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Parochial Account of Llanidloes. Edward Hamer (1840-1911)
Chapter XI. Local Words and Phrases. Tudalennau 277-312.

Collections Historical and Archaeological
Relating to Montgomeryshire and its Borders. Cyfrol 10. 1877.

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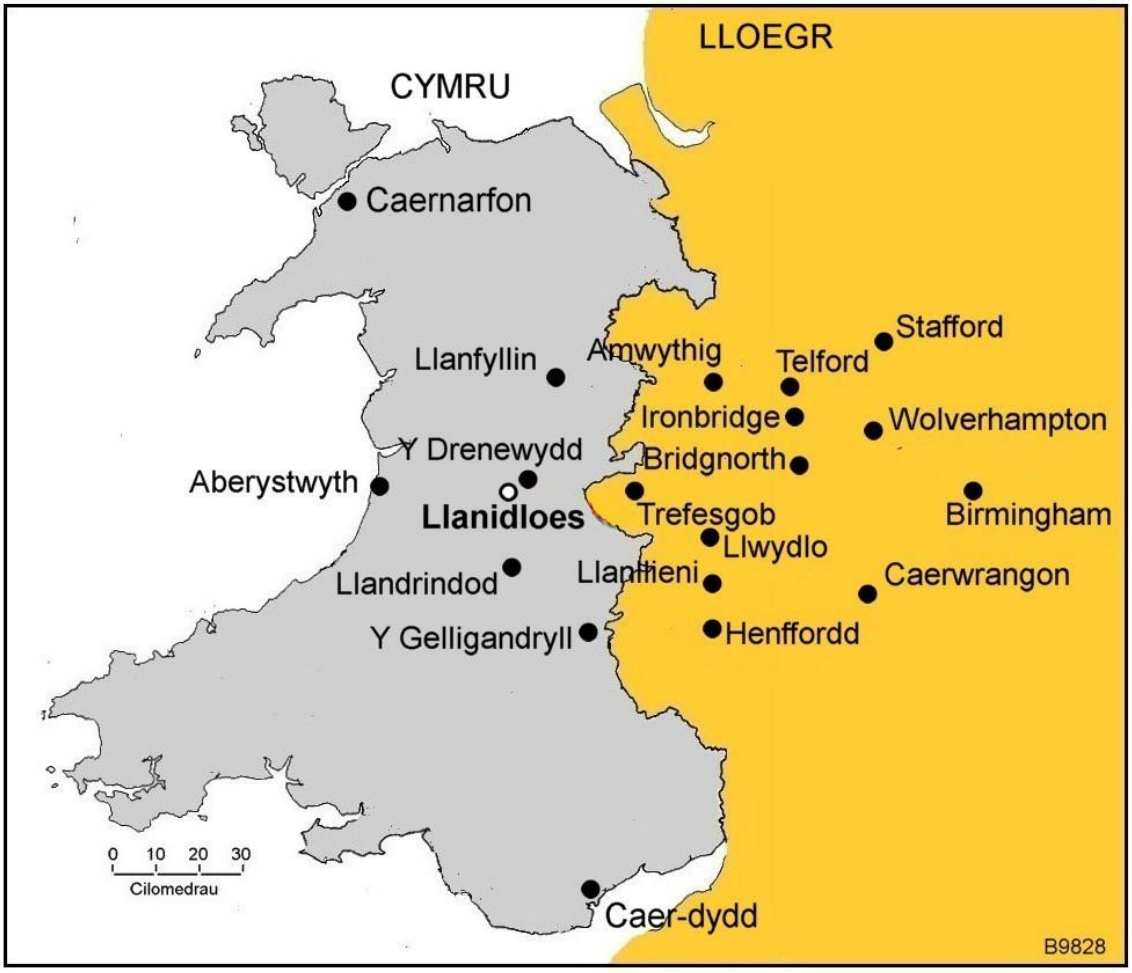

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COLLECTIONS

HISTORICAL & ARCHÆOLOGICAL

RELATING TO

MONTGOMERYSHIRE,

AND ITS BORDERS.

ISSUED BY THE POWYS-LAND CLUB FOR THE USE OF ITS MEMBERS.

VOL. X.

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Chapter XI.—Local Words and Phrases.

In compiling this list I have been guided by the advice tendered by the English Dialect Society, which runs as follows :—

"It is not at all necessary for you to ascertain that the word which you 'locate' is so peculiar to the town or district mentioned, as not to be in common use elsewhere. . . . . Non-observance of this rule will lead to great disappointment, and frequently to miserable failure, whilst the observance of it will lead to most interesting results, enabling us in some cases fairly to map the whole range of country (sometimes extending over seven or eight counties), over which the use of the word prevails. The commonest words in this way will prove of the highest interest. But if collector A leaves out a word because it occurs in B's district, and B leaves it out because it occurs in A's district, the apparent result will be, that a word in common use in two districts will seem to be unknown in either. Many glossaries have been deprived in this way of their most characteristic words."

These Parochial Accounts are written with a twofold purpose in view—the elucidation of local history, and the collection of materials for the future county historian : the extract quoted above indicates a third purpose (however humbly it may be carried out), that papers of this kind may be of service beyond the confines of Powys-land, and all three purposes sufficiently justify the plan adopted by the writer, of preferring the *inclusive* to the *exclusive* method in the compilation of this list.

It is only necessary to add that the list was substantially complete, but not arranged, before the appearance of the first paper written by my friend the Rev. E. Owen, B.A. on *Montgomeryshire Words and Phrases.*

A.

A careful observer cannot fail to have detected several peculiarities in the pronunciation of this vowel. Some of the most prominent are the following :—

(1) The very natural one of adopting its Welsh sound, which is equivalent to the English *ah*, or the sound of *a* in father. The inhabitants of the adjoining parish of St. Harmon run into the opposite extreme of putting "too fine a point upon it",

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their manner of pronouncing this letter being ridiculed by young Idloes, with whom they come into frequent contact at the fairs and markets, with the jeering sentence, "Fine dá to go to há to dá", the latent power of which was esteemed sufficient to take away the breath of any St. Harmonite.

(2) When *a* is preceded by *c* and *g*, and to a less extent by *ch*, a peculiar pronunciation is imparted by the introduction of an intermediate sound equivalent to *i* or *y*; thus we hear c*y*art for cart, c*y*ap for cap, g*y*arden for garden, g*y*arter for garter, tsh*y*arge for charge, etc.

(3) Its sound is frequently changed to that of *e* in get, so that catch becomes *ketch*, gather becomes *gether*, hay *heh*, day *deh*, lay *leh*, etc.

(4) It sometimes assumes the sound of *o*, as in the words yarn, hansel, gander, which are pronounced locally *yorn*, *honsel*, and *gonder*. The latter is sometimes also pronounced g*y*ander.

ABIDE, when used in the sense of enduring, is generally coupled with the negative can't, to express dislike, or even hatred; as in the very common expression, "I can't *abide him*" —I thoroughly dislike him. "He can't *abide* that"—He dislikes that.

ABLE, having property or wealth. "An *able* man" is a man that is well off, wealthy. "He is very *able*"—he is rich, or wealthy.

ADIT, a level in a lead mine.

AFORE—before.

AGEN (again). In addition to its ordinary signification, this word is also used to express futurity, as in the common sentence, "I'll do it agen", which denotes the speaker's intention of performing the action at some future time, without any reference to its having being performed previously.

AGENST, equivalent to by, or for. "I'll do it *agenst* Sunday" —I will do it by Sunday. "I'll keep it *'genst* to-morrow"—I will keep it for to-morrow.

ALLEY, a favourite marble used as a "taw", made of marble. The term also used by children when speaking of marble.

ANUNGST, opposite to, over, against. He lives *anungst* us" —*i.e.*, opposite to us.

ARGA, a term applied to the artificial wooden dams erected to pound up water for the use of the various mills and factories. The word is Welsh, and is thus explained in the latest edition of Dr. Owen Pughe's Dictionary :—"ARGAE, *au* s. f. (AR-CAE), an enclosure; a fence, a dam; a lock in a river, a restriction." In some parts of the country the term is applied to an embankment of earth.

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ARRAND, a corruption of errand.

APERN, corruption of apron.

AWF, a stupid, awkward, or clumsy fellow. This word is borrowed from the Welsh, and so, in all probability, is the English word *oaf*, signifying a changeling, a foolish child left by the Tylwydd-teg (fairies) for the bright one they have stolen. A very interesting local legend connected with this by-gone belief is given in the *Camb. Quarterly*, ii, 86. (See chap. x.)

B.

BABYLON, an ironical name for Llanidloes.

BABYLON, HOW MANY MILES TO ? A game played by children, during which they chant the following doggerel :—

> Ques.—" How many miles to Babylon ?
> Ans.— Four score and ten.
> Can we go there by candle light ?
> Yes, and back again.'
> Then open the gates wide for King George and his family to pass through."

BACK AND FORE, a corruption of backwards and forwards, a phrase used in the sense of going to and coming from a place. " I walked there *back* and *fore*"—I walked to the place and back.

BACKCHAIN, the chain placed in the groove of the back saddle to support the shafts of a cart, etc.

BACK-OUT, to shirk an action, or to break a promise. " He *backed-out* of the quarrel, and 'ont fight."

BACK OF HIM, a great benefit to him. " That £100 was the back of him."

BACKSTONE (bake-stone), a circular piece of iron upon which, when placed over the fire, oatmeal cakes, *pikelets* (muffins), etc., are baked. Cakes so baked are called *backstone cakes.*

BAILY, corruption of bailiff. The term is applied to an upper servant placed over the farm labourers, and sometimes to a steward or agent.

BAIK, back, a word of command addressed to horses when the driver wishes them to go backwards.

