DEVONSHIRE DIALECT.

PE 1873 P3 1869



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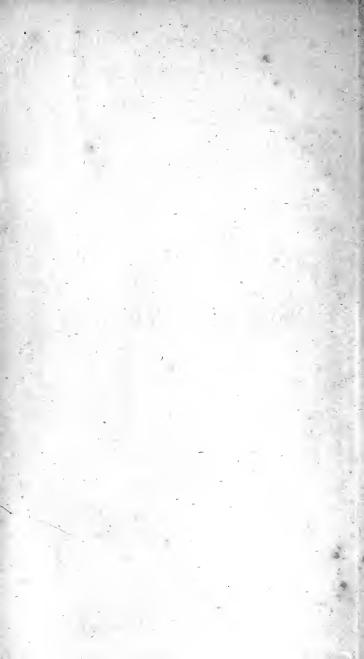
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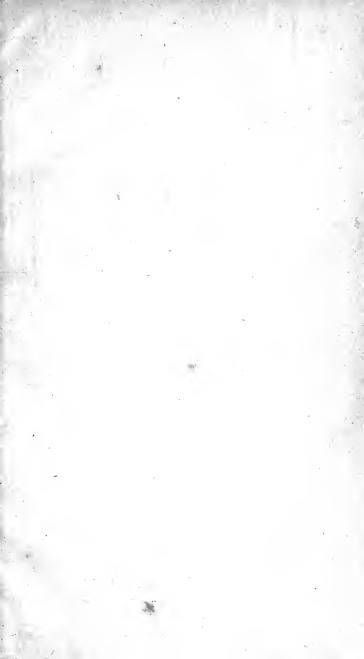
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RAB. What dost thee gook thee head vor: look up, wo't? What art tozing over the book vor?

BET. Turning out the dog's ears.

Page 2.

DEVONSHIRE COURTSHIP.

IN FOUR PARTS.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

A GLOSSARY.

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PREFACE.

THE rapid sale of the last Edition of this Work having called for another in a short period, the Publisher has only to repeat what has been said before respecting the *motive* which led to its first publication.

These Dialogues were originally written by Mrs. Palmer, of Great Torrington, a sister to Sir Joshua Reynolds.

From this lady's manuscript, which had been occasionally shewn to several friends, extracts were taken, and from time to time inserted in various publications, in many instances without connexion, and in most without any acknowledgement of the source whence derived; but a little work appeared under the title of "A Dialogue in the Devonshire Dialect," from a copy containing a portion only of the original, with an extensive Glossary of the provincial terms therein used. these circumstances, Mrs. Gwatkin, a daughter of Mrs. Palmer, was induced to publish the whole, from the original manuscript in her possession.

It may also be briefly noticed, that no freedom has been used with the provincialisms in the text. They

appear as at first written. A trifling difference will be observed in the orthography of a few minor words, which are peculiar to country discourse, and therefore to be considered a difference from choice. In other instances, where a variation has occurred through the press, in orthography which should be preserved, or where an explanatory note has been omitted, full justice is done them in the Glossary, written, for the most part, by the late Rev. John Phillips, of Membury, Devon, and appended to the Work.

With respect to the tendency of the Book, judgement is left with the Reader. A few points appear to have been conspicuously kept in view, viz., a faithful rural, rather than rustic grouping, with skilful natural colouring, and select disposition of light and shade; while the Reader's attention may be called to the excellent moral which pervades the whole.

DEVONSHIRE DIALECT.

PART I.

CHARACTERS:

John Hogg, A Farmer.

Dame, His Wife.

Betty, His Servant Maid.

BAT, The Apprentice Boy.

Robin, Betty's Lover.

ROBIN, seeing his Sweetheart, Betty, in a field, sprang over the stile to meet her.

RAB. Zo, Bet, how is't? How de try? — Where hast a' be thicka way? Where dost come from?

Bet. Gracious, Rab! you gush'd² me. I've a be up to vicarige, to vet³ a book vor dame, and was looking to zee if there be any shows⁴ in en, when you wisk'd over the stile and galled⁵ me.

- 1 How do you do?
- 4 Prints or Pictures.
- 2 Scared.
- 5 Frightened.

3 Fetch.

RAB. And dost thee look so like a doublerose when thee art a 'galled, Bet? What dost thee gook thee head vor: look up, wo't?

Bet. Be quiet: let 'lone my hat, wol ye?

RAB. What art tozing² over the book vor?

Bet. Turning out the dog's ears.

RAB. 'Ot is it-a story-book?

Bet. I wish 'twas, I love story-books dearly; many nearts³ I've a' zit up when all the volks have a' be a-bed, and a' rede till es have had a crick in the niddick,⁴ or a' burn'd my cep.

RAB. And dost love to rede stories about spirits and witches?

Bet. I'll tell thee. I was wan neart reding a story-book about spirits, that com'd and draw'd back the curtains at the bed's voot (and there was the ghastly pictures o'em). The clock had beat wan, when an owl screech'd 'pon the top o' the chimley, and made my blood rin cold. I zim'd⁵ the cat zeed zum⁶ 'ot: the door creaked, and the wind hulder'd⁷ in the chimley like thunder. I prick'd up my ears, and presently zum 'ot, very hurrisome, went dump! dump! dump! I would a' geed my life vor a varden.⁸ Up I sprung, drow'd down my candle,

¹ Hang down.

² To pull or tumble.

³ Nights.

⁴ Back of the neck.

⁵ Thought.

⁶ Saw something.

⁷ The wind blowing with violence and impetuosity.

⁸ Farthing.

and douted¹ en; and hadn't a blunk² o' fire to teen³ en again. What could es do? I was afear'd to budge. At last I took heart, and went up stears backward, that nort mert⁴ catch me by the heels. I didn't unray⁵ mysel vor the neart, nor teen'd⁶ my eyes, but healed⁻ up my head in the quilt, and my heart bump't zo, ye could hear en; and zo I lied panking⁵ till peep o' day.

RAB. Poor Bet! why if a vlea had hopp'd into thy ear thee wot a' swoon'd.

Bet. You may well enew laugh at me, but I can't help et, nor vorbear reding the books when I come athort 'em. But I'll tell thee: I've a' thort pon't zince, that the dump! dump! dump! that galled me zo, was nort else but our great dog diggin out his vleas against the dresser.

RAB. Like enew: I marvel that you, who ha zo much indel and oudel work to do, can vend time vor reding; but then, it zeems, you rede when you ought to zleep.

Bet. Why, you must know, Dame dosn't like I shu'd rede zich books; it be other lucker¹⁰ books us ha' vrom the Pason; and

Extinguished.
 Spark.
 Closed.
 Covered.

3 Light. 8 Panting.

4 Nothing might. 9 In-doors and out-doors.

5 Undress. 10 Sort, or like.

charc

when us ha' done up our chewers,1 and 'tis candle-teeming,2 Measter takes hiszell to the alehouse, I take up my knitting, and Dame redes to me. Good now: es may ha' as many books vrom the Pason as us wol, he ne'er zaith her nay, and he hath a power3 o' em, that a' hath.

RAB. O! Cryle,4 Bet, I'd a' geed5 ever zo much had thee a' zeed the Pason in the wood a leet 6 rather. Thee casn't think what items and anticks7 a' had-noddling his head, blasting8 up his ees, drowing out his hands, telling to hiszell, and then telling out hard.

BET. Well; and 'ot did a' zay?

RAB. The goodger9 knows what, vor nort could I make o'te. A squat down upon the mores 10 of a great oak, and look'd stark at some mose 11 a' had a' grabbl'd 12 vro the tree; and I zim a' zaid words to 't, before a venn'd 13 it away, and zeem'd in a brown stiddy, poking his stick in the ground. I peep'd to zee if a' was making any zircles 14 or gallitraps, when up a' rak'd, 15 all to wance, and vetch'd a vege 16 to

1 Jobs.

10 Roots.

2 Candle-light.

11 Moss.

3 A great number.

12 Grappled.

4 An exclamation.

13 Threw.

5 Given.

14 Circles.

6 A little while ago.

15 Rose up in a hurry.

7 Wild gesticulation.

16 To retire a few steps,

8 Lifting up his eyes.

in order to rush on

9 The Devil.

with more violence.

thicka plashet¹—where you and me zeed the Jackee Lanthern—and took a bard² out o' a springle, that zumbody had a' teel'd;³ a' took en in his hand, and told to en, as thof a' had a'be telling to a Christian, and bid en do zum 'ot, I didn't hear what, and the poor fool whisk'd away wi' half his errand. Oh! (with a shake of his head) what a pity 'tis, vor he's an over good man.

BET. Zo, you zim he's maz'd, I'll warnes?⁴
—No more, look y' d'ye zee, than you be:—
maz'd! a kether.⁵

RAB. Na, dant'e be mift: I zay no more than all the parish zaith, fegs! I'm sure I'd crope upon my hands and knees to do en good, at midneart, as zoon as mid-day. Well, but what dost thee make o'te?

Bet. Why, I be o' Dame's meend.⁸ Her zaith, that wan o' his larning vends oceans o' things that gee en pleasure, that other volks see nort in; and zum that may gall⁹ en, and put en out a' zorts, that other volks make nort o'—and when you zim he's telling to hiszell, a' may be zaying his prayers out a book.

RAB. Like enew, zure; but I was a' gest a' was going to conjure.

1 Quagmire.

6 Offended.

2 Bird.

7 Creep.

3 Set.

8 Mind.

4 Warrant.

9 Vex.

5 Forsooth.

Bet. The dickins! If I thort a' coud conjure, I'd beg en to conjure the evil spirit out o' my Measter into the Red Zea. Thee casn't think, Rab, what a ranticomscour us ha' had to our houze to-day. If I'd a' vound the Pason at home, by now, I had a' be up, and told en all about it, fegs!

RAB. Prithee, what was the tantarra 3 about? Bet. Why, you must know, the puggin4 end o' our linney, 5 next the pig's loose, 6 geed way, and was slewring 7 down: Measter was standing by the tallet, 8 when the cob wall 9 slewer'd 10 away, all to wance, and made such a stew'r, 11 that a' com'd in, heal'd with brist 12 and grute. 13 "Bet," zays a', "go, vet me the lattin 14 cup o' best drink, the pilm's 15 a' go down my droat, and I'm jist a' mickled. 16"

RAB. Choak'en!—a' hath always zom pretence vor gulging¹⁷ in a morning; if a' dothn't leve off, a' will soon turn up his trotters—I'll tell en but that.

- An exclamation.
 Uproar.
- 3 Disturbance.
- 4 Gable end.
- 5 A lean to.
- 6 Pig's sty.7 Falling down.
- 8 Hay loft.
- 9 Mud wall.
- 10 Gave way.
- 11 Cloud of dust.

12 Small dust or prickles of furze. Granula-

ted earth.

- 13 The earth from a mud wall. *Grute*, from the French crotte.
- 14 Tin cup.
- 15 Flying dust.
- 16 Choked.
- 17 Drinking.

Bet. Dame was zot down to brextfast, and zaid to en: "You had better drink tey, Jahn Hogg." "Burn your tey," a' yerr'd1 to her, "'tis the ruin o' the nation. If I was a king, I'd make et treason to drink ort but organ² tey." Then, looking about upon me: "Why dont'e budge?" "I thort," quoth I, "you was going to drink tey?" "You thort! Marry come up-I'm come to a fine pass indeed," a' zaid, "to be hamper'd and allowanc'd by Dame and you, what I shall eat, and what I shall drink. I'll be Measter, or turn the doors out to winders."3 Wi' that, the witherly dolt4 up wi' his voot, and yenn'd5 over the tey-kittle, that was but jist hove off the vire, and vlosh'd the water over Dame-a' takes the teypot, and stram-bang8 thicka9 goes out o' the winder, and tore, 10 I don't know how many, quarrils 11 of glass.

RAB. All the better: let en pay for his quarrels.

Bet. How smart you be !—Then he geed the tadle zich a jet,¹² that all the things was walving¹³ over; and if I hadn't a' be quick and

1	Swore.	8	To fling v	riolently.
2	Pennyroyal.	9	Thickee,	this;
3	Windows.		Thicka, th	hat.
4	Clumsy person.	10	Broke.	
5	Threw.	11	Panes.	quarries
6	Lifted.	12	Push.	7
7	Spilt.	13	Rolling.	

ruged¹ it away, a' wid a' jet over the board, and a' torn it all to shords.² Charming good cream as thick as stodge, a' shod³ and slotter'd⁴ all about; and the bread and butter, that many a poor soul wid a' jumpt abew⁵ ground vor, lied smeeching⁶ and vrizzing in the vire. A' slat and scat¹ the things about as thof the goodger was in en. Wan wid a' thort a' was begayged.⁵ Never was sich a stirridge⁰ sit up for nort.

