

A FURTHER CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS A  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE VOCABULARY.

BY ALFRED HENEAGE COCKS, M.A.

SINCE my former communication to this volume of the RECORDS\*, on Local Words used in the south of this county, I have collected sundry additional examples, and these have been largely supplemented by a list kindly sent me by the Rev. W. H. Summers, for some years resident at Beaconsfield; and now Mr. A. Clear has sent the Editor a very full and valuable list of words used in North Bucks, especially in the neighbourhood of Winslow, which Mr. Parker, with Mr. Clear's generous acquiescence, has put into my hands. The time seems therefore to have come for publishing what must be looked upon only as a further contribution to, or instalment of, words whose use is to a great extent not perpetuated by the rising generation, and many of which, therefore, by an annually increasing proportion of the population, will be either not understood, or entirely forgotten; and by no means as exhausting the vocabulary still used by many individuals of the older generation.

My former communication was very kindly noticed by the local press; but one criticism was commonly made—that many of the words recorded were used beyond the restricted district indicated. In answer to this, it seems necessary to remark that no county, or other subdivision of the country, uses a language peculiar to itself; but that only some very small number of words (if any) are peculiar, while the great majority, though not "Queen's" or Dictionary English, are common to certain other counties or districts; and that all one endeavours to do in supplying a local vocabulary, is to make it as complete a list as possible of the actual variants from Queen's English used in the district in question.

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\* In 1892, p. 60, *et seq.*

For the sake of conciseness, Mr. Clear's, Mr. Summers's, and my own lists are amalgamated; the letter [W] for Winslow, showing words supplied by Mr. A. Clear; [B] for Beaconsfield=words supplied by the Rev. W. H. Summers; [M]=words which I have heard used in the neighbourhood of Marlow, together with a few additions which I quote on thoroughly reliable authority; [Wycombe]=some words contributed by Mr. Parker, from that neighbourhood; [E-A] for East Anglia =words given by Mr. Walter Rye in his East Anglian Vocabulary; and, while very few (if any) words are *peculiar* to Bucks, most of those which have a wide circulation are marked " [various dialects] " or " [etc.]."

A few grammatical eccentricities which are used generally in Bucks, are probably common to the whole of England, and possibly to all other English-speaking parts of the empire, such as :—I ARE, for *I am*, or *I have*. BE, for *am*, *is*, *are*, etc. "I be agoing up street." "How be you?" "What be the matter?" With negative: AIN'T or AR'N'T, BAIN'T or BEAN'T, for *am not* or *are not*; DI'N'T, for *did not*; MA'N'T, for *may not*. THEY, or THEY THERE=those; THIS HERE, and THAT THERE, intens. of demonstrative pronouns.

A is often pronounced I, as in the Cockney and Herts dialects: *i.e.*, *Gite*, for gate; *Disy*, for daisy. OI and I, often confused, *e.g.*, *Vice*, for voice, and *vice versâ*. W before OO, often omitted, or rather used as in Welsh, where W=OO. Thus "going a 'oodin'"=picking up wood; so also in names of places. V is sometimes inserted [W], as *truvant*, for truant; sometimes omitted [W, M, etc.], as *gî'e* for give.

ABEAR } to bear, or endure; generally used negatively:  
 ABIDE } "I can't abear him" [W, M, and various  
 dialects].

ABOUT, for *near*. "That's nothing about the size"  
 [M, E-A].

AFEARD, afraid [W, M, E-A].

AFORE, for *before* [M, and various].

AFTER, used somewhat in the sense of *about*, in such a sentence as "He's after doing his work" [M, and various].

- AGGLE-CART, to cart wood [W]. Halliwell gives, as the second meaning of *Haggle*, to cut irregularly: so *aggle-carting* would mean carrying the wood as first cut in the rough, before it is shaped.
- AGIN, for *over-against*; near, or opposite [M, and various].
- AGONE, older form of the abbreviated *ago* [M, and various].
- AGREEABLE, compliant. "I'm agreeable," = "I consent," or "I approve" [M, and various].
- AH [M], according to the inflection of the voice, has at least three distinct meanings: (decidedly) "yes," "that there is!" (doubtfully) "perhaps"; (interrogatively) "eh?"
- AIRN, or YARN, to earn [W].
- AKKARD [W], OKKARD [B, and M], for *awkward*; not in its ordinary sense of *clumsy*, but cross-grained, perverse.
- ALL, = quite; altogether [M, etc.]. "It's all a rum start." See under *Casualty*.
- ALL ACCORDING, = it depends. "It's all according how he likes it" [M, etc.].
- ALLUS, for always [M, and various].
- ANCIENT (*pronounced ann—*), used to intensify *old*. "It's very old and annient" [M, etc.].
- ANY, for *at all* [M, etc.]; *e.g.*, "Do it come any?" "No, it ar'n't moved any as I can see."
- ARGISOME, argumentative, quarrelsome [W, etc.].
- AS, for *which*, or *that*. "That's just the one as I wanted" [W, M, etc.]; "Not as I knows on" [M, etc.].
- 'ATOMY, for *anatomy*; very thin, almost a skeleton [W, M, etc.].
- AUGHT, anything [M, etc.]. "Ay, for aught I knows;" "I don't owe him aught."
- AX, for *ask* [W, M, and various].
- BAFFLE, to cheat, gull [M, etc.].
- BAG, the udder of a cow [W, M, and various].
- BARTON, this word is now, I believe, obsolete in Bucks, and only survives in the name Barton Hartshorn; but it is still current (*e.g.*) in East Anglia. Mr. Rye states that it formerly meant the demesne land of the lord of the manor, not let out on lease, but held

