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ENGLISH PROVERBS AND PROVERBIAL PHRASES
A HISTORICAL DICTIONARY
TO
MY DAUGHTERS
PREFACE

This book is a humble offshoot from the great parent stock of the Oxford English Dictionary. Its purpose is to trace, so far as may be possible, the history of English proverbs and proverbial phrases in English use. A very few sayings which have won proverbial rank, such as "Procrastination is the thief of time" and "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery," are of definitely literary origin. These can be accurately dated. But the great mass, in most cases, cannot be dated with any precision. Many are translated from or based upon Greek or Latin originals; many have been borrowed, undergoing changes in the process, from those of other countries.

In a few score cases, classical originals and parallels, carefully referenced, have been inserted, in square brackets, before the other references; but no attempt has been made to do this exhaustively.

It is obvious that a proverb or proverbial phrase, a crystallised summary of popular wisdom or fancy, is likely, or, indeed certain, to have been long current in popular speech before it could make any appearance in literature, or even in collections of such lore. Consequently, the historical method of treatment can only give an approximation to accuracy. But I venture to think that the method adopted in this book is sound; and that the results obtained are worth the eight or nine years' labour that its preparation has involved.

Like the great Oxford work, if one may compare small things with great, this book is based upon the independent collection of material. During the leisure of about seven years I made my collections direct from original sources, as detailed in later paragraphs. Until these collections were as complete as I could make them, I refrained from consulting the Oxford Dictionary. When, as the actual writing of my Dictionary was in progress, I referred to that monumental work, I found that in a few cases examples which I had collected had already been used therein. These I have not marked, as they were the fruits of my own labour, but a small number of other references which I have taken direct from the Oxford Dictionary, are carefully marked (O.).

The principal early collections of proverbs and proverbial phrases are Taverner's Proverbes or Adages out of Erasmus, 1539; Heywood's Proverbs, 1546, and Epigrams, 1562; Florio's First Fruites, 1578, and Second Fruites, 1591; a number in Camden's Remains, 1605; Draxe's Bibliotheca Scholastica Instructissima, 1633; Clarke's Paræmiologia Anglo-Latina, 1639; George Herbert's Jacta Prudentium, 1640, and second edition, 1651; Howell's Proverbs, 1659; Ray's Proverbs, 1670, second edition 1678, third 1737, fourth 1768 and fifth 1813; Walker's Paræmiologia, 1672; and Fuller's Gnomologia, 1732.

The whole of Ray's collections, except a few offensively dirty or indecent sayings, and a considerable part of the examples in the other books, are included in the present Dictionary; but I have excluded a very large number of sententious and moral sentences found in such works as Fuller's Gnomologia, which certainly can never have been proverbial, and also many sayings which are purely foreign.
Many of the so-called Proverbs of Alfred, c 1270, are not proverbs at all, but I have included a few, and also examples from the Proverbs of Hedingham, c 1320, which have the genuine ring, and indeed, in some cases, afford early authority for some of our most familiar sayings.

Many English sayings have been found in old dictionaries, such as Herman’s Vulgaria, 1519, Palsgrave’s L’Éclaircissement de la langue Française, 1550, Wither’s Little Dictionary for Children, 1556, and Lewis’s revision of that work, 1586, Hulio’s Abecedarium, 1552, Baret’s Alvearie, 1580, Florio’s Worlde of Worde, 1598, Cotgrave’s French-English Dictionary, 1611, Torrano’s Piazza Universale, 1666, Robertson’s Phraseologia Generalis, 1681 and Berthelson’s English and Danish Dictionary, 1754.

For local sayings all the publications of the English Dialect Society have been searched. I have also examined some thirty other similar works, including such books as Grose’s Provincial Glossary, second edition 1790, Moor’s Suffolk Words, 1823, Brockett’s Glossary of North Country Words, 1825, Carr’s Craven Dialect, 1828, Forby’s Vocabulary of East Anglia, 1830, Wilbraham’s Cheshire Glossary, 1836, Holloway’s Dictionary of Provincialisms, 1838, Baker’s Northamptonshire Glossary, 1854, Robinson’s Whitby Glossary, 1855, The Dialect of Leeds, 1862 Brogden’s Provincial Words in Lincolnshire, 1866, Atkinson’s Cleveland Glossary, 1868 Parish’s Sussex Dictionary 1875, Miss Jackson’s Shropshire Word-Book, 1879, Mrs Wright’s Rustic Speech and Folk-Lore, 1913, Dr Bridge’s Cheshire Proverbs, 1917, and Gepp’s Essex Dialect Dictionary, 1920.

One curious point that emerges from an examination of these books is that not a few proverbial sayings and phrases which were current in literature and general speech in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, but which have disappeared from more modern literature and from general colloquial speech, are found still to flourish in the dialectal and provincial vocabulary.

Apart from the special sources indicated above, nearly three thousand works in English literature, dating from the twelfth century (and earlier) to the present day, have been read or examined for the purposes of the present work. Shakespeare and Chaucer have been carefully gone through twice. The books of the Early English Text Society, and of other publishing societies, have also been read. This reading has not only provided the illustrative examples and references given numbering many thousands, of the proverbs brought together in previous collections, but has added a large number of sayings hitherto uncollected.

Wherever possible the illustrative quotations and references have been taken from literature. The various collections are cited only where other references have not been obtained. Reference to the two principal nineteenth-century collections Bohn’s 1855 and Hazlitt’s 1869, is made in the few cases only where earlier occurrence in the same form has not been found. Similarly, references to the second, third, fourth and fifth editions of Ray are given only when the saying treated does not appear in an earlier edition. In all cases preference has been given to literary illustration. Details as to the system of reference adopted are given on the page of “Explanations and Abbreviations.”

I have been more concerned, from the historical point of view, to find the earliest examples I could of the sayings, than to illustrate their later use. But, where possible, I have tried to supply, roughly speaking, one quotation or reference for each century, with additional examples to illustrate varying forms of a saying.
The omissions, both of sayings and of illustrations, in a work such as this, undertaken and completed by a single hand, must be many; but as it is really the first attempt at a comprehensive Dictionary of the kind, it is hoped that its merits may be found more conspicuous than its deficiencies.

A word must be said as to arrangement. In Ray and other early collections the arrangement is purely fantastic. In more modern books, such as Fuller and Hazlitt, a professedly alphabetical order, under the first word of the form of the proverb adopted, is followed. The result of this is whole pages of sayings beginning with A, He, The, We, and other insignificant words, besides the inclusion of the same proverb in several different forms. Proverbs are used and quoted in very varying forms, and to find what the searcher wants in collections so arranged is often difficult.

In the present Dictionary, an attempt has been made to facilitate reference by the adoption of the alphabetical method in a somewhat new way. The arrangement in one alphabet is twofold.

1. All proverbs relating to the Months and Seasons of the year, to the Days of the week, to Saints’ Days, Fasts and Festivals, to all Animals, Birds, Insects, etc., are, as a rule, grouped under the Month, Season, Day, etc., to which they refer. Cross-references are supplied to any exceptions. Similarly, sayings relating to God, the Devil, Hell, Heaven, the Sun, the Moon, Rain, Wind, Man, Woman, Child, and to other subjects which naturally suggest themselves as group-headings, such as Fool, Time, Water, Money, Life, War, etc., are, as a rule, grouped under their relative headings, with cross-references to exceptions. Sayings relating to Places are grouped in like manner.

2. Other proverbs, which do not naturally fall into any of the groups just indicated, take their places in the alphabet under either their first word, if that is significant, or under their first significant word—that by which anyone using the book, who was not certain of the saying’s precise form, would naturally look for it. Cross-references have been liberally supplied throughout the work.

By this two-fold arrangement, especially by the grouping system, it is hoped that the book may serve the purposes, not only of a dictionary, but to some extent, at least, of a Classified Index of English Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases.

G. L. A.
ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATIONS

B & F, Beaumont and Fletcher
B S, Ballad Society
c, circa
E D S, English Dialect Society
E E T S, Early English Text Society
F L S, Folk Lore Society
Hunt Cl, Hunterian Club
1, line
(N) indicates that the quotation so marked is taken from Nares's Glossary
N & Q, Notes and Queries
N Sh S, New Shakspere Society
(O) indicates that the quotation so marked is taken from the Oxford English Dictionary
P S, Parker Society
R L S, Robert Louis Stevenson
Roxb Cl, Roxburgh Club
S, Society
Ser, Series
Sh S, Shakespeare Society
Spens S, Spenser Society
Tr, Translations
T T, Tudor Translations
(W) indicates that the quotation so marked is taken from Dr Wright's Dialect Dictionary

NOTE — For some of the Latin and Greek quotations I am indebted to Mr H E P Platt's Aria (Oxford, 1904)

REFERENCES

The reference always precedes the quotation, except in the case of the classical quotations within square brackets

A reference without a quotation indicates that the example occurs either in precisely the same form, or with trifling difference, as in the heading to the article
References, other than to plays, are to page, or volume and page unless otherwise indicated. Plays are referred to by Act and Scene, or by Act alone.
A date or name in brackets indicates the edition to which reference is made.
1530 Palsgrave
1611 Cotgrave
1633 Draxe
1639 Clarke
1659 Howell
1670, 1678, etc. Ray
1732 Fuller
1855 Bohn
1869 Hazlitt

New Shakspere Society
English Dialect Society
Early English Text Society
Folk Lore Society
Hunt Club
line
indicates that the quotation so marked is taken from Nares's Glossary
indicates that the quotation so marked is taken from the Oxford English Dictionary
indicates that the quotation so marked is taken from Dr Wright's Dialect Dictionary

REFERENCE is made to the later editions of Ray only when the saying treated does not occur in an earlier edition

1611 Cotgrave's French-English Dictionary, 1611
1633 Draxe's Bibliotheca Scholastica Instructissima, 1633
1639 Clarke's Paramiologia Anglo-Latina, 1639
1659 Howell's Proverbs, 1659
1670, 1678, etc. Ray's English Proverbs, 1670 and subsequent editions

1732 Fuller's Gnomologia, 1732
1855 Bohn's A Hand-Book of Proverbs, 1855
1869 Hazlitt's English Proverbs and Proverbal Phrases, 1869
ENGLISH PROVERBS AND PROVERBIAL PHRASES

A. I. A per se = A paragon. 1475: Henryson, Test. of Cress., l. 78, O fair Cresseid! the flour and A-per-se Of Troy and Greece. 1573: Harvey, Letter-Book, 104 (Camden S.), A vere A per se A, not her fellowe in Europe. 1631: Brathwait, Whimzie, 123 (1859), Such an one is an a per se a for knavery. 1639: Clarke, 104, A per sea.

2. To know not A from the gable-end, or, from a windmill. 1401: in T. Wright, Pol. Poems, ii. 57 (Rolls Ser., 1861), I know not an a from the wynd-mylene. 1650: Forby, Vocab. E. Anglia, 434, He does not know great A from the gable end of a house. Cf. B (2).

Aback o' behind like a donkey's tail. 1617: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 6.

Abbey to a grange, To bring an. c. 1480: Early Miscell., 26 (Warton Cl., 1855), And nowe that abbay is torned to a grange. c. 1540: Bale, Kyng Johan, 23 (Camden S.), Our changes are soch that an abbeye turneth to a graunge. 1670: Ray, 161.

Above-board. 1608: J. Hall, Virtues and Vices, 15. All his dealings are square, and above the board. 1640: Brome, Anti-podes, III. i., Here's noth'ng but faire play, and all above board. 1753: Richardson, Grandison, i. 185 (1883), All is fair, all is aboveboard: all is as it was represented. 1891: R. L. S., Wrecker, ch. ix., "Oh, everything's open and above board," he cried. 1924: The Times, 25 Jan., p. 11, col. 2, The public, which likes dealings to be above board.

Absence is a shrew. c. 1480: in Hazlitt, Early Pop. Poetry, ii. 13, And therefor it is said in wordes few, how that long absence is a shrew.

Absence sharpens love, presence strengthens it. 1732: Fuller, No 755.

Absent party is still faulty, The. c. 1440: Lydgate, Fall of Princes, bk. iii.

I. 3927, For princis ofte, of furious hastynessee, Wil cachche a quarel, causeles in sentence, Ageyn folk absent, though ther be non offence. 1612: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. I. bk. iii. ch. xi., To him that absent is All things succeed amiss. 1710: S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 51, The absent party is always to blame. 1732: Fuller, No. 4390.

Absent without fault. 1633: Draxe, 43, He is neither absent without fault, nor present without excuse.

Abundance depends on sour milk, i.e. thunderstorms aid crops. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 119.


Accidents will happen. 1753: Colman, Deuce is in Him, I., Accidents, accidents will happen—No less than seven brought into our infirmary yesterday. 1849: Dickens, Copperfield, ch. xxviii., "My dear friend Copperfield," said Mr. Micawber, "accidents will occur in the best-regulated families.

Account not that slavery, That brings in penny savoury. 1678: Ray, 221. 1732: Fuller, No. 6371.

Accusing the times is but excusing our selves. 1732: Fuller, No. 759.

Ace of trumps. I will not play my ace of trumps yet. 1732: Fuller, No. 2647.

Aces of allowance. The best must crave their aces of allowance. 1672: Walker, Paræm., 23.


Aching tooth. To have an. Usually to have a longing or desire for—but see 1730 quot. 1590: Lodge, Rosalynde, 136 (Hunt. Cl.), I have a longing tooth, a longing tooth that makes me crie. 1667:
L'Estrange, Quevedo's Visions, 201 (1904), "You have still an aching tooth at those poor varlets" 1730 Bailey, Dict, s v "Ache." To have an aching tooth at one, to be angry at, to have a mind to rebuke or chastise one 1742 North, Lives of Norths, ii 172. He had an aching tooth, as they say, at the mill-stones of a water-mill 1887 Parish and Shaw, Dict of Kent Dialect, r (E D S), Muster Moppett n man's got a terrible aching-tooth for our old son.

Acorns See Oak (5)

Acquaintance of the great will I nought. For first or last dear it will be bought 15th cent in Relig Antique, i 205 (1841). Acquaintance of Joldship will y noght. For furste or laste dere hit will be bowght.

Acre to keep a peewit, It would take an 1877 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs 86 Said of very poor land.

Action is the proper fruit of knowledge 1732 Fuller, No 760

Adam I When Adam delved and Eve span, Who was then the gentleman? 1730 R Rolle in Religious Pieces, p 79 (E E T S 26), When Adam delved and Eve spane, So spire if thou may spede, Whare was then the pride of man, That now merres his mede Before 1500 Hill, Common-place-Book, 13x (E E T S), When Adam delfid and Eve span, who was than a gentelman? 1592 Greene, Qwy, in Works, xi 225 (Grosart), I will not forget the old wyes logick, when Adam delud and Eve spanne who was then a gentleman? 1630 T Adams, Works 872 1732 Fuller, No 6421 Ray, 1670, p 270, adds the couplet, Upstart a churl and gathered good [wealth], And thence did spring our gentle blood.

2 We are all Adam's children, but silk makes the difference 1659 Howell Proverbs Span-Eng, 13. We are all Adams sons, silk onely distinguisheth us. 1732 Fuller, No 5425 See also Old, D (2)

Add insult to injury See Insult

Adder See quotations 1856 N & Q, 2nd ser, i 40t, If the adder could hear the blindworm could see, No poor man's children could go their way free 1856 Ibid, 2nd ser, i 331, There is a Kentish proverb If I could hear as well as see, No man nor beast shall pass by me. 1875 Parsh, Sussex Dict, 14. The country people say that on the adder's belly will be found the words—"If I could hear as well as see, No man in life could master me." 1878 Folk-Lore Record, i 15, I have heard of a labourer declaring that the " queer marks " on the belly of the deaf adder could be made out to be "If I could hear as well as see, No mortal man should master me." See also Deaf (6), March (38), and Snake (1)

Adderbury See Bloxham

Addled egg As good to be an addled egg as an idle bird 1581 Lyly, Euphues, 207 (Arber) 1732 Fuller, No 681

Adiant See Turn, verb (3)

- Advantage is a better soldier than rashness 1855 Bohn, 305
- Adversity flattereth no man 1732 Fuller, No 762
- Adversity is easier borne than prosperity forgot 1855 Bohn, No 763
- Adversity makes a man wise, though not rich 1633 Daxse, 6. In aduersite men finde etes 1678 Ray, 92 1732 Fuller, No 764 See also Prosperity.

Advice 1 Advice comes too late when a thing is done 1670 Ray, i 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, iv 119 (1785)

2 Advice to all, security for none 1855 Bohn 305

3 Give neither advice nor salt, until you are asked for it 1875 A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 88

4 In vain he craves advice that will not follow it 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Croure" 1670 Ray, j

5 We may give advice, but we cannot give conduct 1736 Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i 452 (Bigelow)

See also Woman (15) and (60)

Affairs, like salt fish, ought to be a good while a soaking 1855 Bohn, 305

Afraid of far enough 1670 Ray, 161 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 8

Afraid of grass e 1582 G Harvey, Marginalia 192 (1913). He that is afraid of ever so starting grass, may not walk in a meadow 1710 S Palmer,
Moral Essays on Proverbs, 195, He that's afraid of every grass must not sleep in a meadow.

Afraid of him that died last year. 1670: Ray, 161. 1732: Fuller, No. 810. Are you afraid of him that dy'd last year? 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 6. . . . Of that which is never likely to happen.

Afraid of his own shadow. 1567: G. Fenton, Bandello, ii. 285 (Tudor Tr.), He returned with more fear of his shadow than true reaporte of that he had in charge. 1580: Baret, Alware, V 92. And as our English proverbe is, he is afraid of his owne shadowe. 1672: Walker, Parem., 53.

Afraid of leaves. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Peur," Let him thats skared by leaves keep from the wood. 1651: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum, 2nd ed., He that is afraid of leaves goes not to the wood.

Afraid of one's friends when none is near. 1699: in Harl. Miscell., ii. 38 (1744). No girding satyrst can take up the old proverbe against you, and say, That you are afraid of your friends, when there is none near you. 1740: Richardson, Pamela, i. 222 (1883), You are afraid of your friends, when none are near you.

Afraid of the hatchet, lest the helve stick in his leg. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 7.

Afraid of the wagging of feathers. 1670: Ray, 55. He that's afraid of the wagging of feathers, must keep from among wild fowl.

Afraid of wounds. 1639: Clarke, 310, They that are afraid of wounds, must not come neere a battell. 1670: Ray, 56, He that's afraid of wounds, must not come nigh a battell. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Afraid," He that's afraid of wounds must not go to the wars.

Afraid to ask a price. See He will never.

After a delay comes a stay. 1732: Fuller, No. 6177.

After a lank comes a bank. 1678: Ray, 343.

After death, the doctor. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Mort," After death drugs, 1681: W. Roberson, Phraseol. Generalis,

432. 1732: Fuller, No. 772. 1826: Brady, Varieties of Lit., 39.

After dinner sit awhile; after supper walk a mile. 1588: Cogan, Haven of Health, 186 (1612), That old English saying: After dinner sit a while, and after supper walke a mile. 1639: Massinger, Unnat. Combat, III. i., As the proverb says, for health sake, after dinner, or rather after supper, willingly then I'll walk a mile to hear thee. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Dinner." 1846: Planché,Extra-vag., iii. 135 (1879), Some tell us after supper walk a mile, But we say, after supper dance a measure.

After drought cometh rain. 15th cent.: in Relig. Antiquae, i. 323 (1841), After droght commyth rayne. Before 1529: Skelton, Magnyfycence, i. 12, Howe after a drought there fallyth a showre of rayne.

After joy comes sorrow. 15th cent.: in Relig. Antiquae, i. 323 (1841), After pleur commethe payne. 1640: Mabbe, tr. Exemplary Novels, i. 59 (1900), For as it is in the proverbe, after joy comes sorrow.

After meat, mustard. 1605: Camden, Remains, 316 (1670). 1694: Motteux, Rabelais, bk. v. ch. xxvii. 1712: Motteux, Don Quixote, Pt. I. bk. ii. ch. viii., It is just like the proverbe, After meat comes mustard. 1822: Scott, Nigel, ch. iii.

After pear. See Pear (1).

After wit, Before wit comes over late. 1863: Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83–7 (1607). 1692: L'Estrange, Esop, 144 (3rd ed.), After-wit comes too late when the mischief is done.

2. After wit is dear bought. 1709: Dykes, Eng. Proverbs, 6, After wit is commonly dear bought.


After you is manners. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II., Oh! madam; after you is good manners. 1789: O'Keefe, Caesar Peter, III. ii., Stop, friend! after me is manners.

After your fling, Watch for the sting. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 7.

Afterthought. The afterthought is good.
Against

for nought, except to be to catch blind horses
S. Devon 1869 Hazlitt, 355

Against the grain 1670 Ray, 178
1673 Dryden, Amoyma, I, 1. But for this whoreson cutting of throats, it goes a little against the grain c 1730 Swift, Works, xiv 250 (Scott), Hither, though much against the grain, The Dean has carried Lady Jane 1870 Dickens, Drood, ch xx., Which again naturally, rubs against the grain of Mr Bazzard

Against the hair c 1387 Usk, Test of Love in Skeat's Chaucer, vii 38, But ayenst the heer it burneth 1560 Lyly, Euphues, 394 (Arber), I will goe against the haire in all things, so I may please thee in anye thing 1609 Shakespeare, Troilus, I, 11, He is melancholy without cause and merry against the hair 1696 Cornish Comedy, II, To have and to hold till us do part, etc., goes against the hair 1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Diet, s.v. "Against"

Against the shins 1678 Ray, 81. That goes against the shins, ye It's to my prejudice

Against the wool 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi, What, should your face thus agayne the wool be shorne For one fall? 1576. R Peterson, Galatea, 25 (1592). For, fromewarde [froward], signifieth as muche as Shorne against the wool 1693 Urquhart, Rabelas, bk 11 ch xxxvi, Let us turn the clean contrary way, and brush our former words against the wool

Age and want: For age and want save while you may, No morning sun lasts a whole day 1730 Franklin, Way to Wealth in Works, 1 450 (Bigelow) 1825 Hone, Ev Day Book, 1 1351 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 19 (Percy S) [with "summer's" for 'morning ']

Age and wedlock bring a man to his night-cap 1639 Clarke, 279 1732 Fuller, No 778

Age and wedlock tame man and beast 1605 Camden. Remains, 317 (1870) 1732 Fuller, No 779

Age and wedlock we all desire and repent of 1732 Fuller, No 780

Age breeds aches 1596 Harrington,

Metam of Ajax, 11 (1814). You have heard the old proverb, "age breeds aches"

Agree, for the law is costly 1605 Camden, Remains, 316 (1870) 1692 L'Estrange, Æsop, 383 (3rd ed.). Agree, agree, says the old saw, the law is costly 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial 1, Come, agree, agree, the law's costly

Agree like bells 1630 T. Adams, Works, 192. They tune like bells, and want but hanging 1683 Merton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697). They agree like bells, they want nothing but hanging 1732 Fuller, No 4948. They agree like bells, they want nothing but hanging

Agreed upon the time See quot 1855 Bohn, 562. When you are all agreed upon the time, quoth the vicar, I'll make it rain

Ague in the spring is physic for a king, An 1659 Howell, 20 1732 Fuller, No 6249 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 34 (Percy S) 1904 Co Folk-Lore Northumberland, 175 (F LS)

Agues come on horseback, but go away on foot 1678 Ray, 33

Air of a window See Draught (2)

Ale is Alesoon See Firle Hill

Alder See quot 1839 G C Lewis, Herefordsh. Words, 6. When the bud of the aul [alder] is as big as the trout's eye, Then that fish is in season in the River Wye 1847 Halliwell, Dict Prov Words, s.v. "Ail"

Alderman See Paced

Aldermaston house See quot 1869 Hazlitt, 457. When clubs are trumps, Aldermaston house shakes

Alldgate See Nick and froth, and Old, D (3)

Ale 1 Ale and history: I have not been able to identify the proverb to which the following quotations refer Before 1635 Corbet, Poems, in Chalmers v 580. Mine host was full of ale and history 1654 Gayton, Pleasant Notes Don Q., 195. That truth be in his ale, as history 1676 Etheredge, Man of Mode, I, You know the old proverb—ale and history

2 Ale in, wit out See Drink, subs (1)
Aler

3. You brew good ale. c. 1590: Shakespeare, _Two Gent.,_ III. i., And thereof comes the proverb: "Blessing of your heart, you brew good ale." 1826: Scott, _Woodstock,_ ch. xix., "I will not say blessing on their hearts," said he; "though I must own they drank good ale."

*See also Fair, adv. (3); Good ale; and Mend (6).*

Aler. See Hailer.

Alike every day makes a clout on Sunday. 1732: Fuller, No. 785. 1846: Denham, _Proverbs,_ 5 (Percy S.).

All are good maids, but whence come the bad wives? 1732: Fuller, No. 499.

All are not abed that have ill rest. 1550: Palsgrave, 422, They be nat all in bedde yet that shall yveell rest to nyght. 1546: Heywood, _Proverbs,_ Pt. II. ch. vii. 1670: Ray, 60, All that are in bed must not have quiet rest.

All are not merry. *See Merry that dance.*

All are not saints that go to church. 1687: _Poor Robin Alman.,_ July.

All are not turners that are dish-throwers. 1678: Ray, 212. 1732: Fuller, No. 503.

All are presumed good till they are found in a fault. 1640: Herbert, _Jac. Prudentium._

All asidin as hogs fighten. 1678: Ray, 65.

All blood is alike ancient. 1732: Fuller, No. 505.

All came from and will go to others. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Atruy." 1640: Herbert, _Jac. Prudentium._

All come to. *You see what we must all come to if we live.* 1678: Ray, 65.

All complain. 1640: Herbert, _Jac. Prudentium._

All covet all lose. 1297: Robert of Gloucester, 306 (_1724_) (O.). Wo so coueteyt al, al lesep ywys. 1523-5: Berners, _Froissart,_ ch. cclix., It is an olde sayenge, He that all coveteth al lesteth. 1591: Lodge, _Catharos,_ 32 (Hunt. Cl.). The common proverbe, Hee that coueteth all, often-times loseth much. 1664: J. Wilson, _The Cheats,_ IV. 1., This is it, when men must manage their business by them-

selves. All covet and all lose. 1745: _Agreeable Companion,_ 19, All covet, all lose [title of story].

- All cry and no wool. *See Much cry.*
- All doors open to courtesy. 1732: Fuller, No. 512.
- All draw water. *See Every man wishes water.*

All fear is bondage. 1578: Florio, _First Fruites,_ fo. 32, All fearfulness is folly. 1629: _Book of Meriy Riddles,_ Prov. 35.

- All feet tread not in one shoe. 1640: Herbert, _Jac. Prudentium._ 1694: D'Urfey, _Quixote,_ Pt. I. Act V. sc. ii., Let her bequeath it to the devil, or where she pleases: all shoes fit not all feet.

All fellows at football. 1600: _Sir John Oldcastle,_ l. 1487 (Malone S.), Al friends at footbal, fellows all in field. 1641: in _Harl. Miscell.,_ iii. 228 (1744). If we had stayed but a little while longer, we should have been _All fellows at Football._ 1732: Fuller, No. 498.

- All fish are not caught with flies. 1580: Lyly, _Euphues,_ 350 (Arber), All fyse are not caught with flies. 1598: Meres, _Palladis,_ leaf 43. 1732: Fuller, No. 514.
- All fool, or all philosopher. 1732: Fuller, No. 517.

All fruit fails. *See Haws (2).*

All go we still, etc. c. 1430: Lydgate, _Minor Poems,_ 150 (Percy S.), An old proverb groundid on sapience, Alle goo we stille, the cok hath love shoon [this line is the refrain—it ends each stanza].

- All griefs with bread are less. 1620: Shelton, _Quixote,_ Pt. II. ch. lv., Sancho said to him . . . "Sorrows great are lessened with meat." 1640: Herbert, _Jac. Prudentum._

- All-hallon-tide. *Set trees at Allhallon-
tide and command them to grow, Set them after Candlemas and entreat them to grow 1678 Ray, 52 c 1685 Aubrey, Nat Hist Wits, 105 (1847) 1822 Scott, in Lochart's Life, v 184, I hold by the old proverb—plant a tree before Candlemas, and command it to grow—plant it after Candlemas, and you must entreat it

All happiness is in the mind 1855 Bohn, 307
All have and naught forego 1562 Heywood, Epigr, No 278 1639 Clarke 40
All her dishes See Dish (r)
All holiday at Peckham 1825 Hone, Ev Day Book 1 1124 1848 Forster, Oliver Goldsmith, bk 1 ch vi, 'Oh, that is all a holiday at Peckham,' said an old friend in a common proverbial phrase

All in a copse 1863 Wise, New Forest, ch xv, Forest proverbs such as "All in a copse," that is, indistinct

All in the day's work. 1738 Swift, Polite Comers, Dial I, Will you be so kind to tie this string for me, with your fair hands? it will go all in your day's work. 1855 Kingsley, West Hol, ch iv, 'It's all in the day's work, as the huntsman said when the lion ate him.' 1908 Lucas, Over Bemerton's ch xv
All is fair See Love, sub (r)
All is fish that comes to net c 1520 in Ballads from MSS, i 95 (BS), Alle y's fyssheth that commeth to net 1580 Tusser, Husbandre, 87 (EDS), Alle fish they get that commeth to net 1664 Witts Recr, Epigr 644, But Death is sure to kill all he can get, And all is fish with him that comes to net 1760 Cumberland, Brothers, 1, Black, brown, fair, or tawny, 'tis all fish that comes in your net 1852 Dickens, Bleak House, ch v
All is gone, etc When all is gone and nothing left, What avails the dagger, with dudgeon haft? 1583 Melbancke, Philotinus, sig D3 When all is gone and nothinge lefte, farewell dagger with dudgeon haft 1659 Howell, Letters, ii 666 (Jacobs) [with "waits" instead of "avails"] 1670 Ray, 6 1732 Fuller No 6393

All is lost that is put in a riven dish 1639 Clarke, 169 1681 W Robertson, Phrases Generalis, 1280 1732 Fuller, No 546, All's lost that is pour'd into a crack'd dish 1880 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 149 [as in Fuller]
All is not at hand that helps 1732 Fuller, No 526
All is not gold that glitters [Non teneas aurum totum quod splendet ut aurum, Nec pulchrum pomum quod libet esse bonum—Alanus de Insulis (ob 1294), Parahola, c ii] c 1220 Haller Meidenhad, 9 (EETS), Nis hit nowe neh gold al pat ter schinep c 1384 Chaucer, H Fame, bk i 1 272, Hit is not al gold, that gherle c 1440 Lydgate, Fall of Princes, bk ii n 1 2944 (EETS), Al is not gold that shyneth bright 1583 Greene, Mamillia, in Works, u 26 (Grosart), For al is not gold that glysters 1595 Shakespeare, Merchant of Venice, Act II sc vii, All that glisters is not gold 1703 Ward, Calves-Head Club, 5 (1705), We alas sees all is not gold that glisters 1773, Garrick, Prolog to Stoops to Conquer, Thus I begin "All is not gold that glitters" 1859 Sala, Twice Round the Clock, 4 p.m ad fin
All is not lost that is in perd 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Perdu," All is not lost that in some danger is 1700 D Crufturd, Courtship d-la Mode, IV 11, All is not lost that is in hazard, as the saying is 1880 Platt, Money, 32, To realise that "all is not lost when much is lost"
All is not won that is put in the purse 1639 Clarke, 45 'Tis not all saved that's put in th' purse 1732 Fuller, No 531 1758-67 Sterne, Trist Shandy, bk in ch xxx, All is not gain that is got into the purse 1875 A B Cheales, Proverbs Folk-Lore, 100
All is well See Man (78)
All is well save that the worst piece is in the midst Glos 1639 in Berkeley MSS, ii 30 (1885)
All is well that ends well c 1426 Audelay, Poems, 54 (Percy S), For alys good that hath good ende 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch x c 1598 Shakespeare, All's Well that Ends Well [title] 1757 Murphy, Upholsterer, II 1 1850 Smedley, Frank Fairlegh, ch xlii
All

1901: S. Butler, in *Life*, by H. F. Jones, i. 249 (1919).

All is well with him who is beloved of his neighbours. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Bien," He lives well at home, that is beloved abroad. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentium*.

All meat is not the same in every man's mouth. 1584: Lodge, *Alarum against Usurers*, 46 (Shakesp. Soc.), Who finding all meats ate in the mouth. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 597, All meat pleaseth not all mouths. 1732: Fuller, No. 535.

All meats to be eaten, all maids to be wed. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. ii. 1678: Ray, 64.

All men can't be first. 1732: Fuller, No. 536.

All men can't be masters. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xii., Every man may not syt in the chayre. 1604: Shakespeare, *Othello*, I. i., We cannot all be masters. 1732: Fuller, No. 537.

All men may say that thou art an ass, then bray, ff. 1633: Draxe, ii. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs*: *Span.-Eng.* 1, When all tell thee thou art an ass, 'tis time for thee to bray.

All men row galley way. 1813: Ray, 16, i.e. Every one draweth towards himself.

All men think all men mortal but themselves. 1924: *Sphere*, 29 March, p. 330, col. 2, That fact is probably explained by the adage, "All men," etc. All men's friend. See *Friend* (8).


All of a hommock. 1854: Baker, *Northants Gloss.*, s.v. "Hommock," "All of a hommock" . . . is always restricted to a female who, from an excess of ill-made clothing, that sits in heaps or ridges, looks disproportionally stout.

All of a huh. 1886: Elworthy, *West Som. Word-Book*, 357 (E.D.S.), When anything is lopsided, it is said to be "all of a huh."


All on one side. See Bridgnorth; Chesterfield; Marton; Parkgate; Smoothy's wedding; and Takeley Street.

All one a hundred years hence. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Tiens," All will be one at the latter day, say we. 1675: in *Bagford Ballads*, ii. 722 (B.S.), For 'tis all one a hundred years hence. 1798: Wolcot, *Works*, v. 260 (1801). 1895: Pinero, *Benefit of the Doubt*, II.

All one, but their meat goes two ways. 1678: Ray, 78.


All rivers do what they can for the sea. 1633: Draxe, 180, All rivers run into the sea. 1732: Fuller, No. 541.

All roads lead to Rome. See *Rome* (1).

All Saints Summer. 1924: *Observer*, 28 Sept., p. 7, col. 2, "All Saints Summer" occasionally gives us a fine spell before or after All Saints' Day on 1 November.

All shall be well. See *Jack* has his *Jill*.

All shearers are honest in the harvest field. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 50 (Percy S.).

All sorts to make a world. 1844:
Jerrold, Story of a Feather, ch xxviii, "Well, it takes all sorts to make a world", and with this worn adage, my new possessor prepared himself to depart 1901 F E Taylor, Lances Sayings, 8, It ta'es o soarts o' folk for t' ma'e a world

All that shakes falls out 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum
All that shines See All is not gold All the honesty is in the parting 1678 Ray, r87
All the levers you can lay will not do it Somerset 1678 Ray, 353 1732 Fuller, No 554 All the levers you can bring will not have it up All the matter's not in my lord judge's hand 1678 Ray, 76
All the water in the sea cannot wash out this stain 1666 Torrano, Piazza Univ, 143, All the water in the sea cannot wash him 1732 Fuller No 557 All the world and Bingham 1863 N & Q, 3rd ser in 233
All the world and Little Billing 1854 Baker, Northants Gloss s v "L B," a common mode of expressing that there was a large assemblage of people All the world and part of Gateshead 1846-59 Denham Tracts, 1 80 (F L S) 1862 Heslop, Northumb Words, 2 (E D S), "All the world an' part o' Gyetside" [Gateshead], a common proverb, used jocularly All the world goeth by fair speech Before 1500 Hill, Commonplace-Book, 130 (E L T S)
All things are not to be granted at all times 1732 Fuller, No 562 All things are soon prepared in a well ordered house 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Apprestee" 1670 Ray, 14 1732 Fuller No 525 All is soon ready in an orderly house All things fit not all men 1539 Taverner, Proverbs, fo 36, All men can not do all thynges 1639 Clarke 82
All things have a beginning c 1380 Chaucer, Troilus, ii 671, For everything, a ginning hath it made 1542 Boorde, Dyetary, 240 (E E T S), Yet every thing must have a beginnynge 1631 Shirley, Love Tricks, Prol, Nothing so true As all things have beginning
All things have an end, with later addition, and a pudding has two c 1374 Chaucer, Troylus, ii 615, As every thing hath ende c 1490 Partonope, I xxxiv (E E T S), Ye wote wele of all thing moste be an ende 1530 Palsgrave, 527, Every thinge at the laste draweth to his ende 1593 Nashe, Strange Newes, in Works, II 212 (Grosart), Every thing hath an end and a pudding hath two 1613 B & F, Burung Pestle, I 11, All things have end, And that we call a pudding hath his two 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial 1, Well, all things have an end, and a pudding has two 1826 Scott Woodstock, ch x with the pudding] 1852 Dickens, Bleak House, ch li, "Well, well!" he cried, shaking it off, "everything has an end We shall see!"

All things may be suffered saving wealth c 1390 Gover, Conf Amanus, Prol, 1 787, Bot in proverbbe natheles Men sem, ful selden is that welthe Can ofthe his ognine astat in belthe 1611 Cotgrave s v "Aise," Wesay, all things may be suffered saving wealth All things require skill but an appetite 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum All thumbs, or, Tom All thumbs 1598 Serviungmans Comfort, in Inedited Tracts, 107 (Hazlitt, 1868) The clowne, the sounen, and Tom althummes 1886 Elworthy, West SoM Word-Book, 395 (E D S), Leave it alone, all thumbs! why thee art as clumsy as a cow handling a musket Cf Finger (2)
All tongue 1728 Carr, Craven Dialect, II 213, "To be all tongue," to be a great talker
All truths See Truth (23)
All weapons See Weapon (1)
All women are good, viz either good for something, or good for nothing 1678 Ray, 59 1738 Switt, Polite Convers, Dial 1, Which of the goods d ye mean? good for something, or good for nothing? 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch xvi
All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy 1659 Howell, 12 1732 Fuller,
And quenchth synne and makyth hytles.

3. It is an alms-deed to punish him. 1628: Earle, Microcosm., 48 (Arber), No man verifies the prouerbe more, that it is an alms-deed to punish him.


Altar. He that serves at the altar, ought to live by the altar. 1732: Fuller, No. 2294.

Altringham. 1. The mayor of Altringham and the mayor of Over, the one is a thatcher, the other a dauber. 1678: Ray, 301. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Cheshire." 1817: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 115.

2. The mayor of Altringham lies in bed while his breeches are mending. 1678: Ray, 301. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Cheshire." 1818: Scott, Heart of Midl., ch. xiv., "But, as we say in Cheshire," she added, "I was like the Mayor of Altringham, who lies a bed while his breeches are mending, for the girl did not bring up the right bundle to my room, till she had brought up all the others by mistake." 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 116.

Always behind. See Miller (7); and Mobberley (1).

Always complains is never pitied, He that. 1732: Fuller, No. 2038.

Always fears danger always feels it, He that. 1732: Fuller, No. 2039.

Always in his saddle, never on his way. 1579: Lyly, Euphues, Pt. II. 260 (Bond), Lyke Saint George, who is euer on horse backe yet neuer rideth. 1630: T. Adams, Works, 358, He is not like S. Georges statue, euer on horse-backe, and neuer riding. 1788: Franklin, Autobiog., in Works, i. 286 (Bigelow), He is like St. George on the signs, always on horseback and never rides on. 1904: N. & Q., 10th ser., ii. 512, I have on several occasions heard the proverb "Always in his saddle, but never on his way," used with reference to equestrian statues generally, especially where the horse's legs express movement.

Always in the lane (or field) when you should be in the field (or lane). c. 1791:
Pegge, Derboctoms, 138 (EDS), To be in the lane, when you should be in the field 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 589, He's al'ays 1' the lane when he ought to be 1' the leasow [meadow] 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 157, Always in the field when you should be in the lane.

Always taking out of the meal-tub, and never putting in, soon comes to the bottom 1736 Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, 1 448 (Bigelow) 1880 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, XI, Always taking out and never putting back soon empties the biggest sack.

Amberley 1 See quot 1870 Lower, Hist of Sussex, 1 8, The local saying, which makes the winter reply to "Where do you belong?"—"Amberley, God help us!", and the summer—"Amberley, where would you live?" [This kind of saying is current about various other places.]

2 See quot 1884 "Sussex Proverbs," in N & Q, 6th ser., IX 341, Amberley—God knows All among the rooks and crows, Where the good potatoes grows.

See also Chichester (1)

Amen! Parson Penn, More rogues than honest men 1868 Elworthy, West Som Word-Book, 24 (EDS), A very common saying is "Amen," etc.

Amend 1 See quot 1552 B Gilpin, Sermon before Edw VI, 42 (1630), It is a proverb a lately sprung up, No man amends himself but every man seeketh to amend other, and all that while nothing is amended.

2 See quot 1611 Davies (of Hereford), Sc of Folly, 47, in Works, ii (Grosart), Some do amend when they cannot appear.

Amendment is repentance 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vi, Let your amendment amende the matter 1732 Fuller, No 790.

Among friends all things are common 1877 Rivers, Dictes and Sayings, 35 (1877), He loued aswely to do good to his frendes as to hym self, saying the goodes of frendes ought to be comyn 1568 W Fulwood, Enuemy of Idlenesse, 97 (1593), The benefits of fortune are common amongst friendes 1694 Terence made English, 194, The old proverb says, Among friends all things are common.

Amy Florence See quot 1854 Baker, Northants Glossary, s v, Any female loosely, untidily and tawdrily dressed "She is quite an Amy Florence."

Ancholme See Witham

Anfield See Tanfield

* Anger 1 Anger and haste hinder good counsel 1855 Bohn, 313

2 Anger dieth quickly with a good man 1870 Ray, I 1732 Fuller, No 796

3 Anger edgeth valour 1639 Clarke, 178

4 Anger is a short madness [Ira furor brevis est—Horace, Epist, I u 62] Before 1225 Ancren R, I 120, Wrath the is a wodsiche 1777 Rivers, Dictes and Sayings, 23 (1877), He that can not refrayne his ire hath no power oun his witte c 1568 Wager, Longer thou livest, sig C2, Wrath and madnesse they say he all one c 1680 L'Estrange, Seneca's Morals "Of Anger," ch iv, He was much in the right whomsoever it was that first call'd Anger, a short madness 1709 R Kingston, Apoph Curiosa, 36, Anger is a short fit of madness 1855 Kingsley, West Hol, ch xvii, Fear (which, like anger, is a short madness)

5 Anger is a sworn enemy 1732 Fuller, No 793

6 Anger punishes itself 1732 Fuller, No 799

Anger a wasp See Wasp (4)

* Angle, To 1 To angle all day, and catch a gudgeon at night 1628 Breton, in Invented Tracts, 190 (Hazlitt, 1868)

2 To angle with a silver (or golden) hook 1580 Churchyard, Charge 28 (Collier), Although you fishe with golden hooks 1605 Breton, Honor of Valour, in Works, i (Grosart), To fish for honour with a siluer hooke 1662 Flecknoe, Miscellanies, 126, To exchange ones freedome for a little gain I count it fishing with a golden hooke 1725 Bailey, tr Erasmus' Colloq, 27, For the way of fishing there is according to the
proverb, with a golden hook. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. “Angle,” To angle with a golden hook.

Angler. See quot. 1658: Franck, North. Memoirs, 94 (1821), He’s an early angler that angles by moonshine.

Anglesea is the mother of Wales. 1387: Trevisa, tr. Higden, ii. 39 (Rolls Ser.), A proeverbe and an olde sawe ... Mon moder of Wales. c. 1440: Anon., tr. Higden, ii. 39 (Rolls Ser.), Hit is wonte to seide proeverbially ... Anglesey is the moder of Wales. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, iii. 508 (1840). 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. “Anglesey.”


2. Angry men seldom want woe. 1732: Fuller, No. 801.

3. He that cannot be angry. See quot. 1604: Dekker, Honest Whore, Pt. i. i. ii., I have heard it often said that he who cannot be angry is no man. c. 1645: MS. Proverbs in N. & Q., vol. 154, p. 27, Hic that cannot be angry is a foorle, but bee that will not be angry is more foorle.

4. He that is angry is not at ease. 1633: Draxe, 9. 1670: Ray, i.

5. He that is angry without a cause, must-be pleased without amends. c. 1520: Stanbridge, Vulgaria, sig. C2, If ye be angry with me without a cause thou shalt be made at one wout amends. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. iv. 1642: Fuller, Holy State: “Anger,” Be not angry with any without a cause. If thou beest, thou must not only, as the proverb saith, be appeased without amends ... 1732: Fuller, No. 2277.

6. If she be angry, besbreh her angry heart. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. i. ch. xi.

See also Buckle of belt; Cholerick; Hasty man; and Wasp (1).

Another man’s child. See quot. 1670: Ray, 52. Put another man’s child in your bosom, and he’ll creep out at your elbow. Chesh. That is, cherish or love him he’ll never be naturally affected toward you. 1732: Fuller, No. 3982 [with “sleeves” for “elbow”]. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 104.

Another man’s dog. He that keeps another man’s dog, shall have nothing left him but the line. 1639: Clarke, 20. 1670: Ray, 81. 1710: S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 275 [with “string” instead of “line”].

Another threshed what I reaped. 1732: Fuller, No. 802.

Another’s bread costs dear. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

Another’s burden, None knows the weight of. 1670: Ray, i. 1732: Fuller, No. 3655.

Ant. I. If ants their walls do frequent build, Rain will from the clouds be spilled. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 146.

2. The ant had wings to do her hurt. 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. ii. ch. xxxiii. 1694: D’Urfey, Quixote, Pt. i. Act IV. sc. i.

Anthony pig. See quot. c. 1460: Good Wyfe wold a pylgremage, l. 16, And rene [run] thou not fro hous to hous lyke a nantyny grice [like a St. Anthony’s pig]. 1593: Passionate Morrice, 75 (N. Sh. S.), She followed him at heeleis like a tantinie pigge. 1606: Chapman, Gent. Usher, iv., I have followed you up and down like a Tantalus pig. 1700: Congreve, Way of the World, IV. xi., Lead on, little Tony—I’ll follow thee, my Anthony, my Tantony, sirrah, thou shalt be my Tantony, and I’ll be thy pig. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. 1., . . . like a Tantylus pig. 1762: Bickerstaffe, Love in a Village, I. v., To see you dangled after me everywhere, like a tantoy pig. 1836: Wilbraham, Cheshire Gloss., 2nd ed., 112, To follow any one like a Tantons pig. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 133, To follow one like t’Anthony’s pig.

Anticipates. That which one most anticipates, soonest comes to pass. [Quid quisque vitet nunquam homini satis Cautum est in horas.—Horace, Carm., ii. xii.] 1678: Ray, 71, That which one most foresees, soonest comes to pass.

Anvil. 1. An iron anvil should have a hammer of feathers. 1623: Wodroephe, Spared Houtres, 508, For a hard anveld
an hammer of feathers 1666 Tornano, Piazza Univ., 118. To a hard anvil, a feather hammer 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 76

2 The anvil fears no blows 1666 Tornano, Piazza Univ., 118. 1681 W Robertson, Phrasœ Generall, 102. The great anvil doth not fear noise or streaks 1732 Fuller, No 4395 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch xi, The anvil is not afraid of the hammer

3 When you are an anvil, hold you still, when you are a hammer strike your fill 1591 Flone, Second Fruits, 101 1696 D'Urfey, Quixote, Pt III Act III Sc. u 1732 Fuller, No 6075

Any, good Lord, before none 1886 R Holland, Cheshire Gloss, 444 (E D S) [supposed exclamation of despairing spinster] 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 8

Any good He that any good would win, at his mouth must first begin 1639 Clarke, 136

Any port in a storm c 1780 J Cobb, First Floor, II ii, in Inchbald's Farces, vi 259 (1659). Here is a door open, faith—any port in a storm, they say 1894 R L S, St Ives, ch xxv, "Any port in a storm" was the principle on which I was prepared to act

Any road leads to the end of the world 1852 FitzGerald, Polomus, 86 (1903)

Any stick to beat a dog with See Stick, subs (1)

Any tooth, good barber 1659 Howell, 22 1678 Ray, 91

Anything for a quiet life 1624 T Heywood, Captains, III iii, Anythingfor a quiet life 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dall I 1837 Dickens, Pickwick, ch xiii, But anything for a quiet life, as the man said when he took the situation at the lighthouse 1841 Planche, Extravag, u 135 (1879)

Ape, and Apes 1 An ape is an ape (or will be an ape), though clad in purple 1539 Taverner, Proverbs, fo 21, An ape is an ape, although she wear badges of gold 1563 Googe Eglogs, etc., 40 (Arber), An ape will ever be an ape, though purple garments hide 1683

White Kennett, tr Erasmus' Praise of Folly, 23 (6th ed.), It is a trite proverb, that An ape will be an ape, though clad in purple 1732 Fuller, No 6391, An ape's an ape a varlet's a varlet, Tho' they be clad in silk or scarlet

2 An ape is ne'er so like an ape, As when he wears a doctor's cap 1732 Fuller, No 6382 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch xi "Popish Cape" for "doctor's cap" Spurgeon gives the saying a polemical twist

3 An ape may chance to sit amongst the doctors 1732 Fuller, No 580

4 An old ape has an old eye 1605 Camden, Remains, 377 (1870) 1653 R Brome, Damoyselle, III ii 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I

5 Ape and whip See quotes 1588 Mar-Prelate's Epitome, 7 (1843), Reader cannot chuse but have as great delight therem as a Jack an Apes hath in a whip 1639 in Berkeley MSS, ii 33 (1853). As proud as an ape of a whip,viz not proud at all 1659 Howell, 12, I love it as an ape loves a whip 1703 Ward, Writings, ii 358, Which every wise man dreads, as much as an ape does a whip

6 Apes are never more beasts than when they wear men's clothes 1732 Fuller, No 807

7 As fine as an ape in purple 1596 Harrington, Ulysses upon Ajax, 18 (1814), Howsoever clothed like an ape in purple 1639 Clarke, 7

8 As free as an ape is of his tail 1670 Ray, 205

9 It is like nuts to an ape 1732 Fuller, No 2970

10 The ape kills her young with kindness 1580 Lyly, Enquiries, 215 (Arber), I should resemble the ape, and kill it by culling it 1586 Whitney, Emblems, 188, With kindness, Io, the ape doth kill her whelp 1607 Topsell, Four-footed Beasts, 5, She [the ape] killeth that which she loueth, by pressing it to hard 1732 Fuller, No 4396, The ape hings her darling, till she kills it

11 The higher the ape goes, the more he shows his tail c 1594 Bacon, Promus, No 924, He doth like the ape that the higher he climbs the more he
Apothecary


12. To lead apes in hell. 1575: Gascoigne, *Posies*, in *Works*, i. 430 (Cunliffe), I am afrayde my marriage will bee marred, and I may goe lead apes in hell. 1599: Shakespeare, *Much Ado*, II. i. 1658: Cowley, *Cutter of Coleman St.*, II. v. I do not intend to die the whining way, like a girl that's afraid to lead apes in hell. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I. Miss, you may say what you please; but faith you'll never lead apes in hell. 1842: Barham, *Ing. Leg.*, 2nd ser., *'Bloudie Jackie,'* I'm sadly afraid That she died an old maid. . . . So they say she is now leading apes.