BAIT, among farmers a lunch, taken between breakfast and dinner. The term is also applied to a hasty meal taken between four and five o'clock in the afternoon.

BAKHOUSE, a baking house. *Prompt. Parv.* 21 has *Bakhowse.*

BALLYBON, corruption of belly-band, the band of leather placed under the horse's belly to connect one arm of the shaft with the other.

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BAMBO, the horse chestnut. *Bambo tree*, the horse chestnut tree.

BAMBOX, bandbox, the light boxes in which hatters enclosed hats, etc.

BANDY, the game of hockey ; also the name of the stick used in the game.

BANDY-LEGGED, bow-legged. The following doggerel was often shouted after bow-legged individuals :—

" Bandy legged and timber toes ;
He shall have music wherever he goes."

BARAGAN, moleskin. " My clothes are made of *baragan*."

BARA-MANTESS, hot bread, fresh from the oven.

BARREN COURT, a corruption of Baron's Court, the old manorial court, which was abolished by the introduction of the county courts.

BARLEY GO FREE, NO MAN TOUCH ME, a cry made use of by boys when they wish to be excused from playing a game, generally with the view of resting for a short time.

BASE CHILD, an illegitimate child.

BASTE, to beat, to chastise. " Give him a *basting*", *i.e.*, give him a beating.

BATCH, as many loaves as are baked by a person or family at one baking. "*A batch of flour*" is the amount of flour used in one baking.

BAVE, BAVIN, corruption of bathe and bathing.

BAY, the building in which cattle are kept, a cowhouse, a byre.

BEER, at present consists of fifty threads of warped yarn ; formerly it was forty threads.

BELYS, corruption of bellows.

BERRYIN (burying), a funeral, a burial.

BETTIN, the turf shaved with a breast plough, dried, and afterwards burned.

BILLY-FOODAN, a kind of home-made cloth and thread.

BING, a place set apart in a cowhouse, etc., for depositing the hay and straw, which is afterwards handed into the stalls. It is generally a passage between two sets of stalls.

BLACK AND TAWNY, descriptive phrase applied to a person with black hair and a swarthy complexion.

BLACKBERRY-HUNTER, one who gathers blackberries.

BLACK-BESS, the common black beetle which infests kitchens.

BLACK-JACK, sulphuret of zinc found in lead mines, a conglomeration of iron and small stones.

BLERO, an eccentric person given to boasting and " tall-talking". " Don't notis him, cause he's a bit of a *blero*."

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BLETHER, used for bladder.

BLINDBALL, a common fungus. The name appears to be derived from the belief that the dry powder it contains will cause blindness if thrown into the eyes.

BLINDBOOZART, a cockchafer; also sometimes called caterpillars.

BLOU, a blossom, the flower of fruit trees. "That apple-tree is in full *blou*".

BLUETT, the discoloration which is the general accompaniment of a bruise or a blow. Of the surname Blewett, respecting which R. S. Charnock, in *Notes and Queries* (Sept. 16, 1876, p. 234), has the following: "This English name, found written Blewett, Bluet, Bluett, Bluat, Bloet, is the same with the French names Blouet, Bluet, Bleut, Blaut, which are diminutives of the name Bleu, from *bleu*, the colour."

BOBBIN, a cylindrical piece of wood, with a head by means of which it is fixed for the purpose of winding yarn upon it for weaving.

BÔLL, a measure containing five quarts, generally used in measuring oatmeal.

BONE LAZY, phrase meant to express confirmed laziness. This phrase upon one occasion was not found intense enough when applied to a schoolfellow of the writer's in the cricket-field, who was re-christened *born-tired*.

BONNET, a tin reflector, placed behind a joint, etc., while roasting.

BOOGA, BOOGAN, a hobgoblin, a ghost. This word is borrowed from the Welsh; *cp. Boggart*, the Lancashire equivalent.

BOOGI, a louse.

BOOT, that which is added with the view of making an exchange equal. "I will *rap* thee knives if thee 'ost give me two alleys boot", *i.e.*, I will exchange knives, if you will give me two alleys with yours.

"I swapped horses, and gave him no boot."

—*Saddle to Rags.*

BOTTLE, a bundle of hay or straw, generally applied to as much as a man can carry of the latter. "Looking for a needle in a bottle of straw" is the local form of the old proverb.

BOULD, for bold.

BOUT, for bolt.

BOYKIN, diminutive of boy, a term of familiarity.

BOWL, BOWLER, a hoop. "Come an play *bowler*."

BOOM, used by children as a general name for a bee, a wasp, etc.

BRANDY BALLS, balls about the size of marbles, made of sugar, butter, etc.

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Brass, copper coinage and the present bronze coinage. "Hast ee any brass?"—Have you any copper, or bronze coins?

Brat, a pinafore worn by children. This is an old Welsh word (see *British Dress and Armour*, p. 123). From *Notes and Queries* (August 8th and 22nd, 1868) we extract the following:—"A man having several brats has literally several pinafores, or a child may be called a *brat, i.e.*, a *rag*, by way of contempt, which is almost invariably intended. The word is in common use in Cheshire, Lancashire, and the Isle of Man. In the latter the coarse aprons worn by the peasant women are invariably termed *brats*. An English lady once went to reside at the Isle of Man, and received a severe shock to her nervous system owing to this peculiar significance of the word *brat*. A Manx country girl applied for a situation as housemaid. On being asked her qualifications, she mentioned, among other things, that she could 'wash and iron *brats*.' 'Iron brats!' exclaimed the lady, in horrified surprise. Then turning to the housekeeper, who stood by, 'What on earth does she mean by *ironing* children?' 'Not children, mum, *brats*", was the reply. At last it was explained to the lady, who was beginning to fancy that she had got into a land of barbarous and cruel savages, the import of the girl's *brats*."

Breakwast, the common pronunciation of breakfast.

Braze, to place a blown bladder in a football, and secure it so as to be fit for kicking. Halliwell has the following:—"*Braze*, to make ready, to prepare. (See 'Todd's Illustrations, p. 299.) *Brazed*, ready, prepared (Nares, p. 57, who is puzzled with the word)." Shakespeare uses the word:—

> "If damned custom have not *brazed* it so,
> That it is proof and bulwark against sense."
>
> —*Hamlet*, act iii, sc. 4.

"*Glo.* His breeding, sir, hath been at my charge; I have so often blush'd to acknowledge him, that now I'm *brazed* to it."

— *King Lear*, act i, sc. 1.

Break a nest, to rob it.

Brickle, for brittle.

Bridgenorth Election, All on one side like, a saying imported from Shropshire, applied to anything one-sided or awry.

Brief, subscriptions paid to cover a loss sustained by accident, disease, etc.; *e.g.*, a man who has had a loss by fire, an animal killed by accident, etc., and goes round collecting from his friends, is said to gather *brief*.

Broke, failed in business, a bankrupt.

Broth, a kind of soup, made by boiling meat, vegetables, and sometimes a small quantity of meal.

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BROWN-SHELLER, a ripe hazel-nut, which drops out of its sheath, so called from its brown colour. This word is also used in Shropshire. Halliwell gives *Brown-leemers* and *Brown-shullers* as equivalents used in the North.

BRUK, a brook. Also used in Lancashire.

BRUMUCK, or *brumhook*, a bill-hook used by hedgers.

BUGLES, childish name for beads.

BULL-BACK, stones placed in a river or stream, to divert its course; a cop.

BUM, *bum-baily*, a sheriff's officer, a catchpole. "The *bums* are in the house"—the goods in the house are in charge of the sheriff's officer.

BURCHIN-ROD (birchen rod), a rod made of the branches of the birch-tree, for the purpose of flogging children.

BURN, *burning*, terms used by children in the game of seeking for that which has been hidden, or at guessing. "Am I *hot?*" cries the seeker. "Take care, or you'll burn," or "you're nearly *burning*", is the reply when he is getting near the object of his search.

BUTT, the handle of a whip.

BUTTERCAKE, a round cake in the form of a bun, with butter and sugar on its upper side.

BUTTERED-ALE, ale warmed with sugar, butter, and spice. It is said to be efficacious in curing colds. A kind of buttered or spiced ale (*cwrrw poeth*, hot ale) was in bygone days handed round to all those who attended a funeral. This custom has nearly died out.

BUT'RY (buttery), the place where the butter, cheese, milk, etc., are kept. Welsh people pronounce it bootry.

> "Ceginau Ystwyll, cogau'n wastad,
> *Bwtri, Seleri*, seiri'n siariad."
> —*Lewis Glyn Cothi*, p. 28, lines 39-40.

BYTACK, a small farm or tenement held with a larger one, by the same tenant.

C.

CABBAGE, portions of cloth, etc., retained by the tailor from the materials of a suit of clothes.

CACCA, childish for excrement, ordure. Derived from the Welsh.

CAGMAG, poor meat, the flesh of an ill-fed or diseased animal.

CAMBREN (Welsh *cam*, crooked, and *pren*, wood or stick), a crooked piece of wood used by butchers in hanging up the carcases while dressing them, by passing it through the sinews of their hind legs.

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CANNA, for cannot.

CANT, (1) idle tales, gossip. (2) A person who circulates reports, gossip, etc. (3) When used as a verb—to circulate reports, etc. "She is a regular *cant*, and is always mixed up in some *canting* business."

CARD, an instrument for carding wool.

CARDER, a man who attends to an engine for *carding* wool.

CARDING ENGINE, an engine for *carding* wool, *i.e.*, for opening and combing it. (See Manufactures, chap. iii.)

CAST, a trick, a contrivance. "I will show thee a *cast*"—I will show or teach you a trick.

CAT AND DOG, a game played with two sticks, the longer of which is called the *dog*, the shorter the *cat*. The game in other parts of the country is called *Tip-cat*.

