

Let no man trust an early sown acre,  
Nor too soon in his son.  
Weather makes the acre and wit the son ;  
Each of them is risky.

A creaking bow, a burning blaze,  
A gaping wolf, a cawing crow,  
A grunting sow, a rootless tree,  
A waking wave, a boiling kettle,  
A flying shaft, a falling billow,  
Ice one night old, a coiled snake,  
A bear's play, or a king's son.

. . . . .  
A burnt house, a very fast horse,  
For the horse is useless if one leg be broken—  
Be no man so trusting as to trust one of these.<sup>1</sup>

. . . The tongue is the death of the head.  
There is often a stout hand under a shabby coat.  
The weather changes often in five days,  
But more often in a month.

From "The Lesson of Lodd-Fafne," which is  
didactic throughout, one may cite :—

Never bandy words with fools.  
Never laugh at a hoary counsellor.

Know this, if thou hast a friend in whom thou trustest  
Go and see him often,  
Because with brambles and with high grass is choked  
The way that no man treadeth.  
Be thou never the first  
To break with thy friend.

Shoe-maker be thou not, nor shaft-maker,  
Save for thyself only ;  
If the shoe be ill-shapen, or the shaft crooked,  
Thou gettest ill thanks.

<sup>1</sup> Shakespeare knows by tradition a bit like this :—

"He that trusts in the tameness of a wolf," &c.  
*King Lear*. Act 3. Scene 8.