13. To say an ape's Paternoster. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Barboter." To chatter, or didder for cold; to say an apes Paternoster. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 4 (Percy S.), You're saying the ape's Paternoster [said to one whose teeth are chattering with cold].

*See also* Bit (1); and Wise (3).

Apothecary. 1. *As fit as a thumb with a stone in an apothecary's eye.* 1732: Fuller, No. 679.

2. *Apothecaries would not give pills in sugar unless they were bitter.* 1670: Ray, 2.

*See also* Broken (1); Proud; and Talk (9).


Apple and Apples. 1. *A rotten apple*. See *Quots.* 1340: *Ayenbite*, 205 (E.E.T.S.), A roted appel amang pe holen makep rotie pe yzounde yet he is longe ther amang. c. 1386: Chaucer, *Cook's Tale*, l. 42. A proverbe that seith this same word "Wel bet is roten appel out of hord Than that it rotie al the remaunent."


3. *An apple a day keeps the doctor away.* 1913: E. M. Wright, *Rustic Speech*, etc., 238, A hitt apple avore gwain to bed. An' you'll make the doctor beg his bread (Devon); or as the more popular version runs: An apple a day keeps the doctor away. 1921: F. E. Baily, in *Royal Mag.*, Aug., p. 310.

4. *An apple may happen to be better given than eaten.* c. 1300: *Prov. of Hending*, st. 13 (ed. Berlin, 1878), Betere is appel y-yeue then y-ete. 1732: Fuller, No. 581.

5. *Apple and oyster (or lobster).* See *Quots.* 1552: More, *Works*, 724 (1557), No more lyke then an apple to an oyster. 1565: Calshill, *Answer to Martial*, 99 (P.S.), Which have learned to make quodlibet ex quodlibet; an apple of an oyster. 1594: Shakespeare, *Tam. of Shrew*, IV. ii. 1667: L'Estrange, *Quevedo's Visions*, 34 (1904), You are no more like . . . than an apple's like an oyster. 1732: Fuller, No. 707, As like as an apple is to a lobster.

To have apples and nuts, after any slurs

7. Apples, pears, and nuts spoil the voice.

1659 Howell, Proverbs, Ital.-Eng., 15 1678 Ray, 41

8. Eat an apple on going to bed, and you'll keep the doctor from earning his bread.

Pembroke, and Cornwall 1866 N & Q, 3rd ser., ix 153

9. How we apples swim.

Clarke, 32 1639 Ray, 253 1852 FitzGerald, Polonius, 51 (1903)

10. If apples bloom in March, etc.

1883 N & Q, 6th ser., vi 447, In East Sussex the rustics have the following rhyme anent the blooming of apples in March. In vain for um you'll sarch, If apples bloom in April, Why, then they'll be plentiful, If apples bloom in May, you may eat um night and day.

11. If good apples you would have, etc.

1883 N & Q, vii 496, In South Devon the people say that if good apples you would have, the leaves must be in the grave, i.e., the trees should be planted after the fall of the leaf.

12. To give an apple where there's an orchard.

1821 Clare, Rural Life, 114. Old Fortune, like sly Farmer Dapple, Where there's an orchard, plucks an apple.

1854 Baker, Northants Glossary s.v. "Orchard," Giving an apple where there's an orchard.

1883 Burme, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 590, Those who have an orchard shall have an apple sent them, and those who have a horse shall have another lent them.

13. Won with an apple and lost with a nut, or vice versa.

1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch. x. She is lost with an apple, and won with a nut.

1573 G. Harvey, Letter-Book, 121 (Camden S.), With a napple and loste with a nutt.

1630 Tinker of Turvey, 73 (Halliwell), Marian, thinking she had lost her lover with a nut, sent him a present of apples to win him agane.

1732 Fuller, No 220r. He that is won with a nut, may be lost with an apple.

See also Egg (8), Michaelmas (1), St. Swithin (2), Small choice, and Two apples.

Apple-cart, To upset one's.

1854 E A. Andrews, Latin-Eng. Lex., s.v. "Plautus," I have upset my apple-cart! I am done for!

1880 Courtney, W. Cornwall, Words, 18 (E D S.), In Cornwall "Down with your dress," or, "Over goes your apple-cart!"

1928 Heslop, Northumb. Words, 16 (E D S.), "That's upset his apple-cart for him, sa think,"—that has completely stopped his project.

April 1. A cold April the barn will fill.

1659 Howell, Proverbs, Span.-Eng., 21, A cold April, much bread, and little wine.

1732 Fuller, No 6356. 1882 Mrs. Chamberlain, W. W. Words, 37 (E D S.).

2. A dry April Not the farmer's will.

1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 22

3. A flood in April, A flood in May.

1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 162.


1899 Dickinson, Cumberland Gloss., 112.

5. A sharp April kills the pig.

1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 23

6. After a wet April a dry June.

Ibid., 24

7. An April cluing is good for nothing.

Somerset 1678 Ray, 345. 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 43 (Percy S.)

8. An April flood carries away the frog and her brood.


9. April and May, the keys of the year.

1659 Howell, Proverbs, Span.-Eng., 21. 1732 Fuller, No 809. April and May are the key of all the year.

1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 23.
10. April cold and wet fills barn and barrel. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 23.


13. April showers bring May flowers. c. 1560: in Wright, Songs, etc., Philip and Mary, 213 (Roxb. Cl.), When April syver showers so sweet Can make May flowers to sprynge. 1580: Tusser, Husbandrie, 103 (E.D.S.), Sweete April showers, Doo spring Maie flowers. 1611: Barry, Ram-Alley, V., I'll show you how April showers bring May flowers. 1732: Fuller, No. 6126. 1921: sphere, 14 May, p. 152, If there was anybody left to believe in the saying that "April showers bring forth May flowers" . . . 14. April snow breeds grass. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 23.

15. April wears a white hat. Ibid., 23.

16. April weather, Rain and sunshine, both together. Ibid., 23.

17. Betwixt April and May if there be rain, 'Tis worth more than oxen and wain. Ibid., 23.

18. He is like an April shower. 1639: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 26 (1855), [Of an unconstant man] He's like an April shoure, that wets the stone nine times (Glos.).

19. If the first three days, etc. 1861: N. & Q., 2nd ser., xii. 303, "If the first three days in April be foggy, there will be a flood in June," said a Huntingdonshire woman the other day. 1912: R. L. Gales, Studies in Arcady, 2nd ser., 105, Fogs in April, floods in June.


22. Snow in April is manure; snow in March devours. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 23.

23. The first day of April, you may send a fool whither you will. 1732: Fuller, No. 6135. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 41 (Percy S.), On the first of April hunt the gowke another mile.


25. Till April's dead Change not a thread. Ibid., 23.


See also Cherry (3); Cuckoo; Dove's Flood; Frosty winter; January (14); March (6), (13), (21), (24), (27), (34), (39), and (47); and Potatoes (2).

Apron-strings. See quot. 1678: Ray, 225, To hold by the apron-strings, i.e. in right of his wife.

Apt to promise is apt to forget, A man. 1732: Fuller, No. 271.

Architect is not known by his arrows, but his aim, A good. Ibid., No. 135.

Architect of one's own fortune. See Every man is the architect.

Arden, He is the black bear of. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, iii. 270 (1840). 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Warwickshire," . . . Guy Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, was so called. . . . This saying was used to express that the person . . . so denominated, was really an object of terror.

Argus at home, but a mole abroad. 1732: Fuller, No. 582. 1813: Ray, 78.


Arms is light at table 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

Army See quot 1911 Hackwood, Good Cheer, 313. 'An army marches on its stomach," says the old proverb

Aroint thee, witch c 1605 Shakespeare, Lear, III iv 1606 Shakespeare, Macbeth, I ii 1670 Ray, Coll of Eng Words, s v "Rynt ye." By your leave, stand handsomely, as Rynt you witch, quoth Bessie Locket to her mother — Proverb — Cheshire 1816 Scott, Antiquary, ch vi, The Antiquary interposed "Aroint thee witch! wouldst thou poison my guests with thy infernal decoctions?" 1834 W Toone, Glossary, s v 'Aroint" 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 106 [In both Toone and Bridge with the "Bessie Locket" addition]

Arrow 1 He makes arrows of all sorts of wood 1732 Fuller, No 1983

2 The arrow often hits the shooter Before 1500 Hill, Commonplace-Book, 129 (EETS), Often times the arrow hit the shooter 1709 R Kingston, Apoph Curiosa, 15, Like arrows shot against Heaven, fall upon their own heads

3 This arrow cometh never out of thine own bow Before 1500 Hill, Commonplace-Book, 129 (EETS)

Art 1 Art hath no enemy but ignorance 1644 Taylor (Water-Poet), "To John Booker" 5, in Works, 2nd coll (Spens S, 1873)

2 Art improves nature 1587 Underdowne, Heliodorus, bk ii p 94 (FT), Arte can breake nature 1732 Fuller, No 814, Art helps nature, and experience art 1627 Hone, Ev Day Book, ii 310 "Art improves nature," is an old proverb which our forefathers adopted without reflection

3 Art is long, life short (6 nos 

As ever water wet 1591 Hannington, Ort Furoso, bk xvi st 15, Vnechast
and false, as ever water wet. See also Good as ever.

As far. 1. I have seen as far come as nigh. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I, ch. xi. c. 1594: Bacon, Promus, No. 638.

2. I've been as far south, as ye've been north. A Wooler saying. 1846–59: Denham Tracts, i 26 (F.L.S.).

As good a man. See Honest (9) and (10).

As good as. See Good.

As good beat your heels against the ground. 1630: Clarke, 154.

As good do it at first, as at last. 1593: G. Harvey, Pieces Superer., in Works, i. 247 (Grosart). 1632: Jonson, Magnatic Lady, V. vi., Well, you must have it; as good at first as last.

As good do nothing as to no purpose. 1732: Fuller, No. 684.

As good lost as found. 1605: Camden, Remains, 316 (1870).

As good never a whit. See Never a whit.

As good undone. See Undone (1).

As good water. See Mill (1).

As long as I am riche reputed, With solemn vyce I am saluted; But wealth the away once woorne, Not one wyll say good morne. 16th cent.: in Reliq. Antiquae, i. 207 (1841).

As much need on't, as he hath of the pip, or of a cough. 1670: Ray, 127.

As please the painter. c. 1594: Bacon, Promus, Nos. 159 and 1396. 1690: New Dict. Canting Crew, sig. Ia, What pleases the painter, when any representation in the productions of his or any art is unaccountable, and so is to be resolv'd purely into the good pleasure of the artist. 1737: Ray, 61, As it pleases the painter.

As the Goodman saith, saoy saye; But as the goodwife saith, so it must be. 1639: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 33 (1885) [with "so it should be" instead of "so say we"]. 1670: Ray, 51 [with "good woman" instead of "goodwife"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 6106. 1875: A. B. Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 7.

Ascension Day. 1. As the weather on Ascension Day, so may be the entire autumn. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 41.

2. See quot. 1669: New Help to Discourse, 284. If it rain upon Ascension Day . . . it doth betoken scarcity of all kinde of food for cattle, but being fair it signifieth plenty.

Ash. 1. Burn ash-wood green, 'Tis fire for a queen; Burn ash-wood sear, 'Twill make a man swear. 1851: Borrow, Lavengro, iii. 334. That makes good the old rhyme . . . "Ash, when green, is fire for a queen." 1884: H. Friend, Flowers and Flower Lore, 239.

2. If the ash is out before the oak, You may expect a thorough soak; If the oak is out before the ash, You'll hardly get a single splash. c. 1870: Smith, Isle of Wight Words, 62 (E.D.S.) [slightly varied from the foregoing]. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 151.


4. When the ash is out before the oak, Then we may expect a choke [drought]; When the oak is out before the ash. Then we may expect a splash. Shropshire. Ibid, 151.

It will be noted that 4 is the precise reverse of 2. There are variants of both 2 and 4 which may be found in Inwards.

See also Oak (3).


Ashton. See quot. 1869: Hazlitt, 320, Proud Ashton, poor people, ten bells and an old crack't steeple.

Ash Wednesday. 1. As Ash Wednesday, so the fasting time. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 40.


Ask. 1. Ask but enough, and you may lower the price as you list. 1813: Ray, 2.

2. Ask much to have a little. c. 1562: G. Harvey, Marginalia, 191 (1913), Craue
and haue 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

3 Ask my fellow whether I be a thief 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch v 1630 T Adams, Works, 316. This is somewhat to the proberbe, Aske the sons if the father he a theefe 1692 L'Estrange, Āesop, 355 (3rd ed.), Ask my brother if I'm a thief 1732 Fuller, No 817

4 Ask the mother if the child be like his father 1732 Fuller, No 818

5 Ask the seller of his ware be bad 1666 Torrano, Piazza Univ, 73, Ask mine host whether he have good wine 1732 Fuller, No 819 1774 C Dibdin The Quaker, II 11, Ask the vntuner if the wine be good

6 He that asketh a courtesy promiseth a kindness 1732 Fuller, No 2041

7 He that asketh faintly beggeth a demal Ibid., No 2042

8 He that cannot ask cannot live 1633 Draxe, 20 1639 Clarke, 41

See also Ax

Aspen leaf 1 To tremble like an aspen leaf c 1374 Chaucer, Troilus, in 1200, Right as an aspen shee gan to quake 1449 J Metham, Works, 6r (E E T S), Than euyn as an espys lef doth schake Ayens the wynd, ryght so than dyd he, Dyd quake for feare 1567 Golding, Ovid, in 46, Stooode trembling like an aspen leaf c 1591 Shakespeare, Titus Andronicus, II 4v 1675 C Cotton, Bvel upon Burlesque, 247 (1765), But like an aspen-leaf I shook 1740 Richardson, Pamela, i 228 (1883), She came into bed, but trembled like an aspen-leaf 1780 Walpole, Letters, VII 376 (Cunningham), Lord Mansfield quivered on the wool-sack like an aspen 1828 Scott, Fair Maid, IV 1920 A A Milne, Second Plays, 166 (1921), I was shaking like an aspen leaf

2 When the aspen leaves are no bigger than your nail, Is the time to look out for trouble and peas 1850 N & Q, 1st ser., II 511

Ass and Asses 1 A dull ass near home needs no spur 1732 Fuller, No 83

2 An ass is but an ass, though laden with gold 1660 Howell, Parly of Beasts, 17. The asse often times carries gold on his back, yet feeds on thistles 1666 Tomano, Piazza Univ, 75. An ass, though loaded with gold, eats but nettles and thistles 1732 Fuller, No 585

3 An ass is the graven beast, the owl the graven bird 1732 Fuller, No 586

1886 Swanson Folk-Lore of British Birds, 225 (F L S)

4 An ass laden with gold See quotas 1620 Shelton, Quixote, Pt II ch xxxv., The usual proverbs are "An ass laden with gold will go lightly uphill" 1630 T Adams, Works, 853, Philip was wont to say, that an ass laden with gold would enter the gates of any citie 1631 Mabbe, Celestina, 72 (T T), There is not any place so high, where unto an ass laden with gold will not get up 1645 Howell, Letters, bk I § 11 ch ix, There's no fence or fortress against an ass laden with gold 1732 Fuller, No 587, An ass laden with gold overtakes every thing Ibid., No 588, An ass loaded with gold climbs to the top of a castle

5 An ass must be tied where the master will have him 1732 Fuller, No 589

6 An ass pricked must needs trot 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 58

7 An ass was never cut out for a lap-dog 1732 Fuller, No 592

8 As proud as an ass of a new pack-saddle 1823 Scott, Queen Duward, ch xxvii

9 Asses die and wolves bury them 1732 Fuller, No 821

10 Better ride an ass that carries me, than a horse that throws me 1633 Draxe, 223 1732 Fuller, No 920

1680 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 35 1929 Times, 17 Jan., p 9, col 1

11 Better strive with an ill ass, than carry the wood one's self 1732 Fuller, No 930

12 Did you ever hear an ass play on a lute? 1556 G Colvile, tr Boethius, 18 (1897), Art thou no more apt to understand them then an asse to play on the harpe? 1732 Fuller, No 1282 1781 T Francklin, Lucian's Works, II 109,
What, indeed, as the proverb says, has the ass to do with a lyre?

29. Where-ever an ass falleth, there will he never fall again. Ibid., No. 5643.


31. You will make me believe that an ass's ears are made of horns. 1659: Howell, 8.

See also All men; Beat, verb (3); Honey (8); Horse (51) and (75); Lawyer (9); and One mule.

Ass's head, To wash the. 1578: Florio, First Fruits, fo. 34. Who washeth an asses head loseth both labour and sope. 1593: G. Harvey, Works, i. 276 (Grosart), I . . . take small pleasure in washing the asses head. 1660: Howell, Parly of Beasts, 28, The old proverb . . . He who washeth an ass's head doth lose both time and sope. 1732: Fuller, No. 5193. To lather an ass's head, is but spoiling of soap.

Assail who will, the valiant attends. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

Assfordby Bridge. He has gone over Assfordby Bridge backwards. Spoken of one that is past learning. 1678: Ray, 317. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Leicestershire." 1881: Evans, Leics. Words, etc., 299 (E.D.S.), . . . In modern usage [the saying] is applied to one who "sets the cart before the horse," in word or deed.

Astrology is true, but the astrologers cannot find it. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

Atheist is got one point beyond the devil, An. 1732: Fuller, No. 593.

August 1. As August so the next February. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 32.

2. Dry August and warm Doth harvest no harm. 1732: Fuller, No. 6209.

3. If the first week in August is unusually warm, the winter will be white and long. 1893: Inwards, 33
Autumn

4 If the twenty-fourth of August be fair and clear, Then hope for a prosperous autumn that year. 1732 Fuller, No. 6470 1893 Inwards, 33
5 None in August should over the land, In December none over the sea. 1893 Inwards, 32
6 So many August fogs, so many winter mist. Ibid. 32

See also Cuckoo (8), (11) and (12), March (15), Merry the first, July (6) and (10), and Thistle (2)

Autumn I Clear autumn, windy winter, Warm autumn, long winter. 1893 Inwards, 8

2 Of fair things the autumn is fair. 1640 Herbert, Jace Prudentum

See also Ascension Day (1), August (4), Blossom, St Bartholomew (2), and Spring (7)

Autumnal aques are long or mortal. 1640 Herbert, Jace Prudentum

Avarice See Covetousness

Avoidance is the only remedy. C 1380 Chaucer, Minor Poems, in Works, 1 340 (Skeat), Theschewing is only the remedye Before 1542 Sir T Wyatt Song "From these luc hilles," The first escheu is remedy alone

Aw makes Dun draw. 1639 Clarke, 93 1670 Ray, 58 1881 Evans, Letts Words, etc., 93 (E D S.), Au, au! an exclamation to horses to bid them turn to the left or near side "Aw makes Dun draw" is a punning proverb quoted by Ray

Away the mare Before 1529 Skelton, Magnyfisynce, 1 1342, Nowe then goo we bens, away the mare. C 1550 in Hazlitt, Early Pop Poetry, iii 62 (1866), Of no man he had no care. But sung, hey howe, awaye the mare, And made no ye enough. 1611 Ravenscroft, Melismata, No 6, Heigh ho, away the mare, Let vs set aside all care

Awls, To pack up one's 1681 W Robertson, Phrases and Generalis, 971, To pack up his awls, Colligere vasa. 1604 Motteux, Rabelais, Prol to bk iv. The enemy, who were already packing up their awls. 1762 Bickerstaffe, Love in a Village, II 111. So pack up your awls, and be trudging away 1849 F T Dinsdale, Tresdale Gloss, 5. To pack up his awls, is spoken of a person departing in haste. 1881 Evans, Letts Words, etc., 229 (E D S.). Whenever the employer gave a workman his sack, it was an obvious hint to him to pack up his "alls" and be off

Axe near, sell dear 1881 N & Q., 6th ser., iii 326 [A Lincolnshire J P] well versed in rural matters, repeated a short time ago in my hearing this proverb "Axe near sell dear" That is, if you have corn, cattle, or other matters to sell, you are more likely to get their full market value if you do not ask too much. 1889 Peacock, Manley, etc., Gloss, 366 (E D S.)

Axe after the helle. See Throw (7)

Axe goes to the wood where it borrowed its helle, The 1732 Fuller, No 4401

Axe-tree A pretty fellow to make an axe-tree for an over. Cheshire 1670 Ray, 162 1732 Fuller, No 362 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 5

Axwell Park See quot 1846-59 Denham Tracts, i 91 (F L S.), From Axwell Park to Shotley, A squirrel could leap from tree to tree [Axwell Park is in the township of Winterton and manor of Ryton, Durham]

Ay be as merry as he can, For love we're delights in a sorrowful man. 1697 Ray, 55

Aylsham treat. 1690 P H Emerson, Wild Life, 207 n., An Aylsham treat is treat yourself
B. 1. To know not B from a battldore. 1565: J. Hall, Hist. Exposition, ii (Percy S.), He . . . knewe not a letter, or a b from a battldore. 1593: Harvey, Works, ii. 208 (Grosart), The learnedest of them could not say . . . B to a battldore. 1630: Taylor (Water-Poet), Works, pagin. 2, 59, To the Gentlemen Readers, that vnderstand A. B. from a battledore. 1681: Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 757, He is as ignorant, he knows not a B from a battle-door.

2. To know not B from a bull's foot. 1401: in Wright, Pol. Poems, ii. 57 (Rolls Ser., 1561), I know not . . . a b from a bole foot. 1500: Colman Jr., Review, ii. ii., Fie upon you! - not to know a B from a bull's foot. 1886: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 36 (E.D.S.), The common description of a dolt or ignoramus is . . . he does not know B from a bull's foot. Cf. A (2).

Babies in the eyes, To look. 1618: B. & F., Loyal Subject, III. ii., Can ye look babies, sisters, In the young gallants' eyes? c. 1685: in Roxb. Ballads, vii. 445 (B.S.), 'Tis the babes in thine eyes that set my poor heart all on fire. 1709: T. Baker, Fine Lady's Airs, I. i., Sweeten her again with ogling smiles, look babies in her eyes.

Bachelor and Bachelors. 1. A loved bachelor makes a jealous husband. 1855: Bohn, 292.

2. Bachelor's fare: bread and cheese and kisses. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I.

3. Bachelors' wives and maids' children be well taught. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vi. 1549: Latimer, Seven Sermons, 158 (Arber), The maydes chylde is ever best taughte. 1637: Breton, in Works, ii. h 18 (Grosart), For bachelors wives, and maidens children are pretty things to play withall.

1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I. 1761: Colman, Jealous Wife, IV. i., What a pity it is that nobody knows how to manage a wife, but a batchelor.

1920: Sphere, 30 March, p. 316, col. i., But then there is a saying, "Old maids' children and bachelors' wives are always perfection."

4. We bachelors grin, but you married men laugh till your hearts ache. 1670: Ray, 48. 1732: Fuller, No 5433.

Back and edge = entirely, completely. 1639: Clarke, 26, Sticke to him back and edge. 1866: Brogden, Lines Words, 17, He stuck up for me back-and-edge.


Backdoor robs the house. The. 1732: Fuller, No 4402. 1854: J. W. Warter, Last of the Old Squires, 53. See also Fair, adj. (g); and cf. Postern door.

Back is broad enough, His. 1639: Clarke, 86, His back's broad enough to beare jests. 1670: Ray, 163. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I., I suppose you think my back's broad enough to bear everything.

Back may trust but belly won't. 1855: Robinson, Whitby Gloss., 8, . . . dress may be deferred, but hunger cannot.


Backing. He's allus backing i' th' breech bent [breechband]. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 69, . . . Said of one who is not very "go-ahead," or energetic.

Bacon. Where you think there is bacon, there is no chimney. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. See also Save.

Bad as Jeffreys. 1863: Wise, New Forest, ch. xvi., "As bad as Jeffreys" preserves, as throughout the West of England, the memory of one who, instead of being the judge, should have been the hangman.

Bad as Swath Hoome. Staffs. 1889:
Bad is the best 1564 Bullein, Dialogue, 77 (EETS) 1579 Spenser, Shep Calendar, Sept, 1177, Bad is the best (this English is flat) 1606 Day, Ile of Gulls, II v, Badd’s the best c 1630 B & F, Bloody Brother, IV i

1753 Richardson, Grandson, in 110 (1883), Bad is my best 1852 Planché, Extravag., 11 117 (1879), I’ve no doubt bad enough she’ll prove at best 1905 H A Evans, H and B in Oxfordsh and Cotswolds, 218, The reader will exclaim that bad is the best

Bad Jack may have as bad a Jill, A 1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict, s v “Jack,” There is not so bad a Jack but there is as bad a Gill

Bad lease He never hath a bad lease, that hath a good landlord Glos 1639 in Berkeley MSS, iii 32 (1885)

Bad luck often brings good luck 1732 Fuller, No 834

Bad luck top end 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 29 [Of one not very bright mentally]

Bad market He that cannot abide a bad market, deserves not a good one 1678 Ray, 173 1732 Fuller, No 2058

Bad news See ill news

Bad padlock invites a picklock, A 1732 Fuller, No 2

Bad paymaster From a bad paymaster get what you can 1855 Bohn, 359

Bad ploughman beats the boy, A 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, I Cf III workman

Bad priests bring the devil into the church 1732 Fuller, No 835

Bad sack See ill sack.

Bad shearer never had a good sickle, A 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 50 (Percy S)

Bad stake See ill stake

Bad thing never dies, A 1732 Fuller, No 3

Bad to do evil, but worse to boast of it, It is 1606 T Heywood If you know not me Pt II, in Dram: Works, 1 275 (1874)

Bad wintering will tame both man and beast 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 6 (Percy S) Cf Wedding

Bad words find bad acceptance 1611 Cotgrave, s v “Meschant”

Bad workman. See Ill workman.

Badger. See Brock; Greasy; Grizziling; and Grey.

Badger-like, one leg shorter than another. 1659: Howell, 20.


Bag=sack. 1. The bag mouth was open. 1877: E. Leigh, Cheshire Gloss., ii. "The bag mouth was open" is a Cheshire expression to show that everything that was unknown has become public. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, iii.

2. To give the bag=originally, to go off, or abandon a thing or person. Later, to dismiss—see 1883 quot. 1576: Common Conditions, in Brandt's Quellen, 599, This tinkerly trade, wee giue it the bagge. 1592: Greene, Quip, in Works, xi. 263 (Grosart), Lighte witted upon every small occasion to geue your maister the bagge. 1607: Dekker and Webster, Westward Hoe, IV. ii., I fear our oars have given us the bag. 1823: Scott, Peveril, ch. vii., She gave me the bag to hold, and was smuggling in a corner with a rich old Puritan. 1883: A. Easther, Almond-bury Gloss., 7 (E.D.S.), "To give the bag," which is to dismiss; or "to get the bag," i.e. to be dismissed.

Bagpipe. He's like a bag-pipe, he never talks till his bully be full. 1623: Wodroephe, Spared Hours, 249, Sir, I am like vnto the bagpipes of Bolonia, which can not blow vnlesse they be full of wind. 1678: Ray, 291. 1732: Fuller, No. 2459.

Bagshot. The sayings in the two following quotations are clearly akin. 1575: R. Laneham, Letter, in Capt. Cox, 31 (B.S.), Hee . . . can talk as much without book, as ony inholder betwixt Brainford [Brentford] and Bagshot. 1670: Ray, 205, As good as any between Bagshot and Baw-waw. There's but the breadth of a street between these two.

Bait hides the hook, The. 1732: Fuller, No. 4403.

Bake. As one bakes so one may brewe (or eat). Cf. Brew, verb (1). [Tute hoc intristi; tibi omne est exedendum.—Terence, Phormio, II. ii. 4.] 1548: Hall, Chronicle, 431 (1809), Such breade as they bake, suche muste they eate. 1577: Misogonus, III. i., As thou bakst, so shat [shalt] brewe. 1664: Pepys, Diary, 15 August, But I will have no more to do with her, let her brewe as she has baked. 1775: Garrick, May-Day, sc. ii., As they bake they shall brewe, Old Nick and his crew. 1840: Barham, Ing. Legends: "St. Odille." 1849: C. Brontë, Shirley, ch. xxi., "What would Moore have done if nobody had helped him?" asked Shirley. "Drunk as he'd brewe—eaten as he'd backed." 1909: De Morgan, Never can Happen Again, ch. v., "As they bake, so they will brewe," philosophized Mr. Challis to himself.

Baker. 1. Be not a baker if your head be of butter. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1732: Fuller, No. 1321, Don't turn baker, if your head be made of butter.

2. He should be a baker by his bow-legs. 1607: Dekker and Webster, Westward Hoe, II. ii., Will women's tongues, like bakers' legs, never go straight! 1678: Ray, 91.

3. Quoth the baker to the pillory. See quotes. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ii., We be new kneet, And so late met, that I fear we parte not yeet, Quoth the baker to the pylorie. 1659: Howell, 7, Ile take no leave of you, quoth the baker to the pillory.

Baker's wife. See quot. 1598: Servingham's Comfort, in Inedited Tracts, 166 (Hazard), Mee thinkes he myght remember the olde saying: A bakers wyfe may byte of a bunne, a brewers wyfe may drinke of a tunne, and a fysch-mongers wyfe may feelee of a cunger, but a seruingmans wyfe may starue for hunger.


Bald. 1. A bald head is soon shaven.
c. 1450 in Relig. Antiqua, 1 75 (1841), A bare herd wyl some be shove 1678
Ray, 96 1732 Fuller, No 836
2 As bald as a bladder of lard 1886
Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 41 (E D S) 1894 R L S, St Ives, ch v, His head as bald as a bladder of lard 1901 Raymond, Idler Out of Doors, 219
3 As bald as a coot c 1290
Treatise of Walter de Biblesworth, in Wright's Early Vocab, 1 165, A balled coote 1412-20 Lydgate, Troy-Book, bk i 1 4673 He was balld as a cote 1566 Adlington, tr Apuleius, bk v, Older than my father, more bald than a coot 1642 Breton, in Works, ii k 13 (Grosart), And left her [head] as bare as a balld coote c 1770 Hall-Stevenson, in Works, i 238 (1795), As bare as a coot 1881 Evans, Leets Words, etc, 128 (E D S) "As bald as a coot" is a common simile for baldness
4 You'll not believe he's bald till you see his brains 1580 Lyly, Euphues 267 (Arber), As incredulous as those who think none balde, till they see his braynes 1670 Ray, 163 1732 Fuller, No 6032
Bale See Boot
Balks of good ground, Make not 1605 Camden, Remains, 328 (1870) 1670 Ray, 58 1732 Fuller, No 3316, Make no balks in good ground 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 6 (Percy S), Make not a balk of good ground
Ball 1 Ball on the bat 1893 G L Gower, Gloss of Surrey Words, 4 (E D S), [Surrey witness log] "He d a mind to make me the ball on the bat between him and the police"
2 To strike the ball under the line—To fail 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi, Thou hast stricken the ball under the lyne 1634 S Rowley, Noble Soldier, 11 ii, She has been strucke under line, master souldier 1907 Hackwood, Old English Sports, 151, Hence [at tennis] came the old proverb, "Thou hast stricken the ball under the line," meaning one had failed in his purpose
Baltic. See Drunk as the Baltic
Bambroughshire Laird See quot

1846-59 Denham Tracts, 1 258 (F L S),
He rides like a Bambroughshire Laird That is, with one spur, and a stick or whip in his opposite hand
Banbury I As thin as Banbury cheese 1562 Heywood, Epigr, 6th hundred, No 24, I neuer saw Banberry cheese thijke enough 1755 G Harvey, Letter-Book, 91 (Camden S), More fine then any Banberry cheese 1600 Shakespeare, Merry Wives, I 1, Bar- dolph [to Slender] You Banbury cheese! 1664 Bp. Griffith Williams, Sad Conun of the Clergy in Oscory, 26, Our lands and glebes are clipped and pared to become as thin as Banbury cheese 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Oxfordshire," Banbury cheese 1911 Hackwood, Good Cheer, 214, A local saying was of similar significance—"As thin as a Banbury cheese, nothing but parings"
2 Banbury ale, a half-yard pot 1658 Wit Restor'd, 159 c 1660 in Roxb. Ballads, ii 130 (B S), Banbury ale, a two-yard pot
3 Banbury zeal, cheese and cakes 1596 Harington, Anal of Melam Ajax, liii, O that I were at Ovenford to eate some Banbene cakes 1662 Fuller Worthies, iii 5 (1840), Banbury zeal, cheese, and cakes 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Oxfordshire," Banbury veal [query misprint for ' zeal '], cheese and cakes
4 Like Banbury tinkers, that in mending one hole make three 1647 Miles Corbet, Speech, in Harl Miscell, 1 274, The malgmants do compare this commonwealth to an old kettle with here and there a fault or hole, a crack or flaw in it, and that we (in imitation of our worthy brethren of Banbury) were instructed to mend the said kettle, but, like deceitful and cheating knaves, we have, instead of stopping one hole, made them three or four score 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v ' Oxfordshire " Cf Tinker (3)
Banquets every day, never makes a good meal, He that 1732 Fuller, No 2043
Bapchild See quot 1735 Pegge, Kent Proverbs, in E D S, No 12, p 67,
If you’d live a little while, Go to Bap-child; If you’d live long, Go to Tenham or Tong.


Barber and Barbers. 1. Barbers are correctors of capital crimes. 1659: Howell, ii.

2. Barbers learn to shave by shaving fools. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Fel,” By shaving a fool one learns to shave. 1654: Whitlock, Zootomia, 46, The fools beard teacheth the young barber his trade. 1792: Wolcot, Works, ii. 446 (1793), Accept a proverb out of Wisdom’s schools—“Barbers first learn to shave by shaving fools!”

3. Common as a barber’s chair, or, Like a barber’s chair fit for every one. 1659: Gosson, Apol. of Schoole of Abuse, 66 (Arber), Venus . . . that made her self as common as a barber’s chayre. c. 1598: Shakespeare, All’s Well, II. ii., It is like a barber’s chair, that fits all buttocks. 1651: Burton, Melancholy, III. iv. i. 3, p. 688 (1536), Venus, a notorious strumpet, as common as a barber’s chair. 1732: Fuller, No. 3218, Like a barber’s chair, fit for every one. 1825: Hone, Ev. Day Book, i. 1269, In a newspaper report . . . 1825, a person deposing against the prisoner, used the phrase, “as common as a barber’s chair.”

4. No barber shaves so close but another finds work. 1640: Herbert, Fac. Prudentum. 1732: Fuller, No. 3737, One barber shaves not so close but another finds work. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xxii.

Bardney, Lincs. See quot. 1905: N. & Q., 1oth ser., iii. 145, “I see you come from Bardney” is said to a person who has the habit of leaving doors open when he could shut them.

Bardon Hill. See quot. 1894: Leics. N. & Q., iii. 160, When Bardon Hill has a cap, Hay and grass will suffer for that.

Bare as a bird’s tail. c. 1470: Mankind, i. 475, Yt [his purse] ys as clene as a byrdes ars. 1528: Sir T. More, in Works, p. 238, col. i (1557), And some-tyme as bare as a byrdes arse. 1661: Stevenson, Twelve Months, 35, Bare as birds breath. 1709: Ward, Account of Clubs, 209 (1756). 1889: Peacock, Manley, etc., Gloss., 29 (E.D.S.), Bare as a bo’ds [bird’s] tail. Said of a person who has lost everything which he possessed.

Bare as a bone. c. 1460: Erthe upon Erthe, 22 (E.E.T.S.), As bare as any bon. Bare as January. See January (6).

Bare as Job. Cf. Poor as Job. 1530: Palsgrave, 620, I shall make hym as bare as ever was Job. 1542: Udall, tr. Erasmus’ Aphoph., 236 (1577), Hauing been afore in soch wyse pilled, and left as bare as Job. 1633: Draxe, 137.

Bare as my nail. See Naked as my nail.

Bare as the back of my hand. 1678: Ray, 281. 1880: Spurgeon, Ploughman’s Pictures, 21.

Bare as the birch at Yule even. 1822: Scott, Nigge, ch. xxi., His gentle beggarly kindred . . . keep him as bare as a birch at Christmas. 1823: Scott, Q. Durward, ch. vi., It is ill going to Oliver empty-handed, and I am as bare as the birch in December. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 63 (Percy S.).

Bare as the Bishop of Chester. A sarcastic allusion to the wealth of the bishopric. c. 1470: in Relig. Antiqua, i. 85 (1841), I wolde I were as bare as the bescophe of Chester. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 9.

Bare foot is better than none, A. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Nud.” 1694: D’Urfey, Quixole, Pt. I. Act I. sc. ii., Better a bare foot than no foot at all. 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, ii. 111 (1785), And hence a third proverb . . . Better a bare foot than none at all.

Bare legs, Four. See Marriage (9).

Bare of a suit. See Lie, verb (1).


Bare words are no good bargain. 1639: Clarke, 85. 1669: Politiephilia, 183, Bare words are no lawful bargain.
Bare words buy no barley 1732
Fuller, No 838

Barefoot and Barefooted See Thorn

Bargain I A bargain is a bargain 1560 Wilson, Rhetorique, 34 (1909),
Resting upon this point, that a bargain is a bargain, and must stand
without all exception 1592 Lyly, 
Mother Bombie, III iii 1692 L'Es-
trange, Esop, 328 (3rd ed) 1721
C Ciber, Refusal, III 1800 Reade, 
Closter and Heath ch xxxvi, How-
ever 'tis ill luck to go back upon
a bargain 1891 Q - Couch, Noughts
and Crosses, 77

2 The bargain is ill made where
neither party gains c 1597 A Doug-
las, quoted in N & Q, 10th ser, n 23,
There is a proverb that says, the bar-
gain is ill made where neither of
the parties doth gain 1732 Fuller, No
2878, It is a silly bargain, where no
body gets

See also Bare words

Bark, verb I To bark against the
moon 1401 in T Wright, Political
Poems, ii 53 (Rolls Ser, 1861), But
thou, as bylynde Bayarde, berkest at the
mone 1530 Palsgrave, 443. This
dogge barketh agaynste the moone
1629 Davenant, Alboine, V, Thou
barkst against the moon 1655 Hey-
wood and Rowleyn, Fortune by Land and
Sea, I 1, We should in that but bark
against the moon 1736 Bailey, Dict, 
v "Bark," To bark at the moon
2 To bark false 1639 Clarke, 2,
He never barkes false

Bark, subs His (or her) bark is
worse than his (or her) bite (Caus
timidus vehementus latrat quam mor-
det — Quintus Curtius, De rebus gestis
Alexandri Magni, v 14 ) 1655 Ful-
ler, Church History, bk viii § 6 (22),
Because politelie presumed to bark the
more that he might bite the less 1860
Reade, Closter and Heath, ch lvii;
The weakness of her nerves would have
balanced the violence of her passions,
and her bark been worse than her bite
1912 Pinero, 'Mind the Paint" Girl,
Act II., p 59

Bark and tree See quotes The
saying is usually applied as in last

quotation 1546 Heywood, Proverbs,
Pt II ch 11, But it were a foly for me,
To put my hande betwene the barke
and the tree 1580 Tusser, Husbandre,
22 (EDS) 1642 D Rogers, Naaman,
sig 'Cci, Being so audacious as to go
between barke and tree, breeding sus-
ceptions betweene man and wife
1714 Ozell, Molitbre, ii 185, Cicero
says, that between the tree and the
finger you must not put the rind
1820 Scott, Abbot, ch iv, Is it for me
to stir up strife betwixt them, and put
as 'twere my finger betwixt the bark
and the tree 1901 F E Taylor,
Lancs Sayings, 8, It's ill meddlin'
between th' bark an' th' tree (It is
unwise to interfere between man and
wife) Cf Oak (7)

Bark and wood Between the bark and
the wood 1847 Halliwell, Dict, 3 v
"Bark," A well adjusted bargain, where
neither party has the advantage
Suffolk 1866 J G Nall, Great Yarm-
outh, etc, 510 (as in Halliwell)

Bark-year See quot 1863 Wise,
New Forest, ch xvi, Forest proverbs
such as "A good bark-year
makes a good wheat-year"

Barker's knee See Stiff

Barking dogs See Dog (2)

Barley I Barley makes the heape, but
wheat the cheape Glos 1639 Berke-
ley MSS, v 32 (1885)

2 Sow barley in drehe and wheat in pul
[mud] 1865 Hunt, Pop Romances W
of England, 436 (1896)

See also Cotswold (2), Cuckoo (3),
Good elm, Oak (8), October (1), St
David (3), St John (4), St Vitus (2),
and Wheat (6)

Barley-corn is better than a diamond
to a cock, A 1732 Fuller, No 7

Barley-corn is the heart's key, The
1659 Howell, Proverbs Brit-Eng, 5

Barley-corn See also John barley-
corn

Barley-straw's good fodder when the
cow gives water 1678 Ray, 51

Barn I Better a barn filled than a
bed 1716 Ward, Female Policy, 82
1732 Fuller, No 858

2 When the barn is full, you may
thresh before the door 1647 Howell
Barrows. Bk. II. No. xxiv. When the barn was full any one might thrash in the haggard. 1732: Fuller, No. 5570.
1846: Denham, Proverbs, 5 (Percy S.).

3. You have a barn for all grain. 1732: Fuller, No. 5910.

Barnaby bright, the longest day and shortest night. 1659: Howell, 20. 1672: Westm. Drollery, Pt. II., p. 100 (Ebsworth). It was in June, and 'twas on Barnaby Bright too, A time when the days are long, and nights are short. 1732: Fuller, No. 6206. 1901: N. & Q., 9th ser., vii. 445. The old saying as preserved in this part of England [Hants] is Barnaby bright, All day and no night.

Barnard Castle. 1. A coward! a coward! o' Barnaby Castle, Dare na come out to fight a battle! 1846-59: Denham Tracts, i. 98 (F.L.S.). c. 1860: Longstaffe, Richmondshire, 132. 1913: E. M. Wright, Rustic Speech, etc., 183. [After quoting the saying]. In all probability this refers to the holding of Barnard Castle by Sir George Bowes during the Rising of the North in 1569.


3. Come! come! that's Barney Castle! 1846-59: Denham Tracts, i. 83 (F.L.S.). . . . an expression often uttered when a person is heard making a bad excuse in a still worse cause.

4. See quot. Ibid., i. 81, [He] carries his coals round by Richmond to sell at Barnard Castle. This saying is peculiar to the central and mid-southern portions of the county of Durham. It is spoken of a person who is guilty of a circumlocutory act.

See also Lartington.

Barnstaple Fair weather = Cold and wet weather. 1893: Daily Graphic, 21 April (W.), Throughout all this period— and particularly in September—what Devonians out of their experience call "Barnstaple fair weather" is to prevail in England.


2. When the glass falls low, Prepare for a blow; When it rises high, Let all your kites fly. Nautical. Ibid.

Barrel the better herring, Never a [= Not] a pin to choose between them c. 1540: Bale, Kynge Johan, in Manby's Spec. of Pre-Shaks. Drama, i. 501 (1903), Lyke lorde, lyke chaplayne; neyth barley better herynge. 1566: Gascoigne, Supposes, IV. vi. 1633: Jonson, Tale of a Tub, II., One bad, there's ne'er a good; And not a barrel the better herring among you. 1736: Fielding, Pasquin, III., Nor like our misses, about bribing quarrel, When better herring is in neither barrel. 1826: Scott, Woodstock, ch. xxx., After bestowing a mental curse both on Sectaries and Presbyterians, as being, in his opinion, never a barrel the better herring. 1852: FitzGerald, Polonius, 51 (1903).

Barren places. See quot. 1610: Holland, tr. Camden's Britannia, 692. And haue proved the saying to bee true, That barren places give a good edge to industry.

Barse's miller, always behind, Like. 1920: J. H. Bloom, in N. & Q., 12th ser., vii. 67. [Said to have been heard in Warwickshire within the last ten years.]

Bartholomew baby, Dressed like a. 1670: Brooks, Works, vi. 51 (1857) (O.), Men . . . were dressed up like fantastical antics, and women like Bartholomew-babies. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "London."

Barton, etc. See quot. 1869: Hazlitt, 80, Barton under Needwood, Dunstall in the Dale; Sitenhill for a pretty girl, and Burton for good ale.

Bashful. 1. As bashful as a Lenten lover. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 32 (Percy S.).

2. His bashful mind hinders his good intent. 1737: Ray, 51.

Bashfulness is an enemy to poverty. 1670: Ray, 2.

Basket, You shall have the. Taunton. 1678: Ray, 344.

Basket-Justice will do Justice, right or
Basket of chips See Smile, verb (1)

Bastard brood is always proud 1736
Bailey, Dict., s.v. 'Bastard'

Bate me an ace, quoth Bolton 1571
Edwards, Damon, etc. in Hazlitt, Old Plays, iv 77 1578
Whetstone, Promos and Cassandra, sig E3 1651
Randolph, Hey for Honesty, II v 1681
W. Robertson, Phraseol Generalis, 213 1732

Bath, The beggars of 1602 Fuller,
Worthies, in 92 (1840) 1799 Grose,
Prow Gloss, s.v. 'Somerset'

Bathing See May, F (26)

Bats in the belfry—Of unsound mind 1526
Philipotts, Peacock House, 219.
His father's sister had bats in the belfry
and was put away

Battersea Go to Battersea to be cut
for the simples 1785 Grose, Dict of Vulgar Tongue, s.v. 'Simples' 1790
Grose, Prow Gloss, s.v. 'Surrey'

1847 Halliwell, Dict., s.v. 'Simples'

1525 J G Taylor, Our Lady of Battersea, 93. [Simples, or medicinal herbs,
were cultivated at B.] Hence was
derived the now forgotten proverb,
directed to one not overburdened
with wits, "You must go to Battersea
to get your simples cut!" Cf Cut,
verb (10)

Battle, Sussex. See quot 1594
A J C Hare, Sussex, 103. The capture
in 1377 of John de Carloes, Prior of Lewes,
on Rottingdean Hill, by the
French, gave rise to the proverb, "Ware
the Abbot of Battel, when the Prior of
Lewes is taken prisoner," meaning when
one man falls into trouble, his neigh-
bours had better beware

Bawds and attorneys are like andirons,
the one holds the wood, the other
their clients till they consume 1659 Howell

10

Bawtry The saddler of Bawtry was

hanged for leaving his liquor behind him
1790 Grose, Prow Gloss, s.v. 'York-
shire' 1878 Folk-Lore Record, i 172.
There is a Yorkshire saying applied to
a man who quits his friends too early at
a convivial meeting, that "He will be
hanged for leaving his liquor, like the
saddler of Bawtry" See also Hang,
verb (7)

Bayard 1 As bold as blind Bayard
c 1350 Cleanness, i 886, in Allit Poems,
64 (EETS). They blustered as bynyde
as bayard wate ever c 1386 Chaucer,
Canon's Yeoman's Tale, i 860, Ye been
as bolde as is Bayard the blinde
1412-20 Lydgate, Troy-Book, bk ii
I 4732. But ben as bolde as Bayard is,
the blinde c 1475 Caxton, Hist of Troy,
Pro, And began boldly to run
forth as blind Bayard 1575 Appius,
etc., in Hazlitt, Old Plays, iv 178,
As bold as blind bayard, as wise as a wood-
cock 166x W Robertson, Phraseol
Generalis, 270. Who so bold as blind
Bayard? 1825 Scott, Talisman, ch
 xvii, I am no blind Bayard, to take a
leap in the dark

2 Bayard bites on the bridle c 1426
Andelay, Poems, 15 (Percy S)

3 Bayard of ten toes 1597
Discouer of Knights of the Poste, sig A3.
As I travelled upon my well
approved hacney (old Bayard of ten
toes) [travelled afoot] 1676 Breton,
Good and Badde, 35 (O), The walkie
of the wofull and his Horse, Bayard of
ten-toes 1866 Brogden, Lyncs Words,
20, Bayard-of-ten-toes To walk on foot,
a man doing horses' work

4 To keep Bayard in the stable
c 1400 Beryn, i 3183 (EETS), fiul
trewe is that byword, "a man to serues-
short, Ledith oft beyard [Bayard] from
his owne stabill" 1546 Heywood,
Proverbs, Pt I ch xii, To haue kept
Bayard in the stable 1605 Camden,
Remains, 327 (1870) 1639 Clarke,278
Bayton-bargh See Bayton-bargh

Bee as be may is no banning c 1475
Mankend sc u st 86, Be as be may,
I vall do a-nother 1546 Heywood,
Proverbs, Pt II ch i 1592 Lyly,
Mother Bombe, ii u, Well, bee as bee
may is no banning 1670 Ray, 59
Be as you would seem to be. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium, Be what thou would'st seem to be. 1732: Fuller, No. 849.