RAB. Rabbit ¹⁰ en! If I'd a' be Dame, I'd a claw'd the jolterhead ¹¹ o' en. I'd zee and break the lowering ¹² lubber of his fractious tricks. Good, now, what did her zay to et?

Bet. Nort but sift 13 and look'd like wan quailing 14 away; and then a' call'd her a purting 15 glumpot, and out a' march'd, and slamm'd the door arter en, as thof a' wid a' torn down the dorns. 16

Rab. Gemini! Wid any body, but a crowdling sokey, 17 take it, to be kerpt 18 over by zich a piggish looby? I didn't think Dame was

1 Put away hastily.

2 Sherds.

3 Spilt.

4 Slopped.

5 Above.

6 Making an offensive smell.

7 To throw things about with violence, in an ill temper.

8 Bewitched.

9 Commotion.

10 An oath.11 Blockhead.

12 A down-looking fellow.

13 Sighed.

14 Fainting; being depressed.

15 A sulky person.

16 Door posts.

17 Timid creature.

18 Kept under.

zich a sart and fair tottle.¹ Why don't her take a good smart rad for en?

Bet. Oh Cryle, Rab! her ban't the totle you zeem; but her thinks if her was to begin to haggy² wi'en there would be no hoa.³ Why, her ne'er so much as drows et vore to en. Dear me, that zich a vitty⁴ tidy body should vall to his lot—wan so stewardly,⁵ that can turn her hand to any kindest thing: and good now, though her looketh zo puny and pinikin,⁶ her doth more than wan that zeems to lowster,⁷ and work harder. Her be always clean, if it be but in a touser.⁸ "Cleanliness," her saith, "is next to Godliness."

RAB. I'll tell thee what our Pason zaid—I was told it by wan who heard en speak the words—"Farmer Hogg's wife is a pattern; her and her houze be always in order. At zome places where I come, there's sich a wiping and righting, before wan can zit down, it's no comfort to call upon 'em."

Bet. Very true, zure. I was at a neighbour's, t'other day, whan the Pason call'd; and as zoon as her glimps'd en, her jumpt up, and cried, "Gracious! here comes our Pason:" and

1 Soft and fair fool.

2 To argue.

· 3 End, stop.

4 Neat.

5 Managing.

6 Delicate.

7 Bustle about.

8 A coarse apron.

her whipp'd¹ aside to turn her apern—then her vell to sweeping, and clapping aside the things—and mit en, looking twenty ways to wance, wi': "Zure, Zir, you be come to a cruel² untidy houze."

RAB. Wan thing, your Dame is always at home: you ne'er zee her at any high-de-lows³ or gapesnests⁴ in the parish.

BET. Her hath no junketing 5 doings, nor ne'er go'th aneest 6 they that ha'; nor widn't care if her ne'er budg'd over the drekstool 7 from wan week to another:—a drap o' tey, and a book, is all the comfort her hath, poor soul! and that is wishee-washee stuff.

RAB. I've a' herd, her had a power of sweethearts where her com'd vro'. Hard to go thro' the wood, and take a crooked stick at last. Zure her couldn't lov' en?

BET. Lov' en? quotha! No, that's a zure thing.

RAB. Why did her ha' en then?

BET. Why? Because her coudn't say nay to her vather; the jail take the old curmudgeon, 2 zay I. I didn't care if the old tantarabobos had en A geed a good stub 10 wi' her, too.

1 Turned hastily aside. 6 Nigh.

2 Sad. 7 Threshold.

3 Feastings and merry 8 Covetous fellow. makings. 9 The Devil.

4 Sights. 10 Portion or sum of

5 Private entertainments. money.

RAB. A hugeous heave up,1 truly, if her hadn't a varding, to marry zich a stingy hunks²—zich a swaggering, hectoring bragadocia.³

Bet. Ah! me. Before her married, her was as peart as a bard, and as cherry as a crop o' fresh apple blooth; but now, poor soul, her's like a daver'd rose—sweet in the midst o'te.

Bab. Aye, the blue of the plum's ago, zure!
Bet. I meend when a brought her home,
how her was admir'd. Her mother com'd wi'
her, and a comely, bowerly o oman her was, as
wan should wish to zee—a notable, thoroughpaced, stewardly body; and widn't turn her
back to any wan for making squab-pies, and
pot-and-puddings.

RAB. Volks zaid her was rather too high to instep;¹¹ a little grainee,¹² or zo. The vather was a ghastly figure, wi' his bandy legs, and shewl-a-mouth¹³ hatchet face:¹⁴—I couldn't abide en.

Bet. He was sich a hen-huswife, wan coudn't

1	A great piece of good	10	Handsome, of a cer-
	fortune.		tain size. Buirdly,
2	Miser.		(Scottish,) stoutly
3	Braggart.	11	Haughty. [built.
4	Lively.	12	Proud, ill-tempered.
5	Ruddy.	13	Shovel-mouthed.
6	Blossom.	14	Ugly face; such as
7	Withered.		might be hewn out ?
8	Bloom.		of a block by a
9	Remember.		hatchet Johnson.

turn a dish vor en—always something to zay: a' know'd how everything was to be do, better than any body else; but I don't know anything a' was good vor, but making a wassail bowl.

RAB. Crymanias,² Bet! I wish instead of Dame the Measter had thicka stare-bason tugster,³ Moll Teazy. Zich a riff-raff taterdemalion⁴ was good enew vor en. Her's another gess⁵ 'oman than Dame—none of your mealymouth wans; but, tit for tat, wid a' geed en as good as a' brought, and laff'd,⁶ and tack'd her hands at en, when a' was in his vagaries. Thicka spitfire wid a' vitted en to a T.

Bet. Aye, that her wid, with a sissarary. 7 But had he ever a simathin 8 vor thicka harum-scarem solvegè? 9

RAB. I's, zure, a' had a sneeking kindness vor her, that s a zure thing. It's much, how a' could like zich a yoky molekit¹⁰—zich an unsouterly malkin.¹¹ A' wanted me to be his gubs,¹² thank en; but his- uncle stat¹³ the match. I'm mistake if a' hathn't a hankering arter her now.

- 1 A liquor made of apples, sugar, and ale.
- 2 Gracious.
- 3 Bold looking woman.
- 4 Ragged, dirty.
- 5 Sort.
- 6 Laughed.

- 7 Certiorari.
- 8 Liking, partiality.
- 9 A term of reproach.
- 10 A yellow, unhealthy looking person.
- 11 Wench, a dirty woman.
- 12 Go between.
- 13 Stopt.

BET. Oh! no, no, nort in that: rather at daggers drawing. Why, the mother and darter rag1 and scan2 en, whenever they come atwart en. I coudn't think what 'twas vor, they ballyragg'd en zo bevore. It 'twas but last week that ever was, I was coming home vrom milking, and zeeing zo many volks in the Churchtown, at their hatches3 and winders, and about the alehouse door-Gracious, what's towards now, thort I.-When I com'd vore, what should it be but the old Mall trimming up my Measter, and yerring to en, "Haw you! haw you!" and he wringing up his vist to her, and swearing he would her bevore her betters, and trounce her, if there was any law in the land. Her bust4 out a laffing, "What, for zaying, 'Haw you?' Why, I'll zay, P goth vor purse, and vor proud, and vor puppy; now, make the most o'te:" and drawing out her voot and clapping her arms a kimbow (like a bobbing Joan), her defied he and his law. "I hate," quoth the darter, "a hollow-hearted, black-liver'd rogue." another word, Dem,5" zays a, "and I'le pull your poll." "Do, if you dare; ye daren't."

RAB. Aye, the young one is the very daps⁶ o' her mother; another such a hauch-a-

¹ Chide and Scold.

⁴ Burst.

² Scoff.

⁵ Hussy.

³ Half door of a cottage.

⁶ Likeness.

mouth'd,¹ hagaging,² maundering³ drab. Woe betide the man that hath her!

Ber. Take 'em every way, I dan't think they have their peer.

RAB. For make-bates,⁴ I'll warrant. It wasn't vor want o' a good will, the litter-legg'd trapes⁵ hadn't a' blow'd a coal between you and me; if it hadn't been vor you, I'd a' made her cry pecavi—I'd a' made her eat her words, that I wid.

Bet. I shou'd a' cry'd my eyes out, to a' be made the talk o' the parish, and rail'd⁶ over by they that don't care what lies they tell.

RAB. Mall can speak truth zometimes. Her did, when her zaid, I lov'd Betty Berry's little vinger better than any 'oman on the vace o' the earth. Her might have zaid, I lov'd the very ground her went upon.

Bet. Co, a fig's end⁷! Well, I must trudge home: I'm a' guess, I've a' be lack'd ⁸

RAB. Why, stay a crume. When I twitch'd ye by the gownd, yesterday, coming out o' church, why didn't ye look about? I wid a' treated ye with zome special buns and topping ale at the "Pigeons." How did I loss thee?

1 To speak with a broad accent is called in Devonshire, hauching.

- 2 Passionate.
- 3 Grumbling
- 4 Mischief makers.
- 5 An idle, slatternly woman.
- woman.
 6 Talked over.
- 7 Nonsense.
- 8 Looked for.
- 9 A little bit.

BET. Dame and me didn't go the leach¹ way, but down along the lane, and over the vreath,² and made the best o' our way home. Good now, her can't abide zich may-games and high-de-lows³ Sabbath days. Gracious! what a hurly-burly 'twas! How the volks veased⁴ out o' church—higgeldy-piggeldy, helter-skelter: zich jitting,⁵ driving, and dringing.⁶ I thort no other, but I shou'd be squat 7 to death. I'll never go to church of a Rail Zinday again, I'll be bound vor't.

RAB. It was who shou'd get virst to the "Pigeons," to get a good place.

Bet. Our zeat was zo full as it cou'd cram, when who shou'd come in but Joice Jollard and Ruth Rumpson, and wedg'd themselves in, panking and weezing, zo red as two roost cocks, tittering, and vanning wi' their hats, as thof 'twas cruel buldering,8 quelstering' weather.

RAB. That was to show their high-peak'd loady ¹⁰ heads, wi' a wallage ¹¹ o' hair, plaster'd with mort ¹² and flour, bevore, and a thumping nug ¹³ behind, bedizzen'd with rory tory ¹⁴ rib-

1 Common way.

8 Sultry.

2 A low hedge.

9 Hot.

3 Feastings.

10 High-dressed, loaded.

4 Hurried, drove.

11 A lump. 12 Lard.

5 Pushing against each other.

13 A bunch.

6 Squeezing.

13 A bunch.

7 Squeezed, crushed.

14 Tawdry.

bons, like garters hang'd up in a vair, and thingembobs in their ears.

Bet. Why, good now, that's the tip o'the mode. I'me told that they join vor a red-book that tells 'em the fashions: What dost think o' that?

RAB. Their bacon faces ban't vit to play tricks wi. I heard an old 'oman zay, her long'd to gee 'em a good scat in the chaps.¹

Bet. They never left edging and vedging² till they'd a' shoulder'd themselves up to me: I wish'd 'em to Jericho: I didn't know which way to look: I zim'd every body was gaping at es.

RAB. I was, vor wan. There, that I, is the sweet lily of the valley, peeping under its leaves: and there is tansy 3 barefaced; or a rose and a poppy.

BET. I vound my colour rising, and zeeing you pat another, and look at me, that made my vace burn: and the more I tried to help it, the worse 'twas; I could do nort but keep my eyes on the ground. I heard 'em, whispering and tittering. I'le warnes they thort I was dash'd to zee zich vine volks as they.

RAB. If you had but a zeed 'em, whan they com'd out o' church, colting and giggling like

1 Slap in the face. 4 Nothing.

2 Sideling. 5 Daunted.

3 A strong-smelling plant. 6 Frolicking.

two hobby-horses, with their pie-pick'd,1 skittering flimzy gownds, vagging2 in the wind, or reeping3 in the mux. "What!" zays wan, "is that Joice Jollard and Ruth Rumpson, zo taring4 vine?"-"What a flash they cut," zays another; "if their mothers was to peep out o' their graves they widn't know their own children so transmogrified.5 Their mothers wared 6 their hair vrapp'd7 back with a vorehead cloth, and little baize rochets⁸ and blue aperns.⁹" Well sose,10 what will this world come to!

