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LAKELAND AND ICELAND

BEING

A Glossary of Words

in the

*Dialect of Cumberland, Westmorland
and North Lancashire*

WHICH SEEM ALLIED TO OR IDENTICAL WITH THE
ICELANDIC OR NORSE

TOGETHER WITH

*COGNATE PLACE-NAMES AND SURNAMES, AND A SUPPLEMENT
OF WORDS USED IN SHEPHERDING, FOLK-LORE
AND ANTIQUITIES*

BY THE

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IN LAKELAND,'

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INTRODUCTION

IN the year 1869, and for one or two years following, Dr. Kitchin, now Dean of Durham, took up his abode at Brantwood, near to this parish and on the opposite margin of Coniston Lake, and while there he had in hand, as a Delegate of the Clarendon Press, Oxford, the proofs of Cleasby and Vigfusson's *Icelandic Dictionary*, which was then passing through the press. As a native of Cumberland, I had long before this been in the habit of collecting characteristic old words of the Cumberland and Furness dialect, and Dr. Kitchin kindly asked me to look over those proofs to see whether I could suggest any affinities between the Icelandic and our Northern forms. A careful comparison convinced me that there was a remarkable resemblance in some words, and an identity in others, both in form and meaning; that this resemblance was so general that it could not be owing to any mere accidental circumstance; and that the older the words found in our dialect, the more closely did they and the Icelandic seem to be allied. It occurred to me then that the task of collecting such words of the dialect of Cumberland, Westmorland, and Lancashire North of the Sands, as seemed to have identity or close affinity in form and usage with the Icelandic, would be one means of tracing out the origin of this dialect, and hence in some measure the origin of

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those by whom this dialect was spoken; and as we have in Lakeland words and usages almost as primitive as they have in Iceland, we could, I thought, trace some portion at any rate of our native language a great way towards its primitive or parent stock.

I thought also that, as many of the old customs and superstitions in Lakeland are fast dying out, just as the old Norse words that represent them have become or are rapidly becoming obsolete, it must be now or never with me in commencing the undertaking, if I wished permanently to note down the customs and vocables of the people amongst whom the whole of my life has been spent.

I have worked at intervals at the task of collecting these words for a period of now upwards of twenty-seven years; and though I have doubtless in some instances done over again what others have done much better before me, yet in other instances I imagine I have unearthed and identified words and customs of the Northmen yet to be found amongst our Dalesmen, of which not any notice had been taken before.

Dr. A. J. Ellis, in his fifth volume of *Existing Dialects as compared with Early English Pronunciation*, gives fifteen varieties of the Cumberland dialect, ten of the Westmorland dialect, and seven of the dialect of Lancashire North of the Sands, that is, of Furness and Cartmel. These differences are, I think, only phonetic, and do not include any radical or derivative differences; and if you find any undoubted Norse word in the dialect of any portion of that area of which I have spoken, the chances are that it has survived in every other rural portion of that district, provided that that portion has 'an oldest inhabitant' with years long enough and memory keen

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enough to retain the customs and vocables of sixty or seventy years ago. I refer to Dr. Ellis in this connexion with great pleasure. I corresponded with him on the subject of the Cumberland and Furness dialect from 1872 close up to the time of his death. At times for weeks a voluminous correspondence kept passing between us; he took the dialect in its phonetic, while I tried so far as I could to examine it in its derivative aspect; but throughout this correspondence Dr. Ellis was always most willing to communicate anything I required from his unrivalled word lists and researches. The last communication I received from him was with the present of the concluding volume of his great work¹ upon the subject; and shortly afterwards, having completed in these volumes what may, I think, be regarded as his life-work, when his task was over he fell asleep.

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It seems in many instances to be the opinion of philologists who have treated upon our dialect as derived from the Norsemen that, as they were plunderers, so all names and habits of plundering must be referred to them. A careful study, however, of the words of the following Glossary seems to point to a very different conclusion. The remarkable thing about them is that they evince the peaceful disposition of those who first settled here and left their language. The great bulk of the words are field names and farm names—the terms applied to husbandry operations, and names for the keeping and rearing of sheep and cattle or used in their care or management; words applied to butter-making, cheese-making and dairy

¹ The general title of this work is ‘On Early English Pronunciation with Especial Reference to Shakespeare and Chaucer.’ Published for the Early English Text Society and the Philological Society, London.—Part I in 1869.—Part V in 1889. Part V deals more especially with existing dialects as compared with Early English Pronunciation.

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operations generally, and the domestic duties and concerns of everyday life. In pursuing this study it has been of great service to me that I have never lived outside the district in which the words peculiar to this dialect are still retained; and that I have lived generally in the most rural, the most isolated, and consequently the most unchanged portions of it, that my word lists were obtained where my life was spent—amongst a people where the earliest words and customs are retained if they are retained anywhere; and from living amongst them I have always had opportunities of getting these words from those who speak them in their earliest and, therefore, their purest forms.

The country bordering upon the Solway is often pointed out as being the most rich in Cumberland in unchanged dialect forms. It was in this country I was born and lived, being conversant with almost every part of it until I was between seventeen and eighteen years of age. For three years I lived near the Cumbrian Border to the East of Carlisle, where phonetically a very different dialect is spoken, approximating very much to the Lowland Scotch of Annandale, still however retaining the characteristic Norse forms.

After this, for two or three years, as a master in the St. Bees' Grammar School, a foundation then *free* for every boy native of Cumberland or Westmorland, I had an opportunity in this, a central Parish on the West Cumberland sea-board, of hearing the dialect of boys who had been born in well-nigh every large and important pariah of Cumberland, and also to some extent of Westmorland; while for the last thirty-five years of my life, in a remote mountain parish of the Lancashire Lakeland, I have certainly, in my searchings and wanderings, had the most

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ample opportunities of studying the dialect and folk-speech of every nook and comer of the lake country, and of every parish and valley in Lancashire North of the Sands.

I have said that many of the old words of Lakeland (by which term I mean what may be called larger Lakeland, i.e. Lakeland as it includes the whole of Cumberland, Westmorland, and Lancashire North of the Sands) are, like many of the objects and customs which they represent, rapidly becoming obsolete, that the dialect, as represented by its most characteristic words and phrases, is fast disappearing; yet in Cumberland at any rate we have a series of dialect poets, extending over great part of 200 years, who have embalmed in their songs and poetic sketches the words and phrases of our Cumbrian everyday life. They have been poets of the people, and their words and measures still live in the converse of Cumbrians: with those words and measures I have been familiar from childhood, and I seem to have retained them *viva voce*¹ from my earliest recollections. In illustration of the meaning of the words in the Glossary I have quoted copiously from those local dialect poets. Briefly, therefore, I will sketch the position and writings of the chief of them, extending from the early part of last century to the present time.

The first Cumberland dialect poet was the Rev. Josiah Relph. He was born shortly after 1700, and died of consumption in 1743. He became perpetual curate of his native village, Seberingham, and also, as the custom then was, he taught the parish school. Many of Relph's pieces are pastorals and translations into the dialect from Horace,

¹ Most of the editions of the Dialect Poets are so incomplete, omitting even the best pieces, that they have to be retained viva voce if retained at all.

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Virgil, and Theocritus; and in some of his poems he has very faithfully portrayed the chief characters of the village in which he lived.

Stagg, the next dialect poet, was born about the year 1770 at Burgh-upon-Sands, near Carlisle, and died at Workington in 1823. He was deprived of his sight very early in life. He kept a circulating library at Wigton, and eked out his living partly by acting as a fiddler at dances, fairs, hakes, and merry nights. His pieces, published first by Robertson of Wigton, exhibit truthful pictures of Cumberland scenes, manners and customs, as they existed one hundred years ago. His poem, *The Bridewain, or Bringing Home the Bride*, is the most truthful picture of the keen neck-or-nothing galloping and other amusements which took place at a Cumberland wedding of the olden time. It is a literal description of a marriage which took place in the Abbey Holme, where it is still spoken of as 'The Cote Wedding.'

Sanderson is the next Cumberland poet. Born in 1759, he seems to have lived most of his early life at Seberingham. He spent the closing years of his life at Shield Green, Kirk-linton, where he lived the life of a recluse. He was a great collector of old Cumberland dialect words; and in some of the oldest forms in the following word-lists I have had hints from his sketches. He was the compiler of the first, or at any rate one of the very first, of our Cumberland Glossaries. I have a copy of it which I suppose to be of the earliest, probably of the only edition; it bears the imprimatur 'Jollie, Carlisle, date 1818.' He died in 1829. His end was a melancholy one. The cottage in which he lived by himself, from want of care on his part, took fire in the night; the neighbours were alarmed, and ran to the rescue; he escaped, dreadfully burned, from the flames, and

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lay down (he was in his seventieth year) under a tree, much exhausted, a few yards from his own door. His friends meanwhile tried to save what they could of his property. He

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inquired most anxiously after a box in which his MSS. had been deposited, with the view of the publication of a laboriously corrected edition; being told that the box was consumed, he expired a few minutes after, saying, or rather sighing out, 'Then I do not wish to live.'

Mark Lonsdale was born in 1759 in Caldewgate, Carlisle, and passed through life partly as a teacher and partly as an actor in London and the provinces. He died in 1815 in London, and was interred at St. Clement Danes. He wrote much for the stage. Of his writings in the dialect, *The Upshot* is the ablest and most original dialect poem that has appeared. It is the free sketch of such a Cumberland gathering (see Glossary, under 'Upshot') which really took place about 1780. It consists of about 300 lines, and I know of no piece that approaches it in the correct use and application of old Cumberland words. After continuing for many years in MS. it was published in 1811 in Jollie's *Sketch of Cumberland Manners and Customs*.

Robert Anderson is the Cumberland poet whose works¹ are most widely and most generally known. He was born shortly after 1770, in Carlisle, and died in 1833, at the same place: he was a pattern-drawer by trade. His life was like more lives, a hard struggle for existence, and he fell in his later years into habits of intemperance, which may possibly have had something to do with those feelings of bitterness and misanthropy which he exhibited in the decline of his life. He is matchless as a truthful exponent of the dialect, manners, and customs of Cumbrians. He

¹ Most of the editions of Anderson are very imperfect and incomplete. The most complete I know was published by Robertson, Wigton.

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carries us into their homes and their domestic scenes, and lets us hear their quiet fireside chat. He brings us to their fairs and merry-makings, their weddings, their hakes and dances. He depicts their wrestlers and other athletes as the greatest heroes, and lets us know in almost every portion of his writings that, in comparison with other counties,

'Canny ole Cumberlan caps them o' still.'

In the Glossary I have quoted so copiously from his writings that a good idea of his style and language may be gathered therefrom.

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Rayson was born in 1803 at Aglionby, near Carlisle, and died in 1857. Great part of his life was spent as a country schoolmaster. He was a great favourite with the farmers, writing their letters and making their wills, and received as the principal part of his fee for teaching their children free whittlegate with them, as was customary at that time. His best piece is *Charlie M^cGlen*.

Dr. Gibson, M.R.C.S. and F.S.A., is, in point of time, the next writer in the Cumberland dialect. Next to Anderson I consider him to be its most successful exponent. For seven years he lived about two miles from here, and had a medical practice which took in Coniston, Torver, Seathwaite, and the Langdales, and this I believe was the time of his greatest literary activity, in which he composed most of his dialect works. They all appeared in a volume entitled, *Folk-speech, Tales, and Rhymes of Cumberland and some districts adjacent*, published by Coward, Carlisle, in 1868.

Of the pieces it includes, I consider *Bobby Banks Bodderment* the best. To this last piece, which I consider the masterpiece of prose in the Cumberland dialect. I have frequently alluded in the Glossary, under the initials B.B.B.

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Dr. Gibson was born at Harrington in 1813, and died at Bebington, Cheshire, in 1874.

John Richardson, who spent a long and useful life as parish schoolmaster in the lovely and sequestered Vale of St. John's, near Keswick, has published two volumes of *Cumberland Talk* (Coward, Carlisle, 1871 and 1876). They consist of sketches of Cumberland home life in poetry and prose: they are, especially the first volume, a faithful reflex of the Cumberland dialect and Cumberland habits at present, more especially as they exist in the neighbourhood of Keswick, Threlkeld, and the Vale of St. John. I have quoted from them frequently ¹.

In addition to these, I have referred to and quoted from some local poets and anonymous dialect verses which I had either remembered or written down in a list of my own. To these I have referred as *Local Songs, &c.*

For many years I have been a careful reader of, and at times a contributor to, *Notes by the Way*, and other discussions on Westmorland dialect² and place-names in the pages of the *Westmorland Gazette*. This has confirmed my opinion upon the very

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close connexion and identity that exists between the dialect of Cumberland, Westmorland, and Furness in their place-names and dialect words. Some words I have obtained colloquially, without being able to say exactly when or where; but I can, I think, safely affirm that there is no single word in the Glossary which cannot be evidenced either to exist or to have existed in

¹ Miss Powley, who died at Langwathby in 1883, has written some excellent pieces (prose and poetry) in the Cumberland Dialect, under the title of *Echoes of Old Cumberland*, published by Coward, Carlisle.

² Authors chiefly referred to for Westmorland Dialect are: — *Ann Wheeler's Dialogues*. Rev. T. Clarke's *Specimens of Westmorland Dialect*. Kendal, Atkinson & Pollitt, 1872; and *A Bran New Wark*, by Rev. W. Hutton, 1785 (re-edited for English Dialect Society by Professor W. W. Skeat in 1879).

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the meaning assigned to it in the dialect of one or more of the three counties I have named.

Recurring to the Norse element, Mr. Magnússon¹ has most carefully vided and revised, and corrected when required, every word and every phrase of the Norse or Icelandic portion of this work. I am not likely to meet with contradiction when I say that I could not have a greater authority upon that subject.

The fact that this work professes to be a Glossary of the dialect, and not a treatise upon Comparative Philology, precludes me from bringing forward the close connexion between it and the Icelandic so prominently as has been done elsewhere; but I think any one who reads over carefully the words of the one and the other will be convinced that there is a most striking and radical affinity between our Northern English dialects and the words that in language, place-name, and folk-lore are found in the Icelandic or Norse.

¹ Editor of the revised edition of the Icelandic Version of the Bible for the British and Foreign Bible Society, 1866, Joint Translator of the Saga Library, and Author of *Legends of Iceland*.

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GLOSSARY

Á. A river, Icelandic. Used very largely as suffix for river-name, as *Hvítá*, white river, formed from a glacial moraine. *Hitá* is hot river, as formed from a hot spring. At page 76 of *Landnáma* it is said of a settler, 'he took land between the hot river and cold river, *Hitá ok Kaldá*.' In *Edda* over one hundred North-English and Scottish rivers or *a*'s are mentioned. In Lakeland this *á* is frequently found suffixed as a river-name, e.g. *Rotha*, *Bratha*, *Greta*, *Wisa*. *Torver* is in old documents called *Torfa*, the name of the river upon which it stands, whose waters (being discoloured by the mossy uplands through which it flows) are therefore called *Torfa*, that is The turf river.

Addle or **Ettle**. In Cumberland, to earn. '*Addlin* brass,' earning money.

Agate. On gate. See *gate*, discussed in **Whittle Gate**. We're gotten *agate*=We are making progress.

Akin. Related, of the same race. Icel. *kyn*, race or generation. 'Frá, kyni til kyns,' from generation to generation.

Alegar. Vinegar. In West dialect spelled *Allegar* = Ale eager or Ale fermented.

'Ya drop o' *allegar*.'—*Bran New Work*.

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Ang-nail. (A.-S. *ang-naegl*, a whitlow.) A piece of nail upon the finger growing out from the other nail, and at times occasioning great pain.

Angry. Painful or inflamed. Icel. *angr*, pain.

Ark. A chest. Meal *ark*, the meal-chest. *Arklid*, a place-name near foot of Coniston Lake. Icel. *örk*, A.-S. *arc*, Lat. *arca*.

Arr. A scar. Icel. *arr*, a scar; Cleasby.

Arval, *adj*. Anything connected with heirship or inheritance, from Icel. *arfr*, inheritance; used chiefly in reference to funerals. The friends and neighbours of the family of deceased were invited to dinner on the day of the interment, and this

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was called the Arval dinner, a solemn festival to exculpate the heir and those entitled to the possessions of deceased from the mullets or fines to the lord of the manor, and from all accusation of having used violence. In later times the word acquired a wider application, and was used to designate the meals provided at funerals generally. Icel. *arfi.*, inheritor; Ulph. *arbi*, A.-S. *yrfe*, Dan. *arv*. From *arfr* comes Icel. *erfða-öldr*, Dan. *arveöl*, a funeral feast in Iceland and Denmark corresponding apparently, in solemnity and the general nature of the invitation, with the Arval feast of the North of England. *Arveol* = *arv* + *öl*, Danish, inheritors' ale, is the nearest etymological equivalent of dialect *arval*. Compare Bridal.

Arval Bread. Cakes which each guest received at a funeral.

Arvals. Used of meat and drink supplied at funerals. To drink off the *arvals*=To consume what has been left at a funeral.

Ask, a lizard. Gael, snake or adder.

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Assal tooth. A grinder, from Icel. *jaxl*, which Cleasby defines as a jaw tooth or grinder.

At. That, an indeclinable relative pronoun. Corresponds with the Icelandic indeclinable pronoun *at*.

At. Is in Furness used in the sense of 'to' before the infinitive, e.g. 'He telt me *at* gang,' He told me to go. Icel. *at* or *að*, the mark of the infinitive, as '*at* ganga, *at* hlaupa, *at* vita,' to go, to run, to know. Icel. 'Hann bauð them *at* ganga'=Furness, 'He bad them *at* gang.'

Atter. A spider, from *atter*, poison. Icel. *eitr*, poison.

Attercob. A spider's web (cobweb), from *atter*, poison, and *coppa*, a cap or head.

Awns. In Furness, and West and South Cumberland, called *angs*, the beards of barley. Process of separating described under **Fotr**. Icel. *angi*.

Aye. Always or ever. Icel. *æ* =ever or always, *æ grænn*, ever green. In the *Landnáma* it is said of the How or burial-mound of Torf-Einarr that in winter and summer it was '*æ grænn*'=ever green.

