LEAN'S COLLECTANEA.

Photo by Bennett, Malvern

Vincent L. Lean

COLLECTIONS

VIOLET STUCKEY LEAN

Proverbs (English [illegible]), Folk Lore, and Superstitions, also Compilations [illegible] Dictionaries of Proverbial Phrases [illegible] obsolete and disused.

Vol. I.

BRISTOL
J. W. ARROWSMITH, 11 QUAY STREET
LONDON
SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, HAMILTON, KENT AND COMPANY LIMITED
1902

Vincent L. Leon

Lean's Collectanea

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BY

VINCENT STUCKEY LEAN

OF

Proverbs (English & Foreign), Folk Lore, and Superstitions, also Compilations towards Dictionaries of Proverbial Phrases and Words, old and disused.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THE MSS. of Mr. V. S. Lean have, in accordance with the directions of his will, been offered by his Executors to, and accepted by, the Trustees of the British Museum. Some of the beneficiaries under his will have thought that the devoted labour of so many years should be accessible to a larger number of students and others interested in Proverbs and Folk-lore than would be the case did his work remain open only to those who would frequent the British Museum. They determined, with the sanction of Mr. James Lean, one of the Executors, to print parts of the MSS.; and they have gratefully to acknowledge the kindness and courtesy of the Trustees of the British Museum in allowing such portions to be printed.

The time, however, allowed for this could only of necessity be limited, and it was therefore possible to do little more than print the MSS. as they were left by Mr. Lean: as the whole work practically consists of quotations, it would have been impossible to verify them unless a very considerable length of time was available for that purpose. The reader should bear this in mind if any parts of the work appear to him without form or arrangement. Had Mr. Lean revised the work for printing, he would probably have done much in the way of arrangement and collocation.

The use of the term "Editor" may therefore be deemed a presumption on the part of him who has seen the work through the press. As Matthew Arnold said of the term "Professor," so may be said of the term "Editor"; there is

an editor of *The Times* and of *Tit-Bits*: the work might have been "overseen," but the phrase seems consecrated to the productions of the Kelmscott and other presses which would rival it: so for want of a less high-sounding word the term Editor has been used.

Two *facsimile* specimens of Mr. Lean's handwriting (happily calligraphy indeed) are given: his method of work is shown by one, viz. the MS. of p. 361 of Vol. I. Having found his original, he added to it from time to time as he came across fresh references bearing on his subject, until the note-paper is replete to exhaustion: this is the case with the greater part, indeed almost the whole, of the MSS.

His references to authorities are often Meredithian in their condensation, *e.g.*:—

> Chamberlain, *W. W. W.*—*Sc. Sal.*—Wr., *V. of Voc.*—B. Jon., *Ev. M. out of H.*—Bed., *Ephem.*—*B. E. N. D. C. Cr.*—G., *M. Y. Ale*—J. D., *Ent.*—Nun., 1555—*Kn. to K. Kn.*—Straff.—B. & F., *K. of B. P.*—Wander—Cotton, *B. B.*—and numberless others.

The Editor has set out these references more fully and added the number of the line to the quotations from Shakespeare (using the Cambridge Edition), and so endeavoured to make all the references to authorities clear to those who, without special knowledge, might find themselves hindered in the work of verification or the desire to see any passage in its full context. The Editor is also responsible for the Index and the Bibliographical References: he would like gratefully to admit the great help he has derived from Mr. W. W. Greg's work, *A List of English Plays Written before 1643 and Printed before 1700*, and its Supplement, in the compilation of the latter.

The Executors and others concerned have also to thank the proprietors of *Notes and Queries* for their courtesy and kindness in permitting the use of the queries and the answers

thereto supplied by Mr. Lean, printed at the end of the work; and Mr. E. R. Norris Mathews (Bristol City Librarian) for extracting these queries and answers from the files of *Notes and Queries*, extending over a considerable number of years, to whom also thanks are due for verifying dates in connection with the Memoir.

The Memoir is from the pen of Miss Julia Lucy Woodward, of the Knoll, Clevedon, at whose request my duties were undertaken, and whose valuable help and co-operation I desire also to acknowledge.

T. W. WILLIAMS.

MEMOIR.

VINCENT STUCKEY LEAN was born on the 10th of April, 1820, at 19 Bellevue, Clifton, Bristol. His great-grandfather, James Lean, came from Lesmahagow, in Lanark, early in the 18th century, and settled at Bridgwater, Somerset; afterwards, about the year 1737, removing to Wiveliscombe, in the same county, where his son also resided. James, the eldest son of the latter, having married Lucy, daughter of Samuel Stuckey, of Langport, the founder of the Somerset Bank (now known by his name), moved after a time to Clifton. He was one of the managers of the Bristol Branch, which was first settled on the Broad Quay, and later (before being moved to its present position) in the picturesque old Dutch house at the top of High Street, then known as the Castle Bank.

James Lean, then living at Clifton Hill House (now Church House), was Sheriff of Bristol, 1833–4. He afterwards resided at 19 Caledonia Place, Clifton; was a Whig in politics, and a member of the Anchor Society, that one of the local societies founded in honour of Edward Colston with which Whigs associated themselves. He died in 1849.

Vincent Stuckey, the youngest of nine children, was educated at private schools in Clifton and Failand, near Bristol, one of his masters being the Rev. J. Coles, of Clifton Wood, Bristol. Amongst his early playmates were John and Henry Lawrence (afterwards Lord Lawrence and Sir Henry Lawrence, of Indian fame). In one of his letters he mentions his early love of Horace, and his recollection of reading him as a boy in their garden at Clifton. Another reminiscence was of the Bristol Riots in 1831, when his father and brothers were sworn in as special constables.

After leaving school he was for a time in Stuckey's Bank, Bristol. Either the work was uncongenial, or his thoughts

may have been turned to the legal profession by the extra-ordinarily successful career of his cousin, Edward Jacob, who died about this time at the early age of 34. He entered the Middle Temple in 1840, reading in the Chambers of Sir John Rolt, with whom and whose family he contracted a life-long friendship. He was called to the Bar in 1843.

Miss Rolt, daughter of Sir John Rolt, says of V. S. Lean:

"He was one of my father's earliest (I think he and Mr. Humphry were the first) pupils. He was always a great deal at our house, and his taste for poetry, general literature, music, &c., made him a congenial companion to my father. He had a pleasing soft voice, and read aloud charmingly, poetry especially. Mr. Lean and Mr. Humphry travelled abroad one autumn, and the latter was taken ill at Bologna. Mr. Lean stayed with him and nursed him.* Mr. Lean, not being dependent upon his legal work, did not pursue his profession, and therefore indulged his taste for books and literature; and he preferred a quiet life to the bustle of a professional one—at least my father thought so. The collection of Proverbs was a work of years, for he always seemed to have a book on hand on the subject. He almost always when walking had a book in his hand, reading as he went along in his country walks."

In the course of the tour above referred to, which took place in 1850, he visited Rome, and Mrs. Burdett (another daughter of Sir John Rolt), then a child staying there, tells of the many kindnesses he showed to her—how he would take her to the places of interest and tell her their history, and of the irresistible attraction old book and print shops had for him.

He remained abroad a considerable time; and, quite abandoning any intention of practising at the Bar, in 1854 gave up his Chambers and sold his law books. He never severed his connection with the Temple, however, frequently going to the Temple Church on Sundays and joining in the singing. Having a good tenor voice and a love of music, he joined one of the chief London Philharmonic Societies, and attended regularly the principal musical festivals as a listener. He was also an

* Mr. Lean and Mr. Humphry remained friends through their lives, and the widow of the latter writes that her husband remembered with gratitude Mr. Lean's loving kindness on this occasion.

ardent admirer of painting, and well acquainted with the principal masterpieces, ancient and modern, at home and abroad.

After giving up his Chambers, he never again settled into rooms of his own, though always intending to do so. His books and other property were packed in cases and stored away in London from 1855 and after. He continually added to the store, and thus they remained until his death, though very many, if not most, of his books related to his life-study—the Proverbs of all Nations.

From this time he went frequently abroad, always adding to his stock. Many parts of Europe were visited, especially Italy; and being fond of walking, he trudged two or three times through this country.

His early friend, and connection, Alan Cheales, of Hagworthingham, Lincolnshire, accompanied him on some of these walking tours into the wilder parts between Capua and Rome, and was, like himself, occupied in the collection of folk-lore.

In reply to a request, Mr. Cheales has supplied the following recollections:—

"You ask me for some recollections of Vincent Stuckey Lean. Such memories at once take me back half a century, when I was a graduate fresh from Cambridge, proud to be the representative of Alma Mater for three years as her Travelling Bachelor, and he was fresh from that bedside of a sick friend at Bologna, which he had so tenderly guarded; staying on until at last professional business had left him, and instead of Themis, the Muses were henceforth his clients. We first met at Rome. It was in the apartments of his brother, John Stuckey Lean, who had recently married my cousin, Monique Bellingham; so that we were relatives and friends from the first. Then for five months we were thrown perpetually into the most intimate relationship; for five years more we met from time to time in England, and then drifted apart—myself buried those many years in a little country parish; Vincent Lean travelling far and wide, to build up the great work he had projected, a *resumé* and selection of the Proverbs of all Nations. Then at last, and of late, I suddenly awoke to find his name in all men's mouths as one of the most liberal and enlightened public benefactors of his era.

"But my chiefest recollections all go back to those Italian days, when we were so seldom separate. First, the winter at Rome, with its endless objects of interest, combined with the pleasant society of our little English community; we frequented the same house where his musical acquirements were in such request and appreciation.

"We both drank of Trevi's fountain as we left Rome in early spring for pedestrian tours southward—Vincent Lean soon to be lured back thither, myself but to cherish memories. Then began that closest intimacy, which either effectually joins together or separates. 'Can two walk together except they be agreed?' Then we started on one long tramp through the Pontine marshes and Caserta to the dominions of King Bomba, where we found Naples dominated by the cannon he had trained on it; not that this disturbed the visitors. Here we picked up our old acquaintances, and began the same happy round of sight-seeing and social intimacies: some of these to come to nothing; others, perhaps more fortunate, to end in lasting relationships. Pompeii, Amalfi, Sorrento, Capri, not least Pæstum. What happy days and pleasant friendships these bring back! Then we two left for Rome again, for the Holy Week; this time by Capua, Monte Casino, and then through the Abruzzi, having more than one adventure in that wild and rough region. One night I remember the one inn could not receive us, and we had to fall back on the gendarmerie, who shared with us their rough lodgings. I rested, though not with repose, on a plank bed; my companion smoking cheerfully all night by the fire. Next morning, a wash at the public fountain, and the early cup of coffee, started us as fresh as ever on another long cheery journey. As your great Western poet has it—

> 'What cared this body for wind or weather
> When youth and I were in it together?'
>
> S. T. Coleridge.

And so we went towards Rome; and the Holy Week and its varied ceremonials passed over us, culminating with the at length again allowed illumination of St. Peter's. And then we parted. I close with an example of his graceful diction and steadfast friendship.

"There lies before me his bridal present, three years later —a magnificent copy of that prince of uninspired works, the

Pilgrim's Progress, and with this very happiest of wedding good wishes :—

'To my fellow pedestrian in sunny Italy,
Alan B. Cheales, and his Bride.
At that stage of their pilgrimage
Where their roads are no longer separate, but one,
May each help the other to "run well,"
And may much happiness attend them on the way!'

V. S. L., 1854."

His very carefully-written MS. collection of Proverbs of All Nations and annotated books are the results of these and later travels, and were left by will to the British Museum. The following volumes are an endeavour to give a wider circle than the students there the opportunity of benefiting by his painstaking research. When in London, often for seven hours a day, day after day, he would be occupied in the Museum reading-room consulting, compiling, and noting down.

His life was of the simplest and most self-denying: after an early breakfast came the reading at the British Museum; then to the Windham Club for mid-day meal, papers, &c., of which his favourites were the *Daily News* and *Westminster Gazette*, he being an advanced Liberal in politics. In these times he would usually be found at the Temple dinners.

