

Author: Thomas Quiller-Couch (1826-1884)

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"APPENDIX TO A LIST OF OBSOLEScent WORDS AND LOCAL
PHRASES IN USE AMONG THE FOLK OF EAST CORNWALL"

BY

THOMAS QUILLER COUCH.

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IV.—*Appendix to a List of Obsolescent Words and Local Phrases in use among the folk of East Cornwall.*—By THOMAS Q. COUCH.

SINCE the publication of my Glossary of East Cornwall words in our *Journal*,* I have collected others in sufficient number to warrant my offering them as an Appendix.

I have altered the title of my collection in compliance with some criticism on its inapplicability. I could, I believe, defend my use of the word *obsolete* (*ab obsoleo*; grown out of use, old fashioned) as indicating phrases not *dead*, but simply *antiquated*. The word *obsolescent* is a fair compromise. My main incentive in the gathering and publishing of this list and its accompanying notes, was to show how many good words have slipped out of use in modern Book-English, though indelibly fixed in some of the master-pieces of our earlier English literature, and living still in the colloquial talk of our peasantry. By a strange misconception, I am supposed to claim these words as exclusively of local use, whereas, in my prefatory notes and subsequent illustrations, I have shown that their chief value consists in their width of distribution. For want of many of these *words* we can now only express the *ideas* by tedious periphrasis. It is to me inexplicable how such apt exponents of thoughts could have thus fallen into desuetude, except in the vulgar tongue.

A.

AGATE. Descriptive of earnest attention.

APSEN TREE. The aspen, *Populus tremula*.

B.

BALCH. A stout cord used for the the head-line of a fishing-net.

BEAN. A withy *band*.

BLACK-HEAD. A boil or furuncle.

BLACKWORM. The cockroach.

* No. I, March, 1864.

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BLOODY WARRIOR. The wall-flower, *Cheiranthus cheiri*.

BLUE-POLL. A species, or more probably a variety, of Salmon, remarkable for the steel-blue colour of its head, and for ascending our rivers (*e.g.*, the Camel) about Candlemas-day; hence, when occurring in numbers, they are called "the Candlemas school." It is observed by fishermen that the great majority are males or kippers.

BOWERLY. Stately and comely.

"A bowerly woman."

BOY'S LOVE. Southernwood.

BROWTHY. Light and spongy bread is "*browthy*."

BUSSY-MILK. The first milk after calving.

BUTT. A heavy two-wheeled cart.

BUTTER AND EGGS. The *Narcissus poeticus*.

C.

CANNIS. To toss about carelessly.

CAPER-LONGER. The shell-fish. *Pinna ingens*.

Tonkin applies the name *Capa longa* to the Razor-shell', *Solen siliqua*.

CAUCHY. Wet, sloppy.

"The roads are cauchy."

CHOP. To barter. A.S., *Cyppan*, to bargain.

Bacon says, "as for the chopping of bargains."—*Essay of Riches*.

"Chopping and changing, never pleased with a bargain."—*Gosson's School of Abuse*, 1579.

CHOW. To chew. A.S., *Ceow-an*.

"CHUCK-CHILDERN." The Allis Shad, *Alosa vulgaris*; so called probably from the bony nature of the fish, and its ineligibility as an article of infant diet.

CLIP. A smart and sudden blow.

"A clip under the ear."

CLITTER. To flutter.

CLOMB. An unturned ridge left at intervals in ploughing.

CONGERDOUCE. ? Sweet Conger.

The fish, *Conger vulgaris* was, within the memory of man, and for reasons that might well be inquired into, very much more abundant than now. Up to the beginning of the present century, a large trade existed between Cornwall and the Continent in Congerdouce, which trade is now extinct. For further information see *Couch's Fishes*, Vol. iv, p. 345.

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CRUMPLING. A stunted apple.

CULLERS. The same as hollibubber (*Delabole*).

CUSTIS. A smart blow on the open hand, a common school punishment.

D.

DAFTER. Daughter.

DEAF, or DEAVE. Barren, empty.

A nut without a kernel is '*deave*.'

DEW SNAIL. The Slug, *Limax agrestis*.

DISH. "The Lord's dish." *Vide Pryce*.

DÔL, TOLL. A tribute *raised* by the Lord of the sett. *Tollere*.

DOWSE. To throw on the ground.

DRAXEL. Threshold.

DREDGE-CORN. A mixed crop of barley, oats, and wheat.

DRINGED-UP. Crowded.

DRUMBLE-DRANE. The humble bee.

DUMBLE-DORY. The cockchafer.

E.

EAR-BUSSUMS. The tonsils.

EASY. Idiomatic.

ELLECK. A species of Gurnard, *Trigla cuculus*.

Carew, in his enumeration of the fishes of Cornwall, mentions the "Illek."

EVAL. a dung-fork.

F.

FITCHETT. A polecat.

FLIKKETS. Flashes or sudden and rapid changes of colour.

FORTHY. Officious, forward.

FRAPE. To bind.

G.

GO-A-GOODING. On the day before Christmas-day poor women go round to their richer neighbours asking alms; this they call "going a gooding."

GOAL. Slow, heavy, aching pain.

GOOG or GÜG. A sea-side cavern. N.E. Cornwall.

GORE. A gore of blood (?).

GREEN-SAUCE. The herb *Rumex acetosa*.

GULGE. To drink gluttonously.

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H.

HANSEL. To use or handle for the first time.

HANGE. The heart, lungs, and liver of an animal.

"Head and hange."

HARDAH. Elvan.

HARESMEAT. Woodsorrel, *Oxalis acetosella*.