- by the lord in his own hands, for the sustenance of his household. Now (where used) it means a farm-yard, a rick-yard, or even a poultry-yard.
- BASH, to beat down fruit with a long pole [W. ; p. 62].
- BEHIND, "you're all behind,"=you are behind-hand with your work, or, you are late [M, and various].
- BENTS, not the Bent-grass (*Agrostis vulgaris*), but the Rye-grass (*Lolium italicum*) [B, M].
- BEST, to over-reach, or get the better of [W, M].
- BEVER, or BAVER, a drink or meal between the ordinary meals [W]. I have since found the quotation referred to on p. 70. In the Churchwardens' Accounts of St. Peter-in-the-East, Oxford, for 1655, is: "payd for chipping the tenor and advise and for beavers —.4.—."
- BINGE, to soak a wooden tub to prevent its leaking [W]. Halliwell gives it as a Lincolnshire word.
- BIRD-STARVING, the keeping of birds off newly-sown corn, or other seed [M, and various].
- BLAB, to disclose a secret, or tell tales [M, and various].
- BLACKY, a Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) [B].
- BLACKY-TOP, a Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) [B].
- BLAME, or BLARM, intended as a milder form of "swear-word" than the national D— [M, and various].
- BLARING, crying, loud talking [W, M, and various]. Halliwell gives the second meaning of *to blare*, as, to roar, to bellow, to bleat, to cry.
- BLATING, for *bleating* [W].
- BLIND, abortive. Used of blossoms that do not form fruit [M, and various].
- BLIZZY, a blaze (as with a heap of thorns) [W, M].
- BLOB, a small lump of anything thick, viscid, or dirty (as of tallow, dregs of ink, etc.) [M, E-A]. This is one of the meanings for the word given by Halliwell, the first being "a blunt termination to a thing usually more pointed."
- BLOUZY, loose and disordered, of a woman's hair [M].
- BLUSTROUS, for *blustering*, of the weather [M, and various].
- BOBBISH, always used in Bucks (so far as I know) to signify *well, in good health*, in answer to enquiries after health, "I'm pretty bobbish, thank'ee;" but Halliwell states that it is used in various dialects, as, pretty well in health; not quite sober; somewhat clever.

- BOILING.** Halliwell explains it as "a quantity or number of things or persons," but it rather signifies "the lot," or "entire number," or quantity [W, M, and various]. Generally used in the expression "the whole boiling;" seldom by itself, and never after any other adjective, such as "large," "great," etc.
- BOOSY,** intoxicated [various]. Doubtless N. French, connected with *boire*.
- BOSS-EYED** [Wycombe, M, etc.], see **CROSS-EYED**.
- BREVET,** to rummage [W]. Halliwell gives it as a west-country word, to move about inquisitively; to search diligently.
- BRITTON** (p. 62). In the "Companion" to "The Oarsman's Guide to the Thames," etc., New Edit. (1857), with no author's name, but by the late Thos. Lett Wood and Sir Patrick Colquhoun (p. 7), the principal bottom-boards of a boat are written *burdens*. "Shifting *battens*, otherwise termed *footlings*, are, however, far preferable to solid burthens." (The word is thus spelt in the two ways.) The more or less triangular sections of the brittons, tapering to fit the bow and stern, are called *sheets*; with which word in this sense, Mr. R. E. Goolden (an old Thames-sider), who kindly lent me this "Guide," tells me he is familiar.
- BUFFER,** a foolish fellow [M, and various]. Corrupted (*vide* Halliwell) from A-N. *buffard*. Doubtless this word and *Duffer* are generally confused; the latter, according to Halliwell, signifies a pedlar who sells women's clothes.
- BUMBARREL,** the Long-tailed Tit (*Acredula rosea*) [B, and various].
- BUMMOCK,** to beat; defeat [W].
- BURROW,** sheltered. "It's rather more burrow there." The Rev. R. H. Pigott tells me this is in common use round Grendon Underwood, and throughout the Vale of Aylesbury.
- BUZZARD,** also **MAY-BUZZARD** [W]. **BUZZART** [M]., a cockchaffer (*Melolontha vulgaris*). Evidently from its *buzzing*.
- BUNT,** to push, with the implied idea of its being done *at a run*, and sometimes *with the head*; to butt

