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OBSERVATIONS
ON
SOME OF THE DIALECTS
IN
THE WEST OF ENGLAND.
PARTICULARLY
SOMERSETSHIRE;
WITH
A GLOSSARY OF WORDS
NOW IN USE THERE;
AND
POEMS AND OTHER PIECES
EXEMPLIFYING THE DIALECT.

By JAMES JENNINGS,
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INSTITUTION, LONDON.

“Goo little Reed!

“Afora tha vawk, an vor me plead:

“Thy wild nawtes, ma-be, tha ool hire

“Zooner than zater vrom a lare.

“Za that thy Maester’s pleas’d ta blaw’em,

“An haups in time tha’ll come ta know ‘em

“An nif za be tha’ll please ta hear,

“A’ll gee zum moor another year.”—*The Farewell*.

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1825.

[NP]

T. C. Hansard, Pater-noster-row Press.

[NP]

TO
THA DWELLERS O' THA WEST.

THA Fruit o' longvul labour, years,
In theäze veo leaves at last appears.
Ta YOU, tha DWELLERS o' tha WEST,
I'm pleas'd that tha shood be adrest:
Vor thaw I now in Lunnun dwell,
I mine ye still—I love ye well;
And niver, niver shall vorget
I vust draw'd breath in *Zummerzet*;
Amangst ye liv'd, and left ye zorry,
As you'll knaw when you hire my storry.
Theäze little BOOK than take o' ME;
'Tis äll I hâ just now ta gee.

An when you rade o' *Tommy Gool*,
Or *Tommy Came*, or *Pal* at school,
Or *Mr. Guy*, or *Fanny Fear*, —
(I think you'll shod vor her a tear)
Tha Rookery, or *Mary's Crutch*,
Tha cap o' which I love ta touch,
You'll vine that I do not vorget
My natal swile —dear *Zummerzet*.

JAS. JENNINGS.

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THE utility of works similar to the present is too generally admitted to require any apology for their publication. There is, notwithstanding, in their very nature, a dryness which requires relief: the Author trusts, therefore, that, in blending something of the imaginative with the details of philological precision, his work will not be found wholly destitute of that amusement which must necessarily make it more acceptable to the general reader.

The Glossary contains the fruit of years of un- wearied attention to the subject; and the work, altogether, will, it is hoped, be of some utility in elucidating our older writers, in affording occasional helps to the etymology of the Anglo-Saxon portion of our language, and also in exhibiting a view of the present state of an important dialect of the Western provinces of England.

A late excursion through the West has, however, induced the Author to believe that some valuable information may yet remain to be gathered from our Anglo-Saxon dialect—more especially from that part of it still used by the common people and the yeomanry.

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Under this impression, he respectfully solicits communications from those who feel an interest in this department of our literature; and should it be the good fortune of this little work to reach a second edition, he hopes that it may be, by such communications, materially improved.

To a *native* of the West of England this volume will be found, the Author believes and trusts, and agreeable and convenient vade-mecum of reference, and assist the reminiscence of well-known, although, perhaps, too often unnoted peculiarities and words, which are fast receding from the polish of elegance, and the refinement of literature.

In regard to the *Poetical Pieces*, it may be mentioned that most of them are founded on *West Country Stories*, the incidents in which actually occurred; they will not, therefore, on this account, be the less acceptable. If some of the subjects should be though trifling, it will not, it is hoped, be forgotten that the primary object has been, to exemplify the Dialect, and that the common subjects offered the most ready, and, indeed, the best means of effectuating such an object. Of such Poems as *Good Bwye ta thee Cot*; *the*

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Rookery; and *Mary Ramsey's Crutch*, it may be observed, that had the Author felt less
he might, perhaps, have written better.

Metropolitan Library Institution, London,

March 25, 1825.

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The Author's anxiety to render his work as complete as possible, has prompted him to make the following ADDITIONS and CORRECTIONS: the reader is, therefore, respectfully requested to peruse these before he proceeds to the OBSERVATIONS, &c. They are placed before the work itself from an apprehension that, if added as a Supplement, they might not insure that notice which it is desirable they should obtain.

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ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

In addition to what has been said concerning the dialects of the West, in the *Observations*, &c. it may be noted here that the diphthong *oi*, is often pronounced like *wi*. Thus for *spoil*, we have *spwile*; for *boil*, *bwile*; for *point*, *pwint*; for *poison*, *pwison*; for *soil*, *swile*, &c.

The *d* is generally omitted in the conjunction *and*: as, *you an I*.

The *g*, in the present participle, is also silent. Thus, instead of *loving*, we have *lovin*; for *hearing*, *hearin* or *hirin*; for *singing*, *zingin*, &c. And, generally, all words of two or more syllables, ending in our polished dialect in *ing*, have the *g* omitted in the Somersetshire pronunciation. Thus, *lightning*, is *lightnin*; *groaning*, *groanin*; *gosling*, *gozlin*, &c. &c.

Again. *prep.* Against.

To Auverdro'. *v. a.* To overthrow.

Bad. *adv.* Badly.

Bag'inet. *s.* A bayonet.

Bal'let, *s.* A ballad.

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Ban'nut. *s.* A walnut. Not generally used; only in the Northern parts of the County.

Bee'äs. *s. pl.* [Beasts.] Cattle. Only applied to the *ox* tribe, never to sheep.

For *Be'edy*, read *Bee'dy*. See the GLOSSARY.

Bisky. *s.* A biscuit.

It would be scarcely worth while to notice this difference in the word *biscuit* (twice baked), were it not that its pronunciation approaches nearly to the sound given by the French to *cuit*, the latter portion of the word—the *t* being entirely omitted in the Somersetshire delivery.

Blath'er. *s.* A bladder.

To Blath'er. *v. n.* To talk fast and in consequence, generally nonsensically; *to talk so fast that bladders form at the mouth.*

Boar. *s.* That peculiar head or first flowing of the water from one to two or more feet in height at spring tides, seen in the River Parret; for a few miles below, and also at Bridgewater, and which is seen also in some other rivers.

This word is in *Todd's Johnson* and there spelled *bore*. I prefer the above orthography, because I believe that the word is derived from *boar*, the animal so called, in consequence of the noise, rushing, and impetuosity of the Water. Mr. Todd's definition, notwithstanding the authority of Mr. *Burke*, is not applicable to the boar to be seen in the River Parret. With this phenomenon I have been familiar from my childhood.

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It is curious to contemplate the different opinions of writers on this world, and on the causes of the phenomenon itself. It appears, however, by ST. PIERRE, (*Euvres, Tome VI. Page 234, Hamburgh Edit. 1797*), that the phenomenon is not exactly the same in the *Seine* as in the *Parret*.

“Cette montagne d'eau est produite par les mares qui entrent de la mer dans la Seine et la font refluer centre son cours. On l'entend venir de fort loin, surtout la nuit. On l'appelle la *Barre*, parce qu'elle harre le cours de la Seine. Cette Barre est ordinairement suivie d'une seconde barre, encore plus elevée, qui la suit á cent toises de distance. Elles courent beaucoup plus vîte que'un cheval au gallop.”

St. Pierre's etymology of the word appears to me extremely fanciful. "It is called *Bar*" says he, "because it *bars* the current of the Seine !" Since the above was written, I have referred to the *Encyclopædia Metropolitana*, article *Bore*, and there the Editor does not seem to be more fortunate in his definition Or derivation than his predecessors.

Bob'bish. *adj.* In spirits and health.

Pirty bobbish, pretty well.

Under Bran [See the GLOSSARY] for *pice*, read *piece*.

Bruckle. *a.* [See the GLOSSARY] " My things are but in a *bruckle* state".— .WAVERLY, Vol II, page 328, Edit. 1821.

To Buck *v. n.* To swell out.

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Cass'n. Canst not: as; *Thee cass'n do it*, thou canst not do it.

Cass'n't.

It may be as well to observe here what ought, indeed, to have been mentioned in the Observations on the Dialects, that *thee*, as, the nominative for *thou*, is in very general use in the West; and although *thou* is occasionally heard, it is by no means so common as its brother pronoun *thee*.

Catch-comer, *s.* An amusement correctly designated by its title.

Cla'vy. *s.* [See the GLOSSARY.]

The term *clavy* was, most probably, given to that piece of wood, or other material, which is usually laid over the front of the fire-place, because, in most houses of any consideration, even country farm-houses, the keys were formerly, and, indeed, now are very often, suspended on pins or nails driven into it: hence from *clavis*, Latin, a key, is derived the term *clavy* — the place where the keys are hung.

Cla'vy-piece. *s.* A mantel-piece.

Cla'vy-tack. *s.* The shelf over the mantel-piece.

To Collo'gue. *v. n.* To associate in order to effectuate some improper purpose. Thieves collogue together in order to carry on their depredations effectually.

"But it was hardly possible two such * * rascals should *collogue* together without mischief to honest people".—*Novels and Tales*,

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by the Author of *Waverly*, Vol. VIII, *Rob Roy*, Edit. 1821, page 319.

Collo'gin. *s.* [*g hard*] An association for accomplishing some improper purpose.

This and the preceding word are in *Todd's Johnson*; but there, it is evident, the definition is incorrect.

Colt-ale. *s.* Literally, ale given by a person who enters upon any new office or employment, to those already in it; but, generally, money paid to be spent in liquor for such purpose. Sometimes called *Footing*: this meaning of *footing* ought to be, I think, in *Todd's Johnson*.

Coop. *interj.* A word used, very generally, to attract fowls in order that they may be fed.

To Cork. *v. a.* To make a horse's shoe so that when passing on ice, or on a frozen road, he will not slip.

Craup. *preterite* of To creep.

Cubby-hole. *s.* A snug, confined place.

Cute. *adj.* Sharp, clever.

Dang, *interj.* This word is always followed by some noun or pronoun, as *dang it*, *dang'em*; sometimes it is preceded by *od*, as *od dang it*.

It was formerly a kind of imprecation, implying *God hang it*; but the present meaning of *dang* or rather *dang it*, is little more than expletive; it is rarely, if ever, used in a bad sense.

For *Dawzin* read *Daw'zin* [See the GLOSSARY.]

Ray, in his *Catalogus Plantarum Angliæ*,

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&c. article *Corylus*, thus speaks of the Divining Rod. “Vulgus metallicorum ad virgulam divinam, ut vocant, quâ venas metallorum inquirat, præ cæteris furcam eligit columnam”. —

And he adds, “Qui de virgula divinatoria plura velit, adeat J. Bauhinum”. The curious, therefore, in this affair may, if they please, consult JOHN BAUHIN, for whose lucubrations on this subject, I confess that I have no particular predilection.

Dig'ence. *s.* [*g hard*] The evil one; the devil.

In some modern publication, which I have lately seen, this word is spelled

Dickens; why I do not know.

Dow'sty. *adj.* Dusty.

For *Drin'get*, read *Dring'et*. [See the GLOSSARY.]

Duck-an-Mallard. *s.* The play of throwing slates or other flat stones upon the water, so that they may rise several time after striking the surface before they sink; Duck and Drake.

Hen pen

Duck-an-Mallard

Amen

Dwon't. Do not.

Eese. *adv.* Yes.

Eet. *adv.* Yet. *See It.*

Fooäse. *s.* Force. *See Vooäse.*

To Fooäse. *v. a.* To force.

Foo'ty. *adj.* Insignificant; paltry; of no importance.

Fout. *preterite* of To fight.

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To Frunt. *v. a.* To affront.

Fur'nis. *s.* A large vessel or boiler, used for brewing, and other purposes. It is always fixed with bricks and mortar, and surrounded with flues, for the circulation of the heat and exit of the smoke.

Gaern. *s.* A garden.

Gal'lise. *s.* The gallows.

Gifts. *s. pl.* The white spots frequently seen on the finger nails.

For *Gilaw'fer*, read *Gil'awfer*. *See the GLOSSARY.*

Girt, *adj.* Great.

Goose-cap. *s.* A silly person.

To Gree. *v. n.* To agree.

Hang-gallise. *adj.* Deserving the gallows, felonious, vile: *as a hang-gallise fellow.*

Ha'ty-tay'ty. } *s.* [Derived, most probably, from *height*, and *tite weight* :

Highy-tity. *see tite in the GLOSSARY.*]

A board or pole, resting, in the middle only, on some elevated place and

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balanced so that two persons, one sitting on each end, may move up and down alternately by striking the ground with the feet. It is sometimes called simply a *Tayty*.

Herd. *s.* A keeper of cattle.

Het. *pron.* See the GLOSSARY.

Although I have not used this form of the pronoun *it* in any of the pieces exemplifying the dialect, it is nevertheless occasionally, indeed *I may say often*, heard among agricultural labourers.

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That it was thus formerly used we have the authority of *Sir John Fortescue*, a judge in the reign of Henry VI. — “Hyt may, peradventure, be marvelid by some men.”— *Difference between an absolute and limited Monarchy*. Chap. II.

Hiz'en. *sing.* and *plur. pron.* Used for his when not followed by a substantive: as whose house is that? *Hizen*.

Hi'zy Pri'zy. A corruption of *Nisi Prius*, the name of a well known law assize.

Under Hollardy [See the GLOSSARY] for *Holliday*, read *Holiday*.

Home-screech. [See the GLOSSARY.] For *eviscivorus*, read *viscivorus*.

Howsomiver. *adv.* However; howsoever.

Under *Ise* [See the GLOSSARY] add *West of the Parret*.

Ist. [*i* long] *s.* East.

Istard. *adv.* [*i* long] Eastward.

It. *adv.* Yet. It is very remarkable that two distinct sounds of this adverb prevails: *it* and *eet*: see N'EET.

Jif'fey. *s.* A short time; an instant.

Keep. *s.* A basket: applied only to large baskets, never to a small one.

Kirsmas. *s.* Christmas.

To Kirsén. *v. a.* To christen.

The two preceding words are exemplifications of the change of place of certain letters

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particularly the *r*, as mentioned in the *Observations*: these are, however, clearly *corruptions*.

Knack-kneed. *adj.* In-kneed; having the knees so grown that they strike against each

other.

Lât. *s.* A lath.

To Leath'er. *v. a.* To beat.

List. } *s.* The strip or border on woollen cloth, which, when taken off,

Lis'tin.} is used for various purposes.

Lis'tin. *adj.* Made of list.

Littlest. *adj.* Least.

Lock-a-daisy. *interj.* Of surprise, or of pleasure.

To Lose Leather. To be galled on the nates by riding.

Lowance. *s.* Allowance; portion.

Mad'am. *s.* This word, fully accented (not as *ma'am*), is applied very generally to the more respectable classes of society: as *Madam Greenwood, Madam Saunders, &c.* See *Dame*, in the GLOSSARY.

Man'der. *s.* A corruption, probably, of the word *manner*; but used only in the sense of *sort* or *kind*: as *âll mander o' thengs*; all sorts of things. Mander is sometimes used as a kind of plural; *âll mander* means all kinds; a great, variety: as, *Ducks an Geese an âll mander*.

To Maw. *v. a.* To mow.

May. *s.* The blossom of the white thorn.

May-fool. *s.* The same character as is designated by *April-fool* in other parts of the kingdom.

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Na'atal. *adj.* Natural.

Na'atally. *adv.* Naturally.

N'eet.} *adv.* Nor yet.

N'it.}

Nor'ra one. Never a one.

Nor'ry one

Nor'ad. *adv.* Northward.

Not'tamy. *s.* Corrupted from *anatomy* but it means very often, that state of the living body implied by the terms *mere skin and bone*.

Obstrop'ilous. *adj.* Obstinate resisting.

Od-rot-it. *interj.* A vulgar imprecation.

Ods-bobs. *interj.* Implying surprise.

Ont. Of it. *I a done ont; I a done o't; I have done of it.*

O't.

Or'chit. *s.* An orchard.

Ornd. *part.* Ordained, fated.

Or'ra one. Any one; ever a one.

Or'ry one.

Pack-an-Penny-Day. *s.* The last day of a fair, when bargains are usually sold.

To Par'get. *v. a.* To plaster the inside of chimney with a mortar made cow dung and lime.

Pick. *s.* A two-pronged fork, used chiefly for making hay; a pike or pitch-fork.

Portmantle. *s.* A portmanteau.

Pot'icary. *s.* An apothecary.

To Rough. *v. a.* To roughen; particularly a horse's shoes, so that he may not slip in frosty weather.

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Rozim. *s.* Rosin.

Rum. *s.* Room, space.

Sâ'cer-eyes. Very large and prominent eyed.

Sar'ment. *s.* A sermon.

Sar'tin. *adj.* Certain.

Sar'tinly. *adv.* Certaiiily.

Scissis-sheer. *s.* A scissar's-sheath.

Scol'lop. *s.* An indentation; a notch; a collop.

To Scol'lop. *v. a.* To indent; to notch.

To Shod. *v. a.* To shed; to spill.

Showl. *s.* A shovel.

To Showl. *v. a.* To shovel.

Sizes. *s. pl.* The assizes.

Snip'py. *adj.* Mean, parsimonious.

Spawl. *s.* A chip from a stone.

Stad'dle. *s.* The wooden frame or logs, &c. with stones or other support, on which ricks of corn are usually elevated.

To Stoor. *v. a.* and *v. n.* To stir.

To Squitter. *v. n.* To squirt.

Suth'ard. *adv.* Southward.

Tan. *adv.* Then. *Now an tan*; now and then.

Theäze. *pron.* This.

Them'my. *pron.* Those.

Trim. *v. a.* To beat.

Tur'mit. *s.* A turnip.

Tur'ney. *s.* An attorney.

Vist. *s.* [*i* long] The first.

Vice.

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Vlan'nin. *s.* Flannel.

Vooäse. *s.* Force.

To Vooäse. *v. a.* To Force.

Vor'ad. *adv.* and *adj.* Forward.

Vust. *adj.* First.

Walnut. *s.* A large variety of the walnut, sometimes called the *double* walnut. The common kinds of walnuts are called French-nuts. See *French-nut*, in the GLOSSARY.

Whir'ra. The same as WORRA, which see. It is most probable that this word, as well as *worra*, is derived from the verb to *whir*, to turn round rapidly with noise.

Yack'er. *s.* An acre.

Yal'ler. *adj.* Yellow.

Yap'ern. *s.* An apron.

Yes. *s.* [See the GLOSSARY.] *Tha vust bird, tha vust yes*, first come first served is a common proverb.

Yez y. *adj.* Easy.

Zitch. *adj.* Such.

Zooäp. *s.* Soap.

Zoon'ner. *adv.* Rather.

Since this work has been in the press, my attention has been directed to a Paper of General VALLANCEY, in the second volume of the *Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy*, which was read before that Society, Dec. 27, 1788. By this paper it appears, that a colony of English soldiers settled in the *Baronies of Forth and Bargie*,

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in the county of Wexford, in Ireland, in the years, 1168, and 1169; and that this colony have preserved their ancient manners, customs, and language, to the present time [1788]. To the account of General Vallancey is added a *Vocabulary* of their language, and a *song* which has it is said, been handed down by tradition from the arrival of the colony in Ireland, now more than six hundred years since. A few observations on these curiosities will be conceded to me.

I think there can be no question that the Irish colonists were from the West of England, and most probably from *Somersetshire*, but of what part is not so easily determined: perhaps from different parts of the county, and from the apparent admixture of dialects, evident in the *vocabulary* and the *song*, this I should suspect to be the case. But, from whatever part they came, that their language, as given us by General Vallancey, is very much altered from the Anglo-Saxon of Somersetshire is certain.

The words *nouth*, knoweth; *zin*, sun; *vrast*, frost; *die*, day; *Zathardie*, Saturday; *Zindei*, Sunday, and a few others, indicate an origin West of the Parret. There are, however, many words which with a trifling alteration in the orthography, would suit, at the present time, the north-eastern portion of the county; such are *blauther*, bladder;

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brekvast, breakfast; *crvust*, crust; *smill*; smell; *skir*, to rise in the air [I give the definition

of these words as I find them in the vocabulary. See *Skeer* in the GLOSSARY]; *vier*, fire; *vier*, a weasel; *zar*, to serve; *zitch*, such, &c. From such words as *ch'am* and *ch'ull*, the southern part of the county is clearly indicated.

There are, however, many words in this vocabulary of which I have no knowledge, and of their origin or meaning cannot, of course, speak. But, I think, the disposition to elision and constriction is as evident here as it is at the present time in Somersetshire, and making allowance for difference of apprehension or of opinion in

the conveyance of sounds, many of them may be explained without a great departure from correct etymology.

Of the *song*, I cannot avoid expressing my suspicion, that it must have undergone considerable change since its first introduction by the early colonists. *Louthee* is evidently derived from *lervth* [See the GLOSSARY, article *lervth*]; *lervthy* will be, of course, abounding with *lervth*—equivalent to *sheltered*.

The line

“*At by mizluck was I pit t’ drive in.*”

Would in the present Somerset dialect thus stand,

That by misluck war a put ta dreav.

That by misluck was placed to drive in.

[xxiii]

In the line

“*Chote well ar aim was t’ yie ouz n’ eer a blowe.*”

the word that *chote* is, I suspect, compounded of ‘ch’ [*icke*] and *know*, implying *I knew*, or rather *I know’d*, or *knowt*.*

Then modern English of the line will then be,

I knew well their aim was to give us ne’er a blow.

I suspect *zitchel* is compounded of *zitch*, such, and the auxiliary verb *will*. *I viewe ame*, is *a veo o’ m*; that is *a few of them*. *Emotchee*, is *emmety*, that is, abounding with ants. *Moulten away*, is melting away.

Thást ee paid it, thee’st a paid it; thou hast paid it.

In the *English translation* which accompanies

* The following line is from an amatory poem, written, it is conjectured, in or about the reign of Henry II. during which the colony of the English was established in the county of Wexford.

“*Ichot from heuene it is me sent.*”

In TODD’S JOHNSON, *History of the English Language*, page liii. it is thus translated—

“I wot (believe) it is sent me from heaven.”

To an admirer of our Anglo-Saxon all the lines, twelve in number, quoted by Mr. Todd with the above, will be found a rich treat: want of space only prevents my giving them

here.

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the original *song* in *General Vallancey's* paper, some of the words are I think, beyond controversy misinterpreted, but I have neither room nor inclination to go critically through it. All I desire should be inferred from these remarks is, that, although this *Anglo-Saxon* curiosity is well worthy the attention of those who take an interest in our early literature, we must be careful not to assume that it is a pure specimen of the language of the period to which, and of the people to whom, it is said to relate.

Postscript.—The demonstrative pronouns, and their use in the Somerset dialect, are deserving some attention. *Theäze*, this; *theäzam*, *theäzamy*, these; *thic*, that [West of the Parret, *thecky*]; *them*, *themmy*, those. But such is the disposition for pleonasm in the use of all these pronouns, that they are, very often indeed, used with the adverb *there*. As *theäze here*, *thic there* [West of the Parret *thecky there*], *theäzam here*, *theäzamy here*; *them there*; *themmy there*.

[NP]

OBSERVATIONS
ON
SOME OF THE DIALECTS
IN
THE WEST OF ENGLAND,
PARTICULARLY
SOMERSETSHIRE.

[NP]

OBSERVATIONS, &c.