In relation to this phase of his life, Mr. C. F. Wade, his nephew by marriage, of the Inner Temple, has contributed the following note :—

"In the old hall of the Middle Temple, running crosswise near the top, and under the shadow of the Benchers' table on its raised platform, is the celebrated table of the 'Ancients.' This table holds eight of these august remnants of antiquity, who have certain privileges both in food and drink over the common herd of juvenile barristers and students sitting at right angles to them in long rows down each side of the room. They are the senior members of the Bar present who are not Benchers; and though they do not change much in their attendance from night to night in Term time, they are a rather motley company. Here is an ex-Colonial judge; here a retired Indian civilian; a few bachelor barristers still in practice, and who have residential chambers in or near the Temple; and, commonest of all, some old members of the Bar who do not

practice, but who like to keep in touch with the old legal surroundings, and who moreover get a very fair plain dinner at a very moderate price.

"Amongst these non-practising barristers was Mr. Vincent Lean, and it is doubtful whether any of the emeriti who sat there enjoyed the company and the rations more than he did. Unless he was really ill, he never missed a night, generally tramping it down the Strand from his club, the Windham, in all weathers, and nobody who sat there was better read and more apt at conversation than he.

"Talking, too, of his being really ill, nobody had more pluck in illness than he had. He always struggled to disregard and shake off not only passing maladies, but much more serious ailments, and it took a great deal to keep him away from his favourite haunts—the British Museum reading-room, the Windham Club, and the Temple. Besides the hall in the latter, the seats in the gardens and round the fountain in Fountain Court knew him well, as also did the Temple Church, where his tenor voice—sweet even in his old age—often joined in the harmony of the choir. He kept a good deal to himself, but when he did meet his friends at the Ancients' table in the old hall no one there was better company. He had his peculiarities both in his habits and in his ideas; but such men as Mr. Lean are always missed and regretted, and when he was taken away, the Middle Temple lost one of those many links with the past, which may be renewed by fresh ones, but which can never be replaced."

Although never married, he enjoyed quiet home life, and was specially kind to little children. Walks, especially country ones, were always an attraction; and being devoted to wild flowers, he would pluck and press some in any book which might then be his pocket companion. Later in life he would say he agreed with a writer who said he was "content to admire, not pick. Why should a flower not be allowed to enjoy its life?" Anticipating Mrs. Ewing's idea in "*Mary's Meadow*," he would, especially at Malvern, a favourite locality, plant seeds or roots in parts where they had not been found before. He also took interest in noting down and comparing the dates of spring flowers, the first bird's notes, &c.; and in the autumn would bring home various species of fungi for the table, considered excellent abroad, but generally shunned in England.

In 1853–5 Spain and Portugal deeply interested him, also Argentina. In 1856 he visited Egypt and Syria, returning by Turkey and Greece. America, a country with which he had great sympathy, followed, with Cuba in 1857; and in 1858 Algeria struck him with the difference in its beauty to the flat shores of the Nile, the part of Africa with which he had been previously acquainted.

He was a constant contributor to *Notes and Queries*, being especially interested in verifying quotations, often quoting the saying of Lord Chancellor Campbell: "Each man has his hobby, and mine is not to suffer a quotation to slip without identification. It is fortunate that I am not a despotic monarch, or I would certainly make it felony, without benefit of clergy, to quote a passage without giving a plain reference."

Being interested in word derivation, he occasionally sent contributions to Dr. Murray's great work, now in progress.

Though so saving and frugal in his habits, he was always ready to help a cause that appealed to him, and many were the kindnesses he did unknown except to the recipients. By judicious investments he was able year by year to increase his capital and income, so as to be enabled to make the noble bequests hereinafter mentioned.

In 1890 he had a serious illness, and he was thereafter constantly compelled to seek health resorts. In 1895, at Bordighera, bronchitis and heart failure again laid him low; from this illness he never thoroughly recovered. The winter of 1896 was spent at Clifton; the summer in London, which he used to say he considered the coolest place in all England, quoting the well-known lines, the *jeu d'esprit* of Captain Morris, once boon companion of the Prince Regent:

> "In Town let me live, and in Town let me die,
> For in truth I can't relish the country, not I;
> If ever condemned in the country to dwell,
> Oh! give me the sweet shady side of Pall Mall!"

The years 1897 and 1898 were spent at the Knoll, Clevedon, the residence of his niece, Julia Lucy Woodward (with an interval in London and Weston-super-Mare), and there he died on the 24th March, 1899, having just fallen short of his seventy-ninth birthday, and was laid in the family vault at Clifton Parish Church.

By his will, dated the 4th June, 1886, and a codicil, dated the 20th November, 1893, he gave to the trustees of the British Museum the sum of £50,000, which he requested them to appropriate at their discretion to the improvement and extension of the library and reading-room, and he directed his executors to offer to the trustees of the British Museum all his MSS. and books annotated in manuscript, relating to the subject of National Proverbs (English and Foreign) for public use in the said institution, and to form part of the national collection therein. He gave to the Mayor, aldermen, and citizens of the city of Bristol the sum of £50,000, upon trust, to apply the same to the further development of the Free Libraries of the said city, and with especial regard to the formation and sustenance of a General Reference Library of a standard and scientific character for public use in the city of Bristol. And he requested the trustees of the British Museum and the Municipal Council in Bristol (but in nowise as a condition of the said bequests of £50,000 to each of them) to consider favourably the question of keeping open the libraries and collections under their charge during some part at least of each Sunday throughout the year. He also gave the following legacies to charitable institutions:—

To Müller's Orphanages, Bristol	£20,000
To the University College, Bristol ...	5,000
To the Bristol General Hospital	1,000
To the Bristol Hospital for Sick Children	1,000
To the Weston-super-Mare Sanatorium ..	1,000
To King's College Hospital, London ...	1,000

With the assent of the residuary legatees, his executors have given his books, about 5,000 volumes, relating principally to Proverbs, Folk-lore and the like, to the Corporation of Bristol for their Central Library, the books to be kept together in one room and called the Stuckey Lean Collection.

Veramente ti porto grande envidia: imperoche fra un mese
(se i venti non ti farno torto) giugnerai nella ricca Isola di
Sicilia, et mangerai de que' macherone i quali hanno preso il
nome del beatificare (Macharias beatos): Suogleonsi cuocere
insieme con grassi capponi e caci freschi da ogni lato stil-
lante butiro e latte, e poi con liberale e larga mano vi sopra
pongano zucchero e canella della piu fina che trovar si possa;
oime! che me viene la saliva in bocca sol à ricordarmene.
Quando io ne mangiava mi doleva con Aristotene che
Iddeo non mi avesse dato il collo di grue, perche sentisse
nel trangugiarli maggior piacere, mi doleva che il corpo mio
non si facesse una gran campana: Sel ti viene commodo di
fare la quaresima in Taranto tu diventarai piu largo che
longo, tanta è la bontà de quei pesci, oltre che le cucinano,
e con l'aceto e col vino, con certe herbacine odorifere, e con
alcuni saporetti di noci, aglio, et mandorle. Ma quanta
invidia ti porto ricordandome che tu mangerai in Napoli
quel pane di puccia branco nel più eccelente grado, dirai
questo è veramente il pane che gustano gli Angeli in para
diso. Oltre quel di puccia vi se ne fa d'un' altra sorte detta
Pane de S. Antonio in forma di diadema, ed e tale che chi si
desidera con esso comparateco e ben Re de Golosi.
Mangerai vitella di Surrento, la quale si strugge in bocca
con maggior deletto che non fa il zucchero, e che meraviglia
è se l'è di si grato sapore, poi che non si cibano gli armenti
d'altro che de serpillo, nepitella, rosmarino, spico, maggiorana
citornella, menta, ed altre simili herbe; tu squazzerai con que'
caci cavallucci freschi, arrostite, non con lento fuoco, ma prest-
issimo, con sopraveste de Zucchero e cenamomo: Io mi strugo
sol a pensarvi. Vedrai in Napoli la Loggia detta per sopra-
nome de Genovesi, piena di tutte quelle buone cose che
per ungere la gola desiderar si possano. mangerai in Napole
de susameli, mostaccivole, raffiole, pesci, frenge, castagne di
Zucchero, schiacciate de mandole, pasta reale, conserve rosate,
branco mangiare; saranno le appresentate de buone capponi
fà che tu alezi, Gyropezi, et non coseggi cioe mangia Italo e

Fac-simile of MS. of page 291.

change Haz May
Cast not a clout
till May be out. Hen
The wind at North and East
was never good for man nor beast
so never think to cast a clout Robinson
until the month of May be out Whitby Gl
The merry month of May R1678

U.P.K spells May goslings Haz
May day is come and gone;
thou art a gosling and I am none D
He has no more sense than a May gosling W. Rye in Nfk Ant Misc. i 308
cold May enriches no one Inv. A la mi-Mai queue d'hiver
wet K If you would the doctor pay/ leave your flannels off in May Elworthy Som W B
/ A cold May and a windy
makes a fat barn and a findy Ho
full R1670
A cold May [full barn of corn]
A cold May good for corn and bad for hay
[plenty of corn and hay] Baker Nh Gl
A cold May is kind Chamb. 10.10.10.
Shear your sheep in May
and shear them all away R1670
A cameral haddock's ne'er gude
till it get three draps o' May flude Ch
The herrings are na gude till they smell the new hay North Ch
Quien en Mayo come la sardina,
en Agosto caga la espina Cl. 1555
St. A not May Corne
makes a fat church-hay Haz

Of fair things the month of May is fair. Cod.
The pleasant month of May
doth not last alway With 1608
come it aire, come it late,
in May comes the cow-quake Ray
i.e. a cold rain with wind. R1678 suggests
of the gramen tremulum or quaking-grass
As welcome as flowers in May He.
As foul weather to the skies (iron.)
to my eyes
U.P.K spells goslings in May Brady Var. p 14
And you to mine as mists to the day
or frosts unto the month of May Mackrae Rural Dialogue
Cold May and windy Tusser
barn filleth up finely May Ab 1573
i.e. solid, full, substantial K
A wet May and a winnie brings a fou stackyard and a finnie Ellis
A swarm of bees in May
is worth a cow and her calf and a load of hay
but a swarm in July
is not worth a fly A swarm in August
not worth a dust
cockles and ray
come in in May Harland & Wilkinson Lancash. Leg p 224
Chyrche-haye Cimiterium Wr. Vol of Voc (XIV Cent) p178
yard Ho
Marry in May and you'll rue the day
Who weds in May throws all away
From the marriages in May
all the bairns die and decay D Ovid Fasti 490
May birds are aye cheeping (chirping in the nest)
Mense Maio nubunt malae Keller Wfl
He that would live for aye
must eat sage [and butter 7] in May R1678
Cur moriatur homo cui salvia crescit in horto? Sch Sal
This month eat butter and red sage
And you shall live out your full age
If no red sage be to be seen
You may for need take that is green
Great store of authors much do utter
In praise of this same sage and butter
/ Merchant May's little summer Corne Haz
Flowers in May
fine cocks of hay Yorksh. N I x 710
A north-east wind in May P. Robin 1669
makes the Shot'ver men at prey i.e. at Dover where it is a good wind for mackerel fishers P. 41
May butter / If during the month of May before you salt your butter you save a lump thereof and put it into a vessel and so set it into the sun the space of that month you shall find it exceeding sovereign and medicinable for wounds, strains, aches and such like grievances Markham Eng Housewife
/ Be it weal or be it woe
beans blow before May doth go. P. in R1678
The last spring floods that happen in May
carry the salmon fry down to the sea (ocean) 1616
/ May-bes don't fly [this month] now. SPC
May rain kills lice D
A Labberly May (wet splashy)
makes a good crop of hay Somerset
The floods of May
take the smolts away (young salmon)
A May flood Hilmay 1669
A wet May
will fill a byre full of hay D
A May wet was never kind yet Wor. Lees never did a good Cl
Be sure of hay
till the end of May Tusser May Abs 1578
Bowbes (wind) eat May, espies fears of corn in August 1555.
A wet May brings plenty of corn and plenty of hay Peacock Lincoln Gloss
May never goes out without a wheat ear Yorks K
i.e. dry weather gives the wheat an opportunity to begin opening to a sheath or bore and let out the green ear of the more forward and largest stalk Ellis M H
The Twenty ninth of May / shick-shack day Oak leaves worn up to noon; after 12 ash leaves substituted
The first of May is Robin Hood's day
dowsley Barker Wh Phra
Strutt, Ed Hone May 8
/ The fair maid who on the first of May
goes to the fields at break of day
and washes in dew from the hawthorn tree,
will ever after handsome be. Haz
May-day pay-day / pack rags and go away The day of entering and leaving farm service Jackson Shr W Bk
Mese di fiori / mese di dolori.
To do what one can to get up May hill Torr. (of a convalescent) Wise N Forest
Whereas in our remembrance Ale went out when swallows came in, seldom appearing after Easter, it now hopeth (having climbed up May hill) to continue its course all the year. F.W. Dellbysh.
Cf. All wheat sh. May or look yellowish in Apl the of a blackgreen in May Ellis
He that is hanged in May will eat no flaunes in Midsummer (pancakes) N H May 87
Dryfesdale says in Scott. Abbot. ch xxxiii (of flena)
5 Grief melts away / like snow in May

Fac-simile of MS. of page 361.

