FOUR DIALECT WORDS.

CLEM, LAKE, NESH, AND OSS,

THEIR MODERN DIALECTAL RANGE, MEANINGS,
PRONUNCIATION, ETYMOLOGY,
AND
EARLY OR LITERARY USE.

BY THOMAS HALLAM.

[PRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION.]
1885.
PUBLICATIONS.

For 1873. Subscription, 10s. 6d.

1. A Glossary of North of England Words, by J. H., Five Glossaries by Mr. Marshall, and a West-Riding Glossary by Dr. Willan. Edited by the Rev. Walter W. Skeat. 7s. 6d.

2. A List of Books Illustrating English Dialects. Part I. Containing a General List of Dictionaries, and a List of Books relating to some of the Counties of England. Edited by Professor Skeat. 4s. 6d.

3. A Glossary of Swaledale Words. By Captain Harland. 4s.

For 1874. Subscription, 10s. 6d.

4. The History of English Sounds. By Henry Sweet. (Out of print). 4s. 6d.

5. Seven Provincial English Glossaries, from various sources. Edited by the Rev. Walter W. Skeat. 7s.


For 1875. Subscription, 10s. 6d.

7. The Dialect of West Somerset. By F. T. Elworthy. 3s. 6d.

8. A List of Books relating to some of the Counties of England. Part II. Edited by Professor Skeat. 6s.


For 1876. Subscription, 10s. 6d.


For 1877. Subscription, £1.


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<td>55</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

CORRIGENDA.

Page 16, delete line 6—"As we shall see, both are derived from the Anglo-Saxon."

,, 20, line 29—(Division) "I" should be "II."
,, 31, line 6 from bottom—Senyn should be Senyn.
## SUMMARY OF DETAILS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Clem.</th>
<th>Lake</th>
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<th>Obs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td><strong>I. Dialectal Range:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>i. From Printed Books:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Glossaries:</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>,, Counties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In England</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>,, Wales</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>,, Ireland</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii. From my own Researches:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Counties</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
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<td>,, Places</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>II. Early or Literary Usage:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period</td>
<td>1362 to 12th cent.</td>
<td>c. 1200</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>No. of Books or Works</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* I may here explain that in recording the "Phonology of English Dialects," what is primarily required is the dialectal pronunciation of literary or received English words, in order that the varied forms of pronunciation may be compared for all English counties; this will be done in Mr. Ellis's great work on the subject now in preparation, which will form Part V. of his *Early English Pronunciation*. Hence, purely dialectal words, as *clm, neth, oss*, &c., are not available for this general comparison, their area of usage being only parts of the country respectively: consequently, these have not received the same degree of attention as representative received English words, such as *father, mother, day, green, house, home, night, moon*, &c. Had special inquiries been made during my dialectal tours, the number of places at which these words are respectively current might have been much extended.
P R E F A C E.

§ 1. The title page indicates with almost sufficient completeness the purport and scope of this contribution to the English Dialect Society's publications. Selecting four characteristic and expressive words which are still current in our Dialects, but have long been lost to the standard language, I have endeavoured to ascertain the range of each, so far as that is discoverable from published glossaries and my own personal researches for a number of years. I have given the meaning and shades of meaning of the words as they are employed in the several localities, together with the variations in the pronunciation; the last-named being the result of actual personal hearing of the every-day use of the words by natives, noted down during my somewhat extensive phonological travels in about twenty-five English counties, and Denbighshire and Flintshire (detached), in Wales.

§ 2. To complete the examination, I have added examples of the use of the four words by Early and Middle English writers, as well as illustrative colloquial sentences or specimens from the glossarists; and I have ventured, with the assistance of eminent philologists (see § 6), to give the etymology of each word.

§ 3. Apart from the pronunciations which I have been able to record, the differences in which are suggestive and valuable, it will be observed that I have brought into one view information which was previously scattered over a wide area. The labour involved in such a collation has necessarily been considerable, and the result, I trust, will be of some appreciable service to students of the history of our language.
§ 4. With respect to Early and Middle English quotations, it was thought advisable in the case of Clem, Lake, and Nesh to give a considerable number, in order fully to exemplify what we may term their “literary life.”

§ 5. The dialectal range, as indicated both from the printed glossaries, and the writer’s researches, shows the necessity that local glossaries should be inclusive.

§ 6. The etymological section on each word has been submitted to Professor Skeat, of Cambridge, who has most kindly and carefully checked the same, and corrected where necessary. I am also indebted to him for a special paragraph on the etymology of Oss; also, for three of the five Early English quotations for the same word.

I have also to acknowledge, with thanks, courteous communications from Dr. J. A. H. Murray and Professor Rhys, of Oxford, on the etymology of Oss.

The correspondence from the three scholars just named contained likewise several interesting and valuable suggestions. This help has been most courteously and readily granted in response to my inquiries.

My thanks are also hereby tendered to informants in various counties, for special communications on the meaning and use of the word or form LARK = a frolic, sport, &c., in the several localities. See pp. 35-37. These are all people with whom I had interviews previously, in the course of my dialectal travels, and who had willingly given me valuable information on their respective dialects.

Manchester, August, 1887.

THOMAS HALLAM.
Four Dialect Words.

C L E M.

The modern use of this word, with its variant Clam, is dialectal, and has a wide range. It was in literary use in Early and Middle English. I propose to treat the word as follows:

A.—First, and chiefly, MODERN DIALECTAL RANGE, LOCALITIES, ORTHOGRAPHY, AND SENSES OR ACCEPTATIONS.

I. From Glossaries.
   i. Table of Localities and Authors.
   ii. Quotations, or illustrative sentences.

II. From my own researches.
   i. Table of Localities.
   ii. Illustrative sentences.

III. Correspondence from the Manchester City News.

B.—Secondly, ETYMOLOGY AND LITERARY USAGE IN EARLY AND MIDDLE ENGLISH.

I. Etymology.

II. Quotations from Early and Middle English.

APPENDIX: The word starve.

A.—MODERN DIALECTAL RANGE.

I. FROM GLOSSARIES OR PRINTED BOOKS.

   i. A TABLE OR LIST OF THE GLOSSARIES

in which the word is found. In the first column they are numbered consecutively; the second contains the localities; the third the authors’ names and dates; and the fourth the orthography and reference to the two meanings or acceptations, viz.:

   1 = To starve for want of food, or from having insufficient food; and,
   2 = To be parched with thirst.

In giving the places or districts, I proceed in series from north to south.

B
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Author and Date</th>
<th>Orthography and Acceptation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>North Country</td>
<td>John Ray, 1674</td>
<td>clam'd, clam'd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>North of England</td>
<td>Rev. J. Hutton, 1783</td>
<td>clam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>North</td>
<td>F. G. Gros, 1790</td>
<td>clam'm'd, clam'm'd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>North Country</td>
<td>J. T. Brockett, 1825</td>
<td>clam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Yorkshire:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>Rev. J. C. Atkinson, 1868</td>
<td>clam, clam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Whitby District</td>
<td>F. K. Robinson, 1875</td>
<td>clam'm'd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mid-Yorkshire</td>
<td>C. C. Robinson, 1876</td>
<td>clam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Holderness</td>
<td>Ross, Stead, &amp; Holderness, 1877</td>
<td>clammed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>West Riding</td>
<td>Robert Willan, 1811</td>
<td>clam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Craven</td>
<td>Rev. W. Carr, 1824</td>
<td>do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>B. Preston, Poems, 1867</td>
<td>clammin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Leeds District</td>
<td>Thoresby to Ray, 1703</td>
<td>clam'm'd, clam'd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Leeds</td>
<td>C. C. Robinson, 1862</td>
<td>clam'm'd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Wakefield</td>
<td>W. Stott Banks, 1865</td>
<td>do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Almondbury and Huddersfield</td>
<td>Rev. A. Easther &amp; Rev. T. Lees, 1883</td>
<td>clam, clam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Hallamshire (Sheffield District)</td>
<td>Rev. Joseph Hunter, 1829</td>
<td>clam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>A. C. Gibson, 1869</td>
<td>clammm'd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>R. Ferguson, 1873</td>
<td>clam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Cumberland &amp; Westmorland</td>
<td>Poems, Songs, and Ballads, 1839</td>
<td>do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Lancashire:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Lonsdale</td>
<td>R. B. Peacock, in Phil. Soc. Trans., 1867</td>
<td>clam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Furness</td>
<td>J. P. Morris, 1869</td>
<td>clam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>South</td>
<td>J. Collier, 6 ed., 1757</td>
<td>clam'm'd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>South</td>
<td>J. H. Nodal and G. Milner, Part I, 1875</td>
<td>clam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>E., Mid., &amp; N.</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>clam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Cheshire</td>
<td>R. Wilbraham, 2 ed., 1825; orig. in Archaeologia, Vol. XIX</td>
<td>clam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>Col. Egerton Leigh, 1877</td>
<td>clam or clam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Derbyshire (Bakewell District)</td>
<td>J. Sleight, in Reliquary for January, 1865</td>
<td>clam, clam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Shropshire</td>
<td>Miss Jackson, 1879</td>
<td>clam; clam on the Hereford border</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Staffordshire</td>
<td>T. Wright, 1880</td>
<td>clam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>R. Nares, 1822</td>
<td>clam'm'd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Leicestershire</td>
<td>C. H. Poole, 1880</td>
<td>clam or clam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Lincolnshire</td>
<td>A. B. Evans, D.D., and his son S. Evans, LL.D., 1881</td>
<td>clam, clam, clam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Ditto (Manley &amp; Corringham)</td>
<td>J. E. Brogden, 1866</td>
<td>clam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
<td>Edward Peacock, 1877</td>
<td>clammed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A TABLE OR LIST OF THE GLOSSARIES—(continued).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Author and Date</th>
<th>Orthography and Acceptation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Northamptonshire</td>
<td>Clare, Poems on Rural Life and Scenery, cir. 1818.</td>
<td>clamm'd [birds] .......</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>T. Sternberg, 1851</td>
<td>clam'd ...............</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>Miss Baker, 1854</td>
<td>clam'd: applied to cattle which do not thrive for want of better pasture; but it more frequently denotes parched with thirst.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Warwickshire</td>
<td>W. Holloway, 1839</td>
<td>clam ...............</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Herefordshire</td>
<td>G. Cornwall Lewis, 1839</td>
<td>do ...............</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Worcestershire, West</td>
<td>Mrs. Chamberlain, 1882</td>
<td>clem ...............</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Ditto Upton-on-Severn</td>
<td>Rev. Canon Lawson, 1884.</td>
<td>clam ...............</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>East Anglia (Norfolk and Suffolk)</td>
<td>Rev. R. Forby, 1830</td>
<td>clam ...............</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Suffolk</td>
<td>Edward Moor, 1823</td>
<td>clammd ...............</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>East</td>
<td>T. Wright, 1880</td>
<td>clam ...............</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>J. O. Halliwell, ed. 1874.</td>
<td>clam, clem ...............</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Cornwall, West</td>
<td>Miss M. A. Courtney, 1880.</td>
<td>clem ...............</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Wales (Radnorshire)</td>
<td>Rev. W. E. T. Morgan, 1881.</td>
<td>do ...............</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>Ireland (Antrim and Down)</td>
<td>W. H. Patterson, 1880.</td>
<td>clemmed to death—perished with wet and cold.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note.—Five works in the foregoing list are General Dictionaries of Archaic or of Provincial English, or both, viz.:—

3. F. Grose's Provincial Glossary.

28. (43) T. Wright's Dict. of Obsolete and Provincial English.

29. Archdeacon Nares's Glossary . . . illustrating the works of English Authors, particularly Shakspere and his contemporaries.

37. W. Holloway's General Dict. of Provincialisms.

44. J. O. Halliwell's Dict. of Archaic and Provincial Words.

I may here observe that the variant clam has several homonyms, which have various dialectal meanings, and most of them, no doubt, are of different origin. Halliwell has clam with thirteen acceptations besides No. 1 before given; and T. Wright has clam with fourteen acceptations in addition to the two given above.
### TABLE OF LOCALITIES—(continued).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Town, Village, etc.</th>
<th>Orthography and Acceptation.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Warwickshire</td>
<td>Coventry; not dated</td>
<td>clam [? klaam' or tlaam']</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>...........................1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Herefordshire</td>
<td>Near Leominster...1885</td>
<td>clemmed [klaemd] ..1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Worcestershire</td>
<td>Bewdley ..............1881</td>
<td>a-clammin' [u'klaam'-i'n] ..........1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Huntingdonshire</td>
<td>Great Stukeley...do.</td>
<td>clemmed [klaemd] ..2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Oxfordshire</td>
<td>Witney ...............1884</td>
<td>clam [klaam'] ........1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wales:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Flintshire</td>
<td>Hanmer (Arowry) 1882, detatched</td>
<td>clemmed [tlaemd] ...1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>twice.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ii. ILLUSTRATIVE SENTENCES

Recorded at fifteen of the places named in the preceding table, with the pronunciation in glossic (within square brackets).

1. **Lancashire: Garstang.**

   Welly (nearly) clammed to deëth mony a time—
   
   [waël-i'tlaam'd tu') ð:ee'-u'ð mon'-i u') tæ:im'.

3. **Ditto Farrington.**

   Dusta (dost thou) think I'm going t' clem 'em ?=
   
   [ðæs'tu' thingk au'm] go.o..i'n i) tlaam') u'm?]

4. **Ditto Leyland.**

   I'm vary near clammed to deëth=[Au)m vaar-u'
   
   nee'u' tlaam tu') deeu'-th].

6. **Ditto Stalybridge.**

   We shanna clem him=[Wi') shaan'u'tlaem') i'm].

9. **Cheshire: Middlewich.**

   Yo dunna (don't) clem your bally for fine clooits-
   (clothes)= [Yu') dàn'-u' tlaem' yu'') baal'-i fu'r).

   fæ:in tlo:oo'-u'z [tluoo'-u'z].

11. **Derbyshire: Dore.**

   Clam it to deëth=[tlaam') i't tu') ð:ee'-u'ð'.

12. **Ditto Chesterfield.**

   Clammed to deëth=[tlaamd tu') ð:ee'-u'ð].
   Tha'll Clem me t' deeth═[Dhaa..]l tlaem')] mi' t)
dee' th]̄.

   I amna (am not) clemmed═[Au] aam') nu' klaem]̄.

   Clemmed to death═[tlaemd tu') daeth']̄.

29. Lincoln: Lincoln.
   Clammed to death═[tlaemd tu') d:ee'u'd]̄.

   I'm nearly clammed═[au)m] n:e:e'u'rl' tlaamd]̄.

