

The Salamanca Corpus: "Introduction" *History of the County Palatine and City of Cheshire* (1816)

Author: George Ormerod (1785-1873)

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Produced by María F. García-Bermejo Giner

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The DIALECT of the lower orders would afford an interesting and extensive field for discussion, if the variations

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were conceived to be purely Cheshire, but this is by no means the case. It closely resembles that of the southern Hundreds of Lancashire, excepting that it is marked towards the centre of Cheshire, by a broader and heavier drawl, and has certainly fewer of original words of clear northern etymology than the dialect provincially used in the county above mentioned. The same dialect is spoken, with little variation, in the Staffordshire confines, but the tone is much sharper in the neighbourhood of Chester and Wales. On the whole there can be little doubt of its proceeding from a common source with that of the "Terra infra Ripam et Mersam," and its reputed vulgarisms may be as safely asserted to be archaisms. This subject has lately received an able illustration from the pen of a native antiquary^y, in the 19th volume of the *Archaeologia*, and those who wish to investigate the subject further will do well to refer to the second volume of Mr Whitaker's *Manchester*, 4th edit. the singular work of Collier, and the introduction to the third edition of Dr. Whitaker's *Whalley*, and his *Glossary to Piers Plowman*.

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^y Roger Wilbraham, esq. F. R. S. and S. A. The whimsical work of Collier on the Lancashire dialect is well known, and would apply equally to that of Cheshire, excepting that it is not so rich in peculiar words, as mentioned above. In the last edition of the *Hist. of Whalley*, p. 36, Dr. Whitaker observes that the change in dialect takes place after crossing the Ribble, and consequently north of the Mersey, and argues from this circumstance among others that the land between the rivers was included in the territories of Mercia, and that the Ribble and not the Mersey was the boundary of that kingdom and Northumbria. See edit. 1818, pp. 36, 37.