VNiVERSiTAS STVDIi SALAMANTiNi

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A GLOSSARY

OF

BERKSHIRE WORDS AND PHRASES.

BY

MAJOR B. LOWSLEY,

Royal Engineers.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED FOR THE ENGLISH DIALECT SOCIETY

BY TRÜBNER & CO., LUDGATE HILL.

1888.

[NP]

TO HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY

THE QUEEN,

THIS GLOSSARY OF PROVINCIAL WORDS USED IN

THE COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE,

IS, BY SPECIAL PERMISSION, MOST

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY'S MOST

OBEDIENT, HUMBLE SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

[NP]

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[NP]

PREFACE.

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IN 1852 my late father, Mr. J. Lowsley, of Hampstead Norreys, compiled a small Glossary of Provincial Words used in Berkshire, which was published in that year by Mr. John Gray Bell, of Bedford Street, Covent Garden, London, together with tracts of a similar nature for a few other counties. The little work undertaken, at the request of the Publisher, contained such words as happened to be collected in the very short time then available. Only sixty copies were printed. Additional Words and Phrases have been since noted, and the present Glossary, with local notes, is submitted. My brother, Mr. L Lowsley, of Hampstead Norreys, has given me valuable assistance.

B. LOWSLEY,

Major, Royal Engineers,

Hampstead Norreys, Berks,
March, 1888.

[NP]

THE following is a list of Glossaries of Counties adjoining Berkshire, published by the English Dialect Society:—

HAMPSHIRE WORDS AND PHRASES. Compiled and edited by the Rev. Sir WILLIAM H. COPE, Bart.
OXFORDSHIRE WORDS. By Mrs. PARKER.
OXFORDSHIRE WORDS (SUPPLEMENTARY). By Mrs. PARKER.
SURREY PROVINCIALISMS. By G. LEVESON—GOWER, ESQ.
WILTSHIRE WORDS. From *Britton's Beauties of Wiltshire*, 1825; compared with *Akerman's Glossary*, 1842.

Many words used in Berkshire have been noted in some of these Glossaries with—as might be looked for—differences in pronunciation and even signification. All as now submitted I have heard spoken in Mid-Berkshire.

B. L.

[1]

INTRODUCTORY.

IN his work on the classification of the English Dialects, as published by the English Dialect Society, Prince Louis Lucien Bonaparte says:— "Southern characters I call: The use of *I be, thou bist, he be, we be, you be, they be*, for 'I am,' &c.; the periphrastic tenses replacing the simple, as *I do love*, for *I love*; the prefix *a* before the past participle, as *I have aheard*, for *I have heard*; the permutation of the initial *f*, *s*, *sh*, and *thr*, into *v*, *z*, *zh*, and *dr*; the broad pronuciation of the Italian *ai*, replacing the sound of the English *ay*, as in *May*, pronounced as the Italian adverb *ma*i."

These characters appear in the BERKSHIRE DIALECT with modifications as follows: I *be, thou bist, he be, we be, you be, they be,* would run *I be, thee bist* or *'e be, he be, we* or *us be, thee* or *'e be, thaay be* or *them is*.

There is no replacing of simple tenses by periphrastic tenses, as I *do love*, for *I love*, generally in Berkshire; instead of I *love her*, a man would say I *loves her*, or emphatically I *loves 'she.'*

The prefix *a* takes place before the present participle as well as before the past participle, as *a-goin', a-thinkin', a-callin'*, &c.

As regards the permutations of the specified initial letters, *v* is always substituted for *f*, *z* is substituted for *s* when the latter is followed by a vowel or *w*, and in many other cases also the sound given to the *s* is roughened almost to the sound of *z*; *dr* is used instead of *thr*.

The letter *A* is generally given the broad pronunciation of *ai* in the Italian *mai*. When the pronunciation is thus given, the English sound has been represented in the GLOSSARY by *aay*, or by *aai* where the *a* precedes *i*.

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I.

PRONUNCIATION.

As regards *Vowels* and *Diphthongs* the sound of *e* in *term* is often given to the letter *a*. Thus 'farm' is pronounced *verm*; 'part,' *pert;* 'mark,' *merk*, &c.

In words where the letter *a* is given the sound of *aay* there is also sometimes a sub-division of the word into two syllables as follows:—'Game' is pronounced both

gaayme and *ge-um*; 'shame,' both *shaayme* and *she-um*; 'name,' both *naayme* and *ne-um;* 'face' is both *vaayce* and *ve-us*. The two pronunciations are equally common.

In a few cases only *o* takes the place of *a*, as in *ronk* for 'rank'; *lonky* for 'lanky.'

U is substituted for *a* thus: — We say *vur* instead of 'far'; *scur* instead of 'scar'; *stur* instead of 'star'; etc.

Au, as in 'sauce,' is given the sound of *a* in the word 'fate'; 'sauce' is pronounced *zace*.

Ar is given the sound of *aa*: Thus 'parsnips' are called *paasmips* or *paasmets*; 'parson' becomes *paason*; etc.

Aw final is pronounced as *ay* or *aa*: Thus 'law' is pronounced *lay* or *laa*; 'draw' *dray* or *draa*.

I and *y* are commonly sounded as *e*: Thus we have *pegs* for 'pigs;' *vleng* for 'fling;' *zence* for 'since.' Sometimes *i* has the sound of *u*: Thus 'rabbit' is pronounced *rabbut*, and 'stirrup' *sturrup*.

Ie has the sound of *a* in 'fate;' 'grieve' becomes *grave*; and 'believe' *belave.*

O takes the sound of *a* very largely. 'Promise' becomes *pramise;* 'crops' are *craps*; 'morning' is *marnin'*. In same cases, and always before *l*, it becomes *aw*: Thus 'old' is *awld*; 'roll' *rawll*; and 'toll ' *tawll;* etc.

O, following some consonants, is pronounced as *wo*: Thus'boy' becomes *bwoy*; 'toad' becomes *two-ad*; and 'post' becomes *pwo-ast*.

Oa takes the sound of *oo*, as in *moor*: Thus we have *boor* for 'boar'; and sometimes makes a sub-division into syllables—as *lo-ad* for 'load.'

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Oa, when initial, as in 'oats' or 'oath', is sounded as *wu*, the words mentioned being pronounced *wuts* and *wuth* respectively.

Oi is pronounced as *i* or as *wi*: Thus 'spoil' is *spile* or *spwile;* 'boil' is *bile* or *bwile.*

Oo becomes shortened into *u* as *stup* for 'stoop'; *brum* for 'broom.'

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E sometimes has the sound of *a* in tar: Thus 'certain' is pronounced *zartain*, and celery *zalary*.

Where *e* would usually take the sound of *a* in *gate*, it becomes in Berkshire Dialect *aay*. Thus 'they' is pronounced *thaay*, and 'obey' becomes *obaay*. It is sometimes pronounced as *i*: Thus 'end ' becomes *ind*; 'every' *iv-ry*; 'enter' *inter*; 'kettle' kittle; etc. Also it becomes *u*: Thus *vurry* is spoken for 'very'; *murry* for 'merry'; *burry* for 'berry.'

Ea is given the sound of *aay* or *a*, or else there is a subdivision of the syllable: Thus 'break' is pronounced *braayke* or *bre-ak*; 'mean' is *maayne* or *me-an*, and sometimes *mane*; 'clean' is *claayne*, *cle-an*, or *clane*. The different pronunciations noted above will be found even in the same village.

Ee is sounded as *i*, or there is a sub-division into two syllables: Thus 'feet' becomes *vit* or *ve-ut*; 'seems' *zims* or *ze-ums*;' keep' *kip* or *ke-up*.

Occasionally *ee* take the sound of *a* in *fate*: Thus 'bees' would be *baze* or *be-uz*; 'sweep' *swape* or *swe-up*.

Ei is pronounced as *a* in *fate:* Thus 'receive' becomes *recave*; 'ceiling' *sailin*'.

In 'George' we find the sound of the *eo* broadened into *Gaarge*, or shortened into *Gerge* indifferently.

Ou takes the sound of *aa*—as *zaate* for 'sought,' *wraate* for 'wrought'; but there are exceptions, as *vowt* for 'fought.'

The sound of the *oo* in 'moon' occurs for *ou* or *o* when followed by *r*; thus 'court' becomes *coort*; 'sword' *zoord*, and 'porch' *poorch*. But there are exceptions 'four' is pronounced *vawer*, and 'sour' *zower*.

Ore is pronounced *oor*, as in *moor*: Thus 'more' becomes *moor*; 'sore' becomes *soor*; 'before' *bevoor*.

Ir, *or*, and *ur*, coming within a word, take the sound of *u*. We have *vust* for 'first' and *wust* for 'worst'; *puss* (rhyming with 'fuss') for 'purse,' etc.

For *un* the substitution of *on* is common: Thus, instead of 'undress' we say *ondress*; *ondo* for 'undo'; *ontie* for 'untie'; etc.

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U is sometimes pronounced as *e*: Thus 'crush' becomes *cresh*, 'brush' *bresh*, and 'strut' *stret*.

W is sometimes replaced by *o*: Thus 'woman' becomes *ooman*; 'sword' becomes *zoord*.

The letter *b* occasionally has *v* substituted for it: Thus 'disturb' is pronounced *disturve*.

D undergoes change to *n*: Thus 'wonder' is pronounced *wunner*; 'London' *Lunnon*; 'thunder' *thunner*.

D is also often added to the final consonant of a word: Thus 'miller' becomes *millerd*; 'gown' *gownd*; but it may be here mentioned that on the other hand the final consonant, when preceded by another consonant, is very often dropped: Thus 'kiln' is pronounced *kill*; 'kept' kep; 'pond' *pon*.

It has been noted that *f*, when initial in a syllable, is always pronounced as *v*. When final in a first syllable of a word it is not pronounced at all: Thus 'afternoon' is rendered *aternoon*; 'afterwards' *aterward*.

Similarly we have the letter *l* dropped; 'already' becomes *a'ready*; 'almost' *a'mwo-ast;* 'almighty' *a'mighty*.

The final *g* in words of more than one syllable terminating in *ing* is always dropped: Thus 'ringing' becomes *ringin';* 'smelling' *smellin'*.

H is never aspirate by right of its position as heading a syllable, words commencing with *h* or a vowel are aspirated when emphasis may be desired to be given.

Y is substituted for *h* initial in some cases: Thus 'head ' is pronounced *yead*; 'heard' *yeard*; and occasionally the full sound of *wh* takes the place of *h*: Thus 'home' is always *who-am*.

K final is pronounced as *t* in some instances: Thus 'ask' becomes *ast*, and 'mask' *mast*.

T is often added superfluously to words terminating with *n*: Thus 'sudden' is pronounced *zuddent*, and 'sermon' becomes *zarment* as well as *zarmon*.

Bl is sometimes curiously substituted: Thus we have *gimblet* for 'gimlet' and *chimbley* for 'chimney.'

Ow final is pronounced as *er* or *y*: Thus 'window' becomes *winder* or *windy*; 'yellow' *yaller* or *yally*; 'widow' *widder* or *widdy*.

Ard final in words of more than one syllable is pronounced *ut*: 'Orchard' becomes *archut*, and 'Richard' *Richut*.

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Pur is substituted for *pre* or *pro*: Thus 'pretend' becomes *purtend*, 'preserve' *purzarve*, 'provide ' *purvide*, &c.

Transformations as to order of letters occur thus: *Hunderd* is used for 'hundred,' *childern* for 'children.'

In counting pronunciation goes as follows: *One, two, dree, vawer, vive, zix, zeven, aayte*, &c.

II.

GRAMMAR.

ARTICLES.

A does not become *an* before a vowel or *h* mute; thus, instead of 'Give me *an* apple' would be said *Gie I a apple*.

The fact of *an* being thus never used may be accounted for by the liability to give the aspirate when emphasis is required, and so the practice may have grown that *a* shall do duty in all cases.

The article *the* is omitted in cases where there can be no doubt as to what place, &c., may be referred to. 'Have you been to the farm this morning?' becomes *'Hast a-bin to verm this marnin'?'* 'He said he would be at the cross roads' becomes *'A zed as a'd be at crass ro-ads.'*

NOUNS.

Where *s* alone would be usually added, plurals are often formed by adding also *es* as a separate syllable in place of *s*: Thus *twos-es*, *threes-es*, *wops-es* (*i.e.*, wasps), *be-ast-es* 'beasts.' And in some cases a second *es* is added: Thus 'posts' may become *pwoast-es* or *pwoast-es-es*, 'joists' *jist-es* or *jist-es-es*, 'beasts' *be-ast-es* or *be-ast-es-es*.

En is occasionally used in forming plurals: Thus we have *peas-en* for 'peas,' *hous-en* for 'houses'; but this form is now only adopted by old people.

ADJECTIVES.

As regards comparison of Adjectives some irregularities are introduced as follows:

Positive.	*Comparative.*	*Superlative.*
Little	Littler	Le-ast *or* littlest
Vur (far)	Vurder (farther)	Vurdest (farthest) *or* vurdermwoast
Bad	Wusser *or* wuss	Wust, *or* wussest, *or* wustest
Top		Toppermust

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Adjectives which denote the material of which a thing is composed commonly take the termination *n* or *en*: Thus we have a leather*n* bottle or a leather-*en* bottle, a elder*n* pop-gun, a beech-*en* plank.

PRONOUNS.

PERSONAL PRONOUNS [*as regards cases*]

First Person.

Singular.		Plural.	
Nom	I	Nom	We *or* us
Poss	Mine	Poss	Ourn
Object.	I *or* us	Objec.	We *or* us

Second Person.

Singular.		Plural	
Nom	Thee *or* 'e	Nom	Thee *or* 'e
Poss	Thine *or* yourn	Poss	Yourn
Objec.	Thee *or* 'e	Objec	Thee *or* 'e

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Third Person (Masculine).

	Singular.	Plural	
Nom	He *or* a	Nom	Thaay *or* them
Poss	Hissen	Poss	Thaayrn
Objec.	‘E *or* ‘in *or* un	Objec.	Thaay *or* them *or* um

Third Person (Feminine).

	Singular.	Plural	
Nom	She	Nom	(As for masculine)
Poss	Hern	Poss	(As for masculine)
Objec.	She, *when emphatic*. Her, *when not emphatic*	Objec.	(As for masculine)

Third Person (Neuter).

	Singular.	Plural	
Nom	Ut *or* he *or* a.	Nom	(As for masculine)
Poss	Hissen	Poss	(As for masculine)
Objec.	Ut *or* ‘in *or* un	Objec	(As for masculine)

As examples: *Us waants what be ourn an’ thaay had best gi’t to us or we— i.e.*, We want what is ours and they had better give it to us.

Dwo-ant hev nothin’ to zaay to she —i.e., ‘Don’t have anything to say to her.’

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If *thee casn’t mind thee awn taayke keer o’ thaayrn*— i.e ‘If you cannot mind (*i.e.* attend to) your own take care of theirs.’

I gi’d thaay two vrocks as belonged to she i.e., ‘I gave them two frocks that belonged to her.’

The knife yent hern ‘tis hissen; I gin ut to’n (or ‘in) i.e., ‘The knife is not her’s, ‘tis his, I gave it to him.’

I tells 'e what 'tis i.e., 'I tell you what it is.'

RELATIVE PRONOUNS.

As is used instead of *who*, *which*, and *that*: Thus, 'He is a man who saves money' would be rendered 'He be a man *as* zaayves money.'

Whosen is used in place of *whose*, and *who* in place of *whom*; *I wunt zaay whosen it be i.e.*, 'I won't say whose it is.'

POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS.

The possessive pronouns stand thus: *my*, *thy* or *thee*, *his* or *hissen*, *her* or *hern*, *our* or *ourn*, *thy thee* or *yourn*, *thaayr* or *thaayrn*.

For example, sentences would go as follows: 'Whose cap be that'? 'Did 'e ax whosen'? 'Ees Me-ary zes she lost her cap.' 'Well, that ther be *hern* taayke un alang.' 'Be that *thee* raayke'? 'Ees that be *ourn*, that ther yander be *yourn*.'

'Thyself' becomes *theezelf*; 'himself' and 'itself' become *hiszelf*; 'yourselves' *theezelves*, and 'themselves' *thaayrzelves*.

DISTRIBUTIVE PRONOUNS.

'Each' is not in common use— *ivrey one* takes its place; *arn* is used for either, also *narn* is substituted for 'neither.' For example— 'Hev 'e zin *arn* on um'? 'No, *narn* (or *narra one*) on um yent come.'

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS.

For 'this' is used *this yer*; for 'that' *that ther*; for 'these' *the-uz yer*; for 'those' *them ther*.

For example: 'Theuz yer wuts (oats) be wuth double o' *them ther*.'

The *yer* and *ther* are always inserted as shown above where there is intention to particularize or to give emphasis, but may be omitted where such intention does not at all exist. For 'Are these the ones'? would be said however, Be *the-uz uns thaay*?

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INDEFINITE PRONOUNS.

'E or a *body* is used for one. 'One can't act like that' would be *'E caan't act like that ther.*

'One's heart is not in it' would be *A body's hert yent in 't.*

Arn is used for '*any*.' *Narn* for 'none.'

'Alone' is never used; *by hiszelf*, &c., would be substituted. 'Hev 'e killed *arra* rat'? 'No, I 'ent killed *narn* (or *narra one*) a big un run awaay but a zimmed to be yer by *hiszelf*.'

VERBS.

Conjugation of Verbs.

TO HAVE.

INDICATIVE MOOD.

Present Tense.

Singular.	Plural
1. Pers....I hev *or* I has	1. Pers....We *or* us hev
2. Pers....Thee *or* 'e hast, has *or* hev *or* hevs.	2. Pers....Thee *or* 'e hast has *or* hev, *or* hevs
3. Pers....He, a, *or* she, *or* ut, hev, hevs, or has	3. Pers....Thaay *or* them, *or* um hev, hevs, *or* has

Imperfect Tense.

Singular.	Plural
1. I had	1 . We *or* us had
2. Thee *or* 'e had *or* had'st	2. Thee *or* 'e had *or* had'st
3. He etc., had	3. Thaay *or* them, *or* um had

Perfect Tense.

Singular.	Plural
1. I hev a-had	1. We *or* us hev a-had
2. Thee *or* 'e hast a-had	2. Thee *or* 'e hast *or* hev a-had
3. He etc., hev a-had	3. Thaay *or* them, *or* um hev *or* has a-had

Pluperfect Tense.

Singular. Plural

1. I had a-had
2. Thee *or* 'e, had or had'st a-had
3. He etc., had a-had

1. We *or* us, had a-had
2. Thee *or* 'e, had *or* hadst a-had
3. Thaay *or* them, *or* um had a-had.

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First Future Tense.

Singular.

1. I shall *or* 'ooll hev
2. Thee or 'e shat, 'oot, 'ooll, *or* 'oollt hev or 'oollt hev
3. He &c., shall *or* 'ooll hev.

Plural

1. We *or* us shall, 'ooll *or* hev
2. Thee *or* 'e shat, 'oot, 'ooll *or* 'oollt hev
3. Thaay *or* them, *or* um shall *or* 'ooll hev.

Second Future Tense.

This is as the First Future Tense, with the addition of *a-had* to each person.

IMPERATIVE MOOD.

Singular.

2. Hev thee *or* do thee hev

Plural

2. Hev thee, *or* do thee hev

POTENTIAL MOOD.

Present Tense.

Singular.

1. I med *or* can hev
2. Thee *or* 'e medst, can *or* canst hev
3. He &c., med *or* can hev

Plural.

1. We *or* us med *or* can hev
2. Thee *or* 'e medst, can *or* *or* can hev
3. Thaay *or* them, *or* um med canst hev

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Imperfect Tense.

Singular.	Plural
1. I med, could, *or* 'ood, should hev	1. We *or* us med, could, 'ood, *or* should hev
2. Thee *or* 'e med *or* medst, could *or* couldst, 'ood *or* 'oodst, *or* should *or* shouldst hev	2. Thee *or* 'e med or medst could *or* couldst, 'ood *or* 'oodst, *or* should *or* shouldst hev
3. He etc., med, could, 'ood, or should hev	3. Thaay *or* them, *or* um med, could, 'ood, *or* should hev

Perfect Tense.

This is as the Present Tense of the Potential Mood, with the addition of *a-had* to each person.

Pluperfect Tense.

This is as the Imperfect Tense (Potential Mood), with the addition of *a-had* to each person.

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SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD.

Present Tense.

Singular.	Plural
1. If I hev, hevs *or* has	1. If we *or* us hev or hevs
2. If thee *or* 'e hast, has, hev *or* hevs	2. If thee *or* 'e hast, has, hev *or* hevs
3. If he etc., hev *or* hevs	3. If thaay *or* them *or* um, hev *or* hevs

Plural.

If *zo be* as is usually used for if in the Subjunctive Mood.

For example— If *zo be as I hevs any I 'ooll gie 'e zome.*

Imperfect Tense.

This is as the Imperfect Tense of the Indicative Mood, with the addition of *if* (followed by *zo be as*) to each person; the remaining tenses of this mood also follow the same tenses in the Indicative Mood, with the above-named addition.

INFINITIVE MOOD.

Present Tense.	Perfect Tense,
To hev	To hev a-had

PARTICIPLES.

Present or Active.	*Perfect or Passive.*	*Compound Perfect.*
A-hevin'.	A-had	Hevin' a-had

As regards the negative forms of this conjugation,

'I have not' becomes *I ent, aint, hev'nt* or *yent.*

'Thou hast not' becomes *thee or 'e hasn't* or *hevn't*.

'He has not' becomes *he ent, aint, hevn't* or *yent*.

The plurals of the above tense follow as in the singular except as regards the pronouns.

'Thou,' 'ye' or 'you hadst not' become *thee or 'e hadsn't*.

'I shall not' or 'will not have' becomes *I shall not, ool not* or *wunt hev.*

'Thou shalt' or 'wilt not have' becomes *thee or 'e shattent' oottent* or *wunt hev*.

'May not' becomes *medn't*, as also generally does 'may'st not,' though this is sometimes *medsent*.

'Canst not' becomes *casn't;* 'would not,' *oodn't*.

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TO BE.

INDICATIVE MOOD.

Present Tense.

Singular.	Plural
1. I be	1. We or us be
2. Thee bist *or* 'e be	2. Thee *or* 'e be
3. He, a, she, *or* ut be	3. Thaay be *or* them *or* um is *or* be.

Imperfect Tense.

Singular.	Plural
1. I was *or* wur	1. We *or* us was
2. Thee *or* 'e was, wast, *or* wur	2. Thee *or* 'e was, wast *or* wur
3. He etc. was, *or* wur	3. Thaay *or* them *or* um was

Perfect Tense.

Singular.	Plural
1. I hev a-bin	1. We *or* us hev a-bin
2. Thee *or* 'e hast *or* hev a-bin	2. Thee *or* 'e hast *or* hev a-bin
3. He etc. hev a-bin	3. Thaay *or* them *or* um hev *or* has a-bin

The rest of the conjugation of this verb is on similar lines to that of the verb *to have*.

As regards the negative forms,

'I am not' becomes *I bent, be-ant, ent,* or *yent*;

'Thou art not' becomes *thee* or *'e bent, be-ant or bisn't;*

'He is not' becomes *he bent, be-ant, ent,* or *yent*;

'We are not' becomes *we* or *us bent, be-ant, ent,* or *yent*;

'You or ye are not' becomes *thee* or *e bent, be-ant* or *bisn't*;

'They are not' becomes *thaay* or *them* or *um bent, be-ant, ent*, *or yent*.

TO DO.

The Present Tense (Indicative Mood) of the verb *to do* runs thus:

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Singular.	Plural
1. I do, *or* doos	1. We *or* us do *or* doos
2. Thee *or* 'e does, doos dost, *or* doost	2. Thee *or* 'e does, doos, dost, *or* doost
3. He, a, she, *or* ut do *or* doos	3. Thaay *or* them *or* um do, does, *or* doos

In the negative form 'do not' becomes *dwo-ant*, and in the second person singular and plural the negative form is *doosn't, dwo-ant 'e,* or *dwo-ant thee.*

[12]

The plural form is given to all verbs in the Present Tense of the Indicative Mood thus:—

Singular.	Plural
1. I loves	1. We *or* us loves
2. Thee *or* 'e loves	2. Thee *or* 'e loves
3. He etc. loves	3. Thaay *or* them *or* um loves

The following are examples of the way in which some verbs form their Imperfect Tense and Perfect Participle, the recognized form being attached in brackets where differing:

Present.	*Imperfect*	*Perfect Participle*
I begins (begin)	I begun (began)	begun
I knows *or* knaws (know)	I knawes (knew)	knawed (known)
I blaws (blow)	I blawed (blew)	blawed (blown)
I waaykes (awake)	I waayked (awoke)	awaayked)awakened
I bends (bend)	I bended (bent)	bended (bent)
I busts (burst)	I busted (burst)	busted (burst)
I casts (cast)	I casted (cast)	casted (cast)
I comes (come)	I come (came)	come

I deals (deal)	I dealed (dealt)	dealed (dealt)
I drays (draw)	I drayed (drew)	drayed (drawn)
I drinks (drink)	I drunk *or* drinked (drank)	drunk *or* drinked (drunk)
I valls (fall)	I vell *or* velled (fell)	vell *or* velled (fallen)
I vorzaaykes (forsake) (forsake)	I vorzaayked (forsook)	vorzook (forsaken)
I gives (give)	I give *or* gived (gave)	give *or* gived (given)
I hides (hide)	I hided (hid)	hided (hidden)
I hurts (hurt)	I hurted (hurt)	hurted (hurt)
I mawes (mow)	I mawed (mowed)	mawed (mown)
I re-ads (read)	I re-a-ded (read)	re-a-ded (read)
I runs (run)	I run (ran)	rund (run)
I zees (see)	I zee, zin *or* zeed (saw)	zin *or* zeed (seen)
I zetts (set)	I zetted (set)	zetted (set)
I slits (slit)	I slitted (slit)	slitted (slit)
I strides (stride)	I strided (strode)	strided (stridden)
I swims (swim)	I swimmed (swam)	swimmed (swum)
I tells (tell)	I telled *or* tawld (told)	telled *or* tawld (told)
I tears (tear)	I teared (tore)	teared *or* tored (torn)
I treads (tread)	I treaded (trod)	treaded (trodden)

[13]

ADVERBS.

In adverbs the termination *ly* is usually dropped: Thus'They were dressed very prettily' would become *thaay was dressed vurry pretty*; 'He was walking quickly' becomes *he was a-walkin' quick.*

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INTERJECTORY PHRASES.

The interjectory phrases most commonly in use are—

Lark o' massy (astonishment);

Massy me (slight astonishment);

To be zure (implying assent);

Well, to be zure (surprise);

Lawk (astonishment);

Zartin zure (corroboration);

I'll be dalled (surprise);

Dally now (remonstrance);

Bless my zawl alive (astonishment);

Massy on us (surprise with fear).

What shall I zaay and *A matter 'o* are both inserted to give emphasis thus, *He be wuth*, *what shall I zaay, p'raps a matter 'o twenty thousand pound*;

Raaly now (mild remonstrance);

Come, come (good humoured doubt). This, however, is also used to call one sharply to attention.

Larra massy me, *Lack a daayzy* (slight astonished).

SYNTAX.

RULE 1. It has been seen in the conjugation of verbs that in Berkshire Dialect *the verb does not agree with its nominative case in number and person*, and that such phrases are used as *I sings, We loves, The bwoys plaays, &c.*

RULE 2. *Two or more nouns or pronouns in the singular number joined by a copulative conjunction expressed or understood do not have verbs agreeing with them in the plural number.* For example, one would say, 'Jemps an' Richut *was* there,' and not 'James and Richard *were* there.'

RULE 3. *As* is often used for *who, whom, which*, and *that*, as illustrated by the following examples: 'This be the man *as* I respects; He be he *as* zarved I bad'; 'I be a man *as* wishes 'e well.'

RULE 4. *Active verbs govern the nominative case*, thus: 'They love us' is rendered *Thaay loves we*; 'He hates them' becomes *He haaytes thaay.*'

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RULE 5. *Participles of active verbs govern the objective case, the pronoun being preceded by 'on,'* thus: 'I am tired of seeing him' becomes 'I be tired o' zeeing *on* un'; 'He was teaching them' becomes 'He was a-tachin' *on* 'um.'

RULE 6. *Two negatives are often used to give simple negative signification*. 'I was not there two minutes' becomes, *I wasn't not thaayre two minnuts*, 'I won't have any such doings' becomes *I wunt hev no such doins*.

RULE 7. *Prepositions sometimes govern the nominative case*, as shown in the following examples, 'From them that hate you expect malice' becomes *From thaay as haaytes 'e*, &c., 'From him that is cunning expect deceit' becomes *Vrom he as is*, &c.

Looseness in construction not infrequently occurs, as thus: On inquiring who a certain man was, I have received for reply, *That be the new man zur as belongs to Velder Verm*. By this it was intended to inform me that the man I inquired about had recently become the owner of Velder Farm.

III.

CUSTOMS.

I give some notes relative to time-honoured customs and observances, superstitions, folk-lore, &c., which may seem to have kinship or association with the GLOSSARY itself.

HARVEST-WHOAM.— At the home-bringing of the last load of corn as many of the labourers as possible ride on the top of it, others walking in on either side, or following. Their song, repeated at short intervals is:

Well ploughed, well zawed,
Well ripped, well mawed,
Narra lo-ad awverdrawed.*
Whoop, whoop, whoop, whoop, harvest whoam.
[*Repeated*.]

In the still summer evening this is heard in the adjacent parishes. The festivities of the night, commencing with a most substantial supper, are of the heartiest character, all

who have taken part in the harvest, together with all members of their families, being present. After supper the first song is the 'Harvest-Home Song:'

* Overthrown.

[15]

I.

Yer's a health unto our Me-uster
The Vounder of our Ve-ast;
We hope his zawl to God will go
When he do get his rest.
Maay iverything now prosper
That he do taayke in hand.
Vor we be all his zarvants
As works at his command.
(CHORUS.)
Zo drink bwoys, drink,
An' zee as 'e do not spill.
Vor if 'e do 'e shall drink two,
Vor that be Me-uster's will.

II.

Yer's a health unto our Misteress
That giveth us good aayle;
We hopes she'll live vor many a year
To cheer us wi'out vaail.
She is the best Provider
In all the country round,
Zo taayke yer cup an' drink it up,
Narn like her can be vound.
(CHORUS.)

Zo drink bwoys, drink,

An' zee as 'e do not spill:

Vor if 'e do 'e shall drink two,

Vor that be Me-uster's will.

[*Repeated*.']

The transcriber of this was born on Harvest Whoam Night at Hampstead Norreys, and the event was duly announced to the 250 guests at supper. From that moment the approved singer of the above song was in deep thought, with the result that a third verse in honour of 'Our Little Me-uster born to-night' was given. It is unfortunate that this effort, which fairly brought down the house, was not recorded.

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ON VALENTINE'S DAY bands of little children go round to the houses in the villages, singing:

Knock the kittle agin the pan,

Gie us a penny if 'e can;

We be ragged an' you be vine,

Plaze to gie us a Valentine.

Up wie the kittle down wi' the spout,

Gie us a penny an' we'll gie out.

(*i.e.,* stop this singing.)

[16]

The penny is at once forthcoming; in some cases an orange a-piece is given also.

GOOD FRIDAY. On Good Friday the children sing the well-known verse of—

One-a-penny two-a-penny hot cross buns.

The commencing line, however, is:—

When Good Friday comes the awld 'oomen runs.

ON SHROVE-TUESDAY the children go round singing:—

Snick-snock the pan's hot,

We be come a shrovin'.
Plaze to gie us zummut,
Zummut's better'n nothin',
A bit o' bread a bit o' chaze,
A bit o' apple dumplin' plaze.

ON THE FIFTH OF NOVEMBER parties go round to collect wood for their bonfire. They carry a figure of well-known type as representing Guy Fawkes. The rhymes used are various and parts are general.

Remember, Remember the Vifth o' November,
Gunpowder trason an' plot.
Pray tell muh the rason why gunpowder trason,
Should iver be vorgot.
Our Quane's a valiant zawljer,
Car's her blunderbus on her right shawlder,
Cocks her pistol drays her rapier,
Praay gie us zummit vor her zaayke yer.
A stick an' a staayke vor Quane Vickey's zaayke,
If 'e wunt gie one I'll taayke two,
The better vor we an' the wus vor you.

(CHORUS)

Holler bwoys, holler bwoys, maake yer bells ring,
Holler bwoys, holler bwoys, God zaayve the Quane.
Hurrah! hurrah! *(ad lib.)*

The part about 'the Quane' is, of course, an adaptation. The original rhyme is very old, and at the end of it, 'God zaayve the King' formerly came to rhyme with 'Maayke yer bells ring.'

In other rhymes and in the 'MUMMERS' PLAY' local poets have been in the habit of inserting lines respecting important recent events, and thus many pieces have become modernized.

We have also—

Guy Vawkes an' his companions did contrive*
To blaw the House o' Parliament up alive,
Wi' dree scoor barr'ls o' powder down belaw,
To prove Awld England's wicked awver-draw;
But by God's marcy all on um got catched,
Wi' ther dark lantern an' ther lighted match.
Laaydies an' gentlemen zettin' by the vire,
Plaze put hands in pockuts an' gie us our desire;
While you can drink one glass, we can drink two,
An' that's the better vor we an' none the wus vor you.

Rumour, rumour, pump a derry,
Prick his heart an' burn his body,
An' zend his zawl to Purgaterry.

And

Guy Vawkes, Guy —'t was his intent
To blaw up the Houses o' Parliament;
By God's marcy he got catched,
Wi' his dark lantern an' lighted match.
Guy Vawkes, Guy zet un up high,
A pound o' chaze to chawke un;
A pint o' beer to wash ut down,
An' a jolly good vire to ro-ast un.
Up wi' the pitcher an' down wi' the prong, †
Gie us a penny an' we'll be gone.

THE PLAY OF THE 'MUMMERS,'

As acted in MID-BERKSHIRE at Christmas-tide.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

MOLLY: *A stalwart man, dressed in woman's gown, shawl, and bonnet, with a besom in hand, with ludicrous imitation of a woman's voice.*

KING GEORGE: *A big man dressed as a knight with home-made helmet, sword, &c.*

FRENCH OFFICER: *A thin man with cocked-hat, sword, epaulettes, and uniform.*

DOCTOR: *Arrayed in very long tail coat, with pig tail, knee breeches, &c.*

JACK VINNY: *Dressed as a jester, and with a kind of tall fool's cap.*

HAPPY JACK: *In tattered garments.*

OLD BEELZEBUB: *As Father Christmas.*

i.e., plot. †This means that the time is one for drinking beer, and not for work.

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[18]

The Mummers having arrived, singing is heard outside the house.

God bless the Me-uster of this house,
I hopes he is athin—
An' if he is praay tell us zo
An' we ull zoon begin.

(*Chorus*) With hey dum dum,
With hey dum dum de derry;
Vor we be come this Christmas time
A purpose to be merry.

I hopes the Misteress is athin
An 'zettin' by the vire
A pityin' we poor mummers yer
Out in the mud an' mire.

(*Chorus*) With hey dum dum,
With hey dum dum de derry;
Vor we be come this Christmas time
A purpose to be merry.

We dwoant come yer but once a year,

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An' hopes 'tis no offence;

An' if it is praay tell us zo

An' we 'ull zoon go hence.

(*Chorus*) With hey dum dum,

With hey dum dum de derry;

Vor we be come this Christmas time

A purpose to be merry.

Then permission and invitation being given, MOLLY first enters the kitchen or hall (where the spectators are assembled) with a hop, step and jump, and flourishing an old broom, or walking round at times pretending to sweep with it, sings—

First Character.

MOLLY. A room, a room, I do presume

For me an' my braayve men;

For we be come this Christmas time

To maayke a little rhyme.

An' yer we comes at Christmas time,

Welcome or welcome not,

Hoping awld Veyther Christmas

Ull never be vorgot.

Laast Christmas daay I turned the spit,

Burned my vingers an' veels on't it.*

A spark vlew awver the staayble,

The skimmer hit the laaydle.

Ah! zes the Gridiron caan't you two agree,

i.e., of it yet.

[19]

I be the Justice bring 'em avoor me,

An' now we shows activity of youth, activity of aayge,

Zuch actin' you never zee upon another staayge,

An' if e' wunt belave what I hev had to zaay,
Walk in bawld KING GAARGE an' clear the waaye
[King Gaarge *enters*.

Second Character.

KING GEORGE: I be KING GAARGE a nawble Knight,
I lost zum blood in English vight;
I keer not vor Spaniard, Vrench, nor Turk,
Wher's the man as can do I hurt?
An' if bevoor muh he durs stan',
I'll cut un down wi' this deadly han'
I'll cut un an' slash un as small as vlies,
An' zend un to the cook-shop to maayke mince pies,
And zo let all yer vices zing,
As I'm the Royal British King. [*Enter* French Officer.

Third Character.

FRENCH OFFICER: I be a bowld Vrench Officer,
Beau Slasher is my naayme,
An' by my sharp zoord at my zide,
I hopes to win the gaayme;
My body's lined wie lead,
My head is maayde of steel,
An' I am come vrom Turkish land,
To vight thee in the vield.

KING GEORGE: Oh, Slasher, Slasher dwooant thee be too hot,
For in this room thee' ll mind who thee hast got,
Zo to battle, to battle, let thee an' I try,
To zee which on the ground vust shall lie.
(They fight, their swords clapping together with great

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noise. After a little fighting the French Officer hits King George on the leg and down he falls.)

MOLLY: Doctor, doctor, maayke no delaay,
But maayke thee haayste an' come this waay.
Doctor, doctor, wher bist thee,
King Gaarge is wounded* in the knee,
Ten pound if that nawble DOCTOR was yer.

[DOCTOR *thereupon comes in*.

Fourth Character.

DOCTOR: I be the nawble Doctor Good,
An' wi' my skill I'll stop his blood,
My vee's ten pound, but awnly vive,
If I dwoant raaise this man alive.

(Feels his pulse, shakes his leg, and then says)—

* Pronounced to rhyme with 'sounded.'

[20]

This man be not quite dead see how his leg shaaykes,
An' I've got pills as cures all ills,
The itch, the stitch, the palsy an' the gout,
Paains 'athin an' paains 'athout,
An' any awld 'ooman dead zeven year,
If she got one tooth left to crack one o' theuz yer.

(He then holds up the box, shakes it to rattle the pills, and finally opening it, takes a large one out and stuffs it into King George's mouth, saying)—

Rise up, King Gaarge, an' vight agaain,
An' zee which on 'e vust is slaain.

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(King George jumps up forthwith into attitude to fight; this time they fight longer, and with even move clattering of swords—at length King George hits the French Officer, who falls down flat.)

MOLLY: Doctor, doctor, do thy part,
This man is wounded* to the heart;
Doctor, can 'e cure this man.

DOCTOR: No, I zees 'e's too vur gan.

MOLLY: Then walk in JACK VINNY.

[Jack Vinny *enters.*

Fifth Character.