BET. Look zee! look! there they be, tramping away across the arish up to Rail! Aye, and there go'th 11 the crowder 12 and a gubby 13 way en, scouring along.

RAB. Well, Bet, you'll go to zee the wraxling 14? Every body keeps holiday to day. Thee shall daunce vor the cep, and I'll warnes you'll git en.

BET. I can't, zure.

RAB. Well! very well!

BET. You be a' purt, now?

- 1 Of different colours, as pie-balled.
- 2 Flapping.
- 3 Trailing on the ground.
- 4 Very.
- 5 Metamorphosed.
- 6 Wore.
- 7 Drawn tight.
- 10 Well-a-day. 11 Goes.
 - 12 Fiddler.

9 Aprons.

13 A posse, a number.

8 Little short cloaks, com-

monly made of blue

cloth.—See Glossary.

14 Wrestling.

RAB. Fegs, Bet, I gess thee widn't1 meend my purting: but tell me, then, why thee widn't go?

BET. Dant'e be pettish, and I wol. Why, I be gwain² to Thatchcot, to zee my old gaffer and gonmer.3

RAB. When wot go? How long virst? I can't tell: I've a good many chewers to do; and here I be, drilling4 away my time.

Prithee, dant'e be long about 'em; I'll meet thee here a leet odds of two o'clock, and bring zome Rail buns in my pocket.

Bet. Not vor me; I'me a glut way em.

1 Would not.

2 Going.

3 Grandfather and grandmother.

4 Dawdling. 5 Had more than enough, satiated.

END OF THE FIRST PART,

DEVONSHIRE DIALECT.

PART II.

Robin. I was a' gest thee widn't a' come, as et began to misslee.¹

Betty. I can't zay I like to walk in zich vady,² hazy weather: I zem es shall ha' a slottering³ walk o'te.

RAB. This dribbl'ing⁴ rain will break up bam by.⁵ Look'e, d'ye zee, there's blue enew in the sky to make thee a rochet.

Bet. Po, your eyes mistree.

RAB. I can zee, tho,' thee has a cruel pritty gownd on.

¹ To rain in small drops, like a mist.

² Damp.

³ Dirty, wet.

⁴ Small rain.

⁵ By and by.

⁶ Dim-sighted.

Bet. I've a' waddl'd1 en up vor vear of a scud,2 vor if it's wet 'twill cockle.3

RAB. 'Tis an over modest colour, spick and span new,4 is'n it? You must pay beverage,5

Bet. I zay zo, too: why, I bot6 en last Ridmas 7 come twelvemonth, of a runabout. Dame zaith, I was catch'd by the vinger. There's many scovy 8 places in en, it wan't wear well: I shall ha' more wit next. I'm verv chary over en; it never zees zin, but upon choice times. Come! pray dont'e clum 10 en zo.

RAB. What, musn't a body meel 11 way en? -'Tisn't a bit foust 12 nor a voul vinger upon en.—Dost know thee hast a' put on thy hat backsevore 13 ?

Bet. No: have es? Aye, and my cloak inzide out. Well, us shan't be pixy14 led. I zem, Rab, es had better keep along the lane, it's cruel poaching 15 in the arish?: bezides, thicka bull looketh zo shug.16

1 Folded.

2 Shower.

3 Wrinkle.

4 Quite new, first worn.

5 A treat upon wearing a suit of new clothes.

6 Bought.

7 Roodmas-

8 Thin, uneven.

9 Careful.

10 Paw or handle.

11 Meddle.

12 Tumbled or soiled.

13 The hind part before. 14 Fairy-led.

15 Swampy.

See Glossary. 16 Sly, angry. RAB. Dost think h'll bush1 thee?

Bet. I wan't trust en; I wan't go aneest en, vor ever zo much.

RAB. I'le go and veaze² en away.

Bet. Oh! no, dant'e! vor vear he shou'd gee thee a poke.³ Do, Rab, zee: dothn't he look vor all the world like my Measter?

RAB. It isn't good your Measter heard you. Well, how go'th it at home: pritty vitty, or zo, zo?

Bet. Oh! nort but jouring and maundernig all day long: every thing went wee-wow. Whan a com'd home to dinner, the dog rin'd out to meet en, tweedling es tail. "Stand a war, wo't?" zaid a, and geed en a voot that made en youl again. If a had sparables in hes shoes, a must a lamst and zo es had, with a sissarary. I hove off the crock and lade up the porridge; a was ranish for vor es dinner, and zo skimish that nort wid please en. The

1 Toss.

9 Out of the way.

2 Drive.

10 Kick.

3 Gore, to pierce with

11 Howl.

a horn.

12 Nails.

4 Scolding.

13 Lamed.

5 Grumbling.

14 Pot.

6 Wrong.

15 Ravenous.

7 Ran.

C C........

8 Wagging.

16 Squeamish.

meat was zamzau'd¹ and boil'd to jowds,² (and no marvel:) Why did a' lacky³ zo long, and keep it zimmering in the crock? The dumplins was claggy⁴ and pindy⁵; charming plum⁶ bread, a' zaid, was a' clit7 for want o' barm; the cheeze was vinnied 8 and buck'd; the cyder was keemy 9 and had a vinegar twang;—

RAB. What next?-

Bet. Why, the small beer was a' jarr'd, and thick as puddle; the ale was a' pirl'd, 10 and dead as dish-water—a'd as lief 11 drink the addle gutter—when, to be zure, the fob 12 was abow the cup. "Pray," said a, "haul et out in a glass, that a body may zee what 'tis;—I want ha thicka glass, gee me t'other." Howsomever, bad as 'twas, a' made shurt 13 to gulk 14 down a quart o'te, and eat a good sliver 15 of vlesh, and a swapping lunch 16 of pudding. "What," quoth a' to Dame, "art glumping 17? I zeem you be a' purt 18 way your dinner, and ha' no stomach, make wise 19; but I'll eat vire if you

1	Overdone.	10 Flat.
2	Rags.	11 As soon.
3	Stay.	12 Froth.
4	Glutinous, sticky.	13 Shift.
5	Mouldy.	14 Swallow.
6	Light.	15 Slice.
7	Heavy.	16 Large piece.
8	The green mould	17 Sullen.
	in cheese.	18 Offended.
9	Not sound.	19 Make believe.

havn't a' vit zome vrozzy¹ or other, and this is your orts,² vried up for me: I'll ha' none of your cauch³: and he jet away the cow-heels off the board. I told en, ware⁴ a' know d it or no, my Dame was above doing ort in a hugger-mugger⁵ manner. "What then," zaid a,' "was all the hurry-scurry when I com'd home?" "To take up your dinner," zays I. "Aye, to be zure," says a.' "Here, Mrs. Prate-a-pace, I've a zom'ot to zay to you: I vind you be zich a blab, that there isn't the leastest thing ado in my house, but, by your tittle-tattle, it is blazed all over the parish. You must tell every body that I was bosky⁶ and vall d¹ into the mudpool."

RAB. What, did a' sure enew?

Bet. Is zure, that a' did, and wid a' be buddl'd, s' if Dame and I hadn't a' tugg'd hard to hawl en out; a' had no stroil sto help hiszell. "Why," quoth I, "you want offer to zay zo? I'm zure I ne'er squeak d lo a word o'te to any living zoul."—"You tell a stramming li lie," zaid a': just then zomebody dump'd to the door,

1 Nice thing.

2 Fragments, refuse.

3 Mess, a nasty mixture.

4 Whether.

5 Clandestine.

6 Tipsy.

7 Fell.

8 Suffocated.

9 Strength.

10 Spoke.

11 Great.

and in stumpt¹ Gaffer What-ye-call-en, that kicketh² zo? I can't het es name?

RAB. Winkingham, that goeth about to catch wants 3?

BET. The zame. "What," zays a' to the old man, "be vou come sneving vor a dinner, and to slock my sarvant to gee what isn't hers to gee?" "What me, Measter? You put hard upon an old man: my comfort is, not a living zoul will zay zo but yourzell: I be a' come to catch your wants to supply my own." Now, thort I, I'll be to mits vi you, Measter, to gap or to stile; zo I went right vore to the old man, "Good now, Gaffar, did I tell you that Measter was drunk, last Vriday, and valled into the mud-pool, and that Dame and I lugg'd en out?"

RAB. Bevore George! you was quits wi' en: you nick'd8 en.

Bet. The old man grizzl'd9: "No, zure, lovey, I ne'er heard the least inkling 10 o'te:" and away he turn'd to the winder: I cou'd zee vor what, by the juggling 11 o' his shoulders. It was jist upon the tip o' my tongue—"Shall

1 To press the foot	7 Even.
hard.	8 Caught him at a lucky
2 Stammers.	moment.
3 Moles.	9 Laughed.

4 Sneaking. 10 Hint or information.

5 To entice. 11 Shaking.

6 Give.

I ax1 any body else?" but Dame geed me a look, and I was glad to get away.

RAB. I shuld a' bust 2 wi' laffing.

BET. It was no laffing sport for poor Bat; a' vetched out hes mad upon he, and clapperclaw'd3 en vinely. A' heard Measter was in his tantarems,4 and had a' be up in the chamber, looking down dro' the squinches in the planching.6 and was slinking7 down, tiptoe, so gingerly,8 shrumping9 his shoulders, that he mist his vooting, and com'd down rouse, 10 stair arter stair, to the bottom. Measter glimps'd en, and vall'd aboard o'en like a bull-dog. "Here, vou ragamuffin rabscallion,11 where be you skulking to? 'Twas you, was it, trapping 12 over head? What did you there, michard 13? Odswilderakins 14 speak! or I'll maul thy jaws:" and wi' that a' geed en zich a whister-clister,15 as made es eyes strike vire.

RAB. The glittish 16 gorbelly 17 pig, I wish zomebody would maul he zoundly. I wish I'de

1 Ask.

2 Burst.

3 Tongue-beat, scolded.

4 Vagaries. 5 Chinks. 6 Floor.

7 Stealing, to creep slily.

8 Softly. 9 Shrugging. 10 With a great noise,

11 Terms of reproach. 12 Walking.

13 Micher, a lazy loiterer.

14 An exclamation.

15 Box in the ear. 16 Cruel, savage.

17 Big-bellied.

the trimming o'en, the slouching lubber, odds danget, I'de lerrick en to the true ben. 3

Bet. Oh! Jaykle,⁴ this was but a vlea bite, if you did but zee how a' will fulch⁵ en and thump en about zometimes; and the leet windle⁶ darent blubber or weeny,⁷ but siffeth and look'th zo pittis,⁸ 'tis enew to make a body's heart ache.

RAB. I'm zure it hath made my heart ache to zee the crisimore, by peep o'day, in his leet scrimp lo jerkin, like a bard that isn't flush, trouncing in the mux after the hosses, squash, squash, stratted lo up to the huxens lo in plid, the innocent vace o'en like basam, for and hes poor hands plim'd up wi' chilbladders, lo hair stivering lo an end wi' the wind, and a drap hanging to the nose o'en like a conkable.

Bet. Aye, and when a' com'th home stiv'd²⁰ wi' the cold, a' can't come neest²¹ a blunk o' vire, and may be, nort but a crab²² o' dry bread vor hes supper.

Clownish booby.
 Chastise.

12 Floundering.13 Splashed.

3 Truth of it.

14 Hocks, ankles.

4 Exclamation.

15 The red heath broom.

5 A blow or push.

16 Swelled.

6 See Glossary.

17 Chilblains.

7 Cry.

18 Standing.

8 Sorrowful.

19 Icicle.

9 Little creature. 10 Short. 20 Starved or shivering. 21 Near.

11 Feathered.

21 Near. 22 Crust. RAB. No marvel he looketh so thirl, poor boy. I met en at the mill, t'other day, and a' begg'd of all love they wid zend en away wi' his grist, or a' should be bang'd wan a' com'd home, vor staying; zo I let en ha' my steeming, vor I was there bevore he. Well, sose! no body knows to whose take their poor children may come; hes mother doted upon en; a' was the nestle draft³; a' could but jist daggle about when her died; a' was a poor puny thing, her had an ocean o' trouble way en: and her, poor zoul, took by upon the death o' her husband, and ne'er gooded arter.