- [M, and various]. Generally, "he bunted up against me," less frequently, "he bunted me."
- CADGES, caddis worms (*Phryganeidæ*) [B].
- CALL, need, occasion. "There was no call for you to do so" [M, E-A, and various].
- CARNEY, to wheedle [B].
- CASUALTY (pronounced *cazzlety*), used as an adjective; uncertain. "Cazzlety weather," "It's all a cazzlety job" [M, and B]. Mr. Summers says: "The word seems used of buildings run up hastily. 'Casualty' was the range of houses near Wendover (a sort of eighteenth century New Tipperary) built by Lord Verney's tenants when he had turned them out for voting against his nominee. There is also a row of poor cottages called 'Casualty,' at Hedgerley Dean." (E-A=the flesh of an animal that dies by chance.)
- CAUTION, a person or thing remarkable in a disagreeable sense is called a *caution* [various]. Probably slang.
- CHAFF-HUCKER, the chaffinch (*Fringilla cœlebs*), [B].
- CHAM, to chew, or nibble into small pieces (as mice) [M].
- CHANCE IT, any way! at any rate! "That's so, and chance it" [M, etc.].
- CHAP-MONEY, [W]. Halliwell explains it as that which is abated or given again by the seller on receiving money (for the sale of cattle, or other farm produce).
- CHAW, to chew; or as a substantive, "A chaw of 'bacca" [W, M, etc.].
- CHIBBLE, or CHIMBLE, to gnaw (as a mouse) [W]. The second form is given by Halliwell as a Bucks word meaning to gnaw; he adds, "Fragments so made are called chimblings."
- CHISEL, to cheat [M, etc.]. Mr. Rye includes this in his E-A list, and derives it from *Keesle*, or *Schisle*, a boy's taw, formed from a schistus kind of stone found in the clay.
- CHOCK-FULL, full to the utmost extent. *Choke-full* would probably be the more correct form [M, and various].
- CHUMP, the thick end of a tree or of a joint of meat.

- Also for *head*, "He is going off his chump" [M, and various].
- CLA', for to claw, or drag [W, M].
- CLACK, talk. "Hold your clack" [W, M, etc.]. Halliwell gives it as a woman's tongue, in various dialects.
- CLINKING, capital, excellent [W, M, etc.].
- CLOMB, to climb [M, etc. E-A, to clamber in a heavy or awkward manner. Intens. of *climb*].
- COCKER, to fondle, or indulge [M, E-A, etc.].
- COLCH, or COLT, to fall in, of earth. "The well had all colted in" [W]. Halliwell gives the second form, as to ridge earth; a south-country word.
- COME, in the expression, "Two year come Marlow fair."
- COOK, to throw; "Cook me that ball" [W. Halliwell says various dialects].
- COP, to catch committing some offence [W, M, etc. Probably London slang].
- COSSET, to pet, or fondle [M, E-A].
- CRACK, as an adj., "a crack hand at" anything=excellent; very good. As a sub., a *blow*, "give him a crack over the head;" "In a crack"=immediately [M, and various].
- CRINKLE, to wrinkle, or rumple [M, and various].
- CROCK, an old horse [W, M, and various]. Diseased meat [W]. Halliwell gives its first meaning as an old ewe (Yorkshire); and its sixth, as to decrease, to decay (North.).
- CROODLE, to crouch. "The dog croodled up to the fire" [W]. Halliwell amplifies the meaning, as to cower, to crouch, to cuddle; also to feel cold.
- CROSS-EYED, squinting [M, etc.]. "He is cross-eyed"=he squints.
- CRU'L (= *crool*). *Cruel* is almost invariably so pronounced [M].
- CUE, temper. "He's in a bad cue to-day" [W, M]. Halliwell gives this as the fourth meaning of the word in various dialects.
- DAB [M, and various], } a proficient. "He's a  
DABSTER [W, M, and various], } dab (ster) at it."
- DEVIL-BIRD, the swift [B; p. 63].
- DEVILMENT, mischief [M, and various].
- DIBBLE, to plant, or sow, in separate holes made with a

- pointed stick, usually the upper part, including the eyed end, of the handle of an old spade [M, and various. A technical word, rather than a merely local one].
- DICKY-WHITE, the Common Whitethroat (*Sylvia cinerea*) [B].
- DIDDLE, to trick, or cheat [M, and various].
- DISSIGHTMENT, an eye-sore; a disfigurement [B].
- DOLLOP, a lump, or shapeless mass [M, and various].
- DON, clever, active, or proficient [W]. Much the same as *Dab*, being used generally in, "a don hand at" anything.
- DONE, for *did* [M, etc.]. "He done a day's work a' Toosday."
- DOSSIT ABOUT, to gad about [M].
- DOSSITY, animal spirits [W]. "She's got no dossity about her." Halliwell gives it as a west-country word, =ability, quickness.
- DOU, to extinguish [W; p. 63].
- DROGUE, a timber carriage [M, E-A, and various].
- DUNNY, deaf [M].
- DUP, for *do up* [W].
- DU'SS'N'T, for *durst not* [W, M, and various].
- ELDERN, made of elder; e.g., "Eldern wine" [W].
- EVER, sometimes misplaced, as, "I don't know as ever I see one" [M, etc.]. In the sense of *at all*, as, "I ar'n't got ever a one" [M, etc.]. (See NEVER).
- FAG, to cut corn with a sickle [W]. Halliwell gives it as a west-country word, to reap, or cut the stubble with a short scythe. A FAG [M], is a kind of reaping-hook, with longer blade than ordinary. "There'll soon be no good farming, now that fagging's introduced." (This was remarked forty years ago, or more, showing that a fag was then somewhat a novelty.)
- FARM, to clean, e.g., "Farm them pigs out" [W]. Halliwell gives it as a west-country word, to cleanse, or empty.
- FAYTHER, for *father* [W].
- FEELTH, feeling, sensation. "We shall have a frost by the feelth on't" [W]. Halliwell gives it as a Warwickshire word.
- FEW, "a good few" = a good many [M, and various].