Bain. Near. Icel. *beinn*, straight or short. *Bainest* way, in Cum. and Fur. = *beinstr vegr* in Icel. In the dialect all the degrees of comparison are found—*bain*, *bainer*, *bainest*.

Bairn. A child; lit. anything born. Icel. *barn*, A.-S. *bearn*.

Bakston. An iron plate upon which oat-bread was baked. The name and process seem to correspond with name and use of Icelandic *bakstr-járn*, an iron plate for baking sacramental wafers. But *bakstr-ofn*, baking oven, comes nearer.

Bale-fire. Icel. *bál*, a flame. A series of signal-fires lighted upon the Scottish and Cumbrian borders to denote the outbreak of war. Chancellor Ferguson gives a list of

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stations for bale-fires extending along the border from the Solway to the Tyne. Such stations are found commonly in Lakeland, e. g. the Beacon Mountain in High Furness, the Brandrith Mountain at the head of Ennerdale. *Lay of Lad Minstrel*, canto iii. 25:

‘Is yon the star o’er Penchryst Pen,
That rises slowly to her ken,
And, spreading broad its wavering light,
Shakes its loose tresses on the night:
Is yon red glare the western star?
O, ‘is the beacon-blaze of war.’

Bang. A blow. Icel. *bang*, hammering, an onomatopoeic word.

Bank. Wards, as denoting direction: as up-*bank*, upwards; down-*bank*, downwards. Icel. *bakki*.

‘While trees they grow up-*bank*,
While rivers run down-*bank*,
We nivver maun leuk on his marrow agean.’—ANDERSON.

Barrin-oot. The locking-out of the schoolmaster by the scholars at Christmas, who exacted as the conditions of his admittance a certain period of holiday. This is

well illustrated by Richardson's humorous sketch in the dialect entitled *T' Barrinoot*.

Barrow, Barf, or Berg. (Icel. *berg*, a mound.) A mound; then a hill. Frequent as place-name and surname in Lake district.

Bauk. Beam to support the roof of a house. Icel. *balkr*, a beam; naval bulk-heads.

Bauks. The crossbeams of a loft upon which the hay was laid.

Bees or Beece. Used of cows or cattle generally. Evidently a contraction of beasts; or cp. Icel. *báss*.

Beck. (Icel. *bekkr*, Dan. *bæk*.) A small stream or rivulet,

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found very generally as common noun and compound of place-name in North of England. *Beckermet*, a village in Cumberland; literally, 'the meeting of the waters.' *Beckermote Scar* is a steep cliff in limestone at the angle of the Nidd (Yorkshire), where it sinks into the ground. *Beckermonds* is the name of a tongue of land in Yorkshire between two streams at their confluence. So the river Eamont was formerly called Amot, from *a*, a stream, and *mot*, meeting. Amot is also the name of a river in Norway, and of several places there situated at the confluence of two streams. In speaking of the vale of Avoca, amongst the Wicklow mountains, Moore has beautifully recorded the strong impression made on the mind by the meeting of waters:

'Oh! there's not in the whole world a valley so sweet
As that vale in whose bosom the wild waters meet—
Oh! the last rays of feeling and life shall depart
Ere the bloom of that valley shall fade from my heart.'

Beel or Beller. To bellow. Icel. *baula*. Used of the bellowing of cows or bulls. See under the word **Dow**.

Beild. A shelter. (Properly, anything bylled or built, from O. E. *bylle*, to build.) On high and exposed fells, a shelter of loose stones to protect the sheep from storms. The lair of a fox is also called its *beild*, and seems to correspond with Icel. *bæli* a den. In the *Creed of Piers Plowman* we have:

‘Swich a *biold* bold

Y build upon erth heighte.’

The wild and lonely pass of Nan Beild, at the head of Kentmere, doubtless took its name from such a beild. Near to it is still pointed out the place where a father and his three sons, who had been shepherding, were found dead, locked in each other’s arms, under the

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shelter of a stone wall, where they had been starved to death. Burns uses the word *biold* in the sense of a shelter in his *Address to a Mountain Daisy*:

‘The flaunting flowers our gardens yield

High shelt’ring woods, and wa’s maun shield;

But thou beneath the random *biold*

O’ clod or stane,

Adorns the histle stibble field,

Unseen, alane.

Berrier. A Thresher. ‘Bed-time for *berriers* and supper time for carriers.’ Old Cumberland Proverb.

Berry. To thresh with a flail. Icel. *berja*, to strike or thresh.

Bete. To mend or improve the fire. (Icel. *bæta*, A.-S. *betan*, to mend or improve. Fires bete.—Chaucer.) To mend, applied to the fire. Hence, rectangular pieces of turf cut from the moss and used for burning, were called *betes* or *peats*, from being used to repair or mend the fire. One of Anderson’s songs, dated 1808, is entitled *Peat Leader’s Complaint*. In many parts of Cumberland and Lakeland, the peat stack entirely supplied the place of coals. Many houses had only hearth-fires, i. e. fires without grates, consequently nothing but chats and peats could be used for fire-elding. On baking days, when the brandrith was in use or otherwise, a large fire was required; the office of beting the fire was sufficient to employ one person. At night such fires were not altogether extinguished, but the peat embers were ‘raked,’ as it was called, i. e. the embers were so raked over that they would smoulder until morning. Consequently many fires in the Lake district had never

been altogether extinguished for years; and I know the case of a man who possessed his grandfather's fire—the fire never having been altogether extinguished for three generations.

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Bewce. A stall for oxen. Icel. *báss*, a boose or stall in a cow-house, as 'binda kú a bás.'

Cow and bás go together as in an Icelandic nursery rhyme—'sofa, sofa, selr í eyju, kúr á bási, köttr í búri.'

Bicker. A wooden dish or drinking vessel. Icel. *bikarr*, a large drinking vessel.

Bid. To bespeak attendance. (Icel. *bjóða*.) Applied chiefly to marriages and funerals.

The district within which all were invited to funerals was called 'a bidding.' 'As many as ye shall find, *bid* to the marriage.' In the *Landnáma*, the harvest feast is called the '*haust boð*' or harvest bidding.

Bigg. Barley. (Icel. *bygg*, Dan. *byg*.)

'Ya Thursday he went wi' some *bigg* to the market

An drank wi some neebers he little kent how.'—ANDERSON.

Biggin. A building. Cf. A.-S. *Byggan*, Icel. *Bygging*. Used also in proper names, as Newbiggin, Sunbiggin.

Birk. (O. N. *björk* [collect, *birki*], Dan. *birk*) The Birch. Names of farms are derived from this word, as The Birks in Seathwaite; so used elsewhere. The surname *Birkett* seems formed of this word with the Norse article suffixed.

Birler. The person who handed round the ale at a Cumberland feast, and whose duty it was to see that the guests generally were provided with drink. Icel. *byrla*, which Vigfusson defines as signifying, to wait upon or hand round the ale at banquets. Magnússon says, 'the word in Icelandic corresponding to *birler* is *byrlari*; and in Iceland the men who assist in carrying drink about to guests at weddings and other feasts are even now so called.'

Bisen. (Icel. *býsn*, a wonder; A.-S. *bisen*, an example.) This word, which in the dialect means a warning or

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example, generally goes with ‘shem.’ ‘She’s a shem and a *bizen* to aw the hail toun.’—ANDERSON.

Blained. Half-dry. Generally applied to linen hung out to dry. Dan. *blayne*, to whiten.

Blain is found in Craven in the sense of whiten; also, to dry, as above.

Blea. Lead-coloured; also blue. Icel. *blá-*, in *blár*, blue. Blea Tarn, between Great and Little Langdale.

Blea-berries. Whortle-berries. Icel. *blá-ber*, Dan. *blaaber*, blue berries, from their blue or livid appearance.

Bleate. Bashful. Icel. *blautr*, timid, effeminate.

‘Great is thy power, and great thy fame
Far kenn’d and noted is thy name
And though yon lowin’ heugh’s thy hame
Thou travels far
And, faith! Thou’s neither lag nor lame
Nor *bleate* nor scaur.—BURNS.

Blin Bile. Blind boil, a boil that does not come to a head, or run.

Blin Tarn. A tarn without visible outlet; Icel. *blindr*, blind. So we have ‘a *blind* alley,’ without exit.

Bloomery. Ancient smelting furnaces in Cumberland and High Furness, the remains of which are still to be found. The word may be connected with Norse verb *blása*, used for to smelt in *Landnáma Bók*,

Board. Anciently meant table. Still so retained in the phrase ‘bed and board,’ board and lodgings; ‘Board of Trade.’ In the Icelandic it still retains the double meaning of board and table. John xii. 2, ‘Og Marta gekk fyrir borðum,’ Martha served at table.

Bole. Trunk of a tree. Icel. *bolr*.

Bower. The inner room in a cottage. Icel. *búr*. **Byre.** A cow stall. Both words seem to have come originally

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from Icel. *búr*. Common to all Teutonic languages, and in most meaning ‘a chamber.’

Brandrith. (Icel. *brandreið*, a grate.) The brandrith in Lakeland was originally an iron tripod, held together by rims of iron, and employed in supporting the girdle-plate which was used above the hearth-fire for baking oat-bread. The name and thing named are gradually passing away, as hearth-fires are being supplanted by modern grates, and oat-cake by wheat-bread; yet there is hardly a valley in Lakeland in which a *brandrith* may not be found and is not yet occasionally used. The Three Shire Stones where the three fair counties meet together upon the top of Wrynose, near the source of the river Duddon, were called ‘The Three-Legged Brandrith,’ as being the place where the grate for the beacon-fires or bale-fires was placed. It is in a prominent position, and could be seen from each of the three counties—Cumberland, Westmorland, and Lancashire; in fact, the original grate or *brandrith* may have at this point stood partly in each one of them. This word has a still more local significance, for the usual term for the point, generally marked by a large boulder stone where the boundaries of three parishes met was called Brandrith. A mountain near the Great Gable bears the name of ‘The Brandrith’; and the place where the rivers Brathay and Rothay meet at their confluence with Windermere is called ‘The Brandrith,’ because in old times an iron grate was placed there as a beacon which could be seen down the Lake of Windermere. So upon the river Reuss where it flows from Lake Lucerne is an old lighthouse or light-tower which is said to have given its name ‘*Lucerna*’ to the Lake.

Brandrith Stean. A boundary stone at the meeting of

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three parishes. There is a huge boulder-stone so called at the western extremity of this parish, which marks the point at which the three parishes of Torver, Blawith and Woodland meet.

Brant. Steep. (Icel. *brattr*, A.-S. *brant*, steep.) Proverb, ‘as *brant* as a besom.’ Brantwood, on the eastern margin of Coniston Lake, which has been successively

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the residence of distinguished *literati*, at present the residence of Professor Ruskin, is so called from the *brant* or steep wood which rises behind it.

Bridewain. Bidden wedding or Infaire. A marriage.

Brissett. A wooden frame.

Bruff or Bur. A faint luminous disk round the moon, called technically 'a corona.'

Bummel Bee. (Icel. *buml*, resounding.) The humble bee.

Burn. A stream, equivalent to **Beck**. (A.-S. *burn*, Gothic *brunna*, a spring; Icel. *brunnr*.)

Busk. A bush. (Icel. *búskr*.)

By. A very common termination of the names of villages. Anderson says:

'There's Harraby and Tarraby,
An Wigganby beseyde,
There's Oughterby and Souterby
An *Bys* baith far an weyde.'—*Thuirby Witch*.

In Iceland this is *bær*, *bær*, or *býr*; in Norway, *bö*; in Sweden and Denmark, *by*. This word is very frequent throughout the whole of Scandinavia; and wherever the Scandinavian tribes went and settled the name *by* or *bö* went with them. In the map of Northern England the use of this word marks out the limit and extent of the Norse immigration; e.g. the name Kirkby or Kirby. About twenty or thirty such names are found in maps of the Northern and Eastern counties, denoting churches

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built by the Norse or Danish settlers; e. g. Kirkby-in-Furness, Kirkby-in-Kendal, now usually Kendal. Compare *Kirkjubær* in Iceland. In Denmark and Sweden names ending in *by* are almost numberless. (This note I have had in a great measure from Dr. Kitchin, Dean of Durham.)

Bye. Lonely, as a bye place=a lonely place, is connected with this word.

Caimt. Ill-natured or peevish.

Cald. Cold. Icel. *kaldr*, cold. Caldbeck=Icel. *kaldbekkr*.

Cam. The upper portion of a stone fence often formed of sharp serrated stones so as effectually to turn the Herdwick sheep. Icel. *kambr*. Such a cam is called a Yorkshire cam, a ridge or fence on the moors formed by digging two ditches and throwing up a ridge between them. Catcam on Helvellyn seems to be from this word, 'a *cam* fit to turn a cat.'

Cap. To top or surpass.

'Yer buik larn'd wise gentry, that's seen monie a country
May preach and palaver and brag as they will,
O' mountains, lakes, valleys, woods, watters and meadows
Bit canny auld Cummerlan *caps* them aw still.'—ANDERSON.

Carl. A countryman or one of the commoner or meaner order. Norse *karl*, used in *Landnáma* in sense of 'libertus' or freedman. 'Nor the *churl* said to be bountiful.' Isa. xxxii. 5.

Carlings. Grey pease steeped in water and fried next day in oil or butter, eaten on mid-Lent Sunday or the second Sunday before Easter, called on this account *Carling* Sunday. We have this expressed in the old rhyme naming the Sundays before Easter:—

'Tid, Mid, Misserai
Carling, Palm and Pace Egg-Day.'

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It was a very common custom for boys and others to carry their *carlings* in their pockets and salute each other in the house or upon the roads with a handful of them. This Sunday was in earlier times called 'Carè Sunday,' and is said to be from *kæra*, given in Cleasby and Vigfusson as meaning, to make a *charge against* or *accuse*, and so called in reference to the charges or accusations made against our Lord at this time. The name and the custom have doubtless originated in a religious observance.

Carr. (Icel. *kjarr*.) Applied to fields or woods. In Norse *kjerr* is also applied to a small wood. In Cumberland small, hollow, cup-shaped fields, surrounded by alders or

ellers, were called eller **cars**. Dillicars is a very usual appellation of fields so shaped, from *kar*, a cup, and *deila*, to divide.

Chaft. The jaw. Icel. *kjaptr*, N. *kjafter*.

Chats. Fuel formed of underwood and brushwood, very commonly used in Lakeland for keeping up hearth fires and other household fires.

Cheese-rims or -rums. Cf. Icel. *rim*, a rim. Circular wooden frames in which the curds were pressed in making cheese. They were usually composed of staves held together by wooden hoops. They were circular vessels of coopered staves without top or bottom in which the curds were confined and pressed from above by a beam from which a stone was suspended as a lever.

Choop. Pronounced shoop. Red seeds of the wild rose.

‘Rotten as a *choop*.’ Proverb.

Clagg. To stick. Dan. *klæg*, loamy.

Clam or Clem. To starve. Icel. *klemma*, to pinch.

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Clap. A pat. Icel. *klapp*, a pat.

Clap. To pat. Icel. *klappa*, to pat.

Clap-bread. (Dan. *klappe bröd*.) Thin cakes beaten or clapped out with the hand.

Claver. To climb. Dan. *klavre*.

Clegg. (Icel. *kleggi*, a cleg or horsefly.) The horsefly or gadfly.

Cletch. A brood, as of chickens. Cf. Icel. *klekja*; Ulph. *klahs*; Dan. *klække*.

Clock lound. The downy seeds of the Dandelion are collectively called a clock from the idea that the number of times one must blow to bring them all off will indicate what hour of the day it is. They are blown off with the slightest puff, and when the wind is so still as not to disturb those seeds it is said to be *clock lound*. Cf. *lound*.

Cluif. A hoof. Icel. *klauf*. Connected with *cleave*, the cleft hoof.

Cote. (Icel. *kot*, a cottage or small farm; A.-S. *cote*.) The word is very frequently found as the name of places bordering on the Solway. In the Abbey Holme, for example, it is applied as the name of several farms; e. g. Raby Cote, Seaville Cote, East Cote, Skinburness Cote, Sea Cote.

Cow-ban or Cow-bo, pronounced kû. A large horseshoe-shaped wooden collar, generally of ash, to fasten cows to the *bewce*. It was fastened to a stake called a rid-stake. The two ends hung downwards and were joined by a crosspiece called the catch, and remained fastened by the elasticity of the bow. See *Jobby Cow-ban*'s *Lawsuit*, a tale in the dialect, by Richardson. The name as

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well as the article are Scandinavian, Icel. *kýr*, *kù*, a cow, and *bogi*, a bow.

Cowp. To exchange or barter. Horse-dealers are called by Anderson 'horse-cowpers'. 'What aw trades's bad as horse cowpers?' Anderson's *Caret Fair*. Icel. *kaupa*, to barter, *kaup*, a bargain. The root-word, as used by Ulphilas, means to strike. We have the idea in the phrase 'to strike a bargain,' the equivalent of *coup* or *kaupa*. Hence also the Cumberland phrase of 'chopping off' cattle to any one, i. e. striking the bargain; and hence also the custom which cattle-dealers had of striking hands to show the bargain was concluded. The surname Cooper or Cowper seems to be derived from it.

Cratch. A curved frame to lay sheep on. N. *kraki*, a looped and trunked stem used as a staircase; still so used in Norway.

Creel. A hazel or willow basket used for holding peats; the peat creel. Icel. *kriili*, a basket.

Crewel. To work embroidery in mixed colours. 'To *crewel* a ball' is to cover it with variegated worsted work.

Creyke. A nook or opening formed in the sand of marshes by the tide. 'He stuck in a *creyke*,' Anderson's *Burgh Races*. From Icel. *kriki*, a nook or recess.

Cringle. Curved, from Icel. *kringla* a circle, in Cringle Craggs in Langdale; Cringle Gill.

Cronies. Boon companions. Dan. *kro*, a beerhouse.

'Cum sit down ma *cronies*

A lal bit an lissen.' — ANDERSON.

Cross. See page xv of '*Landnáma as it illustrates the Dialect of Cumberland*' by T. E.

Cur. A Shepherd's or Farmer's dog. Magnússon says the Icelanders call any unknown dog a *korri*.

