke to Augustine.
Augustine travelled far across England’s regions:
He baptised her kings and their chief warriors,
He baptised earls, he baptised barons,
He baptised Englishmen, he baptised Saxon men,
And placed in God’s hands all who were in the land
Then he was very satisfied that he had sanctified the people.
In the north of England the Britons had their command
A large tract of the land and some very strong forts;
The British refused to submit to the English.
Among them was included a large contingent of monks.
Saint Augustine discovered within this same district
Seven bishops, no less, and all singing mass,
And a single archbishop, with his throne at Caerleon,
And at Bangor was a monastery with huge numbers of monks:
Their abbot was called Dionot, who came of a great family;
He controlled, in seven daughter houses, sixteen hundred monks,
And even more besides; very brave monks they were,
And from true British stock; stern-minded men.
Augustine sent letters to the seven bishops,
Instructing them to come with speed and speak with him in person,
And submit to him in obedience, and sing mass as his subordinates,
Because he had been put in possession of the primacy of this land:
He was entitled ‘legate’, and of this land he was the primate,
And these things had been done by the Pope in Rome. These bishops were resolute, and returned their response: 'Under the man called Augustine we are in no way subjected, But in this land we are men superior in our power, And have our jurisdiction from our own archbishop Who is located in Caerleon: a fine cleric in his vocation, Who received the pallium himself from Gregory the Pope, And with great dignity demeans himself in office.

Now it shall never come to pass at all within this wide world's realm That we shall ever submit ourselves to Augustine the stranger, For we are fully at variance with him, and with his fellows as well, Since Augustine has travelled here, into this our land, And has baptised the so-called king, prince of the men of Kent, Known here as Ethelbert, high-born among the English, And has encountered here those hounds of heathens Who came out of Saxony with Gurnard the king: All those he is baptising and bringing those to God, Who are holding onto our kingdom, most unjustly, in their hands. We are all of us Christian and we come of Christian stock, And our ancestors were also, for the last three hundred years. And these have newly come here and have now adopted Christianity,
Complaining to Ethelbert, King of the East Angles,
Of how the British bishops were treating him with mockery,
they scorned utterly to consider him their superior.
The king was exceedingly annoyed about this matter,
And said that he was going to kill them in their country,
And he did so subsequently, quite soon after this.