BET. I've made a shurt⁶ to larn en his letters, and his prayers; and wan day a' was kneeling to my knees, zaying arter me, "Give es this day our daily bread," a ream'd⁷ up his neck, wi' his sweet begging eyes, and zaid, zart in my ear, "Mayn't es ax vor a crume⁸ o' butter 'pon't?" I hugg'd en in, and zaid, "Be a good boy, and you wan't lack butter 'pon your bread."

RAB. Pretty zoul! a' made rare gammet⁹ vor es at the "Pigeons" last neart, whan a' brought his Measter's great coat. Hogg was

1 Lean, thin, meagre.

2 My turn.

3 The last pig in a litter.

4 Trudge.

5 Prospered.

6 Shift.

7 Stretched.

8 Little bit.

9 Fun, sport.

then dwalling¹ and palavering away about religion, as a' always dith whan a' is half ago: "Come," zis a' to Bat, "stand vore,² put your hands behind your back, and zay the chief end o' man."

Bet. A pritty time—in an alehouse. Good now, a' wager'd with Dame, that h'd teach en "The chief end o' man" zooner than her shou'd his catechise.

RAB. Zo a' went on : "Who made thee?" -"God," said Bat, and nodded his head. "What did God make thee vor?" The boy was at a stann.3 "Speak, mumchance,4 what dost stand digging the head, and shuckening.5 as if thee was louzy: speak, mooncalf, 'Ot did God make thee vor?" Bat look'd up zo harmless, and zaid, "To carry dung to Crowbear.6" Bless es, what a hallaballoo7 was set up; es cried a' was right, hes Measter look'd brinded,8 and the poor boy bost out a crying, when Hogg zaid, "You dunderheaded stunpole,9 you drumble drone, 10 I wish I'de a good smart switch, I'de lerrick thee till I made thee twine 11 like an angle-twitch.12"

- 1 Talking tediously.
 2 Stand forward.
- 3 At a stand still.
- 4 Silent person, or one
- resolved not to speak.
- 5 Shuffling.
- 6 A place near Torring-
- 7 Noise. [ton.

- 8 Spoken of Animals; fierce, like a bull.
- 9 A thick-headed, stupid fellow.
- 10 Humble bee, or drone.
- 11 Twist.
- 12 Blindworms.

Bet. If a' had a' be at home a' wid a' be wapp'd¹ and bang'd to zome tune.

RAB. A' dardn't do it now; a' might as good eat es nails. Es vingers itch'd to gee 'n a tuck, and vor what? Wasn't a' right? I' zure, I've a' zeed en mornings rare² and evelings³ late, go to Crowbear a lade,⁴ and back lary.⁵

Bet. And zometimes a rideth thicka lamming, galaganting hoss, that's enew to julk en to death.

RAB. Jist bevore candle-teening, the Pason peep'd in upon es, to put us in meend 'twas Zinday neart; and Hogg began dwalling away about the wickedness o' the times, and rind on a long rigmarole⁹ of grievances. The Pason clapt hes hand upon hes shoulder, and zaid: "He that mends himself mends every thing, zo far as concerns him." Hogg pouch'd¹⁰ out hes mouth, look'd glum, and didn't know 'ot to make o'te; but keep'd spuddling¹¹ in the vire, and zoon arter shabb'd¹² off.

Bet. I believe a' is a ragged and roasted amongst you well a' fine, 13 but es pay vort.

1 Slapped.

8 Shake.

2 Early.

9 Round-about story.

3 Evening.

10 Poked.

4 Laden.
5 Empty or unladen.

11 Poking and raking.12 Sheered or stole off.

6 Large.

13 To a good purpose.

7 Large and awkward .- See Glossary.

Outel doors a' meets wi' hes match, but indel doors a' is like a thing untied. I'll gee thee a sample:- a Vriday I went to winding,1 and took the boy wi' me, to cry turr,2 and vease away the pigs from nuzzling in the corn; and if the wind be wanted, a' can whistle charming. It was a tingling³ frost, quite a glidder⁴ all down along the lane. The juggy-mire⁵ was one clitch⁶ o' ice; et blunk'd,⁷ and the wind huffl'd8 and hulder'd it in wan's face. I was in a sad taking; no going to the lew zide you know; I must vace it, though my lips and nose was a' spray'd,9 and my arms as spraged 10 as a longcripple.11 Well, by the time us had ado, the wind was ago lye,12 and 't had a' eved,13 zo that I was a' stugg'd14 in the mux. Cryle! I never was in zich a pickle bevore, my coats was a dugg'd 15 up, and my shoes healed in plid.16 When es com'd home, Measter was a' ream'd out in the zittle,17 routing18 bevore a great

aved

Winnowing.
 An expression used in driving pigs.

3 Sharp.

4 Water frozen on the

ground.
5 Bog or quagmire.

5 Bog or quagmire. 6 Mass.

7 Snowed.

8 Wind not blowing

steadily.

9 Chapped.

10 Spotted.11 Viper.

12 Gone down.

12 Gone down

13 Thawed.

14 Stuck.15 Draggled.

16 Mire.

17 A high-backed seat com-

mon in farm houses.

18 Snoring.

rouzing¹ vire, enew to swelter² en: Dame zitting by, upon a cricket,³ knitting; and zeeing Bat a' shrumpt⁴ up wi' the cold, her meaned and nodded to en a' should come by the vire: the little pixy went to dring⁵ hiszell into the end o' the zittle, and was a' jamm'd, a' coudn't get back nor vore. Measter raked up⁶ and glinted¹ upon en: "Hey!" zays a,' "marry come up, my dirty cousin, why dant'e come and zit down in the zittle at wance, cheek by jowl, hail fellow well met,—hey! tatterdemalion?" And, wi' that, a' geed en zich a wap⁶ in the niddick, that a' hit es head against the clovel,⁰ and made a bump in his brow. Dame coudn't help speaking.

RAB. I think her coudn't, zure enew. I wish I'de a' be there.

Bet. A' snubb'd up Dame, with "None of your documentizing.¹⁰ I was overlook'd" a' zaid, "when I took thicka spindle. You was virking ¹¹ me to take en, when I meast a' had a good stugged ¹² boy, vit vor zome ort, and this is vit vor nort." "Tis a poor fatherless

1 Blazing.

2 Melt.

3 A three-legged stool.

4 Shrunk.

5 Squeeze.

6 Awoke from sleep.

7 Looked askance.

8 Blow.

9 A large beam across the chimney in

farm houses.

10 Preaching or instruc-

11 Teazing. [tion.

12 Healthy, strong.

and motherless cheeld," I zaid. "Who bid you put in your oar?" a' zaid, "hold your wab,¹ Mrs. Tittlegoose, what d'ye mean by't, both of ye, to be always dinging² in my ears about thicka chat: ye uphold en, ye do zo: the dap I geed en widn't a' kill'd a vly; and here's a stirrege³ set-up for nort."

RAB. A pize take en-who zat it up?

Bet. Than a' fell a' walving and tossing, and turning from zide to zide, grunting and querking wi' his kibby beels: a' hath always zome glam or t'other, and makes em worse by es pomstering : a' is cruel a' troubled wi' pinswills and nimpingangs.

RAB. A' looketh a' loaded, 10 that's a sure thing; hes flesh is zo flabby and wangery. 11 A' turns off bevore Dame, zay I zaid zo.

BET. Oh that he meart! Arter a' had a' be dozing and zogging 12 zome time, a' called to Dame: "Come," zaith a,' "knuckle down on your marrow bones, and hawl off my stocking, it's a clitch'd 13 to my heel." Dame rucked 14

1 Tongue.

2 Harping, a corruption of din.

3 Tumultuous disorder, commotion.

4 Moaning, complaining.

5 Chang on the heals on

5 Chaps on the heels, or chilblains.

6 Sore.

7 Quackery.

8 Whitlows.

9 Boils.

10 Bloated.

11 Soft.12 The same as dozing.

13 Stuck.

14 Squatted.

down, and did but jist titch en, when a' scream'd out "Gingerly, gingerly: how unvitty and cat-handed you go about it, you doughcake, git'e gone you sontross;" and wi' that a' strode out es leg and draw'd her all along.

They come to Thatchcot.

Bet. Heyday! how is this? No christian zoul at home! Why where, in the name of goodness, can they be go to? I've a trapsed here to a vine purpose. What be you smirking about?

RAB. Why, dant'e know the old zouls keep all holidays, and eat pancakes Shrove Tuesday, bacon and beans Mace Monday,⁵ and rize to zee the zin dance Easter-day; and always go to Rail to spend their penny. Now, the wraxling is over by this time, and they be dancing away yor life.

Bet. Well, zure, my thoughts was a woolgathering, or I hadn't a com'd zo far. Where's the fun ov bringing a body here vor nort? How cou'd ye do zo?

RAB. Is the having your company vore and back nort? Why, I wid stand in the Torridge,

1 Awkward.

4 Threw.

2 Half-witted.

5 See Glossary.

3 Λ term of reproach.

6 Bewildered.

up to the neck in water, vor an hour, to ha' thy company vor the next.

Bet. Hey, sissa! what rodamantade be you telling? Well, I can't but zay—

RAB. Come, dant'e zet up thee back¹; thee 'now'st I tell no fibs; thee 'now'st how dearly I love thee, and that I've a lack'd a long time to tell thee zo.

Bet. Blindmares 2!

RAB. I've always a' found, that as zoon as you halseny³ I'm about to break my meend—whip sissa! you be ago, and then I code bite my tongue vor veasing you away.

Bet. Than, why wol ye? Come, let's hear no more o'te.

RAB. There now: you'll be the death o'me, that's a zure thing.

Bet. What whimzeys you ha': why do ye put yourzell in zich a pucker 4? we ha' always a' be good friends, and prithee, Rab, let's bide zo, and let me hear no more o'te.

RAB. (Taking her hand.) But I zay you shall: I've a' began, and fegs I'll not let thee go till thee hast a' heard me out.

Bet. I wol, I wol; but dont'e creem⁵ my hands zo.

RAB. I don't know what I do, or what I zay, Oh! Bet, thee casn't think what a way I

1 Be angry.

4 Fuss.

2 Nonsense.

5 Squeeze.

3 Guess or conjecture.

be in; many, many nearts I han't a' teen'd my eyes vor thinking o' thee. I can't live zo, 'tis ne'er the ne'er to tell o'te. I must make an end o'te zome way or t'other—I'm bent upon't, therevore no shilly shally; but look there, thee zeest the zin yender, a' most a' healed by thicka hill: now, if thee dosn't zay thee wot ha' me bevore a'tis quite clean and sheer a'gone out o' sight, zure and zure, and double zure, I will ne'er ax thee again, but go a solger,¹ and ne'er zee thee more.

Bet. Why thee wotten? You only make wise. You want go a solger? (She drops her head and weeps.)

RAB. Lock, lock, my precious! what dost cry vor?

Bet. I'm a poor moody-hearted, timersome body, and you scare one zo. I'm in a strange quandary ² If I'de no choice, I cou'd ha' no blame. If I zay iss I may be sorry, and if I zay no I may be sorry too; but zure, Rab, you, who ne'er hurted man, woman, or cheeld in your born days, can't use me badly.

RAB. Use thee badly! No, Bet, as zoon wid I claw out my own eyes: I must be mazed indeed.

Bet. Come, pray now, dant'e make a game of a body, nor go on so vreach³; but hear virst what I ha' to zay. You must know, Rab, that

1 Soldier. 2 Difficulty. 3 Violently.

the leet money I had a' croop'd¹ up, I've a be shirk'd² out o'; but it will ne'er goodee wi' they that did it—it will dwindle away. I'll tell thee how I was a' choused.

Rab. Good now, lovee, dant'e tell or think about it; us shall faggee well a' fine³ without it. I can work, and I will work; all my carking⁴ and caring wol be vor thee, and vor thee I could spend my heart's blood; every thing shall be as thee wot ha' et.

BET. Co, co, Rab, how you tell! Why, dant e think I'm sich a ninny-hammer to desire it. If it's ordain'd I shall ha' thee, I wol try to make thee a good wife. I dan't lack to be cocker'd. Hark! dan't I hear the bell lowering for eight o'clock? Tis, as I live: I shall ha' et whan I come home.

RAB. If I let thee go now, wot meet me here to-morrow, in the dimmet.⁶

Bet. No: to-morrow morning, arter milking time, I wol.

RAB. Zure?