Be it better, be it worse, do after him that beareth the purse. Before 1500: R. Hill, Commonplace-Book, 130 (E.E.T.S.). c. 1600: T. Deloney, Thos. of Reading, ch. 8, in Works, 244 (Mann). For it is an old proverbe, Be it better, or be it worse, Please you the man that beareth the purse. 1642: D. Rogers, Matrim. Honour, 85, And as the proverbs saith, Be it better or worse, we must be ruled by him that beareth the purse. 1732: Fuller, No. 6387, Be it better, be it worse, Be ruled by him that bears the purse. 1817: Scott, Rob Roy, ch. xxvii. [as in 1732, with "has" for "bears"].

Beacon Hill, near Halifax, Yorks. See quot. 1855: N. & Q., 1st ser., xi. 223, You might as well try to bore a hole through Beacon Hill. 1878: Folk-Lore Record, i. 174.


Bean and Beans. 1. A bean in liberty is better than a convict in prison. 1670: Ray, i. 1732: Fuller, No. 9.


3. Every bean hath its black. 1639: Clarke, 211. 1709: O. Dykes, Eng. Proverbs, 103. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Dutch Diet., s.v. "Bean." 1817: Scott, Rob Roy, ch. xxxviii., Ye hae hae your ain time o't, Mr. Syddall; but ilk a bean has its black. 1878: Folk-Lore Record, i. 166, Which is equivalent to every bean hath its black.

4. Like a bean in a monk's hood. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vi., Like a beane in a moonkeis hood. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Febve."

5. Plant the bean when the moon is light; Plant potatoes when the moon is dark. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 154.

6. Sow beans in the mud and they'll grow like wood. 1639: Clarke, 307. 1647: Fuller, Good Thoughts in Worse Times, 112 (1830), His answer was returned me in their country rhyme: Sow beans in the mud, And they'll come up like a wood. 1732: Fuller, No. 6143. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 154.

7. Sow (or set) beans in Candlemas waddle, i.e. the wane of the moon. Somerset. 1678: Ray, 343.

8. The bigger eateth the bean. 1525: Wydow Edyth: Mery Gestes, 89 (1864), And yet alway I stand in great doubt, Least that the bigger wyl eat the bean. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. v. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), Sc. of Folly, 45, in Works, ii. (Grosart), Euer the bigger eateth the bean.

9. The more beans the fewer for a penny. Glos. 1639: Berkeley MSS., iii. 31 (1885).

10. To know how many beans make five. 1612: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. i. bk. iv. ch. v., As though I know not how many numbers are five. 1830: Galt, Lawrie Todd, II. i. 42 (1849) (0), Few men who better knew how many blue beans it takes to make five. 1859: Daily News, 4 Nov., p. 6, col. 5. It is as simple as how many blue beans make five.

11. See quot. 1905: E. G. Hayden, Travels round our Village, 75, "When parson 'gins the Bible, 'tis time to sow the beans"—thus runs the ancient proverb. [Genesis i. is read on Septuagesima Sunday.]

See also Blue (6); Elm-leaves; May, F. (4); Pea (2) and (4); St. David (1); and St. Valentine (2).

Bean-belly Leicestershire. See Leicester.

Bear and Bears, subs. 1. Are you there with your bears? 1592: Lyly, Mother Bombie, II. iii. 1642: Howell, Forreine Travell, 20 (Arber). 1740: North, Examen, 220. 1822: Scott, Nigel, ch. xxxii. "Ay, man, are you there with your bears?" said the King.

2. As handsomely as a bear picketh muscles. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. v.

3. If it were a bear it would bite him (or you). 1633: Draxe, 4. 1690: New Dict. Canting Crew, sig. B4. If it had
1 Bear with evil and expect good. Herbert, Paraphrasis, 1670.
2 Bear with me, and I'll bear with thee. Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II
3 Bear a bear, and a beast shall be the reward. Fuller, No 945.
4 Bear a bear, and it shall be the reward. Fuller, No 1810
5 Bear to bear a bear, and it shall be the reward. Fuller, No 1801.
6 Bear to bear a bear, and it shall be the reward. Fuller, No 1810.
7 Bear a bear, and it shall be the reward. Fuller, No 1810.
8 Bear a bear, and it shall be the reward. Fuller, No 1810.
9 Bear a bear, and it shall be the reward. Fuller, No 1810.

Bear-Garden

1 Bear with evil and expect good. Herbert, Paraphrasis, 1670.
2 Bear with evil and expect good. Herbert, Paraphrasis, 1670.
3 Bear with evil and expect good. Herbert, Paraphrasis, 1670.
4 Bear with evil and expect good. Herbert, Paraphrasis, 1670.
5 Bear with evil and expect good. Herbert, Paraphrasis, 1670.
6 Bear with evil and expect good. Herbert, Paraphrasis, 1670.
7 Bear with evil and expect good. Herbert, Paraphrasis, 1670.
8 Bear with evil and expect good. Herbert, Paraphrasis, 1670.
9 Bear with evil and expect good. Herbert, Paraphrasis, 1670.
many


2. Better to be beaten than be in bad company. 1670: Ray, 2.

3. He that cannot beat his horse, beats the saddle. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 29, Who cannot beat the horse, let him beat the saddle. 1629: Book of Merry Riddles, Prov. 82. 1732: Fuller, No. 4174, Since he cannot be reveng’d on the ass, he falls upon the pack-saddle.

4. To beat (or go) about the bush. 1560: Wilson, Rhetorique, 2 (1909), If he ... tell it orderly, without going about the bush. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Aller,” To use many circumstances, to go about the bush. 1696: Cornish Comedy, IV. ii., He doth not beat about the bush, but falls immediately upon the point. 1884: Punch, 29 Nov., p. 256, col. 2, Excuse me ... but no good beating about the bush.

5. To beat the bush while others catch the birds. c. 1390: Gower, Conf. Amans, ii. 2355, And taketh the bridd to his byete, Wher othere men the buisshes bete. 1472: Paston Letters, iii. 44 (Gairdner,1900), We beth the bussheysse and have the losse and the disworshupp and ether men have the byrds. 1580: G. Harvey, in Works, i. 93 (Grosart), I beate the bushe, the birdes to them doe fye. 1606: Rel. from Parnassus, II. v., It hath been my luck always to beat the bush, while another killed the hare. 1732: Fuller, No. 3738, One beateth the bush, and another catcheth the bird. 1828: Scott, letter to Mrs. Hughes, in her Letters, etc., of Scott, ch. xi., Your active benevolence starts the game while others beat the bush.

6. You may beat the devil into your wife, but you'll never bang him out again. 1732: Fuller, No. 5940. Beauchamp, As bold as. 1608:

Middleton; Mad World, V. ii., Being every man well hors’d like a bold Beacham. 1612: Drayton, Polyol., xvii. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, iii. 271 (1840). 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. “Warwickshire.” 1834: W. Toone, Glossary, 112, Bold Beauchamp. This person was said to be Thomas Beau- champ, Earl of Warwick, whose prowess [c. 1350] became proverbial, “as bold as Beauchamp.”

Beaufieu Fair. See Cuckoo (17).

Beauty. 1. An enemy to beauty is a foe to nature. 1855: Bohn, 311.

2. Beauty draws more than oxen. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1670: Ray, 2. 1732: Fuller, No. 948.


1732: Fuller, No. 947, Beauty’s a blossom.

4. Beauty is but skin-deep. 1606: Davies (of Hereford), Select Sec. Husb., 6, in Works, ii. (Grosart), Beauty’s but skin-depe. 1730: Lillo, Silvia, I. ix., She was the handsomest woman in all our parish. But beauty is but skin deep, as the saying is. 1820: Cobbett, Advice to Young Men, Lett. III. 1881: Evans, Leics. Words, etc., 101 (E.D.S.), A very common proverb on the lips of the Midland pessimist is: “Beauty’s only skin-deep, but ugly goes to the bone.” 1921: W. H. Hudson, Traveller in Little Things, 12.

5. Beauty is no inheritance. 1633: Drake, 15, Beauty is no heritage. 1670: Ray, 2. 1732: Fuller, No. 951.

6. Beauty is potent, but money is omnipotent. 1670: Ray, 122. 1732: Fuller, No. 952, Beauty is potent; but money is more potent.

7. Beauty is soon blasted. 1732: Fuller, No. 953.

8. Beauty is the subject of a blemish. Ibid., No. 954.

9. Beauty may have fair leaves, yet bitter fruit. Ibid., No. 955.

10. Beauty provoketh thieves sooner than gold. 1599: Shakespeare, As You Like It, I. iii.

11. Beauty will buy no beef. 1732: Fuller, No. 956.
Beccles

32

12 Beauty without bounty awaits nought 1580 Lyly, Euphues, 295 (Arber), Beattie without riches, goeth a begging 1869 Hazlitt, s.v

Beecles for a puritan, Bunney for the poor, Halesworth for a drunkard, and Bihorough for a whore 1670 Ray, 253 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s.v “Suffolk” [“Bilborough” for “Bihorough”]

Beck is as good as a Dieu-garde, A 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch x. And thus with a becke as good as a dieu garde, She flang fro me 1583 Melbancke, Philotinus, sig F4 A becke of yours is as good as a Dieu-garde 1611 Davies (of Hereford), Sc of Folly, 48, in Works, ii (Grosart)

Bed If the bed would tell all it knows, it would put many to the blush 1659 Howell, 4 1732 Fuller, No 2702

Bed-time for barnets [threshers] and supper-time for carriers Old Cumberland Proverbs 1895 T Ellwood, Lake-land, etc, Gloss, 6 (E D S)

Beddington When Beddington hills wear a cap, Ripe and Chalvington gets a drop 1884 “Sussex Proverbs,” in N & Q, 6th ser, xo 342

Bede’s chair See quot 1846-59 Denham Tracts, i 67 (F L S), Has a Chip of Bede’s chair in her pout It has been a custom from time immemorial for the ladies, immediately after the conclusion of the marriage ceremony (before Hymen’s altar in Jarrow church), to proceed to the vestry and cut a chip off Bede’s chair, to ensure their fruitfulness. The saying is generally applied to those females who show signs of fecundity rather early after entering into the happy state of matrimony

Bedford i Bedford malt-horses 1622 Drayton, Polycot, xxvii, Of malt-horse, Bedfordshire long since the blazon won 1911 Hackwood, Good Cheer, 163, As Hampshire men were dubbed “hogs” in allusion to their pig-breeding, so Bedford folk were nicknamed “malt-horses” because of the high quality of malt they produced from their barley

2 The Bailiff of Bedford is coming 1662 Fuller, Worthies, i 167 (1840) 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s.v “Bedfordshire” 1874 Smiles, Lives of Engineers, i 15, After a heavy fall of rain, or after a thaw in winter, when the river [Ouse] swelled suddenly, the alarm spread abroad, “the bailiff of Bedford is coming!” the Ouse passing by that town 1904 N & Q, 10th ser, i 391

Bedfordshire=Bed 1608 Middleton, Mad World, II v You come rather out of Bedfordshire, we cannot he quiet in our beds for you 1670 Cotton, Scarrones, bk iv, Each one departs to Bedfordshire, And pillows all securely to 1738 Swift, Poetle Conners, Dial III 1878 Scott, Heart of Mid, ch xxx, Jeanie heard the highwayman say, to her no small relief, “She’s as fast [asleep] as if she were in Bedfordshire” 1847 Hood, Miss Kilmansegg, Her Dream And there was the bed, so soft, so vast, Quite a field of Bedfordshire clover 1927 Lucas, in Punch, 30 Nov, p 573, I hear the Dust- man drawing near To take you into Bedfordshire, It’s time you went to bed See also Cheshire (6)

Bedlam broke loose 1635 Davenant, News from Plymouth, IV ii, What’s here? Kent Street, Or bedlam broke loose? 1864 “Cornish Proverbs,” in N & Q, 3rd ser, vi 494

Bedlam broke loose What a clapper-house!

Bedminster See Sold Bedpost and Bedstaff See Twinkling Bedworth beggars 1678 Ray, 317 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s.v “Leicestershire”

Bee and Bees i A bee was never caught in a shower 1893 Inwards, Weather Love, 146

2 A dead bee will make no honey 1578 Florio, First Fruits, fo 25, A dead bee will make no honey 1651 Herbert, Jac Prudentium, 2nd ed, A dead bee maketh no honey 1894 Northall, Folk Phrases of Four Counties, 7 (E D S), A still bee gathers no honey

3 A swarm of bees in May, etc See quotes 1655 Reformed Commonwealth of Bees, 26, It being a proverb, that a swarm of bees in May is worth a cow
and a bottle of hay, whereas a swarm in July is not worth a fly. 1676: W. Lawson, New Orchard and Garden, 77. A May's swarm is worth a mares foal. 1710: Tusser Redivivus, The proverb says, "A swarm in May is worth a load of hay." 1744: Claridge, in Mills' Essay on Weather, 101 (1773). A swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay; But a swarm in July is not worth a fly. 1850: N. & Q., 1st ser., ii. 512. If they swarm in May, They're worth a pound next day; If they swarm in July, They're not worth a fly. Devon. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 234. In the retired villages among the Clee Hills the following much more curious version may sometimes be heard: A play o' bees in May's wuth a noble the same day, A play in June's purty soon, A play in July's nod wuth a butterfly. [N.B.—The gold noble, worth 6s. 8d., was first coined 1344.] 1921: Times, 7 Oct., p. 8, col. 4, An old rhyme... which says: "A swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay; A swarm of bees in June is worth a silver spoon: A swarm of bees in July isn't worth a fly."

4. As big as a bee's knee. 1797: quoted in N. & Q., 8th ser., x. 260. It cannot be as big as a bee's knee. 1804: Northall, Folk Phrases of Four Counties, 7 (E.D.S.). 1896: N. & Q., 8th ser., x. 199. "As big as a bee's knee" is a phrase I have frequently heard in South Notts to indicate a very small piece of anything. 1896: Locker-Lampson, Confidences, 98 n. It isn't so big as a bee's knee.

5. Bees that have honey in their mouths, have stings in their tails. 1579: Lyly, Euphues, 79 (Arber). The bee that hath hunny in his mouth, hath a sting in his tayle. 1732: Fuller, No. 959.


7. Every bee's honey is sweet. 1640: Herbert, Jacc. Prudentum.

8. He's like the master bee that leads forth the swarm. Glos. 1639: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 28 (1685).

9. His head is full of bees = cares, fancies, or, he is restless. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xii., Their hertes full heauty, their heads be full of bees. 1575: Churchyard, Chippes, 55 (Collier). About he beeves, As though his hed wear full of bees 1614: Jonson, Bart. Fair, I., He will whisle him and all his tunes over at night in his sleep! he has a head full of bees! 1745: Franklin, Drinker's Dict., in Works, ii. 23 (Bigelow). His head is full of bees [= he is drunk]. 1814: Scott, Waverley, ch. lxvi., This word had somewhat a sedative effect, but the ballie's head, as he expressed himself, was still "in the bees." Cf. No. 13.

10. If bees stay at home, Rain will soon come; If they fly away, Fine will be the day. 1898: Dyer, Eng. Folk-Lore, 131. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 146.

11. See quot. 1863: Wise, New Forest, ch. xvi., Forest proverbs... such as... "Like a swarm of bees all in a charm" [or churm = noise].

12. Toumble like a bee in a tar-tub. Ibid., ch. xvi.

13. To have a bee in one's bonnet. Cf. No. 9. 1553: Respublica, I. i., Ye muste perdonne my wytttes, for I tell you plaine, I have a hive of humble bees swarmynge in my braine. 1648: Herrick, Mad Maid's Song, Ah! woe is mee, woe, woe is me, Alack and well-a-day! For pitty, Sir, find out that bee, Which bore my love away. I'll seek him in your bonnet brave, I'll seek him in your eyes. 1682: A. Behn, False Count, II. iii., What means he, sure he has a gad-bee in his brain. 1860: Reade, Cloister and Hearth, ch. xcvii., He may have a bee in his bonnet, but he is not a hypocrite. 1922: Weyman, Ovington's Bank, ch. xxxii., What mare's nest, what bee in the bonnet was this?

14. When bees are old they yield no honey. 1633: Draise, 146. 1670: Ray, 19. 1732: Fuller, No. 3706, Old bees yield no honey.

15. When bees to distance wing their flight, Days are warm and skies are bright; But when their flight ends near their home, Stormy weather is sure to come. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 146.
Heywood, Proverbs, Pt 1 ch ix, Then
of trouth ye beg at a wrong mans dur
1566 Jonson, Ev Man in his Nuimour,
It vii, He claps his dish at the
wrong mans door 1659 Howell, 5

4 To beg like a cripple at a cross
1812 Brady, Clavs Cal., 1 334. We
have yet in common usage the old
saymg of "He begs like a cripple at a
cross" 1855 Robinson, Whity
Gloss, 40, "He begged like a cripple
at a-cross," very urgently 1817
Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 125

Beggar and Beggers 1 A beggar
pays a benefit with a louse 1678 Ray, 98
1732 Fuller, No ro

2 A beggar's purse is bottomless
1539 Taverner, Proverbs, fo 39, A
beggars scryppe is neuer fylld 1639
Clarke, 38 1670 Ray, 60, A begger
can never be bankrupt 1681 W
Robertson, Phrascol Generalis, 229, A
beggars purse is always empty C
Lady's heart, and Proud heart

3 A shameless beggar must have a
shameful demas 1639 Clarke, 37
1732 Fuller, No 392 [with "short"
for "shameful"]

4 Beggers breed and rich men feed
1639 Clarke, 98 1670 Ray, 60
1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict, s
v 'Beggar'

5 Beggers cannot be choosers 1546
Heywood, Proverbs, Pt 1 ch x, Beggers
should be no choosers 1616
B & F, Scornful Lady, V in, Beggers
must be no choosers 1635 Gaph-
thorne, Hollander, I, Beggers are no
chusers my friend Before 1726 Van-
brugh, Journey to London, III, My
lord, says I, beggars must not be
chusers 1819 Scott, Familiar Letters,
no 62 (1894), But beggers must not be
chusers 1889 R L S, Ballantrae,
ch in, For all this we were to pay
at a high rate, but beggers cannot
be choosers 1920 Barbelhon, Last
Diary, 13

6 Beggars make a free company
Before 1658 Cleveland, Works, 76
(1742). There was a time when such
cattle would hardly have been taken
upon suspicion for men in office, unless
the old proverb were renewed, That the
beggars make a free company, and those their wardens.


8. It is better to be a beggar than a fool. 1812: Ray, 81.

9. It would make a beggar beat his bag. 1678: Ray, 228.

10. Much ado to bring beggars to the stocks. 1633: Draxe, 14. 1639: Clarke, 19.

11. One beggar is enough at a door. 1639: Clarke, 187.

12. One beggar is woe that another by the door should go. 1539: Tavener, Erasmi Prov., 9 (1552) (O.), One beggar byeddeth wo that another by the doore shuld go. 1608: Armin, Nest of Ninnies, 47 (Sh. S.). 1681: W. Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 229, It's one beggers wo to see another by the door go. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Beggar" [as in 1681].


14. Set a beggar on horseback and he'll (a) never alight; (b) ride a gallop; (c) ride to the devil; (d) ride to the gallows; (e) run his horse out of breath; (f) run his horse to death. [Asperius nihil est humilium, cum surgit in altum.—Claudian, xviii. 181.] (a) 1576: Pettie, Petite Palace, ii. 100 (Gollancz, 1908). 1599: Greene, Orpharion, in Works, xii. 36 (Grosart), Set a beggar on horsebacke, and they say he will never light. 1620: Rowlandis, Night Raven, 30 (Hunt. Cl.). (b) 1605: Camden, Remains, 330 (1870), Set a beggar on horseback, and he will gallop. 1651: Burton, Melancholy, II. iii. 2. 1670: Ray, 60. (c) 1616: B. & F., Scornful Lady, IV. ii., Such beggars Once set o' horseback, you have heard, will ride—How far, you had best to look to. 1709: O. Dykes, Eng. Proverbs, 98, Set a beggar on horseback, and he'll ride . . . Whither, but to the devil? 1855: Mrs. Gaskell, North and South, ch. x. (d) c. 1626: in A Peysian Garland, 241 (Rollins, 1922), There is an old prowerbe, that oft hath bin try'd, Set a beggar on horse-back, to th' gallowes heel ride. (e) 1633: Draxe, 163. (f) 1594: Second Part Contention, 132 (Sh. S.), Beggers mounted run their horse to death.

15. Small invitation will serve a beggar. 1855: Bohn, 487.


17. The beggar is never out of his way. 1630: T. Adams, Works, 120, Vagrant rogues . . . are neuer out of their way. 1650: Fuller, Pispghan-Sight, bk. iii. ch. ii. § 7, Fancy is never at a loss, like a beggar never out of his way. 1732: Fuller, No. 965, Beggars are never out of their way.


19. To know one as well as a beggar knows his dish. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi., And my selfe knowth him, I dare boldly brag, Even as well as the beggar knowth his bag. 1579: Gosson, Apol. of Schoole of Abuse, 74 (Arber), Such as he knew as well as the begger his dise. 1638: T. Heywood, Wise W. of Hoggson, II. i. 1779: Mrs. Cowley, Who's the Duke, II. ii. 1822: Scott, Nigel, ch. xxi.

See also Merry as beggars; Misery may be; and Wish (1) to (4).

Beggars' Bush. 1564: Bullein, Dialogue, 78 (E.E.T.S.), In the ende thei go home . . . by weepyng cross, by beggers barne, and by knaues acre. 1599:
Kenilworth, ch vi 1855 Robinson, Whitby Gloss, 54, "It is better to come at the far end of a feast than at the fare end of a fray," better late at a feast than early at a fight

Behappened [perhaps] says Jack Dal- 

low 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 591

Behind before See Horse (25)

Behind the door to mend old breeches, You must go 1864 "Cornish Pro-

verbs, in N & Q., 3rd ser., vi 495

Believe 1 Believe not all you hear 1205 Layamon, Brut, 8015, Ful se[th] se the seg pe peos saye tald A If pue steuest aehene mon, Selde pu seet wel don (Very trut the man who told this saw If thou believest each man, seldom shalt thou do well) Before 1562 Lord Vaux, Poems, 37 (Grosart), 

Belev not every speache Before 1640 Massinger, Believe as You List [title]

2 Believe well and have well 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch ix 1670 Ray, 61 1732 Fuller, No 968

3 He that believes all, misseeth, He that believeth nothing, hits not 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

4 We soon believe what we desire 1581 tr Seneca's Tragedies, 15 (Spens S), What wretches doe most chiefly wishe of all, They soone belouve 1592 Harrington, Ori Furioso, bk 1 st 56, It is a proverbe used long ago, We soone belouve the thing we would have so 1696 Cornish Comedy, Act II., p 16, What we desire we easily believ 1709 Manley, New Atlantis, ii 77 (1736) 1732 Fuller, No 5426, We are apt to believe what we wish for

Bell and Bells 1 A crackt bell can never sound well 1732 Fuller, No 6358

2 Bells call others to church, but go not themselves 1557 North, Diall of Princes, fo 138 vo, For men y' reade much, and worke litte, are as belles, the which do sound to cal others, and they themselves neuer enter into the church 1670 Ray, 3 1732 Fuller, No 969

3 Bells on one horse See Hang (9)

4 He is like a bell that will go for every one that pulls it 1732 Fuller, No 1923

Begin, Two Angry Women, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, vn 335. They have danc'd a gai lillard at beggars'-bush for it 1662 Fuller, Worthies, u 98 (1840), "This is the way to Beggar's-bush. It is spoken of such who use dissolute and improvident courses, which tend to poverty, Beggar's-bush being a tree notonously known, on the left hand of London road from Huntingdon to Caxton 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v 

"Hunts"

Begin 1 As you begin the year so you'll end it 1767 Garrick, Prol to Cymon, There is a good old saying As you begin the year, you'll surely end it

2 Good to begin well, better to end well 1670 Ray, 8

3 He beginneth to build too soon that hath not money to finish it 1633 Draxe, i

4 He begins to die that quits his desires 1611 Cotgrave, s v " Abandonner," He truly begins to die that quits his chiefes desires 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

5 Let him that beginneth the song make an end 1633 Draxe, 12

Beginning 1 It is better coming to the beginning of a feast than to the end of a fray [1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch viii, It is yll commyng To thend of a shot [feast], and begin-

nyng of a fray] c 1590 Plaine Perceval, Dedication, I would it had bun Percevals hap, to haue com to the beginning of a friendly feast, or to the latter ending of so dangerous a fray 1597 Shakespeare, i Henry IV., IV u 1630 Massinger, Bashful Lover, III., Our grandisres said, Haste to the beginning of a feast but to the end of a fray 1672 Marvell, Rehearsal Transpr, Pt I, in Works, u i 119 (Grosart)

2 It is better coming to the end of a feast than to the beginning of a fray c 1594 Bacon, Promis, No 977 1670 Ray, 90 1769 Colman, Man and Wife, III u, I arrived just at the conclu-

sion of the ceremony, but the latter end of a feast is better than the begin-

ning of a fray, they say 1821 Scott,
5. He who cannot bear the clapper, should not pull the bell. 1732: Fuller, No. 2767, If you love not the noise of the bells, why do you pull the ropes? 1875: A. B. Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, io. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 71.

6. They are like bells; every one in a several note. 1732: Fuller, No. 4954.


8. When the bell begins to toll, Lord have mercy on the soul. 1813: Brand, Pop. Anth., ii. 205 (Bohn). 1888: Gilbert, Yeomen of Guard, I., The funeral bell begins to toll—May Heaven have mercy on his soul!

See also Agree like bells.

Bell the cat. See Cat (65).


Bell. 1. A belly full of gluttony will never study willingly. 1678: Ray, 146. 1732: Fuller, No. 6115.

2. Better belly burst than good drink.

lost. 1659: Howell, 17. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II., Come miss; better belly burst than good liquor be lost. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 30, Better belly burst, than good meat lost.

3. He whose belly is full believes not him that is fasting. 1578: Florio, First Fruits, fo. 29, He that is fed beleeueth not the fasting. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Pance," He that hath gorged himself thinks all mens mawes be full. 1732: Fuller, No. 2399.

4. If it were not for the belly, the back might wear gold. 1732: Fuller, No. 2690. Cf. Nos. ii and 16.


6. My belly thinks my throat cut. 1540: Palsgrave, Acolastus, sig. H2, I am so sore forhungered, that my bealy weneth my throte is cutte. 1575: Churchyard, Chippes, 127 (Collier), When hongry mawe thinks throat is cut in deed. c. 1630: B. & F., Love's Pilgrimage, II. ii., Let's walk apace; hunger will cut their throats else. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II., You are in great haste; I believe your belly thinks your throat's cut. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 24, Mi bally's beginnin' for t'think 'at mi throat's cut (I am hungry).

7. The belly carries the legs, and not the legs the belly. 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. xxxiv. 1694: D'Urfey, Quixote, Pt. I. Act IV. sc. i. 1732: Fuller, No. 3194, Let the guts be full, for it's they that carry the legs.

8. The belly hates a long sermon. 1732: Fuller, No. 4407.

9. The belly hath no ears. 1539: Taverner, Proverbs, fo. 47, The belly hath no ears. c. 1560: Becon, in
Catechism, etc, 601 (P S) 1609 Dekker, Gils Horne-Booke, in Works, II 245 (Grosart) 1721 Bailey, Eng Dict, s v “Belly” 1853 Trench, Proverbs, 29 (1805), We have on one side the English, Hungry bellies have no ears
10 The belly is not filled with fair words 1639 Clarke, 113 1670 Ray, 61 1748 Gent Mag, 21 1880 Spurgeon, Ploughman’s Pictures, 18, Promises don’t fill the belly
11 The belly robs the back 1619 W Hornby, Scourge of Drunkennes, sig B3, That by his paunch his backe should fare the worse 1659 Howell, Proverbs Brit-Eng, 33 Cf Nos 4 and 16
12 The belly teaches all arts 1855 Bohn, 498
13 When the belly is full, the bones would be at rest Before 1500 in Hill Commonplace-Book, 129 (E E T S), When the bell is full, the bones wold have rest 1553 Republica, III 1669 POLITIEBHUIJUS, 182 1738 Swift, Politie Convers, Dial II
14 When the belly is full the mind is amongst the maids c 1645 MS Proverbs, in N & Q, vol 154, p 27
15 Your belly chimes, it’s time to go to dinner 1678 Ray, 66 Cf No 5
16 Your belly will never let your back be warm 1732 Fuller, No 6043 Cf Nos 4 and 11
See also Back may trust, Empty (1) and (2), Eye (5), Full, Hard, adj (6), and Rule (3)

Bellyfull is a bellyfull, A 1666 Torrano, Piazza Univ, 321 1694 Motteux, Rabelas, bk v ch xxii 1738 Swift, Politie Convers, Dial II 1823 Scott, St Ronans, ch x, “A wamefou is a wamefou,” said the writer, swabbing his greasy chops
Bellyfull is one of meat, drink, or sorrow, A 1864 “Cornish Proverbs,” in N & Q, 3rd ser, vi 495 Belvoir See Bever Benacre See Cowithe

Bench-whistler, He is a c 1430 Lydgate, Minor Poems, 170 (Percy S.), Al suche benche whistlers, God late hem never the! [thrive] 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi, That benchwhistler (quoth I) is a pinchpenny 1632 T Heywood, Iron Age, Pt I Act V, A very bench-whistler
Bend 1 Best to bend while ’tis a twig c 1560 T Ingelend, Disobedient Child, 56 (Percy S.), For as long as the twyge is gentell and plyent, With small force and strength it may be bent 1590 Lodge, Rosalynde, 18 (Hunt Cl), I will bende the tree while it is a wand 1667 Roxb Ballads, vn 696 (B S), A twig will bend when it is young and weak 1732 Fuller, No 971 1841 Hood, Miss Kilamanseg, As the twig is bent, the tree’s inclined
2 When you bend the elbow, the mouth opens 1880 Kentish saying 1882 N & Q, 6th ser, v 266
Benefits please like flowers while they are fresh 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

Benfieldside, where the Devil stole the key of the Quakers’ Meeting-house 1846-59 Denham Tracts, 1 92 (F L S), Benfieldside, in the parish of Lanchester, is celebrated as the site of one of the earlist Quaker meeting-houses in England

Bent of one’s bow, The 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi, I, hauyng the bent of your yncles bow 1579 Lyly, Euphues, 75 (Arber), Do you therefore thinke me easilly entwined to the bent of your bow? 1670 Ray, 164, To have the bent of one’s bow

Berkshire See quot 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v “Barkshire,” He is a representative of Barkshire [applied to one who coughs] See also Cheshire (6)

Berry’s wife Just the thing, like old Berry’s wife 1920 J H Bloom, in N & Q, 12th ser, vn 67 [said to have been heard in Warwickshire within the last ten years]

Berwick I From Berwick to Dover, later with addition, three hundred miles over c 1300 R Brunne, tr Langtoft’s Chroin, 305 (Heare), Alle Ingland fro Berwick vnto Kent 1560 Wilson, Rhetorique, 105 (1909), Whereas oftentimes they [preachers] beginne as much from the matter, as it is betwixt Dover and Berwicke 1642 D Rogers, Naaman, sig Hh3, Though you should
runne from Barwickie to Dover. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, ii. 542 (1840). From Berwick to Dover, three hundred miles over. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Northumberland" [as in 1662]. 1846–59: Denham Tracts, i. 283 (F.L.S.) [as in 1662].

2. Once going through Berwick maketh not a man of war. 1846–59: Denham Tracts, i. 287 (F.L.S.).

Beside the book, To be. 1672: Walker, Pararm., 32, He is quite beside the book; mightily mistaken.

Beside the cushion, To be. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ix., I may set you byside the cushyn yit. 1654: Gayton, Pleasant Notes Don Q., 36, He let fly at the Biscaine ... and as we say in our poor English proverb, put him clean beside the cushion. 1681: W. Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 247, Beside the cushion; Nihil ad rhombum. 1778: H. Brooke, Female Officer, I. xii., The man did not speak much beside the cushion of common sense.

Besom. They have need of a besom that sweep the house with a turf. 1678: Ray, 101. 1683: Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83–7 (1697).

Best. i. Best among them. See Foxcubs.


3. Best cart. See Cart (2).


5. He's one o' th' best end o' th' worser sort o' folks. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 70.


7. It is best to take half in hand and the rest by and by. 1678: Ray, 354. 1732: Fuller, No. 2921.


9. Men are best loved furthest off. 1639: Clarke, 71.

10. Sometimes the best gain is to lose. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

11. That is the best gown that goes up and down the house. Ibid.

12. The best bred have the best portion. Ibid.

13. The best cloth may have a moth in it. 1732: Fuller, No. 4411.


15. The best go first, the bad remain to mend. 1855: Bohn, 498.

16. The best ground is the dirtiest. c. 1303: Langland, Plowman, C. xiii. 224, On fat londe and ful of donge foulest wedes growtheth. 1598: Shakespeare, 2 Henry IV., IV. iv., Most subject is the fattest soil to weeds. 1633: Donne, Poems, i. 8r (Grierson), There is best land, where there is foulest way. 1676: Cotton, Walton's Angler, Pt. II. ch. i., According to the proverb, "there is good land where there is foul way." 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 3 (Percy S) [as in 1676]. 1904: Co. Folk-Lore: Northumberland, 173 (F.L.S.) [as in 1676]. Cf. Worse (4).


18. The best is as good as stark naught. 1639: Clarke, 14.

19. The best is best cheap. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vii 1580: Tusser, Husbandrie, 104 (E.D.S.), Count best the best cheape, wheresoever ye dwell. 1655: Garnall, Christian in Armour, Verse ii, ch. iii., p. 41 (1679). He that sells cheapest shall have most customers, though at last best will be best cheap. 1785–95: Wolcot, Lusiad,
can v, "Best is best cheap"—you very wisely cry
20 The best is best to speak to 1683
Merton, Yorkshire Ale, 83–7 (1697)
21 The best mirror is an old friend
1611 Cotgrave, s.v. "Mirror." An old friend an excellent looking-glasse
1670 Ray, 1o 1732 Fuller, No 4905, There is no better looking-glass than an old friend
22 The best of men are but men at the best 1885 Harley, Moon Lore, 191
23 The best of the sport is to do the deed and say nothing 1639 Clarke, 326, Sport is sweetest when there be no spectators 1670 Ray, 25
24 The best part is still behind
Before 1529 Skelton Works, 1 17 (Dyce) Take thys in worth, the best is behynde 1630 Randolph in Works, 1 49 (Hazlitt), For now the proverb true I find, That the best part is still behind 1659 Howell, 6, The best is behind
25 The best patch is off the same cloth 1732 Fuller, No 4417
26 The best remedy against an ill man is much ground between both 1640 Herbert Jac Prudentium 1670 Ray, 14
27 The best things are worst (or hard) to come by 1635 Swan, Spec Mundi, 465, Excellent things are hard to come by 1670 Ray, 61 1732 Fuller, No 4420
28 The best things may be abused 1639 Clarke, 5
29 To make the best of a bad bargain (or game, or market) 1663 Pepys, Diary, 14 Aug., I therefore am resolved to make the best of a bad market c 1680 L'Estrange, Seneca's Morals "Happy Life," ch xvi., It is an equal prudence to make the best of a bad game and to manage a good one 1714 Ozell, Molière ii 142, All the art lies in making the best of a bad market 1765 Bickerstaff Maid of the Mill, III iv (bad market] 1823 Scott, Q Durward, ch xxxvi, Her aunt seemed determined to make the best of a bad bargain 1836 Dickens, Sketches by Boz "Scenes," ch xvin, a bad bargain 1923 J S

Fletcher, The Diamonds, ch xxvin, Resolved to make the best of an undeniably bad job
30 To put the best (a) foot, (b) leg, foremost (a) c 1591 Shakespeare, Titus Andronicus, II ii, Come on, my lords, the better foot before 1626 Overbury, Characters A Footman," His legs are not matches for he is still setting the best foot forward 1700 Congreve, Way of the World, IV x, You should commence an amour and put your best foot foremost 1856 R L S., Kidnapped ch xxvin, I set my best foot forward 1901 Raymond, Idler Out of Doors, 61, Then he must hurry up best foot afore (b) c 1500 Medwall, Nature, i 825 (Brandl's Quellen, 99), Com behynd and follow me Set out the better leg I warne the 1633 Jonson Tale of a Tub, II 1, Cheer up, the better leg avore 1742 Fielding, Andrews bk 1 ch vi, Lovers do not march like horse-guards they put the best leg foremost 1838 Dickens, Twixt, ch v, Now, you must put your best leg foremost, old lady! 1886 Elworthy, West Som Word-Book, 428 (E D S.), To put the best leg before is to hasten briskly, not necessarily in walking, but in whatever is in hand
31 We are usually the best men when in the worst health 1855 Bohn, 551
32 You are always best when asleep
Ibid., 575
Betshanger See quot 1735 Pegge, Kent Proverbs, in E D S., No 12, p 75, At Betshanger a gentleman at Fred-wile a square at Bonington a noble knight, at a lawyer [pron lyer] Better a blush in the face, than a spot in the heart 1620 Shelton, Quixote, Pt II ch xvin, Better shame in the face than spot in the heart 1732 Fuller, No 859
Better a clout than a hole out 1605 Camden, Remains, 325 (1870), It is better to see a clout [patch] than a hole out 1732 Fuller, No 6310 1864 Cornish Proverbs "in N & Q, 3rd ser., v 208 Better a fair pair of heels than a halter 1620 Shelton, Quixote, Pt II ch lxvii Better a fair pair of heels
Better than die at the gallows. 1604: D’Urfey, Quixote, Pt. II. Act II. sc. ii [as in 1620]. 1732: Fuller, No. 861.

Better a finger off than always aching. Before 1225: Ancien Rituel, 360, Better is finker of fen he eke euer. 1681: W. Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 252. 1825: Scott, Fam. Letters, ii. 384 (1894), As to our losing them a few days sooner, one must piece it out with the old proverb, “Better a finger off than aye wagging.”

Better a good keeper than a good winner. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Amateur.” A warie keeper is better than a carefull getter. 1623: Wodropehe, Spared Hours, 503.

Better a lean jade than an empty halter. 1678: Ray, 166. 1732: Fuller, No. 863.

Better a lean peace than a fat victory. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 32, Better is a leane agreement then a fat sentence. 1700: in Thoresby’s Correspondence, i. 396 (1832), You will all find the old adage verified, that “a lean arbitration is better then a fat judgment.” 1732: Fuller, No. 864. Cf. III agreement.

Better a lean purse than a lere [empty] stomach. 1860: Reade, Cloister and Hearth, ch. xxv.

Better a little fire to warm us, than a great one to burn us. c. 1510: A. Barclay, Eloges, 9 (Spens. S.), Then better is small fire one easilly to warme Then is a great fire to do one hurt or harme. 1732: Fuller, No. 865.

Better a loss at sea than a bad debt at land. 1742: North, Lives of Norths, ii. 50 (Bohn), The merchants have a proverb, “Better,” etc.

Better a mischief than an inconvenience. The saying was also reversed, see the first two quotations. 1583: Melbancke, Philotinus, sig. Z1, Yet must I commit an inconvenience to prevent a mischief. 1593: G. Harvey, in Works, i. 284 (Groser), So in many private cases, better an inconvenience then a mischief. 1642: D. Rogers, Matrim. Honour, 117, Better admit a mischief then an inconvenience. 1681: W. Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 252, Better once a mischief, then always inconvenience. 1714: Spectator, No. 564. 1740: North, Examen, 330, Littleton’s rule, better a mischief than an inconvenience, sounds oddly, but hath this very meaning.

Better a mouse in the pot than no flesh at all. 1605: Camden, Remains, 319 (1870) [has “louse” “for “mouse”]. 1670: Ray, 117 [has “louse,” but adds] The Scotch proverb saith a mouse, which is better sence, for a mouse is flesh and edible. 1696: D’Urfey, Quixote, Pt. III. Act V. sc. i. [“mouse”]. 1732: Fuller, No. 867 [“mouse”]. Cf. Louse (r).

Better a new friend than an old foe. 1590: Spenser, F. Q., I. ii. 243, Better new friend then an old foe is said. 1600: Bodenham, Belvedere, 94 (Spens. S.).

Better a portion. See Wife (6).

Better a quick penny than a dailying shilling. 1684: Northall, Folk Phrases of Four Countys, II (E.D.S.).

Better a witty fool than a foolish wit. 1601: Shakespeare, Twelfth Night, I. v.

Better alone than have a false friend for company. 1825: Scott, Betrothed, ch. xiv. Cf. Better be alone, infra.

Better an egg in peace than an ox in War. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Oeuf.”

Better are meals many than one too merry. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vii. c. 1594: Bacon, Pronus, No. 494. 1678: Ray, 40.


Better be a fool than a knave. 1616: Rich Cabinet, fo. 44, Yet better to bee a foole then a knawe. 1659: Howell, 18. 1875: A. B. Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 164.

Better be alone than in bad company. 1477: Rivers, Dictes and Sayings, 8 (1877), It is better a man . . . to be a lone than to be accompanied with euill people. 1586: B. Young, tr. Guazzo’s Civil Convers., fo. 180. 1648: Fuller, Holy State: “Of Company,” Better therefore ride alone than have a thief’s
Better company 1732 Fuller, No 872 Cf Better alone, supra

Better be drunk than drowned. 1830
Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 430

Better be desired than pitied 1546
Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi 1584
Lodge, Alarum against usurers, 57 (Sh S) 1670 Ray, 86 1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict, s v “Envysed”

Better be half blind than have both eyes out 1639 Clarke, 86 1670 Ray, 64

Better be half hanged than ill wed 1670 Ray, 48

Better be half hanged than lose estate 1681 Otway, Soldier’s Fortune, V in

Better be ill spoken of by one before all, than by all before one 1659 Howell, Proverbs, “To Philologers” 1670 Ray, 14

Better be out of the world See Out of the world

Better be over-manned than over-tooled 1886 Elwrothy, West Som Word-Book, 547 (E D S), A common saying is, “Tis better to be i, than that the tool should be rather light than heavy in comparison with the man’s strength

Better be the head of a lizard than the tail of a lion 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

Better be the head of a pike (or dog) than the tail of a sturgeon (or lion) 1670 Ray, 101 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v “Head” 1823 D’Israel, Cur of Lit, ut infra

Better be the head of an ass than the tail of a horse 1639 Clarke, 105 1670 Ray, 101 1732 Fuller, No 928

Better be the head of the yeomanry than the tail of the gentry 1639 Clarke, 22 1670 Ray, 101 1732 Fuller, No 933 1823 D’Israel, Cur of Lit, 2nd ser, 1 437 (1824), The ancient spirit of Englishmen was once expressed by our proverb, “Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion”, i.e the first of the yeomanry rather than the last of the gentry

Better be the tail of a horse than the head of an ass 1639 Clarke, 91

Better be unmannerly than troublesome 1659 Howell, 5 1670 Ray, 153 1732 Fuller, No 880 Cf Unmannerliness

Better be up to the ankles, than quite to over head and ears 1732 Fuller, No 879

Better believe it than go where it was done to prove it 1670 Ray, 164

Better blue clothes, He’s in his, i.e He thinks himself very fine 1678 Ray, 66

Better bow than break c 1374 Chaucer, Troylus, 1 257, The yerde [twng, branch] is bet that bowen wole and winde Than that that brest [breaks] 1413 in Twenty-six Poems, No 124, p 54 (E E T S), Better bowe than brest 1530 Palsgrave, 660, Better plye than breahe 1560 Wilson, Rhetorique, 189 (1900) 1611 Davies (of Hereford), Se of Folly, 44, in Works, ii (Grosart) 1732 Fuller, No 882

Better bread than is made of wheat, No 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vii, Lyke one That would haue better breahe than is made of wheate 1592 Lyly, Mother Bombie, I in 1611 Cotgrave, s v “Frouement,” Would you have better bread then’s made of wheat 1712 Motteux, Quixote, Pt I bk 1 ch vii, Rambling up and down like a vagabond, and seek- ing for better bread than is made of wheat 1853 Trench, Proverbs, 83 (1905), We note very well the folly of one addicted to this, saying He expects better bread than can be made of wheat

Better buy than borrow 1539 Taverner, Proverbs, fo 13, I had leuer bye then begge 1653 Draxe, 18 1732 Fuller, No 884

Better children weep than old men 1541 Coverdale, Christ State Matri- mony, sig Ie, Better it is that children wepe then old men c 1594 Bacon, Promus, No 481 1650 Fuller, Psgab Sight, bk iii ch iv § 1

Better cut the shoe than pinch the foot 1732 Fuller, No 887

Better direct well than work hard
Ibid, No 889

Better do it than wash it done 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vii, Better it be done than wish it had
Better been done. 1670: Ray, 29 [as in 1546]. 1732: Fuller, No. 890.

Better dule than dawkin. 1883: A. Easther, Almondbury Gloss., 40 (E.D.S.). The proverb is well known, "Better have a dule nor a dawkin," i.e. an evil spirit than a fool.

Better early than late. c. 1225: Ancren Riwle, p. 340 (Morton). Better is er pe [the] (Better is early, or too soon, than too late). c. 1520: Hickscorner, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, i. 193. It is better betime than too late. 1560: Nice Wanton, in ibid., ii. 168, Better in time than too late. 1817; 1611 well 1639 Ray, more 1225: better 1732: (Grosart). He Herbert, 1560: A. Easther, been 1597: Aicren spirit 1546. 1548: Roberts, Grandison, i. 360 (1683). Miss Byron, I have had the better end of the staff, I believe. 1924: Shaw, Saint Joan, sc. v., She does not know everything; but she has got hold of the right end of the stick.


Better feed five drones than starve one bee. 1732: Fuller, No. 935, Better two drones be preserv'd, than one good bee perish. 1875: A. B. Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 126.

Better fill a glutton's belly than his eye. 1590: Greene, in Works, ix. 167 (Grosart). Now gentlewomen, do I finde the olde prowerbe true: Better fill a mans belly then his eye. 1670: Ray, 96.


Better give than take. 1493: Dives and Pauper, fo. 2 (1536), It is . . . more blyssful to give than to take. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. v. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), Sc. of Folly, 44, in Works, ii. (Grosart). 1710: S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 351, 'Tis better to give than to receive.


Better go to bed supperless. See Supperless.

Better good afar off than evil at hand. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

Better have it than hear of it. 1639: Clarke, 256, Better to have than to hear of a good thing. 1670: Ray, 215.

Better have one plough going than two cradles. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 229 (Arber), It is better to haue one plough going, then two cradells. 1716: Ward, Female Policy, 82, Therefore it's better to have two ploughings, than one cradle. 1732: Fuller, No. 905. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 5 (Percy S.).

Better hazard once than be always in fear. 1732: Fuller, No. 906.

Better is art than strength. c. 1205: Layamon, Brit, ii. 297 (Madden), Hit wes yare i-queen: þat betere is liste þene ufel strenpe (It was said of yore, that better is art than evil strength).

Better is cost upon something worth than expense on nothing worth. 1545: Ascham, Toxoph., 222 (Arber).

Better is the last smile than the first laughter. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ix. c. 1594: Bacon, Promis, No. 501. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), Sc. of Folly, 47, in Works, ii. (Grosart). 1732: Fuller, No. 929.


Better kiss a knave than be troubled with him. 1605: Camden, Remains, 326 (1870). 1670: Ray, 110. 1738:
Swift, *Polite Convers., Dial I.,* I had rather give a knife a kiss, for once, than be troubled with him.

Better known than trusted c 1560 in Huth, *Ancient Ballads,* etc., 228 (1867). They are not so well trusted as knowne 1592 Chettle, *Kind-Hearts Dream,* fo (Percy S.), Better knowne than loud 1670 Ray, 183 1732 Fuller, No 909 1817 Scott, Rob Ray, ch xxvi, Rashleigh Osbaldistone is better kend than trusted in Glasgow.

Better late ripe and bear, than early blossom and blast 1732 Fuller, No 910.


Better leave than lack 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs,* Pt I ch v 1681 W Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis* 475 At dinner 'ts better to leave then to lack 1725 Bailey, 4r Erasmus' *Colloques,* 71. We had better leave than lack.