PROVERBS

Relating to the United Kingdom and to Localities therein.

ARRANGED UNDER THE COUNTY DIVISIONS;

WITH ILLUSTRATIVE AND EXPLANATORY NOTES,

TOGETHER WITH A FEW

ENGLISH ESTIMATES OF OTHER NATIONS AND PLACES.

"Books, like proverbs, receive their chief value from the stamp and esteem of ages through which they have passed."

Sir W. TEMPLE, *Anc. & Mod. Learning*.

"And Israel shall be a proverb and a by-word among all people."

I Kings ix. 7.

INTRODUCTION.

MORE than two centuries have elapsed since Ray put the finishing touch to his great work on English Proverbs, and during that period they have fared but badly: little attention has been paid to them, and no one has so much as attempted to carry on or improve the system on which Ray proceeded.

Thos. Fuller, the physician, indeed, in his *Gnomologia*, 1732, added a few proverbs that had become current since 1678; but their value was greatly diminished by the intermixture of a farrago of feeble maxims manufactured by himself—perhaps to justify the pretentious title he had chosen for his book.

Of later issues it may be sufficient to say that Bohn by reprinting Ray and Ferguson, and adding a General Index, in which, too, a few modern proverbs—distinguishable by the absence of page reference—are inserted, did essential service.

I wish I could say as much of Mr. Hazlitt. He, on the contrary, in his compilation of 1871, has made "confusion worse confounded" by casting everything, good, bad and indifferent—the good seed-corn of Ray's proverbs and phrases, the platitudinous chaff of Fuller, M.D., and his own scanty gleanings,—back into one heterogeneous chaotic mass. Perhaps a more perplexing or more provoking book of reference never passed the press.

Of the several branches of Proverbial literature, the one which stands most apart from the rest is undoubtedly that which embraces the local and personal sayings of a country, inasmuch as being rarely of general application they look at people and places from a

near and narrow standpoint—many, indeed, enunciating only a dry fact in the geography or weather-lore of a particular district.

To Thomas Fuller, the Divine, we are indebted for gathering together from Camden's *Britannia* and other sources those relating to England. They form a distinct and acknowledged feature of the charming portraiture of each county drawn in his *Worthies of England*, and published in 1662, the year after his death. Preceding paremiographers, such as Camden and Clarke, had admitted these sharp sentences only sparely into their collections, and with great reserve, perhaps considering them too partial and personal, or possibly as too malicious. In the various provinces of France, however, many monographs on the subject have appeared during the last thirty or forty years, and notably in 1884 the *Blason Populaire de la France* of Messrs. H. Gaidoz and Sebillot has brought into a focus the Dictons and Sobriquets of the whole of France and her colonies, with the addition of others concerning the outside world as seen through French spectacles. The collaboration of many hands throughout the length and breadth of the land is undoubtedly needed for a satisfactory work of this nature. My sources of information for Proverbs not already gathered up have, of course, been the several County Histories and Glossaries, many of Murray's Handbooks for the United Kingdom, and the inexhaustible and perennial fountain of *Notes and Queries*. But people often seem indisposed to furnish the outside world with evidence of local jealousies and feuds which yet survive in the *dictons injurieux* (as the French have it) of their place of birth or residence, and which they would fain have consigned to oblivion—a perfectly natural and even laudable feeling, but sadly checking the elucidation of national and provincial character.

Many proverbs which no doubt have thus escaped me may, perhaps, come to hand before another edition of this work is called for. Meanwhile I need not say that communications of new material

will have my best thanks and attention. I have endeavoured to make the notes clear and concise, shortening Fuller's amusing observations, but giving with accuracy the gist of them.

For the reasons already adduced I have taken this section of a large subject for separate publication—as an *avant courier* it may be of a comprehensive Collection of English Proverbs, giving the dates of their first appearance in literature, which I hope will some day see the light.

It has occupied and interested me for a very long period, and now approaches completion, so far as such a word can be properly applied to work which is in reality "still beginning, never ending."

CHARACTER OF INSTITUTIONS.

CATHEDRALS.

Q. What three churches are those that have their several prerogatives before any others in the land?

A. Paul's, Westminster, and Salisbury. Paul's for his antiquity, spaciousness, and strength; Westminster for curiosity and workmanship, being 42 years in building, as is afore recited; Salisbury for variety of Pillars, Windows, and Gates: Secondly—Paul's for the continual society of the living, Westminster for her Royal Sepulture of the dead, Salisbury for her tripartite calculation of the year, having in it as many windows, pillars, and gates as there are days, hours, and months in the year.—*Help to Discourse*, p. 344, 1619.

Christ's Hospital. Dietary:

Sunday all saints,
Monday all souls,
Tuesday all trenchers,
Wednesday all bowls:
Thursday tough Jack,
Friday no better,
Saturday pea-soup with bread and butter.
Walter Thornbury.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS. Winchester for gentlemen,
Harrow for scholars,
Westminster for blackguards,
And Eton Bucks.

Or—

Harrow for gentlemen, Eton for lords,
Winchester for scholars, Westminster blackguards.

Waterloo was won on the playing-fields of Eton.—*Attributed to D. of Wellington.*

TRADE, MANUFACTURES.

Es ist nicht alles aus England, worauf London steht.—Wan. A compliment to English fabrics. Home-made articles are often sold as such bearing a forged impress. At a *table d'hôte* in Naples I saw a bottle of beer served at 3 francs, but the label of "Bass" had two clerical mistakes—one I remember was "Burton-*o*pon-Trent."

Drap d'Engleterre/le meilleur qui courre sur terre. . . . Meurier.—*Colloques*, F. 4 Y., 1558. soy huy sus. . . .—*Id. Devis Familiers*, ii. 1590.

Ein Englischer hund macht so viel wie drei soldaten.—Hesekiel.

CINQUE PORTS.

Instituted by William I. in 1078 for the better defence of the coast, consisting of Dover, Hythe, Sandwich, Romney, and Hastings. Then Rye and Winchelsea were added as "nobiliora membra," after which the Cinque Ports were enumerated in the Memoria Technica:

Has,—Dov,—Sea,—Hy,—
Sand,—Rum,—Win,—Ry.—

Later on Pevensey and Seaford were added as corporate; then five almost unknown places — Bulverhithe, Petit Shaw, Hidney, Beakesbourne, and Grange as unincorporate.—*Sussex*, by Augs. Hare, 1894, p. xv. *See* also under Kent and Sussex.

PRISONS.

Millbank for thick shins* and graft† at the pump;
Broadmoor for all laggs‡ as go off their chump;
Brixton for good toke§ and cocoa with fat;
Dartmoor for bad grub, but plenty of chat;
Portsmouth a blooming bad place for hard work;
Chatham on Sunday give four ounce of pork;
Portland is worst of the lot for to joke in—
For fetching a lagging‖ there's no place like Woking.

Crutchy Quinn, *10 and a ticket.*

* ? of beef. † Work. ‡ Criminal lunatics. § Bread. ‖ Serving a sentence.

Given by Michael Davitt (*Leaves from a Prison Diary;* 1885) as found scratched with a nail on the bottom of a dinner-can at Portland.

CLIMATE.

Excess of Moisture.

When the sand doth feed the clay, [feeds—F. W.] [wet summer]
England cryes, "Well-a-day!"
[England Woe and Well-a-day.—R., 1670.]
but when the clay doth feed the sand, [dry summer] [feeds—F. W.]
it is merry with England.—F. W.
[then it 's well with England.—R., 1670.]

Because the clay predominates in the proportion of five to one.

(?) If modern drainage has not greatly altered this.

Winter's thunder and summer flood
never boded Englishmen good.—*Ho.*, R., 1670.
Summer in winter and a summer's flood
never boded England good.—D.

In England a bushel of March dust is worth a King's ransom.—F. W.

Drought never bred [causeth a—F. W.] dearth in England.—R.

No dearth but breeds in the horse-manger.—C., 1636.

A famine in England begins first at the horse-manger.—F. W., *i.e.* with grain, as distinguished from the horse-rack (hay), for the scarcity of any grain soon makes the others dear.

Whoso hath a mouth
Shall ne'er in England suffer drouth.—R., 1670.

(?) From the fog which he is obliged or the abundance of liquor he is tempted to swallow.

When England wrings, [*i.e.* is "wringing wet"]
the Island sings.

i.e. the Isle of Thanet, where the chalky soil asks for much rain.—Murray, *Kent*.

Rain, rain, go to Spain;
Fair weather come again.—*Ho.*

Wenn es in England nicht regnet, so schneit's.—Wander.

An English summer: three fine days and a thunderstorm.

The English summer begins on July 31 and ends on August 1st.—Ascribed to H. Walpole.

England produces but one ripe fruit — a roasted apple.—Talleyrand.

The old English rule was: All summer in the field, and all winter in the study.—Emerson, *New England Reformers*.

There are more days in the year in which you can take out-door exercise with pleasure in England than in any other country.—Ascribed to King Charles II.

Plenty of [? fine] weather, but no climate in England.—(American, only a number of samples).

LANGUAGE.

Q. Whither should a man with most profit travel to learn the languages?

A. To Orleance for the French, to Florence for the Italian, to Lypsick for the Dutch, to London for the English.—*Help to Discourse*, p. 115. 1638.

Q. What preheminence have our best linguists above others?

A. The Hebrews, that they drink at the fountains; the Grecians at the rivers; the Latines at the brooks; the English and some others at the lakes.—*Ib.*, p. 119.

The most auncient English wordes are of one sillable, so that the more monosyllables that you use the truer Englishman you shall seem, and the less you shall smell of the inkhorn. —Gascoyne Steel Glass, Arber *rep.*, p. 35. 1576.

CHARACTER OF THE COUNTRY.

Sith God hath made al under one
let Albione now Al-be-one.
Pontanus (Rob.), *De Unione Britanniæ*, 1604 (end).

All countries stand in need of Britain, and Britain of none.—Lyly, *Euph.*, p. 439—Arb.

Bona terra, mala gens.—A. Borde, 1542; E.E.T.S., p. 118.

Schloss, brücken, kirchen, berg und brunnen,
der Konig weiberwolle gespunnen,
haben England das lob der schönheit gewunnen.
Hesekiel, *Land u. Stadt.*

Anglia Mons, Pons, Fons, Ecclesia, Fæmina, Luna.—Lupton, *London and the Country Carbonadoed*, p. 97, 1632; *Books of Characters*, p. 303, 1857.

England amongst all nations is most full of hills, wells, bridges, churches, women, wool.—Drunken Barnaby's *Jourl.*

You can't see a three mile radius of level land in all England.—? Glastonbury Tor.

Triangularis forma.—*Angliæ Tr.*, 48 ro.

If there were a bridge over the narrow seas, all the women of Italy would show their husbands a light pair of heels and fly over to Eng[d].—Webster, *West. Ho.*, iii. 3.

England, they say, is the only hell for horses and paradise for women.—Dekker, 2 *H. Who.* iv. 1.

England was called (in the days of our ancestors) the Purgatory of Servants, as it was and is still the Paradise of Wives and the Hell for Horses.—Chamberlayne, *Angliæ Notitia*, 1669, p. 513.

England 's the Paradise of women, Hell of horses, Purgatory of servants.—F. W.

L'Inghilterra e il Paradise delle donne, Purgatorio degli borse et lo Inferno de cavalli.—Fynes Morison, *Itiny.*, iii. 53: Flo., 2d. tr.

Angleterre le paradis des femmes, le purgatoire des valets, l'enfer des chevaux.—Ho.—Bacon, *Promus*, 1648.

Cf. Paris est le purgatoire des plaideurs, [Hommes. *Cat. des Court.*—Fournier, v. 79, 1661,] l'enfer des mules et le paradis des femmes. Tournebu.—*Les Contens*, iv. 6, 1584 (*An. Th. Fr.*, vii. 207); E. Fournier, *Var. Hist. et Lit.*, ii. 284. And see *Plaisant Galimatias*, 1619.