HEAL. To hide or conceal. A.S.

"The *healer* is as bad as the stealer." Old Proverb.

HOBBIN. A sort of pasty commonly forming the hedge repast of the husbandman.

HOLT. Hold, place of retreat. ?From *helan*. A.S.

HOMER. Homeward.

HULSTER. a hold or retreat.

"This rubbish is only a hulster for snails."

J.
JACK-O'-LANTERN. *Ignis fatuus*, the Pisky Puck.
JOWTER. A travelling fishmonger.
Carew says of Polperro, that there "plenty of fish is vented to the fish drivers, whom we call Jowters."
K.

KEENLY. Deftly, as "he does it keenly"; also kindly, favourable, "brave keenly gossan."

KIB. To *kib* a gap, is to mend a gap in a hedge with thorns, and put tabs to keep them in place.

KIEVE. A large tub.

KIMBLY. The name of a thing, commonly a piece of bread or cake, which was, in the memory of people now living, given to the first person met on going to a wedding or christening. My father, who remembers this as a Polperro custom, interprets it to have some reference to the idea of averting or deprecating the evil eye. The *kimbly* is also given to the person bringing the first news to persons interested in the birth.

L.

LAMPERED. Mottled, "lamper'd all over,"

LANK. The flank.

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LENT-LILY. The Daffodil. *Narcissus pseudo-Narcissus*.

LIDE. The month of March.

Vide "Tinner's Folk-lore," R. I. Journal, No. VI.

LIGGAN. The manure composed of autumnal leaves washed down by a stream and deposited by side eddies, (Fowey.)

LIGGY. Sloppy, drizzly weather.

LOADER. A double apple.

MAWNGE, or MUNCH. To chew.

MIS-MAZE. Bewilderment.

NECK. A miniature sheaf of wheat with four plaited arms, intertwined with "everlasting" and the more durable of flowers.

The stalks of wheat brought down by the last sweep of the scythe are brought home in thankful triumph, and woven as described, and, in the evening, taken into the mowhay, where are assembled all the harvest party.

A stout-lunged reaper proclaims, loudly and slowly:—

"I hav'ee! I hav'ee! I hav'ee!"

Another loud voice questions:—

"What hav'ee? What hav'ee? What hav'ee?"

"A Neck! A Neck! A Neck!"

is the reply; and the crowd take up, in their lustiest tones, the chorus of "Wurrah."

General merriment follows and the songs are loud, and the draughts of ale or cider deep.

The *neck* may be seen hanging to the beam in many of our farm-houses between harvest and Christmas-eve, on which night it is given to the master-bullock in the chall.

"Hollaing the Neck" is in some parts of Cornwall still heard, and is one of the cheerfulest of rural sounds.

NEW-FANG, or VANG. Something newly got. *Vide* FANG.*

O.

OAKWEB. The cockchafer.

P.

PILL. A pool in a creek.

" Even as a sturgeon or a pike doth scour
The creeks and *pills*, in rivers where they lie."

Silvester's Du Bartas.

* *Journal of the Royal Institution of Cornwall*, No. I.

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PISKY. An elf or fairy.

PLASHET. A moist place, where a brook begins.

PLUFF. Soft and out of condition. Fur, as hare's pluff.

POP-DOCK. *Digitalis purpurea*.

PULT. The pulse.

Q.

QUAILAWAY. A sty on the eyelid.

R.

REESE. Grain is said to reese when from ripeness it falls out of the ear.

RODELING. Helpless.

ROPER'S NEWS. News told as new, but heard before.

"That's Roper's news."—*Cornish Adage*.

RUMMET. Dandriff.

S.

SCANTLE. Small irregular slate, too small to make "size slate." (Delabole.)

SCHUTE. A conduit or fountain of *falling* water.

SCLOW. To scratch.

SCOLLUCKS. Blocks of refuse or indifferent slate. (Delabole.)

SCRANNY. A scramble. (Saltash.)

SCROACH. To scorch.

SCRY. The report of the approach of a great body of fish; formerly applied to wild-fowl.

"The blastes of hornys, and the scrye of foules." *Dame Juliana Berners*.

SHENAKRUM. A drink composed of boiled beer, a little rum, moist sugar, and slices of lemon. (Quere Snack o' Rum.)

SHORTAHS. Masses of loose rubbish which have fallen in and filled up cracks and rents. (Delabole.)

SKERRISH. The privet.

SMITCH. Fine sooty dust in motion.

SOUND-SLEEPER. The common name for a moth.

SPENCE. A.N. A cupboard or pantry under the stairs.

STANDARDS. A term used in wrestling for a man who has thrown two opponents, and thereby secured a chance of trying for a prize.

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STARE. The starling.

STIDDLE. The upright pole to which the ox is tied in the stall.

STOITING. The leaping of fish, or the colour they impart to the surface.

STRIKE. To rub gently, to anoint.

T.

TIFLING. The frayed out threads of a woven fabric.

TRONE. In describing heavy rain, a country man said, "the streams were like *trones* from the *tids* of a cow."

TURF-TIE. The bed on which the turf-rick is piled. (*Bed-tie*, a feather bed.)

U.

UPROSE. She was uprosed. *i.e.*, churched.

V.

VOLYER. Supposed to be a corruption of *follower*. The second boat in a pilchard sein.

W.

WILK, WEKL, sometimes WELT. A ridgy hump or tumour.

"Little low hedges round like welts."—*Bacon's Essay of Gardening*.

WILVER. a baker or pot under which bread is baked, by being buried in burning embers.
(N.E. Cornwall.)