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**FOUR DIALECT WORDS.
CLEM, LAKE, NESH, AND OSS,**

THEIR MODERN DIALECTAL RANGE, MEANINGS,
PRONUNCIATION, ETYMOLOGY,
AND
EARLY OR LITERARY USE.

BY THOMAS HALLAM.

LONDON:

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[NP]

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CORRIGENDA.

- Page 16, delete line 6 — “As we shall see, both are derived from the Anglo-Saxon”.
- “20, line 29 — (Division) “I” should be “II”.
- “31, line 6 from bottom — *Senyn* should be *Seuyn*.”

[NP]

SUMMARY OF DETAILS.

	Clem.	Lake.	Nesh.	Oss.
I. DIALECTAL RANGE: —				
i. From Printed Books: —				
No. of Glossaries	47	35	50	39
“ Counties —				
In England	17	7	20	13
“ Wales	1		1	1
“ Ireland	2			
Also —	N. of England	N. of England Scotland	N. & W. of England	N. of England
ii. From my own Researches:*				
No. of Counties	14	2	15	8
“ Places	46	7	45	21
II. EARLY OR LITERARY USAGE: —				
Period	1362 to 1649	12 th cent. to 1570	c. 1200 to 1649	1325 to c. 1400

* I may here explain that in recording the “Phonology of English Dialects”, what is primarily required is the dialectal pronunciation of *literary* or *received English* words, in order that the varied forms of pronunciation may be compared for all English counties; this will be done in Mr. Ellis’s great work on the subject now in preparation, which will form Part V. of his *Early English Pronunciation*. Hence, pure dialectal words, as *clem*, *nesh*, *oss*, &c., are not available for this general comparison, their area of usage being only *parts* of the country respectively: consequently, these have not received the same degree of attention as representative received English words, such as *father*, *mother*, *day*, *green*, *house*, *home*, *night*, *noon* &c. Had special inquiries been made during my dialectal tours, the number of places at which these words are respectively current might have been much extended.

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PREFACE.

§ 1. The title page indicates with almost sufficient completeness the purport and scope of this contribution to the English Dialect Society’s publications. Selecting four characteristic and expressive words which are still current in our Dialects, but have long been lost to the standard language, I have endeavoured to ascertain the range of each, so far as that is discoverable from published glossaries and my own personal researches for a number of years. I have given the meaning and shades of meaning of the words as they are employed in the several localities, together with the variations in the pronunciation; the last-named being the result of actual personal hearing of the every-day use of the words by natives, noted down during my somewhat extensive phonological travels in about *twenty-five* English counties, and Denbighshire and Flintshire (detached), in Wales.

§ 2. To complete the examination, I have added examples of the use of the four words by Early and Middle English writers, as well as illustrative colloquial sentences or specimens from the glossarists; and I have ventured, with the assistance of eminent philologists (see § 6), to give the etymology of each word.

§ 3. Apart from the pronunciations which I have been able to record, the differences in which are suggestive and valuable, it will be observed that I have brought into one view information which was previously scattered over a wide area. The labour involved in such a collation has necessarily been considerable, and the result, I trust, will be of some appreciable service to students of the history of our language.

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PREFACE.

§ 4. With respect to Early and Middle English quotations, it was thought advisable in the case of CLEM, LAKE, and NESH to give a considerable number, in order fully to exemplify what we may term their “literary life”.

§ 5. The dialectal range, as indicated both from the printed glossaries, and the writer’s researches, shows the necessity that local glossaries should be inclusive.

§ 6. The etymological section on each word has been submitted to Professor Skeat, of Cambridge, who has most kindly and carefully checked the same, and corrected where necessary. I am also indebted to him for a special paragraph on the etymology of Oss; also, for three of the five Early English quotations for the same word.

I have also to acknowledge, with thanks, courteous communications from Dr. J. A. H. Murray and Professor Rhys, of Oxford, on the etymology of Oss.

The correspondence from the three scholars just named contained likewise several interesting and valuable suggestions. This help has been most courteously and readily granted in response to my inquiries.

My thanks are also hereby tendered to informants in various counties, for special communications on the meaning and use of the word or form LARK = a frolic, sport, &c., in the several localities. See pp. 35-37. These are all people with whom I had interviews previously, in the course of my dialectal travels, and who had willingly given me valuable information on their respective dialects.

THOMAS HALLAM.

Manchester, August, 1887.

[1]

Four Dialect Words.

CLEM.

The modern use of this word, with its variant *Clam*, is dialectal, and has a wide range. It was in literary use in Early and Middle English. I propose to treat the word as follows: —

A. — First, and chiefly, modern dialectal range, localities, orthography, and senses or

acceptations.

I. From Glossaries.

- i. Table of Localities and Authors.
- ii. Quotations, or illustrative sentences.

II. From my own researches.

- i. Table of Localities.
- ii. Illustrative sentences.

III. Correspondence from the *Manchester City News*.

B. — Secondly, ETYMOLOGY and LITERARY USAGE IN EARLY AND MIDDLE ENGLISH.

I. Etymology.

II. Quotations from Early and Middle English.

APPENDIX: The word *starve*.

A. — MODERN DIALECTAL RANGE.

I. from glossaries or printed books.

i. a table or list of the glossaries

in which the word is found. In the first column they are numbered consecutively; the second contains the localities; the third the authors' names and dates; and the fourth the orthography and reference to the two meanings or acceptations, viz.:

- 1 = To starve for want of food, or from having insufficient food; and,
- 2 = To be parched with thirst.

In giving the places or districts, I proceed in series from north to south.

[2]

CLEM:

A TABLE OR LIST OF GLOSSARIES

No.	District.	Author and date.	Orthography and acceptation.	
1	North Country	John Ray, 1674	clem'd, clam'd	1, 2
2	North of England	Rev. J. Hutton, 1781	clam	2
3	North	F. Grose, 1790	clamm'd, clemm'd	1

The Salamanca Corpus: *Four Dialect Words (1885)*

4	North Country Yorkshire: —	J. T. Brockett, 1825	clam	1, 2
5	Cleveland	Rev. J. C. Atkinson, 1868	clam, clem	1
6	Whitby District	F. K. Robinson, 1875	clemm'd	1
7	Mid-Yorkshire	C. C. Robinson, 1876	clam: very occasionally 1; usually 2	
8	Holderness	Ross, Stead & Holder- ness, 1877	clammed	2
9	West Riding	Robert Willan, 1811	clam	1, 2
10	Craven	Rev. W. Carr, 1824	do.	1
10	A Bradford	B. Preston, Poems, 1872	tlammin	1
11	Leeds District	Thoresby to Ray, 1703	clem'd, clam'd	1
12	Leeds	C. C. Robinson, 1862	clamm'd	2
13	Wakefield	W. Scott Banks, 1865	do.	1
14	Almondbury and Huddersfield	Rev. A. Easter & Rev. T. Leeds, 1883	clam, clem	1
15	Hallamshire (Shef- field District)	Rev. Joseph Hunter 1829	clam	1
16	Cumberland	A. C. Gibson, 1869	clemm'd	1
17	Ditto	R. Ferguson, 1873	clam	1
18	Cumberland & West- moorland	Poems, Songs, and Bal- lads, 1839	do. do.	1 1
	Lancashire: —			
19	Lonsdale	R. B. Peacock, in <i>Phil. Soc. Trans.</i> , 1867	Clam	1, 2
20	Furness	J. P. Morris, 1869	clem	1
21	South	J. Collier, 6 ed., 1757	clemm'd	1
22	South J	. H. Nodal and G. Milner, Part I., 1875	clem	1
	E., Mid., & N.	Ditto	clem	1
23	Cheshire	R. Wilbraham, 2 ed., 1826; orig. in <i>Archæo-</i>	clem	1

The Salamanca Corpus: *Four Dialect Words* (1885)

logia, Vol. XIX

24	Ditto	Col. Egerton Leigh, 1877	clam or clem	1
25	Ditto	Robt. Holland, 1884	clem, clam	1
26	Derbyshire (Bakewell District)	J. Sleight, in <i>Reliquary</i> for January, 1865	clam or clem	1
27	Shropshire	Miss Jackson, 1879	clem; clam on the Hereford border	1
28	Ditto	T. Wright, 1880	clem	1
29	Staffordshire	R. Nares, 1822	clamm'd	1
30	Ditto	C. H. Poole, 1880	clam or clem	1
31	Leicestershire	A. B. Evans, D. D., and his son S. Evans, LL. D., 1881	clamm, clam, clem	1
32	Lincolnshire	J. E. Brogden, 1866	clam	2
33	Ditto (Manley & Corringham)	Edward Peacock, 1877	clammed	2

[3]

DIALECTAL RANGE.

A TABLE OR LIST OF GLOSSARIES — (*continued*)

No.	DISTRICT.	AUTHOR AND DATE.	ORTHOGRAPHY AND ACCEPTATION	
34	Northamptonshire	Clare, <i>Poems on Rural Life and Scenery</i> , <i>cir.</i> 1818	clamm'd [birds]	1
35	Ditto	T. Sternberg, 1851	clam'd	1
36	Ditto	Miss Baker, 1854	clam'd: applied to cattle which do not thrive for want of better pasture; but it more frequently denotes parched with thirst.	
37	Warwickshire	W. Holloway, 1839	clam	1
38	Herefordshire	G. Cornwall Lewis, 1839	do.	1

The Salamanca Corpus: *Four Dialect Words* (1885)

39	Worcestershire, West	Mrs. Chamberlain, 1882	clem	1
40	Ditto Upton-on-Severn	Rev. Canon Lawson, 1884	clam	1
41	East Anglia (Norfolk and Suffolk)	Rev. E. Forby, 1830	clam	1
42	Suffolk	Edward Moor, 1823	clammd	1
43	East	T. Wright, 1880	clam	1
44	Ditto	J. O. Halliwell, ed. 1874	clam, clem	1
45	Cornwall, West	Miss M. A. Courtney, 1880	clem	2
46	Wales (Radnorshire)	Rev. W. E. T. Morgan, 1881	do.	1
47	Ireland (Antrim and	W. H. Patterson, 1880	clemmed to death = perished with wet and cold	

NOTE. — Five works in the foregoing list are General Dictionaries of Archaic or of Provincial English, or both, viz.: —

3. F. Grose's Provincial Glossary.

28. (43.) T. Wright's Dict. of Obsolete and Provincial English.

29. Archdeacon Nares's Glossary... illustrating the works of English Authors, particularly Shakspeare and his contemporaries.

37. W. Holloway's General Dict. of Provincialisms.

44. J. O. Halliwell's Dict. of Archaic and Provincial Words.

I may here observe that the variant *clam* has several homonyms, which have various dialectal meanings, and most of them, no doubt, are of different origin. Halliwell has *clam* with thirteen acceptations besides No. 1 before given; and T. Wright has *clam* with fourteen acceptations in addition to the two given above.

[4]

II. QUOTATIONS, OR ILLUSTRATIVE SENTENCES

from a few of the foregoing glossaries, referred to by their respective numbers.

The Salamanca Corpus: *Four Dialect Words* (1885)

2. NORTH:

I am welly clemm'd, *ie.*, almost starved.

4. YORKSHIRE, CLEVELAND:

Ah's fairlings *clammed* (or *clemmed*) for want o' meat.

10A. Ditto BRADFORD:

Ah wur tost like a drucken man's noddle all t' neet

Fur ah saw i' my dreems sich a pityful seet

O haases as cowl an as empty as t'street,

We little things *tlammin* o' t' floar.

T' Lancashire Famine, p. 32.

13. Ditto WAKEFIELD:

Clamm'd to deeah.

22. LANCASHIRE, NORTH: 1866, Gibson (Dialect of High Furness), *Folk-Speech of Cumberland*, p. 86:

Wes' niver, I's insuer us,

Be neeakt or *clemm'd* or cāld.

LANCASHIRE, SOUTH: 1790, Lees and Coupe, *Harland's Lancashire Ballads*, "Jone o' Grinfilt", p. 217:

Booath *clemmin*, un starvin, un never a fardin,

It ud welly drive ony man mad.

1867, Edwin Waugh, *Factory Folk during the Cotton Famine*, c. x., p. 92:

There's a brother o' mine lives wi' us; he'd a been *clemmed* into th' grave but for th' relief.

1868, Ben Brierley, *Fratchingtons*, c. iii., p. 35:

Theau fastened on me like a *clemmed* leech.

29. STAFFORDSHIRE:

I shall be *clamm'd* (for starved).

41. SUFFOLK:

I'm *clammd* ta dead amost.

[N.B. — This form prevails at Lincoln. See examples from my own

43. EAST:

I would sooner *clam* than go to the workhouse.

[5]

II. DIALECTAL RANGE FROM MY OWN RESEARCHES,
1873 TO 1885.

i. TABLE OF LOCALITIES

containing: In column 1, the consecutive numbers; in column 2, the county; in column 3, the town, village, township, &c.; in column 4, the orthography, pronunciation in glossic (within square brackets), and references to acceptations, as in the first table. In giving the places I proceed as before, in series from north to south.

No.	COUNTRY.	TOWN, VILLAGE, ETC.	ORTHOGRAPHY AND ACCEPTATIONS.	
1	Lancashire	Garstang 1881	clammed [tlaamd]	1
2		Burnley 1875	clam [tlaam']	1
3		Farrington 1877	clam or clem [tlaam', tlaem']	1
4		Leyland do.	Clammed [tlaamd]	1
5		West Houghton 1876	clem [tlaem']	1
6		Stalybridge do.	do. do.	1
7	Cheshire	Hollingworth 1873	do. do.	1
8		Barrow 1884	clemmed [klaemd]	1
9		Middlewich 1877	clem [tlaem']	1
10		Farndon 1882	clemmed [klaemd]	1
11	Derbyshire	Dore 1883	clam [tlaam']	1
12		Chesterfield do.	do. and clammed [tlaam', tlaamd']	1
13		Wingerworth (Stone Edge) 1883	do. [tlaam']	1
14		Monyash 1878	clem [tlaem']	1
15		Ashford 1875	clam [tlaam']	1
16		Marston Montgomery		

The Salamanca Corpus: *Four Dialect Words* (1885)

		1878		clem [tlaem´]	1
17	South Normanton	1883		clam [tlaam´]	1
18	Alfreton	do.	do.	do.	1
19	Heanor	do.	do.	do.	1
20	Sandiacre	do.	do.	do.	1
21	Shropshire	Edgmond	1885	clemmed [klaemd]	1
22		Corve Dale	1882	clem [klaem´]	1
23	Staffordshire	Oakamoor	1882	clem [tlaem´]	1
24		Stone		clemmed [tlaemd]	1
25		Burton-on-Trent	1879	clem or clam [klaem´, klaam´]	1
26		Linchfield	1885	clem [?]	1
27		Willenhall	1879	clam [klaam´]	1
28	Nottinghamshire	Bingham	do.	do. clammed [tlaam´, tlaamd]	1
29	Lincolnshire	Lincoln	1885	clammed [tlaamd]	1
30	Northamptonshire	Irchester	do.	do. do.	2

[6]

i. TABLE OF LOCALITIES — (*continued*).

No.	COUNTRY.	TOWN, VILLAGE, ETC.	ORTHOGRAPHY AND ACCEPTATIONS.	
31	Warwickshire	Coventry: not dated	clam [? klaam´ or tlaam´]	1
32	Herefordshire	Near Leominster	1885 clemmed [klaemd]	1
33	Worcestershire	Bewdley	1881 a-clammin´ [u´klaam´in]	1
34	Huntingdonshire	Great Stukeley	do. clemmed [klaemd]	1
35	Oxfordshire	Witney	1884 clam [klaam´]	1
Wales:				
36	Flintshire (detached)	Hanmer (Arowry)	1882, clemmed [tlaemd]	1

twice

ii. ILLUSTRATIVE SENTENCES

recorded at fifteen of the places named in the preceding table, with the pronunciation in

glossic (within square brackets).

1. LANCASHIRE: GARSTANG.

Welly (nearly) clammed to deeüth mony a time = [wael·i' tlaamd tu') d:ee-u'th mon·i' u') t:ah·im].

3. Ditto FARRINGTON.

Dusta (dost thou) think I'm going t' *clem* 'em ? = [Düs·)tu' thingk au)m) goo..i'n t) tlaam') u'm?].

4. Ditto LEYLAND.

I'm varry near *clammed* to deeüth = [Au)m) vaar·u' neeu'r tlaamd tu') deeu'·th].

6. Ditto STALYBRIDGE.

We shanna *clem* him = [Wi') shaan·u' tlaem'·) i'm].

9. CHESHIRE: MIDDLEWICH.

Yo dunna (don't) *clem* your bally for fine clooüs (clothes) = [Yu') dùn·u' tlaem' yu'r) baal·i' fu'r) f:ah·in tl:ouu'z [tlùoo·u'z]].

11. DERBYSHIRE: DORE.

Clam it to deeüth = [tlaam'·) i't tu') d:ee-u'th].

12. Ditto CHESTERFIELD.

Clammed to deeüth = [tlaamd tu') d:ee-u'th].

[7]

14. DERBYSHIRE: MONYASH.

Tha'll *clem* me t' deeth = [Dhaa..)l tlaem'·) mi' t) dee·th].

21. SALOP: EDGMOND.

I amna (am not) *clemmed* = [Au) aam·) nu' klaemd].

24. STAFFS.: STONE.

Clemmed to death = [tlaemd tu') daeth·].

29. LINCOLN: LINCOLN.

Clammed to deeüd = [tlaamd tu') d:ee·u'd].