JACK VINNY: My naayme is *not* Jack Vinny'
My naayme is Mr. John Vinny,
A man of faayme, come vrom Spaain,
Do moor nor any man agaain.

DOCTOR: Well, what can'st thee do, Jack?

JACK VINNY: Cure a magpie wi' the tooth-aayche.

DOCTOR: How?

JACK VINNY: Cut his yead off an' draw† his body into the ditch.

DOCTOR: Well, cure this man.

JACK VINNY: If he 'ull taayke one drap out o' my drug bottle,
Which is one pennoth o' pigeon's milk,
Mixed wi' the blood of a gracehopper,
An' one drap o' the blood of a dyin' donkey,
Well shaayken avoor taayken;
I'll be bound 'e 'ull rise up an' vight no moor—
Gie I my Spectacles!

(Is handed a pair of wooden spectacles).

Gie I my Pliers!

(Is handed a large-sized pair of pliers, with which, making much parade, he proceeds to draw one of

the French Officer's teeth, and at length exhibiting

a large horse's tooth.)

* Pronounced to rhyme with 'sounded.'

† *i.e.*, throw.

[21]

Yer's a tooth enough to kill any man,

But he 'ull cure this man;

I comes vrom Spaain an' thee vrom Vrance,

Gie us thy hand, rise up an' dance.

(French officer rises. The two then execute a dance,)

MOLLY: Walk in, Happy Jack.

[Happy Jack comes in.

Sixth Character.

HAPPY JACK: I be poor awld Happy Jack,

Wie wife an' vamly at my back;

Out o' nine I yent but vive,

An' hafe o' thaay be sturved alive.

Roast be-uf, plum pudden an' mince pie,

Who likes them ther better 'n I.

The roo-ads be dirty, my shoes be bad,

Zo plee-uz put zummut into my bag.

MOLLY:. Come in, Veyther Beelzebub,

Who on thy shawlder cars a club,

Under thee erm a drippin' pan,

Bent 'e now a jolly awld man.

[*Enter* Beelzebub.

Seventh Character.

BEELZEBUB: Yer comes I as yent bin 'it*

Wie my gurt 'yead an' little wit;

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My yead's zo big an' my wits zo small,

Zo I brings my Viddle to plaaze 'e all.

(Commences to play on the fiddle, and all dance a reel, from which Molly walks out to collect from the lookers on.)

The foregoing is the rendering of the MUMMERS' PLAY, generally given in Mid-Berkshire, but the Mummers of most parishes have slight variations. For instance, we find the Compton Mummers have amongst their *dramatis personae* a Turkish knight in place of a French officer. He thus announces himself:

Yer comes I, a Turkish Knight,
Come vrom Turkeyland to vight;
I myzelf an' zeven moor
Vaught a battle o' 'leven scoor
'Leven scoor o' well-armed men
We never got conquered 'it by them.

To whom King George replies:

Whoa thou little veller as talks zo bawld,
'Bout thaay other Turkish chaps
I've a bin tawld.
Dray thee zoord mwoast parfic knight,

* *i.e.*, yet.

Dray thy zoord an' on to vight,
Vor I'll hev zatisvaction avoor I goes to-night.
My yead is maayde o' iron,
My body maayde o' steel,
An' if 'e wunt bele-uv muh
Jus' dray thee zoord an' veel.

(*They fight.*)

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In the performance by the Steventon Mummers we find King George announces himself as the "Africky King." His antagonist, however, is Beau Slasher, the French officer.

The Brightwaltham Mummers have Molly given the title of Queen Mary.

IV.

SUPERSTITIONS.

Superstition is more deeply rooted than might be supposed by any not born and bred amongst the people. Education has lately done much, and there is a tendency to conceal faith in the Super-natural, but this concealment is not quite disbelief. Many of the superstitions in Berkshire are almost universal. Those common are—

A dog howling betokens death.

With thirteen sitting down to a meal, death is certain to happen to one of the party within twelve months.

In the locality where you first hear the cuckoo, you may probably spend the greater part of the year, and some important event of your life will happen there.

A cinder falling alight from the fire in the shape of a coffin signifies death, in the shape of a cradle— a birth, and in the shape of a purse— wealth.

A spark in the candle means *a letter*; if you *snocks* it down, it falls towards the person who will get the letter. Letters were probably few and far between when this superstition arose.

White spots on the finger nails: If on thumb a *gift*; first finger *a new friend*; second finger *a foe*; third finger a *letter from a sweetheart*; fourth finger *an enforced journey*.

[23]

Knives across each other at table indicate a *quarrel*.

If the creases of a table cloth are diamond shape, this is a sign of death.

Furniture creaking betokens serious illness.

Where martins build their nests poverty never reigns: No one will take the eggs of a martin nor kill these birds, and good luck and prosperity are believed to come under

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the roof around which they build. Their nests are only destroyed when feathers protruding from the side aperture show that sparrows have taken possession and turned out the rightful owners; then a long pole is brought and the mud structure poked to pieces to the destruction of the eggs or young family of the pirates. It is considered a sign of bad luck to those living in a house if martins having once built around the roof discontinue to do so.

If a horse be found in the stable in a sweat in the morning it is believed that he has been taken out and ridden by a Witch or Evil Spirit during the night. A horse shoe nailed on the outside of the stable door will prevent this, but it may be noted that belief in the efficacy of a horse shoe nailed on a door seems widespread, for in the West Indies many are nailed on doors of even official quarters to keep away yellow fever or cholera.

Finding a horse shoe will bring good luck to the finder.

A stalk swimming in your tea shows that a stranger is coming, it is placed on the back of the hand and the wrist patted. If it should fall at the first pat the stranger will arrive that day, if, at the second pat, on the second day and so on. You then repeat the operation to ascertain the hour; the first pat referring to one o'clock, the second to two o'clock, &c. If the stalk be a hard one the stranger will be a man, if a soft one, a woman. If the stranger be not welcome to come, the tea stalk must not be placed on the hand, but should be taken out of the teacup and thrown under the table.

If your nose itches you will be shortly *kissed*, *cursed*, or *vexed*.

If your *right* ear burns someone is speaking good of you; if your *left* ear burns evil is being spoken of you.

A cock crowing at an unusual time, shows that a stranger is coming.

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At first sight of the new moon, a piece of money should be taken out of the pocket and turned over in the hand, this will ensure a prosperous month.

A first sight of the new moon through a window forebodes forthcoming bad luck.

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As regards the number of magpies seen at one time, the following rhymes are used:

One sorrow,
Two joy,
Three a wedding,
Four a boy.

And

One sorrow,
Two mirth,
Three a wedding,
Four a birth.

The superstition as regards the necessity to announce the death of the master of a house to the Bees is deeply rooted. Any omission to do this would give them such umbrage that they would certainly all die. My brother tells me that at the death of my father in 1855, the old nurse in the house (Mrs. Barr), came to him and said, 'The bees should at once be waked, sir.' He scouted the proposal, but she continued to beg to be allowed to do it. At length she went away to one hive placed amongst many others in the kitchen gardens. She tapped this hive three imes, and then said, 'Wake, your master is dead!' she explained that the bees of this hive would at once inform all the others, and that all was now satisfactory.

A piece of wedding-cake passed through a bride's ring and placed under the pillow will make a girl plainly to see her future husband in a dream.

If a person requires money ardently, and should say the Lord's Prayer backwards three times, and shall afterwards prick his finger and write on a paper with the blood, 'Beelzebub, Beelzebub, three pounds from thee,' and place the paper under his pillow, he will find the paper gone in the morning, and money will certainly shortly come to him, but his soul has become the property of the Evil One.

On certain nights of the year it is believed that the Fairies dance around the 'Fairy Rings' of a different coloured grass from that usually found on the Downs, and on arriving at any of

these ‘Rings’ one should walk round them rather than across them.

Birds pecking at a window announce a death. The coincidences I have known in respect of this are certainly so remarkable as almost to justify the superstition. I was in a house, where at daybreak a large number of pigeons settled themselves along bedroom window ledges, making great pecking and noise, and awakening the inmates. About two hours later it was announced that the master of the house had died about the time referred to.

Some look with great foreboding on the appearance of a raven; others think there is sad news conveyed by the pecking of a robin at the window, but where the robin has been encouraged to come by feeding him with bread crumbs, no harm is thought of. Robins are regarded almost with veneration by many. They are supposed to be incapable of doing any damage to crops, &c., and they are believed to witness evil deeds when no other may be near. It is certainly the case that although the robin is not a bird of the woods, yet if a person should make a tapping or other unwonted noise in any secluded spot, a robin shortly appears on the scene and takes an interest in the proceedings.

* * * *

Few villages are without their ghost stories. The White Lady who rides on a White Horse along secluded lanes at Well House is much dreaded. But such matters fortunately often admit of being fully cleared up to the satisfaction of the most superstitious.

A short time ago some persons had been frightened by a ghost said to appear in Hampstead Norreys Churchyard. It was reported slowly to raise its head to a gigantic height, make some unearthly noises, and then quickly disappear. At length, on investigation, the ghost proved to be a large white Turkey Cock that had taken to roosting on a white tombstone.

On the approach of any one he had raised himself from his sleep, and with gobbling and flapping of wings had vanished behind his resting-place.

I will conclude this with a short account of the satisfactory laying of a ghost.

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At South Moreton, seventy years ago, there was a house where the most extraordinary occurrences took place. Those who ventured to sleep in the house reported that at times their candles would burn blue and sometimes go out with a great flash of light, that when lying in bed gravel would be thrown over them and about the room by unseen hands, and that a large family Bible lying on a shelf would of its own accord fly about the room and even hit them when in bed.

These things made such a stir that my father asked to be allowed to investigate. He went to the house at nightfall, taking a supply of candles with him; he stipulated that the occupiers of the house should not be near it during that night, though these latter had strongly urged that the ghost had shown no disposition to hurt them personally, but that the same forbearance would not be exercised towards others who might go there to set a supernatural power at defiance. My father was accompanied by a friend, Mr. Thomas Humfrey; they kept good watch, and nothing extraordinary happened during the night.

In the morning they made a careful examination.

They found under a piece of matting by the bedside a small portion of floor-board neatly inserted that was removable from the room below; thus, by standing on the table of the underneath room the board in question was taken out and gravel scattered as desired over the bed and bedroom.

Some of the candles left in the house were found to have been cut in two, a small portion of the wick abstracted, and a gunpowder mixture inserted in the hollow; the candles had then been most neatly joined again; this accounted for the candles burning blue and going out with a flash.

The shelf whereon the Bible was lying was secured to a partition wall, and at the same height in the room on the other side of the partition wall a row of wooden pegs was fixed. One of these pegs had been made to pierce quite through the wall at the spot on the shelf where the Bible was resting, and by a sharp knock on this peg the Bible might be sent flying about the bedroom.

It subsequently appeared that the occupants of the house had reason to believe that their rent was about to be raised and

had wished to deter others from taking the house in case they should propose to give it up. Supernatural aid had been enlisted accordingly.

V.

FOLK-LORE.

In BERKSHIRE the little blue Tit-mouse is styled the 'King of Birds.' The legend as commonly told runs thus:

The eagle summoned all kinds of birds together, to choose their king; it was agreed that the one which could fly highest should be elected.

The Rook flew so high that he called out,

Caw, caw, caw,
I can zee it all.

The Lark flew quite up to heaven's gate, and there sung a sweet song of triumph.

But whilst these trials were going on the little blue Tit-mouse crept under the feathers of the eagle and hid itself there. When the eagle's turn came he soared far higher than any of the others and remained stationary at that point, looking proudly downwards. At length when quite exhausted with the prolonged effort, he was obliged to commence to descend at that moment the little blue Tit-mouse flew out and mounted still higher than the eagle had done, with its pert note of

'Tit, tit,
Higher it,
Tit, tit,
Higher it.'

All the birds were therefore obliged to acknowledge that the little blue Tit-mouse must be their King.

The title of King of Birds has somewhat similarly been sometimes claimed for the wren, but this is not so in Berkshire.

* * * *

There was once a King who determined to have the question decided as to which of the animals should be called the 'King of Beasts.' So on a certain day he had all the different

kinds assembled and turned into a large arena. He then had it proclaimed that at a given signal they might all fall to fighting, and that the one which survived should win the title of 'King of Beasts' for his descendants for ever.

The word was given; all the animals began fighting furiously, and as one was slain, the victor would seek another antagonist. At length the Lion, crippled, bleeding, and scarcely able to stir, thought himself to be the sole survivor, but on looking round to make sure that this might be so, he espied an old Donkey standing with his head thrust into a corner of the arena. The Donkey had run thither in very great fright at the commencement of the fray. The maimed Lion with great difficulty crawled along to where the Donkey was standing. The latter waited his opportunity, and when the Lion came close up to him, lashed out with both his heels, striking the Lion full on the head and rolling him in the dust.

The Donkey, therefore, became the 'King of Beasts.'

* * * *

The Magpie has always been the highest authority amongst the Birds in the art of nest-building. Its own extensive nest of twigs is not surpassed by anything of the kind in the woods, the 'Squirrels Draw' alone approaching it in appearance.

The poor Wood Pigeon knew not how to build a nest at all, and in her tribulation besought the Magpie to teach her. The Magpie consented, so some sticks were collected and the lesson began.

'One stick this waay, t'other stick that waay, one stick a-thurt, t'other stick across,' chattered the Magpie.

'That 'ooll do-o-o-o, that 'ooll do-o-o-o,' coo'd the Wood Pigeon, highly pleased with what had been done, and feeling that this was as much as she could possibly manage to remember.

'No t'wunt, no t'wunt, one stick here, t'other stick there, and one betwixt,' replied the Magpie, suiting the action to the word.

'That 'ooll do-o-o-o, that 'ooll do-o-o-o,' said the poor Wood Pigeon again, now quite confused and utterly unable to follow the teaching any longer.

'Well, if t'ool for thee t'wunt vor I,' responded the Magpie, out of patience with so inapt a pupil, and off she flew.

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Thus it arises that the Wood Pigeon's nest has never been properly constructed, and that it consists only of a few twigs roughly laid across each other.

* * * *

It is said locally that a Dog's Nose and a Woman's Elbow are always cold, never being otherwise when there is good health. This is accounted for as follows: In the days of the flood the Ark sprung a small leak and Noah, who had forgotten to bring carpenter's tools on board with him, was at his wits' end how to act. His faithful Dog had followed him to the place where the leak was, and stood watching the influx of water. In his trouble Noah seized the Dog and crammed his nose into the leak.

This stopped it, but in a few moments Noah perceived that the Dog must die if kept in this position any longer. By this time Noah's Wife had come up and was standing by his side watching what was taking place. Noah thereupon released the Dog, and taking his Wife's arm stuffed her elbow into the crack.

The danger was thus averted, but a Dog's Nose and a Woman's Elbow will remain cold as long as the World lasts.

The above legend seems to have nothing specially of a Berkshire character about it, but I have never heard it told outside the county.

* * * *

Amongst country folk the notes or calls of many birds are given their equivalents in phrases. I remember an old shepherd at Hampstead Norreys,'Shepherd Savoury,' who seemed to have words or phrases for all birds.

As an instance, he one morning said he had been walking down a lane with his gun (a recent conversion from a flint arrangement), and found there a small flock of sparrows flying along the hedge in front of him. When these birds saw some one coming, they began to argue as to his identity; some said ' 'tis he, 'tis he,' to which others replied, 't'yent, t'yent.' This discussion went on until the

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birds fell a-fighting over it, and all flew close together in their struggle, as their manner is. 'Then,' said the Old Man, 'I thate the time had come vor to show um ' 'tis I,' an' zo I let vly an' killed a dozen on um.'

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VI.

SAYINGS' AND PHRASES.

Dwoant never buy a Peg in a Pwo-ak. This proverb is very common; it signifies that one should not make a bargain without previous thorough knowledge of what one is acquiring.

A whistlin' 'Ooman an a crawin' Hen
Be-ant good vor God nor it vor Men.

This is quoted with reference to a woman who attempts to do anything which would be more properly performed by a man. Whistling is held to be unwomanly, and it may be added that there is almost as strong a feeling in some communities in Berkshire against men or boys whistling on Sundays as there may be in any part of Scotland.

As proud as a Hen wi' one Chick. A very common saying with reference to one who is not able to conceal pleased pride about some matter, such as the success of a child at school, &c.

Raain avoor Zeven vine avoor 'Leven is a very common weather proverb.

'Zing avoor Breakvus' Cry avoor Night' is the phrase which greets those who commence the day with buoyant spirits too audibly apparent to others.

To require anything, *as much as a Two-ad wants a Zide-pockut*, is the expression to indicate that the thing asked for is quite unnecessary and unsuited to the person who makes the application.

What be good vor the Haay be bad vor the Turmuts. This saying has special reference to the fact that fine hay-making weather is bad for the young turnips, which require warm rain, but it is commonly made use of with respect to anything that may be good in one way and bad in another.

There are many 'sayings' respecting thrift, which is looked on as a very high virtue indeed. Commonly quoted by prudent housewives we have

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Two-ast yer Bread

An' rasher yer Vlitch,

Art as long as e' lives

Thee 'ooll never be Rich.

'New Bread, new Beer, an' gre-an 'Ood, 'ull bring Ruin to any mans house.'

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Also

Never go whoam

Wi'out Stick or Stwun.

* * * *

Children hold a buttercup to the chin to see if one likes butter—if there be a bright yellow reflection the liking exists— if there be none, they then try whether any reflection comes from the centre of a daisy, and this would indicate a liking for cheese. A shining face usually shows the liking for butter.

After children have finished eating cherry-pie or cherry-pudding, and accumulated cherry stones around the edge of the plate, they try to determine what kind of a house they will spend their lives in. On touching the first cherry-stone they say, 'Great-house,' on touching the second 'Little-house,' at the third 'Pig-sty,' and at the fourth 'Barn,' and so on again. The word spoken on touching the last cherry-stone, indicates the nature of the future residence.

There are similarly other sayings with cherry-stones. A girl thus seeking the status of her future husband, says, "Tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor, rich man, poor man, beggar, thief."

Also as regards the time of her marriage—' This year, next year, now, or never.'

Then for her dress 'Silk, satin, muslin, rags.'

For her mode of conveyance, 'Coach, carriage, wheelbarrow, dung-cart.'

If there be one of whom she thinks favourably she will test by touching cherry stones and saying, 'He loves me; he don't; he'll marry me; he won't; he would if he could; but he won't 'cause he can't.'

Girls ascertain how many years will elapse before they will get married by blowing at the seeds on a dandelion stalk. The number of years will correspond with the number of puffs required to get rid of all the seeds. Those with the best lungs would appear to have the best chance of getting married soon.

Amongst old Servants there is a crustiness of temper that seems inseparable from the honest, sterling devotion to those whom they serve. No affront is ever taken, the old servants being privileged. On days on which this crustiness of temper is specially apparent fellow servants and others try to keep clear

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as much as possible. As an instance, I may mention an old carpenter called "Jemps Burgess," who, with his son Dick, was employed about Hampstead Norreys Farm to do all small repairs and services. His duties ranged from mending dolls' legs and arms to framing buildings; he used to come in daily at noon, with his son, for the regulated pint of beer. He was greatly esteemed and liked.

One day he came in, not accompanied by his son Dick as usual.

The girl who brought his beer said quite civilly, 'Oh, Jemps, wher be *Dick* to-daay?' to which Jemps replied, 'Who d'ye mane by *Dick*? beant ut enough vor 'e as his godveythers an' godmothers christened un *Richut*, &c.? The maid hastily disappeared. Up till this time none had ever known 'Dick' under any other name.

A touch of the same spirit existed in Dick himself; it was usual to take him off his regular work for any odd messages, &c., and one day he had several times been sent with notes or messages to a house in the village where the occupants were on very intimate terms with the family of his master. On another note being at length handed to Dick he turned it over as if not understanding, and then said to the servant maid, 'Tell um plaze as I dwoant know my waay.'

About fifty years ago there lived at Hagbourn Mr. Robert Appleford. He was a Pig dealer by trade, was a 'Character,' and was well known throughout the county as 'Bob Applevord.'

Bob caused to be circulated far and wide notification that he had, at Hagbourn, a prime fat Pig which he intended to present to any man who could prove that he had *always strictly minded his own business*. For some time nobody responded to the invitation, and the one or two who at length did so had weak claims, which fell through.

But there was a man at Didcot of remarkably taciturn disposition, and his neighbours told him he was the right man to claim the Pig. Accordingly he one morning went over to Bob Appleford's Pig-yard at Hagbourn, and accosted him with, 'I be the man as minds my awn business an' be come vor that ther Peg.' 'Well,' says Bob Appleford, 'I

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be glad to zee 'e then. Come an' look at un.' They accordingly went to the sty where the celebrated Pig was, and for awhile both gazed admiringly.

Bob Appleford then stroked the Pig and remarked, 'A be a vine un' jus' as I zed vor, be-ant a?' 'Eese, a rayly be,' said the claimant from Didcot; 'Zurely a 'markable vine Peg, an' med I ax 'e what 'e hev a-ved* un on to maayke—.' 'That be my business an' not yourn, good marnin',' replied Bob Appleford interrupting.

'No one else claimed the Pig.'

The Mid-Berkshire rebuff to a Busybody is and is likely to be, *'You'll never get Bob Applevord's Peg'*

THE WELL-HOUSE, ZWILLY.HAWLE.

(I)

"Willum, ther's zummut puzzles I—
Med-be as you can zaay vor why
The waater yer, runs unner groun',

An' dwoant vlaw ont as can be voun.' "

(2)

"Well, Richut, I hev yeard um tell

As that ther hawle goes like a well;

Down in the yarth, an' zome zes droo'

The vurry bottom on un too."

(3)

'Oh, Willum, you a joke hev tried,

The yarth ent got no bottom zide,

An' that mus' prove, ther yent no doubt,

As what vlaws in atop comes out.'

(4)

"Now, Richut, thee zims sherp enough,

But what's the good o' tawkin' stuff?

Thess zettle't, an' t'yent no girt zin—

Thess get a duck an' put un in.

(5)

"Athout the waater ke-ups inzide,

E med-be zure as he wunt bide;

If that ther stre-am comes droo' a-top,

Athin the yarth that bird wunt stop."

(6)

Now, whilst um zo did argivy,

A vlock o' ducks comes paddlin' by.

"Why, Richut, look! Why, theuz be zent

Jus' pat vor our experiment,'

* *i.e.* fed,

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(7)

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"But, Willum, that ud be a wrong

To shove one down that hawle along,

An' what 'ull awld Daayme Bushell zaay

If us do zar un zuch a waay"?

(8)

"Well, Richut, larned chaps do zwaayre

As what's vor vindin' out be vaair,

Zo thess hev hopes the Daayme wunt vret,

She'll hev but one the less to yet."*

(9)

By now the ducks was handy got,

An' Willum jumped among the lot,

An' ketched a vine un-scotched his pawle,

An' zent un quackin' down the hawle!

* * * *

(10)

Vor moor'n a we-uk urn zarched aroun'

Vor any duck as med be voun';

But ater all was zed an' done,

Daayme Bushell's brood stood shert by one.

(11)

But bym-by comes a taayle to town.

Zome carter bwoys at Ivrinton, †

A baaythin in the river ther,

Had zummut zin as struck um queer.

(12)

Vust vloated veathers vast an' thick,

An' zome time ater zad an' zick,

A dyin' duck zo woebegone

Wi' narra zingle veather on.

(13)

Willum an' Richut went to zee

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That duck as shawed zuch mizeree;

Ther a was scotched acrass the pawle,

As thaay'd adone at Zwilly-Hawle.

(14)

Zo that poor mortal duck had voun'

His longvul waay all unner groun',

An' prooved as how that stre-am do run

From Zwilly-Hawle to Ivrinton.

i.e. Eat,

† Everington, a hamlet more than two miles from Well-House.

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VII.

PLACE-NAMES.

It may be of interest to record the various ways in which the names of Berkshire towns were spelt in the middle of the seventeenth century. In preparing the Berkshire notes for the new edition of *Boyne's Seventeenth Century Tokens* I have classified the spelling found on the Tokens, with the following result:

ABINGDON is spelt

5 times ABINGTON,

4 times ABINGDON,

1 time ABBINGTON,

1 time ABINDON.

BLEWBURY is spelt

3 times BLEWBERY,

1 time BLEWBEREY.

BUCKLEBURY has but one token, whereon the spelling is BUCKLEBERY.

COOKHAMwas spelt as at present.

COXWELL was spelt COXAL (LITLE COXALL).

FARINGDON is spelt

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5 times FARRINGDON,

3 times FARINGDON,

2 times FARINDON,

1 time FARINGTON.

HAGBOURN was spelt

1 time HAGBORN,

1 time HAGBORNE,

1 time HAGBVRNE.

HARWELL was spelt as now.

HUNGERFORD was spelt

3 times HVNGERFORD,

1 time HVNGER FORD,

1 time HUNGERFORD.

ILSLEY was spelt as now.

LAMBOURN was in all four cases spelt LAMBORNE.

LONGCOTT was spelt as now.

LONGWORTH has not changed.

MAIDENHEAD was spelt

3 times MAYDENHEAD,

1 time MAYDENHAD,

1 time MAIDEN HEAD.

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NEWBURY was spelt

6 times NEWBERY,

4 times NEWBRY,

1 time NEWBVRY,

1 time NEWBERRY,

1 time NEWBVRYE.

READING is spelt

37 times READING,

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10 times REDING,

6 times READINGE,

6 times REDDING,

2 times READINE,

1 time REDIN,

1 time REDDEN.

SONNING is spelt

1 time SVNNING,

1 time SVNNING TOWNE.

WALLINGFORD is spelt

12 times WALLINGFORD,

2 times WALLINGFORDE,

1 time WALLING FORDE.

WANTAGE is spelt

14 times WANTAGE,

2 times WANTING,

1 time WONTAGE,

1 time WANTIDGE,

1 time WANTINGE.

WINDSOR is spelt

5 times WINDSOR,

3 times WINSOR,

2 times NEW WINDSOR,

2 times NEW WINSOR.

WINKFIELD is spelt WINKFEILD.

WOKINGHAM is spelt

6 times WOKINGHAM,

4 times OKINGHAM,

2 times WOCKINGHAM,

1 time OKINGHAM,

1 time OAKINGHAM.

Those who issued the Tokens and spelt the names of towns as above were principally inn-keepers and leading tradesmen.

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A GLOSSARY

OF

A.

A.— 'A' is commonly used as a prefix to the present and past participles. The following are illustrations of its use thus:—

'I be a-gwaain' (I am going).

'I've a-zed what I've a-got to zaay' (I have said what I have to say)

*'Thaay be d-vightin' '(*they are fighting).

A. A is also used for 'he' or 'it', thus:

"If zo be as a zes a wunt, a wunt" (if he says he won't, he won't).

AAYGIN. Getting old in appearance.

"Mother's a-bin *aaygin* vast laaytely ater her cawld at Kursmas."

AAYKERN. The acorn.

When the acorns fall pigs are turned into the woods *aaykernin*.

AAYPE. To simulate or copy.

"He *aaypes* the gurt man" (he tries to appear the great man, *i.e.,* is consequential).

AAYPRUL VOOL.— The almost universal custom of making one an '*Aayprul Vool*' on the ist of April by leading him to look for something which turns out to have no foundation obtains throughout Berkshire. But this trick cannot be attempted after noon, for then the proposed victim would respond with "*Aapryl Vools* gan' paast, an' you be biggest *vool* at laast."

ABEAR, or ABER.— 'Can't *abear*' means 'can't tolerate' or 'greatly dislike.' *Abide* is used much in the same sense. "I can't *abear* zuch a vool as he be."

A-BED.— In bed.

"If *a lez a-bed* o' marnins a wunt never graw rich."

ABIDE.— To put up with, to tolerate.

"I can't *abide* such me-un waays."

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A-BIN. — Been; used superfluously thus:—

"I've *a-bin* an' broke a jug."

"The bwoy hev *a-bin* an' cut his vinger."

ABOVE A BIT.— Considerably, to an important extent.

ABRO-AD.— Corn or hay is said to be layin' *abro-ad* when scattered about, and neither in *cocks* nor *zwaths*.

A farmer is sometimes described as gone *abro-ad* when walking in the fields.

ACAUSE.— Because.

"A wunt come *acause* thee bist yer"(he won't come because you are here).

ACAWLD.— Cold.

"I be a-veelin *acawld*."

ACCOUNT.— Worth, value.

"That ther yent much *account*" or ('count), *i.e.*, "That is worth little" or of no avail.

ACELET.— Parts of the offal, as the heart, &c., of a hog roasted to form a dish.

ACRASS.— Not on good terms.

"Gaarge an' his brother hev a-bin a bit *acrass* laaytely."

ACTIN-ON'T.— Pretending, also doing wrong.

"Zo you bwoys hev a-bin *actin on't* agin, hev 'e"? (so you boys have been in mischief again, have you?)

ADAM.— "As awld as *Adam*" is the common phrase to denote great age or antiquity.

ADAMS-AAYLE.— Water fit to drink.

ADDER'S TONGUE.— The leaf of the common bracken.

ADDLE-YEADED.— The reverse of quick witted; stupid.

ADONE.— Stop! desist! It is often followed by 'then' or 'now.'

A girl would say "*Adone* then!" or "*Adone*!" or "*Adone* now!" on her sweetheart attempting to snatch a kiss.

ADRY.— Thirsty.

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'I be *adry*' (I am thirsty).

AFF—. Off.

AGG.— To cut unskillfully.

"What be at *a-aggin* the me-at like that ther 'twunt go hafe zo vur."

AGIN. Near to or anighst.

"I left the prong over *agin* the staayble door." Also used for 'in view of.'

"I hev a-got money put by *agin* a raainy daay."

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AGOG.— Eager, ready.

"Thaay was all *agog* to maayke a stert."

AGOGGLE.— Having the head shake with palsy. An old man named Tailor West, of Hampstead Norreys, was spoken of there as being *agoggle*; he was the terror of little children from this involuntary shaking of the head at them.

AGOGS.— White-thorn berries.

AGONE.— Departed.

"Thaay've a-bin *agone* this dree hour."

AGRA-ABLE.— Consenting, willing.

"I be *agra-able* vor um to get married if um be *agra-able* on t'other zide."

AGROUND.— Into a hole.

"The vox be gone *aground*."

AGWAAIN, sometimes AGWINE.—Going.

"I bent *agwaain* ther no moor" (I am not going there any more); "I be jus' *agwaain* to't," means "I am about to" or "I will do it directly."

AHUNGERD. Hungry.

"I be a-veelin' *ahungerd*" (I am feeling hungry).

AIT, or AAYTE.— A river, island, or flat on the bank with osiers growing.

ALANG O'.— On account of.

"Ut be all *alang o'* that ther coortin' as a dwoant do no work o' no account."

ALANG WI'.— In company with.

When a young man is accused of flirting with some one he will perhaps sheepishly say, "I zartney did go *alang wi* her a bit at one time, but tent nothin'."

ALE, also YELL and AAYLE.— Always used with reference to beer of a strong description.

"Ooll 'e hev a glass o' *aayle* or a glass o' beer"?

ALF.— Short name for Alfred.

ALL, also AAL or AEL.— Very commonly used in formation of compound words or phrases as in the cases following,—

ALL-A-HO.— Standing awry.

A rick is said to be *all-aho* when settled out of the perpendicular.

ALL-A-MANG.— Mixed together in a most confused manner.

ALL-A-MUGGLE.— With things out of place, in great disorder and confusion.

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ALL AS IS.— A decisive expression used when giving an order.

"*All as is* you hev a-got to work laayte till I tells 'e to stap."

ALLEY.— A 'tawl' used by boys at marbles, when having red streaks it is called "a blood-*alley*."

ALL IN A CHARM.— A confused noise as when children are talking and playing together around one.

ALL IN BITS.— In small pieces.

A carriage badly smashed by an accident is said to be *all in bits*.

ALL IN RAGS.— One with clothes worn out is said to go about '*all in rags*.'

ALL MANNERS.— Various kinds .Generally used in disparagement.

"Thaay was a—zaayin' *all manners* o' things about her," (they were speaking evil of her).

ALL ONE.— The same thing, or, making no difference.

"Tis *all one* to me wher (whether) e' goes or not."

ALL-OVERISH.— Feeling confused or abashed.

ALLOW, ALLOW.— Thus shouted twice to a dog to incite him to chase anything.

ALL TO SMASH.— Totally wrecked.

VNiVERSiTAS STVDIi SALAMANTiNi

ALLUS.— Always.

ALL VORNOTHIN'.— Quite in vain.

AMINTED.— In the humour to, willing to.

"If e beant *aminted to* do what I axes e, e med vind a plaayce zome 'er else."

AMOVE.— Where there is much game.

A copse is said to be "*amove* wi' gaayme"(*amove* rhymes with "rove.")

AMSIAM.— The sign '&' always thus called by children, and named after the letter 'Z' when saying the alphabet.

AMWOAST.— Almost, nearly.

My bwoy be *amwoast* as tall as I be.

AN.— On.

AN-E-ATH.— Beneath.

ANEOUST.— Just about, near against, almost.

"I zin 'in *aneoust* the chake pit" (I saw him near the chalk pit).

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ANIGHST or ANIGH.— Near to.

"Best not come *anighst* that ther hoss, med be he'll kick e."

ANTICKS.— Mischievous actions.

A PE-US O'WORK.— Something causing trouble, or making damage; a fuss.

A PICKY BACK.— A way of carrying one on the back, with his arms around the neck, and legs under and supported by the carrier's arms.

APPLE-PIE BED.— A bed made up by removing one of the two sheets and turning up the other from the bottom, so that when a person gets into bed his feet can go no farther down than the middle of the sheet thus turned up.

APPLE-PIE ORDER.— Arranged with great regularity; it corresponds with the naval term 'ship shape.'

APPLE SCOOP.— A scoop made by cutting away part from the knuckle bone of a leg of mutton. The flavour of apples is best brought out when eating them with such a scoop.

A-PURPOSE.— Intentionally.

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"A drowed I down *a-purpose*"(he threw me down intentionally).

ARCHUT, or ERCHUT.— An orchard.

AREADY.— Already.

ARGY, also ARGIVY.— To argue.

To '"*argivy* nothun" means "to have no weight," "not to tend to convince."

"What a chap like that ther zes dwoant *argivy* nothun'."

ARLY.—Early.

ARLY BWONE.- The hip bone of a pig.

ARN, also ARRUN or ARRA-ONE.— One at all, either of them.

ARNEST.— Earnest.

The "*arnest*" or "*arnest money*" is a shilling given on hiring a servant; it completes the contract.

AS.— Is used in place of relative pronouns thus, "It was he *as* tawld I"(it was he who told me).

AS ZO, and AS HOW, are also very similarly used.

"A telled muh *as zo* his ship was sheared las' Tuesday."

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AS EVER I.— As I possibly.

"I'll do 't as zoon as *ever* I can" (I'll do it as soon as I possibly can).

AS LIEV.— As readily, as soon.

"I'd as *liev* be killed as vrightened to death."

ASPRAAL.— Falling down with legs and arms helplessly extended on the ground, is said to be "vallin' all *aspraal*"

AS SHOULD BE.— Quite correctly, properly; as ought to be done.

"That bed yent maayde as *should be*." (That bed is not made properly.)

AST, also AXT.— To ask.

ASTED.— Having the banns published in church.

"Thaay was *asted* at church laast Zunday."

ASTOOR.— Shortly, very quickly.

ASTRADDLE.— Astride, sitting with legs wide apart, generally one leg on each side of a thing.

ATER.— After.

ATERMATH, also LATTERMATH.— The second crop of grass, *i.e.*, “Aftermowth.”

ATERNOON.— Afternoon.

ATERWARD.— Afterwards.

ATHIN.— Within, in the house.

“Be the me-uster *athin*”? “*Naw*, he be just gan avield.”

ATHOUT.— Unless.

“I wunt go *athout* thee comes too.”

ATHURT.— Across.

“I zin ‘in run *athurt* the pe-us o’ turmuts.”

ATOP O’.— On the top of.

“Get *atop o’* the taayble.”

ATWE-UN, or ATWANE.— Between.

“Thaay haaved (halved) the apples *atwe-un* um.”

ATWE-UN WHILES.— At odd times.

“I never smokes my pipe when I be at work, but hevs a bit o’ baccy zometimes *atwe-un whiles*.”

AT WHOAM.— At home.

ATWIST.— Twisted.

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ATWIXT.— Between.

“He was caught *atwixt* the ge-ut an’ the ge-ut-pwo-”st.’

ATWO.— In two parts.

“Cut the taayters *atwo* avoor ‘e plaants ‘urn.”

AUX.— To cut a slit at the back of a hare or rabbits’ leg, so that the other leg may thereby pass through it, and a number of them be carried on a pole by a keeper.

AVEARD.— Afraid.

“E bent *aveard* be ‘e?” (You are not afraid are you?)

AVIELD.— IN the field. A farmer is said to be "gone *avield*" when he has gone to walk about his farm.

AVOOR.— Before; AVORN is "before him," and AVOORT is "before it."

AVRESH.— Over again.

"Thee hast done the job zo bad thee mus' do 't *avresh*."

Unknown before, new.

"A be a—doin' things in the parish as be quite avresh."

AVRONT.— In front.

"Thee get on *avront* o' I, ther yent room vor us bwo-ath in the paath."

AWHILE, or AWHILES.— A short time ago.

"He was yer *awhiles*, but 'ood'nt waait no langer."

AWLD.— "*Awld*" is specially used as a term of familiarity, or even endearment. Thus a man would say of his wife, "My *awld* 'ooman 'ooll hev dinner jus' ready vor us."

AWLD HARRY.—"To plaay *Awld* Harry" is to perform wild pranks, or commit willful damage.

AWLD MAN'S LOVE.— The plant, Sothernwood.

AWVER.— Over. There are numerous compounds of this.

AWVER DRAW.— To overthrow.

AWVER-LAAY.— To kill by accidentally lying upon.

A sow not infrequently "*awver-laays*" one of her litter.

AWVER-NIGHT.— The night before.

"Mind as 'e comes to us *awver-night*, zo as we can maayke a stert early in the marnin'."

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AWVER-RIGHT.— Opposite to, adjacent.

"I left the rabbuts as I shot *awver-right* a crooked bache (beech) tree."

AX.— To ask. "Asked" becomes "*axt*." See also "AST" and "ASTED."

AXIN.— Asking or requesting.

"She med be had vor the *axin*"(she would readily consent to an offer of marriage).

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B

BAA LAMB.— A term used by children for sheep generally, and specially for lambs.

BAAYBY.— A baby.

BAAYKERS DOZEN.— Thirteen.

BAAYLEY.— A farm bailiff or overlooker of labourers.

BAAYSTE.— To flog.

"*A baaystin*' means a whipping."

I'll gie 'e *a baaystin* byn by if e' dwoant look out.'

BACHELORS' BUTTONS.— The common name for the wild Scabious.

BACK BOORD.— A board which children are made to place behind their shoulders holding the two ends in their hands to improve their figures.

BACKERDS.— Backwards.

"A vell down *backerds*."

BACKIN.— Moving in a backward direction, used of a horse principally.

BACK OUT.— Withdrawal (unworthily) from an agreement.