- FITTEEN, for *fit* (= proper). [Near Marlow.]
- FLACK, to blow, or shake, about [W]. Halliwell gives as the second meaning of this word, to move backwards and forwards, to palpitate.
- FLASH, showy, with the idea of a sham. "A flash-looking fellow," "a flash sort of man"; a *flash coin* is a forged one. To *cut a flash*, is to make a great show for a short time. To *flash a hedge*, is to trim the bottom of it. To *flash up*, is to turn up the edge, as, *e.g.*, in using lead or zinc on a roof, the edge is *flushed up* against any adjoining higher object, as brickwork, to prevent the rain soaking in as it would do if the sheet were simply abutted against it. The edge so turned up is the *flushing* [M, and various; *flash*, as adj. and subst., is perhaps slang].
- FLECK, the hair of animals, especially used of rabbits and hares [M, and various].
- FLEW, for *flown* [M, etc.] A nestful of young birds are always said to have *flew*.
- FLOP, "he fell *flop* down," merely intensifies. *Plump* is also used, and the slang words, *slap*, or *bang* [M, and various].
- FOT = *fetched*. Used in 1686, in Stewkley churchwardens' accounts. "I fot him a smack of the head" [W].
- FRAME, a skeleton [M, etc.].
- FREM, crisp, juicy. "The celery was very frem" [W]. Halliwell gives *frim*, a north-country word, as vigorous, thriving, well-fed, tender or brittle, fresh, quick-grown.
- FRENCHMAN, any foreigner. It is only of late years, since the advent of the shoals of tourists, that foreign nationalities have begun to be generally distinguished in Marlow.
- FRIT, frightened [W; p. 64].
- FRIZ, frozen [W; p. 64].
- FROUZY, rank, musty, stinking [M, etc.]. Halliwell says in Kent it signifies anything disordered and offensive to the eye or smell. The commoner form of the word is *frousty*, with the subs. *froust*.
- GALLOWES, very [W; p. 64, and various]. "He's a gallows bad un."
- GIM, GIN, for, *give*, or *gave* [M, and various].

- GOBLER, a turkey-cock [M, and probably almost throughout the whole country].
- GOSH, GUM, BY-. Mr. Rye explains these as "foolish and very vulgar evasions of profane oaths, including the Sacred Name, combined with some other word" [M, E-A, and various].
- GOT, used tautologically [W, M, etc.]. "Am I got to do this?" "You're got to do this."
- GRAMMERED, begrimed [W. Halliwell gives it as a Wilts word].
- GRANDEA', for *grandfather* [M], also GRAMFER.
- GREENER, a greenfinch (*Ligurinus chloris*) [B].
- GRET, to work by the piece [W].
- GRINSTEAD, grass-land [W]. (Literally a green place, or spot.) (Cf., East and West Grinstead, in Sussex.)
- GRUBBY, dirty; eaten by grubs [W]. Halliwell gives it as poor, shrunken, stunted. Also (West.), testy, peevish.
- GULLOP, to eat greedily [W, M]. Halliwell gives a Somerset. subst., *gollop*, a large morsel; and his sixth meaning of *Gull*, is to guzzle, or drink rapidly (Stanihurst's "Ireland," p. 16).
- GUMPTION, common sense, energy [W, M, and various].
- GWAN, GWANE, for *going*. [Wycombe, M, etc.].
- HAINED, grass-land kept for mowing [W]. Halliwell gives as the second meaning of *Hain*, to save, to preserve (North country); hence, to exclude cattle from a field so that grass may grow for hay.
- HALF-I'-TWO, "broken half i' two" = broken *completely*, in two pieces [W, M, and various].
- HANSER (p. 64), I have found an earlier use of this word in L'Estrange's "Church Bells of Norfolk," p. 169, quoted from the accounts of the Sacrist of Norwich Cathedral, for the year 1432: "Paid Richard Roper for the bellropes hauncerys and lynes 8s." The two early forms "hauncerys" and "hasser" resemble *hawser*, with which *hanser* may possibly be connected.
- HEAP, a hyperbolical way of expressing a great number or quantity. "A whole heap of people" [M, and various].
- HEARING, TO HAVE ONE'S—, to be defendant in a Court of Justice [M, and various].