32. Heref.: Near Leominster.
   Most (nearly) clemmed to death═[M:o:a'st klaem
tu') daeth']̄.

33. Worce.: Bewdley.—Referring to a lady who was not
   charitably inclined, my informant, Mrs.
   Mary Ashcroft, about ninety-five years
   of age, observed:

   Afore her'd give it [say food] to them as bun a-
   clammin'═[u':o'a'u'r uur']d gyi:y') i't tu') dhaem-
   u'z) bin' u'klaam''i'n]̄.

   Clemmed to jeth (death)═[tlaemd tu') jaeth']̄.

Being a native of the Peak of Derbyshire, I know that the
form clem [tlaem'] prevails there, signifying “to starve.”
I also know from long personal experience that the same
form, pronunciation, and meaning are current in East
Cheshire and South Lancashire, including Manchester.

The phrases “clemmed [or clammed] to death,” and
“nearly [or well] clemmed [or clammed] to death,” in
their varied dialectal pronunciations, are used figuratively in
most of the localities named, as equivalent to “very hungry,”
as, for instance, when persons may have been obliged to
continue at work, from urgent causes, for a longer time than
usual, before partaking of food.
III. CORRESPONDENCE IN THE MANCHESTER CITY NEWS.

In January, 1878, there was some correspondence in this paper on "The Dialectal Range of the Words Lake and Clem." I now give the small portion relating to clem:—

... The word clem is said to be indigenous to Lancashire, and such may be the case. However, it is a word well-known amongst the poor nailmakers of South Staffordshire, and Halesowen in Worcestershire. I first became acquainted with the word in the Midland counties, and when I came to reside in Lancashire I recognised it as an old acquaintance. Ask a Sedgeley or Halesowen nailmaker how he is getting on, and the reply will in all probability be, "We're clemming," that is, "we are starving." And in truth these poor nailmakers are being gradually starved out through the bulk of the nails being now made by machinery.

Stacksteads, Rossendale [Lancashire].

... The word clem about Preston and neighbourhood was always pronounced clam. I never heard clam except in South-east Lancashire. In the glossary [then] recently edited by Messrs. Nodai and Milner, several quotations from old writers are given in which the word is used, and consequently its range both was and is much wider than the county palatine. One of these, from Massinger, spells the word clam, and another from Ben Jonson clem.

Charles Hardwick.

Manchester.

The article written by myself on Clem, was inserted March 30th, 1878, occupying not more than one-fourth the space of the present article, which includes the original information very considerably extended, and in addition, the results of my own dialectal researches.

B.—ETYMOLOGY, AND EARLY OR LITERARY USAGE.

1. ETYMOLOGY.

The word clem is of Teutonic origin. The primary senses of words which are cognate in several Teutonic languages are, "to press, squeeze, pinch," etc.; and from these has been developed the metaphorical meaning, "to be pinched with hunger," or, "to starve."
i. I give cognate words from dictionaries in the following languages:

1. **German**:
   a. *Klemmen*, v. a. and refl., to pinch, cramp, squeeze; to jam.
   Flügel, Lond. 1841.
   b. *Klemmen*, v. a. to pinch, squeeze hard and closely, to press.
   *Behlemmen*, v. a. to press, to pinch, to oppress.
   Published by Cassell, London.

2. **Dutch**:
   a. *Klemmen*, to pinch, clinch.
   S. H. Wilcocke, Lond. 1798.
   b. *Klemmen*, v. a. and n., to pinch, clinch, oppress.
   *Klemmen*, v. n. to be numbed with cold.
   Published by Otto Holtz, Leipsic, 1878.

3. **Anglo-Saxon**:
   Dr. Bosworth has no corresponding verb. He has the two following nouns, which have the kindred senses of binding, holding, or restraint.
   1. *Clam*. A bandage; what holds or retains, as a net, fold, prison.

4. **Icelandic**:
   *Klembra* [Germ[an], *Klemmen*], to jam or pinch in a smith's vice.
   *Klembrr* [sþ] [akin to a well-known root-word common to all Teutonic languages; cp. Germ. *Klam, Klemmen*],
   a smith's vice.
   Cleasby and Vigfusson, Oxford, 1874.
   [N.B.—The root-word referred to is probably "Kramp." See Prof. Skeat's Etymol. Eng. Dict., s.v. *clamp*.

5. **Danish**:
   *Klemme*, v.t. to pinch, squeeze, jam.
   Ferrall and Repps, Kjobenhavn, 1861.

6. **Swedish**:
   *Klämma* [sþ], f. press, sitta i klämma—to be in great straits.
   *Klämma*, v. a. to squeeze, to oppress, to pinch, to wring.
   Tauchnitz edit., Leipsic, 1883.
ii. From Dr. Stratmann's Dict. of Old English, and three Glossaries:

1. Dr. Stratmann:

2. R. B. Peacock's Lonsdale (N. Lanc.) Glossary, 1867:
   Clam, v.t. to starve for want of food, to be very thirsty: Dan. klemme, to pinch; O.N. Klemma, to contract; Goth. Klammen, to pinch.

3. Rev. J. C. Atkinson's Cleveland Glossy, 1868:
   Clam, v. a. (1) To pinch, compress, force together. (2) To castrate by aid of compression. (3) v. n. and p. To suffer from the pinching effects of hunger, to starve. O.N [orse]. Klemme, co-arctare; S[uio]-G[othic]. Klemma, primere, stringere; Sw. Dial. Klemme; Dan. Klemme; Mid. Germ. Klemmen. Rietz observes that "in all probability there must have once been extant in O. English a strong vb. clamman, clam, clammen, or clammen." Possibly our existing vb. generally current in one or more of its senses throughout the North, is the only vb. ever in use, no instance of its occurrence being quoted as a South English word; although the A.S. sb. clam, clom, bondage or bonds, constraint, exists.
   Clem, v. n. and p. To suffer from the effects of hunger. Another form of clam (which see).

4. Nodal and Milner's Lancashire Glossary, Pt. I., 1875:
   Clem (S. Lanc.); clom (E., Mid., and N. Lanc.): v. to starve from want of food. Du. Klemmen, to pinch; O.L. Ger. (bi-)Klemmann; O.H. Ger. (bi-)chlemmen, to clam; Du. Klemmen, to be benumbed with cold.

N.B.—It is necessary particularly to note the etymological difference between clam the synonym of clem, "to be pinched with hunger," and clam, "to stick or adhere to," the latter is derived from the Anglo-Sax. clam, "a bandage, chain."—Bosworth.* Atkinson, in his Cleveland Glossary, clearly distinguishes the two words. See also Skeat's Etymol. Dict. v.l. Clam, Clamp, Clump, Cram, and Cramp.

II. QUOTATIONS FROM THE 14TH TO THE 17TH CENTURY.

1362. Piers Ploughman, p. 276:
   Et this whan the hungreth
   Or whan thou clomest for-cold
   Or clyngest for-drye.

   So quoted by T. Wright, edit. 1856.

Gloss. No. 4. Rev. J. Atkinson has the variants, thou; for cold; and for dree.

*Bosworth confuses clam or clamm, a bandage, chain, with clam, mud, clay. They are quite distinct.—W. W. S
1360. *Early English Allit. Poems*, c. i., 392:

Ne best bite on no brom, ne no bent nauper,
Passe to pasture, ne pike non erbes,
Ne non ox to no hay, ne no horse to water;
Al schal crye for-clemmed.

Quoted by Gloss. No. 22, Nodal and Milner.

Dr. Stratmann gives forglemmed (part.), from the same, 3, 395.

1598. **Ben Jonson**, *Every Man out of his Humour*, iii. 6:

Hard is the choyse when the valiant must eate their armes,
or clém.

Edit. Lond. 1640.

The quotations in the following Glossaries must have been made from other editions, as there are various readings in each.

(1) **Nares**, 1822:

Hard is the choice, when the valient must eat their arms-
or clém.

(2) **Toone**, 1832—as Nares—except the insertion of either after must.

(3) **Nodal and Milner**, 1875:

Hard is the choice
When valient men must eat their arms or clém.

1602. **Ben Jonson**, *Poetaster*, i. 2:

I cannot eat stones and turfs, say. What,
will he clém me, and my followers? Aske
him, an’ he will clém me: doe, goe. Edit. Lond. 1640.

I cannot eat stones and turfs, say. What,
will he clém me and my followers? Ask him
an he will clém me; do, go. Quoted by Nares.

What! will he clém me and my followers?
Quoted by Toone.

1602. **John Marston**, *Antonio and Mellida*, Part II., iii. 3:

Now barks the wolfe against the fulle cheekt moon;
Now lyons half-clamd entralz roare for food.
Now croakes the toad, and night crowes screech aloud,
Fluttering ‘bout casements of departed soules;
Now gapes the graves, and through their yawnes let loose:
Imprison’d spirits to revisit earth.

Ed. J. O. Halliwell, 1856.
1620. PHILIP MASSINGER, Roman Actor, ii. 2:
   (1) —And yet I
       Solicitous to increase it, when my intrails
       Were clamm'd with keeping a perpetual fast, &c.
       Quoted by Nares, 1822.
   (2) BROCKETT, 1825, quotes from the word "when;"
       but has "entrails" instead of "intrails."
   (3) NODAL and MILNER, 1875, quote from the word
       "my."
   (4) In the edition of MASSINGER by Gifford, 1845,
       the passage stands:
       And yet I
       Solicitous to increase it, when my entrails
       Were clem'md with keeping a perpetual fast.

(Ante)
1649. BP. PERCY'S Folio MS., i. p. 225 (Scotish Feilde):
       there company was clemmed: & much cold did suffer;
       water was a worthy drinke: win it who might.
       Quoted by Atkinson, Gloss. No. 4.

APPENDIX.

THE WORD STARVE.

This word is used in both literary and dialectal senses.

I. 1. The following LITERARY SENSES are given by most
     modern English dictionaries:

   a. INTRANSITIVE.—
      To die or perish (1) of or with hunger; and
      (2) of or with cold.

   b. TRANSITIVE.—
      To kill (1) by or with hunger; and
      (2) by or with cold.

Webster states that in the United States both
the intrans. and trans. verbs are applied to death
consequent on hunger only, and not in conse-
quence of cold.
2. a. The *dialectal sense* in which the word is generally used is—
   To suffer more or less from *cold*, but only temporarily, not fatally.

   b. This dialectal sense of "to starve" is the correl. to that of the verb "to clem," viz.—
      (1) To *starve*, as resulting from *cold*; and
      (2) To *clem*, as resulting from *hunger*.

   c. It should be particularly noted that this usage of *starve* most probably prevails at all places where *clem* or *clam* signifies "to be pinched with hunger." This is the case in the Peak of Derbyshire, and in several counties, as ascertained during my dialectal researches. At various places where my informants gave me the word *clem* or *clam* as belonging to the respective dialects, they then immediately and voluntarily added that *starve* had the correl. sense above given.

   d. In the case of death resulting from cold, as in a snowstorm or keen frost, the phrase "starved to death" would be used. Indeed, this phrase is often used metaphorically, when the "starving" is only temporary.

II. From Sixteen Glossaries I now give the senses in which *starve* and its derivatives are used.

   *Starved*, excessively cold.

2. Ditto T. Wright, 1880.
   *Starved*, adj. very cold.

   *Starvious*, adj. cold, chilling, inclement, fit to starve one with cold.
   *Starve*, v. a. to cause to suffer from extreme cold; of frequent use in the passive, as well as in the participle present.

   *Starvious*, adj. bleak, barren.
   *Starving*, adj. keenly cold: "*starving weather.*"
   *Black-starved*, adj. blue with cold, like the nose and fingers in winter.
5. Yorkshire, Mid: C. C. Robinson, 1876.
   Starv'ous, adj. chilly.

   Star'ed, cold. "Ahm ommost starv'd stiff;" also, pined.

   Starved, adj. excessively cold.

   Starved, adj. used as a synonym for cold.

   Starved, part. perished with cold; but not used in Cheshire for perished with hunger. Land is also said to be starved when it is cold for want of drainage.

    Starve, to clem or famish.

    Clem [klem'], v. a. to pinch with hunger; to famish.
    Common. Starve is never used in this sense; it is applied to cold only.

    Starve, to be deprived of warmth. To avoid ambiguity, so as not to confuse the meaning of this word, the old writers used the term—"hunger starved."
    "We have been very much affected with the cries and wants of the poor this hard season, especially those about the town, who are ready to starve for want of coal."
    Sir E. Turner, temp. Charles II.

    Starve, v. n. to be chilled through; perished with cold: never used for perishing of hunger.

    Starve, v. to chill. "It was so cowd I was omust starved to dead."

    Starved, cold. "I be so starved. "It's a starvin wind."
III.

THE WORD STARVE.


Starve, v. to be cold.

Starven, adj. pinched with cold. "Alic is such a nesh little thing! Wen 'er's plaayin' with th' others in an evenin', 'er'll run into the 'ouse, an' 'er'll say, 'Oh, mammy, do pût I on a jacket, I be so starven'!"

III. ETYMOLOGY.—Starve is derived from the Anglo-Saxon steorfan, to starve, die, perish; Du. sterven, v. n. to die; Ger. sterben, v. n. to die; to die away; to cease, perish, become extinct. Cf. Icel. starf, a trouble, labour; and starfa, to work, labour.

In conclusion, I have the pleasure to cite Prof. Skeat's article on this word from his Etymological English Dictionary.

Starve, to die of hunger or cold, to kill with hunger or cold. Orig[inally] intransitive, and used in the general sense of "to die," without reference to the means. M[iddle] E[nglish] stornen (with u = u), strong verb; pt. t. starf, Chaucer, C[ant.]

T[ailes], 935. pp. stornen, or i-stornen, id. 2016.—[directly derived from] A.S. steorfan, to die, pt. t. starf, pp. storfæn; "starf of hunger" = died of hunger, A[ng].-S[ax]. Chron. an. 1124, last line. Hence was formed the trans. verb storfæn, to kill, weak verb; appearing in astorfæd, pp., Matt. xv. 13 (Rushworth gloss). The mod[ern] E. has confused the two forms, making them both weak. +[=not derived from, but cognate with] Du. sterven, pt. t. stief, storf, pp. gestorven. +[not derived from, but cognate with] G[erman]. sterben, pt. t. starb, pp. gestorben. All from Teut[onic] base starb, according to Fick, iii. 347; he also cites Icel. starf, labour, toil, starfa, to toil, as belonging to the same root.
LAKE = TO PLAY.

The modern use of this word, with its commonest variant LAIK, and scarce variants LAIKE and LEAK, is dialectal. In Early and Middle English it stood side by side with the word play as a literary word, and was used quite as extensively. As we shall see, both are derived from the Anglo-Saxon. But, while "to play" and its derivatives have kept their stand as literary English to the present day, "to lake" and its derivatives have long since become dialectal, and confined chiefly to the northern counties. The dialectal range of lake is much less than that of clem.

