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"A LIST OF OBSOLETE WORDS STILL IN USE AMONG THE FOLK OF
EAST CORNWALL"

BY

THOMAS QUILLER COUCH.

[26]

A List of Obsolete Words still in use among the folk of East Cornwall.

By THOMAS Q. COUCH.

I HAVE for some years past observed and noted down those words in common use among the general population of East Cornwall, which are not known in, or have disappeared from, the national English. They are now sufficient in number to make them worth presenting to the Journal of this Institution. The remarks which I have ventured to append to some of them may be taken as mere surplusage. I have also added (what will be of more value) such instances of their use by our older writers as my notes and memory supply me with.

There is a marked distinction between the speech of East and West Cornwall, not only in intonation, but in structure and vocabulary. My observations have been chiefly made in the south-eastern part of the County, where the popular tongue resembles that of Devonshire, and of those counties generally which formed the ancient kingdom of Wessex. We have none of that indescribable cadence which marks the *patois* of the West. Though the dialects are distinct, it is impossible now to fix their boundaries, since the developement of the mines of East Cornwall has drawn hither the men of the West, and infused many peculiarities of tongue as well as manner. The intonation which characterizes the Western brogue may be a part of the old British speech, which, in Carew's days, was driven into "the uttermost parts of the shire."

Considering that the Cornu-British language was spoken down to so late a date, it is remarkable how few and unimportant are its relics. Except in the names of those grand and immutable objects of nature, our hills, valleys, headlands, rivers, &c.; of ancient territorial divisions; of a few animals, &c., very little remains which can, without doubt, be ascribed to it. At the same time there are few dialects which contain more Saxon and Norman words worthy to be re-introduced into book-English, where, at present, they can only be superseded by clumsy periphrase.

The speech of the West has many words unknown to us, and which, differing in structure from any we know, we are fain to set down as of British origin.

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A few of the peculiarities of the East Cornwall dialect are the following:—

- 1.—The *s* at the beginning of words, and when followed by a vowel or liquid, is replaced by its softer kin-letter *z*.
- 2.—*F* is in like manner sounded as *v*.
- 3.—In most instances the past tense of verbs is weak, as *I knowed it* for *I knew it*. In a few cases where they are weak in national English, they are strong with us, as *I gove*, for *I gave*.
- 4.—*Th* is pronounced *d*, as *dresh* for *thresh*, *datch* for *thatch*.
- 5.—The final *g* is elided in the present participle, as *doin'*, for *doing*.
- 6.—*Of* loses its *f* before a consonant, as *the nap o' the hill*.
- 7.—Words ending in a mute consonant undergo metathesis, as *haps* for *hasp*, *crips* for *crisp*.
- 8.—The perfect participle of verbs has often the affix *a*, (the Anglo-Saxon *ge*), as *a-zeed*, *a-heerd*.
- 9.—The infinitive mood has *y* often added, as *to mowy*, *to reapy*, *to milky*.
- 10.—*V* is sometimes pronounced as *u*, and *u* as *v*; e.g., *hauen*, *haven*: *eual*, *eval*: *harve*, *harrow*: *belve*, *bellow*: *walve*, *wallow*.—The Cornish family Beville was probably called Beuille; hence its arms, *Arg. a Bull passant gules, armed and tripped or*.

A.

AFEARD. Afraid. A.S.

AGG. To incite, set on, provoke. A.S., *eggian*.

AIRY MOUSE. The bat. 1.S., *Hrere mus*.

“To war with rere-mice for their leathern wings.” *Shakspeare*.

The village boys at Polperro address the bat, as it flits above them, in the following rhymes: —

Airy mouse, airy mouse ! fly over my head,
And you shall have a crust of bread;
And when I brew and when I bake,
You shall have a piece of my wedding cake.”

ANAN. This interjection, used commonly by old persons within my remembrance, is now nearly extinct. It seemed to imply that the person using it wished to have your question repeated, and, to mean, "what did you say?"

AN-END. On end, straight.

ANGLE-TWITCH. The earthworm. Probably Norman.

The worm is a common bait; has this name any connection with the sport of the *angler*?

"Tagwormes, which the *Cornish* English terme *angle-touches*." Carew.

"Your bayte shall be a grete *angyll twytch* or a *menow*."

Treatyse of Fysshynge ; by Juliana Berners.

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ANIST. Near to, nigh. A.S.

ANKER. A small cask, of handy size for carrying, slung on horse-back, used by smugglers.

APPLE-DRANE. The wasp.

ARG. To argue.

ASCRODE. Astride.

ASEW. A cow is said to be *asew* when drained of milk before calving.

ATTLE. Rubbish, refuse.

The Cornish tinner, in Carew's time, called the heaps of abandoned tinworks, Attal Sarazin, which he translates, "the Jewes offcast." The latter part of the word is now, I believe, lost. The word *attal* is in most of our Cornish vocabularies, though it agrees with the English word *addle*, from the A.S. *aidlian*.

B.