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Cush. Addressed to cows, as *Gis* or *Griss* is addressed to pigs. From Icel. *kussa* or *kus*. 'Kus! kus!' is the milkmaid's call to cows in Iceland, just as 'Cush! cush!' is in the North of England.

Cosh man. A very common ejaculation expressive of wonder.

Daft. Simple or silly. Icel. *daufn*. Gaen *daft* = gone mad.

Daytal. Daily, as '*daytal* labourer,' a man who works by the day. *Tal* corresponds with Icel. *tal*, a count. Tell, to count, 'He telleth the stars.'

Desve. To deafen. Icel. *deyfa*.

'Fad sez when Dick streykes up "Jim Crow"

Or Joe tries "Uncle Ned"

Whisht! lads; yūr gaun ta *deave* us aw

Its teyme ta gang to bed.' — *Local Song*.

Dee. To die. Icel. *deyja*, to die.

'What complaint had he, Betty,

Says hoo aw' caunt tell,

We neer had no doctor,

He *deet* of *hissel*.' — EDWIN WAUGH.

Deeal. A division or share, as of a town or common field which, though unenclosed, has its produce divided or parcelled out into separate portions, the ownership of which changes annually in succession. Icel. *deila*, to divide; A.-S. *daelan*; Goth. *deiljan*; Engl. To deal or divide, as of cards.

Deeal. A dale or valley. The Norse word *dalr*, plu. *dalar*, a valley, seems to correspond exactly in meaning and application with this word *deeal*, as found in Lakeland. As place-names they have a similar application, and in Iceland þver-dalr, Djúpi-dalr, Breið -dalr, Langi-dalr, Fagri-dalr, correspond with Crossdales or Thwart-dales, Deep-dale, Broad-dale, Lang-dale, Fair-dale, in Lakeland.

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Icel. *Vatzdalr* = Lakeland Wasdale. *Vatzdulr* is literally waterdale. See *Landnáma*, p. 71. In Iceland, as in Lakeland, they speak of *dala-menn*, i. e. dalesmen.

Deet or dight. To prepare or to cleanse, as corn from chaff.

‘The cleanest corn that e’er was *dight*,
May hae some pyles o’ caff in;
So ne’er a fellow-creature slight
For random fits o’ daffin.’

Burns’ version of Eccl. vii, 16.

Deetin-cleaith. A cloth used to dress corn upon.

Deetin-Hill. A hill near the homestead was used by Cumberland farmers to dress corn upon by throwing it up against the wind. ‘The *deetin hill*.’ In almost all old Cumberland barns: doors opposite to each other were provided, so as to secure a draught of air to cleanse or deet the corn.

Deetin Machines were a later invention which, by turning a handle connected with fanners, secured an artificial blast. The blast for bloomeries in High Furness was secured by having them placed in a narrow gorge or ravine through which the wind rushed furiously.

Deft. Skilful, neat.

‘Aw heard a jeyke at window pane,
An *deftly* went to see.’ — RICHARDSON.

Degg. To moisten. Icel. *döggva*, to bedew, to moisten.

Des. To heap up or pile. Icel. *des*, a heap of hay; *desja*, to heap up hay.

Dill. To lull to sleep. Icel. *dilla*, to lull.

Dillicar. (Icel. *deila*, to divide, and *ker*, Dan. *kar*, a cup.) A name generally applied to small, cup-shaped fields in Lakeland. A number of them laying together are

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Dillicars. There is an instance in this parish, where six such fields together, forming something like a circle, are called dillicars.

Dog-whipper. In old parish account books there is frequently an annual payment entered to the dog-whipper or for dog-whipping. Whipping dogs out of church was very essential where every shepherd was usually accompanied by two or three dogs, and a quarrel amongst the dogs that would thus assemble might have been a very serious matter. Latest entry for dog-whipping at Torver is May 21, 1748, in which occurs the item for 'Ringing Bell and Dog-whipping, 5s. 2d'.

Donk. To moisten or wet, as rain does. Dan. *dōnke*, to make damp.

Donky. Wet or moistened. 'A *donky* day', a wet day.

Donn and Doff. Dress and undress, do on and do off. Edwin Waugh, in *Lancashire Songs*, says:

'When th' order comes to us
To doff these owd clooas,
There'll surely be new uns to don.'

Donnot. A worthless person. 'There's many a good looking donnet'. — *Local Proverb*. According to Fergusson, from *dow not*, Brockett, *do naught*.

Dordum. 'I take this word,' says Ferguson, 'to be from *dyra dómr*, thus explained by Malet: 'In the early part of the Icelandic commonwealth, when a man was suspected of theft, a kind of tribunal, composed of twelve persons named by him and twelve by the person whose goods had been stolen, was instituted before the door of his dwelling, and hence was called a *door doom*, or Icel. *dyra dómr*, i. e. door judgement; but as this manner of proceeding generally ended in bloodshed, it was

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abolished. Hence in Iceland the word was generally synonymous with the tumult and uproar which generally characterized the proceedings'. Such a *dyra dómr* and its consequent disorder and bloodshed is described in *Landnáma*.

Dow. Good or help. When a person is not likely to recover from an illness it is said of him, 'He'll du nea *dow*' Icel. *duga*, to help. Proverb:

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‘A whussling lass an a bellerin cow

An a crowing hen ell du nea *dow*’.

Ann Wheeler, in *Westmorland Dialogues*, says of a scapegrace, ‘Hes nwote at *dow*’.

Dowly. Lonesome or dull, as applied to a road or place. Icel. *daufliqr*, deaflike, i. e. lonesome or lonely. This word is used in the same sense in Yorkshire. Blackah, in *Poems in the Nidderdale Dialect*, says: ‘Bud t’ hoose leaks *dowly* all t’ week lang’.

Drape. To speak slowly.

Dree, *adj.* Icel. *drjúgr*. Slow but sure; lasting. Besides Cumberland, Westmorland, and Furness, this word is well known in the dialects of Yorkshire and South Lancashire. In Waugh’s ‘*Cum whoam to the childer an me*,’ we have:

‘Av brong thi top ewoat dusta know,

For t’ rains cummin down varra *dree*,

The hearthstones as wheyte as new snow,

Cum whoam to the childer an me’.

Dree. To endure. (Icel. *drygja*, to lengthen.) On the Cumbrian and Scotch border, to ‘*dree his wreid*’, is equivalent to endure his fate. In the *Guy Mannering* of Sir W. Scott, Meg Merrilies, whose dialect is of this district, says of Bertram, ‘He had *dreed* his wreid in a foreign land till his twenty-first year.’

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Dub. A pool or piece of deep water, the depth being the thing chiefly considered in the name. (Icel. *djúpr*, deep, also *dýpi*, depth; Dan. *dyb*.) This word is very commonly used in Cumberland as the name of watering places near farmhouses. The deep pool bounding the Abbey Holme and finding its way into the Solway at Dubmill, is called from its depth, ‘the Holme Dub’; we have also Dub Wath. The Great Doup, near the Pillar Rock, is a precipice of several hundred feet deep, by falling down which one of the most adventurous climbers in Lakeland, the Rev. James Jackson, lost his life. Icel. *djúp* means the *deep*, as applied to water. The word is also applied to deeps on the lakes and fiords of Norway, and there is a river in

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Normandy called Dieppe, or 'the deep', which gives its name to the town which stands upon it.

Eaa. Channel of a stream. 'Hows t' *aaa*?' i. e. How is the water running? (Icel. *á*, a stream; A.-S. *ea*). The Leven and Crake are thus at times called *ea* or stream. The Norse form *á* enters into the form of a great many river-names in this district, e. g. *Bratha*, *Bela*, *Calda*, *Greta*, *Liza*, and *Wisa*. In Iceland rivers from glaciers are called *Hvítá*, or white rivers; from hot springs they are called *Hitá*, or hot rivers, as opposed to *Kaldá*, or cold river, which is another Icelandic river name = *Calda* in Cumberland.

Easings. Eaves. A.-S. *efesan*, eaves.

Efter. After. Icel., Dan., Swed., and A.-S. *efter*.

Elding. Fuel. (Icel. *eldr*, Dan. *ild*, fire; Icel. *elding*, fuel). In Exod. iii. the flame of fire appearing to Moses is in the Danish Bible *eldslowe*. Fire *elding*, as applied to chats and peats, is the most general name for fuel in Lakeland.

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Elf. Cognate with Dan. *alf*, Icel. *alfr*.

Eller. The alder tree. Icel. *elrir* (Dan. *ælr*). Elterwater, in Langdale, is a Tarn taking its name from the alder trees which grow near it. We have the name *ellercar*, applied in Denmark and the North of England to small, cup-shaped meadows surrounded by elder trees; from Norse *eller* and *kjarr*, copsewood or brushwood. Also in the proper names *Ellerbeck* and *Ellwood*. 'Bilk an *eller* ' are often named together.

Fain. Pleased. Icel. *feginn*, *fain*.

'Wey Geordie awa *fain*

To see thee again'. — *Local Song*.

Fairy. See **Elf**.

Fār. Norse for sheep, as in Fāroe Islands = Sheep Islands. Sheep pastures upon the Yorkshire moors are called *fār* pastures. This word *fār*, a sheep, seems to be found in the name *Fairfield*, which is in Lakeland applied to the flat, level sheep-pastures upon the tops of mountains. *Fairfield*, near *Ambleside*, is a notable

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example. Magnússon says 'in Iceland we have in old records *fár* and *fær*, for sheep. I take *fær* to be the direct source of Fair in Fairfield'.

Feal. To hide or cover. Icel. *fela*.

Feeal. To give way or decline, as in old age. It is said of an old man, 'He's feealin fast'. Icel. *feila*, to falter; adj. *feilinn*, faltering, connected with Lat. *fallere*, to shake.

Fell-fo. Fieldfare or Landrail. *Fare*, to go, as in fare, farewell, &c.

Fend to. To make a shift to gain a living. Icel. *féna?*, to

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gain or profit. Anderson says: 'How *fens* ta?' How are you?

'A man may spend, an still can *fend*,

If his weyfe be owt, if his woyfe be owt,

A man may spare, an still be bare

If his weyfe be nowt, if his weyfe be nowt'.

Local Proverb.

Fendy. Economical, thrifty.

Fess or **Fest.** To send out cattle to other farms to be grazed (Dickinson). This word I take to be from Icel. *fésta*, which Vigfusson gives 'to settle', make a bargain, or stipulate'.

Fest. To bind an apprentice.

Festing Penny. Money paid to a servant upon hiring to bind the agreement. Both these words are from *fésta*, as above. *Festar penningar* is given in Icelandic as meaning pledge or bail. *Handfested* is applied to irregular marriages or betrothals in the North of England, though I am not sure that it is so used in Cumberland. It evidently has its counter-part in Icelandic *festar*, betrothals.

Fettle. Order, condition. Connected with Icel. *fella* (pron. *feddla*) to join together, or to put into order, as *þat er vel felt* = that suits well.

Fit. Foot in dialect, and in Icelandic web-foot. The mouth of a stream is called beckfit, and a village on the Solway, Beckfit, so derives its name.

Flack. A thin sod. Icel. *flag*, the spot where turf has been cut.

Flacker. A person who cuts and spreads ‘flacks’.

Fleet. See **Flet**.

Flet. To skim milk. A.-S. *flet*, Dan. *fløde*, cream.

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Magnússon says, ‘The corresponding verb in Icelandic is *fleyta*, to skim anything that floats on the surface, especially cream.’

Flick. Flitch. (Icel. *flikki*, a flitch of bacon.)

‘Blin Stagg the fiddler gat a whack,

The bacon *flick* fell on his back

An than his fiddle stick they brack.

Bit whist a’ll sa nea mair.’

ANDERSON’S *Worton Wedding*.

Flit. To remove, as of household goods and chattels. Such a removal, when made in secret and to avoid paying creditors, is called a ‘moonlight flitting.’ Dan. *flytte dag*, moving day; Icel. *flytja*, *flyt flutti*, to remove. Gen. xii. 8, ‘Og fluttist til tjallanna fyrir austan Betel,’ = and removed to a mountain on the east of Bethel.

‘When the hüse is whirlin roun about

Its teyme enough *to flit*,

For we’ve always been provided for,

An sea wull we yit.’ — *Local Song*.

Flowe. An expanse of mossy waste, as Wedholme Flowe in the Abbey Holme, Solway Flowe, Bowness Flowe. Icel. *flói*, a marshy moor.

Force. (Icel. *fors*, mod. *foss*, a waterfall.) Used of a waterfall in the Lake country, as Airey Force, Colwith Force, Stockgill Force, Force Forge.

Forelders. Ancestors. Icel. *foreldri*, parents, ancestors.

Forwarning or **Foreboding.** Cf. Icel. *forboð*, *fyrirboði*. The prophetic anticipation of some serious misfortune, as death. In illustration of the corresponding Icelandic idea, a remarkable instance is given in the *Erybyggia Saga*. See chapter xi of that Saga.

Fotr, Fotring Iron. (Icel. *fótr*, the foot.) A fotring iron was an instrument in the form of a square made of plates

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of sheet iron, and used by the Cumberland farmers for separating the awns from the barley. It was used between the feet, hence its name. The process was called *fotring*.

Fotr. A verb formed from the foregoing word.

Fots. Woollen substitutes for children's shoes, from *Fotr* a foot.

Fra. (Dan. *fra*; Icel. *frá*) From.

'There were lasses *fra* Wigton, *fra* Worton, *fra* Banton,
Some o' them gat sweethearts, while others gat neane,
An bairns yet unbworn 'Il oft hear o' Burgh Races,
For ne'er mun we see sec a meetin agean.' — ANDERSON.

Fremmed. Strange. Dan. *fremmed*. Mostly in phrase '*fremmed folk*,' as distinguished from those well known or 'natives.' In Bible of Ulphilas, 'Framatheis,' foreign or strange, ex. *fra*, from.

Fridge. To rub, as a stocking against a badly-fitting shoe.

Frith or **Firth** (is the Icel. *ffjörðr*, dat. sing. *firði*;) a frith or bay, as Solway Frith, a Scandinavian word; but a small crescent-formed creek or inlet is called a *vik* or *wyke* in Windermere, and is less than *ffjörðr*. In Iceland and Old Scandinavian countries the shore districts are frequently divided into counties bearing the name of *frith*, just as the inland part is divided into dales. The western and eastern part of Iceland are called West Firths and East Firths, and in Norway a county is called *Firðir*; over one hundred *firðir* are mentioned in Iceland. In *Landnáma Bók*, a frequent phrase for describing the homes of the early settlers is 'Milli fjalls ok fjöru,' between fell and foreshore.

Gain. Near = Bain. Gainer way = Icel. *gagn* in *gagn-vegr*, a short cut.

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Galt. A male pig. Icel. *galti*, and *göltr*. This word is found in *Landnáma* in a remarkable passage describing the settlement of Ingimund, where a boar (*galti*) is said to have swum about till it died.

Gang, Gan, Gow, Gowa. Go. One of the oldest and most general words in the northern family of languages. Ulph. *gaggan*; A.-S. *gangan*; Icel. *gunga* or *gá*; Dan. *gange* or *gaa*. *Gowa* seems equivalent to ‘Go away,’ and is now *howay*. A thrifty and industrious housewife upon the Border, once describing her life to me, said: ‘It’s gang, gang, aye gang, gang, an when aw canna gang nea langer awn dūne.’

Gangrel. (Used with ‘body.’) The old Border appellation for tramp.

Gap. Icel. *gap*, gap, an opening in a fence.

Gap. Used of the openings or passes amongst the mountains of Lakeland, e. g. Whinlatter Gap, Scarf Gap, Raise Gap.

Gap rails. Round poles let into stone, or wooden posts, instead of gates.

Gapsted. (Icel. *staðr*, a place.) Entrance to a field is so called.

Gar. To compel. (Icel. *gjora*, to make.) ‘It garred me greet.’ ‘I’ll gar thee,’ I’ll compel you.

Gards. Another form of the word Garth, applied to fields or enclosures. The word corresponds in a remarkable manner in its application in Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, to the use in which we find it in Cumberland, Westmorland, and Furness. The oldest form is the Gothic *gards*, as found in the Bible of Ulphilas.

Garn. Yarn. (Icel. *garn*.) ‘Spin *garn*’ in Cumberland corresponds with Icel. *spinna garn* as given in Vigfusson.

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Garn-winnels. A wooden cross from which the *garn* is wound. Cognate through the Icel. *vindil-áss*, windlass, as used in ships. Of this word Magnússon says, ‘*Garn-winnels* corresponds, as to the *thing*, exactly to the Mod. Icel. *garn-vinda*. As to the *form*, *winnels* evidently descends from *vindill*, a winding instrument, which we have also in windlass = *vindil-áss*, a winding-beam.’

Garth. A garden; also a small enclosed field close to the farmhouse. Sheep, calves, and pigs were put into it Garth, surname. Icel. *garðr*.

Gate. Thoroughfare, a way, a road. 'Gaen his own *gate*,' gone his own road. From Icel. *gata*, a way or road, a thoroughfare. Ulph. *gatva* = *πλάτεια*. Dan. *gade*, street Gate in Carlisle is also used of streets, as Botchergate, Rickergate, Caldewgate, &c. Similarly, Clappersgate, Mealsgate.

Gate. Used of rights of pasturing upon marshes or fells, as cattle gates, sheep gates.

Gaum. Sense or forethought. Icel. *gaumr*, heed or attention.

Gaumless. Evidently the accidentally unrecorded Icel. *gaumlauss*, a perfectly classical compound, heedless or senseless. Icel. *gaumr*, heed or attention, found in the phrase 'Gefa *gaum* at e-u,' to give attention to. 'Thou greet *gaumless* fuil.' — Richardson.

Gay or **Gey.** Very or thoroughly, as 'a *gey* feyne day.' Carlyle's mother speaks of him as being '*gey ill ta leeve wi*.' See Froude's *Life of Carlyle*. Icel. *gagn*, through or thoroughly, as *gagn-hroeddr*, thoroughly frightened.

Gesling. Young of geese. Icel. *goeslingr*. From this root we have the surnames Gasgarth, Gaskell.

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Gildert. A number of snares attached to a hoop for catching small birds in the snow. (Icel. *gildra*, a trap.)