CAT, a small piece, a fragment; Welsh. "Break it into *cats*."

CATERPILLAR, a cockchafer.

CAUDLE, a weak kind of *flummery* sweetened with treacle or sugar. *Promp. Parv.* has *cawdelle*.

CAUSEY, a raised roadway. In Llanidloes the term is applied to the street pavement, which is also known as the *pitchin*. *Promp. Parv.* has *cawceway*.

CAUVE, a calf.

CECK, (1) the different kinds of hemlock, from the Welsh *cecs*, *cecys*, plants with hollow canes. *Promp. Parv.* has "*cegge*, or wild gladone." (2) As a verb, it means to stammer. "He can't read 'cause he *cecks*."

CHANCE CHILD, an illegitimate child.

CHAW (chew) (1), a "quid" of tobacco; (2) to chew tobacco.

CHEEKS, the movable iron plates used to contract or expand the fire-place.

CHIMBLEY, chimney; also used in Lancashire.

CHIME, a piece of the back-bone of a pig, with flesh attached to it. Probably a corruption of *chine*.

CHOKED, very thirsty. "Give me a drop of water; I'm jest *choked*."

CLAM, to ring a bell irregularly, not in the proper time. "Thee bist always *clamming*" was an expression which the writer heard frequently in the Llanidloes belfry.

CLAMPER, causing trouble, troublesome, burdensome. "It's such a clamper to do it"—It is so very troublesome to do it.

CLAMPERING, awkward, clumsily. "A *clampering* fellow"—An awkward, clumsy fellow.

CLAMS, long wooden pincers used by shoemakers and saddlers to hold their work for stitching, etc.

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CLENIG, new-year's gift. Derived from the Welsh. *Calan*, the first day of the month. *Dydd Calan* is the name given to the first day of the year. See chapter x.

CLEM, (1) to starve with hunger. "I'm half *clemmed*"—I'm half starved.

"My entrails
Were clemmed with keeping a perpetual fast."
—Massinger's *Roman Actor.*

(2) A piece of leather put on the sole of a shoe.—"I want a *clem* and heel-tap on this shoe."

CLENKERS, large nails, which turn up over the soles of the shoes.

CLEP, (1) to carry tales, to inform. "He'll clep on you to the master"—He'll inform the master. (2) The person who carries tales; also called *Clepgi*. "He's an oul *Clepgi*"—He's a regular tale-bearer. The *gi* is from the Welsh *ci*, a dog, so that literally clepgi is a tale-bearing dog.

CLICKET, a fastening by means of a latch. The Welsh word is *clicied*, a latch, or catch. *Promp. Parv.* has *clykett.*

"In warm wex hath emprynted the *cliket*,
That January bar of the small wiket."
—*The Merchant's Tale.*

CLIP, to embrace. "*Clip* me close",—embrace me tight.

"He'll never *clip* my neck again, and tell me not to cry."
—Waugh's *Willie's Grave.*

"He kisseth her and clippeth her full ofte."
—*The Merchant's Tale.*

CLIVER, clever, used in the sense of good-looking, healthy, or robust, and generally applied to children. "In at he a *cliver* boy"—Is he not a good-looking boy?

CLOES, clothes.

"So aw iron't my *clooas* reet weel,
And aw hanged them o' th' *maiden* to dry."
—*Waugh.*

CLOIS, close, a small enclosed field. The *clois* at Llanidloes adjoins the police-station.

CLOUT, (1) a piece of cloth, calico, etc., *e.g.*, dish *clout*; "a *clout* of bread", a large piece of bread; "such a clouter", such a large piece—

"Sche it al to *cloutes* atte last,
And into the privy softely it cast."
—*The Merchant's Tale.*

(2) A blow with the hand: "I'll give thee a *clout* on the head".

COATED CARDS, or COATERS, court cards.

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COEGEN, an empty nut. Derived from the Welsh *Coeg*, empty.

COEL. In addition to its general meaning of belief, it is used to signify the capability of expressing judgment, of giving an opinion. "Do you know *coel*?" is a frequent question asked, and is equivalent to "Are you competent to pass judgment on the matter?" "He knows *coel*"; he is capable of judging. In the phrase "The third time is the *coel*", it has a slightly different meaning, equivalent to the third time is to decide it.

COFFER, a chest.

COLE, COLES, goal.

COME-MOKE, COME-MOKEN, word addressed by a driver to the leading horse of a team when he wishes him to approach, or come in the direction of the left-hand side of the road.

COME ON, to grow, to improve. "He'll *come on* by and by" —he'll improve shortly; "It's coming on"—it's improving.

COMYN, common land. "He *coursed* my sheep off the *comyn*", *i.e.*, he drove them off the common with the aid of a dog.

COOCH, to squat closely, to hide. "*Cooch* close, my partner" is a frequent caution given in the boy's game of hide and seek, known locally as *Spy Mik*.

COPPET, COPPETY, pert, saucy.

COPPIS, the front or flap of a trousers or small clothes.

COPPY, a copse or coppice. The wood near Berthloyd is known locally as *the Coppy*.

CORBET, the chrysalis of a fly buried in the sand in shallow water, considered excellent bait for fishing.

CORD OF WOOD, a pile of wood 8 feet long and 4 feet high, the length of the pieces forming the pile being about 3 feet.

CORDWOOD, the branches of the oak from which the bark has been taken, sawn to lengths, and formed into a *cord*.

CORK, (1) the core of an apple or pear. (2) The cone of a fir-tree. (3) To kick a football; a *high cork* is to kick the ball as high as possible; a *long cork* is to kick it as far as possible.

CORKER, the kick given to a football. "That *was* a *corker*." (2) A feat in lying, a lie.

CORNDRAKE (Corncrake), a landrail.

CORNEL, corner. A "*cornel* house" is one at the corner of a street.

CORPSE-CANDLE. Name given to a light something like the flame of a candle, said to have been a precursor of death.

COSTRELL, a small barrel in which farm labourers, and those employed in harvest time, carry their drink.

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COUNTER, to hunt, when the hounds follow a hare that has doubled on her track, and which generally leads them to hunt backward on the path it came.

COUPLE or CUPPLE, that part of an outbuilding where the hay is stored.

COWT, for colt.

COWLD for cold.

CRACHEN, the loach.

CRACK, (1) very quickly, shortest space of time. "I'll be ready in a *crack*"; "I'll do it in a *crack*". (2) Quick-tempered. "Don't notice that *crack herko*."

CRACKER, something large, or exaggerated.

CRAGEN, a shell; Welsh.

CRATCH, (1) a wooden rack suspended horizontally from the ceiling, for the purpose of holding cured bacon, etc. (2) A rack for holding hay, straw, etc. (3) To eat greedily, hence *cratcher*, a good eater.

"And she baar her first born son and *wlappide* him in clothes, and leyde him in a *crache*."—*Wickliff*.

CRANCH, (1) to crush any gritty substance under foot. (2) To grind, or gnash the teeth.

CRIAVOL, the berries of the mountain ash; Welsh.

"Mountain-ash berries and burnt sugar have been added in brewing ale, to imitate porter. *Diod-griavol* is still used by the country people as a medicinal beverage."—*View of Agriculture in North Wales*, p. vii.

CRAPSY, touchy, irritable, quick-tempered.

CRAY-SHETTIN, the hedge-sparrow; corruption of the Welsh name of the bird.

CRIB, the old lock-up house, situated at the south end of the old Market Hall, where the parish stocks were kept. Its use was abandoned in 1839.

CRISS-CROSS, the cross or mark of those who are unable to sign their names.

CROCK, an earthen vessel.

CROD, a short dumpy man or boy. "He's a *crod* of a boy." Welsh *crwt*, a round dumpy fellow.

CROP, the craw of a fowl.

CROWN AND CROSSES, children's game, played with *crusins*, etc., on a figure in the form of a square, intersected with lines.

CROWNER, the coroner.

"Ay marry is't *Crowner's* quest law."—*Hamlet*, act v, sc. 1.

CRUDS, curds. *Cruddled*, curdled, turned into curds.

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CRUMBLE, to make into crumbs. *Crumbles*, crumbs.

CRUSINS, broken pieces of china and earthenware.

CUB, place for keeping pigeons or rabbits. A "pigeons' *cub*", a pigeons' house; and, a "rabbit *cub*", a rabbit hutch.

CUBILO, a smelting furnace.

CUCKOO-TAKE MORNING, a corruption of "Cock-take-warning", a game played by boys.

CUCKOO'S-SPIT, the exudation found upon plants, and which contains the small green larva of the *cicado spumaria*. Children believed this "froth" to be the expectoration of the cuckoo.

CUDUDWYN, the youngest of a litter, brood, or family. Hartshorne mentions the Shropshire word *Nisgal*, signifying the youngest pig in a litter.

CUMMUND, for come. "He's *cummun'd* home."

CURST-FELLOW, a deep, cunning fellow.

CUT, to beat in jumping. "I can *cut* that." I can beat that, *i. e.*, jump further.

CUTE, knowing, cunning. "He's a *cute* un."

CUPPER, cooper.

CUVLETH, a mixture of treacle and butter, or of sugar and butter boiled together; toffy. Formerly, very plentiful about Christmas and New Year's day. *Making cuvleth*, was one of the enjoyments of this season in which both sexes participated. This word is borrowed from the Welsh *Cyflaeth*.

CUNNIL, careful, economical; from the Welsh *cynnil*. "That woman *spares* money 'cos she's *cunnil*, *i.e.*, she saves money because she is economical.

D.

In common pronunciation the final *d* is frequently dropped, especially in words ending in *old*; thus fold becomes *fowl*; scold, *scowl*; cold, *cowl*; old, *owl*; send and lend become *sen* and *len*. The double *dd* (equivalent to Welsh *dd*, which pronounced like the *th* in these and father), is often changed into *th*, so that bladder and ladder become *blether* and *lather*.