BACK ZIDE.— Premises adjoining the back of a house. The term occurs, with others, in an indenture dated 26th June, 1691, wherein Mr. John Lowsley leases property at Kingston Backpurze to Richard Bagoly and Richard Cripps. The lease refers to house property and land called 'Middletons,' and the lawyer made his description very full; it ran thus:

"All and singular-Houses, barnes, stables, orchards, gardens, "*back sides*," lands, meadows, pastures, commons, hades, layes, moores, trees, woods, underwoods, fishings, wayes, waters, easements, profitts, comodities, advantages and hereditaments whatsoever.'

BACK SOORDIN.— Single stick. This is still kept up in Berkshire and the counties westward. A most graphic account of this is given in Hughes' "Scouring of the White Horse."

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BACK UP.— A person very angry and ready to fight is said to have his "*back up*." Many animals, as cats, ferrets, &c., elevate their backs when ready for action.

BAD.— Always used for 'ill.'

"A was *bad* vor a year or moor avoor a died."

BAD DOER.— An animal that, no matter how well fed, never thrives. A GOOD DOOER is the reverse of this.

BADGER.— To worry or teaze.

"If a *badgers* 'un any moor a ooll get his back up."

BAG.— A cow's udder.

"She's got a good *bag*, *i.e.* (gives much milk).

"To *bag*" is also used (by boys principally) for "to purloin."

BAG-O-BWONES.— A person who has become extremely thin.

BALK.— To thwart.

"He *balked* muh jus as I was a-goin' to shoot by callin' out like that ther."

BALLET.— A long string of songs on a single sheet sold by itinerant vendors.

BALLY RAGGIN'.— Loud continuous fault-finding and scolding.

BALSER.— The largest size stone marble, specially used by boys for "long taw."

BAMBOOZLE.— To deceive; to hoodwink; to make a fool of one.

BAME.— Balm.

BANDY.— The game hocky or hurling is so called.

BANG.— Quite; totally; decisively.

Thee'd best go *bang* awaay.

"A *bang*" is also any sharp loud noise.

BANGER.— Something very large; an exaggerated story, hence a lie.

"*A banger*" on the yead means a resounding blow.

BANGIN'.— A very large quantity.

"He gin I *a bangin*' helpin' o' plum pudden."

BANSKITTLE.— The little fish also called stickleback.

BARBERED.— To have barber's service, such as having one's hair cut, &c., performed.

"I be a-gwaayn to be *barbered.*

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BARK.— To knock the skin off; also to cough.

BARLEYOYLES.— The beards of barley.

BARM, or BERM.— Yeast.

BARREL TOM-TIT.— The long-tailed tit-mouse, so called from the shape of its nest.

BARROW HILL.— An ancient tumulus. There are very many of these in the county.

BAW TO A GOOSE.— One is said to be not able to say "*baw to a goose*" when stupidly shy and reserved.

BASTE.— To tack children's sewing together for them.

BAT, or DRUGBAT.— The iron shoe chained to the wheel of a waggon or cart to impede rotation when going down-hill.

BATE.— To lower the price at first demanded; to whip.

BAVIN.— A bundle of very small brush wood.

"*A bavin*" differs from a faggot in having the brush wood of much smaller description.

"*Bavins*" are used principally for burning in kilns, and for lighting kitchen fires.

BAZE, or BE-UZ.— Bees. The following *may* come from the same hive in a summer swarm, smart, cast, and hitch but this does not often happen. "A maiden swarm may also come out of the first swarm.

BE.— Always used for "are."

BE-AT.— Tired out; completely puzzled.

"I be dead *be-at*,"

Also to walk a field in search of game.

"Which pe-us o' turmuts shall us *be-at* vust."

BE-AT MY NAAYBOUR OUT O' DOORS.— The game of cards, "*beggar my neighbour*," is so called ("*doors*" rhymes with "moors").

BEAUTIFY.— To make one's toilette very carefully.

BECALL.— To vilify; to abuse.

BEDDERD.— Bed-ward.

"Lets *get bedderd*, an' zo be up in the marnin'."

BED-GOWND.— A night-dress.

BEDIZEND.— Decorated very gaudily and with showy ornaments.

BEDWINE.— Wild Clymatis.

BEE-UCH GALL, or BACHE GALL.— A hard lump on the leaf of a beech tree.

BEE-UCH MAASTS.— Beech nuts.

BEER.— Pith, worth, solidity.

"That zarment zimmed to I vurry small *beer* (*i.e.*, poor and uninteresting).

Naturally *beer* is much thought of.

In the "Scouring of the White Horse" we find lines go—

"Zartinly the sixpenny's the very best I've zeed yet,
I do not like the fourpenny nor yet the intermediate."

At the Manor House, Hampstead Norreys, there is a pair of quaint old drinking horns. On the first is painted a yeoman of the olden time, and from his mouth comes the legend,"I love good *beer*;" on the other is similarly painted a labourer, who responds, and "So do I."

A country brewing is thus locally described

"Vorty gallons o' *Never Vear*,
Vorty gallons o' *Taayble beer*,
Vorty gallons o' *Wus nor that*,
An' vorty gallons o' *Rattle tap*'

The *Never Vear* is strong beer.

The *Rattle Tap* is poor stuff indeed.

In haymaking time or harvest a man who drinks *beer* would require a gallon a day.

BEERY.— Partially intoxicated.

BEGGAR.— To impoverish; to make bankrupt.

"That *beggared* I" (*i.e.*, made me bankrupt).

BEHAWLDEN.— Under obligation.

"I wunt be *behawlden* to the likes o' thaay."

BELIKE.— Very probably, perhaps.

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"Now ut raains a wunt come *belike*."

BELLOCK.— To roar loudly; to shout words in a coarse manner.

"When I wolloped un' a *bellocked* zo 'e med year'n a mild awaay."

BELLOWSES.— Bellows; also the lungs.

BENNETS.— The long stalks of a species of grass with seeds thereon wherewith children make "*bennet*-baskets."

BENT, or BE-ANT.— Am not.

"I *be-ant* a-gwaain to stan" "t," *i.e.*, "put up with it."

BERRY.— A rabbits warren (a corruption of "burrow"),

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BE SHERP.— Be quick and careful. In giving orders to an inferior, who is lazy or negligent, the order often terminates with, "An *be sherp* about ut."

BEST.— To get the advantage of.

"A tried to *best* I but I was too sherp vor'n;" also "bested" is used.

BEST VOOT VORRUD.— To put ones "*best voot vorrud*" is to walk at a very quick pace.

BE'T AS T'OOLL.— Be it as it will; in any case.

"*Be't as t'ooll* I be a-gwaayn to zell them ship to-daay"(be it as it will I am going to sell those sheep to-day).

BETTER.— "To *better*' one's self is the expression for getting higher wages. This term however seems almost universal.

To beat.— If one player makes a high score at skittles it is common to remark to the player following,"Thee wun *better* that ther."

BETTERMWOAST.— The greater part.

'We was the *bettermwoast* haafe of a daay a-doin' 'ont."

BETTER NOR.— Greater than, more than.

"Ut be *better nor* two mild vrom Yattendon to Bucklebury."

BE US.— Are we?

BE-USTINS.— The milk first drawn after a cow has given birth to a calf.

BIBBLE.— To tipple; to take alcoholic drink at short intervals.

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BIDE.— To stay.

"I wunt *bide* no langer."

BILE THE POT.— To cook.

"If I dwoant ketch a rabbut to-night I shan't hev nothin' to *bile the pot* to-morrer."

BILL HOOK.— A cutlass with top turned inwards used for cutting up fire wood and lopping branches.

BILLY COCK.— The wide-awake hat commonly worn.

BIN.— The corn chest in the stable (always secured by a padlock).

"A-bin" is the preterit of the verb "to be."

BIS"NT.— "Art thou not?"

BIST.— "Art thou?"

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BIT.— A short space of time.

"Stop a *bit*, he'll zoon be yer."

A little piece.

The word *bit* is always used for "little" in cases as above referred to.

BITEL.— The long-handled wooden mallet with top iron bound, used for driving wedges when splitting up large clumps or stumps of wood.

"The *Bitel and Wedges*" obtains as a public-house sign.

BITTER ZWE-UT.— When a spiteful thing is done with a sunny friendly face this term is used.

BIVER.— The quivering of the under lip, which precedes crying.

"Thee hast 'vronted 'un now, zee how a *bivers*," would be said to one who had spoken in a way to cause a child to begin to cry.

BIZZOM.— A bezom or birch broom.

BLAAYRE.— To shout out anything in a coarse manner.

BLAB.— To tell of any wrong doing; to betray a secret. This word seems almost universal.

BLACK-BOB.— A black beetle.

BLACK VRAST.— Frost without rime.

BLAST.— A common imprecation."Blast-naaytion" is also so used.

BLAWED.— Animals in the dangerous condition of having their stomachs distended by eating too much green or forcing food are said to be *blawed*.

BLE-ADIN' HEART.— The name of a common bright red wall-flower.

BLIND MAN'S HOLIDAY.— In darkness so great that nothing can be seen.

BLINK.— A spark of fire.

"Ther yent a *blink* left"(the fire is quite out).

This also is used to signify light enough to see a little.

"I Can't zee a *blink*"(it is quite dark).

BLIZZY.— A blaze. The fire is said to be all of a "*blizzy*" when pieces of wood have been inserted amongst the coal to make it burn cheerfully.

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BLOOD ALLEY.— The favourite marble taw (pronounced tawl) used by boys. Its name arises from the streaks of red in it.

BLOODY WARRIOR.— A wall-flower of rich dark red colour.

BLOWZY.— Bloated and red-faced.

BLUBBER.— To cry; almost in general use.

BLUR.— A blot causing indistinctness to anything beneath it.

BLURT OUT.— To speak out a thing unexpectedly and inopportunely.

BOB.— A quick downward motion.

"The bird *bobbed* just as I shot."

A quick curtsey is also so called.

A *Timber* Bob is often shortly called a "*bob*."

BOBBERY.— A fuss; a disturbance.

BOBBISH.— Cheery and well in health.

"I be pretty *bobbish*, thenk 'e, how bist thee?"

BOB-CHERRY.— The game of taking the end of a cherry stalk between the teeth, and, holding the head perfectly level, trying to get the cherry into the mouth without using the hands or moving the head.

BODY HOSS, or BODY HERSE.— The horse of a team next in front of the "thiller."

BOGGLE.— To hesitate about agreeing to anything.

"A *boggled* a goodish bit avoor I could get 'un to zaay eese."

Also opening and shutting the eyes, as if troubled by a strong light, but this signification may appear common.

"The good Saint Anthony "*boggled*" his eyes,
So firmly fixed on the old black book,
When Ho, at the corners they gan to rise,
He could'nt choose but have a look."

BOGY.— A sort of ghost.

Children are kept quiet by "If 'e dwo-ant ke-up still an' go to sle-up *Bogy* 'ooll come."

The reflection of sunlight from water on the wall of a room is also sometimes called *Bogy* by children.

BOLT.— To rush away quickly.

"To *bolt* a rabbit" is to drive it quickly from the warren into the open. Any noise outside a warren stops rabbits from "*bolting*."

BOOARD.— To foretell.

"I dwo-ant *booard* no raain to-daay (I expect no rain to-day).

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BOOBY TRAP.— Placing a basin of water on top of a partly open door so that one who pushes the door to enter receives it on his head. This trick however is not unknown to school boys in other parts.

BOOIN'.— The noise made by men and boys to interrupt any speech which is displeasing to them. This appears almost general.

BOORIN' ALONG.— Rushing along rapidly and without moving aside for any one.

BOOZE.— To carouse.

BORN-DAAYS.— Life time.

"I never zin zuch doins in all my *born-daays*."

BORN-VOOL.— One who is intensely stupid, an idiot almost.

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"A must be a *born vool* to do like that ther."

BOTTOM.— The lowest part of a valley.

"Moor likely 'e 'll vind a haayre (or her) on the brow 'an in the bottom."

The expression "to have no *bottom*" is used to signify the the reverse of sturdiness; this may be almost general.

BOUGHTEN.— Bought, used to distinguish, from WHOAM-MAAYDE.

"Us ent had no baazkin' vor a wake an' zo be a-yettin' *boughten* bre-ad."

BOUNCE.— Swagger; also to move hastily, roughly, and noisily.

BOUT.— The termination of a round at back swording; "*bout*" is called out by one of the combatants as a notice that the round is ended.

BOWZEY.— Very large or bulky; nearly intoxicated.

BRAAIN-PAN.— The top of the head.

"A got a cut on the *braain-pan*" (a blow on the top of the head).

BRAAY.— To neigh as a horse does.

BRAAYKE, or BRE-AK. "To *braayke* with a person" is to be no longer on friendly terms with him. This word is occasionally pronounced "*breek*" in the Vale of Berkshire by some who 'aaype to tawk viner'n ther naaybours."

BRAAYVELY.— Well in health.

"A zes a veels quite *braayvely* this marnin'."

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BRAAYVERY.— Fine dress.

BRAAYZEN.— Bold in its bad sense.

"A *braayzen* huzzey" is a bold immodest woman.

BRAAYZEN OUT.— To carry a bold and innocent face after doing a wrong or dishonourable thing.

BRAN NEW.— Perhaps a corruption of "*brand new*" *i.e.*, with the brand not worn away.

BRASS VARDEN.— There is the expression, "Not wuth a *brass varden*," used with respect to anything of no value whatever. It has been suggested to me that this expression may owe its origin to the fact that the *brass tradesmen's* farthings, so

commonly issued about the middle of the seventeenth century, became quite valueless when copper halfpennies were first issued in 1672.

BRE-ATH.— "To vetch *bre-ath*" is to pause; to consider.

In recommending cautious procedure one would say, "Let's vetch *bre-ath* a bit awver't" (let us pause to consider about it).

BREN-CHAZE.— Bread and cheese.

"I was a-yettin' my *bren-chaze"* usually is said for,"I was eating my mid-day meal."

BRESS-PLOUGHIN'.— *Breast ploughing*. This is done by men pushing a kind of spade from the shoulder. The object of it is to burn the surface of the soil, when this might not be effected sufficiently by the ordinary method of ploughing.

BREVETTIN' ABOUT.— Prying; a quick searching movement.

"I zin 'un a *brevettin*' about alang the hedges up to no good, I warn'e" (warrant ye).

BRICK.— Applied to a good-hearted, generous fellow, who can be relied on; almost universal.

BRICK-BATS.— Broken bricks.

BRICK-KILL.— A brick kiln.

BRIMMER.— A hat.

BROAD-CAST.— The act of sowing seed by casts from the hand as distinguished from "drilling" it.

BROCK.— A badger.

BROKEN-MOUTHED.— Having the front teeth wanting.

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BROW.— The part below the crest of a hill.

BRUKKLE.— Brittle.

BRUM.— A broom.

BRUM OUT O' WINDER.— Hanging the "*brum out o' winder*" is a sign that the wife is away from home and that the husband will give hospitality to friends.

BRUMSTWUN.— Brimstone.

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BRUSSLES.— Bristles.

“A got my *brussles* up,” means “He made me very angry.”

BUCK.— The large wash of house linen, &c., in a farm-house.

Articles are kept for the “*buck* wash,” which cannot conveniently be disposed of at the “dab “ or small wash.

BUCKIN’.— Extensive washing of linen.

“I vound the house all of a caddle wi’ the *buckin’* on.”

BUCK-JUMPER.— A horse that *jumps* like a stag, with the four feet all rising at the same time.

BUCKLE TO.— To set to work in down-right earnest; also to get married.

BUCKLE UNDER.— To give way somewhat humbly after opposition; to acknowledge superiority.

“*Knuckle under*” has a somewhat similar signification.

BUCKZOME.— Jolly, full of spirits; often followed by “like.”

“A zimmed got quite well an’ *buckzome* like.”

BULLOCK.— A heifer is so called.

BULLASSES.— Small sweet green plums, the size of marbles.

BUMBLE BA.— A specie of bee that does not sting.

BUMMIN’.— A rumbling or humming noise.

BUMPIN’.— Large.

“A gid I a *bumpin’* lot”(he gave me a large quantity or number).

A noise caused by thumping; also a hard push.

“A was a-*bumpin’* my yead agin the wall when I called ‘e.”

BUMPTIOUS.— Swaggering, proud, assuming superiority.

BUNCH.— A bow of ribbons; the posy of flowers placed in a button hole.

“O dear, what can the matter be

Johnny zo long at the Vaair,

A pramised to buy muh o’ *bunch* of blue ribbon

To tie up my bonnie brown haair.”

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BUNDLE.— To run hastily away (often after having done mischief.)

"Us *bundled* pretty sherp I can tell 'e."

Also to cause to start off in a great hurry.

"I had to *bundle* 'um all aff avoor thaay'd done yettin'."

BUNGERZOME.— Unwieldy, clumsy.

"That ther bundle o' zacks be too *bungerzome* vor I to car."

Also "A be a *bungerzome* zart o' chap."

BUNK.— Be off!

"You chaps 'ud best *bunk* avoor I maaykes 'e."

"I zin 'um was a-gettin' quarrelzome an' zo *bunked* it zo as nat to get mixed up wi' 't."

BUNNY.— Name for a rabbit; children always use this term. Almost universal.

BUNT.— To push with the head or horns. Young animals pushing the udder with the head to make milk flow freely are said to "*bunt*"

"Gie us a *bunt* up" is the phrase used by a boy when he wishes another to raise him from the ground on his attempt to mount a tree.

BUNTIN.— The wood-lark.

BUSINESS.— Fuss.

"A maayde a gurt *business* about um a-taaykin' his spaayde wi'out axin."

BUST, or BUSTED.— Burst.

There is a rhyme common with boys, the one having anything to give away calling out

"Billy, Billy *Bust*,
Who spakes vust."

BUSTER.— An improbable story; a lie; anything very large.

BUTTER-VINGERED.— Clumsy in handling and allowing things to slip from the fingers.

BUTTRY.— The pantry or place where butter, &c., for home consumption is kept.

BUTTS.— Old archery *butts* still give their name.

At Reading we have the well-known part of the town called "St. Mary's *Butts*."

BUZZY, or BUZLY.— Rough and bushy, like a fox's brush.

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BWUN.— Bone. The expression "*to bwnn*," meaning to make a petty theft is almost universal. "*Bwun* in my leg," good humouredly used to children to express inability to do something they ask.

"I caant do 't vor 'e now I've a-got a *bwun* in my leg."

BYM BY, or BYN BY.— By and by, presently.

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C

CABBAGE.— To appropriate without permission; to crib, but not applied to a serions theft.

"I zin a lot o' apples laayin' unner a tree an' zo *cabbaged* this yer un."

CADDLE, or CATTLE.— To hurry so as to confuse.

"Dwoant 'e *caddle* me an' maayke me do't all wrong."

"In a *caddle*" is "in great confusion."

CADDLIN'.— Untidy, slipshod.

"A done that ther job in a *caddlin'* waay."

CADGER.— A beggar, a loafer of dishonest appearance.

CAFE. A calf.

CALL.— Occasion.

"Thee hasn't no *call* to spake to I like that ther."

CALLER, or CALLOW.— Naked, to " lie *caller*" is to lie bare or without crop.

"Young birds are always described as "*caller*" when first hatched.

CANKERED.— Cross grained, misanthropic. A cut or wound is described as "*cankered*" when it begins to present a bad appearance through being neglected.

CANTANKEROUS.— Easily ruffled in temper, obstructive, with petty obstinacy; almost universal.

CAN'T BE OFF.— The usual phrase to indicate impossibility of mistake.

"If 'e goes athirt the vield o' vallers, e' *cant be off* a zeein' the haayre as I telled 'e about a zettin in her vorm."

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CAP.— To outdo.

“That ther *caps* all” (that outdoes all that has gone before).

CAPPENTER.— A carpenter.

CAR.— To carry.

CARDIN.— According.

CARLINE.— Carolina.

CARPIN’.— Fault finding.

CARROTTY PAWLE.— A red-haired person.

CAS’NT.— Can’st thou not?

CASTLES.— A game at marbles where each boy makes a small pyramid of three as a base, and one on the top; they aim at these from a distant stroke with balsers winning such of the *castles* as they may in turn knock down.

CAT IN PAN.— One who changes sides for selfish reasons.

In the old song, “The Vicar of Bray,” we have:

“When William our Deliverer came
To heal the nation’s grievance,
Then I turned *Cat in Pan* again
And swore to him allegiance.”

CAT OUT O’ THE BAG.— Letting the “*cat out o the bag*” is the making known something that has been kept secret.

CATS CRAAYDLE.— A game played by means of string across the fingers of the two hands. The players have to take the string from each other under different arrangements, without making any mistake.

CATTLE.— Hurry; confusion. *Vide* CADDLE.

CA-UV-IN, or CAAYVIN.— Chaff and short straw, as collected from a barn-floor after threshing.

CAW, also CAWNEY.— A very stupid fellow, almost an idiot.

CAWLD-COMFORT.— Cold words or deeds, making one’s troubles appear greater.

CESS TO ‘T.— Used to encourage a dog to eat anything.

VNiVERSiTAS STVDII SALAMANTiNi

CHAAIR, or CHEER.— A chair.

CHAAYKE.— Chalk.

CHAAYNGES.— Shirts and under-clothing generally.

CHACKLIN'.— A noise made by a hen after laying an egg.

"I yeard 'un a-*chacklin'*, zo a mus' hev a ne-ust zome 'er yer."

CHAFF-CUTTER.— The machine for cutting straw into short lengths for use as chaff.

CHALKERS.— Boys' marbles held in the lowest estimation, being made of chalk or of chalk and clay mixed; those next above these in value are called "stoners."

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CHAM. —To chew; there is also in use the expression

"A *chammed* awver't a goodish bit;" this expresses hesitation and unwillingness to do a thing.

CHAP.— Any man of no great consideration; but we say equally.

"A goodish zart o' *chap*," and "a poorish zart of a *chap*;" where a number of men in any station of life may be banded together they are called *chaps*, the expression then running 'them (descriptive title) *chaps*."

CHARLOCK.— The wild mustard, which grows to the detriment of corn crops.

CHASS, or CHERLES.— Charles.

CHATTER AT.— To scold.

"Meuster 'ooll *chatter* at 'e when a comes to knaw on 't."

CHATTER-WATER.— Tea.

CHAY, or CHAW.— To bite one's food.

"A be got awld an' can't *chay* nothun' now.

CHERM.— A mixture of noises of various kinds. "*Chermin'* the baze" is the act of ringing a stone against a spade or watering can; this music is supposed to cause the bees to settle in the neighbourhood; another object in doing this is to let the neighbours know who the bees belong to if they should chance to settle on adjacent property.

CHEERY.— Chary, careful in a mean or stingy sense.

CHE-UZZES, or CHAZES. Seeds of the mallow.

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CHICK A BIDDIES.— Fowls; but this word is principally used by children.

CHICKEN'S MEAT.— The broken grains of corn used for feeding poultry.

CHIDLINS, or CHITLINS.— Chitterlings.

CHILDERN,— Children.

CHIMBLEY,— A chimney: a chimney sweep is a "*chimbley* swape."

CHINKIN'.— Metallic rattling noise as of a chain dragged over stones.

CHIN MUSIC.— Impertinence.

"Dwo-ant gie I none o' thee *chin music*," is a common retort.

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CHIP IN.— To break into a conversation going on between others.

CHIPPY, also CHIRPY.— In good spirits.

CHIT.— To sprout; also a sharp troublesome little girl.

CHIVVY.— To chase, shouting the while.

CHIZZLE.— To cheat.

CHIZZLE BOBS.— The bugs found under decaying wood or old bricks, &c.

CHOCK VULL.— Full to overflowing.

CHOICE, or CHICE.— Difficult to suit as regards food. A *choice* or pampered child is teazed by being called "Gaargie."

CHOP.— To exchange.

CHOPS.— The jaws. "Cut on the *chops*" means a blow on the lower part of the face.

CHOUSE.— To cheat; a dishonest action.

CHUCK.— To toss carelessly.

CHUCKLE YEADED.— Very stupid.

"A *chuckle yeaded* vool."

CHUMPS.— Thick pieces of wood for burning. The *chump* end of a thing is the thicker end.

CHUNE.— Tune.

CHUNE-UP.— "Commence singing' or "Sing more loudly."

CHUNKS.— Split pieces of firewood of more uniform thickness than "chumps."

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CHURCH-VAWK.— Those who attend the Parish Church are so called. Those who attend Dissenting Places of Worship being given the general title of MATINERS or CHAPEL-GOERS.

CHURLUT.— Charlotte.

CIPE.— A large basket.

CIRCUMBENDIBUS.— A round about route.

CLACK.— A woman who is always chattering.

CLAGGY.— With sticky mud,

CLAM.— To hustle, so as to prevent movement,

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CLAMMED.— Chocked up by over-filling.

If an aperture be too small for grain to run through freely it is said to be "clammed;" also a surfeit from over-feeding is so called.

CLAMBER, or CLIM.— To climb.

"*Clamber*" would be used for getting up a rock, and "clim'" for climbing a tree.

CLAMP.— To tread noisily. An arrangement of bricks piled for burning without a kiln is so called.

CLAMPUTTIN', or CLUMPUTTIN'.— Stumping about.

CLANG.— A resounding noise, as the report of a gun.

CLAP.— To place quickly.

"*Clap* 'un down an' be aff."

"*Clap* on your hat."

Also, in cold weather, to "*clap*," is to get warm by beating the arms across each other.

CLAP-ON.— To overcharge.

"A allus *claps-on* wi' I, acause a thinks I shall try to be-at un down a bit."

CLAPPER.— The tongue.

CLAPPER CLAWED. Scratched by a woman.

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CLAPPERS.— Shallows in a river. The *clappers* between Reading and Caversham are known to all upper Thames boating men.

CLAPS.— To clasp.

CLAPS-NET.— A net where the two parts close together, such as that used for catching sparrows at night around the eaves of ricks, etc.

CLAT.— A patch of dirt or cow-dung thrown against a wall or door.

CLAVER.— An instrument to chop bones of meat; a cleaver.

CLAY, or CLAA.— To claw.

"To *clay* hawld on 'un" is to seize a thing with hands or claws.

CLE-AN, or CLANE.— Entire, absolute, altogether.

"A missed "un *cle-an*" (he missed it altogether), as applied to a shot.

CLE-AN AN' HANZOME.— Has the same meaning as "*cle-an*" given above, but with stress on the "Miss" being remarkable.

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CLE-AN AN' ZIMPLE.— Wholly; thus, if a dog gets on a table and eats the whole of the dinner, he is said to have "yetted ut all *cle-un an' zimple*."

CLENTED OR CLENCHED.— Turned back upwards as in the case of a nail.

CLICK.— Completely; thorough.

"A done we *click*"(he took us in completely). I have heard this word used for "select" or "out of the common way," thus: It was observed that on an occasion when entertaining guests, a certain dame of the middle class appeared to be very affected in her manner. One of her neighbours remarked afterwards," "E zees that ther be jus' her *click* party, an' that be how 'tis she dos like that." That was an annual party to which the lady invited some guests of higher social standing than most of her friends and neighbours.

CLICKUTTY-CLACK.— The noise made in walking where a clog or patten is loose from the shoe.

CLIM.— *Vide* CLAMBER. To climb.

GLIMMERS.— Climbers; —*i.e.*, iron spurs having the point projecting from the instep, used to assist in climbing trees which have no branches.

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CLINK.— Straightforward. A man who is not to be depended upon, or who would take advantage of one in dealing is said to be "not quite *clink*."

Also a resounding blow.

"I gid 'un a *clink* en the yead."

CLINKERS.— Over burnt bricks.

CLITTER-CLATTER.— Such a noise as made by knocking plates and dishes together when removing these from the table.

CLIVERS.— Goose grass.

CLO-AZ PRAP.— A pole with a fork at the top used for supporting clothes lines.

CLOD HOPPERS.— Country folk are thus sometimes disparagingly termed by townsmen.

CLOG.— A kind of over shoe or sandal used by women to keep dirt from their shoes when walking short distances.

"Pattens" are used when the dirt is very deep.

CLOGGY.— Dirty.

CLOSE.— Reserved, also stingy.

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CLOSE VISTED.— Not willing to part with money for any charitable purpose.

CLOT.— A clod. There is the expression "Ut laays pretty *clotty*" when unbroken clods lie on the surface of tilled land.

CLOUT.— A blow.

"I gid un a *clout* aside the yead."

A piece let into a garment; "a dish-*clout*" is a cloth used for wiping dishes.

CLOVER-LEY.— Clover field lately mown.

CLUMPETTY.— Used as regards lumps of earth to indicate that they are not friable.

CLUMPY.— Stupid. A pair of boots is said to be "*clumpy*" when clumsily made and with very thick soles.

CLUNG.— Heavy, stiff, adhesive (applied to the soil).

CLUTTERY.— "*Cluttery* weather" is when it is raining, with thick clouds all around.

COBBLE.— To stitch coarsely.

COBBLES.— Small round lumps of anything; also pebble stones used for paving.

COBBLY.— Having lumps mixed with fine matter.

COCKCHAFFER.— The May bug.

COCKEY.— Conceited, arrogant, bumptious; also applied to a little man who marches about with an important air, he goes by the name of *Cockey*, his surname following.

COCKED.— Nearly intoxicated.

COCK-EYED.— Cross-eyed, squinting.

COCK HORSE.— Children are said to ride *cock horse* when riding cross wise as on a horse.

COCK O' THE ROOST.— The one who is at the head of a party.

COCK ZURE.— Quite sure.

COCK SHY.— To throw at anything after careful aim is to

"Taayke a *cock shy*."

CODDLE.— To pamper.

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CODGER.— A testy old man; an old man having queer habits.

COKERS.— Stranger labourers going about on piece-work.

COLLAR.— To make a petty theft.

"Them apples looks zo good, I me-ans to *collar* one."

COLLARED-ZOUSE.— Brawn is always so called.

COLLOP.— A rather thick slice of meat.

COLLUTS.— Young cabbages.

COMBE.— A hollow in the Downs.

COME.— To achieve.

"I can't quite *come* that"(that is beyond me).

"*Come*! *come*!" is an expression often sharply used to hurry a child or an inferior.

At advent of.

"I shall hev a-lived under the Squire vorty year *come* Laaydy Daay."

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"In churning butter is said to "*come*."

COME BACK.— These words are imagined in the note of the Guinea Fowl or Gallini, and children worry these fowl to get them to repeat this just as they also run after Cock

Turkeys calling, "What d'ye hang yer vather wi'," to get the reply "Holter, holter, holter."

COME AFF.— To happen.

"That ther wunt never *come aff*."

COMETHER.— Come hither.

"*Comether* "oot," or "*comether* wut," is an expression used to horses.

To put the "*comether*" on a person is to restrain him.

COME O' THAT.— To get the better of something not desirable. If a young girl carries herself awkwardly, it is said that she will "*come o' that*" as she grows older.

COMIN'-AN.— Growing, improving, ripening, coming to perfection.

"Our bwoys be *a-comin' an* now, an' mus' zoon go to school."

COMIN' ROUND.— Getting into good temper again after anger; recovering from illness; won over to one's way of thinking.

CONDITION.— This word is used to describe degree of fertility in land; fatness in cattle; capacity to do work in horses.

"Out o' *condition*" indicates an unsatisfactory state.

CONTAAIN MEZELF.— To show no outward sign of my feelings.

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CONTRAAYRY.— Cross-grained, obstructive.

"A. turned *contraayry* an' 'ood'nt lend his herse, an' zo us cood'nt go."

CONVOUND.— A form of imprecation. Both syllables are very long.

"*Convound* that chap! a pramised I to come an' a never did."

CONVOUNDED.— Used as an expression of anger or annoyance.

"That *convounded* bwoy's moor plaaygue nor a's wuth."

CONVOUNDED LIKE.— Confused. It is often preceded by "zart o'."

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"When a tawld I as Dannul was 'listed vor a zawljer I was zart o *convounded like*, an' cood'nt zaay no moor."

CONZAIT.— To think; to be of opinion.

COOB.— Coop. A hen-coop is a "hen-*coob*."

COOBIDDY.— The call for fowls to come to be fed. (In the call the first syllable is much prolonged.)

COODNST, or COOS'NT.— Could you not? Could not.

"If I dwoant do't I be zure thee *coos'nt*."

COOST. Could you?

"*Coost* tell I which be the ro-ad (or rawd) to Alder, plaze?"

("Could you tell me which is the way to Aldworth, please?")

COPSE.— A wood (not applied to a small wood only). The large wood named "The Park Wood," at Hampstead Norreys is generally called "The *Copse*," whilst other woods near are given their distinctive names, as "Laycroft," "Beech Wood," &c.

CORD WOOD.— Wood split up for firewood and stacked ready to be sold by "the *cord*."

COTCHED.— Caught.

"Us *cotch'd* um at ut." (We caught him in the act.)

COTCHEL.— Part of a sack full.

COTTERALUGG.— A bar across the chimney breast to which is fastened the pot-hook.

COUCH.—Rank grass; quitch grass.

COUCH-HE-AP.— A heap of rank grass roots stacked in the field for burning.

COUNT, or ACCOUNT.— Utility, value, proficiency.

"A yent much *count* at cricket" (he is a poor playe).

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COURAGE-ON.— To incite.

"A *couraged-on* them dogs to vight."

COW-CALF.— A female calf.

COW-LAAYDY.— The lady bird.

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COW-PIE.— A favourite dish with children, made by having a thin layer of paste on the bottom and sides of a pie dish whereon custard is poured. This is then baked.

COW PARSLEY.— Wild parsley obtained and given as a favourite food to tame rabbits.

COW STALL.— A wooden arrangement for securing a cow's head whilst it is being milked.

CRAAYZY.— Dilapidated; out of repair.

CRAAYZY WE-UD.— The plant crow's-foot, so called because it spreads about so wildly.

CRACK.— A sharp blow.

"I gid 'un a *crack* a top o' the yead."

"To *crack* up" is to extol.

"In a *crack*," in a minute.

CRACKLIN'.— The scotched skin of roast pork; this is also sometimes called the "scrump."

CRACKY.— Peculiar; not quite right in one's mind.

CRANKS.— Aches and slight ailments. A person is said to be full of "crinks and *cranks*" when generally complaining of ill health.

CKANKY.— Out of health; for machinery out of gear; for a structure, in bad repair, likely to give way.

Also sometimes used to mean out of temper.

CRAP.— Crop,

CRASS.— Obstinate, contrary.

CRASS -GRAAINED.— Opposing from obstinacy or bad temper.

CRASS-PATCH.— The name a child calls another that is out of temper to teaze him.

CRAW.— The crop of a bird; the maw or receptacle for food.

CRE-AMY VAAYCED, or CRAMY-VE-USED.— Having no roses in the cheeks white faced.

CRE-UP-MOUSE, or CRAPE-MOUSE.— A game played with little children, tickling them to make them laugh.

CRIB BITER.— A horse given to the vice of biting away his manger; almost universal term.

CRICK.— A sharp noise. I have heard this term used of the noise made in the knee joint when one is kneeling down.

A "*crick* in the neck " is a temporary stiffness in the neck, or inability to move the head freely.

CRIMMANY.— An exclamation (good-humoured) of surprise.

CRINKLE.— To crease; to rumple.

CRINKLY.— With marks as having been crumpled.

CRINKS.— See CRANKS.

CRISP.— Pork crackling. See also SCRUMP.

CRITTENS.— The *crittens* are small pieces of lean meat strained from lard when it is melted; these are chopped fine and mixed together with sugar and spice, then flour is added and the whole made into a pudding.

CROAK.— To give out the worst view of things; one who does this is called "a *croaker*."

CROCK.— An earthenware pot as distinguished from an iron one.

CROOK, or CRUCK.— To bend.

"*Crook* yer back zo's I med get on top and be carr'd awver the bruck."

CROWNER.— Coroner.

CRUMBLES.— Crumbs.

CRUMMY.— Short and fat, or squatty; also a term applied to one who has money saved up.

CRUNCH.— To break between the teeth, also to press to pieces with a breaking noise, thus one would say of a snail

"*Crunch* 'un wi' thee boot."

CRUSTY.— Surly, snappish.

CUBBY HAWLE.—A cave or recess of any kind wherein children may creep to hide when at play.

CUCKOO VLOWER.— The wild *Lychnis flosculi*, so called because it blooms at the time the cuckoo comes.

CUCKOO'S MAAYTE,— Cuckoo's mate. The male cuckoo,

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CUDDLE.— To hold with one's arms closely around.

CULLS.— Sheep picked out from a flock on account of not agreeing with the others in appearance.

CUPBOARD LOVE.— Such love as children have for those who give them sweetmeats, cakes, etc.

CUP-CUP-CUP.— The call to a horse when in a meadow.

CUPS.— The bottom part or holder of the acorn.

CURVEW BELL.— This is not quite obsolete. At Blewbury it has been the custom for this to be rung regularly between Michaelmas and Lady Day, and many a time those who have been lost on the adjacent downs have hailed the sound of this bell.

CUSSEDNESS.— Obstinacy, wickedness.

CUSTOMER.— Always applied to a person in a disparaging or invidious sense, as "a shaaydy *customer*," "a sly *customer*" &c.

CUT.— A blow.

"I took 'un a good *cut* wi' a stick."

It has several combinations, as "*cut* awaay," "run away;" "*cut* up," "much distressed."

CUTE.— With capacity for learning; having ability.

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DAAK.— Filthy, covered with dirt; slimy.

DAAYME.— Dame. An old-fashioned farmer thus usually styles his wife when calling to her, or speaking to her; he rarely uses her Christian name. Also in a more humble

position an elderly woman has her surname preceded by this title.

DAAYZIES, or DE-UZIES.— Daisies.

DAB.— A small insignificant wash, not including the house linen set aside for the "buck-wash." A blow.

"I catched 'un a *dab* in the vaayce."

A detached piece of anything.

"Our good Quane Bess, she maayde a pudden,
An' stuffed 'un vull o' plumes,
An' in she put gurt *'dabs*' o' vat
As big as my two thumbs."

DABB'D.— Blotted over with stains.

DABBY.— Flabby; also anything containing small portions of a foreign substance is said to be "*dabby"* with the strange matter.

"This yer pudden be *dabby* wi' zuet."

DAB-CHICK.— The water hen.

DABSTER.— One who excels greatly.

Thus a man is saict to bs a "*dabster*" at back-swording or skittles.

DADDACKY.— Decayed or rotten.

"The bern doors be *"daddacky"* an' wunt stan' mendin'."

DADDY-LONG LEGS.— The common local nickname for a boy with long legs; the insect which so easily leaves one of its long legs behind it being well known by this name.

DADS AWN BWOY.— A son having his father's peculiarities,

"A chip of the old block."

DAFFIDOWNDILLY.— The Daffodil,

DAFT.— Stupid, slow of comprehension,

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DAIN.— Tainted, putrid, bad smelling.

DALL.— The smallest pig in a litter.

"*Dall* 'um" is a mild form of imprecation; thus on a lady saying

"How pretty the Poppies look amongst the corn," the reply was "Purty be um *dall* um."

DALLED.— A swearing expression.

DALLERS.— A fit of melancholy.