BALK. Sometimes pronounced bulk. To *balk* pilchards is to pile them into a *wall* with alternate layers of salt.

Balk evidently means a hedge, ridge, and metaphorically, an obstacle. Shakspeare uses this word as we do (Henry IV, Pt. 1, Act 1, Scene 1). Sir

Walter Blunt brings news of the discomfiture of Douglas, and describing the field, speaks of

“ Ten thousand bold Scots, two and twenty knights,
Balk'd in their own blood.”

Carew calls the man who, from the shore, directs the movements of the sean-boats, a huer or *balker*.

“That like a *balk* with his cross builded wall.”

Phineas Fletcher's Purple Island.

BALL. To beat.

BALL. To bawl, to make a loud noise: “hold thy ball.”

BALLY-WRAG. To scold or abuse.

Barnes, in the glossary appended to his Poems of Rural Life in the Dorset dialect, suggests a derivation from the A.S. *bealu*, evil, and *wregan*, to accuse.

BAMKROUT. Bankrupt. Shakspeare uses this form of the word.

BANNEL. The broom (*Cytisus scoparius*).

From the Cornish *banal*. Williams (Lexicon Cornu-Brit.) says “this is a late form. In the Cornish vocabulary it is written *banathel*, genista. It enters into the names of many places in Cornwall, as *Bannel*, *Banathlek*, *Bennathlick*, *Bennalack*.” He gives instances from cognate dialects.

BARM. Yeast.

BASSOM. *Bassomy*, blush-red.

BEAT-TURF.

A heap of burnt turves

BEAT-BURROW.

Carew says, "a little before ploughing time, they scatter abroad those *beat-boroughs*."

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BELONG. A curious employment of this word is occasionally observed here, but commonly in West Cornwall; e.g., "I *belong* working to Wheal Jane."

BELVE. To bellow.

BEVER. To shiver.

BIDDICKS. A mattock, perhaps from beat, burnt earth, and *axe*.

BILDER. The herb, *Heracleum sphondylium*.

BLINCH. To catch a glimpse of; e.g., "I jest blinched him going round the cawnder."

A.S.

BLIND BUCK-A-DAVY. The game of blindman's buff.

BOBBLE. A pebble.

BOLDACIOUS. Audacious, bold, impudent.

BRAGGATY. Spotted, mottled.

In an old manuscript account book which belonged to a white witch or charmer, I find a charm in which this adjective is applied to the adder.

"A charam for the bit of an ader."

'Bradgty, bradgty, bradgty, under the ashing leaf,' to be repeated three times, and strike your hand with the growing of the hare. 'Bradgty, bradgty, bradgty,' to be repeated three times, nine before eight, eight before seven, seven before six, six before five, five before four, four before three, three before two, two before one, and one before every one. Three times for the bit of an ader."

BRANDYS. A tripod used in cooking.

BRAN-NEW. Quite new.

BRAVE. Fairly good, tolerably well.

It is used, sometimes without any definite meaning, to qualify a noun, implying that the thing is moderately good of its sort. e.g. "Tis brave weather."

"How be you?" "Bravish."

Pepys says, (September 19, 1662) that he walked to Redriffe "by *brave* moonshine."

BRECK. A rent or hole in a garment, *gy*. break, e.g., "There isn't a breck in it."

BRIMMING. The name given to those scintillations of light in the sea waves at night, produced by several species of *entomostraca*, *medusæ*, &c. Carew calls it *briny*.

BROUSE. Thicket.

BROWNWORT. The herb *scrophularia aquatica*. The leaves are much used as an application to ulcers.

BUCK. The "buck" in the dairy is a change in the milk and cream produced by some unknown influence, perhaps electrical, or a fungoid or other growth, by which they acquire a disagreeable taste and smell. It is very difficult to eradicate.

BUCKHORN. Whiting, salted and dried.

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BUFFLEHEAD. Thickhead, dunderhead; a term of reproach.

"But my Lord Mayor, a talking, bragging, *buffleheaded* fellow."

Pepys, March 17, 1663.

BULLUM. The fruit of the *Prunus insititia*, or Bullace tree.

BULTYS, or BOULTER. A term applied by the fishermen to an apparatus for catching conger, pollack, &c. It consists of a long line having, at intervals, hanging from it snoods of a fathom length, armed with a tinned hook. The snoods have many separate cords to prevent the fish liberating itself by gnawing the line. The whole is moored, and its position marked by a buoy. Carew calls it a *boulter*.

BURROW. A mound or heap (applied to sepulchral tumuli). The heaps of burnt turves in fields are called "beat-burrows." Carew: "*beat-boroughs*."

BUTS. Bots. A disease in horses.

Shakspeare uses it. Tusser bids the farmer beware of giving his cattle "green peason for breeding of *bots*."

C.

CAB. A dirty mess; a slovenly untidy thing.

CAFF. Refuse.

CAPROUSE. A tumult, row, or noise.

CARE. The mountain ash. *Sorbus aucuparius*.

CATS AND DOGS. The catkins of willow.

CAUDLE. A mess; entanglement.

