



The Salamanca Corpus: "Phrases of Speech of the Hundred of Berkeley" (1639)

**Author:** John Smyth (1567-1640)

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**e-text**

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[22]

**Phrases and proverbs of speech proper to this hundred.**

In this hundred of Berkeley are frequently used certaine words proverbs and phrases of speech, which wee hundreders conceive, (as we doe of certaine market moneyes,) to bee not only native but confined to the soile bounds and territory therof; which if found in the mouthes of any forraigners, wee deeme them as leapt

[23]

over our wall, or as strayed from their proper pasture and dwellinge place: And doubtles, in the handsome mouthinge of them, the dialect seemes borne of our owne bodies and naturall vnto vs from the breasts of our nurses: with some fewe of which dishes I will heere feast my reader and sport my selfe, viz.<sup>t</sup>,

1. A native hundreder, being asked where hee was borne, answereth, where shu'd y bee y bore, but at Berkeley hurns, And there, begis, each was y bore. Or thus, Each was

'geboren at Berkeley hurns.

2. So naturall is the dialect of pronouncing the Ire (y) betweene words endinge and beginninge with consonants, that it seemes droppinge from the aire into our mouthes: As, John y Smyth: John y Cole: Sit y downe: I can y finde it: her has y milkt: come y hither: well y said my Tomy: It's a good y white pott: Each ha kild a ferry vat y hogg: Our sowe does not well y fatt y: hur may y serve for lard y: moder cut y mee some meat: my mal is a good y wench: Watt y ge Tom y some nin y well din'd: hur is y gone: I will y goe: Come y my sweet y will y: Th'art my pretty dick y: With thousands the like, accomptinge our selves by such manner of speach to bee true patriots, And true preservers of the honored memory of our old forefathers, Gower, Chaucer, Lidgate, Robert de Glouc, and others of those and former ages.
3. The letter (ff) is frequently vsed for v. As fewed for viewed: fowe for vowe: fenison for venison: farnish for varnish: and others the like.
4. The Ire (v) is also frequently vsed for (f.) as vethers for fethers: vastinge for fastinge: vowlar for fowlar: venne for fenne: a varthinge for a farthing token: vire for fire: vat for fat venison; So powerfull a prerogative of transplantaçon, have wee hundreders over the Alphabet.
5. G is often also used for C. As guckowe for cuckowe: grabs for crabs: A guckold for a Cuckhold, and the like.
6. ffor dust, we say, doust: rowsty, for rusty: fousty, for fusty, youse for vse: and the like.
7. Thicke and thucke, for this and that, rush out with vs at every breath. As, d'ont thick way; d'ont thuck way: for, doe it on this way: doe it on that way.
8. Putton vp, for put it up: putton on thick way: putton on thuck way: fetton vp, for fet it vp: cutton of, for cut it of; And many the like.
9. I wou'd it was hild, for I would it were flead, of the skyn of.
10. y w'ood t'wert hild: for, I would thou were hanged.

[24]

11. Hur goes too blive for mee: i.e. shee goes too fast for mee.

12. fflippant, i. e. flippery, quicke, nimble.
13. Neighboriden; for neighbourhood in all senses.
14. Wenchen, for wenchs, or girles.
15. Axen, for ashes.
16. Hur ligs well y bed y this morne; i. shee sleeps a napp of nyne houres.
17. I can beteeme shee any thinge. i. e. I can deny her nothinge.
18. What? wil't y pisse a bed. i. e. what will you pisse your bed:
19. Sheeme bene heere a numbers while. i. e. mee seemes I have byn heere a longe while.
20. Beanes thicke yeare are orrribly hong'd. i. e. Beanes this yeare are horribly codded.  
Hur is dothered. i. e. shee is amazed astonished.  
An attery, or thwartover wench. i. An angry or crosse natur'd wench.  
H'eel take it fery hugey. i. e. hee will take it in evill part. H'eel growe madd y gaa.  
i.e. come, let us goe: If you'l goe, gaa. i.e. If you will goe, then come let vs goe.  
A shard. i. a gapp or broken place in an hedge.  
A loppertage. i. A lowe place where a hedge is trodden downe.  
Hembles. i. a dead shard or gap, neere to a gate: A frequent word in bylawes at our Courts.  
y wud and y cud. i.e. I would doe it if I could.  
you speake dwelth. i. e. you talke you know not what.  
Each'ill warrant you. i. e. I will bee your warrant.  
Each ha'nnot wel y din'd. i. I have not well dyned.  
The ire (v) is frequently vsed for (i.) As gurdle, for girdle; Threscall for threshold.  
Harroust, for harvest.  
To hint. i. e. to end. hintinge, a word in husbandry.  
A wize acre. i. a very foole.  
Lick many. i. like many.  
To hite abroad. i. e. To ride abroad on pleasure.  
To tett. i. e. to chase. Hee tet my sheepe. i. e. chased them.  
To veize, and veizinge. i. to chase: chasing violently vp and downe.  
Loomer, loomer. i. often and oftner. And loomer. i. faster.  
To loxe, i. e. to convey away privately. A loxer. i. e. A secret purloyner. Loxinge. i.