Better lose a jest than a friend 1593 G Harvey, in *Works,* u 125 (Grosart), And Papp-hatchet, it is better to loose a new jest, then an old friend 1670 Ray, 109 1732 Fuller, No 915.

Better lose cloth than bread Before 1500 Hill, *Commonplace-Book,* 129 (EETS), Better it is, to lese cloth than brede.

Better lost than found 1584 Robinson, *Handy Pleas Delights,* 14 (Arber), For you are better lost than found 1586 Whitney, *Emblems* 158. For such a wife is better loste then founde 1692 L'Estrange, *Esop,* 121 (3rd ed.) 1821 Scott, *Kemilworth,* ch 1, I have one wild slip of a kinsman but he is better lost than found.

Better luck still, quoth Rowley Burdon 1846-59 *Denham Tracts,* 1 68 (F L S). An extremely popular toast and saying through nearly the whole of the North of England.

Better my hog dirty homie than no hog at all 1670 Ray, 13 1712 Motteux, *Quixote,* Pt II ch lxxv 1732 Fuller, No 927, Better's a dirty hog than no hog at all.

Better never to begin than never to make an end 1633 Draxe, 51 1639 Clarke, 247 1736 Bailey, *Dict,* s v "Better," Better never begun than never ended.

Better one house filled than two spil ped 1670 Ray, 51 1735 Pegge, *Kentishness,* in *E.D.S,* No 12, p 48 1887 Parish and Shaw, *Dict Kent Dialect* 157 (E D S), Spilled Spoil And so the proverb, Better one house filled than two spill'd.

Better one house troubled than two 1587 Greene, *Penelope's Web,* in *Works,* v 162 (Grosart), Where the old proverb is fulfild, better one house troubled then two 1924 *Folk-Lore,* vxxi 358 [Suffolk]. Better one house spoil than two [said when a witless man marries a foolish woman]

Better one's house See *House* (5)

Better pay the butcher than the doctor 1875 A B Cheales, *Proverb Folk-Lore,* 82.

Better play a card too much than too little 1620 Shelton, *Quixote,* Pt II ch xxxvi 1654 D Urley, *Quixote* Pt I Act IV sc 1.

Better ride safe, etc See quot 1821 Scott, *Kemilworth,* ch vyn., 'Better ride safe in the dark," says the proverb than in daylight with a cut-throat at your elbow.

Better riding on a pad than on a horse's bare back 1792 Wolcot, in *Works,* u 403 (1795).

Better rule than be ruled by the rout 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs,* Pt I ch v. And better to rule, than be ruled by the rout 1605 Camden, *Remains,* 320 (1870) 1670 Ray, 23.
Better say here it is, than here it was. 1683: Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1607). 1732: Fuller, No. 931. Better sell than live poorly. 1732: Fuller, No. 941.

Better shelter under an old hedge, than a young furze-bush. 1639: Clarke, 25. Better to keep under an old hedge than creepe under a new furs-bush. 1732: Fuller, No. 922.

Better sit still. See Sit (2). Better so than worse. 1732: Fuller, No. 925.

Better sold than bought. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. x. But, for a farthyng, who euer did sell you Myght bost you to be better solde then bought.

Better some of a pudding than none of a pie. 1670: Ray, 135 1732: Fuller, No. 924.

Better spare at brim than at bottom. 1523: Fitzherbert, Husbandry, 100 (E.D.S.), Thou husbande and huswifte, that intend to . . . kepe measure, you must spare at the brynke, and not at the bottom. 1580: Tusser, Husbandrie, 23 (E.D.S.), Some spareth too late, and a number with him, the foole at the bottom, the wise at the brim. 1681: W. Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 275. 1732: Fuller, No. 4237. 1869: Surgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xvi., He never spares at the brim, but he means, he says, to save at the bottom.

Better spare to have of thine own than ask of other men. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

Better spared than ill spent. 1633: Draxe, 196. 1670: Ray, 144.

Better speak to the master, than the man. 1661: Gurnall, Christian in Armour, 498 (1679).

Better spent than spared. 1530: Palsgrave, 726. It is better somtyme to spende than to spare. 1560: Wilson, Rhetorique, 189 (1609). It were better sometimes wastefull to spende, then warely to kepe. 1732: Fuller, No. 926.


Better the day, better the deed. 1607:

Middleton, Mich. Term, III. i. 1612: Rowlands, Knaves of Hearts, 46 (Hunt. Cl.), They say, The better day, the better deede. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I. 1775: Garrick, May-Day, sc. ii. 1870: Dickens, Droad, ch. x., Ask Mr. Landless to dinner on Christmas Eve (the better the day the better the deed).


Better the harm I know than that I know not. 1586: D. Rowland, tr. Lazarillo, 73 (1924). Rememering the olde proverbe: Better is the evil knowne, than the good which is yet to knowe. *

Better to be a-cold than a cuckold. 1678: Ray, 69.

Better to be born lucky than rich. 1639: Clarke, 49. Better to have good fortune then be a rich man’s child. 1784: New Foundl. Hosp. for Wit, iv. 128. Better be fortunate than rich. 1846–59, Denham Tracts, i. 224 (F.L.S.).

Better to be happy than wise. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II. ch. vi. 1581: B. Rich, Farewell, 7 (Sh. S.), There is an old proverbe . . . “It is better to be happiest than wise.” 1670: Ray, 99.

Better to be idle than ill occupied. 1560: E. More, Defence of Women, Dedication, Better had it bene for hym (as Erasmus sayoth) to haue bene ydle then euyll occupied. 1607: Lyly, Love’s Metam., I. ii., Yet better idle than ill employed. 1681: W. Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 252, Better be idle then not well employed. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus’ Colloquies, 210, Thence comes the proverbe, It is better to be idle, than to be doing, but to no purpose.

Better to be stung by a nettle, than prickd by a rose. That is, better be wronged by a foe than a friend. 1659: Howell, 18.
Better to cry over your goods than after them 1855 Bohn, 532
Better to give the fleece than the sheep 1578 Florio, First Friates, fo 32 1605 Camden, Remains, 326 (1870) 1732 Fuller, No 896, Better give the wool than the whole sheep
Better to hang  See Hang (2)
Better to have than wish 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch iv 1670 Ray, 29
Better to knit (or knot) than blossom 1670 Ray, iii ["knot "] 1732 Fuller, No 2977 ["knot "]
Better to leave than to maintain folly c 1477 Caxton, Jason, 116 (E E T S), For as it is said commonly, hit is better to leue folke thenne to mayntene folke
Better to live in low degree than high disdain 1589 L Wright, Display of Dutie 17, It is a true saying better to live in lowe degree then high disdain 1617 Countrym New Commonwealth, 25, It is better for him to live in low content then in high infamy
Better to play with the ears than with the tongue 1611 Davies (of Hereford), Sc of Folly, 46, in Works, 11 (Grosart) 1633 Draxe 172
Better to wear out than to rust out 1770 G Whitefield, in Southy, Wesley, u 170 (1858), I had rather wear out than rust out 1830 Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 434, It is better to wear up with work, than with rust 1865 A K H Boyd, Crit Essays of Co Parson, 40, "It is better," said Bishop Cumberland, "to wear out than to rust out" 1924 Folk-Lore, xxxv 358, It is better to wear up than rust up Suffolk
Better tooth out than always ache 1659 Howell, 7 1732 Fuller, No 869
Better unborn than untaught c 1270 Prov of Alfred, in O E Miscell, 128 (E E T S), For betere is child vnborne pan vnbushe [unbuxom=disobedient] c 1460 How the Goode Wyfe, 1 203, For a chyld vn-borne wer better Than be vn-taught, thus seys the letter c 1555 in Wght, Songs, etc., Reign of Philip and Mary, 6 (Roxb Cl), Unborne ys better than untaught 1662 Fuller, Worthies, i 44 (1840), Our

English proverb, "It is as good to be unborn as unbred" 1732 Fuller, No 937, Better unborn than unbred
Better unfeather than untaught 1557 Seager, Sch of Virtue, in Babes Book, etc., 348 (E E T S), The common proverb remember ye oughte, "Better vnfedde then vn-taughte" 1580 Lyly, Euphues, 420 (Arber), I have beene better taught then feede
Better untaught than ill taught 1678 Ray, 345 1732 Fuller, No 938 1780 K O'Hara, Tom Thumb, I iii, in Inchbald, Farces, vi 174 (1815), Better quite ignorant, than half instructed
Better wear out shoes than sheets 1732 Fuller, No 940 1875 A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 82
Better wed over the mixen than over the moor 1662 Fuller, Worthies, i 266 (1840) 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Cheshire" 1818 Scott, Heart of Mid, ch xxxi 1874 Hardy, Madding Crowd, ch xxxi 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 30
Better were within, better would come out, If 1732 Fuller, No 2672
Better workman, the worse husband, The 1633 Draxe, 62 1670 Ray, 158 1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict, s v "Workman" 1901 F E Taylor, Lancs Sayings, 32, Better workman—woe be his husband
Between promising and performing a man may marry his daughter 1511 Cotgrave, s v "Donner," Ette promettre et donner doit on la fille marier, Betweene promising, and giving the maid ought to be married 1670 Ray, 22 1732 Fuller, No 974
Between the anvil (or beetle) and the hammer (or block) 1583 Melbancke, Philothenes, sig Ccz, My spint was betwixt the anvile and hammer c 1594 Bacon, Promus, No 741, Between the hammer and the anvill 1613 Hayward Norm Kings, 274 (O), Earle William being thus set as it were betweene the beetle and the block—was nothing detected 1633 Draxe, 37, Betweene the anvill and the hammer 1902 in N & Q, 9th ser., ix 12. The frequency with which the word 'beetle' occurs in proverbial
phrases, like . . . "Between the beetle and the block" . . .

Between you and me and the post (or bed-post, door-post, etc.). 1838: Dickens, in Letters, i. 11 (1880). Between you and me the general post. 1839: Dickens, Nickleby, ch. x., Between you and me and the post, sir, it will be a very nice portrait. 1843: Planche, Extravag., ii. 245 (1879), I fancy between you and me and the post . . .

Bever. *If Bever have a cap, You churls of the vale look to that. 1662: Fuller, Worthis, ii. 226 (1840). 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Leicestershire." 1881: Evans, Leics. Words, etc., 300 (E.D.S.), I have heard the proverb repeatedly, but always in the form: When Belvoir wears his cap, You churls of the Vale look to that.

Bewails. He that bewails himself hath the cure in his hands. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

Beware beginnings. 1639: Clarke, 259

Beware by other men's harms. See Warn (i).


Beware of little expense. 1855: Bohn, 331.

Beware of the forepart of a woman, the hind part of a mule, and all sides of a priest. 1591: Florio, Second Fruits, 99, To womens forepartes doo not aspire, From a mules hinder parte retire, And shun all partes of monke or fire. 1623: Wodroephe, Spared Hours, 276 [with "asses" for "mule"]). 1732: Fuller, No. 978. 1880: Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 118, Beware of a mule's hind foot, a dog's tooth, and a woman's tongue.

Beware the buyer. See Buyer.

Bewcaster, He's a. 1846-59, Denham Tracts, i. 72 (F.L.S.), The parallel saying of Cumberland, "He's a Bewcaster"—i.e. a bad one.

Bibble-babble. See Tittle-tattle.

Bible and a stone do well together, The. 1672: Marvell, Rehearsal Transpr., in Works, iii. 151 (Grosart), The Welch have a proverb, that the Bible and a stone do well together; meaning, perhaps, that if one miss, the other will hit.

Bid me and do it yourself. 1639: Clarke, 232.

Big a liar as Tom Pepper, As. 1862: Dialect of Leeds, 405, A noted propagator of untraths is "as big a liar as Tom Pepper."

Big as a Dorchester butt. 1838: Holloway, Provincialisms, 23, The old saying, you are as big as a Dorchester butt. 1851: Dorset Gloss., 4, As big as a Dorchester butt, i.e. very fat.

Big as a parson’s barn. Dorset. 1869: Hazlitt, 58.

Big as bull beef; or, To look as if one had eaten bull beef. 1580: Barett, Alvareis, T 270, Such as . . . looke as though they had eaten bulbefe. 1681: W. Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 257, He looks as big as bull beef. 1712: Motteux, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. v., You may go, and be a governor, or an islander, and look as big as bull-beef an you will. 1881: Evans, Leics. Words, etc., 112 (E.D.S.), "As big as bull-beef" is a phrase equivalent to "as proud as a pump wi’ two spouts." 1901: F. E. Taylor, Folk-Speech of S. Lanes, s.v. "Bull-beef."

Big in the mouth. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 32, Big i’ th’mith [given to boasting].

Bilberry. See Blue (2).

Bilbrough. See Beecles.


Billing Hill, between the valleys of Wharfe and Aire. When Billing Hill puts on its cap, Calverley Mill will get a slap. 1878: Folk-Lore Record, i. 169.

Billingsgate. i. Billingsgate language. 1654: Gayton, Pleasant Notes Don Q., 60, Most bitter Billingsgate rhetoric.

1687: A. Behn, Lucky Chance, i. ii., She . . . did so rail at him, that what with her Billingsgate . . . 1740: North, Lives of Norths, i. 288 (Bohn), Such Billingsgate language as should not come out of the mouth of any man.

1822: Byron, in Letters and Journals, vi. 4 (Prothero), I’ll work the Laureate
before I have done with him, as soon as I can muster Billingsgate therefor 1918 Murhead, Blue Guide to London, 389, The word "Billingsgate" as a synonym for coarse language is an aspersion on the fish-porters that is alleged to have passed long since into the domain of pointless slander 2 You shall have as much favour as at Billingsgate, for a box on the ear 1659 Howell, 15 1670 Ray 275 Billingshurst See Rudgwick Billy has found a pin 1694 Lt Delamere, Speech on Arbitrary and Illegal Imprisonments [quoted in Bridge, below], In our county [Cheshire] when a man makes a great stir about a matter and it ends in nothing that is significant, we say—"Billy has found a pin" 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 32 Bind so as you may unbind 1732 Fuller, 980 Bingham See All the world Birch See Bare as the birch Birchen twigs break no ribs 1639 Clarke, 75 1670 Ray, 61 1732 Fuller, No 6380 Cf Rod Bird and Birds 1 A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush [sic vappaerae brade r jedi fivetta bradiet. —Theocritus, vii 75] Before 1500 in Hill, Commonplace-Book, 128 (EETS), A birdie in hond is better than thre in the wode c 1530 J Heywood Wittie and Witsless, 213 (Farmer), Better one bird in hand than ten in the wood c 1550 Parle of Byrdes, I 196, in Hazlitt, Early Pop Poetry, iv 177, A byrde in hande is worth two in the wood 1581 Woodes Conf of Conscience, iv, One bird in the hand is worth two in the bush c 1660 in Roxb Ballads, ii 44 (Hindley) 1696 T Brown, in Works, iv 276 (1696) 1736 Fielding, Pasquin, II 1855 Gaskell North and South, ch xvii 2 A bird may be caught with a snare that will not be shot 1732 Fuller, No 13 3 A bird of the air shall carry it, or, A bird told me [Eccles x 20, For a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter] 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch v, I did lately heere by one byrd that in mine eare was late chauntynge 1583 Melbancke, Philotinus, sig F3, I had a little bird, that brought me newes of it 1598 Shakespeare, 2 Henry IV, V v 1652 Shirley, Cardinal, I, Take heed, the Cardinal holds Intelligence with every bird t' th' air 1736 Fielding, Pasquin, IV, But I have also heard a sweet bird sing 1822 Scott, Nigel, ch vi 1840 Barham, Ing Legends "St Dunstan" 1719 A A Milne, Camb Triangle, in Sec Plays, 149 (1921), How did you know my name? Dennis A little bird told me about you 4 As the bird is, such is the nest 1611 Colgrave, s v "Nid," Such bird, such nest 1666 Tornano, Priua Univ, 296 5 Birds are entangled by their feet, and men by their tongues 1732 Fuller, No 951 6 Birds of a feather flock (or fly) together [we are ther hauetey th'byrds we ther hauetey —Homer, Od, xvii 218] Pares vetere proverbio cum paribus faciliame congregantur —Cicero, Sen, i 7] 1578 Whetstone, Promos and Cassandra, sig C1, Byrds of a fether, best fye together 1607 Rowlands, Diag Lanthorne, 43 (Hunt Cl), Birds of a feather and a liske, Will still together flocke 1665 Head and Kirkman, English Rogue, I 197 1729 Fielding, Author's Farce, III, Men of a side Like birds of a feather Will flock together 1850 Dickens, Chuzzlewit, ch xiii, He has conspired against me, like the rest, and they are but birds of one feather 7 Each bird loves to hear himself sing 1659 Howell, Proverbs Brit-Eng, 11 8 He hath brought up a bird to pick out his own eyes 1039 Clarke, 157 1672 Walker, Parcim, 53, You bring up a bird to pick out your own eye 1732 Fuller, No 1864 9 He's in great want of a bird, that will give a great for an out 1678 Ray, 1101 1732 Fuller, No 2458 10 If every bird take back its own feathers, you'll be naked 1633 Drake, 18, If every byrde had his owne, he
Bird

should be as rich as a new shorne sheepe.
1732: Fuller, No. 2675.
11. Ill fare that bird that picks out the dam's eye. 1639: Clarke, 169. 
12. Of all birds give me mutton. 1732: Fuller, No. 3695.
13. Old birds are not caught with chaff. 1481: Caxton, Reynard, 110 (Arber), Wenest thou thus to deceyue me . . . I am no byrde to be lockeed ne take by chaff. 1640: R. Brome, Sparagus Garden, IV. xi., Teach 'hem to liche hony, catch birds with chaffe . . . 1668: Shadwell, Sullen Lovers, V. iii. There's no catching old birds with chaff. 1713: Gay, Wife of Bath, I. 1852: Dickens, Bleak House, ch. xlix., He has bought two specimens of poultry, which, if there be any truth in adages, were certainly not caught with chaff.
14. That is the bird that I would catch. 1732: Fuller, No. 4358.
15. The bird is known by his note, the man by his words. 1659: Howell, Proverbs: Ital.-Eng., ro. 1732: Fuller, No. 12.
16. The bird that can sing and won't sing, must be made to sing. 1678: Ray, 345. 1681: W. Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 1133. 1888: Q.-Couch, Troy Town, ch. i., Remember the proverb about little birds that can sing and won't sing.
17. The birds are flown. 1562: Heywood, Three Hund. Epigr., No. 280.
18. There are no birds of this year in last year's nests. 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. lxxiv. 1732: Fuller, No. 4863. 1841: Longfellow, It is not always May, There are no birds with last year's nest. 1906: Q.-Couch, Cornish Window, 5, He bade his friends look not for this year's birds in last year's nests.
19. To take the bird by its feet. 1678: Ray, 354.
20. We shall catch birds to-morrow. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. viii. 1633: Drake, 2.

See also Added egg; Build (1); Child (3); Early (7) and (8); Every bird; Fine (12); Fright a bird; Ill bird; Lion (10); Little and little; March (20), (21), and (23); Rough net; St. Valentine (1); and Small birds.

Bit

Birstal for ringers, Heckmondwike for singers, Dewsbury for peddlers, Cleckheaton for sheddars [swindlers]. 1878: Folk-Lore Record, i. 174.
Birth is much but breeding more. 1639: Clarke, 103. 1670: Ray, 63. 1712 Motteux, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. lviii.
1732: Fuller, No. 983.

Bishop. 1. The bishop hath blessed it 1528: Tyndale, Obed. of Chryst. Man, 166. When a thynge speadeth not well we borowe speach and say “the byshophe hath blessed it,” because that nothynge speadeth well that they medyll withall.

2. The bishop has put his foot in it 1528: Ibid., 166, If the poddch be burned to, or the meate over rosted, we say, “the byshophe has put his fote in the potte,” or “the byshophe hath played the coke,” because the byshophes burn who they lust, and whosoever displeaseth them. 1634: T. Heywood, Lancs Witches, II., . . . till it [burnt milk] stinke worse than the proverbe of the bishops foot. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. “Bishop,” The bishop has set his foot in it, a saying in the North, used for milk that is burnt-to in boiling. 1825: Brockett, Gloss. N. Country Words, 16. 1888: S. O. Addy, Sheffield Gloss., 18 (E.D.S.). 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 112.

3. What, a bishop's wife? eat and drink in your gloves? This is a cryptic saying. 1678: Ray, 229.

Bishop Auckland i? Bisho' brigg, God help me! 1846-59: Denham Tracts, i. 93 (F.I.S.).
Bisho' Brigg into Yorkshire, Out o' = Out of the frying pan into the fire. Ibid., i. 77.

Bishop-Middleham; where Might rules Right. Ibid., i. 93.

Bishop's Nympton. See quot. 1889: N. & Q., 7th ser., vii. 274. The local saying runs in North Devon . . . Bishop's Nympton for length, South Molton for strength, And Chittlehampton for beauty [the reference is to the respective churches].

Bit. 1. A bit and a blow; sometimes
with the addition, as they feed apes
1638 D Turvill, Vade Mecum, 8r (3rd ed.), Some againe that doe feed
them, but alas! it is as the proverbe
saith, with a bit and a knocke 1672
Walker, Param, 10, You feed me like
an ape, with a bit and a knocke 1738
Swift, Politic Converses, Dial 1, Why,
miss, I find there is nothing but a bit
and a blow with you 1855 Robinson,
Whitby Gloss, 14 A bite and a buffet, a
maxim, never do a good deed and then
upbraid with the obligation "Never
give a bit And a buffet w't"
2 A bit in the morning is better than
nothing all day, or, than a thump on the
back with a stone 1639 in Berkeley
MSS, m 33 (1885) Better a bit then
noe bread 1670 Ray, 33 1736
Bailey, Dict, s v Bit'
Bitch that I mean is not a dog, The
1732 Fuller, No 4426
Bite, verb 1 He bites the ear, yet
seems to cry for fear Gloss To bite
the ear was a caress see Romeo and
Juliet, II iv 1639 in Berkeley MSS,
in 32 (1885)
2 He that bites on every weed, must
needs light on poison 1639 Clarke,
211. 1669 Politepopheuma, 185 1710
S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs,
24 1732 Fuller, No 2046 [with
"may" for "must needs"]
3 If you cannot bite, never show your
1670 Ray, 63 1736 Bailey
Dict, s v "Bite"
4 Though I am bitten, I am not all
eaten 1639 Clarke, 32, Though he be
bitten, he's not all eaten 1670 Ray,
164 1732 Fuller, No 6170
5 To bite the mare by the thumb—?
1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vi,
Thus biteth the mare by the thumbe, as
they say 1611 Davies (of Hereford),
Sc of Folly, 43, in Works, 11 (Grosart).
Thus batte the mare by the thumb
6 To bite upon the bridle See
Bridle (2)
Bite, subs You have taken a bite out of
your own arm 1732 Fuller, No 5925
Biter is sometimes bit, The [s
regnd the hont —Lucian, Dial Mort,
vii.] 1693 D'Urfey, Richmond Heress,
Epi, Once in an age the biter
should be bit 1710 Ward, Nuptial
Dialogues, 11 179, I think she merits
equal praise That has the wit to bite
the biter 1880 Spurgeon, Plough-
man's Pictures, 16, Bitters deserve to
be bitten
Biting and scratching See Cat (14)
Bitter i Bitter as gall c 1395 in
Wright's Pol Songs John to Edw II,
193 (Camden S.), Ther h1 habbeth
dronke bittere then the galle 1468
Cov Mysteries, 233 (Sh S.), My mouth
is byttir as galle 1581 B Rich,
Farewell, 38 (Sh S.), Whose taste
I finde more bitter now then gall
1623 Webster, Devil's Law-Case, I u,
Io1 Bitter as gall 1716 Ward, Female
Policy, 30 1892 Heslop, Northumb
Words, 311, As bitter as gaa [gall]
2 Bitter as soot c 1395 in Wright's
Pol Songs John to Edw II, 195
(Camden S.), Hit falleth the Kyng of
Fraunce bittrere then the sote c 1374
Chaucer, Troylus, in 1194, To whom
this tale sucre be or soot [i.e sweet or
bitter] 1758-57 Sterne, Trist Shandy,
Vol IV ch viii (1758), And now thy
mouth is as bitter, I dare say, as
soot 1857-72 Buckland, Curios of
Nat Hist, in 29, They are as bitter
as soot, if you cats 'em raw
3 Bitter pills may have wholesome
effects [c 1374 Chaucer, Troylus,
in 1215, And for to han gladnesse, Men
drinken often peyeane and great distresse] 1732 Fuller, No 985
4 He who hath bitter in his mouth,
spets not all sweet 1640 Herbert, Jac
Prudentium 1670 Ray, 3, 1732
Fuller, No 2387 [with 'breast'
instead of "mouth"]
5 That which was bitter to endure, may
be sweet to remember 1732 Fuller,
No 4385
Bittern i A bittern makes no good
hawk 1639 Davies (of Hereford), Sc
of Folly, 42 in Works, 11 (Grosart).
2 To roar like a bittren at a seg-root
[sedge] 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-
Lore, 594
Blab, subs He that is a blab is a scab
1639 Clarke, 132 1670 Ray, 63
1732 Fuller, No 6296, He that is a
blab is a meer scab
Blab, verb. Blab it wist and out it must. 15th cent.: Hari. MS. 3362 (V. Lean), Labbe hyt whyste, and owt yt must. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. x. 1633: Draxe, 16, He cannot hold, but all must out.

Black, adj. 1. A black plum is as sweet as a white. 1633: Draxe, 15, A blacke raisin as good as a white. 1670: Ray, 63. 1732: Fuller, No. 986, Black plums may eat as sweet as white.


3. A black woman hath turpentine in her. 1659: Howell, Letters, ii. 666 (Jacobs).


5. Black as a coal. c. 1000: Sax. Leechd., ii. 332 (O.), And swa sweat swa col. c. 1260: King Horn (Camb.), l. 390 (Hall), Also blak so eny cole. Before 1300: Cursor M., l. 22489. c. 1386: Chaucer, Knight's Tale, l. 1834, As blak he lay as any cole. c. 1450: Partonope, l. 3918 (E.E.T.S.), Blak as cole than was his ours. 1599: Breton, in Works, ii. c 14 (Grosart), The other as blacke as a coale. 1640: Tatham, in Dram. Works, 20 (1879). 1819: Byron, Don Juan, can. iv. st. 94, With eyes . . . black and burning as a coale. 1860: Reade, Cloister and Hearth, ch. liv., Else our hearts were black as coal.

6. Black as a crow (or crane). c. 1320: Horn Childe, l. 1049, in Hall's King Horn (1901), Blac as ane criwe. c. 1386: Chaucer, Knight's Tale, l. 1834, Blak he lay as any . . . crowe. c. 1540: Bale, King Johan, Act I. l. 88, I shall causwe the Pope to curse the as blacke as a crowe. 1610: Shakespeare, Wint. Tale, IV. iv., Cypress black as e'er was crowe. 1716: Ward, Female Policy, 86, If brown, thinke her as black as a crowe. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, i. 91, Crake, a crow, as black as a crowe. 1876: C. C. Robinson, Mid-Yorks Gloss., 26 (E.D.S.), As black as a crake.

7. Black as a raven. c. 1300: Robert of Brunne, tr. Langtoft's Chron., 205 (Hearne), His stede was blak as raven. 1663: Killigrew, Thomaso, Pt. II. Act I. sc. ii., It keeps him as black as a raven.

8. Black as a sloe. 14th cent.: Guy of Warwick, l. 506 (E.E.T.S.), Guy they fonde as blak as sloo. c. 1386: Chaucer, Miller's Tale, l. 60. 15th cent.: Torrent of Portlyngale, 17 (E.E.T.S.), Ys fytte [his feet] blac ase slon. 1567: Golding, Ovid, bk. ii. l. 315, His wares as blakc as any slo. 1685: Roxb. Ballads, viii. 418 (B.S.), Hair black as a sloe. 1727: Gay, Fables, 1st ser., No 3, l. 16, The mother's eyes as black as sloes. 1823: Moor, Suffolk Words, 363, Her eyes are as black as sloons [sloes]. 1894: R. L. S., St. Ives, ch. xxx.

9. Black as hell. 1506: Guylforde, Pyrgymnage, 53 (Camden S.), It is commonly derke as hell. 1590: Spenser, F. Q., I. viii. 355, But all a depe descent, as dark as hell. 1600: in Lyrical Poems, 66 (Percy S.), Aire, made to shine, as blacke as hell shall prove. 1825: Scott, Talisman, ch. xv., If his treachery be as black as hell.

10. Black as ink. c. 1510: A. Barclay, Eloges, 30 (Spens. S.), At every tempest they be as blacke as inke. 1590: Spenser, F. Q., I. i. 201, Deformed monsters, fowle, and blacke as inke. c. 1685: Aubrey, Nat. Hist. Wills, 21 (1847), Which . . . became immediately as black as inke. 1721: D'Urfey, Two Queens of Brentford, IV., Whose sordid soul, as black as inke. . . 1893: R. L. S., Ebb-Tide, ch. i., Clouds . . . black as ink-stains. 1901: Raymond, Idler Out of Doors, 7, The tall elm-top that draws, as black as ink, its tracery of naked limbs.

11. Black as jet. 1412–20: Lydgate, Troy Book, bk. ii. l. 957, It cometh out of Ethiope and Ynde, Blak as is get. 1590: Marlowe, Tamburlaine, Pt. II. Act I. sc. iii. 1682: Evelyn, Diary, 19 June, Their nails and teeth as black as jet. 1705: Philips, Splendid Shilling, l. 20. 1872: A. Dobson, in Poet. Works, 109 (1923), Circling a silky curl as black as jet.

12. Black as Newgate knocker. See Newgate.

he will, and what he will and no man say black is his eye, but laugh at him 1711 Steele, Spectator, No 79. The most insolent of all creatures to her friends and domesticks, upon no other pretence in nature but that no one can say blacke is her eye 1761 J Reed, Reg Office, I, in Inchbald's Farces, vii 145 (1815), I defy any body to say black's my nail 1771 Smollet, Clinker, in Works, vi 125 (1817), I challenge you to say black is the white of my eye 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, i 136, "Black's my eye," no one can impute blame to me 1889 Peacock, Manley, etc, Gloss, 52 (EDS), Noaobody niver so much as said black's my naail to me [said anything evil], when I liv'd at Burningham 24 The black ox treads on one's foot 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I, ch vii, It was yet but hony moone, The blacke oxe had not trode on his nor hir foote 1584 Lyly, Sapho and Phao, I 199 (1858), Now crowes foote is on her eye, and the blacke oxe hath trod on her foot 1633 Jonson, Tale of a Tub, IV v, Well young squire, The black ox never trod yet on your foot 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I, Poor creature! the black ox has set his foot upon her already 1822 Scott, Nigel, ch u 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 209 "The black ox has not trodden on you"—i.e care has not come near you—is an old Shropshire saying 25 Those that eat black pudding will dream of the devil 1738—Swift, Polite Convers, Dial II 26 To have the black dog on one's back 1778 Mrs Thrale, in Piozzi Letters, ii 32, I have lost what made my happiness but the black dog shall not make prey of both my master and myself 1816 Scott, Antiquary, ch vi, Sir Arthur has got the black dog on his back again 1889 Peacock, Manley, etc, Gloss, 51 (EDS), "He's gotten th' black dog on his back this mornin'," that is, he is in a bad temper See also Dark. Black, subs 1 Above black there is no
Blackamoor


Blackamoor. To wash (or make) the blackamoor white. [Latercm lavare.—Terence, Phorm., 186.] 1543: Becon, in Early Works, 49 (P.S.), Here, therefore, do ye nothing else than, as the common proverb is, go about to make an Ethii white. 1604: Dekker, Honest Whore, Pt. II, Act I, sc. 1., This is the blackamoor that by washing was turned white. 1673: Wycherley, Gent. Dance-Master, IV, i., You wash the blackamoor white, in endeavouring to make a Spaniardi of a monsieur. 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, ii, 160 (1785), I should suspect the whole to be a plot set on foot to wash a blackamoor white. 1853: Planche, Extravag., iv, 280 (1879), If any one could wash a blackamoor white It would be Mrs. Beecher Stowe.

Blackberries, Plentiful as. 1596: Shakespeare, i Henry IV., II, iv., If reasons were as plente as black-berries. 1600: Reason of Mr. Bays changing his Religion, Pt. II, p. 35, Were reasons as cheap as black-berries. 1868: Quart. Review, cxxv. 231, Parallels are "as plentiful as blackberries." 1886: Hardy, Casterbridge, ch. xvi., Earthworks . . . were as common as blackberries here-about. See also Devil (82).

Blackberry summer. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 57 (Percy S.). 1883: Cope, Hauts Words, 8 (E.D.S.), Blackberry-summer. Fine weather experienced at the end of September and the beginning of October when blackberries are ripe.

Blacksmith. It is much like a blacksmith with a white silk apron. 1732: Fuller, No. 2980.

Blackthorn winter. 1789: White, Selborne, ii. 292 (1813) (O.), The harsh rugged weather obtaining at this season, is called by the country people blackthorn-winter. 1838: Holloway, Provincialisms, 13, Blackthorn winter. The cold which is generally experienced at the latter end of April and beginning of May, when the black-thorn is in blossom. 1884: H. Friend, Flowers and Fl. Lore, 214.

Blacon Point. See quot. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 59. From Blacon Point to Hilbre, A squirrel might leap from tree to tree. [In N. & Q., 4th ser., xi 13 (1873), is the variant, "From Birkenhead to far Hilbre A squirrel could leap from tree to tree." ]

Blade to haft, True as. 1823: Scott, Q. Durward, ch. xxiii., I will be true to you as blade to haft, as our cutlers say.


Blake as butter. 1876: C. C. Robinson, Mid-Yorks Gloss., 10 (E.D.S.).

Blames. He that blames would buy 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1732: Fuller, No. 2383, He who findeth fault, meaneth to buy.

Bledlow, Bucks. See quot. 1869: Hazlitt, 400, They who live and do abide, Shall see Bledlow church fall into the Lyde.

Bless the king and all his men. A common exclamation when surprised and startled. 1862: Dialect of Leeds, 251.
Blessed is the corpse See Happy
Blessing, subs 1 Blessings are not valued till they are gone 1732 Fuller, No 989
2 They have need of a blessing that kneel to a thistle 1639 Clarke, 13
1670 Ray, 63 1732 Fuller, No 4964
Blessing of your heart  See Happy
Blest is the bride  See Happy
Blind, adj 1 A blind man cannot (or should not) judge colours  c 1374
Chaucer, Troylus, bk ii 1 21, A blind man can nat ingen wel in hews 1412
Hoccleve, Regement, 36 (E E T S). The blynde man of colours al wrong
decemeth 1530 Palsgrave, 511, A blynde man can nat deme no colours
1637 Breton, in Works, ii h 44 (Grosart) 1759 Warburton, m Garrick
Corresp. i 93 (1831), Proposing an
emendation to the generality of those
they call scholars, was desiring a blind
man to judge of colours
2 A blind man will not thank you for
a looking-glass 1732 Fuller, No 18
3 A blind man would be glad to see it
1738 Swift, Polite Convers. Dial 1,
A blind man would be glad to see that
1894 Northall, Folk Phrases of Four
Counties (E E S), A blind man on a
galloping horse would be glad to see it
Cf Nos 15 and 18
4 A man's blind side 1606 Chap-
man, Gent Usher, I 1, We'll follow the
blind side of him 1681 A Behn,
Rover, Pt II I 1, The rascals have a
blind side as all conceited cockmoxes have
1742 Fielding, Andreas, bk iii
ch v, If this good man had an enthu-
siasm, or what the vulgar call a blind
side it was this 1869 Spurgeon, John
Ploughman, ch xxi, In the hope of
getting on the parson's blind side when
the blankets were given away at
Christmas
5 A pebble and a diamond are alike to
a blind man 1732 Fuller, No 349
6 As one blind man said to another, let's behold ourselves 1612 Shelton,
Quixote, Pt I bk iv ch xxxii 1694
D'Urfey, Quixote, Pt I Act V sec ii
1869 Hazlitt, 258 Let me see, as the
blind man said
7 As the blind man catcheth the hare
1638 Taylor (Water-Poet), Bull, Beare,
10 in Works, 3rd coll (Spens S), A
blinde man may be taken with a hare [purposely reversed] 1659 W Cole,
in Harl Miscell., iv 309 (1745), And so
they are as capable to do equity therein,
as a blind man to shoot a hare
8 As the blind man shot the crow
1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch ix,
As the blind man casts his staffe, or
shootes the crow 1605 Armin, Foole
upon Foole, 11 (Grosart), Yet now and
then a blynde man may hit a crow
1732 Fuller, No 1393 1830 Forby,
Vocab E Anglia, 428, Hitty-missy, as
the blind man shot the crow
9 As wary as a blind horse 1732
Fuller, No 745
10 Better to be blind than to see ill
1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium
12 Blind as a bat 1639 Clarke, 52,
As blind as a bat at noone  c 1780 in
Poems on Costume, 262 (Percy S),
Which makes her as blind as a bat
1889 J Nicholson, Folk Speech E
Yorkes, 16
12 Blind as a beetle 1549 Latimer,
Seven Sermons, 90 (Arber), In this
wysome he is as blind as a beatel
1647 in Polit Ballads, 47 (Percy S),
Jack Maynard is a lyall blade, yet
blind as any beetle Before 1704 T
Brown, Works, i 236 (1760) 1786
Mrs Cowley, Sch for Greybeards, V ii,
Oh, what a beetle, what a blind bat
I have been 1 1860 Reade, Cloister and
Heathr, ch 1 1881 Evans, Leics
Words, 102 (E E S), "As blind as a
beetle" is a very common simile, the
cockchafer being the beetle referred to
1826 Heslop, Northumb Words, 60
(E E S). Bittle, a beetle, or wooden
beater for beating flax or linen clothes
"As blind as a bittle," a very common
expression
13 Blind as a buzzard [1377 Lang-
land Plowman, B x 267, I rede eche a
blynde bosarde] 1577 Kendall,
Flow of Epigr., 143 (Spens S), When
buzzard blynd thou canst not see what
is before thy feete 1681 Otway,
Soldier's Fortune, IV iii, I'll weep
till blind as buzzard 1730 Bailey,
Eng Dict, s v "Buzzard," A stupid
senseless fellow; as a blind buzzard. 1823: Moor, *Suffolk Words*, 61, We have the phrase "as blind as a buzzard." 1886: Swainson, *Folk-Lore of Brit. Birds*, 133 (F.L.S.), The saying ... "as blind as a buzzard" does not refer to the bird of that name, which is extremely quick-sighted, but rather to the beetle, from the buzzing sound of its flight.


17. Blind horse. See Nos. 9 and 26; also Afterthought.


21. He's so blind he can't see a hole through a ladder, or, the holes of a sieve. 1620: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt. II. ch. i., How blind is he that sees not light through the bottom of a meal-sieve!

1694: D'Urfey, *Quixote*, Pt. I. Act I. sc. i. [the holes of a sieve]. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., vi. 494, He's so blind he can't see a hole through a nine-foot ladder.

22. It is a blind man's question to ask, why those things are loved which are beautiful. 1855: Bohn, 426.

23. Men are blind in their own cause. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. v., Folk oft tyme are most blind in their own cause. 1683: Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 85 (1697), Men are blind in their own cause.

24. None are so blind as those that will not see. 1547: Borde, *Brev. of Helthe*, bk. ii. fo. vi v°, Who is blinder than he y' wyl nat se. 1670: Ray, 64, Who so blind as he that will not see? 1671: *Westm. Drollery*, 20 (Ebsworth), Ther's none so blind As those that will not see. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers., Dial. III.* 1859: Sala, *Twice Round the Clock*, 3 a.m., Homer not unfrequently nods in Scotland Yard. "None are so blind as those that won't see," whisper the wicked.


27. What matters it to a blind man, that his father could see? 1855: Bohn, 555.

Gossips 19 (Hunt Cl.) 1671 Head and Kirkman, English Rogue, ii 83
1732 Fuller, No 4428 1881 Evans, Lies Words, 300 (E D S), Blind i' th' eye Eats many a fly
2 When the blind leads the blind, both fall into the ditch [Luke vi 39]
e 1450 in Reliq, Antiquit, ii 238 (1843), For now the bysom [blind] ledys the blynde 1583 Melancke, Philotinus, sig Y 1, In the ditch falls the blind that is led by the blind 1699 Farquhar, Love and a Bottle, V 1, When the blind leads the blind, no wonder they both fall into—matrimony 1712 Motteux Quixote Pt II ch xvi See also Kingdom (2)
Blindworm See Adder 
Blister on one's tongue, A 1732 Fuller No 1127, Common fame [=har] hath a blister on its tongue 1738 Swift, Polite Comers, Dial I, I have a blister on my tongue, yet I don't remember I told a lye
Blood 1 Blood is thicker than water [1412-20 Lydgate, Troy Book, bk ii
I 2071, For naturally blod will ay of kynde Draw vn-to blod, wher he may it fynde ] 1857 Hughes, Tom Brown Pt I ch 1, With them there is nothing like the Browns, to the third and fourth generation "Blood is thicker than water," is one of their pet sayings
1871 G Eliot, Middlesmarch, ch xxxii 2 Blood without greatness is nothing 1865 J Wilson, Projectors, II, He compares 'em [great matches] to an ill pudding—all blood and no fat 1670 Ray, 166, He hath good blood if he be had but greats to him Cheshire Good parentage if he had but wealth 1732 Fuller, No 1703, Good blood makes poor pudding without suet 1825 Brockett, Gloss of N Country Words 87, Hence the northern proverb, 'blood without greats is nothing," meaning that family without fortune is of no consequence 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, i 200 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs 68 [as in 1670]
3 Human blood is all of a colour 1732 Fuller, No 2560 4 The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church [Semen est sanguis
Christianorum—Tertullian, Apologet, I] 1630 T Adams, Works, 205, So the bloud of martyrs seedes the church Before 1680 Butler, Remains, i 135 (1759), The ancient churches, and the best, By their own martyrs blood increas'd 1746 Foundl Hosp for Wit, No III, p 41
5 You can't get blood (or water) out of a stone [Nam in aquam nunc postulas, Qui ipsius sitiat—Plautus, Pers, I i 42] 1599 J Weever, Epigrammes, 17 (1911), For who'll wrest water from a flintie stone? 1666 Tormano, Piazza Univ, 161, There's no getting of bloud out of that wall 1836 Marryat Japhet, ch iv, I have often heard it said, there's no getting blood out of a turnip 1865 Dickens, Mutual Friend, bk iv ch xv 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 158, You cannot whip blood out of a post
Blots 1 A blot is no blot till it be hit A "blot" "in background is an exposed piece which is liable to capture 1664 J Wilson, The Cheats, V ii, I will join with you in anything, provided always you carry it prudently, for fear of scandal A blot is no blot till it be hit 1712 Motteux Quixote, Pt II ch xiv 1820 Scott, Fam Letters, ii 97 (1894), But then a blot is not a blot till hit
2 Cleaning a blot with blotted fingers maketh a greater bluer 1732 Fuller, No 1112
Blow, verb 1 Blow dead, the more wind the better boat 1724 Defoe, Tour, Lett II, p 13 [cited as "a rude sailor's proverb"]
2 Blow first and sip afterwards 1678 Ray, 103 1732 Fuller, No 995
3 Blow out the marrow and throw the bone to the dogs 1678 Ray, 343
4 Blow, Smith, and you'll get money 1732 Fuller, No 997
5 Blow the wind high, or blow the wind low, It bloweth good to Hawley's hoe Plymouth 1849 Halliwell, Pop
Blow

Rhymes, 194. 1897: Norway, H. and B. in Devon, etc., 115 [with "still" for "good," and "hawe" for "hoe"].
6. Blow thy own pottage and not mine. 1732: Fuller, No. 998.
8. He that blows in the dust fills his eyes with it. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Praedentum. 1694: D'Urfey, Quixote, Pt. I. Act IV. sc. 1., He that blows in the dust will make himself blind. 1732: Fuller, No. 2048.
9. To blow at the coal. c. 1350: Rolle de Hampole, Prose Treatises, No. xi., p. 33 (E.E.T.S.), Bot habyde and suffire a while, and go blawe at the fyre, that es, first do thi werkes, and go than allane to thi prayers and thi meditations. c. 1380: Sir Ferumbras, 74 (E.E.T.S.), We haue a game in this contray to blowen atte glede [the "game" is described in the text, l. 2230-43]. 1485: Caxton, Charles the Grete, 119 (E.E.T.S.), By my fayth, syr duc, ye can wel playe and blowe atte cole. c. 1530: Detection . . . of Dice Play, 6 (Percy S.), Let them that be acold blow the coals, for I am already on the sure side. 1633: Draxe, 29, Let him that is cold blow at the coale. 1694: Terence made English, II, Were it not much better to try if ye can put that love out of your head, than to indulge your passion thus, stand blowing o' the cole, and to no purpose neither. 1732: Fuller, No. 3184, Let him that is cold blow the fire. 1837: Mrs. Palmer, Devonsh. Dialect, 31, To blow a coal, is to make mischief or sow dissension between neighbours.
10. To blow hot and cold. [Simil flare sberaque hau factu facilest.—Plautus, Most., 791.] 1577: Grange, Golden Aphroditis, sig. D2. Out of one mouthe commeth both the hotte and colde. 1619: H. Hutton, Follies Anat., 12 (Percy S.), Which, Gnato like, doth blowe both hot and cold. 1692: L'Estrange, AEopy, 219 (3rd ed.), The old adage of blowing hot and cold; which is taken for the mark and character of a dissembler. 1740: North, Examen, 115, So apt are ill men to blow hot and cold. 1853: Dickens, in Letters, iii. 139 (1882).
II. To blow one's own trumpet 1799: T. Knight, Turnpike Gate, I. i., in Incebald, Farces, iii. 72 (1815), Or I should not blush so often as I do, by blowing the trumpet of my own praise. 1844: Planche, Extravag., ii. 287 (1879), The fellow Blows his own trumpet. 1920: W. H. Hudson, Dead Man's Plack, ch. ii., The people of her own country, who were great . . . at blowing their own trumpets.
12. To go blow one's flute. See Pipe in an ivy leaf.
Blow, subs. A blow with a reed makes a noise, but hurts not. 1732: Fuller, No. 20.
Bloxwich Bull. See quot. 1867: Timbs, Nooks and Corners, 261, [The bull to be baited was stolen by a joker, and the expectant crowd were disappointed.] This circumstance gave rise to a local proverb still in use. When great expectations are baffled, the circumstance is instinctively likened to "the Bloxwich bull."
Blue, adj. 1. Blue as a mazzard. W. Cornwall, 19th cent. (Mr. C. Lee).
2. Blue as a winberry (bilberry). 1600: Shakespeare, Merry Wives, V. v., There pinch the maids as blue as bilberry. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lancs Sayings, i, As blue as a winberry. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 10.
3. Blue veins in the nose. 1805: Hunt, Pop. Romances W. of Eng., 431 (1896), The old lady of the house had just told her that the child could not live long, because he had a blue vein across his nose. 1889: N. & Q., 7th ser., vii. 216, If he has blue veins on the nose, He'll never wear his wedding clothes (Somerset). Born with a blue mark over her nose, She never will live to wear wedding clothes (Worcs).
4. Once in a blue moon. 1528: Roy and Barlowe, Rede me, etc., 114 (Arber),
Yf they saye the monye is belowe, We
must beleve that it is true 1607
Dekker, Knight's Conjuring, 25 (Percy S.),
She would have trickes (once in a
moone) to put the druell out of his wits
1680 Braddon, Barbara, in 8, I
suppose you would have sent ma a ten-
pound note once in a blue moon 1920
A G Bradley Book of the Severn, 18
5 There may be blue and better blue
1732 Fuller, No 4940
6 Three blue beans in a blue bladder
1595 Peele, Old Wines Tale, sig Du,
Three blue beans in a blue bladder,
rattle, bladder, rattle 1600 Dekker,
Old Fortunatus, I ii [as in 1595] 1652
in Catch that Catch can, As there be
three blue beans in a blew bladder, And
three or rounds in a long ladder
1687 Aubrey, Gentilisme 12 (F.L.S.)
[as in 1595] 1715 Prior, Alma, can i
1 29, They say That, putting all
his words together, 'Tis three blue beans
in one blue bladder 1823 Noor,
Suffolk Words, 23, [as in 1595]—three
repeated is as old a frolisome sort of
Suffolk shibboleth as I can recollect,
and is still frequently heard
Blunt wedge will do it, where some-
times a sharp ax will not, A 1732
Fuller, No 19
Blurt, master constable 1602
Middleton Blurt, Master Constable
[title] 1659 Howell, 24, Blurt, Mr
Constable spoken in derision 1655
Kingsley, West Hol, ch xxx, Blurt
for him, sneak-up! say I
Blush like a black dog, To 1579
Gosson Apol of Sch of Abuse, 75
(Aber), You shall see we will make
him to blush like a blacke dogge, when
he is gravled c 1590 Plaine Pere-
vall, 43 (1560), He is given to blush no
more then my black dog c 1591
Shakespeare, Titus Andr., V i 1694
Motteux, Rabelas, bk v ch xxviii
1738 Swift, Polite Conyers, Dial I
(with "blue" for "black").
Blushing is a sign of grace 1595
A Quest of Enquire, 4 (Grosart),
Margaret blushing (for she hath a little
grace yet left her) 1605 R T., Sch of
Stowenre, 96, When guilte men beginne
to blush, it is a signe of grace 1670
Ray, 64, Blushing is vertues colour
1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I,
Well, however, blushing is some sign
of grace
Blustering night, a fair day, A 1640
Herbert, Jac Prudentum
Bo to a goose (or mouse), To say
1588 Mar-Prelate's Epistle, 60 (1843).
He is not able to say bo to a goose
1610 Rowlands, Martin Mark-all, 15
(Hunt Cl.), He never durst say so
much as bo to a mouse 1664 Wits
Recr, Epigr 749, You see, I can cry Bo
unto a goose 1748 Smollett, Rod
Random, ch iv 1855 Piner, Magis-
trate, I, He is too good-natured to say
'Bo!' to a goose 1920 Galsworthy,
Tatterdemalion, 189, We are accustomed
to exalt those who can say "bo" to a
goose
Boar See quot 1863 Wise, New
Forest, ch xvi, "To rattle like a boar
in a holme bush," is a thorough proverb
of the Forest district, where a 2 holme
bush means an old holly. See also
Feed (3)
Boaster and a har are all one (or
cousins), A c 1374 Chaucer, Troylus,
bk ii l 309, Avantour [a boaster] and a
lyere, al is on 1683 Meriton, York-
shire Ale, 83-7 (1697), A vaunter and a
lyer is baith yay thing 1732 Fuller,
No 21, A boaster and a lyer are cousins
germans 1869 Spurgeon, John Plough-
man, ch viu, You will soon find out
that a boaster and a har are first cousins
Boat Ill goes the boat without oars
1578 Florio, First Fruites, fo 28
1629 Book of Merry Riddles, Prov 64
1659 Howell, Proverbs Fr-Eng, 3
See also Oar, and Same boat
Bocking See Braintree
Bode Bood a bagg, and bearn, 1e
An ill hap falla where it is feared
Glos 1639 in Berkeley MSS., in 32
(1885)
Boodkin, To ride 1638 Ford, Fancies,
IV 1 (O.), Where but two he in a bed
you must be—boodkin, bitch-baby—
must ye? 1816 Scott, Antiquary, ch
vii Between the two massive figures
was stuck, by way of bodkin the
slim form of Mary M Intyre 1849
Mrs Trollope Lottery of Marriage,
ch. xiii., Her position as bodkin between her father and mother.

