



The Salamanca Corpus: "Dialects from A.D. 900" (1838)

**Author: Bosworth, Joseph (1788-1876)**

**Text type: Varia**

**Date of composition: 1838**

**Editions: 1838, 1882, 1898, 1920, 1921, 1953, 1954, 1972, 1973, 1976, 1980, 1995, 1996, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013**

**Source text:**

**Bosworth, Joseph. 1838. "Dialects from A.D. 900". *A Dictionary of the Anglo-Saxon Language*. London: Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown, Green, and Longman: xxvi-xxxv.**

**e-text**

**Access and transcription: February 2014**

**Number of words: 4,885**

**Dialect represented: Various**

**Produced by Maria F. Garcia-Bermejo Giner**

**Copyright © 2014- DING, The Salamanca Corpus, Universidad de Salamanca**

UNIVERSITAS  
STVDII  
SALAMANTINI

A  
DICTIONARY  
OF THE  
ANGLO-SAXON LANGUAGE

CONTAINING

THE ACCENTUATION—THE GRAMMATICAL INFLECTIONS—THE IRREGULAR WORDS REFERRED TO THEIR THEMES—THE PARALLEL TERMS FROM THE OTHER GOTHIC LANGUAGES—THE MEANING OF THE ANGLO-SAXON IN ENGLISH AND LATIN—AND COPIOUS ENGLISH AND LATIN INDEXES, SERVING AS A DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH AND ANGLO-SAXON.

WITH  
A PREFACE ON THE ORIGIN AND CONNEXION OF THE GERMANIC TONGES—A MAP OF LANGUAGES—AND THE ESSENTIALS OF ANGLO-SAXON GRAMMAR.

BY  
**THE REV. J. BOSWORTH, LL.D.**

DR. PHIL. OF LEYDEN;  
B. D. OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE; F.R.S.; F.S.A.; CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF THE NETHERLANDS; M.R.S. OF LIT. LONDON; HONORARY F.R.S. OF SCIENCES, NORWAY; F.S.A. COPENHAGUEN; F. OF THE LIT. S. LEYDEN, UTRECHT, BRISTOL, ETC.; BRITISH CHAPLAIN AT ROTTERDAM.

LONDON:  
LONGMAN, REES, ORME, BROWN, GREEN, AND LONGMAN;  
TALBOYS, OXFORD; STEVENSON, CAMBRIDGE.

MDCCCXXXVIII

[xxvi]

19. It is evident, from the preceding extracts, that the pure West-Saxon did not ever prevail over the whole of England, and that in process of time the language approached more or less to the present English, according to its relative position to the West-Saxons. In early times there was, clearly, considerable dialectic variety in the writings of men residing in different provinces. This will be evident by comparing the short specimen from the Northumbrian and Rushworth glosses, † and the extracts from the Saxon Chronicle, ‡ with the quotation from Marshall's Anglo-Saxon Gospels, || and other works in pure Anglo-Saxon. The difference observable in the language of the most cultivated classes would be still more marked and apparent in the mass of population, or the less educated community. These, from their agricultural pursuits, had little communication with the inhabitants of other provinces; and having few opportunities and little inducements to leave their own neighbourhood, they intermarried among each other, and, from their limited acquaintance and circumscribed views, they would naturally be much attached to their old manners, customs, and language. The same cause operating from age to age would keep united the greater part of the population, or the families of the middle stations of life; it may, therefore, be well expected that much of the peculiarity of dialect prevalent in Anglo-Saxon times, is preserved even to the present day in the provincial dialects of the same districts.

Mr. Thorpe's *Pref. to Cædmon*, p. xii.

† § 11 and 12.

‡ § 13.

|| § 9.