DALLY.— A swearing expression.

DAMPER.— A saddening circumstance.

DANCE.— The expression "led I a *dance*," means, gave me much trouble. (Almost universal.)

DANDER UP.— Temper raised.

"A got my *dander up*, an' I was 'bliged to gie 'un a cut."

DANDLE.— To move a baby up and down in the arms.

DANG 'UN.— A swearing expression.

DANK.— Unhealthy.

DANNUL.— Daniel.

DASH UT.— An imprecation.

DAWDLE.— A woman who idles over her household work.

DAYL.— Deal; much.

"Us had a *dayl* o' trouble last vall."

DE-AD.— There are many expressions to signify quite *dead*; those mostly used of animals are "*de-ad* as a nit," "*de-ad* as a door-naail," &c.

DEAD ALIVE.— Sluggish, sleepy looking.

DEAD AN' GONE.— An expression sadly used of one who has died.

DEAD AS DITCH WATER.— Is said of beer that is flat to the taste.

DEAD RIPE.— Used with regard to fruit perfectly ripe.

DE-AN.— The common name for a field with rising ground on each side of it, but I have not known a case where more than one field in a parish is so called.

DEDDENST.— Did you not?

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DEDST, or DIDST.— Did you?

DEEDILY.— Earnestly, intently.

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"A looked at I maain *deedily* as though a had zummit to zaay."

DEEDY.— Industrious.

"Us was *deedy* at ut all daay."

DELVE.— To dig (but nearly obsolete).

DEMIREP.— A word applied to a woman for whom contempt is felt.

DERLIN'.— The smallest pig in a litter. The same as "DALL."

DERN.— An imprecation.

DESPERD.— Very great, desperate.

"A zimmed in a *desperd* hurry."

DEW-BIT.— A small meal that perhaps could equally well be done without.

DEWSIERS.— The gristle of valves adjoining a pig's heart.

DIBBLE.— A gardener's implement. To hole for planting seeds; also to fish by dropping the bait on the surface of the water, and then alternately lifting it and letting it fall.

DIBS.— A game played with the small knuckle .bones taken from legs of mutton; these bones are themselves called *dibs*.

DICKY.— "Upon my *dicky*" is a phrase sometimes used in support of an assertion.

DICKY-BIRDS.— Children's phrase for all wild birds.

DIDDLE.— To cheat; to play a trick; to out-wit.

DIDDLED.— Out-witted.

DIDN'T OUGHT.— Ought not.

"A *didn't ought* to tawk like that ther' avoor the childern."

DIFFICULTER.— Comparative of difficult.

"This yer be *difficulter* to maayke than what that ther' be."

DILL, or DILLY.— The call for ducks, either word is repeated about four times in the call.

"Pray what have you for supper, Mrs. Bond?
Ge-us in the larder an' ducks in the pond.
Dilly, dilly, dilly, dilly, come an' be killed,
Passengers around us an' thaay must be villed."

DILLONS.— Earth heaps to mark boundaries on the Downs.

DING.— To impress repeatedly.

"A *dinged* ut into I zo as I was glad to get awaay."

DING DONG.— Men who in fighting hit hard and do not trouble to guard are said to go at it "*ding dong*."

DINGEY (" G" soft).— Coated with dirt.

DINGIN'.— A noise in the ears.

DIP, also DE-UP, or DAPE.— Deep, crafty, cunning.

DISH.— To cheat, to acquire by sharp practice.

"A *dished* I out o' all the money as I had."

DISH O' TAY.— Very commonly used for "cup of tea."

"I mus' ax my awld dooman to gie I a *dish o' tay* avoor I do's any moor work."

DISHWASHER.— The Water Wag-tail so called from being always busy in the road side puddles.

DISREMIMBER.— To be unable to call to mind.

"I *disremimber* now azackly what a zaid."

DOCIT.— Intelligent.

DOCK.— To cut anything short.

DOCTOR.— To adulterate anything.

DOCTOR'S STUFF.— Medicine.

DOER.— "A good *do-er*" is an animal that thrives well and keeps in good condition even when not well fed. "A bad *do-er*" is the reverse.

DOG-IRONS.— Upright irons on each side of an open fireplace, with a bar laid across them, whereon may rest chumps of wood in such way that the air gets freely underneath to feed the fire.

DOG ROSES.— Wild roses.

DOGS.— Irons for lightly fastening split parts of timber together to prevent these flying apart when wedges are driven farther along the slit. *Dogs* also serve to increase the splitting power of the wedges.

DOG-TIRED.— Thoroughly tired out.

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DOINS.— Proceedings of an exciting character; sometimes of a not quite creditable character,

DOLE.— To entice; "*Tole*" is also used in the same sense.

DOLLOP.— A large lump of anything. Vide WALLOP.

DOLLY.— A binding of rag around a hurt finger.

DONE.— Out-witted; "*done* up" means tired out.

DOOMAN.— "*Ooman*" (woman) is thus pronounced only when preceded by "awld."

DOUBLE TONGUED.— Showing duplicity in speech.

DOUBT.— To foretell; to expect.

"I *doubt* the craps 'ooll be but thin athout us gets zome wet zoon."

DO UP.— To tie or fasten up.

DOUSH.— To throw water over.

"A *doushed* water awver her to bring her to."

DOUT.— To extinguish a candle or a fire.

DOWDY.— A shabbily-dressed woman, or one wearing a dress out of fashion.

DOWN.— Dejected.

"A looked *down* in the mouth" is a common expression.

DOWN-ARG.— To contradict in such a down-right way, and so lay down the law, that the person opposing can say nothing farther.

DOWN-STRIT.— The opposite direction in the main road through a village from UP-STRIT.

DOWN-VALL.— A fall of rain, hail, or snow.

DOWSE.— To immerse in water; also a blow.

"I gid un a *dowse* on the vaayce."

DOWSIN'.— A ducking or immersion in water.

DRABBUT.— A swearing expression.

DRAG.— A large kind of harrow.

DRAGGLED.— With the lower part of the dress wet and muddy.

DRAGGLE TAAIL.— An untidy dirty woman.

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DRAP INTO.— To beat, to assault.

"If 'e zes any moor I'll *drap into* 'e wi' this yer stick,"

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DRAP O' DRINK.— To have had a *drap o' drink* means to be partly intoxicated.

"I zartney had had a *drap o' drink* when I done that ther."

DRAT.— A common imprecation.

DRATTLE.— A swearing expression; also to throttle.

"*Drattle* his neck; a pretty nigh *drattled* I."

DRAY, or DRAA, or DRAW.— A squirrel"s nest.

"To *dray*" a cover is to turn in the hounds and work them through to try to find a fox.

DRECKLY MINUT.— Immediately; on the instant.

"Gie I that ther knife *dreckly minut*, else I'll muchabout drap into 'e."

DREE.— Three.

DRESH.— To thrash.

DRESS.— A butcher "*dresses*" the carcase of an animal when he removes skin and offal and prepares it for sale. Land is "top-*dressed*" with manure, when this is allowed to lie on the surface.

DREW.— Sleepy, inactive.

DRIPPIN'.— Beef *drippin'* is much used on bread instead of butter.

DRIPPIN' WET.— The usual expression when one is thoroughly wet from rain is, "I be got *drippin'* wet."

DRIZLY.— Raining in very small drops.

DRO-AT.— The throat.

DROOTY.— Looking downcast.

DROUGH, or DROO'.— Through.

DROW.— To throw, making preterite DROWED.

DROWNDED RAT.— One soaked with rain is said to look like a *drownded*-rat.

DROWTHY.— Thirsty.

DRUV.— Driven.

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DRY, or A-DRY.— Thirsty.

"I be *a-dry*, gie us a drink o' water."

DRY-CRUST.— A crust of bread without any butter.

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DUBBY.— Thick, blunt at the end.

An unusually chubby-faced boy is generally nick-named "*Dubby*" by other boys.

DUBERSOME.— Doubtful.

DUCK.— To lower the head to avoid a blow; to immerse another in water.

DUCKIN'.— A wetting, whether from rain or immersion.

DUCKS AND DRAKES.— The jumping out of water of a flat stone when thrown nearly horizontally.

DUDDERED.— Stupefied.

DUMVOUNDERED.— Surprised or perplexed, so as to be unable to speak.

DUMBLEDORE.— The humble bee.

DUMMLE.— In animals, sluggish; in corn or hay, damp; in persons slow of comprehension, stupid.

DUMMY-NETTLE, or DUNNY-NETTLE.— A nettle which does not sting.

DUMPS.— Low spirits.

DUMPY.— A short person is called a *dumpy*; also anything with a blunted point is said to be *dumpy*.

DUNCH.— Deaf.

DUNCH PASSAGE.— *A cul de sac*; the term "blind passage" is sometimes used in this sense.

DUNNY.— Deaf, not sharp. See DUMMY-NETTLE or WDUNNY-NETTLE.

DUN'T.— Did it.

"It wan't I as *dun't* I tell 'e" (It was not I who did it I tell you).

DUST.— Fuss.

"Dwo-ant 'e maayke zuch a *dust* about ut."

Ready money.

"Down wi' yer *dust* if 'e wants to buy 'un."

To "*dust* your jacket" is to whip you.

DUSTIN'.— A whipping.

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DUST MAN.— Sleep. When a child, near bed time, looks very sleepy it is told the "*dust man*" is coming.

DUTCH.— Any speech not comprehended is said to be "*Dutch*"

DWO-ANT, or DWUNT.— Don't.

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E

'E.— Thou, thee, you.

"If *'e* wunt go I'll gie *'e* zixpence" (if you won't go I will give you sixpence).

EARTH-STOPPIN', or YARTH STOPPIN'.— Stopping up foxes holes before the hounds come to hunt, so that foxes may not run to ground.

E-AST DUMPLINS.— Plain dumplings of boiled dough, cut open and eaten with sugar and butter.

EDDERD.— Edward.

EDGE-WISE.— The expression, "I coodn't get a word in *edge-wise*" is used when others have monopolized the conversation.

EEN-A'MWOAST.— Almost, nearly.

"I *een-a'mwoast* ketched a young rabbut, but a slipped into a hawle."

EESE, or E-US and ISS.— Yes.

EFFUT.— An eft or newt.

EGG-HOT.— A hot drink taken before going to bed to cure a cold, it is made of beer, eggs, sugar and nutmeg.

EGG ON.— To incite; to urge on.

"A *eggd* 'un *on* to vight a good bit avoor a 'ood."

EKKERN, or AAYKERN.— An acorn.

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ELBAW GRACE.— Energetic work with hands and arms.

"Thee must put in a bit moor *elbaw grace* when 'e rubs down yer hosses."

ELBAWS.— The expression "out at *elbaws*" is used with respect to one who has become poorly off.

ELDERN.— Made of elder wood; such things are very common amongst boys on account of the convenient hollow left by the removal of the pith.

ELLOOK.— Look here!

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ELL-RAAYKE.— The large sized rake used for raking hay left behind where "cocks" have been "pitched" into the waggon.

ELLUM.— The elm tree.

ELLUMS.— Straw made ready for thatching.

ELNOR.— Eleanor.

EMMUT.— The ant.

EMMUT'S-HILL, or EMMUT-HUMP.— The ant's nest.

EMPT, or ENT.— To empty.

ENTIN.— Emptying.

"Two on 'e be to go *entin* dung-cart."

ERRIWIG.— An ear-wig.

ERZELL.— Herself.

"She med do't *erzell*, vor I wunt."

ET, also YET.— Eat.

"A' wunt *et* nothin'." (He won't eat anything,)

ETHER.— The brushwood interwoven in forming a hedge.

The couplet is commonly quoted,

"Eldern staayke an' blackthorn *ether*,
Maaykes a hedge vor years together."

ETTIN, or YETTIN.— Eating. We have also in the preterit "*etted*," or "*yetted*."

EVER.— Commonly used in the sense of "at all," thus, "Hev 'e zin *ever* a rabbut to-daay?" (have you seen a rabbit at all to-day.)

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Also "as ever I can" is used for "as I possibly can."

"I 'ooll come as zoon *as ever* I *can*"

EVERLASTIN'LY.— Continually.

"She was *everlastin'ly* a-yangin' at un an' zo at last a run awaay vrom whoam."

EYE, or NI.— A brood of pheasants.

EZACKLY, also EZACKERLY.— Exactly.

F

The letter "F," when initial to a word or syllable, is always pronounced as "V." No Berkshire words are therefore given under the letter "F."

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G

GAA.— Used to children to indicate that a thing is nasty or not to be touched; (common.)

GAAM.— To besmear.

GAAMY, or GAAMED.— Besmeared with wet or sticky matter.

"He'd a—bin at the cupboard, vor his vaayce was all *gaamy* wi' jam."

GAARGE, or GERGE.— George.

GAAY.— In good health; brisk.

"I be a—veelin' quite *gaay* this marnin', thenk 'e."

GAAYBY.— A stupid-looking person, usually applied to one in the habit of keeping the mouth open.

GAAYPES.— The most fatal disease in chicken.

GAB.— Talk.

The phrase, "Stop thee *gab*" is used for "hold your tongue," "shut up."

GABBARD.— Large and old, as applied to buildings; also, out of repair.

GABBERN.— Comfortless.

GABBLE.— To speak so hastily and indistinctly so as not to be understood.

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A nurse would say to a child, "Dwoant 'e *gabble* yer praayers zo, else um wunt do 'e no good."

GADABOUT.— One who goes from one to another gossiping, the opposite of a "staay-at-whoam."

GALL.— To make sore by rubbing.

"I mus' get a new zaddle, that there un allus *galls* muh."

A "*gall*" is a sore caused by rubbing.

GALLINI.— The Guinea fowl.

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GALS.— The servants in a farm house are often called "the *gals*," or MAAIDS; formerly also they were called the WENCHES.

"Call the *gals* into praayers."

GALLUS.— Very.

"A *gallus* bad chap."

Also large.

"A gallus lot on 'um" (a large number of them.)

GARN.— To garner.

GAWKY.— A tall ungainly person.

GAWLDEN CHAAIN.— The flower of the Laburnum tree is so called.

GE-AMS, or GAAYMES.— Games, tricks; an attempt to play a practical joke would be met by the phrase "None o' yer *ge-ams* now."

GE-AMSTER, or GAAYMESTER.— One who is skilled at single stick. The "Scouring of the White Horse" describes what an "awld *geamster*" should look like.

GENTLEMAN.— Used to express one's condition when doing no work.

"I hurt my leg an' be agwaain to be a *gentleman* vor a wake."

GET AWVER.— To recover from, to surmount.

"A be maain bad an' I doubt wher a'll get auver 't or no."

GE-UP, or GAAYPE.— To gape; to pry into. "What be at *ge-upin'* at what I be doin' on? (what do you mean by prying into what I am doing?")

GE-UT, or GAAYTE.— A gate.

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GE-UT PO-AST.— The phrase, "Betwixt thee an' I an' the *ge-ut poast*," is a very common one as prefacing a confidential communication or a bit of scandal.

GHERN.— A garden.

GID.— Gave. *Vide* GIN.

GIDDY.— A disease of the brain in sheep. A sheep thus attacked is at once killed for food, as the mutton is not considered to be affected.

GIE.— Give. "*Gie* I a massel" (*give* me a little piece).

GIE OUT.— Stop! A boy cries, "*gie out*" to another who persists in striking him. A barrel of beer which stops running, or becomes empty, is said to "*gie out*."

To "*gie it*" is to scold or whip.

To "*gie* the zack" is to dismiss a servant.

GIGGLIN'.— Laughing in a silly way without adequate cause. A crusty old man will remark, "What can 'e expect vrom thaay, a passel o' *gigglin*' gals."

GIN, or GID (With "G "pronounced hard).— Gave.

"I *gid* 'un a knife vor the spaayde as e' *gin* I." (I gave him a knife in exchange for a spade.)

GINGERLY.— Cautiously, very carefully; (common.)

GIPSY'S COO-UMS.— The spiked production on the top of a long stalk of a species of dock.

GLADE, or GLAAYDE.— To look slily at.

GLOWERY.— Looking out of temper; glum.

"A looks maain *glowery* about ut."

GLUTCH.— To swallow with palpable throat effort.

GNARLEY.— With knots and twists.

"Them planks be too *gnarley* for the plaayne to work."

GNAWT IN.— A griping pain in the stomach.

GO.— Predicament.

There is the phrase "to *go* agen," meaning to oppose; one would also say

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"His leg *goes* agin un when a walks up hill" (he finds his leg pain or trouble him when going up hill.)

To "*go* from one's word" is "to break faith."

GO AT.— To work at, to be employed on.

A labourer enquires in the morning, "What be I to *go at* to-daay?"

GOBBLE.— To eat greedily and without biting, as a duck does.

GOBBLER.— A cock turkey.

GO BY.— To give one the "*go by*" is to go a-head of him.

GOD A'MIGHTY'S COCKS AN' HENS.— Robins and Wrens. It is considered wicked to hurt either of these little birds.

"Cock Robins and Jenny Wrens
Be *God Amighty's Cocks an' Hens.*"

GOINS ON.— Proceedings of a merry or sometimes of a scandalous character.

"I wunt hev such *goins on* in my house."

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GO KERT.— A child's cart.

GONY.— A very stupid person.

GOOD.— This word has various significations.

"Gie us a *good* helpin' o' pudden," *i.e.*, a large helping.

"Vor *good*" means "finally," not to return, and in this sense the phrase is often extended to "vor *good* an' all."

GOOD DOER.— An animal that shows well by its condition the benefit of the food given. The reverse of a BAD DOER.

GOODISH.— Rather large.

GOOD 'UN.— An improbable story. When such is told the observation, "that be a *good "un*" is common.

'To run a *good 'un* is to run very quickly."

GOOD VEW.— A considerable number.

GO ON AT.— To administer a prolonged and irritating scolding. One who has been scolded greatly for having done work improperly may retort,

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"If 'e *goes on at* I any moor 'e med do the job yerzelf, vor I wunt."

GOOSEBERRY.— The devil is called "Awld *Gooseberry*:" There is also the phrase "Plaayin' up awld *Gooseberry*" to indicate wild pranks. Common.

GOOSEGOGS.— Gooseberries.

GORE.— Level low-lying land. Most parishes have a field called the "*Gore*," this being, perhaps, even more common than such well-known names as the Dean, the Litten, the Piddle, or the Slad.

GOWGE.— Gauge, measure.

"I took *gowge* on 'in when I vust zin 'in an' knawed as a was a bad lot."

GOWND.— A gown or frock.

GO ZO VUR.— Go so far; last so long.

"That chaze wunt *go zo vur* if 'e lets the childern two-ast ut."

GRAAINS.— The forks of a prong, thus: a dung prong is a three-*graained* prong.

Malt after all the goodness is extracted in brewing,

GRAB.— To seize quickly.

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GRABBLE. Is perhaps best explained by a phrase "I drowed the apples among the bwoys an' let um' *grabble* vor um;" thus *grabble* partakes of the two words "grab" and "scramble."

GRACE.— "Grease," and also "grass" are so pronounced.

GRAMMER.— Grandmother, always preceded by "awld."

GRAMNAERED.— Begrimed with dirt.

GRAMVER, or GRENVER.— Grandfather, always preceded by "awld."

GRAW.— To produce.

"That ther land wunt *graw* be-ans."

To cultivate successfully.

" 'Tyent no good tryin' to *graw* turmuts yer."

GRAWIN" WEATHER.— Alternate showers and sunshine.

"Vine *grawin'* weather zur."

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GRE-A-ZY, or GRACEY.— Slippery. The roads are said to be *gre-a-zy* when there is a slight surface thaw after a hard frost.

GRE-UN HORN, or GRANE HORN.— A youth who is very easily imposed on.

GRIB.— An unexpected bite, as when a horse slinks his ears and gives one a pinch.

GRIDDLE.— To broil a piece of meat on a grid-iron.

GRINE.— Groin.

GRINSTWUN.—Grindstone.

GRINTED.— Dirt pressed into anything is said to be "*grinted*" in.

GRIP.— To bind sheaves of corn, also a handful of corn in stalk held to assist in the action of reaping.

GRIPE.— A small open ditch.

GRIPES.— Pains in the stomach.

GRISKIN.— The lean part of the loin of a pig.

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GRIST. —Corn brought to the mill for grinding.

Sometimes capital or means; if a man is not able, from want of these, to work a farm properly, the expression is common,

"A wants a bit moor *grist* to the mill."

GRISTY.— Gritty.

GRIT.— Good courage; reliable.

"A be a man o' the true *grit*," *i.e.*, sound and reliable in every way.

GRIZZLE.— To grumble.

GROUND ASH.— A straight ash stick, usually about the size of one's finger, cut from underwood; it is very tough and pliant, and much selected for purposes of castigation.

GROUTS.— Sediment left at bottom of a cask of beer or some other liquors.

GRUB.— A dirty little child is called "a young *grub*."

GRUBBY.— Dirty, as regards the person.

GRUMPY.— Surly, complaining, fault-finding.

GRUNSEL.— The raised door sill.

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"This little peg went to market,

An' this little peg staayed at whoam;

This little peg had zome ro-ast me-at,

An' this little peg had none.

This little peg went 'week, week, week, week,

I can't get awver the *grunsel*.'"

A line of the above is quoted on pinching each of the toes on a child's foot, beginning with the "big toe."

GUGGLIN'.— The gargling noise which liquor may make in the throat.

GULED.— Amazed, bewildered.

"The noise thaay childern maade quite *guled* muh."

GULP.— To drink rapidly or greedily.

' A *gulped* ut all down wi'out vetchin' bre-ath.

GUMPTION.— Energy, activity, and resource in one's work. Common sense.

GURT, or GRET, or GIRT.— Great.

GURT-KWUT.— A great coat.

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GURTS.— Saddle girths.

GUTTER.— When melted grease forms in the top of a candle, and at length overflows down one side, the candle is said to "*gutter*."

GUZZLE.— The hole for slops outside cottages.

To drink.

GUZZLER.— One who is constantly drinking alcoholic liquors.

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H

HA, or HEV, or HEY.— Have.

"I wunt *ha* [or *hev*, or *hey*] nothin' to do wi't."

HAAIN.— To abstain from, or hold off from.

"Us 'ool *haain aff* vrom taaykin' any notice on't vor a daay or two, praps a wunt do't no moor."

HAAK.— A hawk.

HAAM, or HAULM.— Stubble or straw of vetches, peas, or beans.

The "*Haam*" rick in the Vale of Berks, is of bean or wheat straw, and there they do not usually speak of a "vetch *haam* rick" as in the hill part of the county.

HAAYNIN.— The removal of cattle from pasture land to allow the crop of Hay to commence growing.

In the case of "Hobbs versus The Corporation of Newbury," as reported in the "Newbury Weekly News" of February 16th, 1888, Mr. Walter Money, F.S.A., explained that the word "Hayned" is an old English term signifying to lay in ground for hay by taking the cattle off, &c., and is repeatedly made use of in that sense in the records of the Court Baron. With reference to the above-named case, there was also read a presentment of the jury to the Court Leet of 1830 as follows:— "We present that no owner or occupier of land in Northcroft has a right to hitch, enclose, or feed any of the lands there from the usual time of *hayning* to the customary time of breaking. And if any cattle be found in Northcroft contrary to the usual custom, we order the haywarden to impound them."

HAAYSTY PUDDEN.— A pudding of boiled dough; sugar and butter, or else treacle, being usually added when eating.

HACK.— To fag or reap vetches, peas, or beans.

HACKER.— To be unable to speak properly from confusion or fear. One is said to "*hacker* and stammer" when answering disjointedly on account of having no excuse or explanation forthcoming.

HACKIN'.— Hardsounding. "A *hackin'* cough" is a frequent cough often accompanying consumption.

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HACKLE.— To conspire; a conspiracy. Labourers are said to be "all of a *hackle*" when making agreement together to get higher wages or shorter time for work.

The straw covering over a bee-hive.

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HAFE-A-TWO.— Cracked or cut so as to be in danger of breaking.

"The led o' the box be *hafe-atwo* an' wunt stan' no mendin".

HAFT.— The handle of an axe.

HAGGAS.— The fruit of the Hawthorn.

HAGGED.— Worn out; looking thin faced (a corruption of "Haggard").

HAGGLE.— To chaffer in dealing. Sometimes also it is used in the sense of "to hesitate in reply."

"A *haggled* a good bit avoor a'd tell I wher a'd a-bin"(he hesitated a good deal before he'd tell me where he had been) .

HAINT, or HEV'NT.— Have not. "We *haint* got narn" (we have not got one).

HAMES, or HAAYMES.— The wooden portions of cart-horses' collars to which are joined the traces.

HAMMER.— The expression "dead as a *hammer*" is very common.

"I chucked my stick at that ther rat an' killed un as "dead as a *hammer*."“

HAMPERED.— A lock is said to be *hampered* when out of repair so that the key cannot work it.

HANDLE.— To use dexterously.

"I can't *handle* a gun no zense" means "I cannot shoot well."

HANDLIN'.— In love making, where the swain may not have flow of language, he may sometimes attempt to put his arm round the girls waist; this is called "*handlin'* on her"and would probably be met by the command to "Adone now," or a more decided "Gie out!"

HANDY.— Conveniently near. "A little me-ad lez *handy* to the house"(a little meadow is conveniently near the house).

Also intelligent in work.

"He be a *handy* zart o' chap."

HANGER-ON.— A person who waïts about others better off than himself for such benefits as he may get. Common.

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HANGIN'.— The rounded slope or over-*hanging* part of a hill.

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"E'll vind moor partridges on the *hangin'* yander 'n anywher."

HANGLE.— An iron hook over the fire to suspend pots from.

HANGY.— Sticky, as regards soil. See CLUNG.

HANG UP HIS HAT.— The usual meaning of this is that one is an accepted suitor, but it also sometimes is used to denote that one is very intimate and is granted freedom of the house.

HANKERCHER.— A pocket-handkerchief.

HANKERIN'.— Longing.

HAPS.— A hasp.

To *hasp* or fasten by hitching a thing around or over another. The withy tie used to secure hurdles to "vawle staaykes" or to each other.

HARD O'YERRIN.— Deaf (hard of hearing).

HARL.— To entangle, an entanglement.

"If 'e dwoant mind thee 'ooll get that string in a *harl*."

HARNESS TACK.— A swinging cross tree placed in a stable for harness to be hung upon.

HARPIN.— Continually speaking about some distasteful matter.

HARVESTERS.— Harvest bugs, prevalent just before harvest time.

HARVEST WHOAM.— The festival which winds up harvest work. (An account of this is given in the Prefatory Notes).

HAT.— A small ring of trees, but usually called a VOLLY when in a conspicuous position, as on a hill.

HA'T, also HEV UT.— Have it, allow it, believe it. "I tawld 'un I zin 't myzelf, but a ood'nt *ha't* (I told him I saw it myself, but he wouldn't believe it).

HATCH.— An opening which may be closed by a wooden slide or door, used for passing articles through by hand.

HATCH GATE.— A gate at the junction of Parishes or Manors. The *hatch—gate* of Hampstead Norreys is where the Manors of Hampstead Norreys, Eling, and Bothampstead meet.

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HAW.— A dwelling enclosed by woods.

HAWLD HARD.— Stop! There is a game commonly played about Christmas time where a number hold a piece of a handkerchief. One then moves his hand round the handkerchief, saying, "Here we go round by the rule of *Contrairy*. When I say "*hawld hard*," "let go," and when I say "let go," "*hawld hard;"* forfeits are paid by those not complying with the above order, which is said suddenly and in a loud tone so as to confuse the players.

HAWLE.— A hole.

HAWLT.— Hold. "I can't get *hawlt* on 'in" (I can't get hold of him).

HAWS.— The same as HAGGAS.

HAZZICK.— A wood usually of Scotch firs with much coarse rank grass. There is a "*hazzick*" on the Little Hungerford estate, Hampstead Norreys.

HEAD.— The face.

HEAL.— To cover.

HEART ZICK.— Sadly out of spirits through trouble.

HECCATS.— A short dry wearing cough.

HECCATTY.— One having the "*heccats*."

HEDGE-POKER.— A hedge sparrow. The name "*hedge-poker"* may have been given because the bird pokes about a hedge and will fly no distance away.

HEDGIN'.— A common sport, where boys go on either side of a hedge when the leaves have fallen, with long light poles. On seeing any bird fly into the hedge a-head, one gives the word, and both beat the hedge from opposite sides; the bird gets too confused to fly out and is generally killed by branches knocked against it; ten or twelve birds are often killed in an afternoon's "*hedgin*".

HEFT.— To try the weight of a thing by lifting it. A woman selling a turkey will say "*heft* 'un," *i.e.*, "Lift it to see how much it weighs."

HEN-US—. A house fitted round with rows of compartments for hens to lay eggs in, and with perches for them to roost upon.

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HEPPERN.— An apron. At old-fashioned village schools the usual punishment for a child was to be pinned to the "*heppern*" of the schoolmistress; when in this position a "thimble-pie" would be the punishment for levity or further misconduct.

HERN.— Hers.

HERRIOTT.— A fine, payable by a tenant of a leasehold property on succession at death of previous holder. As an example, in an indenture, dated 23rd December, 1743, between Mr. Joseph Lowsley and Mr. Thomas Horde lands were leased for 99 years or three lives on payment of

"One fatt capon at Christmas and *Herriott* upon decease of each life."

HEV AT.— To encounter, to undertake earnestly.

"I me-ans to *hev at* killin' down thaay rabbuts avoor long 'um be a-yettin all the young kern."

HEY.— Have. See also HA, or HEV.

HIDE.— To whip, to beat.

HIDIN'.— A flogging; a beating.

HIGGLE.— To demur, to repeatedly raise objections.

To chaffer.

HIGH JINKS.— Vagaries, merry doings.

HIGHTY-TIGHTY.— Conceitedly proud, stuck up; also easily taking offence, huffy.

HIKE.— "Move off!" Always used peremptorily.

"What be you bwoys at ther, *hike* aff that ther ladder an' be aff."

HINDER.— To prevent.

" I me-ans to do't, an' who be a-gwaain to *hinder* muh."

HIPS.— The seed pods of the dog rose. Children thread these together to form necklaces and bracelets.

HIST—UP. ("I" pronounced as in "*high*.") A command given to a horse to lift up a foot for inspection; also shouted to a horse when it stumbles.

HIS-ZELF.— Himself. "A wunt go by *his-zelf*" (he won't go alone).

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HIS-ZEN.— His.

HITCH.— To fasten loosely.

"Hitch yer herse to the gaayte po-ast an' come an' help I get this nitch o' straa upon my back."

HIT.— Cast, throw.

"*Hit* it away, tent vit to yet" (throw it away, 'tis not fit to eat).

HIT IT.— To be in accord.

"Them two dwoant zim to *hit it* now as um did avoor Kersmas"(those two do not seem on such good terms now as they were before Christmas).

HO.— To long for, to care greatly for.

HOBBLE DE HOYE.—

"A chap be called a "*hobble de hoye*,"

As be shart of a man but moor'n a bwoy."

HOBBLES.— Shackles; to prevent a horse or donkey straying far when turned into a lane or roadside to feed; by these a fore leg is often fastened to a hind leg.

HOCKERD.— Awkward, clumsy, obstinate, contrary.

"A was maain *hockered* an I cood'nt persuaayde un to do 't" (he was very obstinate and I could'nt persuade him to do it).

HOCKLY.— Awkwardly helpless, having no notion how to do a thing properly.

HOCKSEY.— Deep with mud.

HOCKSIN'.— Walking clumsily, or making a noise impertinently in walking.

"When I scawlded un a went *hoksin'* awaay wi'out a-stoppin' to year what I was a-zaayin'."

HODMEDOD.— A scarecrow; usually a figure with a hat on, holding a stick to represent a gun.

HO-GO.— A game played by children, each having a number of marbles. The first holds up a number in closed hand and says, "*Ho-go*;" the second says "Hand full;" the first then says "How many?" The other guesses. If he should guess correctly he is entitled to take them all; but otherwise he must give the difference between the number he guessed and the number actually held up to "make it so."

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HOG-TUB.— A tank at a part of the farm-yard nearest the kitchen, into which all kinds of edible refuse are thrown. The "*hog-tub*" has stock of barley meal, and at feeding time the pigs assemble eagerly at the call of "shug," "shug," "shug," and the mixture is then bailed out by means of a sort of bucket, with a very long wooden handle.

HOG-WASH.— The liquor of the HOG-TUB.

HOLLER.— To call out loudly. In the rhyme sung by boys going their rounds on Guy Fawkes' Day we have—

"Holler bwoys, holler bwoys, maayke yer bells ring,
Holler bwoys, holler bwoys, God zaayve the Quane."

One would say also, "*Holler* to 'n to come along quicker."

HONESTY.— The wild clematis is always so called.

HOOD.— The bonnet worn by women at field labour. It is a poke bonnet which shades the face from the sun, and which has an enormous flap covering the neck, shoulders, and upper part of the back.

HOOSET.— A horse's head curiously dressed up, and carried about by men and boys at a "*Hooset Hunt.*"

HOOSET HUNT.— When persons are believed to be guilty of incontinence, men and boys assemble for a "*Hooset Hunt*," they take with them pots or pans or anything wherewith to make discordant noise, and this they call "Rough Music," they also carry the "*Hooset*" on a pole. On arrival at a house to be visited, the "Rough Music" is vigorously played, and the "*Hooset*" shaken in front of all the windows, and even poked into them if any be open.

HOOST.— Lift up. "*Hoost* up thee end o' plank a bit" (lift up your end of the plank a little).

HOOT.— "Hold to it."

An expression used to horses.

HOOTCHER.— A stick with a bend or turn at the top, used to pull down branches when gathering fruit.

HOPPERS.— Mites in bacon.

HOPPETTY.— A little lame.

VNiVERSiTAS STVDII SALAMANTiNi

"I hev a—bin a bit *hoppetty* zence the hammer vell on my voot."

HOP, SKIP AN' JUMP PUDDEN'.— A plum pudding where plums have been inserted very sparingly.

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HOSS-PLAAY.— Rough, noisy play, approaching practical joking.

HOSS-POND.— A pond appertaining to the farm yard; from its situation the water is often too impure for animals to drink.

HOUSEN.— Houses.

HOWSOMEVER.— However.

"A wunt never do 't *howsomever* a med try."

HUCK.— To poke, as by inserting a stick under anything and on pushing it to give a lifting motion.

HUCK-MUCK.— Confusion caused by all things being out of place. On visiting a small house on cleaning day the apology comes " "E vinds us in a gurt *huck-muck* to-daay, zur."

HUD.— To take off the outer covering.

"Get them warnuts *hudded* agin I comes back."

The outer covering of nuts, walnuts, &c., is called the "*hud*."

HUFFY.— Easily taking offence.

"A, be a *huffy* zart o' chap."

HUGGER, also HUGGER-MUGGER.— To hoard.

"A ke-ups his money pretty much *hugger-muggered* up an' dwoant spend none hardly."

HULLS.— Husks.

HULLA-BALLOO.— A loud confused noise raised by a number.

HUNCH.— To attack with the horns.

"The cow tried to *hunck* muh."

HUNK, sometimes HUNCH.— A thick piece of bread, bacon, &c.

HUR, or HAAIR.— Hair.

HURDLE-HERSE.— A hurdle horse; the frame fixed on the ground having holes for the uprights of hurdles; the brushwood used in making "vlaayke *hurdles*" is woven horizontally between these uprights.

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I

I.— Is used for "me."

"Gie I one o' them apples?"

IF ZO BE AS.— If.

"*If zo be as* you can come an' hev tay wi' we to-morrow, I hopes you 'ooll."

IMP.— "Young *imp*" is a common name for a mischievous boy, as also a "young rascal."

IN, or UN.— To be "*In,*" with a person is to be intimate; well liked, and—to have influence.

Also "him," "I gin *'in* wernin'" (I gave him warning).

IN-AN'-IN.— A term used to express close relationship with reference to cattle breeding.

IN-BETWANE.— Used for "between."

"I veels a stwun *in-betwane* my shoe an zock."

INLY.— Inwardly.

INNERDS.— "Chitterlings" as frequently go by the name of "peg's *innerds*" (pig's inwards).

INONS.— Onions.

INVITIN'.— The word is used in homely welcome thus: As the food is placed on the table the host will say to his guest, "Now you zees yer dinner avoor 'e, an' I hopes as 'e wunt want no *invitin'*." This is intended as a wish that the guest will eat heartily, ask for what he may want, and "maayke his-zelf at whoam."

IRE.— Iron.

I SPY.— The game hide and seek. In the way of playing this the seeker has to call "I *spy*" to the one he finds before he may start to run "home."

IT.— Yet. "Be thaay comin' it"? (are they coming yet?)

IT AWHILE.— For a short time.

“Ut hev a-bin a-raainin’ zo as a mus’ ha bin hindered a-s’artin’ an’ I dwoant expec’ un yer *it awhile*.”

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J

JAA.— The jaw.

JAANTIN.’— Going off on pleasure.

JAAYNE.— Jane.

JABBER.— Silly rapid talking.

JACK.— The male, as “*jack*-hare”

A contrivance for raising an axle-tree of a cart, &c., so that the wheel on that side is off the ground and can turn freely.

A child whose face is begrimed with dirt is reproached by being called “*Jack* nasty vaayce.”

The word is much and commonly used in combination.

“*Jack* in office,” “Cheap *Jack*,” “*Jack* of all trades,” &c.

JAMMED.— Squeezed. As by having, one’s hand caught between a door and door post; also would be said, “*Jam* down the zugar zo as to get ut all into the baaysin.”

JAN.— John.

JANDERS.— Jaundice.

JAWLTER-YEAD.— A blunderer, one very stupid.

JEMPS.— James.

JENNY SQUIT.— The Jenny Wren.

JERKIN.— A short all-round coat.

JE-UD, or JAAYDE.— Jade.

JIFFY.— A short space of time; immediately.

“ ‘T wunt taayke I moor’n a *jiffy* to clim to that ther bird’s ne-ast.”

“I’ll be back in a *jiffy*.”

JIGGAMY.— Any implement or tool.

VNiVERSiTAS STVDII SALAMANTiNi

"Gie us the *jiggamy* as stans' to yer han' ther'" (referring to an implement, the name of which one "disremimbers" at the moment).

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JIGGETTY.— A sharp up and down motion. There is the old children's rhyme

"To markut, to markut, to buy a vat hog,

Whoam agin, whoam agin, *jiggetty* jog."

"*Jiggettin'*" is moving up and down quickly, as in riding a child on the knee, this is always called "*jiggettin'*" the child.

JIMCRACKS.— Trifling personal belongings.

JIMMANY.— An exclamation of astonishment. Often, "Oh! *jimmany*."

JIMP.— With well formed waist, applied to a woman in a complimentary way.

JIS, or JUS'.— Just.

" 'Ooll 'e *jis* stop a minnut while I axes if me-uster be at whoam."

JIST.— (The "i" pronounced as in "rice.") A joist.

JOB.— A. thing difficult of performance.

"Thee 'oolt hev a *job* to car' that ther' zack o' taayters to Newbury."

JOCKEY.— To get the better of one.

"A *jockeyed* I last time I had dalins wi'n, an' zo I wunt hev no moor."