THE district which the following Glossary is designed to include, embraces the whole of the county of Somerset *east* of the river Parret, as well indeed as parts of Wiltshire and Gloucestershire; many of the words being common to all these counties. In the district

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west of the river Parret, the pronunciation and many of the words are very different indeed, so as to designate strongly the people who use them. The chief peculiarity, however, of the district west of the Parret, consists in their terminating, in the present tense of the indicative mood, all the third persons singular of the verbs in *th* or *eth*; thus, instead of he loves, he reads, he sees, it rains, &c. they uniformly say, *he lov'th, he read'th, he zee'th, it rain'th, &c.* There is also some variation in some of the pronouns; thus they have *Ise* for I, and *Er* for he. The peculiarities and contractions of this dialect are, to a stranger, not a little puzzling. Thus, *her* is very frequently indeed used for she. *Har'th a doo'd*

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it, is, she has done it. This dialect pervades, not only the more western parts of Somersetshire, but also the whole of Devonshire. However, it is not my intention to enter further into this subject here. I shall occasionally note in the glossary such words as are distinguishingly characteristic of it.

Two of the most remarkable peculiarities in the language of the West of England, and particularly of a large portion of Somersetshire, are the sounds given to the letters *A* and *E*. *A* has, almost universally, the sound given to it as in the word *father*: in the words *bâll, tâll, câll, &c.* it is thus pronounced. The *E* has most commonly the same sound as the French give to this letter, which is, in fact, the slender sound of the *A* as heard in *pane, cane, fane, &c.*

It is a curious fact, and well deserves observation, that the sound given in our polished dialect to the letters *th*, expressed by the Anglo-Saxon *þ* is frequently converted in the western dialects into the sound universally given in England to the letter *d*. Thus for *thread*, we have *dread* or *dird*; for *through*, *droo*; for *thrash* and its compounds, *drash*; for *throng*, *drong*, or rather *drang*; for *thrusk*, *dirsh*, &c.

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The slender sound given to *th* in our polished dialect is, in the West, most commonly converted into the thick or obtuse sound of the same letters as heard in the words *this, these &c.* ; and this, too, very often whether the letters be inceptive or final.

Notwithstanding our lexicographers have usually given the powers of *th* to the Anglo-Saxon letters *þ* and *ð*, I am very much disposed to believe that these letters were

sometimes, nay perhaps often, used indiscriminately by our Anglo-Saxon ancestors for D only, and sounded as such, as we find at the present time they are so frequently thus sounded in the West.

Another remarkable fact is, the disposition to invert the order of some of the consonants in certain words; as the *r* in *thrush*, *brush*, *rush*, &c., these words being pronounced *dirsh*, *birsh*, *hirsh*, &c.; and the *s* in such words as *clasp*, *hasp*, *asp*, &c., they being sounded *claps*, *haps*, *aps*, &c. Some of these words will be found in the Glossary; but I have not thought it necessary to notice them all; these general observations will, I hope, enable the student to detect the words when subjected to such inversion. On this subject, however, it may be observed,

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that it is by no means improbable that the order in which such sounds are now repeated in the west, is the original order in which they existed in our language; and that our present polished mode of expressing them is a new, and, in fact, perhaps, as in many other instances in our polished dialect, a corrupt enunciation. This observation may appear singular to many persons; but I am not the first writer who has made it. There will, I think, be no great difficulty in accounting for such variations. As the language of the *country* has been and is too often accompanied with a coarseness of manners, our citizens, and other *arbitri elegantiarum*, have, no doubt, felt desirous of removing as far as possible from such coarseness; and in doing this the enunciation even of country persons has been studiously avoided. And hence numerous anomalies and novelty in sounds, as well as in orthography, have, I doubt not, arisen; and hence also the great difficulty, from the inversion or misplacing of letters, of discovering the genuine etymology of many words.

Another peculiarity is that of attaching to many of the common verbs in the infinitive mode, as well as to some other parts of different conjugations,

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the letter *y*. Thus it is very common to say *I can't sewy*, *I can't nursy*, *he can't reapy*, *he can't sawy*; as well as *to sewy*, *to nursy*, *to reapy*, *to sawy*, &c. but never, I think, without an auxiliary verb, or the sign of the infinitive *to*. I am very much disposed to believe, that this arises from an inclination to give the infinitives of verbs an uniform termination, as in the French and many other languages. I am not aware that this

observation on our English dialect has been ever made before.

Another peculiarity is that of making two syllables of words which are monosyllables in our polished dialect. And thus the words *air*, *both*, *fair*, *fire*, *stairs*, *sure*, &c. become *ayer*, *booäth*, *fayer*, *viër*, *stayers*, *shower*, &c. And thus, I have no doubt, they were formerly very generally pronounced, as Chaucer gives many of them as dissyllables.

The verb *to be* retains much of its primitive form in this dialect. Instead of I am, &c, *I be*, *thou beest* or *bist*, *thee beest*, *we be*, *you be*, *they* or *thâ be*, are constantly heard; but rarely or never, *he be* but *he is*. In the past tense *war*, for *was* and *were*, is always used: *as I war*, *thee or thou wart*, *he war*, *we war*, *you war*, *you war*, *they or*

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thaâ war. Besides these peculiarities in this verb, we often *hear we'm for we are*, *you'm for you are*, and *they'm for they are*.

There is also as strong a tendency to pleonasm in some instances, as to contraction and elision in others. Thus we have *alost* for *lost*, *agone* for *gone*, *abought* for *bought*, *abrought* for *brought*, &c. Exemplifications of these prefixes will be found in abundance in Chaucer; but he very often uses the *y* instead of *a*, *as ylost*.

Notwithstanding there is an impression very generally entertained, I believe, that this dialect of the west is a very rough and inharmonious one; except in the frequent and unpleasant use of *Z* for *S* and *V* for *F*, I do not think it will be found so deficient in agreeable sounds as it has been commonly supposed. Certain it is, that it would not be difficult to select many words which may, for their modulation, compete with others of gallic extraction; and, perhaps, in many respects, would be found superior to numbers which we have thought proper to borrow from other languages, much less analagous to the polished dialect of our own.

In pursuance of these ideas, I have added some poetical and prose pieces in the dialect

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of Somersetshire. I cannot say that I have, by any means, satisfied myself as to the poetry; but I think the reader may rest assured that the idiom is tolerably well preserved; and that, as much as possible, the pronunciation is conveyed in letters the nearest to the sound of the words: there are, in truth, many sounds for which we have neither letters

nor combinations of letters to express them; in such cases I have been under the necessity of adopting those letters whose sounds approach the nearest to those which I intended to express: to have gone into a comparison between the sounds of all the letters of the alphabet as pronounced in Somersetshire, and as they are pronounced in our polished dialect, would have been a degree of criticism to which, perhaps, the subject is not entitled; and is, at all events, one into which I am not now disposed to enter.

The reader will bear in mind that these poems are composed in the dialect of the county of Somerset, north-east of the river Parret Other dialects, as I have before observed, are to be found; but this is, by far, the most general: and, it is, besides, that with which I am best acquainted, and in

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which, of course, I have preferred writing. Where I have used the circumflex over the letter â it is to be understood that the sound of the letter is to be exactly like the *a* in father. I might have adopted the same plan with respect to the vowel *o*, for the long sound of it, as heard in the words *no*, *gold*, &c.; which is, for the most part, like *aw* in the word *awful*, but, as it is very easy to convey this sound by an additional letter, I have preferred the latter mode.

The words found in these pieces, which are not known in our polished dialect, are explained in the Glossary, except where some alteration in the spelling only is made, such as *Jay* for *Joy*, *hort* for *heart*, and a few others: the reader will, in this respect, it is presumed, find no difficulty in supplying the true meaning: it did not appear necessary to increase the Glossary by the explanation of such synonyms.

Whilst upon the subject of poetry it may be appropriate here to observe, that in the periodical work called the *Guardian*, published more than a century ago, is a paper No. 40 concerning pastoral poetry. This paper, it is now very generally understood, was written by POPE,

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to extol his own pastorals and degrade those of Ambrose Phillips. In this essay a pretended *Somersetshire* poem is spoken of, and quoted from. But Mr. Pope's invention here fails him; it is evident he knew little or nothing about the Somersetshire dialect. Let us examine a few of the lines from "this old west country bard of ours," as Mr. Pope is pleased to call him.

Cicely. Ah Rager, Rager, *chez* was zore avraid

When in yond vield you kiss'd tha parson's maid :

Is this the love that once to me you zed,

When from tha wake thou broughtst me gingerbred?

I would remark, in the first place, that what is here of the Somerset dialect is neither east, west, north, nor south, but a strange admixture. *Chez* is no where used, that I know of, but in the southern part of the county, *utchy* or *ichè* is sometimes spoken contractedly *che*. See the article U_TCHY in the Glossary. *Vield*, for *field*, should be *veel*. Again, I know no part of Somersetshire where the word *wake* is used: *revel* is the synonym. The word parson is always, in the Somerset dialect, *pâson*. In another line, not quoted

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above he calls the cows *kee*; now this is not Somersetian; nor is *be go* for *be gone*; it should be, *be gwon*; nor is *I've a be*, but *I've a bin*, Somersetian. The two last lines above quoted are a complete exemplification of Pope's manner of sacrificing the persons of the verb to the measure.

To conclude these remarks on Mr. POPE: it would not be very difficult to suppose that, when he used the word *chez*, he was thinking of *French* rather than *English*, although there is little analogy between the *sounds* of *chez*, French, and of *che*, English. But with the French language, I make no doubt, Pope was much better acquainted than with the dialect of Somersetshire. Even in London, at the present time, such is the disposition for foreign sounds and idioms, that our English *ch* is frequently sounded *sh*, more especially in proper names. It is very easy for a writer, such as Mr. Pope, to invent and publish a few lines of a thing which he chooses to call a *Somersetshire* pastoral, in order to bring another writer, his cotemporary, into contempt; but such disingenuity must ultimately find (Mr. Poper's long ago has found) its proper desert. This is

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not one of the transactions of a great poet's life on which it is complacent to repose.

The *idiomatic expressions* in this dialect are numerous. Some will be found in the Glossary. The following may be also mentioned. *I'd sley do it*, for *I would as lief do it*. *Righting-lawn*, adjusting the ridges, after the wheat is sown. *Throwing-batches*, cutting up and destroying ant-hills. To *goo out a chooring*, to go out to do any kind of

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dirty and other household work. *Slike* for *it is like*; *a power of rain*, for a great deal of rain; *to rake the viër*, to cover the fire with ashes, so that it may remain burning during the night; *'Tword'n I*, it was not I; *'Tword'n he*, it was he. The following are common plurals: *Cheezen*, cheese; *houzen*, houses; *peazen*, peas; *plazen*, places.

I have made an occasional suggestion in the Glossary relative to the etymology of some of these words. A few are evidently derived from the *Latin*, and the monachism, no doubt, of some of our forefathers, and a few from the *French*; but by far the greater part have, I presume, an Anglo-Saxon, some, perhaps, a Danish, origin. And although their roots may

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not be found in *Lye*, I should be disposed to think that they had escaped the researches of that lexicographer; and when we consider how many words escaped Johnson, the omissions of our earlier dictionary compilers are not surprising.

In my own case, although I here present the reader with the fruits of twenty-five years assiduity, I cannot flatter myself that the field is yet completely gleaned. And mine is, comparatively, a small district; although it has more relation to our general language than has been commonly supposed. I incline, indeed, to think that the present language and pronunciation of Somersetshire were, some centuries past, general in the South portion of our island.

Before I close these observations, I am desirous of noticing an error into which, I fear, too many of our lexicographers have fallen, in compiling a dictionary from a living language. *They have depended too much upon books and too little upon the use and accepted meaning of words as they are current in the every-day transactions of life.* Hence it sometimes happens, that the meaning in a dictionary is at variance with the use of the word in society; and it has happened, too, that many words

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are current in society, which no lexicographer has arrested, but which are nevertheless useful words. *Books* are not, in fact, the only sources whence information of this kind should be derived. In compiling this Glossary I have derived very little assistance from books; but have defined the words from their actual usage. If some of the definitions should not appear so correct as could be desired, it will, I hope, be remembered that the path was, in great measure, untrodden, and that a follower in the same walk may find it

much more smooth.

But, although I have derived little assistance from books, the reader should know that I have carefully consulted *Junius*, *Skinner*, *Minshew*, and some other of our old lexicographers. In these, it is true, I have found several of the words which are in my Glossary; and I find also that many of their definitions are correct, and will correspond with my own; but their conjectural etymologies are, in too many instances, calculated to mislead. For this reason, I have myself avoided conjectural etymology; and have only mentioned the derivation when high probability or absolute certainty was apparent. It is remarkable that few, if any, dictionaries of

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our language are to be obtained which were published from the invention of the art of printing in the middle of the fifteenth century and during the whole of the sixteenth, a period of about one hundred and fifty years. These dictionaries would, no doubt, throw considerable light on our early literature and provincial words. It is true some scarce copies of such works are to be found, I understand, in the cabinets of the curious, but they are not accessible to the general reader. Yet, after all, it must be admitted that, besides a practical and extensive acquaintance with the *viva voce* dialect, our OLD WRITERS are our chief resource in this study; and I doubt not that many MSS. now in the various depositories in this country which were written at different periods of our history, before printing was introduced, would throw the most light on this subject.

From an extensive view of the dialects of this country, and particularly of those of the West of England, I think we cannot avoid arriving at the conclusion, that the Anglo-Saxon dialect, of which I conceive the dialect of the West to be a striking portion, has been gradually retiring to make way for our polished idiom,

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till that original dialect has ceased to be considered any thing but a barbarism; whereas many of the *sounds* of that dialect will be found in Holland and in Germany a part of the respective living languages of those countries, as well as in other districts of the North of Europe.

To a person, therefore, acquainted with this dialect, who has leisure, and who should feel disposed to go through a course of study amongst our old writers, and who has an opportunity of examining our old MSS., an abundant harvest offers, from which

an amusing book might he made, illustrative of many of our provincial words and of our ancient manners. But such leisure, whatever may be my disposition, does not fall to my share; the compilation of such a work must be left to some more fortunate individual than myself. I must be contented with having thus far elucidated the language of my native county.

I have omitted several words which I supposed provincial, and which are of frequent occurrence in the West; but as I have found them in Todd's Johnson, I thought it useless to repeat them here. A few words will, however, be

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found in this Glossary which have a place in Todd's Johnson. These I have given, either because I did not conceive Mr. Todd's definition correct, or in order to make some observations on their etymology, or for some other reason. I cannot take my leave of this labour without adding, that although TODD'S JOHNSON will still admit of considerable addition and improvement, it contains, in my judgment, the greatest mass of information on the subject of our own language at present extant. In another edition many of Dr. Johnson's definitions should be corrected, they are manifestly erroneous; the accentuation should also be improved: instead of the accent being *always* placed over the *vowel*, it should be varied according as the stress is on the *vowel* or on the *consonant*.

In concluding these observations on the dialects of the West, I would direct the reader's attention to the very general use of the demonstrative pronoun *thic* for *that*; as, *thic* house, that house; *thic* man, that man, &c. Chaucer uses the word very often, but he spells it *thilk*,

[NP]

A

GLOSSARY OF WORDS

COMMONLY USED IN THE

COUNTY OF SOMERSET;

BUT WHICH ARE NOT ACCEPTED AS LEGITIMATE WORDS OF

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE;

OR

WORDS

WHICH, ALTHOUGH ONCE USED GENERALLY, ARE
NOW BECOME PROVINCIAL.

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A G L O S S A R Y O F W O R D S

USED IN

S O M E R S E T S H I R E.

A.

A. adv. Yes. *A* is also frequently used instead of the pronoun *he*: *as a zed a'd do it*; he said he'd do it.

Ab'by. s. The great white poplar: one of the varieties of the *populous alba*.

Ab'dey-lubber. s. A lazy, idle fellow.

Abought. Part. See VAUGHT.

Abrood'. adv. When a hen is sitting on her eggs she is said to be *abrood*.

Ad'dle. s. A swelling with matter in it.

Ad'dled. a. Having pus or corruption; hence

Ad'dled-egg. s. An egg in a state of putrefaction.

Affeard'. a. Afraid.

Afo're }

Afo'rn. } *prep.* and *adv.* Befor; *afore*, Chaucer.

Agon'. { adv. [these words literally mean *gone*.]

Agoo'. { Ago; agoo, Chaucer; from the verb to goo, i. e. to go; he is up and agoo; he is up and gone.

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Alas-a-dây. interj. A-lack-a-day.

Ale. s. A liquor, brewed with a proportion of malt from about four to six bushels to the hogshead of 63 gallons; if it contain more malt it is called *beer*; if less, it is usually called *small beer*.

Al'ler. s. The alder tree,

All'once. pron. [all ones] All of us; *Let's go allonce*; let us go all of us.

All o's. *pron.* All of us.

Alost'. *part.* Lost; *ylost*, Chaucer.

Amang'. *prep.* Among.

Amawst'. } *adv.* Almost.

Amoo'äst.

Am'per. *s.* A small red pimple.

Anby'. *adv.* Some time hence; in the evening.

Anear'.

Ane'ast, } *prep.* Nigh to; *aneast en*, near him.

Aneoust'.

An'passy. *s.* The sign &, corrupted from *and per se*.

Apast'. *part.* and *prep.* Past; *apast*, Chaucer.

A'pricock. *s.* An apricot.

Aps. *s.* The asp tree; *populus tremula*.

Aps'en. *a.* Made of the wood of the asp; belonging to the asp.

To Arg. *v. n.* To argue.

To Ar'gufy. *v. n.* To hold an argument; to argue.

Ascri'de. *adv.* Across; astride.

Aislen'. *adv.* Aslope.

Assu'e. *adj.* When a cow is *let up* in order that she may calve, she is said to be *assue*—
having no milk.

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Ater. *prep.* After. *Goo ater'n*: go after hiin.

Athin'. *adv.* Within.

Avaur'. } *prep.* Before.

Avaur'en. } *prep.* Before.

Avaurn'. } *prep.* Before.

Avraur'. *adj.* Frozen; stiff with frost.

Awa'kid. *adj.* Awake; *awaked*, Chaucer.

To Ax. *v. a.* To ask; *ax*, Chaucer.

Ax'en. *s. pl.* Ashes.

Axing. *s.* and *part.* Asking; *axing*, Chaucer.

Ay'ir. *s.* Air.

B.

BACK'SID. *s.* A barton.

Back'y. *s.* Tobacco.

Bai'ly. *s.* A bailiff; a superintendant of an estate.

Ball. *adj.* Bald.

Ball'rib. *s.* A sparerib.

To Bal'lirag. *v. a.* To abuse with foul words; to scold.

To Ban. *v. a.* To shut out; to Stop.

To Bane. *v. a.* To afflict with a mortal disease: applied to sheep. *See* to COATHE.

To Barenhond'. } *v. n.* (used chiefly in the third

To Banehond'. } person singular) to signify intention; to intimate.

These words are in very common use in the West of England. It is curious

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to note their gradation from Chaucer, whose expression is, *Beren hem on hond*, or *bare him on hond*; implying always, it appears to me, the same meaning as I have given to the words above. There is, I think, no doubt, that these expressions of Chaucer, which he has used several times in his works, are figurative; when Chaucer tells us he *beren hem in hond*, the literal meaning is, he carried it in, or on, his hand so that it might be readily seen. "*To bear on hand*, to affirm, to relate."— JAMIESON'S Etymological Scots Dictionary. But, whatever be the meaning of these words in Chaucer, and at the present time in Scotland, the above is the meaning of them in the west of England.

Banes. *s. pl.* The banns of matrimony.

Ban'nin. *s.* That which is used for shutting out or stopping.

Barrow-pig. *s.* A gelt pig.

Baw'ker. } *s.* A stone used for whetting

Baw'ker-stone. } scythes; a kind of sand-stone.

To Becall'. *v. a.* To censure; to reprove; to chide.

Bee-but. } *s.* A bee-hive.

Bee-lippen.

Be'edy. *s.* A chick.

Beedy's-eyes. *s. pl.* Pansy, love-in-idleness.

Beer. *s.* See ALE.

Befor'n. *prep.* Before.

To Begird'ge, } *v. a.* To grudge; to envy.

To Begrud'ge. } To grudge; to envy.

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LORD BYRON has used the verb *begrudge* in his notes to the 2nd canto of Childe Harold.

Begor'z .

Begum'mers. } *interj.*

It is not easy to define the meaning of these words; they indicate some determination of mind; and are, most probably, oaths of asseveration. The last appears to be a corruption of *by godmothers*. Both are thrown into discourse very frequently:

Begummers,

I ont tell; I cant do it, begorz.

Begrum'pled. *part.* Soured; offended.

To Belg. *v. n.* To cry aloud; to bellow.

Bell-flower. *s.* A daffodil.

To Belsh. *v. a.* To cut off dung, &c. from the tails of sheep.

Beheäpt. *part.* Left aground by the recess of the spring tides.

To Benge. *v. n.* To remain long in drinking; to drink to excess.

Ben'net. *s.* Long coarse grass.

Ben'nety. *adj.* Abounding in bennets.

Ber'rin. *s.* A funeral procession.

To Beskum'mer. *v. a.* To foul with a dirty liquid; to besmear.

To Bethink'. *v. a.* To grudge.

Bettermost. *adj.* The best of the better; not quite amounting to the best.

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Betwat'tled. *part.* In a distressing and confused slate of mind.

To Betwit'. *v. a.* To upbraid; to repeat a past circumstance aggravatingly.

To Bib'ble. *v. n.* To drink often; to tope.

Bib'bler. One who drinks often; a toper.

Bil'lid. *adj.* Distracted; mad.

Billy. *s.* A bundle of wheat straw.

Bi'meby. *adv.* By-and-by; some time hence.

Bin. *conj.* Because; probably corrupted from, being.

Bin'nick. *s.* A small fish; minnow; *Cyprinus phloxinus*.

Bird-battin. *s.* The catching of birds with a net and lights by night. FIELDING uses this expression.

Bird-battin-net. *s.* The net used in bird-battin.

Birch'en. *adj.* Made of birch; relating to birch.

Bis'gee. *s.* (g hard), A rooting axe.

To Biv'er. *v. n.* To quiver; to shake.

Black-pot. *s.* Black-pudding.

Black'ymoor, *s.* A negro.

Blackymoor's-beauty. *s.* Sweet scabious; the musk-flower.

Blan'ker. *s.* A spark of fire.

Blans'cue. *s.* Misfortune; unexpected accident.

Bleáchy. *adj.* Brackish; saltish: applied to water.

Blind-buck-and-Davy. *s.* Blind-man's buff. *Blind- buck and have ye*, is no doubt the origin of this appellation for a well-known amusement.

Blis'som. *ad.* Blithesome.

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Blood-sucker. *s.* A leech.

Bloody-warrior. *s.* The wall-flower.

Booáth. *pron.* Both. "*Boo'áth o' ye*;" both of you.

Bor'rid. *adj.* A sow is said to be borrid when she wants the male.

Bote. *Part.* Bought.

Bow. *s.* A small arched bridge.

Boy's-love. *s.* Southernwood; a species of mugwort; *artemisia abrotonum*.

Brave. *adj.* Well; recovering.

Bran. *s.* A brand; a stump of a tree, or other irregular and large pice of wood, fit only for burning. Hence, doubtless, the origin of *Bonfire*, a fire made of brans. *See the next*

article.

Bran-viër. *s.* A fire made with brands. The supposed origin of it, bon, good fire, and hence usually spelled bon-fire, is evidently erroneous: it should be *branfire* or *brandfire*.

Bran'dis. *s.* A semicircular implement of iron, made to be suspended over the fire, on which various things may be prepared; it is much used for warming milk.

Brash. *s.* Any sudden development; a crash.