Bet. Zure and zure: zo I wish thee a good neart.

RAB. Good neart, my sweeting; my dearee, good neart.

1 Saved up. 4 Care, anxious solicitude.

2 Tricked, cheated.5 Tolling the Curfew.3 Do well in the end.6 Twilight.

END OF THE SECOND PART.

DEVONSHIRE DIALECT.

PART III.

ROBIN and BETTY.

RAB. Where hast thee a' staid this longful time? I thort thee wid never come. I've a' be lolling 'pon the gate, and playing 'pon the Jewsharp, to drill away the time.

BET. I be vexed to the heart, Rab, to have made thee wait. Good now! Measter hath so many fiddle-faddles, 'tis enew to make a body crazy: so many lets, that 'tis well I be a' come now. 'Tis a good hour's work to zarve he and the pigs. Than a' is always twitting a body about wan's dress. I did but clap on a clean towser, and a' zaid, "Thee hast a' be in haste to go ever zo long, and it thee can stay to prink¹ theezell out."

RAB. Es ha' a fine day, and the zin blast hath a' bro't out the little creatures—Look! zee the merry dancers!

BET. What dost mean?

RAB. Why, dostn't zee them flies—how they hays, vigger in, cross over, round tag, and about they go. But what dost think of zeeing a butterfly, by now?

Bet. Zure you didn't, did 'e?

RAB. Is zure; and I'll tell thee the story of the butterfly and two little boys—

Bet. That liv'd in a vinegar bottle?

RAB. No, pixy, no; but pass'd while I was lolling 'pon the gate. The least o' the boys catch'd a butterfly, when the Pason come by and geed en a penny vor't, and let en go. The great boy cried "Half parts; open thy hand, Tommy; let's zee, is it a new King George?" "There's no C upon en," zaid Tommy. "Come, Tommy, let es scorce³: I'll gee thee this great grammer's⁴ pin, large enew to race⁵ strawberries 'pon; and I ha' at home a swinging ⁶ great apple, as 'yellow as gold, and so mealy, thee mayst brit⁷ en—thee shall ha' the virst bite o' en." "The virst bite o' en," quoth Tommy, "who's a fool, then?" "Why then," zaid the

¹ Terms in dances.

² Children's play, all standing in a ring.

³ Exchange.

⁴ Large.

⁵ String.

⁶ Huge.

⁷ Bruise.

big boy, "I'll gee thee a loady-nut1 to boot." "No, zure," zaid Tommy, "you shan't slock2 away my penny, I'll carry en home to mammy." And away a' went: the t'other venning and truckling stones arter en, crying, "Along, crosspot,3 along! Stand clear! I'll be to mits way ye, wan of these days, zee if I bant, and if I don't bang ye well and soundly." The butterfly hapt to come again and pitch: the boy catch'd en, jist as the Pason was coming back along; zo the brat takes es long grammer's pin, and spitted the poor thing, and carried en, bivering,4 to the Pason. The Pason called en a barbarous chat,5 and geed en a good fump6 in the back, stapt? 'pon the butterfly, and went on. The boy stood still, digging his head: "Woundy8 hard," a' zaid, "that wan should ha' a scute vor what t'other should ha' a fump in the back vor."

Bet. A' was sarv'd in hes kind: good enew yor'n.

RAB. But now to what I lack to tell about, my sweeting: shall us put in the banns next Zinday?

BET. I'm in a peck o' troubles about Dame.

 1 Double Nut.
 6 A slap.

 2 Entice.
 7 Stept.

 3 Ill-natured brat.
 8 Very.

 4 Quivering.
 9 Gift.

5 Child.

Zure, Rab, I can't think of leaving her, it awhile. Wan that's always ailing lacketh zome tender-hearted body about her. What will her do whan I be ago? Her's is a lone-some life.

RAB. I've a huge kindness vor Dame, as well as you; but think 'pon poor me too—Zimmeth¹ her breaketh apace?

Bet. Lack-a-day! zo her hath, since the death of her leet boy. Her life was bound up in en. 'Twas a sweet boy. Whan a' was in arms a' was the prittiest chubby cheeld, and a' wid crow whan a' was chirpt to, and volks wid stop me to kiss en.

RAB. 'Cause 'twas in your arms.

Bet. Is, to be zure!

RAB. Why, 'twas, now!

BET. Co! zo they did whan a' was avoot.—Well, 'twas a zweet babe, that 'twas; and 'twas enew to overzet her. Whan a' was bad, a' was zo handyfast,² that a' widn't suffer her out o' es sight neart nor day; and es constant cry was, "Mammy, mammy, where's mammy?" Whan a' zeed her wipe her eyes, a' zaid, "What doth mammy cry vor?" How it cut me to the heart to zee her whan a' died. "Sweet lamb," her zaid, "art thee dead? Wilt thee never open thee eyes again?" Than her drowd her-

sell upon her knees by the bedside, and vall'd upon her vace, with her arms stretch'd out. No belving¹ or hooting, nor did her make a preachment to the neighbours that com'd to zee her; better her had—I was a' gest her would pay for keeping it to herzell. Mercy, how her hath a' palled² when her hath come athort any of es playthings. Her hath had the grave freath'd³ all round, and set in rosen and sweet harbs, and every trick and turn her stealeth away to water 'em. I've a begg'd her, as if it was for an omes,⁴ that her widn't do it.— "Ah! Bet," her zaid, "this, and all my other cares, will zoon be over."

RAB. My heart is up in my mouth. How canst thee bare to live in zo much wishness⁵? Dant'e stay in't longer than needs must. Hast ye zaid ort to Dame?

Bet. I aim'd to bring et out in a round about way, but was so bewilder'd I hardly know'd what I zaid. Her look'd up on me so pittis: "And zo, Bet," quoth her, "you be gwain to leave me?—I wish thee well to do, but I'll tell thee what, a married life is a life of trial, the best vend it so." "I trust," quoth I, "I shall ha' one that will ne'er curb me." "And dost think," her said, "it needeth no

¹ Bellowing.

⁴ Alms.

² Turned pale..

⁵ Melancholy.

³ Wattled.

care to keep on a sewent1 pace in the right track, when the bridle is lereping² under voot?" Just then, in come Measter, looking zo gruff. He'd a' be eavesdropping, that's plain.—"Jhan Hogg," her zaid, " es be gwain to loss Bet." "Zo be like," a' zaid, "much good may do thicka that finds her. He'll ha' a bone to pick, zav I zaid zo. Her looketh as thof butter widn't melt in her mouth, but cheese want choak her. A good riddance, zay I. Let her pack fardle,3 bag and baggage. I don't care how zoon her was a' routed out o' my houze. Her hath a' feather'd her nest, and burnish'd well a' fine since her com'd here. Now let her marry, and live out o' care, up to the knees in clover; but, my life vor't, her'll find the odds o'nt. Winter and wedlock tames man and beast: get into Lob's Pound 4: marry in haste, and repent at leisure: begin with 'dearly beloved,' and end with amazement."

RAB. A son of a gun!

Bet. I told en, "I hoped to make no more haste than good speed." "Hey," zays a, "how cock-a-hoop es be. Pray, Mrs. Dapper, dant'e reckon your chickens bevore they be hatch'd: many things happen between the cup and the lip, and thee may'st be left in the lurch, et, vor

¹ Even, smooth.

³ Bundle.

² Trailing.

⁴ A prison.—See Johnson.

all I know, and vor all thee art so keen upon et. What, because Rab's father hath no chick nor cheeld but he, and hath a' croop'd up a little money, you cast¹ to ha' what a' hath. A' hath a' work'd hard and a' fared hard, and, my life vor't, will look 'pon his money twice, bevore he'll part way et in his lifetime. He's a strong, hale, old fellow; and I trow thicka that looks vor dead men's shoes may go wet shod, if not bare voot."

RAB. God be thank'd, a' is strong and hale. Why, a mooncalf, if a' wid wish me a mischief, it wid be that my vather meart die. Money es may get, but not another vather.

Bet. Why, good now: a' measures other volk's corn by es own peck. I can't think what's a' come to en; a' is more ill-condition'd and frumpish² than ever a' was—huffing and dinging all the day long.

RAB. I'll be hang'd if a' dothn't bear thee a bull's neck³ vor what thee zaid to the old want-catcher.

Bet. I do but think how a' wid trounce me, if a' cou'd ha' any hank upon me. What'e think a' zaid? "That a couple o' brats, or a broken bone, wid make es as poor as church mees, and bring es to the parish; that it was a

¹ Look forward.

⁴ Handle.

² Brow beating.

⁵ Mice.

³ A grudge.

ourning shame the law should suffer such as es to marry, and bring a charge upon the parish, rise the poor rates, and make such as he help to maintain 'em.''

RAB. What doth a' mean by't? I'll make en eat es words. He help to maintain es? I ha' no patience. Let me tell en, we come of a better havage¹ than he did; all our generations ware good livers, and justmen-holders,² and never beholding to the parish in their born days. Troth, I don't know, but they that live from hand to mouth, live more to their heart's content than he doth, a lubber, that's worth scores. Why, Bet, if es could ha' but a sheep's head and hange,³ es should ha' the virst cut o'te. But how can'st take et?

Bet. I dan't meend et a pin's point: vormerly whan a' used to snap and sware at me, I used to cry like any thing; but now I told en, flat and plain, that I didn't meend his flouts and his jeers, and that if et wasn't vor Dame, I'de as lieve go to-morrow as stay. "Oh! is, to be zure, you clitch to Dame like a cuckel-button, and cruney and crousley way her, with your 'is zure,' and your 'no zure,' and

¹ Family, breed.

² Freeholders.

³ The pluck, the purtenance.

⁴ Stick.

⁵ The burr, the flower of the burdock.

⁶ Whine.

⁷ To court favour, to flatter.

zitting her up against me; but I'll ha' thee to know, thou make-bate, pick-thank hussy, that a man o' eight-and-twenty pounds a-year, every voot his own land, and that pays vor every thing 'pon the nail, may have, any day o' the week, a better sarvant than such a noizv, chuckling, make-strife as thee art; but I'll oust thee bevore a week's to an end, or I'll zee why zo; and then I dare thee put thee voot aneest mu door." I told en, as to the matter o' that a' needn't put hiszell in zich a fuss-that I neer creept between the oak and the rind, or held with the hare and run with the hound, to curry favour; vor, as I zaid bevore, I'd as lieve go as stay, if et wasn't vor poor Dame; and that if a' led her zich a dogged life, and didn't turn over a new leaf, a' wid be zorry vor et whan et was too late.

RAB. 'Ot did a' zay to that?

BET. Oh, a call'd me all that was to be call'd, but it went into one ear and out o' t'other.

RAB. A purse-proud fellow: I can tell en you was so well a' bore, and better a' reared than he was; and had your vather and mother a' lived, hadn't a' come to be his drudge, to be hounded2 and scan'd3 like a dog, and live like a toad under a harrow. Why dost bare et?

terer.

¹ Tale-bearer or flat- 2 To hunt, to pursue.

³ Scolded.

Bet. Why, I thort to myzell, as a' was my Measter, I'de try to weather it out. 'Tis but a little while, and when I'm ago I shall ne'er hanker to zit my voot over the drekstool o' his door again, I'll warnes¹; if et wasn't vor Dame I never wid, but vor her I could lie down my life.

RAB. But now, my deary, suppose thee lived near her, and could zee her every day: wan't that do? Hast ort else to vorbid the banns?

Bet. Why, to be zure, wan shou'd stay till wan had a' got the whereway, and not go into a houze with vour bare walls. 'Whan Poverty comes in to the doors,' they zay, 'Love fleeth out o' the winder.'

RAB. I'll tell thee, my precious, what I ha.' My gonmer left me a pritty plat o' taty² ground, and household goods enow, if they hadn't a' be condidled³ away, many that I ne'er saw, vel nor mark o'; they ha' left me a special good oaken zittle—

Bet. The back o' a zittle is a choice thing to steel⁴ clothes 'pon.

RAB. Let's zee: than I've a' got an iron porrige crock, a griddle, a pair o' brandis, a vire pan, a vender, a latin cup, zome cloming 7

1 Warrant.

5 Gridiron.

2 Potatoe.

6 Three-cornered iron, to rest the kettle

3 Pilfered, taken slily away.

over the fire.