Qu'une jeune fille arrête son cheval sous un grand arbre, et vous contemplarez groupées dans un seul tableau les trois merveilles de l'Angleterre.—Francs. Wey, *Les Anglais chez Eux.*

Planting of trees England's old thrift.—Ho. *New Sayings*, ii.

England is the ringing island (bells).—F. W.,—"having greater and more tuneable bells than any one country in Christendom, Italy itself not excepted."—p. 84.

"The ringing island can mean nothing but the clergy of the Church of Rome, whose mysteries are all performed at the sound of large, middle-sized, little, and very little bells."—Motteux, *Rabelais*, Bk. V.

Denison (*Church Buildg.*, p. 130, 2d. Ed.) and others explain it by saying that we are the only people who ring our bells at full swing and practise change-ringing.

Far feste alle campane, *i.e.* far allegria: tho' that is more used in Engl[d] than anywhere else, inasmuch as it is called the Ringing Island.—Torriano.

England were but a fling [*i.e.* a slight, light thing] save for the crooked stick and the grey-goose wing.—F.W., *i.e.* archery.

Every English archer beareth under his girdle twenty-four Scots.—Ascham, *Tox.*, Arb. *rep.*, p. 84. *See* W. Scott.

Britain's best bulwarks are her wooden walls.—Refrain of "When Britain on her sea-girt isle."—Written* and composed by Hook.

* or Henry Green, 1785.

Britannia rules the waves.—Thomson, "Rule Britannia."

England expects every man to do his duty. (Nelson's Message.)

Saint George to borrow: our Navy is afloat.—Barclay, *Ship of Fools*, i. 176.

Englishmen never know when they are beaten.

The English never fight better than in their first engagement. Quoted in Ch. Kingsley's *Westward Ho!* as the saying of an old chronicler.

England is a little garden, full of very sour weeds.—G. Said to have been often in Louis XIV.'s mouth during Marlborough's campaigns.

Do you know, sir, we Englishmen chiefly puzzle our heads about two things, that is to say, Religion and Trade?—J. Wilson, *Projectors*, iii. 1665.

A man in Amsterdam is suffered to have but one religion, whereas in London he may have two strings to his bow.—Tom Brown, *Wks.*, iv. 115.

High Church, and Low Church, and Little England.—Higson, 207.

Il y a en Angleterre soixante sectes religieuses différentes, et une seule sauce.—Voltaire.

Free to come, and free to go, free to stay a night or so;
free to eat, and free to drink, free to speak, and free to think.
The Englishman's Welcome.

I remember hearing Emerson say, in commencing an address at the London Working Men's College *circa* 1872, that the world over, though every man was convinced that his own country was the *best*, yet all agreed to this—that England was the *next best*.—V. S. L. *Cf.* Herefordsh.

CHARACTER OF DISTRICTS.

An Ox left to himself would of all England choose to live in the North; a Sheep in the South part hereof, and a Man in the Middle betwixt both, as partaking of the pleasure of the plain and the wealth of the deep country.—F. W., *Wilts*, p. 143.

largeness.—Aubrey, *MS. Colln. for Wiltsh.*, [*Ashmolean Musm.*

The North for greatness,
the East for health,
the South for neatness, [buildings—A.]
the West for wealth.—F. W., *Dorset.* Of Buildings.

England hath cloth. Burdeus hath store of wine,
Cornewall hath tinne and lymster wools fine,
London hath scarlet, and Bristowe pleasant red,
Fen-land hath fishes; in other place is lead.
This is of our Lord disposed so, my brother,
Because all costes should one have need of other.

Barclay, *Ecl.*, iv.

In the countrey of Canterbury most plenty of fish is,
And most chase of wild beasts about Salisbury, I wis;
At London ships most, and wine at Winchester;
At Hertford sheep and oxen, and fruit at Worcester,
Soape about Coventry, and yron at Gloucester,
Metall, lead, and tynne in the country of Excester.
Warwick of fairest wood, and Lincoln of fairest men,
Cambridge and Huntingdon most plenty of deep venne [fen],
Elie of fairest place, of fairest sight Rochester.

N., IV., xii.; Robert of Gloucester, *Chron.*, ed. Hearne.

Knight. What 's that strange lady there?

Wages. I think it be mistress Babee, sir, master Nucome's mistress; for she looks like a Northern lass, made of a strange fashion, something like a lute, all belly to the neck [Sharpham]. — *Cupid's Whirligig*. D.

And here [N. of E.] it is, they say in jest, their women never die; as much as to say they live to exceeding great ages by eating no other sort of bread than oat-cakes. — Ellis, *Modn. Husby.*, Oct., p. 24, 1750.

There hath been an old saying that all evils rise out of the North.—Sir R. Barckley, *Felicitie of Man*, p. 339, 1636.

No good comes from the North.—Ford, *Sun's Darlg.* vi.

Three ills come out of [from—Ho.] the North,

A cold wind, a cunning Knave [crafty man—Ho.], and a sleezy cloth.—B. Jonson, *Bart. F.*, iv. 3.

Cold weather and crafty Knaves come from the North.—Ho.

Out of the North
All ill comes forth.—*A Winter Dream*, 1649, p. 13.

Northish. Over-reaching, grasping.—Baker, *Nhamptn. Gloss.*

As deep as the North.—Jackson, *Shropshire, W. B.*

You are too far North for me, *i.e.* too Knowing by half.

Old things must shrink as well as new Northern cloth.—Webster, *West. Ho.*, ii. 1.

Like Northern cloth. Shrunk in the wetting.—Taylor (W. P.), *Navy of Landships.*

A Northern man may speak broad.—Bacon, *Promus* (558), 1594.

Sir Oliver. The devil take my soul, but I did love her!
Taffeta. That oath doth show you are a Northern Knight,
And of all men alive, I'll never trust
A Northern man in love.
Sir O. And why, and why, slut?
T. Because the first word he speaks is—the devil
Take his soul, and who will give him trust
That once has given his soul unto the devil?—Barry, *Ram Alley*, v.

My conceit wandered like a Northern Shepherd's tongue when (half drowned in a wassail bowl) he tells the story of a lad that went to seek his fortunes.—T.M., *Life of a Satirical Puppy, called Nim*, p. 14, 1657.

Dam. What is your name sir, or your country?
Boy. John—Try just my name, a Cornish youth and the poet's servant.
D. West Country-bred, I thought: you were so bold.—B. Jonson, *Magnetic Lady* iii. 1.

The West of England—that is to say, the Clothing Counties (which we call the West, though they are South-West).—Defoe, *Behav. of Servts.*, 1724.

Zedland. Great part of the West Country where the letter z is substituted for s.—*Devon, Dorset and Somerset. G. Dict.*

The East is formed only by the washings down from the West.—Wr. White, *Eastn. Engd.*, i. 2.

Clergymen who have consulted God's honour with their own credit and profit, could not desire better for themselves than to have a Lincolnshire Church, as best built; a Lancashire Parish as largest bounded; and a London audience as consisting of most intelligent people.—F. W. Lancashire, w^h. Camden says has only 36 parishes, while Rutland has 48.

To come out of the Shires (pronounced Sheres). This is a proverbial saying relative to any person who comes from a distance, and the ground of it is that the word Shire is not annexed to any one of the Counties bordering upon Kent, which are Surrey, Sussex, Middlesex, and Essex; so that to come out of a Shire a man must necessarily come from beyond any of these neighbouring provinces.—Pegge, *Kenth. Prov.* 71, E. D. S.

Cf. Rejoice, O English hearts, rejoice! rejoice, O lovers dear!
Rejoice, O city, town, and country! rejoice eke every shere.
Beaumont and Fletcher, *Knight of the Burning Pestle*, iv. 5.

From Berwick to Dover
Three hundred miles over.—F. W.

I doubt whether (the doors being shut) you shall speed of your desire (though you should run from Barwick to Dover, from Old England into new for it) and be admitted to believe.
Danl. Rogers, *Naaman*, p. 367, 1642.

Sir Gudgeon. D'ye hear this, Mr. Driver? I shall order you, i' faith! if there be any law between the Mount in Cornwall and Berwick Stairs.—J. Wilson, *Projectors*, v. 1665.

When Dover and Calais meet.—F. W.

And yett not lowng agoo
was prechars one or tooe
that spake it plene enowgh
to yow, to yow, and to yowe,
Highe tyme for to repente
this develyche intente
of covitis the convente
from Skottland into Kente
this pracheng was be-sprent,
and from the est frunt
unto Saynt Mychell's montte.
Vox Populi, Vox Dei: a complaynt of the commons against Taxes, p. 4, 1549, *repr.* 1821.

Old England = the Provinces. "Tom Wisdom went to Lunnon and stopt a wik, and when a come back a said 'Giv' I old England."—Mrs. Parker, *Oxfordsh. Gloss., Sup.*

See Scotland and Ireland also, and Wales.

Bustum Anglorum Gallia, Gallorum Italia.—Calfhill, *Answer to Martiall*, 1565, Parker Soc., 113.

Loyauté d'Anglois :
Le mutin Anglois.

Bonne terre, mauvaise gent.—*Prov. Flam. Fran.*, 16th Cy.

England a good land and bad people (French).—F.W.

Apt to revolt and willing to rebel,
And never are contented when they're well.
De Foe, *True Born Engn.*, II.

For Englishmen are ne'er contented long.—*Ib.*

Angli, velut Angeli. St. Gregory.—F.W.

The King of England is the King of devils.—Ho., *Parley of Beasts*.—F.W.

[Emperor of Germany King of Kings, King of Spain King of Men, and the King of France King of Asses.]

Tres Inglesses: dos ladrones, el tercer rebelde.—Ho.

The English are the best masters and the worst servants in the world.—Defoe, *Behav. of Servts.*, 260, 1724.

The flour of England fine enough; the bran very coarse; viz., the gentry and commonalty.—Ho., *New Sayings*, i.

In 1877-8, during the Jingo delirium, the Germans added a new characteristic of "tall talk" to Speech is silver, silence is golden—"But Britannia metal is sound and fury, signifying nothing."

English reden und teuflich meinen.—Wander.

Foreigners say of us English that we are Lyncei foris, talpæ domi. —Aubrey, *N. H. Wilts*, Pref.

At Boughton, built by Ralph 1st Duke of Montagu, in 17th century, there is inscribed on a chimney-piece in the Audit gallery, Mille douleurs pour ung plasure. Ne sis Argus foris et domi talpa.—Murray, *Northants*.

Aimable comme un Anglois.—Gomes de Trier, *Jardn.*, 16th Cent.

Hilaris gens, cui libera mens et libera lingua: the old e[u]logium and character of the English nation.—Clement Walker, *Hist. of Independency*, 1648, pt. i., 93.

Topo el Breton/con su compañon.—Nuñez, 1555.

Tra puttana e Breton/no se tien rason.—Ital. Nuñez, 1555.

A nation of shopkeepers.—Napoleon I.

John Bull can stand many things, but he cannot stand two per cent. rate of interest.—Bagehot, *Lombd. St.*, vi.

J 'ai payé tous mes Anglois (creanceirs).

Il y a des Anglais dans cette rue : je n'y veux pas aller.—Oudin C., *Fr.*

Der Englander lässt seine Moral am Cap der guten Hoffnnug, aber wenn er heimgekehrt ist, wird er wieder ein frommer mann.—Wander.

Fal. But it was always yet the trick of our English nation if they have a good thing to make it too common.—Shak., 2 *H. IV.*, i. 2, 201.

They say that the English only care for three things—Business, Politics, and Religion.—*Saty. Rev.*, 23/11, '85.

Spiritual pride the epidemical disease of England.—Ho., *N. Says.*, iv.

Scire Anglis sitis est, sitis est nescire Brittannis,
Fastus Normannis crescit crescentibus annis.

Camden, *Remains*, p. 19, ed. 1870.

Williams. Ah, damnation! God damn! [Lion, 1789.

Blondel. Goddam, Monsieur, est Anglais apparemment.—Cœur de Monsieur God-dam! Diable, c'est une belle langue que l'Anglais; il en faut peu pour aller loin; avec Goddam en Angleterre on ne manque de rien: les Anglais à la vente ajoutent par ci par là quelques autres mots en conversant, mais il est bien aisé de voir que Goddam est le fond de la langue.—Beaumarchais, *M. de. Figaro*, iii. 5.