CAWED. A sheep affected by rot is *cawed*. A.S. (*Vide* ILES).

In Dorset it is a cothed. Barnes (*op. cit.*) quotes the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle: "swilc coth com on mannum:" such a disease came on men.

CHAC. Cheek.

CHALL. The house where kine are housed.

CHAP. A young fellow.

CHEESE. The cake of alternate pounded apple and reed from which the cider is pressed.

CHIBBALS. Young onions.

CHIEN. To germinate. Potatoes in a dark cellar *chien*.

CHITTERLINGS. The small guts.

CHUCK. To choke.

CHUFF. Sulky, sullen.

[11]

CHURCH-HAY. Church-yard.

This word is going out of use, but is often heard in the adage,

"A hot May

Makes a fat church-hay."

The terminal *hay* is the Anglo-Saxon *hæz* or *heze*, a hedge or inclosure.

CHURCH-TOWN. The church village.

CHURER. A charwoman.

CLAM. The starfish.

CLAM, or CLAN. A rude wooden foot-bridge over a stream.

CLIB. To stick, or adhere.

CLIBBY. Sticky, adhesive.

CLICK-PAWED. Left handed. Cornish, *dorn gliken*: *dorn*, hand, *glikken*, left.

CLIDERS. The rough bed-straw. *Galium aparine*.

CLIDGY. A gelatinous, sticky consistence in bread, confectionery, &c.

CLOME. Earthenware.

CLOP. To limp. Corn. *clof*, lame. KLOPPIK, a cripple.

CLOUT. A napkin for infants.

"How soon doth man decay!—

When clothes are taken from a chest of sweets

To swaddle infants, whose young breath

Scarce know the way;

Those *clouts* are little winding-sheets,

Which do consign and send them unto death."—*Herbert*.

CLOUT. To strike.

"'To clout,' or 'to give a clout,'— to strike, to give a blow. The meaning perhaps is,—to strike or hit, as with a *clod* or *clot*, with anything bumpish; or according to the proverb cited in Beaumont and Fletcher, to beat to clouts. We still have the same expression, to beat to pieces." *Richardson's Eng. Dict.*

CLUCL. To crouch, to stoop; *e.g.*, "clucky down."

CLUCK. The sitting *æstrum* in hens.

CLUNK. To swallow.

CLUNKER. The uvula.

CLUSTY. A close, heavy consistence, as in bread, potatoes, &c.

COCKABELL, COCKLEBELLS. Icicle.

COLE and COLEWORT. Cabbage.

COLLYBRAND. Smut in corn.

COIGN. A corner-stone. N.

COMPOSANTS. The meteor Castor and Pollux. Spanish—Cuerpo santo.

CONDIDDLE. To take away clandestinely.

COOMB. A narrow valley.

CORRAT. Pert, impudent, sharp in rejoinder, saucy.

"As corrat as Crocker's mare. *Proverb*."

[12]

CORWICH. The crab, *Maia squinado*.

COWSHERN. Cow dung.

COWSHERNY. Applied to the sea when it assumes an olive green, turbid appearance, as if coloured with cow dung. It is probably owing to the presence of specific animalcules, as *entomostraca*, *medusæ*, &c.

CRABBIT. Crabbed, sharp and contradictory,

CREEEM. To squeeze.

It is metaphorically used to describe that sensation of rigor or creeping of the flesh which is known as *cutis anserina*; e.g., "I felt a creem go over me."

CREEN. To wail, to moan; e.g., "The cheeld hath been creening all day."

CRIB. A crust of bread.

CRIBBAGE-FACED. Lanthorn-jawed, small and pinched in face.

CRICKET. A low stool. A.S., *cric*, a crutch or prop.

CRIM. A morsel, a small quantity of anything.

CROCK. An iron pot. A.S., *crocca*.

CROWDY. To fiddle.

CROW-SHEAF. The terminal sheaf on the gable of a mow.

CRUEL. (Probably slang). It is in common use to qualify almost any noun, and has nothing of the meaning usually conveyed by the English word; e.g., "cruel slow," "cruel hard," meaning, very slow, very hard.

CRUMPED. Bent up, as if from cold.

CRY-OUT. Travail, parturition.

Shakspeare makes King Henry VIII say to Lovell, concerning his discarded Queen Catharine,

"What say'st thou? ha!

To pray for her? What, is she crying out?

Lov. So said her woman; and that her sufferance made
Almost each pang a death."

CUCKOO-SPIT. The froth of the insect *Cicada spumaria*.

CUE. An ox-shoe, being two plates on each division of the hoof, somewhat resembling the letter Q, from whence I suppose it takes its name.

D.

DAPS. Likeness, image. "He is the very daps of his father."

DATCH. Thatch.

DAVERED. Faded, soiled.

DAYBERRY. The wild gooseberry.

DERNS. The wooden frame in which a door hangs.

DISHWASHER. The wagtail.

DISLE. The thistle.

DORYMOUSE. The dormouse.

DOUST. Chaff.