Brick'le, } *adj.* Not coherent; brittle.

Brick'ly, } *adj.* Not coherent; brittle.

Brim'mle. *s.* A bramble.

To Bring gwain. *v. a.* [*To bring going.*] To spend; to accompany some distance on a journey.

To Brit. *v. a.* To indent; to make an impression: applied to solid bodies.

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Brock. *s.* An irregular piece of peat dried for fuel; a piece of turf. *See* TURF.

Bruck'le, } *adj.* Not coherent; easily separable: applied to solid bodies. *See* BRICKLE.

Bruck'ly, }

Bruck'leness. *s.* The state of being bruckle.

To Bud'dle. *v.* To suffocate in mud.

To Bulge. *v. a.* To indent; to make an irregular impression on a solid body; to bruise. It is also used in a neuter sense.

Bulge. *s.* An indentation; an irregular impression made on some solid body; a swelling out wards or depression inwards.

Bul'len. *adj.* Wanting the bull.

Bul'lins. *s. pl.* Large black sloes; a variety of the wild plum.

Bun'gee. *s.* (g hard), Any thing thick and squat.

Bunt, } *s.* Bolting cloth.

Bunting, } Bolting cloth.

Bunt. *s.* A bolting-mill.

To Bunt. *v. a.* To separate flour from the bran.

Bur'cot. *s.* A load.

Buss. *s.* A half-grown calf.

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But. *s.* A conical and peculiar kind of basket or trap used in large numbers for catching salmon in the river Parret. The term *but*, would seem to be a generic one, the actual meaning of which I do not know: it implies, however, some containing vessel or utensil
See BEE-BUT. *But*, applied to beef, always means *buttock*.

Butter-and-eggs. *s.* A variety of the daffodil.

Bwye. *interj.* Bye! adieu. This, as well as *goodbye*

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and *good-bwye*, is evidently corrupted from God be *with you*; God-be- wi' ye, equivalent to the French *à Dieu*, to God. Bwye, and good-bwye, are, therefore, how vulgar soever they may seem, more analogous than *bye* and *good-bye*.

C.

CALLYVAN'. *s.* a pyramidal trap for catching birds.

Car'riter. *s.* Character.

Cat'terpillar. *s.* The cockchafer; *Scarabaeus melolontha*.

West of the Parret this insect is called *wock-web*, oak-web, because it infests the *oak*, and spins its web on it in great numbers.

Chaity. *adj.* Careful; nice; delicate.

To Cham. *v. a.* To chew.

Chámer. *s.* A chamber,

Change. *s.* A shift; the garment worn by females next the skin.

Chay'er. *s.* A chair; chayer — *Chaucer*.

Chick-a-beedy. *s.* A chick.

Chim'ley. *s.* A chimney.

Chine. *s.* The prominence of the staves beyond the head of a cask. This word is well known to coopers throughout England, and ought to be in our dictionaries.

To Chis'som. *v. n.* To bud; to shoot out.

Chis'som. *s.* A small shoot; a budding out.

Chit'terlins. *s. pl.* The frills around the bosom of a shirt.

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Choor, *s.* A job; any dirty household work; a troublesome job.

Choor'er, } *s.* A woman who goes out to do hence the term *char-woman* in our polished dialect; but it out to be *choor-woman*.

To Choóry. *v.* To do any kind of dirty household work.

Chub'by. *adj.* Full, swelling; as *chubby-faced*.

Claps. *s.* A clasp.

To Claps. *v. a.* To clasp.

Clávy. *s.* A mantel-piece.

Clear-and-sheer. *adv.* Completely; totally.

Cleve-pink. *s.* A species of carnation which grows wild in the crannies of Cheddar-cliffs: a variety, I believe, of the *Dianthus deltoides*; it has an elegant smell.

To Clim.

To climmer. } *v.a.* To climb; to clamber.

Clin'kers. *s. pl.* Bricks or other earthy matter run into irregular shapes by the agency of heat.

Clinker-bell. *s.* An icicle.

Clint. *v. a.* To clench; to finish; to complete.

Cliver-and-Shiver. *adv.* Completely; totally.

Clit, *v.n.* To become imperfectly fermented: applied to bread.

Clit'ty. *adj.* Imperfectly fermented.

Clize. *s.* A place or drain for the discharge of water regulated by a valve or door, which permits a free egress, but no ingress to the water.

Coathe. *v. a.* To bane: applied to sheep.

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Cob-wall. *s.* Mud-wall; a wall made of clay mixed with straw.

Cock-lawt. *s.* A garret; clock-loft.

Originally, most probably, a place where the fowls roosted.

Cock-squailing. *s.* A barbarous game, consisting in tying a cock to a stake, and throwing a stick at him from a given distance, so as to destroy the bird. I fear that cock-squailing has not wholly disappeared from our west country sports.

Cock-and-Mwile. *s.* A jail.

Col'ley. *s.* A blackbird.

Comforts. *s. pl.* Sugared corianders, cinnamon, &c.

Com'ical. *adj.* Odd; singular.

Contraption. *s.* Contrivance; management.

To Count. *v. n.* To think; to esteem.

Cow-baby. *s.* A coward; a timid person.

To Crap. } *v. n.* to snap; to break with a

To Crap'py } sudden sound ; to crack.

Crap. *s.* A smart sudden sound.

Creem. *s.* Sudden shivering.

Creémy. *adj.* Affected with sudden shivering.

Crips. *adj.* Crisp.

Criss-cross-lain. *s.* The alphabet; so called in consequence of its being formerly

preceded in the *horn-book* by a † , which was, no doubt, devised by some of the sons of the church to remind us of the cross of Christ; hence the term

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Christ-Cross-line, ultimately came to mean nothing more than the alphabet.

Crock. *s.* A bellied pot, either of iron or other metal, for the purpose of boiling food.

Croom. *s.* A crunb; a small bit.

Crowd-string. *s.* A fiddle-string.

Crowdy-kit. *s.* A small fiddle.

Crow'ner. *s.* A coroner.

To be Crowned. *v. pass.* To have an inquest held over a dead body by direction of the coroner.

Crowst. *s.* Crust.

Crow'sty. *adj.* Crusty, snappish, surly.

Crub. } Food; particularly bread and cheese.

Crubbin. } Food; particularly bread and cheese.

Cuckold. *s.* The plant burdock.

To Cull. *v. n.* To take hold round the neck with the arms.

Cutty. *adj.* Small; diminutive.

Cutty.

Cutty-wren. } *s.* A wren

D.

DAD'DICK. *s.* Rotten wood.

Dad´dicky. *adj.* Rotten, like daddick.

Dame. *s.* This word is, of course, originally French, and means, in that language, as we all know, *lady*; but in this dialect it means a mistress; an old woman: and is never used in the sense

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of lady; nor is it ever applied to persons in the upper ranks of society, nor to the very lowest; when we say *dame* Hurman, or *dame* Bennett, we mean the wife of some farmer; a schoolmistress is also sometimes called dame; it is rarely, if ever, applied to a young woman.

Dap. *v. n.* To hop; to rebound.

Dap. *s.* A hop; a turn. *To know the daps of a person is*, to know his disposition, his habits, his peculiarities.

Dap´ster. *s.* A proficient.

To Daver. *v. n.* To fade; to fall down; to droop.

Dav´ison. *s.* A species of wild plum, superior to the bullin.

Dawzin. *s.* The passing over land with a bent hazel rod, held in a certain direction, to discover whether veins of metals are below, is called *Dawzin*, which is still occasionally practised in the mining districts of Somersetshire. There is an impression among the vulgar, that certain persons only have the gift of the *divining rod*, as it has been sometimes called; by the French, *Baguette Devinatoire*. Polished and intelligent society is not, I believe, yet entirely free from this apparent folly.

Des´perd. *adj.* [Corrupted from desperate.] Very, extremely; it is used in a good as well as a bad sense: *desperd good*; *desperd bad*.

Dewberry. *s.* A species of blackberry.

Dibs. *s. pl.* Money.

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Did´dlecome. *adj.* Half-mad; sorely vexed.

Dird. *s.* Thread.

Dirsh. *s.* A thrush.

Dirten. *adj.* Made of dirt.

Dock. *s.* A crupper.

To Doff. *v. a.* To put off.

To Don. *v. a.* To put on.

Donnins. *s.pl.* Dress; clothes.

Dough-fig. *s.* A fig; so called, most probably, from its feeling like *dough*. JUNIUS has *dote-fig*: I know not where he found it. See FIG.

To Dout. *v. a.* To extinguish; to put out.

To Downarg. *v. a.* To contradict; to contend with.

Dowst. *s.* Dust; money; *Down wi' tha dowst!* Put down the money!

Draf' fit. *s.* [I suppose from draught-vat.] A Vessel to hold pot-liquor and other refuse aliment from the kitchen, for pigs.

Drang. *s.* A narrow path.

To Drash. *v. a.* To thresh.

Dras' hel. *s.* The threshold; a flail.

Dras' her. *s.* A thresher.

Drawt. *s.* Throat.

To Drean. *v. n.* To draw in reading or speaking.

Dream. *s.* A drawling in reading or speaking.

To Dring. *v. n.* To throng; to press, as in a crowd; to thrust.

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Drin' get. *s.* A crowd; a throng.

To Dro. *v. a.* To throw.

Drode. *part.* Thrown.

To Drool. *v. n.* To drivel.

To Drow {*v. n.*} To dry.

{*v. a.*} To dry.

The hay do'nt drony at all. See the observations which precede this vocabulary.

Drowth. *s.* Dryness; thirst.

Drow' thy. *adj.* Dry; thirsty.

Drove. *s.* A road leading to fields, and sometimes from one village to another. The name is doubtless derived from its being a way along which cattle are driven. RAY uses the word in his *Catalogus Plantarum Angliæ, &c.* under the article *Chondrilla*.

This meaning is now, I observe, in Todd's Johnson, the 5th of DROVE, *s.*

To Drub. {*v. n.*} To throb; to beat.

{v. a.}

Drubbin. *s.* A beating.

To Druck. *v. a.* To thrust down; to cram to press.

Dub.

Dub'bed. } *adj.* Blunt; not pointed; squat.

Dub'by.

Dub'bin. *s.* Suet.

To Dud'der. *v. a.* To deafen with noise; to render the head confused.

Duds. *s. pl.* Dirty cloaths.

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Dum'bledore. *s.* A humble-bee; a stupid fellow.

Dunch. *adj.* Deaf.

It seems singular that none of our etymologists have noticed this word, the most probable etymon of DUNCE, as it assuredly is. As a deaf person is very often, apparently at least, stupid; a stupid, intractable person is, therefore, called a DUNCE: one who is deaf and intractable. What now becomes of *Duns Scotus*, and all the rest of the recondite observations bestowed upon DUNCE?

See Todd's Johnson.

I have no doubt that *Dunch* is Anglo-Saxon, although I cannot find it in any of our dictionaries, except Bailey's. But it ought not to be forgotten, that many words are floating about which have never yet been arrested by a dictionary maker.

Durns, *s. pl.* A door-frame.

E.

EAR-WRIG. *s.* Earwig.

This word ought to be spelled *Earwig*, as it is derived, doubtless, from wriggle.

See WRIGGLE.

El'men. *adj.* Of or belonging to elm; made of elm.

El'ver. *s.* A young eel.

Em'mers. *s. pl.* Embers.

Emmet-batch, *s.* An ant-hill.

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To Empt, *v. a.* To .empty.

En. *pron.* Him; *a zid en*; be saw him.

Er. *pron.* He.

Used West of the Parret.

Eth. *s.* Earth.

To Eve. *v. n.* To become damp; to absorb moisture from the air.

Evet. *s.* A lizard.

Ex. *s.* An axle.

F.

FAGS! *interj.* Truly; indeed.

Fayer. *s.* and *adj.* Fair.

To Fell. *v. a.* To sew in a particular manner; to inseam.

This word is well known to the ladies, I believe, all over the kingdom; it ought to be in our dictionaries.

Fes'ter. *s.* An inflammatory tumour.

Few. } *adj.* More commonly pronounced *veo*.

Veo. } *adj.* Little; as *a few broth*.

Fig. *s.* A raisin.

Figged-pudding. *s.* A pudding with raisins in it; plum-pudding.

Fildéfare. *s.* A Fieldfare. "Farewell fieldéfare." *Chaucer*. This expression is occasionally heard. It means, I apprehend, that, as fieldfares disappear at a particular season, *the season is over; the bird is flown*.

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Fil'try. *s.* Filth; nastiness; rubbish.

Fitch. } A pole-cat. *As cross as fitchet*.

Fitchet. } A pole-cat. *As cross as filchet*.

Fitten. } *s.* A feint; a pretence.

Vit'ten. }

Flap-jacks. *s.* A fried cake made of batter, apples, &c.; a fritter.

To Flick. *v. a.* To pull out suddenly with some pointed instrument.

Flick-tooth-comb. *s.* A comb with coarse teeth for combing the hair.

Flick. *s.* The membrane loaded with fat, which the bellies of most animals have: a term used chiefly by the butchers.

Flook. *s.* An animal found in the liver of sheep, similar in shape to a flock or flounder.

Flush. *adj.* Fledged; able to fly: applied to young birds.

Foo'ter. *s.* [Fr. *foutre*] A scurvy fellow; a term of contempt.

For'rel. *s.* The cover of a book.

Forweend'. *adj.* Humoursome; difficult to please: applied to children.

French-nut. *s.* A walnut.

To Frump. *v. a.* To trump up.

To Fur. *v. a.* To throw.

Fur'cum. *s.* The bottom; the whole.

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G.

GALE. *s.* An old bull castrated.

Gal'libagger. *s.* [From *gally* and *beggar*] A bugbear.

To Gal'ly. *v. a.* To frighten.

Gallant'ing. } *part.* Wandering about in gaiety and enjoyment: applied chiefly

Galligant'ing. } to associations of the sexes.

Gam'bril. *s.* A crooked piece of wood used by butchers to spread, and by which to suspend the carcase.

Gran'ny-cock. *s.* A turkey-cock.

Ganny-cock's Snob. *s.* The long membranous appendage at the beak, by which the cock turkey is distinguished.

Gare. *s.* The iron work for wheels, wagons, &c. is called ire-gare; accoutrements.

Gate-shord. *s.* A gate-way; a place for a gate.

Crat'fer. *s.* An old man.

Gaw'cum. *s.* A simpleton; a gawkey.

To Gee. *v. n.* [*g* soft] To agree; to go on well together.

To Gee. *v. a.* [*g* hard; part, and past tense *gid.*] To give.

To G'auf. *v. n.* To go off.

To G'auver. *v. n.* To go over.

To G'in. *v. n.* To go in.

To G'on. *v. n.* To go on.

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To G'out. *v. n.* To go out.

To G'under. *v. n.* To go under.

To G'up. *v. n.* To go up.

Gib'bol. *s.* [*g* soft] The sprout of an onion of the second year.

Gig'leting. *adj.* Wanton; trifling; applied to the female sex.

Gilaw'fer. *s.* A term applied to all the kinds of flowers termed stocks; and also to a few others: as a *Whitsuntide gilawfer*, a species of *Lychnidea*.

Gim'mrace. *s.* A hinge.

Gim'maces. *s. pl.* When a criminal is gibbeted, or hung in irons or chains, he is said to be hung in *Gimmaces*, most probably because the apparatus swings about as if on hinges.

Ginnin. *s.* Beginning.

To Glare. *v. a.* To glaze earthenware.

Glare. *s.* The glaze of earthenware.

G'lore. *adv.* In plenty.

This word, without the apostrophe, *Glore*, is to be found in Todd's Johnson, and there defined *fat*. The true meaning is, I doubt not, as above: *fat g'lore*, is *fat in plenty*.

Gold. *s.* The shrub called sweet-willow or wild myrtle; *Myrica gale*.

This plant grows only in peat soils; it is abundant in the boggy moors of Somersetshire; it has a powerful and fragrant smell.

Gold-cup. *s.* A species of crow-foot, or

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ranunculus growing plentifully in pastures; *ranunculus prantensis*.

To Goo. *v. n.* [*Gwain*, going; *gwon*, gone.] To go.

Goo'ner. *interj.* Goodnow!

Good'-Hussey. *s.* A thread-case.

Grain't'ed. *adj.* Fixed in the grain; difficult to be removed; dirty.

Gram'fer. *s.* Grandfather.

Gram'mer. *s.* Grandmother.

Grib'ble. *s.* A young apple-tree raised from seed.

To Gripe. *v. a.* To cut into gripes. See **GRIPE**.

Gripe. *s.* A small drain, or ditch, about a foot deep, and six, or eight inches wide.

This word is in Todd's Johnson, but erroneously spelled *grip*.

Griping-line. *s.* A line to direct the spade in cutting. gripes.

Groan'ing. *s.* Parturition; the time at which a woman is in labour.

Ground. *s.* A field.

Gro'zens. *s. pl.* The green minuteround-leaved plants growing upon the surface of water in ditches; duck's-meat; the *Lens palustris* of Ray.

Gruff. *s.* A mine.

Gruf'fer. } *s.* A miner.

Gruf'fier.

To Gud'dle. *v. n.* To drink much and greedily.

Gud'dler. *s.* A greedy drinker; one who is fond of liquor.

To Gulch. *v. n.* To swallow greedily.

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Gulch. *s.* A sudden swallowing.

Gump'tion. *s.* Contrivance; common sense.

Gum'py. *adj.* Abounding in protuberances.

Gurds. *s. pl.* Eructations.

By *Fits and gurds*.

Guss. *s.* A girth.

To Guss. *v. a.* To girth.

H.

HACK. *s.* The place whereon bricks newly made are arranged to dry.

To Hain. *v. a.* To exclude cattle from a field in order that the grass may grow, so that it may be mowed.

Hal'lantide. *s.* All Saints'day.

Ham. *s.* A pasture generally rich, and also unsheltered.

The term is never applied but to level land.

Hame. *sing.* } *s.* Two moveable pieces of wood or iron fastened upon the collar, with

Hames. *pl.* } suitable appendages for attaching a horse to the shafts.

Called sometimes *a pair of hames*.

Han'dy. *adv.* Near, adjoining.

Hange. *s.* The heart, liver, lungs, &c. of a pig, calf, or sheep.

Hang´kicher. *s.* Handkerchief.

Hangles. *s. pl.* A pair of hangles is the iron crook,

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&c. composed of teeth, and suspended over the fire, to be moved up and down at pleasure for the purpose of cookery, &c.

To Happer. *v. n.* To crackle; to make repeated smart noises.

To Haps. *v. a.* To hasp.

Haps. *s.* A hasp.

Hard. *adj.* Full grown. *Hard people*, adults.

Harm. *s.* Any contagious or epidemic disease not distinguished by a specific name.

Har´ras. *s.* Harvest.

Hart. *s.* A haft; a handle.

Applied to such instruments as knives, awls, &c.

Hathe. *s.* To be in a hathe, is to be set thick and close like the pustules of the small-pox or other eruptive disease; to be matted closely together.

To Have. *v. n.* To behave.

Hay-maidens. *s. pl.* Ground ivy.

Ha´ty-tayty. *interj.* What´s here!

In Ha´digees. [g. soft] *adv.* To be in high spirits; to be frolicsome.

Hea´ram-skream. *adj.* Wild; romantic.

To Heel. *v. a.* To hide; to cover. Chaucer, “*hele.*” Hence, no doubt, the origin of our common verb, *to heal*, to cure, as applied to wounds; *to cover over.*

Heeler. *s.* One who hides or covers. Hence the very common expression. *The heeler is as bad*

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as the stealer; that is, the receiver is as bad as the thief. '

Heft. *s.* Weight.

To Hell. *v. a.* To pour. *To hell in*, to pour in; *to hell out*, to pour out.

Hel´lier. *s.* A person who lays on the tiles of a roof; a tiler.

This is rather a Devonshire word.

Helm. *s.* Wheat straw prepared for thatching.

To Hent. *v. a.* To throw.

To Hent, *v. n.* To wither; to become slightly dry.

Hereawa, } *adv.* Hereabout.

Hereaway, }

Herence, *adv.* From this place; hence.

Hereright, *adv.* Directly; in this place.

Het, *pron.* It. *Het o'nt*, it will not.

To Het, *v. a.* To hit, to strike; *part. het* and *hut*.

To Hick. *v. n.* To hop on one leg.

Hick. *s.* A hop on one leg.

Hick-Step and jump. Hop-step-and-jump.

A well known exercise.

To Hike off. *v. n.* To go away; to go off.

Used generally in a bad sense.

Hine. *adj.* Posterior; relating to the back part.

Used only in composition, as, a *hine* quarter.

Ta Hire tell. *v. n.* To hear tell; to learn by report; to be told.

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Hip'pety-hoppety. *adv.* In a limping and hobbling manner.

To Him. *v. n.* [*hirnd*, pret. and part.] To run.

To Hitch. *v. n.* To become entangled or hooked together; *to hitch up*, to hang up or be suspended. *See the next word.*

To Hitch up. *v. a.* To suspend or attach slightly, or temporarily.

These verbs have given considerable trouble to our etymologists and lexicographers. Dr. Johnson evidently did not know their meaning. To HITCH, *v. n.* implies, as in the first meaning in *Todd's Johnson* as above, to become entangled or hooked together: thus brambles hitch in ladies' clothes. *To hitch up*, is to hang up or be suspended. In the following lines,

Whoe'er offends at some unlucky time,
Slides into verse, or *hitches* in a rhyme,
Sacred to ridicule his whole life long,
And the sad burthen of some merry song.

Pope's Sat.

The Salamanca Corpus: Observations on Some of the West of England (1825)

Had Pope placed the preposition *up* after *hitch*, the sense would have been immediately obvious, it implying that whoever offends the poet, slides into verse, or *hitches up* in a rhyme; i. e. a rhyme being the most conspicuous place in the verse, he is there hung up, exposed to public view, sacred to ridicule, &c. To *hitch up*, is also used in the West of England as an active verb: thus, you *hitch up* your horse at the gate, while you call on your friend; you *hitch up* your hat on a peg in the hall.

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In all these meanings of to hitch, and to hitch up, slight attachment is implied, and, for this reason, the word is not synonymous with to hang, or to hang up. It is true, Mr. Pope's use of the word implies permanence; but this is a *licentia poetica*.

The following will exemplify the active meaning of this verb:

Sir Strut, for so the witling throng
Oft called him when at school,
And *hitch'd* him *up* in many a song
To sport and ridicule.

To Ho for, } *v. a.* To provide for; to take care of; to desire; to wish for.

To Haw vor, }

Hob'blers. *s. pl.* Men employed in towing vessels by a rope on the land.

Hod. *s.* A sheath or covering; perhaps from *hood*.

Hog. *s.* A sheep one year old.

To Hoke. *v. a.* To wound with horns; to gore.

Hod'medod. *adj.* Short; squat.

Hol'lar. *adj.* Hollow.

To Hollar. *v. a.* To halloo.

Hol'lar. *s.* A halloo.

Hol'lardy. *s.* A holliday.

Hol'lardy-day. *s.* Holy-rood day; the third of May.

Hollabeloo'. *s.* A noise; confusion; riot.

Hol'men. *adj.* Made of holm.

Holt. *interj.* Hold; stop. *Holt-a-blow*, give over fighting.

Ho'mescreech. *s.* A bird which builds chiefly in

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appletrees; I believe it is the *Turdus eviscivorus*, or missel.

Honey-suck, } *s.* The woodbine.

Honey-suckle, } *s.* The woodbine.