JOG.— To nudge; to touch one confidentially.

"*Jog* the man t'other zide on e', plaze, vor'n to look at I."

JOGGLE.— To shake.

"A *joggled* the taayble while I was a writin', an' zo ut beant vit vor 'e to look at."

JOG TROT.— An ordinary trot, rather slow than quick. A "*jog-trot*" way of going on is a way likely to last long and incur no great trouble.

JUMPER.— A sheep with the vice of springing over the hurdles of the fold is called a "*jumper.*"

JUMPIN' STALK.— An arrangement of two sticks fixed perpendicularly in the ground, with another across the top to test height to which competitors can jump.

J UNKETTINS'.— Merry-makings.

JUNKS.— Thick pieces. "Chumps" are sometimes so called.

A frugal housewife will say to her good man,

"Dwoant 'e help the me-ut in *junks*, ut dwoant go hafe as vur"

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JUS' NOW.— A little time ago. In Berkshire this is invariably used of the past, never of the future, though elsewhere I have often heard the expression refer to the future as thus:

"He will be here *just now*" meaning "immediately" or "shortly."

JUST ABOUT.— Expresses something large or important.

"Ther was *just about* a lot o' rats" (there was a very large number of rats).

"A had *just about* a tumble" (he had a very severe tumble).

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K

KAAYLE.— Caleb.

KECK.— To make a choking noise in the throat.

KECKER.— The gullet.

KEER.— Care.

KERD.— A card.

KEKKY.— Irritable.

KERN.— Corn.

KERT.— Cart.

KETCH.— To catch. To TO KETCH IT is to incur punishment.

"He 'ooll *ketch it* when the me-uster knaws what a hev a-bin an' a-done."

KETCHY WEATHER is showery weather.

KE-UP, or KAAYPE.— A cape.

KE-UP, or KAPE, OR KIP.— To keep. Keep, *i.e.*, food in quantity that will last some time for sheep or cattle.

"I be zellin' my ship vor my turmuts be vaailed an' I ent got no winter *ke-up*."

VNiVERSiTAS STVDII SALAMANTiNi

KIBBLE.— Sweepings as from garden paths and court yards.

KICK.— To become irritated.

"If 'e zes anything about his wife lockin' the door an' a-tawkin' to 'n out o' winder a *kicks* preciously." This had reference to a man who was so treated because he came home later at night than his spouse approved.

KID.— To produce pods. Peas and beans are said to "*kid*" well when bearing large numbers of pods.

KILL.— A kiln.

KILL-DEVIL.— An artificial bait used in spinning for Pike when natural baits are not forthcoming.

KIND.— Profitable to breed from.

"That ther be a *kind* lookin' yowe (ewe)."

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KINKETTY.— Matters not going on smoothly are referred to as being "a bit *kinketty*.'

KIT.— The whole lot.

'I hev got a puppy an' dree verrets, an' a mag-pie, an' e med hev the *kit* vor a crownd if e 'ooll."

KITKEYS.— The fruit of the ash.

KITTLE.— Not strong, not firm, not safe; requiring gentle treatment.

KLICK.— A sharp noise as caused by the shutting of a pocket knife.

KNACKER.— A wretched looking horse past work.

KNOCK AFF.— To stop operations.

"E can *knock aff* ploughin' te-ams at dree o'clock."

KNUCKLE DOWN.— To succumb; to give in.

KOFER.— A chest for keeping old dresss, &c. in, when these are stowed away for a time.

KURSMAS.— Christmas.

KWUT.— A coat.

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L

LAAY.— To wager; to bet.

"I'll *laay* 'e a quart ('beer' understood) as my donkey 'ooll go vaster nor thee pawny."

To lie down.

"I be a-gwaain to *laay* down, vor I be a-veelin' out o' zarts."

LAAY HAWLT.— "Take hold," receive in your hand.

"*Laay hawlt* o' t'other ind o' the rawpe."

LAAY BY.— To save.

"Times be zo bad, I can't *laay by* nothun."

LAAYCE.— To whip. A "*laaycin"* is a whipping.

"Thee 'ooll get a *laaytin*' when me-uster zees what e hev a-bin at."

LAAY DOWN.— To sow with seed that will not require annual renewal.

"Stock be a-paayin' zo well as I me-ans to *laay down* zome moor land in grace next year."

LAAYDY-BIRD.— *Coccinella septempunctata.* Children never kill this pretty harmless insect, but holding it on the hand say

"*Laaydy-bird, laaydy-bird*, vly yer waay whoam,
Yer house be a-vire, an' yer childern's at whoam."

The hand is then moved sharply upwards, and the "*laaydy-bird*" takes flight.

LAAYED-UP.— Said of a ferret when, having killed a rabbit and eaten part of it, it lies down and goes to sleep in the rabbit-hole.

LAAY INTO.— To beat.

"If thee doosn't do what I tells 'e I'll *laay into* thee."

LACKADAAYSICAL.— Full of fanciful airs and affectation,

LACKADAAYSY ME.— A mild expression of surprise, used generally by old women of the poorer class.

LAKE ALL AWVER THE VAAYCE.— With the whole face showing merriment,

LAG.— Last. Boys playing at marbles call out "*Lag*" when wishing to play last.

LAMMAS, and LAMMAS-DAAY.— This word was explained in the following terms, in the case of "Hobbs versus The Corporation of Newbury," as reported in the "Newbury Weekly News" of the 16th February, 1888. "The Lammas Day obtained its name from a supposed offering or tything of Lambs on the 1st August, the Festival of St.Peter in Chains, as a thanksgiving for the first fruits of the new "Bread Corn." These fields (*i.e.*, certain fields referred to in the law suit) are what are known as Lammas land, *i.e.*, Commons on which the inhabitants of Newbury have the right of Pasturage, formerly commencing on Lammas Eve, the day before the festival of Lammas Day, the 1st August, till Lady Day, the 25th March."

LAND.— A portion of land delimited by furrows in ploughing. Families take *lands* as portions for reaping.

LANDLORD.— An inn-keeper is so called.

LANE, or LE-AN.— To *lean*; also the *lean* of meat.

LARDY CAAYKE.— The plain cake much sweetened and containing lard.

LARN.— To teach.

"Do 'um *larn* 'e zummin (arithmetic) at schoold?"

LARRA MASSY.— A common interjectory expression.

LARRUP.— To beat.

A *larrupin* is a beating.

LATTER MATH.— The second crop of grass. Vide ATERMARTH.

LAUK.— An expression of wonder.

LAVE, or LE-AV.— Leave.

LAVENDER.— To put away in "*lavender*" has the extended meaning of putting anything of value very carefully away.

LAW.— A common expression of surprise.

LAY, or LAA.— Law.

"I wunt go to *lay* about ut."

LAY-YER, or LAA-YER.— A lawyer. The blackberry bush is called a "*laa-yer,*" because when any part of it takes hold of one there is no getting free from the bush without being seized by other parts. There is a paradoxical quotation very common when blackberries are coming in season, "Blackberries be allus *red* when um be *gre-an.*"

LE-AST-WAAYS, or LASTE-WISE.— At all events.

"Me-uster be a-gwaain to begin plantin' ze-ad tayters next wake, *le-ast-waays* a zed as a 'ood."

LEATHER.— To flog. A *leatherin'* is a flogging.

LEATHERY.— Tough.

"This me—at be maain *leathery*."

LED.— Betted, wagered.

"I *led* 'un a penny as a cood'nt dim that ther tree."

A lid.

LEER.— Empty, hungry.

"I wishes 'um 'ud gie we zome dinner, I be a-veelin' maain *leer*."

LEG UT.— To run away very quickly.

"I maayde 'un *leg ut* pretty sherp, I can tell 'e."

LEG UP.— To give a "*leg up*" is to give one help from underneath on ascending a wall or tree, &c.

LEM-VIGS.— Imported figs.

LEN'.— "Lend" is always so pronounced.

LESS, or THESS.— "Let us," "Let me."

"*Less* zee what 'e got ther."

LET ALAWNE.— Moreover, in addition to.

"He ood'nt len' we no money, *let alawne* mwoast likely a yent got none to len'."

LET ALAWNE AS.— Is used for "and taking into consideration also that."

"She hev a-had two new gownds this zummer, *let alawne as* she had dree put by avoor, zo she wunt want no moor vor one while."

LET IN.— "Begin!" "go to work!"

"Now if you chaps be ready *let in* wi'out any moor tawk."

VNiVERSiTAS STVDIi SALAMANTiNi

LET VLY.— To shoot. Perhaps a phrase from archery days when the arrow winged its way on being released from the bow.

LE-UZ.— To glean. "*Le-uzin*" is gleaning.

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LEY.— Growing grass; grass lands which are not for annual breaking up; this applies to sanfoin, clover, &c., which come under the general term "grass."

LEZ.— Lies or lays.

"I never *lez* a-bed o' marnins" (I rise early in the morning),

LICK.— To beat.

"A lickin'" is a beating.

LIDDY.— Lydia.

LIEV.— As soon.

"I'd as *liev* go as stop at whoam."

LIEVER.— Rather.

"What 'ood 'e *liever* be, a zawlger or a zaailer?"

LIFT.— A free ride.

LIKE.— Placed sometimes in a modifying or apologetic way.

"Plaze, zur, I wants to maayke my house a bit smarter *like* if e'll gie I zome white-wash an' brushes to do 't wi'."

LIKE-ER.— More likely.

"He's *like-er* to come 'an not."

LIKES O'.— Persons or things of that stamp or quality.

"I wunt taayke no trouble vor the *likes o'* thaay."

LILL.— The act of projecting the tongue as with a dog after running.

"Look how that ther dog *lills*, a mus' ha' had a smartish hunt ater the wounded haayre."

LIMBER.— Active, tough.

"If thee vights 'un thee'll get wusted, vor a be a maain *limber* zart o' chap." Sometimes used as meaning "limp" also.

LIMBO.— Jail.

VNiVERSiTAS STVDIi SALAMANTiNi

"If thee be—ant moor keervul thee 'ooll vind theezelf in *limbo* avoor long."

LIMMERS.— Base; low.

LIMP.— Flaccid.

Wanting in firmness.

"A be a *limp* zart o' man if 'e sticks out he'll gie in."

LISSOM.— Active; pliant.

LITTEN.— A small meadow adjoining a parish church yard, available for churchyard extension.

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LITTER.— To "*litter* down" is to lay down straw for horses to sleep on for the night, this straw bedding being called "*litter*," and this word is also applied to all sorts of things lying confusedly about.

LITTOCKS.— Rags and tatters.

"His kwut got tore to *littocks* in the brambles when the donkey drowed 'un an' dragged 'un along by the sturrup."

LIVE-UNDER.— To hold a farm from; to be tenant to.

LOCK.— A small quantity of hay not so dry as the remainder of the crop.

LODGED.— Corn beaten down by storms is spoken of as "*lodged*."

LOGGERYEADS.— To be "at *loggeryeads*" with another is to have a feud with him, to have quarrelled.

LOLL.— To lean lazily.

"*Lollin'* about" is the reverse of sitting or standing upright, and looking ready for work.

LOLLOP.— To slouch. The meaning is analogous to that of "LOLL." "*Lollopin*" is "slouching."

LONG.— Great or large. A "*long* figure" means a great price; "*long*-headed" is applied to one far-seeing or calculating (common).

LONGVUL.— Wearisome.

"Thee hast a-bin awaay vrom whoam a *longvul* while."

LONG-TAAILED-'UN.— A cock pheasant.

VNiVERSiTAS STVDII SALAMANTiNi

LONG-TAWL.— A game at marbles where each takes aim at the other in turn, a marble being paid in forfeit to whichever of the players may make a hit.

LOOBY.— A stupid looking youth.

LOP.— Branches cut from the main stem of a tree by a bill-hook; the expression "top, *lop*, an' vaggot," includes all of the tree except the timber.

LOPE.— To idle about.

LOPPETTIN'.— Walking with an ungainly movement and heavy tread.

LOP ZIDED.— Standing out of the perpendicular.

With weight not equally distributed.

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LORDS AN' LAAYDIES.— The *arum*.

LOT.— The feast time at some villages.

Drayton "*Lot*" is well kept up.

"A vat *lot*" is an expression of doubt.

"I be a-gwaain to zee Me-uster an' tell 'un I wunt bide wi' un a minnut longer." To this would be made the jeering rejoinder, "A *vat* lot you 'ooll I'll be bound."

LOTS.— Many, the greater number.

"*Lots* on us can't come a Monday 'cause o' the cricket match, but all on us 'ood come a Tuesday"

LOUCHET.— A large piece.

"Thee hast gin I moor of a *louchet* 'n I can yet" (you have given me a larger piece than I can eat.)

LOUT.— A stupid, ungainly man.

LOVE AN' IDLE.— The Pansy.

LOVE-CHILD.— One born before wedlock.

LOVE VEAST.— A tea meeting held in dissenting chapels, after which members in turn tell their religious experiences.

LOW.— Out of spirits.

"I was a-veelin' a bit *low* acause my zon as is abrade ent wrote to I vor a long time."

LOW BELL.— A bell formerly rung at villages in the Vale of Berkshire at day break by the herdsman appointed to take charge of cows to be turned out on the downs for grazing during the day. At the sound of the "*low bell*" the cows were delivered to him. (*Low* rhymes with "cow.")

LUBBER, or LUBBER-YEAD.— One very stupid indeed.

LUCKY BAG.— A bag always at country fairs. On payment of a penny one puts in the hand and draws forth a prize of some kind.

LUG.— A pole or perch. The pole which secures barn doors by being fixed across; to carry.

LUMBERIN'.— A dull heavy prolonged sound.

LUMMAKIN'.— Proceeding with slow ungainly motion.

LUMP.— To thump with the fist.

A "*lump* of a chap" is a big fellow, perhaps somewhat ungainly.

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LUMPY.— Heavy in appearance; clumsily formed; also looking sullenly cross is described as "lookin' *lumpy* awver 't."

LUSH.— To drink freely of intoxicating liquors.

LYE.— Water which has been filtered through wood-ashes, and so rendered soft for washing purposes.

LYE-LITCH.— The tub used to contain the ashes and water when "*lye*" is made.

LYNCHES.— The green banks or divisions of "lands."

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M

MAAIDEN.— This word is used in combination as thus, *maiden Downs* are natural Downs, *i.e.*, never planted nor broken up. Woods are said to be stocked with *maaiden timber* when there has been no previous felling.

MAAIDS.— Servant girls in a farm house. *Vide* also GALS.

MAAIN.— Very, extremely.

"I be *maain* tired ater that ther job."

The greater part.

"I thinks we hev a-killed the *maain* o' the rats up at Breach Verm an' ther bent none left to zi'nify."

MAAM.— To besmear; as a child may besmear face or hands with jam.

MAAMY.— Soft soil which is not very wet, but where the foot sinks in, is thus described.

Also "besmeared."

MAAY.— The flower of the Whitethorn. In the "*Maay*" the leaf appears before the flower, whilst the Blackthorn shows the flower before the leaf.

MAAY HAP.— Possibly, perhaps.

MAAY HORNS.— These are made by boys from the rind of the Withy, wound round and round; a smaller piece being wound also and inserted at the smaller end. They give forth a most doleful but far reaching sound.

MAAYRY, or ME-A-RY.— Mary.

MAAYKE AWAAY WI'.- To kill.

"I be a-gwaain to *maayke awaay wi'* my dog, vor thaay tells I as a goes ater the ship o 1

nights."

To spend too freely.

MAAYKE HAAY.— Boys use this expression when heaping together the miscellaneous belongings of another who has made himself obnoxious and pouring water over the whole.

"To *maayke haay* while the zun shines" is to set to work vigorously at a thing when circumstances are favourable.

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MAAYKE NOTHUN'.— To fetch no money.

"Whate wunt *maayke nothun'* now, an' we only got to our stock."

MAAYKE UP.— A youth is said to "*maayke up*' to a girl when he first attempts to pay addresses to her. This expression is the counterpart of a girl 'setting her cap.'

'I zaay, Daayme, doos'nt think young Jack Robins be *a.-maaykin'* up to our Maayry?"

MAAYKE WAAYTE.— "Make weight." A small quantity or scrap added by butchers and others to make up or increase weight.

MAAYRE, or MER.— The expression "the graay *maayre* be the best herse" is commonly used either as denoting that the wife is head and heart of the house or that a man is "henpecked."

MAAYRES TAAILS.— Light fleecy clouds.

"*Maayres taails* an' mackerel sky,
Not long wet nor not long dry."

MAAYZY.— Not clear headed, confused, muddle-headed.

Generally followed by "like."

"When I yeared what 'um had done I was zo took aback as to veel quite *maayzy*-like."

MACKEREL SKY.— Sky mottled with clouds.

MAD.— Very angry; greatly annoyed.

MAG.— Troublesome tongue.

"Hawld thee *mag*" is a retort.

A magpie.

MAGGOT.— "To have a *maggot* in the yead" is to hold very strange and unusual notions.

MAGGOTTY.— Fidgetty, having eccentric notions. Also frolicsome.

MAMMERED.— Amazed, confused, puzzled.

"I was quite *mammered* zo many on 'um spakin' at once."

MAMMY ZICK.— In distress on account of being away from the mother or home.

MANDERIN'.— Muttering threats or grumbling to one's self.

MANNISH.— Used in ridicule of a youth giving himself airs such as strutting when walking.

MARVELS.— "Marbles" are so generally pronounced by boys.

MASH.— A marsh. The *Mash* is sometimes a fine meadow, as at Newbury.

MATH-THA.— Martha (equally, commonly, "Patty.")

MATIN'.— Service at a dissenting chapel is so called.

"Be 'e a-gwaain to *Matin'* at Compton to-night?"

Members of the congregation are sometimes called *Matiners*, as distinguished from Church Vawk or those who attend Church.

MATTER O'.— Quantity or number, but used redundantly.

"I shall hev a *matter* o' vorty pegs to zell about Kursmas time."

MATY, or ME-A-TY.— Used as expressing that animals are in good condition for the butcher.

MAUL.— A wooden hammer, as used for driving beer-taps into barrels.

MAUNDERIN'.— Continuing to talk without showing knowledge or sense.

MAUNT.— Must not.

"A zes I *maunt* go to Vaair athout I works awvertime vor a we-uk avoorhand."

MAWKIN.— An implement for cleaning out the oven.

MAWKISH.— Flat to the taste.

MAWKY.— A woman who is very dowdy and ungainly in appearance is said to be "*mawky*"

MAYSTER, or ME-USTER.— Master; the farmer is always called the "*Mayster*" by his men.

MAYSTERVUL.— Domineering, arrogant, assertive.

"Our Gerge be got that *maystervul* ther yent no doin' nothun' wi' 'un."

MAZINLY, or MAAYZINLY, or ME-UZ-INLY.— Much, extremely.

"That ther bwoy o' ourn be grawin' *mazinly* now to be zure."

MAZZARD.— A big head.

"Did e' zee what a raayre *mazzard* that ther chap had a-got?"

ME-AD.— A meadow.

"A be gone down in the *me-ad*" (always pronounced in two syllables),

ME-AT, or MATE.— Meat.

MED.— May, might.

VNiVERSiTAS STVDIi SALAMANTiNi

"I tawld 'un a *med* do't if a wanted to't."

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MED-BE.— Perhaps, possibly.

"*Med be* you be a-gwaain to Reddin to-morrer, zur?"

MEDDLE.— To touch, to take an active interest in.

"If thee *meddles* wi' what yent belongin' to 'e agin, I'll gie 'e alarrapin."

The expression *meddle nor maayke* is used as thus: "I wunt *meddle nor maayke* wi' e but me-ans jus' to mind my awn business."

MELT.— Part of a pig, the spleen. A favourite supper where a pig has been killed is, "heart and *melt*," the melt which is rather fat being crammed with savoury stuffing, and the heart also stuffed.

MERE.— A bank or boundary of earth.

MERE-STWUN.— A stone dividing two properties.

A *Mere path* thus divides two properties at Hagbourn.

MERRY GO ROUNDS.— These, composed of revolving wooden horses, always put in an appearance at fairs and merry-makings.

MESS.— A child is told "not to *mess* it's food," *i.e.*, not to continue to touch it with its fork or spoon without eating.

MESSENGER.— A sunbeam coming through a long crack into a rather dark barn or loft.

MESSY.— Food which is uninviting in appearance is thus described: "I can't et (or yet) that ther pudden' a looks 'messy.'"

Soft or pulpy.

ME-UT, or MAAYTE.— A mate.

MICKLE.— Used in a proverb very common among the thrifty folk of Berkshire.

"Many a little maaykes a *mickle*."

MIDDLIN'.— Not well and strong in health; a degree or two worse than "tarblish."

The reply to inquiries after health may commonly be: "I be but *middlin'* zur, thank 'e; the rheumatics be bad agin."

VNiVERSiTAS STVDIi SALAMANTiNi

When work is said to be done "but *middlin'*," it means that it is rather badly done.

MIFF.— In a temper, in a huff.

"A was in a *miff* amwoast avoor I begun to tell'n how 'twas."

MILD.— Not strong.

"This yer chaze be vurry *mild*," *i.e.*, not strong in flavour.

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MILD.— A mile, miles.

"Ut be better nor zeven *mild* vrom Hampstead to Newbury."

MILLERD.— A miller.

The common white moth.

MILLERDS THUMB.— The name most commonly given to the small fish, Bull-Head or Tom Cull, so much hunted for by boys in streams where drought has stopped the water running for a time.

MIM.— Silent, not easily induced to talk.

"She zet ther zo *mim* as I cood'nt get on no how, an' zo I got up an' come awaay."

MIMMAM.— A bog.

MINCIN'.— Affected.

"She be too *mincin'* a zart of a gal vor my money"(she is too affected for my taste).

MIND.— Know to one's cost. In the play of the Berkshire Mummers we have

"Now, Slasher, Slasher, dwoant thee be too hot,
Vor in this room thee'll *mind* who thee hast got."

MINDS.— Remember.

"What do a me-an by tawkin' to I like that ther, why I *minds* when a was but a bit of a bwoy."

MINT.— Large quantity or number, a great deal.

"That chap run zo hard, a gin I a *mint* o' trouble avoor I ketched 'un."

MINTY.— Musty, mouldy.

VNiVERSiTAS STVDII SALAMANTiNi

Cheese with mites therein is commonly described as "*minty*"

MISCHIEF.— To "play the *mischief*" with anything is to spoil it.

Mischievous or mischievious is much used, the accent being on the second syllable. *Mischievul* is also very commonly used instead of "mischievous."

MISDOUBT.— To mistrust.

MISSUS.— A working man so calls his wife. In speaking to others of her he will say "My *missus*." The farmer's wife is styled "The *Missus*."

"Be the *Missus* at whoam if 'e plaze?"

MISSUSSY.— Used by girls to each other as indicating "taking too much on oneself;" analagous to MAYSTERVUL.

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MISWORDS.— Quarrelsome words.

"Us had a *misword* or two an' ent spoke to one 'nuther zence."

MIXED UP.— Taking part in.

"I wunt be *mixed up* wi' zuch doins as them."

MIXEN.— A place where garbage from the kitchen is thrown.

MIZZLE.— "Be off!"

"You bwoys had best *mizzle* avoor I gets a stick to 'e."

To rain steadily in extremely minute drops and without wind.

MOIL.— To labour.

"I hev a-got zome money put by, an' dwoant look to toil an' *moil* al rny daays."

MOINE.— A dung-hill.

MOLL-HERN.— The female heron. The male heron is called the "jack hern," but in districts where herons are not often seen both male and female are called "*moll-herns*"

MOLLY-CODDLE.— A man who fusses about the house with matters more properly dealt with by women.

MONKEYS' LOWANCE.— A whipping.

MOO-COW.— Children call a cow thus, as they call a sheep a "baa-lamb."

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MOOR.— More.

MOOR ZACKS TO MILL.— A favourite game with children at Christmas time, when wishing for one of a romping character.

MOP VAAIR.— A fair for hiring servants and farm-labourers.

MORT.— Very great, a large quantity.

"When I met 'un a zimmed in a *mort* of a hurry."

"Ther was a *mort* on 'un ther, I never zin zuch a lot avoor nor zence."

MORTAL.— Excessively, great.

"I be a-gwaain to get zome doctor's stuff, vor I was a-veelin' *morta* bad awhile back."

MORTLY.— Extremely.

"I be *mortly* aveard a wunt hev the money to paay up."

MOSES.— A mouse is often so called.

"Come an' look yer, I got *moses* by the taail an' a can't get into his hawle."

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MOSSLE.— A morsel; anything very small. At table would be said

"Gi' I a *mossle* moor vat if you plaze."

The least.

"T'yent a *mossle* o' good axin' muh, vor I tells 'e I wunt."

MOTHER-LAA.— Mother-in-law. The "in" is similarly omitted in father-in-law, brother-in-law, and sister-in-law, when these titles are used, but this is rarely the case, the names being usually substituted, and "My missus' vath-er" used for "father-in-law."

MOTHER'S ZON.— Everyone without exception.

"A turned every *mother's zon* on um out o' the house."

MOTHERY.— Covered with mildew.

MOUCH.— To eat; to pilfer.

MOUCHER.— A cat that steals provisions is called *a moucher*, one good at catching mice is *a mouser*.

MOUCHIN' ABOUT.— Prying about with intent to pilfer?

"What was 'e *mouchin' about* in the hen 'us vor?"

MOUGHT.— Might.

MOUSER.— A cat good at catching mice.

MOUTH.— "Down in the *mouth*" signifies looking depressed.

MOW.— Corn or straw stacked in a barn. "The Barley Mow" is the sign board of an old Inn.

MUCH-ABOUT.— Indicates magnitude almost the same as "just about."

"Ther was *much—about* a lot o' rats in the whate rick as us took in to-daay."

MUCK.— A perspiration.

MUCKER.— A failure.

"A maayde a *mucker* on't."

To besmear with dirt.

MUCK HE-UP, or MUCK HAPE.— A heap of farm yard manure.

MUCKY.— With wet sticky dirt under foot.

"The ro-ads be maain *mucky* jus' now."

MUDDLE-YEADED.— With no power of perception, having confused ideas, very stupid.

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MUFFLED.— When an old bell-ringer dies it has been the custom for each of the others to tie a stocking round the clapper of his bell and so to ring a "*muffled*" peal.

MUFFLER.— A woollen cravat wound several times round the neck and worn in cold weather.

MUG.— As a schoolboy's expression to work hard, and one who does so is somewhat contemptuously termed "a *mug*" by others who prefer play to work.

A cup of the same size round from top to bottom.

MUGGLE.— A muddle, confusion.

"The children had nobody to look ater 'um an' hev maayde zuch a *muggle* as you never zee."

MUGGY.— "*Muggy* weather," is damp, hot, close weather.

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"A thing is said to taayste "*Muggy*," when it has a flavour the reverse of acid."

MUH.— Me. "I," is however much used in the objective case, and always so when there is stress on the pronoun.

MULL.— To make a failure of any attempt.

A profuse perspiration is described as a "*mull*."

MULL-YEAD.— A very stupid person who makes a mess of everything he tries to do.

MULLIGRUBS.— Out of sorts and temper; out of spirits; a slight indisposition.

MULLOCK.— Wet straw.

Dirt of all descriptions when heaped together.

MUM.— Silent as if from a desire to keep a secret, or to abstain from speaking freely on a matter.

MUMCHAUNCIN'.— Sitting without speaking as tho' offended. After one has acted in this way the question is asked, "What was he a *mumchauncin'* about I wonner?"

MUMMERS.— A company of village actors who go the round of the principal houses in the neighbourhood at Christmas time.

The words of the play are given elsewhere.

MUN.— Man.

"What beat ther *mun*?"

Sometimes "you" is similarly used.

"What be at ther' you?"

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MUNCH.— To eat something which bites crisply.

MUSCLE-PLUM.— A long shaped plum, sweet but without much juice, which separates very widely from its stone when ripe.

MUST.— To mildew.

"Them pots o' jam be beginnin' to *must*,"

MUTE.— A dog is said "to run *mute*" when it does not give tongue in pursuit of game.

MUV.— Move. When the word "*move"* is used, as is sometimes the case, it is pronounced as rhyming with "rove."

MUZZY.— Stupefied by drink. Weather is "*muzzy*" when no clear through mist or fog.

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MWILE.— Mire.

"A's a-gettin' vurder an' vurder in the *mwile*" *i.e.*, he's going from bad to worse.

MWOAST-LY.— For the most part, frequently, generally.

"Thaay *mwo-ast-ly* allus has ther dinner avoor 'um sterts, zo ther yent no call vor we to hev none ready vor 'um."

MWOAST IN GINRAL.— Generally.

"I *mwoast in ginral* goes to chapel at Compton o' Zundays."

MWOAST TIMES.— More often than not. Often used where "most in general" would equally be used.

VNiVERSiTAS STVDiI SALAMANTiNi

N

NAAIL.— To secure.

"I managed to *naail* the rat by the taail jus' as a was a-gettin' inside his hawle."

NAAIL-PASSER.— The usual name for a gimlet.

NAAYTION.— Great, large, extreme.

"Ther was a *naaytion* lot o' paple at Vaair to-daay to be zure."

NAAYTION ZIGHT.— A great deal.

"I'd a *naaytion zight* zooner hev dree gals to bring up nor one bwoy."

NAB.— To detect, surprise, or seize in the act.

"I *nabbed* 'un jus' as a was a-maaykin aff wi' the taayters on his shawlder."

NAG.— To say irritating things.

"She *nags* at I zo's I wunt bide at whoam moor 'n I be 'bliged to 't."

"*Naggin* at" is the habit above referred to.

NAISTY.— Spiteful.

"A zims inclined to be *naisty* toward us, zo thess kape out o' his waay."

NANNY GO-AT.— The female goat; the male being the BILLY-GOAT.

NAPSY.— An abscess.

NARN, or NARRUN, or NARRA-ONE.— Not one.

These are the negatives respectively of "*arn*," "*arrun*" and "*arra-one.*"

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"Be ther *arra* prong in the staayble?" "No, ther bent *narn* ther, but I'll zee if ther be *arra-one* in the bern."

NAT.— A knot.

When I wants to mind zummit, I ties a *nat* in my pockut hankercher" (when I wish to remember something, &c., &c.)

NATOMY.— Contemptuously applied to a small thin person, thus,

"Dost think anybody 'ud mind a *natomy* of a chap like thee?"

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NATTY.— Said of a woman who is very trim and perhaps a little coquettish in her dress.

NEAR.— Stingy.

"A mus' be wuth a good bit o' money vor a allus was *near*."

The "*near*" side of a horse is the side on which the carter walks when driving his team. The "*off*" side is the other side.

NE-AST EGG.— A single egg left to prevent hens from deserting the nest. It is supposed that hens are unable to count or remember how many eggs they have previously laid, for they will daily go on laying until they have laid their number as long as a single egg remains, but if all were to be taken they would desert the nest and sometimes even stop laying for a time.

The "*ne-ast egg*" is often for convenience an addled egg, or an egg-shaped piece of chalk, the hen being content with such substitution.

NEDDY.— A donkey.

NETTLE-CRAPER.— The small White-throat; doubtless so called from its habits.

NETTLED.— Stung to anger; irritated.

NEVER A ONE.— Not one at all.

"I never zee *never a one* avoor in all my bern daays."

NEVVY.— Nephew.

NEWVANGLED.— Spoken as regards new ideas or manners. It is always used disparagingly.

NI.— A brood of pheasants. See also EYE.

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NICE.— Very curiously coupled by women "*nice and warm;*" "*nice* and frosty;" "*nice* and clean;" in fact, "*nice*, and anything that is gratifying."

NICELY.— To be "doing *nicely*" is to be getting better after illness.

NICK.— To knock off a small fragment.

NIGHT CAP.— A glass of hot spirits and water just before going to bed.

NIGHT-JAR.— The bird, "goat-sucker."

NIGHT NIGHTY.— A very friendly "Good-night;" used also generally to young children.

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NINCOMPOOP.— A silly, stupid person, who will believe any nonsense that is told him.

NIP.— A quick painful pinch of a small piece of flesh.

"He give I a *"nip"* an I give he a punch."

To cut closely, as to "*nip*" off a small piece of loose skin with scissors.

NIPPER.— A boy is often so called, rather contemptuously.

"That young *nipper* 'ull never be a man if a dwoant larn how to handle his prong better."

NITCH.— A bundle to be carried on the back, as "a *nitch* of stray" for night littering for horses.

NOBBLE.— To seize quickly. To commit a petty theft.

"Jus' as a *nobbled* a apple out o' my jackut pockut I *nobbled* he."

NOD.—"In the land of *nod*" is "gone to sleep."

NODDLE.— The head.

"A caught ut on the *noddle*," *i.e.*, he received a blow on the head.

"To *noddle* the head" is to shake the head upwards and downwards.

NO GO.— Of no avail; in vain.

"I tried to persuaayde 'un to come'an' zee 'e, but 'twant *no go*."

NO GOOD ON.— Of no value.

"Drow them things I hev put in the bucket to the pegs, thaay beant *no good on*."

NO HOW.— Anyhow, in any possible way.

"The rabbut be gone a-ground an' us can't get 'un out, *no how*."

NO MOOR"N.— Except that.

'I likes un vurry well *no moor'n* I vinds un a bit akkerd at times."

NOODLE.— A very silly person.

NOR.— Always used for "than."

"My whip hev a-got a better thong *nor* thine."

NORAAYTION.— A long rambling account, as when a poor old woman, greatly interested in her troubles, relates them very fully.

NOT.— Smooth, even, without irregularity.

"That ther vield be *not*, be-ant a?" (that field is well tilled, is it not?")

A "*not* cow" is a cow without horns.

NOTCH.— When one is added to the score of a game, as cricket, &c., it is called a "*notch*." A batsman is asked, "how many *notches* did 'e maayke?"

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NO WAAYS.— Not at all.

"I yers as a zed zummut bad about muh, but I be-ant *no ways* affronted wi' zuch a poor noodle."

NOW AN' AGIN.— Intermittently, once in a way.

"I zees a haayre in the yields *now an' agin*, but ther be-ant many on 'um this year."

NOWSE.— Ideas of management, ability to act with energy.

"T'yent no good to ax he to do't, vor 'e a yent got no *nowse*."

NOWT.— Nought, nothing.

"All as I do's this year zims to come to *nowt*."

NOWZEL.— To nestle closely for protection or warmth.

"Zee how the puppy an' the cat *nowzels* down together avoor the vire this cawld weather."

NO ZART NOR KIND O' USE.— Used to express emphatically "no use at all."

"A be that ther peg-yeaded t'yent *no zart nor kind o' use* to argivy wi'n."

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NOZZLE.— The top of a spout.

"The *nozzle* o' the taaypot be zo chawked up as no taay hardly wunt come droo."

The nose of a horse.

NUBBLY.— Where fine or powdered matter has hard lumps mixed with it.

NUDGE.— To touch with the elbow in order to draw attention confidentially to some matter.

NUMBED.— Benumbed.

NUNCHIN'.— Luncheon.

NUTHER.— Indeed!

"No, a wunt *nuther*!" *i.e.*, no, he will not indeed!

"*Nuther*" is only used for "indeed" in such cases as the above, coming thus at the end of a sentence to make it more emphatic.

NUTTERIN'.— A hard sounding disconnected noise made by a horse, which sometimes precedes whinnying.

O

O'.— Of, in the.

"Them be a vine lot *o'* ship, zur, be-ant 'urn."

"Ut be cawld *o'* marnins now."

"ON" is used also for "of" as before 'um (them).

"Ther be a gurt lot o' rabbuts in the 'ood; I zee a wondervul zight *on* 'um out at ve-ad last night"

OAK APPLE.— The oak gall.

OBADIENCE.— Curtsey.

"A labourer's little girl on being called in to see a lady visitor would receive orders from her mother, "maayke yer *obadience* to the laaydy."

OBSTROPPELUS.— Restive under authority, assertively making a disturbance.

"The bwoy was got maain *obstroppelus* an' zo I zent 'un to schoold to be broke in a bit."

VNiVERSiTAS STVDII SALAMANTiNi

OBVUSTICAAYTED.— Confused from any cause; somewhat stupefied by drink.

OCEANS, or AWCEANS.— Used exaggeratively to express a large number or quantity.

“That was a vine baskut o’ plums ‘e zent I this marnin’.” “Eese an’ ther be *oceans* moor wher thaay come vram.”

ODD DRAT-UT.— An angry expression. “*Odd drabbut ut*” is similarly used.

ODDS.— Affair; business.

“What thaay do’s yent no *odds* o’ mine nor yourn nether.”

ODDY.— Well in health, lively.

On being asked how he is, an old man will reply, “Quite *oddy*, thenk’e.”

ODMEDOD.— See HODMEDOD.

OFFISH.— Reserved; refusing to receive advances.

“At vust I tried to maayke vriends wi’ ‘un, but I vound ‘un main *offish* an’ zo now I lets ‘un alawne.”

ON.— Of. See O.

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ONACCOUNTABLE.— Commonly used as expressive of magnitude.

“Ther be a *onaccountable* crap o’ apples this year to be zure.”

ONBEKNOWED TO.— Without the knowledge of.

“I be come to vaair *unbeknowed* to my Missus, as ool wunner wher I be got to.”

ONBELAVIN.— Obstinate.

“That ther bwoy be got *onbelavin* an’ wunt mind what I tells ‘un zo I be agwaain to gie un a larrapin.”

OKKEPAAYSHIN’.— Work.

“Ther yent no *okkepaayshin’* vor a Want Ketcher Blewbury waay.”

ONCOMMON.— Used instead of “very” and “extremely.”

“Them ship be a *uncommon* vine lot to be zure.”

ONDERVOOT.— Used thus:

“The roads be slushy *ondervoot* to daay.”

ONE O''CLOCK.— 'Like one o'clock" means "very quickly."

"The awld herse stretched hiszelf out an' brought us whoam like *one o'clock."*

ONE WHILE.— For a long time to come.

"Ater what I zed to'n a wunt try to argy wi' I *one while* I warn."

ONST.— Once, whenever.

"*Onst* I vinds the right ro-ad I warn I wunt lose my waay agin'."

'OOD.— Would.

"A *'ood* come if a was axt."

'OODST.— Wouldst, would you.

'OOL, or WOOL.— Will.

'OOMAN.— Woman. When "awld" precedes "*ooman* the 'd" is carried on, and "*'ooman*" is sounded "dooman."

'OOMAN'S TONGUE.— Both the Aspen and Quaker Grass are given this name, because motion is caused by the lightest breeze, and so they are always on the move.

'OOT, or 'OOLT.— Wilt thou, will you.

'OOTENT.— Wilt thou not, will you not.

ORNARY.— Common.

"I got zome tayters I be a-gwaain to zend to Shaw (*i.e.*, to exhibit), thaay be quite out o' *ornary* like."

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ORTS.— Odd pieces.

OURN.— Ours.

OUT.— Result of an attempt.

"I zet un to do zome gardnin', but 'a maayde but a poor *out* on't".

OUT AN' OUT.— Wholly, entirely, beyond comparison.

"I got *out an' out* the best o' the bargain wi' 'un."