30. NORTH HANTS: IRCHESTER.

I'm nearly *clammed*— [au)m) n:ee·u'rli' tlaamd].

32. HEREF.: NEAR LEOMINSTER.

Most (nearly) *clemmed* to death = [M:oa·st klaemd tu') daeth·].

33. WORCES.: BEWDLEY. — Referring to a lady who was not charitably inclined, my informant, Mrs. Mary Ashcroft, about ninety-five years of age, observed:

Afore her'd give it [say food] to them as bin a-clammin' = [u'f:oa·u'r uur·)d gyiv·) I't tu') dhaem· u'z) bin· u'klaam`·i'n].

36. WALES—FLINT: HANMER.

Clemmed to jeth (death)= [tlaemd tu') jaeth·].

Being a native of the Peak of Derbyshire, I know that the form *clem* [tlaem`] prevails there, signifying “to starve”. I also know from long personal experience that the same form, pronunciation, and meaning are current in East Cheshire and South Lancashire, including Manchester.

The phrases “clemmed [or clammed] to death”, and “nearly [or welly] clemmed [or clammed] to death”, in their varied dialectal pronunciations, are used figuratively in most of the localities named, as equivalent to “very hungry”; as, for instance, when persons may have been obliged to continue at work, from urgent causes, for a longer time than usual, before partaking of food.

[8]

III. CORRESPONDENCE IN THE *MANCHESTER CITY NEWS*.

In January, 1878, there was some correspondence in this paper on “The Dialectal Range of the Words *Lake* and *Clem*”. I now give the small portion relating to *clem*: —

.... The word *clem* is said to be indigenous to Lancashire, and such may be the case. However, it is a word well-known amongst the poor nailmakers of South Staffordshire, and Halesowen in Worcestershire. I first became acquainted with the word in the Midland counties, and when I came to reside in Lancashire I recognized it as an old acquaintance. Ask a Sedge-ley or Halesowen nailmaker how he is getting on, and the reply will in all probability be, “We’m clemming,” that is, “we are starving”. And in truth these poor nailmakers are being gradually starved out through the bulk of the nails being now made by machinery. H. KERR.

.... The word *clem* about Preston and neighbourhood was always pronounced *clam*. I never heard *clem* except in South-east Lancashire. In the glossary [then] recently edited by Messrs. Nodal and Milner, several quotations from old writers are given in which the word is used, and consequently its range both was and is much wider than the county palatine. One of these, from Massinger, spells the word *clam*, and another from Ben Jonson *clem*. CHARLES HARDWICK.

Manchester.

The article written by myself on *Clem*, was inserted March 30th, 1878, occupying not more than one-fourth the space of the present article, which includes the original information very considerably extended, and in addition, the results of my own dialectal researches.

B. — ETYMOLOGY, AND EARLY OR LITERARY USAGE.

I. ETYMOLOGY.

The word *clem* is of Teutonic origin. The primary senses of words which are cognate in several Teutonic languages are, “to press, squeeze, pinch”, etc.; and from these has been developed the metaphorical meaning, “to be pinched with hunger”, or, “to starve”.

[9]

i. I give cognate words from dictionaries in the following languages:

1. GERMAN:

Klemmen, v. a. and refl., to pinch, cramp, squeeze; to jam. Flügel,

Lond. 1841.

Klemmen, v. a. to pinch, squeeze hard and closely, to press.

Beklemmen, v. a. to press, to pinch, to oppress.

Published by Cassell. London.

2. DUTCH:

• *Klemmen*. to pinch, clinch.

S. H. Wilcocke,

Lond. 1798.

- *Klemmen*, v. a. and 11., to pinch, clinch, oppress.

Klemmen, v. n. to be benumbed with cold.

Published by Otto Holtz, Leipsic, 1878.

3. ANGLO-SAXON:

Dr. Bosworth has no corresponding verb. He has the two following nouns, which have the kindred senses of *binding*, *holding*, or *restraint*.

- *Clam*. 3. A bandage; what holds or retains, as a net, fold, prison.
- 2. *Clom* [Frisian, *Klem*]. A band, bond, clasp, bandage, chain, prison.

4. ICELANDIC:

Klembra [Germ[an], *Klemmen*], to jam or pinch in a smith's vice.

Klömbur [*sb*] [akin to a well-known root-word common to all Teut[onic] languages; cp.

Germ. *Klam*, *Klemmen*], a smith's vice.

Cleasby and Vigfusson, Oxford, 1874.

[N.B. — The root-word referred to is probably "Kramp." See Prof. Skeat's Etymol. Eng. Dict., s.v. *clamp*.]

5. DANISH:

Klemme, v.t. to pinch, squeeze, jam. Ferrall and Repps,
Kjobenhavn, 1861.

6. SWEDISH:

Klämma [*sb*], f. press. *sitta i klämma* = to be in great straits.

Klämma, v. a. to squeeze, to oppress, to pinch, to wring.

Tauchnitz edit., Leipsic, 1883.

[10]

ii. From Dr. Stratmann's Dict. of Old English, and three Glossaries:

1. Dr. STRATMANN:

Clemmen, O. L. Germ. (ant-. bi-)klemmian, O. H. Germ. (bi)chlemmen, from *clam* = *clem*, artare. Comp. *for-clemmed* (part.), Early Eng. Allit. Poems, 3, 395.

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2. R. B. PEACOCK'S Lonsdale (N. Lanc.) Glossary, 1867:

Clam, *v.i.* to starve for want of food, to be very thirsty: Dan. *klemme*, to pinch; O.N. *Klemma*, to contract; Goth. *Klammen*, to pinch.

3. Rev. J. C. ATKINSON'S Cleveland Gloss., 1868:

Clam, *v.a.* (1) To pinch, compress, force together. (2) To castrate by aid of compression. (3) *v.n.* and *p.* To suffer from the pinching effects of hunger, to starve. O.N. [orse]. *Klemma*, co-arctare; S[uiio]-G[othic], *Klaemma*, primere, stringere; Sw. Dial. *Klämma*; Dan. *Klemme*; Mid. Germ. *Klimmen*. Rietz observes that "in all probability there must have once been extant in O. English a strong vb. *climan*, *clam*, *clemmen*, or *clummen*".

Possibly our existing vb., generally current in one or more of its senses throughout the North, is the only vb. ever in use, no instance of its occurrence being quoted as a South English word; although the A.S. sb. *clam*, *clom*, bondage or bonds, constraint, exists.

Clem, *v.n.* and *p.* To suffer from the effects of hunger. Another form of *clam* (which see).

4. NODAL and MILNER'S Lancashire Glossary, Pt. I., 1875:

Clem (S. Lane.) ; *clam* (E., Mid., and N. Lane.): *v.* to starve from want of food. Du. *Klemmen*, to pinch; O. L. Ger. (bi-) *Klemman*; O.H. Ger. (bi-) *chlemmen*, to clam ; Du. *Kleumen*, to be benumbed with cold.

N.B. — It is necessary particularly to note the etymological difference between *clam* the synonym of *clem*, "to be pinched with hunger", and *clam*, "to stick or adhere to"; latter is derived from the Anglo-Sax. *clam*, "a bandage, chain". — BOSWORTH.* ATKINSON, in his Cleveland Glossary, clearly distinguishes the two words. See also SKEAT'S *Etymol. Dict*, *vv.* Clam, Clamp, Clump, Cram, and Cramp.

* Bosworth confuses *clam* or *clamm*, a bandage, chain, with *clám*. mud, clay. They are quite distinct. — W. W. S.

II. QUOTATIONS FROM THE 14th TO THE 17th CENTURY.

1362. *Piers Ploughman*, p. 276:

Et this whan the hungreth
Or whan thow clomsest for-cold
Or clyngest for-drye.

Gloss. No. 4, Rev. J. Atkinson has the variants, *thou*; for *cold*; and for *drie*.

[11]

1360. *Early English Allit. Poems*, c. i., 392:

Ne best bite on no brom, ne no bent nauper,
Passe to pasture, ne pike non erbes,
Ne non ox to no hay, ne no horse to water;
Al schal crye for-*clemmed*.

Quoted by Gloss. No. 22, Nodal and Milner.

Dr. Stratmann gives *forclemmed* (part.), from the same, 3, 395.

1598. BEN JONSON, *Every Man out of his Humour*, iii. 6:

Hard is the choise when the valiant must eate their armes, or *clem*. Edit.
Lond. 1640.

The quotations in the following Glossaries must have been made from other editions, as there are *various readings* in each.

(1) NARES, 1822:

Hard is the choice, when the valient must eat their arms or *clem*.

(2) TOONE, 1832 — as Nares — except the insertion of *either* after *must*.

(3) NODAL and MILNER, 1875:

Hard is the chpice

When valient men must eat their arms or *clem*.

1602. BEN JONSON, *Poetaster*, i. 2:

I cannot eat stones and turfs, say. What,
will he *clem* me, and my followers? Aske
him, an' he will *clem* me: doe, goe. Edit. Lond. 1640.

I cannot eat stones and turfs, say. What,
will he *clem* me and my followers ? Ask him
an he will *clem* me; do, go. Quoted by Nares.

What! will he *clem* me and my followers?

Quoted by Toone.

The Salamanca Corpus: *Four Dialect Words* (1885)

1602. JOHN MARSTON, *Antonio and Mellida*, Part II., iii. 3:

Now barks the wolfe against the fulle cheekt moon;
Now Lyons half-*clamd* entrals roare for food.
Now croakes the toad, and night crowes screech aloud,
Fluttering ‘bout casements of departed soules;
Now gapes the graves, and through their yawnes let loose
Imprison’d spirits to revisit earth.

Ed, J. O. Halliwell, 1856.

[12]

CLEM: APPENDIX —

[I. ii.]

1620. PHILIP MASSENGER, *Roman Actor*, ii. 2:

(1) — And yet I

Sollicitous to increase it, when my intrails

Were *clamm’d* with keeping a perpetual fast, &c.

Quoted by Nares, 1822.

(2) BROCKETT, 1825, quotes from the word “when”; but has “entrails” instead of “intrails”.

(3) NODAL and MILNER, 1875, quote from the word “my”.

(4) In the edition of MASSINGER by Gifford, 1845, the passage stands:

And yet I

Sollicitous to increase it, when my entrails

Were *clemm’d* with keeping a perpetual fast.

(Ante) 1649. BP. PERCY’S *Folio MS.*, i. p. 225 (*Scotish Feilde*):

there company was *clemmed*: & much cold did suffer; water was a worthy
drinke: win it who might.

Quoted by Atkinson, Gloss. No. 4.

APPENDIX.

THE WORD *STARVE*.

This word is used in both literary and dialectal senses.

The Salamanca Corpus: *Four Dialect Words* (1885)

I. 1. The following LITERARY SENSES are given by most modern English dictionaries:

a. Intransitive. —

To die or perish (1) of or with *hunger*; and
(2) of or with *cold*.

b. Transitive. —

To kill (1) by or with *hunger*; and
(2) by or with *cold*.

Webster states that in the United States both the *intrans.* and *trans.* verbs are applied to death consequent on *hunger* only, and not in consequence of *cold*.

[13]

2. a. The DIALECTAL SENSE in which the word is generally used is —

To suffer more or less from *cold*, but only temporarily, not fatally.

b. This dialectal sense of “to starve” is the correl. to that of the verb “to clem,” viz.

—

(1) To *starve*, as resulting from *cold*; and

(2) To *clem*, as resulting from *hunger*.

c. It should be particularly noted that this usage of *starve* most probably prevails at all places where *clem* or *clam* signifies “to be pinched with hunger”. This is the case in the Peak of Derbyshire, and in several counties, as ascertained during my dialectal researches. At various places where my informants gave me the word *clem* or *clam* as belonging to the respective dialects, they then immediately and voluntarily added that *starve* had the correl. sense above given.

d. In the case of death resulting from cold, as in a snowstorm or keen frost, the phrase “starved to death” would be used. Indeed, this phrase is often used metaphorically, when the “starving” is only temporary.

II. From SIXTEEN GLOSSARIES I now give the senses in which *starve* and its derivatives are used.

1. VARIOUS DIALECTS: J. O. Halliwell, ed. 1874.

Starved, excessively cold.

2. Ditto T. Wright, 1880.

The Salamanca Corpus: *Four Dialect Words* (1885)

Starved, *adj.* very cold.

3. YORKSHIRE, CLEVELAND: Rev. J. Atkinson, 1868.

Starvations, *adj.* cold, chilling, inclement, fit to starve one with cold.

Starve, *v. a.* to cause to suffer from extreme cold; of frequent use in the passive, as well as in the participle present.

4. Ditto WHITBY DISTRICT: F. K. Robinson, 1875.

Starvations, *adj.* bleak, barren.

Starving, *adj.* keenly cold: "starving weather."

Black-starved, *adj.* blue with cold, like the nose and fingers in winter.

[14]

5. YORKSHIRE, MID: C. C. Robinson, 1876.

Starvations, *adj.* chilly.

6. Ditto WAKEFIELD: W. S. Banks, 1865.

Starv'd, *cold.* "Ahm ommost starv'd stiff"; also, pined.

7. LANCASHIRE, LONSDALE: R. B. Peacock, 1867.

Starved, *adj.* excessively cold.

8. CHESHIRE: Col. Egerton Leigh, 1877.

Starved, *adj.* used as a synonym for cold.

9. Ditto Robert Holland, 1885.

Starved, *part.* perished with cold; but *not* used in Cheshire for perished with hunger. Land is also said to be *starved* when it is cold for want of drainage.

10. DERBYSHIRE, BAKEWELL DISTRICT: J. Sleight, 1865.

Starve, *to clem* or *famish*.

11. SHROPSHIRE: Miss Jackson, 1879.

Clem [klem·], *v. a.* to pinch with hunger; to famish.

Common. *Starve* is never used in this sense; it is applied to cold only.

12. STAFFORDSHIRE: C. H. Poole, 1880.

The Salamanca Corpus: Four Dialect Words (1885)

Starve, to be deprived of warmth. To avoid ambiguity, so as not to confuse the meaning of this word, the old writers used the term - "hunger starved".

"We have been very much affected with the cries and wants of the poor this hard season, especially those about the town, who are ready to *starve* for want of coal."

Sir E. Turner, temp. Charles II

13. LEICESTERSHIRE: A. B. Evans, D.D., and his son, 1881.

Starve, *v. n.* to be chilled through; perished with cold: never used for perishing of hunger.

14. LINCOLNSHIRE, MANLEY AND CORRINGHAM: Edward Peacock, 1877.

Starve, *v.* to chill. "It was so coud I was omust *starved* to dead".

15. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: T. Sternberg, 1851.

Starved, cold. "I be so *starved*". "It's a *starvin* wind".

[15]

16. WORCESTERSHIRE, WEST: Mrs. Chamberlain, 1882.

Starve, *v.* to be cold.

Starven, *adj.* pinched with cold. "Alice is such a nesh little thing!

W'en 'er's plaayin' with th' others in an evenin', 'er'll run into the 'ouse, an' 'er'll say, 'Oh, mammy, do put I on a jacket, I be so *starven*!' "

III. ETYMOLOGY. — *Starve* is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *stcorfan*, to starve, die, perish; Du. *sterven*, *v. n.* to die; Ger. *sterben*, *v. n.* to die; to die away; to cease, perish, become extinct. Cf. Icel. *starf*, a trouble, labour; and *starfa*, to work, labour.

In conclusion, I have the pleasure to cite Prof. Skeat's article on this word from his Etymological English Dictionary.

STARVE, to die of hunger or cold, to kill with hunger or cold. Orig[inally] intransitive, and used in the *general* sense of "to die", without reference to the means. M[iddle] E[nglish] *steruen* (with u=v), strong verb; pt. t. *starf*, Chaucer, C[ant.] T[ales], 935, pp. *storuen*, or *i-storuen*, id. 2016. — [=directly derived from]

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A.S. *steorfan*, to die, pt. t. *stearf*, pp. *storfen*; “stearf of hungor” = died of hunger, A[ng].-S[ax]. Chron. an. 1124, last line. Hence was formed the trans. verb *sterfan*, to kill, weak verb; appearing in *astarrfed*, pp., Matt. xv. 13 (Rush- worth gloss). The mod[ern] E. has confused the two forms, making them both weak. + [= not derived from, but cognate with] Du. *sterven*, pt. t. *stierf*, *storf*, pp. *gestorven*. + [not derived from, but cognate with] G[erm]. *sterben*, pt. t. *starb*, pp. *ge-storben*. All from Teut[onic] base STARB, according to Fick, iii. 347 ; he also cites Icel. *starf*, labour, toil, *starfa*, to toil, as belonging to the same root.

[16]

LAKE = TO PLAY

The modern use of this word, with its commonest variant LAIK, and scarce variants LAIKE and LEAK, is dialectal. In Early and Middle English it stood side by side with the word *play* as a literary word, and was used quite as extensively. As we shall see, both are derived from the Anglo-Saxon. But, while “to play” and its derivatives have kept their stand as literary English to the present day, “to lake” and its derivatives have long since become dialectal, and confined chiefly to the northern counties. The dialectal range of *lake* is much less than that of *clem*.

A. — MODERN DIALECTAL RANGE.

I. FROM GLOSSARIES OR PRINTED BOOKS.

i. A TABLE OR LIST OF THE GLOSSARIES

in which the verb TO LAKE and its derivatives are found.