John Bull. G. ascribes this nickname to Swift's *Hist.*, where the Sovereigns of Austria, France, and Spain figure as Squire South, Louis Baboon, and Strut; the Republic of Holland as Nick Frog.

A Britisher, 1829.

Il ne chassera jamais les Anglais hors de France.—*Brantome*, I., ii.

d'Angleterre	con todo il mondo guerra
ne vient bon vent ne bonne guerre.	y paz con Inglatierra. Ho.

The English never know when they are beaten.

The French say the English were beaten at Waterloo, but had not the wit to know it.—*Prov. Treasy.*. Leipsig, 1880.

An English bug. (An Irish taunt.)—G. Founded on the supposition that the English first brought bugs into Ireland.—G.

This was one of the Travellers' observed faults in England, camini mali; that we had ill clothes and worse chimneys, for they smoked no charity.—T. Adams, *Wks.*, p. 131.

The English are the Frenchman's apes, *i.e.* in language and fashion.—F.W.

Jack would be a gentleman if he could speak French.—F.W., 86.

In which respect (changeableness of dress) we are termed the Frenchmen's apes, imitating them in all their fantastic devised fashions of garbs.—Randle Holme, *Academy of Armorie*, iii. 5, 1688.

The Englishman drawn naked with a pair of Shears.—Boorde, *Intro. to Knowledge*, ch. i., 1547; Dekker, *Seven Deadly Sins*, v., 1606.

The New Guise of the English.—Camden, *Rem.*, p. 13.

Besides, I turned him to that long-tailed beast (the Ape) because they of his country [England] are called Stertmen, that is men with long tails, for which there is both tradition and story.—Howell, *Parley of Beasts*, p. 29, 1660. *Cf.* Kent.

Les Anglois couez qui descendoient et prenoient terre à Dieppe (having tails).—*An. Theat. Fran.*, vii. 46.

Non Angli sed Angeli. (Exclamation of Gregory the Great (A.D. 578) on seeing the English slaves in the Market-place at Rome.)

Tout Anglais pris individuellement est un peu fou et tous les Anglais ensemble font le peuple le plus raisonnable de la terre.—John Lemoinne, *J. des Debats*, June 21, 1887.

This is a free country. (An Englishman's apology for speaking his mind.)

The Peerage is the Englishman's Bible.

Did not the People's William once record
That every true-born Briton loves a lord?
Thorold Rogers, *Epigrams*, p. 84.

John Bull loves a lord.—Quoted by Furnivall, *E.E.T.S. Extra*, vol. viii., p. xii.

A right Englishman, neither idle nor well occupied.—*Cl.* (*Curiositas*).

A right Englishman sees with his ears and hears with his eyes.

Never content with what you had before,
But true to change and Englishmen all o'er.
Dryden, *Pro. to "The Prophetess."*

A right Englishman knows not when a thing is well.—*Cl.* cannot tell when he is well.—Ho.

A true Englishman never knows when he is well.—*Cl.*, S.P.C., ii.

As wanton as the Englishman after a long peace.—Ho., *New Sayings*, iii.

He can never hold his hand from the table; which proves him a true Englishman, for he cannot leave it when it is well.—Brathwait, *Whimzies, A. Painter*, 1631.

They say it is an Englishman's quality not to let things alone when they are well.—Strafford, *Letters*, ii. 157.

An Englishman is never happy but when he is miserable; a Scotchman never at home but when he is abroad; and an Irishman never at peace but when he is fighting.—Quoted in *Cakes, Leeks, Puddings, and Potatoes* by Geo. Seton. Edinb., 1865.

England expects every man to do his duty.

The Englishman weeps,
The Irishman sleeps,
But the Scotchman goes till [*i.e.* while] he gets it.—*Ho.* gangs while he gets it.

In the meantime, patience, Courtine: that is the Englishman's virtue.—T. Otway, *Soldier's Fortune*, iv., 1681.

Compromise, the breath of the Englishman's nostrils.—*World*, 25/10, '93.

They have no fancy and never are surprised into a covert or witty word such as pleased the Athenians and Italians; but they delight in strong earthy expressions not mistakable.

What shall we go out and kill? (The after-breakfast enquiry.) An Englishman's idea of happiness is to find something he can kill and to hunt it. Like as children do with their babies [dolls] when they have played enough with them, they take sport to undo them.—Bacon, *Promus*, 356.

The children of England take pleasure in breaking
What the children of Holland take pleasure in making—*i.e.* toys.
Percival, *Span. Dial.*, ii.

Englishmen by making their children gentlemen before they are men cause that they are so seldom wise men.—F.W., 216.
Cf. Como los torneros engaña muchachos y saca dineros.

A foreigner's observation.

Moreover, of the English, especially [of the peasantry] it hath been [formerly and unhappily] observed that then it is happiest with them when when they are somewhat pressed and in a complaining condition; according to that old rhyming verse:

Anglica gens est optima flens
[et] pessima ridens.
Chamberlayne, *Angl. Not.*, p. 35, 1669; *Present State of England*, p. 44, 1673; Bliss, *Reliq. Hearn*, i. 40.

Rustica gens est optima flens
sed pessima gaudens.
Greg. Richter, *Axiomata*, Gorlitz, 1604, 4.

Ils s'amusaient tristement, selon la coutume de leur pays.

When two Englishmen meet, their first talk is of the weather.—(Johnson) *Christy*.

L'Anglais remet son pantalon à Paris quand il pleut à Londres.

None but dogs and Englishmen walk in the sun. An Italian saying, D'après un proverbe Romain il n'y a que les chiens et les etrangers qui aillent au soleil, ces chrêtiens vont a l'ombre.—Baedeker, *Italia Septentrionale*, VIII. Régime.

Ambassadors, Englishmen, and fools travel first-class.—*N.*, VI., ii., 224.

The devil or an Englishman will go anywhere.—*Ib.*

Report of fashions in proud Italie
Whose manners still our tardy apish nation
Limps after in base imitation.—Sh., *Rich.* II., i. 1.

Utopian youth grown old Italian.—Donne, *Ep. to Wotton*, 46.

Inglese Italianato ê il diavolo incarnato [Ho].—*Serdonati.*

I am English-born and I have English thoughts, not a devil incarnate because I am Italianate, but hating the pride of Italy, because I know their peevishness.—Nash, *Pierce Penniless*, 1592.

The English go mad once every seven years, *i.e.* at the elections.—Voltaire.

Ningun Ingles se va nunca a la cama sino haber hesto una extravaganza.—*St. J. G.*, 24/2, '86.

Anglia plena jocis, gens libera, et apta jocari,
Libera gens cui libera mens, et libera lingua,
Sed linguâ melior, liberiorque manus.
Alfred of Beverly.

Gli Inghilesi non sono più Inghilesi. Cosi dicono i popolani di Roma per significare che gli Inglesi non sono più cosi splendidi come in addietro.—Strafforello.

Chi promette mari monti, e montagna
non ha credito in Bretagna.—Fl., *G.*

Côte Anglés passê, larzent poussé (ou passent les Anglais l'argent pousse.)—M. C. Baissae, *Patois Creole Mauricien*, Nancy, 1880, p. 159.

Ça qui Angles causé, zautes, meme tendé ce que disent les Anglais, eux seuls le comprennent.—*Ib.*, p. 156.

The labouring poor, in spite of double pay,
Are saucy, mutinous, and beggarly;
So lavish of their money and their time,
That want of forecast is the nation's crime.
Good drunken company is their delight,
And what they get by day they spend by night.
Defoe, *True-born Englishman*, II.

Britain is
A world by itself, and we will nothing pay
For wearing our own noses.—Shak., *Cymb.*, iii. 1.

An Englishman hath three qualities; he can suffer no partner in his love, no stranger to be his equal, nor to be dared by any. Lyly, *Euphues and his England.*

An Englishman does not travel to see Englishmen.—Sterne, *Sentimental Journey*, Pref.

Civis Romanus sum.—Attributed to Palmerston, but anticipated by Cromwell.

Some of Blake's sailors had got into trouble at Malaga for showing disrespect to a procession of the Host. Blake demanded that the priest who had incited the mob in revenge to maltreat the sailors should be given up to him, and on his making his appearance and defending what he had done, Blake answered that if he had sent a complaint to him he would have punished them severely . . . but he took it ill that he had set on the Spaniards to do it; for he would have all the world to know that an Englishman was only to be punished by an Englishman. . . . Cromwell was much delighted with this, and read

the letters in Council with great satisfaction, and said he hoped he should make the name of an Englishman as great as ever that of a Roman had been.—Burnet, *History of his own Times*, Bk. I.

A witty foreigner once said that if three Englishmen were shipwrecked on a desert island, their first proceeding would be that one would propose, another second, that the third should take the chair.—Bp. Creighton (Peterborough, afterwards London), *Romanes Lecture at Oxford*, June 17th, 1896.

There are no people who sigh for the place of their birth like Englishmen. They make good colonists and wander to the most remote parts of the earth; but, as Carlyle has somewhere said, all these wanderers are home-sick to a man. The last of all the emigrants [immigrants] who become naturalised in the United States is the Englishman.—L. J. Jennings, *Rambles among the Hills*, 1880, p. 264.

Inside Shepheard's Hotel [Cairo] you will find just the Bel Alp in winter quarters. All the people who live in their boxes and grand hotels, who know all lands but no languages, who have been everywhere and done nothing, looked at everything and seen nothing, read everything and know nothing, who spoil the globe by trotting on it. And outside is the native complement of them, guides and donkey-boys, &c.—G. W. Steevens, *Egypt in 1898* (American), London, p. 49, 8vo.

They (the English) fare sumptiously, God is served in their churches devoutly, but treason and deceit among them is used craftyly, ye more pity; for if they were true within themselfs thei nede not to feare, although all nations were set against them.—Borde, *Boke of Introdn. of Knowledge*, A, 4.

If England's Peers and People join in one,
Nor Pope, nor France, nor Spain can do them wrong.

King John, 1591.

This England never did, nor never shall,
Lie at the proud foot of a conqueror,
But when it first did help to wound itself:
Now these her princes are come home again,
Come the three corners of the world in arms,
And we shall shock them: nought shall make us rue,
If England to itself do rest but true.

Shak., *K. John*, v. 7.

It was said of the British nation by Voltaire, that, like their beer, the top was froth, the bottom dregs, but the middle excellent. (Meaning the classes?)

PERMANENCE OF FAMILIES.

Some curious examples are cited to show the stability of English families. Their proverb is that 50 miles from London a family will last an hundred years; at 100 miles, two hundred years; and so on; but I doubt that steam, the enemy of time, as well as of space, will disturb these ancient rules.—Emerson, *English Traits—Aristocracy*.

COMPARISONS WITH OTHER NATIONS.

Neither one's self nor mankind is served by national vanity.—German. Quoted. M. Davitt's *Prison Diary*.

L'Anglais invente, le Français perfectionne.—Ausland, 1871, No. 18.

In Italien sind die Weiber eingezogen und böse, in Deutschland häuslich und kaltsinnig, in England Königinnen und allzu frei, in Frankreich Frauen und prächtig, in Spanien sklavish und verliebt.—*Deutsche Romanzen*, iii. 45.

Wenn Italien Guitarre spielt, Spanien Castagnetten schlägt, Frankreich seine Lauten rührt, Irland dazu Harfe trägt, Deutschland die Trompete bläst, England Violinen streicht, die Schweiz pfeift, Holland lässt die Trommeln hören, nichts dem gleicht. —*Berckenmeyer*.

Frenchmen synne in lechery
and Englysmen yn enuye.
Rob. Brunne, *Handlyng of Synne*.

Cogli Inglesi i grandi servigi, coi Francesi i rigaardi, cogli Italiani le maniere.—Ted. Straff.

Il mondo per l'Inglese è una tragedia, e pel Francese una commedia. —*Ib*.

La podagra è la malattia degli Inglesi e la pietra dei Tedeschi.—*Ib*.

Unter drei Italiern findet man zwei geistliche, unter drei Spaniern zwei windmacher, unter drei Deutschen zwei Soldaten, unter drei Franzosen zwei Köche und unter drei Engländern zwei Hurenhengste.—*Der Gesellschafter* (Magdeburg, 1784).

The English love, the French make love.—Christy.

A Frenchman invented the dickey (false front), the Englishman added the shirt.—Emerson, *Lect. on France*, 1856.

Ane Ingliss man worthe Frenche twa.*—Andrew of Wyntoun, *Ryming Chron. of Scotd.*, 1420, B. viii., ch. 43; Ed. Laing, ii. 489.