OUT AN' OUTER.— Something very extraordinary or preposterous; one who does very extraordinary things.

VNiVERSiTAS STVDIi SALAMANTiNi

OUT-AXT.— When the Banns have been put up in Church for the third time, the couple are said to be *out-axt.*

OUT-COME.— The result.

OWLISH.— Sleepy, stupid.

OXER.— A logget.

A short thick stick with a lump of lead or iron at the end.

A blow from a thick stick.

OX-SLIPS.— The flowers of Cowslip roots as produced when these roots are planted upside down, and with cow-dung or soot around. The manure doubtless accounts for the tint produced.

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P

PAAM.— Palm.

PAASNUPS, or PASMETS.— Parsnips.

PAAST ALL.— Beyond.

"The waay as a goes on be *paast all* puttin' up wi'."

PAAY.— Prosper.

"Zuch doins as them wunt *paay*."

PAAYNCHES.— Broken pieces of crockery.

PAAY-NIGHT.— The night on which farm labourers draw their weekly wages.

PAAY OUT.— Common expression for "retaliate."

PADDLE.— A spud used for clearing the plough, when ploughing.

PAM.— The knave of clubs at five-card loo.

PANK.— To pant.

"Panting" is termed "*pankin*'"

PANTNEY.— A pantry.

PARLOUR.— The reception room in farm-houses was called the "best *parlour.*"

PARSONS NOSE.— The tail joint of a goose, duck, or fowl.

PARTLY.— Somewhat, am inclined to.

"I *partly* thinks a wunt do't at all now a hev a-bin zo long about ut."

PASSEL.— A number, a lot. The word is always used somewhat contemptuously, "a *passel* o' vools."

PAT.— Readily, without hesitation.

"When I taxt 'un wi' 't a tawld muh a lie *pat*."

PAT-BALL.— A child's name for a ball, or for the simple game of throwing a ball from one to another.

PATCHY.— Often and easily put out of temper.

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PATER.— Peter.

PATER GRIEVOUS.— One is so called who goes about with a melancholy face.

PATTENS.— Sandals raised on iron frames worn by women to keep their shoes out of the dirt.

PATTERN.— An example.

"If I zees any moor zuch bad doins I'll maayke a *pattern* on 'e."

PATTY.— The familiar name for Martha.

PAULS.— The expression as "awld as St. *Paul's*" is used to denote great antiquity. St. *Paul''s* is the best known of any of the 'zights o' Lonnon Town."

PAUNCHY.— Stout.

PAWLE.— A pole.

PAX.— The school boys word for "surrender" or wishing to "make friends" again.

PEART.— Bright, full of life; also impudent.

PEAZEN, or PAZE, or PE-AZ.— Peas.

PE-AZ PORRIDGE.— Pea soup.

PECK.— A pick-axe.

PECKER.— Mouth; visage.

"A bit down in the *pecker*" means "in bad spirits."

PECKIN'.— Faultfinding.

"She was allus a-*peckin'* an' yangin' at muh zo as I cood'nt bide wi' her no longer."

PECKISH.— Hungry.

PECK-UP.— To loosen ground with a pick-axe.

PEE-BO.— The first game for babies, consisting of alternately hiding and showing them the face.

PEEK-ED, or PEEKY.— Thin in the face, as from illness.

"A be a-lookin' main *peeky,* med-be a wants moor me-at to yet."

PEEL.— A long-handled implement for removal of loaves from an oven.

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PEEP-SHAW.— A paper case with glass over, filled by children with flowers pressed against the glass; there is a paper lid which is raised for a "pin a peep."

PEE-WHIT.— The Lap-wing, thus called from its note.

"There is a primitive musical instrument made by boys called a *pee-whit*; a small stick is split and an ivy leaf inserted, blowing on this produces a curious sound.

PEFFLE.— In a nervous state; in a condition of hurry and confusion.

"A zimmed in zuch a *peffle* as a did'nt knaw what a was a-zaayin' on,"

PEG.— A pig.

In "The Scouring of the White Horse" we have

"Then as zure as *pegs* is *pegs*
Aayte chaps ketched I by the legs."

"*Peg* away" is a common encouraging phrase for "commence eating," or "eat heartily."

PELT.— Temper.

"I zimmed in a girt *pelt* about ut."

The skin of an animal.

To throw.

"I zee the bwoys a *peltin'* the hens wi' stwuns."

PEN.— To prevent escape.

"Ther be zome bwoys in the archut a-got at the apples, let zome on us go roun' t' other zide on 'urn an' zo *pen* 'um."

PEND.— Depend.

PENNYWINKLE.— Periwinkle.

PEPPER.— To strike with shot or a number of missiles at once.

"I properly *peppered* a rabbut but a managed to crape into his hawle."

PEPPERY.— Irascible.

PERKY.— Assertive in manner, conceited, inclined to be saucy or impertinent.

PERTAAYTERS, or TAAYTERS.— Potatoes.

PERZWAAYDIN'.— Repetition of invitation.

"Now do 'e come an' zee us zoon, an' bring yer missus wi' 'e, an' dwoant 'e want no *perzwaaydin'* ."

PE-US.— Piece; a field of arable land is so called.

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PE-US O' WORK.— Fuss.

"A maayde a ter'ble *pe-us* o' work when I tawld 'un as a cood'nt hev the donkey to-daay."

PHAYBE, pronounced FABY.— Phoebe.

PICK-A-BACK.— To go on another's back with arms round his neck and legs supported by his arms.

PICK-ED.— Sharply pointed.

"A run a *pick-ed* staayke into his voot."

PICKLE.— A mischievous child.

To have a "stick in *pickle*" is to keep one ready to beat such a child.

PIDDLE.— A small enclosed field, as the "Church piddle" at Hampstead Norreys.

PIES.— Fruit tarts of all kinds when cooked in dishes are so called, the word "*tart*" being confined to the small open tarts.

PIGEON'S-MILK.— It is a joke to send a child to a shop for a pennyworth of "*pigeon's milk.*" There are others of the same kind, such as sending it to its mother to tell her "to tie ugly up;" or to say that it will "die after" having slightly scratched its finger.

PIGEONY.— Small pimples, showing specially at back of the neck in elderly people; sometimes also called "goosey."

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PIGGIN' UT, or PEGGIN' UT.— Living in a very dirty way with poor surroundings.

PIG-KE-UPIN', or PEG-KE-UPIN'.— Pig-keeping; driving pigs to corn stubble and having whips to prevent them from straying; this work is much appreciated by boys.

PIG PUZZLE, or PEG PUZZLE.— A gate fixed to swing both ways to meet a post, so that an animal pushing it from either side cannot get through.

PIG-RING.— A game at marbles where a ring is made about four feet in diameter, and boys "shoot" in turn from any point in the circumference keeping such marbles as they may knock out of the ring, but losing their own "taw" if it should stop within.

PINCH.— To be good "at a *pinch*" is to be ready of resource, or equal to any emergency.

PINCH AND SCREW.— To try to avoid expenditure by extreme carefulness and even meanness.

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PINCHERS.— Pincers; the tails of an Earwig are called his "*pinchers.*"

PING.— The noise of any hard substance striking against metal.

PINNER.— A child's pinafore.

"Put on the childerns' *pinners* avoor 'um zets down to taayble zo as 'um wunt spile ther vrocks."

PINS AN' NADLES.— The prickling sensation caused by returning circulation after any part has been benumbed.

PINYON.— Belief in, opinion of, confidence in.

"I ent got no *pinyon* o' that ther veller zence I knawed as a cabbaged zome o' my zeed taayters."

PIP.— A small seed.

A disease in poultry.

PIT-A-PAT.— A noise as of treading quickly but rather lightly.

PITCH.— To "*Pitch* Wuts" is to raise oats in the straw into a waggon by means of a coarse-grained prong; the man who does this is called the "*pitcher*," and the

quantity of oats taken on the prong is called the "*pitch*." The prong when constructed in a special way is called a "*pitch* fork."

PITCH AN' NOSTLE.— The game of "pitch and toss."

PITCH-PAWLE.— A very common sport with children, otherwise called " head over heels."

PITCH PIPE.— A pipe used formerly in village churches to give the key—note for congregational singing.

PIT-HAWLE.— The grave is always so named to children.

PITS.— These are extremely common in fields in the "Hill Country" of Berkshire. They owe their origin to the practice of sinking Wells or making excavations in order to obtain Chalk as a "top-dressing" for the soil; the subsequent filling in caused *pits* to be formed.

PLAAYGUE.— A trouble.

There is the expression "What a *plaaygue* the childern be," and to a child is often good-humouredly said, "Thee be moor *plaaygue* 'n all my money."

PLAAYGUEY.— Very extremely.

"My awld 'ooman be got *plaaygue*y vond o' vinery to be zure."

PLAAY IN.— Take your turn and join in.

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PLAAY-SHERP.— To get an advantage over another by somewhat unfair and ungenerous action.

PLAAY-UP.— Play with vigour.

PLASTERED.— The common expression when clothes are coated with mud.

"Your trowsers be *plastered* an' I mus' hev urn dried avoor um can be brushed."

PLATTER.— A plate or small dish.

"Jack Sprat cood yet no vat,
His wife cood yet no le-an;
An' zo betwixt 'urn bo-ath
Thaay kep' the *platter* cle-an."

PLAZE GOD.— Very commonly inserted in a sentence or added to it.

“I hopes, *plaze* God, as ther ‘ool be a better vall o’ lambs this year ‘n ther was laast.”

PLEAZURIN’.— Enjoying one’s self, not working.

“If a goes a-*pleazurin’* about zo much a wunt be aayble to paay his waay much longer.”

PLUCK.— Courage.

A part of the offal of a bird or animal.

PLUM.— Level with.

“The plank along this zide yent *plum* wi’ the one on t’other zide.”

PLYMMED.— Enlarged, swollen, expanded by damp or wet.

“The leathern strap be got *plymmed* an’ wunt work backerds an vorruds in the buckle no moor.”

Seeds are said to have “*plymmed*” when swollen ready to sprout.

POBBLE.— The noise made by the bubbling of water when commencing to boil.

POD.— A large stomach.

POKE.— *Poke* about, to look about inquisitively or with a view to pilfering: thus, if a person be caught without lawful business in a place where hens would be likely to lay eggs he would be greeted by, “What be at *pokin’* about yer.”

POKEY.— Insignificant, small, out of the way.

“A zed as he’d gi’ muh a good present an’ awnly brought muh a *pokey* little work-baskut.”

POLLARD.— The ground husk of wheat; medium size; is so called, the coarsest size being “bran” and the finest being “toppins.”

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PON’.— Pond.

POORLY.— Out of health.

POORTMANKLE.— A portmanteau.

POP.— To “*pop*” a whip is to clang it.

A “*pop* on the yead” is a blow on the head.

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To "*pop* awaay" a thing is to secrete it hurriedly.

POPPIN' ABOUT.— Applied to the frequent shooting of unskilful sportsmen.

Moving quickly from one place to another near at hand.

POSSUT.— A kind of gruel; "tracle-*possut*" and "inon-*possut*" are considered excellent remedies for a cold.

POSSEY.— A large number.

"Ther be a *possey* o' volk gone to Vaair, to-day, to be zure."

POSTER.— To strut.

"To zee that ther chap *poster* along, thee 'ood zay a was a Lerd!"

("*Poster*" is pronounced to rhyme with "coster" in "costermonger.")

POSTERIN'.— Walking conceitedly, strutting.

POT-A-BILIN'.— Keeping continually in progress or in onward motion.

POT-BELLIED.— Stout.

POT-DUNG.— Farm-yard dung.

POT-LUCK.— A meal without notice or much preparation.

POT-LIQUOR.— Water in which meat has been boiled.

POTSHERDS.— Broken pieces of earthenware.

POTTER.— To busy one's self about trifles; to act in a shiftless way and without energy.

POTTERIN' ABOUT.— Fidgetting or idling about to the detriment or annoyance of others.

POUND.— To pummel with the fists.

As regards the arrangement in the "Village *Pound*" for imprisonment of stray cattle, *vide* TALLY.

To knock continuously with a stick or implement, so as to make as much noise as possible.

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POWDER-HORN.— The flask for carrying gun-powder when shooting with a muzzle-loading gun.

POZER.— Something not easily overcome; a very puzzling question.

PRAAYIN' VOR.— When a person is very wicked he is said to be "pretty nigh past *praayin'* vor"

PRECIOUS.— Very, extremely.

"A hawle got knocked in the bo-at an' I *precious* nigh got drownded."

PRETTY.— Is used extensively and somewhat curiously, thus:

"Dwoant them ther bells go *pretty*?"

"Thee bist a *pretty* 'un thee bist" (said sarcastically or contemptuously).

"If a dwoant come we shall be in a *pretty* bad mess."

NOTE.— The first syllable of "pretty" rhymes with "fret."

PRETTY VE-AT.- Middling quantity, a fairly sufficient number or quantity.

"I shall hev a *pretty ve-at* lot o' turmuts vor my ship to yet bym by."

PRIAL.— Three playing cards of different suits but the same value.

'PRIGHT.— Upright.

"Stan' up quite *'pright* an' thess zee how tall 'e be."

PRIME.— In the case of a good joke or witty story, the expression "that ther be *prime*" is often used as denoting appreciation.

A "*prime* chap," is a thoroughly good fellow.

PRIZE.— To raise by insertion and leverage.

"Ooll 'e get a chizel an' *prize* the led o' this yer box vor I? A be stuck down an' I can't awpen 'un."

PROD.— To prick for with an iron instrument as searching for something hidden underneath.

A short prong or other pointed implement.

PROG.— Food; used mostly by boys in this sense. To search for by pricking, used equally with PROD.

PRONG.— The metal part of the implement for moving hay, straw, &c. The wooden part is the "*prong*-handle." The ordinary *prong* has two forks, whilst the dung *prong* has three.

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PROPER.— Expresses magnitude.

"A *proper* lot o' pegs," means a large number of pigs.

"A *proper* hidin'," means a severe whipping.

"A *proper* scamp" is a thoroughly bad character.

PUCKER.— In a confused state.

"If 'e maaykes a *pucker* o' things like this yer agin zomebody else med put 'um to rights vor 'e vor I wunt."

PUCKERED.— Confused; wrinkled.

"*Puckered*" as regards a dress is the same as "gathered."

PUDDENY.— A child is thus called when its cheeks are very large and project forward. "Pudden-vaayced" is similarly used.

PUDDEN-YEAD.— One having a stolid stupid look.

PUFF BALLS.— Fungi full of light dusty matter.

PUG.— The name by which a ferret is always called when required to come to hand.

PULLED-DOWN.— Reduced in condition by illness or melancholy.

PULLY-HAWLLY.— The word given to men to pull hard and all together.

PULL UP.— To stop.

To summons before a court of law.

"A was *pulled up* once vor stalin' turmuts."

PUMMEL.— To beat with the fist.

PUR, or PAAIR.— A pair; a pear.

"I'll gie 'e a bushel o' *purs* vor a *pur* o' boots."

PURLER.— A tumble head over heels; a fall from a horse.

"My herse stopped shert at the ditch, an' I went a *purler* awver his yead."

PUSS.— A purse.

"What a life t'ood be to us,
Wife at whoam an" child to nuss;
Not a penny in the *puss*
Smart young bach'lers."

PUSSY-CATS.— The bloom of the nut-tree.

PUT.— To find the best market for.

"I allus zells my herses bettern 'n thee acause I knaws wher to *put* um better."

PUT ABOUT.— Disturbed as regards one"s ordinary arrangements; ruffled in temper.

'She zimmed a goodish bit *put about* 'acause I happened to ketch her a-workin' at the wash-tub."

PUT BY.— To save, to hoard.

"I vinds I can't *put by* no money in thaze yer hard times."

PUT ON.— "To be *put on*" is to be made to do more than one fairly should.

"To *put on*" is to give one's self airs.

PWOSTISSES.— Posts.

PYANNER.— A piano.

Q

QUAAYKER GRACE.— *Vide* SHIVER GRACE.

QUAG, or QUAGGLE.— To shake.

"Cant 'e veel this yer boggy ground *quag* as us walks awver 't."

QUAMES.— Qualms.

QUANDAIRY.— A predicament; a fix.

"I be in a gurt *quandairy*, an' zo be come to ax 'e to tell I what to do."

QUANE.— The title of Her Majesty is so pronounced.

QUARREL.— A small diamond shaped pane of glass as fixed in cottage windows.

QUAT.— Used sometimes instead of "squat."

QUATCH.— To keep absolute silence as regards a certain subject, whether that subject may be mooted before one, or whether others may try to extract information respecting it.

QUEASY.— Rather sick.

"I was a bit *queasy* this marnin', an' zo led in bed till ater breakvast."

QUEER-STRATE.— In a difficulty; in trouble.

"Thee 'll vind theezelf in *Queer-strate* if 'e dwoant be moor keervul what 'e be a-tawkin about."

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QUICKS.— The young cuttings planted to form a quickset hedge.

QUID.— To suck vigorously.

QUILT.— To swallow a lump of something with very palpable distension of the throat.

To whip.

QUILTIN'.— A beating. It may have been observed that the number of words relative to corporal punishment is large, indicating that in by-gone days it was perhaps not usual "to spare the rod and spoil the child."

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QUIRK.— To make a noise as from pain.

QUOD.— To put in jail.

"As zure as ever I ketches 'e in my archut agin I'll *quod* 'e."

QUOP.— To throb.

"I can veel as the donkey *quops*, zo a beant de-ad it."

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R

RAAIL-HURDLES.— Another name for SPARRED HURDLES.

RAAINY DAAY.— A day of trouble or need. To "put a little by vor a *raainy day*" is to save money.

RAAYRE, or RUR.— Underdone.

"Ooll 'e hev a slice well done or *raayre*?"

Excellent.

"I hev got zome *raayre* craps o' turmuts this year."

RABBIN RED BRE-AST.— The Robin is thus called in full, and not simply "a Robin."

RABBUT 'E.— A mild form of imprecation.

RABBUT'S-STOP.— A rabbit's hole of short length, containing a rabbit's nest formed of her "vleck," and the young rabbits.

RABBUTTIN'.— Going in pursuit of rabbits with ferrets and nets, and perhaps a gun also.

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RACK AN' RUIN.— In great disrepair.

RACKET, or RACKUT.— Fuss, disturbance, upset.

"If 'e *disturves* any o' his things a 'ooll maayke a gurt *rackut* when a comes whoam."

RACKETTY.— Full of spirits, and perhaps with a liking for practical jokes.

"A be a quiet awld man now, but vorty years ago I minds 'un as the mwoast *racketty* chap in our perts."

RACK-HURDLES.— Hurdles of substantial lathing or split wood; these are made by carpenters; there are uprights placed at such distances apart that a sheep can just put

his head through to obtain the food enclosed.

RACKIN'.— Throbbing with pain.

"My yead's a-*rackin'* zo as I can't spake to 'e."

RACK-UP.— To close the stables for the night after littering the horses and giving them their "vead."

" *Rackin' up* time" marks the conclusion of the days' work for carters and carter-boys.

RADICAL.— Used generally as a term of reproach.

"That little chap be a proper young *Radical*, a wunt do nothun' his mother tells un."

RAFTY.— Rancid.

RAG.— Is commonly used in combinations, thus: one's dress is said to be in "*rags* an' tatters" when very much torn or worn into holes.

"Not a *rag* to put on" is a phrase used by a woman signifying only that she has no dress suitable for the occasion in question.

"Tag, *rag*, an' bobtaail" refers to the lowest class of the community, who may have no regular calling or work."

RAG-A-MUFFIN.— A troublesome or mischievous little boy.

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RAG-BAG.— A large bag hung up in the kitchen of a farmhouse to receive odd pieces of linen and cuttings from calico, &c. This "*rag-bag*" is resorted to in case of a cut finger, or in any of the numerous instances where the contents are useful.

RAGGIN'.— A scolding.

RAKERS ATER.— The women who rake up what may be left behind by the *Pitchers* at barley cart, oat cart, or hay cart.

RAMPAAYGE.— A wild temper.

"A be in a vrightvul *rampaayge* about what 'e hev a-done to 'un."

To give vent to one's anger very audibly.

"*Rampaaygious*" and "*Rampaaygin*' about" are also commonly used

RAMPIN'.— A crazy longing.

RAMSHACKLE.— So much out of repair as to be tumbling to pieces.

"That ther bern be got zo *ramshackle* I me-ans to pull 'un down an' build a new 'un."

RANDIN'.— Piece-meal.

RANNEL.— Hungry to excess, voracious.

RANTERS.— A religious sect mustering somewhat strongly in some neighbourhoods is so called; they are fervid and demonstrative in their services.

RASCALLY.— Scampish.

"A *rascally* chap like that ther got no business to be wi' we as yarns a honest livin'."

RASTLE, or WRASTLE.— To wrestle.

"If 'e thinks 'e be a man I'ooll *rastle* 'e vor a quart."

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RAT IT.— To run away quickly(a cant term).

RATTLE.— One who talks continually and rather frivolously.

RATTLETAP.— Very poor beer. It is sometimes described as "Taaystin' o' the water."

RATTLETRAP.— A worn-out, poor-looking carriage.

RATTLER.— Something very excellent.

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"You did'nt like the whale-barrer I maayde vor 'e avoor, but I hev maayde 'e a *rattler* this time."

A great lie.

A very common name for a cart-horse.

RAWLLY - PAWLLY PUDDEN.— A pudding made by spreading jam on dough and rolling over and over.

RAY, or RAA.— Raw (cold, damp weather).

RAYLE.— Real.

RECKON.— Expect; think.

RED-LAAYNE.— The throat. Generally used to and by children.

RED WE-AD.— Poppies are so called.

REFTERS.— A field of ploughed land is sometimes called a "pe-us o' *refters*."

RENSE.— To rinse.

RENT.— To let. One says "I *rents* my me-ad to a butcher."

RESPECTABLE.— All of the lower middle class are so styled.

REVEL.— An annual village merry-making, as Chapel Row "*Revel*."

RHEUMATTICS.— Rheumatism.

RICHUT.— Richard.

RICK, or WRICK.— To sprain.

"I *ricked* my thumb a liftin' a zack o' be-ans."

"Rick" is always used for Stack; we speak of a "haay-*rick*" a "barley-*rick*," &c.

"A *rick*-clath" is a waterproof sheet placed over the top of a *rick* to keep out the wet until such time as the *rick* may be thatched.

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RICKUTTY.— Having parts loose and out of order.

"That ther chaair be *rickutty*, best hev 'un done avoor a comes right to pe-usses."

RICK YERD.— Attached to all farm homesteads, being the place where *ricks* are made.

RIDDLE.— A sieve of large mesh.

To sift.

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"*Riddle* that ther barley a bit to get the dust out on't."

RIDE.— A cutting in a wood for shooting purposes.

RIG.— An eccentric frolicsome deed.

RIGHTVUL.— Just.

"He hev a—got his *rightvul* dues at last."

RIGHT ZIDE.— To place a thing "*right zide* upperds," is to stand it straightly and properly when it may have been before upside down.

To get the *right zide* of a person is to work on a weak point, or at a favourable opportunity.

RIGHTS.— Justice.

"We shan't never get *rights* athout us tells 'un zackly how 'tis."

TO RIGHTS means, "in order."

"Our house hev never a-bin to *rights* zence Meary went awaay."

RIGMARAWLE.— A detailed uninteresting story, often disconnected and not quite easy to comprehend.

RILED.— Annoyed; made angry. This word is commonly used in Berkshire, but seems general.

RIME.— Hoar frost.

RINE.— Rind.

RING.— To "*ring* the Pigs" is to have a *ring* placed through the snout, to prevent them from doing damage in fields and gardens by routing up the ground in searching for what has been planted.

The game of marbles, "ring-taw," is commonly called "ring" for short. There is also the game of marbles called "big-ring."

"To *ring* the baze" is to hammer with a stone on a watering can or iron shovel when a swarm takes place. *Vide* CHERM.

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RINK.— A trick, a dodge.

"That ther bwoy be vull o' *rinks* an' ther yent no gettin' upsides wi' 'un."

RIP.— To reap.

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"To plough an' to maw,

An' to *rip* an' to zaw,

An' to be a vermer's bwoy-oy-oy."

(*Old Berkshire song*.)

To split off bark or covering.

To split wood with the grain.

A worthless animal or person, it is generally preceded by "awld."

RIP-HOOK.— A sickle.

RIPPER.— Something very excellent.

"That ther herse o' yourn be a regular *ripper*."

A lie.

An extraordinary anecdote or story.

A reaper.

RIPPIN'.— Very, extremely. It is often followed by "good."

"That ther was a *rippin'* good kern-bin as a maayde vor I."

RISE.— The mist rising from a marsh or river."

"Zee what a *rise* ther be to-night down in the Kennut Me-ads."

RISK.— A rush.

"If thee goes at the ditch wi' a *rish* thee 'ooll get awver all right."

ROCK.— The small blue wild pigeon.

ROD HURDLES.— Hurdles made of brushwood. *Vide* VLAAYKE HURDLES.

ROLLAKY.— Boisterous.

"Ther was a lot o' *rollaky* chaps maaykin' a nize in the strit las night zo as I cood'nt get no slape."

ROMPSIN'.— Romping. Rough play.

"A.—*rompsin*' Molly on the haay."

(*Old song*.)

RONK.— Rank. "*Ronk* grace" is "sour grass."

Rancid, putrid.

ROOM.— In place of.

"I hawpes as e'll gie I time to myself to-morrer in *room* o' the awver-time as I done to-daay."

ROOPY.— Hoarse.

"I got a cawld isterdaay an' be maain *roopy* this marnin'."

ROORER.— A horse affected in the wind which makes a roaring noise internally when hurried or frightened.

ROORIN'.— Very great, excellent.

ROPY.— Underdone pie crust or bread is thus described.

ROUGH.— To *rough* a horse is to turn the extremities of the shoes in order to prevent slipping when the roads are frozen.

ROUGH MUSIC.— The beating of pots and pans and other discordant noises made in a "Hoosset Hunt."

ROUNDERS.— A game with a hard ball, each player throwing it at any other as he may happen to get it.

ROUNDLY.— Very openly, fully and plainly.

"I telled 'un *roundly* what I thate about his doins."

ROUSER.— A loud explosion.

" 'E must hev lo-aded yer gun heavy, a went aff a vrightvul *rouser*."

There is also "ROUSIN." A "*rousin*" clap of thunder is a very loud clap.

ROUSETT, or ROWETT.— Rank dry grass.

RUBBIN STWUN.— Bath brick or sand stone.

RUBBLE.— A species of hard chalk.

RUCK.— To rub, so as to roughen or bruise the surface.

"Ther be a darn in my stockun' as hev *rucked* my heel vurry bad."

RUCKUT.— To disturb by poking with a stick or other implement.

"Ther be a rat got under the boordin', len' us yer stick zo as I can *ruckut* 'un out on't."

RUCKUTTIN'.— A noise made as by animals scratching boards.

"The rats kep' I awaayke by the *ruckuttin'* thaay maayde in the roof."

RUCTION.— A disturbance.

Wind on the stomach.

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RUDDLE.— The red paint used for marking sheep after sheepshearing.

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RUDGE-WAAY.— A road of ancient times, still to be traced by its banks over the Berkshire Downs.

RUFFLED.— Put out of temper somewhat.

RUINAAYTION.— Ruin. "RUINAAYTED" is used for "ruined."

RUM, or RUMMY.— Curious, uncommon; somewhat unsatisfactory.

"E'll vind ut pretty *rum* when 'e gets to town wi' no money in yer pockut."

RUMBUSTICAL.— Opposing, obstructive, swaggering.

RUMMAGE.— To search hastily, turning things about and leaving them in disorder, as when going to a drawer with miscellaneous contents, to find something.

RUMPUS.— A disturbance.

"When the Missus zees how thee hast rummaged that ther drawer about, ther 'ooll be a *rumpus* I can tell 'e."

RUMPLE.— To disorder with the hands.

"A *rumpled* her haair an' she zes she wunt never spake to 'un no moor."

RUN.— The track of an animal made by repeated usage, as a hare's "*run*."

RUNG, or RONG.— A spar or bar of a ladder.

RUSHLIGHT.— A small and inferior kind of candle formerly always used by farm servants and in cottages.

RUSTY.— Out of temper.

RUSTY BAAYCON.— Bacon turned rancid and yellow.

RUTS.— Deep tracks made by wheels in country roads.

RUTTIN'-TIME.— The spring time with deer.

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S

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The letter "S" is pronounced as "Z" when followed by A, E, I, O, U, Y, *and* W. *All words commencing thus are therefore transferred accordingly.*

In many other cases also the sound of "S" is roughened so as closely to approximate to that of "Z," but this roughening varies greatly even amongst persons in the same village, and is not thought to warrant the substitution of "Z" for "S" in the GLOSSARY.

SCAAYLE.— To weigh.

To strip off the surface coating.

SCALLIONS.— Old onions replanted the second year.

SCAMBLE.— To run hastily and irregularly.

SCANDALOUS.— Very extensively used for "very great" in a disparaging sense.

"Ut be *scandalous* work to hev to dig up ground as be zo stwuney."

SCAUT.— To dig one's heels into the ground so as to resist being pushed or forced from where one is standing.

"I took 'un by the scruff o' the neck, but a *scauted* zo as I cood'nt but jus' get 'un out o' the door."

A horse is said to *scaut*, when in drawing a heavy load down a steep hill he from time to time digs in his feet to stop the cart behind him from gaining pace and pushing power.

SCHISM SHAPS.— Those belonging to the Church of England thus sometimes style other places of worship in a village than the Parish Church.

SCHOLARD.— One educated.

"I beant no *scholard*, zur, but I hawpes to hev zome schoolin' vor my childern."

SCHOOLIN'.— Education.

SCOOP.— A wooden shovel as used for shovelling corn after it is threshed.

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SCOOR.— (Rhyming with "moor.")

To cut lightly across as with the skin of pork for roasting.

Vide SCOTCH.

Twenty pounds weight.

SCOTCH.— To score. *Vide* SCOOR.

SCOUR.— To purge.

Diarrhoea in cattle and sheep.

SCRAAYPE.— An arrangement for the destruction of birds in severe weather. *Scraaypes* are of two kinds, the first is an old door supported by a stick under which corn is placed and the stick being pulled by a long string the door falls on the birds. The second is made by placing corn where snow has been swept away, and the birds, when congregated, are shot in numbers, being enfiladed along the "*scraaype*."

SCRABBLE.— To move out the hands as if to reach something.

To make clutchings with the hands.

The expression "Us hopes to *scrabble* along somehow," is often used in hard times, and means "We hope to make shift till better times come."

SCRAG.— A piece of tough and shrivelled meat.

SCRIMMAGE.— A harmless fight, arising hastily, conducted confusedly, and soon at an end.

SCROOP.— To make a noise, as with a gate turning on rusty hinges.

SCROOPETTIN' is the noise made when anything *scroops*.

SCROW.— Angry looking; perhaps related to "scrowl."

"A looked maain *scrow* when I tawld 'un what I'd a—done."

SCROWGE.— To squeeze; to huddle together.

A village school mistress of by-gone days would say, "What be all you childern a *scrowgin'* on that ther vorm vor, when ther be another 'un handy vor zome on 'e?"

SCRUFF.— The hair on the back of the neck.

"If e' hawlds a rat by the *scruff* a can't never bite e."

SCRUMP.— To bite with a noise.

"That ther yent the waay to yet lollipops, e' should zuck 'um an' not scrump 'um."

The crackling of pork.

SCRUNCH.— To crush between the teeth.

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SCRUNCHLIN'.— An apple stunted in growth and wrinkled.

A *scrunchlin'* is very sweet in flavour.

SCUT.— The tail of a rabbit or hare.

SCUTTLE.— To run away with short quick steps. A squirrel is said to *scuttle* up a tree.

SHAAYKES.— A person or thing is said to be "no gurt *shaaykes*," when of little consideration or account.

SHAAYVER.— A term rather disparagingly applied to a boy.

"That ther young *shaayver* hev a-bin up to mischuf agin."

SHAG-GED.— Rough and unkempt.

Shaken.

SHAKKETTY.— Loose and shaky from want of repair. *Shakketty* is applied to implements, whereas *ramshackle* is applied to buildings.

"The box o' the chaff-cutter be all *shakketty* an' I mus' get a bit o' boord an' mend 'un."

SHAM AAYBRAHAM.— Shamming sickness.

"Ther beant nothun' the matter wi 'n, ut be awnly *Sham Aaybraham*."

SHAMMAKIN'.— Walking in a slouching ungainly manner and with the air of being ashamed of one's self.

"I zin in a—*shammakin'* along down the laayne up to no good I'll warn 'e."

SHANKS" MAAYRE.— By walking.

'If zomebody dwoant gie I a lift I shall hev to go to town on *shanks' maayre*."

SHAT.— Shalt.

"If thee brother Willum wunt do 't vor muh thee *skat*."

SHAT-BAG.— The leathern shot pouch carried with muzzle loading guns.

SHATTENT.— Shalt not. The negative form of "shat."

"Thee *shattent* I tells 'e, an' zo tent no zart o' good to argify no vurder."

SHAW-AFF.— To give one's self airs; to act affectedly; also applied to a horse when prancing about.

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SHAY, or SHAA.— A shaw.

Applied to a small coppice or double hedgerow containing timber trees as well as underwood.

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SHEALIN'.— A rough lean-to shelter-shed, open in front.

SHEENIN'.— Working with a threshing machine.

"He hev a-bin awaay *sheenin'*, an' wunt come whoam vor moor nor a wake it."

SHED.— Should.

"I dwoant knaw what us *shed* do wi'out our Bill."

SHEK, or SHAAYKE.— To shake.

"Hawld yer gun steady, be zure as a dwoant *shek*."

SHEKEL.— A sickle or reap-hook is sometimes so called.

SHEKKY, or SHAAYKY.— Dilapidated, ready to fall.

In bad health.

Doubtful, not quite to be believed.

"The stawry as a tawld I about ut zimmed maain *shaayky*."

SHELFY.— Applied to one who is getting old and remains unmarried.

SHEPHERD.— A man who is a *shepherd* has that title prefixed to his surname, his christian name being dropped: thus we speak of "*Shepherd* Savory," "*Shepherd* Vidler."

SHERP.— To sharpen.

"*Sherp* this knife vor I'ooll 'e."

SHERPS.— The shafts of a waggon or cart.

SHERP-ZET.— Extremely hungry.

SHERT.— The reverse of tough.

"Thaze yer young radushes bites nice an' *shert*."

Curt.

"A was out o' temper an' maain *shert* when I wanted to spake wi'n."

SHEWELL.— A scarecrow, an arrangement on a stake to frighten birds, but not necessarily the figure styled the "hodmedod."

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SHICK-SHACK—DAAY.

"The twenty -ninth o' Maay
Shick-shack-daay."

Oak leaves are worn in the button hole up to twelve noon, and should any boys appear without these they get pinches from the others.

After twelve noon the oak is discarded and ash leaves are worn until sunset.

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SHILLY-SHALLYIN'.— Acting with indicision. A mother will keep her daughter out of the way of a man she may think is *shilly-shallyin'*.

SHIMMY.— A chemise.

SHINDY.— A noisy little quarrel or disturbance; a fuss. "To kick up a *shindy*" is the phrase usually adopted with respect to this word.

SHIP.— Sheep in both singular and plural.

SHIP DIPPIN'.— Washing the coats of sheep to cleanse the wool before sheep shearing.

SHIP-SNOUT TREE.— The name given an apple tree bearing a rather small favourite eating apple, the tail of the apple bears resemblance to a sheep"s snout.

SHIRKY.— Not to be depended on. "Shirkin' about" is prowling about with dishonest intentions.

SHIRTY.— Angry, enraged.

SHIVER-GRACE.— A kind of grass set in motion by the least breath of air, sometimes known as QUAAYKER GRACE.

SHOCK.— A few sheaves of corn placed together in the field, so that the ears and straw may dry in the sun before the rick is formed.

To SHOCK—UP is to form the sheaves into *shocks*.

To SHOCK OFF is to break off.

SHOCKIN' BAD.— Ordinarily used for "very bad."

"Ther 'ull be a *shockin' bad* crop o' turmuts if us dwoant get zome raain."

SHOE-MOUSE.— The shrew-mouse, or long-nosed field mouse, found about disused cart-ruts and meadows generally.

SHOOT.— Used instead of "shot" when applied to the firing of a gun.

"I killed dree sparrers at a *shoot*."

To "*shoot*" a horse out of a cart is to unharness and take it out of the shafts.

SHOP, or SHAP.— "To go to *shap*" is to make purchases at the village shop after the weekly pay-night of farm labourers.

SHOP-BREAD.— Baker's bread as distinguished from homemade bread. It is esteemed a treat by those who usually eat bread of their own making.

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SHOWL.— A shovel, to shovel.

"*Showl* up the whate into a hape."

SHRAMMED.— Benumbed with cold.

"Let I come to the vire, I be so *shrammed* a bidin' zo long in the kert."

SHROUDED.— A tree is said to be *shrouded* when branches are lopped off it as it stands.

SHROVIN'.— Children go round the principal houses in the village on Shrove Tuesday singing the rhyme noted in the introduction with other local rhymes.

SHUCK and SHUG.— Repeated several times as a call for pigs to come and be fed.

SHUCK-DOWN.— A hastily made up bed.

SHUMMED, or SHAAYMED, or SHE-AMED.— Ashamed.

SHUM-VAAYCED.— Looking awkwardly shy.

SHUT, or SHET.— To get *shut* of a person or thing is to be well rid thereof.

"A went on a—tellin' I zuch stupid things as I was glad to get *shut* on 'in."

SHUT IN.— Close.

"The daays *shuts in* arly at this time o' year."

SHUVVY-HAWLE.— A boys' game at marbles. A small hole is made in the ground and marbles are pushed in turn with the side of the first finger, these are won by the player pushing them into the "*shuvvy-hawle*."

SHY.— To "plaay *shy*" or to "vight *shy*" is to avoid.

SKELLIN'.— A lean-to shed from a main building or a wall, sometimes called SHEALIN also.

SKERLUT.— Scarlet.

SKESS.— Scarce.

"Patridges be oncommon *skess* acause o' the wet bradin' ze-a-zon."

SKEWT, or SKEWT-WISE.— Aslant, crossing.

"Them vloor-boords be led down all *skewt*, e' maunt naail 'um to the jists like that ther."

SKIMMER.— A cook's ladle for removing surface matter from anything boiling.

"Praay, mother, gie I zome dinner,
Else I'll knock 'e down wi' the *skimmer*."

Old Nursery Rhyme.

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SKIMMER-CAAYKE.— A flat pudding made with surplus dough, eaten with butter and sugar.

SKIMPIN'.— Small, insignificant.

"I be maain hungry, vor all a gin I vor dinner was a *skimpin'* bit o' baaycon."

SKIM-PLOUGH.— To plough, so as to move the soil but little in depth. This kind of ploughing is so light as often not to turn the soil over.

SKIMPY.— Stingy, begrudging.

"If'e be zo *skimmy* towards we, none on us wunt gie thee nothun' when us has got ut."

SKIN-DAPE.— Not seriously affecting one.