[xxvii]

In these local dialects, then, remnants of the Anglo-Saxon tongue may be found in its least altered, most uncorrupt, and therefore its purest state. Having a strong and expressive language of their own, they had little desire and few opportunities to

**The Salamanca Corpus: "Dialects from A.D. 900" (1838)**

adopt foreign idioms or pronunciation, and thus to corrupt the purity of their ancient language. Our present polished phrase and fashionable pronunciation are often new, and, as deviating from primitive usage, faulty and corrupt. We are, therefore, much indebted to those zealous and patriotic individuals who have referred us to the archaisms of our nervous language, by publishing provincial glossaries, and giving specimens of their dialects.\*

20. So much has been advanced with the view of showing, what what is generally termed "vulgar language," deserves some notice, and claims our respect from its direct descent from our high-spirited Anglo-Saxon ancestors, and from its power of expression. It is not asserted that any provincial dialect has issued in a full and uncontaminated stream from the pure Anglo-Saxon fountain; but in every province some streamlets flow down from the fountain-head, retaining their original purity and flavour, though not now relished perhaps by fastidious palates. None can boast that they retain the language of their early forefathers unimpaired, but all may prove that they possess strong traces of it. †

21. A few specimens of provincial dialects are given, beginning with extracts from Mr. Jenning's neat and valuable little work, being the present dialect of that part where the West-Saxon or pure Anglo-Saxon

The following is a list of the principal provincial Glossaries: — 1. A Collection of English Words not generally used, &c. by John Ray, F. R. S. 3<sup>rd</sup>. edit. 8vo., 1737, pp. 150, price about 4s. —2. An Exmoor Scolding, and also an Exmoor Courtship, with a Glossary, 7<sup>th</sup> edit. 8vo. *Exon.* 1881, pp. 60, price 9d. —The Lancashire dialect, with a Glossary, Poems, &c. by Tim Bobbin, Esq. (Mr. John Collier, Schoolmaster at Milnrow, near Rochdale,) 12mo. *Manchester*, 1775; London, 1818, pp. 212, price 3s. —4. A Provincial Glossary with a Collection of Local Proverbs, &c. by Francis Grose, Esq. F.A.S. 2<sup>nd</sup> edit. 12 mo. *London*, 1790, price 5s. —5. Anecdotes of the English Language, chiefly regarding the Local Dialect of London and its environs, which have not corrupted the language of their ancestors, *London*, 1803, 8vo. 2<sup>nd</sup> edit. 1814. —6 An Etymological Dictionary of the Scottish Language, &c. by John Jamieson, D. D. F.R.S.E. & c. 2 vols. 4to. 1808, *Edinburgh*; 2 vols. 4to. Supplement, 1825. —7. A List of ancient Words at present used in the mountainous Districts of

**The Salamanca Corpus: "Dialects from A.D. 900" (1838)**

the West Riding of Yorkshire, by Robert Willan, M. D. F. R. S. and S. A. 1811; *Archæologia*, vol. xvii. 1814, pp. 29. —8. An Attempt at a Glossary of some Words used in Cheshire, by Roger Wilbraham, Esq. F. R. S. and S. A. 1817M *Archæologica*, vol. xix. 2<sup>nd</sup> edit. *Rod, London*, 12mo. 1826, price 5s. pp. 117M The Hallamshire Glossary, by the Rev. Joseph Hunter. —9. Suffolk Words and Phrases, by Edward Moor, F.R.S. F.A.S. &c. 12mo. *Woodbridge*, 1823. —10. *Horæ Momenta Craven*, or, the Craven Dialect: to which is annexed a copious Glossary by a native of Craven. 12mo. *London*, 1824, pp. 125, price 4s. *This is a very valuable little book, the work of a scholar.* — 11. A Glossary of North-Country Words in use, by John Trotter Brockett, F. S.A. London and Newcastle, 8vo. *Newcastle-upon-Tyne*, 1825, pp. 243, price 10s 6d. —12. Observations on some of the Dialects in the West of England, particularly Somersetshire, with a Glossary of Words now in use there, and poems and other pieces exemplifying the Dialect, by James Jennings, Honorary Secretary of the Metropolitan Literary Institution, London, 12mo. *London*, 1825, pp. 191, price 7s.—13 The Vocabulary of East-Anglia; an attempt to record the vulgar tongue of the twin-sister counties, Norfolk and Suffolk, as it existed in the last twenty years of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and still exists; with proofs of its antiquity from etymology and authority, by the late Rev. Robert Forby, Rector of Fincham, Norfolk, 2 vols. 12mo. *London*, 1830, price 1l. 1s. —14. A Glossary of Archaic and Provincial Words, by the late Rev. Jonathan Boucher, F.S.A. Vicar of Epsom, edited jointly by the Rev. Joseph Hunter, F.S.A. and Joseph Stevenson, Esq., part I. 1832, part II. 1833, 4to.