* This, it must be remarked, is a British estimate.

I thought upon one pair of English legs. *See* Douce, *Illn. of Shak.*, ii. 346, where this prov. is referred to Odo de Ceriton (XII. Centy.).

Did march three Frenchmen.—Shak., *Hen. V.*, iii., 6.

One Frenchman can beat two Portugeeee
one Englishman can lick all three.
Cited by Ch. Kingsley.

Another reading: Two skinny Frenchmen, one Portugee,
one jolly Englishman will beat 'em all three.

Der König in Frankreich ist Rex asinorum, der König von Spanien Rex hominum, der König von England Rex diabolorum, der Kaiser aber Rex Regum.—Wander.

Der Konig von Frankreich ist ein Konig der Esel, denn was er seinen Unterthanen auferlegt, das müssen sie thun; der König in England ist ein König der Leute, was er ihnen auferlegt, das genehmigen sie; aber der Kaiser ist ein Konig der Fürsten, die than, was ihnen gefällt.—A saying of Maximilian I. (Zinkgref).

Germanie beginnes a dance
that passes through Italie, Spain and France,
but England must pay the pyper.
Patk. Gordon, *Britanes Distemper*, 1639
(Spalding Club ed., p. 57).

Bere (alla Todesca) il vino: la matina puro, a descinar senza acqua, e a cena come viene dal tonello.—Florio, *2d Frutes*, 1591.

I learned [the song] in England, where indeed they are more potent in potting; your Dane, your German, and your swag-bellied Hollander are—drink ho!—nothing to your Englishmen.—Shak., *Othello*, ii. 3.

It takes four Turks to overreach one Frank, two Franks to cheat one Greek, two Greeks to cheat one Jew, and six Jews to cheat one Armenian.—A saying on Liverpool Exchange.

Glove. It was anciently a popular saying that Three Kingdoms must contribute to the formation of a good glove: Spain to prepare the leather, France to cut it out, and England to sew it.—S. W. Singer, *N.* I., ii. 165.

On, English fool! wanton Italianly; go Frenchly; Dutchly drink; breathe Indianly.—Hy. Buttes, *Dyet's Dry Dinner*, 1599; *Epilogue on Tobacco*, P. 4 r.

Non vogliate mai dar fede a Faremo de Roma; agli Adesso adesso d'Italia, a Magnana di Spagna, a By-and-by d'Inghilterra, a Warrant you di Scotia e a Tantost di Francia, perche tutte sono ciancie.—Florio, *2d Frutes*, 1591.

Lod. There's a saying when they commend nations: it goes, the Irishman for his hand, the Welchman for a leg, the Englishman for a face, the Dutchman for a beard.
Fon. I'faith they may make swabbers of them.
Lod. The Spaniard—let me see—for a little foot: I take it the Frenchman—what a pox hath he? and so of the rest.—Dekker, *Honest Who.*, II., i. 1.

Dal Tedesco negro, Spagnuolo bianco, Italiano rosso guarda mi Dio.

I Don di Spagna, i Conti d'Alemagna, i Monsieur di Francia, i Vescovi d'Italia, i Cavaglieri di Napoli, i Lordi di Scotia, gli Hidalgi di Portogallo, i minori Fratelli d'Inghilterra e i Nobili d'Ungaria fanno una povera compagnia.—Florio, *2d Frutes*, 1591; *Dial.*, vi.

The French hath valour, but with it vanitatem et levitatem;
the Dutch hath honest dealing, but gulam et ebrietatem;
the Italian discreet carriage, but procationem et libidinem.
Help to Discourse, p. 115, 1638.

An Italian traveller used to say that the Portuguese seems a fool and is so; the Spaniard seems wise and is a fool; the Frenchman seems a fool and is wise; the Englishman is wise but cannot show it; the Italian both is wise and seems so, and the Dutchman would be wise but for the pot.—Copley, *Wits, Fits, and Fancies*, 1614, p. 109.

Franzosen und Russen gehört das Land,
Das Meer gehört den Britten,
Wir aber führen im Luftreich des Traums
Die Herrschaft unbestritten.—J. P. Richter.
Quoted by De Stael, *Corinne*, i. 18, ed. 1833.

The Italian is wise before he undertakes a thing, the German [is wise in the acting—W.W.] while he is doing it, and the Frenchman [when it is over—Ital., *El. Ex.*] after it is done. —W. W., *New Help to Discourse*, p. 56, 1659.

Galli cantant, Angli jubilant, Hispani plangunt, Germani ululant, Itali caprizant, *i.e.* caper like a goat, alluding to their quaverings or divisions. XIV. to XVI. Cents.—Chappell's *Popular Music of the Olden Time*.

The nimble French, majestic Spanish, courtly Italian, masculine Dutch, happily-compounding Greek, mystical Hebrew, nor physical Arabic.—Poor Robin, *Prog.*, 1708.

Bread, butter, and green cheese,
is very good English, and very good Freeze.
Bell's *Shakspere's Puck*, i. 7.

The High Dutch pilgrims when they beg do sing; the Frenchmen whine and cry; the Spaniards curse, swear, and blaspheme; the Irish and English steal (Spanish).—F. W.

A report of the witty German. The Germans beg by singing and going in troops, the Frenchmen by praying and shrugging, the Flemings by making of legs and by low and frequent conjies, the Gipsies by importuning, the Portuguese by their weeping, the Italians by their long circumlocution, and the Spaniards by their big looks and high language as if they would swagger a man out of his alms whether he will or no. —P. Robin, *Progn.*, 1704.

In settling an island the first building erected by a Spaniard will be a church; by a Frenchman a fort; by a Dutchman a warehouse, and by an Englishman an alehouse.—G.

The French, like a flea, quickly slipping into a country, and as soon skipping out of it; the Dutch a louse, slowly mastering a place and as slowly being driven from their hold; the Spaniard a crab,* which being crept into a place almost unawares is so fast rooted there that nothing but the extremity of violence can force him out again.—W. W., *New Help to Dis.*, p. 55.

* The crab is of course the crab-louse.

Die Italiëner sind wie die Wanzen, die haben überall einen schandlicken gestank von Sodomiterei, mord un verrath bei sich. —Hesekiel, p. 7.

The Russian, Poloniar, German, Belgian are excellent in the Art of Drink; the Spaniard will wench it; the Italian is revengeful; the Frenchman is for fashions; the Irishman, Usquebaugh makes him light-heeled; the Welshman, Cowss-body works (by infusion) to his fingers' ends, and translates them into the nature of lime-twigs; and it is said that a Scot will prove false to his father and dissemble with his brother; but for an Englishman, he is so clear from any of these vices that he is perfectly exquisite and excellently endued with all those noble aforesaid exercises.—Taylor (Water Poet), *Christmas In and Out*, 1652.

EATING AND DRINKING.

Der Englander isst das meiste, aber der Deutsche trink das meisste.—Hesekiel.

Saoul comme un Anglois.

The English glutton.—F. W.

> And God, he knows the English soldier's gut
> Must have his fill of victual once a day,
> Or else he will but homely earn his pay.
>
> Gascoigne, *Dulce Bellum*, 150.

For fighting we may say of our countrymen that give but Englishmen great meals of beef, iron and steel, and they will eat like wolves and fight like devils.—Poor Robin, Mar., 1703.

There is more good victuals in England than in seven other Kingdoms.—*Cl.*

Ha più da fare che i forni di Natale in Inghilterra.—Flo., *G. F.*

To stink of Muscadel like an English Christmas.—Beaumont & Fletcher, *The Pilgrim.*

Questo sempre sguazzar alla Inghilese e pastaggiare come fanno loro è causa di molte infirmita. La crapula ne amazza più in Inghilterra che non se malattia alcuna.—Flo., *2nd Fruits*, ch. 10.

Constable. And then give them great meals of beef, and iron and steel, they will eat like wolves and fight like devils.

Orl. Ay, but these English are sadly out of beef.

Constable. Then shall we find to-morrow they have only stomachs to eat and none to fight.—Shak., *Hen. V.*, iii. 7.

The Roast Beef of Old England.

Jack Roast Beef (French).—G.

Mandar conigli in Inghilterra.—Torr. (rabbits).

Der ochse ist England's rebhuhn.—Hesekiel.

English poke pudding.—G. A Scotch jest at the plum-pudding.

England lebt sein Steinkohlen, Thee und Plum-pudding.—Wander.

Nothing can be inaugurated in England without a dinner.

An Englishman's one idea of a celebration is a public dinner.—*P. M. G.*, 7/5, '85.

The way to an Englishman's heart is through his stomach.

In England they have but one sauce (melted butter), and forty religions.—Voltaire.

Philip. Look you, sir: the Northern man loves whitemeat; the Southery man, sallads; the Essex man, a calf; the Kentish man, a wagtail; the Lancashire man, an egg-pie; the Welshman, leeks and cheese; and your Londoner, raw mutton; so father, God b' wi' you, I was born in London. (Of women).—Webster, *Northward Hoe*, i. 3.

He is an Englishman, and English dyet will serve his turn. If the Norfolk Dumplin and the Devonshire Whitepot be at variance, he will atone them; the Bag-puddings of Gloucestershire, the Black-puddings of Worcestershire, the Pan-puddings of Shropshire, the White-puddings of Somersetshire, the Hasty-puddings of Hamshire, the Pudding-pyes of any shire, all is one to him; nothing comes amiss.—Taylor (W. P.), *The Great Eater; or, Nicholas Wood.*

Now if you would know whither to go for several sorts of belly-timber, I shall inform you: to Devonshire for whitepots, to Essex for veal, to Norfolk for dumplings, to Tewkesbury for mustard, to Banbury for cakes, to King's Norton for cheese, and to Derby for ale.—Poor Robin, 1687.

DRINKING.

Li mieldre buvéor en Angleterre.—*Dits de l'Apostoile*, 13th Cy.

Topo el Breton con su compañon.—Nunes, 1555.

Tra putana e Breton no se tien rason.—*Ib.*

Whoso hath a mouth,
shall ne'er in England suffer drouth.—R., 1670.

Whether this alludes to the free flow of liquor or to the necessity of swallowing the fog is uncertain.

Excess of drinking was formerly more rare in England, as appears by an old poet:—

Ecce Britannorum mos est laudabilis iste,
Ut bibat arbitrio pocula quisque suo.

Present State of England, 1673, p. 45.

And though the Germans did bear away the bell for drinking, yet it was rather long than much, being content to pelt his enemy at a distance; whereas we are, after the modern way of fight, altogether for down blows, being impatient till the opposite have a total rout.—C. Trenchfield, *Cap of Gray Hairs for a Green Head*, ch. 14. 1678.

ESTIMATES OF OTHER NATIONS.

Italy to be born in, France to live in, and Spain to die in.—Sp., *El. Extr.*

Adam was tempted in Italian, fell a-begging pardon in French, and was thrust out of Paradise in High Dutch.—Ho., *New Sayings*, IV.

Take heed of a slow foe in Italy, and a sudden friend in France.—Ho., *Parley of Beasts*, 191.

Americans are Vulgar; French are Immoral; Russians are Barbarians; Italians are Beggars; Spaniards are Cut-throats; Germans are Boors; Greeks are Sharpers; Australians are Convicts; Swiss are Harpies; Turks are unspeakable: and every other people below contempt. Foreigners are in fact deceitful, effeminate, irreligious, immoral, unclean and unwholesome. Any one Englishman is a match for any seven of them. (According to the popular estimate.)—*Truth*, 2/11, 1893, p. 928.

Der Engländer hat seinen Verstand in den Fingerspitzen, der Franzose auf der Zunge.—Russ., *Reinsberg*, V. 7.

Every Englishman is an island.—*Novalis*, iii. 301.

The Romans fight well in their councils (I had almost said fence-schools), the Italians in their shops, the Spaniards in their ships, the Frenchmen in a hold, the Scot with his lance, the Irishman on foot with his dart.—T. Adams, *Physic from Heaven: Wks.*, p. 280.

To smoke with the Indian, quarrel with the Frenchman, court a lady with the Venetian, plot villany with the Italian, be proud with the Spaniard, cog with a Jew, insult with a Turk, drink down a Dutchman, and tell lies with the Devil,—for a wager, are work for wolves, not for lambs.—*Ib.*, 386.

The German proud by imitation, the French by inclination.—Ho., *New Sayings*, V.