Gill or **Ghyll.** A deep, narrow glen, with a stream running at the bottom. The Icelandic word *gil* (Norwegian *gjel*) has exactly the same meaning. If there be no stream another word is used. *Gill* is also found in Cumberland as surname.

Gimmer. Ewe lamb. Icel. *gymbr*, a gimmer or ewe that has not lambed; Dan. *gimmer-lamb*.

Gird. A wooden hoop used for enclosing or keeping together the rims of firkins. Icel. *gjörð*, *girið*, collect. Cognate with **Garth** or **Gards**, an enclosure.

Girdle or **Gurdle.** Sometimes also called the girdle-plate. An iron plate used for baking oat-cakes and bread over the fire.

Girdle or **Gurdle**. A flat pan or circular iron plate fitted with bule like a pan, and used for baking cakes generally:

‘Our weyfes for *gurdle* ceake an tea;

Bit aw’s the chap for gud strang yell.’ — ANDERSON.

Giss or **Griss**. A pig or swine. Icel. *gríss*, a young pig, Dan. *gris*, Sc. *grice*. In calling a pig the term used is ‘giss! giss!’ or ‘griss! griss!’ The proverb, ‘He nowder said giss (or griss) nor sty’ (*stía* = sty), is equivalent to, ‘He neither said pig nor sty.’ *Griss* is found also in Grasmere or Gricemere, Grisedale Pass, Grisedale Farm, Grisedale Glen; also Grizedale, a valley near Hawksland, and Grizebeck. *Grice* is a surname in Cumberland.

Glopped. Astonished. Icel. *glúpnadr*. ‘Aw was fairly *glopped*.’ — *Ann Wheeler’s Dialogues*.

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Gloppers. Blinders for the eyes of horses. Cf. Icel. *gloppa*, opening, a hole.

Glour. To look earnestly. Cf. Icel. *glóra*.

Glumpen. To look surly. Icel. *glúpna*.

Gouk. The cuckoo. Icel. *gaukr*.

Goving. Adjective from **Guff**, with the same meaning. ‘Greet *goving* fuil,’ a great vapouring fool.

Gowl. To cry with a whine, as a dog does. To cry. Icel. *góla*, to howl or whine. Ps. lix. 14, ‘A kveldin og góla sem hunda, og hlaupa um kring staðinn.’ In the evening they will whine like a dog and run about the city. In *Landnáma*, p. 161, ‘*svá gól*’ is used of a raven’s croaking as foreboding a terrible conflict, from which it anticipates a feast. Magnússon says, ‘The Icel. *gaula* has at the present day exactly the same sense that you give to *gowl*.’

Gowpen. (Icel. *gaupn*; Sc. *goupen*.) This word seems to be exactly the same in sound and significance in Cumberland and Iceland. It means (1) *the two hands held together in the form of a bowl*; (2) as a measure, *as much as can be taken in the hands held together*. Scotch, ‘goud in *goupens*.’ Within my own remembrance the beggars were furnished with a bag, and the charitable housewives put into it a

goupen of meal or flour. The ballad of *Robin Hood* alludes to such a practice; when Little John is sent a begging, he says he must have

‘A bag for my meal,
A bag for my malt,
A bag for my flour and my corn;
A bag for a penny
If I get any —
And a bag for my own bugle-horn.’

The Hebrew word *caph* represented such a measure, and

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the Hebrew letter, of which *caph* is also the name, is represented by the bent hand.

Gradeley. Promptly or well. (From Icel. *greiðliga*, readily.) Also as an adjective, lasting or enduring.

‘Ahve nea *gradely* comfort mè lass
Except wi yon childer an thee.’ — EDWIN WAUGH.

Grave. To dig. Icel. *grafa*.

Greeap. (A.-S. *grēp*, a furrow.) The space or furrow behind cows in stalls.

Greenhew. A word found in old manorial writings, used for the payment for cutting trees upon an estate by the tenant.

Greymin. A thin covering or spotting of snow.

Grip. To seize. Icel. *grípa*.

Grund. Farm, used as place-name. Sand grund or ground, &c. Icel. *grund*, a green field or plain. *Grund*, as farm name, occurs very frequently in High Furness, e.g. Sawrey Grund, Holm Grund, Park Grund. The same is the case in Iceland. H. Swainson-Cowper, F.S.A., kindly collected for me the names of this class. In Furness alone he enumerates forty-seven Grunds as portion of place-names generally joined with personal names.

Guff. A vapouring fellow. Icel. *gufa*, vapour, steam. In local names in Iceland, as Gufunes, Gufudalr, Gufuskalar, so called from the steam of the hot wells.

‘When seek leyke *guffs* leame decent fowk

Its teyme sum laws sud alter.”—See ANDERSON’S *Village Gang*.

Haaf, *vb.* To fish with the large *haaf* or sea nets. Icel. *háfr* and *háf-net*, a net with a poke-formed centre to collect the fish in. This word is so used by fishermen of the Solway, both on Scottish and Cumbrian side.

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I have seen it in an old charter of the Burgh of Annan, describing the rights of fishing.

Haaf Net. Poke net

Hack. A pickaxe. Dan. *hakke*.

Hag Worm. Viper. Magnússon gives me the following interesting note on this word. ‘*Hagworm* is Icel. *höggormr* (=hew-worm, from the action of the reptile, when it bites, resembling the movement of the adze in the joiner’s hand), a snake, a serpent. In Icelandic Bible “serpent” is always *höggormr*.’

Hald. Hold. Icel. *hald*.

Hancloot, Hanclaith. Towel Icel. *hanklcæði*. Magnússon says the mod. Icelandic is also *hand-klútr*.

Handsel. A bargain, generally applied to the money that crosses the hand for the first bargain. Corresponds with the Icelandic word *handsal*, which Vigfusson explains thus: ‘A law term, usually in the plural, *handsöl*, handselling or hanselling, i. e. the transference of a right, bargain, or duty to another by joining hands: handshaking was with the men of old the sign of a transaction, and is still so used among farmers and others; so that to shake hands is the same as to conclude a bargain. Lat. *mandare*, manu dare.’

Hank. To fasten. Icel. *hanka*.

Harbour. A place of reception, a room. Icel. *herbergi*, F-m. 1-104 alliteration ‘hús ok herbergi,’ house and hold, corresponding Cumberland phrase, turned out of ‘huse and harbor,’ harbour here being identical with Icel. *herbergi*.

Hause. Used of the passes over the lower fells which separate the valleys of Lakeland, as Scatoller Hause,

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Gaits Hause, Esk Hause, Tarn Hause, Haws or Hause Water. Icel. *háls*, the neck, then a hill, a ridge, especially in Iceland, of the low fells which divide two parallel dales. Cf. Swiss *col* in the same use.

Haver. (Icel. *hafrar*.) Oats.

Heck. A swinging gate, used where a fence or wall crosses a beck. Also of the hurdles into which hay is put for cattle. Dan. *hekke*, Icel. *heggr*, a hedge.

Heckberry. The bird-cherry. Dan. *hægebær*, *prunus padus*.

Hell. This word is used as the name of several streams in Lakeland, called from it Hell Beck. Such streams generally proceed from recesses resembling caves, e. g. Hell Gill in Langdale, hence the name from Icel. *hellir*, a cave. Gen. xix. 30, 'Og hann var þar i helli,' and he dwelt in a cave.

Helm Wind. From Icel. *hjalmr*, Goth, *hilms*, A.-S., Eng., and Ger. *helm*, a Teutonic word derived from *hilma*, to hide. In this acceptation it is given by Vigfusson, as applied in popular tales, to a cap of darkness which makes the wearer invisible, and so also it is applied in Old Norse to the clouds as rendering the mountains invisible. There are several mountains in Iceland called Helm or Hjalmr, and in Norway called Hjalms; and we have Helm Crag near Grasmere, and the Helm near Kendal. *Helm* is also found as a surname. It is from the idea of covering or hiding, the original sense, that we get the name helm in helm wind, for the helm is the cap or covering of clouds which descends upon the summit of Cross Fell at the time when the helm wind blows. The places most subject to this helm wind are Milburn, Ouseby, Melmerly, and Gamblesby. Sometimes, when the atmosphere is quite settled, with hardly a cloud to

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be seen and not a breath of air stirring, a small cloud appears on the summit of the mountain, and extends itself to the north and south. The helm is then said to be on, and in a few minutes the wind is blowing so violently as to break down trees, overthrow stacks, and occasionally throw a person from his horse, or overturn a

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horse and cart. When the wind blows the helm seems violently agitated, though on ascending the Fell and entering it there is not much wind. Sometimes a helm forms and goes off without a wind; and there are essentially easterly winds without a helm.

Hem. To draw in. Icel. *hemja*.

Herdwicks. The black-faced breed of sheep found in Lakeland, noted for their climbing powers and ability to live on bare pasture.

Herry. To rob, as birds' nests. Icel. *herja*, to ravage or plunder. O. E. *harry*, 'Who harried hell'—Milton.

Hesp. A fastening or catch for a door. S. Eng. *hasp*, Icel. *hespa*. A greedy and overreaching man is called 'an ole hespín.'

Hest. A horse. Icel. *hestr*. In proper names, as *Hestam* = hest and ham or heim, a dwelling. Hest Bank.

Het. Hot. Icel. *heitr*.

Hind or Hine. A man put in to occupy a farmhouse where the farmer has more than one. A.-S. *hina-hine*, a servant, Icel. *hjón*, an upper servant. *Hind* is also found in Cumberland as surname.

Hinder, Hind. Back or behind. Icel. *hindri*.

Hisk. To open, as of children gasping for breath, or sobbing. Cf. Icel. *hixta*, to hiccough, to sob.

Hooker. To bend. Icel. *hokra*, to crouch.

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Hollin. The holly. This word apparently takes the Norse suffixed article *inn* or *in*.

Holm. An island, especially in a lake or creek; also of low land near a lake or river, e. g. Silver Holme, Ling Holme, Rough Holme, and the many Holmes in Windermere and other lakes. Holme Island, near Grange, in Morecambe Bay; the Abbey Holme. Compare Icel. *holmr*, which exactly corresponds with it in those meanings. *Holme* is found in Westmorland as surname.

How. Originally a grave-mound, then a gentle eminence or mound, frequently in proper names in this sense. Silver How, Fox How, Torpen How, Brown How, The Hill of

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Howth in Dublin Bay. Miss Powley, in a *Plea for Old Names*, says that *how* is still in use in Cumberland and Westmorland for grave-mound; and Edmondson says *howie* still means a mound, tumulus, or knoll in the Shetland and Orkney Islands. Icel. *haugr* is a tumulus or burial-mound; an Icelandic verb *heygja*, formed from this noun, signifies to *bury or inter with a mound over the grave*, signifying an honourable burial and a distinction conferred only upon chieftains. See *Landnáma Bók*. *How* is found as surname in Lakeland.

How. Bleak or exposed. *How* and *lænd* express the two opposite ideas. *How*, exposed; *lænd*, sheltered.

Howk. To excavate. Swe., Goth, *holka*.

Hummer. A grassy slope by the side of a river. ‘*Hummers* dark,’ Gibson’s *Folk Speech*. Icel. *hvammr*, a grassy slope or vale; ‘Very frequent as an appellation in every Icelandic Farm,’ Vigfusson. It also means a swamp, and is in this sense applied in Lakeland to wet land. The word illustrates in a remarkable manner the varied history of the same word in different countries.

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While in Lakeland it has become an obscure and almost obsolete word in the dialect: in Iceland as *Hvammr*, the name of the home of the noble and talented family of the Sturlungs, it becomes one of the most memorable and renowned place-names in the history of the Icelandic commonwealth.

Hurd. A herd of cattle. Icel. *hjörð*. Cf. Goth, *hairdeis*, a herd or shepherd, Icel. *hirdir*, a shepherd. John x. ‘Eg em góðr hiriðr,’ I am the Good Shepherd.

Ill, *adj.* Bad or evil. Icel. *illr*, bad or evil. ‘It’s an *ill* win that blows neabody good.’ Proverb.

Illify. To defame.

Ings. Meadows. N. and A.-S. *ing* or *eng*, a field or meadow. As place-name, *The Ings*, near Windermere.

Intak. A piece of land enclosed near a farmhouse, an *intake*, evidently so called as having been originally *taken in* from the common or fell. ‘As they wor o’ trailin varra slā down Willy Garnett’s girt *intak*.’—Gibson’s *Folk-speech*. Of this word

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Magnússon says, 'This is a purely Scandinavian term, but unknown in the Cumberland sense except in Sweden, where a piece of a common enclosed for cultivation is called *intaka*.'

Intil. Into. Dan. *ind til*, Swe. *in till*.

Keld. A well or spring. (Icel. *kelda*, Dan. *kilde*, a well or spring), found in place-names, as Threlkeld, Iron Keld, Butterilket, Butterild Keld and Keldra, a well with an *á* or spring flowing from it; also a hamlet called Keld in Westmorland.

Kemp. To strive, to contend. Icel. *keppa* (pp=mp), Dan. *kæmpe*, Swed. *kämpa*. Cf. also Icel. *kempa*, which Vigfusson defines as a champion. We have two instances

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of the use of this word in Stagg, the blind Cumberland poet:

'See how the *kemping* shearers run,
An rive an bind an stook their corn.'

And again:

'Auld Nick and Scott yence *kempt* they say,
Whan best a reeafe fra san cud twayne.'

The Scott here spoken of is Michael Scott, the wizard mentioned in *The Lay of the Last Minstrel*. In more contests than one Old Cumbrian traditions speak of him as being able to hold his own against the devil.

Ken. To know. Icel. *kenna*, to know. 'D' ye ken John Peel?'

Kenning. Recognition, 'oot ov aw kenning,' out of all recognition. Icel. *kenning*, a mark of recognition.

Ket. Carrion. Icel. *kvett*, *ket*, *kjöt*, flesh; a Scandinavian word found in neither Anglo-Saxon nor German.

Kep. To catch. Icel. *kippa*, to pull, to wrench, to pick.

Keslop. Rennet from a calf. (Icel. *kæsir*, explained below, and *hlaup*, coagulated milk.)

Used very commonly by the housewives of Cumberland and other portions of Lakeland for making cheese. Cheese-making is not near so common now as it was formerly, when every farmhouse used to manufacture its own cheese. The Icelandic gives us a striking parallel to this word and its meaning, for in Cleasby

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kæsir is translated as rennet from a calf's maw, *used to curdle milk, hleypa mjólk*, for making cheese and *skyr*; and is frequent in modern Icelandic usage. *Hlaup* is the curdled milk in its first unacidulated state, while *skyr* is the sour curds stored up for food, and at present a national dish with the Northmen.

Kink. To cough in convulsions. The hooping-cough is called the *kink-cough*. Icel. *kinka*, to nod the head.

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Kirk. Church. *Kirkja* in Iceland, *kirk* in Scotland, and *kirke* in Denmark. Also in derived proper names: Kirkfell in Wasdale Head, Kirkju Fell in Iceland.

Kirn or Kurn. A churn. Icel. *kirna*, a churn. This word gives its name to the harvest festival or feast of the ingathering in Cumberland, called *kurn* supper, from the fact that half-churned cream was one of the good things served up upon the occasion. Butter sops were also a very essential part of the feast formerly, and consisted of very thin wheaten cakes broken small and sopped in butter melted with sugar. I do not know what Ambrosia was like, but Butter sops used to seem to me to be a feast fitted for the gods. I believe that they are now almost, if not altogether, unknown. 'Up-and-down kurn,' a chum which was much in use in Cumberland and Westmorland formerly, although now obsolete. It was worked by an up and down process.

Kist. A chest. Icel. *kista*, a chest. Old oak *kists* and cupboards are to be found very generally in old farm-houses in Cumberland and the Lake district; they are very curiously and laboriously carved with the initials of the family to which they have originally belonged, with various flourishes and devices, and dates ranging from 1600 or thereabouts, to 1800 are carved upon them. A gentleman, Mr. Collingwood, who is well versed in wood carving, has assured me that some of the curious letters carved upon them are unmistakably Norse. *Eel kist* was the term applied by the monks of the Abbey in Holm Cultram to the pond near the river Waver in which they kept their eels alive. The road to it is still called *Eel Kist* lane; also the coffin was called *kista* in which Kveldulf drifted aland, see *Landnáma*.

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Kitting. A kitten. Icel. *kettlingr*.

Kittle. To tickle. Icel. *kitla*.

Knab. A rocky projection, e.g. The *Knab* on Windermere. Icel. *knappr*.

Knep. To browse or nip grass, as a horse. Dan. *nappe*, to pick up rapidly small objects, to snatch.

Knot. A rocky excrescence, generally proceeding from the top of a mountain. (Icel. *knúta*, which Vigfusson explains as a knuckle-bone or the head of a bone.) The word is of frequent occurrence both in Norway and Lakeland. The Knott, Benson Knott, Knott End, Hard Knott, Harte Knot (= the hard knot) in Norway; and the idea seems to be taken from the close resemblance which some mountains bear to the round of the knuckles. '*Hnúta* is frequently applied to the tops of mountains in Eastern Iceland, which resemble the knob of the "femur" which moves in the socket of the hip-bone.'—Magnússon.

Kurn-supper. The Cumberland Feast of Ingathering.

Kyle. A boil or sore. 'As sair as a *kyle*,' Proverb. From Icel. *kýli*, a boil or abscess. 'Grípa á kýlinu,' to touch a sore place. 'Odaun leggur af kýlum mínum,' 'There is anguish from my wounds.'—Ps. xxxviii. 5.

Kysty. Fastidious. Applied generally to those who are difficult to please with the quality of their food, e.g. 'Thū lyle kysty fairy' = 'You little unthankful imp.' Often heard on the Border. Icel. *kveistinn*, fastidious, peevish.

Lad. (Icel. *hlaði*), a pile or stack. *Lad* stones, upon the top of Wetherlamb Mountain, are stones *piled up*. There is the same idea in the place-name Lad Crag and Latrigg.

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Laen'd or **Leen'd**, as above, used in High Furness for sheltered, as a *leen'd* place for sheep on the fell.

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Laif or **Hlaif**. A loaf. Ulph. *hlaifs*, a loaf. Icel. *hleifr*. The word as used in the dialect seems to have the H.