† Forby's *East-Anglia*, vol. i. p. 18.

[xxviii]

was once spoken, and then proceeding to East-Anglia, and terminating with the broad dialect of Craven in Yorkshire. In attempting to give the exact pronunciation of each district, some words are so disguised as, at first view, to be scarcely recognised, and occasionally two or more words are pronounced, and therefore written, as one word. This is an ambiguity which could not be entirely avoided; but

**The Salamanca Corpus: "Dialects from A.D. 900" (1838)**

an ample compensation is made for it by giving the words, as far as possible, in the pronunciation of several districts.

*Dialects of the West of England, particularly Somersetshire.*

22. The following are some of the peculiarities observable in the West of England.

The people of Somersetshire, east of the river Parret, make the third person singular of the indicative mood, present tense, to end in *th* or *eth*: thus for he loves, he reads, they uniformly say, *he lov'th, he read'th*. They use *Ise* for I, *er* for he, and *her* for she. —Tget sound *â* as *a* in *father*; and *e* as Fench *e*, or as the English *a* in *cane, fane, &c.* —*Th* is sounded as *d*: for thread they say *dread* or *dird*; for through *dro*, thrash *drash*: *s* as *z*, *Zummerzet* for Somerset, &c. — They invert the order of some consonants: for thrush, brush, rush, they say *dirsh, birsh, hirsh*; for clasp, hasp, asp, they use *claps, haps, aps*. — They annex *y* to the infinitive mood, and some other parts of many common verbs, *I canpt sewy, he can't reapy, to sewy, to nursy*: they also prefix letters; for lost, gone, bought, they say *alost, agone, abought*.—They often make dissyllables of monosyllables: for air, both, fair, fire, sure, &c. they say, *ayer, booäth, fayer, shower, &c. I be, thou beest or bist, thee beest, we be, they or thâ be*, are commonly heard; but rarely or never *he be*, but *he is*. —*War* is always used for was and were; as *I war, thee or thou wart, he war, we war, they or thâ war*. —We often hear *we'm, you'm, they'm*, for we are, you are, they are. —They use *thic* for that: as *thic house, thic man*, for that house, that man. —The diphthong *oi* is often pronounced *wi*: for spoil, boil, soil, we have *spwile, bwile, pwint, swile, &c.* —In and, *d* is often ommited; for lovng, hearing, singing, lightning, they say *lovin, hearin* or *hirin, zingin, lightnin*.

As specimens of the Somerset dialect, a dedication in verse and a short dialogue in prose, will be sufficient.

TO THAT DWELLERS O' THE WEST

Tha fruit o' longvul labour, years,  
In theäze veo leaves at last appears.  
Ta you, tha Dwellers o' tha West,  
I'm pleas'd that tha shood be address:

The Salamanca Corpus: "Dialects from A.D. 900" (1838)

Vor thaw I now in Lunnun dwell,  
I mine ye still—I love ye well;  
An niver, niver shall vorget  
I vust drâw'd breath in Zummerzset;  
Amangst ye liv'd, an left ye zorry,  
As you'll knaw when you hire my storry.  
Theäze little book than take o' me;  
'Tis âll I ha jist now ta gee.

[xxix]

FARMER BENNET AN JAN LIDE.

*A Dialogue.*

*Farmer Bennet.* Jan! why dwon't ye right my shoes?

*Jan Lide.* Bin, maester 'tis zaw cawld, I can't work wi' tha tacker at all; I've a brawk it ten times I'm shower ta dâ—da vreeze za hord. Why, Hester hanged out a kittle-smock ta drowy, an in dree minits a war a vraur as stiff as a pawker; an I can't avoord ta keep a good vier—I wish I cood—I'd zoon right your shoes an withers too—I'd zoon yarn zum money, I warnt ye. Can't ye vine zum work vor me, maester, theäze hord times—I'll do any theng ta sar a penny. I can drash—I can cleave brans—I can make spars—I can thatchy—I can shear ditch, an I can gripy too, bit da vreeze za hord. I can wimmy—I can messy or milky nif ther be need o't. I ood'n mine dreavin plough or any theng.