- HEDGE-MOLLIE [near M], } the Hedge-sparrow (*Accentor*  
 HEDGE-POKE [near M], } *modularis*).  
 HEDGE-POOK [B], }
- HEDGE-PIG, very commonly used instead of *hedgohog*.  
 HILT, to hold; held [W].  
 HODIMADOD, a snail [M]. Halliwell writes it *Hodmandod*.  
 HOLD WITH, =agree with, or, approve of [M, etc.]; "I don't hold with that way of doing it."  
 HOMMOCK, to tread with clumsy feet. "What made you go hommockin' over that garden?" [W, M].  
 HOMMOCKS, or HOMUKS, large legs [W]. Halliwell gives it as a Bedfords. word.  
 HOT, to hit [W].  
 HOTCHEL, to move with a slow hobbling motion [W]. Halliwell gives it as a Warwicks. word, to walk awkwardly, or lamely; to shuffle in walking.  
 HUCK ABOUT, to disturb, turn over, scatter. Used in many senses, *e.g.*, to distribute manure [M, etc.].  
 HUD, a husk; *e.g.*, the green shell of a horse-chestnut, or walnut [M].  
 HUGG-MUGGING, under-hand; secretly [W]. Having a drink secretly [M]. Halliwell gives the former meaning to the next:—  
 HUGGER-MUGGER [M, etc.], scattered about promiscuously, without order.  
 HUSK, in grinding wheat, the terms in use in S. Bucks (perhaps universally?) are, 1st, Husks; 2nd, Pollard; 3rd, Toppings; and, lastly, Flour.  
 IF SO BE (tautological) [M, etc.]. "If so be I happens to think on it."  
 IN, for *of*; *e.g.*, "What do you think in it?" [Wycombe, M, etc.]. Also [M]. "think *on* it." "In coorse" [M, etc.], for, *of course*.  
 INJON [W, etc.]. INON [M], for onion.  
 JOB, to strike with a pointed instrument. "He jobbed it into it" = He stuck it into it [M, E-A, etc.].  
 JUSTLY, exactly, precisely, accurately [Wycombe, M, etc.]. "I can't say justly."  
 KEECH, to dip water (as with a bucket) [W, M]. A writer in the *S. Bucks Free Press* during the drought in July, 1893, complains of the filthy condition of four ponds in the Naphill district (Hughenden parish, close to Bradenham), "all public keech ponds."

- KEEP, grazing for cattle [W, M, and various].
- KICK-UP, a frolic. "We had a rare kick-up" [W, M].
- KID, a child [M, etc.; probably London slang].
- KINDER (for, *a kind of*), as it were, so to speak [M, and various]. "He was kinder silly-like."
- KINSMAN (usually pronounced *kinman*), generally used for a *cousin*, not often for other relations [M, E-A, etc.].
- KIP, the flat rush-basket used by fishmongers, etc. [M, and various]. Elsewhere, *skep*.
- KIVVER, to cover [W.].
- LACE [M, and various],  
 LAM INTO [M, and various],  
 LARRUP [W, M, and various],  
 LICK [W, M, and various],
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| { | To beat, in the sense of to thrash. The last, also in the sense of to defeat, as in a game or other contest. |
|---|--|
- LADE, to dip water [W]. Halliwell gives it in the sense of to leak, or to admit water.
- LEARN (frequently pronounced *larn*), as often, or more often, used as *to teach*, than in its natural meaning [W, M, and various]. Very commonly used as a threat, "I'll larn ye."
- LEASE, to glean (Pron. = Z) [W, Aston Abbots, M, E-A, and various]. Halliwell states that its original meaning (A-S) is to gather. Cf. Psalms iv. and v.
- LEASTEST, intens. of *least* [M, and various].
- LIGG, to lie (Norwegian, *ligge*, dissyl.). Mr. Clear writes me that an old man at Whaddon recently told him, that before the enclosure of the chase there, the deer "used to ligg about like ship." In Lady Verney's very interesting third volume of *The Verney Memoirs* (p. 438), a letter written by Sir Ralph Verney, dated 1659, has ". . . we Virgins are resolved to Ligg altogeather." Mr. Clear tells me the word is not in general use in N. Bucks.
- LIGHT ON, to find, or come across [W, M, etc.].
- LIKE. Mr. Rye says one mode of forming adjectives in the Saxon language was by adding *lic* or *lice* to substantives or verbs. So in English, -like, meaning "in a manner," or "as it were" [M, etc.]. *E.g.*, "Rather cur'ous-like," "Quite a cur'osity-like."
- LIMB (term of reproach), a blackguard [M, and various].