Lair. Mire or dirt. Icel. *leirr*, clay, earth, loam; Dan. *leer*. This *leir* or *lair* very frequently goes in this sense to form place-names in *Landnáma*, as *Leirhöfn*, the miry landing-place; *Leiruvágr*, the miry bight.

Lairy. Miry.

Lait or **Late**. To seek. (Icel. *leita*, to seek; Ulph. *wlaiton*; Greek, περιβλεπεσθαι, to look around.) In the modern Icelandic Bible, John viii. 50, ‘En eg *leita* ekki míns heðiu; sá er, sem hans *leitar* og daemir, ‘I seek not mine own glory; there is one that seeketh and judgeth.

‘Lads i’t dark, meeade rampin wark
As cloaks and clogs were *laitit*’

MARK LONSDALE, *The Upshot*.

Lake or **Laik**. To play as children do. Icel. *leika*, to play; Ulph. *laikan*, to skip or leap for joy. In the Maeso-Gothic Bible of Ulphilas, Luke xv. 25, ‘Saggvins jah laikans,’ is ‘Songs and Plays.’ According to De Quincey (*Lake Poets*), Wordsworth used to pun on the double meaning of this word as implying playing and visiting the Lakes (‘Laking’).

Laikins. Playthings, toys. Cf. Icel. *leikinn*, playful.

‘Here baby *laikins*, routh o’ spice on sto’s an’ stands extended.’

STAGG, *Rosley Fair*.

Lane. Alone. Icel. *leyna*, to conceal.

Lang. Long. Icel. *langr*.

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Lang streekt. At full length. Dan. *langstrakt*, at full length.

Lapstone. A cobbler’s stone upon which he beats his leather. Icel. *lappa*, to patch or cobble.

Lathe. A barn. Icel. *hlaða*, Dan. *lade*, a bam. Leathes, a village in Cumberland; Watenlath, barn at the end of the wath; and Silloth, may all come from this root.

Lee, Lea, or Ley. A scythe. Icel. *lé* with art. *léinn*, mod. *ljár*; Dan. *le*, a scythe. The same word in the same meaning is found in Yorkshire, and Lucas thus describes it as found in Nidderdale: 'It is a large heavy scythe with a straight handle, and blade flat with the handle, unlike those in the South, which are smaller, and have the blade turned at an angle.'

Leeze. To cleanse wool, *les* being applied to anything made of wool. Icel. *les*, knit woollens.

'Leeze me on thee John Barleycorn,
Thou King o' grain.'—BURNS.

Leister. A salmon spear, from Icel. *ljóstr*, a club, then a salmon spear. There is a graphic description of how the *leister* was used for spearing salmon on the Solway in the *Redgauntlet* of Sir W. Scott. A *leister* with three prongs of a somewhat different construction is used in Cumberland for leistering eels, the eels being brought up between the prongs.

Lig. To lay. Icel. *leggja*.

Lin. Flax or linen. Icel. *lin*. 'Lin sarks.'—*Ann Wheeler's Dialogue*.

Lite. To depend upon or rely upon. Icel. *hlíta*, to depend or rely on.

Loave! An interjection denoting wonder,

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Loavins. Used in the same sense. 'Loavins, what el Betty think, Betty think, Betty think.—B. B. B.

Lofin Days! or Lovin Days! *Lofi deus*, or 'Praise God'; an interjection of wonder.

Look. To pluck out weeds from among the corn, generally performed by an instrument called looking tongs. The derivation of this word of very common use in Cumberland puzzled me for a long time. Vigfusson, however, seems to clear up the matter when he gives *lok* as meaning a fern or weed, and quotes in illustration the phrase, 'Ganga sem *lok* yfir akra,' to spread like weeds over a field. Dan. *luge*, to weed an orchard.

Looking-tongs. Looking-tongs, used as above.

Loppered. Coagulated, as milk.

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Lound. Calm or still. *Lound* places, sheltered places. Icel. *leyndr*, hidden, covered; ‘laun vogr,’ a sheltered creek. Magnusson says, anent this word: ‘It has clearly the same sense as Icel. *lygn*, Swe. *lugn*, Dan. *lun*, calm, sheltered against wind: the corresponding nouns being Icel. *logn*, Swe. *lugn*, Dan. *lun*. Perhaps in the Lakeland word we have at last a clue to the origin of Icel. *lundr*, Swe. *lund*, Dan. *lund*, a grove.

Lova me. In Cumberland = *lof-mér* in Iceland, both derived as above.

Lowe. A flame. Icel. *logi*; Dan. *lue*. The flame of fire spoken of as appearing to Moses, Exod. iii. 2, is in the Icelandic Bible, ‘Eldsloga,’ and in the Danish Bible, ‘Ildslue.’ Eldin being also applied to fire in Lakeland.

Lowe. To flame. Swedish, ‘Elden begynner loga upp’ = Cumbrian and Furness phrase, ‘T’ Eldin begins *at low up*.’

Lowse. To release, as children from school or horses from work. Icel. *leysa*, to release.

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Lowse. Loose. Icel. *lauss*, loose.

Lug. Ears of a dog, horse, or sheep. Cf. Swed. *lugg*, forelock.

Lug-mark. The ear-mark of mountain sheep is so-called.

Mair. More. Icel. *meiri*.

‘The last new shun our Betty gat,
They pinched her feet, the deil may care,
What she mud hev them lady leyke
Though she hed corns for ivver *mair*.’—ANDERSON

Mak, sb. Make, shape, or kind.

Mak, vb. To meddle. ‘Aw nowder *mak* nor mell.’ Proverb meaning, ‘I do not interfere.’

Maks. Sorts. ‘It tuks o’ *maks* ta mak ivvery mak.’—Rev. T. Clark, *Johnney Shepherd*.

Man. A conical pillar of stones erected on the top of a mountain. Cf. Icel. *mön*, mane, ridge, top.

Mappen or M’appen. It may happen.

‘Lal Dinah Grayson’s fresh fewsome an free
Wid a lilt iv her step an a glent iv her e’e

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She glowers ebben at me whatever I say
An meastly maks answer wid—*M'appen* I may
M'appen I may she sez, mappen I may,
Thou think's I believe the, an mappen I may.'

GIBSON, *Folk-speech*.

Mazlin. A stupefied person. 'Whats ta meead o't meer an car thou ole *mazlin*? B. B. B.

Mear-field. A field in which the several shares or ownerships are known by meer-stones or other boundary marks. A field was so divided in this (Torver) parish into three shares until last year, then the three shares came into one ownership and the division ceased. Cf. Icel. *moeri*, boundary, in *landa-moeri*.

Meean. A moan in Westmorland dialect.

Meean, Mane of a horse. Icel. *mön*.

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Meer Maid or **Meer Man.** The Norse ideal of the Meer Man or Marmennill, is well illustrated on pages 76 and 77 of the *Landnáma*, where he is said to have been brought up by an intending settler while fishing, and is compelled to indicate to the settler a future landtake. The same foreboding or prophetic character is given to him in the North of England.

Meer Stones. Stones placed at the boundaries of undivided allotments to mark the limits of the owners. Many of the old allotments were thus divided, and there are still stones so standing and so named: seems to correspond exactly with the *Lýritr* of Norway (from *lýðr*, people, and *rétrr*, right), which is explained in this way: 'When the boundary of a field or estate was to be drawn, the law prescribed that a mark-stone (*merkis-steinn*) should be raised upon the spot, and three other stones laid beside it, called landmark-stones (*lyrirtar-steinar*), and by their number and position they were distinguished from all other stones in the field.' To meer corresponds Icel. *moeri*, boundary in *landa-moeri*.

Melder. A grinding of meal. Icel. *meldr*, meal.

'That ilka *melder* wi' the miller,
Thou sat as lang as thou hed siller.'—BURNS.

Mell. To interfere. Cf. Icel. *miðla* (*m. málum*, to bring terms about in disputes). In *Ann Wheeler's Dialogues* Gossips are described as those who employ their time in 'Gangin frae house to house heerin news an *mellin* e ther nebbors.'

Mell Doors. The space between the outer door of a house and the inner = middle doors. Of this word, Magnusson says, 'In Icelandic farmhouses the term *milli-dyr* = middle door, is still heard; it means a door which is

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somewhere between the front door and the door of the household sitting-room = *baðstofu-dyr*.'

Mense. Decency. Icel. *mennska*, manliness or propriety of conduct; what becomes a man, from Icelandic *mennskr*, what belongs to a man.

Mensfu. (Icel. *mennskufullr*?) Hospitable or becoming. Derived as above.

Meol or Meals. Sandhills. (In Iceland sandhills are called *melr*, pl. *melar* from the meal-like appearance of the sand.) Found frequently in proper names, e.g. Millom = meol holm, Esk Meals, Mealsgate, Cartmel, Mealo. See a very interesting illustration in the *Landnáma*. See pages 77 and 78.

Mi. Mine. Icel. *minn, mín, mitt, my*.

Mickle. Large. Icel. *mikill*, large. Mickle dore, lit. Great Door, the deep chasm or opening between Scawfell and Scawfell Pikes.

Mind, vb. To give one's mind or attention to. Icel. *minna*, to remind.

Mire. A moor or bog. Found in place names, as The Mire, Pelutho Mire, Mire Side. Icel. *mýrr*, a moor, bog, or swamp. Hence also in Icelandic place-names, Mýri, Mýrar.

Moud. Mold. Icel. *mold*.

Moudywarp. The mole. Icel. *moldvarpa*.

Muck. Dirt or mud. Icel. *myki*.

Muit or Moot Ho. Literally the *Meeting* Hall or Town Hall.

Mun. Must. Icel. *mun*.

Munnet. Must not.

Murry Neet, Merry Neet or Old Wife Hake. This, as its name imports, was a night dedicated to mirth and

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festivity. It took place at some village or country inn during the Christmas holidays, and was most characteristic of Cumberland and Lakeland. In the following verse from Anderson's *Bleckell Murry neet*, the scenes at such an entertainment are described:—

‘Ay, lad sec a *murry neet*, we’ve hed at Bleckell,
The sound o’ the fiddle yet rings in my ear,
Aw reet clipt an heelt war the lads and the lasses
And monie a cleverlish hizzy was theer;
The bettermer swort sat snug i’ the parlour,
I’ the pantry the Sweethearters cutter’d sea soft,
The dancers they kick’d up a stour i’ the kitchin,
At lanter the caird-lakers sat i’ the loft.’

Naggin. Tormenting. Icel. *naga*, to gnaw; colloquial: *nagga* and *naggra*, nag.

Narhand. Near to. Icel. *nærhendis*.

Natterin. Peevish, cross. Icel. *gnadd*, grumbling; *gnadda*, to grumble. Dan. *gnaddre*, to grumble.

Neaf. Fist. Icel. *hnefi*, the fist.

Neakt. Icel. *nekt*, nakedness.

Near. Stingy. Dan. *nær*, close, sharp.

Neb. Beak. Dan. *næb*, Icel. *nef*.

Neea. No. Icel. *neinn*.

Nuik or Neuk. Nook.

‘They say a heedless woman woaks at sartin neets o’t’ year
An greens an yewls at sec a rate as fretins fowk to heer
I wadn’t mind sec teals, bit yence I gat afreet mesel;
I’ Branthet Neuk, an hoo it was, just lissen an I’ll tell.’

GIBSON, *Branthet Neuk Boggle*.

Numerals. The following are the Icelandic numerals up to five:—*Einn*, one; *tveir*, two; *þrír*, three; *fjórir*, four; *fimm*, five. The numeral system of the dialect does not, so far as I have been able to compare them, bear any especial affinity to them. A very curious

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numeral system, however, has been found to prevail, with some phonetic variations, over the -whole of the North-English district of which I am treating, having come down apparently *viva voce* from very early times. They have been generally spoken of as sheep-scoring numerals, though by no means confined to this. I subjoin three specimens:—

No. 1.	No. 3.	No. 3.
BORROWDALE,	KIRKBY	CONISTON,
KESWICE,	STEPHEN,	HIGH FURNESS,
CUMBERLAND.	WESTMORLAND,	NORTH LANCASHIRE.
Yan	Yan	Yan
Tyan	Tyaan	Taen
Tethera	Taed'ere	Tedderte
Methera	Maed'dere	Medderte
Pimp	Mimp	Pimp
Sethera	Hai'tes	Sethera
Lethera	Sai'tes	Lethera
Hovera	Hao'ves	Hovera
Dovera	Dao'ves	Dovera
Dick	Dik	Dik
Yan-a-dick	Yaan 'edik	Yan-a-dik
Tyan-a-dick	Tyaanedik	Taen-a-dik
Tether-a-dick	Taed'eredik	Tedder-a-dik

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Mether-a-dick	Maed'eredik	Hedder-a-dik
Bumfit	Buun	Mimph
Yan-a-bumfit	Yaan'eboon	Yan-a-Mimph
Tyan-a-bumfit	Tyaan'eboon	Taen-a-Mimph
Tother-a-bumfit	Taed-ereboon	Todder-a-Mimph
Mether-a-bumfit	Maed'ereboon	Medder-a-Mimph
Giggot	Buomfit	Gigget

No. 1 was obtained from the shepherds of Borrowdale.

No. 2 Dr. A. J. Ellis obtained through Dr. Murray from Mr. W. H. Thompson, of Kirkby Stephen.

No. 3 my wife remembered from childhood as used by Coniston shepherds.

Offcum. Stranger, seems to correspond as to form with Icel. *af-kvæmi*. In the Fell dales, those who are not natives of a dale or district, or who have lately come

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into it, are called *offcums*, and it is sometimes very long ere they are looked upon as possessing the full freedom and social privileges of the dale or district.

Oft. Icel. *opt* or *oft*.

Oot. Icel. *út*, out.

'Thou's here ivery day just to put yan about—

An thou moiders yan terrably—Jwohny, git *oot*.'

GIBSON, *Folk-speech*.

Peat. An oblong piece of moss or turf used for beating or mending the fire; hence called *beats* or *peats*.

Peat Mull. The waste or débris of the above used for banking up fires, so that they may smoulder and continue alighted. Mull = Swed. *mull*, Dan. *muld*, Icel. *mold*. Icel. *mó-mold* answers exactly to peat mull; *mó* from *mór*, peat.

Pell. A rattling shower of hail or rain. A Cumbrian, being questioned as to whether it rained much in his neighbourhood, replied,

‘It donks and drizzles, bit nivver cums doon in nea greet *pell*.’

Pentas. Penthouse. A roof fixed to the side of a house. Common in the last century in farmhouses in Cumberland and Lakeland generally. With the modern improvements in farmhouses they have now generally passed away. There is still one at Low Torver Park in this parish, one I know in Langdale, and one till lately at Hause Bank, Coniston. Magnússon, who visited some of them when residing here with us, says he believes them identical with the outside galleries which formed of old a marked feature in Scandinavian houses.

Pot. Icel. *pottr*. The deep circular holes generally filled with water, from which peats have been dug upon the mosses, are called peat pots. The word is also applied to the deep circular holes which the action of a river

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forms amongst the rocks in the Duddon. The circular glacier mills in the rocks of Switzerland have been formed by a somewhat similar process. The word is applied to any basin-shaped hole. From this root are *kail pot*, the large circular pan used for boiling broth; *set pot*, the large circular pan built into a furnace.

Pun. Pound.

Punston. Poundstone; a pebble or cobble stone, as nearly as possible of the weight of twenty-two ounces. In old days butter was sold by the long pound, which weighed twenty-two ounces. Great care was exercised in selecting a round stone of the precise weight. I remember a round cobble stone so used by an ancestor of my own, which had been chipped a little to reduce it to the ‘standard.’ One of the oldest and heaviest penny pieces was selected in order to give the cast or overweight.

Quit. Free. N. *kvittr*, free. When a person loses at a game of chance, he sometimes says he will play again, ‘double or quits,’ i. e. quit or free from the obligation. It is found in the same sense in the Bible: ‘The owner of the ox shall be *quit*.’—Exod. xxi. 28.

Raise. Applied originally to mounds or cairns raised over the dead, as Dunmail Raise, between Grasmere and Wyburn, said to be the grave of Dunmail, the last king of

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rocky Cumberland. Stone Raise is the name of a Cumbrian village thus derived. Of this word Magnússon says, 'Raise = Icel. *hreyssi*; Dan. *rös* and *röse*; Swe. *röse*; Norw. *rös*, also Dan. and Swe. *sten-röse*, all = heap of stones thrown together anyhow by hands or nature; a cairn.'

Rake. Commonly used as name of a sheepdog, from Icel. *reka*, to drive, or *reki*, driver. Possibly, however = Icel. *rakki*, a cur.

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Rake. In the Lake country, applied generally to the narrow paths along which sheep are driven to the fell. It is used in the same acceptation in Yorkshire. From Icel. *reka*, part. *rak*, originally *vreka*, to drive; *Outrake*, corresponding in sound and meaning with Icel. *út reka* (Joshua iii. 10, 'út reka kananita,' drive out the Canaanites), was a path by which sheep were driven out to the fell. There is one so named on Black Combe, one at Torver, one at Coniston. There seems to be one or more in most of the larger valleys in Lakeland, which are spoken of as 'the rake,' just as we speak of 'the fell.' There are also several farms in the district called 'The Outrake' and I have observed that such farms generally stand at the entrance to a rake or fell drive. The Norse verb *reka*, also means to drive or drift, as the tide does; and we have this verb in the place-name of Wreaks End, near Broughton in Furness, derived from a point in the stream close by which makes the end of the tide flow or drift in that direction. On the Yorkshire moors sheep are said to 'rake out' when they go single file. Ulleraker = wool rakes, was formerly a realm of Sweden in the present province of Westmanland.

Ram. Strong, as of a pungent, offensive smell. Icel. *ramr*, *rammr*, strong, rank.

Rang. Wrong. Icel. *rangr*.

Rannel Boak. The house beam; the large beam running across the chimney in old farmhouses. Icel. *rann*, a house (?) and *balkr*, a beam.

Rannel Tree. Another form of the above.

Rash. Active. 'As *rash* an' as young eighty-five.'— Anderson. Icel. *röskr*, Dan. *rask*, Swed. *rask*.

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Ratch. To sneak about, to lay hold of meat, as dogs do. Cf. Icel. *rakki*, a hound or dog.