If thy son be given to drink send him to Spain, if to drabs send him to Germany to be reclaimed.—Ho., *New Sayings*, V.

> And they shall spell as they do speak,
> And they shall sing as they do prick.
>
> Colvil, *Whigs' Supplication*, p. 51.

Johnny Crapaud.—*N.*, I., v. 439. Jacques Bonhomme is the modern nickname.

Wooden Shoes (Sabots).—Addison, *Drummer Prol.* Gay, *Trivia*, i. 86.

Gallis, hominibus levibus, perfidis et in ipsos Deos immortales impiis.—Cicero, *Oratio pro M. Fonteio.*

Moitie singe, moitie tigre.

As a Frenchman rides, all upon one buttock.—Webster, *Appius and Virginius*, iii. 2.

Like French falconers, fly at anything we see.—Shaks., *Ham.*, ii. 2.

It is said of the French that they are born with a Racket in one hand, and a pack of cards in the other (proficiency in Tennis and Piquet).—Torriano.

France is a meadow that cuts thrice a year.—H.

I 've heard and I 've read in a great many books
Half the Frenchmen are tailors, and t' other half cooks.
Chapter on Proverbs, by Rev. T. Wilson, D.D., 1775—1813, in Harland and Wilkinson's *Lancashire Folk Lore.*

Wife. That I was larger I may swear
Than well-fed ox or Flanders mare.
Ned Ward, *Nuptial Dialogues*, II., v. 1710.

Like Flanders mares, fairest afar off (Fr.), *i.e.* Flemish prostitutes. *See* Riley, *Memoirs of Lon.*, p. 535, and Taylor (W.P.), *A Thief.*

Cf. purnel of Flanders.—P. Plow., C. vii. 367.

Leicester Square still has a supply.

A Flanders reckoning.—T. Heywood, 2d Pt. *Qu. Eliz. Troubles*, 1606, p. 89., reprint.

A Flemish account.

As cruel as a Spaniard. (West Cornw.) The village of Paulchurch was burnt by them.—Polwhele, *Hist. of Cornw.*, v. 37.

We may say of him, as of the Spaniard: He is a bad servant, but a worse master.—T. Adams, *The Sacrifice of Thankfulness: Wks.*, p. 85, 1629.

Guiomar. Are you a Castilian?
Rutilio. No, Madam. Italy claims my birth.
Guiomar. I ask not with purpose to betray you; if you were
Ten thousand times a Spaniard, the nation
We Portugals most hate, I yet would save you
If it lay in my power.—
B. & Fl., *Custom of the Country*, ii. 4.

As Spaniards talk in dialogues
Of heads and shoulders, nods and shrugs.
Butler, *Hud.*, III., ii. 1491.

As Dutchmen do in taverns, drink and be merry and be gone.—Dekker, *II. Hon. W.*, iv. 2.

Half steeped in grease like a Dutch dish.—Sh., *M. W. W.*, iii. 5.

In Germany auris Batava is taken by the poet (Martial, 16) for a dull ear which has no skill in witty conceits.—F. W., *Notts*, 316.

The Dutchman drinketh pure wine in the morning, at noon wine without water, and in the evening as it comes from the butt.—Ho.

Whosoever hath been in Rome and hath seen their usage there, except grace do work above nature, he shall never be good man after.—Boorde, *Breviaire of Health*, ii. 11.

It is a false rumour that there is no sound air but the Romish. Is it not rather true that thence cometh ill infection? and that they who have forsaken us to find health there have gone out of God's blessing into the warm sun?—T. Adams, *Wks.*, p. 327. *Cf.* Inglese Italionato è il diavolo incarnato.

An English wolf and Irish toad to see
Were as a chaste man nurs'd in Italy.
Hall, *Sat.*, IV., iii. 78.

In Roma vale più la putana
che la moglie Romana.
Thomas, *Hist. of Italy*, 1546, f. 39.

The harlot hath a better life
than she that is a Roman's wife.

In Roma più vala la cortigiana
che la donna Romana.
Florio, *Prov.*, *2d Frutes*, 1591.

Thereby it fareth thus with them to be a proverb rife
To judge the Romayne harlot better than the wife.
E. More, *Defence of Women*, 125, 1557.

Some men do say I do smell of the smoke
I passe not for that I have money in my pooke.
Boorde, *Introduction to Knowledge*, 24.

The Venetians smell somewhat of the smoke of Rome.—Boorde, *Abuse of Rome*.

It is proverbially said that there are in Genoa mountains without wood, sea without fish, women without shame, and men without conscience; which makes them to be termed the White Moors.—Ho., *Instructions for Travel*, 67.

Les Dames Genevoises Donne senza vergonga, comme dit le proverbe.—Joubert, *Err. Pop.*, I., iv. 1.

Genoese are high in the instep and stondeth in their own consayte.—Boorde, *Introduction to Knowledge*, 26.

Like a German that never goes to the wars without his Tannaken and her cock on his shoulder.—Nash. *Have with you to Saffron Walden*.—R., 2.

The wit seems to manifest itself in the hands; as the Italians say of the Dutchmen that their wit dwells in their fingers' end.—T. Adams, p. 891.

The German's wit is in his fingers.—Herb.
Cotgrave, *i.e.* in executing the designs of others.

If he be a High German (especially Swab) such as have wives that believe their husbands doth not love them except they be beaten.—Sir Balth. Gerbier, *On Buildings*, ii. 3, 1664.

A Prussian fights best when he sees his own breath [which is in frosty weather].—Ho., *Parley of Beasts*, p. 114.

As a German from the waist downwards; all slops.—Sh., *Much Ado*, iii. 2.

A German quarrel: three fighting: each against the other two.—Southey, *C. P. Bk.*, iv. 675.

Apres avoir longuement et fidèlement servi la patrie [in the office of Chancelier] on leur dresse des querelles d'Allemand et de fausses accusations pour les bannir des affaires.—Du Vair, *Ess. N.*, I., iii. 495.

Querelle d'Alleman.—Oudin, *Cur. Franc.*, p. 462. Scarron, *Gigantomachie.*

Gare la queue des Alleman.—*Prov. Dauphin.* A quarrel or brabble entered into upon a slight or drunken occasion.—Cotgrave.

If a man hath lost his religion he may find it in Poland, all sects being tolerated, and so in Amsterdam.—W. W., *New Help to Discourse*, p. 36, 1659.

Des Polognes malades, voire à l'extremité qui se levent et vestent à l'heure que les medecins les doivent visitor.—Joubert, *Evr. Pop.* (Cab. III.).

Where the Great Turk's horse once treads, the grass will never grow.—Ho.

Grattez le Russe, vous trouverez le Tartare.

Let him have Russian law for all his sins.—
Cf. Webster, *The White Devil*, p. 30. G. Fletcher, *Of the Russe Common Wealth*, p. 159.

"What's that?" A hundred blows on the bare shins.—J. Day, *Parliament of Bees*, 1641, p. 55, reprint.

HISTORICAL AND PROPHETICAL.

Tria regna titulo usurpant Reges Angliæ
Angliam, Galliam, Hiberniam.—F., f. 48, ro.

The crown of Rich. III. was [after the battle of Bosworth] hidden by a soldier in a hawthorn bush, but was soon found and carried to Ld. Stanley, who placed it on the head of his son-in-law,* saluting him by the title of Hen. VII. It was in memory of the picturesque fact that the red-berried hawthorn once sheltered the crown of Engd. that the house of Tudor assumed the device of a crown in a bush of the white hawthorn. To the same circumstance may be referred the loyal proverb, Cleave to the Crown, though it hang on a bush.—Strickland, *Queens of Eng.*, ii. 419.

* Note.—This should be step-son.—Ed.

Long beards heartless,
painted hoods witless,
gay coats graceless,
make England thriftless.—F. W.
"A Scottish taunt," *temp.* Edw. III., 14th Cy.

Puttenham, *Art of Eng. Poesie*, 1589, v. 2; Camden, *Remains*, 1637; Manningham, *Diary* (Camd. Soc.), 1602-3.

Great men graceless are the devil's special factors.—T. Adams, p. 893.

The Rat and the Cat, and Lovel the Dog
do govern all England under the Hog.—F. W.
The Cat, the Rat, and Lovell the Dog
rule all England under a Hog.—Ho.
See Ellis, *Original Letters*, II., ii. 161.

Sir Wm. Catesby was the Cat, Sir Richd. Radcliffe the Rat, and Lord Lovell the Dog. The Hog refers to the Boar which Richard III. had adopted as one of the supporters of his arms.—Murr., *N'hamp.*

The King and Pope, the lion and the wolf. A prov. used in K. John's time, in regard of the great exactions.—Ho.

Hops, Reformation, baise and beer
came into England all in a year.*
Brady, *Varieties of Literature*, 1826, p. 264.

* Introduced by foreign Protestant refugees at Maidstone.

Heresy and beer
came hopping into England both in a year.
Buttes, *Dyet's Dry Dinner*, 1599 G. 4.

Turkeys, carps, hops, piccadel and beer
came into England all in one year.
[about the 15th of Hen. VIII.] *Baker's Chron. ed.* 1696, p. 298.

When Hempe is sponne,*
England 's done.†—Bacon, *Ess.* xxxv.

* Spun, *i.e.*, none left for sails and cordage.—F.W. † Is undone.—F.W.

The initials of Hen. VIII., Edw. VI., Mary, Philip and Elizabeth: the Hemp is the cordage of ships. F. W. gives this quasi-Popish prophecy relating to Bath Abbey:

"Be blithe, fair Kirck: when Hempe is past,
Thine Olive, that ill winds did blast,
Shall flourish green, for age to last."

Yet, to keep this proverb in countenance, it may pretend to some truth, because then England, with the addition of Scotland, lost its name in Great Britain by royal proclamation.—F. W.

There shall be seen upon a day,
between the Baugh and the May,*
the black fleet of Norway:
When that is come and gone
England, build houses of lime and stone,
for after, wars you shall have none.

* A writer in *N.* VIII., ii. 362, suggests that the Bass and the May, two islands at the mouth of the Firth of Forth, were intended.

Bacon (*Ess.* xxx., "On Prophecies") says the King of Spain [Philip II.'s] name was Norway. This prediction of the Armada was current in Bacon's childhood before the year 1588.

CARDINALS. *Cf.* Becon, i. 124.

The comune *clamat cotidie* eche a man to other
þe contre is þe curseder þat cardynales come inne.
Langland, *Piers Plowman Pass.*, xix. 415.

There was never Legatt nor Cardinall that did good in England.—E. Hall, *Chron.* p. 1548.

It was never merry in England while we had any Cardinals among us. Quoted by Duke of Suffolk against Cardl. Wolsey.—*Stowe's Chron.*, by Howes, 1631, p. 546.

But God that liveth ever,
Grant that they never
Have power to come hither;
For wher they ones arive,
So clene they do us shrive,
The contry ther shall thrive
Yeres tenne and five
After them the wurse.
Ym. of Hypocr., 1533. Ballads fr. *MS.* i.

Nevil for the Protestant, Lord Thomas* for the Papist;
Bromley for the Puritan, Lord Cobham for the Atheist.
(Courtiers of James I.) Manningham, *Diary*, p. 168, Camden Soc.

* Howard.

Tres Principes maximis calamitatibus subjecti: Rex Scotiæ, Dux in Angliâ, Comes in Belgio.—Tr., f. 47 r°. [Heine.

France rules the Land, England the Sea, and Germany the Air.—

New England hath undone the Old; viz., with distractions.—Ho. *New Says.*, ii. 1659.

England—the Mother of Parliaments.—John Bright, Speech at Rochdale, 1860.

Englands Verlegenheit
ist Irland's Gelegenheit.—Wander.

England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity.

Repeal the Union*, restore the Heptarchy!—Ascribed to Canning: used first by Sir Rob. Peel [of Reform] in 1834, answering O'Connell.

* With Ireland.

Chronica si penses, cum pugnent Oxonienses,
Post aliquot menses volat ira per Angliginenses.

Mark the Chronicles aright,
When Oxford scholars fall to fight
before many months are expir'd
England will with war be fired.—F. W.

Chi vuol vincere Inghilterra cominci dall'Irlanda.—Giani.

It is a saying auncient, not
Autenticall I win,
That who so England will subdue
With Ireland must begin.
Warner, *Albion's England*., x., 1586.

He that England will win
must with Ireland first begin.—F. W.

i.e. proceeding gradatim, methodically.—F. W.