No.	DISTRICT.	AUTHOR AND DATE.	WORDS AND PARTS OF SPEECH.
1	North Country	John Ray, 1674	lake, v.
2	Ditto	N. Bayley, 1749	do. v.
3	Ditto	J. T. Brockett, 1825	do. v.; laking, <i>sb.</i>
4	North of England	Rev. J. Hutton, 1781	do. v.
5	North	Grose and Pegge, 1839	leak, v.
	Not stated	Ditto	lake, v.

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6	North	W. Holloway, 1839	do. v.
7	Ditto	J. O. Halliwell, ed. 1874	do. v.; lake, laker. Lakin, <i>sbb.</i>
8	Ditto	T. Wright, 1880	do. <i>sb.</i>
	Not stated	Ditto	laike, lake, <i>vv.</i>
9	Cumberland	Rev. Josiah Relph, Poems and Glossaries, 1798	lake, v.
10	Ditto	Jollie's Manners and Customs, 1811	laiker, <i>sb.</i>
11	Ditto	A. C. Gibson, 1869	laik, laikins, <i>sbb.</i>
12	Ditto	R. Ferguson, 1873	laik, v.
13	Central S. and S.W:	W. Dickinson, 1878	lake, <i>sb.</i>
	Central	Ditto	lakin, <i>sb.</i>
	North	Ditto	leayk, <i>sb.</i>
14	Cumberland and Westmorland.	Poems, Songs and Ballads 1839	laik or lake, v.; laiker, <i>sb.</i>
15	Westmorland field District)	Rev. Wm. Hutton (Wm. de Worfat), "A Bran New Wark", 1785	laaking, <i>part.</i>
16	Durham (Teesdale)	[Dinsdale], 1839	lake, v.; lakes, lakin, babby- lakin, <i>sbb.</i>

[17]

A TABLE OR LIST OF THE GLOSSARIES — (*continued*).

No.	DISTRICT.	AUTHOR AND DATE.	WORDS AND PARTS OF SPEECH.
	Yorkshire: —		
17	Cleveland	Rev. J. T. Atkinson, 1868	lake, laik, v.; laker, laking- laikins,, <i>sbb.</i>
		18 Whitby District	
		F. K. Robinson, 1875	
			lake, v.; lake or lairk, lakes,

The Salamanca Corpus: *Four Dialect Words* (1885)

			lakers, lakin, lakin-house, laking-brass, laking-kist, <i>sbb.</i> ; lakesome or lakish, <i>adj.</i> ; laked, lakin, <i>partt.</i>
19	Swaledale	Capt. J. Harland, 1873	lake, v.; laking, babby-laking, <i>sbb.</i>
20	Mid-Yorkshire	C. C. Robinson, 1876	laik, v.; laikins, laikin-brass, <i>sbb.</i>
21	West Riding	Dr. Willan, 1811	lake, v.; laking, <i>sb.</i>
22	Craven	Rev. W. Carr, 1824	do. v.; lacons, lakins, <i>sbb.</i>
23	East Yorkshire	W. H. Marshall, 1788	laik, v.
24	Holderness	Ross, Stead and Holderness 1877	lake, v.
25	Leeds District	Thoresby to Ray, 1703	do. v.;
26	Leeds	C. C. Robinson, 1862	laik, v.; lakins, <i>sbb.</i>
27	Halifax	Append. II. to Hunter's Hallamshire Glossary 1829	lake, v.
28	Almondbury and Huddersfield	Rev. A. Easter and Rev. T. Leeds, 1883	do. v.; lake, lakins, <i>sbb.</i>
29	Hallamshire (Sheffield Dis.)	Rev. Joseph Hunter, 1829	do. v.; lakin, <i>sb.</i>
	Lancashire: —		
30	Lonsdale	R. B. Peacock, in <i>Phil.</i> <i>Soc. Trans.</i> , 1867	laik, lake, v.; lake, laker, laking, <i>sbb.</i>
31	Furness	J. P. Morris, 1869	laik, <i>sb.</i> ; lakin', <i>part.</i>
32	Ditto	Nodal and Milner, Part II, 1882	lake, v.
33	Lincolnshire	J. E. Brogden, 1866	laking-about.
34	Glouchestershire (Cotswold)	Rev. R. W. Huntley	laiking, <i>part.</i>

ii. DEFINITIONS OR SENSES.

A considerable variety of words, phrases, and sentences is used in these definitions. The numbers appended to these refer to the glossaries in the foregoing table in which each such word, phrase, and sentence is found.

C

[18]

a. VERB.

Lake: To play — 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32.

To sport — 17. To perform — 18.

To engage in a game — 24.

To trifle or act with levity — 24. To be idle — 28.

When men are out of work they are said “to lake” — 28.

Laik: To play — 12, 14, 20, 26, 30.

To amuse oneself — 12.

To play, as children; or at cards, or other game—23.

Laike: To play — 8.

Leake: To play like children — 5.

b. SUBSTANTIVES.

Lacons: Playthings, toys — 22.

Lake: A Play — 7, 30. A player, or actor — 8.

Play — 13. A game — 18, 20, 30.

Laker: A player or actor — 7.

A player, or rather one who plays — 17.

One who plays — 30.

Lakers: Players — 18.

Lakes: Sports, games — 16.

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Entertainments — 18.

Lakin: A plaything — 7, 8, 29.

A toy — 7, 8, 18. A child's toy — 13.

A child's plaything — 16.

Lakins: Things to be played with, toys at large — 17.

Trifles — 18. Playthings — 22, 26, 28.

Toys — 22, 28. Games — 28.

Laking: A plaything — 3,9,21.

Lakin-house: A gaming house; the children's playroom; a theatre — 18.

Lakin-kist: A box of toys — 18.

Babby-lakin: A child's plaything — 16

Laking-brass: Money given to a child to spend on its own amusement; in toys, &c., as it may be — 17.

The stakes on the gaming-table termed "the bank"; pocket money for enjoyment — 18.

Babby-laking: A plaything — 19.

Laik: (1) A play — 11, 31.

(2) A term used by boys to denote their stake at play — 35.

(3) Used metaphorically to denote the strife of battle — 35.

Laike: See *laik* (2), (3).

Laiker: A person engaged in sport — 10, 14.

[19]

Laihins: Playthings — 11, 20. Toys — 11. Things to be played with, toys at large — 17.

Laikin-brass: Pocket money — 20.

Lairk: A game — 18.

Leayk: Play — 13.

c. ADJECTIVE.

Lakisome or lakish: Frolicsome — 18.

d. PARTICIPLES.

Laked: Played or performed — 18.

Lakin: Playing or sporting in all senses — 18.

Lakin': Playing [infin. "to play" is wrong] — 31.

Laking: When a mill has stopped running temporarily, the hands are said to be "laking". — 26.

A toy — 30.

Laking-about: Idling, wasting time — 33.

Looking: Amusing himself — 15.

Laiking: Idling, playing truant: *Quasi*, lacking service, master-less — 34.

iii. QUOTATIONS OR ILLUSTRATIVE SENTENCES.

from a few of the foregoing glossaries, referred to by their respective numbers.

11. CUMBERLAND: But *laiks* at wate-not-whats within

O' Sunday eftemeun.

Relph. *After*

Horace.

Here's babby-*laikins* — rowth o' spice,

On sto's an' stands extended.

Stagg.

Rosley Fair.

15. WESTMORLAND: But hah! wha is this that fancy marks, shooting dawn the braw of

Stavely, and *laaking* on the banks of *Windermere*?

A Bran

New Work, 11.49-51.

18. YORKSHIRE, WHITBY DISTRICT:

Lake, or *lairk*, *sb.* "He's full of his *lake*", his fun.

Lake, *v.* "That caard weant *lake* at that bat", that game will not play at that rate, or that affair will not succeed in the manner it is carried on.

Lakes, *sb.* "All maks o' *lakes*", all kinds of entertainments.

Lakin, *part.* "I call it a *laking* do", a gambling affair.

LAKE = TO PLAY:

[A. II. i.]

26. YORKSHIRE, LEEDS:

“Awāy wi’ yah out an’ *lāak* a bit — goa a *lāaking* i’ Tommy’s cloise till I fetch yuh”.

“When we’ve *lāaked* wal te-a-time we’ll come home mother!”

28. Ditto ALMONDBURY and HUDDERSFIELD:

An ancient dame who lived at Sharp Lane end, being of an economical turn of mind, was fond of knitting, and said one evening at the conclusion of her labours, “Au ha’ burnt a hopenny cannle, and addled a fardin — it’s better nor *lakin*”.

31. LANCASHIRE, FURNESS:

Mr. J. P. Morris cites the two quotations following from Cumberland Ballads; of course thus implying that the dialectal forms in these instances are identical with those of Furness —

Nae mair he cracks the leave o’th’ green,
The cleverest far abuin;
But lakes at wait-not-whats within,
Aw Sunday efter-nuin.

Relph. *Cumb. Ball.*, p. 7.

May luiky dreams *lake* round my head this night,
And show my true-luive to my longing sight.

Ewan Clark. *Cumb. Ball.*, p. 162.

33. Ditto FURNESS:

A lot of us lads wer’ *lakin* down èt t’ lā end o’ Brou’ton.

J. P. Morris. *Seige o’ Brou’ton*, p. 3.

I. DIALECTAL RANGE FROM MY OWN RESEARCHES.

1876 TO 1879.

As only a small portion of the area in which “Lake = to play” prevails, lies within the area investigated by myself, the instances of its use which I have recorded are comparatively few.

The Salamanca Corpus: *Four Dialect Words* (1885)

1. LANCASHIRE, BURNLEY, August, 1876:

a. This word is indigenous or in regular use here —

(1) In the active sense of playing at games, and ordinary children's play.

(2) In what may be termed the passive sense of cessation from labour, (*a*) through the stoppage of mills and other works, or (*b*) in other cases.

[21]

b. My principal informant was Mr. James Fielding, an intelligent mill operative [then] thirty years of age, and a native. He dictated to me the Burnley version of Mr. Ellis's "Comparative Specimen", and on the word in question gave me the following examples —

Question. — How lung arta (art thou) *lakin'* for? [a'ũũ lũng u'rt'u) lai·ki'n f:au·r ?] *Reply.* — We're brokken down (at the mill) for all th' afternoon [wi')r brok·'n d:a'·ũũn fu'r) au·l th) aaf·t'u'rnuoðõn]. õ

Taw-lakin' [tau·lai·ki'n] = playing at marbles.

N.B. — Taws [tau·z] = marbles.

c. Mrs. Fielding said to some one —

[We'n] bin *lakin'* this week [wee)n bin lai·ki'n dhis w:ee·k`]; the mill being stopped.

d. Boy, playing with others at cricket, in reply to a question put by myself

—
W'en we're *lakin'* at cricket [waen wi')r lai·ki'n u't) krika't].

e. Mill operatives speaking of a man who was temporarily doing a job of work which was inferior to that of his own occupation, one of them observed —

He'd better do that than (or tin) *lakin'* [i')d baet`u'r d:oo· dhaat dhu'n [or ti'n] lai·ki'n].

2. LANCASHIRE, COLNE, December, 1879:

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Heard *lakin'* = playing, spoken by three persons, and pronounced as follows

—

- a. Youth — [lai·ki'n].
- b. Man to another — [lai·ki'n].
- c. Woman — [l:e·yki'n].

3. YORKSHIRE, MARSDEN nr. HUDDERSFIELD, April, 1878:

- a. Boys playing at “pig and stick”—

Used *lake* [lai·k] = to play, several times; also, *a laker* [u') lai·ku'r] = a player, who was wanted to make up the number on one side.

- b. Eight or nine girls, say 15 to 17 years of age, playing at ball —

Used *lake* [lai·k] = to play.

III. CORRESPONDENCE IN THE *MANCHESTER CITY NEWS*.

In January, February, and March, 1878, there was some correspondence in this paper on “The Dialectal Range of the Words *Lake* and *Clem*”. I now give a selection from the portion relating to *lake*: —

- (1) Mr. Hardwick, in his note on Boggart Ho' Clough, remarks that he never remembers hearing the “Yorkshire word *lake* (to play) used in Lancashire, except at Clitheroe, on the Yorkshire border”.

[22]

Yet the word has a much wider range in Lancashire than he supposes. “Lake” is in common use for play from Rochd down Whitworth Valley, Rossendale Valley, and round by Haslingden and Ramsbottom. In Rossendale at the present time [Jan. 1878], “laking” is a word in too many mouths, owing to the cotton mills running short time.

H. KERR

Stacksteads, Rossendale [Lancashire].

- (2) Referring to the Yorkshire word “lake” (to play) in my previous communication, I merely observed that I had myself only heard it spoken indigenously in the neighbourhood of Clitheroe on the Yorkshire border; but of course I implied the

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probability of its location in places similarly situated. I never heard it in the neighbourhood of Manchester, except as a professed importation, and I have met with no one that ever did.

CHARLES HARDWICK

(3) ... I was born in the ancient village of Clough-fold in Rossendale, and spent the first twenty years of my existence in its immediate neighbourhood, and during that period the words “lake” and “lakin” were in daily use, and in the mouths of the villagers were veritable “household words”.

J. C. T.

Heaton Chapel [Lancashire].

(4) Many years ago, at a magistrates’ meeting in Lincolnshire, a country fellow who had eloped with another’s wife was charged with felony in reference to some articles which she took with her. The defence was that it was merely a “May-lek”, or May game, which the people of that class indulged in at that season, and that in this case it had taken the form of a thoughtless jaunt to a neighbouring large town. The word is of Scandinavian origin. In Stockholm museum one of the paintings is described as “Bönder som *leka* blindbock” (peasants who play blindman’s buff); and another, a boy, “som *leker med kort*” (who *plays with cards*). The *svensk*, like our English word, evidently only means mere sport, for where any game of skill is intended “*spela*” is used, as “A gentleman and two ladies”, “som *spela kort*” (who *play cards*); “Ossian and the young Alpin”, “*lyssna till Malvina’s harpspel*” (listen to Malvina’s harp play). There seems yet another distinction between the skill of mind indicated by the verb “*spela*”, and of hand denoted by the noun “*slojd*” (pronounced nearly as “sloight”), and which seems to remain in use with us only in the term “sleight of hand”. In Sweden it signifies any handicraft skill, and there are “*slojd*” schools for teaching such. The Danes have for nouns “*leg*” and “*spil*”. We seem to preserve the “*spela*” and “*spil*” almost identically in our “spell” (to enumerate the letters of a word, a charm, to trace out, to take one’s turn at work, &c.); and though our meanings have got more confined to particulars, the essence of the word - the mental skill - is common to both. The words “lek” and “clam”*. I have heard in use in the wapentake of Corringham, Lincolnshire, of the provincialisms of which I observe the English Dialect Society has published a glossary.

Is not to “lark” a variation of “lek” or “lake”?

H. J. P.

* *Clammed*, pp. parched with thirst. E Peacock’s *Lincolnsh.* (*Manley and Corringham*)
Glossary.

[23]

(5) I hope it will not be forgotten, even by the prejudiced, that the old A.S. equivalent for “play” is not so dead a horse as is imagined. The word “lark” — not *alauda* — is common to all dialects, and it is only *lâc* with a slight burr. So all systematizers of the English language, from Latham onward, take care to make known. Much so-called slang is only good old English which has taken a Bohemian turn, and I confess to a weakness for your genuine Bohemian... HITITE.

(6) I have read with interest the various contributions of your correspondents anent this word, but have not seen mention by any of them of its use in the part of Yorkshire to which I belong. It is in general use, and has been during my recollection — over forty years — in the large district which lies between and adjacent to the towns of Halifax and Huddersfield, in the West Hiding of Yorkshire; including the townships and villages of Sowerby Bridge, Elland, Greetland, Norland, Soyland, Barkisland, Stainland, Ripponden, Rishworth, and many others. The pronunciation of the word varies in the different localities, but all the places named above use it in one or the other of the forms as at the head; for instance, in Stainland “lake” is the form adopted, while in Barkisland, only a mile distant, “laik” is the version. The word is used to express either games of amusement or skill, or as a cessation from labour; thus they say, “ahr (our) lads are off laikin at football”; or, “yon lot are laikin at cairds” (cardplaying); and in summer or drougthy weather, when the water in the brook runs low, and in consequence the mills stop working, the hands, when questioned as to their absence from work, reply, “we’re laikin for water”, *i.e.*, playing, or not working for want of water.

OLD BEN.

(7) The expression “taw-laikin” = playing at marbles, which occurs in the comments on

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the above subject by your learned correspondent Mr. Hallam, brings to my recollection a reminiscence of my boyhood, which had all but escaped it. When playing at marbles each of us put one or more into the ring to be played for, and they were called our “lakers”, the one we played with our “pitcher”. This occurred north of the Grampians over fifty years ago, but I have never noticed the expression “lake” in this neighbourhood applied either to marbles or any other juvenile games.

A. J.

The article by the writer was in two sections, which were respectively inserted March 2nd and 16th, 1878; but the space occupied was only equal to about four pages of the present article. In the area or dialectal range, the number of glossaries enumerated was twenty-four, but now thirty-five. In the section on the early usage of lake and play, references to early works and forms only of the two words were given; I have now added quotations from a number of Early and Middle English works, exemplifying the uses of these words. See B II.

[24]

B. — ETYMOLOGY, AND EARLY OR LITERARY USAGE.

I. ETYMOLOGY.

The word *lake* or *laik* is derived from Icelandic. I therefore give the *verb* and *substantive*, with their meanings, from Vigfusson; and cognate words and definitions from other Teutonic languages.

