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SALAMANIINI

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**ABSTRACTS
OF
RECORDS AND MANUSCRIPTS
RESPECTING THE
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER
FORMED INTO
A HISTORY,
CORRECTING THE VERY ERRONEOUS ACCOUNTS, AND SUPPLYING NUMEROUS DEFICIENCIES,
IN SIR ROB. ATKINS, AND SUBSEQUENT WRITERS.**

BY
THOMAS DUDLEY FOSBROOKE, F.A.S. &c.

VOLUME THE FIRST.

Glocester,
PRINTED BY JOS. HARRIS,
AND SOLD BY
MESSRS. CADELL AND DAVIES, STRAND; MESSRS. NICOLL, PALL-MALL;
CARPENTER, BOND-STREET; MR. SIMCOK, WARWICK-STREET,
GOLDEN-SQUARE; MESSRS. WHITE, FLEET-STREET;
AND MESSRS. RIVINGTON, ST. PAUL'S
CHURCH-YARD, LONDON

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PROVINCIAL PROVERBS, DIALECT, &c.

You are a man of Dursley: this means, one who breaks his word. (5)

It is long in coming as Cotswold barley. This is applied to such things as are slow but sure; the corn on the wolds being exposed to the winds is backward at first, but afterwards overtakes the forwardest in this county. (6)

He looks as if he had lived on Tewkesbury Mustard. This is spoken of such as have a sad or severe countenance. (7)

(5) Fuller's Worthies in Gloucestershire.

(6) Id.

(7) Id.

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As sure as God's in Gloucestershire: from the multitude of abbies, or the mere alliteration of the letter G.

The Tracies have always wind in their faces. This is founded on a false tradition, since Sir William Tracey was most active against the four Knights who killed Thomas Becket: it is imposed on the *Tracies* for miraculous penance, that whether they go by land or water the wind is ever in their faces. It seems much more likely to be taken from what is observed in the same work, that "Sir William Tracey's *intended* pilgrimages to Jerusalem for penance, were ever crossed with *adverse* winds." (1)

Saving must equal having; this is a proverb, says Mr. Smith, in the hundred of Berkeley, which signifies that both ends must meet.

The principal distinction of the provincial dialect, which attracts the immediate attention of a stranger, is the incessant use of the expletives *do* and *did*. This, as appears by the translation of the Bible now in use, was the common mode of speech in the reign of James. This distinction is aided by the propensity of turning the *o* into *a* in some words— as *Glastershire* for *Glostershire*—*hark* for *hawk*—*laryer* for *lawyer*, —

The Salamanca Corpus: "Provincial Proverbs, Dialect &c." (1807)

Clergymen, gentlemen of the law, and farmers are stiled, Parson A. Lawyer B. and Farmer C. —Physicians are stiled *Mr.* and Surgeons *Dr.* — *Wenchin* is used for girls, and Saxon termination is preserved in the words, *peasen* and *housen*—*thee* is used for *thou* and *you*—*hire* A.S. for *hear*. The anglo-saxon *thilk* is in constant use—*plym* is a verb, expressing the swelling of wood by immersion in water—*her* is put for *she*—*she* for *her*, and *I* for *me*—*Wilgil* is an Hermaphrodite—*Nale* is an Alehouse—*sprack* is used for lively— the anglo-saxon *frem* used in Leicestershire, is used for fresh, plump— Sickles are called reaping-hooks—*Pike* is *Turnpike*—*Picks* are *Pitchforks* [This should be *Pikes*. Bishop Jewel translates, says Mr. Steevens, *Furcas* by *Pikes*.] *Neglection* is used for *neglect*; thus Owen Feltham (Resolves, p. 105) "By one neglection of her

(1) Fuller's Worthies in Gloucestershire.

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counsel." —*Pitching* is used for *precipitation* in its chemical acceptation— *Hopping-mad* is applied to persons in violent anger—*well* is *will*—*winchwell*, deep as a *winchwell*, or well without a bottom. A *whirlpool*, this is from the A.S. *wince*, Trochlea, girgillus and *well*, fons. —*Tid*, this is from the old English—*Tidder* A. S. temporius—maturus—there are other for which I refer the reader to books, common in Gloucestershire.

The following is the great provincial song of the county: —

GEORGE RIDLER'S OVEN

A right famous old Gloucestershire Ballad. (1)

I.

The *Stwons* that built George Ridler's Oven,
And *thauy qeum* from the *Bleakeney's Wuaar*;
And George he *wur* a jolly old *Mon*,
And his *yead* it *graw'd* above his *yare*.

The Salamanca Corpus: "Provincial Proverbs, Dialect &c." (1807)

II.

One thing of George Ridler I must commend,
And that *wur vor* a notable *theng*;
He *mead* his *braags avoore* he died,
Wi' any *dree* brothers his *zons zs'hou'd zeng*.

III.

There's Dick the treble and John the mean
(Let every *mon zing* in his *auwn pleace*;)
And George he *wur* the elder brother,
And *therevore* he would *zing* the *beass*.

(1) I copied this from the song printed for the Gloucestershire Society; but the orthography by no means conveys the ancient provincial dialect.

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IV.

Mine hostess's *moid* (and her *neaum 'twur* Nell)
A pretty wench, and I lov'd her well;
I lov'd her well, good *reauzon* why
Because *zshe* lov'd my dog and I.

V.

My dog is good to catch a hen
A *duck* or *goose* is *vood ver* men;
And where good company I spy
O *thether gwoes* my dog and I.

VI.

My *Mwother* told I when I *wur* young,
If I did *vollow* the strong-beer *pwoot*;

The Salamanca Corpus: "Provincial Proverbs, Dialect &c." (1807)

That *drenk* would *pruv* my *auverdrow*,
And *meauk* me wear a *thzread-bare cwoat*.

VII.

My dog has gotten *zitch* a trick,
To visit *moids* when *thauy* be *zick*;
When *thauy* be *zick* and like to die,
O *tether gwoes* my dog and I.

VIII.

When I have *dree zixpences* under my thumb,
O then I be welcome wherever I come;
But when I have none, O then I pass by,
'Tis poverty *pearts* good company.

IX.

If I should die, as it may hap,
My *greauve* shall be under the good *yeal* tap;
In *vouled earms* there *wool* us lie
Cheek by jowl my dog and I.