G. says that men and rations are largely furnished by Ireland in war-time.

Get Ireland to-day, and England may be thine to-morrow.—Ho., *New Sayings* Cent. I.

And Our Lord lights in Our Lady's lap
and therefore England must have a clap.
T. Adams, *The Soul's Sickness*: *Wks*., p. 472, 1629.

When Christ falleth in Our Lady's lap
then let England look for a clap.—Ho.

When Our Lady falls in our Lord's lap
then let England beware a sad clap [a mishap].—F.W.
the Clergyman look to his cap.—F. W.

Fuller laughs at this coincidence of Easter on March 25 being unfortunate.

If Chichester steeple fall
in England there 's no King at all.

Verified Feb. 21, 1861, in the reign of Queen Victoria, when the tower fell through the roof.

Truly, Sir, I find all things conspire to make strange mutations in this miserable island. I fear we shall fall from under the scepter to be under the sword, and since we speak of Prophecies I am afraid among others that which was made since the Reformation will be verified:

The Churchman was, the Lawyer is, the Soldier shall be. A Prophecy of England since the Reformation.—Ho., *Fam. Lett*., III., xxii.

RELATING TO COUNTIES.

BEDFORDSHIRE.

Bedfordschir is not to lack
Buckinghamschir is his make.—*MS.* Harl.

Bedfordshire is nought to lakke
Bokynghamshire is his maakke.—*MS.* Rawl.

Of "Malthorse" Bedfordshire long since the blazon wan.—Drayt. *Pol.*, xxiii.

A slow, dull, heavy horse, such as brewers employ. Shak. uses the word as a word of contempt. You whoreson malthorse drudge.—*T. of Sh.*, I., vi.

Mome, malthorse, capon, coxcomb, idiot, patch.—*C. of Er.*, iii. 1.

Bedfordshire bull-dogs, Hertfordshire hedgehogs, Buckinghamshire great fools.—*N.*, IV., iv. 507.

"I'm off to Bedfordshire," *i.e.* to bed.—S.P.C. *Gr.* This ancient joke appears in Middleton (an Elizabethan writer). A Mad World, my Masters.—ii. 5.

Bedfordshire for naked flesh.—*See* Chesh.

Rufes de Bedford.—Douce *MS.* 98. The Ruffe or Pope, a species of Perch.

The bailiff of Bedford is coming, *i.e.* the river Ouse.—F. W. So called in Cambridgeshire because of its floods.

As crooked as Crawley brook.—F. W. Falling into the Ouse (to which F. W. suggests it would be more applicable), near Woburn.

DUNSTABLE.

Herbergerie de Donestaple.—Douce *MS.* 98.

Larks.—F. W.

As plain as Dunstable highway (hieway). He, *i.e.* smooth.—F. W.

Cf. The crooked shall be made straight ("simple," obvious), and the rough places plain.—*Isaiah* xi. 4.

Some good walkers . . . that walked in the King's highway, ordinarily, uprightly, playne Dunstable waye.—Latimer, *Seven Sermons*, 1549.

I am plain Dunstable.—*Witch of Edmon.*, i. 2.

Downright Dunstable, *i.e.* a plain, simple, honest person.—*Gr.*

In the Dunstable highway to Needham and beggary.—*Cl.* *Cf.* Facilis descensus Averni.

It would be an unknown encouragement to goodness if honour still might not be dealt but upon these terms. Then should many worthy spirits get up the Highgate of preferment, and idle drones should not come nearer than the Dunstable highway of obscurity.—T. Adams, *Wks.*, p. 1084.

Wherein I judge him the more to be esteemed, because he useth no going about the bush, but treads Dunstable way in all his travel.—Gesson, *Ephemerides of Phialo*, 1586, *Epist. Ded.*

LEIGHTON BUZZARD.

Tring, Wing, and Ivinghoe, [first two in Bucks]
three dirty villages all in a row
and never without a rogue or two.
Would you know the reason why?
Leighton Buzzard is hard by.—*N.*, I., v. 619.

POTTON [10 m. E. of Bedford].—*See* Sutton.

SUTTON [3 m. N.E. of Biggleswade].

I, John of Gaunt,
do give and do grant
unto Roger Burgoyne
and the heirs of his loin
both Sutton and Potton
until the world's rotten.—*N.*, I., vi. 156.

Beauties of England and Wales, Bedfordsh., i. 76, 1801.

BERKSHIRE.

Barkschir fill vaine.—*MS.* Harl.
Barkshyre fyll the wayne.—*MS.* Rawl.

As Berkshire has for her's "Let's to't and toss the ball."—Drayt. *Pol.*, xxiii. (her's, *i.e.* her blazon).

Berkshire for dogs.—*See* Chesh.
Hampshire hog
Berkshire dog
Yorkshire bite
London white.—Higson, 123.

He is a representative of Barkshire, *i.e.* afflicted with a cough.—*Gr.*

ABINGDON LAW.—Pineda, *Span. Dict.*, 1740, Art. Peralvillo.

"A garrison was established at Abingdon by Charles I., which became the head-quarters of his horse, and thither the whole Royal family came Ap. 7, 1644. Their custom of hanging all Irish prisoners without a trial made 'Abingdon law' proverbial."—Murr.

I showed my Papers in Manuscript to divers who I presumed were Intelligent and Learned, desiring them to try them and pass judgment and execute them who deserved not to live. To work they went with Abington law.—Pearson, *Raptures of a Flaming Spirit*, B. 2, 1682.

ALDERMASTON [10 m. S.W. of Reading].—Haz., p. 457.

When clubs are trumps Aldermaston House shakes.

Murr. refers this to the notorious gambling propensities of Lord Stawell, who married the heiress of this house and estate.

BRAY (adjoining Maidenhead).

The Vicar of Bray will be Vicar of Bray still.—F. W.

"The vivacious Vicar [Simon Aleyn d. 1588], living under Hen. VIII., Edw. VI., Mary and Elizth, was first a Papist then a Protestant, then a Papist, then a Protestant again. He had seen some martyrs burnt two miles off Windsor and found this fire too hot for his tender temper. This Vicar being taxed by one with being a turncoat and an unconstant changeling, 'Not so,' said he, 'for I have always kept my principle, which is this, to live and die the Vicar of Bray.'"—Fuller.

Wastel de Hungerford. Douce *MS.* 98, *i.e.* fine white bread.

ILSLEY, remote amidst the Berkshire downs, [14 m. N.W. of Reading]
Claims these distinctions o'er her sister towns;
Far-famed for sheep and wool, though not for spinners,
For sportsmen, doctors, publicans, and sinners.—Murr.

LAMBOURN [25 m. W.N.W. of Reading] and stream of same name.

The earlier it dries up, the higher will be the price of corn (and *see* Pang).—Lowsley, *B. Wds. & Ph.*

Cf. Drought never bred dearth.

NEWBURY. Troyte de Neubery.—Douce *MS.*

Trout of the river Kennet.

Long noted for its corn-market. . . . The old custom here that everything must be paid for on delivery gave rise to the local proverb, The farmer doth take back his money in his sack.—Murr.

PANGBOURNE [5 m. W.N.W. of Reading]. The Pang w^{h} rises at Hampstead Norreys never begins to rise much before the shortest day, nor to sink much before the shortest day.—Lowsley, *Berksh. Wds. & Phr.*

READING. Scarlet town. Ballad of Barbara Allen.

Teule de Redinges.—Douce *MS.* 98. ? draining pipes or tiles.

To show the way to Reading.

"In Madame Knight's Journal . . . she speaks of a tavern-keeper's daughter who 'drew a chair, bid me sitt. And then run up stairs and putts on two or three Rings (or else I had not seen them before), and returning sett herself just before me, showing the way to Reding, that I might see her Ornaments, perhaps to gain the more respect."—*N.*, II., vi. 233.

WINDSOR. Forest de Wyndesoure.—Douce *MS.* 98.

Soap.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

Bedfordschir is not to lack.
Buckinghamschir is his make.—*MS.* Harl.

Bedforshire is nought to lakke
Bokynghamshire is his maakke.—*MS.* Rawl.

Rich Buckingham doth bear the term of "Bread and beef,"
Where if you beat a bush 'tis odds you start a thief.
Drayt. *Pol.*, xxiii., 1622.

Buckinghamshire bread and beef;
Here, if you beat a bush, it's odds you'ld start a thief.
F. W., referring to Drayt.

This alludes to the dense forest of beech-trees which at one time covered the Chilterns.

Bedfordshire bull-dogs, Hertfordshire hedge-hogs and Buckinghamshire great fools.—*N.*, IV., iv. 507.

When William conquer'd English ground
Bulstrode had per annum three hundred pound.

Bulstrode Park 3 m. E.S.E. of Beaconsfield now belongs to the Duke of Somerset.—Murr.

BLEDLOW. 2 m. S.W. of Prince's Risborough.

They who live and do abide
Shall see Bledlow church fall into the Lyde.
Sharp, *Br. Gaz.*

This is one of Mother Shipton's prophecies. The church stands on a rock which a pool underneath, where a number of springs flow out, is wearing away the chalk.—Lysons, *Buckingh.*, p. 516.

BRICKHILL.

Here stand three Brickhills all in a row,
Great Brickhill, Little Brickhill, and Brickhill of the Bow.

Three villages near Bow Brickhill, an eminence 683 ft. high, one mile E.N.E. of Fenny Stratford.—*N.*, IV., iv. 507.

BRILL UPON THE HILL, 6 m. N.W. by N. of Thame,
Oakley in the hole, 5 m. N.W. of Thame,
Shabby little Ickford, 3 m. W.N.W. of Thame,
Dirty Worminghall, or Wornall.—*N.*, I., viii. 427.
(All near Thame.)

At Brill on the Hill, the wind blows shrill,
the cook no meat can dress;
at Stow in the Wold the wind blows cold,
I know no more than this.
Halliwell, *Nursery Rh. of Eng.*, 1853.

BUCKINGHAM. Pronounced to be the most uninteresting town in England.—*All the Year Round*, xxxii. 64.

Women are born in Wiltshire, brought up in Cumberland, lead their lives in Bedfordshire, bring their husbands to Buckingham, and die in Shrewsbury.—*Wit Restored*, 1658.

An old man who weds a buxom young maiden biddeth fair to become a freeman of Buckingham, *i.e.* a cuckold.—*Gr.*

CASTLETHORPE (par. of Hanslope, 5 m. N.W. of Newport Pagnell).

If it hadn't been for Cobb-bush Hill
Thorpe Castle would have stood there still.
[There would have been a castle at Thorpe still.]
N., I., viii. 387.

To take the Chiltern Hundreds. A voluntary "happy despatch" of a Member of Parliament. The acceptance of the Stewardship of Burnham, Desborough and Stoke being an office of profit under the Crown *eo instante* vacates the seat.

ETON. Winchester for gentlemen, Harrow for scholars,
Westminster blackguards, and Eton Bucks.
or Harrow for gentlemen, Eton for lords,
Winchester for scholars, Westminster blackguards.

(Once the only recognised "Public Schools.")

GRENDON UNDERWOOD [1 m. from Ludgershall]. G. under Bernwood.

The dirtiest town that ever stood.—Murr.

ICKFORD. *See* Brill.

IVINGHOE. *See* Wing.

LILLINGSTON DAYRELL [4 m. N. of Buckingham].

The Dayrells have been seated here since the Conquest. Also at Littlecote in Wiltshire. Of them it has been said—

The luck of the Dayrells, whatever it be,
Shall come by the sea and go by the sea.

GREAT MARLOW. Here is fish for catching,
corn for snatching,
and wood for fatching, *i.e.* thatching. (?)
Reliq. Hearnianæ, p. 485.

NORTH CRAWLEY [3 m. E. of Newport Pagnell].

How North Crawley her bonnet stands, *i.e.* not straight.—Baker, *N'hants Gloss.*

OAKLEY. *See* Brill.

OLNEY. Sle, sla, stuck in the mud;
Oh it is pretty to wade through a flood.

Murr. gives this referring to the roads hereabouts. The lines occur in Cowper's *Distrest Travellers.*

SLAPTON. 3 m. S. of Leighton Buzzard, near Towcester.

Where fools will happen.—Sternberg, *N'hants Gloss.*

THORP. *See* Castlethorp.

If it hadn't been for Cobb-bush Hill
Thorpe Castle would have stood there still.
[There would have been a castle at * Thorpe still.
N., I., viii. 387, Northolt.]

* Pronounced Thrup.