*Farmer Bennet.* I've a got nothin vor ye ta do, Jan; bit Mister Boord banehond ta I jist now that thâ war gwain ta wimmy, an that thâ wanted zumbody ta help 'em.

*Jan Lide.* Aw, I'm glad o't. I'll hirn auver an zee where I can't help 'em; bit I han't a bin athin tha drashel o' Maester Boord's door vor a longful time, bin I thawt that missis did'n use Hester well; but I dwon't bear malice, an zaw I'll goo.

*Farmer Bennet.* What did Missis Boord zâ or do ta Hester, than?

*Jan Lide.* Why, Hester, a-mâ-be, war zummet ta blame too; vor she war one o'm, d'ye zee, that rawd Skimmerton—thic mâ-game that frunted zum o' tha gennel-vawk. Thâ zed 'twar time to a done wi' jitch litter, or jitch stuff, or I dwon knaw

**The Salamanca Corpus: "Dialects from A.D. 900" (1838)**

what thâ call'd it; bit thâ, war a frunted wi' Hester about it; an I zed nif thâ war a frunted wi' Hester, thâ mid be a frunted wi' I. This zet missis's back up, an Hester han't a bin a choorin there zunz. Bit 'tis niver-the-near ta bear malice; and zaw I'll goo auver and zee which wâ tha wine da blaw.

*The Exmoor Dialect.*

23. Exmoor is in the north Somersetsshire and Devonshire; it is so called, being the forest or moor in which the river Exe rises.

AN EXMOOR COURTSHIP.

*Andrew.* Well, cozen Magery, cham glad you're come agen.

*Margery.* Wull ye eat a croust o' brid and chezee, cozen Andra?

*Andrew.* No, es thankee, cozen Magery; vor es eat a crub as es come along: bezides es went to dinner jest avore—Weil, bet, cozen Magery, whot onser dest gi' ma to tha quesson es put vore now-reert.

*Margery.* What quesson was et?

*Andrew.* Why, zure, ya bant so vorgetvul. Why, tha quesson es put a little rather.

*Margery.* Es dont know what quesson ye meean; es begit whot quesson twos.

*Andrew.* Why, to tell tha vlat and plane agen, twos thes: Wut ha' ma, ay or no?

*Margery.* Whot! marry to Earteen?—Es gee tha zame onser es geed avore, es wudent marry the best man in oll England. Es cud amorst zwear chud ne'er marry at oll. And more and zo, cozen Andra, cham a told ya keep company wey Tamzen Hosegood. And nif ya keep hare company, es'll ha no more to zey to tha.

*Andrew.* Ay, thes es Jo Hosegood's flim-flam.—Oh! tha very vengance out o'en.

*Margery.* No, no; tes none of Jo Hosegood's flim-flam.

*Andrew.* Well, well, cozen Magery, be't how twull, whot caree I?—And zo, good-buy, good-buy t' e, cozen Magery.—Nif voaken be jealous avore they be married, zo they mey arter. Zo good-buy, cozen Magery. Chell net trouble ye agen vor wone while, chell warndy.



**The Salamanca Corpus: "Dialects from A.D. 900" (1838)**

*Margery.* [*Calling after him.*] Bet hearky, hearky a bit, cozen Andra! Es wudent ha ye go away angry nether zure; and zure you wont deny to see me drenk? Why ya hant a tasted our cyder yet. [*Andrew returns.*] Come, cozen Andra, here's t'ye.

*Andrew.* Na, vor that matter, es owe no ill-will to enny kesson, net I.—Bet es wont drenk, nether, except ya vurst kiss and vriends.