3. Bold as blind Bayard. See Bayard (1).

Bodmin. 1. I'll send you to Bodmin= gaol. 1869: Hazlitt, 216.

2. Into Bodmin and out of the world. 1897: A. H. Norway, H. and B. in Devon, etc., 253. The kind of feeling thrown by other Cornishmen into the saying, “Into Bodmin and out of the world.” Indeed, Bodmin has a very sleepy aspect.

Body. 1. The body is more dressed than the soul. 1633: Draxe, ro, His body is better clothed then his soule. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

2. The body is sooner dressed than the soul. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

3. The body is the socket of the soul. 1670: Ray, 3.

Body-louse. Brisk (with variants) as a body-louse. c. 1570: Marr. of Wit and Science, II. i., As brag as a body-louse. 1651: Randolph, Hey for Honesty, III. iii., She is skimming her milk-bowls . . . as busy as a body louse. 1670: Cotton, Scarronides, bk. iv., At last she sallies from the house, As fine and brisk as body-louse. 1720: Gay, Poems, ii. 279 (Underhill), Brisk as a body-louse she trips. 1812: Colman, jr., Poet. Varigaries, in Hum. Works, 141 (Hotten, 1869), Brisk as a flea.

Boil stones in butter, and you may sip the broth. 1732: Fuller, No. 1003.


Chapman, *Widow's Tears*, II 1, [He] has given me a bone to tire on with a pestilence. 1681 L'Estrange, *Observer*, 1, No 64, But here's a bone for ye to pick. 1795 Cobbett, *A Bone to Gnaw for the Democrats* (title) 1830 Scott, in Lockhart's *Life*, vii 215. A dish unknown elsewhere, so there is a bone for the gastronomers to pick.

2 Bones bring meat to town 1639 in Berkeley MSS, in 3r (1885), meaning, Difficult and hard things are not altogether to bee rejected or thungs of small consequence 1642 Fuller, *Profane State* "Andronicus," We have an English proverb that bones bring meat to town

3 To have a bone in one's arm, leg, etc. A humorous excuse 1542 Udall, tr Erasmus Apoph 375 (1877). Demosthenes [having been bribed not to speak] refused to speake, allegeng that he had a bone in his throte and could not speake 1666 Torrano, *Piazza Univ*, 276. The English say, He hath a bone in his arm and cannot work. 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial III I can't go, for I have a bone in my leg 1877 E Leigh, *Chesure Gloss*, 25. When a person has a shooting pain in the arm or leg, it is common to say, "I've a bone in th'arm or leg." 1920 E F Benson, *Our Family Affairs*, 15. Panting and bright-eyed she would stop and say, 'Oh, dear, I can't run any more. I've got a bone in my leg'.

See also Make (19)

Bonington See Betshanger

Book that is shut is but a block, A 1732 Fuller, No 23

Boo after bale—Help or relief after woe or distress Before 1300 Cursor M, l. 21621 (EETS), *pate wip* bething was bote of bale For sekines sere to mac pam bale c 1320 in Relig Antique, 1113 (1841). When the bale is hest [highest], Thenn is the bone boste, quoth Hendyng c 1380 Gamelyn, l 631, in Skeat's *Chaucer*, iv 660. After bale cometh boote thurgh grace of God almgbt c 1400 Berym, l 3956 (EETS). So "after bale comyth bote" c 1450 Boke of Nurture, in *Babes Book*, 119 (EETS). "When bale is hest [highest] than bote is next [nextbest]" good sone, lerne welle this 1567 Golding, *Ovid*, bk xiv 1 557. When that bale is hystest grownw, then boote must next ensew 1607 Chester Plays, 431 (EETS). After bale boot that bringes 1875 A B Cheales, *Proverb Folk-Lore*, 125. But how often When bale is hest, Boot is next

Booted They that are booted are not always ready 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Borage A leaf of borage might buy all the substance that they can sell 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch x

Born 1 Born in a mill—Defeat 1578 Whetstone, *Promos and Cassandra*, sig B3 Were you borne in a myll, curteile? you prate so hye 1678 Ray, 76

2 Born on Monday See Monday (5)

3 He's born in a good hour who gets a good name 1732 Fuller, No 2455

4 He that is born to be hanged will never be drowned 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 324 (1870) 1670 Cotton, *Scarronides*, bk iv. Since as the proverb old 'tis found, Who's born to hange, will ne'er be drown'd 1732 Fielding, *Cov Garden Tragedy*, I ii. If born to swing, I never shall be drown'd 1850 Smedley, *Frank Fairlegh*, ch xi

5 He that's born under a threepenny planet See Threepenny

6 I was not born in a wood to be scared by an owl 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial III, Do you think I was born in a wood, to be afraid of an owl? 1830 Forby, *Vocab E Anglia* 429 1872 J Glyde, Jr, *Norfolk Garland*, 148

7 She that is born a beauty is half married 1633 Draxe, 15. Shee that is faire hath halfe her portion 1732 Fuller, No 4147

8 To be born in a frost—To be blockheaded, dull of apprehension 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, i 166

9 We are born crying, live complaining, and die disappointed 1732 Fuller, No 5427

Borough Hill See quot 1854 Baker, *Northants Gloss*, s.v "Jackson's pig."
Borough-men

"It's gone over Borough Hill (...) near Daventry after Jackson's pig." A common phrase in that neighbourhood when anything is lost.


Borrow. i. Borrow or flatter. See Contended (2); and Rich, adj. (8).

2. He that borrows must pay again with shame or loss. 1639: Clarke, 246, He that will borrow must pay. 1678: Ray, 104.


4. To borrow on usury brings sudden beggary. 1639: Clarke, 327. 1670: Ray, 153. 1732: Fuller, No. 6089, To borrow upon usury, bringeth on beggary.

5. Who would borrow when he hath not, let him borrow when he hath. 1855: Bohn, 567.

See also Swear (2).

Borrowed. i. A borrowed loan. See Loan.

2. Borrowed garments never sit well. 1732: Fuller, No. 1008.


4. He that trusts to borrowed ploughs, will have his land lie fallow. 1732: Fuller, No. 2337.

Boscawen Fair (or Market). See quotas. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in N. & Q., 3rd ser., v. 276, Backwards and forwards like Boscawen Fair. All play and no play, like Boscawen Fair, which begins at twelve o'clock and ends at noon. 1880: Courtney, W. Cornwall Words, xiii. (E.D.S.), All play, etc. [as in 1864, but with "Market" for "Fair"]). 1888: Q.-Couch, Troy Town, chaps. xiii. and xix. [as in 1864].

Bosom-friend. No friend like to a bosom friend, as the man said when he pulled out a louse. 1732: Fuller, No. 357x. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I, I'm afraid your bosom friends are become your backbiters.

Boston's Bay. See quot. 1869: Hazlitt, 88, Between Boston's Bay and the Pile of Fouldray, shall be seen the black navy of Norway.

Botch and sit, build and fill. 1618: W. Lawson, New Orchard and Garden, 9 (1676), Tenants who have taken up this proverb, Botch and sit, Build and fill. 1639: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 33 (1885).

Both together do best of all. 1639: Clarke, 10.

Bottom of the bag, To bring out the. 1399: in Wright, Pol. Poems, i. 363 (Rolls Ser., 1859), The grete bagge, that is so mykille, Hit schal be kettord [diminished], and maked litelle; the bothom is ny outt. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. x., He brought the bottome of the bag cleanse out.

Boughs that bear most, hang lowest, The. 1732: Fuller, No. 4430.

Bought. i. Bought with. See Wit (2) and (12).

2. To be bought and sold. 1639: Clarke, 86, You are bought and sold like sheepe in a market. 1670: Ray, 166, To be bought and sold in a company. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. III. 1792: Looker-on, No. 11, He was bought and sold by people in power.

Bounce buckram, velvet's dear, Christmas comes but once a year; And when it comes it brings good cheer, But when it's gone it's never the near. 1639: Clarke, 71 [first line only]. 1670: Ray, 211. 1843: Halliwell, Nursery Rhymes, 121 [first two lines only]. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 64 (Percy S.) [four lines, but in first "buckler" for "buckram," and for last line, "So farewell Christmas once a year"].
Bound is he that takes gifts c 1460 How The Good Wife, 1 70, Bounden he is that gifts takethe

Bound must obey, The 1205 Layamon, Brif, 1051, Ah heo mot nee beene, pe mon pe ibunden bith (But he needs must bow, the man that is bounden) c 1390 Gower, Conf Amantis, n 540 For who is bounden, he mot bowe c 1410 Towneley Plays r 18 (EETS), Wo is hym that is ban, fior he must abyde c 1520 in Hazlitt, Early Pop Poetry, v 92 (1866), The bounde must euer obaye 1675 T Heywood, Foure Prentises, I, Bound must obey 1653 R Brone, Mad Couple, II 1732 Fuller, No 4972 They that are bound must obey

Bounty being free itself, thinks all others so 1655 Bohn, 332
Bourd It is a good bound to drink of a gourd c 1400 Towneley Plays, xii p 115 (EETS), It an is old by- worde, It is a good bowrde, for to drink of a gowrde,—It holde a mett potell [Bourd=lest]

Bourne See Chichester (1)
Bout as Barrow was Cheshire 1670 Ray, 217 1691 Ray, Words not generally Used, 34 (E.D.S) 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 125, The meaning is lost [Bout=without]

Bout’s [Without’s] bare but it’s easy 1673 Harland and Wilkinson, Lancs Leg, 202 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs 32, Common in Lancashire

Bow, subs 1 A bow long bent grows weak 1541 Coverdale, Christ State Matrimony, sig II, The bowe will breake yt be to sore bent c 1577, Northbrooke, Against Dicing, et al, 44 (Sh S), Even as too much bending breketh a bow 1669 Dudley North, Obs and Adv Econom, 123 A bow that stands always bent looseth its strength in the end 1732 Fuller, No 1073, Bows too long bent, grow weaker 1741 Tom King’s or The Paphian Grove, 10, The bowe, If always bent, will lose It’s spring elastic
2 Draw not thy bow before thy arrow be fixed 1732 Fuller, No 1326

See also Robin Hood (2) and (5)

Bow than break, Better See Better bow

Bow-bell To be born within sound of Bow - bell 1662 Fuller, Worthes, ii 344 (1849) 1753 in Stukeley Memoirs, i 404 (Surtees S), Interest is such a prevailing principle within the sound of Bow bell 1793 Grose, Ohio, 24 (2nd ed), Born within the sound of Bow-bell, he rarely ventured out of it 1918 Murrhead, Blue Guide to London, 351, Any one born within the sound of Bow Bells is a “cockney,” i.e a Londoner pure and simple

Bow-hand See Wide at the bow-hand

Bow-wow See July (3)
Bowdon Every man cannot be vicar of Bowdon 1678 Ray, 300 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s.v “Cheshire” 1917 Bridge Cheshire Proverbs, 54, Every man was not born to be Vicar of Bowdon

Bowdon Wakes See quot 1886 R Holland, Cheshire Gloss, 456 (E D S), When Bowdon Wakes is at Bowdon, winter’s at Newbridge Hollow 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs 151

Bowling green See Three things are thrown away

Bowls They that play at bowls must expect (or meet with) rubbers 1762 Smollett, Sir L Greaves, ch v [title], Which shewed that he who plays at bowls will sometimes meet with rubbers 1824 Scott, Redgauntlet, ch xx 1854, Baker, Northants Gloss, s.v “Rubbers” 1907 Hackwood, Old Eng Sports, 180, For “he who plays at bowls must look out for rubs” See also Easy to bowl

Boy and Boys 1 Boys to bed, dogs to doors, and maidens to clean up the ashes Cornwall 1895 J Thomas, Randial Rhymes, 60
2 Boys will be boys 1681 W Robertson, Phraseol Generalis, 330, Children will do like children 1849, Lytton, Caxtons, Pt XV ch 1, “Well,” said I to myself, “I will save for him, boys will be boys” 1911 G B Shaw, Fanny’s First Play, I
3 Boys will be men 1611 Cotgrave, s.v “Enfant,” Or, (as we say)
Brabling

boyes will be men one day. 1732: Fuller, No. 1014.

4. The boy has gone by with the cows—has missed opportunities. Oxfordsh. 1913: Folk-Lore, xxiv, 77.

5. To leave boys' play and go to blow point. 1639: Clarke, 197. 1681: W. Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 997. To leave boys-play, and fall to blow point; Relinquere nuces. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I., Come, let us leave off children's play, and come to push-pin.

Brabling curs. See Brawling curs.


Brag, subs. 1. Brag's a good dog but dares not bite. 1685: Meriton, Yorks. "ale, 58, Braggs a good dog ... But he was hang'd for biting that was ill. 1732: Fuller, No. 1015.

2. Brag is a good dog but Holdfast is a better. c. 1598: Deloney, Gentle Craft, Pt. II. ch. v., Brag is a good dog (quoth Stutely), but tell vs, hast thou made thy Will? 1599: Shakespeare, Henry V, II. iii., Men's faiths are wafer-cakes And holdfast is the only dog, my duck. 1709: Dykes, Eng. Proverbs, 123. 1748: Gent. Mag., 21. 1861: Dickens, Great Expectations, ch. xviii. 1924: Devonsh. Assoc. Trans., lv. 112.

3. Brag's a good dog but that he hath lost his tail. 1678: Ray, 105.


Brag, verb. 1. They brag most that can do least. c. 1598: Deloney, Gentle Craft, Pt. II. ch. vi., It is an old saying, they brag most that can doe least.


Brain and Brains. 1. He carries his brains in his breeches-pocket. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 589.

2. He hath no more brains than a burbolt (bird-bolt). c. 1550: Udall, Roister Doister, III. ii., He hath in his head ... As much braine as a burbolt. 1672: Walker, Param., 11.

3. His brain is not big enough for his skull. 1732: Fuller, No. 2504.

4. His brains are addle. 1670: Ray, 165.


6. His brains will work without barm. 1851: Ray, 166. 1732: Fuller, No. 2505. His brains want no barm to make them work.

7. If the brain sows not corn, it plants thistles. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium 1659: Howell, 6. 1732: Fuller, No. 4437.

8. The brains don't lie in the beard. 1732: Fuller, No. 4431.

Braintree boys, brave boys; Bocking boys, rats; Church Street, puppy dogs; High Garret, cats. 1813: Ray, 246.

Braintree for the poor, and Bocking for the poor, Cogshall for the jeering town, and Kelvedon for the whore. 1670: Ray, 228.

Brandy is Latin for a goose. 1588: Mar-Fratel's Epitome, 25 (1843), Can you tell your brother Marprelat with all your learning, howe to decline what is Latine for a goose? 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II. 1847: Halliwell, Dict., s.v. "Pig," Brandy is Latin for pig and goose, an apology for drinking a dram after either.

Brass farthing = No value. 1660: Andromana, i. i., in Hazlitt, Old Plays, xiv. 197, Some wench, my life to a brass farthing! 1740: North, Lives of Norths, i. 229 (Bohn), He would not give one brass farthing to buy all the Presbyterians in England. 1801: Colman, jr., Poor Gent., II. i., It doesn't signify a brass farthing what they are called. 1911: Shaw, Fanny's First Play, Induction, Vaughan is honest, and don't care a brass farthing what he says.

Brass knocker on a barn-door. See
quot 1886 Elworthy, West Som Word-Book, 44 (E.D.S.), A very common saying expressive of inconsistency is may as well put a brass knocker on a barn-door

Brave, adj 1 A brave retreat is a brave exploit 1732 Fuller, No 24 2 Brave actions never want a trumpet Ibid, no 1016

3 Brave man at arms, but weak to Balthasar 1659 Howell, 5

4 Some have been thought brave, because they were afraid to run away 1732 Fuller, No 4214

Brawling curs never want sore ears 1611 Cotgrave, s.v. "Hargneux," A brabbling curse is never without torne ears 1694 D'Urfeey, Quixote, Pt I Act IV sc 1, Come, come, sir, babling curs never want sore ears 1709 R. Kistongton Aophk Curiosa, 9. Barking curs commonly go with bitten ears 1732 Fuller, No 6231 1865 Lances Proverbs, "in N & Q, 3rd ser., v. 494

Bray The Vicar of Bray will be Vicar of Bray still 1662 Fuller, Worthies, 1 113 (1840) 1707 Dunton, Athenian Spirit, 400, The Vicar of Bray, or, a paradox in praise of the Turncoat Clergy 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xviii, They admire the Vicar of Bray, whose principle was to be Vicar of Bray, whether the Church was Protestant or Popish

Brayton-bargh If Brayton-bargh and Hambleton hough, and Burton brean, Were all in thy belly 'twould never be team (full) 1670 Ray, 257 1683 Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697) 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s.v. "Yorkshire" 1878 Folk-Lore Record, 1 172

Brazen-nose College, You were bred in 1732 Fuller, No 6011

Bread. 1 Be fair conditioned and eat bread with your pudding 1678 Ray, 79

2 Bread and cheese be two targets against death 1655 T. Muffett, Healths Improvement, 236 1666 Tornano, Piazza Univ., 92, Cheese and bread is physick to such as are in health 3 Bread is the staff of life, but beer's life itself Oxfordsh 1913 Folk-Lore, xxiv 76

4 Bread of a day See Egg (3)

5 Bread with eyes and cheese without eyes, and wine that leaps to the eyes 1666 Tornano, Piazza Univ., 41 1670 Ray, 3 [without the "wine" part] 1732 Fuller, No 1017

6 He has got a piece of bread and cheese in his head—He is drunk 1678 Ray, 87

7 He that hath store of bread may beg his milk merrily 1659 Howell, Proverbs Brit.-Eng., 5

8 His (or your) bread is buttered on both sides 1678 Ray, 232 1732 Fuller, No 6044 1837 Lockhart, Scott 1 206 n. (1839) [O], Wherever Walter goes he is pretty sure to find his bread buttered on both sides

9 It is a good thing to eat your brown bread first 1830 Forby Locab Eng. Anglia, 429 1872 J. Glyde, 
Norfolk Garland, 148

It's no use my leaving off eating bread, because you were chocked with a crust 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 589

10 They that have no other meat, bread and butter are glad to eat 1639 Clarke, 113 1670 Ray, 66 1732 Fuller, No 6128

12 To know on which side one's bread is buttered 1540 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vii 1564 Bullen, Dialogue, 112 (E.E.T.S.), He knoweth uppon which side his breade is buttered well enough, I warrante you 1658 Ford, Lady's Trial, II 1 1721 C. Gibber, Refusal, I, Does his Grace think I don't know which side my breade's butter'd on? 1822 Scott, Nigel, ch xiii 1914 H. A. Vachell, Quinney's, bk II ch xvi (u), James is a bit of a knave, but he knows which side his bread is buttered

13 What bread men break is broke to them again 1630 Taylor (Water-Poet), Works, 2nd pgm., 186, In this the proverb is approved plainly, What bread men breake is broke to them again

14 Who hath no more bread than need, must not keep a dog 1640 Herbert, Fas Prudentum

15 You show bread in one hand, and
Breage

a stone in the other. 1732: Fuller, No. 5994.

See also Better bread; Better lose; Borough men; Buying of bread; Eaten; Half a loaf; Loaf; and Wine (10).

Breage and Germoe. God keep us from rocks and shelving sands, And save us from Breage and Germoe men’s hands. Cornwall. 1887: M. A. Courtney, in Folk-Lore Journal, v. 18. 1897: Norway, H. and B. in Devon, etc., 282. Verse said to have been current in old days about the two seaboard parishes just mentioned . . . God keep us, etc.


2. A man that breaks his word, bids others be false to him 1548: Hall, Chron., 184 (1609). But (as the common proverb saith) he which is a promise breaker, escapeth not alway free. 1732: Fuller, No. 311.


5. To break a flint upon a feather-bed. 1659: Gayton, Art of Longevity, 20. Just as a feather-bed the flint doth break. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 123. As the English say, To break, etc.

6. To break a man’s back. 1613: Shakespeare, Henry VIII., i. i., Many Have broke their backs with laying manors on ‘em For this great journey. 1632: Rowley, A New Wonder, IV., Oh, my poor father! this loss will break his back. 1894: Northall, Folk Phrases, 26 (E.D.S.), To break a man’s back=To ruin him.

7. To break my head and then give me a plaster. c. 1430: Lydgate, Minor Poems, 56 (Percy S.), To breke myn hede, and yeve me an houffe. 1573: G. Harvey, Letter-Book, 52 (Camden S.), To break a mans hed . . . and at his laisure, give him a plaster. 1631: Mabbe, Celestina, 283 (T.T.), Thou breakest our head, and givest us a plaister. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I. 1818: J. Austen, Persuasion, ch. xiii., A new sort of way this, for a young fellow to be making love, by breaking his mistress’s head! is not it, Miss Elliot? This is breaking a head and giving a plaster truly!

8. To break no squares=To do no harm, to make no difference. 1562: Heywood, Three Hund. Epigr., No. 4, An inch breaketh no square 1593: Nashe, Strange Neuves, in Works, ii. 281 (Grosart), For calling me calfe, it breaks no square. 1675: Crowne, Country Wit, i. i., Two or three days can break no square. 1707: Cibber, Comical Lovers, III., One minute will break no squares, I’ll warrant you. 1798: T. Morton, Speed the Plough, I. ii., I do hope, zur, breaking your head will break no squares. 1823: Byron, Don Juan, can. xiii. st. 25, At Blank-Blank Square—for we will break no squares By naming streets 1850: Dickens, Copperfield, ch. xxxix., There are no squares broke between us I’ve been into his room already, and we’ve made it all smooth. 1923: [at a Surrey C.C Committee meeting, I heard a member (a builder), referring to a small difference between two estimates of cost, say, “This will break no squares.”]

9. To break the ice. 1592: Nashe, P. Penitesse, in Works, ii. 5 (Grosart), He that hath once broke the ice of impudence, neede not care how deepe he wade in discretede. 1631: Shirley, Love Tricks, III. i., When I had but broke the ice of my affliction, she fell over head and ears in love with me. 1708: tr. Aleman’s Guzman, i. 173, To break the ice in making the first overtured. 1848: Dickens, Dombey, ch. lxi., “If he would have the goodness to break the—in point of fact, the ice,” said Cousin Feenix.

See also Broke; and Broken.

Breath. Keep (save, etc.) one’s breath to cool one’s porridge. c. 1598: Deloney, Gentle Craft, Pt. II. ch. iii., I was about to tell you of a matter, but I see it is to small purpose, and therefore Ile keep
my breath to coole my pottage 1633
Machin, Dumb Knight, II, My lord, save your breath for your broth 1725
Bailey, tr Erasmus Colloq, 441, He had as good keep his breath to cooll his porridge 1813 J Austen Pride and Prejudice, ch vi 1886 R L S, Kidnapped, ch vii, Instead of asking riddles ye would keep your breath to cool your porridge 1924 Shaw, Saint Joan, sc ii

Bred in the bone will not out of the flesh, What is [c 1290 in Wright's Pol Songs John to Edw II, 167 (Camden S), Osse radicatum raro de carne recedit] 1481 Caxton, Reynard, 29 (Arber), That whose cleud by the bone myght not out of the flesse 1485 Malory, Morte d'Arthur, bk ix ch 39, Sir launcelot smyled and sayd hard hit is to take oute of the flesse that is bred in the bone 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch viii 1596 Jonson Ev Man in his Humour, II i 1632 Massinger, City Madam, II iii, What's bred in the bone, Admits no hope of cure 1694 Tenore made English, 5 1713 Gay, Wife of Bath, III ii 1842 Batham, Ing Legends, 2nd ser 'Lay of St Alosyssus'

Bredon Hill When Bredon Hill puts on its hat, Ye men of the vale, beware of that Worcs 1882 Mrs Chamberlain W Worcs Words, 39 (E D S) 1893 Inwards, Weather Love, 101

Breck makes buttons, His (or My)= To be in great fear c 1550 Jacke Jugler, 46 (Grosart, 1873), His arse maketh buttons now c 1618 B & F Bondouca, II iii 1653 Middleton and Rowley, Span Gipsy, IV iii, O Soto, I make buttons 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v 'Breech' 1808 Ainsworth, Lat Dict, 1, s v 'Button', His tail maketh buttons, valde trepidat (O)

Breeches, To wear the 15th cent Songs and Carols of 15th Cent, 65 (Percy S), Nova, Nova, sawe you euer such, The most master of the hows weryth no brych 1592 Greene, Quep, in Works, xi 219 (Grosart), I saw a great many of women vsing high wordes to their husbandes some straung for the breeches 1596 Harington,

Melan of Ajax, 63 (1814), I am sure his wife wore the breeches 1653 R Brome, City Wif, or the Woman wears the Breeches [title] 1712 Addison, Spectator, No 482, Since you have given us the character of a wife who wears the breeches, pray say something of a husband that wears the pettocat 1927 Observer, 27 March, p 75, col 3, Mrs Scally wore the breeches, and her word went in the Scally household

Breed in the mud are not eels, All that 1732 Fuller, No 549

Breed is stronger than pasture 1917

Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 31

Breeks off a Highlander, To take the [Vis nudo vestimenta detrahere?—Plautus, Asin, I i 79] 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch ix, There is nothing more vain Than to beg a breeche of a bare arst man 1580 Baret, Alaswarie B, 150, To pull a breeche from a bare arst man 1630 Taylor (Water-Poet), in Works, 2nd pagn, 37, To seek a breech from breechlesse men 'twere vain 1827 Scott, Rob Roy, ch xxiv, It's ill taking the breeks off a Hielandman

Breeze in one's breech, To have a Breeze gadfly c 1630 B & F, Monsieur Thomas, IV vi, What, is that breeze in your breech? 1678 Ray, 232

Brent Hill See quoth 1893 in N & Q, 8th ser, v 209, "Looking from under Brent Hill" used to be very popular [saying] in Devonshire fifty or sixty years ago It is said of a sullen, frowning person in an ill humour, Brent Hill indicating the eyebrows

Brentford See quoth 1790 Gros, Prov Gloss, s v "Middlesex", His face was like the red hon of Brentford That is, exceeding red

Brevity is the soul of wit 1602
Shakespeare Hamlet, II ii 1602
Lamb, John Woolvil, III, Brevity is the soul of drinking, as of wit 1851
Borrow, Laveno, 1 311

Brew, verb 'As one brews so bake c 1560 T Ingeleid, Dobsch Child, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, ii 294 (1874), But as he had brewed, that so he should bake c 1626 in Pepysian Garland,
Brewer's


3. To brew in a bottle and bake in a bag. 1542: Boorde, *Dyetary*, 240 (E.E.T.S.), For these men the which do brew in a botyl and bake in a walet, it wyll be long or he can by Iacke a salet. 1678: Ray, 91.


Briars. 1. It is good to cut the briars in the sere month [August]. c. 1686: Aubrey, *Gentilisme*, 123 (F.L.S.).

2. In the briars. See Leave, verb (8).


Bridge and Bridges. 1. Bridges were made for wise men to walk over, and fools to ride over. 1678: Ray, 106.

2. He is building a bridge over the sea. 1813: Ray, 75.

3. Praise the bridge. See Praise the bridge.


5. To make (or build) a bridge of gold (or silver) for a flying enemy. [1535: Rabelais (c. 1490–1533), *Gargantua*, liv. i. ch. 43, Ouzrez tousiours a voz ennemys toutes les portes et chemins, et plustost leur faictes ung pont d'argent, affin de les renvoyer.] 1576: Lambarde, *Peramb. of Kent*, 371 (1826), It was well saide of one . . . If thine enemie will fie, make him a bridge of golde. 1634: Massinger, *Guardian*, I. i., For a flying foe Discreet and provident conquerors build up A bridge of gold. 1732: Fuller, No. 3312, Make a silver bridge for your enemy to go over. 1889: R. L. S., *Ballantrae*, ch. iv., You may have heard of a military proverb: that it is a good thing to make a bridge of gold to a flying enemy.


Bride. 1. A bride for the tongue is a necessary piece of furniture. 1732: Fuller, No. 25.
2 To bite upon the bridle c 1390 Gower, Conf. Amantis, bk vi 1 929
And as who seith, upon the bridle I chewe 1552 Latumer, Works, u 57 (P S), Though it goeth hard with us, though we must bite on the bridle 1605 Chapman, etc., Eastw Hoe, IV u. They are like to bite of the bridle [l.e. to fast] 1642 D Rogers, Matrim Honour, 390. Be quiet, my soule, bite not upon the bridle 1750 Smollett, Gil Blas, iv 248, The minister was going to retire into his closet to bite upon the bridle at liberty c 1791 Pegge, Dorsetisms 91 (E D S), "To bite on the bridle," to suffer or fare hard 1828 Carr, Crawn Dialect, 52, To bite on the bridle, to suffer great hardship, to be driven to straits

Bridport dagger, Stabbed with a = Hanged, hemp being manufactured at Bridport 1662 Fuller, Worthies, 453 (1840) 1716 Browne Wilks Nobody Part, quoted in N & Q 9th ser, 365 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Dorset"

Bright I Bright as the sun on a summer's day c 1440 Lydgate, Lyf of our Lady, sig F2 (Caxton), That shone as bright as any somers day 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 51 (Percy S).

2 He is only bright that shines by himself 1640 Herbert, Joc Prudentum

Brighton See quot 1884 "Sussex Proverbs" in N & Q, 6th ser, iv 342, When the Island's [Wight] seen above the line Brightinhstone loses weather fine See also Lewes

Brim See Better spare

Brisk as a bee 1732 Fuller, No 666, As brisk as a bee in a tar-pot 1742 Fielding, Andrew, bk ii ch ii, Joseph immediately prevailed with parson Adams, who was as brisk as a bee, to stop c 1770 Hall-Stevenson, Works, 23 (1795), Away skipp'd the urchin, as brisk as a bee 1901 F E Taylor, Lancs Sayings, 1

Brisk as bottled ale 1720 Gay, Poems, ii 278 (Underhill), And merry as a grg is grown, And brisk as bottled ale 1745 Agreeable Companion, 351, Brisk as bottled beer

Bristol i A Jew cannot live in Bristol 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Somerset"

2 Bristol men sleep with one eye open Ibid, s v "Somerset" 1868 Quart Review, cxxv 231, Bristol men, who are currently reported to "sleep with one eye open" 1906 Q Couch, Mayor of Troy, Prol, We slept Bristol fashion, with one eye open

3 Bristol milk See 1848 quot 1661 Anth against Melanch, 156 (Ebsworth), Merrily now let's sing carouse, and tiple. Here's Bristol milk, come suck this niple 1668 Pepys, Diary, 13 June, Plenty of brave wine, and above all Bristol milk 1785 Grose, Class Dict of Vulgar Tongue, s v, A Spanish wine called sherry, much drank at that place, particularly in the morning 1848 Macaulay, Hist Eng, i 335 The repast was accompanying by a rich brewrage made of the best Spanish wine, and celebrated over the whole kingdom as Bristol milk

4 The Bristol hogs have built a sty, but cannot find their way into it 1752 Journey through England, 144, quoted in Hazlitt, Proverbs, 1869

See also Sold

Britain See quot 1580 Lyly, Euphues, 439 (Arber), Whereof there was an olde saying, all countries stande in neede of Britaine, and Britaine of none

Brittle as glass 1412-20 Lydgate, Troy Book, bk v 1 854, Brotel as glas c 1550 Bocon, in Catechism etc, 437 (P S), It is more brittle than glass 1639 Fuller, Holy War, bk ii ch vi, Her fortune being as brittle as her glasses 1827 J B Priestley, Open House 'Midsummer Day's Dream,' All this beauty is as brittle as glass

Broad i A broad hat does not always cover a venerable head 1732 Fuller, No 26

2 As broad as narrow like Paddy's plant—" Much of a muchness " 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 10

3 It's as broad as it's long 1678 Ray, 67, As broad as long Before 1680 Butler, Remains, 1 110 (1759)
Brock

1732: Fuller, No. 2933. 1821: Byron, Letters, etc., v. 379 (Prothero), So that the thing is as broad as it is long. 1907: De Morgan, Alice-for-Short, ch. xl.


Brockley Hill. See quote. 1724: Stukeley, Itin. Cur., 111. They have a proverb here, no heart can think nor tongue can tell, what lies between Brockley-hill and Pennywell. 1849: Halliwell, Pop. Rhymes and Nursery Tales, 198 [as in 1724].

Broke his hour that kept his day, He never. 1678: Ray, 122.


2. A broken glass can’t be hurt. 1732: Fuller, No. 28.

3. A broken latch (or what not) lasts longer than a good one. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 588.


6. A broken sleeve holdeth (or keepeth) the arm back. Before 1500: in Hill, commonplace-Book, 132 (E.E.T.S.), For my brokyn sleve, men me refuce, Pro manica fracta, manus est mea sepe retracta. c. 1550: Parl. of Byrdes, l. 164, in Hazlitt, Early Pop. Poetry, iii. 175 (1866), It is a terme with John and Jacke, Broken sleue draweth arme a backe. 1625: Jonson, Staple of News, I. i., And therefore you have another answering proverb, A broken sleeve keeps the arm back. 1670: Ray, 66.

7. As broken a ship. See Ship (1).

8. Trust not to a broken staff. 1580: H. Gifford, Posie, 71 (Grosart), To trust her lookes . . . Is nothing els but trust a broken staffe. 1622: in Pepysian

Garland, 167 (Rollins, 1922), 'Tis bad to trust a brooken staffe. 1732: Fuller, No. 5290.

Broken, part. 1. He has broken his leg. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, i. 285. "He's broke his leg," said of a dissolute person on whom a child has been filiated. 1847: Halliwell, Dict., s.v. "Leg."

2. She hath broken her leg at the church-door. Cheshire. See 1877 quot 1670: Ray, 166. 1710: Ward, Nuptial Dialogues, i. 313, You crown the proverb, That the nicest maid Becomes the greatest slattern when she's wed. 1732 Fuller, No. 4119. She broke her elbow on her wedding-day. 1877: Leigh, Cheshire Gloss. (W.), . . . said of a woman who, as a daughter, was a hard worker and did not spare her elbow grease, but who, after marriage, became lazy and indolent. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 108.

3. She hath broken her leg (or elbow) above the knee = has had a bastard. 1618: B. & F., Loyal Subject, III. v., If her foot slip, and down fall she, And break her leg above the knee. Before 1625: B. & F., Wild-Goose Chase, IV. i. 1650: R. Heath, Epigrams, 64, And so she broke her elbow 'gainst the bed. 1709: Gibber, Rival Fools, V., Gov. . . . Your niece! your niece! sir. Sir Ol. What! broke her leg? 1785: Grose, Class. Dict. of Vulgar Tongue, s.v. "Leg." Cf. Sprained her ankle.

Broom. He bestows his gifts as broom yields honey. 1586: L. Evans, Revised Withals Dict., sig. D.4. 1630: Clarke, 38. 1670: Ray, 177. See also Lads’ love; May (10); and Under the furze.

Broom. To hang out the broom. See quotes. 1773: in Garrick Corres., i. 516 (1831), She [his wife] is gone to fleece my flock at St. Mary’s; . . . and I hang out the broom in her absence. c. 1791: Pegge, Derbicsims, 91 (E.D.S.), "To hang about the broom." This means, to signify that the wife is from home, and that the goodman’s friends may come freely to visit him. 1862: N. & Q., 3rd ser., ii. 484 [a proverbial expression in Lances].
Broth. 1 See quot. 1912 Devonsh. Assoc. Trans., xlv 286. "When they're
wit (white), they're fit. When they're
boil'd, they're spoil'd." Meaning that
broth should be warmed until a white
scum appears on the surface, but should
not be boiled or raised to boiling
point.

2 Many esteem more of the broth, than
of the meat sod there'n. 1577 Stan-
hurst, Descrip. of Ireland, to 4. Seteth
himselfe forth to the gaper, by making
more of the broth then ye flesh is
worth. 1639 in Berkeley MSS., u 32
(1885).

3 Owd [old] broth's a yell sooner
warm't up (tan new made. 1917 Bridge
Brother had rather see the sister rich
than make her so. The 1611 Cotgrave,
sv "Frere." The brother would have
his sister rich any way, but at his
charges 1678 Ray, 203, 1732 Fuller,
No. 4435.

Brough Hill weather is stormy wea-
ter, which often occurs at Fair time
Durham. 1909 Folk Lore, xx 75.

Brown as a berry. c 1386 Chaucer,
Prose, I 207. His palfrey was as brown
as a berry 1640 Tatham, Late
Crowns the End, in Dram. Works, 20
(1879). Thy nose is as brown as a berry
1777 Sheridan, Sch. for Scandal, III u
1843 Dickens, Letters, u 54 (1882)
1874 R. L. S., Letters, I 173 (Tutitala
ed.) I am back again here, as brown as
a berry with sun.

Brown study. To be in a. Originally
simply "in a study," and this form per-
sisted for centuries after the mevphable
"brown" had been introduced (a) In a
study, simply c 1300 Robert of Brunne,
tr. Langtoft's Chron., 58 (Hearne),
Whan Edward percyved, his herte was
in studie c 1386 Chaucer, Knight's Tale,
L 672. Into a studie he fil sodeynly
1485 Malory, Mort d'Arthur, bk 1
ch 20. The kyng sat in a study 1596
Pettie, Petite Pallace, I 72 (1908).
This youth stood staring in her face in a great
study. 1685 Mother Bunch's Closet,
5 (Gomme), I am persuaded you are in
a study. 1791 Boswell, Johnson, u
34 (Hill). Dr. Johnson, who was still in
a profound study. 1875 Parish, Sussex
Dict., I 116. He seems all in a stud as he
walks along (b) In a brown study
1530 Dice Play, 6 (Percy S.), Lack of
company will soon lead a man into a
brown study. 1591 Greene, in Works,
x 17 (Grosart), Half in a brownie study
at this strange salutation 1646
Quarles, Shep. Oracles, egl xi., In a
brownie studie? Speechlesse? 1778
Burney, Evelina, Lett xxiii., He stood
some time quiet in a brown study, a-
thinking what he should do. 1841
Dickens Barn Rudge, ch lxv, Sitting
by the hour together in a brown study
1908 Lucas, Over Bemerton's, ch xxiii.,
I walked home in a brown study.

Brown wench in face shows that
nature gives her grace. A 1623
Wodroephe, Spared Hours, 485
Brush at his back. See Wear (2).

Brush, He has bought a = has run
away. 1873 Ray, 56.

Buck of the first head. He's like a=
brisk pert, forward. 1678 Ray, 67
1846-59 Denham Tracts, u 109 (F. L. S.)

Buckets in a well. Like c 1386
Chaucer, Knight's Tale, I 675. Now
in the croppe, now donn in the breres
Now up, now donn, as bolet in a welle.
1596 Shakespeare, Rich II, IV, c
1620 in Roxb. Ballads, I 76 (Hind-
ley). In Bath a wanton wife did dwell.
She had two buckets to a well c 1705
in Bagford Ballads, u 835 (B. S.); Then
be not like buckets, one up, t'other
down. 1743 T. Sheridan, in Garrick
Corresp., I 15 (1832). I don't know
whether the old smile of the two
buckets would not do as well 1893
R L S., Ebb-Tide, ch. viii., The three
lives went up and down before him like
buckets in a well.

Buckingham. See Old, A (b) (6).

Buckinghamshire bread and beef
1622 Drayton, Polyol. xxiii., Rich
Buckingham doth bear the term of
Bread and Beef. 1662 Fuller, Worthies,
I 194 (1840) 1790 Grose, Prov.
Gloss., s v "Buckinghamshire"

Buckle and thong. I See quot.
1631 Mabbe, Celestina, 71 (T. T.). His
mother and I were nayle and flesh,
buckle and thong.
Buckle


3. To be held to it, buckle and thong. 1658: Wit Restor'd, in Mus. Delic. i. 280 (Hotten), When one is held to it hard, buckle and thong. 1678: Ray, 73.

4. To come (or be brought) to bare buckle and thong. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. viii. 1600: Weakest to the Wall, i. 1053 (Malone S.). My benefice doth bring me in no more But what will hold bare buckle and thong together. Before 1746: Exmoor Courtship, sc. iii., in Cont. Mag., 207–300 (1746). 1886: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 96 (E.D.S.). Poor old blid, her's a'most come to nothin'—can't call her nort but nere buckle-n thongs.

Buckle of belt. If you be angry, turn the buckle of your girdle (or belt) behind you. 1599: Shakespeare, Much Ado, V. i., D. Pedro... I think he be angry indeed. Claud. If he be, he knows how to turn his girdle. 1637: Breton: Poste with Packet Mad Letters (N.). If you be angry, turn the buckle of your girdle behind you. c. 1663: Davenant, Play-House to be Let, V. 1738: Swift, Polite Conyers, Dial. I., If miss will be angry for nothing, take my counsel, and bid her turn the buckle of her girdle behind her. 1817: Scott, Rob Roy, ch. xxxv., If ye're angry, ye ken how to turn the buckle o' your belt behind you. 1917: Devonsh. Assoc. Trans., xlii. 335, "He may turn his buckle behind his back," meaning, apparently, he may prepare to fight.

Buckley panmug, A face like a. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 2, Buckley in Flintshire... produces a good deal of coarse red earthenware.


Build. i. He builds cages fit for oxen, to keep birds in. 1678: Ray, 352. 1732: Fuller, No. 1815.


3. Who-so that buildeth his house all of sallows, And pricking his blind horse over the fallows, And suffereth his wife to seek many hallows, Is worthy to be hanged on the gallows! c. 1386: Chaucer, Wife of Bath's Prolog., ll. 655–8. 1417: in Reliq. Antiquae, i. 233 (1841) [with last line, "God sende hym the bliss of everlasting galos"]; 1486: Boke of St. Albans, sig. f4 [as in 1417]. 1717: Pope, Wife of Bath, 347. Oft would he say, who builds his house on sands, Pricks his blind horse across the fallow lands, Or lets his wife abroad with pilgrims roam, Deserves a fool's cap, and long ears at home.


Building is a sweet impoverishing. 1602–3: Manningham, Diary, 9 (Camden S.). The proverbe is that building is a theife, because it makes us lay out more money than we thought on. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1670: Ray, 3

Bull, subs. 1. A mad bull is not to be tied up with a packthread. 1732: Fuller, No. 266.

2. As sulky as a bull. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 22.

3. He bellows like a bull, but is as weak as a bulrush. 1639: Clarke, 142

4. He wears the bull's feather = He is a cuckold. 1533: in Ballads from MSS., i. 199 (B.S.), Lyke cokold foles to-gether... we wer an oxes fether. c. 1680: in Roxb. Ballads, iii. 418 (B.S.), And to all merry cuckoldes who think it no scorn To wear the bull's feather, though made of a horn. 1707: Dunton, Athen. Sport, p. 118, col. 2, Pompey, Cesar... were not the less esteem'd for having the bull's feather given 'em by their wives. 1737: Ray, 53.

5. Let him take the bull that stole the calf. 1548: Hall, Chron., 406 (1809). Accordyng to the old proverbe, let him
Bungay Go to Bungay, to get new bottledon 1830 Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 434 1872 J Glyde, Jr, Norfolk Garland, 150 See also Beccles

Burford bait, A=Drml. 1636 Taylor (Water-Poet), Cat of Taverns, 58, in Works, 4th coll (Spens S), Beware of a Burford bayt, for it may bres the staggerers 1662 Fuller, Worthies, in 3 1840. To take a Burford bait 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Oxfordshire"

Burned under the gallows See quot 1678 Ray, 221, He that kills himself with working must be burned under the gallows 1828 Carr Craven Dialect 174, This is said to be the doom of a man who kills himself with hard working 1889 Peacock, Manley, etc., Gloss, 227 (E D S), Thaay bury them as kills ther'sens wi' hard wark ane an th'galla's

Burn, verb I Burn not your house to fright away the mice 1732 Fuller, No 1624

2 He is burnt to the socket 22 dying, is at his last gasp 1813 Ray, 57

3 He that burn's his house warns himself for once 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

4 He that burns most shines most 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1852 FitzGerald, Polonius, 92 (1903)

5 He will burn his house to warm his hands 1481 Caxton, Reynard, 78 (Arber). They retche not whos hows brenneth, so that they may warne them by the coles 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

6 They that burn you for a witch lose all their coals 1732 (Fuller, No 4974 1869-69 Denham Tracts, ii 84 (F L S))

7 To burn daylight 1587 Churchyard, Worth of Wales, 84 (Spens S), Tyne routled on, I do but daylight burn 1592 Lyly, Mother Bombie, II 1, Wee burne time 1692 L'Estrange, #osp, 208 (3rd ed), Talk does but burn daylight 1707 Gibber, Comical Lovers, II, We burn day-light, lose time, and love 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, 1 58 Burn day-light, To light candles before dark

8 To burn the house, and run away by the light of it 1530 Palsgrave 710.
Burnt

I can set a house a fyre and Ronnie awaye by the lyght. c. 1720: J. Smedley, in Somers Tracts, xiii. 824 (1811). The following English proverbs... Burn the house, and run away by the light of it.


Burying is gone by, The. See quotes. c. 1791: Pege, Derbicisms, 92 (E.D.S.), "The burying's gone by," i.e. you are too late. 1891: N. & Q., 7th ser., xi. 148, "Th' berrin's gone by, and t'child's called Anthony." This saying used to be current in Lancashire fifty years ago, when any one appeared just too late for the event he had come to witness.

Bush. i. A bad (thin, etc.) bush is better than no shelter. c. 1300: Prov. of Hendyng, st. 22 (Berlin, 1878). Under boske shal men weder abide. 1670: Ray, 58, A bad bush is better then the open field. 1732: Fuller, No. 432, A thin bush is better than no shelter. 1820: Scott, Monastery, ch. iii., These evil showers make the low bush better than no bield.


3. He thinks every bush a boggard. 1678: Ray, 232. Bushel. i. A whole bushel of wheat is made up of single grains. 1732: Fuller, No. 456.

2. In a bushel of winning is not a handful of cunning. Before 1500: Hill, Commonplace-Book, 131 (E.E.T.S.)


2. Business is the salt of life. 1732: Fuller, No. 1026.


4. He that thinks his business below him, will always be above his business. 1732: Fuller, No. 2333.


Busy as a cat. See Cat (9).

Busy as a dog. See Dog (77).

Busy as a good wife at oven. 1670: Ray, 203.

Busy as a hen. See Hen (2).

