

9. "First of the destined¹ captives
I name myself for death,
And in my Saviour's mercy
Undoubting is my faith."
The name of this true hero
Ye should keep with reverent care ;
Let it never be forgotten—
It was Eustace de St. Pierre.
10. Five other noble merchants
Their names that instant gave,
To join with generous Eustace
Their countrymen to save.
Their comrades wept around them,
Tears for such parting meet ;
And they led those willing captives
To stern King Edward's feet.
11. They came in brave obedience
To Edward's fierce command ;
On every neck a halter,²
A chain on every hand.
Now when the king beheld them,
Right fiery grew his eye,—
"Strike off their heads!" he thundered ;
"Each man of them shall die!"
12. But forth stepped Queen Philippa,
The gentle, good, and fair ;
She kneeled before King Edward,
And thus she spoke her prayer :

¹ *Destined*, doomed to die.

² *Halter*, a rope with a noose for hanging,