DAB, a blow.

DAB-HAND, skilled hand, skilled. "He's a *dab hand* at marbles"; "Isn't he a *dabber*."

DAFFY-DOWN-DILLY, the Daffodil.

DAGGLES, the spots of mud, etc., thrown upon one's clothes. "She's *daggled* the bottom of her gown."

DANDY, a bantam. "*Dandy* cock", a bantam cock.

DANKER, a mild form of swearing. "*Danker* him all."

DAY ME, DAY IT ALL, also another mild form of swearing, formerly heard frequently among lads at their games. "*Day me*

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if I'll do it"; "*Day* thee mun, wot's that for?" "I'll be *dayd*."

DELF, common earthenware.

DEEPNESS, depth. "The *deepness* of that cute un is too much for me."

DICKINS, this word enters into many phrases, *e. g.*, "Where the *dickins* did it come from?" "How the *dickins* do I know?" "There 'll be the *dickins* to pay." *Dickin*, the devil.

DIDDY, (1) the teat of the breast. (2) The parent's milk. "You're a babby, and want *diddy* again"; you 're only fit to be at your mother's breast.

DIARE-Y-BO, an exclamation generally accompanied by a slap of the hand or the fist. It is rather difficult to express its import, as it sometimes implies surprise, sorrow, and even defiance. Perhaps the nearest English phrase, which, however, is not nearly so expressive, is "Hang it all."

DINE GATTON PAWB, an exclamatory phrase expressive of wonder and astonishment—a corruption of a Welsh phrase which means "God preserve us all."

DOUK, or DOWK, to dip or duck. "Give him another *douk*." "*Douking* for apples", a "nos glan gaia" game.

DOUL, down feather. "That bird isn't *full fithers*; he's only got *doul* on him", *i.e.*, the bird is not yet fledged.

DOUT, to extinguish, to put out. "*Dout* that candle."

DOWKER, or DOUKER, a dipper. The water ousel is known locally as the "white breast *dowker*."

DOWSTING, very heavily, pelting. "It's raining *dowsting*"; "the hail is *dowsting* down the chimbley."

DRAB IT, DRAT IT, exclamatory phrases; mild forms of oaths.

DRECKLY, directly.

DRESSER, the piece of furniture so familiar in old-fashioned kitchens, used as a support to the *shelf*. On the latter was displayed the plates, dishes, etc. belonging to the family.

DREW, a wren. From the Welsh *Dryw*.

DRIPPINGS, the last milk given by a cow.

DRUDGE, an urn for boiling water.

DRUDGER, a tin box constructed like a pepper box, only used for sprinkling flour.

DUBBIN, a mixture of oil and tallow used in greasing shoes, etc.

DUCK-OFTY-CORN, a corruption of "Duck off, duck on", a game played by boys.

DUKE ANWYL, an exclamatory phrase, used to express surprise or astonishment. It is a corruption of a Welsh phrase.

DUNNA, for "do not".

DUSTNA, for "durst or dare not".

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E.

Earnest, *said in earnest;* said seriously as a fact, in contradiction to "*Said in sport*", *i.e.*, as a joke.

"For it is *ernest* to me, by my faith."—*Chaucer.*

"Are you in *earnest?*"—do you really mean what you say?

Edge, the sharpness of a cutting instrument. "My knife has a good *edge*, thine has no edge on it": my knife is sharp, your's is blunt. "There's no *edge* on our Sal's scizans" (scissors).

Edge of Night, twilight.

Eend, also inden, the end of a shoemaker's thread.

Egg-on, to encourage, to stimulate. "He *egged* me on to it."

Even (pronounced *ehven*), the materials from which anything is made, more especially clothing, such as the "*even* of a top-coat", or "*even* of a was'cot", *i.e.*, the materials from which these garments are made.

F.

Fadge, a short stout person. The word is generally used as a *nickname, e.g.*, Ned, Bill, or Jack *Fadge.*

Faggot, a dish made of the liver and lites of a pig.

Falsgi, a sly, deceitful person. "There's an owl falsgi."

Feed, (1) a person's keep in food. "He gets so much and his *feed.*" (2) Corn and bran given to a horse—"Give the horse a *feed.*"

Feg, long coarse grass.

Feggy, land abounding in feg.

Fi-Finch, the chaffinch.

Finis. Young Idloes at school used to place his finger on each of the letters forming this word, and chant the following doggerel:—

"F for fig, I for jig, and N for Nicholas' ball,
I for John the waterman, and S for Sarah Saul."

Fitchak, a polecat.

Fither, a feather.

Full Fithers, fledged. "I broke a nest, and the young 'uns were all *full fithers.*"

Fizzur, something excellent, first-rate, surprising.

Flags, large paving stones; sometimes the pavement when *flagged*, and not *pitched.*

Flannen, flannel. Slightly altered from the Welsh, *gwlanen.*

Flen, a flea.

Flinders, pieces, splinters. "It's broken to *flinders.*"

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FLING, a person's will or pleasure, "the length of his tether." "Give him his fling"—Let him do as he pleases; don't check him.

FULL FLING; "Let him have his *full fling*" intensifies the expression.

FLOCKS, the soft, woolly part taken from the flannel when dressed, generally used for beds; hence a *flock* bed.

FLOOD, a freshet. Freshet in the Severn, at Newtown, called a Welsh *flood*.

FLUFF, the light flying particles of wool, yarn, etc.

FLUM'RY, a dish prepared from oatmeal, which is boiled to the consistency of thick jelly.

"In this land of oats, a meal every day all the year round consists of a very wholesome vegetable mucilage, called *llymru*, and by a corrupt Anglicism *flummery*. It is made by adding as much warm water to finely ground oatmeal as it can well absorb; to which, for the first time, some sour buttermilk, leaven, or other ferment, is added; and in from three to five days' time, according to circumstances, more warm water is added, so as to render it strainable through a hair sieve. It is then ready for use. While it is boiling, it must be continually stirred, until it attains a proper smoothness and consistence. The slight fermentation it undergoes during its infusion gives it a pleasant acidity, which contrasts well with the sweetness of good milk, in which it is commonly eaten. English cooks prescribe other liquids—Rhenish wine, cream, and sugar, dainties which Welsh farmers know only by name."—*View of Agriculture in North Wales*, by Walter Davies, M.A., p. 358. 1810.

FOOLBART, a polecat. The Welsh word is *Ffwlbart*.

FORET, forward, fast. "The crops are *foret* this year." "He's too *foret* with his tongue."

FORM, the resting-place of a hare.

"As in a forme lith a wery hare."—*The Schipmanne's Tale.*

FORNIQUE, or FURNIQUE, to revoke at cards.

FOWL, a fold, the enclosed place in front of a house.

FRIGHTENED THROUGH THE HEART, thoroughly frightened.

FUDDLE, a drinking bout. "He's gone on the *fuddle*."

FULL-SPLIT, with all energy, at the top of one's speed. "Off he goes *full-split*."

FUNK, (1) to shirk, or give up. "He 'ont pleh, he's *funked*." (2) To be frightened. "He's in a *funk*."

FUR, far. "Not *fur* to go."

G.

This letter is generally omitted in words when it is followed by *th*, *e.g.*, length and strength become *lenth* and *strenth*.

GAB, fluent, easy talking. "He's plenty of *gab*"; "he has the

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gift of the *gab*"; "he's a reg'lar *gabbler*." These sentences denote that the person has "plenty to say".

"Quod tho this sily man, I am no babbe,
Though it I say, I am nought leef to *gabbe*.
—*Miller's Tale.*

GAFFER, superintendent, agent, overlooker, or head workman. "Gaffer of the job."

GAMMOCKS, antics, tricks, foolery. "Stop thy *gammocks*."

GEE, *gee-gen*, (*g* soft) addressed to the leading horse, when he is required to go to the right of the driver. *To gee*, to agree, to suit. "How do'st 'ee *gee* with him?"

GEL, (*g* hard) the ordinary pronunciation of girl.

GERES, GERINS, (e-eh) the harness of cart-horses.

"This Aleyn maketh redy at his *gere*,
An on an horse the sack he casts anon."
—*The Reeve's Tale.*

GET, to be chastised. "You'll *get* it owl boy."

GET ON, fare, doing. "How'se thi *get on* this lung while"; —how are you doing this long time. "He *gets on* soundly"—he improves rapidly.

GETHER, gather.

GETHERING, gathering, festering, a boil. "He 's a *gethering* on his neck."

GETTINGS, wages, pay. "His *gettins* were small."

GIBBY-HEELS, sore heels.

GIBLETS (soft *g*), the small parts of a goose, generally turned into account by being made into a pie.

GILAN, a shelving bank of earth, generally applied to the banks of a river or brook. A corruption of the Welsh *Ceulan*, the hollow bank of a river.

GILL, hiding. "He's on *gill*"—he's hiding. From the Welsh *Cil*, a recess, a place to fly to.

GILLET, a very narrow passage. GINNIL, in the glossary to *Tim Bobbin* is explained as a "strait street, a narrow passage."

GLAT, an opening in a fence, a part broken or trodden down, a gap.

GLASDOR, a mixture of milk and water. From the Welsh *glas dwr*, blue water.

GLOCCA, an addled egg. From the Welsh *clwc*, addled.

GOOMS, gums.

GORSE, furze.

GOSLINS, the blossoms of the "Sally", or willow tree, so called from an imaginary likeness to very young geese.

GOVLED, an armful. From the Welsh *goflaid*.

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GRANNY, grandmother.

GRANDSIR, grandfather.

GREAT, familiar, friendly, intimate. "Are you *great* with him?"