A.—MODERN DIALECTAL RANGE.
I. FROM GLOSSARIES OR PRINTED BOOKS.
i. A TABLE OR LIST OF THE GLOSSARIES
in which the verb to lake and its derivatives are found.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Author and Date</th>
<th>Words and Parts of Speech</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>N. Bailey, 1749</td>
<td>do. v.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>J. T. Brockett, 1825</td>
<td>do. v.; laking, sb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>North</td>
<td>Grose and Pegge, 1839</td>
<td>leak, v.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>North</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>lake, v.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>North</td>
<td>W. Holloway, 1839</td>
<td>do. v.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>J. O. Halliwell, ed. 1874</td>
<td>do. v.; lake, laker, lakin, sb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>T. Wright, 1880</td>
<td>do. sb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>Poems and Glossary, 1798</td>
<td>lake, v.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>Jollie's Manners and Customs, 1811</td>
<td>laiker, sb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>A. C. Gibson, 1869</td>
<td>laik, laikins, sb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>R. Ferguson, 1873</td>
<td>laik, v.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>W. Dickinson, 1872</td>
<td>lake, sb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>lakin, sb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>leayk, sb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>Poems, Songs, and Ballads, 1839</td>
<td>lake or lake, v.; laiker, sb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Durham (Teesdale) [Dinsdale], 1839</td>
<td>lake, v.; lakes, lakin, babby-lakin, sb.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### A Table or List of the Glossaries—(continued).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Author and Date</th>
<th>Words and Parts of Speech</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Yorkshire,—</td>
<td>Rev. J. C. Atkinson, 1868</td>
<td>lake, laik, v.; laker, laking-brass, laikins, laikins, sbb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Whitby District.</td>
<td>F. K. Robinson, 1875</td>
<td>lake, v.; lake or lairk, lakes, laikers, lakin, lakin-house, laking-brass, lakin-kist, sbb.; lakesome or lakish, adj; laked, laikin, part.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Swaledale</td>
<td>Capt. J. Harland, 1873</td>
<td>lake, v.; laking, babby-laking, sbb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mid-Yorkshire.</td>
<td>C. C. Robinson, 1876.</td>
<td>laik, v.; laikins, laikin-brass, sbb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>West Riding.</td>
<td>Dr. Willan, 1811</td>
<td>lake, v.; laking, sb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Craven</td>
<td>Rev. W. Carr, 1824</td>
<td>do. v.; lacons, laikins, sbb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Holderness</td>
<td>Ross, Stead, and Holderness, 1877</td>
<td>do. v.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Halifax</td>
<td>Append. II. to Hunter’s Hallamshire Glossary, 1829</td>
<td>do. v.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Hallamshire (Sheffield Dis.)</td>
<td>Rev. Joseph Hunter, 1829.</td>
<td>do. v.; lakin, sb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Furness</td>
<td>J. P. Morris, 1869</td>
<td>laik, sb.; lakin', part.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>Nodal and Milner, Part II., 1882</td>
<td>lake, v.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Lincolnshire.</td>
<td>J. E. Brogden, 1866</td>
<td>laking-about.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Gloucestershire (Cotswold)</td>
<td>Rev. R. W. Huntley</td>
<td>laking, part.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>Dr. Jamieson, ed. 1879-82</td>
<td>laik, laike, sb.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ii. Definitions or Senses.

A considerable variety of words, phrases, and sentences is used in these definitions. The numbers appended to these refer to the glossaries in the foregoing table in which each such word, phrase, and sentence is found.
a. Verb.

**Lake**
- To play—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32.
- To sport—17. To perform—18.
- To engage in a game—24.
- To trifle or act with levity—24. To be idle—28.
- When men are out of work they are said “to lake”—28.

**Laik**
- To play—12, 14, 20, 26, 30.
- To amuse oneself—12.
- To play, as children; or at cards, or other game—23.

**Laike**
- To play—8.

**Leake**
- To play like children—5.

b. Substantives.

**Lacons**
- Playthings, toys—22.

**Lake**
- A Play—7, 30. A player, or actor—8.

**Laker**
- A player or actor—7.
- A player, or rather one who plays—17.
- One who plays—30.

**Lakers**
- Players—18.

**Lakes**
- Sports, games—16.
- Entertainments—18.

**Lakin**
- A plaything—7, 8, 29.
- A child’s plaything—16.

**Lakins**
- Things to be played with, toys at large—17.
- Trifles—18. Playthings—22, 26, 28.

**Laking**
- A plaything—3, 9, 21.

**Lakin-house**
- A gaming house; the children’s playroom; a theatre—18.

**Lakin-hist**
- A box of toys—18.

**Babby-lakin**
- A child’s plaything—16.

**Laking-brass**
- Money given to a child to spend on its own amusement; in toys, &c., as it may be—17.
- The stakes on the gaming-table termed “the bank”; pocket money for enjoyment—18.

**Babby-laking**
- A plaything—19.

**Laik**
- (2) A term used by boys to denote their stake at play—35.
- (3) Used metaphorically to denote the strife of battle—35.

**Laike**
- See laik (2), (3).

**Laiker**
- A person engaged in sport—10, 14.
A 1. 18.] DIALECTAL RANGE.

Lairk: A game—18.

c. ADJECTIVE.
Laksome or lakish: Frolicsome—18.

d. PARTICIPLES.
Laked: Played or performed—18.
Lakin: Playing or sporting in all senses—18.
Lakin': Playing [infin. “to play” is wrong]—31.
Laking: When a mill has stopped running temporarily, the hands are said to be “laking.”—26.
A toy—30.
Laaking: Amusing himself—15.
Laiking: Idling, playing truant: Quasi. lacking service, masterless—34.

iii. QUOTATIONS OR ILLUSTRATIVE SENTENCES.

from a few of the foregoing glossaries, referred to by their respective numbers.

11. CUMBERLAND:

But laiks at wate-not-whats within
O’ Sunday efterneun.
Relph. Afte. I race.

Here’s babby-laihins—rowth o’ spice,
On sto’s an’ stands extended.
Stagg. Rosley Fair.

15. WESTMORLAND:

But hah! wha is this that fancy marks, shooting
dawn the braw of Slavely, and laaking on the banks
of Windermere? A Bran New Wark, ll. 49-51.

18. YORKSHIRE, WHITBY DISTRICT:

Lake, or lairk, sb. “He’s full of his lake,” his fun.
Lake, v. “That caard weant lake at that bat,” that
game will not play at that rate, or that affair will not succeed in the manner it is carried on.
Lakes, sb. “All maks o’ lakes,” all kinds of entertainments.
26. **Yorkshire, Leeds:**
   
   "Awäay wi' yuh out an' làhk a bit—goa a làhking
   i' Tommy's cloise till I fetch yuh."
   
   "When we've làhked wal te-a-time we'll come
   home mother!"

28. **Ditto Almondbury and Huddersfield:**
   
   An ancient dame who lived at Sharp Lane end,
   being of an economical turn of mind, was fond
   of knitting, and said one evening at the conclusion
   of her labours, "Au ha' burnt a hopenny cannle,
   and addled a fardin—it's better nor làhin."

31. **Lancashire, Furness:**
   
   Mr. J. P. Morris cites the two quotations follow-
   ing from *Cumberland Ballads*; of course thus im-
   plying that the dialectal forms in these instances
   are identical with those of Furness—
   
   Nae mair he cracks the leave o'th' green,
   The cleverest far abuin;
   But *làkes* at wait-not-whats within,
   Aw Sunday after-nuin.
   
   
   May luiky dreams *làks* round my head this night,
   And show my true-luive to my longing sight.
   

33. **Ditto Furness:**
   
   A lot of us lads wer' *làhin* down èt t' là end o'

I. DIALECTAL RANGE FROM MY OWN RESEARCHES,
1876 to 1879.

As only a small portion of the area in which "Lake=to
play" prevails, lies within the area investigated by myself,
the instances of its use which I have recorded are compara-
tively few.

1. **Lancashire, Burnley, August, 1876:**
   
   a. This word is indigenous or in regular use here—
      
      (1) In the active sense of playing at games, and
          ordinary children's play.
      
      (2) In what may be termed the passive sense of
          cessation from labour, (a) through the stop-
          page of mills and other works, or (b) in other
          cases.
b. My principal informant was Mr. James Fielding, an intelligent mill operative [then] thirty years of age, and a native. He dictated to me the Burnley version of Mr. Ellis's "Comparative Specimen," and on the word in question gave me the following examples—

Question.—How lung ar'th (art thou) *lakin' for?* [aˈuːŋ lʊŋ uˈrˈtʊ] laiˈkiːn ˈfəuʔ]  
Reply.—We're broken down (at the mill) for all th' afternoon [wiˈrə brokˈn dəˌuːn fuˈr] auˈl th) aʊfˈtʊnˌnəʊʊn].

Taw-lakin' [tɔː Wolffˈkiːn] = playing at marbles.
N.B.—Taws [tɔːz] = marbles.

c. Mrs. Fielding said to some one—
[Weˈn bin *lakin' this week* [wiˈn bin laiˈkiːn dəs wˈeˌk]]; the mill being stopped.
d. Boy, playing with others at cricket, in reply to a question put by myself—
W'en we're *lakin'* at cricket [waˈn wiˈr laiˈkiːn uˈt] krikˈiːt].
e. Mill operatives speaking of a man who was temporarily doing a job of work which was inferior to that of his own occupation, one of them observed—
He'd better do that than (or tin) *lakin' [iˈd baɪˈt uˈr doʊ dhaʊn [or tɨˈn] laiˈkiːn].*

2. LANCASHIRE, COLNE, December, 1879:

Heard *lakin' [= playing, spoken by three persons, and pronounced as follows—
a. Youth—[laiˈkiːn].
b. Man to another—[laiˈkiːn].
c. Woman—[laiˈkiːn].

3. YORKSHIRE, MARSDEN nr. HUDDERFIELD, April, 1878:

a. Boys playing at "pig and stick"—
Used *lakte* [laiˈkt] = to play, several times; also, a *laker* (u) laiˈkuˈr] = a player, who was wanted to make up the number on one side.
b. Eight or nine girls, say 15 to 17 years of age, playing at ball—
Used *lakte* [laiˈkt] = to play.

III. CORRESPONDENCE IN THE MANCHESTER CITY NEWS.

In January, February, and March, 1878, there was some correspondence in this paper on "The Dialectal Range of the Words *Lake* and *Clem.*" I now give a selection from the portion relating to *lake*:

(1) Mr. Hardwick, in his note on Boggart Ho' Clough, remarks that he never remembers hearing the "Yorkshire word *lake* (to play) used in Lancashire, except at Clitheroe, on the Yorkshire border."
Yet the word has a much wider range in Lancashire than he supposes. "Lake" is in common use for play from Rochdale down Whitworth Valley, Rossendale Valley, and round by Haslingden and Ramsbottom. In Rossendale at the present time [Jan. 1878], "laking" is a word in too many mouths, owing to the cotton mills running short time. . . .

Stacksteads, Rossendale [Lancashire].

(2) Referring to the Yorkshire word "lake" (to play) in my previous communication, I merely observed that I had myself only heard it spoken indigenously in the neighbourhood of Clitheroe on the Yorkshire border; but of course I implied the probability of its location in places similarly situated. I never heard it in the neighbourhood of Manchester, except as a professed importation, and I have met with no one that ever did. . . .

CHARLES HARDWICK.

(3) . . . . I was born in the ancient village of Clough-fold in Rossendale, and spent the first twenty years of my existence in its immediate neighbourhood, and during that period the words "lake" and "lakin" were in daily use, and in the mouths of the villagers were veritable "household words."

J. C. T.

Heaton Chapel [Lancashire].

(4) Many years ago, at a magistrates' meeting in Lincolnshire, a country fellow who had eloped with another's wife was charged with felony in reference to some articles which she took with her. The defence was that it was merely a "May-lek," or May game, which the people of that class indulged in at that season, and that in this case it had taken the form of a thoughtless jaunt to a neighbouring large town. The word is of Scandinavian origin. In Stockholm museum one of the paintings is described as "Bönder som leka blindbock" (peasants who play blindman's buff); and another, a boy, "som leker med kort" (who plays with cards). The Svensk, like our English word, evidently only means mere sport, for where any game of skill is intended "spela" is used, as "A gentleman and two ladies," "som spela kort" (who play cards); "Ossian and the young Alpin," "lyssna till Malvina's harpspel" (listen to Malvina's harp play). There seems yet another distinction between the skill of mind indicated by the verb "spela," and of hand denoted by the noun "slojd" (pronounced nearly as "sloight"), and which seems to remain in use with us only in the term "sleight of hand." In Sweden it signifies any handcraft skill, and there are "slojd" schools for teaching such. The Danes have for nouns "leg" and "spil." We seem to preserve the "spela" and "spil" almost identically in our "spell" (to enumerate the letters of a word, a charm, to trace out, to take one's turn at work, &c.), and though our meanings have got more confined to particulars, the essence of the word—the mental skill—is common to both. The words "lek" and "clam"* I have heard in use in the wapentake of Corringham, Lincolnshire, of the provincialisms of which I observe the English Dialect Society has published a glossary. Is not to "lark" a variation of "lek" or "lake"?

H. J. P.

(5) I hope it will not be forgotten, even by the prejudiced, that the old A.S. equivalent for "play" is not so dead a horse as is imagined. The word "lark"—not alauda—is common to all dialects, and it is only lâc with a slight burr. So all systematizers of the English language, from Latham onward, take care to make known. Much so-called slang is only good old English which has taken a Bohemian turn, and I confess to a weakness for your genuine Bohemian . . . .

HITTITE.

(6) I have read with interest the various contributions of your correspondents anent this word, but have not seen mention by any of them of its use in the part of Yorkshire to which I belong. It is in general use, and has been during my recollection—over forty years—in the large district which lies between and adjacent to the towns of Halifax and Huddersfield, in the West Riding of Yorkshire; including the townships and villages of Sowerby, Bridge, Elland, Greetland, Norland, Soyaland, Barkisland, Stainland, Ripponden, Rishworth, and many others. The pronunciation of the word varies in the different localities, but all the places named above use it in one or the other of the forms as at the head; for instance, in Stainland "lake" is the form adopted, while in Barkisland, only a mile distant, "laik" is the version. The word is used to express either games of amusement or skill, or as a cessation from labour; thus they say, "ahr (our) lads are off laikin at football;" or, "yon lot are laikin at cairds" (card-playing); and in summer or droughty weather, when the water in the brook runs low, and in consequence the mills stop working, the hands, when questioned as to their absence from work, reply, "we're laikin for water," i.e., playing, or not working for want of water. OLD BEN.