4 Iron.

7 Earthenware.

porrige dishes, a gulamouth, 1 zome timber dishes, 2 a verkin, a trindle, 3 and zome very good knives, not a lipshod 4 in 'em. I've a good doust 5 bed-tye, 6 and a tester-bed, peel 7 and peel-bears, 8 a pair of canvas sheets—bran 9 new, and a pair a leet seary, 10 and a banging brass kittle, that es may swap 11 for what goods es may lack.

Bet. My modicum is but forty shillings, coming to me vor wages, two silver 'postle¹² spoons, my mother's amber necklace, and toadstone¹³ ring. What clothing I ha,' es come honestly by, I han't a screed¹⁴ to my back that isn't paid vor. I ne'er go to tick,¹⁵ and 'ot I ha' will sarve for years, way a leet patching. Then, aunt Madge hath a' promis'd me a butt¹⁶ o' bees, whan I married, vor house-warming.

RAB. Well, my chickabiddy, that's zomething. Many a little makes a mickle.

1 Pitcher.	11 Exchange.
2 Trenchers.	12 Spoons, the handles
3 A large tub to salt	bearing the figure
meat in.	of an apostle.
4 Chip.	$See\ Glossary.$
5 Chaff.	13 A concretion, said to
6 Bedtick.	be found in the
7 Pillows.	head of a toad.
8 Pillow-cases.	14 Scrip.
9 Quite.	15 In debt.
10 Thin or worn.	16 Hive.

Bet. And ef es cou'd but hold to keep a cow, that wid be zomething!

RAB. Vather zaith es tet ha'l a cow o' he, and a main good one 'tis.

BET. When tet ha' en²?

RAB. Es tet ha en³ whan es marry.

Bet. Oh, tetta⁴! Well than, we'll zee to raise the wind to buy a pig, if I score my 'postle spoons. Than the milk I can't zell, and the waste taties, and a leet draft and gruel, will be choice to pop en away⁵ and make en plim.⁶

Rab. Aye, I'll leave thee to meend the mean chance.

Bet. I shall try to keep the cart upon the wheels, and ha' an egg in the nist.

RAB. And now, my sweeting, I can tell thee of a houze ready cut and dried.

BET. What, Ridgeway's?

RAB. No, no: another lucker houze than that, where thee mayst yenn a stone to Dame's, and may'st zee her every day. What d'ye zay to Gonmer Munford's? Thicka houze is to be let.

Bet. Oh, dear! what d'ye tell o'!—Zure enow? Well, that will be special. 'Tis but a stap, as a body may zay, to Dame's.

1 We shall.

4 Shall we?

2 Shall we have?

5 Feed it quickly.

3 We shall have.

6 Fat.

RAB. Come, we'll go and zee what plight the houze and garden be in.

Bet. Not now: to-morrow I shall ha' more time. Dear me, how I'me rejoic'd to think es may ha' thicka houze. I know every crick and cornder of et, by tale and by token. I shan't sleep to neart vor thinking o't. The prittest houze in the parish, vor the bigness o'en; but I can't stay longer to tell about en. Good bye.

RAB. Bye, bye, my sweeting.

END OF THE THIRD PART.

DEVONSHIRE DIALECT.

PART IV.

ROBIN and BETTY.

RAB. Here I be, looking hard vor thee; gee me thee hand.

Bet. I think I shu'd know the way if I was a' mop't.¹

Rab. Aye, Bet, es have a' gon et many a time together; dont'e meend when you and I went to schule to the old 'oman? I'm zure I do; and I zeem'd thee was the prittest maid in the schule. Ha' you forgot how I used to call upon thee in a morning, thoft 'twas out o' my way, and hand in hand es two leet things duggl'd² away wi' our dinner baskets; and every

ripe blackberry or nut I zeed in the hedge, I scrambl'd arter vor thee?

Bet. Aye, I do: and do you meend the lamb's dallybones 1 you geed me? I ha' them now this present time.

RAB. And I, Bet, the little ha'penny box you geed me! Look, zee, there 'tis. I always carry en about me.

Bet. Do you meend how glad es used to be if es cou'd pick up a sang² o' corn for Gonmer's hen?

RAB. 'Twas a good zoul. I lov'd her dearly. I ne'er pass her grave without halting. If I'de a cheeld, I shou'd wish et to love me as I lov'd her. I often think of the stories her used to tell; and of a zinshiny day her wid let us go out under the great tree, and her zit in the shade in the midst o'es. As zoon as es had the word, es tack'd3 our hands, all up in arms, away to go-ruging out the forms,4 the toits,5 and crickets, and half a score tugging along her two-bow'd chair,6 and plimming7 up the Than, whan her begun the story of cushion. "Whittington and his Cat." or "Little Red Riding Hood," or the "Children in the Wood," es was all a' gape. None squeak'd or budg'd.

1 Trotter bones.

2 A handful of ears of corn.

3 Clapped.

4 Long seats.

5 Hassocks.

6 Arm chair.

7 Making soft and smooth.

If you meend, all the good boys and girls come to good vortin at last, except poor Red Riding Hood, and the Children in the Wood. Ever zince, zimmeth, I've a kindness for poor robins. Her heard me ziffing, whan her was telling the story, and call'd me to her, took my vace between her hands, kiss'd my brow, and zaid I was her brave boy.

Bet. What a pritty story her made of Joseph and hes Brothers: I coudn't help crying at et.

RAB. Aye, Bet, they be days I shall never forget. How happy was es, when es cou'd rise a ha'penny, to drink sugar and water at the shet 1 o' holidays.

BET. Aye, zure: and her, leaning over the hatch, look'd delighted to zee es, and wid always dole² out zomething—a tetty³ o' rosen, or ripe deberries,⁴ christlings,⁵ or mazzards, or crumplings.⁶ But zee what a wilderness her pritty garden 's a' come to! I mit her, full butt,⁷ wan day, wi' a greep⁸ o' white lilies, holding 'em out to arm's length: her zaid, "Solomon, in all his glory, was not array'd like one of these." Her had a power o' flowers, but I dan't zee head nor hair o' any now.

1 Running water.

5 A small sort of plum.6 Stunted apples.

2 Give. 3 Nosegay.

7 Suddenly.

4 Gooseberries.

8 Bunch.

RAB. Her used to tell1 to her flowers.

Bet. The last time her was in her garden I hapt to come to zee her, vor Dame was always ready to let me; and a great loss Dame had when her died. Her was her bosom friend. But, as I was telling, I meet her here, and was struck all o' a heap2 to zee her look zo pinikin and thirl, and her clothes hanging zo slaggit3 about her. "Now Gonmer," I zaid, "you ha' been weeding and mouling4 in the earth: it isn't good vor 'e; you don't look special; it isn't the thing; you shudn't mele way et." "If I am bereav'd o' my garden," quoth her, "I'm bereav'd o' the comfort o' my life. This is a delightful day: come, Bet, you shall go to my bank, under the honeysuckle, and zee my Her took some gerts out o' a little box, and the robin com'd and eat em out o' her hand. Her squat down upon the bank, and her put back her head, and made fast her eyes. "How delightsome," her zaid, "is the soft wind that blows 'pon my vace through the honeysuckle; and the zinging o' the bards, how gladsome; the buzzing o' the vlies, and the humming o' the bees. Every thing seems alive. I think I coudn't kill a spider if a' was to come in my way."

1 Talk.

4 Digging.

2 With surprise.

5 Groats.

3 Loose.

RAB. Poor old zoul: I meend when it went against her to kill a muskel¹ or an oakweb.² "I can't afford," her zaid, "you should eat what I've a' took pains to rear;" and zo her yenn'd 'em over the hedge upon the common.

BET. The cat was a' com'd out arter her, purring and wiping hersell, to and vro, in her apern. Her smooth'd her down, and zaid, "Poor Tib, who will take care o' thee when I be ago? Thee hast ado all thy good deeds, and can't now shurt vor theezell. Will you, Bet, take care of old Tib?" "Is, that I wol," said I; and zo I have, and I gee a ha'penny a week, to this time, vor keeping her. "Well then," her zaid, "that's a' car'd vor. glad I shu'd be if I cou'd leave thee my houze and garden: but, as that can't be, vor what I ha' dies wi' me, I can't help wishing zome tidy vitty body may live in en, that it meart'ent go to ruin. But why vor? I shan't know nort o'te."

RAB. Her made another gess place than her found; and made the most of every crick and cornder.

Bet. Zo her zaid; and the flower mores that creas'd³ too much, her zet in the field, and prick'd out the toppings of rosen and jasmine in the hedges.

¹ Caterpillar.—See Glossary.

² Cockchafer.

³ Increased.

RAB. Her garden vound her in tea and physick, and her bees honey enew and to spare. Any body wanting honey, or stock-harbs, or peppermint-water, go to Gonmer Munford, you were sure to have et the virst words, as thof you did her a vavour in axing vor't.

Bet. "Do but zee, Bet," her zaid, "what a garden I've a' made." "I hope," zaid I, "you'll ha' many years to come in't." "Oh! no, no Bet, I'm past the age of man; I've zeed the parish go bevore me; my time must come at last, and it wan't be long virst; 'tis a debt can't be put off: I vend I break apace." And zo I zeem'd, but didn't tell her zo; but zaid, "You ha' that comfort,-you ha' liv'd a good life: vou've ado vour best." "I can't boast," her zaid, "who can zay 'I've ado my best?' I've great hopes in my Saviour, and I'm not afeard to die." Her look'd very pinikin and hollow-eyed, and her nose was a' sharpen'd up. "Come, good now, Genmer, do ye go in: I be cruel: zorry to zee 'e in such a way." I had much ado to heave her up. Her had no stroil to help herzell. Her legs crickl'd1 under her, and her was panking and weezing for breath. I didn't leave her till I'de a' got zomebody to be wi' her; but, good now, her didn't want attendance, it was who shu'd do most vor her.

RAB. Hadn't her no relations?

Bet. Is, is: her had cousins, well to pass, up the country; but they ne'er troubled their meend to 'quire arter her. You've heard, no doubt, that her father was pason of this parish. He was an over good man, and liv'd to a great age.

RAB. Her must a' be call'd an old 'oman when he died: and where could her go better? Her lov'd the parish, and the parish lov'd her.

BET. Lov'd her? That they did. There wasn't a dry eye at her berrying. Zo, as I was zaying, I left her and went home; and thicka neart I'de a voretoken1 o' her death. My noze bost out a' bleeding without being het,2 and I heard the death-watch. I got up at peep o' day, and vound her weezing vor life. "Oh! Gonmer," I zaid, "I be cruel zorry to zee ye zo bad." Her creem'd my hand. "I believe, you, Bet, it's a time I've long expected." Her than told me to teel³ vender her bible; and when her had deliver'd en to me: "This," quoth her, "is the most precious thing I own;-take en as my legacy. In it you'll vind the title-deed to a glorious estate, and how to make the estate your own." The neighbours whisper'd, "Poor zoul, her's out o' her parts4: her's telling

1 Warning.

3 Give.

2 Struck.

4 Senses.

dwale.¹ I staid wi' her till milking time, and then I begg'd Dame to let me stay up wi' her thicka neart. That was her last: her was restless, moaning and telling to herzell. I ax'd her if I could do ort vor her? Her look'd upon me, and zaid her wid be patient,—"My Saviour and Maker zees me; a step or two more and I shall be home." Then her turned, and snugg'd up her head in the piller: es zeem'd her was roating and zoggin, when, dear heart, her'd a' got the rattle.²

RAB. Come, dant'e zay no more about et, without thee casen't help crying zo. Think upon what's to come, and that thee mert be owner of the houze, the garden, the cat, and the great tree, which es hopes wan't be cut down in our time.

Bet. I hope zo, too; vor I shu'd like to bring out my knitting work, or my spinning-turn, and zit there, and then I mert happen to zee thee when you be to work. Dear heart! what strange things come to pass. When I used to think how happy any body mert live in such a sweet place, I could ne'er ha' thort it wid come to my take, every thing zo handy: a pritty cloming oven, big enew to bake a batch o' bread; water at the shet jest by; the thorn

¹ Incoherently.

³ Wheel.

² Noise in the throat that precedes death.

⁴ Earthenware.

hedge and garden, and the great tree. Poor zoul, her used to zit there, summer yevlings, to zee the volks come fro' market, and take in her arrants, her had a' zent by 'em. Whan I used to rede a story-book of a pritty place, I thort it must be like this.

RAB. A pritty place it was. I believe there wasn't a christian zoul went up and down the lane but stopt to look at et, and the garden and her winder deck'd out wi' pots o' rosen. I dare zay, Bet, you'll keep et as much in Pimlico² as her did.