"His trouble be awnly *skin-dape*, an' he'll be hiszelf agin in a wake."

SKINNY.— Lean, thin.

SKITTLES.— Always played with four large heavy pins, and the wooden ball is thrown and not rolled.

SKITTY.— Not to be depended upon. Inconstant. Lively, freakish.

SKRIMPY.— Niggardly, small and poor in quantity (almost similar in meaning to SKIMPY).

SKRUNGE.— To squeeze hardly together.

"I *skrunged* the rat atwixt two boords an' zo killed 'un."

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SKUG.— A squirrel is thus called.

SLAB.— The outside irregular slice of timber (inside which is sawn boards or planks) is named the "*slab*."

Any short piece of thick planking is also called a "*slab*."

SLACKUMTWIST.— An untidy, slatternly woman.

SLAD.— A low lying strip of land between two hills. Many villages and farms have a "*slad*."

SLAER, or SLIAR.— A sly look.

"I zin her gie 'un a *slaer* as maayde muh think as 'um had a-zin one 'nuther avoor."

SLAM.— To shut with a great noise.

SLAMMAKIN'.— Slouching.

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SLAP.— Fully; precisely; unreservedly,

"The stwun hit I *slap* on the yead."

"A veil *slap* down."

Slap-up is "excellent" (common).

SLAPE-MOUSE.— The dormouse.

SLAPEY.— Sleepy, applied to fruit which has not much juice. There is a kind of pear called the "*slapey* pear." The flat taste and want of juice styled "*slapey*" sometimes arise from decay at the core.

SLAPEY-YEAD.— A term of reproach applied to one who shows little energy.

SLAPPIN'.— Very great; much to be appreciated.

"We shall hev a *slappin'* lot o' graaypes on our graaype-tree this year."

SLASH.— A blow with a whip; a cut with a knife.

SLASHIN.'— Dashing, large.

"The man had ro-ast bafe vust an' a *slashin'* gurt plum pudden ater 't."

SLAW-WORM.— The blind worm deemed venomous.

SLICK.— Completely, thoroughly, entirely.

"That ther awld vixen gin the houns the go-by agin *slick*."

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SLICKUT.— A thin slice.

SLINK.— To drag the hind quarters heavily.

"The dogs hev had hard work to daay, zee how thaay *slinks*."

SLIP.— A *slip* of a girl is a girl hardly arrived at womanhood. A woman's or child's under garment. A covering for a pillow.

SLIP-ON.— To don quickly.

SLIPPETIN'.— Going along quickly and without noise on treading.

SLIPPY.— Slippery.

To be *slippy* is to make haste.

SLIP-SHAD.— Untidy; incomplete.

SLIT.— A rent.

"Ooll 'e plaze mend a *slit* in my kwut."

SLITHERY.— Slippery as from grease.

SLOCKUT.— To commit a petty theft; to pilfer.

SLOP.— Dirt. One who comes into the house with dirty boots is said to make a *slop* all over the place.

To *slop* work is to do it badly and incompletely.

SLOUCH.— A man is so called who does not do a fair amount of work.

SLUCK-A-BED.— An idle person who lies in bed late in the morning. *Sluck* may possibly be a corruption of "*slug*" or "sloth." When anyone lies in bed late, boys will commonly sing

"*Sluck-a-bed, sluck-a-bed*, Barley Butt,
Yer yead be zo heavy 'e can't get up."

SLUDGE.— Snow partly melted and forming snow-mud.

"*Sludge* 'ooll get droo' yer boots an' maayke yer vit wet when nothun' else wunt."

SLUMMACK.— A dirty, disreputable looking person.

SLUMMAKIN'.— Used sometimes for SLAMMAKIN'.

SLUSH.— Soft mud as where sheep have been driven along a wet road. Roads thus dirty are said to be "*slushy*."

SMACK.— Fully, completely; often used similarly to SLAP.

"A slipped an' vell down *smack*."

SMACKIN'.— Very large.

"Ther' be zome *smackin'* big apples on our tree."

SMALL-BEER.— Weak beer ranking after "aayle." Anything poor or insignificant is said to be "vurry *small beer*."

SMASH.— A complete breakage; a heavy resounding fall.

"A let the tay—pot vall an' broke 'un all to *smash*."

SMERTISH.— Rather great, somewhat important.

"A *smertish* bwoy" means a boy of good growth and size.

"Us vound a *smertish* lot o' patridges on the brows, but none at all down in the bottoms."

Pretty well in health.

"My lumbaaygo be gone, an' I be *smertish* agin now."

SMIRK.— To smile as trying to curry favour.

SMOCK.— The "smock-frock" is so called always. It is the main or over garment of carters, carter boys, and some farm labourers.

SMOCK - VAAYCED.— Mild looking; often applied also somewhat contemptuously or disparagingly.

"Vor all a looks zo *smock-vaayced* a be a bad chap."

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SMUDGED.— Besmeared.

"The bwoy's vaayce be all *smudged* wi' jam."

SMUG.— Secret.

"Mind e' kips *smug* about what I jus' telled 'e."

SMUTS.— Small pieces of soot flying about and settling on things, called "blacks" also.

SNAAILS'-PAAYCE.— Advancing very slowly.

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SNACK.— A small piece, a small quantity.

SNAPPER.— To crackle, to make a sharp short sound.

SNATCH.— A small quantity.

"I got jus' a *snatch* of breakvus avoor I sterted, an' that's all I had to yet to-daay."

SNE-AD.— The main pole of a scythe.

SNICKER.— To sneer.

"If 'e *snickers* at I I'ooll maayke 'e laugh t'other zide o'yer mouth,"

SNICKS.— Shares, halves.

SNIGGER.— To laugh in a silly way.

SNIFFLE.— To make a noise when inhaling through the nose. A dog is said to *sniffle* at a rat hole when smelling to know if there be a rat there.

SNIP.— There is the expression, "she 'ood zaay *snip* to his snap," *i.e.*, "she would readily accept an offer of marriage from him."

SNIVEL.— The noise a child makes when commencing to cry before breaking out loudly.

SNOCK.— To give a downward blow on the head or top of anything.

"A allus *snocks* the candle to put 'un out zo's 'e can't light 'un agin."

SNOOZLE-DOWN.— To nestle down as a child does to go to sleep.

SNOUL.— A thick piece.

"Thee hev gin I a *snoul* o' baaycon an' no mistaayke."

SPAAYDE.— The gumy deposit at the corner of the eye.

SPADGER.— A sparrow.

SPAKIN'-VINE.— The attempt to speak otherwise than in the dialect (in town fashion).

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SPANKIN'.— Very rapid; very great; very numerous.

"We was a comin' along at a *spankin'* raayte."

SPARKLES.— Large sparks of fire or small burning pieces of wood or straw flying upward.

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SPARRED -HURDLES.— Hurdles made of shaved wood, morticed and nailed. *Vide* also RAAIL-HURDLES.

SPARRER-GRACE.— Asparagus.

SPAT.— A slight blow in the face with the open hand.

SPECKS.— Suspects; expects; spectacles.

SPEELS.— Small pieces of light matter on fire floating in the air.

SPELL.— A space of time.

SPET.— To spit.

SPIFLICAAYTED.— Thoroughly confused; at one's wits end.

SPIKE—BIT.— The carpenter's "centre bit."

SPILE.— The vent peg of a beer barrel. To spoil.

SPILL.— A paper pipe-light; a fall from a horse.

SPLATTERED.— Splashed.

"How did'st get thee kwut all *splattered* wi' mud?"

SPLENDAAYCIOUS.— Very splendid, making a great show.

SPLIT.— To halve. To "*split* the difference" is the common expression for the price midway between that offered and demanded.

SPLITTIN'.— The head is said to be *splittin'* when racking with pain.

SPLODGIN'.— Splashing.

"A went *splodgin'* droo the dirt when a med ha' gone clane-voot t'other ro-ad."

SPLOTCH.— A dab of dirt adhering to anything, such as might be thrown from a carriage wheel.

SPLUT.— To make a fuss.

SPLUTTER.— To eject small drops of saliva in hasty speech.

SPOON ME-AT.— Broth or soup.

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SPOUT.— The expression "in great *spout*" is used to denote that a person is in a boisterous humour or much elated.

SPRACK, also SPRANK.— Full of energy and spirits.

SPREADER.— The stick or wooden bar which keeps the chain traces between waggon horses wide apart.

SPREATHED.— Chapped.

"Zee how my hands be *spreathed* wi' the cawld."

SPREE.— This word is commonly used just as elsewhere to denote a frolic.

SPUD.— An instrument having a minature spade attached to a long light wooden handle, it is sometimes carried by oldfashioned farmers when they go through fields in order to root up thistles.

SPUDDLE.— To stir up liquid matter by poking.

SQUAAYLER.— A short stick with a knob of iron at the end used by boys to throw at birds, squirrels, &c., it goes head first breaking any small branches in its way.

SQUAAYRE.— To settle a matter corruptly; on the *squaayre*, means openly and fairly; to stand up ready to fight.

"*Squaayre* dalins" are "equitable dealings."

SQUAKER.— A young partridge able to fly but not fully grown. *Vide* also VLAPPER.

Swifts are also called *squakers* from the noise they make.

SQUASH, also SQUISH.— To squeeze into a pulpy mass.

SQUASHY or SQUISHY means soft and pulpy.

SQUAT.— A hare in her form is said to be "*squattin*.'"

A dint.

"A let vall our metal tay—pot an' maayde a *squat* in un."

A *squatty* person is one short and thick.

SQUAWK.— The cry of a hare when caught.

SQUELCH.— The peculiar noise made when walking in boots which have taken in water. To step quickly on any soft substance.

SQUENCH.— Quench.

SQUIRM.— To writhe under pain, mental as well as bodily, as when having one's misdeeds made public.

SQUIRT.— To eject a thin stream of liquid. A syringe is called a "water-squirt."

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SQUISH.— *Vide* SQUASH.

STAAY.— Something eaten when a meal is too long postponed.

"Our dinner wunt be ready vor dree hours zo thess yet a nossle o' bre-ad vor a *staay*."

STAAYLE VALLERS.— Stale fallows, *i.e.*, land that has been ploughed some time since, and allowed thus to remain to take in sun and rain.

"When asked if hares are likely to be found on a piece of ploughed land a keeper might reply, "No, sir, them *vallers* beant *staayle* enough."

STABBLE.— To leave footprints from boots covered with dirt.

"A bin a-*stabblin'* all awver my nice cle-an kitchen."

STADDLE.— A stand for a rick, to keep the corn off the damp ground and in some measure to prevent rats and mice obtaining access to it.

Hay ricks are not usually built on "*staddles,*" but have a foundation of straw and bavins to keep the lower course dry.

STAKE or STAAK.— A stalk.

STALL.— A covering made for a wounded thumb or finger.

STAMPS.— Gun-wads.

STAMP-CUTTER.— The punch for cutting gun-wads.

STAND.— To "*stand*" to a child is the term for becoming a sponsor.

STEEL.— To sharpen a carving knife on a *steel*. This operation often commences after the joint is placed on the table, and follows after Grace.

STEP.— A distance.

"A goodish *step*" means rather a long distance.

STEPPER.— A horse that goes quickly is called a *stepper*.

STERK.— Stiff. The expression "stiff an *sterk*" is commonly used with reference to one who has been dead some time. "*Sterk*-staring-mad" means quite mad.

STERT.— An event or episode.

"Ther was a rummy *stert* up at verm, zomebody took all the vawkses kwuts awaay whilst um was at work."

STEW.— A difficulty.

STICK.— To "cut your *stick*" is to get away as quickly as possible.

STICK IN THE GIZZARD.— To rankle.

"What a zed sticks in my *gizzard*, an' I shan't hev no pe-us till I be upzides wi' un."

STICKLER.— One very firm or even obstinate.

"A be a gurt *stickler* vor what a thinks be his right."

STICKIN' PE-US.— The part of the neck of an animal where the knife is inserted.

STICK UP.— A youth is said to "*stick up*" to a girl when he is commencing to pay addresses to her.

STINGER.— A hard blow.

STIRRIN'.— Tilling.

"That ley 'ooll want *stirrin'* zoon."

STIRRUP GRACE.— A whipping with a strap.

STITCH.— A pain in the side caused by running quickly.

STOBBLE.— To stop the flow of a liquid; to caulk.

STOCK.— To "*stock*" a farm means to get it in working order in all ways. About £10 per acre is roughly considered necessary.

STOCKS.— A frame work with apertures for hands and feet of offenders, placed in the centre of villages.

STOCKY.— Thick set and strong.

"That ther be a *stocky* chap, a can car a zack o' whate."

STODGE, or TODGE.— Thick soup.

To defeat; to *nonplus*.

"A zimmed quite *stodged* when I tawld 'un as I cood'nt gie 'un no moor money."

STODGEY.— Sustaining; applied to soups, &c., containing solid or thickening matter.

STOMACHY.— Irritable, headstrong. When applied to a horse it signifies difficult of control.

STOOLS.— The roots of trees which have been felled.

STOOP.— To *stoop* a cask is to cause it to be tilted so that the remaining liquor may run freely through the tap.

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STOOR PEGS.— Pigs ready to go for fattening.

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STOORY.— To "hev a *stoory*" with a person is to visit and hear the somewhat rambling account of ailments and troubles.

STOPPLE.— The stopper of a Field beer barrel or earthenware jar.

STOUT.— The horse fly.

A "*stoutish* lad" is a well grown lad.

STRAAIN.— Breed.

STRAAITS.— In poor circumstances.

STRAAYGHT.— Soon.

"Thee had best stert on an' I'll voller *straayght*"

STRADDLE.— To get astride.

STRADDLE WISE.— With legs wide apart.

STRAKE.— Streak.

STRAME or STRE-AM.— A stream. Most of the streams in Berkshire cease to run at a certain time of year, and the "old folk" have a good deal to say or prophecy on this matter.

They say of the Lambourn, that "the earlier it dries up, the higher will be the price of corn." The reason for the saying no doubt is that dry weather is favourable for corn. "Drought never bred famine in England."

The "Pang" which rises at Touchums Pond, at Hampstead Norreys, never begins to rise much before the shortest day, nor to sink much before the longest day.

STRAP-OIL.— A beating with a strap.

STRAPPER.— A journeyman labourer coming for work at harvest time or hay making.

A big strong person.

STRAY, or STRAA.— Straw. "Down in the *stray*" refers to the time of an animal bringing forth young.

STRE-ANGER, or STRAAINGER.— The expression, “we wunt maayke no *stre-anger* on ‘e” is the cordial invitation to a guest to feel himself at home, and indicates also that there is no extra preparation or ceremony on his account.

STRIDE.— To pace in order to ascertain distance. “I *strided* ut” is held conclusive with reference to assertion as regards distance.

A distance.

“Ut be a smartish *stride*, e knaws, vrom my house up to verm.”

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STRIKE.— The wooden roller passed evenly over the standard bushel corn measure to make the surface corn level and measurement precise.

STRIPPIN’.— Clearing the bark off oak trees. The time of year when this is done and when the sap is up is called “*strippin’*-time.”

STRIT.— A street.

STROKE.— A game at marbles where each player places a certain number on a line and plays in turn from a distance mark called “scratch,” keeping such as he may knock off.

STUB.— To grub up roots of small trees or underwood. Where underwood has been cut the short lengths protruding from the ground are sometimes called “*stubs*” of wood.

STUBS.— Stubble. A field lying in stubble is called a “pe-us o’ whate-*stubs*” or a “pe-us o’ wut-*stubs*” &c., as the case may be.

Vide also STUB.

STUCK.— Unable to proceed, puzzled, perplexed.

“I vound out what ‘e wants to knaw zo vur as I tells ‘e, an’ then I got *stuck*.”

STUFFY.— Partly stopped up; somewhat choked up.

“I hev got a bad cawld, an’ veels maain *stuffy* about the dro-at this marnin’.”

Devoid of ventilation; close.

STUMP.— To make a noise by walking heavily. To grub up roots of trees.

STUMPS.— Legs.

“To stir your *stumps*” is to make haste.

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STUMPY.— Short and thickset.

STUNNER.— Anything excellent.

“*Stunning”* is also used to denote excellence.

STUNNY.— To deafen.

“The noise as the childern maaykes *stunnys* muh zo’s I can’t yer myzelf spake.”

STUPE.— A stupid person.

“You be a *stupe* to go on like that then”

STWUN.— A stone.

STWUN-BLIND.— Quite blind.

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STWUN-DEAD.— Quite dead.

STWUNNERS.— Boys’ marbles made of grey stone. These are of less value than “alleys,” but of greater value than “chalkers.”

STWUN-KERT.— Carting stones off a field. In the hill country in Berkshire this is a periodical agricultural operation; women pick up the stones and pile them in heaps, and they are then carted off for road mending.

STWUNUS.— A stallion.

STYE.— A “wisp” on the eye, commonly supposed to indicate that one thus suffering is very greedy.

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T

TAAIL.— The refuse of wheat or barley not good enough for market.

“*Taailins*” is also used.

TAAIL-BOORD.— The removeable board at back of cart or waggon.

TAAILOR.— The Village Tailor often has this title prefixed to his surname, his Christian name being dropped.

TAAY, or TAY.— Tea.

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TAAYKE-IN.— To "*taayke-in*" a rick is to thresh out the corn.

TAAYKE-ON.— To give full vent to one's own grief.

TACKLE.— To overcome, to outwit, to get the best of. With regard to drinks such as beer, &c., the expressions are common.

"That ther be poor *tackle*."

"That ther be precious good *tackle*."

TAG.— To tie, to add.

"If us *tags* on a bit to the ind o' that ther rawpe a 'ooll rache as vur as us wants un to 't."

TAKIN', or TAAYKIN'.— In a state of excitement; much affected temporarily.

"She zimmed in a gurt *takin'* acause I tawld her as her dater was agwaain out to zarvice."

TALLER.— Tallow.

TALLUT.— The loft over a stable where the hay is kept.

TALLY.—When an animal has been found trespassing and is brought to the village pound, the pound-keeper cuts a stick in half, and, keeping the one half himself, gives the other to the person who has sustained damage by the trespass; the half thus given is called the "*tally*" and the impounded animal can only be released by the owner producing this *tally* in token that he has satisfied claims for trespass.

TAM-CULL.— The "Millards Thumb."

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TAMMUS.— Thomas.

TAM TIDDLER'S GROUND.— Perhaps the most favourite game with little children.

TAM-TOE.— The great toe.

TAN.— To whip.

A "*tannin"* is a whipping.

TANG.— The measured sounding of a bell.

"I yerd the bell *tang* dree times zo ut mus' be a man as has died."

NOTE.— It is customary for the bell to "*tang*" three times on the death of a man, twice for a woman, and once for a child, and the tolling of a deeper toned

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bell follows after. It should be mentioned that three strokes on four other bells usually precede the numbers "*tanged*" as above referred to.

TANGLE.— Confused; knotted.

"I be veelin' in a *tangle* zomehow an' wants to thenk a bit."

TAP- UP.— To top-up. To put the top to a rick.

The end of a meal.

"Ater ro-ast be-af an' plum pudden us *tapped-up* wi' zome good Stilton chaze."

TARBLE, also TARBLISH.— Tolerable; in fairly good health.

"I be a veelin' pretty *tarble* now zur, thenk 'e kindly vor axin."

TARNAAYSHUN.— Very extremely; very great or numerous.

TARNAL.— Expressive of magnitude; used similarly to "tarnaayshun."

TAWL.— A "taw" of the game of marbles.

TAYCHIN'.— Education.

"I didn't hev no *taychin'* when I was a bwoy."

TAY MATIN.— A meeting with prayer in Dissenting Chapels with tea and cake, &c., for those assembled.

TAYTERS, or TAAYTERS.— Potatoes.

TAYTER-TRAP.— The mouth.

TE-AD.— To spread hay, &c., for the sun to dry.

TEARIN'.— Very great; very excessive.

TEART.— Very tender to the touch as when there is surface inflammation.

TEENY-TINY.— Very small indeed.

"I awnly yetted a *teeny-tiny* bit on 't but ut maayde I bad."

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TEER.— To tear.

TEG.— A sheep one year old.

TELL.— To count.

"*Tell* them ther ship 'ooll 'e an' let I knaw how many ther be on um."

"I yerd *tell*" means "I have heard it stated," and "I hev yerd zaay" has a similar signification.

TELLED.— Told; contented.

'TENT, or 'TE-ANT, or 'TYENT.— It is not.

TERBLE or TERRAAYBLE.— Very great.

"Ther be a *terraayble* lot o' young rabbuts this year to be zure."

TERT.— Harsh and abrupt. Acid.

TETTERS.— Small pimples; also small ulcers.

THAA.— To thaw.

THAAY.— Those, them.

THATE VOR.— *i.e.,* thought for, expected, anticipated.

"Them wuts bent turned out as well as I *thate vor*,"

THAT THER.— Used for "*that*."

THE-AVES.— Two toothed ewes.

THEE.— Used for "thou" and "you."

THEE'ST.— Thou hast, you had, you have.

"*Thee'st* best be aff avoor I gies 'e zummut as 'ull maayke e."

THEM.— They.

THEM THER.— Those.

THEN.— Very commonly used superfluously at the termination of a sentence, but is intended to give emphasis.

"What I zes I means *then*."

THER NOW.— "That settles the question."

"If e' zes another word I'll zack 'e, *ther now*"

THESS, or LESS.— "Let us."

THE-UZ YER, also THE-UZ-UN.— These.

THICK.— Stupid; slow of comprehension. Intimate.

"The two vamilies hev allus a-bin *thick* wi' one 'nother,"

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THICK-YEAD.— One is contemptuously so called who does not comprehend quickly, or who has made a stupid mistake.

THICK MILK.— Milk boiled and thickened with flour and sweetened with sugar or treacle.

THICK SKINNED.— Not quick to take offence; the reverse of "thin skinned."

THIEF.— A "*thief* in the candle," is a detached piece of the wick which becomes ignited and, sinking down as it burns, causes the candle to go to waste.

THILLER, or VILLER.— The shaft horse of a team.

THIMBLE-PIE.— A rap on the top of the head from the thimbled finger of the school mistress. The Dame who kept a village School, doing needlework the while, kept those children likely to require such chastisement conveniently near her.

THIN.— Used to express a poor show as regards quantity or number.

"The whate crap zims *thin* on the hills."

THING-A-MY, or THING-UM-BOB.— Anything is so referred to when its proper name cannot be called to mind at the moment.

THIN-SKINNED.— Easily affronted.

THONG.— To twine or twist together.

THREDDLE.— To "*threddle*" a needle is to pass thread through the eye of it ready for sewing.

THRETTY.— Thirty.

THUMP.— A loud noise; a blow. To chastise.

THUMPIN'.— Very large.

"Ther be a *thumpin'* lot o' nuts in the copses this year."

THURT.— In a contrary mood, ill-tempered.

"I allus vinds un zo *thurt* as I wunt go an' ax un nothun' no moor."

THURT OVER.— Obstinate and cross, used very similarly to "*thurt*"

TICE.— To entice, to attract.

TICKLISH.— Requiring skill or tact in performance.

"T'ull be a *ticklish* job to perzwaayde un to do what us wants un to't."

TID.— A "*tid*-bit" or a "tit-bit" is a choice morsel of food. Cunningly reserved.

"I ax'd un what was the matter, but a was maain *tid* about ut."

TIDDLE.— To bring up by hand. A young lamb is *tiddled* from a milk bottle.

TIDDY.— Very small; also very softly.

"Mind 'e goes into the room vurry *tiddy* or 'e med waayke the baayby."

TIDLY.— Very small and helpless.

An old woman will say "I had un in my arms when a was a *tidly* little chap."

TIDY.— Considerable.

"A have got a *tidy* bit o' money put by."

Clean looking and respectable. The word in this sense is usually applied to a woman.

TIFFY.— Touchy; huffy; easily affronted.

TIGHT.— Of a neat, compact figure.

"She be a *tight* lookin' little body."

Intoxicated.

"A wunt gie 'e nothun, a allus was a *tight* man."

TIG-TIG-TIG.— A call for pigs.

TILT.— To raise one end of anything by leverage.

"Full *tilt*' means full speed or 'with a bold front."

TILTED KERT.— A covered cart such as is used by the village carriers to keep goods dry when being brought from the market town.

TILTH.— Tillage. Land in good *tilth* is land well ploughed and worked and in a good state of cultivation.

TIMBER-BOB.— A *timber* carriage consisting of a simple arrangement between two wheels to which part of the tree is chained, the remainder of the tree dragging along the ground.

TIMBERSTICKS.— Trees lying in a confused heap to season are so called.

TIMBERZOME.— Timorous, fearful, nervous.

TIME.— The period of service for which engaged.

"My *time* 'ooll be up come Martinmas."

To bid anyone "the *time* o' daay" is to say good morning.

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TIMELY.— Seasonable, anything is “not *timely*” when earlier or later than usual.

TIND.— To add fuel to the fire.

“*Tind* the vire else a’ll go out.”

TINES.— Iron spikes as of a harrow.

TINGLIN’.— A curious nervous sensation.

“I hev got a *tinglin’* in my legs vrom zettin quiet zo long.”

TING-TANG.— The smallest and highest hung of the bells in a church tower. It is rung last of all before service commences, following the “zarmon-bell.”

TINKER.— To mend temporarily. To *tinker* anything “up a bit” is to mend it for an occasion.

TIP.— To “*tip* awver” is to turn over, to upset.

“If e drives the kert zo quick awver the ruts we shall *tip* awver.”

TIP-CAT.— A favourite game with boys, a bale of wood being forced upward from the ground by a blow on one end of it, and then hit to a distance as it is falling.

TIPPED AN’ NAAILED.— Boots for field wear have the soles thus furnished, there being heavy iron tips at toe and heel, and hob-nails between.

TIP-TOE.— Walking lightly on the toes, so as not to be heard.

TIP-TOP.— Very excellent, the best.

TIT, or TET, or TITTY.— A teat.

TITCH.— To touch.

TITCHY.— Easily offended.

TIT-LARK.— A species of lark.

TIT-TAT-TOE.— The first game taught to children when they can use a slate pencil, the words,

“Tit-tat-toe,
My first go,”

being said by the one who first makes three crosses, or noughts in a row.

TITTER.— To laugh a little.

TITTIVATE.— To dress one’s self with a view to effect.

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TITTLE.— Very lightly. A gin or trap is said to be set very *tittle* when it will strike on the slightest touch,

TITUP.— A term used at Loo. When but one player has put into the pool a single card is dealt round face upwards, and all but the person holding the winner have to subscribe to a fresh pool.

TIXTE.— Text.

TO BE ZURE.— A very common phrase, meaning "certainly," "indeed."

TODGE.— *Vide* STODGE.

TODGEY.— Short and fat.

TO-DO.— A fuss; an unusual event involving excitement and confusion.

TOGGERY.— Dress. One says in preparing for a visit, "I mus' put on my bes' *toggery*."

TOKEN.— Something unusual and a bad omen, as birds pecking at the window, dogs howling, &c.

TOLE.— To entice.

"Car a bwun zo as to *tole* the puppy whoam wi' 'e."

TOM.— Male of any farmyard bird.

"How many *Toms* and how many hens be ther in the brood o' Turkeys?"

TOMMY.— Food; used chiefly by boys.

TOM PODLIN'.— Fussing.

"A be allus a-*tom podlin'* about at whoam when a should be away at his work."

TONGUE.— The small moveable iron spike of a buckle, which fits into holes in the leathern strap.

Dogs are always said to "give *tongue*" when in active pursuit of game.

'T'OOD.— It would.

T'OOD'NT, signifies "it would not."

TOOK.— Gave.

"I *took* un a knock on the yead wi' this yer stick."

Taken.

TOOK BAD means "became ill," and TOOK WUSS signifies serious illness.

TOOK TO.— To have liking for.

"I never *took* to that ther chap."

'T'OOL, or 'T'ULL.— It will.

TOOTH-AN'-NAAIL.— Most vigorously, ferociously.

"She went at un *tooth-an'-naail* an' a was glad to get awaay."

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TOOTHZOME.— Pleasant to the taste.

TOP-DRESSIN'.— A specially rich manure spread over the surface of land.

TOPPER.— A hat.

Something very excellent.

An anecdote told to beat one that has been related immediately before it.

TOPPIN'.— Large, extreme, also rapid.

"A was ridin' along at a *toppin'* raayte."

TOPPINS.— The ground husk of wheat finest size. That next in coarseness is called "*pollard*."

TOPPLE AWVER.— To fall over by slight disturbance as regards the position of centre of gravity.

TOPZAAYER.— One having influence over his fellows or being in a position of importance.

The derivation is simple. When sawing timber into planks the man working the upper handle of the saw and standing on the tree is the "*topzaayer*" and guides, whilst his partner working the lower handle is stationed below in the saw-pit.

TOPZY-TURVY.— Upside down.

TO-RIGHTS.— All in proper place.

TOSTICAAYTED.— Intoxicated.

TO"T.— To do it. In reply to an order to start at once to school, a good-for-nothing boy will say, 'I dwoant want *to't*."

TOT-BELLIED.— Applied to a man who is corpulent.

T'OTHER.— Always used for "the other."

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TOTTED.— Added up.

"Us *totted* up our recknins an' thaay did 'nt tally."

TOUCH.— When a dog first scents game he is said to "*touch*."

TOUCH 'OOD.— Dry, decayed wood that continues to smoulder if ignited, but which will not burst into flame.

Boys have games called "*touch 'ood*," and 'touch-iron," where anyone not touching either of the substances named is liable to be caught by the one standing out and has to stand out accordingly.

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TOW-ART.— Towards; forward.

"When a come a little *tow-art* I could zee as t'was a pawle cat an' not a verrut."

TOW-ART-LY.— Encouragingly.

"She looked at un a bit *tow-art-ly*."

TOWELIN'.— A whipping.

TOWER.— A partridge is said to "*tower*" when after being struck on the head by a shot it mounts straight upwards and then falls quite dead.

TOWERIN'.— Very great.

"Ther 'ooll be a *towerin'* lot o' tayters vor markut when us hev got um all dug up."

TRAAYPESSIN'.— Flaunting; walking about affectedly and conceitedly.

TRAMMEL NET.— A long net dragged above the ground used in the night to catch larks and sometimes by poachers to catch partridges also.

TRAMP.— The term applied to an itinerant beggar.

"Ther be a *tramp* at the door, tell un ther yent nothun' vor un."

TRANSMOGRIVIED.— Transformed in appearance, disguised. Surprised, greatly astonished.

TRAW.— "Trough" is so pronounced; thus we have, "Peg-*traws,*" "Ship-*traws*" and "Herse-*traws*."

TRAY.— A tree.

TRAYDLE.— The rest for the foot wherefrom action is given to a tinker's wheel, or other similar arrangement.

TRENCHER MUN.— One who eats heartily is called a good "*trencher mun*."

TRIGGED OUT.— Dressed very gaily. A girl when going to a fair is said to be "*trigged out* in her best."

TRIM.— The expression "*trim* one's jacket" means to administer a whipping.

TRIMMER.— Anything very excellent is so styled. A night line for catching Pike.

TRIMMIN'.— Very large, excellent.

"I've a—bin in the 'oods an' cut a *trimmin'* good knobbed stick or two."

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TROLL.— To bowl along the ground; to trundle.

TROTTERS.— Pigs' feet.

TROUBLED.— Used with reference to anything supernatural or of delusions.

TROUNCE.— To whip.

To denounce.

TRUCKLE TO.— To try to curry favour by subservient behaviour.

TRUCKLE-BED.— On a low wooden bedstead.

TRUMPUTS.— Boys make these by scraping a dandelion stalk thin at one end and blowing at that end. Also from the stalk of the "dummy-nettle" cut off above a notch, and with a short slit through the side.

TUCK.— To trim. A rick is said to be "tucked" when raked down so as to take off loose surface straws, and leave the others neatly lying in the same direction.

To pull.

"Gie her shawl a *tuck* to maayke her look round."

TUFFUTS.— Grassy hillocks; disused ant hills over-grown with turf.

TUNNEL.— A funnel is so called.

TURMUTS.— Turnips.

TURN.— To "get a *turn*" is to be suddenly overcome through fear or surprise.

TURRIVY.— To teaze.

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"What dost want to *turrivy* the child vor, gie un back his marvels, an' let 'un alo-an."

TUSSLE.— A short struggle, in which the hands and not weapons are used.

TUTTY.— Tufty. A tuft or bunch of flowers is described as being in bloom "all of a *tutty*." See TUTTYMEN.

TUTTYMEN, or TUTTIMEN.— The *tythingmen* who bear bunches of flowers at Hocktide proceedings at the town of

Hungerford are so named. *Vide* TUTTY. The duties of a *Tuttiman* are fully explained in the following extract from a contribution by an *ex-Tuttiman* to "Chamber's Journal":—

"The constitution of the governing body of the town of Hungerford, Berkshire, is as follows: High-constable, feoffees, portreeve, bailiff, *tithing-men*, and the Hocktide jury. No one can serve the office of highconstable until he has served the offices of *tithing-man*, bailiff, and portreeve. All who have filled these offices are eligible, and the Hocktide jury have the power to elect. The High-constable is during his term of office Lord of the Manor, and likewise coroner for the borough, and no town business can be settled without his sanction. The bailiff has to collect all market and other tolls; and the portreeve has to gather in all quit-rents, the same to be handed to the high-constable.

The *"tithing-men*," or in common speech, *"tuttimen"* are selected from the tradesmen of the town; and their duties are somewhat unique. Before the establishment of the county police, they had to act as constables, and assist in preserving order in the town. In addition to this, on "Hockney Day" —which is the Tuesday following Easter— week they have to visit each house in the borough and demand a coin of the realm from each male; and have the privilege of taking, if not freely given, a kiss from each woman. As a rule the ladies take the salute in good part, as the writer of this can testify, having served the office, some are coy and run away, but generally allow themselves to be caught. The said *tithing-men* carry each a staff about six feet long, bedecked with choice flowers, and having

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streamers of blue ribbons; the whole being surmounted with a cup and spike bearing an orange, which is given with each salute, and then replaced by another one. The proceedings of Hocktide are of a very festive character, and begin on the Friday preceding "Hockney Day" by the holding of what is called the "Audit Supper" at the "John o'Gaunt Inn." The guests on this occasion are those who bear office in the town. The fare is macaroni, Welsh rabbits, and water-cress, followed by steaming hot punch.

The following Tuesday, Hockney Day, is ushered in by the blowing John of Gaunt's horn from the balcony of the town hall. At nine o'clock, the Hocktide jury having been summoned, assemble in the town-hall; and having chosen a foreman and being duly sworn, the ancient rules and regulations of the court are read over by the town clerk; after which the names of the free suitors and commoners are called over; those who do not answer to their names have to pay a penny, or lose their right of commons and fishing for the ensuing year. The High-constable then presents his accounts; the vouchers of expenditure are passed to and examined by each juryman; and if these be found correct, the jury attach their signatures to the balance-sheet. This being done, the High-constable for the ensuing year is chosen, and the other officers are also elected. In addition to those already named, are three water-bailiffs, three overseers of the port downs, three keepers of the keys of the common coffer, two ale-tasters, hayward, hall-keeper, and bell-man. Presentments as to encroachments (if any) on the town property are made and discussed, and any matter relating to the welfare of the town considered. The business concluded, the retiring High-constable invites the jury to luncheon at the "Three Swans' Hotel." A substantial cold collation is provided, followed by bowls of punch.

On the following Friday morning, the officers are sworn in; and in the evening, the newly elected High-constable gives a banquet to his fellow-townsmen to the number of from sixty to eighty. The banquet is a right royal one, there being everything in season, and a profusion of the choicest wines. On Saturday, the festivities are brought to a

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close by a lancheon at the "Three Swans' Hotel," again followed by punch *ad libitum*. The whole of the Hocktide proceedings come to an end on Sunday, when the High-constable and Corporation meet in the town-hall and walk in procession to the parish church to attend Divine Service."

TWADDLE.— Unreliable information.

TWANG.— The term for accent, whereby one knows what part a man comes from.

'T'WANT.— It was not.

"A tawld I *'t'want* no good to try."

TWIDDLE, or TWISSLE.— To turn round in a small space.

To *twiddle* one's thumbs is an expression denoting "sitting idly."

TWIG.— To understand quickly.

TWIRE.— To gaze wistfully and beseechingly.

TWIST.— A long loaf of bread formed by twisting two pieces of dough together.

The usual handle for a carter boy's whip; it is made of tough twigs twisted together, and is pliant and lasting.

The appetite.

TWISTER.— An improbable story; a lie.

A great difficulty.

TWIT.— To try to teaze one by sly or irritating allusions.

TWITCH.— An instrument for holding a horse by the nose when administering a ball or other form of medicine.

TWITTER.— To be in a nervous state of expectation or excitement.

"She was all of a *twitter* whilst us was waaitin' vor urn to come."

The sharp note of some small birds.

TWO-AD.— One very ungrateful.

"A turned out a gallus *two-ad*, an' run awaay vrom who-am."

TWO-ADS CHE-UZ.— The toads'-stool.

TWO-TOOTHS.— Applied to sheep of age, as thus shown by the teeth.

"I hev got a hunderd *two-tooths* as I mus' zell to paay my rent."

TWO VAAYCED.— Insincere, false.

'TWUNT.— It will not.

'TYENT.— It is not. *Vide* TENT.

TYZICK.— A hanging cough.

There is a verse in an old drinking song,

"Brandy cures the gout,
The colic an' the *tyzick*,
An' it is allowed to be,
The vurry best o' physick."

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U

UM.— They, them.

"If *um* zes *um* wunt do 't agin let *um* alo-an." (If they say they won't do it again let them alone.

UN, or IN.— Him, it.

UNKED.— Feeling dull; in low spirits usually from a sense of loneliness.

"The little gal veels *unked* like now her brother be gone to schoold."

NOTE.— The word "*unked*" is generally followed by "like," as in the above phrase.

UNNERCONSTUMBLE.— To understand.

UP.— In a state of effervescence.

A person is said to be "*up*" when the temper is roused.

UP-IND.— To raise one end of a thing so that it shall stand on the other end.

UPPERDS.— Upwards.

UPPER-STAWRY.— The head.

"A bit wake in the *upper-stawry*" means "having little sense."

UPPIN'-STOCK.— A log, or bench, or large stone lying near the front door of a house wherefrom horses are mounted.

UPPISH.— Giving one's self airs; conceited; arrogant.

"A zims to be got *zo uppish* laaytely as I wunt hev nothun' moor to do wi' un."

UP-STRIT.— Towards one end of the village along the main road in it is spoken of as "*up-strit*" and towards the other end is "down-*strit*."

UP-TO.- A common term with reference to activity of mind or body, generally used disparagingly.

"That ther chap yent *up-to* no good, I warn 'e."

UPZET.— Confusion; disorder.

"We was all in a *upzet* wi' the washin' when a come to zee us."

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UPZIDES WI'.— To retaliate; to have tit for tat.

"I'll be *upzides wi'* un vor been zo spitevul to I."

To be so sharp as not to be outwitted.

" 'T 'ool be hard to be *upzides wi'* zuch a rawgue as he be."

US.— We.

"Shall *us* go?"