- LIVER-BY, a person living close to, with whom one is not on friendly terms [M]. "He's not a neighbour, he's a liver-by."
- LOLLUP, to lounge, or loll about idly [W, M, E-A, and various].
- LONG, for *high*, in "a long price" [M, etc.].
- LORTH, for *loath*. "It seems lorth to come," of the rain during the recent dry weather [M].
- LUMMAKIN, heavy, awkward [W, M, and various].
- MAG, or NAG, to dispute, tease, annoy. [W, M.] Halliwell gives the former as, to chatter, scold (various dialects), sometimes, to tease or vex.
- MASTERFUL, liking his own way, domineering [M, etc.].
- MASTERPIECE, is not reserved for the principal work of a great artist, architect, etc., but is in constant use to express anything in the least remarkable in any action of everyday life on which it is desired to comment (frequently in a more or less unfavourable sense); "That's a masterpiece, that is" [M, and various]. Used in much the same sense as "That licks me altogether."
- MAWL, explained by Halliwell, to make dirty, to cover with dirt. "I bean't a'gooing to run mawling about arter them ship" [W, also M].
- MEND, to rise; in the expression: "The water's mending very fast" = "The river is rising very quickly" [M].
- MIFF, offence. "He soon took miff" [W, and various]. Halliwell gives it as, displeasure, ill-humour, generally in a slight degree.
- MILKMAID, the Common Bitter Cress (*Cardamine pratensis*) [B].
- MISSUS, "the missus" or "my missus" [M, and various], = my wife.
- MIZZLER, the Missel-Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*) [B].
- MOLL-HERN, a heron (*Ardea cinerea*) [B]. The pronunciation given at p. 65 should be reversed; *heron* by itself being more frequently a dissyllable, but when following *moll*—, a monosyllable.
- MOMMERED, dazed, confused [W]. Halliwell gives it as an Oxfordshire word, meaning worried.
- MORT, a great quantity [W, M, and various].
- MOST-NEEN, generally [W]. (Halliwell gives *most-an-end*, continually, perpetually, mostly, generally.)

- MOZE, to burn slowly, without flame [W].
- MUCK, dirt, manure [W, M, and various]. "A muck of sweat," a state of profuse perspiration. Adj., MUCKY.
- MULLOCK, rubbish [W]. Halliwell gives it as a mess, blunder, dilemma, an ill-managed affair.
- MUV, for *moved* [near M].
- 'NATION-SAZED (damnation, —?), extremely [W; the first part of the word, M].
- NEAR, mean, stingy [W, M, and various].
- NEEST, *pl.* NESTIES, a bird's nest [W; p. 66].
- NETTLE-CREEPER, the Whitethroat (*Sylvia cinerea*). This name is a common one for this bird (see Saunders, *Manual of British Birds* [1889], p. 42), but Mr. Summers doubtfully thinks that round B. it indicates the Coal Tit (*Parus britannicus*)?
- NEVER, intensitive form of negative. "I never seen him yesterday." "I never done it." "I never had ne'er a one" [M, etc.].
- NOINTED, wicked, mischievous [W]. NOINTER (subs.) [M], "a regular nointer."
- NO MATTERS. "It's no great matters," equivalent to "It's not much account" [M, etc.] = of little importance; not of much value.
- NOR, than. "He a'in't no better nor 'e ought to be" [M, etc.].
- ODDMENTS, odds and ends; scraps [W, M, various].
- OFFER, to threaten, or attempt. "He never offered to touch me" [M, etc.].
- OLD, as term of endearment, in the sense of *familiar*, without any reference to age, is probably universal: "Old Jim," "Old fellow;" "My old man," or, "My old 'ooman," = my husband, or, my wife.
- ON, for, *of* [M, etc.] "You be afraid on him." "There were a heap on 'em." See IN.
- OVER-RIGHT, opposite [Wycombe]. See FORE-RIGHT, p. 64.
- PACKMAN, the Common Land-Snail (*Helix aspera*), [B]. Mr. Summers gives the following local legend *à propos* of this word. A man came home one morning with such a rueful countenance that his wife asked him what the matter could be. On her promising secrecy, he told her that he had killed a packman, and buried the body in Lead-

- burrows Wood (one mile due north of Beaconsfield). As soon, however, as he had again left the house, she went and told the dreadful secret to a *confidante*. Later in the day, as the man was at work in the fields, the parish constable appeared, and arrested him on a charge of murder. The man volunteered to take him to the scene of the tragedy, and showed the astonished constable the corpse (of the snail) buried under some leaves. When the constable asked why he had caused so much fuss over so simple a matter, he replied: "I did it to see if a woman could keep a secret."
- PEART, brisk, lively, bright, active, cheerful [W, M, and various].
- PEEK, a peep, glimpse [W].
- PERISH, to starve with cold [M, and various].
- PICKÉD, for *peaked*, pointed. "A pickéd stick" [W, M, etc., see *Peckid*, p. 67].
- PICKLE, a mess, confusion [W, M, and various]. A mischievous boy [M, and various].
- PIG IN, to nestle, or lie, close together [W, M, and various].
- PIGEON PAIR, a twin boy and girl [M, and various].
- PIGHTLE, a small enclosure of grass-land (*Cf.*, *Pightles-thorne*, now Pitstone, Bucks). Halliwell says it is an eastern-counties' word, and Mr. Rye gives it as a small piece of enclosed ground. Mr. J. Rutland tells me there is a small meadow at Taplow known as The Pytle, but that it is not a general term there. Mr. Clear writes me, "The word Pightle is not uncommon at Winslow; there are two small enclosures adjoining Winslow Hall still so-called."
- PLANTIN', a plantation [M, and various].
- POLLARD, see HUSK.
- POLLYWHITE, the Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*) [B].
- PROPER, not only in its ordinary sense = good, but also = great, or, thorough. "A proper man," "A proper crowd," "A proper set-to" [M, etc.].
- RAMSHACKLE, loosely put together (the contrary to *compact*); straggling, out of repair [M, and various]. "It's rather a ramshackle old place."