GRINDLESTONE, grindstone.

GRO, the gravelly banks of a river. "Come with me to the *gro*." From the Welsh *gro*, a ridge of pebbles, a beach.

GROTS, a preparation of oats, generally cooked with roast goose.

GROUNDS, tea-leaves with their essence extracted. *Pal-y-geiniog* (Pal of the Penny), a resident in Llangurig, was in the habit of telling fortunes by the aid of tea-leaves. (See "Par. Acct. of Llangurig", chapter viii.)

GUMPTION, sense, intellect. "A man of *gumption*"—a man of sense.

GYZACTLY, exactly.

H.

This letter is very rarely dropped.

HACK, to cut small, to chop.

HADLAND, headland of a ploughed field, at right angles to the general course of the furrows.

HAFT, handle.

HAGGLE, to beat down the price of an article.

HAIN, layer, strata. From the Welsh *Haen*, a stratum, a layer.

HALF-BAKED, HALF-SOAKED, epithets of contempt applied to those considered to be deficient in sense.

HALF-SHARES, a cry uttered when anything is found, and which entitles him who makes the cry to half the value of what is found.

HAMBOARD, a tea-tray.

HANGMAN'S WAGES, money paid beforehand.

HANNA, have not. "*Hanna* got it."

HAN, have. "*Han* ee got it?"

HARP, to waste, to get poorer in condition. "My pig doesn't get on; he's *harping* for the last fortnight.

HASSLETS, the heart, liver, etc., of a pig.

HASTENER, a large bright tin-screen placed behind a joint, etc., when roasting.

HAW, HAW-WAY, addressed to a horse when the driver wishes him to approach.

HAYT, addressed to a horse when required to go to the right of the driver.

"*Hayt* Brok, *Hayt* Scot, what spare ye for the Stories."
—*The Frere's Tale.*

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HEAT, IN, applied to a bitch—*Maris appetens.*

HEFT, weight. "Feel the *heft* of this"; "Can you *heft* it?" *i.e.*, can you judge its weight, or feel its weight by lifting it.

HEPLESS, the mixture of flour and barm, or flour and leaven, for the purpose of fermenting the batch of flour. Welsh.

HERKO, an eccentric individual, an impulsive oddity: one wanting in ballast.

HERKS, tantrums; manifestations of temper or ill-humour.

HIDING, a beating. "Give him a good *hidin'*."

HIGGLER, a person who deals in poultry and eggs.

HILL, to cover up closely, to tuck the bed clothes round one. "Mother *hill* me close" is the common exclamation of children when put to bed in the winter months. In Welsh we have *Hul,* (heel) a cover, a coverlet, and the verb *Hulio* (hilio), to cover, to spread over. "In Kent to *heal* a child is to cover it up in its cradle, and to *heal* a house is to put on the roof or covering. A *hellier* is a slater."—(*Words and Places,* p. 327. 1865.) Halliwell has *Hile,* to cover over, (A.S.) and *Hiling,* a covering. In *Promp. Parv.*, i, 110, we have *cuverynge,* or *hyllynge,* or *thynge that hyllythe,* and again, p. 229, *Hatte, hed hillynge.* The glossary to "Tim Bobbin" also has the word *Hill,* to cover.

HIMP, the sucker of a tree or shrub. Welsh, *Imp,* a shoot.

HĪST TO ME, its my turn. Used when playing.

HOB, the flat part of the fire grate; in old houses the masonry in which the grate is fixed, and frequently roomy enough for persons to sit upon.

HOBBLE, used as a noun and verb; a trouble or difficulty, or to cause trouble or difficulty. "He's in a *hobble.*" "He'll *hobble* you if you don't mind"—he'll cause you trouble if you don't take care.

HOIDEN, a rude, romping girl.

HOIT, to throw or toss up, to lift up.

HOMES, the curving pieces of wood which are placed round a horse's collar.

HOMMER, hammer.

HOMMERING, hammering.

HONSELL, handsel, money obtained for the first article sold. Many spit upon it for luck.

HOOL, whole.

> "Now is myne hert al *hool,* now is it out."
>
> —*The Wyfe of Bathe's Tale.*

HOOCHOO, a cry of great distress. Welsh *Wchw.*

HOP, SCOP AND A LEP, hop, step and jump, a game at jumping. *Scop* seems to be a corruption of skip, and *lep* is a leap.

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HOUSE, (1) the workhouse. (2) A term used in ball playing.

HOUT, hold. "Ketch *hout* of this." "There's no *hout* for a fish there"—There's no shelter for a fish there.

HUKIN, Hugh.

HULLS, the husk, shell, or sheath of oats.

HUNDERT, hundred.

I.

This letter sometimes takes the sound of *ee* as in firm, which is sometimes pronounced *feerm;* the diphthong *ie* also takes the same sound in friend, which is frequently pronounced *freend,* or *frind.* These changes are due to the influence of the Welsh language.

ILD, ILDING, for yield and yielding. "*It ilds* well." "Will you *ild* ?"—Will you give up ?

INDIA-ROCK, a kind of toffy.

ISNA, is not.

ISS, yes.

ISTERDAY, yesterday.

JACKSTONES, a game played with four bones of a sheep's knee joint and a marble. The name is applied to the bones as well as the game.

JAG, a light or small load of hay or straw.

JANGLE, to ring bells irregularly, or out of order.

JAUNT, a trip "out", a pleasure journey. "Let's go for a *jaunt.*"

JEST, (just), nearly. "I'm *jest* dead"—I'm very faint.

JIGGER, a machine used in the lead mines for washing the ore; also applied to the person working it.

K.

KAIB, a mattock. Welsh.

KEDLOCK, a very common weed—the wild mustard.

KEECH, the internal fat of a pig, sheep, or other animal when rolled up.

KEEP, (1) maintenance. "He has eight shillings a-week and his *keep.*" (2) Away, safely, as in the sentence, "Put it to *keep.*"

KEEP A NOISE, make a noise. "*Keep* less noise"; "don't *keep* a noise there." A literal translation of the Welsh *cadw swn.*

KERRY-WIND, an easterly wind. The village of Kerry lies to the east of Llanidloes, and the phrase is said to have arisen from an old farmer accusing the *Kerry-wind* of killing his sheep.

KETCH, (1) a catch or fastening, *e.g.,* door *ketch.* (2) Kindle. "The fire onna *ketch.*"

KEYS, blossoms of the ash-tree.

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KIDDLE, to emit saliva.

KILES, a game, better known as ninepins.

KIP, (1) The tanned skin of a small beast. (2) Demand. "There's a great *kip* for them." (3) Rapid glimpse. "I had only a *kip* of him."

KIPE, a large, deep osier basket with two handles, largely used in the factories for carrying wool, etc.

KISSES, small round sweetmeats.

KIT, a pig's cot.

KNECK, to throw. "He's *knecking* stones at me."

KNEPPELL, the globular piece of wood knocked about in the game of bandy.

KNUCKLE-DOWN, a phrase used in playing at marbles when ordering an antagonist to shoot with the back of his hand on the ground.

KYNEELING-BOX, a box used by children for "keeping" their money. From the Welsh *Cynnil*, frugal, thrifty, saving.

L.

LAB, a great talker. "Thee't a reg'lar *lab*."

"Quod tho', this silly man, I am no sely *labbe*,
Though I it say, I am not leef to gabbe."
Chaucer's *Miller's Tale*.

LACE, to beat. "*Lace* his jacket for him."

LACING, a beating.

LANT, urine.

LANTERLUTE, or ANTERLUTE, a name given to the individual who played the part of fool in the old stage plays or interludes, and thence applied to those who acted the character in life.

LAP, to wrap, to fold up.

"*Lap* me soft in Lydian airs."—*L'Allegro*.

LAP-STONE, stone used by a shoemaker for beating-out leather.

LARRUP, to beat, to flog.

LATHER, a ladder.

LATS, laths.

LAVEN, sour dough, which formerly served the purpose of yeast. From the Welsh *Lefain*, a leaven.

LAWK-A-DAY, (alack the day) an exclamatory phrase.

LEARN, to teach. "Ill *learn* thee a *cast*"—I'll teach thee a trick.

"The red plague rid you,
For learning me your language."—*Tempest*, act i, sc. 2.

LEATHER, to beat.

LEATHERING, a beating.

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LEAZE, to glean.

LEAZING, that which is gleaned.

LEEK CLUB, the friendly society known as "Ancient Britons", who kept their annual feast on St. David's day, and wore leeks in their hats on the occasion.

LEH, lay. "Does ure hen *leh*."

LET, a term used in ball-playing when the player does not wish to play a ball.

LIBART, (corruption of liberty) applied to a tract of mountain pasture, over which sheep have liberty to graze. "They crossed the *trig* into our *libart*."

LICK, a blow, a beating. "*Lick* him well": beat him well. (2) First, first time, first attempt. "I did it the *first lick*"—I did the first time I tried. "Did it every *lick*"—did it every time.

LICKED STUMPING, thoroughly beaten.

LIGHT, to alight.

LIKECAKE, a small pancake.

LINOO, supple, pliable, flexible. "He's as *linoo* as a glove."

LIRE, a gloss, a shine.

LIST, the coloured yarn used in forming the border of a flannel.

LITTLE-HOUSE, a privy—*w.c.*

LIVERPOOL-TOUCH, Everton toffy.

LOCAL PREACHER, one who is allowed to preach among the Nonconformists without being ordained.

LOCK-UP, round house, police-station.

LOOBY, an awkward, clumsy, stupid fellow.

LOOSE, to let off, to set free. "*Loose* the gun off"; "*loose* that horse."

LOSING ON ONE'SELF, not in his right senses.

LOUT, a mean, awkward fellow, a bumpkin.

LUG, to pull, to draw.