Honey-suckle. *s.* Red clover.

Hoo'say. *See* WHOSAY.

Hoop. *s.* A bullfinch.

Hor'nen. *adj.* Made of horn.

Homen-book. *s.* Hornbook.

Horse-stinger. *s.* The dragon-fly.

Houzen. *s. pl.* Houses.

Huck'muck. *s.* A strainer placed before the faucet in the mashing-tub.

Hud. *s.* A hull, or husk.

Huf. *s.* A hoof.

Huf-cap. *s.* A plant, or rather weed, found in fields, and with difficulty eradicated.

I regret that I cannot identify this plant with any known botanical name. The following lines will be found in the Satires of Bishop Hall:

Graced with *huff-cap* terms and thundering threats.

That his poor hearers' hair quite upright sets.

Book I. Sat. iii.

Some editor of Hall has endeavoured to explain the term *huff-cap* by *blustering*, *swaggering*. I think it simply means *difficult*.

Hug. *s.* The itch. *See* SHAB.

Commonly, but not always, applied to brutes.

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Hug-water. *s.* Water to cure the hug. *See* SHAB.

To Hul'der. *v. a.* To hide; conceal.

Hul'ly. *s.* A peculiarly shaped long wicker trap used for catching eels.

To Hulve. *v. a.* To turn over; to turn upside down.

Hum'drum. *s.* A small low three-wheeled cart, drawn usually by one horse; used occasionally in agriculture.

From the peculiarity of its construction, it makes a kind of humming noise when it is drawn along; hence, I presume, the origin of the adjective *humdrum*. Those who

have once seen and heard this vehicle in motion, will have a better conception of the term *humdrum* than any words can convey.

Hunt-the-slipper. *s.* A well-known play.

I.

I. *adv.* Yes; *I, I*, yes, yes: most probably a corrupt pronunciation of *ay*.

Inin. *s.* Onion.

Ire. *s.* Iron.

Ire-gare. *s.* See GARE.

Ise. *pron.* I. See UTCHY.

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J.

JACK-in-the-Lanthorn } *s.* The meteor usually and called a *Will with the Wisp*
Joan-in-the-Wad. }.

The existence of this phenomenon has been often doubted; the late Dr. Darwin disbelieved in its reality altogether. Although conversant with marshy and boggy districts of the kingdom, I have never seen it. Its actual existence is, I think, very questionable; although there is decidedly nothing improbable in it. Dr. *Ure*, in his Chemical Dictionary, article *Ignis Fatuus*, seems, however, to admit its existence; and attributes it to the extrication of phosphorus from rotten leaves and other vegetable matter.

Jaunders. *s.* The jaundice.

To Jee. *v. n.* To go on well together; see To GEE.

Jitch. } *adj.* Such.

Jitchy. } *adj.* Such.

Jod. *s.* The letter J.

Jorum. *s.* A large jug, bowl, &c. full of some thing to be eaten or drank.

To Jot. *v. a.* To disturb in writing; to strike the elbow.

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K.

KECK'ER. *s.* The windpipe; the trachea.

To Keeve. *v. a.* To put the wort in a keeve for some time to ferment.

Keeve. *s.* A large tub or vessel used in brewing.

A mashing-tub is sometime called a *keeve*.

Kef'fel. *s.* A bad and worn out hone.

To Kern. *v. n.* To turn from blossom to fruit: when the fruit of any tree or plant has become visible after the blossoming, it is said to be *kerned*. The process of arriving at this state is called *kerning*.

Kex. } *s.* The dry stalks of some plants, such as Cows-parsley and Hemlock, are
Kexy. } called Kexies. *As dry a kexy* is a common simile.

Kill. *s.* A kiln.

Kil'ter. *s.* Money.

King'bow, or rather, a-kingbow. *adv.* Kimbo.

Chaucer has this word *kenebow*, which is, perhaps, the true one— a *kenebow*, implying a bow with a keen or sharp angle.

“He set his hand in *kenebow*.”

CHAUCER, *Second Merchant's Tale*.

If this be not the origin of the phrase, another probable one may be mentioned, and the present sound of it in the West countenances it. To place the arms *a-kingbow*, may be to place them in a consequential manner of commanding like a king.

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Kit'cher. *s.* The midriff; the diaphragm.

Kit. *s.* A tribe; a collection; a gang.

Kit'tle. } *s.* A smock frock.

Kittle-smock. } *s.* Asmock frock.

Knot'tlins. *s. pl.* The guts of a pig or calf prepared for food by being tied in knots and afterwards boiled.

L.

LADÉ-PAIL. *s.* A small pail, with a long handle, used for the purpose of filling other vessels.

Ládeshrides. *s. pl.* The sides of the waggon which project over the wheels. *See* SHRIDE.

Ladies-smock. *s.* A species of bindweed; *Convolvulus sepium*. *See* WITHY-WINE.

Lady-cow. *s.* A lady-bird; the insect *Coccinella Septempunctata*.

Lady's-hole. *s.* A game at cards.

Lai'ter. *s.* The thing laid; the whole quantity of eggs which a hen lays successively.

She has laid out her laiter.

Lam'iger. *adj.* Lame; crippled; laid up.

Larks-leers. *s. pl.* Arable land not in use; such is much frequented by larks; any land which is poor and bare of grass.

Lart. } *s.* The floor: never applied to a stone floor, but only to *wooden* floors;

Lawt. } and those also which are up stairs.

[52]

Las-charg'eable! *interj.* Be quiet! *The last chargeable:* that is, he who last strikes or speaks in contention is most blameable.

Lat'itat. *s.* A noise; a scolding.

Lat'tin. *s.* Iron plates covered with tin.

Lattin. *adj.* Made of lattin; as a lattin saucepan, a lattin teakettle, &c. &c.

Laugh-and-lie-down. *s.* A common game at cards.

To lave. *v. a.* To throw water from one place to another.

To Le'ät. *v. n.* To leak.

Le'ät. *s.* A leak; a place where water is occasionally let out.

Leathern-mouse. *s.* A bat.

Leer. *adj.* Empty.

Leer. *s.* The flank.

Leers. *s. pl.* Leas; rarely used: but I think it always means stubble land, or land similar to stubble land.

Lent. *s.* Loan; the use of any thing borrowed.

Lew. *adj.* Sheltered; defended from storms, or wind.

Lew. } *s.* Shelter; defence from storms or wind.

Lewth. }

Lib'et. *s.* A piece; a tatter.

Lid'den. *s.* A story; a song.

Lie-lip. *s.* A square wooden vessel having hole in its bottom, to contain wood-ashes for the purpose of making lie.

[53]

Lights. *s. pl.* The lungs.

Lighting-stock. *s.* A horse-block; a graduated place of wood or stone, made to ascend

and descend from a horse.

Lim'bers.} *s. pl.* The shafts of a wagon, cart, &c.

Lim'mers.}

Linch. *s.* A ledge; a rectangular projection; whence the term *linch-pin* (a pin with a linch), which JOHNSON has, but not *linch*.

The derivations of this word, *linch-pin* by our etymologists, it will be seen, are now inadmissible.

To Line. *v. n.* To lean; to incline towards or against something.

Lin'ny. *s.* An open shedy attached to barns, outhouses, &c.

Lip. } *s.* A Generic term for several containing vessels, as *bee-lippen*, *lie-lip*,

Lip'pen. } *seed-lip*, &c. which see.

Lip'ary. *adj.* Wet, rainy. Applied to the seasons: *a lipary time*.

To Lir'rop. *v. a.* To beat.

This is said to be a corruption of the sea term, *lee-rope*.

Lis'som. *adj.* Lithe; pliant.

Contracted, perhaps, from *lightsome*.

To Lob. *v. n.* To hang down; to droop.

Lock. *s.* A small quantity; as a *lock* of hay, a *lock* of straw.

Lockyzee! *interj.* Look, behold! *Look you, see!*

To Long. *v. n.* To belong.

[54]

Long'ful. *adj.* Long in regard to time.

Lug. *s.* A heavy pole; a pole, a long rod.

I incline to think this is the original of log.

Lug-lain. *s.* Full measure; the measure by the lug or pole.

Lump'er. *v. n.* To lumber; to move heavily; to stumble.

M.

MACE. *s. pl.* Acorns.

Mal'lard. *s.* A male duck.

To Manche. } *v. a.* To chew. Probably from *manger*, French.

To Munche }

To Mang. *v. a.* To mix.

Mang-hangle. *adj.* Mixed in a wild and confused manner.

Mawk'in. *s.* A cloth, usually wetted and attached to a pole, to sweep clean a baker's oven. *See* SLOMAKING.

May-be. } *adv.* Perhaps; for which one of these words is almost invariably

Mâ-be. } used; it is, of course, similar to the French *peut-être*, in both cases
it and *il* being respectively understood.

May-game. } *s.* A frolic; a whim.

Mâ-game. }

To Meech. *v. n.* To play truant; to absent from school.

Meech'er. *s.* A truant; one who absents himself improperly.

[55]

To Mell. *v. a.* To meddle; *to touch.* *I'll neither mell nor make:* that is, I will have nothing to do with it. *I ont mell o't,* I will not touch it.

“Of eche mattir thei wollin mell.”

CHAUCER'S *Plowman's Tale.*

Mesh. *s.* Moss; a species of lichen which grows plentifully on apple trees.

To Mess. } *v. n.* To serve cattle with hay.

To Messy. }

Messin. *s.* The act of serving cattle with hay.

Mid. *v. aux.* Might, may.

To Miff. *v. a.* To give a slight offence; to displease.

Miff. *s.* A slight offence; displeasure.

Mig. *s.* I know not what mig is, but as *sweet as mig* is a common simile; I suspect, however, that *mig* means *mead*, the liquor so called made from honey.

Milt. *s.* The spleen.

Mi'lemas. *s.* Michaelmas.

Min. A low word, implying contempt, addressed to the person to whom we speak, instead of Sir. I'll do it, *min.*

Mix'en. *s.* A dunghill.

Miz'maze. *s.* Confusion.

Mom'macks. *s. pl.* Pieces; fragments.

Mom'met. } *s.* A scarecrow; something dressed up in clothes to personate

Mom´mick. } a human being.

Moor-coot. *s.* A moor-hen.

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To Moot. *v. a.* To root up.

Moot. *s.* A stump, or root of a tree.

To More. *v. n.* To root; to become fixed by rooting.

More. *s.* A root.

Mought. *v. aux.* Might.

Mouse-snap. *s.* A mouse-trap.

Mug´gets. *s. pl.* The intestines of a calf or sheep.

Derived, most probably, from *maw* and *guts*.

To Mult. *v.* To melt.

N.

NAN. *interjec.* Used in reply, in conversation or address, the same as *Sir*, in polite company, when you do not understand.

Nânt. *s.* Aunt.

Nap. *s.* A small rising; a hillock.

Nâtion. *adv.* Very, extremely: as *nation good*; *nation bad*.

Nawl. *s.* An awl.

Nawl. *s.* The navel.

Nawl-cut. *s.* A piece cut out at the navel: a term used by butchers.

Nestle Tripe. *s.* The weakest and poorest bird in the nest; applied, also, to the last-born, and usually the weakest child of a family; any young, weak, and puny child, or bird.

Niver-the-near. *adv.* To no purpose; uselessly.

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New-cut-and-jerkin. *s.* A game at cards; in a more refined dialect *new-coat and jerkin*.

Nif. *conj.* If.

Nill. *s.* A needle.

Nist. } *prep.* Nigh, near.

Nuost

Nona´tion. *adj.* Difficult to be understood; not intelligent; incoherent, wild.

Nora´tion. *s.* Rumour; clamour.

Norn. *pron.* Neither. *Norn o'm*, neither of them.

Nor'thering. *adj.* Wild, incoherent, foolish.

Nort. *s.* Nothing. West of the Parret.

Not-sheep. *s.* A sheep without horns.

Not. *s.* The place where flowers are planted is usually called the *flower not*, or rather, perhaps, knot; a flower bed.

Nottlins. *s. pl.* See KNOTTLINS.

Num'met. *s.* A short meal between breakfast and dinner; nunchion.

Nuncle. *s.* An uncle.

To Nuncle. *v. a.* To cheat.

Nuth'er. *adv.* Neither.

O.

ODMENTS. *s. pl.* Odd things, offals.

Office. *s.* The eaves of a house.

Old-cut-and-jerkin. *s.* A game at cards; in a

[58]

more refined dialect, *old-coat-and-jerkin*: called also *five cards*.

To Onlight. *v. n.* To alight; to get off a horse.

Ont. Will not. This expression is used in almost all the persons, as *I ont, he ont, we ont, they*, or *thâ ont*; I will not, he will not, &c.

Ool. *v. aux.* Will.

Ope. *s.* An opening — the distance between bodies arranged in order.

Orn. *pron.* Either. *Orn o'm*, either of them.

Ort. *s.* Any thing. West of the Parret

Oten. *adv.* Often.

Ourn. *pron.* Ours.

To Overget. *v. a.* To overtake.

To Overlook. *v. a.* To bewitch.

Overlookt. *part.* Bewitched.

Over-right } *adv.* Opposite; fronting.

Auver-right }

Overs. *s. pl.* The perpendicular edge, usually covered with grass, on the sides of salt-

water rivers, is called *overs*.

P.

PARFIT. *adj.* Perfect

Parfitly. *adv.* Perfectly.

Par'rick. *s.* A paddock.

To Payze. *v. a.* To force, or raise up, with a lever.

[59]

To Peach. *v. a.* To inform against; to impeach.

Peel. *s.* A pillow, or bolster.

To Peer. *v. n.* To appear.

Pen'nin. *s.* The inclosed place where oxen and other animals are fed and watered; any temporary place erected to contain cattle.

Pigs-Hales. *s. pl.* Haws; the seed of the white thorn.

Pigs-looze. *s.* A pigsty.

Pilch. } *s.* A baby's woolen clout.

Pilcher. }

Pill-coal. *v.* A kind of peat dug most commonly out of rivers: peat obtained at a great depth, beneath a stratum of clay.

Pil'ler. *s.* A pillow.

Pilm. *s.* Dust; or rather fine dust, which readily floats in air.

Pink. *s.* A chaffinch.

Pip. *s.* A seed: applied to those seeds which have the shape of apple seed, cucumber seed, &c.; never to round, or minute seeds.

To Pitch. *v. a.* To lay unhewn and unshaped stones together, so as to make a road or way.

To Pitch, in the West of England, is not synonymous with *to pave*. *To pave*, means to lay flat, square, and hewn: stones or bricks down, for a floor or other pavement or footway. A *paved* way is always smooth and even: a *pitch'd* way always rough and irregular. Hence the distinguishing terms of *Pitching* and *Paving*.

Pit'is. *adj.* Piteous; exciting compassion.

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Pit'hole. *s.* The grave.

To Pix. } *v. a.* To pick up apples after the main

To Pixy. } crop is taken in; to glean, applied to an orchard only.

Pix'y. *s.* A sort of fairy; an imaginary being.

Pix'y-led. *part.* Led astray by pixies.

Pla'zen. *s. pl.* Places.

To Plim. *v. n.* To swell; to increase in bulk.

Plough. *s.* The cattle or horses used for ploughing; also a waggon and horses, or waggon and oxen.

Pock'fadden. *adj.* Marked in the face with small pox.

To Pog. *v. n.* and *v. a.* To thrust with the fist; to push.

Pog. *s.* A thrust with the fist; a push; an obtuse blow.

Poh! *interj.* An expression of contempt.

Todd's Johnson has not this word, but surely it ought to be there; it is not merely a provincialism.

To Pom'ster *v. n.* To tamper with, particularly in curing diseases; to quack.

Pont'ed. *part.* Bruised with indentation.

I think there is also the verb *to pont*, but I have no recollection of its application. Any person whose skin or body generally is puffed up by disease, and subject to occasional pitting by pressure, is said *to be ponted*; but the primary meaning is applied to fruit as, a *ponted* apple: in both meanings incipient decay is implied.

Pook. *s.* The belly; the stomach; a vell.

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Popple. *s.* A pebble: that is, a stone worn smooth, and more or less rounds by the action of the waves of the sea.

Pottle-bellied. *adj.* Potbellied.

To Pooät. } *v. a.* To push through any confined

To Pote. } openings or hole.

Pooät-hole. } *s.* A small hole through which any thing is pushed with a stick;

Pote-hole. } a confined place.

Pooäty. *adj.* Confined, close, crammed.

To Pray. *v. a.* To drive all the cattle into one herd in a moor; *to pray the moor*, to search

for lost cattle.

Pud. *s.* The hand; the fist.

Pulk. } A small, shallow-place, containing water.

Pulker. }

Pull-reed. *s.* [Pool reed.] A long reed growing in ditches and pools, used for ceiling instead of laths.

Pul'try. *s.* Poultry.

Pum'ple. *adj.* Applied only, as far as I know, in the compound word *pumple-voot*, a clubfoot.

Put. *s.* A two-wheeled cart used in husbandry, and so constructed as to be turned up at the axle to discharge the load.

Pux'ie. *s.* A place on which you cannot tread without danger of sinking into it: applied most commonly to places in roads or fields where springs break out.

Pwint. *s.* Point.

Pwine-end. } The sharp-pointed end of a house, where the wall rises

Pwinin-end. } perpendicularly from the foundation.

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Py'er. *s.* A wooden guide, or rail to hold by, in passing over a narrow wooden bridge.

Q.

QUARE. *adj.* Queer; odd.

Quar'rel. *s.* [*Quarré*. French.] A square of window glass.

To Quar. *v. a.* To raise stones from a quarry.

Quar. *s.* A quarry.

Quar-man. *s.* A man who works in a quarry.

Quine. *s.* Coin, money.

To Quine. *v. a.* To coin.

Quine. *s.* A corner.

R.

TO RAKE UP. *v. a.* To cover; to bury.

Rames. *s. pl.* The dead stalks of potatoes, cucumbers, and such plants; a skeleton.

Rams-claws. *s. pl.* The plant called gold cups; *ranunculus pratensis*.

Ram'shackle. *adj.* Loose; disjointed.

Ram'ping. *part.* Distracted, obstreperous: *ramping mad*, outrageously mad.

Ran'dy. } *s.* A merry-making; riotous living.

Ran'din. }

Range. *s.* A Sieve.

To Rangle. *v. n.* To twine, or move in an irregular or sinuous manner. *Rangling plants*,
[63]

are plants which entwine round other plants, as the woodbine, hops, &c.

Ran'gle. *s.* A sinuous winding.

Ras'ty. *adj.* Rancid; gross; obscene.

Raught. *part.* Reached.

To Rawn. *v. a.* To devour greedily.

Raw'ny. *v. a.* Having little flesh: a thin person, whose bones are conspicuous, is said to
be rawny.

To Ray. *v. a.* To dress.

To Read. *v. a.* To strip the fat from the intestines; *to read the inward*.

Read'ship. *s.* Confidence, trust, truth.

To Ream. *v. a.* To widen; to open.

Rea'mer. *s.* An instrument used to make a hole larger.

Re'balling. *s.* The catching of eels with earthworms attached to a ball of lead, suspended
by a string from a pole.

Reed. *s.* Wheat straw prepared for thatching.

Reen. } *s.* water-course; an open drain.

Rhine. }

To Reeve. *v. a.* To rivel; to draw into wrinkles.

Rem'let. *s.* A remnant.

Rev'el. *s.* A wake.

To Rig. *v. n.* To climb about; to get up and down a thing in wantonness or sport.

Hence the origin of the substantive *rig*, as used in *John Gilpin*, by COWPER:

“He little dreamt of running such a *rig*.”

To Rig. *v. a.* To dress

[64]

Hence, I suspect, the origin of the *rigging* of a vessel.

Rip. *s.* A vulgar, old, unchaste woman.

Hence, most probably, the origin of *Demirep.*

Robin-Riddick. *s.* A redbreast.

Rode. *s.* To go to rode, means, late at night or early in the morning, to go out to shoot wild fowl which pass over head on the wing.

To Rose. *v. n.* To drop out from the pod, or other seed vessel, when the seeds are over-ripe.

Round-dock. *s.* The common mallow; *malva sylvestris.*

Called round-dock from the *roundness* of its leaves. CHAUCER has the following expression, which has a good deal *puzzled* the glossarists:

“But canst thou playin raket to and fro,
“*Nettle in Docke out, now this, now that, Pandare?*”

Troilus and Cressida, Book IV.

The round-dock leaves are used at this day as a remedy, or supposed remedy or charm, for the sting of a nettle, by being rubbed on the stung part; and the rubbing is accompanied, by the more superstitious, with the following words —

In dock, out nettle.

Nettle have a stingd me.

That is, *Go in dock, go out nettle.* Now, to play *Nettle in Dock out*, is to make use of such expedients as shall drive away or remove some previous evil, similar to that of driving

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out the venom of the nettle by the juke or charm of the dock.

Roz'im. *s.* A quaint saying; a low proverb.

Rud' derish. *adj.* Hasty, rude, without care.

Ruf. *s.* A roof.

Rum'pus. *s.* A great noise.

This word ought to be in Todd's Johnson.

Rungs. *s. pl.* The round steps of a ladder.

S.

THE sound of S is very often converted into the sound of Z. Thus many of the following words, *Sand-tot, Sar, Seed-lip, Silker, Sim, &c.* are often pronounced *Zand-tot, Zar,*

Zeeä-d-lip, Zilker, Zim, &c.

Sand-tot. *s.* A sandhill.

To Sar. *v. a.* To serve— To earn; as, *I can sar but zixpence a day.*

Sar'rant. *s.* A servant.

Scad. *s.* A short shower.

Schol'ard. *s.* A scholar.

To Scot'tle. *v. a.* To cut into pieces in a wasteful manner.

Scrawf. *s.* Refuse.

Scrawv'lin. *adj.* Poor and mean, like scrawf.

Screed. *s.* A shred.

To Scrunch. *v. a.* and *v. n.* I know not any synonym in our language for this word. The [66]

act of crushing and bringing clover together is implied, accompanied also with some kind of noise. A person may be said to scrunch an apple or a biscuit, if in eating it he made a noise; so a pig in eating acorns. Agreeably to this, Mr. SOUTHEY has used the word, in *Thalaba*:

“No sound bat the wild, wild wind,

“And the snow *crunching* under his feet.”

And, again, in the *Anthology*, vol. 2, p. 240

“Grunting as they *crunch'd* the mast.”

But he spells it without the *s.*

Scud. *s.* A scab.

Sea-Bottle. *s.* Many of the species of the sea-wrack, or *fucus*, are called *sea-bottles*, in consequence of the stalks having round or oval vesicles or pods in them; the pod itself.

Sea-Crow. *s.* A cormorant

Seed-lip. *s.* A vessel of a particular construction, in which the sower carries the seed.

Sel'times. *adv.* Not often; seldom.

Shab. *s.* The itch; the hug.

Applied to brutes only.

Shab-water. *s.* A water generally prepared with tobacco, and sometimes with the addition of some mercurial, to cure the shab.

Shabby. *adj.* Affected with the shab. Hence the origin of the common word *shabby*,

mean, paltry.

Shackle. *s.* A twisted band.

Shal'der. *s.* A kind of broad flat rush, glowing in ditches.

[67]

Sharp. *s.* A shaft of a wagon, &c.

Shatt'n. Shalt not.

Sheer. *s.* A sheath.

Shil'lith. *s.* A shilling's worth.

Shine. *s.* *Every shine o'm*, is, every one of them.

Shord. *s.* A sherd; a gap in a hedge. A *stop-shord*, a stop-gap.