*The Dialect of East-Anglia, or Norfolk and Suffolk.*

24. "The most general and pervading characteristic of East-Anglian pronunciation," says Mr. Forby, "is a narrowness and tenuity, precisely the reverse of the round, sonorous, 'mouth-filling' tones of the north of England. The broad and open sounds of vowels, the rich and full tones of diphthongs, are generally thus reduced. Generally—not universally. Some few words become broader, but they become also harsher and coarser. This narrowness of utterance is, in some parts, rendered still more offensive by being delivered in a sort of shrill whining recitative. This prevails chiefly in Suffolk, so as to be called in Norfolk the 'Suffolk whine.' The voice of the speaker (or singer) is perpetually running up and down through half or a whole octave of sharp notes, with now and then a most querulous cadence.\*"

The following are a few of the common contractions and changes: *Duffus* for dove or pigeon-house; *wuddus* wood-house; *shant* shall not; *cant* cannot; *ont*, *wont* will not; *dint* did not; *shunt* should not; *wunt* would not; *mant* may not; *warnt* were not; *eent* is not; *aint* is not; *heent* has not; *hǎnt* had not.—*Tut* is used for to it; *dut* do it; *wut* with it; *het* have it; *tebbin* it has been.—We hear *cup* for come up; *gup* go up; *gout* go out; *gin* go in; *giz* give us.—The following are very peculiar: *k'ye here*, or *k'ere*; *h'ye there*; *h'ye hinder*, or *k'inder*; *h'ye thinder*, for look ye here, there, and yonder.—Words are often jumbled together, as in this sentence: *M'aunt bod me g'into th'archard, and call m'uncle into house.*

*Derbyshire Dialect.*

25. This dialect is remarkable for its broad pronunciation. In *me* the *e* is pronounced long and broad, as *mee*. The *l* is often omitted after *a* or *o*, as *aw* for all, *caw* call, *bowd* bold, *coud* cold.—Words in *ing* generally omit the *g*, but sometimes it is



**The Salamanca Corpus: "Dialects from A.D. 900" (1838)**

changed into *k*; as *think* for thing, *lovin* for loving. They use *con* for can; *conner* for cannot; *shanner* for shall not; *wool*, *wooner* for will, and will not; *yo* for you, &c.

*A Dialogue between Farmer Bennet and Tummus Lide.*

*Farmer Bennet.* Tummus, why dunner yo mend meh shoon?

*Tummut Lide.* Becoz, mester, 'tis zo cood, I conner work wee the tachin at aw; I've brockn it ten times I'm shur to de—it freezes zo hard. Why, Hester hung out a smoc-frock to dry, an in three minits it wor frozen as stiff as a proker, an I conner afford to keep a good fire—I wish I cud—I'd soon mend yore shoon, an uthers tow.—I'd soon yarn sum munney, I warrant ye. Conner yo find sum work for m', mester, these hard times?—I'll doo onny think to addle a penny. I con thresh

\* Vocabulary of East-Anglia, Introduction, p. 82.

[xxxix]

—I con split wood—I con mak spars—I con thack. I con skower a dike, an I con trench tow, bur it ireezes zo hard. I con winner—I con fother, or milk, if there be need on't. I woodner mind drivin plow, or onny think.

*Farm. B.* I hanner got nothin for ye to doo, Tummus; but Mester Boord tow'd me jist now that they wor gooin to winner, an that they shud want sumbody to help 'em.

*Tummus L.* O, I'm glad on't. I'll run oor an zee whether I con help 'em; bur I hanner bin weein the threshold ov Mester Boord's doer for a nation time, becoz I thoot misses didner use Hester well, bur I dunner bear malice, an zo I'll goo.

*Farm. B.* What did Misses Boord za or doo to Hester then?

*Tummus L.* Why, Hester may-be wor summet to blame too; for her wor one on 'em, de ye zee, that jawd Skimmerton,—the mak-gam that frunted zum o' the gente-fook. They said 'twor time to dun wee sich litter, or sich stuff, or I dunner know what they caw'd it; bur they wor frunted wee Hester bout it; an I said, if they wor frunted wee Hester, they mid bee frunted wee mee. This set misses's back up, an Hester hanner bin a charrin there sin. But 'tis no use to bear malice; an zo I'll goo oor, and zee which we the winde blows.

*Cheshire Dialect.*

**The Salamanca Corpus: "Dialects from A.D. 900" (1838)**

26. One peculiarity in the province is to change, or soften, the pronunciation of many words in the middle of which the letter *l* is preceded by *a* or *o*.