LUNGE, to beat vindictively.

LUNGEOUS, cruel, vindictive.

"A big *lungeous* fellow that would speak disrespectfully of anybody."—*Felix Holt*, ii, 191.

LLYS-MAER, (Mayor's Leet) the 9th of November, the day on which the Mayor is elected.

M.

MAGGLE, to trip another with one's foot.

MAID, a clothes'-horse. Called a *maiden* in Lancashire.

MAIN, match at cockfighting.

MALLEN, familiar name for Mary.

"And seyd farewell *Mallyn*, my sweet wight."
—Chaucer, *The Reeve's Tale*.

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Mammog, the rag, or piece of leather placed over the bladder (at the mouth of the outer covering), when a football is *brazed*.

Masht, broken to pieces.

Matty, familiar name for Martha.

Mawl, a large heavy wooden hammer, generally used for splitting wood.

Meegrims, whims, odd fancies, displays of peevishness. "Don't notice him, he's got the *meegrims*."

Mend, to repair, to get well. "Can you *mend* my shoes 'gen Saturday?" "I'm *mending* slowly."

Mêrlin, *(ê-eh)* a hill pony.

Mes, acorns. From the Welsh *mes*, an acorn.

Met, food in general, sometimes a meal. "Come in to *met*."

Meuse, a hole in a hedge, through which a hare or rabbit is in the habit of passing.

Mich, to play truant.

Middling Sharp, tolerably well. "How are you?" "Middling sharp, thenk you."

Mit[1], a shallow, wooden vessel, used for household purposes, such as kneading and making butter.

Mittens, strong leather gloves, worn when hedging.

Mixen, a dunghill, a heap of rubbish.

Moidering, to talk incoherently, foolishly, childishly. "Thi at *moidering* mun", used contemptuously.

Morto, Morris.

More Sacks in the Mill, a boys' game.

Motty, the mark pitched at in the games of quoits, pitch and toss, etc.

Mowld, soil. It is also used as a verb, either to cover potatoes with soil, or to move soil to the stems of the plants, such as potatoes, cabbage, etc. "He's *mowlding tatus*."

Mowldy, mildewed. "I can't eat that *mowldy* bread."

Mountain Thrush, the missel thrush.

Moving. A special meaning is attached to this word, that of changing residence, and the moving of furniture, which it generally implies. The great *moving day* is May 12th, for all tenants who have a yearly taking.

[1] "*The Saxon Chronicle*, A.D. 852, records the grant of the villa of Sleaford, in Lincoln, for supplying the monastery of Peterborough with ten mittans of Welsh ale, or ten sextaries, or quarts, as it is translated, a quantity very disproportionate to so large and productive a parish. Mittan, however, is derived from myd or mydd, and myddi, a capacious wooden vessel of circular form, more of the nature of a vat, or hogshead, and peculiar to the Britons."—*Agriculture and Arts under the Druidical System*, p. 108, note 2.

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MUCK, dung. Horse *muck*, load of *muck*, etc.

MUNCORN, a mixture of wheat and rye. *Bara muncorn*—*muncorn bread*. *Promp. Parv.* ii, 334, has *Mestlyone*, or monge corne, and the editor, in a note, states that "Meslin bread, made with a mixture of equal parts of wheat and rye, was formerly considered as a delicacy in the eastern counties, the household loaf being composed of rye alone."

MUNDLE, a stick used to stir up *ude*, *flumry*, *milk*, etc.

MUNNA, *musna*, *munnot*, different forms of "Must not".

N.

NEAR, saving, economical, parsimonious. "He is very *near*."

NECKLE, knuckle. "*Neckle* down", a cry frequently heard at marbles.

NE'ERAN, never a one.

NEMA GOODNESS, in the name of goodness; *Nema dear*—interjections.

NESH, delicate, tender, very susceptible to the influence of the weather.

NETHER, an adder.

"Lyk to the *nedder* in bosom sleighe unbrewe."
Chaucer.—*The Merchaunde's Tale.*

NEW MILK, milk which has not been skimmed.

NICHOLAS BALL, Spanish juice.

NICK-NAME, a sobriquet.

NICK'S POSIES, dandelions.

NINE-O'CLOCK-BELL, a bell formerly rung at 9 p.m. during the winter months.

NIP, a dent, a notch; used also as a verb, to make a dent, etc.

NO DAINGER, a phrase implying strong improbability.

NO-LI, not I, no will I. "Oot ee do it?" "No li."

NO, NEVER STIR, an exclamation used to express emphatic earnestness regarding an assertion previously made. "I dinna do it, *no, never stir*."

NO ODDS, it matters not. "*What's the odds?*"—What matters it?

NO REMEDY, it cannot be helped—it cannot be remedied.

NOS GLAN GAIA, a corruption of "*Nos calan gauaf*", Winter's eve.

NOSE CAP, piece of leather on the toe of a shoe.

O.

O, when followed by *l*, changes its sound to that of ou, or ow, as in the words fold, cold, old, scold, mould, which are frequently pronounced *fowl*, *cowl*, *owl*, *scowl*, *mowl*.

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It often takes the sound of u, Tom, long, and tongs, become *Tum, lung,* and *tungs.*

When preceded by *w,* it generally becomes the initial letter, the former being dropped, thus wood, woman, wont, become *'ood, 'ooman, 'ont.*

On, start in a race. "How much *on* will you give me."

'Onna, 'Ont, wont, will not. "I *'ont* go," "I *'onna* do it."

'Oos'nt, used for "will not" in the second person. "*'Oos'nt* ee fetch it?"

'Oof, woof, that which is woven. *Promp. Parv.* has "*'Oof,* threde for webbynge."

Ooler, the alder tree; also known as the *orl* tree.

Oont, a mole.

Oont-ketcher, a mole-catcher.

Open Sow, one that has not been spayed.

Oss, to start upon a journey, or a race. "I'm going to *oss* now." I heard a countrywoman asked to partake of some food upon her arrival in town. She excused herself as follows: "No, thank *u.* I was eat for *oss*", which sounded very much like her having eaten four horses! She simply wished to say that she had taken food before she left her home. The word is derived from the Welsh *osio,* to offer to do, to essay.

Out of his mind, wandering, insane.

Out on the patch, a phrase signifying that a person is out of work, or without a situation.

Our, frequently prefixed to the names of relatives, more especially to those of brothers and sisters.

Over, used instead of "in the place of", or "for". "I went there *over* him", *i.e.,* instead of him.

P.

Pancake-day, Shrove Tuesday.

Pancake-bell, bell rung at noon on Shrove Tuesday.

Pandy, fulling mill. Welsh.

Parcel, much, many. "He's got a *parcel* of them in his pockets."

Parson's Bell, the tenor bell tolled after the termination of the chime.

Pee-wit, the lapwing, or green plover.

Peel, a long wooden shovel used by bakers for putting their bread into the oven.

Peggy, diminutive of Margaret.

Penki, an oddity, an eccentric person. Welsh.

Pentan, back of the fire. "Black as the *pentan*", a common phrase, signifying very black, or very dirty.

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Pentiss, a pent house, a shed, or smaller construction of a similar kind, with a single sloping roof built against a larger building. *Promp. Parv.* has "*Pentyce* of an howse ende," and the learned editor in a note quotes examples of the use of the word in old writers.

Pianet, a magpie; cp. Welsh, *pioden.*

Pick-grate, the perforated grate which, in old-fashioned houses, covered the hole for receiving the ashes.

Piggin, a small wooden vessel with an upright handle, a very diminutive pail. It formerly served the purpose of a common basin. Probably a corruption of the Welsh *picyn,* a small wooden vessel.

Pikin, selecting of sides for a game. "Let's make a *pikin,* and have sides, not kick (the football) *through one another.*"

Pikle, a hay-fork.

Pikelet, a muffin. "She sells *pikelets* and *likecakes*" (light-cakes).

Pilk, a minnow. "Come to the *gro* to ketch *pilks.*" The word is a corruption of the Welsh *pilcodyn,* a minnow. Another form of the word is *pilkin.* "Tice ketch a *pilkin*", is a phrase frequently used by children after deceiving some one.

Pillion, a bundle of wheat straw.

Pinches, pincers.

Pisspots, ants. *Pissmots* in the Lancashire dialect.

> "He is as angry as a *pissemyre.*"
> Chaucer.—*The Sompnoure's Tale.*

Pitching, the pavement of the streets, formerly constructed of stones placed edgeways, or *pitched.* As a verb, it is used for placing stones on their edges, a kind of work to be seen in the churchyard; and also for raising hay, etc., to a cart or rick.

Pip, a disease among fowls.

Plack, a situation. "He's got a better *plack.*"

Plank, the portion of ploughed land between two reins.

Pletch, cutting the branches of a hedge (not through), so that they may be bent into a kind of rude, but regular plaiting.

"The Prince and Count Claudio walking in a thick *pleached* alley in my orchard."—*Much Ado about Nothing,* act i, sc. 2.

"And bid her steal into the *pleached* bower."—*Ibid.*, act iii, sc. 1.

Plim, perpendicular.

Plug, to pull, to draw. "I'll *plug* his hair for him."

Plump, a pump. "*Plump* o' the hall", is that at the end of the old market hall.