Ratch. A thievish, greedy animal, generally applied to an old sow which is spoken of as ‘the ole *ratch*.’ Sometimes applied to a thievish person, as in the following lines:

‘An than t’ ole body turns oot ta fratch

She’s a gudden ta fratch is yon un my songs.

She oo’s me “a durty ole theeven *ratch*”

An than we ga at it leyke hammer an tongs.’—*Local Song*.

Raup. An auction, from Icel. *hrópa*, to cry, *hróp*, a cry.

Reckling. The weakest member of a litter of pigs or of a brood of chickens, from O. N. *reklingr*, an outcast; or it may be from *reck*, care, as describing that which requires most care.

Red. Iron-ore, so called in Furness, from Icel. *rauði*, the red iron ore, from which the Norse settlers wrought iron. *Landnáma*: ‘Hann blés fyrstr manna rauða á Islandi, ok var hann af því kallaðr Rauða-Björn,’ he was the first man who smelted (red) iron in Iceland, and from this he was called Red-Bjorn.

Redstake. The stake by which cattle are bound to the ‘bewce.’ A.-S. *wroed*, a band or tie, and *staca*, a stake.

Reean (in Furness), **Rein** and **Rane** (in Cumberland and Westmorland). The *reeans*, in Furness, were unploughed portions which were left round the cultivated fields, known in other portions of the country as ‘head riggs.’ The origin of the name seems, however, to have been from the uncultivated strips which, before town fields and commons were divided by fences, were left untilled in order to mark the boundaries. A neighbouring land-owner, aged somewhere near eighty, tells me that he remembers perfectly well when the town fields of Coniston and Torver were divided by such *reeans*, and every man’s

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division was called his *reean*. The same system was known also in Westmorland, for J. B. Davies, Esq., of Kirkby Stephen, says:—’ The name *reeans* is used here

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for narrow strips of grass land, a little higher than the ground on either side, left in closes called field lands or dale lands to mark the division of such land or dale. We have fields called *raynes*, sloping land with riggs or terraces, on the lower side of which there is usually a reean or slightly elevated strip. These slightly elevated strips have often been levelled down, but the name is still retained.’ The same system prevailed in Cumberland, and Dickinson, in his *Glossary of the Cum. Dialect* (English Dialect Society) defines ‘Rig and Rane,’ a phrase very common in Cumberland formerly, as an arable field held in shares, which are divided by narrow green lanes (*ranes*) and the intervals usually cultivated.’ The system is found still, or at any rate was found very recently, at Tebay near Penrith in Westmorland. The system formerly prevailed in Yorkshire. O. N., Icel. *rein*, Swed. *ren*, a grassy strip round a cornfield, which must not be broken up by plough or spade; a field-boundary.

Reeap. Rope. Ulph. *raips*, Icel. *reip*, rope.

Reek. Smoke. Icel. *reykr*, smoke. Reykjavík, the capital of Iceland, is literally ‘smoke wick,’ so called from the steaming hot springs near it. Cf. ‘the Auld Reekie,’ or Edinburgh, in Burns.

Reek. To smoke. Icel. *rjúka*.

Reet. Neat, properly equipped or fitted out.

‘She’s smart out o’ dooars, she’s tidy i’t ‘hoose,
Snod as a mowdy warp—sleek as a moose;
I black goon, i blue goon, i green goon or grey,
I tell her she’s reet, an git m’appen I may.’

GIBSON, *Folk-Speech*.

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Rice or Ris or Rise. Brushwood, thorns on hedges, &c. Copewood and brushwood generally. A person doing anything with energy is said to be ‘gaun at it leyke a man hagen (i.e. cutting down), *rīse*,’ implying that *rīse*, from its thick, prickly and impenetrable nature, requires energy in him who cuts it down. Icel. *hrís*, a collective noun for shrubs or brushwood. (O. E. *rīs* or *rys*.—Chaucer.)

Riddins or **Ruddins**. Clearings. See *Landnáma*, 126.

Rig. A ridge. Icel. *hryggr*, given in Cleasby as the back or spine in men or beasts, then a ridge or mountain ridge. It is very generally applied in this country to a ridge, then an oblong hill, as Lantriggs, Latrigg; also in Cumberland as surname.

Rig Reeap. The straw rope going over the ridge of a stack.

Rim. An edge; from Icel. *rim*, a rim or outer edge, as of a sword.

Rive. To tear. A 'slate *river*' is a splitter or divider of slates. A boy who tears his clothes is called 'a *rive rags*.' Icel. *rífa*; Dan. *rive*; Eng. *rive*.

Ross. From Icel. *hross*, a horse. Rosthwaite, Rossgid, Rosley, noted for its horse fair; and Ross, a common surname.

Roven. Riven. Icel. *rofinn*, part, of *rjúfa*.

Rowan Tree. The mountain ash. O. N. *reynir*; Dan. *rønnetræ*. This word marks, perhaps more clearly than any other, the intimate connexion between the words and superstitions of Scandinavia and the North of England. *Reynir* is found in a few Icelandic place-names, as Reynir, Reynivellir; Reynis-Stadr, applied to mark places at the time of the settlement, the only sort

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of tree, except the dwarf birch, that was found in Iceland. There is a place called Raynors, in Cumberland, which seems to mean 'The Mountain Ashes.' Rowan tree is also found as surname. The rowan tree was a holy tree consecrated to Thor, and, according to legends quoted in Vigfusson, very intimately connected with the mysteries and superstitions of the Icelanders. Reynir had its fame in Iceland from the supposed magical influence of the tree against witches. In some places in the North of England a piece of the rowan tree was placed above the door to scare away evil influences. Atkinson, in his *Forty Tears in a Moorland Parish*, says that in Yorkshire women often carried with them a piece of the rowan tree to drive off evil spirits, hence it was called *witch wood*; and in Lakeland the stick for stirring the cream was frequently of the rowan tree wood, to counteract the malign spiritual influence which at times bewitched the cream so that no butter was forthcoming. Burns says:

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‘Thence countra wives, wi’ toil and pain
May plunge and plunge the kirm in vain:
For, oh! the yellow treasures taen
By witching skill
And dawtit twal-pint hawkie’s gaen
As yell’s the bill.’

Rowt. To bellow (of cattle). Icel. *rauta*, to roar; Swe. *ryta*.

Ruddle. Red paint used for marking sheep, and made from the red hematite found up the Wasdale Screes and elsewhere among the Cumbrian Mountains. See the mode of procuring it described in *The Old Church Clock*, by Canon Parkinson. Icel. *ryd*, rust. Magnusson says, ‘The corresponding Icelandic word is *rjóða*, an iterative of *rjóða*, to redden by besmearing, used in the common

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language of Iceland for the act of lightly besmearing. The word is not recorded in the dictionaries, but it may be heard in all parts of the country.’

Rung. Round of a ladder.

Runnel. An open drain or runlet. Dan. dialect, *rønnd*.

Sackless. Simple or without energy. Icel. *saklauss*, innocent, free from blame. From *sök*, blame, and *lauss*, without. A ‘neer-do-well’ is sometimes called a *sackless*.

Saeng. A heap or bed of hay. Icel. *sæning*, *sæng*, bed.

Saim. Lard.

Sair or **Sarr.** Sore. Icel. *sárr*.

Sammel. Gravel.

Sand. Often used to form place-names. Icel. *sandr*.

Sark. Shirt. Icel. *serkr*, shirt.

‘An cried out, “Werl dūne cutty *sark!*”

When in a moment a’ was dark.”—BURNS.

Scale. A wooden hut or shelter. Used of wooden huts put up as a temporary protection for turf, which are called ‘peat scales’ It is also frequently found in place-names, as The Scales, Scale Hill, Bowscale, Seascale, Nether Scales, Scaleby, literally

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‘the booth dwelling.’ Icel. *skáli*, a shed or hut put up for temporary use. It is said in the *Landnáma Bok* of the earliest settlers in Iceland, ‘þar sér enn skála-topt þeirra ok svá hrófit.’

Scale, *vb.* To disperse or separate. Icel. *skilja*, to separate. This word is very generally used in the dialect of Lakeland. *Scaling hay*, spreading it out in the sun; *scaling*, i. e. spreading, peats. ‘The clouds are said to *scale* when they disperse.

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Scar. The face of a rock, a cliff cut off or escarped; the rock itself. Cf. Icel. *sker*, an isolated rock, from *skera*, to cut; Swe. *skär*.

Sconce. A stone seat fixed in the wall in old farmhouses. Cf. Icel. *skonsa*, a nook in a house.

Scree. The débris or shale on the steep, almost perpendicular, side of a mountain, as the Screes of Wastwater; from Icel. *skriða*, or from the sound *scree*, which the shale makes in rushing down.

Scroggs. Stumps. Dan. *srog*, a stump.

Sebben. Seven. Ulph. *sibun*, seven.

Seean. Soon. Icel. *senn*, soon.

Seeves. Bushes. Icel. *sef*, Dan. *siv*, a rush. Called also in Scotland and on the border, *rash*, e. g. ‘Green grow the rashes, O.’

Segg. A hard callous place on the hand. Icel. *sigg*, thick, hard skin.

Sel. An Icelandic word very frequent in *Landnáma*, meaning a shed on a mountain pasture, but within the landmarks of each farm, where the milk cows were kept in summer. In place-names in Lakeland, e.g. Sellafield, Selside, &c., we seem to retain this word.

Sett. To accompany so as to direct or place in the right way. Icel. *setja*, to place or set in the right direction.

‘Aw *sett* Betty yem aw the way to Kurkbantton,

An on the ole settle we coddlet aw neet.’—ANDERSON.

Settle. A long seat with a high back. ‘The *settle* neist was thrown aseyde.’—Anderson.

Seyme-twiner. A small machine placed under the arm and used for twisting straw ropes for stacks. Cf. Icel. *síma*, n., rope and *tvinna*, to twine.

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Seymie. Used of any ill-natured, twisted fellow. It occurs in this sense in the following verse of Anderson's *Kursmas Eve*:—

‘Than wry-gobb’d *Seymie* neest meead a lang speech
Bad them drop o’ their fratchen and speyte yè tknaa
“What neybers” said he “yud far better gree
“Nor for lawyers and doctor thus feight yé tknaa.”’

Shank. The lower or remaining part. Dan. *shank*.

Sheep-sime or **seyme.** A straw rope hung round a sheep’s neck, including the foreleg, to prevent its leaping fences. Cf. *seyme-twiner*.

Shive. A slice. Icel. *skifa*; Dan. *skive*.

Shive, vb. To slice.

Shrike. To shriek. Icel. *skrækja*.

Side. A settlement. In place-names, as Arnside, Ormside, Ambleside, Swinside. Icel. *síða*, *side*, name of many settlements.

Sike or **Syke.** A small stream or gutter. Icel. *siki*. Found also as part of place-name in Sykehouse, Sykeside, Sykehead. Also as surname, Sykes.

Sile. Used for straining milk, a sieve. In domestic language in the east of Iceland *sili*, for liquids only.

Sile, vb. To strain milk with a *sile*. East Icel. *сила*.

Sime or **Seyme.** The straw rope used for holding down the thatch or covering upon stacks. Icel. *síma*, a cord or rope.

Sin. Since. Icel. *siðan*; Dan. *siden*.

Sine, sb. A strainer; Icel. *síja* (Engl. in = Icel. *í*, in many cases), a sieve.

Sine, vb. To strain. Icel. *síja*.

Sipe, vb. To drip. Dan. *sive*, to drip.

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Skarn. Dung. Icel. *skarn*, dung.

Skel. Shell. Icel. *skel*, a shell. ““Here’s five dozen o’ eggs,” sez she. “I wadn’t give a *skell* o’ them mair nor ten for sixpence.””—B. B. B.

Skemmel. A long wooden bench used as a seat. Icel. *skemill*, a bench.

Skep. A circular basket made of rushes, a beehive. Icel. *skeppa*.

Skift. To shift. Icel. *skifta*.

Skill. To shell, as peas. Icel. *skilja*, to separate. Cf. however Dan. *skalle*, Swed. *skala*, to shell.

Skillings. The farinaceous portion of wheat or oats separated from the husks. Cf. Icel. *skilja*, to separate.

Skirl. To scream.

Skratti. The name of a hobgoblin or boggle. This name and idea were once very well known in Cumberland, and I remember having heard it often forty or fifty years ago. This name, as known in Cumberland, is evidently the Norse or Icelandic *skratti*, a wizard or warlock. The Swedish *skratti* refers to the strange noises with which wizards work; also a goblin or monster, as *vatna-skratti*, a water sprite or monster. *Skratta sker*, the scar or rock by Karmt isle in Norway, on which certain wizards were exposed to die, reminds one of Scratchmere Scar, in Lakeland.

Skreek. To shriek. Icel. *skrækja*.

Skufter. To run about hastily or in a confused manner. Icel. *skotta*, to veer, or hover about.

Skum. That which rises to the top when a liquid is boiled. Dan. *skum*.

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Skün. To throw with a quick and hasty effort. Icel. *skunda*, to speed, *skynda*, to cause to speed, to throw.

Skut. The hind-end board of a farmer’s cart, which can be taken out. Icel. *skutr*, the stern.

Slack. A hollow boggy place. Also as place-name. e.g. Nettleslack, Ashslack. Icel. *slakki* has the same meaning. Found in Cumberland as surname.

Slape. Slippery. Icel. *sleipr*, slippery.

Slape-clogs. A cheat.

Slatter. To spill. Icel. *sletta*, to dash.

Sleek. To quench. Icel. *slekka*, to slake.

Sled. A sledge shod with iron, and used for dragging slates or peats, where carts or wheel carriages could not be used. Icel. *sleði*, a sledge.

Slocken. To quench thirst. Icel. *slökkva*, to extinguish.

Smit, *vb.* a. To mark sheep with a distinctive mark, or smear them, as farmers do, with red or ruddle previous to sending them to the fell. Lambs are so emitted when first put upon the fell, and sheep at clipping time. Each farmer has his own distinct *smit* or brand, which are carefully noted in the shepherd's book. *Smeitan*, to smear, is found in the Bible of Ulphilas = Icel. *smyrja*, to smear or anoint, as of kings. There is an Icel. word, *smita*, of fatty humors oozing through the pores of the face.

Smit, *sb.* A farmer's mark upon sheep; from the above. With the 'smit' and the 'lug mark' there are, it is stated, about 600 varieties of sheep marking in Cumberland, Westmorland, and Furness.

Snarl. A string or rope is said to be in a *snarl* when it

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is twisted and tied, so that it cannot easily be unfastened. Magnússon says, 'I have heard this expression in Eastern Iceland "færið er alt í snerli" = the line (a new fishing tackle) is all in a *snarl*, i. e. all twisted into a knot.'

Sned. To cut, lop, or prune. Icel. *sníða*.

Snop snarl. An ill-natured person.

Soop. Old dialect for sweep. Icel. *sópa*.

Sotter (of porridge). To seethe, or simmer.

Soua! Soua! or Swa! *interj.* Don't! or cease! or fie! was very common in the dialect with old people, but is now fast dying out. Vigfusson gives almost the same word in Icelandic, *svei*, fie, and he says that 'svei þér, svei, svei, svei!' is the cry of the Icelandic shepherd to his dog if he worries a sheep or barks at a stranger; and I

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have heard almost the very same words, under the same circumstances, used by a shepherd to his dog in Lakeland: ‘Sooa, theer, sooa, sooa, sooa!’

Sour. Boggy and swampy land is called *sour* land. Icel. saur, boggy or moorland. In *Landnáma*, 126, it is said of the settlement of Steinolf: ‘He saw a clearing in the dale, and there he built his house (bæ), and called the whole dale *Saurbæ*, the swampy dwelling, as there was much sour land there.’ Cf. Sowerby, Sowerby Castle, Temple Sowerby.

Sowens. The husks of oatmeal were steeped in water, and the farinaceous matter so extracted was served up boiled in milk. So served it was called *sowens*.

‘Sup good sowens,

Sup good man,

If thou issnt full

Thou may lick o’ot t’ pan.’—*Cumberland Old Saw*.

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Spean. To wean. Icel. *speni*, a teat or dug of animals.

Speer. To ask. Icel. *spyrja*, to ask.

Spelk. A splinter. Icel. *spelkr*.

Stack. Pret. Icel. *stakk*, pret. of *stinga*, to stick.

Stag. A colt when first mounted to be broken in. *Stagg* is found in surname.

Staip. To overturn, as a cart. Icel. *steypa*, to make to stoop, to overturn.

Stang. A post pole, or shaft of a cart. Icel. *stöng*, gen. *stangar*.

Stangin. On the evenings of Christmas Day and New Year’s Day the revellers were accustomed to mount those they met upon a dang, bear them so mounted to the public house, and compel them to ‘stand drinks’; this was called *stangin*.

Sted. A place, as housested, fairsted; or abode, used in the sense of place in the Bible: ‘And Abijam his son reigned in his stead,’ 1 Kings xiv. 31. Icel. *staðr*, a place, from *steðja*, to place. We have it in Lakeland frequently in place-names, as Souterstead, Bowmanstead. The place where the Temple of Thor is said to have stood at Thursby, is called Kirksteads. There, possibly, a Christian Church had been built upon the site of the former temple of Thor.

Stee. A ladder. Icel. *stigi*, a ladder, *stígr*, a step, steep ascent. Dan. *stige*, a ladder, *sti*, a steep path or ascent. Sty Head Pass, Kidsty Pike, Stake Pass.

Steek. To shut or close. In domestic speech in East Iceland *stjaka dyr*, is to fasten the door of a sheep-pen by a pole, (*stjaki*) slantingly pressed against it.

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Steel. A stile, from the same root. Dan. *steile*, Icel. *stagl*. As place-name, Steel Fell, High Steel, Steel Bank, Climb Steel. Cf. Icel. *Stagley*, an island so called.

Steg. A gander. Icel. *steggr*, a male bird.

Stoun. A sudden fit of pain. Icel. *stingr*, pl. *stingir*, shooting pains?

Stower. A stake, as 'dyke *stower*,' a hedge stake. Icel. *staurr*; Dan. and Sw. *stör*.

Sump or **Sumph.** The puddle about a midden. Dan. *sump*, mire, or puddle.

