GEOFFREY CHAUCER

CHAUCER'S PROPHECY

WHEN priestes *failen in their saws,* *come short of their
And lordes turne Godde's laws profession*
Against the right;
And lechery is holden as *privy solace,* *secret delight*
And robbery as free purchase,
Beware then of ill!
Then shall the Land of Albion
Turne to confusion,
As sometime it befell.
Ora pro Anglia Sancta Maria, quod Thomas Cantuaria. <2>
Sweet Jesus, heaven's King,
Fair and best of all thing,
You bring us out of this mourning,
To come to thee at our ending!

Notes to Chaucer's Prophecy.

(Transcriber's note: Modern scholars believe that Chaucer was not the author of this poem)

2. "Holy Mary, pray for England, as does Thomas of Canterbury" (i.e. St Thomas a Beckett)