(7) The expression "taw-laikin"—playing at marbles, which occurs in the comments on the above subject by your learned correspondent Mr. Hallam, brings to my recollection a reminiscence of my boyhood, which had all but escaped it. When playing at marbles each of us put one or more into the ring to be played for, and they were called our "lakers," the one we played with our "pitcher." This occurred north of the Grampians over fifty years ago, but I have never noticed the expression "lake" in this neighbourhood applied either to marbles or any other juvenile games. A. J.

The article by the writer was in two sections, which were respectively inserted March 2nd and 16th, 1878; but the space occupied was only equal to about four pages of the present article. In the area or dialectal range, the number of glossaries enumerated was twenty-four, but now thirty-five. In the section on the early usage of lake and play, references to early works and forms only of the two words were given; I have now added quotations from a number of Early and Middle English works, exemplifying the uses of these words. See B II.
B.—ETYMOLOGY, AND EARLY OR LITERARY USAGE.

I. ETYMOLOGY.

i. The word lake or laik is derived from Icelandic. I therefore give the verb and substantive, with their meanings, from Vigfusson; and cognate words and definitions from other Teutonic languages.

1. ICELANDIC:

Leita, [vb.] pres. leit; pret. léið, léiku; part. leikhinn; [Ulf [ilas. laitan = okfravr; A. S. lācan; mid. H. G. leic; Dan lege; Swed. leka; North E. to lake]—to play, sport. 2. to delude, play a trick on.

Leikr, [sb.] m., mod. dat. leik; acc. leiki; [Ulf [ilas. laik = yfis, Luke xv. 25; A. S. lēc; North E. laik; O. H. G. leik; Dan. leg; Swed. lek]—a game, play, sport, including athletics. 2. metaph, a game, sport.

Leihari, a. m. [North E [nglish] lake], a player, esp. [ecially] a fiddler, jester.

Cleasby & Vigfusson, Oxford, 1874.

2. SWEDISH:

Leika, v. a. and n. To play, to sport, to toy.

Leh, sb. m. Sport, play, fun, game.

Tauchnitz, Edit., Leipsic, 1883.

3. DANISH:

Lege, v.i. & a. to play.

Leg, [sb.], game, play; jule-leg, Christmas-game.

Ferrall & Repp. Kjøbenhavn, 1861.

4. ANGLO-SAXON:

Lācan, [vb.]: (p. leʌc, lēc; we læcon; pp. læccan), 1. To offer, present, sacrifice. 2. To celebrate religiously, to dance, play.

Lēc, gelēc [sb.]. 1. A gift, offering, sacrifice. 2. Play, sport.


5. MÆSO-GOTHIC:

a. Lahān, vb. (p. t. lailaih, pp. laihan), to skip or leap for joy, Lu. 1. 41, 44; 6. 23. [O. E. laik, to play.]

Laiks, str. sb. m. (pl. laikos), a sport, a dance, a dancing. Lu. 15. 25. [cf. E. ‘a lark’; i.e. a sport, frolic.]

ETYMOLOGY.

b. Dr. Lorenz Diefenbach, in his excellent Gothic Glossary (Vergleichendes Wörterbuch der Gothischen Sprache), Franckfort-on-the-Main, 1851,—written in German—has the following, vol. ii., p. 124:—Laikan, [vb.], redpl. laïaïk, laïaïkus, lakiens, springen, spindle, laïk, [vb.] m. (pl. laikos),tanz, dance, Luc. 15. 25.

N.B.—He also gives the cognate forms in about twenty languages, ancient and modern.

c. I give the passages referred to from the Gothic version by Wulfla or Ulfilas, A.D. 360:—

Luke i. 41.—“Yah waf, swe hausida Aileisabap golein Mariins, laïaïk barn in qjaau izos.”—‘And it came to pass, that, when Elizabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb.”

ib. i. 44.—“Sai allis sunsei warp stibna goleinais peinaios in ausam meinaim, laïaïk pata barn in swignipai in wambai meinaim.’—‘For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.”

ib. vi. 23.—“Faginod in yainama daga, yah laikid:’—‘Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy.’

ib. xv. 25.—“Wasu-paun sunus is sa aljiza ana akra; yah qimands, atiddya newh razn, yah gahausida sagewins yah laikins:’—‘Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing.”

ii. REV. J. C. ATKINSON’S Cleveland Gloss., 1868:

Lake, laik, v. n. To play, to sport.

In addition to the forms of the verb from Anglo-Saxon, Meso-Gothic, Old Norse (Icelandic), Danish, and Swedish, as given above, he also has—Old Swedish leka; Swedish dialects laka, laeka; N. Frisian lechen, leech; and Mid. Germ. leichen.

II. EARLY OR LITERARY USAGE: BEING (i.) FORMS, AND (ii.) QUOTATIONS, FROM THE 12TH TO THE 16TH CENTURY.

i. FORMS.

The numbers 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 refer to the centuries respectively.

SUBSTANTIVE.

Singular and plural.—12 lakess, larke, lejkes, lejkkess, loac, loc; 12-13 lac, lakes; 12-14 laik, laike; 13 lak, lok, lokes; 13-14 lake, leik, leyk; 14 layk, laykes, layking; 14-15 laikes, laykes; 15 laiching, lakon, lakayns, laykin’, laykyng; 15-16 layke; 16 laykin. No date: lakynes, lakys, layks.

1. To spring, leap, jump. 2. To hop, skip, jump. 3. To skip, leap, bound wantonly. 4. A dance; fight, brawl, sport. 5. A dance, assembly of people singing and dancing; a chorus.
VERB.

Present tense.— 14 layke; 14, 15, layke; 15 lake, lakys.

Past t.— 12 laiket, lakaden (pl.), lakaden (pl.); 12:
14 laiked; 13 leiked (sing.), leyked (sing.):
14 laikid, layked, layked him, laykeden (pl.): 15
laikd him, laykede hime.

Imperative.— 12 lakys (pl.).

Infinitive.— 12 lake, laken, leiken, leikenn
13 layke, leike, leyke, leyken; 14 laike, layke,
layky hem.

Part. pres.— 14 layking.

N.B.— I find Dr. Stratmann, in some of his examples, has i where the
originals have y.

ii. QUOTATIONS.

Orthog. of
12th cent. Fragment of Elfric's Grammar, Elfric's Glossary, and a
Poem on the Soul and Body, in the orthography
of the 12th century, but originally written
ante 1000; ed. T. Phillips, 1838.

sb. loc., "munus," 4. 56. (Stratmann).

1154-89. Destruction of Troy: an Alliterative Romance, ed.

vb. (1) to do, to act:—
And euyn laiked as hom list, lettid hom noght. l. 7046

(2) to fight:—
Thus þai laiket o þe laund the long day ouer. l. 9997.

(3) to say, to express:—
Lakys now, ledys, what you lefe think,
And what ye deme to be done at this du tyme. l. 9807.

sb. a play; hence a fight, danger, struggle:—

Laik—

Laike— ll. 7811, 9638, 9847.

Laik—
pe day wex dym, droupit þe sun.
þe lyght wex lasse, and þe laik endit. l. 10408.

Larke, conflict, battle:—
Gret slagh in þe slade, & slynyng to ground,
And mony lest had þe lyfte, or þe lark: endit! l. 7694.

1200 A Moral Ode, in Old English Homilies, 2nd series; ed.
Dr. R. Morris, E.E.T.S., 1873.

sb. Lac, offering, gift.
Litel lac is gode lief þe comeð of gode wille. l. 203.

sb. dat. brōhten tō lāke. 63 (Stratmann.)

c. 1200. *The Ormulum* [Lincolnshire], ed. White, 1852.

vb. *Lahenn* (lāken), to make offerings.

To þeow wētenn Godd ȝ lahenn.

\[\text{Læke}[\text{lahenn}]\] —

Alls iff he wolde leȝkenn.

\[\text{Lakesst}, 2\text{ p. sing}:-\]

þa lakesst tu Drihtin wīþp shep
gastlike i þine þæwess.

\[\text{Lakedenn (lakeden)}, \text{pa. t. plur}:-\]

þa þre kingess lakedenn Crist.

sb. Lac, offering, gift.

Off þa þatt Judisskenn follikess lac.

ȝ bi þatt allterr wasa þe lac
O fele wise þarrkedd.

\[\text{Lac, plur}:-\]

Her habbe icc shawrewd þrinne lac
forr þrinne kinne leode.

\[\text{Lakes, leȝkess (leȝkess), plur}:-\]

þa þre kingess lakedenn Crist
Wīþp þrinne kinne lakes,
Wīþp recless, ȝ wīþp gold, ȝ ec
Wīþp myrra, an dere salife.

I skemtning ȝ inn idelleȝe
Inn ægæde ȝ i leȝkess.

\[\text{Wedlac} = \text{wedlock}.\]

1205. Layamon's *Brut* [Worcestershire], ed. Madden, 1847.

sb. Lāc—Heo nōmen þat lāc.

Lāke (dat.)

(Stratmann).

c. 1230. *Ancren Riwle* [Dorsetshire], ed. Morton, 1853.

sb. *Lokes* = gifts—

Hit nis nout for nout iwrten iðe holie gospelle of þe
þro kinges pet cōmen worto offren þes Crist þro
deorwurðe þro lokes.

\[\text{p. 152, l. 10.}\]

\[\text{Lakes}, \text{in MS. Titus D. xviii.}, \text{Cott. lib. Brit. Museum}\]

\[\text{with the same meaning.}\]


sb. *Brudlac [= bridelaik]*, nuptials—

Eleusius þat luuede hire
þuhte sw[i]ze longe
þat ha neren to brudlac
ȝ to bed ibrohte.

To Eleusius, þat loved her,

it seemed very long, that

she were not to bridal

and to bed brought. p. 7.
c. 1250. Story of *Genesis* and *Exodus* [Norfolk and Suffolk], an Early English Song, ed. R. Morris, for E.E.T.S., 7, 1865.

*sb. Loac* = gift, present—
And iacob sente fer bi-foren
him riche loac, and sundri boren,
And iordan he dede ouer waden,
Orf & men, wiß welie laden. 1. 1798.

**c. 1280. The Lay of Havelock the Dane** [Lincolnshire], ed. Skeat, E.E.T.S., ex. ser. 4, 1868.

*vb. Layke, leyke, leiken*, to play; *Leykedon*, pa. t. pl. played.—
Bigunnen þe [r] for to *layke*:
þider komes bothe strouge and wayke.
Al-so he wolde with hem *leyke*
þat waren for hunger grene and bleike.
It ne was non so litel knaue,
For to *leyken*, ne forto plawe.
Of him he deden al he [r] wille,
And with him *leykedon* here fille.

*sb. Leyk, game—*
þat he ne kam þider, þe leyk to se.
Wrestling with ladders, putting of ston,
Harping and piping, ful god won,
*Leyk* of mine, of hasard ok,
Romanz reding on þe bok. 1. 2326.

In the edition by Sir F. Madden, for the Roxburgh Club, 1828, *th* is used for *p*.

Stratmann quotes—*leike* for *leyke*, *leikeden* for *leykedon*, and *leik* for *leyk*.


*sb. lutel lōc* (lāc) is gode lēf.
þreo kinges . . . lōk him brōste. VIII. 37.
(XIX. 128.

(Stratmann.)

**1320. (1) Syr Gawayn and the Grene Knyȝt**, ed. Sir F. Madden, Lond., 1839.

*vb. Layke*, to play, to sport:
& þat yow lyst forto *layke*, lef hit me þynkes.

þer layke þis lorde by lynde wode þeueȝ,
& G. þe god mon, in gay bed lygeȝ.
Jay laȝed & *layked* longe,
At þe last scho con hy [m] kysses. 1. 1554.

*sb. Layk, [latke, lakhe] = sport, game:*
þe joye of sayn jonȝeȝ day watȝ gentyle to here,
& watȝ last of þe layk, ledes þer þopȝen. 1. 1023.
To bed ðet er ðay ðede,
Recorded couenaïteç ofte;
ðe olde lorde of þat leude,
Couþe wel halde layk a-lyfe.

1. 1125.


This edition contains all the previous quotations, and the two following:

sb. Laykes = sports; laykyng = sport, playing.—

Freue for to play wyth ðer purle laykes; [i.e.,
He seeks the most valiant that he may prove him.]

1. 262

Wel by-commes such craft vpon cristmasse,
Laykyng of enterlude, to laȝe & to synge.

1. 472.

N.B.—Dr. Murray gives the date as c. 1325, and Prof. Skeat as c. 1360.

14th Cent. (c. 1300,
Dr. Murray).

English Metrical Homilies, ed. Small, 1862.

vb. Laikid, 71.

sb. Sinful laik, 58. (Stratmann.)


sb. Laik = play, game—

We ne lowes in our land • no laik nor no mirth.

1. 465.

1867.

vb. Layke, to play; (pt. t. layked; pt. t. refl. layked him; pl.

laykeden; pr. part. layking):
& to hete here þan to layke • here likyng þat time.

1. 1021.

& layked þere at lyking • al þe long daye.

1. 1026.

(Stratmann has laiked in error.)

& layked him* long while• to lestyn þat merþe.

1. 31.

& as þei laykeden in here laike• þei loakede a-boute.

1. 3110.

so lowely lay þat ladi & ich• layking to-gaderes.

1. 699.

sb.—Layk, laik = a "lark," a game, play; —

ak so liked him his layk • wip þe ladi to pleie.

(Stratmann has laik in error.)

1. 678.

And see laike in line 3110 above.

1 lede?
2 amused himself, played about.
Laihted him = pleased him:
Thare the erl dwelled at nyght,
And laikd him with his lady bright.

Tale xiv., The Two Dreams, p. 3310.

c. 1420-24. Wyntoun, Cronykil of Scotland.

sb. Laihyng, laykyng, play; applied to justing—
—— Ramsay til hym coyn in hy,
And gert hym entre. swen than he
Sayd, “God mot at yhoure laykyng be!”
Syne savyd he, “Lordis, on qwhat manere
“Will yhe ryn at this justvng here?”
Viii. 35, 76.—Quoted in Dr. Jamieson’s Scottish
Dict., s.vv. Laikynge, laykyng.

c. 1440. Gesta Romanorum, English version of; ed. S. J.

sb. Lakhyns, toys, playthings:

He putt vp in his bosom þës iij. lakhyns. p. 123.

I give the paragraph which describes the three lakyyns—
also designated caulis:—

... what dude he but yede, and purveyde
him of iij. caulis; scil. [1] of an honest Garlond of
Rede Rosys; ... [2] the seconde | caultie of a
silkyng gyrdll, sotilly I-made; ... [3] the
thirde of a sotyl purse made of silke, | honourid with
precious stones, and in this purs was a bale of iij. |
colowris, and hit had a superscricpion, þat saide thus,
Qui memum | ludit, nunquam de meo ludo saciabitur, þis is to
seye, he that pleythe | with me, shalle neuer have I-nowhe
of my pley. he putt vp in his | bosom þes iij. lakhyns.
... And when thesw wordes wur borne to þe Empourwr,
hew comauundid his dowter to Rinne with him.