1. ICELANDIC:

Leika, [vb.] pres. *leik*; pret. *lék*, *léku*; part. *leikinn*; [Ulf[ilas] *laikan* = σχιρταν;

A. S. *lácan*; mid. H. G. *leiche*; Dan. *lege*; Swed. *leka*; North E. *to lake*]:— to play, sport.

2. to delude, play a trick on.

Leikr, [sb.] *m.*, mod. dat. *leik*, acc. *leiki*, [Ulf[ilas], *laiks* = χορος, Luke xv.

25; A. S. *lâc*; North E. *laik*; O. H. G. *leik*; Dan. *leg*; Swed. *lek*]:— a game, play, sport, including athletics. 2. metaph. a game, sport.

Leikari, a, *m.* [North E[nglish] *laker*], a player, esp[ecially] a fiddler, jester.

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Cleasby & Vigfusson,

Oxford, 1874.

2. SWEDISH:

Leka, *v. a.* and *n.* To play, to sport, to toy.

Lek, *sb. m.* Sport, play, fun, game.

Tauchnitz, Edit.,

Leipsic, 188v

3. DANISH:

Lege, *v.i. & a.* to play.

Leg, [*sb.*], game, play; *jule-leg*, Christmas-game.

Ferrall & Repps,

Kjobenhavn, 1861.

4. ANGLO-SAXON:

Lácan, [*vb.*]: (p. *leólc*, *léc*, we *lécon*; pp. *lácen*), 1. To offer, present, sacrifice.

2. To celebrate religiously, to dance, play.

Lác, *gelác* [*sb.*]. 1. A gift, offering, sacrifice. 2. Play, sport.

Dr. Bosworth's *Compen. Ang.-Sax. Dict.*; corrected by Ettmiiller.

Lond., 1852.

5. MÆSO-GOTHIC:

a. Laikan, *vb.* (pt. t. *lailaik*, pp. *laikans*), to skip or leap for joy, Lu. 1. 41, 44;

6. 23. [O.E. *laik*, to play.]

Laiks, *str. sb. m.* (pi. *laikos*), a sport, a dance, a dancing. Lu. 15. 25. [*cf.* E.

'a lark', i.e. a sport, frolic.]

Rev. [now Prof.] W. W. Skeat, Lond. & Berlin, 1868.

[25]

b. Dr. Lorenz Diefenbach, in his excellent *Gothic Glossary* (*Vergleichendes Wörterbuch der Gothischen Sprache*), Franckfort-on-the-Main, 1851, — written in German — has the following, vol. ii, p. 124: — *Laikan*, [*vb.*]» redpl. *lailaik*, *lailaikun*, *laikans*, springen¹, hüpfen², σχιρΥα³. *Laiks*, [*sb.*] m. (pi. *laikos*), tanz⁴, χορος⁵, Luc. 15. 25.

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N.B.—He also gives the cognate forms in about *twenty* languages, ancient and modern.

c. I give the passages referred to from the Gothic version by Wulfila or Ufilas, A.D. 360: —

Luke i. 41. — “Yah warþ, swe hausida Aileisabaþ golein Mariïns, *lailaik* barn in qiþau izos”; “And it came to pass, that, when Elizabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe *leaped* in her womb”.

ib. i. 44. — “Sail allis sunsei warþ stibna goleinais þeinaizos in ausam meinaim, *lailaik* þata barn in swigniþai in wambai meinai”; = “For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe *leaped* in my womb for joy”.

ib. vi. 23. — “Faginod in yainamma daga, yah *laikid*”; = “Rejoice ye in that day, and *leap for joy*”.

ib. xv. 25. — “Wasuþ-þan sunus is sa albiza ana akra; yah qimands, atiddya newh razn, yah gahausida saggwins yah *laikins*”; = “Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing”.

ii. REV. J. C. ATKINSON’S *Cleveland Gloss.*, 1868:

Lake, laik, v. n. To play, to sport.

In addition to the forms of the verb from Anglo-Saxon, Mæso-Gothic, Old Norse (Icelandic), Danish, and Swedish, as given above, he also has — Old Swedish *leka*; Swedish dialects *laika, läka*; N. Frisian *leechen, leege*; and Mid. Germ. *leichen*.

II. EARLY OR LITERARY USAGE: BEING (i.) FORMS, AND (ii)

QUOTATIONS, FROM THE 12TH TO THE 10TH CENTURY,

i. FORMS.

The numbers 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 refer to the centuries respectively.

SUBSTANTIVE.

Singular and plural.—12 lakess, larke, lezkes, lezzkess, loac, loc; 12-13 lac, lakes; 12-14 laik, laike; 13 lak, lok, lokes; 13-14 lake, leik, leyk; 14 layk, laykez, layking; 14-15 laikes, laykes; 15 laiching,

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lakan, lakayns, laykin', laykyng; 15-16 layke; 16 laykin. *No date*:
lakynes, lakys, lays.

1. To spring, leap, jump. 2. To hop, skip, jump. 3. To skip, leap, bound wantonly. 4. A dance; fight, brawl, sport. 5. A dance, assembly of people singing and dancing; a chorus.

[26]

VERB.

Present tense. — 14 laykez; 14, 16, layke; 15 lake, lakys.

Past t. — 12 laiket, lakeden (pl.), lakedenn (pl.); 12' 14 laiked; 13 leikeden (sing.), leykeden (sing.); 14 laikid, layked, layked him, laykeden (pl.); 15 laiked him, laykede hime.

Imperative. — 12 lakys (pl.).

Infinitive. — 12 lake, laken, lakenn, lezken. lez3kenn; 13 layke, leike, leyke, leyken; 14 laike, layke, layky hem.

Part. pres. — 14 layking.

N.B. — I find Dr. Stratmann, in some of his examples, has *i* where the originals have *y*.

ii. QUOTATIONS.

Orthog of 12th cent. *Fragment of Elfric's Grammar, Elfric's Glossary, and a Poem on the Soul and Body*, in the orthography of the 12th century, but originally written ante 1000; ed. T. Phillips, 1838. *sb. lôe*, "munus", 4, 56, (Stratmann).

1154-89. *Destruction of Troy: an Alliterative Romance*, ed. Panton & Donaldson, for E.E.T.S., vols. 39, 56.

vb. (1) to do, to act: —

And euyn *laiked* as hom list, lettid hom nocht. 1. 7046

(2) to fight: —

Thus þai *laiket* o þe laund the long day ouer. 1. 9997

(3) to say, to express: —

Lakys now, ledys, what you lefe think,

And what ye deme to be done at this du tyme. 1. 9807

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sb. a play; hence a fight, danger, struggle: —

Laike — 11. 7811, 9658, 9847

Laik —

Þe day wex dym, droupit þe sun.

Þe lyght wex lasse, and þe *lark* endit. 1. 10408.

Larke, conflict, battle: —

Gret slaght in þe slade, & slyngyng to ground,

And mony lost hade þe lyfte, or þe *lark*: endit! 1. 7694

Ante 1200 *A Moral Ode*, in *Old English Homilies*, 2nd series; ed Dr. R. Morris, E.E.T.S., 1873.

sb. Lac, ottering, gift.

Litel *lac* is gode lief þe comeð of gode wille. 1. 203

[27]

C. 1200. *Legend of Katharine of Alexandria*, ed. Morton 1841.

sb. dat. brôhten tô lâke. 63 (Stratmann.)

C. 1200. *The Ormulum* [Lincolnshire], ed. White, 1852.

vb. Lakenn (*laken*), to make offerings.

To Þeowwtenn Godd *ᵹ lakenn*.

1. 973.

Lezzkenn (*leʒken*): —

Alls iff he wollde *lezzkenn*.

1. 12044.

Lakesst, 2 p. sing: — Þa *lakesst* tu Drihhtin wiÐÐ shep gastlike i Þine Þæwess.

1. 1172.

Lakedenn (*lakeden*), pa. t. plur: Þa Þre kingess *lakedenn* Crist.

1. 7430.

sb. Lac. offering, gift.

Off Þatt Judisskenn follkess *lac*.

1. 964.

ᵹ bi Þatt allterr wass þe *lac*

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O fele wise zarrkedd.

1. 1062.

Lac. plur: —

Her habbe icc shæwedd Þrinne *lac* forr Þrinne kinne leode.

1. 1144.

Lakess, *lez3tkess* (*lezkess*), plur.: — Þa Þre kingess lakedenn
Crist

Wiþþ Þrinne kinne

lakess,

Wiþþ recless, j wiþþ gold, j

ec

Wiþþ myrra, an dere sallfe.

1.7431.

I skemmtinng j inn idelle33e

Inn aegaede j i *lez3kess*.

1. 2166.

Wedlac = wedlock.

1. 2499.

1205. LAYAMON'S *Brut* [Worchestershire], ed. Morton, 1847.

sb. Lác — Heo nómen þat lác.

1. 17748.

Láke (dat.)

1. 31953.

(Stratmann).

c. 1230. *Ancren Riwle* [Dorsetshire], ed. Morton, 1853.

sb. Lokes = gifts — *Hit nis nout for nout iwriten iðe holie gospelle of Þe Þreo kinges Þet comen uorto offren Jesu Crist Þeo deorwurðe Þreo lokes.*

p. 152, l. 10.

Lakes, in MS. Titus D. xviii., Cott. lib. Brit. Museum with the same meaning.

1230. *Liflade of St. Juliana*, ed. Cockayne, for E.E.T.S., vol. 51, 1872.

sb. Brudlac [= bridelaik], nuptials —

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Elewsius þat luuede hire Þuhte sw[i]ze longe þat ha neren to *brudlac* ȝ to bed
ibrohte.

To Elewsius, þat loved her, it seemed very long, that she were not to bridal and
to bed brought. p. 7.

[28]

- C. 1250. Story of *Genesis and Exodus* [Norfolk and Suffolk], an Early English Song, ed.
R. Morris, for E.E.T.S., 7, 1865.

sb. Loac = gift, present —

And iacob sente fer bi-foren
him riche *loac* and sundri boren,
And iordan he dede ouer waden,
Orf & men, wið welðe laden.
1. 1798.

- C. 1280. The Lay of HAVELOCK THE DANE [Lincolnshire], ed. Skeat, E.E.T.S., ex. ser. 4,
1868.

vb. Layke, leyke, leyken, to play; *Leykden*, pa. t. pi. played. —

Bigunnen þe[r] fot to *layke*:
Þider komen bothe stronge and wayke.

1. 1011.

Al-so he wolde with hem *leyke*
þat weren for hunger grene and bleike.

1. 469.

It ne was non so litel knaue,
For to *leyken*, ne forto plawe.

1. 950.

Of him he deden al he[r] wille,
And with him *leykeden* here fille.

1. 1021.

sb. Leyk, game —

þat he ne kam þider, þe *leyk* to se.
Wrastling with laddes, putting of ston,

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Harping and piping, ful god won,

Leyk of mine, of hasard ok,

Romanz reding on þe bok.

1. 2326.

In the edition by Sir F. Madden, for the Roxburgh Club, 1828, *th* is used for þ. Stratmann quotes — *leike* for *leyke*, *leikeden* for *leykeden*, and *leik* for *leyk*.

C. 1300. *Early English Poems and Lives of Saints*, ed. Furnivall, 1862.

sb. lutel lóc (lâc) is gode lêf. VIII. 37.

Preo kinges lok him brojte. XIX. 128.

(Stratmann.)

1320. (1) *Syr Gawaynand the Grene Knyȝt*, ed. Sir F. Madden, Lond., 1839.

vb. *Layke*, to play, to sport:

& þat yow lyst forto *layke*, lef hit me kynkes.

1. 1111.

þer *laykeȝ* Jus lorde by lynde wodeȝ eueȝ,

& G. þe god mon, i[n] gay bed lygeȝ.

1. 1178.

þay lazed & *layked* longe,

At þe last scho con hy[m] kysse.

1. 1554.

sb. *Layk*, [*laike*, *lake*] = sport, game:

þe joye of sayn Joneȝ day watȝ gentyle to here,

& watȝ last of þe *layk*, lendes þer þoȝten.

1. 1023.

[29]

To bed zet er þay zede,

Recorded couenanteȝ ofte;

þe olde lorde of þat leude,¹

Couþe wel halde *layk* a-lofte.

1. 1125.

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C. 1320-30. (2) *Sir Gawayne and the Green Knight*, ed. R. Morris, for E.E.T.S., 4, 1864.

This edition contains all the previous quotations, and the *two* following:

sb. *Laykez* = sports; *laykyng* = sport, playing. —

Preue for to play wyth in oþer pure *laykez*; [*i.e.*, He seeks the most valiant that ne may prove him].

1. 262.

Wel by-commes such craft vpon cnstmasse,

Laykyng of enterludez, to laze & to syng.

1.472.

N.B. — Dr. Murray gives the date as c. 1325, and Prof. Skeat as c. 1360.

14th Cent. (c.1300, Dr. Murray) *English Metrical Homilies*, ed. Small, 1862.

vb. *Laikid*, 71.

sb. Sinful *laik*, 58. (Stratmann.)

1340-50. *Alexander and Dindimus*, ed. Skeat, E.E.T.S., Ex. Ser. 31, 1878.

sb. *Laik* play, game —

We ne louen in our land· no *laik* nor no mirthe.

1. 465.

c. 1350. *William of Palerne* (otherwise *William and the Werwolf*), ed. Skeat, E.E.T.S., Ex. Ser. 1; 1867.

vb. *Layke*, to play; (pt. t. *layked*, pt. t. refl. *layked him*; pl. *laykeden*; pr. part.

layking):

& to hete here þan to *layke*· here likyng þat time.

1. 1021.

& *layked* þere at lyking· al þe long daye.

1. 1026.

(Stratmann has *laiked* in error.)

& *layked him*² long while· to lesten þat merþe.

1. 31.

& as þei *laykeden* in here laike· þei lokede a-boute.

1. 3110.

so louely lay þat ladi & ich· *layking* to-gaderes.

1. 699.

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sb. — *Layk*, *laike* = a “lark”, a game, play: —

ak so liked him his *layk*· wiþ þe ladi to pleie.

(Stratmann has *laik* in error.)

1. 678.

And see *laike* in line 3110 above.

1. lede?

2. amused himself, plyed about.

[30]

C. 1350. *Joseph of Arimathie, or the Holy Grail*, ed. Skeat E.E.T.S., 44, 1871.

sb. — *Leyk*, play, game: —

þus þei ladden þe lyf· and lengede longe,

þat luyte liked his *leyk*· þer as he lengede.

(Stratmann has *leik* in error.)

1. 17.

1352. MINOT, *poems of*; in *Political Poems and Song*: relating to Eng. History, vol. i.; ed. T. Wright (Rolls' Series), 1859.

Sb. — *Laykes*, sports, games: —

At Hamton, als I understand,

Come the gaylayes vnto land,

And ful Cast thai slogh and brend,

Bot nocht so mekille als sum men wend.

For or thai wened war thai mett

With men that sone thaire *laykes* lett.

Edw. III's Expedition to Brabant, 1339. 1. 64.

N.B. — (1) In *Specimens of Early English*, Part II., ed. Morris and Skeat, þ is used instead of *th*.

(2) Stratm. quotes *laikes* from Ritson's edit. p. 10, (1825).

C. 1360. *Early English Alliterative Poems* [West Midland] ed. Morris ; E.E.T.S., 1, 1864.

vb. — *Layke*, to play: —

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& *laykez* wyth hem as yow lyst & letez my gestes one.

(Stratm. has *laikez* in error.)

B. 1. 872.

sb. — (1) *Layke*, sport, play, amusement: —

& alle þe *laykez* þat a lorde aȝt in londe schewe.

B. 1. 122.

& if he louyes clene *layk* þat is oure lorde ryche.

B. 1. 1053.

(2) *Layke*, device: —

þat for her lodlych *laykez* alosed þay were.

B. 1. 274.

& if we leuen þe *layk* of oure layth synnes,

& styлле steppen in þe styȝe he styȝtles hym seluen,

He wyl wende of his wodschip, & his wrath leue,

& forgif vus þis gult ȝif we hym god leuen.

B. 1. 401.

God is merciful.

C. 1377 (1) W. LANGLAND (or Langley). — *The Vision of William concerning Piers the Plowman*; ed. W. W. Skeat; Oxford (Clarendon Press), 1874.

vb. — *Laike*, to play, sport: —

And ȝif him list for to *laike* þenne loke we mowen,

And peren in his presence þer-while hym plaie liketh.

Prol. 1. 172.

[31]

C. 1380 (2) W. LANGLAND (or Langley). — *The Vision and Creed of Piers Ploughman*; ed. T. Wright, 1856.

sb. — *Layk*, play: —

And poverte nys but a petit thyng,

Apereth noȝt to his navele;

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And lovely *layk* was it nevere

Betwene the longe and the shorte. p. 287,

1. 9388.

- C. 1380. *Sir Ferumbras*, in *English Charlemayne Romances*, ed. S. J. Heritage; E.E.T.S., Ex. Ser. 34; 1879.

vb. Layky hem.

The French make merry.

For of vitailles þai hadden þo plentee: & burdes brig e

To ete & drynke & murie bee! & to *layky* hem wan þay wolde. p. 106,

1. 3356.

- C. 1400. (1) *Anturs of Arthur*, in *Early English Metr. Romances [Lancashire]*; ed. Robson (for Camden Soc.), 1842.

sb. Laikes, XLII. 5. (Stratmann.)