Thus in common discourse we pronounce *bawk* for balk, *cauf* for calf, *hauf* for half, *wawk* for walk, *foke* for folk, and *St. Awbuns* for St. Albans; but in the Cheshire dialect, as in all the north, the custom of substituting the *o* for the *a*, and the double *ee* for the *igh*, prevails in a still greater degree: thus we call all *aw*; always *awways*; bold *bowd*; calf *cauf*; call *caw*; can *con*; cold *cowd*; colt *cowt*; fold *fowd*; gold *gowd*; false *fause*; foul *fow*; fool *foo*; full *foo*; fine *foin*; hold *howd*; holt *howt*; half *hawf*; halfpenny *hawpenny*; hall *haw*; long *lung*; man *mon*; many *mony*; manner *monner*; might *meet*; mold *mowd*; pull *poo*; soft *saft*; bright *breet*; scald *scawd*; stool *stoo*; right *reet*; twine *twin*; flight *fleet*; lane *loan* or *lone*; mol *mal*; sight *see*; sit *seet*; such *sich*.

*The Lancashire Dialect.*

27. Observations on the Lancashire dialect. All and al are generally sounded broad, as *aw* or *o*: thus, awl *haw* or *ho*, *awlus* for all, hall, always. —In words ending in *ing*, *k* is used for *g*, as *think*, *woink*, for thing, wooing, &c.—At the end of words *d* and *ed* are often changed into *t*; thus, *behint*, *wynt*, *awtert*, for behind, wind, awkward.—The *d* is sometimes omitted in and, for which they say *an*.—It is common, in some places, to sound *ou* and *ow* as *a*; thus *tha*, *ka* or *ca*, for thou, cow. In other places, *ou* and *ow* have the sound *eaw*; thus, for thou, cow, house, mouse, they say *theaw*, *keaw*, *heawse*, *meawse*.—In some parts *o* is used for *a*, and *a* for *o*; thus, for part, hand, they say *port*, *hont*; and instead of for, short, they say *far*, *shart*. —The syllable *en* or 'n is generally used in the plural of verbs, &c. as *hat'n*, *lov'n*, *think'n*.—In Lancashire they generally speak quick and short, and omit many letters, and often pronounce two or three words together; as, *I'll got'* or *I'll gut'* for I'll go to; *runt'* for run

[xxxii]

to; *hoost* for she shall; *intle* or *int'll* for if thou will; *I wou'didd'n* for I wish you would.

*Tummus and Meary.*

**The Salamanca Corpus: "Dialects from A.D. 900" (1838)**

*Tummus.* Odds me! Meary, whooa the dickons wou'd o' thowt o' leeting o' thee here so soyne this morning? Where has to bin? Theaw'rt aw on a swat, I think; for theaw looks primely.

*Meary.* Beleemy, Tummus, I welly lost my wynt; for I've had sitch o'traunce this morning as eh neer had e' meh live: for I went to Jone's o'Harry's o'lung Jone's, for't borrow their thible, to stur th' furmetry weh, an his wife had lent it to Bet o' my gronny's; so I skeawrt eend-wey, an' when eh coom there, hoo'd lent it Kester o' Dick's, an the dule steawnd 'im for a brindl't cur, he'd mede it int' shoon pegs! Neaw wou'd naw sitch o' moon-shine traunce potter any body's plucks?

*Tummtu.* Mark whot e tell the, Meary; for I think lunger ot fok liv'n an' th' moor mischoances they han.

*Meary.* Not awlus.—But whot meys o't' sowgh, on seem so dane-kest? For I con tell o' I'd fene see o' whick an hearty.

*Tummtu.* Whick an hearty too! oddzo. but I con tell the whot, its moor in bargin ot I'm oather whick or hearty, for 'twur seign peawnd t'a tuppunny jannock, I'd bin os deod os o dur nele be this awer; for th' last oandurth boh one me measter had lik't o killt meh: on just neaw, os shure os thee and me ar stonning here, I'm actilly running meh country.