Halliwell quotes from some other edition:—

He putt up in his bosom theses iij. laykhyns. p. 105.

c. 1440. Morte Arthure; ed. from Rob. Thornton’s M.S.

sb. Layke, sport, game:—

Arthur promises rewards.

Thay sallle noghte lesse, on þis layke, þif me lyfe
happene,
þat þus are lamede for my lufe be þis lythe strandez.
l. 1599.

c. 1440. Sir Perceval of Galles [Yorkshire], in Thornton
Romances; ed. J. O. Halliwell; Camden
Soc. vol. 30, 1844.

sb. Laykes, sports, games, a glossarial note says:—

This term is constantly applied by the romance writers
to combats. War was called swerd-layke.
EARLY OR LITERARY USAGE.

Than his swerde drawes he,
Strykes at Percevelle the fre,
The childe hadd no powsté
His laykes to lett;

The stede was his awnne wille,
Saw the swerde come hym tille
Leppe up over an hille
Fyve stryde mett.

(Stratmann has laikés.)

l. 1704.

sb. Laykin' or thynge ët chyldryn' pley wythe. Ludibile.

sb. Layke, a play, game:—

Bot jare es | many thynge ët ere cause of swylke
wrecchede twynnynge, als | mete, drynde, reste, clay-
thynge, layke, discorde, thighte, laboure, | hethynge.
p. 38, l. 21.

c. 1450. Towneley Mysteries [Yorkshire], in Eng. Miracle or Plays or Mysteries; ed. W. Marriott, 1838.

c. 1460.

vb. I shalle do a lyttle, sir, and emang ever lake,
For yit lay my soper never on my stomake
In feydyes.

p. 114, l. 4 [Pastores].

Now are we at the Monte of Calvarye,
Have done, folows, and let now se
How we can with hym lake.

p. 139, l. 32 [Crucifixio].

sb. Mak applies the word lakan = play-thing to his children—

Bot so
Etys as fast as she can,
And ilk yere that commys to man,
She brynge furthe a lakan,
And som yeres two.

p. 117, l. 8 [Pastores].


vb. to Layke, play, ludere.

sb. A Lóykin, babie, crepundia, crum.

A Layke, play, ludus, i.

col. 198, l. 18.
col. 134, l. 5.
col. 198, l. 15.
**APPENDIX.**

**LARK = A FROLIC, SPORT, FUN.**

This word forms an appropriate Appendix to *lake* or *laik* = to play, as it is derived from the same source, but has *r* inserted. It is a slang word in modern English. In Southern English, as Professor Skeat observes [Etym. Eng. Dict. s.v. *Lark* (2)], “the *r* simply denotes the lengthening of the vowel, which is like the *a* in father.” There is reason to believe that the word is now used throughout England. In most parts of the Midland district the *r* is sounded.

**I. AREA OF USAGE.**

i. I note in the first place:—

a. Prof. Skeat (1) calls the *sb.* “Southern English.”


   (2) calls the *vb.* “Modern South-English.”

   Note in *Holderness Glossary,* E.D.S., s.v. Lake, *vb.*


   to play, says—“Cf. A. S. *lācan,* to play, and the *London English, to lark.*”
ii. I now give the counties in which I have information that the word is used.

**Yorkshire, Almondbury and Huddersfield:**

The E. D. S. Glossary for this district, s.v. Lake. *sb.* says—"It is the origin of the word *lark*, which is sometimes also used here."

**Lancashire, Manchester:**

The *sb.* was current when the writer came to reside here forty-one years ago.

**Derbyshire, Chapel-en-le-Frith district:**

At the time I left here for Manchester, forty-one years ago, *lark* = a frolic, etc., was not used. I learned recently from a native of Peak Forest, seventy-three years of age, who has resided at Chapel-en-le-Frith a number of years, that the word has come into use in the district within the last thirty years.

I have recently ascertained by correspondence that the word is current at the following places: each place, of course, represents the centre of a district. I give the definitions or meanings in the words of the respective correspondents.

**Derbyshire, Bakewell and Ashford:**

"We might in conversation *lark* or joke with words; or we might *lark* or joke in play, or in any in- or out-door exercise."

**Cheshire, East or North East; Bollington, three miles N.E. of Macclesfield:**

The general meaning of a frolic, sport, fun, from *vivâ voce* information.

**Ditto West; Tarporley:**

"The word *lark* as used here is to play a mischievous trick to any one with no bad intent."

**Ditto South; Bickley, three miles E.N.E. of Malpas:**

Mr. Darlington, author of the *Folk-Speech of South Cheshire*, says: "As to *lark*, as used in this district, I should define it as a 'frolicsome prank.' There is a connotation of mild mischief about the word."

**Shropshire, South; Much Wenlock:**

"The meaning of *lark* about here is, a lot going to have a game, or a spree, or amusement."
STAFFORDSHIRE, NORTH; FLASH, seven miles N.N.E. of LEEK:

"The word lark . . . it is very common here, in this district."

Ditto SOUTH; WILLENHALL:

"Lark is a very common expression here for fun, though I think it is more particularly meant [for], or applied to, fun which has mischief in it, or fun at the expense of some one else."

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, WORKSOP:

"Lark is commonly used in this neighbourhood for flirting—lark with a girl; a party of men drinking [or] carousing, are often described as larking; in fact, frolic, fun, joke, game, are all commonly described as larking; so is telling a friend a falsehood, and making him believe it [to be] the truth, often described as having a lark with him."

Ditto MANSFIELD:

"The word lark is often used in conjunction with people having enjoyed themselves, or participated in any kind of fun or mischief; [they] would say—'What a lark we had last night.'"

LEICESTERSHIRE, MARKET BOSWORTH:

"The word lark is generally used in this county for fun or games; and sometimes larkin' [larking]."

WARWICKSHIRE, SOUTH; TYSOE:

Mrs. Francis, of Tysoe vicarage, author of the E.D.S. Glossary of S. Warwickshire, says:—"The word 'lark' is very commonly used here in the sense you give it, of a joke or a prank;—but I always considered it as only a slang word, as it is used by educated and uneducated alike."

HEREFORDSHIRE, THE BACHE, three and a half miles E.N.E. of LEOMINSTER:

"Respecting the word lark, I may say it is very frequently used in this county . . . viz., [as] a frolic or joke, sometimes at some one's expense. It is often said of a practical joke—'he has been up to another lark,' or 'he has had another spree.' 'If a person, during a drinking fit, commits any slight acts of depredation in fun, they say—'he has been larking.'"
THE WORD LARK.

OXFORDSHIRE. HANDBOROUGH and DISTRICT, W. and N.W. of OXFORD:

Mrs. Parker, of Oxford, author of the E. D. S Glossary of this part of the county, says:—"The word lark is, I believe, well known at Handborough and neighbourhood, both as a substantive and verb; but I don't think it is much used amongst the people who speak dialect—spree is the usual word... I should think lark is known all over the country."

II. ETYMOLOGY.

It is sufficient to cite Prof. Skeat's article on this word from his Etymol. Eng. Dictionary.

LARK (2), a game, sport, fun. (E[nglish]). Spelt lark in modern E[nglish], and now a slang term. But the r is intrusive, and the word is an old one; it should be lauk or lahk, where a as has the sound of a in father. M[jiddle] E[nglish] lauk, lah; also laik, which is a Scand. form. See Will. of Palerne, 678; P. Plowman, B. xiv. 243; Ormulum, 1157, 2166; Ancren Riwle, p. 152, note b; etc. (Stratmann). — (= derived from) A. S. læc, play, contest, prey, gift, offering; Grein, ii. 148. + (=cognate with) Icel. leiðr, a game, play, sport. + (=cognate with) Swed. lek, sport. + (=cognate with) Dan. leg, sport. + (=cognate with) Goth. laiht, a sport, dance. β All from a Teut. base, LARK, to dance, skip for joy, play; cf. Goth. laikan, to skip for joy, Luke i. 41, 44. A. S. læcan, Icel. leika, to play; Fick iii. 259.

There is one early quotation in which the form larke occurs, viz.—1154-89, Destruction of Troy, l. 7694. See p. 26, supra.
**N E S H.**

This word, with its commonest variant Nash, and scarce variants Naish and Nish, has a wide area of modern dialectal usage. Its use as a literary word was continuous both in Early and Middle English.

**A.—MODERN DIALECTAL RANGE.**

**I. FROM GLOSSARIES OR PRINTED BOOKS.**

**i. A Table or List of the Glossaries in which the Word is found.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Orthography</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1674</td>
<td>North Country</td>
<td>John Ray, [and E.D.S. Repr. 1874]</td>
<td>Nash or Nesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1749</td>
<td>Country Word</td>
<td>N. Bailey (Eng. Dict.)</td>
<td>Nash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1799</td>
<td>North and South</td>
<td>Francis Grose [also Grose &amp; Pegge, 1839]</td>
<td>Nesh or Nash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1822</td>
<td>Provincial Word</td>
<td>Robt. Nares (Gloss. to Shakspere and his Contemporaries)</td>
<td>Nesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1825</td>
<td>North Country</td>
<td>J. T. Brooke (Newcastle, 1825, and London, 1839)</td>
<td>Nash, nesh, naish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1839</td>
<td>North, or Country Word</td>
<td>W. Holloway ...</td>
<td>Nesh, nesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Various parts of England</td>
<td>C. Richardson (Eng. Dict.)</td>
<td>Nesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1863</td>
<td>North</td>
<td>From Morton's Cyclop. of Agriculture; E.D.S., 1880</td>
<td>do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1874</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>J. O. Halliwell (Dict. Arch. and Provincial Words)</td>
<td>do</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>1879-82</td>
<td>Provincial English</td>
<td>Prof. W. W. Skeat (Eym. Eng. Dict.)</td>
<td>do</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>1880</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>T. Wright (Dict. Obsol. and Prov. Engl.)</td>
<td>Nesh, Nesse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>1868</td>
<td>Yorkshire:—</td>
<td>Rev. J. C. Atkinson</td>
<td>Nesh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A TABLE OR LIST OF THE GLOSSARIES—(continued).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Orthography</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>1811</td>
<td>West Riding</td>
<td>Dr. Willan, in <em>Archaeologia, &amp; E.D.S.</em> Repr., 1873</td>
<td>Nash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>1862</td>
<td>Leeds</td>
<td>C. C. Robinson</td>
<td>Nesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>1883</td>
<td>Almondbury and Huddersfield</td>
<td>Rev. A. Easther, ed. by Rev. T. Lees, E.D.S.</td>
<td>do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>1829</td>
<td>Hallamshire (Sheffield Dist.)</td>
<td>Rev. Joseph Hunter</td>
<td>do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>1839</td>
<td>Sheffield</td>
<td>Abel Bywater</td>
<td>do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>1873</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>Rob. Ferguson</td>
<td>Nash, Nesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>1878</td>
<td>Ditto Central and S.W. Ditto</td>
<td>Wm. Dickinson; E.D.S.</td>
<td>Nash, Nashy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>1839</td>
<td>Cumberland and Westmorland</td>
<td>Poems, Songs, and Ballads, with Glossary</td>
<td>Nash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>1757</td>
<td>South</td>
<td>J. Collier (Tim Bobbin)</td>
<td>Nesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>1755</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>J. A. Picton; Notes on S. Lanc. Dialect</td>
<td>do</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Lonsdale</td>
<td>R. B. Peacock, in <em>Phil. Soc. Trans.</em></td>
<td>do</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>1869</td>
<td>Furness</td>
<td>J. P. Morris; do.</td>
<td>do</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>1875-82</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>J. H. Nodal and G. Milner; E.D.S.</td>
<td>do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>1877</td>
<td>Cheshire</td>
<td>Col. Egerton Leigh</td>
<td>do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>1884-86</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>Robert Holland; do.</td>
<td>do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>1887</td>
<td>Ditto South</td>
<td>Thomas Darlington; E.D.S.</td>
<td>do</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>1865-66</td>
<td>Derbyshire (Bakewell District)</td>
<td>J. Sleigh, in <em>Reliquary</em> for January, 1865</td>
<td>Nesh</td>
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<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>1879-81</td>
<td>Shropshire</td>
<td>Miss G. F. Jackson</td>
<td>do</td>
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<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>1880</td>
<td>Staffordshire</td>
<td>C. H. Poole; do.</td>
<td>do</td>
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<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>1881</td>
<td>Leicestershire</td>
<td>A. B. Evans, D.D., enlarged by his son, S. Evans, LL.D.; E.D.S.</td>
<td>Nash, Naish</td>
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<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>1877</td>
<td>Lincolnshire (Manley and Corringham)</td>
<td>Edward Peacock; E.D.S.</td>
<td>Nesh</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>1851</td>
<td>Northamptonshire Ditto</td>
<td>T. Sternberg; do.</td>
<td>Naish, Naish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>1854</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>Miss A. E. Baker; do.</td>
<td>Nesh, Naish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 (2)</td>
<td>1674</td>
<td>Warwickshire</td>
<td>John Ray (quotes Somner, 1659)</td>
<td>Nash, or Nesh</td>
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A TABLE OR LIST OF THE GLOSSARIES—(continued).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>District.</th>
<th>Author.</th>
<th>Orthography.</th>
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<td>38</td>
<td>1804</td>
<td>Herefordshire.</td>
<td>From Duncumb's Herefordsh.; E.D.S. Repr., 1874</td>
<td>Neshe</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>1839</td>
<td>Ditto.</td>
<td>G. Cornewall Lewis</td>
<td>do.</td>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>1839</td>
<td>Ditto and some adjoining counties.</td>
<td>Published by John Murray, London</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1674</td>
<td>Worcestershire.</td>
<td>John Ray (quotes Skinner, 1671)</td>
<td>Nash, or Neshe</td>
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<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>1882</td>
<td>Ditto West.</td>
<td>Mrs. E. L. Chamberlain; E.D.S.</td>
<td>Nesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>1884</td>
<td>Ditto Upton-on-Severn.</td>
<td>Rev. R. Lawson; E.D.S.</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1874</td>
<td>Suffolk.</td>
<td>J. O. Halliwell</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>1880</td>
<td>Ditto.</td>
<td>Thos. Wright</td>
<td>do.</td>
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<td>45</td>
<td>1825</td>
<td>Wiltshire.</td>
<td>From Britton's Beauties of Wiltshire; E.D.S. Repr., 1879</td>
<td>Nesh, or Neshe</td>
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<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>1842</td>
<td>Ditto.</td>
<td>J. Yonge Akerman</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>1857</td>
<td>Ditto.</td>
<td>Thomas Wright</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>1848</td>
<td>Dorsetshire.</td>
<td>Rev. Wm. Barnes, 2nd ed.</td>
<td>Nash</td>
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<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>1853</td>
<td>West of England.</td>
<td>G. P. R. Pulman</td>
<td>Nish</td>
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<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>1880</td>
<td>Cornwall, West.</td>
<td>Miss M. A. Courtney; E.D.S.</td>
<td>Nish</td>
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<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>1881</td>
<td>Wales, (Radnorshire)</td>
<td>Rev. W. E. T. Morgan; E.D.S.</td>
<td>Nesh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ii. DEFINITIONS OR SENSES.