DOWN-DANTED. Cast down, depressed in spirits.

DRANG. A narrow passage. A.S., *thrang*, from *thring-an*, to press, squeeze, or thrust.

DRASH. To thrash.

DRASHEL. The flail.

DRUG. To drag. "To drug the wheel."

Chaucer uses it:—

"And at the gate he profred his servyse

To *drugge* and drawe, what so men wold devyse."

Knights Tale.

DRULE. To drivel.

DUBBUT. Short, dumpy.

E.

EAVER. The grass *Lolium perenne*.

EGLLET. The fruit of the white thorn (*Crategus oxycantha*), haws.

EMMERS. Embers.

EN. This old plural termination, still kept by some English nouns, as ox, oxen; chick, chicken; is retained with us in pea, peasen; house, housen; &c.

ERRISH. Stubble.

Tusser, who was a native of Essex, writes it *edish*.

"Seed first go fetch,

For *edish* or etch.

Soil perfectly know,

Ere *edish* ye sow."

EVE. To become moist.

EVET, or EBBET. The newt.

"May never *evet*, nor the toad,
Within thy banks make their abode."

Browne's Britannia Pastorals.

F.

FAGGOT. A feminine term of reproach. A secret and unworthy compromise.

In wrestling, a man who "sells his back," is said "to faggot."

[14]

FAIRY. A weasel.

FANG, or VANG. To take, collect, handle, or receive. A.S., *feng-an*.

"And Christendam of prestes handes *fonge*."

Chaucer. Man of Lawes Tale.

FARE-NUT. The earth nut (*Bunium flexuosum*).

FELLON. Inflammation.

Culpepper says that the berries of the bitter-sweet (*Solanum dulcamara*), are applied with benefit to *felons*. Vide *Amara dulcis*.

FELLON-HERB. The mouse-ear hawkweed (*Hieracium pilosella*).

Borlase says, wormwood.

FEN-COCK. The water hen (*Rallus aquaticus*).

FETHERBOW. A corruption of *feverfew*. The plant *Pyrethrum parthenium*.

FIT. To prepare or arrange. "Shall I fit a cup of tea for ee?"

FITTY. Fitting, proper.

FLAAD. Puffed with flatulency, as cattle are after a surfeit of green food,

FLAYGERRY. A frolic, a "spree."

FLEM. An instrument for bleeding cattle.

The Armorican word *flem* means a sting.

FOUSE. To soil or crumple.

FREATH, or VREATH. A wattled gap in a hedge.

FUMADE. A pilchard prepared by the process of "balking,"—perhaps formerly smoked.

FURNIGG. To deceive, desert, or fail in a promise. *Quære*, from the Cornish "fadig," a runaway.

G.

GAD. A chisel for splitting laminated rocks.

From the same root as *goad*, hence also gadfly. A.S., *ga*, *gaad*, *goad*.

GADDLE. To drink greedily.

GANGE. To gange a hook, is to arm it and the snood with a fine wire twisted round them, to prevent them being bitten off by the fish.

GAWKY. Stupid, foolish.

C., *gog*, a cuckoo. A.S., *gaec*, *geac*, *gac*, a cuckoo.

GRESE. A girth.

GIGLET. A romping girl.

"Away with those giglets too." *Measure for Measure*.

GLADDY. The yellowhammer.

[15]

GOAD. Land in small quantities is measured by the goad, or staff with which oxen are driven. It represents nine feet, and two goads square is called a yard of ground.

GOODY. To thrive, to fatten.

GORKY. A wicker flasket with four long handles, carried in the mode of a sedan chair.

GRAB. To grasp, seize.

GRAINY. Proud, haughty.

GREET. Earth, soil.

GREET-BOARD. The earth-board of a plough.

GRIZZLE. To grin.

GUFF. Stuff, refuse.

GUMPTION. Sense, shrewdness.

H.

HACK. To dig lightly. "To hack tetties."

HALL-NUT. The hazel.

HAME. A circle of straw rope, a straw horse collar. A hame is used to fasten the fore leg of a sheep to his neck, to prevent him breaking fence.

HARVE. A harrow.

HAUEN. Haven, harbour.

HAVEAGE. Lineage, extraction. "Bad haveage."

HAYRISH. Vide ERRISH.

HAYSING. Poaching.

HEAD AND HENGE. The head, lungs, &c., of sheep, as sold by butchers.

HEDGYBOAR. Hedgehog.

HEKKYMAL. The blue tit (*Parus cæruleus*).

HELLING. Roof.

HELLING STONE. Roofing stone, flat slate.

"His howses were *unhilid*,
And full i yvel dight." *Coke's Tale of Gamelyn*.

HILE. The beard of barley.

HOG. A sheep under twelve months of age.

HOLLIBUBBER. A man who, unattached to the works, makes a living out of the refuse of the quarries. (Delabole).

HOLM. The holly.

HOLM-STRITCH. The missel-thrush.

[16]

HOME. Pronounced hom, near to, nigh to, close. "*Make hom* the door."