*The Dialect of Craven.*

28. The Deanery of Craven is in the West Riding of Yorkshire. A short specimen will be sufficient.

*Dialogue between Farmer Giles and his neighbour Bridget.*

*Giles.* Good mornin to the, Bridget, how isto?

*Bridget.* Deftly as out, and as cobby as a lop, thanksto.

*Giles.* Wha. marry, thou looks i gay good fettle.

*Bridget.* —What thinksto o't' weather? Awr house is vara unrid and grimy, t'chimla smudges an reeks seea, an mackst' reckon, at used to shimmer and glissen, nowght bud soote an muck.

*Giles.* It's now a vara lithe day, bud there war a girt roak, an a rag o't' fells at delleet, an it looked feaful heavisome.

*Bridget.* I oft think a donky, mislin, deggy mornin is a sign o't' pride o't' weather, for it oft worsels up, an is maar to be liked ner t' element full o' thunner packs er a breet, scaummy sky.

**The Salamanca Corpus: "Dialects from A.D. 900" (1838)**

*Giles.* Wha, when't bent's snod, hask, cranchin an slaap, it's a strang sign of a pash.

*Bridget.* I've oft obsarved there hes been a downfaw soon efter; bud for sure, I cannot gaum mich be ouer chimla at prisent, it's seea smooored up wi mull an brash. Yusterday about noon, t' summer-goose flackered at naya lile rate, an t' element, at edge o' dark, wor feaful full of filly tails an hen scrattins. —Thou knaws that's a sartain sign ov a change, sometimes I've knaan it sile and teem efter.

*An Alphabetical Glossary of most of the peculiar Words used in the preceding specimens of Provincial Dialects.*

29. A-mâ-be *as may be, perhaps*: *s.* Arter *after*: *e.* Auver *over*: *s.* Aw *all*: *d.* Awlus *always*: *l.*—Banehond *to intimate*: *s.* Becoz

[xxxiii]

*because*: *d.* Begit *to forget*: *e.* Brans *brands, fire-wood*: *s.* Brash *rash, impetuous*: *c.* Bur *but*: *d.*—Cawd *called*: *d.* Cham *I am*: *e.* Charrin *jobbing*: *d.* Chel *I shall*: *e.* Chorrin *jobbing*: *s.* Cobby *lively*: *c.* Conner *can not*: *d.* Cood *cold*: *d.* Cranchin *scranching, grinding, crackling*: *c.* Crub *a crumb*: *e.*—Deggy *foggy*: *c.* De *day*: *d.* Deftly *decently, well*: *c.* Dickons, Deuce *the devil*: *d.* Donky *wet, dark, gloomy*: *c.* Drash *to thrash*: *s.* Dunner *do not*: *d.* Dwon't *don't, do not*: *s.*—Es, ise *I, is*: *e.*—Fettle *condition*: *c.* Fok *folk*: *l.* Fother *to fodder*: *d.*—Gaum *to know, distinguish*: *c.* Gee *to give*: *e.* Girt *great, friendly*: *c.* Gripy *to cut in gripes, to cut a trench*: *s.*—Hâ *have*: *s.* Han *have*: *l.* Hanner *has or have not*: *d.* Hask *dry, parched*: *c.* Hirn *To run*: *s.* Hoo'd *her had, she had*: *l.*—Jannock *oat-cake, bread made of oatmeal*: *l.* Jawd *scolded*: *d.* Jitch *such*: *s.*—Kesson *Christian*: *e.* Kittle-smock *a smock-frock*: *s.*—Lile *little*: *c.* Lithe *blithe, mild*: *c.* Lop *a flea*: *c.*—Marry *truly*: *c.* Mess, messy *to serve cattle*: *s.* Mine *to mind, regard*: *s.* Mislin *misty, small rain*: *c.* Mul *dust or refuse of turf or peat*: *c.*—Nation *great, very*: *d.* Never-the-near *useless*: *s.* Now-reert *now right, just now*: *e.* —o' *of*: *s.* Oandurth *afternoon*: *l.* Odds *me bless me*: *l.* Ood'n *would not*: *s.*—Pash *a fall of rain*: *c.* Pride *fineness*: *c.* Proker *a poker*: *d.* —Rag *mist*: *c.* Rather *soon, early*: *e.* Reckon, reak *on what is smoked on, an iron bar over the fire to support a boiling pot*: *c.* Reek *to smoke*: *c.* Roak *a reek, smoke*: *c.*—Sar *to earn*: *s.*