- C. 1400. (2) *Awntyrs of Arthure*, in *Ancient Romance-Poems*; ed. Sir F. Madden, 1839.

sb. Laike, strife of battle: —

Lordes and ladies of þat *laike* likes

And þonked God fele si the for Gawayn¹ the gode.

¹n = ne. XLII. 5.

- C. 1400. *Golagros and Gawane*, in *Ancient Romance-Poems*; ed. Sir F. Madden, 1839.

sb. Lake = strife of battle: —

Thus may ye lippin on the *lake*, throu lair þt I leir.

1. 832.

1415. *The Crowned King*; ed. W. W. Skeat, E.E.T.S., 54, 1873.

sb. Laykes, games:—

The condicion of a kyng·shuld comfort his peple;

For suche *laykes* ben to love· þere leedes laghen alie.

1. 134:

which means — "Those games are most liked in which all the people who join can laugh."

- c. 1420. *The Senyn Sages*, in vol. iii. of *Metrical Romances*; ed. Weber, 1810.

vb. — *Lake* = please: —

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(A! how wimmen conne hit make.

Whan thai wil ani man *lake!*)

Tale iv., *Ypocras and his neveu* 1.

1212.

[32]

Laiked him = pleased him: —

Thare the erl dwelled at nyght,

And *laiked him* with his lady bright.

Tale xiv., *The Two Dreams*, 1 3310.

C. 1420-24. WYNTOUN, *Cronykil of Scotland*.

sb. Laikyng, laykyng, play; applied to *justing* —

Ramsay til hym coyn in hy,

And gert hym entre. swne than he

Sayd, “God mot at yhoure *laykyng* be!”

Syne savd he, “Lordis, on qwhat manere

“Will yhe ryn at this *justyng* here?”

viii. 35, 76. — Quoted in Dr. Jamieson’s *Scottish*

Dict., s.vv. *Laikyng, laykyng*.

C. 1440. *Gesta Romanorum*, English version of; ed. S. J. Herrtage, E.E.T.S., ex. ser. 33, 1879.

sb. Lakayns, toys, playthings: —

He putt vp in his bosom þes iij. *lakayns*.

p. 123.

I give the paragraph which describes the three *lakayns* — also designated *cautils*: —

. . . . what dude he but yede, and purveyde him of iij. *cautils*; *scil.* [1] of | an honest Garlonde of Rede Rosys; . . [2] the secounde | *cautille* of a silkyn gyrdil, sotilly I-made; . . | . . [3] the thirde of a sotyl purse made of silke, | honourid with precious stones, and in this

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purs was a balle of iij. | colowris, and hit had a superscripcion, Þat saide thus, Qui mecum | ludit, nunquam de meo ludo saciabitur, Þis is to seye, he that *pleithe* | with me, shalle neuer have I-nowhe of my pley. he putt vp in his | bosom Þes iij. *lakayns*.

. . . . And when thes wordes wer borne to Þe Emperour, he comaundid his dowter to Rinne with him.

Halliwell quotes from some other edition: —

He putt up in his bosome thes iij. *laykayns*.

p. 105.

- C. 1440. *Morte Arthure*; ed. from Rob. Thornton's M.S, by G. G. Perry; E.E.T.S., vol. 8, 1865.

sb. Layke, sport, game: —

Arthur promises rewards.

Thay salfe noghte lesse, one Þis *layke*, zif me lyfe happene,

Þat Þus are lamede for my lufe be Þis lythe strandez.

1.

1599.

- C. 1440. *Sir Perceval of Galles* [Yorkshire], in Thornton Romances; ed. J. O. Halliwell; Camden Soc. vol. 30, 1844.

sb. *Laykes*, sports, games, a glossarial note says: —

This term is constantly applied by the romance writers to combats.

War was called sword-layke.

[33]

Than his swerde drawes he.

Strykes at Percevelle the fre,

The childe hadd no powsté

His *laykes* to lett

The stede was his awnne wille,

Saw the swerde come hym tille

Leppe up over an hille

Fyve stryde mett.

The Salamanca Corpus: *Four Dialect Words* (1885)

1. 1704.

(Stratmann has *laikes*.)

C. 1440. *Promptorium Parvulorum*; ed. Albert Way, for Camden Soc., 1843.

sb. *Laykin* ' or thynges þat chyldryiñ pley wythe.

Ludibile.

C. 1440. *Religious Pieces in Prose and Verse*; ed. from R. Thornton's M.S. by G. G.

Perry; E.E.T.S., v. 26, 1867.

sb. *Layke*, a play, game: —

Bot þare es | many thynges þat ere cause of swylke wrechede
twynnynges, als | mete, drynke, reste, claythynges, *layke*, discorde,
thcghte, laboure, | hetbynges.

p. 38, l. 21.

C. 1450. *Towneley Mysteries* [Yorkshire], in *Eng. Miracle or Plays or Mysteries*; ed.

W. Marriott, 1838.

C. 1460.

vb. I shalle do a lyttle, sir, and emang ever *lake*,

For yit lay my soper never on my stomake

In feyldys.

p. 114, l. 4

[*Pastores*].

Now are we at the Monte of Calvarye,

Have done, folows, and let now se

How we can with hym *lake*.

p. 139, l. 32

[*Crucifixio*].

sb. Mak applies the word *lakan* = play-thing to his children —

Bot so

Etys as fast as she can,

And ilk yere that commys to man,

She brynges furthe a *lakan*.

And som yeres two.

p. 117, l. 8

[*Pastores*].

1570. PETER LEVINS, *Manipulus Vocabulorum*: A Rhyming Dictionary of the English Language; ed. H. B. Wheatley, for Camden Soc., vol. xcv., 1867.

The Salamanca Corpus: *Four Dialect Words* (1885)

vb. to Layke, play, ludere. col.

198, 1. 18.

sb. A Láykin, babie, crepundia, orum. col. 134, 1.

5.

A Layke, play, ludus, i. col.

198, 1. 13.

[34]

In *Carlisle Cathedral*: Behind the choir-stalls of this Cathedral is a series of ancient paintings illustrating the legends of St. Anthony, St. Cuthbert, and St. Augustine. On the first part relating to St. Cuthbert is this inscription:

Her Cuthbert was forbid *layks* and plays,

As S. Bede i' hys story says.

Quoted in the *Almondbury and Huddersfield Glossary*, but no date given.

APPENDIX.

LARK = A FROLIC, SPORT, FUN.

This word forms an appropriate Appendix to *lake* or *laik* = to play, as it is derived from the same source, but has *r* inserted. It is a slang word in modern English. In Southern English, as Professor Skeat observes [Etym. Eng. Dict. *s.v.* *Lark* (2)], "the *r* simply denotes the lengthening of the vowel, which is like the *a* in father". There is reason to believe that the word is now used throughout England. In most parts of the Midland district the *r* is sounded.

I. AREA OF USAGE.

i. I note in the first place: —

a. Prof. Skeat (1) calls the *sb.* "Southern English".

Etymol. Eng. Dict. s.v. Knowledge.

(2) calls the *vb.* "Modern South-English."

Note in *Holderness Glossary*, E.D.S., *s.v.* *Lake*, *vb.*

The Salamanca Corpus: Four Dialect Words (1885)

b. J. K. Robinson, in the *Whitby Glossary*, E.D.S., s.v. *Lake*, v.

to play, says — “Cf. A. S. *lācan*, to play, and the *London English*, to *lark*”.

[35]

ii. I now give the counties in which I have information that the word is used.

YORKSHIRE, ALMONDBURY and HUDDERSFIELD:

The E. D. S. Glossary for this district, s.v. *Lake*. *sb.* Says — “It is the origin of the word *lark*, which is sometimes also used here”.

LANCASHIRE, MANCHESTER:

The *sb.* was current when the writer came to reside here forty-one years ago.

DERBYSHIRE, CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH DISTRICT:

At the time I left here for Manchester, forty-one years ago, *lark* = a frolic, etc., was not used. I learned recently from a native of Peak Forest, seventy-three years of age, who has resided at Chapel-en-le-Frith a number of years, that the word has come into use in the district within the last thirty years.

I have recently ascertained by correspondence that the word is current at the following places: each place, of course, represents the centre of a district. I give the definitions or meanings in the words of the respective correspondents.

DERBYSHIRE, BAKEWELL and ASHFORD:

“We might in conversation *lark* or joke with words; or we might *lark* or joke in play, or in any in- or out-door exercise”.

CHESHIRE, EAST or NORTH EAST; BOLLINGTON, three miles N.E. of MACCLESFIELD:

The general meaning of a frolic, sport, fun, from viva voce information.

Ditto WEST; TARPORLEY:

“The word *lark* as used here is to play a mischievous trick to any one with no bad intent”.

Ditto SOUTH; BICKLEY, three miles E.N.E. of MALPAS:

Mr. Darlington, author of the *Folk-Speech of South Cheshire*, says: “As to *lark*, as used in this district, I should define it as a ‘frolicsome prank’.

The Salamanca Corpus: *Four Dialect Words* (1885)

There is a connotation of mild mischief about the word”.

SHROPSHIRE, SOUTH; MUCH WENLOCK:

“The meaning of *lark* about here is, a lot going to have a game, or a spree, or amusement”.

[36]

STAFFORDSHIRE, NORTH; FLASH, seven miles N.N.E. of LEEK:

“The word *lark*... it is very common her in this district”.

Ditto SOUTH; WILLENHALL:

“*Lark* is a very common expression here for fun though I think it is more particularly meant [for] or applied to, fun which has mischief in it, or fun at the expense of some one else”.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, WORKSOP:

“*Lark* is commonly used in this neighbourhood for flirting — lark with a girl; a party of men drinking [or] carousing, are often described as *larking*; in fact, frolic, fun, joke, game, are commonly described as *larking*; so is telling a friend a falsehood, and making him believe it [to be] the truth, often described as having a *lark* with him.”

Ditto MANSFIELD:

“The word *lark* is often used in conjunction with people having enjoyed themselves, or participated in any kind of fun or mischief; [they] would say — ‘What a *lark* we had last night’ ”.

LEICESTERSHIRE, MARKET BOSWORTH:

“The word *lark* is generally used in this county for fun or games; and sometimes *larkin*’ [larking]”.

WARWICKSHIRE, SOUTH ; TYSOE:

Mrs. Francis, of Tysoe vicarage, author of the E.D.S. Glossary of S. Warwickshire, says:— “The word ‘lark’ is very commonly used here in the sense you give it, of a joke or a prank;— but I always considered it as only a slang word, as is used by educated and uneducated alike”.

HEREFORDSHIRE, THE BACHE, three and a half miles E.N.E. of LEOMINSTER:

The Salamanca Corpus: *Four Dialect Words* (1885)

“Respecting the word *lark*, I may say it is very frequently used in this county... viz., [as] a frolic or joke, sometimes at some one’s expense. It is often said of a practical joke — ‘he has been up to another *lark*’, or ‘he has had another *spree*’. If a person, during a drinking fit, commits any slight acts of depredation in fun, they say — ‘he has been *larking*’ ”.

[37]

OXFORDSHIRE, HANDBOROUGH and DISTRICT, W. and N.W. of OXFORD:

Mrs. Parker, of Oxford, author of the E.D.S. Glossary of this part of the county, says: — “The word *lark* is, I believe, *well known* at Handborough and neighbourhood, both as a substantive and verb; but I don’t think it is much used amongst the people who speak dialect — *spree* is the usual word... I should think *lark* is known all over the country”.

II. ETYMOLOGY.

It is sufficient to cite Prof. Skeat’s article on this word from his Etymol. Eng. Dictionary.

LARK (2), a game, sport, fun. (E[nglish]). Spelt *lark* in modern E[nglish], and now a slang term. But the *r* is intrusive, and the word is an old one; it should be *laak* or *lahk*, where *aa* has the sound of *a* in *father*. M[iddle] E[nglish] *lak. lok*; also *laik*, which is a Scand. form. See Will, of Palerae, 678; P. Plowman, B. xiv. 243; Ormulum, 1157, 2166; Ancren Riwle, p. 152, note *b*; etc. (Stratmann). — [=derived from] A. S. *lās*, play, contest, prey, gift, offering; Grein, ii. 148. +[=cognate with] Icel. *leikr*, a game, play, sport. + [=cognate with] Swed. *lek*, sport, -f [=cognate with] Dan. *leg*, sport. +[=cognate with] Goth. *laiks*, a sport, dance. β All from a Teut. base, LAIK, to dance, skip for joy, play; cf. Goth. *laikan*, to skip for joy, Luke i. 41, 44, A. S. *lācan*, Icel. *leika*, to play ; Fick in. 259.

There is one early quotation in which the form *larke* occurs, viz. — 1154-89, *Destruction of Troy*, l. 7694. See p. 26, *supra*.

[38]

NESH.

This word, with its commonest variant NASH, and scarce variants NAISH and NISH, has a wide area of modern *dialectal* usage. Its use as a *literary* word was continuous both in Early and Middle English.

A. — MODERN DIALECTAL RANGE.

I. FROM GLOSSARIES OR PRINTED BOOKS,

i. A TABLE OR LIST OF THE GLOSSARIES

in which the Word is found.

NO.	DATE.	DISTRICT.	AUTHOR.	
				ORTHOGRAPHY.
1 (1)	1674	North Country	John Ray, [and E.D.S. Repr 1874]	Nash or Nesh
2	1749	Country Word	N. Bayley [Eng. Dict.]	Neshe
3	1781	North of England	Rev. J. Hutton [and E.D.S. Repr. 1873]	Nash
4	1790	North and South	Francis Grose [also Grose & Pegge, 1839]	Nesh or Nash
5	1822	Provincial Word	Robt. Nares (Gloss. To Shakspeare and his Contemporaries)	Nesh
6	1825 - 1839	North Country	J. T. Brockett: Newcastle, 1825, and London, 1839	Nash, nesh, naish
7	1839	North or Country Word	W. Holloway	Nash, nesh
8	“	Various Parts of England	C. Richardson (Eng. Dict.)	Nesh
9	1863	North	From Morton's Cyclop. of Agriculture; E.D.S., 1880	do.
10 (1)	1874	Ditto	J. O. Halliwell (<i>Dict. Arch.</i> and Provincial Words)	do.
11	1879-82	Provincial English	Prof. W. W. Skeat (<i>Etym. Eng.</i>)	do.

The Salamanca Corpus: *Four Dialect Words* (1885)

Dict.)

12 (1)	1880	Ditto	T. Wright (Dict. Obsol. and Prov. Engl.)	Nesh, Nesse
13	1868	Yorkshire:— Cleveland	Rev. J. C. Atkinson	Nesh

[39]

A TABLE OR LIST OF GLOSSARIES — (*continued*)

No.	DATE.	DISTRICT.	AUTHOR.	ORTHOGRAPHY.
14	1811	West Riding	Dr. Willan, in <i>Archæologia</i> , & E.D.S. Repr., 1873	Nash
15	1828	Craven	Rev. W. Carr, 2 nd edit.	Nash, Nesh
16	1862	Leeds	C. C. Robinson	Nesh
17	1883	Almondbury and Huddersfield	Rev. A. Easter, ed. By Rev. T. Lees, E.D.S.	do.
18	1829	Hallamshire (Sheffield Dist.)	Rev. Joseph Hunter	do.
19	1839	Sheffield	Abel Bywater	do.
20	1873	Cumberland	Rob. Ferguson	Nash, Nesh
21	1878	Ditto Central and S.W. Ditto North	Wm. Dickinson; E.D.S. Ditto	Nash, Nashy Nesh
22	1839	Cumberland and Westmorland Lancashire: —	Poems, Songs, and Ballads, with Glossary	Nash
23	1757 - 1775	South	J. Collier (Tim Bobbin)	Nesh
24	1865	Ditto	J. A. Picton: Notes on S. Lanc. Dialect	do.
25	1867	Lonsdale	T. B. Peacock, in <i>Phil. Soc. Trans.</i>	do.
26	1869	Furness	J. P. Morris	do.

The Salamanca Corpus: *Four Dialect Words* (1885)

27	1875-82	General	J. H. Nodal and G. Milner; E.D.S.	do.
28	1877	Cheshire	Col. Egerton Leigh	do.
29	1884-86	Ditto	Robert Holland; E.D.S.	do.
30	1887	Ditto South	Thomas Darlington; E.D.S.	do.
31	1865-66	Derbyshire (Bake- well District)	J. Sleight, in <i>Reliquary</i> for January, 1865	Nesh
32	1879-81	Shropshire	Miss G. F. Jackson	do.
33	1880	Staffordshire	C. H. Poole	do.
34	1881	Leicestershire	A. B. Evans, D. D., enlarged by his son S. Evans, LL.D.; E.D.S.	Nesh, Naish, Nash
35	1877	Lincolnshire (Manley and Corringham)	Edward Peacock; E.D.S.	Nesh
36	1851	Northamptonshire	T. Sternberg	Naish, Nash
37	1854	Ditto	Miss E. A. Baker	Nesh, Nash
1 (2)	1674	Warwickshire	John Ray (quotes Somner, 1659)	Nash, or Nesh

[40]

A TABLE OR LIST OF GLOSSARIES — (*continued*).

No.	DATE.	DISTRICT.	AUTHOR.	ORTHOGRAPHY.
38	1804	Herefordshire	From Duncumb's Herefordsh., E.D.S. Repr., 1874	Neshe
39	1839	Ditto clem	G. Cornwall Lewis	Nesh
40	"	Ditto and some adjoining counties	Published by John Murray, London	do.
1 (3)	1674	Worchestershire	John Ray (quotes Skinner, 1671)	Nash, or Nesh
41	1882	Ditto West	Mrs. E. L. Chamberlain; E.D.S.	Nesh
42	1884	Ditto Upton-on- Severn	Rev. R. Lawson; E.D.S.	do.
43	1789	Gloucester, Vale of	From Marshall's Rural Economy	do.