These include a considerable variety of words, phrases, and sentences. The numbers appended to them refer to the glossaries in the foregoing table in which each such word, phrase, and sentence is found.

Tender, is found in 44 glossaries out of 50; the exceptions are Nos.-14, 18, 19, 22, 31, and 49.
Delicate, 8, 10 (i), 12 (i), 13, 17, 19, 25, 27—29, 31—37, 39—42, 50 = 22 glossaries.
Soft, 5, 6, 8, 10 (i), 11, 12 (i), 13, 15, 17, 25, 26, 27, 47 = 12 gloss.
Weak, 1 (i, 2, 3), 5, 6, 7, 10 (i), 12 (i), 13, 25, 27 = 9 gloss.
DIALECTAL RANGE.

Puling, 1 (1, 2, 3). | Washy, 1 (1, 2, 3), 7, 43.
Nice, 2, 17. | Brittle, 3, 15, 20, 21, 22.
Fragile, 6, 14, 21. | Poor-spirited, 10 (1), 19, 32.
Hungry, 10 (2), 12 (2). | Chilly, 10 (3), 12 (3), 44, 45, 46.
Susceptible to cold, 16. | Sensitive to cold, 17.
Easily distressed with cold; much affected by cold; fond of croolding over the fire, 18.
Unable to withstand physical pain, 29.
Easily susceptible of cold, 31. | Lacking energy, 32.
Susceptible of cold, 33, 41, 49. | Scrupulous (Metaph.), 33.
Dainty, 34, 36, 39, 40. | Susceptible, 34.
Coddling; fearful of cold, 35. | Flimsy, 37.
Pale; debilitated, 49.

iii. QUOTATIONS OR ILLUSTRATIVE SENTENCES,

from thirteen of the foregoing glossaries, referred to by their respective numbers. In several cases it is also stated to which of the following categories the word is applied: (1) man; (2) beasts; (3) inanimate objects.

16. YORKSHIRE, LEEDS; C. C. Robinson:

Nesh, tender, susceptible; as one is to cold, who declares himself "varry nesh."

18. Ditto HALLAMSHIRE (Sheffield Dist.); Rev. J. Hunter:

Nesh, easily distressed with cold; much affected by it; fond of croolding over the fire. This, I believe, is its peculiar signification, and it is now applied solely to man. It bears a near relation to tender and delicate, but there is a shade of difference which rendered this a genuine Saxon word well worth preserving. A. S. nesc. Something of censure is implied in the application of it.

19. Ditto SHEFFIELD; A. Bywater:

To die [die] nesh, to give up an enterprise dispirited.

27. LANCASHIRE; Nodal and Milner:

Nesh.—A very expressive adjective (of which the current word "nice," in the sense of "dainty," has only half the force) is nesh, meaning weak and tender, not able to bear pain; in Anglo-Saxon, "nesc" [correctly knewse]. [Sir] Thomas Wilson, in his Art of Rhetoric [Retorique, 1553], perhaps the earliest writer on any such subject in the language, uses the Lancashire noun, and writes, "To be born of woman declares weakness of spirit, neshness of body, and fickleness of mind."


Oh, he's too nesh for owt; they'n browt him up that way. 1881, Colloquial Use.
28. Cheshire; Col. Egerton Leigh:

Nesh, adj.—Tender, delicate, effeminate. Applied to
man, woman, child, or beast.

30. Cheshire, South; T. Darlington:

Nesh [nesh] adj. tender, sensitive. I've gotten nesh
'ands (ahy)v got'n nesh aain'z. [Yë nesh kitlin!
[Yë nesh kyir'lin! I do së sweet (sweat) at a
night, maiz (makes) me nesh [ahy dëo së sweet üt
ü neyt, maiz mi nesh].
Plants may, I think, also be spoken of as nesh
(sensitive).

32. Shropshire; Miss G. F. Jackson:

(1) Nesh [nesh] adj. delicate, tender; said of the health
or physical constitution. Common. (2) It wunna
likely as a poor little nesh child like 'er could do;
it codd tak' a strung girl'd i' that place.' (2) 'Yo'
lads be off out o' doors, an' nod rook round the
fire—yo'n be as nesh as a noud ôôman.'
(2) adj. Poor-spirited; lacking energy.—WEM
[North Shrop.]. 'Er's a nesh piece, 'er dunna do
above 'afe a day's work, an' 'er's no use at all
under a cow [milking a cow].'

34. Leicestershire; Dr. A. B. Evans, and his Son:

Nash, Naish, Nash, adj. delicate, susceptible, dainty,
tender; often applied to the constitution of man
and beast.
'The meer's [mare's] a naish feeder.'

35. Lincolnshire, Manley & Corringham; Edwd.
Peacock:

Nesh, adj. delicate, tender, coddling, fearful of
cold. 'She's strange an' nesh aboot her sen,
nivver so much as goes to th' ash-hole w'out her
bonnet on.'

37. Northamptonshire; Miss A. E. Baker:

Nash, or more commonly Nesh. Tender, flimsy,
delicate. A good old word now rarely used: I
have heard it said of a sickly child, "It's flesh
is so nesh, I don't think it will live."

43. Gloucester, Vale of; From Marshall's Rural
Economy:

Nesh, adj. the common term for tender or washy
as spoken of a cow or horse.

44. Hampshire; Rev. Sir W. H. Cope, Bart.:

Nash, Nesh [nash, nesh], adj. Tender, chilly.—
47. DORSETSHIRE; Rev. Wm. Barnes:

Nēsh. Tender; soft. "This meat is nēsh." "Da veel nēsh."
The nēsh tops
Of the young hazel,
1788, Crowe’s Lewesdon Hill, ver. 30.

iv. I now give Examples of Verbs from six of the foregoing Glossaries, and of an Adverb from J. K. Robinson’s Whitby Glossary.

10. Halliwell:


12. T. Wright:


28. Cheshire; Col. Egerton Leigh:


29. Ditto. R. Holland:

Neshin, v. to make tender. W[ilbraham], who gives it as an old word; it was, therefore, probably obsolete in his day.

30. Cheshire, South; T. Darlington:

Nesh it [nesh it] = [naesh it], v.n. to be afraid, shrink from doing anything. "W'en it cum to gettin' up at five o'clock ov a cowd winter's mornin', hoo nesht it" [Wen it kūm tū gy'et'in ūp ūt fahyv ūsklokn ūv ū kuwd win'tūrz mau'r'nin, ūo nesht (=naesht) it].

34. Leicestershire:

The word is also sometimes used as a verb impersonal. 'Shay's a gooin' to be married, an' it een't o' noo use 'er neshin' it," i.e. being coy or reluctant.

Yorkshire; Whitby District:

Neshly, adv. noiselessly.

II. DIALECTAL RANGE FROM MY OWN RESEARCHES.
1875 to 1887.

This word is constantly used in the dialects of Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, and Staffordshire. It is, therefore, necessary to explain why it has not been recorded oftener during my visits.
In recording the phonology of English dialects, what is primarily required is the dialectal pronunciation of *literary* or *received English* words, in order that the varied forms of pronunciation may be compared for all English counties; hence, purely dialectal words, as *elem, nesh, oss, &c.*, are not available for this general comparison, their area of usage being only parts of the country respectively: consequently, these have not received the same degree of attention as representative received English words, such as *father, mother, day, green, house, home, night, noon, &c., &c.*

### i. TABLE OF LOCALITIES.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Town, Village, Etc., and Date</th>
<th>Orthography</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yorkshire</td>
<td>Marsden, April, 1878... Rippenden, do. ...</td>
<td>Nesh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Thorpe, 9 miles N.E. of Doncaster, April, 1887</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Barnsley, April, 1887... Higher Walton (near Walton - ie - Dale), May, 1875</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Warrington, June, 1875... Ormskirk, Jan., 1876...</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Lancashire</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Farndon, Dec., 1882... Ashover, Dec., 1876...</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chesterfield, May, 1883... Alfreton, Aug. &amp; Dec., 1883</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sandiacre, Dec., 1883... Church Greasley, Dec., 1886</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Much Wenlock, Sept., 1880... Newport, May, 1885...</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cheshire</td>
<td>West Bromwich, Oct., 1877... Willenhall, Aug., 1879</td>
<td>do.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Burton-on-Trent, Sept., 1879... Leek, May, 1880...</td>
<td>Nash.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Middle Hills, N. of Leek, May, 1880...</td>
<td>do.</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Derbyshire</td>
<td></td>
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<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>Oakamoor, April, 1882... Denstone, ditto</td>
<td>do.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lichfield, May, 1885... Codsall, Dec., 1886</td>
<td>do.</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Shropshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Staffordshire</td>
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<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nash and Nesh.
### TABLE OF LOCALITIES—(continued).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Town, Village, etc., and Date.</th>
<th>Orthography.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Nottinghamshire</td>
<td>Retford, April, 1879</td>
<td>Nesh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mansfield, June, 1879</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td>Worksop, ditto</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bingham, Sept., 1879</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bawtry, Aug., 1886</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Finningley, Aug., 1886</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Leicestershire</td>
<td>Loughborough, Aug., 1878</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
<td>Upton, 4 miles S.E. of Market Bosworth, Dec., 1886</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Lincolnshire</td>
<td>Trent Side, N. of Gainsborough, April, 1887</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Warwickshire</td>
<td>Nuneaton, Oct., 1880</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
<td>Knowle, Dec., 1886</td>
<td>Nash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Herefordshire</td>
<td>Much Cowarne, Aug., 1881</td>
<td>Nesh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Worcestershire</td>
<td>Abberley, Oct., 1880</td>
<td>Nash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bewdley, ditto</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kidderminster, Sept., 1882</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Gloucestershire</td>
<td>Tewkesbury, April, 1885</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cranham, 5 miles S.E. of Gloucester, Sept., 1885</td>
<td>Nesh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Wales:</td>
<td>Stonehouse, Sept., 1885</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Flintshire (detached)</td>
<td>Bettisfield, June, 1882</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hanmer (Arowry), June, 1882</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Denbighshire</td>
<td>Wrexham, Dec., 1882</td>
<td>do.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note.**—The pronunciation of the form *Nesh* is [naesh] at all the respective places, except at No. 14, Much Wenlock, Salop, where I recorded [naesh or nesh]. The form *Nash* was pronounced [naash] at all the respective places.

### ii. Definitions or Senses.

The numbers appended to them refer to the respective places in the foregoing table. The form "Tender, &c." was
recorded at several places; I have analysed this as, “Tender, delicate.”

Tender—was recorded at 41 places out of 45; the exceptions are Nos. 9, 11, 28, and 41.
Delicate, 1, 5—8, 14, 16—20, 25—27, 29, 31, 34, 36, 38, 43—45 = 22 places.
Delicate in health, &c., 9.
Sensitive to cold, 10, 11, 24.
Chilly, 28.
Cold, 41.
Susceptible of cold, 42.

iii. ILLUSTRATIVE SENTENCES.

10. Derbyshire; Chesterfield:

Tha'r so nesh [Dhaa]r sū naesh] = tender, or sensitive to cold.

24. Staffordshire; Codsall:

Her was nash I reckon [Uur wūz naash au raek'н] = tender, or sensitive to cold.

28. Nottinghamshire; Bingham:

I feel nesh = chilly.

30. Ditto Finningley:

When young plants which have grown very quickly are cut down by the frost, they are said to be nash.

35. Warwickshire; Knowle:

How nash you are! [Aaw naash yōd :aarl].

38. Worcestershire; Bewdley:

You be nash [Yōō bēē naash].

39. Ditto Kidderminster:

Some on (of) us be nash [Żum on ūz b̥ee naash].

Note.—I recorded the following sentence containing a verb at Farndon, Cheshire, in Dec., 1882:—

Yo’re neshn’ it [yoa]ū for naesh-in R] = shrinking from it, giving it up.
B.—ETYMOLOGY, AND EARLY OR LITERARY USAGE.

I. ETYMOLOGY.

The word *Nesh* is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *hnæse*, *hnesce*, soft; with which the Gothic *hnašwus*, soft, tender, delicate, is cognate. See Professor Skeat’s *Etymol. Engl. Dict.* s.v. *Nesh*; also s.v. *Nesh* in *Errata*.

1. ANGLO-SAXON:

Dr. Bosworth’s *compend. Ang.-Sax. Dict.* 1852—

*Hnese* (*hnæse*, *næse*), erroneously for *Hnesce* (*hnæse*, *næse*). Tender, soft, *nesh*.

*Anglo-Saxon Gospels*, a.d. 995; ed. by Dr. Bosworth and E. Waring, Esq., 1865—

Matt. xi. 8.—“*Oðhæ hwi eode ge út geseon? mann hnæscum* gyrlum gescryðne? Nú! ða thyn *hnæscum* gyrlum gescryðde synt on cyninga húsum;” = “But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in *soft* raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses.”

Matt. xxiv. 32.—“*Dónne hys twīg byþ hnesce;*” =

“*When his (the fig tree’s) branch is yet tender.*”

Luke vii. 25.—“*Fóne man mid hnescum reafum gescryðne?*” = “*A man clothed in *soft* raiment [*plur. clothes.*]”

2. GOTHIC:

Rev. [now Prof.] Skeat’s *Meso-Gothic Glossary*, 1868—

*hnašwus*, adj. soft, tender, delicate, Mat. xi. 8; Lu. vii. 25 [O. E. *nesh*].

*Gothic Gospels*, a.d. 360; ed. Bosworth and Waring, 1865—

Matt. xi. 8.—“*mannan hnasgaim wastym gawasidana? Sai! þaie hnasgaim* wasidai sind in gardim þiudane sind;” = “*A man clothed in *soft* raiment?* behold, they that wear *soft* [clothing understood] are in kings’ houses.”

Lu. vii. 25.—“*mannan in hnasgaim wastym gawasidana?*” = “*A man clothed in *soft* raiment?*”

II. EARLY OR LITERARY USAGE: BEING (i.) FORMS, AND (ii.) QUOTATIONS, FROM THE 12TH TO THE 17TH CENTURY.

i. FORMS.

The numbers 12 to 17 refer to the centuries respectively.
Adjective.