BET I can't zay as to the matter o' that; but every thing shall be wholesome and clean. Good, now! What does et go to a year?

RAB. I've a proffer'd³ vive-and twenty shillings, and they stand vor thirty, and zay they wan't vang⁴ less. I'm a guess they wan't let et under; but, hang et, I wan't stand haggling and chaffering about et, but take et forthwith, and go about zitting in zome cole-plants and pot-harbs. There is two special stubberd⁵ trees, vor making squab pies⁶ and lamb's wool.⁷ Why, Bet, us shall ha' every thing rise on the zame; and how comfortable 'twill be, arter es ha' been digging and delving all day, to be wel-

¹ Errands.

² See Glossary.

³ Offered.

⁴ Take.

⁵ An apple so called.

⁶ See Glossary.

⁷ A drink made of ale and roasted apples.

com'd home by thy sweet vace, to a chimbly cornder o' my own, and a houze as clean as a pick? A hulch¹ o' dry bread with my dear Bet will be as good as roast meat.

Bet. Dry bread! Es hope es shan't be zo hard a drove as that comes to. No, no: I'll shurt vor zomething better vor thy supper, if I make but a scrimp dinner; and now and then es will ha' a viggy pudding on a Zinday.

RAB. My deary, take care I don't eat thee.

Bet. Come, now, none of your high-ropes and rodomantades. Love me little and love me long, I zay.

RAB. Bodikins! Bet, I ween thee dostn't love me as I love thee.

Bet. I'll tell thee what, Rab, vor more than this half year there hasn't a day gone over my head, that I havn't wish'd or avear'd to zee thee. I don't know how et was, zimeth I'de always a tremor or a clay² upon me; but now, vall back vall edge,³ I'm fix'd, and I'm quite another thing.

RAB. And I'm ready to flee over the moon: and now I'll tell thee, I've a ventur'd within an inch of my life, that thee mert take notice o' me.

BET. Dear me, how than?

RAB. I can tell thee, by tale and by token:

by riding thickee fractious horse, and taking thicka roguish bull by the horns, at the bullbaiting, when everybody was afear'd to go neest en.

Bet. You make my blood rin cold; I'm glad I wasn't there.

RAB. I thort thee was, tho' I coudn't zee thee. Than, whan the Torridge was a' vroze over, and thee was milking t'other zide, I vetch'd a vedge, forzooth, and away I zlide, and stram-bang down I come with a rouze. The ice geed way with a crack, and flump² zous'd I into the water.

Bet. I'm glad I didn't zee thee; zo thee was finely douc'd.³ How cou'd 'e be zo ventursome?

RAB. I only jarr'd my elbow, and scour'd away home like a tail-pip'd dog. Well now, thanks be, these vagaries be over: and kappy is the wooing that isn't long a doing. What doth zay, Bet, I must put in the banns next Zinday, shall I?

Bet. If it must, it must; but why zo hurrisome?

RAB. How shall I know if I be awake?

Bet. Come, gee me my bucket. I've had a good spell. I wish thee a good neart; I wish

¹ Force.

³ Wetted.

² To fall suddenly.

⁴ Ran away.

thee well home. Prithee take care o' thyzell, and dont'e stay out late; pray now dont'e.

RAB. 'Ot dost mean-'ot is it?

Bet. I don't know how to tell thee. I han't a' be myzell since I've a inkling a' geed me, that Measter was gwain to get thee prest.

RAB. Is that all? Thy measter may go whistle. A' shews his teeth, but a' can't bite—Curst cows ha' short horns. A' had as good eat his nails, as think to meel wi' me. I know a' can't abide me, and there's no love lost. Es havn't a' be cater cousins since last hay-harvest.

Bet. How zo, than? But, dear heart, I can't stay to hear. I shall be scour'd² whan I come home, vor staying zo long.

RAB. As good be hang'd vor an old sheep as vor a lamb. I'll tell thee how 'twas. Last hay-harvest, at drinking time, we was all zitting upon the hay-pokes, zinging the "Leather Bottle," when who shu'd pass by but an old fish jouder, with a jackass and panniers. Hogg bawl'd out, "'Ot fish hath her got—do ye know—can ye tell—will ye ax? Rin zomebody, quick!" Away fagged I: "Here, you: you must come back; thickee man," pointing to Hogg, "lacketh zome vish; but he's very deeve, and if you don't bawl en his ear, a'

¹ Good friends.

³ Fish huckster.

² Scolded.

⁴ Deaf.

can't hear what you zay." Back I rind to Hogg: "Her is as deeve as a haddock. Do try to make her hear, vor I can't." Away zat he to meet her: and the old trapes took her pipe out o' her mouth, nusled close up to his ear, and scream'd wi' all her might,—and zo he to her; zo it made 'em both jump.

Bet. It must a' be rare fun.

RAB. "Wounds," cried Hogg, "the old toad hath crack'd the drum o' my ear—rat her!"—
"A toad?" a' yerr'd to en: "I zay toad, indeed! Not zo much like one as thee art!"—
"Get along," zays Hogg, "or I'll gee thee a dowse¹ in the chops." Her snatch'd the ass's halter, and away her went, maundering, calling es a pack o' low-lived lubbers, vor making game o' her; vor es all laff'd till es blak'd.²

Bet. No marvel, now, he shu'd owe thee a grudge. No, no: he wan't vorget et vor one while, take my word vor't.

RAB. He may turn his buckle behind his back, vor Rab.

Bet. I'm upon thorns; once more good neart.

RAB. Good neart, my sweeting, good neart!

1 Slap in the face. 2 Cried with laughter.

GLOSSARY.

A.

Abew. Above

Akether. Forsooth

Aneest. Nigh

Angle-twitch. Blind-worm

Antick. Wild gesticulation

Aperns. Aprons

Arrants. Errands

Ax. Ask

Alle drawn— R

Backsevore. The hind part before

Bam by. By and by

Banged. Beat soundly

Bard. Bird

Basam. The red heath broom

Bed-tye. Bed-tick

Begayged. Bewitched

Belving. Bellowing Ben. Truth of it. Beverage. A forfeit upon wearing a suit of new clothes Bevering. Quivering Blaked. Cried with laughter Blasting up his ees. Lifting up his eyes Blind mares. Nonsense Plooth.Blossom Blue. Bloom Blunk. Spark Blunked. Snowed Bosky. Tipsy Bost. Burst Bot. Bought Powerly. Handsome; of a

certain size. Buirdly-

Scottish, for stoutly built.

Braggadocia. Braggart - E.

3

4.

Bran. Quite
Brandis. A three-cornered iron, to rest the kettle over the fire
Brinded. Spoken of animals; fierce, like a bull
Brist. Small dust, prickles of furze, granulated earth
Brit. Bruise
Buddled. Suffocated
Buldering. Sultry
Bull's neck. A grudge
Bush. Toss
Butt. Hive
Butt. Suddenly

C.

Candle teening. Candle light Carking. Care, anxious solicitude Cast. Looked forward Cat-handed. Awkward Cauch. Mess, a nasty mixture Chary. Careful Chat. Child Cherry. Ruddy Chewers. Jobs Chilbladders. Chilblains Christling. A small sort of plum 🧩 Claggy. Glutinous, sticky Clapper-clawed. Tonguebeat, scolded Clay. Shiver Clit. Heavy

Clitch. Mass; stuck Clomina. Earthenware Clovel. A large beam across the chimney in farm houses Clum. Paw or handle Co, fig's end. Poh! nonsense Cob wall. Mnd wall 3 Cockle. Wrinkle Colting. Frolicking Condidled. Pilfered. slilv taken away Conkable. Icicle Creased. Increased Creem. Squeeze Cricket. A three-legged stool Crickled. Gave way Crisimore. Little child Crock. Pot Crooped. Saved Crope. Creep Cross-over. Term in dances Cross-pot. Ill-natured brat Crousley. To court favour, to flatter

Crowbear. A place near

Crume. A little bit crumb

Crumplings. Stunted apples

Timid

Torrington

creature

Cruel. Sad

Crub.

Crowder. Fiddler

Crowdling sokey.

Crust

٤

Cruney. Whine
Cryle. An exclamation
Crymanias. Gracious
Cuckle-button. The burr,
the flower of the burdock
Curmugeon. Covetous fel-

D

Dally-bones. Trotter bones Daps. Likeness Dashed. Daunted Davered. Withered Deberries. Gooseberries Dem. Hussy Dickins. An exclamation Dimmet. Twilight Dinging. Harping; a corruption of din Documentizing. Preaching or instruction Dole. Give Dorns. Door-posts Dough-cake, Half-witted Doust. Chaff Douted. Extinguished Drekstool. Threshold Dribbling rain. Small rain Drilling. Dawdling Dring. Squeeze Drumble drone. Humble bee, or drone Dugged. Draggled Trudge Duggle. Dump. A heavy sound Dwale. Incoherently

Dwalling. Talking tediously

E.

Es tet ha' en. We shall have Eved. Thawed Evelings. Evenings

~ F.

Faggee well a fine. Do well in the end Fardle. Bundle Thin, mean Flimzy. Floshed. Spilt 502 Flush. Feathered Fob. Froth Forms. Long seats Foust. Tumbled or soiled Fraped.Drawn tight Freathed. Wattled Frumpish. Brow beating Fulch. Beat or push Fump. A slap

G.

Gingerly. Softly

Galaganting. Large and awkward. Query, if from Garagantua, in Rabelais?
Gall. Vex
Galled. Frightened gallied?
Gammet. Fun, sport
Gapenests. Sights
Gee. Give
Gerts. Groats
Gess. Sort

Glam. Sore Hallaballoo. Noise, uproar Glidder. Water frozen on Halseny. Guess or conjecthe ground ture Glinted. Looked askance Handyfast, Holding fast Glittish, Cruel, savage Hank. Handle Hatch. Half-door of a cot-Glumping. Sullen tage. Had more than enough; satiated. Hatchet face. Ugly face, such as might be hewn Gooded. Prospered out of a block by a hatch-Goodger. The devil et.—Johnson Gook. Hang down Havage. Family, breed Grandfather and Hauch-a-mouth. To speak grandmother; but used with a broad accent is, in also for any aged persons Devonshire, called hauching Gorbelly. Big-bellied Head and henge. The pluck, Go'th, Goes the purtenance Grabbled. Grappled 1 G. hehlen. Healed. Covered Grainee.Proud, ill-tempered Het.Struck Grammer's pin. Large pin High-de-lows. Feastings Greep. Bunch. and merry-makings Griddle. Gridiron High to instep. Carried herself haughtily Grizzled. Laughed Hoa. End, stop Grute. The earth from a mud wall. Grute, from Hoss. Horse the French crotte Hounded. Hunted, scolded Gubby A posse, number Hove. Lifted Gubs. Go between Huffled. Wind not blowing Gulamouth, Pitcher steadily Gulging. Drinking Hugeous heave up. A great Gulk. Swallow piece of good fortune Gushed. Scared Hugger - mugger. Clandes-Gwain. Going tine Hulch. Slice H.

Hagaging. Passionate

Haggy. Argue

Huldered. The wind blow-

petuosity, like thunder

ing with violence and im-

Hunks. Miser
Huxens. Hocks, ankles

I.

Indel and oudel. In-doors and out-doors

Inkling. Hint or information

200 - bay J. Jes

Jaykle. An exclamation Jet. Push

Jolter head. Blockhead

Jouds. Rags

Jouring. Scolding

Juggling. Shaking

Juggy mire. Bog or quagmire

Julk. Shake

Junketing. Private entertainments

Justmen-holders. Free-holders

K.

Keemy. Having a white creamy substance on it.

Kerpt. Kept under

Kibby. Chaps on the heels, or chilblains

Kicketh. Stammers

L.

Lacked. Looked for

Lacky. Stay

Lade. Laden

Laffed. Langhed

Lamb's wool. Drink made of ale and roasted apples

Lamming. Great

Lamst. Lamed

Lary. Empty or unladen

Lattin cup. Tin cup

Leach. Common way

Leet rather. A little while ago

Leet windle. A little Redwing, called in Switzerland, Wintzel. Lyte is used by Chaucer for little

Lereping. Trailing

Lerrick. Chastise

Lief. As soon

Linney. A shed attached to another building

Lip-shord (Lip-shod). Chip

Loaded. Bloated

Loady. High-dressed

Loady nut. Double nut

Lob's pound. A prison.—
See Johnson

Longcripple. Viper

Lowering. Tolling; the

Lowster. Bustle about

Lucker. Sort or like Lye. Gone down

M.