Busy as Batty. 1850: N. & Q., 1st ser., i. 475, In Devonshire they say
"Busy as Batty," but no one knows who "Batty" was

Busy as bees in a basin 1834 Toone, Gloss, s v "Bees" There is a proverb in Leicestershire 'as busy as bees in a basin' Cf Busy as a bee

Busy folks are always meddling 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v Busy

Busy will have bands (or bonds) 1633 Draxe, 19 1670 Ray, 66

Busy Who more busy than he that hath least to do? 1633 Draxe, 20 1670 Ray, 66 1753 Richardson, Grandison, 1 294 (1883) I tell the ladies here, that those who have least to do, are generally the most busy people in the world

Busy-bodies never want a bad day 1732 Fuller, No 1029 "But," says Parson Laske 1864 "Cornish Proverbs," in N & Q 3rd ser, vi 5 1888 Q-Couch, Troy Town, ch iv

But when, quoth Kettle to his mare Cheshire 1678 Ray, 276 1852 in N & Q, 1st ser, vi 386 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 33

Butcher I He would have made a good butcher, but for the by-blow 1639 Clarke, 77

2 I think this is a butchers horse, he carries a calf so well 1678 Ray, 232

3 The butcher looked for his knife and it was in his mouth 1639 Clarke, 75 c 1640 in Rob Ballads, in 32r (B S), [Kit the butcher] Hee'd with his candell looke his knife, When hee had it in his mouth 1692 L'Estrange, Aesop, 340 (3rd ed.) 1738 Swift Poltie Convers, Dial I

4 The butcher looked for the candle, and 'twas in his hat 1639 Clarke, 75

5 Butler's grace =? 1609 Melton, Sixfold Politician, 33, Fillers, who are regarded but for a bawdy song, at a merry meeting, and when they have done are commonly sent away with butler's grace

Butter I Butter is gold in the morning, silver at noon, and lead at night 1583 Cogan, Haven of Health, 156 (1612). According to the old English proverbe Butter is gold, etc c 1653 in Somers Tracts, vii 69 (1811). This

butter-print parliament was gold in the morning and lead at night 1738 Swift Poltie Convers, Dial I

2 Butter is good for anything but to stop an oven 1659 Howell, 6

3 Butter is in the cow's horn once a year Ibid, 14 1670 Ray, 44 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 5 (Percy S), When the cow is dried for calving it is usual to say, 'All the butter is gone into the cow's horn'

4 Butter is mad twice a year, i.e when very hard, and very soft 1625 Johnson, Staple of News, II, So butter answer my expectation, and be not mad butter, "if it be, It shall both July and December see!" 1626 B & F, Noble Gent, I y, Mad as May butter 1738 Swift, Poltie Convers, Dial I 1921 in N & Q, 12th ser, iv 330. A Hertford servant girl, some forty-five years ago, when experiencing any difficulty in spreading butter on the bread, used to remark, "Butter goes mad twice a year, as my grand mother says"

5 No butter will cleave on my bread 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vii 1502 Greene, in Works x 22 (Grosart), Well, saith the setter, no butter will cleave on my bread 1656 Flecknoe, Diarium, 38. No butter'd stick upon my bread 1727 Swift, Works, v 203 (Scott), But now I fear it will be said, No butter sticks upon his bread 1824 Scott, Redgauntlet, ch xi. The devil a crumb of butter was ever churned that would stick upon my bread

6 That which will not be butter must be made into cheese 1678 Ray, 107 1732 Fuller, No 4387

7 They that have good store of butter may lay it thick on their bread 1639 Clarke, 49 1681 W Robertson, Phrasel Generalis, 1302 1732 Fuller, No 4980

8 To look as if butter would not melt in one's mouth 1530 Palsgrave, b20 He maketh as though he butter wolde nat melte in his mouth 1583 Stubbes, Anat of Abuses, 80 (N Sh S) 1641 Cowley, Guardian, III vii 1687 Sedley, Bellamira, IV, in Works, ii 163
Butter


9. To take butter out of a dog’s mouth. 1732: Fuller, No. 699. As irrecoverable as a lump of butter in a greyhound’s mouth. 1886: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 202 (E.D.S.), We have an old saying, as easy to get butter out of a dog’s mouth, as money out of a lawyer. 1908: T. Ratcliffe, in N. & Q., 10th ser., x. 387.

B. Butter one’s bread. To. See Bread (8) and (12).

Butterbump. See Foot (3).

Buttermilk wedding. A. A poor affair. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 2.

Button-hole. See Take (27).

Buy. 1. Buy at a fair but sell at home. 1633: Drake, 21, A man must buie at the faire, and sell at home.

1670: Ray, 4, Buy at a market, but sell at home. 1732: Fuller, No 1034 [as in 1670].

2. He is able to buy an Abbey=He is a spendthrift. 1678: Ray, 352.

3. He that buyeth magistracy must sell justice. 1642: Fuller, Holy State: “The Good Judge,” They that buy justice by wholesale, to make themselves savers must sell it by retail.

1732: Fuller, No. 2055. Cf. No. 11.

4. He that buys a house. See House (7).

5. He that buys and lies shall feel it in his purse. 1612: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. bk. iii. ch. xi. 1712: Motteux, Quixote, Pt. I. bk. iii. ch. xi. 1732: Fuller, No. 2056.

6. He that buys dearly must sell dearly.

C. 1538: Starkey, England, I. i. 175 (O.H.), He that bath byre may sel dere. 1681: Yarranton, Eng. Improvement, Pt. II., p. 183, The old saying is, He that buys dear, must sell dear.

7. He that buys land buys many stones; He that buys flesh buys many bones; He that buys eggs buys many shells; But he that buys good ale buys nothing else. 1670: Ray, 211. 1732: Fuller, No. 6422. 1805: in N. & Q., 3rd ser., viii. 494. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lancs Sayings, 42, Choose ‘at buy’n beef buy’n booons; Choose ‘at buy’n

Buyer

lond buy’n stoools; Thoose ‘at buy’n eggs buy’n shells; Thoose ‘at buy’n good ale buy’n nout elze.


9. It is good to buy wit with other men’s money. 1672: Walker, Param., 30. 1681: W. Robertson, Phraseol Generalis, 297.

10. One may buy gold too dear. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vii., A man may by gold to deere. 1579: Spenser, Shep. Cal., August, I 123, So you may buy gole too dear. 1692: L’Estrange, Aesop, 167 (3rd ed.). 1844: Thackeray, Barry Lyndon, ch. xiii., The fact is, in my opinion, that we often buy money very much too dear.

11. They that buy an office must sell something. 1650: Taylor, Holy Living, ch. iii. § 2, For they that buy the office will sell the act. 1732: Fuller, No. 4975. Cf. No. 3.

12. To buy and sell and live by the loss. 1633: Drake, 20. 1660: Fuller, Mist Contempl., 347 (1830), Merchandizing is a ticklish matter, seeing many buy and sell and live by the loss. 1732: Fuller, No. 1033.


15. Who buyeth dear and taketh up on credit, shall ever sell to his loss. 1578: Florio, First Fruits, fo. 28, Who buyeth deere, and taketh of credit, consumeth the body and looseth the seede. 1629: Book of Meery Riddles, Prov. 70.

Buyer. 1. Beware the buyer. 1607: E. Sharpham, Fleire, II., in Bang, Materialien, B. 36, p 19, Beware the buyer say they, you shall haue enough for your money. 1672: Walker, Param., 41, Let the buyer look to himself.

2. The buyer needs a hundred eyes, the seller but one. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1732: Fuller, No. 1035 [with “ none ” for “ but one ”]. 1869:
Buying

Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch xvi, Buyers ought to have a hundred eyes 1928 Sporting and Dramatic News, 7 Jan., p 27

Buying and selling is but winning and losing 1678 Ray, 107 1732 Fuller, No 1036

Buying of bread undoes us, Thus 1678 Ray, 67 1748 Gent Mag., 21

Buzzard See Blind, adj (13), Hawk (i), Sparrow-hawk, and Too low

By and by is easily said 1855 Bohn, 334

By chance, as the man killed the devil 1738 Swift, Polite Converse, Dial I

By fits and starts (or girds) 1670 Sanderson, Serm ad Pop., 1 145 (1681) (Q), If thou hast these things only by fits and starts 1650 Fuller, Pisgah Sight, bk 1: ch 11, That froward people worshipped Him by fits and girds 1709 Ward, Acc of Clubs, 69 (1756)

Yet still, by fits and starts, he'll judish be 1732 Fuller, No 1039, By fits and girds, as an ague takes a goose 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, iv 318 (1785), by fits and starts 1825 Jennings, Somerseish Words, 42, By fits and girds 1840 Dickens, Curiosity Shop, ch xxvii ad fin., by fits and starts all night 1847 Halliwell, Dict, s v “Gurds,” Gurds Fists, starts Var dial

By one and one spindles are made 1578 Flono, First Fruits, fo 25 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 62

By the ears 1539 Taverner, Garden of Wysdome, ch 1v, He set a yonge lyon and a very eger dogge together by the eares e 1580 Spelman, Dialogue, 74 (Roxb Cl), One eyell tongue may sette a number of men to gether by the eares e 1630 Dicke of Devonsh., I iii, in Bullen, Old Plays, 11 21 1742 Fielding, Andrews bk 11 ch xi 1819 Byron, Letters, etc., iv 205 (Prothero)

By the great See Work (4)

Byrones be bygones, Let [τα μην εἰς ἑαυτούς] —Epictetus, Disc., II xix 34] 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch ix, Let all thinges past pas 1748 Nethersole, Parables, 5 (Q), Let bygans be bygans 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 292, By-gones be by-gones, and fair play for time to come 1857 Borrow, Rom Rye, ch xlv 1909 De Morgan, Never can happen Again, ch xxvii
Ca me, ca thee. See Ka me, ka thee.
Cackle, verb. 1. I would not have your cackling for your eggs. 1732: Fuller, No. 2638.

2. She can cackle like a cadowe [jack-daw]. 1579: Marr. of Wit and Wisdom, sc. iii., p. 26 (Sh. S.), Ah, that drabe, she can cackel like a cadowe. 1886: Swainson, Folk-Lore of Brit. Birds, 82 (F.L.S.).

3. You cackle often but never lay an egg. 1732: Fuller, No. 5867.


Caesar’s wife must be above suspicion. [Tum Caesar . . . respondit: Quia suam uxorem etiam suspicione vacare vellet. —Plutarch, Julius Caesar, x. (4.)] 1740: North, Examen, 59, A judge should be, like Caesar’s wife, neither false nor suspected. 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, iii. 85 (1785). 1895: Shaw, Man of Destiny, Lady [humbly] I beg your pardon. Caesar’s wife is above suspicion.

Caistor was city when Norwich was none, And Norwich was built of Caistor stone. 1840: Penny Cyclop., xvi. 327. 1865: W. White, Eastern England, i. 64.

Cake. 1. I had rather my cake burn than you should turn it. 1732: Fuller, No. 2598.

2. One’s cake is dough. 1559: Becon, in Prayers, etc., 277 (P.S.). Or else your cake is dough, and all your fat lie in the fire. e. 1598: Jonson, Case is Altered, V. iv. 1665: Pepys, Diary, 27 April, Which puts . . . me into a great fear, that all my cake will be doe still. 1720: C. Shadwell, Hasty Wedding, IV. i. 1854: Baker, Northants. Gloss., s.v. “Cake,” “All our cakes are dough.” A proverbial expression, indicating the failure of any undertaking or project. Nares says, obsolete; not so with us.

1886: Hardy, Casterbridge, ch. xiii., She’ll wish her cake dough afore she’s done of him.

3. That cake came out of my oven. 1732: Fuller, No. 4335.

4. There is no cake but there is the like of the same make. 1650: Howell, 5. 1670: Ray, 4. 1762: Smollett, Sir L. Greaves, ch. x., Crabshaw replied, “There’s no cake but there’s another of the same make.”

Calais. See quot. 1528: Tyndale, Obid. of Christ. Men, 239 (P.S.), He shall be cast out of the court, or, as the saying is, conveyed to Calais, and made a captain or an ambassador.

Calder. See Hodder.


Cales. See Knight.

Calf and Calves. 1. A calf’s head will feed a huntsman and his hounds. 1678: Ray, i08. 1846–59: Denham Tracts, ii. i08 (F.L.S.).

2. As good luck as the lousy calf, that lived all winter and died in the summer. 1678: Ray, 287.

3. As many calves’ skins come to market as of bulls or kine. 1552: Latimer, Sermons, 416 (P.S.), It is a common saying, “There do come, etc.”

4. As wanton as a calf with two dams. 1670: Ray, 208.

5. He who will steal a calf will steal a cow. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. “Calf.”

6. His calves are gone down to grass. 1678: Ray, 232.


8. The largest calves are not the sweetest veal. 1605: Camden, Remains, 332 (1870), The greatest calf is not the sweetest veal. 1790: Wolcot, Works, ii. 111 (1795).
9 To eat the calf in the cow's belly—
To reckon one's chickens before they
are hatched 1642 Fuller, Holy State
"Of Expecting Preferment," The law of
good husbandry forbids us to eat a kid
in the mother's belly, spending our
pregnant hopes before they be delivered
1748 Richardson, Clarissa, iii 122
(1785). I ever made shift to avoid
anticipations I never would eat the calf
in the cow's belly, as Lord M's phrase is
1792 Wolcot, Works, ii 388 (1795)
1875 Smiles, Thrift 26.4 1886
Elworthy, West Som Word-Book, 58
(E D S ), A very common bucolic
saying, precisely expressive of what
is called "discounting" in commercial
talk, is eating the calf in the cow's belly.

See also Bull, subs (5), Change, subs
(3), Cow (3), (20) and (31) Eat (43),
Essex, and Luke cow

Call I Call one a thief and he will
steal 1838 Carlyle, Sartor, bk II
ch. 1. In a very plain sense the proverb
says, Call one a thief, and he will steal
2 Call over the coals See Over the
coals

3 It is too late to call again yesterday
Before 1529 Skelton, Magrye, svance,
1 265. Yesterday will not be callyd
again 1538 Latimer, Works, ii 308
(P S ) 1639 Davenport, Too Late to
call back yesterday [title of dialogue]
1676 Dryden, Aureng-Zebe, v 1 To
love once past, I cannot backward
move, Call yesterday again, and I may
love 1707 Dunton, Athen Sport,
p 14, col 2. So can we no more
recommend them, than call back
yesterday

4 To call one sir and something else,
I e surrah 1678 Ray, 289
Call I Calm after a storm See
Storm (1) and (2).
2 Calm as a clock 1831 Hone,
Year-Book, 622, "As calm as a clock"
has long been a favourite proverb with
me

3 In a calm sea every man is a pilot
[Seneca, Epist LXXV 1639 Clarke,
313 [with "passenger" for "man"]
1670 Ray, 4 1732 Fuller, No 2808
In a calm every one can steer
Calmest husbands See Husband (4)

Callery Mill See Billing Hill
Camberwell See quota 1588 A
Franchise, Lawyers Logick, fo 27. All
the maydes in Camberwell may daunce in an
egg shell 1861 N & Q, 2nd ser,
xxi 449 [as in 1588+] For there are noe
maydes in that well Cf Wanswell

Cambridge I A Royston horse and a
Cambridge Master of Arts are a couple of
creatures that will give way to nobody
1662 Fuller, Worthies, i 226 (1840)
[with 'boysten' for 'Royston']
1790 Grose Prov Gloss, s v "Cam-
bridgehire" [as in 1662] 1885 Folk-
Lore Journal, iii 85. The proverb, ' A
Royston horse and a Cambridge MA
will give way to none," refers to the
stolid way in which the malt-laden
horses of the Hertfordshire town bore
their burdens to the London market
2 Cambridge requires all to be equal
1662 Fuller Worthies, i 226 (1840)
1790 Grose Prov Gloss, s v ' Cam-
bridgehire'

Cambridgeshire Camels 1662 Fuller
—as before 1790 Grose—as before
1874 Smiles, Lives of Engineers, i 14.
The proverb of "Cambridgeshire
Camels" doubtless originated in this
old practice of still-walking in the Fens.

Cambridgeshire Oaks = Willows
1785 Grose, Class Diet Vulgar Tongue,
s v 1790 Grose—as before

Candle I A candle lights others and
consumes itself 1855 Bohn, 283
2 Candle ate the cat See True (6)
3 His candle burns within the socket
1639 Clarke 279 1681 W Robert-
son, Phraseol Generalis, 307. His candle
burns within the socket, Homo depon-
terus est 1736 Bailey, Diet, s v '
Candle'

4 Not worth the candle See Game
5 To burn the candle at both ends
1658 Fletch'r, Enignum Characteres, 64
He consuming just like a candle on both
ends, betwixt wine and women 1750
Smollett, Gil Blas, iii 116. The buller
and steward were in a confederacy, and
burnt the candle at both ends 1842
Barham Ing Legends, 2nd ser "St
Cuthbert" 1889 Peacock, Manley,
etc, Gloss, 81 (E D S ), Burn candles at
both ends—To be very wasteful
6. To hold (or set) a candle before the devil. 1461: Paston Lett., ii. 73 (Gairdner, 1900). For it is a comon proverbe, "A man must sumtyme set a candell befor the Devyle." 'c. 1540: Thersites, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, i. 427. It is good to set a candle before the devil. 1672: Wycherley, Love in a Wood, i. i., You cannot hold a candle to the devil. 1705: Ward, Hud. Rediv., Pt. III. can. iv., p. r6. 1828: Scott, Fair Maid, ch. xxix. 1871: G. Eliot, Middle-march, ch. xvi. Their impression that the general scheme of things . . . required you to hold a candle to the devil.

7. To waste a candle and find a flea (or farthing). 1623: Wodropehe, Sparred Hores, 504 . . . find a flea. 1880: Spurgeon, Ploughman’s Pictures, 19. They are like Fedley, who burnt a penny candle in looking for a farthing. See also Sun (13).

Candlemas Day. 2 Feb. The Feast of the Purification of the B.V.M. [Before 1529: Skelton, Carl. of Laurell, l. 1442, How men were wont for to discerne By candlemas day, what wether should holde.]

A. A FINE CANDLEMAS DAY. c. 1576: G. Harvey, Marginalia, 175 (1913), A faire Candlemas, a fowle Lent. 1584: R. Scot, Witchcraft, bk. xi. ch. xv., If Maries purifying-day Be cleare and bright with sunny raire, Then frost and cold shall be much more, After the feast than was before. 1640: Countrym. Counsellor, in Helpe to Discourse, 224. When on the Purification sun hath shin’d, The greatest part of winter comes behind. 1646: Browne, Pseudo. Ep., bk. vi. ch. iv. [cites the old distich: Si Sol splendescat Maria purificante, Major erit glacies post festum quam fuit ante]. 1678: Ray, 51. If Candlemas day be fair and bright Winter will have another flight. 1732: Fuller, No. 6486 [as in 1678]. 1799: Gent. Mag., Pt. I., p. 203. If the sun shines i’ th’ forenoon [of Candlemas Day], Winter is not half done. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 29 (Percy S.), If Candlemas-day be dry and fair, The half of winter’s to come and mair. 1879: Henderson, Folk-Lore N. Counties, 76 (F.L.S.), If the sun shines bright on Candlemas Day, The half of the winter’s not yet away. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 15. If Candlemas Day be fine and clear, Corn and fruits will then be dear [also as in 1640 and 1678]. Ibid., 16. After Candlemas Day the frost will be more keen, If the sun then shines bright, than before it has been. 1904: Co. Folk-Lore: Northumb., 175 (F.L.S.), If Candlemas day is fair and clear, There’ll be two winters in the year.

B. A FOUL CANDLEMAS DAY. 1678: Ray, 344. On Candlemas day it be showre and rain, Winter is gone and will not come again. 1732: Fuller, No. 6486 [as in 1678]. 1855: N. & Q., 1st ser., xi. 421. On Candlemas Day if the thorns hang a-drop, Then you are sure of a good pea-crop. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 16 [as in 1678, with slight variation, and as in 1855]. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 164, If Candlemas Day be damp and black, It will carry cold winter away on its back.


D. CANDLEMAS DAY AND FORAGE. 1639: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 30 (1885). At Candlemas a provident husbandman should have halfe his fodder, and all his corn remaininge. 1732: Fuller, No. 6487. On Candlemas-day, You must have half your straw, and half your hay. 1855: [a Norfolk correspondent] in N. & Q., 1st ser., xi. 239, The farmer should have on Candlemas Day, Half his stover [winter forage], and half his hay. 1881: C. W. Empson, in Folk-Lore Record, iv. 127. If it neither rains nor snows on Candlemas Day, You may striddle your horse and go buy hay. Lines. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 15 [as in 1732]. 1916: in N. & Q., 12th ser., ii. 178. Rime . . . known in several North-Midland counties runs:—"If Candlemas Day comes blithe and gay, You may saddle your horse and
buy some bay. But if Candlemas Day comes rugged and rough, You may fodder away—you'll have fodder enough.” Which means that if there be hard weather at the beginning of February it bodes well for the hay and corn crops later on.

**E Candlemas Day and Goose-laying 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 37 (Percy S).** On Candlemas-day a good goose will lay, But on Valentine’s day, any goose will lay 1883 Burne, Shropshire Folk-Lore, 578, At Candlemas Day A good goose should lay But at St Chad Both good and bad 1913 E M Wright, Rustic Speech, etc, 289. At this date, according to a common proverb good geese lay all day, New Candlemas Day, good goose will lay, Old Candlemas Day any goose will lay.

**F Candlemas Day and Sheep 1732 Fuller, No 6485, The shepherd had as live see his wife on the bier. As that Candlemas-day should be pleasant and clear 1830 Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 416, On Candlemas Day, if the sun shines clear, The shepherd had rather see his wife on the bier 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 28 (Percy S) [as in 1732, with “hind” for “shepherd”] 1879 Henderson, Folk-Lore N Counties, 76 [as in 1830].

**G Candlemas Day and Snow 1678 Ray, 43, When Candlemas day is come and gone The snow lies on a hot stone 1825 Hone, Ev Day Book, 1 Feb, ad fin [as in 1678] 1855 N & Q, 1st ser, xi 239, (1) When Candlemas Day is come and gone, The snow won’t lay on a hot stone [Also] (2) As far as the sun shines in on Candlemas Day, So far will the snow blow in afore old May 1872 J. Glyde, Jr, Norfolk Garland, 153 [as in 1855 (1)—“won’t lie”] 1873 N & Q, 4th ser, xi 275, Snow at Candlemas, Stops to handle us [Ratland].

**H Candlemas Day Miscellaneous 1877 F Ross, etc, Holderness Gloss, 37 (E D S), A Candlemas-crack [storm] Lays moneys a sailor on his back 2 As long as the bird sings before Candlemas, it will greet after it 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 27 (Percy S) 3 At Candlemas, the cold comes to us 1732 Fuller, No 6381 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 15, 4 February 2nd, bright and clear, Gives a good flux year Ibid, 16 5 See quot 1910 Devonsh Assoc Trans, xi 8r, “Green Candlemas, barren Redmas” proverb used by an old Ashwater man, when a cold May followed a warm early spring [’Redmas” probably=Festival of Invention of Cross, 3 May] 6 When the wind’s in the east on Candlemas day, There it will stick till the second of May 1852 N & Q, 1st ser, v 462 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 16 [as in 1852].

See also All-hallow-tide, and Bean (7) Candlemas Eve Wind 1839 G C Lewis, Hesper’s Words, 122, When the wind blows on Candlemas-eve, it will continue till May - eve 1858 N & Q, 2nd ser, v 391, [An old farmer said] it had been observed by him, and by his father before him, that in whatever quarter the wind might be on Candlemas Eve, it “mainly” remained in that quarter for forty days.

Can’t you hit the door? 1639 Clarke, 1.

**Canterbury 1 A Canterbury gallop 1675 in Harl Miscell, vii 598 (1740). For his grace at meat, what can I better compare it to, than a Canterbury rack, half-pace, gallop” 1759 Ruder, Dict, s v, In horsemanship, the hard gallop of an ambling horse, probably derived from the monks riding to Canterbury upon ambling horses 1830 Galt, Lawrie Todd, VI vii 280 (1849) (O). On horse-back, and off at a Canterbury trot.

2 A Canterbury tale 1549 Lattimer, Seven Sermons, 49 (Arber). We myghte as well spende that tymne in reading of prophane hystories, of cantorburye tales, or fit of Robyn Hode 1663 Roxb Ballads, vii 230 (E S). A sad relation, a strange Canterbury tale 1724 Defoe, Roxana, in Works, vii 151 (Boston, 1903). That foolish young girl held us all in a Canterbury story, I thought she would never have done with it 1774 Coleman, Man of Business, V ii 1785.
Canting

Grose, Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue, s.v., Canterbury Story, a long roundabout tale.

3. Canterbury is the higher rack, but Winchester is the better manger. 1608: in Harington, Nuncs Antique, ii. 87 (1604). A bishop of Winchester [said to have been W. Edington, ob. 1366] one day in pleasant talk, comparing his reveuiew with the archbishops of Canterbury should say—"Your Graces will shew better in the racke, but mine will be found more in the maunger." 1662: Fuller, Worthies, i. 5 (1840) 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Hampshire." 1908: Read, H. and B. in Hants, 74, To Edington . . . is credited the origin of one of Hampshire's proverbs—"Though Canterbury is the highest rack, Winchester has the deepest manger."

See also Deal (2).

Canting. See Courting.

Cap, subs. 1. If his cap be made of wool—As sure as his cap is made of wool. 1653: Jonson, Tale of a Tub, II. ii., Slip, you will answer it, an if your cap be of wool. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, ii. 68 (1840). Our English garments from head to foot were formerly made thereof [of wool], till the beginning of the reign of King Henry the Eighth, when velvet caps becoming fashionable for persons of prime quality, discomposed the proverb, "If his cap be made of wool," as formerly comprising all conditions of people how high and haughty soever. 1670: Ray, 167. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Cap."

2 If the cap fits—wear it. 1714: Ozell, Molibre, iv. 10. If the fool's cap fits any body, let 'em put it on. 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, vii. 59 (1785). If indeed . . . the cap fits thy own head . . . e'en take and clap it on. 1854: Dickens, Hard Times, bk. ii. ch. vii.

3. My (or thy) cap is better at ease than my (or thy) head. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vii. 1659: Heywood, 5.

4. She's cap and button too. Said of a lady who "wears the breeches." 1887: Croston, Enoch Crump, 8 (W.), Th' owd lass were cap and button too i

that house. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 100, Oo's cap and button too.

5. To throw one's cap after a thing. 1607: Shakespeare, Timon, III. iv., I perceive our masters may throw their caps at their money. 1690: New Dict. Canting Crew, sig. C4. He may fling up his cap after it, when a thing or business is past hope.

See also Considering cap.

Cap, verb. See quot. 1892: Heslop, Northumb. Words, 132 (E.D.S.), "This caps the stack"—is a proverb, meaning something overtopping.


Capon. 1. Capons were at first but chickens. 1732: Fuller, No. 1056.

2. If you have not a capon, feed on an onion. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Chapon." 1710: S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 201.


See also Chickens (i).


Carcase. Where the carcase is, the ravens will gather. 1855: Bohn, 563.

Card of ten. See Outface.

Cards. 1. Cards are the devil's books. 1676: Poor Robin Alman. Prognost., sig. C4. Cards and dice . . . the devil's books and the devil's bones. 1745: Agreeable Companion, 73, Time out of mind, they [cards] are and have been call'd the devil's books. 1840: Lytton, Money, IV. ii.

2. Many can pack (or shuffle) the cards, that cannot play well. 1650: Howell, 10 (8). 1670: Ray, 20. 1694: D'Urfey, Quixote, Pt. II. Act III. sc. ii., There's many will shuffle the cards that won't play. 1732: Fuller, No. 3341.

3. When you have told your cards, you'll find you have gained but little. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi., Tell thy cardes, and then tell me what
thou hast wonne c 1594 Bacon, Promus, No 641 [as in 1546] 1633 Drake, 116. Let him count his cards and see his winnings 1678 Ray, 68 1732 Fuller, No 5628, When you have counted your cards, you'll find you have little left

See also Cooling card

Care and diligence bring luck 1732 Fuller, No 1057

Care is no cure c 1591 Shakespeare, I Henry VII, III m 1678 Ray, 106 1732 Fuller, No 1060

Care killed a cat 1585-1618 Shirburn Ballads, 91 (1907). Let care kill a catte, Wee'te laugh and be fatte 1599 Shakespeare, Much Ado, V 1, What, courage, man! What though care killed a cat c 1630 in Roxb Ballads, I 103 (Hindley) 1726 Swift, Poems, in Works, xv 542 (Scott). Then who says care will kill a cat? 1816 Scott Antiquary ch xv 1871 Planche, Extravag., v 287 (1879)

Care never paid a pound of debt c 1640 in Roxb Ballads, I 416 (B S)

Care not would have it 1670 Ray, 67

Care Sunday, care away, Palm Sunday and Easter-day! 1812 Brady, Claus Cal, I 242 1904 Co Folk-Lore Northumb, I 75 (F L S)

Cares not whose child cries, so his laugh, He 1732 Fuller, No 1823

Careless hussy makes many thieves, A 1683 Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697)

Carleton wharlers See xv 1000 quot

1622 W Burton, Descrip of Leics., 67-8 1650 Fuller, Pisgah Sight, bk II CB IX, It is observed in a village at Carleton in Leicestershire that the people therein are troubled with wharling in their utterance 1700 Brome, Travels, 77, Not far from hence is Carleton, of which we were told, that most persons that are born there have an ill favoured, untunable, and harsh manner of speech, fetching their words with very much ado, deep from out of the throat, with a certain kind of wharling, the letter R being very irksome and troublesome to them to pronounce 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v “Leicestershire,” Carleton warlers

Carlisle, a seaport without ships, merchants or trade, and, Nearer God's blessing than Carlisle Fair Both in 1846-49 Denham Tracts, I 180, 181 (F L S)

Carpenter is known by his chips, A 1611 Coryat, Crudities, I 407 (1905), For, according to the old proverb the best carpenters make the fewest chips 1653 R Brome, Novella, III 1, The best carpenters make fewest chips 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial II, They say a carpenter's known by his chips 1830 Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 430, You may know a carpenter by his chips See also Such carpenter

Carper can cavil at anything, A 1732 Fuller, No 33

Carpen kite will never make good hawk, A 1567 Painter, Pal of Pleasure, III 68 (Jacobs), It is impossible of a kyte or corerant to make a good sparhawk 1605 Camden Remains, 316 (1870) 1669 Polite phus, 183 1732 Fuller, No 1063 1820 Scott, Monastery, ch xix, For seldom doth a good hawk come out of a kite's egg

Carry 1 He carrieth all his wardrobe about him 1659 Howell, 16

2 He carries well to whom it weight not 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

3 To carry an M [for "Master"] under one's girdle c 1550 Udall, Roister Doister, III 11, Neare [never] an M by your girdle? 1605 Chapman, East Hoe, IV u, You might carry an M under your girdle to Master Deputies worship 1640 Shirley, Arcadia, I u 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I 1816 Scott, Old Mortality, ch xxxiv, Ye might sae he had an M under your belt for Mistress Wilson of Milnwood

4 To carry coals Before 1529 Skelton, in Works, I 34 (Dyce), Wyll ye bere no coales? 1575 Churchyard, Chappes, 37 (Collier), He carried coales that could abide no geast r58r B Rich, Farewell, 112 (Sh S) He had offended one that would beare no coales c 1602 Chapman, May-Day, I, Above all things you must carry no coals
Carshalton

1631: Mabbe, Celestina, 127 (T.T.), He is chollericker, and I can carrie no coles.
1621: Scott, Kenilworth, ch. xxviii., I am no dog in the manger—but I will not carry coals neither.

5. To carry one’s cup even between two parties = To be impartial. 1690: New Dict. Canting Crew, sig. D4.
6. To carry one’s dish upright. Before 1680: Butler, Remains, ii. 334 (1759), An affected man carries himself like his dish (as the proverb says) very uprightly. 1725: Defoe, Everybody’s Business, You must carry your dish very upright, or miss, [the servant] forsooth, gives you warning.

Carshalton. See Sutton.

Cart. 1. An old cart, well used, may last out a new one abused. 1732: Fuller, No. 6287.
3. To keep cart on wheels = To be in a state to carry on business, etc. 1639: Clarke, 242. 1662: Newcome, Diary, 56 (1849) (O.), I must walk closer with God or I cannot keep cart on wheels. 1828: Carr, Graven Dialect, ii. 251 [explained as above].
4. To put the cart before the horse. [Latin: put the boar.—Lucian, Dial. Mort, vi. 2.] 1528: More, Works, p. 154, col. 1 (1557), Much like as if we would go make the cart to drave the horse. 1742: Udall, tr. Erasmus’ Aphor., 359 (1877), The tale... also setteth the cart before the horses. 1630: Taylor (Water-Poet), Works, pagin. 1, 15. 1705: Ward, Hudibras Rediv., Pt. II. can. iii., p. 27, Excuse me, that the Muses force The cart to stand before the horse. 1893: R. L. S., Catriona, ch. ix.

Case is altered, The; sometimes with the addition, quoth Plowden. (a) With the addition. 1603: Dekker,Batch.Baug., in Works, i. 235 (Grosart), Then is their long warre come to an end, and the case (as Plovyden sayeth) cleane altered. c. 1620: in Roxb. Ballads, i. 77 (Hindley), Your case is altered in the law quoth Plovyden. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, vi. 54 (1840). 1714: Ozell, Molière, vi. 8. 1809: Pegge, Anon., cent. ii. 8. 1841: Harshorne, Salopia Antiqua [said to be still in use in Shropshire]. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 591. (b) Without the addition. 1594: Greene, in Works, xiv. 38 (Grosart), Faith sir, the case is altered; you told me it before in an other manner. c. 1598: Jonson, The Case is Altered [title]. 1634: T. Heywood, Mayden Head Well Lost, III. 1714: Ozell, Molière, iii. 184. 1824: Scott, Red-gauntlet, ch. xii., But when you are out of your canonicals the case is altered.

Cask and an ill custom must be broken, A. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

Cast savours of the first fill, The. [Quo semel est imbuta servavit odorem Testa diu.—Horace, Epist., II. ii. 60.] c. 1250: in Wright’s Pol. Songs John to Edw. II., 31 (Camden S.) [the Horatian line borrowed]. 1590: Barclay, Ship of Fools, i. 47 (1874), But fyll an erthen pot first with yll lycoure And ever after it shall smell somewhat soure. c. 1577: Northbrooke, Against Dicing, etc., ii (Sh. S.), The vessel will conserve the taste Of lycoure very long, With which it was first seasoned.


Cast, verb. 1. To be cast at cart’s arse.
Cast

1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch iv

1611 Davies (of Hereford), Sc of Folly, 50, in Works, ii (Grosart)

2 To cast a sheep's eye See Sheep (17)

3 To cast beyond the moon 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch iv, Fear may force a man to cast beyond the moon 1579 Lyly, Euphues, 78 (Arber), Pardon me, Euphues, if in love I cast beyond the moon 1607 T Heywood, Woman Killed with Kindness, IV v, I talk of things impossible, and cast beyond the moon 1638 Ford, Lady's Trial, I ii, He casts beyond the moon, and will be greater yet, In sight of Don 1847 Halliwell, Diet, s v "Moon," To cast, to be very ambitious, to calculate deeply, to make an extravagant conjecture

4 To cast dust See Dust

5 To cast in one's dish See Lay a thing

6 To cast up accounts—To vomit 1607 Dekker and Webster, West Hoe, V 1, I would not have 'em cast up their accounts here, for more than they mean to be drunk this twelvemonth 1612 W Parkes, Curllan-drawer of the World, 17 (Grosart), 1745 Franklin, Drinker's Diet, in Works, ii 22 (Bigelow), He's casting up his accounts c 1792 Pegge, Derbicisms, 93 (E D S)

7 To cast up old scores 1659 Howell, 2 1670 Ray, 214 1732 Fuller, No 5145

8 To cast water into (a) the sea, (b) the Thames (a) [His qui contents non est, in mare fundat aquas—Ovid, Tr., V vii 44] 1599 Barclay, Ship of Fools, 1 166 (Samuelson), Or in the sea cast water, thynkyng it to augment 1585 Sir E Dyer in Writings, 103 (Grosart, 1872), Unless the casters of water into the sea are to be praised for their charite 1600 F Thynne, Emb/ and Epigr., 3 (E E T S), In vaine for mee to add water to the large sea of your rare lerning 1654 Gayton, Pleasant Notes Don Q., 127, To doc good to men unthankfull is to cast water into the sea (b) 1377 Langland, Plowman, B, xv 332, And went forth with that water to wole with Themese [to moisten or dilute therewith the Thames] 1611 Davies (of Hereford), Sc of Folly, 45, in Works, ii (Grosart), To cast water in Thames is superfluous

1662 Fuller, Worthies, ii 347 (1840), 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "London"

Castle and Castles 1 A castle of comfort c 1560 Becon, A Castell of Comfort [title] 1599 Peele, Sir Clymu, etc., sc xiii, You have a castle of comfort brought in that you have told c 1630 Diche of Devonsh, I ii in Bulen, Old Plays, ii 23, I think long till I be at home in our Castle of comfort

2 A castle that speaketh is near a surrender 1580 Lyly, Euphues, 334 (Arber), Castles that come to parle, and woemen that delight in courting, are willing to yeeld 1660 Howell, Parly of Beasts, 66, The female and fortress which begins to parly is half-gan'd 1666 Tornano, Piazza Unv., 93, A fortress that comes to parle, is neer a surrender C F City

3 It is easy to keep a castle that was never assaulted [1591 Harington, Ort Furoso, bk xlii st 25, 'Tis easie to resist where none invade] 1732 Fuller, No 2924 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 588, A castle's easy kept as is never stormed

4 To build castles in Spain c 1400 Rom Rose, 1 2573, Thou shalt make castels than in Spayne, And dreme of Ioye, al but in vayne c 1477 Caxton, Jason, 25 (E E T S), He began to make castells in Spaygne as Louers doe 1567 G Fenton, Bandello, ii 249 (T T), He began to sighe and build castels in Spaine 1685-6 Cotton, Montaigne, bk ii ch iv, Let me think of building castles in Spain 1750, Smollett, Gil Blas, iii 76, I fell asleep in the very act of building castles in Spain 1853 G W Curtis, "Castles in Spain," in Putnam's Mag., n 657

5 To build castles in the air 1566 Pamter, Pal of Pleasure, 1 266 (Jacobs), Alerand was a building of castel in the ayre 1595 Sidney, Apol for Poete, par 12, As we are wont to say by them that build castles in the air
1651: Randolph, _Hey for Honesty_, i. ii., Castles in the air are very impregnable.
1787: D'Arblay, _Diary_, ii. 424 (1876), 'Tis best to build no castles in the air.
1852: Dickens, _Bleak House_, ch. xiv., Richard . . . began, on no other foundation, to build as many castles in the air as would man the great wall of China.

Castleford women. See _quot_. 1868: _Quart Review_, cxxv. 492, The old rhyme may have been true enough—"Castleford women must needs be fair, Because they wash both in Calder and Aire." 1878: _Folk-Lore Record_, i. 172 [as in 1868].

Castleton. See Hope, Derbyshire.

Cat. 1. A baited cat may grow as fierce as a lion. 1620: Shelton, _Quixote_, Pt. II. ch. xiv., If a cat shut into a room, much baited and straitened, turn to be a lion . . . 1710: S. Palmer, _Moral Essays on Proverbs_, 395.

2. A cat has nine lives. 1546: Heywood, _Proverbs_, Pt. II. ch. iv., A woman hath nyne lyues like a cat. 1592: Shakespeare, _Romeo_, III. i., Good king of cats, nothing but one of your nine lives. 1605: Marston, _Dutch Courtezan_, III. i., Thou hast nine lives like a cat. 1678: Butler, _Hudibras_, Pt. III. can. ii. 1629, With new reversions of nine lives Starts up, and like a cat revives 1709: Ward, _Acc. of Clubs_, 9 (1756), Assert the same, in spite of her nine lives, to be rank poison to a cat. 1662: Borrow, _Wild Wales_, ch. vii., Even a cat, an animal known to have nine lives, cannot live without food.


5. A muzzled cat was never good mouser. 1605: Camden, _Remains_, 317 (1870). Cf. No. 49.

6. All cats are grey in the dark. 1546: Heywood, _Proverbs_, Pt. I. ch. v., When all candels be out all cats be grey. 1596: Lodge, _Marg. of America_, 56 (Hunt. Cl.). Before 1634: Chapman, _Alphabetus_, III. i., By night all cats are grey. 1730: Lillo, _Silvia_, i. ix., For, in the night, Sure every cat is grey 1880: R. L. S. and Henley, _Deacon Brodie_, i. i. ix., The grimy cynical night that makes all cats grey.


8. An old cat sports not with her prey. 1640: Herbert, _J. Prudentum_.


10. As nimble as a blind cat in a barn. Glos. 1639: in _Berkeley MSS._, iii. 30 (1885).

11. As the cat licks (or loves) mustard. 1639: Clarke, 235, He loves me as the cat doth mustard. 1659: Howell, 2, As the cat licks mustard. 1754: Berthelson, _Eng.-Danish Dict._, s.v. "Love" [as in 1639].

12. As the cat plays with (or watches) a mouse. 1340: _Ayenbite_, 179 (E.E.T.S.), The dyuel playth ofte . . . ase deth the cat mid the mous. 1566: J. Studley, tr. _Seneca's Agam._, in _Bang's Material._, B. 38, p. 22, With whom (as the cat with the mouse) it liketh her to daly. 1579: Gosson, _Sch. of Abuse_, 25 (Sh. S.), To watch their conceates, as the catte for the mouse. 1645: Howell, _Letters_, bk. i. § iii. No. 18, He watch'd her as a cat doth a mouse. 1710: C. Shadwell, _Fair Quaker_, II. ii., You play with him as a cat plays with a mouse. 1821: Scott, _Kenilworth_, ch. viii., My hang-dog kinsman watching you as close as ever cat watched a mouse. 1886: R. L. S., _Kidnapped_, ch. iv., We sat at table like a cat and a mouse, each stealthily observing the other.

14 By biting and scratching cats and dogs come together 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch 1069 Camden, Remains, 320 (1870) 1670 Ray, 68 1732 Fuller, No 984, Biting and scratching gets the cat with kittens
15 Cat will after kind e 1275 Prov of Alfred, A 296 For ofte mueth the kat after hire moder 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi, Cat after kynde good mouse hunt 1583 Greene Mamillia, in Works, II 119 (Grosart), Shewing yt the cat will to kinde 1601 Shakespeare, As You Like It, III 11, If the cat will after kind, So be sure will Rosalind 1668 Shadwell, Sullen Lovers, IV 1 1697 Vanbrugh, Esop, III 1716 Ward, Female Policy, 93 1732 Fuller, No 1070
16 Cats eat what hussies spare 1683 Merton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697)
17 Cats hide their claws 1732 Fuller No 1072
18 Good liquor will make a cat speak 1585-1618 Shirburn Ballads, 93 (1607) Who is it but loues good liquor? Twill make a catte speake 1611 Shakespeare, Tempest, II 11, Open your mouth, here is that which will give language to you, cat 1661 Antid against Medanck, 126 (Ebsworth), Old liquor able to make a cat speak, and a wise man dumb 1720 Vade Mecum for Maltcorms, Pt I, p 35. There is drunk will almost make a cat to speak 1838 Dickens, Nickleby, ch xii, Talk, miss! It's enough to make a Tom cat talk French grammar
19 He's sure of a cat that hath her skin 1611 Cotgrave, s.v 'Chat'
20 He lives under the sign of the cat's foot---He is henpecked 1678 Ray, 68 1880 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 87
21 He signifies no more than a blind cat in a barn 1732 Fuller, No 2020
22 He stands in great need that borrous the cat-dish 1639 Clarke, 225
23 He that will play with cats, must expect to be scratched 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 249
24 Honest as the cat when the (see quots.) 1732 Fuller, No 2524, meat is upon the hook. 1875

A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 129, milk's away 1880 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 20, meat is out of reach
25 How can the cat help it, if the maid be a fool? 1591 Florio, Second Fruits, 41, Is the cat to blame, if maidens be foles with shame? 1623 Wodroopebe, Spared Houres, 243, What faulte makes the cat when the maidseruant is full of folle and carelesnesse? 1670 Ray, 67 1732 Fuller, No 5595, When the maid leaves open the door blame not the cat
26 I know a cat from a cowl staff 1696 T Dilke Lover's Luck, III 1
27 I will keep no cats that will not catch mice Somerset 1678 Ray, 350 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs 358, Keep no more cats than will catch mice 1732 Fuller, No 2638
28 It would make a cat laugh 1651 Planche, Extravag, IV 148 (1879), It would have made a cat laugh, or a dog 1898 Weyman Shrewsbury, ch xxxv, You three all mixed up! It would make a cat laugh, my lad
29 Kiss the black cat, An 'twill make ye fat, Kiss the white ane, 'Twill make ye lean 1878 Dyer, Eng Folk-Lore, 108
30 Let the cat wink, and let the mouse run 1522 World and the Child, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, I 265 (1874), Ah, ah, sirs, let the cat wink Before 1529 Skelton, Elynor Runnyng, I 306, But drynke, styll drynke, And let the cat wyne 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch iv, Let the cat wyne, and leat the mouse ronne 1659 Howell, 7 1709 Dykes, Eng Proverbs, 45, And so let the cat be winking
31 Like a cat he'll still fall upon his legs 1678 Ray, 282, He's like a cat, fling him which way you will he'll light on's legs 1732 Fuller, No 3220
1820 Colton, Lacon, Pt I No 348, There are some men who are fortune's favourites, and who, like cats, light for ever upon their legs
32 Like a cat in a bonfire, don't know which way to turn Cornwall 1895 Jos Thomas, Randigal Rhymes, 60
33 Like a cat in pettins Oxfordish
34. Like a cat round hot milk. 1855: Bohn, 442.

35. Little by little as the cat ate the flicke. Before 1500: in Hill, Common-place-Book, 130 (E.E.T.S.), A litill and a litill, the cat ethid vp the bacon flicke 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vii., Yet littell and littell the cat eateth the flicell. 1897: C. Lee, Widow Woman, ch. vii. [with "candle" for "flickle"]. 1898: E. Peacock, in N. & Q., 9th ser., i. 390, "Do it by degrees, as the cat ate the pestle [pig's foot]," is a proverbial saying in these parts [Kirtton-in-Lindsey, Lincs].

36. My cat hath no such ears. 1659: Howell, ii.

37. My cat is a good mouse-hunt. Glos. 1639: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 27 (1685), My catt is a good moushunter. An usuall speach when wee husbands commend the diligence of our wives . . . hee that somtimes flatteth not his wife cannot alwayes please her.

38. Never was cat or dog drowned that could see the shore. c. 1594: Bacon, Promis, No. 590. A catt will never drowne if she sees the shore. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 36. Neither dog nor cat ever drown, so long as they can discern the shore. 1732: Fuller, No. 3532.

39. No playing with a straw before an old cat. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vii. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), Sc. of Folly, 47, in Works, ii. (Grosart). 1792: Wolcot, in Works, ii. 328 (1795), May sthun thee with two proverbs all so pat—"What, what, Pitt—play a jig to an old cat?"

1817: Scott, Rob Roy, ch xxvi., They were ower auld cats to draw that strae afore them.

40. None but cats and dogs are allowed to quarrel in my house. 1732: Fuller, No. 3643.

41. Send not a cat for lard. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

42. She paid eu like the cat paid the owl—cross the face. Newlyn, W. Cornwall, 19th cent. (Mr. C. Lee).

43. That cat is out of kind [nature] that sweet milk will not lap. 1678: Ray, 108.

44. That that comes of a cat will catch mice. 1678: Ray, 109.

45. The cat and dog may kiss, yet are none the better friends. 1855: Bohn, 499.

46. The cat has kittened = Something has happened. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 596.

47. The cat has kittened in your mouth. 1618: Field, Amends for Ladies, II. i., Grace. Your mother's cat has kittened in your mouth, sure.

48. The cat hath eaten her count. 1678: Ray, 68.


1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. iii., Do not preach in gloves, for cats in mittens catch no mice. Cf. No. 5.

50. The cat invites the mouse to a feast. 1732: Fuller, No. 4441.


52. The cat is in the cream-pot. 1678: Ray, 233.

53. The cat knows whose lips she licks. c. 1210: in Wright's Essays on Middle Ages, i. 149 (1846), Wel wot hur eate whas berd he licket. Before 1529: Skelton, Gart. of Laurell, i. 1438, And wile woth the cat whos berde she likkith. 1670: Ray, 68. 1732: Fuller, No. 4442.


55. The cat, the rat, and Lovel the dog, Ride all England under the hog. 1542: Fabyan, Chron., fo. 468. The catte, the ratte, and louel our dogge, Ruleth all
England vnder a hogg The whyche was mente that Catysby, Ratcliffye, and the lorde Louell ruled the lande vnder the kyngge (Richard III.), whyche bare the whyte hole for his conysance

1669 New Help to Discourse, 201 1814 Byron, Letters, etc., in 29 n (Prothero) 1816 Scott, Antiquary, ch 11, His name, the young gentleman said, was Lovel. "What! the cat, the rat, and Lovel our dog? Was he descended from King Richard's favourite?"