Shakspeare has the idiom, though not the word:

"*Make* the door upon a woman's wit and it will out at the casement."

As you like it, A. IV, S. 1.

HOOP. The bullfinch.

Is this a corruption of the Saxon name of this bird, *alpe*?

"In many places nightingales,

And *alpes*, and finches, and wodewales."

HORNYWINK. The lapwing plover.

HORSE. A fault in rock.

HUER. A man on shore who directs the movements of the seiners.

HURTS. Whortleberry.

The *w* is frequently suppressed, as in this instance, and in '*ood*, wood.

I.

ILE. *Distoma hepatica*, a parasitic animal productive of rot in sheep.

INKLE. Tape. "As thick as inkle-weavers."

J.

JAKES. A state of dirty untidiness.

JAM. To squeeze forcibly, to crush.

K.

KENNING. An ulcer on the eye.

"What is called a *kenning*, kerning, or a horny white speck on the eye, we have several old women who profess to cure by a charm. Possibly *kenning* may imply a defect in the *ken*, or sight. The old word *ken* is used for sight in Cornwall as well as in Scotland. I should not omit to state that the application of some plant to the part affected usually accompanies the muttered incantation. In the present case, crowfoot is the plant or herb here yclept 'the *kenning* harb.'"

Polwhele's Traditions and Recollections, vol. ii, p. 607.

KERN. To harden, as corn does after blossoming. A.S.

KIBBLE. A bucket.

KILLICK. A stone set in a frame of wood, used to anchor a boat in rough ground.

KIT. Kith.

KIT. The buzzard (*Buteo vulgaris*).

Perhaps applied to the kite (*Milvus regalis*), before it became so exceedingly rare.

[17]

KNAP. The top, or brow of a hill. A.S.

“Hark on *knap* of yonder hill

Some sweet shepherd tunes his quill.” —*Browne*.

“As you shall see many fine seats set upon a *knap* of ground.”

Bacon's Essays.

KO. An exclamation of entreaty.

L. LAIRY, LEARY. Emptiness, or sinking at the stomach. "A lairy stomach."

LATTIN. Tin.

LAUNDER. A shute running under the eaves of a house.

LAWRENCE. The rural god of Idleness.

“He's as lazy as La'rence.” “One wud think that La'rence had got hold o'n.”

LEASING. Gleaning.

LEAT. A mill-stream.

LERIPPING. Expressive of unusual size. It has the same meaning with the slang term "whopping."

LET. To hinder. A.S.

“Still in common use among the boys at play, as "you let (stopped) my marble.”

LEVERS. The *Iris pseudacorus*. A.S.

From *lyfren*, leaves; thin *laminæ*, very descriptive of the flag or marsh iris.

LEW. Sheltered.

LEWTB. Shelter.

LIDDEN. A monotonous song. A.S.

LIG, or LIGGAN. A species of sea-weed.

Vide Worgan's General View of Agriculture of Cornwall, p. 126.

LINHAY. A shed consisting of a roof resting on a wall at the back, and supported in front by pillars.

LINTERN. A lintel.

LOCUS. Toffy, sugar-stick.

LOITCH. Refuse.

LONGCRIPPLE. A lizard: in some parts applied to the snake.

LOON. The northern diver. *Colymbus glacialis*.

LOUNING. Long, lank, thin.

LUG. The beach worm, *Arenicola*.

LUGG. The undergrowth of weed in a field of corn.

[18]

M.
MALKIN. A mop of rags attached to a long pole, used to sweep out an oven.

Metaphorically, a dirty slut.

MAUR, or MOOR. A root or fastening.

Hence, perhaps, "to moor a vessel." "Maur and mool," a common expression, means "root and mould."

MAY-BIRD. The whimbrel.

MAZZARD. A variety of cherry.

MAZED. Expressive of confused madness: bewildered.

MAZEGERRY. A wild, thoughtless, frolicsome fellow.

MEADER. A mower.

MICHE. To play truant. N.

"To miche, to lurk, with a slight deviation from Fr. *muser*, to idle."

Richardson.

In our old writers the word is used, but means, to pilfer or thief.

"Shall the holy sun prove a micher." — *Shakspeare*.

"The moon in the wane, gather fruit for to last,

But winter-fruit gather when Michel is past;

Though *michers* that love not to buy or to crave,

Make some gather sooner, else few for to have." — *Tusser*.

MILCY. Applied to bread or flour when made from corn which has germinated. The loaf has a sweet taste and thin consistency.

MIMSEY. The minnow.

MOCK. A log of wood

MOT. The Christmas *mock* or *mot* is the yule log.

MOIL. The mule; hybrid between stallion and female ass. *Vide* MUTE.

MOOD. The vegetable sap.

MOR. The guillemot.

MORD. Lard, pig's grease.

MOWHAY. The inclosure where stacks and mows are made.

MUGGETS. The small entrails; chitterlings.

In a MS. Cookery Book, of the time of Queen Elizabeth, in my possession, and probably Cornish, there are directions how "to boyle Calves muggetts."