e. private pilferinge.

[25]

To vocket, vockater, vockatinge: In like sense as to loxe, a loxer, & loxinge, last mentioned.

The pugg. i.e. the refuse corne left at winnowinge.

Shoon. i. shoes; The naturall ideome of my whole family, my selfe scarce free from the infection.

A penston, a coine or Jamestone.

Thick cole will y not y tind. i. This cole will not burne.

Wee shim all hush at home i. e. wee are all quiet at home.

meeve. i. e. move. As, meeve them a lich. i. e. move them a like.

grannam. i. e. grandame, a grandmother. good gramere. i. e. good grandmother.

Twit. i. e. vpbraid.

gait. i. e. all in hast; or heddy.

A grible, i.e. A crabstocke to graft vpon.

Howe fare fader and moder: when sawe you fader and moder; fader and moder will bee heere to morrowe. Altogether without the pronoune possessive.

This hay did well y henton. i. e. dry or wither well.

Each am well y fritt. i. e. I am well filled.

Ch'am w'oodly agreezd. i. e. I am wonderfully agreived.

In the familiar difference of the vsual words, gay and goe, consisteth halfe the thrift of my husbandries. gaye, is let vs goe, when my selfe goes as one of the company: But, goe, is the sendinge of others when by selfe staies behinde.

A goschicken. i. e. a goslin or younge goose.

Ourne, for ours; them, for theirs: hurne for hers, and many the like

A pisse glasse. i. e. an vrinall.

A slaterne, i. e. a rude ill bred woma. An haytrell, the like.

An hoytrell, i. e. a loose idle knave.

Hur will bee bedlome anoa. i. e. shee will bee by and by mad.

A Dowd, i. e. An vnseemely woman, vnhandsome in face and foote.

Dunch, i. e. deafe. Hurts, i. e. bilbaries. Solemburies, i. e. service berries; wized. i. e. wished.

Hee makes noe hoe of it. i. e. hee cares not for it.

He is an hastis man, i. e. hasty or angry.

Come a downe, i. e. get yee downe. Come y vp. i. e. come vp. I pray set a downe. i. e. I pray sit downe.

Hite, i. e. Comely. vnhity, i. e. vncomely. you dishite mee, i. e. you shame mee.

Tyd, i. e. wanton. Hee is very tyd, i. e. very wanton. A tyd bit, i. e. a speciall morsell reserved to eat at last.

[26]

Each ha fongd to a childe, i. e. I have byn godfather at a childes christninge. Hee did fange to mee, i. e. hee is my godfather.

To fonge, i. e. to receive.

The coves white, i. e. butter and cheese.

A voulthay. i. e.

To gale, A galer, the galefishinge; wherof read after, in my descripçon of Severne.

Wone, twa, three, voure, vīve, id est. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.

Hee n'eer blins, i. e. hee never ceaseth.

Meese, meesy, i. e. mosse, mossy.

Hee wants boot a beame, i. e. He wants money to spend: or mony in his purse.

Thuck vire don't y bran, i. e. this fire doth not burne.

It war y gold, that war y gam y; i. e. That was gold w<sup>ch</sup> was given mee.

ga'as zo'm of thuck bread, i. e. give mee some of that bread.

Hur ha's well y tund her geer to day. i. shee hath applied her booke to day.

Moder, gyn, will not y washen' the dishen'. Moder, Jone, will not wash the dishes.

Gyn y com y and tyff y the windowes. i. Jone, come, and trim vp the windowes, (meaninge with flowers.)

Eesee, and eesee. i. waighty. Eeseer and eeseer. i. waightier. Its eesee corne in hond.

Camplinge, i. brawlinge, chidinge.

Pilsteers. i. pillow beers.

But, Claudite jam rivos pueri, sat prata biberunt.