INTRODUCTION TO THIS VOLUME

LIST OF MANUSCRIPT SIGLA

H  Arundel LVII, College of Arms, London
T  Trinity College, Cambridge, R.3.8
L  Laud Misc. 416, Bodleian Library, Oxford
B  Additional 36983, British Library, London
C  Cotton Vespasian A iii, British Library, London
F  Fairfax 14, Bodleian Library, Oxford
G  Göttingen University theol. 107
E  Edinburgh, Royal College of Physicians
Add Additional 31042, British Library, London

STRUCTURE OF THIS SECTION

Lines 9229–12712 of *Cursor Mundi* cover the “fifth age” of salvation, a period that includes the birth, temple service, and marriage of the Virgin, the birth of Jesus, his childhood wonder-deeds in Egypt, and the years from adolescence to the beginning of his public life. Since most of this material is not found in the Bible, the CM poet employs apocryphal sources for many of the 3500 lines he devotes to this portion of his narrative.

The apocryphal basis of the narrative has, in turn, determined the nature of the Explanatory Notes. Exegetical traditions and patristic commentaries, for example, are not very relevant for source materials that were rejected as non-canonical by such people as Augustine,