- RANDAN, a boat with three rowers, of whom bow and stroke each have a single oar, and the intermediate man a pair of sculls [Thames].
- RARE, very; great; or extraordinary. "A rare great house." "He's got a rare cheek" = He's got more than his share of impudence. "He's a rare piece" = He's a queer character [M, and various].
- RAT-BAT, any of the larger species of Bat [B, M, etc.]. On p. 62 this was erroneously given reversed. The usual form is for *bat* to follow *rat*-, and to precede *-mouse* (= the smaller species).
- RUMBUSTICAL, boisterous, full of mischief; as of a child, beyond control [W, M, E-A, and various].
- SA'T, soft, silly [W].
- SAG, a length of anything, timber, metal, rope, etc., is said to *sag* when it bends at the centre, from its own weight [M, etc.].
- SAUCE-BOX, a saucy fellow [M, and various].
- SAWNEY, a silly fellow (subst. and adj.) [M, and various].
- SCARIFY, to take the skin off; to clean ground (from weeds) [M, etc.].
- SCROODGE, to crowd, to squeeze. "Where be ye a'scrooging tew?" [W, M, and various].
- SET, for *sit*; "set down" [M, etc.]. To hire; to let [W]. Mr. Clear writes me that when he first came into N. Bucks, he used to see notices of "This House to Set." And the servant lads used to speak of having "set" themselves for a year, at the annual "statty fair" at Buckingham. Halliwell gives these latter meanings, as in various dialects.
- SHIG-SHAG, an Oak Tree [M]; a Maple Tree [B]; "Shig Shag Day" = the 29th May [M]. Mr. Summers writes: "I remember that oak branches with the oak-apple galls used to be called *shik-shak* in Surrey, and the 29th of May was known as 'Shik-shak Day'; and as I have noticed that maple and oak are gathered indiscriminately on that day in Devonshire, I suppose this is the connection." Halliwell says *Shick-shack-day* is a term used in Surrey for the 29th May, or Royal Oak Day.

- SHIRT-BUTTONS, the Greater Stitch-wort (=a plant, *Stel-laria holostea*) [B].
- SHOWL, a shovel [M, E.-A., etc.].
- SHUT, to get—of, =to get rid of [W, M, etc. See p. 77].
- SICH, for *such* [W, M, etc.].
- SIGHT, a large number, or quantity [W, M, etc.].
- SIN, for seen [W, M, etc.].
- SING-THRUSHER, the Thrush (*Turdus musicus*) [B. See p. 69].
- SLOMMAKIN, slovenly [W, M, and various].
- SLON, a sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) [W].
- SNOB, a cobbler [M, etc.]. SNOBBING = cobbling; the act of mending shoes.
- SO-FASHIONS, in this, or that manner [M, E-A, and various].
- SORE, SORELY, very, exceedingly [M, etc.]. (As Prayer Book, "Sore let and hindered," Bible, "Sore afraid," etc.).
- SORT OF, used tautologically: e.g., " 'Is he the sexton?' 'Well, he's the sort of a man what looks arter the church.'" [Near M].
- SPADGER, a sparrow [M, B, etc.].
- SPICK-AND-SPAN, quite new [M, and various].
- SPIT, the quantity of earth removed at one time by a spade [W, M, and various].
- SPLENDACIOUS, for *splendid* [M, etc.].
- SQUITCH, couch-grass [W; p. 68].
- SQUUZ (pron. *skwuz*), for, *squeezed* [M, etc.].
- STAGGARD, a stump (of a tree) [near M]. "It's little else but a staggard." Perhaps the same word as *Stagart*, which Halliwell explains as a hart in its fourth year.
- STARVED, perished, numbed. "I be a'most starved wi' cold" [M, and various].
- STRIKE, a bushel of corn regulated by passing a flat piece of wood (called a *strike*) over the measure [W, etc.]; a strike, therefore, implies more exact measure than the term bushel.
- STRIT, for street (in a village) [W].
- STUGGY, short, thick-set [M, E-A, and various].
- SUMMAT, for *something* [W, M, and various].
- SUMMING, arithmetic, in all its parts [M, E-A, and various].