Shower. *adj.* Sure.

To Shride. } *v. a.* To cut off wood from the sides of trees; to cut off wood
To Shroud. } from trees generally.

Shride. } *s.* Wood cut off from trees which are growing. Shride also
Shroud. } sometimes means a pole so cut; hence the term *ladeshrides*—
Shrides placed for holding the load. *See LADESHRIDES.*

To Shug. *v. a.* To shrug ; to Scratch; to rub against.

Shut'tle. *adj.* Slippery, sliding; applied only to solid bodies.

From this word is most probably derived the *shuttle s.* of the weaver.

Sig. *s.* Urine.

Sil'ker. *s.* A court-card.

To Sim. *v. n.* To seem, to appear. This verb is used with almost all the persons, instead of, *it seems to me*, &c as, *I sim, you sim*, for it seems to me, &c.

Sim-like-it. *interj.* Ironically, for *very improbable*.

Sine. *conj.* [Probably from *seeing* or *seen*.] Since because.

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Single-guss. *s.* The plant orchis.

Single-stick. *s.* A game, to the discredit of the West, still too well known; sometimes called *backword*.

To Skag. To give an accidental blow, so as to tear either the cloaths or the flesh; to wound slightly.

Skag. *s.* An accidental blow, particularly of the heel of the shoe, so as to tear either the

cloaths or the flesh; any slight wound or rent.

To Skeer. *v. a.* To mow lightly over: applied to pastures which have been summer-eaten, never to meadows. In a neuter sense, to move along quickly, and slightly touching. Hence, from its mode of flight,

Skeer-devil. *s.* The black martin, or Swift.

Skeer'ings. *s. pl.* Hay made from pasture land.

Skent'in. *adj.* When cattle, although well fed, do not become fat, they are called skentin.

Skenter. *s.* An animal which will not fatten.

To Skew. } *v. a.* To skewer.

To Skiv'er. }

Skiff-handed. *adj.* Left-handed, awkward.

Skills. } *s. pl.* The play called nine-pins.

Skittles. }

Skim'merton. *s.* To ride Skimmerton, is an exhibition of riding by two persons on a horse, back to back; or of several persons in a cart, having *skimmers* and *ladles*, with which they carry on a sort of warfare or gambols, designed to ridicule some one who, unfortunately, possesses an unfaithful wife. *This may-game*,

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as it is called, is played upon some other occasion besides the one here mentioned: it occurs, however, at the present time, very rarely, and will soon, I apprehend, be quite obsolete. See SKIMMINGTON, in *Todd's Johnson*.

Skiv'er. *s.* A skewer.

To Skram. *v. a.* To benumb with cold.

Skram. *adj.* Awkward; stiff, as if benumbed.

“With hondis for forskramyd.”

CHAUCER, *Second Merchant's Tale*.

Skram-handed. *adj.* Having the fingers or joints of the hand in such a state that it can with difficulty be used; an imperfect hand.

To Skrent. *v. a.* [An irregular verb.] To burn, to scorch.

Part. *Skrent*. Scorched.

Skum'mer. *s.* A foulness made with a dirty liquid, or with soft dirt.

To Skum'mer. *v. a.* To foul with a dirty liquid, or to daub with soft dirt.

Slait. *s.* An accustomed run for sheep; hence the place to which a person is accustomed, is called slait.

To Slait. *v. a.* To accustom.

To Slait. *v. a.* To make quick-lime in a fit state for use, by throwing Water on it; to slack.

To Slat. *v. a.* To split; to crack; to cleave.

To Sleeze. *v. n.* To separate; to come apart: applied to cloth, when the warp and woof readily separate from each other.

Sleezy. *adj.* Disposed to sleeze; badly woven.

Slen. *adj.* Slope.

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Slipper-alopper. *adj.* Having shoes or slippers down at the heel; loose.

To Slitter. *v. n.* To slide.

To Slock. *v. a.* To obtain clandestinely.

To Slock'ster. *v. a.* To waste.

Slom'aking. *adj.* Untidy; slatternly: applied to females.

This word is; probably, derived from *slow* and *mawkin*.

Slop'per. *adj.* Loose; not fixed: applied only to solid bodies.

To Slot'ter. *v. n.* To dirty; to spill.

Slot'tering. *adj.* Filthy, wasteful.

Slot'ter. *s.* Any liquid thrown about, or accidentally spilled on a table, or the ground.

Slug'gardy-guise. *s.* The habit of a sluggard.

Sluggardy-guise;

Loth to go to bed,

And loth to rise.

WYAT says — “Arise, for shame; do away your *sluggardy*.”

Sluck'-a-bed. } *s.* A slug-a-bed; a sluggard.

Sluck'-a-trice. }

Slock'-a-trice. }.

Smash. *s.* A blow or fall, by which any thing is broken. *All to smash*, all to pieces.

Smeech. *s.* Fine dust raised in the air.

To Smoor. *v. a.* To smooth; to pat.

Snags. *s.* Small sloes: *prunus spinosa*.

Snag. } *s.* A tooth.

Snagn. }

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Snaggle-tooh. *s.* A tooth growing irregularly.

Snarl. *s.* A tangle; a quarrel.

There is also the verb to *snarl*, to entangle; but as this verb is in *Todd's Johnson*, it is not necessary to be further noticed here.

Sneäd. *s.* The crooked handle of a mowing scythe.

Snock. *s.* A knock; a smart blow.

Snowl. *s.* The head.

Soce. *s. pl.* Vocative case. Friends! Companions!

This word is, most probably, derived from the Latin *socius*. It is in very frequent use.

To Soss. *v. a.* To throw a liquid from one vessel to another.

Sour-dock. *s.* Sorrel: *rumex acetosa*.

Souse. *s. pl.* *Sousen*. The ear. *Pigs sousen*, pigs ears.

Spar. *s.* The pointed sticks, doubled and twisted: in the middle, and used for fixing the thatch of a roof, are called *spars*: they are commonly made of split willow rods.

Spar'kid. *adj.* Speckled.

Spar'tides. *s. pl.* Spectacles: glasses to assist the sight.

Spill. *s.* A stalk; particularly that which is long and straight. *To run to spill*, is to run to seed; it sometimes also means to be unproductive.

Spill. *s.* See WORRA.

To Spit. *v. a.* To dig with a spade; to cut up with a spitter. *See* the next word.

Spitter. *s.* A small tool with a long handle, used for cutting up weeds, thistles, &c.

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To Spit'tle. *v. a.* To move the earth lightly with a spade or spitter.

Spit'tle. *adj.* Spiteful; disposed to spit in anger.

To Spring. *v. a.* To moisten; to sprinkle.

To Spry. *v. n.* To become chapped by cold.

Spry. *adj.* Nimble; active.

To Squail. *v. a.* To fling a stick at a cock, or other bird. *See* COCK-SQUAILING.

To Squot. *v. a.* To bruise; to compress. *v. n.* To squat.

Squot. *s.* A bruise, by some blow or compression; a squeeze.

Stake-Hang. *s.* Sometimes called only a *hang*. A kind of circular hedge made of stakes, forced into the sea-shore, and standing about 6 feet above it, for the purpose of catching salmon, and other fish.

Stang. *s.* A long pole.

Stay'ers. *s. pl.* Stairs.

Steän. *s.* A large jar made of stone ware.

Steänin. *s.* A ford made with stones at the bottom of a river.

Steeple. *s.* Invariably means a spire.

Steert. *s.* A point.

Stem. *s.* A lone round shaft, used as a handle for various tools.

Stick'le. *adj.* *Steep*, applied to hills; *rapid*, applied to water: a *stickle* path, is a steep path; a *stickle* stream, a rapid stream.

Stick'ler. *s.* A person who presides at backsword or singlestick, to regulate the game; an umpire: a person who settles disputes.

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Stitch. *s.* Ten sheaves of corn set up on end in the field after it is cut: a shock of corn.

To Stive. *v. a.* To keep close and warn.

To Stiv'er. *v. n.* To stand up in a wild manner like hair: to tremble.

Stodge. *s.* Any very thick liquid mixture.

Stonen. } *adj.* Made of stone; consisting of stone.

Stwonen }

Stom'achy. *adj.* Obstinate, proud; haughty.

Stook. *s.* A sort of stile beneath which water is discharged.

Stout. *s.* A gnat.

Strad. *s.* A piece of leather tied round the leg to defend it from thorns, &c. A *pair* of strads, is two such pieces of leather.

Stritch. A strickle: a piece of wood used for striking off the overplus from a corn measure.

To Stroute. *v. n.* To strut.

Strouter. *s.* Any thing which projects; a strutter.

To Stud. *v. n.* To study.

Su'ent. *adj.* Even, smooth, plain.

Su'ently. *adv.* Evenly, smoothly, plainly.

To Sulsh. *v. a.* To soil; to dirty.

Sulsh. *s.* A spot; a stain.

Sum. *s.* A question in arithmetic.

Sum'min. *s.* Arithmetic.

To Sum'my. *v. n.* To work by arithmetical rules.

Summer-voy. *s.* The yellow freckles in the face.

[74]

To Suf'fy. } *v. n.* To inspire deeply and quickly. Such an action occurs more
To Zuffy. } particularly upon immersing the body in cold water.

To Swan'kum. *v. n.* To walk to and fro in an idle and careless manner.

To Swell } *v. n.* To swallow.

To Zwell }

To Sweetort. *v. a.* To court; to woo.

Sweetortin. *s.* Courtship.

T.

TACK. *s.* A shelf.

Tac'ker. *s.* The waxed thread used by shoe-makers.

Ta'ëty. *s.* A potatoe.

Taf'fety. *adj.* Dainty, nice: used chiefly in regard to food.

Tal'let. *s.* The upper room next the roof; used chiefly of out-houses, as a hay-tallet.

To Tang. *v. a.* To tie.

Tap and Cannel. *s.* A spigot and faucet.

Tay'ty. *s.* A hayty-tayty. *See* the Additions, &c. which precede the *Observations on the Dialects* art. HAYTY-TAYTY.

Tees'ty-tosty. *s.* The blossoms of cowslips collected together, tied in a globular form, and used to toss to and fro for an amusement called *teesty-tosty*. It is sometimes called simply a *tosty*.

[75]

Tee'ry. *adj.* Faint, weak.

Tem'tious. *adj.* Tempting; inviting.

Thâ. *pron.* They.

Than. *adv.* Then.

Thauf. *conj.* Though, although.

Theeäzam. } *pron.* These.

Theeäzamy. }

The'rence. *adv.* From that place.

Thereawâ. } *adv.* Thereahout.

Thereaway. }

Therevor-i-sayt! *interj.* That is my argument! *Therefore I say it!*

Thic. *pron.* That. Thilk, *Chaucer.*

Tho. *adv.* Then.

Thornen. *adj.* Made of thorn; having the quality or nature of thorn.

Thorough. *prep.* Through.

Thread the Needle. } *s.* A play.

Dird the Needle. }

Tiff. *s.* A small draught of liquor.

To Tile. *v. a.* To set a thing in such a situation that it may easily fall.

Til'ty. *adj.* Testy, soon offended.

Tim'mer. *s.* Timber; wood.

Tim'mern. *adj.* Wooden ; as a timmern bowl; a wooden bowl.

Tim'mersom. *adj.* Fearful; needlessly uneasy.

To Tine. *v. a.* To shut, to close; as, *tine the door*; shut the door. To inclose; *to line in the*

[76]

moor, is to divide it into several allotments To light, to kindle; as, *to tine the candle*, is to light the candle.

QUARLES uses this verb:

“What is my soul the better to be *tin'd*

“With holy fire?”

Emblem XII.

To Tip. *v. n.* To turn or raise on one side.

Tip. *s.* A draught of liquor. Hence the word *tipple*, because the cup must be *tipped* [see the verb preceding] when you drink.

To Tite. *v. a.* To weigh.

Tite. *s.* Weight. *The tite of a pin*, the weight of a pin.

Todo'. *s.* A bustle; confusion.

To Toll. *v. a.* To entice; to allure.

Toor. *s.* The toe.

Tosty. *s.* See TEESTY-TOSTY.

Tote. *s.* The whole. This word is commonly used for intensity, as the *whol tote*, from *totus*, Latin.

To Tot'tle. *v. n.* To walk in a tottering manner, like a child.

Touse. *s.* A blow on some part of the head.

Towards. *prep.* is, in Somersetshire, invariably pronounced as a dissyllable, with the accent on the last: *to-ward's*. Our polite pronunciation, *tordz*, is clearly a corruption.

Tower. *s.* A square elevated building, usually placed at the west end of the church.

Tramp. *s.* A walk; a journey.

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To Tramp. v. n. and *Tramper. s.* will be found in *Todd's Johnson*, where also this word ought to be.

To Trapes. *v. n.* To go to and fro in the dirt.

Trapes. *s.* A slattern.

Trub'agully. *s.* A short, dirty, ragged fellow, accustomed to perform the most menial offices.

To Truckle. *v. a.* and *v. n.* To roll.

Truckle. *s.* A globular or circular piece of wood or iron, placed under another body, in order to move it readily from place to place. A *Truckle-bed*, is a small bed placed upon truckles, so that it may be readily moved about.

These, I have no doubt, are the primary, as they are now the common meanings in the West, of *To truckle, v. Truckle, s.* and *Truckle-bed*.

Tun. *s.* A chimney.

Tun'negar. *s.* A funnel.

Turf. *s. pl.* Turves. Peat cut into pieces and dried for fuel.

Turn-string. *s.* A string made of twisted gut, much used in spinning. See WORRA.

To Tus'sle. *v. n.* To struggle with; to contend.

Tut. *s.* A hassock.

Tut-work. *s.* Work done by the piece or contract; not work by the day.

Tuth'er. *pron.* The other.

Tuth'eram. } *pron.* The others.

Tuth'emy. }

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Tut'ty. *s.* A flower; a nosegay.

To Twick. *v. a.* To twist or jerk suddenly.

Twick. *s.* A sudden twist or jerk.

Twily. *adj.* Restless; wearisome.

Twiripe. *adj.* Imperfectly ripe.

U.

Unk'et. *adj.* Dreary, dismal, lonely.

To Unray'. *v. a.* To undress.

To Untang'. *v. a.* To untie.

To Up. *v. n.* To arise.

Up'pin-stock. *s.* A horse-block. See LIGHTINGN-STOCK.

Upsi'des. *adv.* On an equal or superior footing. To *be upsides* with a person, is to do something which shall be equivalent to, or of greater importance or value than what has been done by such person to us.

Utch'y. *pron.* I. This word is not used in the Western or Eastern, but only in the Southern parts of the County of Somerset. It is, manifestly, a corrupt pronunciation of *Ick*, or *Iché*, pronounced as two, syllables, the Anglo-Saxon word for I. *What shall utchy do?* What shall I do.

I think Chaucer sometimes uses *iche* as a dissyllable; *vide* his Poems *passim*. *Ch'am*, is I am, that is, *ich am*; *ch'ill*, is I will, *ich will*. See Shakespeare's King Lear, Act. IV.

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Scene VI. What is very remarkable, and which confirms me greatly in the opinion which I here state, upon examining the first folio edition of Shakespeare, at the London

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Institution, I find that *ch* is printed, in one instance, with a mark of elision before it thus, '*ch*, a proof that the *i* in *iche* was sometimes dropped in a common and rapid pronunciation. In short, this mark of elision ought always so to have been printed, which would, most probably, have prevented the conjectures which have been hazarded upon the origin of the meaning of such words as *chud*, *chill*, and *cham*. It is singular enough that Shakespeare has the *ch* for *ich* I, and *Ise* for I, within the distance of a few lines in the passage above alluded to, in *King Lear*. But, perhaps, not more singular than that in Somersetshire may, at the present time, be heard for the pronoun I, *Utchy*, or *iché*, and *Ise*. In the Western parts of Somersetshire, as well as in Devonshire, *Ise* is now used very generally for I. The Germans of the present day pronounced, I understand, their *ich* sometimes as it is pronounced in the West *Ise*, which is the sound we give to frozen water, *ice*. See Miss HAM'S letter, towards the conclusion of this work.

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V.

VAGE. } *s.* A voyage; but more commonly applied to the distance
Vaze. } employed to increase the intensity of motion or action from a
point.

To Vang. *v. a.* To receive; to earn.

Vare. *s.* A species of weasel.

To Vare. *v. n.* To bring forth young: applied to pigs and some other animals.

Varmint. *s.* A vermin.

Vaught. *part.* Fetched.

Vur vaught,

And dear a-bought.

(i.e.) Far-fetched, and dear bought

Vawth. *s.* A bank of dung or earth prepared for manure.

To Vay. *v. n.* To succeed; to turn out well; to go. This word is, most probably, derived from the French verb *aller*, to go.

It dont vay; i. e. it does not go on well.

To Vaze. *v. n.* To move about a room, or a house, so as to agitate the air.

Veel'vare. *s.* A fieldfare.

Veel. *s.* A field; corn land uninclosed.

Vell. *s.* The salted stomach of a calf used for making cheese; a membrane.

Veo. *adj.* Few, little.

Ver'di. } *s.* Opinion.

Ver'dit. }

To Ves'sy. *v. n.* When two or more persons read verses alternately, they are said to *vessy*.

[81]

Ves'ter. *s.* A pin or wire to point out the letters to children learning to read; a fescue.

Viër. *s.* Fire. Some of our old writers make this word two syllables: "Fy-er."

Vin'ned. *adj.* Mouldy; humoursome; affected.

Vitious. *adj.* Spiteful; revengeful.

Vitten. *s.* See FITTEN.

Vit'ty. *adv.* Properly, aptly.

Vlare. *v. n.* To burn wildly; to flare.

Vleër. *s.* A flea.

Vloth'er. *s.* Incoherent talk; nonsense.

Voc'ating. *part.* Going about from place to place in an idle manner. From *voco*, Latin. The verb to *voc'ate*, to go about from place to place in an idle manner, is also occasionally used.

To Vol'ly. *v. a.* To follow.

Vol'lier. *s.* Something which follows; a follower.

Vooäth. *adv.* Forth; out. *To goo vooäth*, is to go out.

To Vooäse. *v. a.* To force.

Vor'n. *pron.* For him.

Voreright. *adj.* Blunt; candidly rude.

Vouse. *adj.* Strong, nervous, forward.

To Vug. *v. a.* To strike with the elbow.

Vug. *s.* A thrust or blow with the elbow.

Vur. *adv.* Far.

Vur'der. *adv.* Farther.

Vur'dest. *adv.* Farthest.

Vur'vooäth. *adv.* Far-forth.

[82]

W.

To WAL'LUP. *v. a.* To beat.

To Wam'mel. } *v. n.* To move to and fro in an regular and awkward

To Wamble. } manner; to move out of a regular course or motion.

Applied chiefly to mechanical operations.

War. *interj.* Beware! take care! *War-whing!*

Take care of yourself.

War. *v.* This is used for the preterite of the verb *to be*, in almost all the ponens, as *I war*, *he war*, *we war*, &c.

To Ward. *v. n.* Ta wade.

To Warnt. } *v. n.* To warrant.

To Warnd. }

Wash-dish. *s.* The bird called wagtail.

To-Way-zalt. *v. n.* [To weigh salt.] To play at the game of wayzaltin. *See* the next article.

Way-zaltin. *s.* A game, or exercise, in which two persons stand back to back, with their arms interlaced, and lift each other up alternately.

Weepy. *adj.* Abounding with springs; moist.

Well-apid. *adj.* Appeased; satisfied.

Well-at-ease. } *adj.* Hearty, healthy.

Well-at-eased. }

Wetshod. *adj.* Wet in the feet.

Wev'et. *s.* A spider's web.

To Whack. *v. a.* To beat with violence.

Whack. *s.* A loud blow.

Whatsomiver. *pron.* Whatsoever.

[83]

To Whec'ker. *v. n.* To laugh in a low vulgar manner; to neigh.

Where. *adv.* Whether.

Wherewi'. *s.* Property, estate; money.

Whipper-snapper. *adj.* Active, nimble, sharp.

Whipswhile. *s.* A short time; the time between the strokes of a whip.

Whister-twister. *s.* A smart blow on the side of the head.

To Whiv'er. *v. n.* To hover.

Whiz'bird. *s.* A term of reproach.

To Whop. *v. a.* To strike with heavy blows.

Whop. *s.* A heavy blow.

Who'say, or Hoosay. *s.* A wandering report; an observation of no weight.

Whot. *adj.* Hot.

Wid'ver. *s.* A widower.

Willy. *s.* A term applied to baskets of various sizes, but generally to those holding about a bushel. So called from their being made commonly of *willow*: sometimes called also *willy basket*.

To Wim. *v. a.* To winnow.

Wim-sheet. } *s.* A sheet upon which corn is winnowed.

Wimmin-sheet. }

Wimmin-dust. *s.* Chaff.

Win'dor. *s.* A window.

With'er. *pron.* Other.

With'erguess. *adj.* Different.

With'y-wine. *s.* The plant bindweed; *convolvulus*.

With'erwise. *adv.* Otherwise.

[84]

Wock. *s.* Oak.

Wocks. *s. pl.* The cards called *clubs*; most probably from having the shape of an oak leaf: *oaks*.

Wont. *s.* A Mole.

Wont-heave. *s.* A mole-hill.

Wont-snap. *s.* A mole-trap.

Wont-wriggle. *s.* The sinuous path made by moles under grounds

Wood-quist. *s.* A wood-pigeon.

Wor'ra. *s.* A small round moveable nut or pinion, with grooves in it, and having a hole in its centre, through which the end of a round stick or *spill* may be thrust. The *spill* and *worra* are attached to the common spinning-wheel, which, with those and the *turn-string*, form the apparatus for spinning wool, &c.

To Wride. *v. n.* To spread abroad; to expand.

Wriggle. *s.* Any narrow, sinuous hole.

Wrine. *s.* A mark occasioned by wringing cloth, or by folding it in an irregular manner.

Wring. *s.* A Press. A *cyder-wring*, a cyder-press.

To Wrump. *v. a.* To discompose: to rumple.

Wrump. *s.* A rumple.

Y.

YAL. *s.* Ale.

Yal'house. *s.* An ale-house.

Yarm. *s.* Arm.

Yarth. *s.* Earth.

Yel. *s.* An eel.

[85]

Yel-spear. *s.* An instrument for catching eels.

Yes. *s.* An earthworm.

Yokes. *s. pl.* Hiccups.

Yourn. *pron.* Yours.

Z.

SEE the observations which precede the letter S, relative to the change of that letter to Z.

Zât. *adj.* Soft.

Za'tenfare. *adj.* Softish : applied to the intellects.

To Zam. *v. a.* To heat for sometime over the fire, but not to boil.

Zam'zod. } *adj.* Any thing heated for a long time in a low heat so as to be in

Zam'zodden. } part spoiled, is said to be zamzodden.

Conjecture, in etymology, may be always busy. It is not improbable that this word is a compound of *semi*, Latin, half; and to *seethe*, to boil: so that Zamzodden will then mean, literally, *half-boiled*.

Zand. *s.* Sand.

Zandy. *adj.* Sandy.

Zand-tot. *s.* A sand-hill.

To Zee. *v. a. pret. and part. Zid.* To see.

Zeeäd. *s.* Seed.

Zeeäd-lip. See SEED-LIP.

Zel. *pron.* Self.

Zen'vy. *s.* Wild mustard.

It is often very difficult to trace corrupted and contracted words to their sources.