MULE. To knead or make dough.

In Riley's "Munimenta Gildhallæ Londiniensis," vol. iii, a story is given, in the old Latin, of a roguish baker who used to cheat his customers by having a hole in his table "*quæ vocatur molding borde.*" A.1). 1327.

MULE. To beplaster with mud. "He was muled in mud."

It is the same as *moiled* or *bemoiled*.

"Thou should'st have heard in how miry a place : how she was bemoiled."—

Shakspeare. Taming of the Shrew.

MUTE. The hybrid between the male ass and mare.

[19]

N

NACKER. The wheatear, *Saxicola ænanthe*.

NATEY. Applied to meat when fairly composed of fat and lean.

NATTLINS. The small guts; *gy.* from *C. enederen*.

NEGGUR. The ass.

NESSSELBIRD. 'The smallest of a brood.

NIBBY-GIBBY. Narrowly escaped, nicely missed.

NIDDICK. The occiput or nape of the neck.

NIFF. A slight offence, a "tiff."

NIMPINGALE. A whitlow.

NUTHALL. The hazel, *Corylus avellana*.

O.

OOST. A disease of cattle, a symptom or cause of which is the presence of worms in the windpipe and bronchi.

OREWEED. Seaweed.

Carew calls it *Orewood*, but this is probably one of the misprints of which

his book is so full.

ORREL. A porch or balcony.

The ground apartment of a fisherman's house is often a fish-cellar, and the first floor serves him for kitchen and parlour. The latter is reached by a flight of stone steps ending in an *orrel* or porch. (Polperro).

OVERLOOK. To bewitch, to have under spell, to cast an evil eye on.

"——— Beshrew your eyes

They have o'erlook'd me."

Shakspeare's Merchant of Venice.

OVEES. Eaves of a house.

OZEL. The windpipe.

P.

PALCHED. Patched. An invalid is said to be a *palched* or patched up man.

PALLACE. A cellar for the bulking of pilchards.

This cellar is usually a square building with a pent-house roof, *enclosing an open area* or court. Has our word any connexion with that applied to a regal mansion, which had a *court* (*area circa ædes*), for giving audience?

PANK. To pant.

PEENDY. Tainted, (applied to flesh).

PEIZE. To weigh, to poise.

"I speak too long; but 'tis to *peize* the time,
To eke it, and to draw it out in length."—*Shakspeare*.
"Tho' soft, yet lasting, with just ballance *paized*."

Fletcher's Purple Island.

Norden also uses it, 1584.

PEND. To shut in. In English we retain the participle past, *pent*.

PILLUS. The oat-grass, *Avena*. (*Worgan, op. cit.*)

PILL, PILLEM. Dust.

PIMPEY. The after-cider, made by throwing water on the almost exhausted *cheese*, or mass of alternate apple and straw. It is sometimes called *beverage*, and is only fit for immediate use.

PINNIKIN. Puny.

PLANCHIN. A wooden or *planked* floor.

"And to that vineyard was a *planned* gate."
Shakspeare, Measure for Measure.

PLUFF. Descriptive of that dry and spongy condition which a turnip sometimes assumes.

PLUM. Soft. Dough is said to be plum.

PORTENS. A butcher's term, probably a vitiation of *appurtenance*.

PROUD-FLESH. Exuberant granulations on a wound.

PUKE. A small temporary mow of hay.

C. Poo or *puuk*, a heap.

PUNKIN-END, PUNION-END. The gable end of a house.

PURGY. Thickset, stout and fat.

Q.

QUARREL. A pane of glass. Probably at first a small square of glass. N.

"Some ask'd how pearls did grow, and where;
Then spoke I to my girl
To part her lips, and show me there
The *quarrelets* of pearl."—*Herrick*.

QUAT. To stoop down, as a hare does sometimes when pursued.

QUILTER. To flutter. "I veeled sich a quilting come over my heart."

QUIRTED. Overfilled, stuffed to repletion; applied to pigs when overstuffed with food.

R.

RAFFLE. Refuse; the less saleable fish, which are not sold but divided among the fishermen, are called *raffle* fish.

RAG. A large flat roofing stone.

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RAUNING. Ravening, voracious. A.S. Rauning, hunger.

That voracious fish, *Merlangus Carbonarius*, is called the *rauning* pollock.

REAM. To stretch. A.S., *Ryman*, to extend.

REAM. The rim or surface. A.S.

RIG. Fun, frolic.

RISH, or RUSH. A list.

Our people, instead of "turning over a new leaf," "begin a new rish." I have thought that this may have been derived from a primitive way of keeping a tally, by stringing some sort of counters on a *rush*.

RODE. Skill, aptitude. "He hasn't the *rode* to do it."

Tusser says,

"Not *rode* in mad-brain's hand is that can help,

But gentle skill doth make the proper whelp."

RODELESS. Without rode or skill.

ROW. Rough. Row hound, (*Squalus Canicula*). Rowtor.

RUD. Red.

S.

SABBY. Soft, moist, plashy.