The Salamanca Corpus: *Four Dialect Words* (1885)

			E.D.S. Repr. 1873	
10 (2)	1874	Suffolk	J. O. Halliwell	do.
12 (2)	1880	Ditto	Thos. Wright	do.
44	1883	Hampshire	Rev. Sir. W. H. Cope. Bart.;	E.D.S. Nash,
				Nesh
45	1825	Wiltshire	From Britton's Beauties of	Nash, or Nesh
			Wiltshire; E.D.S. Repr.,	1879
46	1842	Ditto	J. Yonge Akerman	do. do.
12 (3)	1857 – 1880	Ditto	Thomas Wright	Nash
10 (3)	1874	Ditto	J. O. Halliwell	do.
47	1848	Dorsetshire	Rev. Wm. Barnes, 2 nd edit.	Nesh
48	1853	West of England	G. P. R. Pulman	Nish
49	1880	Cornwall, West	Miss M. A. Courtney, E.D.S.	Nash
50	1881	Wales, (Radnorshire)	Rev. W. E. T. Morgan; E.D.S.	Nesh

ii. DEFINITION OR SENSES

These include a considerable variety of words, phrases, and sentences. The numbers appended to them refer to the glossaries in the foregoing table in which each such word, phrase, and sentence is found.

Tender, is found in 44 glossaries out of 50; the exceptions are Nos. 14, 18, 19, 22, 31, and 49.

Delicate, 8, 10 (1), 12 (1), 13, 17, 20, 25, 27 – 29, 31 – 37, 39 – 42. 50 = 22 glossaries.

Soft, 5, 6, 8, 10 (1), 11, 12 (1), 13, 15, 25, 26, 27, 47 = 12 gloss.

Weak, 1 (1, 2, 3), 5, 6, 7, 10 (1), 12 (1), 13, 25, 27 = 9 gloss.

[41]

Puling, 1 (1,2,3).

Nice, 2, 17.

Fragile, 6, 14, 21.

Hungry, 10 (2), 12 (2).

Washy, 1 (1, 2, 3), 7, 43.

Brittle, 3, 15, 20, 21, 22.

Poor-spirited, 10 (1), 19, 32.

Chilly, 10 (3), 12 (3), 44, 45, 46.

The Salamanca Corpus: *Four Dialect Words* (1885)

- Susceptible to cold, 16. Sensitive to cold, 17.
Easily distressed with cold; much affected by cold; fond of *croodling* over the fire, 18.
Effemminate, 28, 31. Sensitive, 30.
Unable to withstand physical pain, 29.
Easily susceptible of cold, 31. Lacking energy, 32.
Susceptible of cold, 33, 41, 49. Scrupulous (Metaph.) 33.
Dainty, 34, 36, 39, 40. Susceptible, 34.
Coddling; fearful of cold, 35. Flimsy, 37.
Pale; debilitated, 49.

iii. QUOTATIONS OR ILLUSTRATIVE SENTENCES,

from thirteen of the foregoing glossaries, referred to by their respective numbers. In several cases it is also stated to which of the following categories the word is applied: (1) man; (2) beasts; (3) inanimate objects.

16. YORKSHIRE, LEEDS; C. C. Robinson:

Nesh, tender, susceptible; as one is to cold, who declares himself “varry nesh”.

18. Ditto HALLAMSHIRE (Sheffield Dist.); Rev. J. Hunter:

Nesh, easily distressed with cold; much affected by it; fond of *croodling* over the fire. This, I believe, is its peculiar signification, and it is now applied solely to man. It bears a near relation to *tender* and *delicate*, but there is a shade of difference which rendered this a genuine Saxon word well worth preserving. A. S. *nesc*. Something of censure is implied in the application of it.

19. Ditto SHEFFIELD; A. Bywater:

To *dee* [die] *nesh*, to give up an enterprize dispirited.

27. LANCASHIRE; Nodal and Milner:

Nesh. — A very expressive adjective (of which the current word “nice”, in the sense of “dainty”, has only half the force) is *nesh*, meaning weak and tender, not able to bear pain; in Anglo-Saxon, “nesc” [correctly *hnesce*]. [Sir] Thomas Wilson, in his *Art of Rhetoric* [Retorique, 1553],

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perhaps the earliest writer on any such subject in the language, uses the Lancashire noun, and writes, “To be born of woman declares weakness of spirit, *neshnese* of body, and fickleness of mind”.

1854, Rev. W. Gaskell, *Lect. Lanc. Dialect*, p. 20.

Oh, he’s too *nesh* for owt; they’n browt him up that way. 1881, *Colloquial*

Use.

[42]

28. CHESHIRE; Col. Egerton Leig:

Nesh, adj. — Tender, delicate, effeminate. Applied to man, woman, child, or beast.

30. CHESHIRE, SOUTH; T. Darlington:

Nesh [nesh] *adj.* tender, sensitive. I’ve gotten *nesh* ‘ands [ahy]v got·n nesh aan·z]. Yū *nesh* kitlin! [Yū nesh ky’it·lin!]. I do sū sweet (sweat) at a night, mai·z (makes) me *nesh* [ahy dóo sū swee·t üt ū neyt, mai·z mi nesh].

Plants may, I think, also be spoken of as *nesh* (sensitive).

32. SHROPSHIRE; Miss G. F. Jackson:

(1) *Nesh* [nesh·] *adj.* delicate, tender; said of the health or physical constitution. Common. (1) ‘It wunna likely as a poor little *nesh* child like ‘er could do; it oōd tak’ a strung gird i’ that place’. (2) ‘Yo’ lads be off out o’ doors, an’ nod rook round the fire — yo’n be as *nesh* as a noud oōman’.

(2) *adj.* Poor-spirited; lacking energy. — WEM [North Shrop.] ‘‘Er’s a *nesh* piece, ‘er dunna do above ‘afe a day’s work, an’ ‘er’s no use at all under a cow [milking a cow]’.

34. LEICESTERSHIRE; Dr. A. B. Evans, and his Son:

Nesh, *Naish*, *Nash*, *adj.* delicate, susceptible, dainty, tender: often applied to the constitution of man and beast.

‘The meer’s [mare’s] a *naish* feeder’.

35. LINCOLNSHIRE, MANLEY & CORRINGHAM; Edwd. Peacock:

The Salamanca Corpus: Four Dialect Words (1885)

Nesh, *adj.* delicate, tender, coddling, fearful cold. ‘She’s strange an’ *nesh* about her sen, nivver so much as goes to th’ ash-hole wi’out her bonnet on’.

37. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE; Miss A. E. Baker:

Nash, or more commonly *Nesh*. Tender, flimsy, delicate. A good old word now rarely used: I have heard it said of a sickly child, “ It’s flesh is so *nesh*, I don’t think it will live”.

43. GLOUCESTER, VALE OF; From Marshall’s *Rural Economy*:

Nesh, *adj.* the common term for tender or *washy* as spoken of a cow or horse.

44. HAMPSHIRE; Rev. Sir W. H. Cope, Bart.:

Nash, *Nesh* [nash, nesh], *adj.* Tender, chilly. — Akerman. Said of grass in the New Forest. — Wise.

[43]

47. DORSETSHIRE; Rev. Wm. Barnes:

Nēsh. Tender; soft. “This meat is *nēsh*”. “Da veel *nēsh*”.

The *nēsh* tops

Of the young hazel, 1788, Crowe’s *Lewesdon Hill*, ver. 30.

iv. I now give EXAMPLES OF VERBS from six of the foregoing Glossaries, and of an ADVERB from J. K. Robinson’s *Whitby Glossary*.

10. Halliwell:

Neshin, *v.* To make tender. *Cheshire*.

12. T. Wright:

Neshin, *v.* To make tender. *Cheshire*.

28. CHESHIRE; Col. Egerton Leigh:

Neshin, *v.* To make tender, to coddle.

Prompt. Parv. and *Wilbraham*.

29. Ditto. R. Holland:

Neshin, *v.* to make tender. W[ilbraham], who gives it as an old word; it was, therefore, probably obsolete in his day.

30. CHESHIRE, SOUTH; T. Darlington:

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Nesh it [nesh it] = [naesh it], *v.n.* to be afraid, shrink from doing anything.

“W’en it cum to gettin’ up at five o’clock ov a cowd winter’s mornin’,
hoo *nesht it*” [Wen it kùm tū gy’et-in ùp ùt fahyv ūklok· ùv ù kuwd
win·tūrz mau·rnin, óo nesht (= naesht) it].

34. LEICESTERSHIRE:

The word is also sometimes used as a verb impersonal. ‘Shay’s a gooin’ to
be married, an’ it een’t o’ noo use ‘er *neshin’ it*’, i.e. being coy or
reluctant.

YORKSHIRE; WHITBY DISTRICT:

Neshly, adv. noiselessly.

II. DIALECTAL RANGE FROM MY OWN RESEARCHES.

1875 TO 1887.

This word is constantly used in the dialects of Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, and
Staffordshire. It is, therefore, necessary to explain why it has not been recorded oftener
during my visits.

[44]

In recording the phonology of English dialects, what is primarily required is the dialectal
pronunciation of literary or received English words, in order that the varied forms of
pronunciation may be compared for all English counties; hence, purely dialectal words, as
clem, nesh, oss, &c., are not available for this general comparison, their area of usage
being only parts of the country respectively: consequently, these have not received the
same degree of attention as representative received English words, such as *father, mother,*
day, green, house, home, night, noon, &c., &c.

i. TABLE OF LOCALITIES

NO. OF PLACE.	COUNTRY.	TOWN, VILLAGE, ETC., AND DATE.	ORTHOGRAPHY.
1	Yorkshire	Marsden, April, 1878	Nesh.
2		Ripponden, do.	do.

The Salamanca Corpus: *Four Dialect Words* (1885)

3		Thorne, 9 miles N.E. of Doncaster, April, 1887	do.
		Barnsley, April 1887.	
5	Lancashire	Higher Walton (Near Walton-le-Dale), May, 1875	do.
6		Warrington, June, 1875	do.
7		Ormskirk, Jan., 1876	do.
8	Cheshire	Farndon, Dec., 1876	do.
9	Derbyshire	Ashover, Dec., 1876	do.
10		Chesterfield, May, 1883	do.
11		Alfreton, Aug. & Dec.,	do.
12		Sandiacre, Dec., 1883	do.
13		Church Greasley, Dec., 1886	do.
14	Shropshire	Much Wenlock, Sept., 1880	do.
15		Newport, May, 1885	do.
16	Staffordshire	West Bromwich, Oct., 1877	do.
17		Willenhall, Aug., 1879	Nash.
18		Burton-on-Trent, Sept., 1879	Nesh.
19		Leek, May, 1880	do.
20		Middle Hills, N. of Leek, May, 1880	do.
21		Oakamoor, April, 1882	do.
22		Denstone, ditto	do.
23		Lichfield, May, 1885	do.
24		Codsall, Dec., 1886	Nash and Nesh

[45]

i. TABLE OF LOCALITIES — (*continued*).

NO. OF PLACE.	COUNTRY.	TOWN, VILLAGE, ETC., AND DATE.	ORTHOGRAPHY.
25	Nottinghamshire	Retford, April, 1879	Nesh
26		Mansfield, June, 1879	do.
27		Worksop, ditto	do.

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28		Bingham, Sept., 1879	do.
29		Bawtry, Aug., 1886	do.
30		Finningley, Aug., 1886	do.
31	Leicestershire	Loughborough, Aug., 1878	do.
32		Upton, 4 miles S.E. of Market Bosworth, Dec., 1886	do.
33	Lincolnshire	Trent Side, N. of Gainsborough, April, 1887	do.
34	Warwickshire	Nuneaton, Oct., 1880	do.
35		Knowle, Dec., 1886	Nash.
36	Herefordshire	Much Cowarne, Aug., 1881	Nesh.
37	Worcestershire	Abberley, Oct., 1880	Nash.
38		Bewdley, ditto	do.
39		Kidderminster, Sept., 1882	do.
40	Gloucestershire	Tewkesbury, April, 1885	do.
41		Cranham, 5 miles S.E. of Gloucester, Sept., 1885	Nesh.
42		Stonehouse, Sept., 1885	do.
	Wales: —		
43	Flintshire (detached)	Bettisfield, June, 1882	do.
44		Hanmere (Arowry), June, 1882	do.
45	Denbighshire	Wrexham, Dec., 1882	do.

NOTE.— The pronunciation of the form *Nesh* is [naesh] at all the respective places, except at No. 14, Much Wenlock, Salop, where I recorded [naesh *or* nesh]. The form *Nash* was pronounced [naash] at all the respective places.

ii. DEFINITIONS OR SENSES.

The numbers appended to them refer to the respective *places* in the foregoing table. The form “Tender, &c.” was

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recorded at several places; I have analysed this as, “Tender, delicate”.

Tender — was recorded at 41 places out of 45; the exceptions are Nos. 9, ii, 28, and 41.

Delicate, 1, 5–8, 14, 16–20, 25–27, 29, 31, 34, 36, 38, 43–45 = 22 places.

Delicate in health, &c., 9.

Sensitive to cold, io_t 11, 24.

Chilly, 28.

Cold, 41.

Susceptible of cold, 42.

iii. ILLUSTRATIVE SENTENCES.

10. DERBYSHIRE; CHESTERFIELD:

Tha’r so *nesh* [Dhaa)r sũ naesh] = tender, or sensitive to cold.

24. STAFFORDSHIRE; CODSALL:

Her was *nash* I reckon [Uur wũz naash an raek·n] = tender, or sensitive to cold.

28. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE; BINGHAM:

I feel *nesh* = chilly.

30. Ditto FINNINGLEY:

When young plants which have grown very quickly are cut down by the frost, they are said to be *nesh*.

35. WARWICKSHIRE; KNOWLE:

How *nash* you are! [Aaw naash yöö:aar!].

38. WORCESTERSHIRE; BEWDLEY:

You be *nash* [Yöö bëë naash].

39. Ditto KIDDERMINSTER:

Some on (of) us be *nash* [Sùm on üz b:ee naash] .

NOTE. — I recorded the following sentence containing a VERB at FARNDON, CHESHIRE, in Dec., 1882: —

Yo’re *neshin’* it [yoa)ür naesh·in It] = shrinking from it, giving it up.

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B. — ETYMOLOGY, AND EARLY OR
LITERARY USAGE.

I. ETYMOLOGY.

The word *Nesh* is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *hnæsce*, *hnesce*, soft; with which the Gothic *hnaskwus*, soft, tender, delicate, is cognate. See Professor Skeat's *Etymol. Engl. Dict.* s.v. NESH; also s.v. NESH in *Errata*.

1. ANGLO-SAXON:

Dr. Bosworth's *compend. Ang.-Sax. Dict.*, 1852 —

Hnesc (*hnæsce*, *nesc*), erroneously for *Hnesce* (*hnæce*, *nesce*). Tender, soft, *nesh*.

Anglo-Saxon Gospels, A.D. 995: ed. by Dr. Bosworth and E. Waring, Esq., 1865 —

Matt. xi. 8. — “Oððe hwí eode ge út geseon? Mann *hnescum* gyrlum gescrýdne? Nú! ða ðe syn *hnescum* gyrlum gescrýdde synt on cyninga húsum”; = “But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in *soft* raiment behold, they that wear *soft* clothing are in kings' houses”.

Matt. xxiv. 32. — “Donne hys twig byþ *hnesce*”; = “When his (the fig tree's) branch is yet *tender*”.

Luke vii. 25. — “ðone man mid *hnescum* reafum gescrýdne?” = “A man clothed in *soft* raiment [*plur.* clothes].”

2. GOTHIC:

Rev. [now Prof.] Skeat's *Mæso-Gothic Glossary*, 1868 —

Hnaskwus, *adj.* soft, tender, delicate, Mat. xi. 8; Lu. vii. 25 [O. E. *nesh*].

Gothic Gospels, A.D. 360; ed. Bosworth and Waring, 1865 —

Matt. xi. 8. — “Man nan *hnasqyaim* wastyom gawasidana? Sai! Þaiei hnasqyaim wasidai sind in gardim þiudane sind”; = “A man clothed in *soft* raiment? Behold, they that wear *soft* [clothing *understood*] are in kings' houses”.

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Lu. vii. 25. — “mannan in *hnasqyaim* wastyom gawasidana?” = “A man clothed in *soft* raiment?”.

II. EARLY OR LITERARY USAGE: BEING (i.) FORMS, AND (ii.)

QUOTATIONS, FROM THE 12TH TO THE 17TH CENTURY,

i. FORMS.

The numbers 12 to 17 refer to the centuries respectively.

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ADJECTIVE.

12, 14, 15 *nesshe*; 13 *neys*; 13–15 *nesche*, *nessche*; 13–17 *nesh*; 14 *neische*, *nesssse*; 14–17 *neshe*; 15 *neisse*.

SUBSTANTIVE.

14 *neischede*, *nesse*, *nesshede*; 15 *neisse*; 16 *neshenes*.

VERB.

Pres. tense. — 12 *neshen*, *nesshesst*; 14 *nasshe*, *nhesseþ*; 15 *nesche*.

Part. pres. — 15 *neschyn’*.

Part. past. — 12 *nesshedd*; 13 *nesched*.

ADVERB.

13 *nessche*, *nesselyche*.