Swange. When hay is rolled into two ridges, leaving a hollow between them, it was in the dialect called a *swange*. In Icel. *svangi* means that hollow which shows between the vertebrae of the long back and the belly of a hungry cow. In Yorkshire, *swangs* are hollow places in high ground.

Sweel. To flare up and burn rapidly, as a candle. Cf. Icel. *svæla*, heat accompanied by smoke.

Sweltered. Overcome with heat Icel. *svældr*, Ulph. *swiltan*, to be overcome.

Swey. To swing. Dan. *svaje*. Cf. Icel. *sveigia*.

Swingle-tree. The splinter bar. Icel. *svingla*, to rotate.

Swipe. To drink off hastily. Icel. *svipa*, to swoop. Cf. the Icelandic phrase *drekka út í einum svip*, to quaff off in one gulp.

Taggy Bell. The curfew. So called near Penrith, where the custom of ringing the *taggy* is still kept up. Dan. *tække*, to cover.

Taistrill. Waistril or vagabond.

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Tak. To take. Icel. *taka*.

Tanggal. Seaweed. Icel. *þöngull* (from older **þangall*), seaweed stalk (*þara-þöngull*).

Cf. Dan. *tang*.

Tarn. A small mountain lake, e.g. Blea Tarn, Little Langdale Tarn, Easedale Tarn. Icel. *tjörn*, gen. *tjarnar*, a tarn. A tarn without visible outlet is called ‘a blind *tarn*.’

Teem, adj. Empty. **Tum**, vb. To empty. ‘An theer *tum* thy brock skin-bag,’ *Fray o’ Sowport*. Icel. *tómr*, empty. ‘Jörðin var eyði og tóm,’ the earth was without form and void; *tæma*, to empty.

Tengs (C.), **Tangs** (W. and F.). Tongs. Icel. *töng*, pl. *tengr*, Dan. *tang*.

Thack, *sb.* Thatch. Icel. *þak* and *þekja*, to thatch or cover.

Thack, *vb.* To thatch. Icel. *þekja*.

Thivel or **Thyvel**. The round stick still used for stirring the porridge. Cf. the unique passage in *Eyrbyggja-saga*, ed. Vigfusson 1864, p. 70,9: ‘*hann hafði þá enn eigi þafðan sinn grant*’ = he had then still not stirred (done stirring) his porridge. This pp. *þafðr* must go back to an inf. *þeffa*, to beat, stamp, stir, cf. *þæfa*; once there doubtless existed an O. N. **þæill* = *thyvel*.

Thole. To bear or endure. Icel. *þola*, to hear or endure. ‘He that *tholes*, overcomes.’—*Scottish Border Proverb*.

Thor. In place-names. Thursby, pronounced Thorsby; Thuston Water, former name of Coniston Lake.

Thrang. Busy. Icel. *þröngr*, close or tight. Proverb, ‘*Thang* as Throp’s wife.’ A rock very close to the margin of Coniston Lake is called *Thrang Cragg*.

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Threep. To argue persistently. Icel. *þrefa*. There are lands in Cumberland called Threelands or Threaplands, i. e. debateable lands or lands of disputed ownership.

Thum-sime or **-seyme**. A short rope made by twisting straw round the thumb.

Thur. These. Icel. *þeir*, they, these.

Thurm. Gut. Used of fiddle strings. Icel. *þarmr*, Dan. Swed. *tarm*.

Thwaite. A piece of land cut off by a fence, or enclosed; a fell or meadow. Icel. *þveit* or *þveiti*. The root is found in A.-S. *thwitan*, to chop or cut off [Chaucer]. *Thwite*, Cumberland dialect, to white, q. v. *Thwaites* in Lakeland were originally fields or meadows fenced or cut off. In this acceptation we have *thwaites* used as a

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common noun of the *thwaites* or meadows on the margin of Coniston Lake. So in Icelandic, of a piece of land or paddock of land, in which language it seems to have been originally used of an outlying cottage with its paddock. ‘þær jarðir allar, bú ok þveiti,’ all the estates, dwellings, and thwaites; where *bú*, cottage, and *þveiti*, field, seem opposed to one another. The modern sense of *þveit* in Icelandic is the brim of dry meadowland that gradually inclines towards bogland. From being a field-name, thwaite gradually, in Cumberland and Westmorland, became applied to farms, and then to villages and parishes, as The Thwaite near Coniston, Sea- thwaite, Ormthwaite, Crossthwaite, Bassenthwaite. And in this sense it is of very frequent application in Norway and Denmark. *Tvæt*, Dan. *tvæde*; or *thwaite*, a surname; and the word *thwaite* is also found as a surname in High Furness. There are several names ending in *thwaite*, almost identical in Norway and Lakeland:

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LAKELAND	NORWAY	LAKELAND	NORWAY
The Thawaite	Thveit	Branthwaite	Brandsthvet
	Thveitor	Braithwaite	Brandsthvet
Applethwaite	Eppelthvet	Micklethwaite	Mykelthvet
Birkthwaite	Birkethvet	Seathwaite	Sjothvet
Birthwaite	Borthvet	Ruthwaite	Ruthveit

Tike or **Tyke**. A dog; an unruly fellow. Icel. *tík*, Sw. *tík*. There is a tradition that a Curwen of Workington Hall shot a Howard of Corby in a duel on Carlisle Sands, during an assize meeting, for offensively using the word ‘tyke’ to him. *Tyke* is a trickster, especially in dealings in horses, and in this acceptation the word seems, like the character which it represents, to have come to us from Yorkshire. What *tyke* means in that county, and hence often in Lakeland also, may be made evident from the following description of ‘A Yorkshire Tyke.’

‘Bane ta Clapham town gate, liv’d an owd Yorksher tike
Who i dealing i horseflesh had ne’er met his like,

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Twor hia pride that ive an the hard bargains hede hit,
Hede bit a girt monny, bud nivver been bit'

Nidderdale Almanac, 1873.

Til. To. O. N. and Dan., Swe. and Scotch, *til*, to.

Tite. Soon. Cf. Icel. *títt*, n. of *tiðr*, often, and *tiðla* (for *tiðlega*), early.

Titter. Sooner. Cf. Icel. *tiðar*, adv., oftener. 'Titter an better,' Proverb.

Toft. A homestead. The farmhouse including the farm buildings. Icel. *toft* or *topt*, orig. the four roofless walls of a house, hence, in pl. homestead, in place-names. In the East of England this word is used as part of place-name, as Lowestoft. In Cumberland it is the most usual name for farmhouse, farm buildings, or homestead. E. g. 'That barn,' says Hyne, 'i' Palmer's *toft* e'll dea reet weel to keav in,' *The Upshot*. In a Court Book of

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the Manor of Derwentwater, Gawen Wren was fined ten shillings about the year 1640 for having two fires in one *toft* at the same time. The fuel then chiefly used was wood, and this was one of the various expedients for preventing its too rapid consumption. In the article upon Bloomeries it will be seen that an Act was passed in the reign of Elizabeth abolishing Bloomeries in High Furness, because they deprived the tenants of their proper wood and fuel. *Toft* is found as surname.

Top Sark. A loose overcoat of coarse grey wool, very commonly used by farmers and their men servants in the early part of this century. 'I set off i t' rain wid my basket an' t' things in't, anonder my *top sark*, to keep o' dry.'—*B. B. B.*

Trail. To go slowly. Icel. *tregligr*, indolent.

'They were o' trailin away varra slā.'—GIBSON, *Folk-speech*.

Trinter. Sheep of three years or winters. An example of the method of reckoning by winters is found in the Bible of Ulphilas, where the girl of twelve years old is said to be 'twalib wintrus,' Luke viii. 42. The method of counting years by winters is almost invariably found in the *Landnáma*, e. g. 'At that time had passed from the beginning of the world 6073 winters' (*Landnáma*, ch. vi. p. 33). The corresponding Icelandic word is *þrévetr* = a sheep of three winters or years old.

Trod. A footpath, called a fit *trod*. Cf. Icel. *tröð*.

Tuithwark. Toothache.

Tun or **Ton.** Originally a field or place surrounded by a hedge. In this sense Wycliffe translates Matt. xxii. 5: 'But thei dispiseden, and wenten forth, oon to his *tūn* (field), another to his merchandise.' Cf. Icel. *tún*, an enclosed field round a homestead.

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Twinter. A sheep of two years old (lit. two winters). Corresponding to Icelandic *tvævetr* = a sheep of two winters old.

Unco. Uncommon. Found on both the Cumberland and Scottish side of the Border as 'unco gude,' very good. Icel. *einkar*, specially or greatly, prefixed to adjectives or adverbs, as 'einkar vel,' very well.

Unket. Uncommon.

Upshot. A Cumberland festive gathering of general entertainment and merriment usually held upon Fassen's even, i. e. Shrove Tuesday evening, or the eve of the Feast before Lent. *The Upshot*, Mark Lonsdale's longest poem in the dialect, takes its title from being the description of such an upshot. The opening lines are as follows:

'Thur Worton lads an twea three mair
Theer mud be six or seeven
Tawk't of an upshot lang an sair,
To keep up Fassen's even.'

It seems to have taken its name *upshot* from paying *up* the *shot* or expenses described in the following lines:

'At teyme when nwote bit teeth was gaun,
An' aw by the chafts was tether'd
Wull Brough an' Ritson tuik in haun,
To see 'at *shot* was gether't.

Uptak. The taking up or finding of anything. Icel. *upptak*, a seizure or confiscation.

Waffle. To hesitate or vacillate. Icel. *væflast*.

Waffler. One who hesitates. In the slang of Iceland both *væfill* and *væflari*, in the same sense, occur.

‘St, George the greet Champion o’ fame an renown,
Was nobbit a *waffler* to Matthew Macree.’—ANDERSON.

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Wale, vb. To select. Icel. *velja*. In the Bible of Ulphilas *waljan* is ‘to choose,’ and *walis* is ‘chosen’ or true. Professor Wilson calls the Old Man Mountain, ‘The *wale* o’ gude fellows, the king of old men.’ The Old Man has probably in his time formed the subject of more comparisons than any other man. In a letter I have from Professor Ruskin, he says, ‘I have more correspondence upon my table than the bulk of the Old Man. I mean the cairn upon the top, not the mountain.’

Wale, sb. A selection. Icel. *val*, choice, selection. Outweels or wales, from *wale*, to select, is used of small apples selected from the rest as worthless. Cf. Icel. *út-val*, selection, *út-valinn*, selected. ‘There’s no *wale* o wigs in the Tweed.’

Wanely. Quietly. Icel. *vanalega*, wontedly, in the usual way.

‘He shuts the fold yett *wanely* to,
Deuce tak that cwoley dog.’—ANDERSON.

Wankle. Feeble, tottering, failing in health. A-S. *wancol*.

Wap. A truss or lap of straw. Cf. Icel. *vaf*, what is lapped together, and *vefja*, to roll or lap.

Warday. Every day, i. e. week-day, as distinguished from Sunday. Swed. *hvardag*, Dan. *hverdag*, cf. Icel. *hvárr dagr*, every day.

‘Hes better in his *warday* duds
Than udders drest in aw their best.’—ANDERSON.

Wark. To ache. Icel. *verkr*, an ache, *verkja*, to ache.

Wath. A ford. The word was formerly well known in the dialect, but has now in some measure fallen into disuse. It is still found, however, in place-names. The Wath in the Abbey Holme, How Wath, Holly Wath.

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Watendlath may be 'the lath or barn at the end of the wath.' Icel. *vað*, a ford.

Welt. To roll or roll over, to incline to one side. A cask or vessel is thus said to *welt* over. Icel. *velta*, to roll or roll over; Ulph. *valtjan* = *κλίνδεν*, to roll.

Whang. A Shoelatchet. Icel. *þvengr*, Dan. *tvinge*. See Gen. xv. in Icelandic Bible.

Whelp. A pup. Icel. *hvelpr*.

Whidder. To tremble. Cf. Icel. *hviðra*, to move shudderingly, said of a spasmodic pain shooting through the intestines.

Whilk. Which. Dan. *hvilken*.

Whinge. To cry. Cf. Icel. *kveina*, to cry, to whimper; and *kveinka*, to whimper from pain or discomfort.

Whins. Furze.

White. To peel or cut with a knife. Chaucer, 'to thwite,' the same root as thwaite.

Whittle. A carving-knife.

Whittle Gate. The right of the schoolmaster to dine at each house in the parish in turn.

In the last century this was in the rural parishes of Cumberland the usual method of providing the board of the village school-master; in some instances he staid a week at each farmhouse in turn. Wastdale Head, where it continued until about twenty years ago, was the last parish in which this custom prevailed.

Whye or Quey. A heifer of any age up to three years old. Icel. *kvíga*, a young cow before she has calved.

Whye Cofe. A female calf. Icel. *kvígu-kálfr*.

Wineberries. Red currants. Norweg. *vinbær*.

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Wizzent. Withered. Often applied to small withered or shrivelled apples. Now wizened. Icel. *visnaðr*, withered, from *visna*, to wither or dry up.

Wrang. Wrong. Icel. *rangr* (anciently *vrangr*).

Wyke or Wick. A small bay. Icel. *vík*; the Norse sea-kings were called vikings, or creekers, from frequenting bays or creeks. *Pool Wyke* in Windermere and also in Bassenthwaite Lake=pool or deep-water bay.

Yammer. To talk or hum indistinctly. Icel. *jamla*, to grumble. I think I may say for certain that I have heard *jamra* used in the same sense.—E. M.

Yark. Old Cumbrian for ‘beat’ or ‘belabour.’ Icel. *þjarka*, to belabour.

Yek. Oak. Icel. *eik*.

Yek Cubbert. Oak cupboard.

Yule. Icel. *Jól*. Christmas. This was a great festival in heathen times, and afterwards applied to Christmas.

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SUPPLEMENT

CHIEFLY OF DIALECT WORDS AS APPLIED TO SHEPHERDING,
OR USED IN LOCAL FOLK-LORE AND ANTIQUITIES.

Allans. The land in a stream or beck, partly or entirely surrounded by water; an island in a river (as if from ‘à,’ a beck or stream, or river, and ‘land’). The charter of the Manor of Coniston describes ‘Torver Beck and Beck Allans’ for a stated distance, as belonging to the adjoining Manor of Coniston. In a county division, Westmorland claims ‘the Beck and Beck Allans’ from Lancashire for the boundary extending from Windermere Lake to Little Langdale, i.e. for nearly the whole course of the River Brathay.

Attermite (Westmorland). A family likeness; a chip of the old block. Icel. *aettar-mot*, a family likeness. See Cleasby, under the word, where it is said of two men that they had a family likeness, in that both had an unsteady gait.

Bate. Applied in the Lake Country to the angle of the cleavage of the rocks.

Batter. The angle of inclination in stone walls. In house walls where the stone is exposed, it is the slope of particular stones inwards from the face of the wall most suitable for carrying off the rain water; in fence and dry

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stone walk upon the fell, the bottom of the wall is generally much broader than the top, and the batter is the angle of inclination between them. ‘Chock ‘ is a square stone used to block the top ‘cam ‘ in such walls; and ‘a through’ is a large flat stone going quite *through* the wall as a support.

Bell wether. The leader of a flock of sheep upon the mountain or fell. A bell is attached to it, to guide the other members of the flock at night or in misty weather, and they are accustomed to follow it. Such a bell wether is yet (1896) to be found in this parish in a flock whose boundaries are the Walna Scar Mountain, approaching 2,000 ft. above the sea level.

Blanchard. A one-eyed cock; a veteran. ‘ Stags’ are young cocks.

Brash. The plunge of the brasher or dasher of a churn. ‘Cursty! Cum kurn a *brash*, butter’s abuin.’—*Old Cumberland Proverb*.

Carry. The *sett* or direction of the clouds.

Charms. The value of charms in connexion with the dialect is that many of them were framed in the dialect, e.g., a charm to be used to cure an attack of hiccough, as:

‘Hiccough, hiccough, gang away
An cum ageean some udder day
When aw brew an when aw beeake,
An than awl mak a hiccough ceeake.’

When one of the first set of teeth is extracted, a little salt is to be placed upon it and it is then to be placed in the fire with the following incantation:

‘Fire fire! burn beean,
God sen my tuith ageean.

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Charr. A beautiful and palatable fish, belonging to the salmon and trout genus, *Salmo*, and differing from the true salmon only in a few particulars. British Charr are found chiefly, if not wholly, in Windermere and the neighbouring lakes. Coniston Lake and Gaits Water Tarn in Torver are amongst the most favoured resorts of the Charr. Francis Hoylake’s *Latin Dictionary* (1640) has: ‘A *Chare*, a fish so called, onely proper to Winandermeer in Lancashire.’ The *New World of English Words*

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(1658) has: ‘*Chare*, a kinde of fish, which breeds peculiarly in Winandermere in Lancashire.’ In Camden’s *Britannia* it is said of Windermere that it ‘breeds a peculiar kind of fish found nowhere else, which the inhabitants thereby call a *Chare*.’

Cinder. Icel. *sindr*, slag or dross. This word is applied to the slag or dross containing a large percentage of iron which is found on the margin of Wastwater, Coniston, and other lakes, also in the Duddon Valley. It indicates the sites of the Old Bloomaries, where iron was brought to be smelted: suppressed in the Hawkshead and Coniston district, in A.D. 1565, the seventh year of Queen Elizabeth, the tenants agreeing between themselves to pay an annual rent of £20 called Bloomsmithy Rent. Many field-names are derived from it, e. g., Cinder Hill, Cinder How, Cinder Knab, Cinder Beck, Cinder Barrow.

Claggeran. Holding to a rock with hands and feet, so as to climb it. ‘Gaun up an’ doon t’ brant pleases, lowpen t’ becks an’ *claggeran* up t’ craggs.’—Rev. T. Clarke’s description of *Shippardan or Shepherd Life*.

Clay Daubin or Dabbin. In the North and East of Cumberland the cottages were usually built of clay, interspersed with layers of straw. It was necessary for the

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proper consolidation of the fabric that the whole of it should be built in one day. Hence there was a very general gathering of the neighbours to assist in such erections (often for a new married couple), and after the edifice was completed the day was concluded with festivities including music and dancing. Anderson’s Dialect Poem, *The Clay Daubin*, gives a graphic description of such an occasion.