56 The cat winked when her eye was (or both her eyes were) out 1528 More, in Works, p 241, col. 1 (1557). It was always that y® cat winked when her eye was out c 1550 Jacke Jugeler, 80 (Grosart), The proverbe olde That the catte winkd when her eye was out 1670 Ray, 67, both her eyes 1738 Swift, Polithe Convers, Dial I No wonder the cat wink'd, when both her eyes were out

57 The cat would eat fish but would not wet her feet c 1250 MS, Trn Coll., Camb., quoted in Farmer's ed of Heywood's Proverbs, 340 (1906), Cat lufat visch, ac he nele his feth wete c 1384 Chaucer, H Fame, bk ii 693-5 c 1390 Gower, Conf Amanus, iv 1108, And as a cat wolde ete fisses Withoute wetinge of his cles [claus] 1583 Melancon, Philotomus, sig Qr, The cat would heke milke, but she will not wette her feete 1606 Shakespeare, Macbeth, I vu, Letting "I dare not" wait upon "I would," Like the poor cat t' the adage 1732 Fuller, No 6130, Fan would the cat fish eat, But she's loft her feet to wet 1928 Sphere, 7 Jan., p 36

58 The liquorish cat gets many a rap 1611 Colgrave, sv "Chat," The likkerous cat hath many a rap 1670 Ray, 4 1732 Fuller, No 6228

59 The more you rub a cat on the rump, the higher she sets up her tail 1678 Ray, 109

60 The scalded cat fears cold water 1611 Colgrave, sv "Chat" 1694 D Urfey, Quivote, Pt I Act V sc ii 1709 O Dykes, Eng Proverbs, 147-8

61 There are more ways of killing a cat than chok'g her with cream 1855 Kingsley, West Hol, ch xv 1926 Devonsh Assoc Trans, 1vu 152, There's more ways o' killin' a cat'n chuckin' o'en wi' craum

62 They want to know the ins and outs of the cat's tale Said of people who desire full particulars of anything

1919 Devonsh Assoc Trans, li 77

63 Though the cat winks she is not blind 1576 Parad of Dainty Devices, in Brit Bibl, in 59 (1812), I am not blinde although I winke 1609 Rowlands, Whole Crew of Kind Gossips, 20 (Hunt C1), The cat ofte winkes, and yet she is not blinde

64 To agree like cat and dog 1566 Drant, Horace Saìres, sig D7, Lyke dogge and catte these two did then agree 1579 Gosson, Sch of Abuse, 27 (Arber), He shall see them agree like dogges and cattes 1629 in Pysian Garland, 30r (Rollins, 1922), Like cat and dog they still agreed, Each small offence did anger breed

1727 Gay, Fables, 1st ser, No 12, If they like cat and dog agree 1878 Folk-Lore Record, 1 Y3 You and your wife will lead a cat-and-dog life

65 To bell the cat 1377 Langland, Plowman, B, Prol, ll 165-81 [the fable of "bellinge the cat" related] 1388 in Wright, Pol Poems, 1 274, (RolsSer, 1859), The cattys nee to bylle [bell] Before 1529 Skelton, Col Clout, 1 163, They are both to hang the bell Aboute the cattes necke, For drede to have a checke 1623 Taylor (Water- Poet), in Works, pagin 2, p 28 (1630), Not one will adventure to hang the bell about the cats necke 1712 Motteux, Quivote, Pt II ch 43, Who shall hang the bell about the cat's neck? 1830 Scott, Journal, 17 July, A fine manly fellow, who has belled the cat with fortune, and held her at bay as a man of mould may

66 To go like a cat on a hot backstone 1683 Merton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697), As nimble as a cat on a hattie back-stone 1737 Ray, 222 1802 S Hewett, Peasant Speech of Devon, 13, Her 'opp' th like a cat pon 'ot bricks
67. To keep the cat from the tongs—To stay idly at home. 1598: Servvingmans Comfort, in Inedited Tracts, 161 (Hazlitt, 1868), Because his sonne shalbe sure to keep the catte from the tongs at home, when other his neighbours children shall trudge into Fraunce, Flauders, and other nations.

68. To let the cat out of the bag. 1760: Lond. Mag., xxix. 224 (O.), We could have wished that the author... had not let the cat out of the bag. 1849: Brontë, Shirley, ch. xxxvii., This last epithet I choose to suppress, because it would let the cat out of the bag. 1822: Evening Standard, 1 July, p. 5, col. 1. The man himself lets the embarrased cat out of the bag when the spirit moves him.

69. To turn cat in pan. Before 1384: Wiclif, Works, iii. 332 (1871), Many men of lawe... bi here sultelles turnen the cat in the panne. 1543: Becon, Against Swearing, Preface, God saith, "Cry, cease not..." but they turn cat in the pan, and say "Cease, cry not." 1625: Bacon, Essays: "Of Cunning." There is a cunning, which we in England call, The turning of the cat in the pan; which is, when that which a man sayes to another, he laies it, as if another had said 't to him. 1688: Crowne, City Polit., II., You are a villain, have turn'd cat in pan, and are a Tory. 1740: North, Examen, 55, Can his lordship's high flying entrance, huffing speeches, and then turning cat in the pan, be unknown or ever forgot? 1816: Scott, Old Mortality, ch. xxxv., 0, this precious Basil will turn cat in pan with any man!

70. When the cat's away the mice will play. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 33. When the abode is the mare abode the play. 1603: Dekker, Batch. Bang., in Works, i. 169 (Grosart). 1732: Fuller, No. 5572. When the cat's gone, the mice grow savvy. 1852: Dickens, Bleak House, ch. liv., So it is, and such is life. The cat's away, and the mice they play.

71. When the cat winketh little wots the mouse what the cat thinketh. 1678: Ray, rog. 1732: Fuller, No. 6453.

72. Whenever the cat of the house is black, The lasses of lovers will have no lack. 1878: Dyer, Eng. Folk-Lore, 108. 73. Which way the cat jumps. 1826: Scott, Journal, 7 Oct., I would like to be there, were it but to see how the cat jumps. 1907: De Morgan, Alice-for-Short, ch. xxvii., "Easy enough to see which way the cat would jump," or, "Are you surprised? I'm not."

74. You can have no more of a cat than her skin. 1570: in H. G. Wright's Arthur Hall of Grantham, 88 (1919). 1637: Heywood, Royal King, II., Thou canst have no more of the cat but his skinne. 1738: Swift, Polite Conuers, Dial. II. 1894: Northall, Folk Phrases, 32 (E.D.S.), What's a cat but its skin? 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 11, Yo' conno ma'eo nar o' th' cat nor th' skin.

75. You shall have what the cat left in the malt-heap. 1639: Clarke, 71. c. 1660: in Marchant, Praise of Ale, 136 (1888), The brewer at last made him to halt; And gave them what the cat left in the malt. 1670: Ray, 168.

See also Care; Chestnuts; Cry (i); February (18); Full of sin; Good wife; Kid; Lame; Long and slender; Melancholy; Rat (4) and (5); Two cats; Two women.

Catch, verb. 1. Catch that catch can. c. 1390: Gower, Con. Amantis, bk. vii. l. 4422. Bot cacche who that cacche myghte. Before 1529: Skelton, Magnificence, I. 1773. They catche that catch may, kepe and holde fast. 1614: Jonson, Bart. Fair, II., Let him catch this that catch can. 1652: J. Hilton, Catch that Catch can [title]. 1761: O'Hara, Midas, II. VIII., There's catch as catch can, hit or miss, luck is all. 1855: Kingsley, West. Hoi!, ch. v., Each shall slay his man, catch who catch can. 1919: A. A. Milne, Camb. Triangle, in Sec. Plays, 153 (1921), Swords, pistols, fists, catch-as-catch-can—what would you like?

2. He that can catch and hold, he is the man of gold. 1654: Gayton, Pleasant Notes Don Q., 243.

3. To catch a Tartar. 1679: A. Behn, Figgid' Courtezans, IV. ii., Ha—what the devil have I caught—a
Cater-cousins, 1708 Gibber *Lady's Last Stake*, II 1, I'm sure catching a husband is catching a Tartar 1841 Dickens, *Barn Bridge*, ch lxxx, A poor good-natur'd mean-spirited creatur, as went out fishing for a wife one day, and caught a Tartar

4 To take cold by lying in bed bare-foot Said of one who is extremely careful of himself 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, 1 82

Cater-cousins, They are not 1519orman, Vulgaria, fo 223, They be cater cosyns and almoste never a sonder c 1580 Lodge, *Defence of Plays*, etc. 29 (Sh S). We should find you cater-cosens with a (but hush) you know my meaning 1670 Ray, 168 1759 Smollett in Hill's *Boswell*, I 349 He was humble enough to desire my assistance on this occasion, though he and I were never cater-cousins 1866 Brogden, *Lines Words*, 37, We had a chop [tiff], but are now cater-cousins

Catty put down thy feet 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 35 used to denote surprise or annoyance at an interruption

Caval will enter in at any hole, and if it find none it will make one 1633 Draxe, 22

Ceremonious friends are so, as far as a compliment will go 1732 Fuller, No 1078

Certain as death  See *Sure as death*

Certainty He that leaveth certainty and sticks to chance when fools pipe he may dance 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch xi Who that leaveth surety and leaneth vnto chance, When fools pipe, by authority he may dance 1633 Draxe, 22 (as in 1546) 1670 Ray, 68 1732 Fuller, No 6439

Chains of gold are stronger than chains of iron 1732 Fuller, No 1079

Chairs at home, He has none of his,— He is wrong (or weak) in his head The 1582 passage is a curious anticipation of the *Lancashire saying* 1582 R Robinson tr *Asserion of Arthur*, 89 (E E T S). Whether with like eloquence, grace, and good success I have done this, let that by the judgement of honest and learned persons bee determined For I knowe very well, How slender furniture I have at home 1864 Ormerod, Felley fro Rachde, ch 11 (W). Foke met get it hinto ther yeds us aw'd noane sure cheers owhomme 1665 "Lances Proverbs," in *N & Q*, 3rd ser., viii 494

Chalk and Cheese 1 I talk of chalk and you of cheese 1631 Mabbe, *Celes-tina*, 212 (T T), You talke of chalke, and we of cheese 1681 W Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 752 1721 Bailey, *Eng Dict*, s.v Chalk"

2 To take chalk for cheese or, To know one from (or compare one with) the other c 1390 Gower *Conf Amantiis*, n 2346, And thus fuloife chalk for chance He changeth with ful iutel cost c 1550 John Bon and Mast Person, in Hazlitt, *Early Pop Poetry*, iv 15 (1866), For though I have no learning, Yet I know chese from chalke 1586 Pettie, tr Guazzo's *Civil Conuers*, fo 144, They know not chaffe from corne, or chalke from cheese c 1615 R C, *Times Whistle*, 28 (E E T S), A verier foole Dame Nature never bred, That scarce knowes chalke from cheese, or blew from red 1849 Bronte, *Shirley*, ch v, "You think yourself a clever fellow, I know, Scott,’ "Ayl. I am Jairish, I can tell cheese fro' chalk" 1926 Phulpotts, *Marylebone Misier*, ch vi, Though we're as different as chalk from cheese

Chalked land makes a rich father but a poor son 1677 Plot *Nat Hist* *Oxford*, 243

Chalvington See *Beddington*

Chamber of sickness  See *Sickness*

Chance is a dicer 1732 Fuller, No 1080

Chance the ducks, To 1894 Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 12 (E E T S), To do a thing and 'chance the ducks' is to do it come what may 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 149, We mun chance the ducks

Chancery See *Hell* (2)

Chances in an hour  See *Happeth*

Chastonbury See quot 1804

A J C Hare, *Sussex*, 161, The proverb "Old Mother Goring's got her cap on,
Charity

We shall soon have wet”—refers to Chancotbury.

Change, sibs. 1. Change is no robberry. See Fair, adj. (19).
2. Change of fortune is the lot of life. 1553: Bohn, 336.
7. Changes never answer the end. 1740: North, *Examen*, 352. Short sentences, commonly called proverbs...such as, *Honesty is the best policy...Changes never answer the end.*

Change, verb. 1. I am loath to change my mill. Somerset. 1678: Ray, 349.
2. To change copy. See Copy (2).
4. See quot. 1853: *N. & Q.*, 1st ser., vii. 156, I have frequently in youth heard the proverb, “You may change Norman for a worser (worse) horse.”


Changeful as the moon. Before 1599: Spenser, *Mutabilitie*, can. ii. st. 50, So that as changefull as the moone men use to say.

Changing [exchanging] of words is the lighting of hearts. 1535: Bohn, 336.

Chap as married Hannah, The. 1900: *N. & Q.*, 9th ser., vi. 346, “The chap as married Hannah”...is a very common phrase in South Notts. “That’s the chap as married Hannah” means that is the person or thing I am seeking or that I need. 1900: Ibid., 434, This common here [Worksop], and in many other localities. It is a women’s saying, though men occasionally use it. When something has been successfully done, comes out, “There! That’s the chap as married Hannah.”

Char is charred, This (or That) = That business (or job) is done. e. 1400: *Seven Sages*, 88 (Percy S.), “Sire,” scho sayed, “this char hys heved.” 1593: Peele, *Edward I.*, sc. vi. Why, so, this char is charred. 1670: Ray, 168, That char is char’d (as the good wife said when she had hang’d her husband). 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 111, “That char’s charred,” as the boy said when he’d killed his father.

Chare-folks are never paid enough. 1678: Ray, 112 [without “enough.”]. 1732: Fuller, No. 1083.


Charing-Cross. See Old (D), (5).

Charitable. 1. He is not charitable that will not be so privately. 1732: Fuller, No. 1932.
2. The charitable gives out at door, and God puts in at the window. 1678: Ray, 353.

Charity and Pride do both feed the poor. 1669: *Politeophilia*, 243. 1732: Fuller, No. 1084. Charity and Pride have different aims, yet both feed the poor.

to be charitable 1572 T Wilson, Disc upon Usury, 235 (1925), Charity beginneth first at it selfe 1641 R Brone, Jouall Crew, II, Good sister Meniel, Charity begins at home 1763 Murphy, Citizen, I u 1850 Dickens, Chuzzlewit, ch xxvii, But charity begins at home, and justice begins next door

Charterhouse, Sister of the See quot 1528 Tyndale, Obed of Christ Man, 305 (P S'), Of her that answereth her husband six words for one, we say, "She is a sister of the Charterhouse" as who should say, "She thinketh that she is not bound to keep silence, their silence shall be a satisfaction for her"

Chaste 1 Although thou be not chaste, yet be chary 1576 Pettie, Petite Palace, 1 32 (Gollancz), Do not some men say that women always live chastely enough, so that they live charily enough? 1612 Cornucopiae, 25 (Grosart) 1630 Tinker of Turvey 36 (Halliwell), I learned this old saying in Latin, Caute si non caste Live charily, if not chastely

2 She is chaste who was never asked the question 1695 Congreve, Love for Love, III vii

Chastiseth one, amendeth many, He that 1633 Draxe,32 1670 Ray, 4 1732 Fuller, No 2065 Charting to chiding is not worth a chuet 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch v

Chawbent See Cheshire (8)

Cheap 1 It is as cheap sitting as standing 1666 Tornado, Piazza Univ., 277, The English say, It is as cheap sitting as standing, my masters 1738 Swift, Polite Converses, Dial I 1776 O'Keeffe, Tony Lumpkin in Town, I u 1854 Surtees, Handley Cross, ch lxv 1901 G E Taylor, Lancs Sayings, 18

2 It is cheap enough to say, God help you 1732 Fuller, No 2922

Cheapside, He got it by way of = for less than its value 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "London"

Cheat, verb 1 Cheat and the cheese will show 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 35

2 Cheat me in the price but not in the goods 1732 Fuller, No 1090

3 He that cheateth in small things is a fool, but in great things is a rogue 1745 Ibid, No 2066

4 He that will cheat at play, Will cheat you any way Ibid, No 6302

Cheek by jowl c 1300 R Brunne, tr Langtoft's Chron, i 223 (Hareme), Vmwhile cheke bi cheke c 1534 Berners, Huon, ch iv, p 189 (E E T S), Rydnyge cheke by cheke by kyngyn yuoryn 1599 Sir Clymmon, etc, sig F2, She went eurn cheke by eoule With our heaut controms wife 1682 Dryden, Prol to Southerne's Loyal Brother, The devil Sits cheek by jowl, in black, to chear his heart Like thief and parson in a Tyburn cart 1709 Ward, Clubs, 252 (1756), Those two sat cheek-by-jole 1822 Byron, Vis of Judg, st 20 1851 FitzGerald, Lupranor, 68 (1855), Victor and vanquish that have set down cheek by jowl again 1922 Weyman, Ovington's Bank, ch xxiii

Cheer up See God is where he was

Cheerful look makes a dish a feast, A. 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

Cheese 1 After cheese comes nothing 1639 Clarke, 130 1655 Fuller, Church Hist, bk vi § 5 (u 20), As after cheese, nothing to be expected 1700 Ward, London Spy, 5 (1924) 1732 Fuller, No 769

2 Cheese and money should always sleep together one night 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 35 [sad of old when payment was demanded before delivery]

3 Cheese, it is a peevish elf, it digests all things but itself 1584 Lyly, Sapho and Phao, III u, Cheese digesteth all things except itselfe 1630 T Adams, Works, 170, As cheese to digest all the rest, yet it selfe never digested 1678 Ray, 40 1738 Swift, Polite Converses, Dial II, They say, cheese digests everything but itself 1846-59 Denham Tracts, 11. 215 (F L S), The moral taught was, "Cheese digests everything but itself"

4 Cheese of three halfpence a pound won't choke her 1696 D'Urfe,
Quixote, Pt. III. Act III. sc. i., The jade simpers as if butter would not melt in her mouth; but cheese of three half pence a pound won't choke her, as the old saying is.

5. If you will have a good cheese, and have'n old, You must turn'n seven times before he is cold. Somerset. 1678: Ray, 352. c. 1685: Aubrey, Nat. Hist. Wills, 105 (1847). 1732: Fuller, No. 647.

6. You can't hang soft cheese on a hook. 1852: FitzGerald, Polonium, 39 (1903)

See also Bread (2), (5), and (6); Chalk; Cheat (1); Eat (37); Green (11); King (17); Suffolk cheese; and Toasted cheese. Chelsea. See Dead (6); and Safe as Chelsea.

Chepstow born and Chepstow bred, Strong in the arm and weak in the head. Mon. 1905: Folk-Lore, xvi. 67.


2. Eat not cherries with the great. c. 1530, Dialogues of Creatures, xx., As it is sayde in a commune proverbe. I counsel not seruauntis to ete churys with ther bettyrs. Fer they wyl have the rype and leue them the harde. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, ii. 112 (1840), As for the outlandish proverb, "He that eateth cherries with noblemen, shall have his eyes spurted out with the stones," it fixeth no fault in the fruit. 1732: Fuller, No. 5026 [as in 1662]. 1854: Doran, Table Traits, 209, There is a German proverb which says that "it is unadvisable to eat cherries with potenates."

3 If they blow in April, You'll have your fill; But if in May, They'll all go away. 1735: Pegge, Kent. Proverbs, in E.D.S., No. 12, p. 75.

4. One cherry-tree sufficeth not two jays. 1576: Lambarde, Peramb. of Kent, 269 (1826).

5. What is a tree of cherries worth to four in a company? 1568: in Loseley MSS., 208 (Kempe).

See also Disgraces; Pea (1); Red; Two bites; Woman (6).

Cherry's Boone. See quotas. c.1791: Pegge, Derbiesins, 90 (E.D.S.), When a man wed's a second wife, older and perhaps not so handsome as the first, they say, "he has put Browney into Cherry's Boone."

1836: Wilbraham, Cheshire Gloss., 2nd ed., 20, Any person who is got into a comfortable situation is said to be "put into Cherry's Boone." 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 67.

Cheshire. 1. By waif, soc, and theam, You may know Cheshire men. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 33, ... Powerful in their legal rights and tenacious of them.


3. Cheshire born and Cheshire bred, Strong i' th' arm and weak i' th' head; or, All strong i' th' arm and thick i' th' yed. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 36.

4. Cheshire chief of men. 1698: in Harington, Nugas Antiqua, ii. 276 (1804), He was translated to Chester, the chiefe city of that shire, that some call chiefe of men. 1612: Drayton, Polyol., xi. 1. 8, For which, our proverb calls her, Cheshire chief of men. 1644: Taylor (Water-Poet), Grope-eare Curried, 10, in Works, 2nd coll. (Spens. S.), The Cheshire men ... tended themselves as a guard for the person of King Richard the Second, in a time of rebellion, for which they are honoured ever since with the proverbe of Cheshire chiefe of men. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Cheshire." 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 36.


6. Cheshire for men, Berkshire for dogs, Bedfordshire for naked flesh, and Lincolnshire for boors. c. 1809, in
He makes her become herself the cat's paw to help him to the ready roasted chestnuts 1855 Kingsley, West Hol, ch ix, Ready to make a cat's-paw of him or any man, if there be a chestnut in the fire

Chet See May (16)

Cheviot See quot 1846-59 Denham Tracts, i 317 (F L S). When Cheeyut [Cheviot] ye see put on his cap, Of rain yelde have a weel bit drap [Variants are given]

Chew the cud, To 1382 Wiclif, Hosea, vn 14 (Q), Thet chewiden cud vpon whete, and wyne, and departiden fro me 1596 Spenser, F Q, bk v can vi st 19, Chawing the cud of grewe and inward pane c 1617 B & F, Queen of Corinth, IV 1, Revenge is now the cud That I do chew 1665 R Howard, Surprisal, 1, How he mumbles to himself I sure he does chew the cud of some set speech 1774 in Garrick Corresb, i 33 (1832), People are for ever chewing the cud, and ruminating on the unsuccessful passages of their lives 1827 Southey, Letter to C Boules, 10 July, Upon this plain statement he is now chewing the cud

Chichester I A Chichester lobster, a Selsey cockle, an Arundel mullet, a Pulborough eel, an Amberley trout, a Ryederring, a Bourne wheat-ear 1610 P Holland, tr Camden's Britannia, 308, Selsey is most famous for good cockles, and full lobsters 1653 Walton, Angler, Pt I ch viii, Just so doth Sussex boast of four sorts of fish, namely an Arundel mullet, a Chichester lobster, a Selsey cockle and an Amerley trout 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Sussex"

2 If Chichester church steeple fall, In England there's no king at all 1861 Lower, in Sussex Arch Coll, xii 233

Chickens 1 Chickens feed capons 1678 Ray, 111

2 The chickens are the country's, but the city eats them 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1670 Ray, 4 1732 Fuller, No 4447
Chiddingly

3. To reckon one's chickens before they are hatched. [ξεγραφη δι' εισὶν πλούσιων.—Philemon, 4 (Mein., 29.)] 1577: Magonius, IV. i. My chichings are not hatcht; I nil to count of him as yet. 1583: Melbancke, Philotinus, sig. G2, Why doe we reckon our children before they behatcht. 1674: J. Howard, Eng. Mounsieur, III. iii., Take heed we don't reckon our children before they are hatcht. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' Colloq., 39. You are a little too hasty; you reckon your children before they are hatch'd. 1829: Scott, Journal, 20 May, But we must not reckon our children before they are hatcht, though they are chipping the shell now.

See also Capon (1); Children (1); Fox (31); and July (7).

Chiddingly. See Hellingly.

Child. 1. A child may have too much of his mother's blessing. 1630: Clarke, 161 with "man" for "child". 1659. Howell, II (9). 1853: Trench, Proverbs, 86 (1905).

2. A child . . . (see quot.). 1886: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 290 (E.D.S.). A very common proverb is: A cheell that can tell [talk] avore he can go [walk], 'll sure t' ha nort but sorrow and wo.

3. A child's birds and a boy's wife are well used. c. 1430: Lydgate, Churl and Bird, st. 52. A chylde birde and a knaues wyff Haue ofte sithe sorrwe and meschaunc. Before 1529: Skelton, Gard. of Laurell, 1. 1452. But who may have a more vngracyous lyfe Than a chylde birde and a knaues wyfe? 1678: Ray, 351. 1732: Fuller, No. 37.


6. Even a child may beat a man that's bound. 1732: Fuller, No. 1387.

Children. 1. Children and chicken must be always picking. 1573: Tusser, Huswiferie, 178 (E.D.S.), Yong children

7. Give a child all he shall crave, And a dog while his tail doth wave; And you'll have a fair dog and foul knave. 1303: Brunne, Handlyng Synne, 1. 7240, Gyue thy chylde when he wyl kraue, And thy welpe whyl hyt wyl haue,—than mayst thou make you a stonde A foule chylde and a feyry hounde. 1670: Ray, 82. 1732: Fuller, No. 6456. 1880: Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 70, Yet remember if you give a child his will and a whelp his fill, both will surely turn out ill.


9. Let not a child sleep upon bones, i.e. the nurse's lap. Somerset 1678: Ray, 351.


11. The child says nothing but what it heard by the fire. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1732: Fuller, No. 4449.

12. The child that's born must be kept. 1605: R. F., Sch. of Slovenie, The Epistle, 'Tis a proverb, The child thats borne must be kept.

13. The child was born . . . (see quot.). 1605: London Prodigal, I. i. According to the old proverb, The child was born, and cried, Became a man, after fell sick, and died.


15. When the child is christened you may have godfathers enough. 1630: Clarke, 283, When the child is christned, every man will be god father. 1670: Ray, 69. 1732: Fuller, No. 5573. c. 1800: Trusler, Prov. in Verse, 29. 1826: Brady, Varieties of Lit., 39.

See also Another man's child; Ask (4); Burnt child; Cares not; Children; Good child; Happy is the child; Innocent; Kiss, verb (6); Nurse (3) and (4); Old, A (7); One child; One pretty; Pap; Praise the child; Quick child; Spare the rod; and Wise (7), (31), and (32).

Children. 1. Children and chicken must be always picking. 1573: Tusser, Huswiferie, 178 (E.D.S.), Yong children
and chickens would euer be eating

1670 Ray, 33 1732 Fuller, No 6078
1893 Co Folk-Lore Suffolk, 156
(Pl.S), Children and chicken are always a picking 1917 Bridge,

Cheshire Proverbs, 52

2 Children and fools have merry lives

1639 Clarke, 298 1681 W Robertson,
Phraseol Generals, 330 c 1800

Trusler, Prov in Verse, 41

3 Children and fools speak the truth

1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch x,
Children and fools can not lie 1591
Lyly, Endymion, IV 11, 'Tis an old saw
"Children and fools speak true" c 1610 Rowlands, More Knowes Yet?,
36 (Hunt Cl), Fools and babes tell true

1652 Tatham, Scots Figgaries, III, I am but a fool, 'tis confess,—but
children and fools tell truth sometimes,
you know 1769 Colman, Man and
Wife, III, Fools and children always speak truth, they say 1805 Scott, in
Lockhart's Life, n 22 1921 Evening

Standard, 21 Oct., p 9 col 2, Solicitor
(to a witness in the Bow County Court
to-day) — "Are you telling the truth
in this case?" Witness — 'Only
children and fools tell the truth"

4 Children are certain cares, uncer-
tain comforts c 1460 How the Good

Wis,e I 145 Care he halfe th that childryn
schalle kepe 1641 Brathwaite, Eng

Gent, etc., Suppl., p 27, Children reflect
constant cares, but uncertaine comforts

1707 Dunton, Athen Sport, 369, I shall
not be in danger of the certain troubles,
but uncertaine comforts of children

1732 Fuller, No 1095 1854 Surtees,
Handley Cross, ch xxxv

5 Children are poor men's riches

1611 Cotgrave, s.v "Enfant" 1670
Ray, 4 1732 Fuller, No 1094 1875
A B Cheales Proverb Folk-Lore, 47

6 Children be first a yearm-ache [arm-
ache] and afterwars a heart-ache 'SW
Wilts 1901 Folk-Lore xii 82

7 Children have wide ears and long
tongues 1732 Fuller, No 1097

8 Children in Holland (see

quot.) 1822 Scott, Nigel, Introd
Epist. As the nursery proverb goes—
"The children in Holland take pleasure
in making What the children in England
take pleasure in breaking"

1849 Halliwell, Pop Rhymes and Nurs
tales, 187

9 Children pick up words as pigeons
pease, And utter them again as God shall

please 1670 Ray, 213

10 Children should be seen and not
heard 1914 Shaw, "Parents and Child-
ren," in Miscalliance, etc., p xxii, And
impudently proclaim the monstrous
principle that little children should be
seen and not heard— Cf Maid (9) and

(12)

11 Children suck the mother when they
are young and the father when they are
old 1678 Ray, 172 1732 Fuller,
No 1095 [with 'grown up' for 'old']

12 Children to bed and the goose to
the fire 1670 Ray, 168 1675 W
Churchill, Dwn Britannics, 278,
It was high time (as the vulgar proverb hath
it) to put the children to bed, and lay
the goose to the fire

13 Children when they are little make
parents fools, when great, mad 1670
Ray, 4 1748 Richardson, Clarissa,
IV 120 (1785)

14 He that has no children knows not
what is love 1666 Torniano, Piazza
Univ., 89 1875 A B Cheales, Pro-
verb Folk-Lore, 47

15 He that hath children, all his
morsels are not his own 1640 Herbert,
Jac Prudentum 1666 Torniano, Piazza
Univ., 89

16 He that hath no children feedeth
them fat 1611 Davies (of Hereford),
Sc of Folly, 46, in Works, ii (Grosart),
Who hath no children feedeth them fat

1633 Draxe, 58

17 What children hear at home soon
flies abroad 1611 Cotgrave, s.v
"Enfant" 1670 Ray, 4 1732

Fuller, No 5482 1875 A B Cheales,
Proverb Folk-Lore, 47

18 When children stand still, They
have done some ill 1640 Herbert, Jac
Prudentum [with "quiet" for "still"]

1749 Fielding, Tom Jones, bk xv
ch ii, I remember a wise old gentleman
who used to say, "When children are
doing nothing, they are doing mischief"

1875 A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore,
47
Children's

19. See quot. 1913: Folk-Lore, xxiv. 76, When you've got one, you may run, When you've got two, you may go, But when you've got three, you must stop where you be. Oxfordsh.

See also Better children; Boy (2); Kindness; Offspring; Old, A (b) (15); and Woman (48)

Children's play. See Boy (5).

Childwall. See Preston.

Chimney. 1. It is easier to build two chimneys than to maintain one. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1736: Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i. 450 (Bigelow), It is easier to build two chimneys than to keep one in fuel. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xix.

2. There is not always good cheer where the chimney smokes. 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. lxv. 1694: D'Urfey, Quixote, Pt. I. Act I. sc. i. 1732: Fuller, No. 4930.

Chink. So we have the chink, we will bear with the stink. 1596: Harington, Metam of Ajax, 68 (1814). So we get the chinks, We will bear with the stinks. 1670: Ray, 4. 1681: W. Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 332, So we may have the chink, we will away with the stink. 1732: Fuller, No. 6277, We will bear with the stink, If it bring but in chink. Cf. Money (16).

Chip. 1. A chip of the old block. 1633: Rowley, Match at Midnight, I., He's a chip o' th' old block. 1644: Quarles, in Works, i. 166 (Grosart), A true chip of the old block. 1709: Dykes, Eng. Proverbs, 30, A chip of the old block, is the vulgar nick-name of a father-like boy. 1762: Colman, Musical Lady, II. 1824: Scott, Redgauntlet, ch. xv., There was my father ... a true chip of the old Presbyterian block. 1850: Dickens, Chuzzlewit, ch. xviii. 1921: Hutchinson, If Winter Comes, Pt. III. ch. iii. (iii.).

2. Chip in one's eye. See Hews too high.

3. Like a chip in porridge. 1606: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 182. The English say, like a chip in pottage. 1678: Dryden, Limberham, IV. i., A note under his hand! that is a chip in porridge; it is just nothing. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Chip," It tastes just like chips in a porridge. 1872: Hardy, Greenwood Tree, Pt. II. ch. iv., "Very well; we'll let en come in," said the trander feelingly. "You'll be like chips in porridge, Lea—neither good nor hurt."

Chippenham. See quot. c. 1685: Aubrey, Nat. Hist. Wills, 58 (1847), When Chipnam stood in Pewsham's wood, Before it was destroy'd, A cow might have gone for a groat a yeare— But now it is denied.

Chittlehampton. See Bishop's Nympton.

Choice of a wife. See Wife (7).

Choke up—in various phrases. See quot. 1605: R. F., Sch. of Slovenie, 6, Say not, God blesse him, but choke vp, or some such matter, rather. 1678: Ray, 343, Choaek up, the churchyard's nigh. 1732: Fuller, No. 1102 [as in 1678]. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I., Choke, chicken; there's more a-hatching. 1871: "Shropshire Sayings," in N. & Q., 4th ser., vii. 9, Choke chicken more hatching. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 598, Choke up, Chicken! said to a child choking. 1894: Northall, Folk Phrases, 12 (E.D.S.), Choke up, chicken, more a-hatching. Glos. [=There's as good fish in the sea, etc.]

Choleric. 1. From a choleric man, withdraw a little; from him that says nothing, for ever. 1631: Mabbe, Celestina, 99 (T.T.), That ancient adage; from an angry man, get the gone but for a while; but from an enemy, for ever. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 2. The choleric drinks, the melancholic eats, the phlegmatic sleeps. 1670: Ray, 5. 3. The choleric man never wants woe. 1633: Draxe, 9, The angry man never wanted woe. 1659: Howell, 11 (9). Cf. Hasty man.

Choose a wife. See Wife (7).

Choose for yourself and use for yourself. 1639: Clarke, 230.

Choose thy company before thy drink. Ibid., 24.

Chop logic. To. 1528: More, Workes, p. 153, col. 2 (1557), She will then waxe
copious and chop logickie with her maistres 1560 Awdeley, Vocabondes, 15 (E E T S), Choplogyke is he that when his maysters rebuketh him of his fault he will gene hym vy wordes for one 1682 A Behn, City Heuress, I 1, Send him to chop logick in an University 1771 Smollett, Chinker, in Works vi 21 (1827), A man must not presume to use his reason, unless he has studied the categones, and can chop logic by mode and figure

Chopt hay, It goes down like 1678 Ray, 235

Chroms child, To die like a 1599 Shakespeare, Henry V, II ii, A' made a finer end and went away an it had been any Chrstom child v 1620 A Cooke in Hunter's New Ill of Shakesp, v 60 (1845) He who dieth quietly, without ravings or cursings much like a chrysom child, as the saying is 1680 Bunyan, Badman, 566 (O), Mr Badman died as they call it like a chrsom-child, quietly and without fear

Chnst's Cross See quot 1593 Tell Trothes N Yeares Gift, 33 (N Sh S), Suppose the worst that can happe, imagine she will never be good, building vpon the old sayinge Shee that knowes where Chrstses cross standes, will never forget where great A dwells

Christen 1 He was christened with pump-water He has a red face 1678 Ray, 79

2 To christen one's own child first 1659 Howell 5, Ile christen my own child first 1694 D Urfey, Quixote, Pt II Act III sc 11, Charity begins at home you know, and ever, while you live, christen your own child first 1738 Swift Polite Convers, Dial I, You know, the parson always christens his own child first 1864 Cormor Proverbs, in N & Q, 3rd ser, vi 494, They'll christen their own child first 1893 G L Gower, Gloss Surrey Words, 9 (E D S), "Christen your own child first" [said by a Surrey man]

Christmas It is noticeable how curiously some of the following sayings contradict one another 1 A black Christmas makes a fat churchyard 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 62 (Percy S)

2 A dark Christmas makes a heavy wheat-sheaf 1878 Dyer, Eng Folk Lore, 54, In Huntingdonshire it is a common saying that "a dark Christmas sends a fine harvest" 1878 N & Q, 5th ser, x 497, [Surrey woman log] "They always say a dark Christmas makes a heavy wheat-sheaf"

3 A green Christmas brings a heavy harvest 1873 N & Q, 4th ser, xi 212 [Rutland labourer log]

4 A green Christmas makes a fat churchyard 1635 Swan, Spec Mundi, 161, They also say, that a hot Christmas makes a fat church-yard 1642 Fuller, Holy State " Of Time-Serving" A green Christmas is neither handsome nor healthful 1710 British Apollo, vol ni No 106, col 3 1830 Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 418 1879 Hender son, Folk-Lore of N Counties, 75

5 A kiss at Christmas and an egg at Easter 1846-59 Denham Tracts, II 92 (F L S)

6 A light Christmas makes a full sheaf 1659 Howell, 12, A light Christmas, a heavy sheaf 1670 Ray, 4 [as in 1659] 1881 N & Q, 6th ser, iv 535, 'A light Christmas makes a full sheaf" I heard it the other day in Surrey

7 A windy Christmas and a calm Candlemas are signs of a good year 1846 Denham Proverbs, 77 (Percy S)

1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 39

8 After Christmas comes Lent 1611 Colgrave, s v " Banquet," After feast ing, fasting 1678 Ray, 113, After a Christmas comes a Lent 1732 Fuller, No 770 1846-59 Denham Tracts ii 92 (F L S) [as in 1678]

9 As many mince pies as you taste at Christmas, so many happy months you will have 1846-59 Denham Tracts ii 91 (F L S)

10 At Christmas great loaves, at Easter clean souls, at Whitsum tide new clothes 1659 Howell, 11 9 (9)

11 At Christmas meadows green, at Easter covered with frost 1893 In wards, Weather Lore, 38 1912 R. I. Gales, Studies in Arcady, 2nd ser, 108

A green Christmas a white Easter

12 At old Christmas the days are
Christmas


18. He has more business than English ovens at Christmas. c. 1594: Bacon, Promus, No. 912, He hath more to doe than the ovens in Christmas. 1659: Howell, Proverbs: Ital.-Eng., i. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 63 (Percy S.), Busy as an oven at Christmas.

19. If Christmas day on a Sunday fall, A troublous winter we shall have all. 15th cent.: Song, in Denham, Proverbs, 69, (Percy S. 1846), Yf Cristmas day on the Son day be, A trobolus wynter ye shall see. 1882: N. & Q., 6th ser., v. 7.

20. If Christmas day on Monday be, A wintry winter you shall see. 15th cent.: Song, in Denham, Proverbs, 70 (Percy S., 1846), Yf Cristmas day on Monday be, A grete wynter that yere have shal ye. 1893: N. & Q., 8th ser., iv. 505.

21. If Christmas finds a bridge, he'll break it; if he finds none he'll make one. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 38.

22. If the sun shines . . . See quotes.

1839: G. C. Lewis, Herefs. Words, 122, The following are old sayings current . . . If the sun shines on Christmas-day, there will be accidents by fire all the year after. 1878: Dyer, Eng. Folk-Lore, 249, If the sun shine through the apple-tree on Christmas Day there will be an abundant crop in the following year.


See also Bounce buckram; Easter (1) and (5); Ice (1), (2), and (3); Michaelmas (1); Monday (5); St. Michael (2); Simpers; Three things that never; and Whitsuntide (7).

Christmas-Eve. See Ghosts.

Christmas-pies. See Devil (71); and Eat (17).

Christmas play. See Good as.

Chuck under the chin, A. See quot. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I., Well said, girl! [giving her a chuck]. Take that: they say a chuck under the chin is worth two kisses.

Chue. See Stanton Drew.

Church have leave to stand in the churchyard, Let the. 1678: Ray, 113. 1732: Fuller, No. 3192.

Church Street. See Braintree.

Church Stratton, where they eaten more nor they gotten. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 583.

Church work goes on slowly. 1693: Fuller, Holy War, bk. i. ch. xiii., So that, contrary to the proverb, church
work went on the most speedily 1655
 Fuller, Church Hist, bk 1 § v (iii 4).
 Church work is a cripple m going up
 [building], but rides post m coming
down I [destroying a church] 1732
 Fuller, No 1706 1875 A B Cheales,
 Proverb Folk-Lore, 79

Churchman Though you see a
Churchman ill, yet continue in the
church still 1640 Herbert, Jac Pruden-
tum

Churchyard A piece of a churchyard
fits everybody Ibid
 Churl and Churls 1 A churl's churl
is often woebegone c 1430 Lydgate,
Churl and Bird, st 40. For hit was said
of folkes yeres agoon A churl's churl is
often woebegoon
 2 A churl's feast is better than none
at all 1594 Lodge and Greene,
Looking Glass, 1 1192. We must feed
upon proverbs now, as
"A churl's feast is better than none at
all"

3 Give a churl rule See quot 1485
Malory, Morte d'Arthur, bk x ch 61.
Hit is an old sawe gyre a chole rule
and there by he wyle not be suffysed

4 Of churls may no good come
 Of churls, bothe man and wyf,
can departe noo goode freyte
Ibid, 173 Men sayen that "of a kerle
may nought come but poysen and
fyth, that maketh the place to stynke
where he haunted yyne"

See also Claw (1), and Put (7)
Churning days, I'll make him know
1678 Ray, 235

Cider is treacherous because it smiles
in the face, and then cuts the throat
1653 T Adams, Works, iv 267 (V Lean)
Those bottle wundy drinks that laugh
in a man's face and then cut his throat
1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial II,
Pray, my lord, how is it [cider] trea-
cherous? La Sparkish. Because it
smiles in my face, and cuts my throat

Cider on beer is very good cheer,
But beer upon cider's a rider [doesn't
mix well] 1888 Marchant, Praise of
Ale, 462

Cipher among numbers, He is a
1633 Draxe, 29 1639 Clarke, 70

Circumstances alter cases 1870
Dickens, Drood, ch ix 1923 J S
Fletcher, The Diamonds, ch 11. Is it
not one of your proverbs that circum-
stances alter cases?

Citizen is at his business before he
rise, The 1640 Herbert, Jac Pruden-
tum

City which comes to parle is half won,
The 1567 Painter, Pal of Pleasure,
w 48 (Jacobs). For a city is halfe won
when they within demaunde for parle
1651 Herbert Jac Prudentum, 2nd
ed. A city that parleys is half gotten

Civil denial is better than a rude
grant, A 1732 Fuller, No 38

Claps his dish at the wrong man's
door, He 1506 Jonson, Ev Man in
his Humour, II 1 1678 Ray, 239

Claw, verb 1 Claw a churl by the
tail, and he will defile your hand 1546
Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vi
1568 Jacob and Esau, II iv, m Hazlitt,
Old Plays, ii 216 (1874). This proverb
in Esau may be understand Claw a
churl by the tail, and he will file your
hand 1621 Jonson, Gyps Metam
1670 Ray, 70

2 Claw me and I'll claw you 1530
Palsgrave, 486 Clawe my backe, and
I will clawe thy toe 1619 H
Hutton, Politis Aniat, 31 (Percy S).
Let cowcombs currly favour with a
see, Extoll their brains, with Claw me,
I'll claw thee 1754 Berthelson, Eng-
Dishan Dict, s v "Claw" Cf Ka me,
ka thee, and Scratch me

3 He claws it as Clayton claw the
pudding, when he ate bag and all 1678
Ray, 282 1732 Fuller, No 1826
Cl Eat (38)

Clay and sand See England (12)
Clean as a clock 1669 H More,
Antid against Idolatry, To Reader, Who
will be ready to wipe you as clean as a
clock, before you come to the castle
1874 N & Q, 5th ser, 1 454, "As
clean as a clock"—A common phrase
in Yorkshire, referring to the shining
and clean-looking black beetles (always
called clocks in the North) which are to
be found under every piece of cow-dung
which has been dropped a few hours

Clean as a new pin See New pin
Clean

Clean as a penny. 1681: W. Robertson, Phrases of Generalis, 338. 1720: Gay, Poems, ii. 279 (Underhill), Clean as a penny. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, 40, I've lost my knife as clean as a penny. 1854: Baker, Northants Gloss., s.v. "Penny," "Clean as a penny" is a common simile for any one that is neatly and cleanly dressed.

Clean as a whistle. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, ii. 256, "As clean as a whistle," a proverbial simile, signifying completely, entirely. 1851: Planché, Extravag., iv. 164 (1879), Or else his head cut off, clean as a whistle. 1925: Observer, 14 June, p. 11, col. 3, "Hay Fever" [a play] is as clean as a whistle ---if this matters to anybody.

Clean (or white) as the nip. 1838: Holloway, Provincialisms, 116, Nepeta cataria, the herb cat-mint, which is covered with a white down; hence the saying "as white as nep." 1890: P. H. Emerson, Wild Life, 96, Where that have been on the skin that turn as white as nip. 1899: Dickinson, Cumberland Gloss., 378, Clean as a nip, ---Smart, very tidy; free from dirt. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, ii. Cf. Nice as nip.

Clean-fingered huswife, and an idle folk say, A. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. i. ch. x.

Clean hands want no washball. 1732: Fuller, No. iii.


Clean linen only that makes the feast, 'Tis not. 1732: Fuller, No. 5093.

Clean man when dirty-washed, I'm a. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 99, OI'm a clone man when dirty-washed. = Straightforward man even though I may be dirty.

Clean pair of heels. See Show.

Cleanliness is next to godliness. 1605: Bacon, Adv. of Learning, bk. ii., Cleanliness of body was ever deemed to proceed from a due reverence to God. c. 1790: quoted in Wesley, Sermon 93, "On Dress," Cleanliness is, indeed, next to godliness. 1861: Dickens, Great Expect., ch. iv.

Clean as a bell. 1670: Ray, 203. 1838: Dickens, Twist, ch. xxiii., Fresh, genuine port wine . . . clear as a bell; and no sediment!

Clean as crystal. Before 1300: Cursor M., i. 376, The lift [sky] wit sternes [stars] grete and small wit water cleare als cristale. c. 1350: Alexander, 1. 2541, It was clerer than cristalle. c. 1430: Lydgate, Minor Poems, 343 (E.E.T.S.), Shewe out in chyldhode as ony crystal cleere. 1584: R. Scot, Witchcraft, bk. xiii. ch. vi., A stone about the bignesse of a bean, as clear as the crystall. 1605: Sylvester, Du Barias, Week i. Day iii. l. 141, And, cleer as crystall, in the glasse doth hop. 1700: J. Brome, Travels, 36. 1870: Dickens, Drood, ch. xiv. 1884: R. L. S., Letters, ii. 298 (Tusitala ed.), The weather I have—cloudless, clear as crystal. 1909: Lucas, Wand. in Paris, ch. i., My duty is clear as crystal.

Clean as the day. 1541: Coverdale, Chrest. State Matrimony, sig. D8, Evendent it is and as cleare as the daye. 1565: Shacklock, Hatch. of Heresies, fo. 76, It is as clear as the daye. 1692: L'Estrange, AESop, Life, p. 28 (3rd ed.). 1740: North, Examen, 190, The plot was as clear as noon day. 1853: R. L. S., Treasure I., ch. vi., "The thing is as clear as noonday," cried the squire. 1922: A. Bennett, Prohack, ch. xx. (iv.), She must be. It's as clear as day-light!

Clean as the sun. c. 1579: Harvey, Letter-Book, 66 (Camden S.), Is it not cleerer then the somne at noone dayes? 1680: in North, Lives of Norths, i. 159 (Bohn), Who would make the plot as clear as the sun. 1709: Mandeville, Virgin Unmask'd, 133 (1724). 1749: Fielding, Tom Jones, bk. xii. ch. vii.

Clear conscience. See Conscience (1), (2), and (3).

Clear gain that remains by honest gettings, 'Tis. 1659: Howell, ii.

Clear. See also Innocent as a new-born babe.

Cleave. i. He cleaves the clouds. 1813: Ray, 75.
2. They cleave together like burs
1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II
ch v 1580 Churchyard, Charge, 30
(Coller), Ye cleave together so like burs

Cleckheaton See Bristal

Cloak

1. A cloak for the rain — An expeditious for every turn of fortune
Before 1529 Skelton, Magnificence,
I 618, Ye, for your wyt is cloked for
the rayne 1548 Hall, Chron., 701
(1809), Whatsoever was saved by the
Recorder in his excuse was taken as
a cloak for the rain, and a dissimula-
cion or a mockery 1601 Munday, etc,
Death of Robert, E of Hunt., III 1,
Bruce, I tell you plain, Is no sound
cloak to keep John from the rain
1633 Rowley, Match at Midnight, III

2. Don't have thy cloak to make when
it begins to rain 1639 Clarke, 267,
Hee that provides not a cloak before
the rain, may chance to be wet to his
coste 1732 Fuller, No 1808 1846
Denham, Proverbs, 4 (Percy S)

3. He hath a cloak for his knavery
1678 Ray 235

4. You may as soon make a cloak for
the moon 1732 Fuller, No 6158

Cloak goes as it pleases the clerk, The
1678 Ray, 114 1732 Fuller, No 4451

Clocks of London See London (6)

Clogs to clogs is only three genera-
tions, From, or, There's no matter three
generations between clog and clog
1871 N & Q, 4th ser., vii 472.

A Lancashire proverb, implying
that, however rick a poor man may
eventually become, his great-grandson
will certainly fall back to poverty and
clogs 1875 Smiles, Thrift, 292, Hence
the Lancashire proverb, "Twice clogs,
one's boots" 1924 Clogs to Clogs
[tite of play produced at Everyman
Theatre, London, 10 Nov.]

Close as oak See Oak (2)

Close as wax 1772 Cumberland,
Fash Lover, III 11, You must be as
close as wax, d'ye see 1828 in
Brasenose Ale, 24 (1878), Sleep seals
my eyes as close as wax 1801 Doyle
White Company, ch. xx, "Good lad!
whispered Ford " Stick to it close
as wax!"

Close is my shirt See Near

Close mouth catches no flies, A
1605 Camden, Remains, 316 (1870)
1670 Ray, 71 1745 Agreeable Com-
ppanion, 51
Close mouth makes a wise head, A. 1703: Ward, Writings, ii. 112.
Close pasture where he can't nibble, It must be a. 1887: N. & Q., 7th ser., iii. 514, . . . This is a common saying in the Midlands, and is probably well known through the country.

Cloth. 1. See quot. 1570: Googe, tr. Popish Kingdome, 41 (1880), According to the proverbe thus, the cloth must still be shorne. Least it should hap to be consume with mothes, and all to torne.

2. See quot. 1825: Scott, Betrothed, ch. x., You know the good old saw,—"Cloth must we wear, Eat beef and drink beer, Though the dead go to bier."