SAM, or ZAM. Half or imperfectly done.

The Salamanca Corpus: "A List of Obsolete Words....East Cornwall" (1864)

"A zam oven," is one half heated. "Zam-zodden," means half sodden, or parboiled. To leave the door "a-zam," is to half close it.

SANG. A small sheaf, such as *leasers* (gleaners) make.

SCAT. To split or burst. Metaphorically, to bankrupt.

SCHOOL, SCULE. A.S., *scyl-an*, to divide. A body of fish, &c.

Probably a division or portion of the main body. Carew spells it *schoels*.

SCLUM. To scratch.

SCOAD. To scatter, to spill. "To scoad dressing" (manure).

SCONCE. Brains, wit.

SCOVEY. Spotted, mottled.

SCREW. The field mouse.

SCRITCH. A crutch.

SCUD. The hardened crust on a sore.

SCUDDER. To slide.

SCUTE. An iron with which the toe and heel of a shoe are armed.

Fr., *escusson* ; L., *scutum* ; a shield.

SEAM, or ZEAM. A load of hay, manure, &c.

It means with us no definite quantity, but is applied to a cart load, waggon load, &c.

Tusser, in speaking of the good crops of barley which he raised when at Brantham, says,

"Five *seam* of an acre I truly was paid."

Again he says,

"Th' encrease of a seam is a bushel for store."

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SEEDLIP. The wooden basket in which the sower carries his seed.

SHAMMICK. A contemptuous epithet.

SHIVER. A bar of a gate.

SHOAL. Shallow.

SHOT. The Trout.

Carew makes a distinction between the Trout and Shot. The latter, he says, is "in a maner peculiar to Deuon and Cornwall. In shape and colour he resembleth the Trowt: howbeit in biggnesse and goodnesse commeth farre behind him."

"The Shoates with which is Tavy fraught."—*Browne, Brit. Past.*

SHOUELL. A Shovel.

"Shouell, pickax, and mattock, with bottle and bag."—*Tusser,*

SIVES. A small pot-herb of the alliaceous kind.

SKEENY. Sharp and gusty. "A skeeny wind."

SKEW. A driving mist.

SKIT. A lampoon. A.S., *Scytan*, to throw out.

SKIVER. A skewer.

SLADDOCKS. A short cleaver used by masons for splitting and shaping slate. Probably a corruption of *slate-axe*.

SLAT. Slate.

SLEW. To twist or turn.

SLIP. A young pig.

SLOAN. The sloe, (*Prunus spinosa*).

"The meagre *sloan*."—*Browne's Brit. Past.*

SLOCK. To entice.

SLOTTER. To draggel in the dirt.

From the same root as slattern.

SOCE. An exclamation. Corn., *Sûas*, O strange! Arm., *Sioas*, alas !

SOGG, OR ZOGG. To dose or sleep interruptedly.

SOUND, OR ZOUND. To swoon, to go into a fit.

"Did your brother tell you," says Rosalind, "how I counterfeited to *sound* when he showed me your handkerchief?"—*As you like it.*

SOWL. To soil, to serve roughly.

SPARROW. A double wooden skewer used in thatching.

SPELL. A turn of work.

SPISE. To exude.

SPLAT. A spot.

SPLATTY. Spotty.

"I've lost my splatty cow."—*Old Song*.

SPUDDER. Bother. "I don't want to ha' no *spudder* about it." (Luxulyan).

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SPUKE. An iron roller put into the snout of a pig to prevent his grubbing

SQUAT. To squeeze flat.

STEAN. A pot or urn-shaped vessel.

STEER. A young bullock.

STEMMING, OR STEM. A turn in rotation. A person is said to take his *stemming*, or *stem*, when he is in turn.

STOGG. To stick in anything tenacious.

STOUND. A paroxysm or fit.

STRAT. To abort. "To strat voal."

STRAW-MOT. A straw.

STRIKE. Used in the sense of "to anoint"; e.g., *to strike* a part with ointment.

STROIL. Weed, especially the couch-grass (*Triticum repens*).

STRUB. To rob, or despoil. "To strub a bird's nest."

STUB. To grub. "Stubbing vuz."

"*Stub* roots so tough

For breaking of plough."—*Tusser*.

STUFFLE. To stifle.

STUGGY. Stout, thickset.

SUENT. Smooth, equable, even.

SWAIL, OR ZWAIL. To scorch or singe.

SWOP. To barter.

T.

TAB. A turf.

TALLET. A loft.

TAIL. To till or set. "To tail corn," or to tail a trap."

TAM. Short, dwarf. "Tam vuz," short furze.

TANG. An abiding taste.

TAP. The sole of a shoe.

TEEN. To close. "I haven't teen'd my eye."

TELL. To count or enumerate.

"Why should he think I *tell* my apricots."

B. Jonson.—Every Man in his humour.

"And every shepherd *tells* his tale

Under the hawthorn in the dale."—*Milton,*

TEND. To kindle, to set a light to. A.S., *Tend-an.*

"Wash your hands, or else the fire
Will not *tend* to your desire."—*Herrick.*

THIRL. Thin, lean, in bad condition.