ADVERBIAL PHRASES: these signify — entirely, altogether, on every point, in every way, under all circumstances. See Glossary to *Sir Ferumbras*.

13 *nessche* and *hard*; 14 *nesch oþer harde*, *nesche* and *hard*, for *nesch* or *hard*, in *hard & in nesche*, to *harde & to nesche*, at *nessche & hard*, at *hard & neychs*; 15 for *hard ne nessche*.

ii. QUOTATIONS.

C. 1200. *The Ormulum* [Lincolnshire], in *Spec. E. Eng.*, ed. Morris.

adj. — *ȝ ziff þin herte iss arefull*,

ȝ milde, *ȝ solite*, *ȝ nesshe*.

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C. 1280. *The Lay of HAVELOK THE DANE* [Lincolnshire], ed. Skeat, E.E.T.S., Ex. Ser. 4, 1868.

adj. — Godrich rises, and wounds Havelok in the shoulder:
And woundede him rith in þe flesh,
þat tendre was, and swiþe *nesh*.

p. 79, l. 2743.

C. 1298. ROBERT OF GLOUCESTER'S *Chronicle*, ed. T. Hearne, 2 vols., Oxford, 1724; (and repr. 1810).

adv. — *Nesselyche*, nicely. —
(Index — Mold the good Queen, K. Henry the first's wife,
. . . daughter of Malcolm King of Scotland):
þo caste þys gode Mold yre mantel of anon,
And gurde aboute yre myddel a nayre lynne ssete,
And wess þe mysseles vet echone, ar heo lete,
And wypede ys *nesselyche*, & custe ys wel suete.

P- 435.1. 9.

Bef. 1300. *Anglo-Saxon and Early English Psalter* [Northumberland], ed. Stevenson, 1843.

Past. part. — *Nesched*. 54, 22 (Stratmann).

C. 1300. *English Metrical Homilies*, ed. Small. 1862.

adj. — Fleys es brokel als wax and neys.

p. 154; quoted in *Cath. Anglicum*.

C. 1300. *King Alisaunder* in *Metrical Romances*, ed. Weber, 3 vols., Edinb. 1810.

adv. phr. — Names of planetis they beon ¹y-note,
Some beon cold, and some beon hote,
By heom mon hath theo ²saying on
To lond, to water, to wyn, to corn;
And alle chaunce, *nessche and hard*,
Knoweth by heom ³wol Y ⁴gred

B 1, l. 63.

¹Noted, called.

²Signs, i.e. predictions.

³Well.

⁴Declare.

adj. — Theo sunne ariseth, and fallith the dewyng;

Theo *nessche* clay hit makith clyng.

B I, 1. 915.

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C. 1320. *Arthur and Merlin*, Edinb. 1838.

sb. *Nesse* = good fortune —

In *nesse*, in hard, y pray the nowe,

In al stedes thou him avowe.

p. 110 (Halliwell).

1325. *Early English Allit. Poems* [West Midland], ed. Morris, E.E.T.S., voi. I.

adv.phr. — *Nesch oPer harde* —

QuePer-so-eurr he dele nesch oPer harde,

He lauez hys gyste¹ as water of dyche.

¹gyttes (?).

The Pearl, 1. 605.

C. 1330. WILL, DE SHOREHAM, *Religious Poems* [Kent], ed. Wright, 1849.

adj. — *Nesche*.

146 (Stratmann).

1330. ROBERT DE BRUNNE, *Chronicle*.

adv. phr. — Thorge mountayn and more, the Bascles ge ther weie

Our *nesche* and *hard* thei fore and did the Walsch men deie.

Quoted in Carr's Craven Glossary, 2nd edit. 1228.

A letter this fol toke; bad him, *for nesch or hard*. Thereon suld no
man loke, but only Sir Edward.

p. 220; quoted in Miss Baker's Northants Glossary.

1340. DAN MICHEL OF NORTHGATE, *Ayenbite of Inwyt*, or, *Remorse of Conscience* [Kent],
ed. R. Morris, E.E.T.S., voi. 23, 1866.

v. pres. — *Nhessep* = makes soft —

Perne gardyn zette Pe greate gardyner | Bet is god Pe uader |

huanne nhesseP Pe herte | and makeP zuete | and tretable | ase

wex ymered.

adj. — *Nessse* — soft —

Rizhuolnesse is propre liehe | Þet me deÞ be
dome riztuol and trewe | ne to *nessse* ne to hard.

sb. — *Nesshede* = delicacy, softness —

and of alle zofthede | and *nesshede* | cloÞinge habbeþ an.

C. 1340. R. ROLLE DE HAMPOLE, *Prick of Conscience* [Yorkshire], ed. R. Morris, 1863.

adj. — Þe saule es mare tender and *nesshe*

Þan es Þe body with pe flesshe.

1. 3110; quoted in *Catholicon Anglicum*.

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C. 1350. *William of Palerne* (otherwise *William and the Werwolf*), ed. Skeat, E.E.T.S., Ex. Ser. vol. 1, 1867.

adv. phr. — nis he holly at my hest · in hard & in *nesche*?

I wol here-after witerly¹ · wiÞ-oute more striue, wirche holly mi
hertes wille · to *harde* & to *nesche*.

¹plainly, certainly, &c. 1. 534.

1366. SIR JOHN MAUNDEVILE, *Voiage and Travaile* [Midland], ed. from edit. of 1725, by J. O. Halliwell, 1839.

adj. — *Nesche* is quoted by Stratmann, from p. 303; but this should probably be *nessche*, as quoted in *Prompt. Parv.* from some edition, p. 368 —

And the hard erthe and the rocke abyden mountaynes, whan the
soft erthe, and tendre, wax *nessche* throge the water, and
felle, and becamen valeyes.

? 1370. *Castle off Loue*, ed. R. F. Weymouth, for Philol. Soc.

adj. — *Nesh*.

C. 1380. *Sir Ferumbras*, in *English Charlemagne Romances*, ed. S. J. Herrtage, E.E.T.S.,

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Ex. Ser. 34, 1879.

adv. phr. — alle þanne assentede at *nessche & hard*. 1. 3500.

By þat were Sarazyns stozen¹ vp all frechs², And were come
inward at *hard & neychs*.

¹climbed. ²fresh, new, 1. 5188.

C. 1382-1388 WYCLIF, *The Holy Bible in the Earliest English Versions*, ed. Rev. J. Forshall and Sir F. Madden, 4 vols., Oxford, 1850 (with a Glossary).

Glossary. — *neische, neshe, nesshe, adj.* soft, delicate.

E = Earlier Version. L = Later Version.

E. — *Neshe* wax and lizt, &c. L. — *Neische* wax, &c.

Prefatory Epistles, cap. iii., p. 63.

L. — God hath maad *neische* myn herte. Job. xxiii. 16.

E. — A *nesshe* answeze breketh wrathe. Prov. xv. 1.

1387. JOHN OF TREVISA, tr. of *Higden's Polychronicon* (Rolls Series).

adj. — Describes Ireland as — “*nesche, reyny, and wyndy*” [mollis, pluviosa, ventosa].

1. 333; quoted in *Cath. Ang.*

[52]

sb. — Also quoted without reference *ibid.* — “Mars schal take algate þe
neischede and þe softnes of saturne.”

Way in *Prompt. Parv.* quotes from TREVISA'S *Version o Vegecius*, Roy.

MS. 8 A. xii.:—

v. — *nasshe* = to make effeminate — “*nasshe* the hartes of warriours to lustes,
thenne hardenne them to fighte”.

1393. GOWER'S *Confessio Amantis*.

adj. — He was to *nesshe*, and she to harde.

Bk. v.; quoted in Miss Baker's Northants Glossary.

15th cent. *Court of Love*; a late poem (not by Chaucer) first printed with Chaucer's works,
1561 (compiled by Jhon Lidgate).

adj.— It semeth for loue his harte is tender *nesshe*.

In the *Aiding edit.* of Chaucer's works, 6 vols. 8vo., London, W. Pickering, 1845,
the line reads —

It seemeth for love his herte is tender and *neshe*.

vol. vi., p. 165, l. 1092.

15th cent. *Latin and English Vocab.*, No. XV. Wright's *Vocabs.*, 2nd edit., 1874.

adj. — Mollis, an^{oe} *neshe*. col. 596, l. 29.

Tener, [an^{os} *tendere* or *neshe*]. col. 615, l. 40.

C. 1420. *The Seuyn Sages*, in *Metrical Romances*; ed. Weber, 1810.

adj. — The child was keped *tendre*, and *nessche* [= soft].

vol. iii., ver. 732.

1440. *Promptorium Parvulorum*, ed. Albert Way, *Camd. Soc.*, 1843, 1853, and 1865.

Neschyn' or make *nesche*⁴ Mollifico.

⁴Molliculus, *neisshe*, or *softe*. Mollicia, *softenesse*, or *neisshe*. Molleo, to be
nesshe.

C. 1440. *Religious Pieces in Prose and Verse*, ed. from R. Thornton's MS. by G. G. Perry,
E.E.T.S., v. 26, 1867.

Nesche, *vb.* to melt, soften, grow soft: —

Now es na herte sa' herde þat it na moghte *nesche* and lufe swylke a Godd
with all his myghte. p. 31.

C. 1450 or C. 1460 *Towneley Mysteries* [Yorkshire], in *Eng. Miracle Plays or Mysteries*,
ed. W. Marriott, 1838.

adj. — Nesh. (? p.) 128 (Stratmann).

There is a quotation in the Almondbury and Huddersfield Glossary
containing the word in the same spelling.

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1463-83. *Queene Elizabethes Achademy* (by Sir Humphrey Gilbert), E.E.T.S., Ex. Ser. 8.

adv. phr. — For-gete not þe towell, noþer for *hard ne nessche*.

Section or Tract ix., l. 241.

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Ante 1500. *The Babees Book: Manners and Meals in Olden Time*, E.E.T.S., vol. 32.

White herrings fresh —

adj. — looke he be white by þe boon | þe ¹roughe white & ²nesche. p. 161,

l. 644.

¹roe.

²tender.

After a hath —

þen lett hym go to bed | but looke it be soote & ¹nesche.

¹soft.

p. 183, l. 986.

1553. SIR THOMAS WILSON, *Art of Retorique*.

sb. — To be born of woman declares weakness of spirit, *neshenes* of body, and fickleness of mind.

Rev. W. Gaskell, *Lect. Lacc. Dialect*,

April, 1854, p. 20.

1585. *Choise of Change*, in *Cens. Lit.* ix.

adj. — Of cheese, — he saith it is too hard; he saith it is too *nesh*.

(? p.) 436; quoted by Nares; and T. Wright, *Dict. Obs. and Prov. English*.

1597. J. BOSSEWELL, *Works of Armorie*; London, printed by Henrie Ballard dwelling without Templebarre the signe of the Beare.

adj. — And although a droppe [of water] be most *neshe*, yet by oft falling it pierceth that thing, that is right hard.

The Armorie of Honor, B. 2, fol. 89/1.

1606-16. BEAUMONT AND FLETCHER, *Works*.

adj. — . . . , This but sweats thee

Like a *nesh* nag.

Bonduca; quoted in Miss Baker's Northants Glossary, without further reference.

[54]

Ante 1649. BP. PERCY'S *Folio MS.*, vol. i., p. 141, ed. Hales and Furnivall.

adj. — "God save the Queene of England", he said.

"for her blood is verrey *neshe*,

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as neere vnto her I am

as a colloppe shorne from the flesh”.

King James and Browne, 1. 119; quoted by Miss Jackson,
Shropshire Wordbook.

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OSS OR AWSE.

This word, in English, seems to be almost wholly confined to modern dialectal speech. Like *clem*, it has a wide range or area of usage.

A. — MODERN DIALECTAL RANGE.

I. FROM GLOSSARIES OR PRINTED BOOKS.

i. A TABLE OR LIST OF THE GLOSSARIES

in which the verb and its derivatives are found.

No.	DISTRICT.	AUTHOR AND DATE.	WORDS AND PARTS OF SPEECH.
1	Various dialects	T. Wright, 1857	Ause and oss, v.
2	North of England	Rev. J Hutton, 1781	Oss, v.
3	North Country	John Ray, 1674	Osse, v.
4	Ditto	Grose and Pegge, 1839	Oss, v.
	Yorkshire:—		
5	Craven	Rev. W. Carr, 1828	Osse, v.
6	Leeds	C. C. Robinson, 1862	Oss, v.
7	Almondbury and Huddersfield	Rev. A. Easter, ed. by Rev. T. Lees, 1883	do. v.
8	Hallamshire (Sheffield Dist.	Rev. Joseph Hunter, 1829	do. v.
9	Cumberland and Westmorland	Poems, Songs, and Ballads, 1839	do. v.
10	Cumberland	Robert Ferguson, 1873	do. v.
11	Lancashire	Rev. R. Garnett, <i>Philol.</i> <i>Soc. Trans.</i> , 1867	do. v.

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12	Ditto	Nodal and Milner, 1876	Awse and Oss, v.
13	Ditto (Lonsdale)	R. B. Peacock, in <i>Phil. Soc. Trans.</i> , 1867	Oss, v.
14	Ditto (South)	J. Collier, 6 th ed., 1757	do. v.; Ossing, <i>part.</i>
15	Ditto (do.)	Sam Bamford, 1854	Awse, v.; Awsin, <i>part.</i>
16	Ditto (do.)	J. A. Picton: <i>Notes on S. Lanc. Dialect</i> , 1865	do. or Oss, v.
17	Cheshire	N. Bailey, 1749	Osse, v.
18	Ditto	John Ash (quotes Bailey), 1775	do. v.
19	Ditto	R. Wilbraham, 2 nd ed., 1826	Oss or Osse, v.
20	Ditto	Holloway (quotes Bailey), 1839	do. Osse, v.

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A TABLE OR LIST OF GLOSSARIES —(*continued*)

No.	DISTRICT.	AUTHOR AND DATE.	WORDS AND PARTS OF SPEECH.
21	Cheshire	T. Wright, 1857	Ossing, <i>verbal n.</i>
22	Ditto	H. Wedgwood, 1872	Oss, v.
23	Ditto	J. O. Halliwell, ed. 1874	do. v.
24	Ditto	Col. Egerton Leigh, 1877	do. v.
25	Ditto	Robert Holland, 1886	do. v.
	Derbyshire: —		
26	High Peak Dist.	The Writer (T. Hallam), in <i>MS</i>	do. v
27	Bakewell Dist.	J. Sleight, in <i>Reliquary</i> for January, 1865	“oss <i>vel</i> hoss” [<i>h</i> is not used]
28	Shropshire	T. Wright, 1857	Oss, v.
29	Ditto	Hereford and Shrop. Provincialism in <i>Wellington</i> <i>Journal</i> , Feb. 5, 1876	do. v
30	Ditto	Miss G. F. Jackson, 1881	Ause and Oss, v.; Ossment, <i>sb.</i>

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31	Staffordshire	C. H. Poole, 1880	Oss, v.
32	Leicestershire	T. Wright, 1857	Aust, ost, v.
33	Ditto	A. B. Evans, D. D., and his son S. Evans, LL. D., 1881	do. v
34	Northamptonshire	T. Sternberg, 1851	Ost, v.
35	Warwickshire	T. Wright, 1857	Aust, v.
36	Worcestershire	Mrs. E. L. Chamberlain, 1882	Oss, v.
37	Herefordshire	G. Cornwall Lewis, 1839	To oss to, v.
38	Ditto	Hereford and Shrop. Provincialism in <i>Wellington</i> <i>Journal</i> , Feb. 5, 1876	Oss, v.
39	Radnoshire	Rev. W. E. T. Morgan, 1881	do. v.

ii. DEFINITIONS OR SENSES, AND ILLUSTRATIVE SENTENCES.

I give these in nine sub-divisions. A considerable variety of words, phrases, and sentences is used in these definitions. The numbers appended to definitions, or prefixed to illustrative sentences, refer to the glossaries in the foregoing table in which each such definition and sentence is found.

- a. To try, 1, 4, 9, 10, 13, 16, 25, 26; to attempt, 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 16, 19, 23, 26, 27, 29, 30, 32, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39; to endeavour, 4; to essay, 9, 10;

[57]

to aim at, 3, 17, 20, 22; to offer, 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 23, 27, 29, 30, 32, 34, 38; to offer to do, 3, 17, 18, 20, 22; to offer to do a thing, 25; to set about, 25; to set about anything, 9, 13, 19, 23; to set about a thing, 10; to set about doing, 37; to be setting out, 19, 23; to show a sign of doing, 37, applied to inanimate as well as animate objects.

5. "I'll neer *osse* to doot"; i.e. I will never attempt it.

6. "He niwer *osses* to du owt 'at I sehr him tul — niwer".

7. "An sail ne'er *oss*" = I shall never attempt.

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On the occasion when Sir John Ramsden came of age, he gave several public dinners, and on passing between Longley Hall and Huddersfield, he encountered some mill hands, lads and lasses. A lad taps a lass on the shoulder, and she says, ‘Drop it, lad, Au want none o thi bother’. The lad, ‘Au’m noan baan to mell on thee’. ‘Well, but tha were *ossin*’. Sir John was much exercised with this, and took it up at the dinner, where he found plenty of his guests able to restore the dialogue to its beauty, and explain its meaning.

8. “He *ossed* but failed”.

12. (1) *s.v.* *Awse*: —

A mon ‘at plays a fiddle weel,
Should never *awse* to dee.

Waugh, *Lane. Songs: Earn Folk*, 1859.