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This word has, by some etymologist, been supposed a derivation from *sainfoin*; but *sainfoin* is not mustard. The true etymology will be seen at once in *sénevé*, French, from *sinapi*, Latin, contracted and corrupted to *Zenvy*, Somersetian.

Zil'ker. *s.* See SILKER.

Zog. *s.* Soft, boggy land; moist land.

Zog'gy. *adj.* Boggy; wet.

To Zound. } *v. n.* To swoon.

To Zoun'dy, }

To Zuf'fy. *v. n.* See To SUFFY.

Zug'gers! *interj.* This is a word, like others of the same class, the precise meaning of which it is not easy to define. I confess, that I cannot define it with any satisfaction to myself. I dare say it is a composition of two, or more words, greatly corrupted in pronunciation.

Zull. *s.* The instrument used for ploughing land; a plough.

Zunz. *adv.* Since.

Zum'met. *pron.* Somewhat; something.

To Zwail. *v. n.* To move about with the arms extended, and up and down.

To Zwang. *v. a. and v. n.* To swing; to move to and fro.

Zwang. *s.* A swing.

To Zwell. *v. a.* Toswell; to swallow. See To SWELL.

Zwod'der. *s.* A drowsy and stupid state of body or mind.

Derived, most probably, from *sudor*, Latin, a sweat.

[NP]

POEMS,
AND
OTHER PIECES,
EXEMPLIFYING THE
DIALECT
OF THE
County of Somerset.

[NP]

Notwithstanding the Author has endeavoured, in the Observations on the Dialects of the West, and in The Glossary, to obviate the difficulties under which strangers to the dialect of Somersetshire may, very possibly, labour in the perusal of the following Poems, it may be, perhaps, useful here to remind the reader, that many mere inversions of sound, and differences in pronunciation, are not noted in the Glossary. That it did not appear necessary to explain such words as wine, wind; wordle, world; zâ, say; qut, coat; bwile, boil; hoss, horse; hirches, riches; and many others, which it is presumed the context, the Observations or the Glossary, will sufficiently explain. The Author, therefore, trusts, that by a careful attention to these, the reader will soon become au fait at the interpretation of these West-country LIDDENS.

[NP]

GOOD BWYE TA THEE COT.

IF I could bid thee, pleasant shade, farewell
Without a sigh, amidst whose circling bowers
My stripling prime was pass'd, and happiest hours;
Dead were I to the sympathies that swell
The human breast.

BOWLES.

[91]

The Salamanca Corpus: *Observations on Some of the West of England* (1825)
GOOD BWYE TA THEE COT !

Good bwye ta thee Cot! whaur tha dâs o' my
childhood

Glaw'd bright as tha zun in a mornin o' mâ;
When tha dumbledores hummin, craup out o' tha
cob-wâll.

An, shakin ther whings, thâ vloed vooâth an
awâ.*

Good bwye ta thee Cot!—on thy drashel, a-mâ-be,
I niver naw moor shall my voot again zet;
Tha jessamy awver thy poorch zweety bloomin,
Whauriver I goo, I sboll niver vorget.

*This fact, in natural history, is well known to those acquainted with mud-walls and mud-wall houses. The humble-bee, *bombylius major*, or *dumbledore*, as it is here called, makes holes very commonly in these walls, in which it deposits a kind of farina: but it never, in such holes, as far as I have observed, deposits honey; in this bee will be found, nevertheless, on dissection, a considerable portion of that delicious sweet.

[92]

Tha rawzes, tha lilies, that blaw in tha borders—
The gilawfers, too, that I us'd ta behawld —
Tha trees, wi' tha honeyzucks ranglin âll awver,
I âlways sholl think o' nif I shood be awld.

Tha tutties that oten I pick'd on a zunday,
And stickt in my qut — thâ war thawted za
fine;

Aw how sholl I tell o'm — vor âll pirty maidens
When I pass'd 'em look'd back — ther smill rawze

The Salamanca Corpus: *Observations on Some of the West of England* (1825)
on tha wine.

Good bwye ta thee Ash! which my Father beforne me,
A planted, wi' pleasure, tha dâ I war born;
Zâ, oolt thou drap a tear when I cease to behawld
thee.
An wander awâ droo tha wordle vorlorn.

Good bwye ta thee Tree! an thy cawld shade in
zummer;

Thy apples, aw who ool be lotted ta shake?
When tha wine, mangst thy boughs sifes at Milemas in sorrow,
Zâ oolt thou sife for me, or one wild wish
awake?

[93]

Good bwye ye dun Elves! who, on whings made
o' leather,
Still roun my poorch whiver an whiver at
night;
Aw mâ naw hord-horted, unveelin disturber,
Destrây your snug nests, an your plâ by moonlight.

Good bwye ta thee Bower!— ta thy moss an thy
ivy —
To tha flowers that aroun thee âll blossomin graw;
When I'm gwon, oolt thou grieve?—bit 'tis
foolish to ax it;
What is ther that's shower in this wordle below?

Good bwye ta thee Cot! whaur my mother za
thoughtvul,

The Salamanca Corpus: Observations on Some of the West of England (1825)

As zumtimes she war droo er care vor us âll,
Er lessins wi' kindness, wi' tenderness gid us;
An ax'd us, war she dead, what ood us bevâll.

Good bwyte ta thee Cot! whaur tha nightingale's
music,

In tha midnight o' Mâ-time, rawze loud on the
ear;

Whaur tha colley awâk'd, wi' tha zun, an a zingin
A went, wi' tha dirsh, in a voice vull and clear.

[94]

Good bwyte ta thee Cot! I must goo ta tha city,
Whaur, I'm tawld, that tha smawk makes it
dork at noon dâ ;

Bit nif it is true, I'm afeard that I âlways
And iver sholl think on tha cot thatch'd wi'
strâ.

Good bwyte ta thee Cot! there is One that râins
awver.

An wâches tha wordle, wi' wisdom divine;
Than why shood I mang, wi' tha many, my
ma-bes;

Bin there's readship in Him, an to him I resign.

Good bwyte ta thee Cot! shood I niver behauld thee

Again; still I thank thee vor all that is past!

Thy friendly ruf shulter'd — while mother wâch'd
awver.

An haw'd vor my comfort vrom vust unto last.

Good bwyte ta thee Cot! vor the time mâ be longful

The Salamanca Corpus: Observations on Some of the West of England (1825)

Beform I on thy drashel again zet my eye;
Thy tutties ool blossom, an daver an blossom
Again and again—zaw good bwy, an good
bwy!

[NP]

FANNY FEAR.

THE melancholy incident related in the following story, actually occurred a few years ago at Shapwick.

[NP]

FANNY FEAR.

Good Gennel-vawk! an if you please
To lissen to my storry,
A mâ-be 'tis a jitch a one,
Ool make ye zummet zorry.

'Tis not a hoozay tale of grief,
A put wi' ort together,
That where you cry, or where you laugh,
Da matter not a veather;

Bit 'tis a tale vor sartin true,
Wi' readship be it spawken;
I knaw it âll, begummers! well.
By tale, eese, an by tawken.

[98]

Tha maid's right name war FANNY FEAR,
A tidy body lookin;
An she cood brew, and she cood bake,
An dumplins bwile, and skimmer cake;

The Salamanca Corpus: *Observations on Some of the West of England* (1825)

An âll the like o' cookin.

Upon a Zunday âternoon,
Beforne the door a stanin,
To zee er chubby cheeks za hird,
An whitist lillies roun 'em spird,
A damas rawze hez han in,

Ood do your hort good; and er eyes.

Dork, vull, an bright, an sporklin;

Tha country lads could not goo by,

Bit look thâ must— she iver shy,

Ood blish— tha timid lorklin!

Her dame war to her desperd kind;

She know'd er well dezarvin:

She gid her good advice an claws,

At which she niver toss'd er naws,

As zum ool, thawf pon starving.

[99]

She oten yarly upp'd to goo

A milkin o' tha dairy;

Tha meads ring'd loudly wi' er song;

Aw how she birsh'd the grass along,

As lissom as a vary!

She war as happy as a prince;

Naw princess moor o' pleasure

When well-at-eased cood iver veel;

She ly'd her head upon her peel,

An vound athin a treasure.

There war a dessent comly youth,
Who took'd to her a likin;
An when a don'd iz zunday claws,
You'd thenk en zummet, I suppaws,
A look'd zo desperd strikin.

Hiz vace war like a zummer dâ,
When âll tha birds be zingin;
Smiles an good nature dimpling stood.
An moor besides, an âll za good,
Much pleasant promise bringin.

[100]

Now Jan war sawber, and afeard
Nif he in haste shood morry,
That he mid long repent thereof;
An zo a thawt 'twar best not, thawf
To stâ mid make en sorry.

Jan oten pass'd the happy door,
There Fanny stood a scrubbin;
An Fanny hired hiz pleasant voice,
An thawt — “An if she had er choice!”
An veel'd athin a drubbin.

Bit Jan did'n hulder long iz thawts;
Vor thorough iv'ry cranny,
Hirn'd of iz hort tha warm hird tide;
An a cood na moor iz veelins bide,
Bit tell 'em must to Fanny.

The Salamanca Corpus: Observations on Some of the West of England (1825)

To Fanny, than, one Whitsun eve,
A tawld er how a lov'd er;
Naw dove, a zed, to er cood be
Moor faithvul than to her ood he;
His hort had long appruv'd er.

[101]

Wi' timorous blishin, Fanny zed,
"A maid mist not believe ye;
"Vor men ool tell ther lovin tale.
"And awver seely maids prevail—
"Bit I dwont like ta grieve ye:
"Vor nif za be you now zâ true—
"That you've vor I a fancy:
"(Aw Jan! I dwont veel desperd well,
"An what's tha câze, I cannot tell,)
"You'll zâ na moor to Nancy."

Twar zaw begin'd their zweetortin;
Booâth still liv'd in their places:
Zometimes thâ met besides tha stile;
Wi' pleasant look an tender smile
Gaz'd in each wither's faces.

In spreng-time oten on tha nap
Ood Jan and Fanny linger;
An when war vooäs'd to zâ "good bwye,"
Ood meet again, wi' draps in eye,
While haupt ood pwint er vinger.

[102]

Zo paas'd thâ dâs— thâ moons awâ,
An haupt still whiver'd nigh;

The Salamanca Corpus: Observations on Some of the West of England (1825)

Nif Fanny's dreams high pleasures vill,
Of her Jan's thawts the lidden still,
An oten too the zigh.

Bit still Jan had not got wherewi'
To venter eet to morry;
Alas-a-dâ! when poor vawk love,
How much restraint how many pruv;
How zick zum an how zorry.

Aw you who live in housen grate,
An wherewi' much possessin,
You knaw not, mâ-be, care not you.
What pangs jitch tender horts porsue.
How grate nor how distressin.

Jan sar'd a varmer vour long years.
An now iz haups da brighsen:
A gennelman of high degree
Choos'd en iz hunzman vor to be;
His Fanny's hort da lighten!

[103]

"Now, Fan," zed he, "nif I da live,
"Nex zummer thee bist mine;
"Sir John ool gee me wuages good,
Amâ-be too zum viër ood!" —
His Fan's dork eyes did shine.

"To haw vor thee, my Fan," a cried,
"I iver shall* delight;
"Thawf I be poor, 'tool be my pride
To ha my Fan vor a buxom bride —

The Salamanca Corpus: *Observations on Some of the West of England* (1825)
“My lidden dâ an night.”

A took er gently in iz orms
An kiss'd er za zweetyly too;
His Fan, vor jay, not a word cood speak,
Bit a big roun tear rawl'd down er cheak,
It zimm'd as thawf er hort ood break—
She cood hordly thenk it true.

To zee our hunsman goo abroad,
His houns behind en volly ;
His tossel'd cap—his whip's smort smaek.
His hoss a prancin wi' tha crack,
His whissle, horn, an holler, back!
Ood cure âll melancholy.

[104]

It happ'd on a dork an wintry night,
Tha stormy wine a blawin ;
Tha houns made a naise an a dismal yell;
Jitch as zum vawk zâ da death vaurtell,
Tha cattle loud war lawin.

Tha hunsman wâkid an down a went;
A thawt ta keep 'em quiet;
A niver stopped izzel ta dress,
Bit a went in iz shirt vor readiness;
A voun a dirdful riot.

Bit âll thic night a did not come back;
All night tha dogs did raur;
In tha mornin thâ look'd on tha kannel stwons
An zeed 'em cover'd wi' gaur an bwons,

The vlesh âll vrom 'em a taur.

His head war left— the head o' Jan
Who lov'd hiz Fanny za well;
An a bizzy gossip, as gossips be
Who've work o' ther awn bit vrom it vlee,
To Fanny went ta tell.

[105]

She hirn'd, she vloed ta meet tha man
Who corr'd er dear Jan's head:

An when she zeed en âll blood an gaur,
She drapp'd down speechless jist avaur,
As thauf she had bin dead.

Poor Fanny com'd ta erzel again,
Bit her senses left her vor iver!
An âll she zed, by dâ or night —
Vor sleep it left her eye-lids quite —
War, "why did he goo in tha cawld ta shiver? —
"Niver, O Jan! shall I zee thee, niver.!"*

*See a letter by Edward Band, on this sulject, in the prose pieces.

[NP]

JERRY NUTTY;
OR
THE MAN OF MORK.

[NP]

JERRY NUTTY;

OR

THE MAN OF MORK.

AWA wi' âll yer tales o' grief,
An dismal storry writin;
A mâ-be zumthin I mâ zing
Ool be as much delightin.

Zumtime agoo, bevaur tha moors
War tin'd in, lived at Mork
One JERRY NUTTY — spry a war;
A upp'd avaur tha lork.

Iz vather in a little cot
Liv'd, auver-right tha moor,
An thaw a kipt a vlock o' geese,
A war a thoughted poor.

[110]

A niver teach'd tha cris-cross-lain
Ta any of his bways,
An Jerry, mangst the rest o'm, did
Not much appruv his ways.

Vor Jerry zumtimes went ta church
Ta hire tha Pâson preach,
An thawt what pity that ta read
Izzel, a cood'n teach.

Vor than, a zunday âternoon,
Tha Bible, or good book
Would be companion vit vor'm âll

Who choos'd therein ta look.

Bit Jerry than tha naise o' geese
Bit little moor could hire;
An dâtly goose-aggs ta pick up
Droo-out tha moor did tire.

A ôten look'd upon tha hills
An stickle moontains roun,
An wish'd izzel upon ther taps;
What zights a ood be boun!

[111]

Bit what did mooäst iz fancy strick
War Glassenberry Torr:
A âlways zeed it when tha zun
Gleam'd wi' tha mornin stor.

O' Well's grate church a ôten hired,
Iz fancy war awake;
An zaw a thawt that zoon a ood
A journey to it make.

An Glassenberry's Torr, an Thorn
The hawly blowth of which
A hired vrom one and tother too;
Tha like war niver jitch!

Bit moor o' this I need not zâ,
Vor off went Jerry Nutty,
In hiz right hon a wâkin stick,
An in hiz qut a tutty.

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Now, lock-y-zee! in whimsly dress

Trudg'd chearful Jerry on;

Bit on tha moor not vur a went—

A made a zudden ston.

[112]

Which wâ ta goo a cood not thenk,

Vor there war many a wâ;

A put upright iz wâlking stick;

A vâll'd ta tha zon o' dâ.

Ta tha suthard than iz wâ a took

Athert tha turfy moors,

An zoon o' blissom Cuzziton,*

A pass'd tha cottage doors.

Tha maidens o' tha cottages,

Not us'd strange vawk to zee,

Com'd vooâth and stood avaur tha door;

Jer wonder'd what cood be.

Zum smil'd, zum whecker'd, zum o'm blish'd.

“Od dang it!” Jerry zed,

“What do thâ thenk that I be like?”

An nodded to'm iz head.

“Which is tha wâ to Glassenberry?

“I've hired tha hawly thorn

“War zet there by zum hawly hons

“Zoon âter Christ war born;

*Cossington.

[113]

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“An I’ve a mine ta zee it too,

“An o’ tha blowth ta take.”

“An how can you, a seely man,

“Jitch seely journey make?

“What! dwont ye know that now about

“It is the midst o’ June?

“Tha hawly thorn at Kirsmas blows —

“You be zix months too zoon.

“Goo whim again, yea gâwky! goo!”

Zaw zed a damsel vair

As dewy mornin late in Mâ;

An Jerry wide did stare.

“Lord Miss!” zed he, “I niver thawt

“O’ Kirsmas! — while I’ve shoes,

“To goo back now I be zet out,

“Is what I sholl not choose.

“I’ll zee the Torr an hawly thorn,

“An Glassenberry too;

“An, nif you’ll put me in tha wâ,

“I’ll gee grate thanks ta you.”

[114]

“Goo droo thic veel an up thic lane,

“An take tha lift hon path.

“Than droo Miss Crossmaan’s backzid strait,

“Ool bring ye up ta Wrath.

“Now mine, whaur you da turn again

“At varmer Veal’s long yacker,

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“Clooäse whaur Jan Lide, tha cobler, lives,

“Who makes tha best o’ tacker;

“You mist turn short behine tha house

“An goo right droo tha shord,

“An than you’ll pass a summer lodge,

“A builded by tha lord.

Tha turnpick than is jist below,

“An Cock-hill strait avaur ye.”

Za Jerry doff’d his hat an bow’d,

An thank’d er vor er storry.

Bit moor o’ this I need not zâ,

Vor off went Jerry Nutty;

In hiz right hon a wâkin stick,

An in his qut a tutty.

[115]

Bit I vorgot to zâ that Jer

A zatchel wi’ en took

To hauld zum bird an cheese ta ate; —

Iz drink war o’ tha brook.

Za when a got upon Cock-hill

Upon a lynch a zawt;

The zun had climmer’d up tha sky;

A voun it very hot.

An, as iz stomick war za good,

A made a horty meal;

An werry war wi’ wâkin zaw,

A sleepid zoon did veel.

That blessed power o' bâmy sleep,
Which auver ivery sense
Da wi' wild whiverin whings extend
A happy influence;

Now auver Jerry Nutty drow'd
Er lissom mantle wide;
An down a drapp'd in zweetest zleep,
Iz zatchel by is zide.

[116]

Not âll tha naisy stouts could wâke
En vrom iz happy zleep,
Nor emmets thick, nor vlies that buz,
An on iz hons da creep.

Naw dreams a had; or nif a had
Mooäst pleasant dreams war thâ:
O' geese an goose-aggs, ducks an jitch;
Or Mally, vur awâ.

Zum gennelmen war dreavin by
In a gilded cawch za gâ;
Thâ zeed en lyin down asleep;
Thâ bid tha cawchmaa stâ.

Thâ bâll'd, thâ hoop'd— a niver wâk'd;
Naw houzen there war handy;
Zed one o'm, "Nif you like, my bways,
"Well ha a little randy!"

"Jist put en zâtly in tha cawch

The Salamanca Corpus: Observations on Some of the West of England (1825)

“An dreav en ta Bejwâter;

“An as we âll can ’t g’in wi’n here,

“I’ll come myzel zoon âter.”

[117]

Twar done at once: vor norm o’ m car’d

A strâ vor wine or weather;

Than gently rawl’d tha cawch along,

As zât as any veather.

Bit Jerry snaur’d za loud tha naise

Tha gennelmen did gally;

Thâ’d hâf a mind ta turn en out:

A war dreamin o’ his Mally!

It war the morkit dâ as rawl’d

Tha cawch athin Bejwâter;

Thâ drauv up ta tha Crown-Inn door.

Ther Mâ-game man com’d âter.

“Here Maester Wâter! Lock-y-zee!

“A-mâ-be you mid thenk

“Thic mon a snaurin in tha cawch

“Is auvercome wi’ drenk.

“Bit ’tis not jitchy theng we know;

“A is a cunjerin mon,

“Vor on Cock-hill we vound en ly’d

“Iz stick stiff in hiz hon.

[118]

“Iz vace war cover’d thick wi’ vlies

“An bloody stouts a plenty;

“Nif he’d a pumple voot bezide,

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“An a brumstick vor’n to zit ascride,
“O’ wizards a mid be thawt tha pride,
“Amangst a kit o’twenty.”

“ Lord zur! an why d’ye bring en here
“Ta gally âll tha people?
“Why zuggers! nif we frunt en than,
“He’ll auver-dro tha steeple.

“I bag ye, zur, ta take en vooäth;
“There! how iz teeth da chatter;
“Loud zur! vor Christ — look there again!
“A’ll witchify Bejwâter!”

Tha gennelmen stood by an smiled
To zee tha bussle risin:
Vor zoon, droo-out tha morkit, wide
Tha news war gwon sapisin.

An round about tha cawch thâ dring’d —
Tha countryman and townsman;
An young an awld, an man an maid —
Wi’ now an tan, an here an there,
Amang tha crowd to gape an stare,
A doctor an a gownsinan.

[119]

Jitch naise an brother wâkid zoon
Poor hormless Jerry Nutty.
A look’d astunn’d; — a cood’n speak!
An daver’d war iz tutty.

A niver in hiz life avaur

The Salamanca Corpus: Observations on Some of the West of England (1825)

Ad bin athin Bejwâter;
A thawt, an if a war alive,
That zummet war tha matter.

Tha houzen cling'd together zaw!
Tha gennelmen an ladies!
Tha blacksmith's, brazier's hammers too!
An smauk whauriver trade is.

Bit how a com'd athin a cawch
A war amaz'd at thenkin;
A thawt, vor sartin, a must be
A auvercome wi' drenkin.

Thâ ax'd en nif a'd please to g'out
An ta tha yalhouse g'in;
Bit thâ zo clooäse about en dring'd
A cood'n goo athin.

[120]

Ta g'under 'em or g'auver 'em
A try'd booäth grate and smâll;
Bit g'under, g'auver, g'in, or g'out,
A cood'n than at âll.

“Lord bless ye! gennel-vawk!” zed he,
“I'm come to Glassenberry
“To zee tha Torr an Hawly Thorn;
“What makes ye look za merry?”

“Why mister wizard! dwont ye knaw,
“Theäse town is câll'd Bejwâter!”
Cried out a whipper-snapper man:

Thâ âll bust out in lâughter.

“I be’n’t a wizar, zur!” a zed;
“Bit I’m a little titch’d*
“Or, witherwise, you mid well thenk
“I’m, zure anow, bewitch’d!”

Thaw Jerry war, vor âll tha wordle,
Like very zel o’ quiet,
A veel’d iz blood ta bwile athin
At jitchy zort o’ riot;

* Touched.

[121]

Za out a jump’d amangst ’em âll!
A made a desperd bussle;
Zum hirn’d awâ — zum made a ston;
Wi’ zum a had a tussle.

Iz stick now sar’d ’em justice good;
It war a tough groun ash;
Upon ther heads a plâ’d awâ,
An round about did drash.

Thâ belg’d, thâ raur’d, thâ scamper’d âll,
A zoon voun rum ta stoory;
A thawt a’d be reveng’d at once,
Athout a judge or jury.

An, thaw a brawk naw-body’s bwons,
A gid zum bloody nawzes;
Tha pirty maids war fainty too;

Hirn'd vrom ther cheeks tha rawzes.

Thinks he, me gennelmen! when nex

I goo to Glassenberry,

Yea shant ha jitch a rig wi' I,

Nor at my cost be merry.

[122]

Zaw, havin clear'd izzel a wâ,

Right whim went Jerry Nutty;

A flourished roun iz wâkin stick;

An vlong'd awâ iz tutty.