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THO. Then.

In common use among the older poets, *e.g.,*

"And to the ladies he restored agayn

The bodies of hir housbondes that were slain,

To don the obsequies, as was *tho* the gise."

Chaucer.—Knights Tale.

TIDDLYWINK, sometimes KIDDYWINK. A small inn, only licensed to sell beer and cider.

TIDDY. The breast, or teat; sometimes the milk.

TINE. A tooth of a harrow.

Qy. From *dyns*, teeth, C.

TINK. The chaffinch.

TOM-HORRY. A sea bird. The common name of two or three species of Skua.

TOWN, or TOWN-PLACE. Applied to the smallest hamlet, and even to a farm yard. Here is an instance of the retention of the primitive use of a word. The town or town-place (farm or homestead inclosure) is derived from A.S., *ty nan*, to inclose, "denoting in its primary sense," says Sir F. Palgrave, "the inclosure which

surrounded the mere dwelling or homestead of the lord." *English Commonwealth*, p. 65.

TRADE. Stuff, material. "Doctors' trade." (Physic).

TRAIN-OIL. Expressed fish-oil.

TRAAPSE. To walk slovenly.

TRIG. To set up, to support. "To trig the wheel." "To put a trig on a shoe."

TROLL-FOOT. Clubfoot.

TRONE. The depression between furrows.

U.

UNLUSTY. Unwieldy.

V.

VADY. Damp.

VAMP. A short stocking. The foot of a stocking.

VEAK. A whitlow.

VINNIED. Mouldy.

Fynig, the past participle of *Fynig-ean*, to spoil, corrupt, decay.

VISGY. A mattock.

VOACH. To tread upon heavily.

VOGGET. To hop.

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W.

WAD. A bundle; a wad of straw.

"Joan the wad" is the name of a *pisky*.

"Jack the lantern, Joan the wad,

That tickled the maid and made her mad,

Light me home, the weather's bad." (Polperro.)

WADGE. To bet, or lay a wager.

WALVE. To wallow.

WANT. The mole.

WATTY. A name for the hare, in use among poachers.

Shakspeare, in a beautiful description of the hare and its many shifts to elude pursuit, uses the abbreviation, *Wat*.

“By this poor *Wat*, far off upon a hill
Stands on his hinder legs with listening ear.”

Venus and Adonis.

WELL-A-FINE. A common exclamation meaning “It's all very well.”

“Wel and fyn.”—*Chaucer.*

WETTEL. A child's clout.

Can this be a corruption of *swaddle*?

WHIT-NECK. The weasel.

WHOLE. To heal. A.S., *Hal-ian*.

WILKY. A toad or frog. C., *Kuilken* or *quill-quin*.

WINNARD. The redwing (*Merula Iliaca*.)

WINNICK. To cheat, to circumvent.

WISHT. Melancholy, forlorn.

This word is so expressive that we have no English synonym to show its meaning. Browne, a Devonshire man, uses it in his *Britannia Pastorals*:-

“His late *wisht* had-I-wists, remorseful bitings.”

In Latimer's Sermons it is apparently used as a noun:—

“And when they perceived that Solomon, by the advice of his father, was anointed king, by and by there was all *whisht*, all their good cheer was done.”—*Parker's Edit.*, p. 115.

WOODWALL. The Woodpecker.

Some doubt exists as to the bird originally designated the Woodwall. With *us* it is undoubtedly the Green Woodpecker. In the glossaries commonly appended to Chaucer's works, it is said to mean the Golden Oriole. The Greenfinch has also been set down as the bird intended.

“The *Woodwele* sung and would not cease

Sitting upon the spraye

So loud he waken'd Robin Hood

In the greenwood where he lay."—*Robin Hood*. (Ritson).

"In many places Nightingales,

And Alpes, and Finches, and Wodewales."—*Rom. of the Rose*.

The note of the Green Woodpecker is a hoarse laugh rather than a *song*. The extreme rarity of the Golden Oriole is conclusive against

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its being the bird intended. The Greenfinch has been suggested, but its song is hardly loud enough to have stirred the slumbers of the freebooter. Although the voice of the former can scarcely by any poetic licence be called song, I incline to think it the bird meant. Yarrell (Vol. II, p. 137,) gives some interesting information on the etymology of the word. "Brockett, in his Glossary of North-Country Words, considers it derived from the Saxon '*Whytel*,' a knife. In Yorkshire, and in North America, a whit tle is a clasp knife, and to w hittle is to cut or hack wood; the origin and the meaning of the Woodpecker's name are therefore sufficiently obvious; whytel, whittle, whetele, woodhacker," &c.

WORNAL. The lump produced by the larva of the gad-fly in the skin of cattle.

WRINKLE. Periwinkle.

Y.

YAP. To yelp.

YEWL. A three-pronged agricultural tool for turning manure.

YOCK. Filth, the greasy impurity of wool.