12, 14, 15 neshe; 13 neys; 13—15 nesche, nesche;
13—17 nesh; 14 neische, nessse; 14—17 neshe;
15 neisshe.

Substantive.

14 neischede, nesse, nesshed; 15 neisshe; 16 neshenes.

Verb.

Pres. tenses.—12 neshen, nesheest; 14 nasshe,
nhesseþ; 15 neshe.
Part. pres.—15 neschyñ'.
Part. past.—12 neshed; 13 nesched.

Adverb.

13 nesche, neseliche.

Adverbial phrases: these signify—entirely, altogether,
on every point, in every way, under all circum-
stances. See Glossary to Sir Fehrumbras.

13 nesche and hard; 14 nesch 0er hard, nesche
and hard, for nesch or hard, in hard & in nesche,
to harde & to nesche, at nesche & hard, at
hard & neychs; 15 for hard ne nesche.

ii. Quotations.

c. 1200. The Ormulum [Lincolnshire], in Spec. E. Eng.,
ed. Morris.

adj.—\( \text{jiff } \text{bin herte is } \text{arefull,} \)
\( \text{j milde, } \text{j soffe, } \text{j neshe}. \)
Pt. I., p. 55, l. 1461.

v. 2 pres.—\( \text{þær } \text{þurh } \text{þatt } \text{tue brekest wel } \text{þin corn,} \)
\( \text{j grindeest itt } \text{j nesheest}. \)
ib. p. 58, l. 1549.

Part. pa.—\( \text{wipþ } \text{lab } \text{þatt } \text{iss wipþ } \text{elesæw} \)
all smereed wel \( \text{j neshedd}. \)
ib. p. 55, l. 1471.

Ditto ed. R. M. White, 1852.

vb.—Neshen.

l. 15909 (Stratmann).

Morris.

adj.—for themne \( \text{iþi burð tid } \text{in al } \text{þe burh of} \)
belleem ne fant tu hus lewe \( \text{þer } \text{jine nesche} \)
childes lines iane milite reste.
Pt. I. p. 124, l. 5.
c. 1225. *Owl and Nightingale* [? Dorsetshire], ed. Stratmann, 1868.

adj.—Nesche and softe.  

1. 1546.


In Glossary—Nessche, *adv.* softly.

Then Paul saw men and women with much meat lying before them, which they were not able to eat.

Aftur þis he sayȝ at ene  
Men . and . wyermen, moni and lene;  
Lene þei weore, wiþ-outen flesche,  
þei soþred harde . and noþing nessche;  
Much lay bi-foren hem . of Mete  
þat hem deynet not . of to ete.  

Append. II., The XI. Pains of Hell, p. 227, l. 166.


adj.—Godrich rises, and wounds Havelok in the shoulder:

And woundede him rith in þe flesh,  
þat tendre was, and swipþ nesshe.  

p. 79, l. 2743.


*adv.*—Neselyle, nicely.—

(Index—Mold the good Queen, K. Henry the first’s wife,  
. . . daughter of Malcolm King of Scotland):  
þo caste þys gode Mold þyre mantel of anon,  
And gurde aboute þyre myddel a nayre lîne ssete,  
And wess þe mysseles vet echone, ar heo lete,  
And wîyped þis neselyle, & custe þis wel suete.  

p. 435, l. 9.


*Past. part.*—Nesched.  

54, 22 (Stratmann).


*adj.*—Fleys es brokel als wax and neys.  

p. 154; quoted in Cath. Anglicum.


*adv. phr.*—Names of planetis they been y-note,  
Some beon cold, and some beon hote,  
By heom mon hath theo ðsayging on  
To lond, to water, to wyn, to corn;  
And alle chaunce, nessche and hard,  
Kneweth by heom ðwol Y ðgred.  

B 1, l. 63.

1Noted, called.  

2Signs, i.e. predictions.  

3Well.  

4Declare.

*adj.*—Theo sunne ariseth, and fallith the dewynge;  
Theo nessche clay hit makith clynge.  

B 1, l. 915.

*sb.* *Nesse* = good fortune—

In *nesse*, in hard, y pray the nowe,

In al stedes thou him avowe.  

p. 110 (Halliwell).


*adv. phr.* *Nesch oper harde—*

Queber-so-euer he dele *nesch oper harde,*

He laug hys gyste as water of dyche.  

*gyttes (?).*  

The Pearl, l. 605.


*adj.* *Nesche.*  

146 (Stratmann).

1330. Robert de Brunne, *Chronicle.*

*adv. phr.* Thorge mountayn and more, the Bascles ge ther weie

Our *nesche* and *hard* thei fore and did the Walsch men deie.  

Quoted in Carr's Craven Glossary,  

2nd edit. 1228.

A letter this fol toke; bad him, *for nesch or hard.*

Thereon suld no man loke, but only Sir Edward.  

p. 220; quoted in Miss Baker's Northants Glossary.


*v. pres.* *Nhesseb* = makes soft—

berne gardyn zette þe greate gardyner | þet is

god þe uader | huanne he *nhesseb* þe herte |  

and makeþ zute | and tretale | ase wex ymered.  

p. 94.

*adj.* *Nessse* = soft—

Rishuolnesse is *propre* liche | þet me deþ be
dome rishtuol and trewe | ne to *nissse* ne to hard.  

p. 153.

*sb.* *Neshede* = delicacy, softness—

and of alle zoithede | and *neshede* | clojinge  

habbeþ an.  

p. 267.


*adj.* þe saule es mare tender and *nesshe*

þan es þe body with þe fleshe.  

l. 3110; quoted in Catholicon Anglicum.
B. II. 11]

EARLY OR LITERARY USAGE.

51


*adv. phr.—nis he holly at my hest in hard & in nesche?

I wol here-after witerly wi-glote more struie, wirche holly mi hertes wille to harde & to nesche.

plainly, certainly, &c.

l. 495

1. 534.


* * adj.—Nesche is quoted by Stratmann, from p. 393; but this should probably be nesche, as quoted in Prompt. Parv. from some edition, p. 368—

And the hard erthe and the rokke abyden mountaines, whan the soft erthe, and tendre, wax nesche throghe the water, and felle, and become valeyes.


* * * adj.—Nesh.

1. 1092 (Stratmann).


*adv. phr.—alle janne aissentede at nesche & hard. 1. 3500.

By Jat were Sarawyns stoges vp all freche, And were come inward at hard & nychs.

climbed. fresh, new,

l. 5188.


*Glossary.—nesche, neshe, neshe, adj. soft, delicate.


E.—Neshe wax and lijt, &c. L.—Neische wax, &c.

Prefatory Epistles, cap. iii., p. 63.

L.—God hath maad neische myn herte. Job. xxiii. 16.

E.—A neshe anwere breketh wrath.

Prov. xv. 1.

1387. John of Trevisa, tr. of Higden's Polychronicon (Rolls Series).

*adj.—Describes Ireland as—'nesche, reyny, and wyndy'

[mollis, pluviosa, ventosa].

l. 333; quoted in Cath. Ang.
sb.—Also quoted without reference *ibid.*—"Mars schal take
algate je neischede and je softnes of saturne."

Way in *Prompt. Parv.* quotes from *Trevisa's Version o
Vegetius*, Roy. MS. 8 A. xii.:—

v. — *nasse* = to make effeminate—"nasshe the hartes of
warriours to lustes, thenne hardenne theim to fighte."

1393. **Gower's Confessio Amantis.**

adj.—He was to *nasshe*, and she to harde.
Bk. v.; quoted in Miss Baker's Northants Glossary.

15th cent. **Court of Love**; a late poem (not by Chaucer) first
printed with Chaucer's works, 1561 (compiled
by Jhon Lidgate).

adj.—It semeth for loue his harte is tender *nasse*.
Fol. cccliiij., col. 1.

In the Aldine edit. of Chaucer’s works, 6 vols. 8vo., London, W.
Pickering, 1845, the line reads—

It semeth for love his herte is tender and *neshe*.
vol. vi., p. 165, l. 1092.

15th cent. **Latin and English Vocab.**, No. xv. Wright’s Vocabbs.,
2nd edit., 1874.

adj.—Mollis, anæ *neshe*.
Tener, [anæ tendere or *neshe*].
adj.—The child was kepede tender, and *nesche* [= soft].

1420. **The Seuyn Sages**, in *Metrical Romances*; ed. Weber,
1810.

vol. iii., ver. 732.

Soc., 1843, 1853, and 1865.

Neschyne or make *nesche*. Mollisco.
*Molliculus, neishe*, or softe. Mollicia, softenesse, or
*neshe*. Molleo, to be *neshe*.

1440. **Religious Pieces in Prose and Verse**, ed. from R.
Thornton’s MS. by G. G. Perry, E.E.T.S.,
v. 26, 1867.

*Neche*, vb. to melt, soften, grow soft:—
Now es na herte sa herde pat it na moghte *nesche* and
lufe swylke a Godd with all his myghte.

p. 31.

1450 **Towneley Mysteries** [Yorkshire], in Eng. Miracle
or
Plays or Mysteries, ed. W. Marriott, 1838.

adj.—*Nesh*.

(?) p. 128 (Stratmann).

There is a quotation in the Almondbury and Hudders-
field Glossary containing the word in the same spelling.

*adv. phr.*—For-gete not pe towell, nojer for hard ne nesche.
Section or Tract ix., l. 241.

**Ante**


*White herrings fresh—*

*adj.*—looke he be white by pe boon | pe *brough* white &

*nesche.*

1*roe.*

2*tender.*

*After a bath—*

*pen* lett _him_ go to bed | but looke it be soote & *nesche.*

1*soft.*

p. 161, l. 644.

p. 183, l. 986.

1553. **Sir Thomas Wilson,** *Art of Retorique.*

*sb.*—To be born of woman declares weakness of spirit, _neshenes_ of body, and fickleness of mind.

April, 1854, p. 20.


*adj.*—Of cheese,—he saith it is too hard; he saith it is too _neshe._

(2 p. 436; quoted by Nares; and T. Wright, *Dict. Obs. and Prov. English.*


*adj.*—And although a droppe [of water] be most _neshe_, yet by oft falling it pierceth that thing, that is right hard.

The Armorie of Honor, B. 2, fol. 89/1.


*adj.*— . . . . This but sweats thee
Like a _nesch_ nag.

*Bondoça*: quoted in Miss Baker's Northants
Glossary, without further reference.
Ante

*adj.*—"God save the Queene of England," he said,
"for her blood is verry neshe,
as neere vnto her I am
as a colloppe shorne from the flesh."
*King James and Browne*, l. 119; quoted by Miss Jackson, Shropshire Word-
book.
OSS OR AWSE.

This word, in English, seems to be almost wholly confined to modern dialectal speech. Like clem, it has a wide range or area of usage.

A.—MODERN DIALECTAL RANGE.

I. FROM GLOSSARIES OR PRINTED BOOKS.

i. A TABLE OR LIST OF THE GLOSSARIES in which the verb and its derivatives are found.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>District.</th>
<th>Author and Date.</th>
<th>Words and Parts of Speech.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Various dialects</td>
<td>T. Wright, 1857</td>
<td>Ause and oss, v.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>Grose and Pegge, 1839</td>
<td>Oss, v.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Hallamshire (Sheffield Dist.)</td>
<td>Rev. Joseph Hunter, 1829</td>
<td>do. v.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Cumberland and Westmorland</td>
<td>Poems, Songs, and Ballads, 1839</td>
<td>do. v.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>Robert Ferguson, 1873</td>
<td>do. v.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>Nodal and Milner, 1875</td>
<td>Awse and Oss, v.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Ditto (do.)</td>
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### ii. Definitions or Senses, and Illustrative Sentences.

I give these in nine sub-divisions. A considerable variety of words, phrases, and sentences is used in these definitions. The numbers appended to definitions, or prefixed to illustrative sentences, refer to the glossaries in the foregoing table in which each such definition and sentence is found.

a. To try, 1, 4, 9, 10, 13, 16, 25, 26; to attempt, 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 16, 19, 23, 26, 27, 29, 30, 32, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39; to endeavour, 4; to essay, 9, 10;
to aim at, 3, 17, 20, 22; to offer, 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 23, 27, 29, 30, 32, 34, 38; to offer to do, 3, 17, 18, 20, 22; to offer to do a thing, 25; to set about, 25; to set about anything, 9, 13, 19, 23; to set about a thing, 10; to set about doing, 37; to be setting out, 19, 23; to show a sign of doing, 37, applied to inanimate as well as animate objects.

5. "I'll neer osse to doot;" i.e. I will never attempt it.

6. "He nivver osses to du owt 'at I seh him tul—nivver."

7. "Au sall ne'er oss" = I shall never attempt.

On the occasion when Sir John Ramsden came of age, he gave several public dinners, and on passing between Longley Hall and Huddersfield, he encountered some mill hands, lads and lasses. A lad taps a lass on the shoulder, and she says, 'Drop it, lad, Au want none o' thet bother.' The lad, 'Au'm noan baan to mell on thee.' 'Well, but tha were ossin.' Sir John was much exercised with this, and took it up at the dinner, where he found plenty of his guests able to restore the dialogue to its beauty, and explain its meaning.

8. "He ossed but failed."

12. (1) s.v. Awse;—
    A mon 'at plays a fiddle weel,
    Should never awse to dee.
    Come, owd dog, awse to shap.

    See also Sense f.
    Aw shakert un' waytud till ten,
    Bu' Meary ne'er awst to com eawt.
    Harland's Lancashire Lyrics, p. 187.

(2) s.v. Oss;—
    His scrutn wig fell off, on when he os t'don it, on unlucky karron gan it o poo.
    Collier, Works, p. 52; 1750.
    I'r ot heawse in o crack, on leet o' th' owd mon i' th' fowd, ossin t' get o' tit-back.
    ibid, p. 57; 1750.

    See also Sense d.
    They'd gether rewnd some choilt wi'mayt,
    An' every bit it ost to tak
    Their little meawths ud oppen too.
    Ramsbottom, Lanc. Rhymes, p. 67; 1864.

13. "He nivver osses" = He never makes the attempt.
oss:

16. "Theaw doesn't oss furt' do it."


25. "He's owed me ten pound for ever so long, and he ne'er osses pay me."

26. Tha dusna oss t' do it = try [Dhaa dûz'nu' oss t' dûo it.]

27. "He none osses at it."

30. 'Er'll never oss to pût anythin' in its place as lung as 'er can get through 'em.

36. 'E ossed to jump the bruck, but 'e couldn'a do't; t'warn't likely! Seldom used but when the attempt is unsuccessful.

b. To be about to do, i.e., immediately.

12. I'r ot heawse in a crack, on leet o' th' owd mon i' th' fowd, ossin' t' get o' tuit-back.

Collier, Works, p. 52; 1750.