- SWINGE, to singe [W]. Halliwell gives this as the second meaning of the word, in various dialects.
- SWOP, to exchange [W, M, and various].
- TACK, to hire pasturage for cattle. "The horse was put out to tack in a field." *S. Bucks Free Press*, July 26, 1895.
- TACKLE, farm implements, harness, etc. [W, M, etc.].
- TAKE ON, to grieve, lament [M].
- TERRIFY, to irritate, annoy [M, etc.].
- THACK, for *thatch* [W, etc.].
- TICKET, "that's the ticket" [M, etc.] = that's right.
- TICKETY, the Wren (*Troglodytes parvulus*) [B].
- TITTLBAT, for *stickleback* (=the fish, *Gasterosteus*) [M].
- TOE-BITER, the Pond-snail (*Limnæa stagnalis*) [B].
- TO-DO, a stir, bustle, commotion. "A great to-do" [M].
- TOMMY, food, provisions [W, and various]; bread [M].
- TOMMY-BAG, a bag for food [W].
- TOPPINGS, see HUSK.
- TOT, a small drinking-horn, or mug. Also used as a verb: "Come, tot that beer out" [W].
- TOUCH, time, occasion. It was said of a village club-feast: "We did have a rare touch, I can tell ye" [W, also M].
- TRAPES, to stroll, or wander, about [W, M]. Halliwell gives it as, to wander about; and as a substant., a slattern (both in various dialects); and the participle *trapesing*, as slow, listless (Northern counties).
- TREE-PECKER, the Tree-creeper (*Certhia familiaris*) [B].
- TURMUT, for *turnip* [M, etc.].
- TUSH, for *tusk*, a canine tooth [M, and various].
- TUT, offence [W]. "He soon takes tut."
- UNMASSIFUL, something uncommon [W]. Halliwell gives *unmercifully*, as, very [Western counties].
- UNKID, dull, miserable. "What a unkid wet day" [W; p. 69]. Halliwell spells it *unkard*; lonely, dreary, solitary. Also; old, ugly, awkward, strange, unusual, particular, inconvenient, froward. He adds that few provincial words are more common than this. Derived from A.-S., *un-cwyd*, quiet, solitary.
- UP END, to alter the position of anything (timber, stone,

- etc.), from a horizontal to perpendicular position [M, etc.].
- UP STREET, the regular expression in Marlow, for, *in*, or, *into, the town*; as opposed to what was formerly called *the fforrens*. "Shall you be going up street this evening?" "He've took a house, somewheres up street."
- URGE, to irritate, make angry [M].
- WALLOP, to beat soundly [M, and various].
- WAPS, a wasp, *pl.* WAPSES [W, B, M, etc.]. Mr. Rye remarks that this is the original word. Plural, also WASPIES [M].
- WATCHER'D, wet-footed [W]. Halliwell gives *watched*, wet-shod [various dialects].
- WET ONE'S WHISTLE, to have something to drink [W, M, and various]. Halliwell gives *whistle*, as throat [various dialects]. To WET a bargain, or any special occasion, or transaction, is to stand a drink in honour of the event [M, and various].
- WHACK (verb), to beat; generally in the sense of to *thrash*, but also to *defeat*, as in any contest [W, M, etc.]; (subst.) a quantity, a sufficiency; "He had his whack" [M, etc.]. WHACKER (subst.), a very large one [M, etc.]. WHACKING (adj.), very large [W, M, etc.].
- WHET-ILE, the Green Woodpecker (*Gecinus viridis*) [B]. The late Rev. E. K. Clay informed me that about Kimble it is called WATER-AIGEL.
- WHILE, until. "I'll wait while morning" [B].
- WE'RSELVES, for *we ourselves*. Mr. Summers says this is characteristic of the village of Seer Green; and Mr. Parker mentions Holmer Green (near Wycombe), etc.
- WHITTLE, to cut into chips with a knife [W, M, and various].
- WILT, to dry, or, wither (of vegetation). [Near M; Oxford, etc.; Halliwell gives it as a Bucks word.]
- WITHOUT, unless. "I wo'n't go without you come too" [M, E-A, etc.].
- WIZZLE, for *weasel* (*Mustela vulgaris*) [B, M].
- WOBBLE, to reel, or move unsteadily [M, and various].

YAWP, for *yap*, to make a loud, unmeaning noise [W, M]. YAWPING, noisy [W].

YELLER BOB, the Yellow Hammer (*Emberiza citrinella*) [B].

YOWE, for *ewe* (sheep) [W, M, etc.].

There undoubtedly remain very many local words and phrases, still in use, which have escaped me; while the obsolete words, occurring in place-names and old documents, etc., are not touched. Local saws and sayings also deserve to be collected and recorded (such, to give one example only, as the commendation passed on any successful piece of carpentry, etc.:—"As strong as a little church"). Last, but not least important and interesting, are local superstitions. Papers on any of these subjects would, no doubt, be welcomed by our Editor; or, if any one should collect a few instances (of either or all), but not sufficient to make a paper by itself, and would favour me with them, I would gratefully acknowledge the source of information, in any paper I may be able to publish in future pages of the RECORDS.

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