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PLUMPER, one skilled at playing marbles.
POBTY, a bakehouse. Welsh.
POKE, a peak. "Who brok the *poke* of his *cyap?*"
POOLOO, childish term for a horse.
POPO, childish term for a sore.
POSY, pl. *Posies*, a flower, flowers. "Gi me that *posy*"; "I'm getherin *posies.*"
POSSEL, a drink made of a mixture of hot buttermilk and treacle.
POUK, a pimple, a boil.
POWER, (1) a great number, "There's a *power* of them." (2) Local pronunciation of pour, "*Power* out the tea."
PRILL, a small stream of water.
PRIMMYROSE, primrose.
PROG, spoil, something picked up or found.
PROK, (1) to poke, to stir. "*Prok* the fire." "Top and *prok* the candle", to snuff and spread out the wick. (2) Also used when a boy has lost all his marbles, broken, become bankrupt. "He can't play any more cos he's *proked.*"
PUKE, to vomit.
PUMPLE, a pimple, boil, or gathering.
PUT, to nudge, to touch lightly. "Gi him a *put.*" Probably from the Welsh *Pwtio*, to butt, to thrust, to poke.
PUT-ON, a phrase equivalent to challenge, or to provoke into a fight. "I was bound to fight cos he *put-on* me."

Q.

QUAB, dirt, street marl or scrapings.
QUANDARY, non-plussed, at a loss, in a "brown-study".
QUARREL, a stone quarry.
QUILTING or QUELTING, a beating or chastisement.
QUIST, a wood-pigeon. "*A queer quist*", an odd, or funny fellow.

R.

RACKS, the wooden frames upon which flannels are stretched to be dried. A set of these racks was attached to every fulling mill.
RADDLE, the colour used for marking the sheep, to assist in distinguishing one flock from another. The common colours used in the neighbourhood of Llanidloes are red and blue.
RALLY, a demonstration, a feast, and sometimes a "spree". "There was a great *rally* last llys y maer."
RAMPER, the decayed branch of a tree.

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RAMPER-EEL (doubtless a corruption of Lamprey eel), a kind of small eel found in the Severn.

RAMPIN, great irritation, anger. "He's ravin, *rampin* mad", said of a person in a most violent fit of passion.

RANGLE, (wrangle) among lads playing always meant cheating; hence their saying, "*Rangle* will come to an end", *i.e.*, cheating will not prosper.

RAP, to exchange, to barter one article for another. "I'll *rap* thee knives if thee 'oot gi me boot."

RASMWS, a "nick name" applied generally to any individual distinguishing himself in that which is wrong. "Oh you'r a reg'lar *rasmws*", *i. e.*, a downright bad one. This word is said to be a corruption of Erasmus.

RASLE, corruption of wrestle. Chaucer uses it frequently.

RASTY, rancid. "Rasty bacon."

REBECCAITES, a term applied to the gate-breakers, followers of the pretended Rebecca, who led the way in throwing down some turnpike gates in the neighbourhood in 1843. The first line of an old song sung at the time was—

> "Rebecca came before us,
> And she cleared the gates away."

REEVE, to wrinkle. "Don't *reeve* ure forhead like that."

RETCH, to vomit.

RISE, potato tops.

RICK, a stack of corn made in a circular form.

RIG, TO RUN THE, upon any one, is to show them up in the worst light.

RIGOL, a groove, a narrow gutter. From the Welsh *rhigol*, a groove, a trench, a furrow.

RIP, a vicious female.

ROCHE, or ROTCH, a kind of coarse gravel.

ROSS, moorland, boggy land. From the Welsh *rhos*, a moor.

ROUND-HOUSE, lock-up, a police station.

ROUSER, ROUSING, large, unusually strong.

ROUT, rut, cart-track.

ROWL, for roll.

ROVE, to entangle; used mentally for one deranged. "He's *roved* in love."

ROVINGS, entangled threads, etc.

RUNDEL, an old decayed hollow oak.

RUNNING-DOWN, a phrase meaning to speak unfavourably of a person.

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S.

SAFGET, skirt of a riding habit.

SAIM, grease, lard.

SAID IN SPORT, meant as a joke, said in fun.

SALLY, (1) the name of a species of willow *(salix)*. (2) the soft plushy part of a bell rope, hence to be able to *sally* a bell was to ring it properly.

SARN IT, SARN U ALL, mild form of an oath.

SAWFLY, more slowly, softly. "Take it *sawfly*", go more slowly. "*Sawfly, old chap*", not so fast old fellow. Chaucer frequently uses this word.

SCADE, a scolding woman, a virago.

SCAWEN, the elder tree. A corruption of the Welsh *ysgaw*.

SCORCH, (1) to place an object under a wheel, to scotch. (2) Cracking potatoes are said to *scorch* when their jackets crack while boiled.

SCRAM, (1) to scramble. (2) A tall awkward ungainly fellow.

SCRAT, scratch.

SCRATCHINGS, the fat of the hog being boiled for the purpose of extracting the lard, the dry pieces remaining are called *scratchings*. They are eaten with oatmeal and condiments, and are esteemed a delicacy.

SCREEN, (1) a coffin; from the Welsh *ysgrin*. (2) A kind of a large *settless*.

SCUTCH, the roots of grass, grain, etc., more especially that of the couch grass.

SEG, the sedge.

SET (pronounced seht), a young plant.

SETT, tract of land let on certain conditions for the purpose of working the minerals under the surface, *e.g.*, the Van sett.

SETTLESS, a settle, a wooden bench with a high back to it.

SEVEN-COLOURED LINNET, the goldfinch, sometimes also called the "Sheriff's man", from its gay plumage.

SHANNA, shall not. "I shanna go."

SHET, shut.

SHESPY, shoe lift. The most ornamental were made of horn.

SHIFFLE, shuffle. The term *shiffler* meant one who shuffled for dishonest purposes in monetary transactions.

SHIP, sheep.

SHIVVIES, chives, small onions.

SHOAF, a sheaf.

SHŌDENS, bread made in the form of elongated lozenges,

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now out of use. The penny, twopenny, and threepenny shodens are now replaced by loaves of the same value.

SHOAF, a sheaf.

SICK, used for general illness, not limited to nausea.

SIGHT, a great deal, a great number. "A *sight* of work to do." "There was a *sight* of people in chapel."

SIST, miners' pay day. This word appears to have been introduced into the neighbourhood by the Cornish miners.

SKILLY, poor kind of bread and milk, or broth, poor-house fare.

SKIM-MILK, milk from which the cream has been taken off.

SKINNY, a game at marbles.

SKIP, (1) to seize, to snatch. From the Welsh *ysgipio*, to snatch away. (2) A rapid glance. "Didn't know him, only had a *skip* o' him."

SKLEM, taking meat on the sly. "On the *sklem*", when one is trying to pick up meat. From the Welsh *ysglem*, a slice.

SKLEMGU(I), one who sklems, or helps himself on the sly.

SLACK, small coals.

SLANG, a long narrow piece of land. The author of *Words and Places* (p. 451, ed. 1865), has the following regarding this word :—"A *slang* is a narrow strip of waste land by the roadside such as those which are chosen by gipsies for their encampments. To be "out on the slang", in the lingo used by thieves and gipsies, means to travel about the country."

SLAP, at once, *e. g.*, "*slap* off." "He did it *slap*."

SLASH, (1) the lash of a whip. (2) To whip a top when spinning.

SLICK, smooth, sleek. This word is applied to any polished surface that is smooth. "You must boil flummery till it is *slick*", was a Welsh cook's advice to a young Englishwoman.

SLICKING, to make slick. "I'm *slicking* this stone", *i. e.*, smoothing or polishing it.

SLIP-GUT, a term sometimes applied to flummery, probably from its slipping down the throat so easily.

SLIPS, a cry used in playing marbles, when the player has made a false shot.

SLIPPY, slippery. "The ice is *slippy* this morning."

SLITHER, a slide ; also as a verb, to slide.

SLITHERING, sliding. "Come and *slither* on the gro, there's some long *slithers* there, and our Jack is *slithering* on em."

SLON, a sloe.

SLUBBIN, a kind of large bobbin made from the rolls of wool.

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SLUBBER, the man who made them.

SLYGI, a sly cunning person.

SNIG, to drag a piece of timber, etc., with a chain.

SOG, a quagmire.

SOLID, dull, heavy, when applied to a person's appearance, or to an earnest manner of looking at some object. "He's looking at it *solid* enough."

SOLLAR, the first floor, "up stairs."

SON OF A BITCH, a term of reproach.

SOOP, heap. "Gether that in a *soop*." From the Welsh *swp*.

SPARBLES, small nails used by shoemakers.

SPIT, a good likeness. "He's the very *spit* of his father."

SPONTLE, to splash.

SPON, a game at marbles.

SPROT, *v.*, to prowl about with the view of obtaining information, to spy. As a noun it is used for the person practising such conduct.

SPY-MIK, the local name for the game of "hide and seek", called in South Wales "high spy."

STAKES, the cry uttered as a warning to those playing marbles that some one is about to *stake*, or steal their marbles.

STALL, come to a standstill, inability to move onwards. This word is applied most commonly to horses when drawing loaded carts, etc. "He's *stalled*."

STARVE, to be cold. "Don't let me *starve*." "I'm half starved"—I'm very cold indeed. No notion of hunger is implied.

STEL(EH), a handle, such as that of a hammer, pickaxe, etc.

STEM, the day's work of a miner. The twenty-four hours are generally divided into three stems of eight hours each.

STEN(EH), a large earthenware vessel, an earthenware pan. From the Welsh *ystên*, a pitcher.

STICKLE, TO, is to collect four *shoaves* of corn, place them upon their bases, and tie them together at the top.

STINGE, grudge, ill-will. "I got no *stinge* 'genst thee", is a very common mode of expression when one person wishes to inform another that no harm is intended.

STORY, a lie. To tell *stories*, to tell lies. *Storyteller*, a liar. These terms were mild forms of *lie*, etc., and were chiefly confined to children.

STRICK, to measure corn, etc., full to the brim of the vessel without heaping it.

STRICK-FULL, filled up to the brim.

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STRIKE, the old local measure contained forty quarts, equivalent to eight *bolls*.

STRIPPINGS, the last milk obtained from the cow.