Come, owd dog, *awse* to shap.

ib. Besom Ben, c. iv. p. 42; 1865.

See also *Sense f.*

Aw shakert un’ waytud till ten,

Bu’ Meary ne’er *awst* to com eawt.

Harland’s *Lancashire Lyrics*, p. 187.

(2) *s.v.* *Oss*: —

His scrunt wig fell off, on when he *os* t’ don it, on unlucky karron
gan it o poo.

Collier, *Works*, p. 52; 1750.

I’r ot heawse in o crack, on leet o’ th’ owd mon i’ th’ fowd, *ossin*
t’ get o’ tit-back.

ibid, p. 57 ; 1750.

See also *Sense b.*

They’d gether reawnd some choilt wi’ mayt,

An’ every bit it *ost* to tak

Their little meawrths ud oppen too.

Ramsbottom, *Lanc. Rhymes*, p. 67; 1864.

The Salamanca Corpus: *Four Dialect Words* (1885)

13. "He nivver osses" = He never makes the attempt.

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16. "Theaw doesn't *oss* furt' do it".

24. "It osses to rain". "A covey *ossing* for the tunnits", means a covey making for the turnips.

25. "He's owed me ten pound for ever so long, and he ne'er *osses* pay me."

26. Tha dusna *oss* t' do it = try [Dhaa dùz·nu' oss t' dóo it].

27. "He none *osses* at it".

30. 'Er'll never *oss* to püt anythin' in its place as lung as 'er can get through 'em.

36. 'E *ossed* to jump the brack, but 'e couldna do't; t'warn't likely!' Seldom used but when the attempt is unsuccessful.

b. To be about to do, *i.e.*, immediately.

12. I'r ot heawse in o crack, on leet o' th' owd mon I' th' fowd, *ossin'* t' get o' tit-back. Collier, *Works*, p. 52; 1750.

25. The following conversation actually took place in Rainow Sunday-school: — "Teacher: 'Why did Noah go into the ark?' Scholar: 'Please, teacher, because God was *ossin'* for t' drown th' world'".

26. Aw'm *ossin'* t' goo t' Buxton [Au)m *os·si'n* t) gù t) Bùk·stu'n] = I'm about to go to Buxton immediately.

Aw'm *ossin'* t'ate my dinner [Au)m *os·si'n* t')ai·t mi' din·u'r] =I'm about to eat my dinner at once.

c. The manner of "shaping" or "framing" at anything: either — (1), at a particular act or job of work; or (2), at the duties of a new situation or calling.

24. He *osses* well; said of a new servant who promises fairly.

25. "He *osses* badly" would be said of a man who began a job in a clumsy manner.

26. 'Ow does 'e *oss* at it? [Aaw dùz i' oss aat i't?]. 'Ow does th' new sarvant mon *oss*? [Aaw dùs th) ni'w saar·vu'nt m:aun oss?].

28. A new servant is said to *oss* (promise) well.

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30. *vb.* I think the chap knows his work, he *osses* pretty well.

sb. I doubt ‘e’ll never do no good — I dunna like ‘is *ossment*.

d. To design, 2; to intend, 2 ; to intend to do, 3, 17, 20, 22.

e. To dare, 3, 32, 33, 35, 37; to venture, 11.

37. He does not *oss* [= dare] to do it.

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f. To begin, 1, 13, 14, 19, 23, 25, 26, 27, 29, 31, 38 — in this sense, I think, the word is generally in the imperative; to begin to do, 37.

12. Come, owd dog, *awse* to shap.

Waugh, *Besom Ben*, c. iv. p. 42; 1865.

26. Now, *oss*! [Naaw, *oss*].

27. *Oss* at it, mon, *i.e.* begin.

g. To make free with: — 3, 5, 21, 23, 24, 30, have the Cheshire proverb, “*Ossing* comes to bossing”; 3, 5, 23, and 30, simply quote the words without comment; 21, T. Wright, has under *oss* (2) — “To make free with. There is a Cheshire proverb, *ossing* comes to bossing (*i.e.*, kissing)”. 24, Colonel Egerton Leigh, has — “ ‘*Ossing* comes to bossing’ an old Cheshire proverb, means courting is soon followed by kissing”.

h. To recommend a person to assist you, 19, 23.

i. To direct. See note below.

NOTE. — Mr. T. Darlington, in his *Folk-Speech of South Cheshire*, now passing through the press, has senses *a*, *c*, and *i*: —

Oss [os·] *v.n.* and *a*:

a = To attempt: “Ah never *ost* (ossed) at it” [Ah nev·ür ost aat· it].

c = To shape: “Ye dunna *oss* to do it” = You don’t shape. This is not exactly the same as “to attempt”, though a shade of the same meaning.

i = To direct: “Ah’ll *oss* yō to a good heifer” [Ah] os· yū tū ũ gùd ef·ür].

II. DIALECTAL RANGE FROM MY OWN RESEARCHES,

1877 TO 1883.

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This word is constantly used in the dialects of Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, and Staffordshire. See the first two paragraphs in NESH *A.* II. pp. 43, 44, DIALECTAL RANGE FROM MY OWN RESEARCHES.

N.B. — The letters *a, b, c, &c.*, prefixed to the meanings, or illustrative sentences, refer to the respective Senses before given, in I. ii.

YORKSHIRE: MARSDEN, April, 1878:

a. Oss [oss], to try.

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LANCASHIRE: GOOSNARGH, June, 1883:

a. Now, John, oss likely [Naaw, J:aun, oss lahy·kli'] = apply yourself to the task in a workmanlike manner.

Ditto ECCLES, June, 1883:

b. Eh, Mary, w'ereta for? O'm ossin' t' goo t' Eccles = [Ai·, Mae-ri', weertu' f:aur? O)m ossi'n t)goo t) Ek·lz].

CHESHIRE: FARNDON, Dec., 1882:

a. Yo dunna oss t'go at it [yoa dùn·u' u' oss t) goa aat·) i't] •

DERBYSHIRE: ASHFORD, April, 1875:

c. 'Ae dun they oss? [Ae· dùn dhai oss] = How do they *shape*?

'Ae dus that chap *oss* at 'is work [Ae· dùz dhaat chaap oss n't i'z wuurk?] *i.e.* frame to work skilfully or unskilfully.

Ditto DORE, March, 1883:

a. Aw sh'l ne'er oss [au shl n:eeür oss].

Ditto CHESTERFIELD, May, 1883:

a. Tha doesn't oss to do it [Dhaa dùznt oss tu' dóo i't].

Ditto SPITE WINTER, in ASHOVER parish, May, 1883:

a. Oss [oss] = to try.

Ditto ASHOVER, May, 1883:

a. or c. 'Aa tha osses! [Aa dhaa oss·u'z!] = How thou *osses*!

Ditto ALFRETON, Dec., 1883:

a. or c. Oss as yu mean to do it [Oss u'z yu' mee·n tu' dóo i't] .

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SHROPSHIRE, WELLINGTON, Dec., 1881:

a. *Oss* [oss], to try.

Yu wanna *oss* to do it [yu' wunn·u' *oss* tu' döð i't].

Ditto UPTON MAGNA, Jan., 1882:

a. *Oss* [oss], to try.

h. To recommend a person to a place — I *ossed* 'er to a place [Uy ost u'r töð u· pl:ai:ss].

Ditto MUCH WENLOCK, Sept., 1880:

a. *Oss* [oss], to try.

STAFFORDSHIRE: MIDDLE HILLS, north of Leek, May 1880:

a. *Oss* [oss] = to try.

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STAFFORDSHIRE: FROGHALL, Oct., 1877:

a. *Oss* [oss] = to try.

Ditto OAKAMoor, April, 1882:

a. *Oss* [oss] = to try.

Ditto LONGPORT, Oct., 1877:

a. Tha doesner *oss* for do it [Dhaa dùz·nu'r *oss* fu'r dóo [or di'ðö] i't].

WORCESTERSHIRE: BEWDLEY, Oct., 1880:

a. You dunna *oss* to do it [yoo dùn·u' *oss* tu' doo i't].

Ditto TENBURY, Oct., 1880:

a. *Oss* [oss] = to try.

Oss ior bed [oss fu'r b:aed] = set about going to bed.

FLINTSHIRE (detached): BETTISFIELD, June, 1882:

a. Yo dunna *oss* to do it [yoa dùn·u' *oss* tu' dóo it.]

Ditto HANMER, Aug., 1882:

h. I *ossed* (or *osst*) 'im to that place [Uy ost i'm tu' dhaat plai:ss], *i.e.* recommended him to it.

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i. Some years ago it was thought by various writers that *oss* or *awse* was derived from the Welsh *osio*, to offer to do, to essay.

1. Rev. (now Prof.) Skeat, in Ray's *North Country Words*, E.D.S. Repr. Gloss. 1874. Note added in brackets s.v. *osse* — "Welsh *osio*, to offer to do, to essay, to dare".
2. Rev. Richard Garnett's *Philological Essays*, collected and reprinted 1859, p. 166 — "[From] Welsh *osi*, to attempt, venture; ----- *oss*, Lancash".
3. R. B. Peacock's *Lancash. [Lonsdale] Glossary*, Philol. Soc. Trans. Suppt., 1867 — "*oss*, v.i. and t., to try, begin, attempt, or set about anything. W[elsh] *osi*, to offer to do, to attempt".
4. J. A. [now Sir J. A.] Picton's *Notes on the South Lancashire Dialect*, 1865, p. 10: "*Awse*, or *oss*, to try, to attempt. W[elsh] *osi*".

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ii. It is now, however, considered as undoubted by various eminent philologists that Welsh *osio* was derived from English *oss*, instead of vice versa.

1. The following paragraph was courteously written for this article by Professor Skeat, June 15. 1887: — "I have now no doubt that W. *osio* was merely borrowed from Middle-English, and that the Middle-English word was merely borrowed from the French *oser*, to dare, which occurs as early as the eleventh century in the *Chanson de Roland*, l. 1782. This French *oser* (like the Span, *osar*, Ital. *osare*) corresponds to a theoretical Low Latin verb *ausare*, regularly formed from the stem *aus-* which appears in *ausus*, pp. of Lat. *audere*, to dare. This explanation is given by Littré and Scheler, and universally accepted by French philologists. It is highly important to observe that Old French not only possessed the verb *oser*, but the adjective *os*, signifying 'audacious', which is nothing but a French spelling of the Latin *ausus*. This adjective *os* also occurs in the *Chanson de Roland*, l. 2292. We can thus formally establish a connection with the English word; for this very same adjective *os* occurs in Anglo-French also, with the same sense of 'audacious', in the *Life of Edward the Confessor*, ed. Luard, l. 4199, a poem of the twelfth century. We thus learn

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that the word was already known in England in the twelfth century, and we cannot doubt that it was borrowed by English from this Anglo-French source. I believe that numerous words of this sort drifted into Welsh chiefly in the fourteenth century, subsequently to the conquest of Wales by Edward I’.

2. I also insert a short paragraph kindly written by Prof. Rhys, of Oxford, August 9, 1887: —“It [Welsh *osio*] may be derived so far as phonology goes either from French or from English, but not from Latin. I formerly thought it must be from French, but that was because, probably, I was not aware that it existed as an English word. I should now presume it was from English; in any case there is no Welsh word to explain it. as I cannot regard Welsh *os* ‘if’ as offering any explanation of the meaning”.

NOTE. — My original article on this word was printed in the *Manchester City News*, December 31, 1881; the space occupied being about *three-eighths* that of the present article. Early in January, 1882, I sent copies to a number of members of the English Dialect Society, and likewise to other correspondents; and, in response, received about twenty-seven courteous and appreciative acknowledgments.

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3. One of these was from Dr. J. A. H. Murray, dated January 11, 1882,* in which he stated that the evidence, so far as known to him, tends to show that Welsh *osio* was adopted from English *oss*, and not vice versa.
4. I conclude by quoting part of Hensleigh Wedgwood’s paragraph from his *Dict. of English Etymology*, 2nd edit., 1872: — To *Oss*. To offer to do, to aim at, to intend to do. B[ailey], Fr[ench] *oser*, to dare, adventure, be so bold as to do a thing; Prov[encal] *ausar*, It[alian] *ausare*, *osare*. Venet[ian] *ossare*, from Lat. *audere*, *ausum*, to dare. The difficulty in this derivation is that *oss* belongs so completely to the popular part of the language that it is very unlikely to have had a Fr. derivation. W[elsh] *osio*, to offer to do, is undoubtedly the same word, but we are unable to say w’hether it is borrowed from E. *oss* or vice versa.

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C. — EARLY OR LITERARY USAGE.

i. I have only been able to obtain *five* Early English quotations containing forms of *oss*, viz.: three *verbal forms* and two *substantives*, which are given below. I came across the *first* in Early Eng. Allit. Poems some time ago; and the *third* — “Quat and has thou *ossed*, &c.” — was quoted in the Glossary to this volume, *s.r. Ossed*; but as from “King Alexander” instead of “Alexander” simply.

Prof. Skeat has recently edited this latter work for the E.E.T.S., and has called it the “Wars of Alexander”, to distinguish it from *three* other Poems ALL called “Alexander”. He obligingly sent me the *four* quotations from this, with his annotations, August 3, 1887; and added —

“*Oss* [in these quotations] means to offer, proffer, put forward, &c.; and secondarily, to show, to prophesy. It’s all one in spite of great change in sense”.

* This letter has unfortunately got mislaid or lost.

[64]

1325. Early English *Allit. Poems* [West Midland], ed. Morris, E.E.T.S., voi. 1.

v, past, t. — *Ossed* = showed —

Jonah —

‘Alle þis meschef for me is made at þys tyme,
For I haf greued my god & gulty am founden;
Forþy bereȝ me to þe borde, and baþeþes¹ me þer-oute,
Er gete ȝe no happe, I hope for soþe’.

All this mischief is caused by me, therefore cast me overboard.

He *ossed* hym by vnnyuges þat þay vnder-nomen,
þat he watz flawen fro þe face of frelych dryȝtyn.

He proves to them that he was guilty.

¹baþe.

1. 213.

C. 1400. *Wars of Alexander*, ed. Skeat, E.E.T.S., Extra Series, No. 47, 1886.

Alexander consults the oracle of Apollo, who returns an answer; after which we

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read —

(1) *vb.* — line 2263:

“Thus ansvars thaim thaire aid gode, and *osses* on this wyse”;

Where the word *osses* seems to mean shows or prophesies.

(2) *vb.* — 1. 2307:

“Quat, and has thou *ossed* to Alexander this ayndain wirdes?”

i.e. What, and hast thou shown to Alexander these favourable (?) destinies?

(3) *sb.* — 1. 868:

“I did bot my deuire to drepe him, me

thinke,

For it awe him nocht sa openly slike *ossing*
to make”;

i.e. I only did my duty to kill him, methinks.

For he ought not so openly to make such an attempt.

(4) *sb.* — 1. 732:

“Vnbehalde the wele on ilk halfe, and have
a gud eze,

Les on thine ane here-efteward thine
ossingis list”;

i.e. Look round thee well on every side, and
take good care,

Lest on thyself alone, hereafter, thy

prophesies (or thy attempts) alight.

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YORKSHIRE, BARNSLEY, April, 1887:

Clammed to deeäth [klaamd tu' d:eeüt].

Ditto KEIGHLEY, May, 1887:

Clam to deeäth [tlaam tu' d:eeüth].

N.B.—The older form is said to be *pine*.

Starved to deeäth [stiaavd tu' d:eeüth] = very cold.

Ditto HAWORTH, May, 1887:

Clammed to deeäth [tlaamd tu' d:eeüth].

DERBYSHIRE, CHURCH GREASLEY, Dec., 1886:

He's *clammed* to death [aey]z tlaamd t' death].

STAFFORDSHIRE, CODSALL, Dec., 1886:

Clemmed to death [klaemd tu' daeth].

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, FINNINGLEY, Aug., 1886:

Nearly *clammed* to death [neeürli' tlaamd tu' daeth]; some say — *Clammed* to deeäd [tlaamd tu' deeüd].

Ditto BAWTRY, Aug., 1886:

Clam [tlaam`].

LEICESTERSHIRE, ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH, Dec., 1886:

Half *clammed* [:aif tlaamd].

Ditto UPTON, 31 miles S.W. OF MARKET BOSWORTH, Dec., 1886:

He's welly (nearly) *clammed* [ey]z wael·I' tlaamd].

WARWICKSHIRE, ATHERSTONE, Dec., 1886:

Clammed to death [tlaamd tu' daeth].

[66]

ADDENDA: LAKE.

LAKE = TO PLAY.

YORKSHIRE, BARNSLEY, April, 1887:

Lake [lai·k].

Ditto BIRKENSHAW (or DUDLEY HILL), near Bradford, April, 1887:

Lake [l:aeük].

Ditto KEIGHLEY, May, 1887:

We s'l *lakin'* [Wěě sl běě l:eũki'n].

Ditto CALVERLEY, Near Leeds, June 1, 1887:

I'm *lakin'* [au9m l:eũki'n].

At Easter and Whitsunide of the present year (1887), I visited the following places in S.W. Yorkshire: —

Easter, April 9th to 12th. — Thorne, Barnsley, Wakefield, Birkenshaw, Bradford, and Halifax;

Whitsunide, May 28th to June 1st. — Halifax, Keighley, Haworth, Skipton, Ribbleshead, Giggleswick, Settle, Saltaire and Calverley;

And most of these places I found the word *lake* was regularly used in dialectal speech to the exclusion of *play*.