25. The following conversation actually took place in Rainow Sunday-school:—"Teacher: 'Why did Noah go into the ark?' Scholar: 'Please, teacher, because God was ossin' for t' drown th' world.'"

26. Aw'm ossin' t' goo t' Buxton [Au'm ossi'n tu] gû t)

Bûk'stu'n] = I'm about to go to Buxton immediately.

Aw'm ossin t'ate my dinner [Au'm ossi'n tu]a'it mi' din'u't] = I'm about to eat my dinner at once.

c. The manner of "shaping" or "framing" at anything: either—(1), at a particular act or job of work; or (2), at the duties of a new situation or calling.

24. He osses well; said of a new servant who promises fairly.

25. "He osses badly" would be said of a man who began a job in a clumsy manner.

26. 'Ow does 'e oss at it? [Aaw dûz i' oss aat i't?]. 'Ow does th' new servant mon oss? [Aaw dûs th) ni'w saar vu'nt maun oss?].

28. A new servant is said to oss (promise) well.

30. vb. I think the chap knows his work, he osses pretty well.

sb. I doubt 'el'll never do no good—I dunna like 'is ossmen.

d. To design, 2; to intend, 2; to intend to do, 3, 17, 20, 22.

e. To dare, 3, 32, 33, 35, 37; to venture, 11.

37. He does not oss[= dare] to do it.
f. To begin, 1, 13, 14, 19, 23, 25, 26, 27, 29, 31, 38—in this sense, I think, the word is generally in the imperative; to begin to do, 37.

12. Come, owd dog, awse to shap.

Waugh, Besom Ben, c. iv. p. 42; 1865.


27. Oss at it, mon, i.e. begin.

g. To make free with:—3, 5, 21, 23, 24, 30, have the Cheshire proverb, "Ossing comes to bossing;" 3, 5, 23, and 30, simply quote the words without comment; 21, T. Wright, has under oss (2)—"To make free with. There is a Cheshire proverb, ossing comes to bossing (i.e., kissing)." 24, Colonel Egerton Leigh, has—"'Ossing comes to bossing;' an old Cheshire proverb, means courting is soon followed by kissing."

h. To recommend a person to assist you, 19, 23.

i. To direct. See note below.

Note.—Mr. T. Darlington, in his Folk-Speech of South Cheshire, now passing through the press, has senses a, c, and i:

Oss [os:] v.n. and a:

a == To attempt: "Ah never ost (ossed) at it" [Ah nev-ur ost aat' it].

c == To shape: "Ye dunna oss to do it" = You don't shape. This is not exactly the same as "to attempt," though a shade of the same meaning.

i == To direct: "Ah'll oss yô to a good heifer" [Ah]l os' yû tû ü gûd ef'ûr].

II. DIALECTAL RANGE FROM MY OWN RESEARCHES,
1877 TO 1883.

This word is constantly used in the dialects of Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, and Staffordshire. See the first two paragraphs in Nesh A. II. pp. 43, 44, Dialectal Range from my own Researches.

N.B.—The letters a, b, c, &c., prefixed to the meanings, or illustrative sentences, refer to the respective Senses before given, in I. ii.

Yorkshire: Marsden, April, 1878:

a. Oss [oss], to try.
LANCASHIRE: GOOSNARGH, June, 1883:
   a. Now, John, oss likely [Naaw, J:aun, oss laby’kli’]= apply yourself to the task in a workmanlike manner.

Ditto ECCLES, June, 1883:
   b. Eh, Mary, w’ereta for? O’m ossin’ t’goo t’Eccles = [Ai’, Mae’ri’, weertu’ faur? O)m ossi’n t)goo t) Ek’lz].

CHESHIRE: FARNDON, Dec., 1882:
   a. Yô dunna oss t’go at it [yoa dûn’u’ oss t) goa aat’) i’t].

DERBYSHIRE: ASHFORD, April, 1875:
   c. ’Ae dun they oss? [Ae’ dûn dhai oss]=How do they shape?
   ’Ae dus that chap oss at ’is work [Ae’ dûz dhaat chaap oss u’t i’z wuurrk?] i.e. frame to work skilfully or unskilfully.

Ditto DORE, March, 1883:
   a. Aw sh’l ne’er oss [au shl nee’r oss].

Ditto CHESTERFIELD, May, 1883:
   a. Tha doesn’t oss to do it [Dhaa dûnnt oss tu’ dôo i’t].

Ditto SPIKE WINTER, in ASHOVER parish, May, 1883:
   a. Oss [oss] = to try.

Ditto ASHOVER, May, 1883:
   a. or c. ’Aa tha osses! [Aa dhaa oss’u’z!] = How thou osses!

Ditto ALFRETON, Dec., 1883:
   a. or c. Oss as yu mean to do it [Oss u’z yu’ meen tu’ dôo i’t].

SHROPSHIRE, WELLINGTON, Dec., 1881:
   a. Oss [oss], to try.
   Yû wunna oss to do it [yu’ wûnnu’ oss tu’ dôô i’t.].

Ditto UPTON MAGNA, Jan., 1882:
   a. Oss [oss], to try.
   k. To recommend a person to a place—I ossed ’er to a place [Uy ost u’r 100 u’ plai’ss].

Ditto MUCH WENLOCK, Sept., 1880:
   a. Oss [oss], to try.

STAFFORDSHIRE: MIDDLE HILLS, north of LEEK, May 1880:
   a. Oss [oss] = to try.
ETYMOLGY.

Staffordshire: Froghall, Oct., 1877:
a. Oss [oss] = to try.

Ditto Oakamoor, April, 1882:
a. Oss [oss] = to try.

Ditto Longport, Oct., 1877:
a. Tha doesner oss for do it [Dhaar du'zn'n'u'r oss fu're deo [or di'do' i't]].

Worcestershire: Bewdley, Oct., 1880:
a. You dunna oss to do it [yoo du'n'n'u oss tu' doo i't].

Ditto Tenbury, Oct., 1880:

Flintshire (detached): Bettisfield, June, 1882:
a. Yo dunna oss to do it [yoo du'n'n'u oss tu' deo it.]

Ditto Hanmer, Aug., 1882:
h. I ossed (or oss) 'im to that place [Uy ost i'm tu' dhaat pla'i:ss], i.e. recommended him to it.

B.—ETYMOLGY.

i. Some years ago it was thought by various writers that oss or awse was derived from the Welsh osso, to offer to do, to essay.


2. Rev. Richard Garnett's Philological Essays, collected and reprinted 1859, p. 166—"[From] Welsh ozi, to attempt, venture; - - - - - - - oss, Lancash."


ii. It is now, however, considered as undoubted by various eminent philologists that Welsh osio was derived from English os, instead of vice versa.

1. The following paragraph was courteously written for this article by Professor Skeat, June 15, 1887:—"I have now no doubt that W. osio was merely borrowed from Middle-English, and that the Middle-English word was merely borrowed from the French osar, to dare, which occurs as early as the eleventh century in the Chanson de Roland, l. 1782. This French osar (like the Span. osar, Ital. osare) corresponds to a theoretical Low Latin verb ausare, regularly formed from the stem aus- which appears in ausus, pp. of Lat. audere, to dare. This explanation is given by Litré and Scheler, and universally accepted by French philologists. It is highly important to observe that Old French not only possessed the verb osar, but the adjective os, signifying 'audacious,' which is nothing but a French spelling of the Latin ausus. This adjective os also occurs in the Chanson de Roland, l. 2292. We can thus formally establish a connection with the English word; for this very same adjective os occurs in Anglo-French also, with the same sense of 'audacious,' in the Life of Edward the Confessor, ed. Luard, l. 4399, a poem of the twelfth century. We thus learn that the word was already known in England in the twelfth century, and we cannot doubt that it was borrowed by English from this Anglo-French source. I believe that numerous words of this sort drifted into Welsh chiefly in the fourteenth century, subsequently to the conquest of Wales by Edward I."

2. I also insert a short paragraph kindly written by Prof. Rhys, of Oxford, August 9, 1887:—"It [Welsh osio] may be derived so far as phonology goes either from French or from English, but not from Latin. I formerly thought it must be from French, but that was because, probably, I was not aware that it existed as an English word. I should now presume it was from English; in any case there is no Welsh word to explain it, as I cannot regard Welsh os 'if' as offering any explanation of the meaning."

Note.—My original article on this word was printed in the Manchester City News, December 31, 1881; the space occupied being about three-eighths that of the present article. Early in January, 1882, I sent copies to a number of members of the English Dialect Society, and likewise to other correspondents; and, in response, received about twenty-seven courteous and appreciative acknowledgments.
3. One of these was from Dr. J. A. H. Murray, dated January 11, 1882,* in which he stated that the evidence, so far as known to him, tends to show that Welsh *osio* was adopted from English *oss*, and not vice versa.

4. I conclude by quoting part of Hensleigh Wedgwood's paragraph from his *Dict. of English Etymology*, 2nd edit., 1872:—To Oss. To offer to do, to aim at, to intend to do. B[ailly], Fr[ench] *oser*, to dare, adventure, be so bold as to do a thing; Prov[ential] *ausar*, It[alian] *ausare*, Ossare. Venet[ian] *ossare*, from Lat. *audere*, *austum*, to dare. The difficulty in this derivation is that *oss* belongs so completely to the popular part of the language that it is very unlikely to have had a Fr. derivation. W[elsh] *osi*, to offer to do, is undoubtedly the same word, but we are unable to say whether it is borrowed from E. *oss* or vice versa.

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C.—EARLY OR LITERARY USAGE.

i. I have only been able to obtain *five* Early English quotations containing forms of *oss*, viz.: three *verbal forms* and two *substantives*, which are given below. I came across the *first* in Early Eng. Allit. Poems some time ago; and the *third*—"Quat and has thou *ossed*, &c."—was quoted in the Glossary to this volume, s.t. *Ossed*; but as from "King Alexander" instead of "Alexander" simply.

Prof. Skeat has recently edited this latter work for the E.E.T.S., and has called it the "Wars of Alexander," to distinguish it from *three* other Poems all called "Alexander." He obligingly sent me the *four* quotations from this, with his annotations, August 3, 1887; and added—

"*Oss* [in these quotations] means to offer, proffer, put forward, &c.; and secondarily, to show, to prophesy. It's all one in spite of great change in sense."

* This letter has unfortunately got mislaid or lost.
ii. QUOTATIONS.


v. past. t.—Ossed = showed—

Jonah—

All this mischief is caused by me, therefore cast me overboard.

He shows that he was guilty.

'Alle bis meschif for me is made at þys tyume,
For I haft greued my god & guity am founden;
For þy bereȝ me to þe borde, and þaþþ þe þe þer-oute,
Er gete þe no happe, I hope for soþe.'

He oossed hym by vnnynges þat þay vnder-nomen,
þat he wæþ flawen fro þe face of frelych dryȝtyn.
1bæpe.

l. 213.


Alexander consults the oracle of Apollo, who returns an answer; after which we read—

(1) vb.—l. 2263:

"Thus answars thaim thaire ald gode, and osson on þis wyse;
Where the word osson seems to mean shows or prophesies.

(2) vb.—l. 2307:

"Quat, and has thou osson to Alexander this ayndain wirdes?"
*i.e.* What, and hast thou shown to Alexander these favourable (?) destinies?

(3) sb.—l. 868:

"I did bot my desyir to drepe him, me thynke,
For it awe him noght sa openly slyce ossing to make;"
*i.e.* I only did my duty to kill him, methinks,
For he ought not so openly to make such an attempt.

(4) sb.—l. 732:

"Vnbehalde the wele on ilk halfe, and have a gud eye,
Les on thine ane here-eteward thine ossingis list;"
*i.e.* Look round thee well on every side, and take good care,
Lest on thyself alone, hereafter, thy prophecies (or thy attempts) alight.
ADDENDÁ.

DIALECTAL RANGE FROM MY OWN RESEARCHES,
1887.

CLEM.

Yorkshire, Barnsley, April, 1887:
*Clammed* to deēth [klaamd tu' d:eeð].

Ditto Keighley, May, 1887:
*Clam* to deēth [tlaam tu' d:eeð].
N.B.—The older form is said to be *pine*.
*Starved* to deēth [st:aavd tu' d:eeð] = very cold.

Ditto Haworth, May, 1887:
*Clammed* to deēth [tlaamd tu' d:eeð].

Derbyshire, Church Greasley, Dec., 1886:
He's *clammed* to death [æy]z tlaamd tu' daeth].

Staffordshire, Codsall, Dec., 1886:
*Clammed* to death [klaemd tu' daeth].

Nottinghamshire, Finningley, Aug., 1886:
Nearly *clammed* to death [nee:rli'tlaamd tu' daeth];
some say—*Clammed* to deēd [tlaamd tu' deēd].

Ditto Bawtry, Aug., 1886:
*Clam* [tlaam'].

Leicestershire, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Dec., 1886:
Halt *clammed* [aif tlaamd].

Ditto Upton, 3½ miles S.W. of Market Bosworth, Dec., 1886:
He's welly (nearly) *clammed* [ey]z wael-i' tlaamd].

Warwickshire, Atherstone, Dec., 1886:
*Clammed* to death [tlaamd tu' daeth].
ADDENDA: LAKE.

LAKE = TO PLAY.

Yorkshire, Barnsley, April, 1887:
Lake [lä:k].
Ditto Birkenshaw (or Dudley Hill), near Bradford, April, 1887:
Lake [læːık].
Ditto Keighley, May, 1887:
We s’l be lakin’ [Weē s lē:kën].
Ditto Calverley, near Leeds, June 1, 1887:
I’m lakin’ [əu:m lē:kən].

At Easter and Whitsuntide of the present year (1887), I visited the following places in S.W. Yorkshire:—

*Easter,* April 9th to 12th.—Thorne, Barnsley, Wakefield, Birkenshaw, Bradford, and Halifax;
*Whitsuntide,* May 28th to June 1st.—Halifax, Keighley, Haworth, Skipton, Ribblehead, Giggleswick, Settle, Saltaire, and Calverley;

and at most of these places I found the word lake was regularly used in dialectal speech to the exclusion of play.

18. Bibliographical List. Part III, completing the work, and containing a List of Books on Scottish Dialects, Anglo-Irish Dialect, Cant and Slang, and Americanisms, with additions to the English List, and Index. Edited by J. H. Nodal. 45. 6d.


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38. **Devonshire Plant Names.** By the Rev. Hilderic Friend. 55.

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40. **Hampshire Words and Phrases.** Compiled and Edited by the Rev. Sir William H. Cope, Bart. 65.

41*. **The Treatyse of Fysshinge with an Angle.** By Dame Juliana Barnes. An earlier form (c1390). Edited, with Glossary (and privately printed) by Thomas Satchell, and by him presented to the 1883 members.

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53. **The Folk-Speech of South Cheshire.** By Thomas Darlington. (At press.)


And probably another.