Cock drunks. The fruit or berries of the mountain ash. The name explains the superstitious idea connected with it.

Cock Loft. The attics in Cumberland farmhouses were formerly so called as being the out of the way places in which cocks were trained for battle.

‘See dancing we’d hev on the *cock lofl*.

Bill Adams the fiddler sud play.’—ANDERSON.

Cock Main. Name of a contest in which several pairs of cocks were matched against each other. Thus, twenty pairs were called a ‘forty-cock main.’

Cock-Penny. The fee paid by scholars to the master in Cumberland Parish Schools, to be staked upon the annual school cock fight, fought upon Fassen’s Even or Fastings Eve, i. e. the eve of Lent.

Cock-walk. Farm yard where a cock was kept to be prepared for fighting.

Cocker. One who trains and fights game cocks. ‘The *cocker* o’ Dawston.’—Anderson.

Cocking. Cockfighting. ‘At *cocking* the Dawstoners nivver were bet.’ —Anderson. At present the crest of the Dalston School Board is a fighting cock.

Cowgate or **Cattlegate.** The right of pasturage upon a common or marsh.

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Crock or **Crock Yow** = ewe. An old and powerless ewe. To *crock* is to become feeble and powerless through age.

Darrack, Dark, or Dargue. A day’s work. ‘Ive nit sea offen hed a harder *darrack* efter t’sheep owther at clippin time or soavin time, as a hed followin that ould gray heidit chap an carryin his ledder bags.’—Gibson’s *Joe and the Geologist*. In the dialect this word was very generally used to denote measure or extent. For example, a field was said to be of so many *darrack* of shearing, that is, it would take a man so many days to reap it. A *darrack* of peats upon a moss was as much turf as a man could dig in one day.

Daub. To plaister, as with mortar.

Dumb wife. An idea formerly prevailed in Cumberland that dumb people had the power of foretelling the future. Hence, any old dumb woman in a parish became a sort of wise woman, and as such was consulted in the case of stolen property, or future events, or tolling fortunes: such wise women were not always dumb. I have known one remarkable for her volubility. See *Viss*, as applied to Guest in the *Landnáma*. Generally, however, they were dumb, and marked their predictions with initial letters upon a board with chalk, as in the following verse, from Anderson’s popular song of *Sally Gray*:

‘I caw’d to sup cruds wi’ Dick Miller,

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An hear aw his cracks an his jwokes,
The *Dumb weyfe* was telling their fortunes—
What! I mud be leyke udder fwokes—
Wi' chalk, on a pair o' auld bellows,
Twea letters she meeade in her way,
S means Sally the wide warl' owre
And G stands for nwote else but Gray.'

Dwinnal. To pine or waste away by degrees. 'He *dwinnalt*

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awae ta nwote, an than deet.'—Rev. T. Clarke, *Johnny Shepherd*.

Dwine, as above.

Feeace o' clay. A solid and inflexible countenance.

'Aw defy t' *feeace* o' clay.'—GIBSON, *Folk-Speech*.

Fell. A mountain. The Icelandic form is *ffall*; Norwegian *ffeld*, pronounced *fiell*. In the lake district it is applied to particular mountains, as Scawfell, Kirkfell, Bowfell, and is applied to a mountain district generally which is termed 'The Fell.' The unenclosed upland common is also called 'The Fell,' as in the following verse from Richardson:

'Ya winter neet, aw meynd it weel,
Our fowk hed been at *fell*;
An beein tired went suin ta bed,
An aw sat be mesel.'

Fell seyde. The mountain districts of Cumberland are so called.

'If they ax whoar aw cum fra
Awl say the *fell seyde*,
Whoar fadder and mudder,
An honest fowk beyde.'—ANDERSON, *Croglin Watty*.

Fell seyders. Cumbrian mountaineers are so called.

Fodder-gang (North Lancashire). The narrow passage or *gangway* in front of cattle stalls, by which fodder was conveyed to them.

Fratch. A scolding match. 'The Cumberland Scold,' a poem which is the joint effort of two Cumberland poetesses (Miss Blamire of Thackwood, from 1747 to 1794, and Miss Gilpin of Scaleby Castle, from 1738 to 1811) is the poetical reproduction of such a scolding

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which they had themselves heard. The following is the last verse:

'For thou was nowther gud nor rich,
An temper'd leyke auld Scratch 'em
The deil a day gangs owre me heed,
But *fratch* 'em FRATCH 'EM FRATCH 'EM.

Frith. Land is said to be *frithed* when it is freed from tillage and devoted to pasturage, as grass land or wood land. The original idea seems to be to devote the land to *wood growing*, as *frith* means a *wood* in the old dialect, and it is still found in this sense in place-names, as High Frith, in Cartmel.

Geeàll. To ache with pain brought on by intense cold.

Git ower. A very common Cumbrian phrase, meaning to *get the better of* in a bargain or an argument. Richardson has a poem founded upon the Cumbrian phrase of defiance, 'Git ower me 'at can.' The following is the concluding verse:

Thinks I, its queer, an axt a man
If t' reason he could tell:
'Aye weel eneuft I can' he said,
'He's gitten ower his-sel;
He's swallow'd aw his fadder left
Aw t' hooses, brass, an lan,
An twenty scwore o' sheep beside,
Git ower that 'at can!'

Godspeed. A wooden screen or barrier against the wind, within the door, apparently called 'Godspeed¹,' because leave-takings or good-byes were said there. 'Betty com, limp in by t' *Godspeed*.'"—B. B. B.

Goods. Property. This word however has a very different meaning in Cumberland and in Furness. In Cumberland, goods = household furniture, 'goods and chattels'; in Furness, goods are the sheep and cattle belonging to a farm.

¹ To greet the coming, speed the parting guest.

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Goose Grass or **Gūse Grass.** The right of depasturing a goose with its goslings upon the fell or common.

Harden. Very rough and coarse linen used in Cumberland in the last century for jackets and overcoats.

Harden Sark. An overcoat made of such linen. The total annual payments made to the preaching schoolmaster of the parish of Buttermere, in the last century, were—a *harden sark*, the right of Whittle Gate, a darrack of peats, and a *gūse grass*.

Hay Bay. A commotion or disturbance. At times used to signify a 'discussion with sticks,' as in the following lines from Anderson:

'The *Hay Bay*¹ now ceast
For he spak leyke a Preest
An cawt for a bottle o' rum ye tkna.'

Heaf, sb. The place where a mountain or fell sheep is born, and where it continues to live and pasture, is called its *Heaf*.

Heaf, vb. Of sheep, to cling to the same spot. Hence, people who cling to their home or birthplace, are said to *heaf* themselves to it.

Heaf-going Sheep. Sheep which remain as one flock upon a certain portion of the fell, and which are usually sold with the farm to which that portion of the fell is apportioned.

Hefted. Meaning as above, and used in dialect of North Cumberland.

Héronsue. The heron.

Hogg. A lamb for twelve months after weaning.

¹ The quotation is from Anderson's 'Kursmas Eve,' and the reader will know the kind of discussion implied in a *Hay Bay* if he read the three or four verses of that poem which precede the quotation.

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Hogg-whoals. Holes made through the fence walls in Lakeland to allow the sheep to pass from one pasture to another: 'When aw gat him intult *hogg-whoals* wi' his heead in an his feet oot aw *dud switch him*.'—Gibson's *Betty Yewdale*.

Horsin stean. The stone (often formed into steps) near Cumberland farmhouses, from which horses were mounted. Horsin or horsing is here used as a verb, as it is also in the old popular Cumberland measure, 'Horse and away,' i.e. mount or *to horse* and away.

Hullet. The owl. 'The silence was broken by a skirling *hullet*; Sure nivver did hullet, heronsue, or miredrum mak sec a noise before.'—*A bran new Wark*.

Kurruck, Kirruck, Sunken Kirk, or Kirk Sucken. Words in the dialect used to describe the huge stone circles to be found in the districts of Lakeland. Examples: Long Meg and her daughters, near Little Salkeld, Cumberland; Stone Circle, near Keswick; and Stone Circle at Swinside, near Broughton-in-Furness. For full description see vol. v, part i, article vii, 'On a group of Cumberland Megaliths in *Transactions of Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian Society for 1881*.

Miredrum. The *bittern*, a bird frequenting swampy and miry wastes, in which it kept up a continuous *drumming* sound, hence its local name of miredrum or drummer. Several fields in the Lake district, which have apparently been the resort of this bird, have their place-name of Drummer Mire derived therefrom; there is one so called in Troutbeck in Westmorland, and one at Coniston.

Need-fire. A fire first kindled by rubbing two pieces of wood together; ignited by this, a fire of wood was piled

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up, through the smoke of which all the cattle upon the farm were made to pass, as a remedy against murrain or other infectious disease. From this fire a brand was passed on to light a similar fire on the next farm, where the process of passing the cattle through the smoke was repeated, and so on at other farms in succession. This process was formerly well known and believed in, in High Furness and also in Cumberland.

Pack Saddle Bell. A curious brass bell formed of a hollow globe, with a brass ball inside, and attached to pack saddle horses, to guide those that followed. The writer has such a bell formerly used on the pack saddle road between Kendal and Whitehaven, passing over Hard Knott and Wrynose.

Push Plū or Plough. A plough which was used by being pushed by the hand. It was generally used for taking off the surface or top sod from turf, and this top sod was used to bank up the surface of turf fires so that they might continue alight and smoulder for a long time. Such ploughs are still to be found in Lakeland, and are much sought after by collectors of local antiquities.

Rashbearing. The annual custom in northern parishes still kept up at Ambleside and elsewhere in Westmorland, of collecting flowers and rushes (rashes), and walking in procession to spread them on the floor of the parish church, where they remained as a covering for the whole year. The young girls generally took a part in this. *T' Resh Bearin* is one of the Rev. T. Clarke's best dialect pieces. In some parishes, *rushing* the church in this way was paid for, and in this (Torver) parish, in the early part of the last century, it is an annual item represented

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in the church accounts by one shilling a year. The object was to counteract the effect of the damp, unpaved church floor: an allusion is made to it in the hymn:

‘Our fathers to the house of God,
As yet a building nude,
Brought off rings from the flowery sod,
And fragrant rushes strewed.’

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Rud. The red haematite used for marking or smitting sheep. Formerly obtained chiefly from the Wasdale Screes. Called also *Ruddle*. The smit marked upon the sheep with this Bud or Ruddle is generally the initial letter or letters of the owner's name, except in sword smit, resembling sword, *staple* smit, resembling staple.

Rushstand. Called *rashstand* in Central and N.-W. Cumberland, and *reshstand* in North Cumberland. The iron stand used for supporting rush lights, once the sole light used for domestic purposes. A great variety of these stands have been obtained by local collectors, some very complex and bearing several lights.

Saurin. *Vinegar*. See *Ann Wheeler's Dialogues*.

Scarrow. A name generally applied to small fish in the dialect of the Abbey Holme, seems to be from the Latin *scaurus*, a name brought there possibly by the monks of the Monastery or Abbey which gives its name to the parish.

Shepherd's Book, The. A book published at irregular intervals extending over several years, and containing the distinctive marks, ear mark and smit (see under the word) of the stocks of heaf-going sheep of the farms in the fell or mountain districts of Cumberland, Westmorland, and North Lancashire. With the ear mark and

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smit together, the marks of upwards of 600 farms or estates are given therein. The ear mark is the most important, as being that which is generally sworn to in any legal suit. Each stock is illustrated by the diagram of a sheep, nearly 1000 in all. These marks are interesting as being described in the technical dialect of the sheep farmers, e. g.:

Bitted. With a triangular piece out out of the ear.

Cropped. A portion of the top of the ear cut off.

Cropping. In both ears is conceded only to Hall farms, or such as belonged to the lord of the manor.

Forked. With a triangular piece cut out of the top of the ear.

Fold-bitted. When the ear is folded and cut, leaving a triangular space.

Fold-bit. The ear mark so formed.

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Halved. With half the ear cut off.

Key-bitted. With a rectangular piece cut out of the ear

Punched. With a circular hole in the ear.

Bitted. With a rectangular piece cut out the whole length of the ear, dividing the oar into two parts.

Shear-bitted. Sheared or cut to a point at the end of the ear.

Sneck-bitted. The ear cut in resemblance of the *sneck* or latch of a gate.

In the stock of sheep belonging to Raven Cragg, Barton, Westmorland, is a curious connexion between the place-name and the smit, which for that farm is the figure of a raven, smitted or marked upon the side of the sheep.

Siddick. This word, which is found in many instances as place-name, and also as common noun on the Cumberland shore of the Solway, has been originally Sea dyke, corrupted to Siddick, and was applied to the sea dyke which, in the Abbey Holme and other parts of Cumberland,

¹ In some cases there are two or more stocks with distinctive ear marks and smits belonging to the same farm named by the mountain or fell upon which they pasture, e.g. Downey Dale Farm in Wasdale Head has the following:-Greenhow Stock, Lingmel Stock, Yewbarrow Stock, and Mosedale Stock.

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was reared and maintained to protect the flat agricultural country against the encroachment of the sea. In the Abbey Holme the rent of a large and valuable farm is assigned to a parish committee for the proper maintenance of this sea dyke.

Smiddy. A blacksmith's shop. Applied also as a nick-name to the blacksmith, as in the following instance from Anderson: 'Treyne Tom, *Smiddy* Dick, an Deef Ree, ye tkna.'

Snāpe. *vb.* To check or restrain. 'This wedder ell *snap*'t grass.' Colloquial in High Furness.

Snape. *sb.* A check.

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Stint or **Stent**. The Cumberland marshes adjoining the Solway and its tributaries, the Wampool and Waver, have their pastures limited or *stinted* as to the number of cattle for which they will afford grass. To define them thus is to stint them, and each cattle grass is called a stint or stent; called also *Marsh Stint* or *Marsh Stent*.

Teanale. The basket used for cockling on the Arnside and Cartmel coasts of Morecambe Bay. 'He threw a *teanale* wi' cockles at me.'—*Ann Wheeler's Dialogues*.

Tether or **Tedder**. A rope to fasten sheep or cattle.

Tether Styak. The stake to which it was tied.—*Borrowdale Letter*.

The Borrowdale Letter. This is a somewhat unique production, as being much the earliest piece of prose extant in the Cumberland dialect¹. It is by Isaac Ritson, and

¹ Dr. Gibson, in his introduction to his volume of *Folkspeech*, claims for the Borrowdale Letter, the merit of surpassing all productions in the Cumberland dialect (prose or poetry), because, to quote his own words, 'it is an exposition of the folkspeech in that part of the county where, and where only, the unadulterated Old Norse rooted vernacular is spoken.' The other Cumbrian writers, in which he includes Stagg, Anderson, and Rayson, he calls *Scoto-Cumbrian*. In making this sweeping assertion Dr. Gibson is, I think, decidedly wrong. Stagg, Anderson, and Rayson wrote as unmixed a form of the Cumberland dialect as Dr. Gibson himself, and the poetic productions of every one of them were singularly free from that Scottish intermixture which meets one in the dialect almost as soon as we cross Stanwix Bridge at Carlisle, or at any rate Gosling Syke, which is a little further on.

professes to be the letter of a Borrowdale shepherd to his friend, describing his voyage from Whitehaven to Dublin, and the wonderful sights he saw there. The peculiarity of the letter is not so much that the writer employs a dialect different from that of other Cumberland dialect writers, but that having had all his former experiences in a valley where he had heard nothing but what was connected with farming, and more especially with shepherding, he is put to great straits in relating

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his adventures at sea, and the wonders which he saw in the Irish metropolis. Thus he calls ships, sea nags; the harbours he calls ‘girt foalds wi’ out gates,’ i.e. farm yards without gates: pulling up the anchor he calls ‘slippin t’ helter’; an anchor he terms a tedder styak, from the custom of fastening an unruly animal to a stake; sails are *wind clythes* like *blinder bridles*¹. Trinity College, Dublin, which, with its museum, especially attracted his attention, he calls Collership hoos or scholarship house, and the river Liffy he terms Dublin Beck. The following is the language in which he records his appreciation of the music in St. Patrick’s Cathedral; ‘Summit they cawt rowargins (organs) began bealin like ea hundred mad bulls, an as menne lads i their sarks began a skreamin, murder.’

¹ Blinder bridles (called in Furness, gloppers) are horse bridles, with large eye shades to prevent the horses from becoming restive.

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Twine t’ tail ont. Used in the *Borrowdale Letter* for the steersman guiding the ship with the helm, which the writer compares with twining or twisting the tail of a cow, a method practised in Cumberland with the object of turning the cow in the required direction.

Watch Hill. The hill from which the outlook was kept against border freebooters; hence now frequent as Border place-name.

Whick. Alive or living.

Whicknin. Leven or yeast.

Whicks. Maggots.

Whicks. Young shoots of thorns transplanted.

Whickset Hedge. A growing or living fence.

All dialect forms of the old word *quick*, living, as found in ‘Let them go down *quick* into the pit,’ ‘Judge the *quick* and the dead.’

Woo or **Oo** or **Ooa**, are all dialect names for wool in Cumberland, Westmorland, and North Lancashire. The following represents a dialect conversation which has been heard here:

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Wool-dealer (pointing to well-filled bag); 'Oo?'

Farmer (owner of bag): 'Aye, oo.'

Wool-dealer: 'Aw oo?'

Farmer: 'Aye, aw oo.'

Wool-dealer: 'Aw, ya oo?'

Farmer: 'Aye, aw ya oo.'

which being interpreted means:

Wool-dealer: 'Wool?'

Farmer: 'Yes, wool.'

Wool-dealer: 'All wool?'

Farmer: 'Yes, all wool.'

Wool-dealer: 'All one wool?'

Farmer: 'Yes, all one wool.'

By asking, Is it all one wool? is meant, Is it all the wool

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of one season, and sheared or clipped at the same clipping time or shearing time.

Such wool is, in the dialect, sometimes called the wool of 'one clip.'

Woo craggs or **oo craggs**. The names of rocks or craggs in Lakeland, over which sheep having passed, have left some of their wool cleaving to the craggs.

Yilp. To make a sound like the squeak or yelp of a mouse. 'Yilp leyke mice'. —

Borrowdale Letter.