STRUMPLES, the tail of a beast when the skin is taken off.

STUB, (1) a block of wood. (2) Nails used by the smith in shoeing horses. (3) Short thick-set person.

STUFF, linsey, or woolsey linsey, a material formerly much in use for making the dresses of females. These were called "*stuff* gowns."

STUMP, (1) mashed potatoes, which are mashed with a wooden *stumper*. (2) To rebound, as a marble when thrown upon a stone, etc., or a ball from the ground.

STUMPING, TO BEAT, a phrase equivalent to a hollow beating.

SUCKER, a foal.

SUPPIN, preparation made of boiled oatmeal and milk.

SUVVIES, wild strawberries. From the Welsh *syfi*.

SWEAT LIKE THE MUCK, an expression more forcible than elegant used to express violent perspiration.

SWEET, a word of encouragement used during a fight, or some athletic contest. "*Sweet* Jack."

SWERD, sword.

SWINGE, to singe.

SWINGEING, very, extremely. "It is *swingeing* cold, or *swingeing* hot."

SWINGLE, a swing. "Come an *single* on that *swingle*."

T.

T, when preceded by *i*, is sometimes changed into *c*, as in the words little, tittle, brittle, which are frequently heard pronounced as if they were written lickle, tickle, brickle.

TACK, (1) a taste which does not belong to the article when good. (2) Pasture, where sheep, cattle, etc., are sent to during the summer months. "His cattle are out on *tack*." "He has *tacked* his sheep." (3) A family, set, clique, &c. "They are a rum *tack*", *i.e.*, a queer set.

TACK-NOTE, a "take" note, containing the conditions upon which the minerals are to be worked under a tract of land technically termed a *sett*.

TACKLE, to attack, to undertake. "I was afear of *tackling* it."

TAKE AFTER, (1) to resemble. "He *takes after* his mother's family." (2) To copy, or imitate. "She *takes after*", *i.e.*, resembles or imitates her in her manners and habits.

TAKE-ON, to pretend, to feign. "He didn't *take on* him nothing",—he didn't pretend to know anything.

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TAILINGS, the poorest corn, the skirt of the heap when the corn is winnowed.

TALALLO, a dolt or blockhead. A corruption of the Welsh *Llelo*.

TALLANT, a hay-loft.

TAN TARINBOBUS, a name given to the person who in the old country stage-plays acted the part of the devil. It was afterwards given to a person who acted the character in life.

TAP, the sole of a shoe. When used as a verb, it means to sole a shoe.

TATA, TATERS, and TATOOS, potato, potatoes. "To settle his *taters*", a phrase equivalent to "Settling his hash", or "Cooking his goose".

TEE-TAKE-ALL, a teetotum with the four letters T. P. N. and H. upon it, their signification being—N for nothing, H for half, P put down, and T take all; a favourite indoor game for marbles, etc.

THATCH-BIRD, the house-sparrow.

THENK, thank. "*Thenk* 'u, Sir."

THRAVE, twenty-four sheaves of corn.

THREEBLE, threefold.

TOOT, compact, neat, smart. "There's a *toot* little fellow." It is the Welsh word *Twt*.

THRESTLE, the thrush.

"The throstilcock maad eek his lay."
Chaucer.—*Tale of Sir Topas.*

THRUM, ends of the weaver's yarn.

TICE, to deceive, entice. "I 'ont *tice* 'u for the world."

TOCK, to cut a part off.

TOLK, (taulk) a dent or impression caused by a blow. As a verb, the word denotes to make a dent, etc. From the Welsh *Tolc*.

TRIG, a small gutter, trench, or other mark, which serves as a boundary, generally between sheep-walks. The word frequently crops up in the disputes among the local sheep farmers. "I coursed his sheep cos they crossed the *trig*." The word is also used as a verb—"*Trig* it out," to mark it out.

TROUSE, (1) potato tops. (2) Branches of trees, underwood, etc., used for repairing hedges.

TUFFY, toffy.

TUM, TUMMY, familiar names for Thomas.

TUMBREL, a strong cart, the contents of which can be tipped; generally used for agricultural purposes.

TUMP, soil heaped over potatoes and other vegetables, for the purpose of preserving them. When used as a verb, it means

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to heap up the soil for the above purpose. From the Welsh *Twmp*, a mound.

TURN, a lathe.

TURMET, a turnip.

TURNPEK, a turnpike.

TUNGS, tongs.

TWO DOUBLES, doubled. "He's bent in his *two doubles*."[1]

TOUCH, a short time. "He's gone by only just a *touch*." "He does it on *touches*," *i.e.*, by fits and starts.

TOOKA, a kind of a knife formed by a blade fixed in a wooden handle. The blade was generally that of an old razor. From the Welsh *Twca*, a kind of knife.

U.

Among some of the peculiar changes which this letter undergoes in local pronunciation may be mentioned the following. It is often interposed between *o* and the consonant following, especially *l*, as in such words as bold, scold, etc., which become *bould, scould;* or, perhaps, the sound would be more accurately represented by *w*. In another instance we see the effect of contact with the Welsh language, when dull becomes dool (*dwl*).

When an initial letter, it is frequently changed to *o*, as *o*ntidy, *o*neasy, *o*nlucky.

UDE, a kind of hasty-pudding made by boiling oatmeal in water; oatmeal porridge. From the Welsh *Uwd*.

USE, BAD, to indulge, to put. "His mother do *bad use* him."

V.

VARMENT, vermin.

W.

In most of the words when *w* is followed by *o*, the initial *w* becomes silent, as in the words wool, wood, woman, wont, which are changed into *'ool, 'ood, 'ooman*, etc. This peculiarity is derived from the sound of the Welsh W, the English equivalent of which is oo (long as in boon, short as in good), and it may be noticed among those who never spoke a word of Welsh themselves, but who may have been either the children of Welsh parents or brought up among Welsh people.

[1] "*Bent in his two doubles*."—In reference to this expression, J. H. M. says the Welsh expression to which he alluded, is "Yn ei ddau ddwbl"; and BONWM observes that it is highly expressive when applied to an old and decrepit man, gone at the knees and stooping in body. Such a man would literally be in his two doubles.—*Byegones*, May 6th, 1874.]

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When followed by *h*, there is a tendency to give the *w* the force of *q*—*e.g.*, in such words as when, which, what, etc., which are sometimes pronounced as if written *quen, quich,* and *quat.* The *q* sound, it is true, is not very strongly marked, but its presence may be easily detected.

WAB, a slap, a blow. From the Welsh *wab,* a slap, a stroke.

WAINHOUSE, an outhouse for keeping waggons, carts, etc. Although a thoroughly English word, it is used by people who scarcely know a word of English.

WALKMILL, a fulling mill.

WALL, a measure of length used in connexion with flannels, about four yards. It is derived from the Welsh *Pared,* a wall, the warping frame being in olden times fixed to the wall.

WALLOP, to beat, to chastise.

WALLOPING, a beating.

WARDS, in marbles the goal from which the players start playing.

WARE, more properly WEIR, a wooden embankment across a stream. The weir at the town mill is generally known as the *Arga,* while the one known as *the* Ware is that upon the Clywedog, opposite the Dyfnant. The fact of the former retaining its Welsh name is perhaps a proof of its existence previous to the importation of the English term.

WARM HIM, WARM HIS JACKET, to administer a beating.

WEATHERCOCK, STANDCOCK, terms applied to different hay-cocks in the harvest field.

WEH, stop ; common exclamation addressed to horses.

WELTING, a beating.

WELTER, a blow.

WEP, a jib ; "None of your *wep.*" From the Welsh *Gwep,* the visage.

WHIPPET, a cross-bred dog, between a greyhound and a spaniel.

WHIRLY-GOOGAN, a kind of plaything made by putting a pointed piece of wood through a large button, and using it as a kind of teetotum.

WHIRRET, a box on the ears.

WHITTY-BERRIES, the berries of the mountain-ash.

WHIZZER, a hard blow.

WIG, a three-cornered bun.

WIRE IN. The writer first heard this rallying cry at the general election of 1862. When the mob saw a Conservative going in the direction of the polling-booth, the cry was raised, "*Wire in lads*", and directly a solid mass, presenting a compact front, interposed between the booth and the would-be voter, whose

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treatment entirely depended upon the temper he displayed. This cry or phrase appears to be an importation from South Wales, where it is used to encourage those engaged in a fight, foot race, etc.

Y

As the English sound of *y* does not exist in the Welsh language, its enunciation naturally becomes one of great difficulty to Welsh people, and even to the English-speaking children of Welsh parents. The common pronunciation of yet, ye, you, yield, etc., is *'et, 'ee, u, 'eeld,* (sometimes *ild*). But in other words, such as yard, yellow, and yarn, (yorn) its full sound is given.

YANTO, Evan.
YARLY, early. "*Yarly* potatoes."
YORN, yarn.
YUGAMS, games, tricks.
YORK, a wag.

SAYINGS.

As sound as a bell.
As level as a die.
As clean as a whistle.
As true as a trivet.
As clear as crystal.
As wet as muck.
As dry as a ceck.
As poor as a church mouse.
As weak as a cat.
As high as the steeple.
As hard as a flint (in business matters).
As blind as a bat.
As thick as a post (intellectually).
As thin as a rake (hay-rake).
As flat as a pancake.
As sly as a hawk.
As grey as a badger.
As lousy as a rook.
As warm as toast.
As safe as the bank.

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As proud as Punch.
As fresh as a trout.
As slick as an eel.
As slick as flum'ry.
As tough as whalebone.
As *linoo* as a glove.
As dark as pitch.
As dead as a nit.
Sleep like a top.
Sweats like a pig.
Drinks like a sow.
Shines like Llanfair.
All on one side, like Bridgenorth election.

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