Mace-Monday. "The first Monday after St. Anne's (July 26th) a feast is held at Newberry, in Berkshire, the principal dishes being bacon and beans. In the course of the day a procession takes place; a cabbage is stuck on a pole, and carried instead of a mace, accompanied by similar substitutes for other emblems of civic dignity." Hence comes Mace-Monday.

Every-Day Book.

Make-Bates. Mischief mak-

ers

Make wise. Make believe

Malkin. Wench; a dirty

woman

Maundering. Grumbling

Meel. Meddle

Meend. Mind, remember

Mees. Mice

Mert, Meart, Meast. Might Michard. Micher; a lazy loiterer

Mickled. Choked

Mift. Offended

Mislee. To rain in small drops, like mist

Mistree. Dim-sighted

Mits. Even

Mopt. Blindfold

Mores. Roots

Mort. Lard

Mose. Moss

Mouling. Digging

Mumchance. A silent person, or one resolved not to speak

Muskel. Caterpillar. Mask is Swedish for this insect. It is remarkable that Linnæus calls caterpillars larve, that is mask N.

Nearts. Nights

Neest. Near

Nestle draft. The last pig in the litter

Nick'd en. Caught him at a lucky moment

Niddick. Back of the neck

Nimpingangs. Boils

Nort. Nothing

Nort mert. Nothing might

Nug. A bunch

0.

Oakweb. Cockchaffer

Odswinderakins. An exclamation

Omes. Alms

Organ. Pennyroyal

Orts. Fragments, refuse

Р.

Palled. Turned pale

Panking. Panting

Parts. Senses

Peart. Lively

Peel. Pillow

Peel-bears. Pillow-cases

Pick-thank. Tale-bearer or

flatterer

Piepicked. Of different colours, as pie-bald

Pig's loose. Pig's stye

Pilm. Dust

SCOREW

Pimlico. "An expression supposed to be confined to Devonshire. Why the place in London is called Pimlico, I have never heard, nor can guess why the word was used to mean what it does. There is something quaint and mineing in the sound, to which perhaps it owes its use."—Rev. J. Phillipps.

Pindy. Mouldy Pinikin. Delicate Pinswills. Whitlows Pirled. Flat Pittis. Sorrowful Pixy. Fairy Planching. Floor Plashet. Quagmire Plid. Mire Plimed. Swelled Plum. Light Plumming. Making soft and smooth Poaching. Swampy Poke. Gore; to pierce with a horn Pomstering. Quackery

Pomstering. Quackery
Pop en away. Feed it
quickly

'Postle spoons. Called Apostle spoons, because the figures of the Twelve Apostles were chased or carved on the handles.

Poughed. Poked

Power. A great number

Plim. Fat fille tout

Prilled, or a-prilled. Spoken of beer, means somewhat sour; of a person, signifies a little offended or displeased

Prink. Bedeck
Proffered. Offered
Puggin end. Gable end
Purt. Offended
Purting glumpot. A sulky
person
Pucker. Fuss

Q.

Quailing. Fainting; being depressed

Quandary. Difficulty

Quarrils. Panes

Quelstering. Hot

Querking. Moaning, complaining

R.

Rabbit. An oath Rabscallion. A term of reproach Race. String Ragamuffin. A term of reproach Chided, scolded Raga'd. Railed. Talked over Rose up in a hurry Raked. Raked up. Awoke from sleep Ranish. Ravenous Ranticomscour. Uproar

Rare. Early

that precedes death

Reamed. Stretched

Reeping. Trailing on the ground

Ridmas. Holy - cross, Roodmas-day, 14th September. Rood means cross. "This festival had its beginning about the year 615. On this occasion, Cosroes, king of Persia, had made great ravages in the Christian world, by the success of his arms; and having plundered Jerusalem, took away a great piece of the cross, which Helena had left there; and at times of his mirth made sport of that and the Holy Trinity. Heracleus, the Emperor, giving him battle, defeated the enemy, and reco-* vered the cross, bringing it back triumphantly to Jerusalem, when he found the gates shut against him, and heard a voice from heaven, which told him that the King of kings did not enter that city in so stately a manner, but meek and lowly, riding upon an ass: with that the Emperor dismounted, and went into the city not only on foot, but barefooted, carrying in the wood of the cross himself. This honor done to the cross gave rise to the festival."-Nicholson on the Common Prayer.

Rind: Ran.

Rattles. Noise in the throat | Rigmerole. Round about & story.

Rory tory. Tawdry

Rochets. Little blue cloth cloaks. "The rochet was an antient garment, used by bishops. In the barbarous Latinity it was called rochet, being derived from the German word ruck, which signifies the back, as being a covering for that part of the body."-Nicholson on the Common Prayer.

Round tag. Children's play. all standing in a ring

Rouse. With a great noise

Routing. Snoring

Rouzing. Blazing

Rucked. Squatted

Ruged. Put away hastily

S.

Sang. Handful of ears of corn

Sart and fair totle. Soft and fair fool

Scan. Scoff

Scaned. Scolded

Scorce. Exchange

Scovu. Thin, uneven

Screed. Scrip

Scrimp. Short

Scud. Shower

Scute. A gift

Seary. Thin or worn

Set up thee back. Be angry

Shabbed. Sheered or stole | Slewr'd away. Gave way off

Shet. Running water Shewl-a-mouth. Shovel mouth

Shirked. Tricked, cheated

Shod. Spilt

Shords. Sherds

Shows. Prints or pictures

Shrumpina. Shrugging

Shrumpt. Shrunk

Shuckening. Shuffling

Shug. Sly, angry

Shurt. Shift

Sift. Sighed

Simathin. Liking, partiality

Sissarary. Certiorari

Skimish. Squeamish

Skulking. To lurk in fear

Slaggit. Loose

Slammed. Shut with violence

Slat and scat. To throw things about in an ill temper, with violence. means, also, to split and to give a slap: as to give 'a slat in the chaks,' is to give a smart blow in the face with the hand .-"When Haldon has a slat, Kenton beware of a scat." Haldon is a hill near Exeter, and Kenton a place not far from it. The proverb means, that when the hill has its head enveloped in the clouds, the neighbourhood may soon expect a shower

Slinking. Stealing; creep slily

Sliver. Slice

Slock. To entice

Slottering. Dirty, wet

Smeeching. Making an offensive smell in the fire

Sneving. Sneaking

Solvege. Term of reproach

Sontross. Term of reproach

Sparables. Nails

Spick and span new. Quite new; first worn

Spraged. Spotted

Sprayed. Chapped

Spuddling. Poking and raking

Squab pie. Made of apples, onions, mutton, pepper, salt, and sugar.-Receipt how to make it :-

" Phillis! lovely charmer, say Would'st thou know th' unerring

way, And with heart unfailing wish Made by thee the Cornish dish?

First, from bounteons Ceres' atore, Walls erect of wheaten flour, Walls, of which the ample round Holds within a gulf profound; Then, in parts minutely nice, Soft and fragrant apples alice; With its dainty flesh, the sheep, Next must swell the luscious heap; Then the onion's sav'ry juice Spriukle, not with hand profuse, Merely what may sting the eye, Not make charming Phillis cry.

These ingredients well disposed, And the summit fairly closed, Lives the epicure, whose heart Will not feel of love the smart?-If not for Phillis' self, at least, For Phillis' pie, and Phillis' paste!"

Davies Gilbert, Esq.

Squat. Squeezed
Squeaked. Spoke
Squinches. Chinks
Stagged, Stugg'd. Stuck
Stand a war. Out of the
way

Stann. Stand still

Stapt. Stepped

Stat. Stopped Steel. To iron

Steeming. Turn

Stewer. Dust

Stewardly. Managing

Stirridge. Commotion

Stived. Starved; shivering

Stivering. Standing

Strambang. Fling violently Stramming. Great

Stratted. Splashed

Strode. Threw

Stroil. Strength

Struck all of a heap. With surprise

Stub, Portion, or sum of money

Stubberd. Apple so called Stubbed. Healthy, strong

Stumpt. Pressed the foot hard

Stunpole. A thick-headed, stupid fellow

Suent. Even, smooth

Sun dance. "In some parts of Ireland the day before Easter-day is called 'Holy Saturday;' and about four o'clock the next day the

people rise to see the sun dance, in honor of the resurrection. This ignorant custom is not confined to the humble labourer and his family, but is scrupulously observed by many respectable and wealthy families, different members of whom I have heard assert positively, that they have seen the sun dance on Easter-day. The folly is kept up by the fact, that no one can view the sun steadily at any hour; and those who choose to look at its reflection in the water, see it apparently move, as they would on any other day."—Mr.T. A. Every-Day Book.

Brand points out an allusion to this vulgar notion, in an old ballad:

"But, Dick, she dances such a way, No sun, upon an Easter-day,

Is half so fine a sight."

Every-Day Book.

Scott, in the first canto of the 'Lady of the Lake,' has the same idea:

"The stag at eve had drank his fill, Where danced the moon on Monan's rill."

Swap. Exchange

Swapping lunch. Large piece

Swelter. Melt

Swinging. Huge.

T.

Saturday; and about four o'clock the next day the Tagster Bold-looking woman

Hav-loft Tallet. ٤ Tansy. A strong-smelling plant Tantara. Disturbance Tantarabobus. The Devil ٤ Tantarems. Vagaries Taring. Very Taterdemalion. A ragged dirty person Taty. Potatoe Teel. Give Teeled. Set Tell. Talk Teen'd. Closed Teen en. Light it Tet ha. We shall have Tet ha'en? Shall we have it ? Tetta? Shall we? Tetty. Nosegay Thicka. - That Thickee. This Thirl. Lean, thin, meagre Tick. In debt Timber dishes. Trenchers Tingling. Sharp Toadstone. A concretion said to be found in the head of a toad. Shakspeare has a comparison in the opening of Act II. (As you like it) which aptly offers in support of

the common opinion:

venomous,

"Sweet are the uses of adversity;

Which, like the toad, ugly and

Wears yet a precious jewel in his head."

Toits. Hassocks Tore. Broke Touser. A coarse apron Tozing. (To pull or tumble Transmogrified. Metamorphosed Trapes. An idle, slatternly woman Trapping. Walking Trindle. A large tub to salt meat in Trouncing. Floundering? 8 Try. Do Tuck. Slap (Tagster) Tugster. Turn. Wheel Turr. An expression used in driving pigs Tweedling. Wagging Twine. Twist Two-bowed chair, Armchair U.

Unray. Undress

v.

Vady. Damp Vagging. Flapping Vall back vall edge. Come what will Valled. Fell Van a. Take Varden. Farthing Veased. Hurried, drove

Vedging.

Vet. Fetch

Vetched a vege. To retire a few steps, in order to rush on with more violence

Vinied. The green mould in cheese

Virking. Teazing

Vitty. Neat

Voot. Foot

Vore. Stand forward

Voretoken. Warning

Vraped. Drawn tight

Vreach. Violently

Vreath. A low hedge

Vrozzy. Nice thing

W.

Wab.Tongue Waddled.Folded Wallage. A lump Walving. Rolling Wangery. Soft Wants. Moles Wap. Blow Wapped. Slapped Ware. Whether Wared. Wore Warnes. Warrant Wassail. A liquor made of apples, sugar, and ale; figuratively, a drunken

"The king does wake to-night and take his rouse, Keeps wassail, and the swagg'ring upspring reels." Shakspeare.

bout :

¥.

Weeny. Cry Wee-wow. Wrong

Well a fine. To a good

purpose

Well sosse. Well-a-day

Whipped aside. Turned hastily aside

Whister-clister. Box in the

Widn't. Would not

Winders. Windows

Winding. Winnowing

Wishness. Melancholy

Witherly dolt. Clumsy

person

Wool gathering. Bewildered

Woundy. Very

Wraxling. Wrestling

Y.

Yenned. Threw Yerred. Swore

Terrea. Swor

Yoky molekit. A yellow, unhealthy-looking person Youl. Howl

Z.

Zamzawed. Over-done

Zeed zom 'ot. Saw some-thing

Zeemed. Thought

Zimmeth. It seems

Zittle. Settle; high-backed seat, common in farm houses

Zogging. Same as dozing

cornism dialect.

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