[NP]

TEDDY BAND.

THE short and simple annals of the poor.

GRAY.

[NP]

TEDDY BAND.

Miss Hanson to Miss Mortimer.

Ashcot, July 21st.

My Dear Jane;

I returned from the *Valley of Rocks* a few days since, and would have done myself the pleasure of paying you a visit instead of sending this; but some engagements will prevent me that gratification for ten days, or a fortnight, at least. You will want to know how I have been engaged; it is impossible for me to tell you now. Suffice it to say, that I have been abundantly gratified. I am quite out of conceit with this part of Somersetshire since my return! But begone ye mountains! thou sea! ye cataracts! I am

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on tip-toe to learn how you are; and, may I venture to say, how Mr. Cloyne is — does he continue his attentions? — I sincerely hope so, and that you, my dear Jane, are where I wish you to be — on the high road to happiness !

[126]

As I cannot come myself, and as I have not time to write a long letter, will you do me the favour to amuse yourself and your friends with the inclosed epistle? It is certainly an original — written in the dialect of the County. You will easily understand it, and I do not doubt the “moril” too.

Edward Band, or as he is more commonly called here, Teddy Band, is a poor, but honest and industrious cottage— perhaps one of those flowers which is doomed

“To blush unseen,

And waste its sweetness on the desert air;”

But I am, nevertheless, sometimes disposed to think that

“If ignorance is bliss,

’Tis folly to be wise.”

My dear Jane,

Affectionately your’s,

MARIA HANSON.

Teddy Band to Miss Hanson.

Mâm,

I da thenk you’ll smile at theeázam here veo lains that I write ta you, bin I be naw scholar; vor vather coud’n avoord ta put I ta

[127]

school. Bit nif you’ll vorgee me vor my bauldniss, a-mâ-be, I mid not be afeard ta zâ zummet ta you that you, mâm, yourzel mid like ta hire. Bit how be I ta know that? I know that you be a good hortod Lady, an da like ta zee poor vawk well-at-eased an happy. You axt I tother dâ ta zing a zong: now I dwont much like zum o’ thâ zongs that I hired thic night at squire Reeves’s when we made an end o’ Hâ-corrin: vor, zim ta I, there war naw moril to ’em. I like zongs wi’ a moril to ’em. Tha nawtes, to be shower, war zât anow, bit, vor âll that, I war lookin vor tha moril, mâm. Zo, when I cum’d

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whim, I tawld our Pall, that you axt I ta zing; an I war zorry âterward that I did'n, bin you be âlways zo desperd good ta poor vawk. Bit I thawt, a-mâ-be, you mid be angry wi' my country lidden. Why Teddy, zed Pall, dwont ye zend Miss Hanson thic zong which you made yerzel; I think ther is a moril in thic. An zo, mâm, nif you please, I a zent tha zong. I haup you'll vorgee me.

Mâm, your humble sarvant,

TEDDY BAND

[128]

Z O N G.

I HAVE a cot o' Cob-wâll
Roun which tha ivy clim;,
My Pally at tha night-vâll
Er crappin viër trims.

A comin vrom tha plow-veel
I zee tha blankers rise,
Wi' blue smauk cloudy curlin,
An whivering up tha skies.

When tha winter wines be crousty,
An snaws dreav vast along,
I hurry whim — tha door tine,
An cheer er wi' a zong.

When spreng, adresst in tutties,
Câlls all tha birds abroad;
An wrans an robin-riddicks,
Tell âll the cares o' God,

[129]

I zit besides my cot-door

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Ater my work is done,
While Pally, bizzy knittin,
Looks at tha zettin zun.

When zummertime is passin,
An harras dâs be vine,
I drenk tha sporklin cyder,
An wish naw wither wine.

How zweet tha smill o' clawver,
How zweet tha smill o' hâ;
How zweet is haulsom labour,
Bit zweeter Pall than thâ.

An who dye thenk I envy,
Tha nawbles o' tha land?
Thâ can't be moor than happy,
An *that* is Teddy Band.

[130]

Mister Ginnins ;

I a red thic ballet o' yourn called Fanny Fear, an, zim ta I, there's naw moril to it
Nif zaw be you da thenk zo well o't, I'll gee one.

I dwont want to frunt any ov tha gennelmen o' tha country, bit I âlways a thawt it
desperd odd, that dogs should be kept in a kannel, an kept a hungered too, zaw that
thâ mid be moor eager to hunt thic poor little theng câlled a hare. I dwon naw, bit I da
thenk, nif I war a gennelman, that I'd vine better spoort than huntin; besides, zim ta I
'tis desperd wicked to hunt animals vor one's spoort. Now, jitch a horrid blanscue as
what happened at Shapick, niver could a bin but vor tha hungry houns. I haup that
gennelmen ool thenk o't oten; an when thâ da hire tha yell o' tha houns thâ'll not vorgit
Fanny Fear; a-mâ-be thâ mid be zummet tha wiser an better vor't; I'm shower jitch a
storry desarves ta be remimbered. This is the moril.

I am, sur, your sarvant,

TEDDY BAND.

[NP]

THE CHURCHWARDEN.

[NP]

THE CHURCHWARDEN.

Upon a time, naw matter whaur,
Jitch plazen there be many a scaur
In Zummerzets girt gorden;
(I've hir'd 'twar handy ta tha zea,
Not vur vrom whaur tha zantots be)
There liv'd a young churchwarden.

A zim'd delighted when put in,
An zaw a thawt a ood begin
Ta do hiz office duly;
Bit zum o'm, girt vawk in ther wâ —
Tha *Porish* o'ten câlled, — a girt bell-sheep
Or two that lead tha rest an quiet keep —
Put vooâth ther hons iz coose ta stâ,
Which made en quite unruly.

[134]

A went, of coose, ta Visitâtion
Ta be sworn in;— an thân 'twar nâtion
Hord that a man his power should doubt,—
An moor— ta try ta turn en out!
“Naw, Naw!” exclaim'd our young churchwarden,
“I dwon't care vor ye âll a copper varden!”

Tha church war durty.— Wevets here

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Hang'd danglin vrom tha ruf; an there
Tha plaisterin shaw'd a crazy wâll;
Tha âltar-piece war dim and dowsty too,
That Peter's maricle thâ scase cood view.
Tha Ten Commandments nawbody cood rade;*
Tha Lord's Prayer ad nuthin in't bit "Brade:"+
Nor had tha Creed
A lain or letter parfît, grate or smâll.
'Twar time vor zum one ta renew 'em âll.

I've tawld o' wevets— zum o'm odd enow;
Thâ look'd tha colour of a dork dun cow,
An like a skin war stratched across tha corners;

*Read.

+ Bread.

[135]

Tha knitters o' tha porish tâk'd o knittin
Stocking wi' 'em!— Bit aw, how unbevittin
All tâk like this!— aw fie, tha wicked scorners!

Ta work went tha Churchwarden; wevets tummel'd
Down by tha bushel, an tha pride o' dowst war hummel'd.

Tha wâlls once moor look'd bright.

Tha Painter, fags, a war a Plummer

An Glazier too,

Put vooâth his powers,

(His workin made naw little scummer!)

In zentences, in flourishes, and flowers.

Tha chancel, church and âll look'd new,

An war well suited to avoord delight.

The Salamanca Corpus: Observations on Some of the West of England (1825)

Tha Ten Commandments glitter'd wi' tha vornish;
Compleat now, tha Lord's Prayer, what cood tarnish.
As vor tha Creed 'twar made bran-new
Vrom tap ta bottom; I tell ye true!
Tha âltar-piece wi' Peter war now naw libel
Upon tha church,

[136]

Which booâth athin an, tower and âll, athout
Look'd like a well-dress'd maid in pride about;
Tha wâlls rejâic'd wi' texts took vrom tha Bible.

Bit, vor âll that, thâ left en in tha lurch:
I bag your pardon,
I meän, of âll tha expense thâ ood'n pâ a varden.

Jitch zweepin, birshin, paintin, scrubbin;
Tha tuts ad niver jitch a drubbin;
Jitch white-washin an jitch brought gwâin
A power of money. — Tha Painter's bill
Made of itzel a pirty pill,
Ta zwell which âll o'm tried in vain!
Ther stomicks turn'd, ther drawts war norry;*
Jitch gilded pills thâ cood'n corry.
An when our young churchwarden ax'd 'em why,
Thâ laugh'd at en, an zed, ther drawts war dry.

Tha keeper o' tha church war wrong ;
(Churchwarden still tha burden o' my zong)
A should at vust
A câll'd a Vestry: vor 'tis hord ta trust

* Narrow.

[137]

The Salamanca Corpus: *Observations on Some of the West of England* (1825)

To Porish generâsity; an zaw
A voun it: I dwon' know
Whaur or who war his advisers.
Zum zed a Lâyer gid en bad advice;
A-mâ-be zaw; jitch vawk ben't always nice.
Lâyers o' advice be seltimes misers
Nif there's wherewi' ta pâ;
Or, witherwise, good-bwye ta Lâyers an tha Lâ.

A Vestry than at last war cried —
A Vestry's power let noâne deride —
When tha church war auver tha clork bâl'd out,
Aw eese! aw eese! aw eese!
All wonder'd what cood be about,
An strach'd ther necks like a vlock o' geese;
Why— *ta make a Rate*
Vor tha church's late
Repairâtion.
A grate norâtion,
A nâtion naise tha nawtice made,
About tha cost ta be defray'd
Vor tha church's *repairâtion.*

[138]

Tha Vestry met, âll naise an bother;
One ood'n wait ta hire tha tuther.
When thâ war tir'd o' jitch a gabbble,
Ta bâl na moor not one war yahle,
A man, a little zâtenfare,
Got up hiz verdi ta declare.
Now Soce, zed he, why we be gwâin
Ta meet in Vestry here in vâin.
Let's come ta zum determinâtion.

The Salamanca Corpus: Observations on Some of the West of England (1825)

An not tâk âll in jitch a fashion.

Let's zee tha 'counts. A snatch'd tha book

Vrom tha Churchwarden in't ta look.

Tha book war chain'd clooäse to his wrist;

A gid en slily jitch a twist!

That the young Churchwarden loud raur'd out,

“You'll break my yarm!— what be about?”

Tha man a little zâtenfare,

An âll tha Vestry wide did stare!

Bit Soce, zed he again, I niver zeed

Money brought gwâin zaw bad. What need

War ther tha âltar-piece ta titch?

What good war paintin, vornishin, an jitch?

[139]

What good war't vor'n ta mend

Tha Ten Commandments?— Why did he

Mell o' tha Lord's Prayer? Lockyzee!

Ther war naw need

To mell or make wi' thic awld Creed.

I'm zorry vor'n; eese zorry as a friend;

Bit can't consent our wherewi' zaw ta spend.

Thâ âll, wi' one accord,

At tha little zâtenfare's word,

Agreed, that, not one varden,

By Rate,

Should he collected vor tha late

Repairâtion

Of tha church by tha young Churchwarden.

[NP]

THE FISHERMAN

AND

THE PLAYERS.

Now who is ther that han't a hir'd

O' one young TOM CAME?

A Fisherman of Huntspill,

An a well-know'n name.

A know'd much moor o' fishin

Than many vawk besides;

An a know'd much moor than mooäst about

Tha zea and äll tha tides.

A know'd well how ta make buts,

An bullies too an jitch,

An up an down tha river whaur

Tha best place vor ta pitch.

[141]

A know'd all about tha stake-hangs

Tha zälmon vor ta catchy,—

Tha pitchin an tha dippin net,—

Tha Slime an tha Mud-Batch.*

*Two islands well known in the River Parret, near its mouth.

Several words will be found in this Poem which require explanation; I have not placed them in the *Glossary*, because they seem too local and technical to deserve a place there: they shall be here explained.

The Salamanca Corpus: Observations on Some of the West of England (1825)

To Pitch. v. n. To fish with a boat and a pitchin-net in a proper position across the current so that the fish may be caught.

Pitchin-net. s. A large triangular net attached to two poles, and used with a boat for the purpose, chiefly, of catching salmon. — The fishing boats in the Parret, it ought, perhaps, to be here remarked, are *flat-bottomed*, in length about seventeen feet, about four feet and a half wide, and pointed at both ends: they are easily managed by *one* person, and are rarely, if ever, known to overturn.

Dippin-net. s. A small net somewhat semicircular, and attached to two round sticks for sides, and a long pole for a handle. It is used for the purpose of *dipping* salmon and some other fish, as the shad, out of the water.

Gad. s. A long pole, having an iron point to it, so that it may be easily thrust into the ground. Two gads are used for each boat. Their uses are to keep the boat steady across the current, in order that the net may be in a proper position.

[142]

A handled too iz gads well
His paddle and iz oor;*
A war âlways bawld an fearless —
A, when upon tha Goor. +

O' heerins, sprats, an porpuses —
O' âll fish a cood tell;
Who bit he amangst tha Fishermen —
A âlways bear'd tha bell.

Tommy Came ad hired o' Plâyers,
Bit niver zeed 'em plâ;
Thâ war actin at Bejwâter;
There a went wi' Silly Dâ.

When tha curtain first drâw'd up, than
Sapriz'd war Tommy Came;
A'd hâf a mine ta him awâ,

*Oar.

+ The Gore, dangerous sands so called, situated at the mouth of the River Parret, in the Bristol Channel.

[143]

Tha vust act bein auver
Tha zecond jist begun,
Tommy Came still wonder'd grately
Ta him it war naw fun.

Zaw ater lookin on zumtime,
Ta understand did strive;
*There now, zed he, I'll gee my woth**
That thâ be âll alive!

*Oath.

[NP]

MR. GUY.

[THE incident on which this story is founded, occurred in the early part of the last century; hence the allusion to making *a will* before making a journey to the metropolis.]

[NP]

MR. GUY.

MR. GUY war a gennelman
O' Huntspill, well knawn
As a grazier, a hirch one,
Wi' lons o' hiz awn.

A ôten went ta Lunnun
Hiz cattle vor ta zill;

The Salamanca Corpus: Observations on Some of the West of England (1825)

All tha hosses that a rawd
Niver minded hadge or hill.

A war afeard o' naw one;
A niver made hiz will,
Like wither vawk, avaur a went
Hiz cattle vor ta ziil.

[148]

One time a'd bin ta Lunnun
An zawld iz cattle well;
A brought awâ a power o' gawld,
As I've a hired tell.

As late at night a rawd along
All droo a unket ood,
A ooman rawze vrom off tha groun
An right avaur en stood:

She look'd za pitis Mr. Guy
At once hiz hoss's pace
Stapt short, a wonderin how, at night,
She com'd in jitch a place.

A little trunk war in her hon;
She zim'd vur gwon wi' chile.
She ax'd en nif a'd take er up
An cor er a veo mile.

Mr. Guy, a man o' veelin
Vor a ooman in distress,
Than took er up behind en;
A cood'n do na less.

[149]

A corr'd er trunk avaur en,
An by hiz belt o' leather
A bid er hawld vast; on thâ rawd,
Athout much tâk, together.

Not vur thâ went avaur she gid
A whissle loud an long;
Which Mr. Guy thawt very strange;
Er voice too zim'd za strong!

She'd lost er dog, she zed; an than
Another whissle blaw'd,
That stortled Mr. Guy; — a stapt
Hiz hoss upon tha rawd.

Goo on, zed she; bit Mr. Guy
Zum rig beginn'd ta fear:
Vor voices rawze upon tha wine,
An zim'd a comin near.

Again thâ rawd along; again
She whissled. Mr. Guy
Whipt out hiz knife an cut tha belt,
Than push'd er off!— Vor why?

[150]

Tha ooman he took up behine,
Begummers, war a *man!*
Tha rubbers zaw ad lâd ther plots
Our grazier to trepan.

I sholl not stap ta tell what zed

The Salamanca Corpus: Observations on Some of the West of England (1825)

Tha man in ooman's clawze;
Bit he, an âll o'm jist behine.
War what you mid suppawze.

Thâ cust, thâ swaur, thâ dreaten'd too,
An âter Mr. Guy
Thâ gallop'd âll; 'twar niver-tha-near:
Hiz hoss along did vly.

Auver downs, droo dales, awâ a went,
'Twar dâ-light now amawst,
Till at an inn a stapt, at last,
Ta think what he'd a lost.

A lost? — why, nothin — but hiz belt! —
A zummet moor ad gain'd:
Thic little trunk a corr'd awâ —
It gawld g'lore contain'd!

[151]

Nif Mr. Guy war hirsch avaur,
A now war hircher still:
Tha plunder o' tha highwâmen
Hiz coffers went ta vill.

In sâfety Mr. Guy rawd whim;
A ôten tawld tha storry.
Ta meet wi' jitch a rig myzel
I shood'n, soce, be zorry.

[NP]

THE ROOKERY.

[NP]

The Salamanca Corpus: Observations on Some of the West of England (1825)

THE ROOK, *corvus frugilegus*, is a bird of considerable intelligence, and is, besides, extremely useful in destroying large quantities of worms and larvæ of destructive insects. It will, it is true, if not watched, pick out, after they are dibbled, both pease and beans from the holes with a precision truly astonishing; a very moderate degree of care is, however, sufficient to prevent this evil, which is greatly overbalanced by the positive good which it effects in the destruction of insects.

It is a remarkable fact, and not, perhaps, generally known, that this bird rarely roosts at the rookery, except for a few months during the period of incubation, and rearing its young. In the winter season it more commonly takes flights of no ordinary length, to roost on the trees of some remote and sequestered wood. The *Elm* is its favourite, on which it usually builds; but such is its attachment to locality, that since the incident alluded to in the following Poem took place, the Rooks have, many of them, built in *fir* trees at a little distance from their former habitation. The habits of the Rook are well worthy the attention of all who delight in the study of Natural History.

[NP]

THE ROOKERY.

My zong is o' tha ROOKERY,
Not jitch as I a zeed
On stunted trees wi' leaves a veo,
A very veo indeed,

In thic girt place thâ *Lunnun* câll; —
Tha Tower an tha Pork
Hâ booâth a got a Rookery,
Althaw thâ han't a Lork.

I zeng not o' jitch Rookeries,
Jitch plaizen, pump or banners;
Bit town-berd Rooks, ver âll that, hâ,
I warnt ye, curious *manners*.

[152]

The Salamanca Corpus: Observations on Some of the West of England (1825)

My zong is o' a Rookery
My Father's cot beside,
Avaur, years âter, I war born
'Twar long tha porish pride.

Tha elms look'd up like giants tâll
Ther branchy yarms aspread;
An green plumes wavin wi' tha wine,
Made gê each lofty head.

Ta drâ tha pectur out — ther war
At distance, zid between
Tha trees, a thatch'd Form-house, an geese
A cacklin on tha green.

A river, too, clooâse by tha trees,
Its stickle coose on slid,
Whaur yels an trout an wither fish
Mid ôtentimes be zid.

Tha rooks voun this a pleasant place —
A whim ther young ta rear;
An I a ôten pleas'd a bin
Ta wâtch 'em droo tha year.

[157]

'Tis on tha dâ o' Valentine
Or there or thereabout,
Tha rooks da vust begin ta build,
An cawin, make a rout.

Bit aw! when May 's a come, ta zee
Ther young tha gunners shut

The Salamanca Corpus: Observations on Some of the West of England (1825)

Vor SPOORT, an bin, as zum da zâ,

(Naw readship in't I put)

That nif thâ did'n shut tha rooks

Thâ'd zoon desert tha trees!

Wise vawk! Thic reason vor ther SPOORT

Gee thâ mid nif thâ please!

Still zeng I o' tha Rookery

Vor years it war tha pride

Of all place, bit 'twar ta I

A zumthin moor bezide.

I hired tha Rooks avaur I upp'd;

I hired 'em droo tha dâ;

I hired ther young while gittin flush

An ginnin jist ta câ.

[158]

I hired 'em when my mother gid

Er lessins kind ta I,

In jitch a wâ when I war young,

That I war fit ta cry.

I hired 'em at tha cottage door,

When mornin, in tha spreng,

Wâk'd vooãth in youth an beauty too,

An birds beginn'd ta zeng.

I hired 'em in tha winter-time

When, roustin vur awâ,

Thâ visited tha Rookery

A whiverin by dâ.

My childhood, youth, and manood too,
My Father's cot recâll
Thic Rookery. Bit I mist now
Tell what it did bevâll.

'Twar Mâ-time — heavy wi' tha nests
War laden âll tha trees;
An to an fraw, wi' creekin loud,
Thâ sway'd ta iv'ry breeze.

[159]

One night tha wine — a thundrin wine,
Jitch as war hired o' niver,
Blaw'd two o' thic girt giant trees
Flat down into tha river.

Nests, aggs, an young uns, âll awâ
War zweept into tha wâter;
An zaw war spwiled tha Rookery
Vor iver and iver âter.

I visited my Father's cot:
Tha Rooks war âll a gwon;
Whaur stood tha trees in lofty pride
I zid there norra one.

My Father's cot war desolate ;
An âll look'd wild, vorlorn;
Tha Ash war stunted that war zet
Tha dâ that I war born.

My Father, Mother, Rooks, âll gwon!

The Salamanca Corpus: Observations on Some of the West of England (1825)

My Charlotte an my Lizzy! —

Tha gorden wi' tha tutties too! —

Jitch thawts why be za bizzy!

[160]

Behawld tha wâ o' human thengs!

Rooks, lofty trees, an Friends —

A kill'd, taur up, like leaves drap off! —

Zaw feayer'd bein ends.

[NP]

TOM GOOL,

AND

LUCK IN THA BAG.

[NP]

TOM GOOL,

AND

LUCK IN THA BAG.

“LUCK, Luck in tha Bag! Good Luck!

“Put in an try yer fortin;

“Come, try yer luck in tha Lucky Bag!

“You'll git a prize vor sartin.”

Mooäst plazen hâ ther customs

Ther manners an ther men;

We too a got our customs,

Our manners and our men.

He who a bin ta Huntspill Fâyer

Or Highbridge — Pawlet Revel —

Or Burtle Sassions, whaur thâ plâ,

Zumtimes tha very devil,

[164]

Mist mine once a man well

That war a câll'd TOM GOOL;

Zum thawt en mazed, while withers thawt

En moor a knave than fool.

At âll tha fâyers an revels too

TOM GOOL war shower ta be,

A tâkin vlother vast awâ, —

A hoopin who bit he.

Vor'âll that a had a zoort o' wit

That zet tha vawk a laughin;

An mooâst o' that, when he tha yal

Ad at tha fâyer bin quaffin.

A corr'd a kit o' pedlar's waur.

Like awld *Joannah Martin*;

An nif you hâdn't a hired o' her,

You zumtime sholl vor sartin.

* This Lady, who was for many years known in Somersetshire as an itinerant dealer in earthenware, rags, &c. and occasionally a *fortune-teller*, died a few years since at Huntspill, where she had resided for the greater part of a century. She was extremely illiterate, so much so, as not to be able to write, and, I think, could scarcely read. She lived for some years in a house belonging to my father, and while a boy, I was very often her gratuitous amanuensis, in writing letters for her to her children. She possessed, however, considerable shrewdness, energy, and perseverance, and amassed property to the amount of several hundred pounds. She had three husbands; the name of the first was, I believe, *Gool* or *Gould*, a relation of *Thomas Gool*, the subject of the above

The Salamanca Corpus: Observations on Some of the West of England (1825)

Poem; the name of the second was *Martin*, of the third *Pain*; but as the last lived a short time only after having married her, she always continued to be called *Joannah Martin*. *Joannah* was first brought into public notice by the Rev. Mr. WARNER, in his *Walks through the Western Counties*, published in 1800, in which work will be found a lively and interesting description of her, and with which I have reason to know that *Joannah* was not a little pleased; but she often said that she should wish me to write her life, as I was, of course, more intimately acquainted with it than any casual inquirer could possibly be. An additional notice of *Joannah* appears in the *Monthly Magazine*, for Nov. 1816, page 310. This notice was written by myself; I allude to it in order to observe, that I believe I have somewhere, among my papers, the *original song*, of which she was the authoress and which I copied from her dictation many years ago, the only copy, I presume, in existence; I regret that I cannot now lay my hand upon it: it contains, of course, much of the Somersetshire idiom. I have more than once heard her sing this song, which was satirical, and related to the conduct of a female, one of her neighbours, who had, without the least apparent necessity, become a thief.

