

that Walworth and Philipot should be treasurers of the war funds – a tribute of trust in them and distrust of the late king's and new king's advisers, especially Gaunt. Such hostilities should not be assumed to have been very systematic. These men were by no means hostile to the court or nobility generally. They needed the king for their success as much as he needed them and Brembre finally met a miserable end by being accused in the Merciless Parliament of 1388 of too much influence with the king. The king himself tried to defend him, and it was only by making use of the notorious enmities that existed between certain of the city companies that Brembre's enemies were able to get him condemned to die a traitor's death at Tyburn.

Another friend of Chaucer's hardly less rich and eminent was the draper John Hende. The drapers being non-victuallers were generally at odds with the victualling gilds, such as the Grocers (Brembre) and Fishmongers (Walworth and Philipot), but it is characteristic of Chaucer to have had friends in opposing camps. Hende had some very stormy passages in his career. He was a brave or at least an obstinate man, who clashed in a lawsuit with the court, so that Chaucer's mainprising of him in 1381 shows the poet no coward in standing by his friends. Mainprising was guaranteeing a form of bail, and that a person would appear at the proper time before the judge. Another mainpemor of Hende was Ralph Strode, whom Chaucer refers to at the end of his poem *Troilus and Criseyde*. Hende was thus part of an interestingly literary and legal group, since Strode was probably a lawyer. Hende, who was frequently an alderman, married first the widow of a Suffolk landowner, and second the daughter of Sir John Norbury. When he died in 1418 his widow married the future Baron Sudeley. His younger son became first, like Chaucer, an esquire of the king, and later marshal of the hall. This is a family like Chaucer's own, of property and wealth, trade and gentry, with close relationships to the court and learned professions. Another acquaintance was Gilbert Mawfield (Maufeld, Maghfeld), a Collector of Customs after Chaucer's time, and comparable in wealth and status with Philipot and his friends. He was a moneylender and Chaucer borrowed from him, as did John Gower, and many courtiers and other acquaintances. Professor Manly thought he was the original of the Merchant in *The General Prologue*. He seems to have died bankrupt.