USHER.— An assistant master in a boys' school. The word, formerly very common, seems falling into disuse.

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V

The letter "V" as an Initial does duty for the letter "F" as well as for itself.

VAAILS.— Money given to domestics after a visit to a house.

VAAIR DOGS.— Fair play; fair dealing.

"Thess hev *vaair doos* an' not try to best one 'nother."

VAAIRIN'.— A present brought from a country fair by one who is fortunate enough to go, to another obliged to stay at home.

VAAIRISH.— Pretty well; nearly recovered.

"I be a-veelin' *vaarish* now zur, ater my lumbaaygo, thenk 'e kindly."

VAAIRY-RINGS.— Rings of grass of a different colour from the remainder, found on the Downs. Some suppose that these rings are formed by Fairies dancing round and round in the moonlight.

VAAYCE, or VE-US.— The face.

VAAYCER.— A blow direct in the face; a very downright rebuff.

VAAYLE.— The country along the Thames valley, as about Blewbury, Hagbourn, Moreton, Didcot, &c., &c., is so called. The other part of the county is styled "the Hill Country."

VAAYVOUR.— To resemble.

"The child *vaayvours* the mother moor'n the vath-er."

VADDY.— Full of fidgets or fancies.

VAG.— To reap, but not applied to reaping wheat.

"When the straa be long, *vaggin'* wuts be better'n mawin' on um."

VAGABONDIZIN ABOUT.— Wandering and doing no work,

VAG'D.— Looking unwell and as though overworked.

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VAGGOT.— A good-for-nothing woman. It is generally preceded by "awld."

A bundle of lop wood or underwood containing branches of larger size than those in a "bavin."

VALL.— The Autumn.

A good "*vall* o' lambs" signifies a good breeding time.

To "try a *vall*" means to have a bout at wrestling.

VALLALS.— Ribbons, &c., worn by women when gaily dressed.

VALLERS.— A "pe-us o' *vallers*" is a field of ploughed land.

VALLY.— Value.

VAMPLUTS.— Short gaiters.

VAN.— A machine for winnowing corn, worked by hand.

VARDEN.— A farthing. "A yent wuth a *varden*" and "A yent wuth a brass *varden*" are common expressions to denote worthlessness.

VARDICK.— Verdict.

VARRUD.— Forward, early.

"*Varrud* taayters" are potatoes arrived at maturity early in the season.

VATH-ER.— Father. Perhaps the most common local riddle for children is

"*Vath-er*, mother, zister, an' brother,

All run roun` the taayble an' cood'nt ketch one 'nother."

The answer being a "wind-mill."

VATTY-GUED.— "Fatigued" is so pronounced. It was a specially favourite word with Mrs. Lucy Newland, formerly school mistress at Hampstead Norreys.

VATTY-YEAD.— A stupid person.

VAUTY.— Anything having a flaw or with part decayed is so described.

VAWER.— Four.

VAWK.— Folk; field hands are thus spoken of when mentioned collectively.

"Taayke the beer up to the *Vawk* at dree o'clock."

VAWL,— A foal.

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VAWLE.— To pen.

"Ther wunt be no turmuts left to *vawle* the ship in ater to-morrer."

A "ship-*rawle*" is a "sheep-fold."

VAWLE-STAAYKE.— A stake driven into the ground when a sheep pen is being formed, for the purpose of supporting the hurdles which are fastened thereto by "hapses."

VE-AD.— Feed. One says to an ostler, "Gie the herse a *ve-ad* o' kern," and a fixed measure is understood thereby.

Green crops for sheep, as turnips, swedes, rape, &c., are called "*ve-ad*."

A horse is said to be "out at *ve-ad*" when turned into a meadow to graze.

VEARD.— Afraid. See also AVEARD.

VEART-SPRANK.— A good sprinkling, or a rather large parcel.

"We shall hev a *veart sprank* crap o' apples this year."

VE-AST.— The annual village merry-making usually held on the Dedication Day of the Parish Church, thus we have "Hagbourn *Ve-ast*," &c., &c.

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See also LOT and REVEL.

VE-AT.— Rank to the taste.

"This yer mate taaystes *ve-at*, 'e med gie ut to the dog."

Middling; fair.

VE-ATISH.— Rather large; considerable.

"Reck'nin um up one waay an' t'other, ther be a *ve-atish* lot on um."

Well and in good spirits.

"I be got rid o' the doctor, an' be a-veelin' quite *ve-atish* like now."

VECKLE.— Spirits; energy.

"I hev a—had zome bad news, an' beant a-veelin' in *veckle* this marnin'."

VELLER.— Fellow.

VELTIVER also VELDER BIRD.— The bird "Field-fare."

VEN.— A word in frequent use by boys at marbles, &c. It means "I forbid." If one player says, "*ven* knuckledown," this means that his opponent must shoot his marble without resting his hand on the ground.

VEND.— To "*vend* off" anything is to take preventive measures.

"E should be keervul to *vend aff* taaykin' cawld at this time o' year,"

VERM.— Farm. To "*verm* high" means to keep much stock and to manure the land well.

VERRETIN' ABOUT.— Searching for. In the *Berkshire Chronicle* of November 6th, 1886, this expression is thus used by Martin Philpotts, gamekeeper, who gives evidence that certain dogs were "*verretin' about*" after game.

VESS.— Active, lively, well and strong.

"Why, 'e looks quite *vess* this marnin.'"

VETCH.— The price obtainable is thus referred to. There is the saying, "Things be awnly wuth what um 'ull *vetch*."

VETTLE.— Condition; full of energy or strength.

"I be jus' in vine *vettle* vor a vight if a wants to't."

See VECKLE also.

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VICAR OF BRAY.— The term applied to a turncoat.

The *Vicar of Bray*, who is the subject of a song known far beyond Berkshire, lived in the reign of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth. He was first a papist, then a protestant, then, under Queen Mary, became a papist again, and at length, in Queen Elizabeth's reign died a protestant. When accused of being of a changeable turn he replied, "no, I am steadfast, however other folk change I remain *Vicar of Bray*." It may be noticed that the reigns quoted in the old song do not correspond with those above given.

VIDDLE VADDLE.— To trifle; to make show of doing work with no result.

One who fusses without doing much is called a "*viddle vaddle* or *viddler vaddler*."

VIDGUTS.— Nervousness. The attack of "*vidguts*" is usually shown in a woman by sitting down and patting her foot on the ground.

VIGS.— Raisins.

VILE.— An old person.

"That awld *vile* be got maain canstankerous laaytely, an' I can't do nothun' wi'n."

VILLER.— The horse of a team which comes within the shafts.

Vide THILLER.

VINE.— To find.

Fine. To "tawk *vine*" is the expression rather contemptuously applied by those speaking the Berkshire Dialect to their fellows who commence trying to speak English as more generally recognised.

"She med ha bin to zarvice in Lunnon, but us wunt hev her come back a-tawkin' *vine* to we."

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VINGER STALL.— A covering for a wounded finger.

VINNIKIN'.— Fidgetting about small matters; trifling.

"I can't get along wi' a *vinnikin'* zart o' chap like that ther."

VINNY.— Mouldy, mildewed.

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VIR-APPLES.— Fir cones.

VIRKIN.— The scratching of a dog or other animal with the point of its paw for fleas.

VISTICUFFS.— A fight with fists.

VIT.— Feet.

VITTEN.— Fit, proper.

"If us be agwaain to vight, turn the women-vawk out, this yer be-ant no *vitten* plaayce vor thaay."

VITTLES.— Food, a meal as breakfast or dinner.

"I wunt do no moor till I had my *vittles*."

VIXEN.— The female fox.

VIZZLE.— To effervesce. To "hev no *vizzle*" is to have no energy or spirit.

VIZZUCK.— To administer an aperient. Physic generally is known as "doctor's stuff."

VLAA.— A flea. A "*vlaa* in the yer" means chastisement.

"If thee spakes back to I any moor I'll zend thee awaay 'wi' a *vlaa* in thee yer.'"

"*Vlaa*-bit," as regards dogs, &c,, means having a coat of light colour sprinkled with darkish spots.

VLAAYKE-HURDLES.— *Hurdles* made of brushwood. *Vide* also ROD HURDLES.

VLAAYRE.— To burn up; to flame.

"The candle wunt *vlyaare* till a done gutterin'."

VLAAYRE OUT.— To use intemperate language.

VLABBERGASTED.— Dumb-founded; amazed so as to be powerless to speak or move.

VLAG-BASKUT.— The limp basket made from river-side flags used for conveying fish, &c.

VLAP.— To strike with any broad light article.

"A gin I a *vlap* on the yead wi' a writin' book."

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VLAPPER.— A young partridge just able to fly. Applied in joke to a girl of the bread-and-butter age. See also SQUAKER.

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VLECK.— The fur of a hare or rabbit.

"To *vleck*" either of these animals is to shoot and wound so that the fur lies scattered about the spot."

"I *vlecked* a rabbut zo's I thinks the dogs 'ull ketch un."

VLEM.— The lancet with projecting cutter used for bleeding horses. The mallet by which it is struck is called the "*vlem*-stick."

VLEW.— Delicate in constitution. *Vide* also VLUFF.

VLEY.— Pigs' fat used for making lard.

VLIBBERTY-GIBBERTY.— Flighty, unreliable. Full of lively nonsense.

VLICK.— To strike with the end giving a sort of return movement at the same time. Schoolboys "*vlick*" with a towel.

VLID.— Flew.

"Two patridges *vlid* by muh jus' as I was a-loadin' my gun."

VLING.— To throw.

"*Vling* a stwun at the dog an' maayke un run awaay."

To *vling* one down is to throw one down.

VLISK.— Made by carters from hair taken out of a horse's tail, bound on a short handle.

A *vlisk* is found in all stables, being used to "*vlisk*" flies off horses in hot weather.

VLITTER-MOUSE.— The common bat-mouse.

VLITTERS.— Rags.

"My kwut got tore all to *vlitters*."

VLOOKS.— Small worms in sheep suffering from a certain disease of the liver.

VLOP.— To fall without rebound or movement.

"A vell *vlop* on the groun', and I thate a was de-ad."

"To *vlop*" a thing on the ground is to throw it down without care as to how it may fall.

VLOUT.— To express anger by action.

To treat with disdain.

VLUFF, or VLEW.— Refuse off bedding or cloth.

VLUFFY.— With refuse of wool, or cloth, or feathers adhering.

"Yer kwut be all *vluffy*, let I gi'n a brush."

VLUMMERY.— Flattery; attempt to get over one by blarney. A kind of Blanc-mange.

VLUMMOXED.— Astonished past action; at one's wit's end.

VLUMP.— This word has much the same meaning as VLOP, except that "*vlump*" usually indicates also that there was dull sounding noise in the fall.

VLURRY.— Confusion of mind and trepidation.

VLUSH.— Young birds are said to be *vlush* when their feathers have grown and they are ready to fly from the nest. Level, even.

VLUSTER.— To be in a "*vluster*" is to have lost presence of mind.

VLUSTRAATION.— Worry.

VOGGER.— A farmer's groom, who also is responsible for feeding pigs and cattle.

Perhaps this name is a corruption of "feeder" or "fodderer."

VOGGER'S JINT.— The perquisite of the *vogger* who assists in pig killing. It is the tail of the animal with a small portion of meat adjoining.

VOLLY.— To follow.

A circular group of fir trees on the crest of a hill. There are three such "*vollys*" at Hampstead Norreys on the "Volly Hill."

VOOTERY.— Deceitful, sly, false.

"A be a *vootery* zart o' chap an' I wunt trus' un vurder'n I can see un.'

Slippery.

"The ro-ads be maain *vootery* ater the thaa."

VOR.— Is added superfluously at the end of a sentence, thus:

"The bwoy be stronger nor I thate *vor*."

VOR-ALL-THAT.- This expression is in common use as signifying "in spite of the utmost having been done."

"A zes I be to be turned out if I dwoant vo-at as a tells muh, but I wunt *vor-all-that*."

VORM.— The lair of a hare.

VOR'N, or VORRUN.— For him; for it.

VORRIGHT.— Honest, straightforward; opposite to. In Mr. T. Hughes' "Scouring of the White Horse" there are lines in "The Lay of the Hunted Pig," thus

"Up *vorright* the Castle mound,
Thaay did zet I on the ground,
Then a thousand chaps or nigh
Runned an' hollered ater I."

VORRUD.— Forward; advanced.

VORRUDNESS, also VORRUDDER.— Advance, progress.

"Us works hard, but dwoant zim to get no *vorrudder* wi' this yer job."

VORRUSS.— The leading horse in a team.

VOT OUT.— Rescued. May be a corruption of "fetched out" or "fought out."

VOUSTY.— Mildew on any kind of food.

VOUT.— Fought.

VRAAIL.— A flail.

VRASTED.— Used for "frost bitten" with reference to turnips, &c.

VRIGLIN'.— Insignificant, trifling, petty.

"I wants to zee e do zummut as 'ooll bring in zummut and not be *vriglin'* about lookin' ater vlowers."

VRIT.— Frightened.

VRIZ.— Frozen.

VROW.— See VRUM.

VROWSTY.— Having an unpleasant smell from dirt.

VRUM or VROW.— Brittle, crisp.

VRUNTED.— Affronted, confronted.

VUDDLED.— Stupified by drink.

VUR.— Far.

A deposit formed in a tea kettle wherein hard water has been boiled.

VUR IND.— The point farthest away.

"Taayke hawld o' the *vur ind* o' the ladder an' help I to car un."

VURBELAWS.— Gay trimmings and appendages of women's dress.

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VURDER.— Further.

VURDERMWOAST.— Farthest off.

'E"ll vind my prong laayin' at the *vurdermwoast* ind o' the hedge."

VUST.— First.

A schoolboy when willing to give something away will call out to his playmates,

"Billy, Billy, Bust.
Who spakes *vust*?"

VUST BEGINNIN'.— The very commencement.

"Thess stert vaair at *vust beginnin'* an' then us 'ull zure to do 't right."

VUZ.— Furze or gorse. There is a common saying, "When the *vuz* be out o' bloom, kissin' be out o' vashun." "The origin of this saying is that whilst the "*vuz*" bursts into its golden splendour in spring and early summer there is yet no time of the year when a little bloom may not be discovered by diligent search.

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W

WAAY.— Distance.

"E med zee a gurt *waay* vrom the top o' our church tower."

WAAYRE.— Beware; "take care!"

WAAYZE.— To ooze.

"The ile *waayzes* out o' the cask, ther mus be a crack zome'er."

WABBLE, or WOBBLE.— To sway awkwardly from side to side.

WABBLY means "tottery."

WABBLES.— Spots floating before the eyes.

WAD.— A small cock or heap of hay or straw.

WA-DY (Weedy).— With a weakly constitution.

WAG.— To move away.

"Dwoant 'e *wag* vrom yer till I tells 'e to 't."

"Her tongue *wags* too much," means "she speaks indiscreetly."

WAGGLIN'.— Rolling to and fro, but without moving to another spot.

WAKE-LIN'.— A weak child.

WALLOP.— To whip.

A lump. *Vide* DOLLOP.

WALLOPPIN'.— A whipping.

Very large.

WANT.— A mole.

WANTING.— A former name for the town of Wantage. It is found thus spelt on some Tradesmen's Tokens as late as the seventeenth century. It may be noted that a Bust of Alfred the Great, who was born at Wantage, obtains on two modern Tokens, vizt.: On the celebrated and rare 40s. Gold Token issued by J. B. Monck, Esq., of Reading, in 1812, and on the Silver Frome Selwood (*Somersetshire*) Tokens issued in 1811.

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WAPS.—A wasp.

Wasps are WAPSES.

WAPSY.— Spiteful, saying bitter things of another. Testy, hot-tempered.

WARM.— To whip.

"I'll *warm* thee jacket vor thee bym by."

Having money laid by.

WARN, or WERN.— To warrant, to guarantee.

"Times 'ool mend avoor long I'll *warn* 'e."

WARNTY.— The warrant as to soundness as given of a horse.

WARNUTS.— Walnuts.

WARP.— To miscarry as applied to an animal.

WAR-WOPS.— The cry raised in attacking wasps with branches when burning out their nest.

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WATCHUT.— With the boots and socks wetted through as by walking on swampy ground.

WATER.— "To *water*" horses or cattle is to take them to drink.

"*Water* bewitched an' wine begrudged," is the expression used of grog made too weak.

WATER-EFFUT.— The water-newt.

WATER-SQUIRT.— A syringe.

WATTLE.— To weave brushwood, as in hurdle—making.

WAUNT.— Was not.

"A zes as a *waunt* ther at all, zo ut cood'nt ha' bin he as done 'ut."

WAW-BEGAN.— Woe begone.

WAWLIN' ABOUT.— The cry of cats is so described.

WAX.— "In a *wax*" is in a temper.

Waxy means wrathful.

WAY JAWLTIN'.— See-sawing with a plank.

WAY-WUT.— The command to a horse to stop.

WAZE.— A wisp of straw for rubbing down a horse.

WELL.— The rising up and overflowing of any liquid, just as water rises and flows from a spring.

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WELL-LOOKIN'.— Handsome.

"What a *well-lookin'* man a be to be zure."

WELL-TO-DO.— In good circumstances.

WELT.— To beat.

A WELTIN'.— A beating.

WEN.— A hard swelling on the neck.

WENCHES.— Female servants and young women of humble class. See also MAAIDS.

WETHER.— This word has similar signification to that given in other counties, except that young *Wethers* of the first year, when set aside to fatten, are called HOGGETS.

WEVVER.— However.

"E hev a-done I a good bit o' harm by actin' like that ther, *wevver* us wunt zaay no moor about ut this time."

WHACK.— Full quantity, share.

"I've got my *whack* an' zo dwoant want no moor."

A blow.

WHACKER.— A great lie.

Something very large.

WHACKIN'.— A beating.

WHATE, or WHE-AT.— Wheat.

WHAT'ST.— "What hast thou?"

"*What'st* got hid under thee kwut?"

WHAT'S WHAT.— To know *what's what* is to be very keen and to have had great experience.

To teach a person *what's what* is to rebuke him sternly for misconduct.

WHEEL, OR WHALE.— Haze round the Moon, said to indicate wet weather.

WHER.— Whether, also where.

"I can't zaay it *wher* I be agwaain or not"(I can't say yet whether I am going or not).

WHICKER.— To neigh a little; to whinny.

WHILE.— Is used instead of "time."

"What a *while* a be gone whoam to his dinner."

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WHIMPER.— To cry a little; with hounds "to give tongue" slightly.

WHINNY.— *Vide* WHICKER.

WHIP.— To do a thing very rapidly.

"*Whip* thee knife out o' yer pockut an' cut the string."

WHIP-HAND.— The mastery.

"A wunt get the *whip-hand* o' I vor all a med try."

WHIPPER SNAPPER.— A conceited, insignificant little fellow.

WHIRL-I-GIG.— A merry-go-round, as seen at fairs.

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WHIRTLE BERRIES.— Bilberries are always so called.

WHISK.— To snatch anything off very quickly.

WHISKUT.— A small stick; a twig.

WHISTLE.— The mouth. To "wet one's *whistle*" is a common phrase, meaning to imbibe something.

WHISTLES— Are made by boys of withy or chestnut at springtime, when the sap is rising and the rind comes off easily.

WHIT AND DUB.— Musical instruments, formerly used in Berkshire villages; these are like the Pipe and Tabor of Scripture.

WHITE HORSE.— The "Scouring of the White Horse" is the operation of clearing afresh the trenches which make up the outline of a horse on the hill-side of the Downs near Uffington. The figure is about 125 yards long. It is supposed to have been constructed in commemoration of a victory gained over the Danes on this spot.

The festivities accompanying the "Scouring of the White Horse," which ceremony takes place as occasion may require, have been fully described by Mr. Thomas Hughes in his work bearing the title.

WHITE MOUTH.— The children's disease "thrush."

WHITTER.— Used to describe the cry of small birds when uttering doleful single notes.

WHITTLE.— To flog lightly.

"A had no call to maayke zuch a bellerin' vor I awnly gin un a bit of a *whittle*."

WHIVER.— To hover.

"I zin the haak *whiverin'* wher I knawed zome young partridges was."

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WHO-AM.— Home.

WHO-AM-MAAYDE.— Made at home, as distinguished from BOUGHTEN.

WHOORD.— A hoard.

WHOP.— To flog.

"As zure as e doos ut agin I'll *whop* e."

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WHOPPIN'.— Very large. A flogging.

WHO ZAAY.— Uncertain report.

"Tis awnly zart o' *who zaay* an' I wunt belave ut."

WHOZEN.— Whose.

"This yer be—ant my billycock, *whozen* be un?"

WHUR.— A loud whizzing noise.

"The 'shenin' maaykes zuch a *whur* as I can't yer 'e spake."

"Where" is always pronounced WHUR or WHER.

WIDDER-OOMAN or WIDDY-OOMAN.— A widow.

WIGGIN'.— A scolding.

WIGGLE.— To move a little with a twisting motion.

"A adder allus *wiggles* till the zun goes down no matter how much e med kill 'n."

WIK.— A week. "Weak" is pronounced "wake."

WILD-GOOSE-CHAAYSE.— A futile quest.

WILLUM, or WOOLLUM.— William.

WILLY-NILLY.— Undecided; also "whether or no."

WILTERED.— Withered.

"The grace be a lookin' main *wiltered* like, an' wants raain bad."

WI'N,— With him, with it.

WIND.— Is used commonly in expressions,

"To tell which waay the *wind* blaws," is "To watch keenly the drift of events."

"To get *wind* of anything," is "to get some information respecting it."

WIND-VALLS.— Fruit blown off trees by wind.

Unexpected riches.

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WINKIN'.— Used to denote great rapidity.

"A bolted like winkin' as zoon as a zee I a-comin round the corner."

WINNICK.— The shrill cry of a dog when hurt.

"I yerd un *winnick* an' thate as a med be caught in a rabbut trap."

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WI'OUT.— Unless.

"I wunt go *wi'out* mother goes wi' I."

WIPE.— "To *wipe* one's eye" is a common expression for shooting and killing after another has shot and missed.

WISHY-WASHY.— Pale, colourless.

"She be got maain *wishy-washy* zence she hev a-bin in the town to live."

Poor in quality, as applied to anything to drink.

"This tay be vurry *wishy-washy*"(*i.e.*, is very weak).

WISP.— *Vide* STY.

A handful of straw, as used for rubbing down a horse.

WITH.— (Rhymes with "myth.") Brushwood made tough by being twisted, used to bind up a faggot or bavin.

WITHY.— The Willow. This and the Chestnut are used by boys for making whistle pipes, because when the sap is up the rind comes off very easily on being bruised a little.

WITHY-BED.— An ozier-bed.

WITHY-WINE.— The wild convolvulus.

WIVEL MINDED.— Fickle, capricious.

WIZZEND.— The throat.

With shrunken appearance as from bad health.

WIZZEN-VAAYCED is a term of contempt, indicating a small mean-looking physiognomy.

WO-AB.— An expression used to a horse "*Wo-a* about!" "Steady!"

WOLF.— "Us shall kip the wolf vram the door a bit," means

"We have food enough in the house to last a long time."

"*Wolfish*" signifies "very hungry."

WONNERVUL.— Very large, great.

"Ther be a *wennervul* crap o' apples this year to be zure."

WOOT, or 'OOLT.— Wilt, wilt thou.

WOP-ALL.— Confusedly, "all of a heap."

"She missed her vootin' an' tumbled down *wop-all.*"

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WORLD.— Large quantity.

“Ther be a *world* o’ zense in what a zes.”

WORKUS.— The workhouse.

WORK-A-DAAY.— Common, for ordinary occasions.

“I hev awnly got my *work-a-daay* kwut on.”

“*Work-a-daays*” are week days.

WORM.— To attempt to obtain information by close questioning.

“I tried to worm ut out on in but a kep’ what a knawed to hiszelf.”

WORRUT.— To worry, to teaze.

“If ‘e *worruts* the child zo, ‘e ooll maayke un cry.”

WORTLEBERRIES.— Cranberries.

WRAATHY.— Angry; bad tempered.

WRACK.— Brunt, trouble.

“Thee ‘ooll hev to stan’ the *wrack* o’ this yer job,” *i.e.*, “The consequences of this will fall on you.”

WRAPPY.— Crumpled, creased.

“You hev a-vaulded un up zo as to maayke un all *wrappy*.”

WRUCK.— A crease.

“Ther be a *wruck* in the leather o’ my boot as maayde my voot zoor.”

WUGD.— An expression to a horse, meaning “Move further off sideways.”

WUK.— Awoke.

WUM.— A worm.

WUNT.— Will not.

WURT.— A wart. A supposed way of getting rid of Warts which I have known practised, was to cut on a short stick notches corresponding with the number of Warts; this stick was then thrown away where none could find it, and as it rotted the Warts disappeared.

WUS.— Worse. The word seems curiously declinable the comparative being “*Wusser*,” and the superlative “*Wust*” or “*Wussest*.”

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WUSTED.— Getting the worst of it in any matter, just as "bested" signifies gaining an advantage.

WUTH.— Oath.

Also "*worth*" is so pronounced.

WUTS.— Oats.

WUZBIRD.— A good-for-nothing person. Perhaps a corruption of either "wust bird," or of "whore's bird."

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Y

YAA.— An interjection, commonly preceding a contemptuous remark,

"*Yaa*! I knawed as 'e cood'nt car a zack o' berley."

"*Yaa*! Zo 'ebe come back athout gettin' what e axt vor."

YANDER.— Yonder.

YANGIN'.— Saying irritating or teazing things.

"She be allus a *yangin'* at un, an' that's what maaykes un go away zo much."

YAP.— A dog is said to "*yap*" when giving a short surly bark accompanied by a snap.

Also when dogs give tongue falsely in hunting they are said to be "*yappin'* about."

YARBS.— Herbs.

YARN.— To earn.

"I hopes to *yarn* a bit o' money vor rent come Michaelmas."

YARNINS are "earnings."

YARNEST.— Earnest. "*Yarnest* money" is the IS. given on hiring a servant of any kind. The gift of this shilling seals the contract.

YARWIG or YERRIWIG or ERRIWIG.— An earwig.

YAUP.— To yawn.

YEA.— A command to horses. "This way." The reverse of WUGD.

YEAD or YUD.— The head.

YEAD-GO.— The highest score made, as in a game of skittles.

YEAD-LAN'.— A headland. The part ploughed at the head or top of the main ploughing.

YE-AP or YEP.— A heap.

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YEBBLE.— Able.

"I be got awld an' be-ant *yebble* to do much now."

YECKER.— An acre.

YELDIN.— A good-for-nothing woman.

YELLOOK.— Look here!

YELM.— To straighten straw in readiness for thatching.

YELPINGAL.— The woodpecker.

YENT, or ENT.— Is not.

YEOMAN.— This title is still occasionally seen painted on the back of the "gig" of one who owns land he farms, following the printing of his name.

YEPPATH.— A halfpenny worth.

"A yent got a *yeppath* o' zense' means "he is very stupid."

YER.— To hear; here.

YERD.— Heard. See TELL.

YET, or ET.— Eat; heat.

"Eaten" is YETTED.

"I ent *a-yetted* nothun' zence isterdaay marnin'."

YETTIN' HIS YEAD AFF.— Said of a horse eating food in the stable but doing no work.

YIELD.— Produce.

"Whate maaykes poor *yield* this crap."

YOU.— A term of address in accosting one.

"I zaay *You* wher bist thee agwaain?"

YOURN.— Yours.

YOWE.— An ewe.

YOWLIN'.— Howling.

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Z

"Z" takes the place of "S" when the latter is initial to a syllable, and followed by either A, E, I, O, U, W, *or* Y.

ZAA.— A saw. An application was made at a farm-house thus

"'Ooll the Me-uster be zo good, an' zo kind, an' zo obligin', an' zo condescendin' as to len' we the mate-*zaa* vor to *zaa* our me-at?"

It may be noted in the above sentence that the same word is pronounced both "mate" and "me-at"; such dual pronunciation in analogous cases is not uncommon.

ZAACE.— Sauce; impertinence.

ZAACE-BOX.— An impertinent person is so called, but the term is often applied good temperedly.

ZAAT.— Salt.

ZAAY.— "I've a-had my *zaay*" means "I've given my final opinion."

ZAAYFE.— Certain.

A gun is "*zaayfe* to go off" when there is no chance of it "missing fire."

ZAAYVE-ALL.— A tin box nailed up in a kitchen for short candle-ends to be put into, so as to be used for greasing boots, &c.

A short length of marble or crockery, matching a candle in size and colour, having a pin at the end, whereon candleends may be placed so that these may be quite burned out.

ZACK.— To dismiss. When a servant is dismissed he is said to "get the *zack.*"

ZACKIN' ALONG.— Walking rather hastily.

"I zee un a *zackin'* along wi' the box unner his kwut, an' axed un wher a got un vram."

ZAD IRON.— A smoothing iron.

ZADLY.— Out of health.

"My awld ooman hev a-bin *zadly* laaytely, but be tarblish to-daay."

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ZAFT.— Soft; silky to the touch.

Silly; credulous.

Not harsh.

“I hev alus a-bin vurry *zaft* wi’ un.”

ZAFTY.— A person very easily imposed upon.

ZAG.— To sink from its own weight. A rope is said to “*zag*” when being drawn tight between two points it afterwards loosens a little and sinks at the centre.

ZAMMLE.— Samuel.

ZAP.— The layer of timber coming between the heart and bark of a tree is so called.

ZAPPY.— Lusty.

“A be grawed a gurt *zappy* chap an’ I should’nt hardly ha’ knawed un agin.”

ZAR.— To serve; to feed cattle.

“I mus’ *zar* the pegs avoor I do’s my rack in’ up.”

Zard is “served.”

To impregnate.

ZARMON BELL.— The bell sounded before the TING-TANG as a call to church. It denotes that there will be a sermon in the service to follow. If there is to be no sermon the “*zarmon bell* is not rung. It should also be here noted that in many parishes a bell is rung at the termination of morning service; this is to annouce and remind that there will be service in the afternoon.

ZARTIN ZURE, also ZARTNY.— Certainly.

“A zes as a ‘ool do what a pramised this time *zartin’ zure*.”

ZART.— Sort.

“Thems yer *zart*” means “those are exactly what you want.”

“I cood’nt get none o’ no *zart* nor kine,’ means ‘I could not get any whatever.”

ZART O’.— Means somewhat.

“I velt *zart* o’ convounded-like”(I felt somewhat confused).

OUT O’ ZARTS is “in temporary bad health,” also “out of temper” or irritable.

ZARVENT ZUR.— Used to be the common salutation from one in humble position to a superior, accompanied by a curtsey or touch of the brim of the hat. It has fallen into disuse.

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ZAWL.— Soul. "Bless my heart a "*zawl*" is a common expression of astonishment.

ZAWNEY, or ZAANEY.— A very stupid person.

ZE-AD LIP.— A box supported by a strap which contains the seed when sowing is being done by hand and is "broad cast."

ZED AN' DONE.— This expression is used thus:

"When all's *zed an' done* 'e cood'nt expect no good vrom zuch a caw as he be."

ZEE, or ZEED, or ZIN.- Saw.

ZEE—HO.— The cry given in coursing when a hare is discovered sitting in her form.

ZEEIN'S BELAVIN'.— A common phrase on seeing something astonishing.

ZENCE.— Since; sense.

ZENSIBLE O'.— Comprehend.

"A be zo dunny ut be maain hard to maayke un *zensible* o' what I wants un to do."

ZESSED.— Assessed.

"My *zessed* taxes comes vurry high this year."

Estimated.

"I *zessed* the vally o' the land twice as high zence the raailwaay be come."

ZET.— Sit.

To ZET STOOR BY, means "to value."

"I dwo—ant *zet* no *stoor by* them ther things; e 'med hev um to kape if e likes."

ZETTIN' DOWN.— Severe rebuke given for presumption or bad conduct.

"I gin her zuch a *zettin' down* as 'ooll maayke her moor keervul what she doos."

ZETTIN ROOM.— A room in a farm house where the family have meals, &c.

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ZETTLE.— A long wooden bench to accommodate several persons; it is found at way-side public houses and in outer kitchens or brew-houses of farm houses.

ZETTLER.— A conclusive argument or blow.

"A tawld muh if I zed any moor a 'ud gie muh the sack, an' zo that was a *zettler* an' I come awaay."

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ZETTY.— A "*zetty*" egg is one that has been sat upon by the hen for a short time and so rendered unfit for food.

A "*zetty* hen" is one that persists in sitting on the nest after the eggs have been taken. When there were no eggs to give her the somewhat barbarous cure used to be to put her head under her wing, sway her until she was asleep, and then throw her into a horse pond. This was believed to cause her to forget her former desire to *zet* and she would then go on laying again.

ZEY.— The sea.

ZIAS.— Josias.

ZICK AN' ZAAYTED.— Unable to eat some kind of food on account of having had it so often.

"I be *zick an' zaayted* wi' rabbuts, an' hawpes us 'ull get a bit o' butcher's me-at to-morrer."

ZICKNER.— A bad experience.

ZIDLE.— To advance sideways.

To "*zidle* up" to one is to try to ingratiate one's self in hope of obtaining favours.

"The child come a-*zidlin'* up, an' I could zee as a wanted zummut."

ZIGHT.— A very large number or quantity.

"Ther was a *zight* o' vawk at Vaair to-daay, to be zure."

ZI KNAWS ON.— "That I am aware of."

"Ther yent nobody about yer got no vishin'-tackle *zi knaws on*."

ZILVER SPOON.— To be born with a "*zilver spoon* in one's mouth" is to be born to riches.

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ZIM.— To seem.

ZIMMINLY.— Apparently.

"A dwoant mane to come *zimminly*, vor a yent answered my letter."

ZING SMALL.— To humble one's self.

"A gin I plenty o' tawk at vust but when a vound I knawed all about his goins-on a begun to *zing small*."

ZINKERS.— Stockings without feet.

ZINNIVY.— To matter; to be of importance.

"Wher a comes or wher a dwoant, dwoant *zinnivy* to we."

ZISTS.— Insist.

"If e *zists* upon 't I 'ooll do 't."

ZISTER LAA.— Sister-in-law. *Vide* MOTHER-LAA.

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ZIZZLE.— To fizz; the hissing noise as made by ginger beer when "up."

Also water under the action of boiling is sometimes said to *zizzle*.

ZO AS THAT.— Such like, of such kind, in like manner.

"Nobody never gies we nothun' moor'n a awld paair o' boots as um dwoant want therzelves, an' *zo as that*."

ZOBBLE.— To soak so as to soften. One speaks of "*zobblin*" one's bread in milk or gravy.

ZOCK.— Completely, unreservedly.

"A vell *zock* aff the whate-rick an' hurt his back."

A blow with the hand.

"I took un a *zock* a-zide o' the yead."

ZODDEN.— Boiled so as to be flabby and tasteless.

ZODGER, or ZAWLGER.— A soldier. One who has enlisted is said to be "gone *zodgerin'*."

ZOGGED.— Soaked with moisture or rain.

"The clo-aths as I hung out to dry be all *zogged* wi' the raain."

ZOGGY.— Boggy.

ZOLID.— Very grave or grim.

"I thate zummut had a gone wrong wi' un, a looked zo *zolid*."

ZOLOMON'S ZALE.— Solomon's Seal, a plant common in the woods.

ZOME.— Is added to a word to indicate inclination or aptitude, thus a dog is said to be "trickzome" when easily taught tricks.

ZOMEBERRY.— "Somebody" is so pronounced.

ZOONER.— Always used for "rather." ZOONEST is similarly used.

"Ood e *zoonest* go to Newbury or stop at whoam wi' I?"

ZOOP.— To drink.

ZOOR.— Annoyed.

"A veels maain *zoor* acause us left un out when us axed zome o' t'other naaybours."

ZOP.— To soak.

"*Zop* yer bad vinger in hot water avoor I binds un up wi' rag."

ZORREL.— The name given to the light chestnut colour of horses. Agricultural horses of this colour often bear the name "*Zorrel*."

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ZOUGHIN'.— The moaning noise made by the wind.

ZOUND.— A term applied to indicate perfect health or state of repair. "As *zound* as a bell" is a common expression.

ZOUNDLY.— Thoroughly; completely.

"A dwoan't do nothun *zoundly*."

ZOUR.— Grass is said to be "*zour*" when of rank growth and uneatable by cattle.

ZOUR ZOP.— A bitter remark.

ZOUSE.— To immerse in water.

"The puppy be got all awver dirt, taayke un an' *zouse* un to maayke un clane."

The ears, trotters and hocks of a Pig. Brawn is always called "collared *zouse*."

A blow with the hand.

"I gin un a *zouse* on the chaps," *i.e.*, a blow with the fist on the face.

ZU-ATTY PUDDEN.— A suet pudding.

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ZUCTION.— Drink.

"I veels as I wants zome *zuction* an' be a-gwaain to get I a glass o' beer."

ZUGARED.— Sweetened.

"Be your tay *zugared* as much as 'e likes ut?"

ZUGAR TE-AT.— Sugar tied in a rag and given to a child to suck to quit it.

ZULK.— A term applied to a horse that will not try to do what is required of him.

ZUMMER'S DAAY.— A phrase in common use, thus

"As pretty a lass as e'll zee on a *zummer's daay*."

ZUMMIN'.— Arithmetic.

"A hev a—bin at schoold vor a year an' thaay tells I a be maain sharp at his zummin."

ZUMMUT.— Something. It often has a mysterious signification.

"I zin *zummut* last night," would be said for "I saw something supernatural last night."

ZUNDAY CLAWES.— Best suit of clothes.

"I be agwaain into Readin' an zo mus' put on my *Sunday clawes*."

ZUP.— To eat supper.

ZUPT is used as preterite.

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ZURPLUS.— A surplice.

ZWAAYRED.— Swore, the noise that an angry or frightened cat makes.

ZWAD.— A layer of hay lying just as cut. See ZWATHES.

ZWACK.— A resounding blow or "whack."

ZWANKY.— Self-satisfied, somewhat swaggering.

"That chap be got zo *zwanky* laaytely a wants to be vetched down a peg."

ZWATHES.— Rows of hay as lying before made up into "cocks." *Vide* ZWAD.

ZWEELIN'.— Singeing the hair off a hog by means of burning straw.

ZWEET-WORT.— Beer in the early stage of brewing, no hops being yet put in.

ZWIG.— A drink.

ZWILL.— To drink a quantity or habitually.

"A *zwills* like a vish."

ZWILLY-HAWLE.— A hole whereby a small stream of water disappears into the ground. There is a *Zwilly-hawle* at Well-house, a hamlet of Hampstead Norreys.

ZWIMS.— The expression, "My yead zwims" is used for "I am feeling giddy."

ZWINGEL.— The top part of the threshing flail.

ZWINGIN'.— Very large, very excellent.

"I hev done a *zwingin'* good daays work to-daay."

ZWIPES.— Very poor beer.

ZWISH.— A little tough stick as used with a riding horse.

ZWITHIN'S-DAAY.— "St. Swithin`s Day is the day on which the apples are christened. If it should rain then it will rain also on the forty days following.

ZWIZZLE.— To drink.

ZWOP.— To exchange(common).

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