Such was JOANNAH MARTIN, a woman who, had she been more fortunately and favourably thrown — had she moved in a sphere where her original talents and energies could have been improved by education, her name might have been added to the list of distinguished female worthies of our country.

[165]

“Luck, Luck in tha Bag!” TOM cried
“Put in an try yer fortin;
“Come try yer luck in tha lucky bag;
“You’ll git a prize vor sartin.

[166]

“All prizes, norra blank,
“Norra blank, âll prizes!
“A waiter — knife — or scissis sheer —

The Salamanca Corpus: *Observations on Some of the West of England* (1825)

“A splat o’ pins — put in my dear! —

“Whitechapel nills âll sizes.

“Luck, Luck in tha Bag!— only a penny vor a venter — you mid git, a-mâ-be, a girt prize — a *Rawman waiter!* —I can avoord it as cheap as thic that stawl it— I a bote it ta trust, an niver intend to pâ vor’t. Luck, Luck in tha bag! âll prizes, norra blank!

[167]

“Luck, Luck in tha Bag! Good Luck!

“Put in an try yer fortin;

“Come, try yer luck in tha lucky bag!

“You’ll git a prize vor sartin.

“Come, niver mine tha single-sticks,

“Tha whoppin or tha stickler;

“You dwon’t want now a brawken head,

“Nor jitchy zoort o’ tickler!

“Now Lady! yer prize is— ‘a SNUFF-Box,’

“A treble-japann’d Pontypool!

“You’ll shower come again ta my Luck in tha bag,

“Or niver trust me —TOMMY GOOL.

“Luck, Luck in tha bag! Good Luck!

“Put in an try yer fortin;

“Come, try yer luck in tha lucky bag!

“You’ll git a prize vor sartin!”

[NP]

MARY RAMSEY'S CRUTCH.

I ZENG o’ *Mary Ramsey’s Crutch!*

The Salamanca Corpus: *Observations on Some of the West of England* (1825)

“Thic little theng!”— Why ’tis’n much

It’s true, bit still I like ta touch

Tha cap o’ *Mary Ramsey’s Crutch*.

She zed, wheniver she shood die,

Er little crutch she’d gee ta I.

Did Mary love me? Eese a b’leeve.

She died — a veo vor her did grieve,—

An *but* a veo — vor Mary awld,

Outliv’d er friends, or voun ’em cawld.

Thic crutch I had — I ha it still,

An port wi’t wont — nor niver will.

O’ her I lorn’d tha cris-cross-lâin;

I haup that ’tword’n quite in vâin!

“Twar her who teach’d me vust ta read

Jitch little words as *beef* an *bread*;

An I da think ’twar her that, âter,

Lorn’d I ta read tha single zâter.

[169]

Poor Mary ôten used ta tell

O’ dâs a past that pleas’d er well;

An mangst tha rest war zum o’ jay,

When I look’d up a little bway.

She zed I war a good one too,

An lorn’d my book athout tha *rue*.*

Poor Mary’s gwon! — a longful time

Zunz now! — er little scholard’s prime

A-mâ-be’s past. — It must be zaw;—

There’s nothin stable here below!

O’ Mary— âll left is — er *crutch*!

An thaw a gift, an ’tword’n much

’Tis true, still I da like ta touch

Tha cap o’ *Mary Ramsey’s Crutch*!

The Salamanca Corpus: *Observations on Some of the West of England* (1825)

That I lov'd Mary, this ool tell.

I'll zâ na moor— zaw, forè well! +

*This Lady, when her scholars neglected their duty, or behaved ill, rubbed their fingers with the leaves of *rue*!

+ Fare ye well.

[NP]

HANNAH VERRIOR.

THA zâ I'm mazed, — my Husband's dead,

My chile, (hush! hush! Lord love er face!)

Tha pit-hawl had at Milemas, when

Thâ put me in theâze pooät-hawl place.

Thâ zâ I'm mazed. — I veel— I thenk—

I tâk — I ate, an ôten drenk.—

Thâ *thenk*, a-mâ-be, zumtimes, *veel* —

An gee me strâ vor bed an peel!

Thâ zâ I'm maz'd. — Hush! Babby, dear!

Thâ shan't come to er! — niver fear!

Thâ zâ thy Father's dead! — Naw, naw!

A'll niver die while I'm below.

Thâ zâ I'm mazed.— Why dwont ye speak?

Fie James! — or else my hort ool break! —

James *is* not dead! nor Babby! — naw!

Thâ'll niver die while I'm below!

[NP]

REMEMBRANCE.

The Salamanca Corpus: *Observations on Some of the West of England* (1825)

AN shall I drap tha Reed — an shall I,

Athout one nawte about my SALLY?

Althaw we Pawets âll be zingers,

We like, wi'enk, ta dye our vingers;

Bit mooäst we like in vess ta pruv

That we remimber thauze we love.

Sim-like-it than, that I should iver

Vorgit my SALLY. — Niver, niver!

Vor, while I've wander'd in tha West —

At mornin tide — at evenin rest—

On Quantock's hills — in Mendip's vales —

On Parret's banks — in zight o' Wales —

In thic awld mansion whaur tha bâll

Once vrighten'd Lady Drake an âll; —

When wi' tha Ladies o' thic dell

Whaur witches spird ther 'ticin spell —*

- COMBE SYDENHAM, the residence of my Friend, GEORGE NOTLEY, Esq. The history of the *Magic Ball*, as it has been called, is now pretty generally known, and therefore need not be here repeated. I take the present opportunity of laying before the reader a few *impromptu* lines, which I presented to Miss NOTLEY and her friend, on the morning of my departure from that romantic spot — COMBE SYDENHAM, January the 9th, 1825.

LADIES! Time, that fell destroyer,

Bids me say, at once, farewell—

Yet, believe me, 'tis most painful —

More than pen or tongue can tell.

Will you, when I'm gone and distant,

Think of me who sojourn'd here?

Yes — I know you will, ye Fair Ones!

Nay — I do not ask a tear.

Pleas'd by you to be remember'd;
Pleas'd if, when I'm far way,
You shall smile and think of one who
Pass'd here one delightful day.

I can ne'er, no, ne'er forget you —
Moments pass'd, ye Fair! with you,
Leave a wavy flood of brightness
On the soul — Adieu! Adieu!

[172]

Amangst tha rocks on Watchet shaur
When did tha wine an wâters raur —

[173]

In Banwell's cave — on Loxton hill —
At Clifton gê — at Rickford rill —
In Compton ood — in Hartree coom —
At Crispin's cot wi' little room; —
At Upton — Lansdown's lofty brow —
At Bath, whaur pleasure flânts enow;
At Trowbridge, whaur by Friendship's heed,
I blaw'd again my silent Reed,
An there enjay'd, wi' quiet, rest,
Jitch recollections o' tha West;
Whauriver stapp'd my voot along
I thawt o' HER.— Here ends my zong.

[NP]

MARY PUDDY.

THA tales o' grate an nawble vawk
Let wither pawets study;
I love tha storries o' tha poor;
I'll zeng o' MARY PUDDY.

A right good-natur'd hormless theng,
Ta work— ta please— er study;
Bit still one failin she'd a got,
Ta hide which cood'n, Mary puddy.

Poor Mary had a little chile*
Ta zuckle, warm en âll er study.
Tha parish zed that 'twar a shame
Ta hâ a love-chile— Mary Puddy.

*Child.

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Still Mary noss'd an kept en warm —
Er babby wi' iz cheeks zaw ruddy;
Till zumtime âterward she had
Another chile — Fie Mary Puddy!

Ta thenk wi' bastards zaw ta vill
Tha parish! — Now war âll tha study
Amangst tha parish vawk, ta cure
Tha wicked, wicked, Mary Puddy.

Beforn tha Justice thâ her brought —

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Tha mother wi' er chile zaw ruddy.

Bit tell tha father she ood not:

Vor naw relief ax'd Mary Puddy.

'Twar than thâ lâ'd er down tha lâ —

That tell she must, or she mid study

Er lessin better in a jail.

Ta jail thâ took poor Mary Puddy.

Bit vrom er took er babby, eese,

O' zix weeks awld, wi' cheeks zaw ruddy;

She niver zeed iz vace na moor —

Alas-a-dâ, vor Mary Puddy!

*Nurst.

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'Twar lâ, a-mâ-be;— bit nif 'twar,

Jitch lâ I ood'n wish ta study;

Nor ood I be thic mortal man

That vrom er babe taur Mary Puddy.

She work'd in jail — she kept er milk

Ta zuckle still er babe zaw ruddy

When she shood once come vooäth again; —

Bit, ah! deceiv'd war Mary Puddy.

Vor jist avaur er time war out,

She vâll'd zick — lost er cheeks zaw ruddy —

And ôten vor er babby câll'd —

“My babby!— babby!” — Mary Puddy.

Thâ did'n breng er babby! — naw! —

The Salamanca Corpus: Observations on Some of the West of England (1825)

Er zickness spwil'd her cheeks once ruddy;

An, wi' a feaver scorch'd at last,
She died, she did, poor Mary Puddy!

Er babby pin'd — a ôten cried —
Tha chile which once had cheeks âll ruddy,
Vor tha tetty* cried — a rames a died —
A did — the chile o' Mary Puddy!

* Teat

[NP]

A DEDICATION.

THENK not, bin I ood be tha fashion,
That I, ZIR, write theäze Dedicâtion;

I write, I haup I dwon't offend,
Bin I be proud ta câll You FRIEND.

I here ston vooäth, alooän, unbidden
Ta 'muse you wi' my country lidden; —
Wi' remlets o' tha Saxon tongue
That to our Gramfers did belong.

Vor âll it is a little thing,
Receave it— Friendship's offering —
Ta pruv, if pruf I need renew,
That I esteem not lightly You.

[NP]

THE FAREWEL.

A LONGFUL time zunz this I vust begun!

One little tootin moor and I a done.

“One little tootin moor!— Enough,

“Vor once, we’ve had o’ jitchy stuff;

“Thy lidden to a done ’tis time!

“Jitch words war niver zeed in rhyme!”

Vorgee me vor’m.— Goo little Reed!

Aforn tha vawk an vor me plead:

Thy wild nawtes, mâ-be, thâ ool hire

Zooner than zâter vrom a *lyre*.

Zâ that, *thy maëster’s pleas’d ta blaw ’em,*

An haups in time thâ’ll come ta knaw ’em;

An nif zaw be thâ’ll please ta hear

A’ll gee zum moor another year.

I’ve nothin else jist now ta tell:

Goo, little Reed, an than forwel!

[NP]

FARMER BENNET AN JAN LIDE,

A DIALOGUE.

Farmer Bennet. — Jan! why dwon’t ye right my shoes?

Jan Lide. — Bin, maester ’tis zaw cawld, I can’t work wi’ tha tacker at âll; I’ve a brawk it ten times I’m shower ta dâ — da vreeze za hord. Why Hester hanged out a kittle-smock ta drowy, an in dree minits a war a vraur as stiff as a pawker; an I can’t avoord ta keep a good vier — I wish I cood — I’d zoon right your shoes an withers too — I’d zoon yarn* zum money, I warnt ye. Can’t ye vine zum work vor me, maester, theäze

hord times — I'll do any theng ta sar a penny. — I can drash — I can cleave brans — I can make spars — I can thatchy — I can shear ditch, an I can gripy too, bit da vreeze za hord. I can wimmy — I can messy or milky nif ther be need o't. I ood'n mine dreavin plough or any theng.

* Earn.

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Farmer Bennet. — I've a got nothin vor ye ta do, Jan; bit Mister Boord banehond ta I jist now that thâ war gwain ta wimmy, an that thâ wanted zumbody ta help 'em.

Jan Lide. — Aw, I'm glad o't. I'll hirn auver an zee where I can't help 'em; bit I han't a bin athin tha drashel o' Maester Boord's door vor a longful time, bin I thawt that missis did'n use Hester well; but I dwon't bear malice, an zaw I'll goo.

Farmer Benne.— What did Missis Boord zâ or do ta Hester, than?

Jan Lide. — Why, Hester, a-mâ-be, war zummet ta blame too: vor she war one o'm, d'ye zee, that rawd Skimmerton — thic mâ-game that frunted zum o' tha gennel-vawk. Thâ zed 'twar time to a done wi' jitch litter, or jitch stuff, or I dwon know what thâ call'd it; bit thâ war a frunted wi' Hester about it; an I zed nif thâ war a frunted wi' Hester, thâ mid be a frunted wi' I. This zet missis's back up, an Hester han't a bin a choorin there zunz. Bit 'tis niver-the-near ta bear malice; and zaw âll goo auver an zee which wâ tha wine da blaw.

[NP]

THOMAS CAME

AN

YOUNG MAESTER JIMMY.

Thomas Came.— Aw, Maester Jimmy! zaw you be a come whim* vrom school. I thawt we shood niver zee na moor. We've a mist ye iver zunz thic time, when we war at zea-

wâll, an cut aup tha girt porpus wi' za many zalmon in hiz belly — zum o'm look'd vit ta eat as thaw tha war a bwiled, did'n thâ? —

Jimmy. — Aw eese, Thomas; I da mine tha porpus; an I da mine tha udder, an tha milk o'n, too. I be a come whim, Thomas, an I dwon't thenk I shall goo ta school again theäze zummer. I shall be out amangst ye. I'll goo wi' ta mawy, an ta hâ-makin, an ta reapy—I'll come âter, an zet up tha stitches vor ye, Thomas. An if I da

*Home.

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stâ till Milemas, I'll goo ta Matthews fayer wi' Thomas, âve ye had any zenvy theäze year? — I seed a gir'd'l* o't amangst tha wheat as I rawd along. Ave you bin down in ham, Thomas, o' late — is thic groun, tha ten yacres, haind vor mawin?

Thomas Came.— Aw, Maester Jimmy! I da love ta hire you tâk — da zim zaw naatal. We a had zum zenvy — an tha ten yacres be a haind — a'll be maw'd in a veo dâs — you'll come an hâ-maky, on't ye?— eese, I knaw you ool — an I da knaw whool goo a hâ-makin wi', too — ah, she's a zweet maid — I dwon't wonder at ye at âll, Maester Jimmy — Lord bless ye, an love ye booâth.

Jimmy.— Thomas, you a liv'd a long time wi' Father, an I dwon't like ta chide ye, bit nif you da tâk o' Miss Cox in thic fashion, I knaw she on't like it, naw moor shall I. Miss Cox, Thomas, Miss Cox ool, a-mâ-be, goo a hâ-makin wi' I, as she a done avaur now; bit Sally, Miss Cox, Thomas, I wish you'd zâ naw moor about er.— There now, Thomas, dwon't ye zee — why shee's by tha gate-shord! I haupt she han't a hird what we a bin a tâkin about. — Be tha thissles skeer'd in

* Great deal.

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tha twenty yacres, Thomas? — aw, thât be. Well, I shall be glad when tha ten yacres be a mawed — an when we da make an end o' hâ-corrin, I'll dance wi' Sally Cox.

Thomas Came. — There, Maester Jimmy! 'tword'n I that tâk'd o' Sally Cox!

[NP]

MARY RAMSEY.

A MONOLOGUE,

To er Scholards.

COMHETHER* *Billy Chubb*, an breng tha hornen book. Gee me tha vester in tha windor, you *Pal Came!* — what! be a sleepid— I'll wâke ye. Now, *Billy*, there's a good bway! Ston still there, an mine what I da zâ to ye, an whaur I da pwint.— Now;— cris-cross, + girt â, little â — b— c— d. — That's right *Billy*; you'll zoon lorn tha cris-cross-lain — you'll zoon auvergit Bobby Jiffry— you'll zoon be a *scholard*. A's a pirty chubby bway — Lord love'n!

Now, *Pal Came!* you come an vessy wi' yer zister. — There! tha forrels o' tha book be a brawk; why dwon't ye take moor care o'm? — Now, read;

* Come hither.

+ The *cris*, in this compound, and in *cris-cross-lain*, is very often, indeed most commonly, pronounced *Kirs*.

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— *Het Came!* why d'ye drean zaw?— *hum, hum, hum*; — you da make a naise like a spinnin turn, or a dumbledore — âll in one lidden— *hum, hum, hum*.— You'll niver lorn ta read well thic fashion. — Here, *Pal*, read theaze vesses vor yer zister. There now, *Het*, you mine how yer zister da read, not *hum, hum, hum*, — Eese you ool, ool ye?— I tell ye, you must, or I'll rub zum rue auver yer hors: — what d'ye thenk o't? — There, be gwon you *Het*, an dwon't ye come anuost yer zister ta vessy wi' er till you a got yer lesan moor parfit, or I'll gee* zummet you on't ax me vor. *Pally*, you tell yer Gramfer Palmer that I da zâ *Hetty Came* shood lorn ta knitty; an a shood buy zum knittin nills and wusterd vor er; an a shood git er zum nills and dird, vor er ta lorn ta zawy too.

Now *Miss Whitin*, tha dunces be a gwon, let I hire how pirty you can read.— I âlways zed that Pâson Tuttle’s grandâter ood lorn er book well.—

* *I’ll gee ye zummet*. I will give you something or somewhat. There is a strong disposition to omit the pronoun after such words as gee and wi’. Thus, it is very common, indeed, to say *I’ll goo wi’*, for I’ll go with you: this originates, I apprehend, from the great similarity of the vowel sounds in *wi’*, *gee* and *ye*.

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Now, *Miss*, what ha ye a got there?— *Valentine an Orson*.— A pirty story, bit I be afeard there’s naw moril to it.— What be âll tha tuthermy books you a got by yer goodhussey there in tha basket? Gee’s-zee-’em,* nif you please, *Miss Polly*. — *Tha Zeven Champions* — *Goody Two Shoes* — *Pawems vor Infant minds*. — Theâzamy here be by vur tha best.— There is a moril ta mooäst o’ m; an thâ be pirty bezides. — Now, *Miss*, please ta read thic — *Tha Notorious Glutton*.— *Pal Came!* turn tha glass! dwont ye zee tha zond is âll hirnd out;— you’ll stâ in school tha longer vor’t nif you dwon’t mine it.— Now, âll o’ ye be quiet ta hire *Miss Whitin* read. — There now, what d’ye zâ ta jitch radin as that?— There d’ye hire, *Het Came!* she dwon’t drean — *hum, hum, hum*. — I shoold like ta hire er vussy wi’ zum o’ ye; bit your bad radin ood spwile her good.

Out o’ Books!

All the children goo vooâth.

* *Let me see them*. This is a singular expression, and is thus to be analysed: *Give us to see them*.

[NP]

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS.

I HAVE alluded, in the Preface, to a late excursion which I made in the West.

The Salamanca Corpus: Observations on Some of the West of England (1825)

That excursion has, I am happy to say, contributed not a little to renew and enlarge my acquaintance with some of the dialects of my native county — Somersetshire. It has also procured for me an introduction to Miss HAM, a lady, whose poetical talents are of no mean order. I cannot, perhaps, better close this work, than by presenting to the reader Miss HAM'S observations, in a letter to me, on these dialects.

The lines, of which I desired a copy, contain an exemplification of the use of *utchy or ichè*, used contractedly [see *UTCHY* in the *Glossary*] by the inhabitants of the *South* of Somersetshire, one of the strong holds, as I conceive, of the Anglo-Saxon dialect.

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In our polished dialect, the lines quoted by Miss HAM, may be thus rendered —

Bread and cheese I have had,
What I had I have eaten,

More I would [have eaten if] I had [had] it.

If the contractions be supplied they will stand thus: —

Bread and cheese *ichè* have a had
That *ichè* had *ichè* have a eat
More *ichè* would *iché* had it.

Clifton, Jan. 30, 1825.

Sir;

I have certainly great pleasure in complying with your request, although I fear that any communication it is in my power to make, will be of little use to you in your curious work on the West Country dialect. The lines you desire to have are these:

Bread and cheese 'c' have a had,
That 'c' had 'c' have a eat,
More 'ch wou'd 'c' had it.

Sounds which, from association no doubt, carry with them to my ear the idea of great vulgarity:

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but which might have a very different effect on that of an unprejudiced hearer, when dignified by an Anglo-Saxon pedigree. The Scotch dialect, now become *quite classical*,

with us, might, perhaps, labour under the same disadvantage amongst those who hear it spoken by the vulgar only.

Although I am a native of Somersetshire, I have resided very little in that county since my childhood, and, in my occasional visits since, have had little intercourse with the *aborigines*. I recollect, however, two or three words, which you might not, perhaps, have met with. One of them of which I have traditionary knowledge, being, I believe, now quite obsolete. *Pitisanquint* was used in reply to an inquiry after the health of a person, and was, I understand, equivalent to *pretty well*, or *so so*. The word *Lamiger*, which signifies an invalid, I have no doubt you have met with. When any one forbodes bad weather, or any disaster, it is very common to say *Don't ye housenee*. Here you have the verbal termination, which you remarked was so common in the West, and which I cannot help thinking might have been originally used as a sort of diminutive, and that to *milkee*, signified to milk *a little*.

As my knowledge of these few words is merely oral, I cannot answer for the orthography; I have [190] endeavoured to go as near to the sound as possible, and I only wish it were in my power to make some communication more worth your attention. As it is, I have only my best wishes to offer for the success of your truly original work.

I am, Sir, your most obedient,

ELIZABETH HAM.

I have only one or two remarks to add to those of Miss HAM in the preceding letter.

It will be seen, by reference to the exemplifications of the dialect, that occasional *pleonasm* will be found in it, as well as, very often, extraordinary *contraction*. *I have a done*, *I have a had*, are examples of the first; and *'tword'n*, *g'up*, *g'under*, *banehond*, &c. [see BANEHOND, in the *Glossary*] are examples of the last. *Pitisanquint* appears to me to be simply a contracted and corrupted mode of expressing *Piteous and quaint*. [See PITIS in the *Glossary*]

Don't ye housenee is, *Do not stay in your houses*. But the implied meaning is, *be active*; do your best to provide for the bad weather which portends. In Somersetshire, most of the colloquial

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and idiomatic expressions have more or less relation to agriculture, agricultural occupations, or to the most common concerns of life, hence such expressions have, in process of time, become *figurative*. Thus, *don't ye housenee*, would be readily applied to rouse a person to activity, in order that he may prevent or obviate any approaching or portending evil.

I am still of opinion; indeed I may say, I am quite sure, that the verbal terminations, *sewy*, *knitty*, &c. have no relation to *diminution* in the district East of the Parret.

Upon the whole, it is evident that considerable care and circumspection are necessary in committing to paper the signs of the sounds of a language, of which we have no accredited examples, nor established criterion. In making collections for this work, I have not failed to bear this constantly in mind.

THE END.

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