

Norfolk Words not in Forby's "Vocabulary."

COMMUNICATED BY

THE REV. GREVILLE J. CHESTER, B.A.

THE following Norfolk words, which do not occur in Forby's *Vocabulary*, seem worthy of preservation. A few of them, marked R, come from Ray's Collection, and a few are taken from a MS. written by a Mr. John Steele about the year 1712, and preserved in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. The rest have fallen under my own observation.

- Blob, *v.* to shake. *Ex.* "How you do keep *blobbing* about!"
- Bown, *s.* a swelling, a bump.—J. Steele's MS. Is this connected with *bun*, a cake of a swelling shape? Cf. Greek *Bouvós*, a hill or mound; a woman's breast.
- Brushy, *adj.* abounding with brushwood.
- Buffed, *adj.* baffled, disappointed.
- Bunt, *v.* to strike with the head, to gore. *Ex.* "Take care, yinder cow *bunts*."
- Carnsey, *s.* same as Caunsey, a causey.
- Chig, chig, a call of invitation to pigs.
- Clump, *v.* to step awkwardly, or heavily.

- Cock, *v.* (1) to lift up; chiefly spoken of the head. (2) To throw. *Ex.* "Cock me that ball." Cf. *v.* to *cop*, in Forby.
- Cope, *v.* to chop or exchange.—J. Steele's MS. Cf. *v.* to *cop*, in Forby, where the derivation is evidently erroneous. To *cop*, *i.e.* to throw, plainly means to throw backwards and forwards, and so to exchange. The word is thus used by children playing at ball, without any reference to throwing *upwards*.
- Denes, *s.* the sand *dunes*, or low *hillocks*, thrown up by the wind, are at Yarmouth called "Denes." Celtic, *Dun*, a hill.
- Diddle, *v.* to move the hand quickly in and out of water.
- Dow, *s.* a dove.
- Dow-fulter, *s.* the fieldfare.
- Drove, *s.* a green, or other by-road, especially over marshes.
- Fairy, or Frairy Loaf, *s.* a kind of fossil echinus or sea-urchin common in Norfolk.
- Flak, *s.* a flag or *flake* of turf.—J. Steele's MS.
- Flop, *v.* to jump or move awkwardly.
- Fraise, *v.* to break.—J. Steele's MS. Cf. Lat. *Frango*.
- Frame, *s.* a skeleton.
- Fulter, also Fulfer, *s.* a fieldfare.
- Gat, *s.* an entrance or *gate* to a roadstead for ships. Thus, Scroby *Gat* off Yarmouth.
- Godsgood, *s.* yeast.—J. Steele's MS. In Forby, *gosgood*.
- Golsh, *adv.* var. of gulsh. Cf. Forby.
- Ha', *v.* to have. *Ex.* "I'll *ha'* you bor, I'll *ha'* you."
- Heronshaw or harnshaw, same as harnsey, a heron. Can the former mean the heron of the *shaw*, the bird, *i.e.*, which builds in the *woods*?
- Kittle, *v.* to bring forth young, especially of rabbits. *Ex.* A boy asks, "when is your old doe going to *kittle*?"
- Layer, *s.* a field prepared for a crop. Cf. *v.* to *lay*, in Forby.

- Ligger, *s.* a rude footbridge; a plank thrown across a ditch.
Cf. AS. *liggeran*, to lie down.
- Malahank, *v.* to twist up in an awkward manner. *Ex.* An eel *malahanks* a fishing line. A *hank* is a skein or twist of string. Cf. *malahack* in Forby.
- Matchly, *adv.* perfectly.—J. Steele's MS., contraction of "matchlessly."
- Modder, Modher, a girl or young wench.—J. Steele's MS.
- Mor, *s.* a girl; used in both a good and a bad sense. Cf. Norfolk word *mauther*; also "mot" or "mort," a whore.
- Mole-country, *s.* the grave or churchyard. *Ex.* "He's gone to the *mole-country*, bless his bones."
- Near-now, *adv.* just now.—J. Steele's MS.
- Niggle, *v.* to cuddle
- Near, *adv.* a little while.—J. Steele's MS., circa 1712.
- Old, *adj.* a redundant word of frequent occurrence in conversation in Norfolk, and used without any reference to the age of the object to which it is applied. *Ex.* "Look at yinder *old* hare in that there *old* pitle."
- Pay out, *v.* to give tit for tat; to "serve out."
- Paying-out, *s.* a punishment, retribution.
- Pie, *s.* a kind of gull. The "Scoulton Pie" is a gull which frequents a mere in the parish of that name.
- Piggle, *v.* to be nice with one's food, turning it over and over as a pig turns up the earth with his snout. Cf. *v. Pingle* in Forby.
- Plantain, *s.* a plantation.
- Plashing, *s.* a method of repairing a hedge by bending down a cutting half through some of the boughs, and then interweaving them with the uprights. Cf. *Norf. Agricult. Report*.
- Pot-belly, *s.* a hard protuberant belly. Cf. *v. Pod* in Forby.
- Pulthy, *adv.* dirty, muddy. Cf. *v. Pulk* in Forby; as also AS. *Pul*, a pool.

- Rim, *v.* to shoe a horse, &c. *Ex.* A bill sent in to a Norfolk clergyman ran, "to *rimming* your ass," so much.
- Rowen, also *Rawing*, *s.* coarse feed which grows in marshes. Cf. Prize Report of Agriculture of Norfolk, p. 14.
- Scrog, *v.* to tie up in bunches, and place in shocks. *Ex.* "To *scrog* beans."
- Shack: pigs turned out in the fields after harvest are said to be "*on shack*."
- Shove, *s.* a row of shocks of corn, a shock of corn.
- Spragling, *adj.* straggling.
- Squandering, *adj.* straggling. *Ex.* "A *spragling* or *squandering* village."
- Staithe, *s.* a wharf or landing-place. AS. *stæth*, a shore.
- Stodge, *v.* to oppress, stifle. *Ex.* "I am so much *stodged*, I can hardly breathe."
- Straff, *s.* anger.—J. Steele's MS. Cf. *straft* in Forby.
- Swill, *s.* a Yarmouth herring basket, containing five hundred fish. Perhaps so called from its *swelling* shape.
- Thebes, *s.* gooseberries.—J. Steele's MS. Cf. *v.* *Fapes* in Forby.
- Thought-pegs, *s.* the pins between which the oars of a boat are confined. Perhaps because the oars can by their means be laid *athwart* the boat.
- Tiddle, *v.* to cosset daintily, to tickle. *Ex.* A girl says, "I 'ont be *tiddled* by you, nor no one."
- Titty-wren, *s.* the common wren. Never the golden-crested wren.
- Toadskep, *s.* a fungus. Forby has "*Toadscap*," but this, the *skep*, or basket of the toad, is a far prettier name, and is far more exclusively Norfolk. The under side of many kinds of fungi resembles basket-work.
- To-year, used for "this year." *Ex.* "I've not seen Tom *to-year*."
- Toshy, *adv.* muddy, sticky.

Trip, *s.* a *trip* of sheep, *i.e.*, a few sheep. R.

Troll, Trolly-cart, *s.* the narrow cart peculiar to Yarmouth, and anciently called a "Harry-carry." This name perhaps refers to the lightness or quickness of the cart in question. To *troll*, is to move or pass quickly.

"Come *troll* the brown bowl to me, bully boy."—*Old Song.*

Wind-egg, *s.* an egg without a shell. Cf. Forby.

The manuscript of John Steele, alluded* to above, which is amongst the Gough collections in the Bodleian, contains, besides the words given above, some curious notes on the state of several Norfolk churches about the year 1712.