**The Salamanca Corpus: "Dialects from A.D. 900" (1838)**

Seign seven: *l.* Shimmer to shine: *c.* Shoon shoes: *d.* Sile to pour with rain: *c.* Sin since: *d.* Skeawr to make haste: *l.* Slaap slippery.- *c.* Smooored smothered: *c.* Snod smooth: *c.* Sowgh to sigh: *l.* Spars pointed sticks, doubled and twisted in the middle to fasten thatch upon a roof: *s.* Summet somewhat: *d.*—Tacker: *s.* tachin: *d.* a waxed thread. Teem to pour out: *c.* Thâ they: *s.* Thack to thatch: *d.* Thaw though: *s.* Theaw thou: *l.* Theaze these, this: *s.* Thibble a thin piece of wood to stir meat in a pot.- *l.* Think thing.- *d.* Towd told.- *d.* Traunce a troublesome journey: *l.* ‘Twar it was: *s.* Twull as it will: *e.*—Vine to find: *s.*—Warnt to warrant, assure; *s.* Whick quick, alive: *l.* Wimmy to winnow: *s.* Wine wind: *s.* Withers others: *s.* Woodner would not: *d.* Worsel to wrestle: *c.* Wynt wind: *l.*—Ya you: *e.* Yarn to earn: *s.* Yo you: *d.* Yore your: *d.*—Zaw so: *s.* Zo so: *d.* Zunz since: *s.*

Contractions. *c.* Craven. *d.* Derbyshire. *e.* Exmoor. *l.* Lancashire. *s.* Somerset.

30. Many expressive Anglo-Saxon words, which are no longer in use among the refined, have been retained in the provincial dialects. These then ought not to be neglected. The facility and simplicity of combining several short indigenous words to express any complex idea, practised by the Anglo-Saxons and other Gothic nations, is now too seldom used. Instead of adopting technical terms from other languages, or forming

[xxxv]

them from the Greek or Latin, as is the present English custom, our Anglo-Saxon forefathers formed words equally expressive by composing them from their own radical terms. For our *literature* they used boc-cræft *book-craft*, from boc *a book*, cræft *art, science*; for *arithmetic* rimcraeft, from rim *a number*, craeft *art*; for *astronomy* tungelcraeft, from tungel *a star*, &c. If, however, we have lost in simplicity, we have gained in copiousness and euphony. In collecting from other languages, the English have appropriated what was best adapted to their purpose, and thus greatly enriched their language. Like bees they have diligently gathered honey from every flower.\* They have now a language which, for copiousness, power, and extensive use, can scarcely be surpassed. It is not only used in England, Scotland, and Ireland, but in the whole of North America and Australia: it prevails in the West Indies, and is more or

**The Salamanca Corpus: "Dialects from A.D. 900" (1838)**

less spoken in our vast possessions in the East. Indeed, wherever civilization, science, and literature prevail, there the English language is understood and spoken.

\* Camden observes: " Whereas our tongue is mixed, it is no disgrace. The Italian is pleasant, but without sinewes, as a still fleeting water. The French delicate, but even nice as a woman, scarce daring to open her lippes, for fear of marring her countenance. The Spanish majesticall, but fulsome, running too much on the o, and terrible like the Divell in a play. The Dutch manlike, but withall very harsh, as one ready at every word to picke a quarrell. Now we, in borrowing from them, give the strength of consonants to the Italian; the full sound of words to the French; the variety of terminations to the Spanish; and the mollifying of more vowels to the Dutch; and so, like bees, we gather the honey of their good properties, and leave the dregs to themselves. And thus, when substantialnesse combineth with delightfulness, fullnesse with finenesse, seemliness with portliness, and currentnesse with staydnesse, how can the language which consisteth of all these, sound other than full of all sweetness?" — *Camden's Remains*, p. 38, *edit. of 1623*.