Clothe thee in war, arm thee in peace. 1640: Herbert, Jae. Prudentum.
Clothe thee warm, eat little, drink enough, and thou shalt live. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo 34, Cloathe warme, eate little, drink wel, so shalt thou lyue. 1629: Book of Meery Riddles, Prov. 129.

Clothes. He is making clothes for fishes. 1613: Ray, 75.

Clothmarket, In the—In bed. 1678: Ray, 235. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. i.


2. After clouds (or black clouds), clear weather. e. 1400: Beryn, l. 3955 (E.E.T.S.), for "afir misty cloudis there comyth a cler sonne." 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi., After clouds blace, we shall have weather cleere. 1685: Meriton, Yorksllere Ale, 72. After foul weather follows a fair day. 1762: Smollett, Sir L. Greaves, ch. x., Crabshaw replied "... after clouds comes clear weather." 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 88.

3. At sunset with a cloud so black, A westerly wind you shall not lack. Ibid., 86.


5. He that pryeth into every cloud, may be struck with a thunderbolt. 1639: Clarke, 31. 1670: Ray, 134. 1732: Fuller, No. 2255.

6. Hen's scarts [scratchings] and filly tails Make lofty ships carry low sails; also, If clouds look as if scratched by a hen, Get ready to reef your topsails then. Nautical. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 92.

7. If clouds be bright, 'Twill clear to-night; If clouds be dark, 'Twill rain—do you hark? Ibid., 88.

8. North and south, the sign of drought; East and west, the sign of blast. Ibid., 93.

9. Red clouds in the east, rain the next day. Ibid., 88.

10. The higher the clouds, the finer the weather. Ibid., 85.

11. Trace in the sky the painter's brush, When winds around you soon will rush. Ibid., 92.


14. When the clouds are upon (or go up) the hills, they'll come down by the mills. 1678: Ray, 49. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 19 (Percy S.). 1893: Inwards, 99, [as in 1846 plus] When it gangs up i' fops [small clouds on hills], It'll fa' down i' drops. . . . North Country. When the clouds go up the hill, They'll send down water to turn a mill. Hants.

15. When the clouds of the morn to the west fly away, You may conclude on a settled, fair day. 1893: Inwards, 86.

See also Curdly; Flea (2); Mackerel; Moon (16); and Woolly fleeces.

Cloudy mornings turn to clear evenings. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ix., Cloudy mornynge turne to cleere after noones. 1681: W. Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 342. 1732: Fuller, No. 1116, . . . may turn . . . 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 6 (Percy S.).

Clout is better than a hole out, A. Corn. 1895: Jos. Thomas, Randigal Rhymes, 59.
Clove, To be in 1813 Ray, 57
Clove See quotes 1586 Pettie tr Guazzo's Civil Convers, fo 171, You
know well the procrebe-Claw a clove' he will thee scratch, Scratch a clove he will thee claw 1623 Wodropehe
Spered Hours, 520, Anoint a clowne, and hee will grip you, grip a clovene and hee will anoint you 1659
Howell Proverbs Fr-Eng 9, Anoint a clovene and hee will prick you
Clown See quotes 1813 Ray, 57
Clown and Clunbury, Clunburst, and Clun, are the (see quotes)
1683 Burne Shropsh Folk-Lore, 583, drunkenest (of dirtiest or quietest)
places under the sun 1866 Housman, Shropsh Lad, 1 1 quietest places under the sun
Clown To escape Clude and be
drowned in Conway Two Welsh rivers 1662 Fuller, Worthise vii 527 (1840)
1790 Grose Prov Gloss s v "Caernavonshire
Clinton and Clunbury, Clunburford and Clun, are the (see quotes)
1583 Burne Shropsh Folk-Lore, 583, drunkenest (of dirtiest or quietest)
places under the sun 1866 Housman, Shropsh Lad, 1 quietest places under the sun
Coach's won't run over him, The= He is in gaol 1813 Ray, 186
Coach-pit cafe=First come, first served 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 38
Coal to Newcastle, To send [In
silvam non ligna feras insanus ac si Magnas Gracorum malis implere catar
vas —Horace, Sat I x 34-5] 1583
Melville, Autobiog 1 163 (Wodrow S),
Salt to Dysart, or coles to Newcastle! 1650 Fuller, Pisgah Sight, 128, So far
from being needless pains it may bring considerable profit to carry Char-coals
to New-castle 1682 in Throughly Cor-
resb 1 16 (1832), To send you our news
from England, were to carry coals to Newcastle 1709 Labour in Van, or,
Coal to Newcastle [title of sermon advertised in Daily Courant, 6 Oct.,
1709 1874 R L S, Letters 1 134
(Tustrala ed.), It seems rather like
sending coals to Newcastle to write a
lecture to a subisdised professor 1920
Galsworthy, Tatterdemalion, 9 How-
over much she carried coals to New-
castle, or tobacco pouches to those who
did not smoke Cf Owl (9)
Coal See Over the coals
Coarse See Rough as gorse
Coats change with countries 1659
Howell, 17
Cob=Mud See quot 1869 Haz-
lutt 142, Give cob a hat and pair of
shoes, and he'll last forever § Devon
Provide a stone foundation and a slate
coping for a cob [mud] wall — Shelly
Cobble They that cobble and cloth
shall have work when others go without
1670 Ray, 72 1732 Fuller No 6454
Cobbler 1 Cobbler's law, he that
takes money must pay the shot 1678
Ray, 90
2 Cobbler's Monday 1825 Brockett,
Gloss N Country Words, 44 Cobbler's-
Monday, every Monday throughout
the year is a regular holiday among
the gentl craft 1862 Dialas of Leas, 270.
A day to do nothing in
3 Cobbler and tinkerers are the best ale-
drinkers 1659 Howell, 17 1670
Ray, 5 1732 Fuller, No 6229 1886
Bickerdyke, Cours of Ale and Beer,
172, Cobbler and tinkerers are your true
ale drinkers 1909 Hackwood, Inns,
Ales, etc, 98 (as in 1886)
4 Let not the cobbler go beyond his
last [Denuntiantem ne supra crepidam
sutor iudicaret Phyl Nat Hist, xxxv 85] 1539 Taverner, Proverbs,
fo 17, Let not the shoemaker go beyond
his shoe 1613 Wither, Abuses sistt, etc
To Reader, You will be counted but
saucy cobbler to goe beyond your lasts
1692 L'Esstrand, Estop, 205 (3rd ed.)
1754 World, No 55, Extinguished him
at once with the famous proverb in use
at this day, "The shoemaker must not
go beyond his last"
5 The cobbler deals with all [awl] A
verbal quibble 1639 Clarke, 32
6 The richer the cobbler the blacker his
thumb 1710 Brit Apollo, vol ii,
No xxi, col 6
7 Without all [awl] the cobbler no
nobody 1639 Clarke, 71
Cobwebs. Where cobwebs are plenty, kisses are scarce. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in N. & Q., 3rd ser., vi. 1906: Cornish N. & Q., 266.


2. A good cock may come out of a bad bag. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 590, There'll come a good cock out of a ragged bag. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 3.

3. Better be a cock for a day, than a hen for a year. 1659: Howell, 13.


5. If the cock goes crouding to bed, He's sure to rise with a watery head. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 18 (Percy S.). 1803: Inwards, Weather Lore, 133. 1920: N. & Q., 12th ser., vii. 67, If the cock crows when he goes to bed, He gets up in the morn with a wet head [heard inWarwickshire within the last ten years].

6. If the cock moult before the hen, We shall have weather thick and thin: But if the hen moult before the cock, We shall have weather hard as a block. 1670: Ray, 43. c. 1685: Aubrey, Nat. Hist.

Wills, 16 (1847), When the hen doth moult before the cock, The winter will be as hard as a rock; But if the cock moult before the hen, The winter will not wet your shoes seame. 1825 Hone, Eu. Day Book, i. 669. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 133.

7. It is a very ill cock that will not crow before he be old. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 366 (Arber).


9. The cock does crow, To let us know, If we be wise, 'Tis time to rise 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 19 (Percy S.).

10. There is chance in the cock's spur. 1678: Ray, 111. 1732: Fuller, No. 4890.

11. To leap like a cock at a blackberry. 1670: Ray, 209. . . . Spoken of one that endeavours, but can do no harm. Cock's stride. See Christmas (12); and New Year (2).

Cock on hoop, To set=To be prodigal. Origin unknown—see discussion, s. v., in Oxford English Dict. 1519:orman, Vulgaria, fo. 301, He setteth al thyngs at cocke in the hope. 1540: Palsgrave, Acolastus, sig. G3. Let us sette the cocke on the hope, and make good chere. c. 1568: Wager, Longer thou livest, sig. B2. Make merry, daunce and sing, Set cocke a whope, and play care away. 1606: T. Heywood, If you know not me, Pt. ii., These knaue Sit cock-a-hope, but Hobson pays for all. 1730: Bailey, Eng. Dict., s. v., Cock on hoop [i.e. the cock or spiggot being laid upon the hoop, and the barrel of ale stunn'd, i.e. drank out without intermission] at the height of mirth and jollity.

Cock the little finger, To. Said of one given to drinking. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 131.

Cockatrice in the shell, Kill the. 1659: Howell, 17 ["Crush" for "Kill"]. 1669: N. Smith, Quakers Spirit. Court, 15, I thought it was best to kill the cockatrice in the egg. 1732: Fuller, No. 3124 ["egg" for "shell"].

Cocking, Sussex. See quot. 1870: Lower, Hist. Sussex, i. 119, When Foxes brewings [mist among trees] go
Cockles of the heart 1685 S. Wesley, Maggots, 126, It terrifies the cockales of my heart 1690 Reason of Mr. Bays changing his Religion, Pt II, p. 33. Now you rejoice the cockles of my heart 1792 Scott, in Lockhart’s Life, i 191, Which would have delighted the very cockles of your heart 1858 Darwin, in Life, etc, ii 112 (1888) [O] I have just had the innermost cockles of my heart rejoiced by a letter from Lyell

Coldcock is unfurnished. His — Bram- less 1646 Fuller Andromenus, § vi par 18, Often the cockdoff is empty in those whom Nature hath built many stories high 1687 Ray, 235

Codnor’s Pond See quo 1884 Folk-Lore Journal ii 279 When Codnor’s Pond runs dry, The Lords may say good-bye Derby

Coggeshall, Essex i A Coggeshall job 1880 A & Q, 6th ser, ii 307, This name is generally shortened into Covall It is the Essex phrase for any blundering or awkward contrivance 1913 E M Wright, Rustic Speech etc, 182 1920 E Gepp Essex Dialect Dict, 8, A “Covall job” means a foolish act 2 Jeering Cowhall 1662 Fuller, Worthies, i 498 (1840) 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s/v Essex,” Jeering Cogshall

Cold as a cucumber See Cool (2)

Cold as a key 1501 Douglas, Pat Honor, Pt I st 61, With quakand voco and hart cald as a key 1587 Turbervile, Trag Tales, etc 276 (1837), As calde as any kaye 1702 Parquhar, Inconstant, IV m, Till they be as cold as a key

Cold as a stone c 1300 Brunne, tr Langtoft s Chron, 56 (Hearene), He felle dede doun colde as any stone 1506 A Barclay, Cast of Labour, sig A6, My herte was colde as any stone 1697 Dilke, City Lady, III m, In the morning he may find him self as cold as a stone 1889 R L S, Ballantrae, ch xi

Cold as charity 1640 Shirley, St Pat for Ireland, III 1, Would I were a whale in the frozen sea! charity is not cold enough to rehewe me 1675 Poor Robin Alman, Nov, Weather cold as charity 1809 De Morgan, Never can happen again, ch lu

Cold as clay 1468 Coventry Myst, 227 (Sh S), My hert is colde as clay c 1680 in Roxb Ballads, iii 480 (B S’), Will find the world as cold as clay 1681 Rycaut, tr Gracian’s Critick, 228, His hands were as cold as clay 1894 W Raymond, Love and Quiet Life, 168, But the old man was as cold as clay

Cold as ice 1552 Huloet, Abed, sig Fr, Colde as yse 1672 Walker, Pararm, 23 1845 Jerrold, Mrs Candle, v, As cold, too, as any ice 1889 J Nicholson Folk Speech E Yorks, 17, As cawd as ice 1923 G Sturt (Bourne), Wheelwright’s Shop, 13, Feeling my feet cold as ice: 1917 Folk-Lore, xxii 239, Cold broth hot again, that loved I never, Old love renew’ed again, that loved I ever 1732 Fuller, No 6429

Cold of complexion good of condition 1678 Ray, 116 1732 Fuller, No 1119

Cold pudding settles love 1685 S. Wesley, Maggots 41, Settle the wit, as pudding settles love 1709 Ward, Works, iv verse 30 Pudding cold, Is said you know in proverb old, To settle love 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial II, Cold pudden will settle
your love. 1848: Albert Smith, Chris. Tadpole, ch. ix., The cold plum pudding, too, was a wonder . . . when Tom Baker said that . . . there was enough of it to settle everybody’s love . . . they laughed. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 110, Take a little cold pudding to settle your love.

Cold weather and crafty knaves come out of the North. 1659: Howell, 10 (8). 1670: Ray, 19 [omitting “crafty”]. Cf. Three great evils.

Coldest flint there is hot fire. In the. 1596: Meres, Palladis, fo. 321. 1647: A. Brewer, Countrie Girls, sig. C2. The coldest flint has fire, I see. 1670: Ray, 72. 1732: Fuller, No. 2822.

Cole under candlestick, To play. Nares says, s.v. “Coal,” that Coal-under-candlestick was a Christmas game mentioned in the Declaration of Popish Impostures (1603); but the quotations below suggest the sense of— to be secretly deceitful. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. x., Coll vnder canstyk, she can plaie on bothe handis. 1559: Becon, Display of Popish Mass, in Prayers, etc., 260 (P.S.), Therefore can ye not play cole under candlestick cleanly. 1654: Howell, 4 [as in 1546, with “he” for “she” and “with” for “on”].

Coleford. I’ve been to Coleford—got both eyes open! Mon. 1905: Folk-Lore, xvi. 67.

Cole-prophet, To play. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. ix., Ye plaie coleprophet (quoth I), who takth in hande To knowe his answere before he do his erraunde. 1560: Awdlely, Vocabondes, 15 (E.E.T.S.), Cole Prophett is he, that when his maister sendeth him on his errand, he wyl tel his answer therof to his maister or he depart from hym. 1584: R. Scot, Witchcraft, bk. ix. ch. iii., To play the cold prophet, is to recount it good or bad luck, when salt or wine falleth on the table, or is shed, etc.

Coleshill. See Sutton.

Colewort twice sodden = Crambe bis cocta. 1580: Lyly, Enphues, 391 (Arber), Who left out nothing that before I put in, which I must omitte, least I set before you, colewortes twice sodden. 1617: Coryat, Coryats Crane, or his Collort wise sodden, etc. [title] 1647: Stapylton, Juvenal, 126. The same verses i’ th’ same tune instills, Poore school-masters this twice boild lettuce kills.

Collier. 1. As freely as the collier that called my Lord Mayor knave, when he got on Bristow causey [causeway]. 1869: Hazlitt, 63.

2. If you wrestle with a collier, you will get a blotch. 1618: Harington, Epigrans, bk. ii. No. 36, The proverb says, Who fights with dirty foes, Must needs be soyl’ d, admit they win or lose. 1732: Fuller, No. 2802.

3. Like a collier’s sack; bad without but worse within. Ibid., No. 3221.

Collins’ cow, Troubled in mind like. 1906: Cornish N & Q., 263.

Colly Weston. See quotes. 1587: Harrison, Descrip. of Eng., Pt. I. 168 (Furnivall), The Morisco gowns, the Barbarian sleeves, the mandilion wonne to Collie weston ward. 1681: Harts-horne, Salopie Ant, 366, Colly Weston . . . implies anything awry, or on one side. 1854: Baker, Northants Gloss., s.v., When any thing goes wrong, it is said, “It is all along o’ Colly Weston.”


Coloquintida for Herb-John, You give me. 1732: Fuller, No. 5905.

Coloquintida spoils all the broth, A little. 1630: T. Adams, Works, 711.

Color upon color is false heraldry. 1659: Howell, Proverbs, “To Philologers” 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II.,[burlesqueversion] I have heard that goose upon goose is false heraldry.

Colt. 1. A colt you may break, but an old horse you never can. 1732: Fuller, No. 45.

2. Cut the colt, he’s sure to draw— “not being so cunning as the ‘old staggerers’.” 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 589.

3. To have a colt’s tooth. c. 1386: Chaucer, Reeve’s Tale, l. 34. And yet if: have alway a coltes tooth. 1588: Greene, Perimedes, in Works, vii. 91.
Comb

(1659). It is said of a careless person, 'It's all Come day, go day, God send Sunday with him' (or "her") 1721 N & Q, 12th ser, viii 36, A Leicestershire woman would often speak of an idle shiftless person as 'a poor come day go day, God send Sunday creature'.

5 Come dog, come devil 1600 Weakest to the wall 1 400 (Malone S). Come dogge, come duell he that escapes best let him take all

6 Come every one have a pound Somerset 1678 Ray, 355

7 Come in if you're fat 1738 Swift, Polite Conyers, Dial I Who's there? come in, if you be fat

8 Come Sunday, come se night Ag 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs 38

9 Come what come would 1546 Heywood Proverbs, Pt I ch xi 1606 Shakespeare, Macbeth, I iii, Come what come may, Time and the hour runs through the roughest day 1639 Clarke, 122, Come what come may.

10 Come wind come weather 1630 in Physicians Garland, 368 (Rollins, 1922). We needs must drink come wind come weather

11 Cometh last to the pot See Last to the pot

12 He that comes after, sees with more eyes than his own 1732 Fuller, No 2067

13 He that comes every day shall have a cockney and he that comes but now and then shall have a fat hen 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi 1633 Drake, 84

14 He that cometh last maketh all fast 1562 Heywood Three Hund Epigr, No 202 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Porte" The last commer latches the door, maketh all sure 1670 Ray, 112 1732 Fuller, No 6308 Cf Last makes fast

15 He who comes uncalled sits unserved 1597 A Montgomery, Poems, 42 (1821), Quha cum uncallt, unservd
suld sit. 1732: Fuller, No. 1123, Come uncall'd; sit unserv'd.


17. If thou wilt come with me, bring with thee. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 33. If thou wilt go with me bring with thee. 1629: Book of Meery Riddles, Prov. 115. 1732: Fuller, No. 6286, Bring something, lass, along with thee, If thou intend to live with me.

18. It cometh by kind, it costeth nothing. 1605: Camden, Remains, 325 (1870). It cometh by kind [nature], it cost them nothing. 1670: Ray, 182. 1732: Fuller, No. 5484, What cometh by kind, costeth nothing.


20. To come to fetch fire. c. 1380: Chaucer, Trovylis, bk. v. l. 484. Be we comen hider To fecche fyre, and rennen hoom ayen? 1670: Ray, 175. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I., Where are you going so soon? I hope you did not come to fetch fire.

21. Who cometh late lodgeth ill. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 5. 1732: Fuller, No. 2381, He who cometh in late, has an ill lodging.

Comfortable as matrimony, As. A two-edged saying. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Comfortable."


Coming events cast their shadows before. 1802: Campbell, Lochiel's Warning (O.).

Command of custom is great, The. 1640: Herbert, Jae. Prudentum.

Command, verb. i. Command your man, and do it yourself. 1666: Torrino, Piazza Univ., 60 [plus "As the English say"]. 1692: L'Estrange, Aesop, 53 (3rd ed.), Which is all but according to the old saying, Command your man and do't yourself. 1732: Fuller, No. 1124.

2. Command your wealth, else that will command you. 1732: Fuller, No. 1125.


4. He that commandeth well shall be obeyed well. 1732: Fuller, No. 2068

Commend. i. Command not your wife, wine, nor house. Ibid., No. 1126.

2. Command or amend. c. 1449: R. Pecock, Repressor, Pt. I. ch. ix. p. 48 (Rolls Ser.), And bi the oole wijs prouerbe, A man schulde blame or commendhe as he fyndeth. 1688: W. C. Hazlitt, in N. & Q., 4th ser., i. 201, Mr. Corney ought to bear in mind the old maxim, "Command or amend."

3. Who commends himself. See Neighbour (2).

Commit. He that committs a fault thinks every one speaks of it. 1640: Herbert, Jae. Prudentum.

Common, adj. i. A common servant is no man's servant. 1629: Book of Meery Riddles, Prov. 85.

2. Common as a barber's chair. See Barber (3).

3. Common as a cart-way. 1362: Langland, Plovman, A, iii. 127. [She is] as comyn as the cart-wei to knaues and to alle. 1493: Divus and Pauper, fo. i (1536), Other wickednesses ben as common as the carte way. 1566: Drant, Horace: Sat, sig. D6, As common as the carts way. 1678: Ray, 90. As common as the highway.


7. Common fame is a common liar. 1606: B. Rich, Faultes, fo 46, But Report is a lier. 1710: Ward, Nuptial Dialogues, i. 214. Since common Fame is but a common lier. 1821: Scott, Pirate, ch. xxxix., But common fame, Magnus considered, was a common liar. Cf. Blister.

8. Common fame is seldom to blame. 1597: H. Lok, Poems, 299 (Grosart),
Though proverbe truely say, by fame’s affect, God’s judgement lightly doth a truth detect 1694 D’Urfey, Quixote, Pt II Act I sc 1 1732 Fuller, No 6120, Common fame is mostly to blame [another opinion!] 1853 Trench, Proverbs, 13 (1905), Common fame is seldom to blame is the baser proverb.

9 Keep the common road, and thou’rt safe 1732 Fuller, No 3118
10 The common people look at the steeple 1639 Clarke, 148
11 To be common Jack 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch vi, I have bene common lache to all that hole flocke 1611 Davies (of Hereford), Sc of Folly, 45, in Works, ii (Grosart), Some laches are common to all that will play.

Companion 1 A man has his companion in a long journey and a little nun 1732 Fuller No 284.
2 He is an ill companion that has a good memory 1683 White Kennett, tr Erasmus Praise of Folly, 167 (8th ed.), It is an old proverb, I hate a pot-companion with a good memory 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 78.
3 It is good to have companions in misery c 1374 Chaucer, Troilus, bk i l 708, Men seyn, ‘to wrecche is consolacion To have an-othar felawe in his peyne” c 1390 Gower, Conf Amantis bk i l 261 1579 Lyly, Euphues, 96 (Arber), In misery Euphues it is great comfort to have a companion 1681 W Robertson, Phraseol Generalis, 348, Tis a comfort to have companions in misery 1709 Centlivre, Busy Body, III v, Tis some comfort to have a companion in our sufferings 1850 Planche, Extravag., iv 72 (1879), Well, really, when one’s heart is breaking with vexation, To see one’s friend in the same distress, is a wondrous consolation!

Company 1 Company makes cuckolds 1639 Clarke, 152 1678 Ray, 116 1732 Fuller, No 1132
2 Company’s good if you are going to be hanged 1864 Cornish Proverbs, in N & Q, 3rd ser, vi 495
3 For company, as Kit went to Canterbury 1735 Pegge, Kent Proverbs, in E D S, No 12, p 69.
4 The company makes the feast 1911 Hackwood, Good Cheer, 361, This has been crystallized into the terse English proverb “The company makes the feast.”

Comparison 1 See Nothing (14)
Comparisons are odious c 1440 Lydgate, in Pol., Relig., and Love Poems, 22 (E E T S), Odysys of olde been comparisons 1583 Greene, Mamillia, in Works, ii 52 (Grosart), I will not make comparisons, because they be odous 1607 T Heywood, Woman Killed with Kindness, I u 1712 Fielding, Andromus, bk 1 ch vi, But comparisons are odious, another man may write as well as he 1872 H James, Letters, i 32 (1920) Nurem-burg is excellent—and comparisons are odious, but I would give a thousand N’s for one ray of Verona!

Complains wrongfully on the sea that twice suffers shipwreck, He 1640 Herbert, Fac Prudentum 1670 Ray, 23.

Complimenting is lying 1738 Swift, Polte Convers., Dial 1, I have heard say that complimenting is lying.
Compliments fly when gentelfolk meet 1894 R L S, St Ives, ch xxvii 1894 Northall, Folk Phrases, 12 (E D S), [ironical version] Compliments pass when beggars meet.
Conceal 1 See Hide nothing
Conceited as a churchwarden 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 11
Conceited [ingenious] goods are quickly spent 1678 Raw, 116.
Coney-catching 1 See Rabbit-hunting
Confess and be hanged 1594 A Copley, Wits, Fits, etc, 148 (1614), Confesse and be hang’d, and so he was 1612 Dekker, If it be not Good, etc, in Dram Works, in 345 (1873), I have confess and shall be hang’d 1672 Marvell Rehearsal Transp, Pt I, in Works, in 55 (Grosart), After so simple a confession as he hath made, must he now be hang’d too to make good the proverb? 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 199, That unlucky
Confess

proverb, Confess and be hang'd. 1821: Scott, Pirate, ch. xxxix.
Confess debt and beg days. 1732: Fuller, No. 1139.
Confessing a fault makes half amends. 1618: Harington, Epigrams, bk. iii. No. 25, A fault confest were half amended. 1670: Ray, 5. 1732: Fuller, No. 1140.
Confession disarms slander, A generous. 1732: Fuller, No. 126.
Confession is the first step to repentance. 1654: Gayton, Pleasant Notes Don Qu., 66.
Confine your tongue lest it confine you. 1855: Bohn, 338.
Congleton rare. See 1862 quot. 1813: Ray, 242, Congleton bears [the clerk of C. is said to have sold the church Bible, to buy a bear for baiting]. 1862: N. & Q., 3rd ser., ii. 166, Passing through Congleton some time since, a gentleman heard some tailors, singing, —Congleton rare, Congleton rare, Sold the Bible to pay for a bear. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 39, [plus the variant] Like Congleton Bear Town where they sold the Bible to buy a bear. [Similar stories are told of Ecclesfield, and Clifton, a village near Rugby, N. & Q., 3rd ser., ii. 236.]
Conies love roast meat. c. 1685: Aubrey, Nat. Hist. Wilts, 59 (1847), 'Tis a saying, that conies doe love rost-meat.
Conquer. He that will conquer must fight. 1732: Fuller, No. 2346.
Conscience. 1. A clear conscience can bear any trouble. Ibid., No. 40.
3. A clear conscience laughs at false accusations. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 236 (Arber), A cleere conscience needeth no excuse, nor feareth any accusation. 1669: Politianphilia, 12 [as in 1580]. 1732: Fuller, No. 42.
4. A conscience as large as a shipman's hose. 1639: Clarke, 66. 1670: Ray, 205.
5. A good conscience is a continual feast. 1633: Draxe, 28. Before 1680:

Butler, Remains, ii. 273 (1739), For a good conscience being a perpetual feast... c. 1736: Franklin, in Works, i. 456 (Bigelow), A good conscience is a continual Christmas.
6. A good conscience is the best divinity. 1732: Fuller, No. 141.
7. A guilty conscience is a self-accuser (or feels continual fear). [1580: Sidney, Arcadia, bk. ii. p. 121 (1893), She felt the terrors of her own conscience.] 1598: Servingmans Comfort, in Inedited Tracts, 99 (Hazlitt), The guilty conscience thinkes what as is sayd, is alwayes spoken himselfe to vpbrayde. 1604: Drayton, The Owl, A guilty conscience feels continual fear. 1679: Crowne, Ambitious Statesman, V. iii., No hell like a bad conscience. 1732: Fuller, No. 208, A guilty conscience never thinketh itself safe. c. 1800: Trusler, Prov. in Verse, 112, Conscience is a self-accuser.
8. A quiet conscience causes a quiet sleep. 1732: Fuller, No. 374, [plus, on p. 375] A quiet conscience sleeps in thunder. 1827: Wilson, Noctes, in Blackw. Mag., April, 476 (O.), That sweet sound sleep that is the lot o' a gude conscience.
10. Conscience is a cut-thread. 1639: Clarke, 66.
11. Conscience serveth for a thousand witnesses. 1539: Taverner, Proverbs, fo. 29, The conscience is a thousande wytnesses. 1629: Book of Meery Riddles, Prov. 33. 1633: Draxe, 27 [as in 1539]. 1639: Clarke, 66, Conscience is witness enough.
12. His conscience is made of stretching leather. 1597: Discoverie of Knights of the Poste, sig. B4, Their consciences are like chuellre skins, that will stretch euery way. 1613: Shakespeare, Henry VIII., II. iii. 1737: Ray, 274, He hath a conscience like a cheverel's skin (That will stretch). A cheverel is a wild goat. Somerset. 1830: Forby, Vocab. E. Anglia, 430, Your conscience is made of stretching leather.
13. See quot. I do not know to
what proverb allusion is made

Randolph, Works, I, 633 (Harrist). And

since large conscience (as the proverb shows) In the same sense with bad one goes

14 Whos conscience is combed and

stomach not cleane, Of another mans
deds the woorse well he deme 15th cent

in Reliœ Antiquœ, 1 205 (1841)

See also Friend (1)

Consideration is half conversion, and

Consideration is the parent of wisdom

1732 Fuller, Nos 1146 and 1147

Considering cap, To put on (or off)
one's

1605 Airm, Fœoles upon Foole, 40 (Grosart), The cobler puts off his

considering cap 1618 B & F, Loyal Subject, II 1, And now I'll put

on my considering cap 1738 Swift, Politie Convers, Dial 1, Guess who it

was that told me, come, put on your

considering cap 1801 Dickens, Great

Expect, ch xxvii I'll put on my con-

sidering cap, and I think all you want to
do may be done by degrees

Constable for your wit, You might

be a 1599 Jonson, En Man out of

Humour, I, Sog Why, for my wealth

I might be a justice of peace Car Ay,

and a constable for your wit 1678

Ray, 236

Constant dropping will wear away a

stone [Mr E Marshall, in N & Q, 5th ser, vii 513, says "The first

place in which this proverb, expressing a metaphor which occurs several times in

early writers, is found is the fragment of Cherenus, e A C 440

(p 169, ed Naeke, Lips, 1617).

—strop cane itari sodas etale, Gutta cavat lapidem Ovid, Epb ex

Ponto, IV x 5] Before 1225, Aranuc

R, 220 (Morton), Little dropen pured

dene uilnt jet ofte vallaed peron

c 1387 Usk, Test of Love, in Skeat's

Chaucer, vi 135, So ofte falleth the

lethy water on the harde rocke, til it

have thorow persed it e 1477 Can-

ton, Jason, 20 (E E T S), How well the

stone is myned and holowed by con-

stymuell droppynge of water 1581

Lylly, Euphues, 127 (Arber), The lytle

droppes of rayne pearceth hard marble

1591 Spenser, Sonnets, 18 1631

Mabbe, Celestina, 159 (T T), Often

dropping makes stones hollow 1736

Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, 1 444 (Bigelow) 1852 Dickens, Bleak

House, ch l

Consult your pillow See Take (25)

Contemplates He that contemplates

hath a day without night 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1670 Ray, 5 1732

Fuller, No 2069 [with "on his bed"

before hath ']

Contempt will sooner kill an injury

than revenge 1855 Bohn, 339

Content, subs 1 Content is all

1639 Clarke, 38

2 Content is happiness 1666 Tor-

nano, Piazza Univ, 52, Who is con-
tented, enjoys 1732 Fuller, No 1152

3 Content is more than kingdom

1639 Clarke 213 Content is a king-
dome 1732 Fuller, No 1153

4 Content is the philosopher's stone,

that turns all it touches into gold 1733

Fuller, No 1154

5 Content is worth a crown 1630

Braithwaite, Eng Gent, 203 (1641)

6 Content lodges ofter in cottages

than palaces 1732 Fuller, No 1155

7 He who wants content, can't find

an easy chair Ibid, No 2408

Content, adj He who is content in

his poverty, is wonderfully rich 1623

Wodroophe, Spared Hours, 480

Contended 1 A contented mind is a

continual feast 1535 Coverdale, Bible

Prov xv 15, A quiet heart is a con-

tinual feast 1592 Warner, Alb Eng-

land, bk vii ch 37, It is a sweete

continual feast To hue content I see

1611 Cotgrave, s v "Contenter," We

say, a contented minde is a great

treasure, or, is worth all 1681 W

Robertson Phraseot Generalls, 387

1725 Banley, tr Erasmus Colloq, 576

2 He may well be contented who needs

neither borrow nor flatter 1477 Rivers,

Dixie and Sayings, 69 (1677), Some

axed him of howe moche good[e]s a man

ought to be content, and he answered

to have so moche as he neded nat to

flaire nor boner of other 1670 Ray,

5 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, iv 119

(1785), The man was above control who

wanted not either to borrow or flatter
Contentment

"Contentment is the greatest wealth."

1633: Draxe, 31, Contentment is a great riches. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Diet., s.v. "Wealth"

Contrary way. He that goes the contrary way must go over it twice. 1732: Fuller, No. 2120.

Controller. See quot. 1591: Lodge, Catharos, 14 (Hunt & Cl.), It is an old saying and a true, A controller is not without contempt.

Converses. He that converses not, knows nothing. 1670: Ray, 5 1732: Fuller, No. 2070.

Conway. See Clude.

Cook. 1. A cook is known by his knife. 1732: Fuller, No. 50.

2. Cooks are not to be taught in their own kitchen. Ibid., No. 1160. 1911: Hackwood, Good Cheer, 234.

3. Every cook praises his own broth. 1663: Gerbier, Counsel (1664), Every cook commends his own sauce. 1855: Bohn, 349.

See also III cook; and Too many.

Cook-ruffian, able to Scalp the devil out of his feathers. 1670: Ray, 169 [with "in his" for "out of his"]. 1690: New Dict. Canting Crew, sig. D1. Cook-ruffian, the devil of a cook, or a very bad one. 1732: Fuller, No. 1159.


2. Cook as a cucumber. 1615: Fletcher, Cupid's Revenge, I. i., Young maids were as cold as cucumbers. 1720: Gay, Poems, ii. 278 (Underhill). Cool as a cucumber could see The rest of womankind. 1829: Scott, Journal, 7 July, I rose as cool as a cucumber. 1909: De Morgan, Never can happen again, ch. xxxiv.


4. Cool words scald not the tongue. 1732: Fuller, No. 1161.

Cooling card, A. 1577: Misogonus, III. ii., Heavy newes for yow, I can tell yow, of a cowlinge carde. 1584: Greene, Myrr. of Modestie, in Works, iii. 24 (Grosart), Hir godly counsel was a cooling card to their inordinate desires. 1671: Head and Kirkman, Eng. Rogue, ii. 104, This was a shrewd cooling card to my high hopes.

Cooper's ducks. See quot. 1902 N. & Q., 9th ser., ix. 127. A short time ago I heard a respectable young master-butcher in London use the following curious saying, viz. "It would soon have been all Cooper's ducks with me," meaning that death would have resulted had he not quickly recovered from a recent attack of influenza.

Coot. See Bald (3).

Copplestone, Crewys and Crocker were home when the Conqueror came. A Devon saying. 1850: N. & Q., 1st ser., ii. 511. 1876: ibid., 5th ser., vi. 476.

Copy, subs. 1. A copy of one's countenance. c. 1508: Wager, Longer thou livest, sig. C2, It is but a copy of his countenance. 1673: Dryden, Assignation, III. i., Sure this is but a copy of her countenance; for my heart . . . whispers to me, she loves me still. Before 1704: T. Brown, in Works, iv. 232 (1760). All the while he devours you, he cants of moderation, and pretends he does it unwillingly; but this is only a copy of his countenance. 1783: Mrs. Brooke, Rosina, II., in Inchbald's Farces, iii. 295 (1815). 1865: Editor, N. & Q., 3rd ser., viii. 30. The phrase, "That is a copy of your countenance," which we have occasionally heard, but which is not of frequent use, civilly implies, "That is not spoken sincerely."

2. To change (or turn) one's copy. 1523: Berners, Froissart, I. ccxlix. (O), Thus the knightes and squyers turned their copies on both partes. 1553: Republica, II. ii., We must now change our coppie. 1584: Lodge, Alarum against Venus, 39 (Sh. 5), Whereupon, altering his coppie . . . the king concluded thus . . . 1606: A. Craig, Amorose Songs, 21 (Hunt. Cl.), But being old, hee chaunged copie, and writ as violently against it 1632: W. Rowley, New Wonder, III., Then did my father change his copy, and set
Corntsh hug 1818 Cent Mag., 1 310.
Cornwall is celebrated for athletic exercises, particularly wrestling. A "Cornish hug" has been long proverbial. 1907. Lucknow, Old Eng. Sports, 189. To give a Cornish hug is a proverbial expression.

In the head, To have — To be drunk. 1745 Franklin, in Works, n 23 (Bigelow)

Cornwall. 1 Cornwall will bear a shower every day, and two on Sunday. 1864 "Cornish Proverbs," in N & Q., 3rd ser., v 206 1887 M A Courtenay, in Folk-Lore Journal, v 2 259

2 In Cornwall are the best gentlemen. 1881 Borrow Lavengro, ch 1 n 1864 "Cornish Proverbs," in N & Q., 3rd ser., n 6

3 There are more saints in Cornwall than in heaven. Ibid., 3rd ser., v 275 1880 Courtenay, W Cornwall Words, xiv (E.D.S.) 1927 J M Bullough, in Sunday Times, 15 May, It is a common saying in the West of England that there are more saints in Cornwall than in heaven.

4 See quot. 1906 Cornish. N & Q., 293. We all know the old proverb - 'Tis a bad wind that blows no good to Cornwall.

5 To send a husband into Cornwall without a boat. See 1847 quot. 1567 Painter, Pal of Pleasure, in 128 (Jacobs). They seemed to be jealous over their wyes. But either of them without shipping, sought to send other into Cornouale. 1591 Floro, Second Frutes, t 43. She spins crooked spindles for her husband, and sends him into Cornwall without ship or boate. 1670 Ray, 223. He doth sail into Cornwall without a bark. 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss., s v "Cornwall (as in 1670) 1647 Halliwell, Dic., s v. A woman who cuckold her husband was said to send him into Cornwall without a boat.

See also Devil (87)

Cornwallis Family See Paston Family
Corpus Christi Day clear. Given a good year 1803 Inwards, Weather Lore, 41

Corrat as Crocker's mare. 1879 Folk-Lore Record, 203 1882 Jago,
Correction


Correction gives understanding. 1552: Latimer, Sermons, 501 (P.S.), It is a common saying, Vexatio dat intellectum, "Correction giveth understanding."

Corruption of best is worst, The. 1642: D. Rogers, Matrim. Honour, 34. 1702: Penn, Fruits of Solitude, Pt. II. No. 160, The proverb is verified, The corruption of the best things is the worst and most offensive. 1732: Fuller, No. 1166.

Corruption of one is the generation of another, The. 1576: Lambarde, Peramb. of Kent, 244 (1826), The olde maxime of Philosophie, Corruptio unius, generatio alterius: The corruption of one is the generation of another. 1583: Melbancke, Philotinus, sig. Y3. c. 1602: Chapman, May-Day, III. iii., The corruption of a bawd is the generation of a witch. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II., [a burlesque version] They say that the corruption of pipes is the generation of stoppers.

Cossingland. See Cowhithe.

Costs little is little esteemed, What. 1612: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. I. bk. iv, ch. vii. 1732: Fuller, No. 5485, What costs little is least esteemed.

Cotherston cheeses will cover a multitude of sins, and Cotherston, where they christen calves, hopple lops [fleas], and kneeband spiders. Both—1663: N. & Q., 3rd ser., iii. 233.

Cotswold. 1. A Cotswold lion=A sheep. c. 1440: Satirical rhymes on Siege of Calais, in Archaeologia, xxxiii. 130, Com rennying on him fersly as lyons of Cotteswold. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi., She is as fierce as a Lyon of Cotsole. 1600: Sir John Oldcastle, 1. 700 (Malone S.), You old stale ruffin, you lion of Cotswold. 1785: Grose, Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue, s.v., Cotswold Lion, a sheep.

2. It is as long in coming as Cotswold barley. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, i. 552 (1840). 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v., "Gloucestershire." 1898: Gibbs, Cots-

wold Village, ch. iv., p. 85 (3rd ed.), Two proverbs that are in constant use amongst all classes are, . . . and "'Tis as long in coming as Cotswold berle" (barley).

Cottage in possession for a kingdom in hope, I'll not change a. 1639: Clarke, 256. 1670: Ray, 3 [with "reversion" for "hope"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 2643 [as in 1670].


Cough will stick longer by a horse than a peck (or half a peck) of oats, A. 1678: Ray, 117. 1732: Fuller, No. 54.

Counsel, subs. 1. Counsel breaks not the head. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

2. Counsel is no command 1732: Fuller, No. 1182.

3. Counsel is to be given by the wise, the remedy by the rich. 1855: Bohn, 339.

4. Counsel must be followed, not praised. 1732: Fuller, No. 1183.

5. Counsel of fools. See Fool (12).

6. Counsel over cups is crazy. 1670: Ray, 5, Counsels in wine seldom prosper. 1732: Fuller, No. 1184.


8. Good counsel is lacking when most needed. c. 1386: Chaucer, Tale of Meliboeus, § 13, "I see wel," quod this wyse man, "that the commune proverbe is sooth; that 'good counsel wanteth when it is most neede.'"


10. If the counsel be good, no matter who gave it. Ibid., No. 2704.

11. Ill counsel hurts the counsellor. 1539: Taverner, Proverbs, fo. 4. Euyll counsayle is worst to the counsayfour. 1639: Clarke, 27.

12. The counsel thou wouldst have another keep, first keep thyself. 1605: Camden, Remains, 334 (1870).

Counsel, verb. He that will not be counsellled, cannot be helped. 1639:
Counterfeit

Clarke, 22 1670 Ray, 6 1732
Fuller, No 2350 1875 A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 103

Counterfeit See quot c 1645 “MS Proverbs,” in N & Q, vol cliv, p 27, Hee is a counterfeit who is afraid of the touchstone

Count every step See Tell (5)

Counting the pothooks 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 44, Said of servants, when in a new place they sat quietly at first and don't quite know what to do or say

Country 1 A country man may be as warm in kersey, as a king in velvet 1732 Fuller No 55 1869 Spurgeon John Ploughman, ch ii [with “justian for” kersey ]

2 The country for a wounded heart 1906 A C Benson, College Window 107, The country for a wounded heart, says the old proverb

3 You must go into the country to hear what news at London 1678 Ray, 345 1732 Fuller, No 1664 [with town for “London”]

Country See Hundred

Couple are newly married See quot 1670 Ray, 53 When a couple are newly married, the first moneth is honey-moon or smuck smack, the second is, hither and thither the third is, thwick thwaack the fourth, the Devil take them that brought thee and I together 1754 Berthelson Eng-Danish Dict, s v “Thwack” [with “me and thee” for “thee and I”]

Courage mounteth with occasion 1855 Bohn, 330

Courage ought to have eyes as well as arms 1732 Fuller, No 1188

Courageous foe is better than a cowardly friend, A Ibd , No 56

Course 1 If that course be fair again and again quoth Bunny to his hear 1639 Clarke, 179 1670 Ray, 163

2 The course of true love never did run smooth 1857 Reade, The Course of True Love etc [title] 1872 Trollope, Golden Lion ch i, He feels it to be a sort of duty to take care that the course of love shall not run altogether smooth

Court 1 At court, every one for

himself 1611 Cotgrave, s v “Court,” In court men study only their own fortunes 1630 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1732 Fuller, No 825

2 Court holy water—Flattery 1519

Hornan, Vulgaria, fo 231, I have many feyre promessis and haly water of court 1565 Shacklock, Hatch of Heresies, quoted in N & Q, 2nd ser v 411, Therefore were we so wone with courte holy water, that is fayre and flattting wordes 1614 B Rich, Honestie of This Age, 52 (Percy S ), Shee may bee rewarded with some court holy water wordes 1692 L’Estrange, Æzoph 14 (3rd ed ), A little court holy water washes off all stains 1740 North Examen, 136, Some words slipt, as it were, from his pen, a drop of mere court holy water 1785 Grose, Class Diet Vulgar Tongue, s v Court holy water, fair speeches and promises without performance

3 Courts keep no almanacs 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum The court hath no almanack 1670 Ray, 6 1710 S Palmer Moral Essays on Proverbs, 318, All Europe has consented to the proverb, that in a Prince’s Court there is no almanack 1732 Fuller, No 1192

4 One of the court, but none of the counsel 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xvi, I was neyther of court nor of counsayle made 1670 Ray, 170

Courtier 1 A courtesy much entertained is half recompensed 1732 Fuller No 57

2 Courtesy on one side only lasts not long 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1670 Ray, 6 1732 Fuller, No 1191

3 Full of courtesy and full of craft 1594 Nashe, Unfort Trav, in Works, v 14 (Grosart), Much companie, much knauerne, as true as that olde adage, Much courtesie, much subtilite 1639 Clarke, 13 1670 Ray, 73 1732 Fuller, No 1635

4 He may freely receive courtesies, that knows how to requite them 1670 Ray, 22

Courtier young, beggar old c 1510

A Barclay Egloges, 20 (Spens S ), Oft
Courting

... young courtiers be beggars in their age. 1579: Lyly, Euphues, 185 (Arber), Certes it is an olde saying that who so lieth in the court, shall dye in the strawe. 1613: Vncasing of Machtivis Instr. to his Sonne, 7. And than do proue the provere often tolde, “A careless courtier young, a begger olde.” 1732: Fuller, No. 642, [the converse] An old courtier, a young beggar. Cf. Live (15).

Courting and wooing bring dallying and doing. 1605: Camden, Remains, 320 (1870). 1670: Ray, 48. 1732: Fuller, No. 6264 [with “canting” for “courting”].

Cousin. 1. *Call me cousin, but cozen me not.* 1678: Ray, 118 1732: Fuller, No. 1046. c. 1800: J. Trusler, Prov. in Verse, 47.


3. *First cousins may marry, second cousins can’t; third cousins will marry, fourth cousins won’t.* S. Devon. 1869: Hazlitt, 132.

See also Marry! come up.


Covent Garden is the best garden. 1790: Ibid.


Coventry, To send to. 1777: Garrick, in *Garrick Corresp.*, ii. 237 (1832). I seemed to be the person marked for displeasure; and was almost literally sent to Coventry. 1787: D’Arblay, Diary, ii. 427 (1876). This again sent me to Coventry for the rest of the dinner. 1850: Dickens, Copperfield, ch. v. 1874: Smiles, Lives of Engineers, ii. 239. They thwarted him at every turn, out-voted him, snubbed him, and “sent him to Coventry.”

Cover your head. See Head (2).

Cover yourself with your shield, and care not for cries. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

Covers me with his wings, and bites me with his bill, He. 1633: Draxe, 97. 1670: Ray, 5. 1732: Fuller, No. 1829.

Covers thee, discovers thee, He that.

Covetousness

Covers thee, discovers thee, He that. 1620: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt II ch. v.

Covet. *He that covets all See All covet.*


2. *A covetous man is good to none, but worst to himself.* 1614: Lodge, tr. Seneca, 443. The covetous man is good to no man, and worst to himselfe. 1669: *Politenuhia*, 287. 1732: Fuller, No. 53.


4. *A covetous man makes a halfpenny of a farthing, and a liberal man makes sixpence of it.* 1655: Bohn, 284.

5. *Covetous men live like drudges to die wretches.* 1732: Fuller, No. 1171.


Covetousness. 1. *Covetousness, as well as prodigality, brings a man to a morsel of bread.* 1732: Fuller, No. 1173.


3. *Covetousness brings nothing home.* 1639: Clarke, 37. 1732: Fuller, No. 1175.

4. *Covetousness is always filling a bottomless vessel.* 1732: Fuller, No. 1176.

5. *Covetousness is the mother of ruin and mischief.* 1387: Trevisa, tr. Higden, iii. 475 (Rolls Ser.). Covetise is moder of povert. c. 1440: Anon., tr.
Higden in 475 (Rolls Ser.), Covetise is the moder of pouerte 1533 in Ballads from MSS 1 202 (B.S.), Beware of covetyse The rote of all ill vice 1589 L. Wright, Display of Dulce, 10, Covetousnesse is the rote of all enmity the ground of all vice 1670 Sir Rich Whittington, 26 (Villon S.), It is an old and true saying, Covetousness is the mother of rume and mischief

6 Covetousness often starves other vices 1732 Fuller, No 1178

7 When all sins grow old, covetousness is young 1560 Becon Catechism, 373 (P.S.), Covetousness is a vise appropriated as it may seem to old men, according to this old saying Cum omnia vita senescunt sola avareitia juvenescit "When all vices wax old, covetousness alone waxeth young" 1570 in Collmann, Ballads, etc., 130 (Royb Cl) 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Peche" When all sinnes else be old is avarice young 1666 Torriano, Piazza Univ, 17

Cow 1 A collier's cow and an alowlife's cow are always well fed 1678 Ray, 119

2 A cow will not clean [starve], if there are three blades of pink grass in the field 1587 E. Leigh, Cheshire Gloss, 155 ("an old saying") 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 2

3 A lowing cow soon forgets her calf c 1330 in Wright's Pol Songs, 332 (Camden S., 6), Hit his noth al for the calf that kow louweth Ac hit is for the grene gras that in the medewe groweth 1882 Mrs Chamberlain, W. Worces Words, 39 (E.D.S) 1894 Northall, Folk Phrases 6 (E.D.S) 1913 Folk-Lore, xxiv 77, A bellowing cow soon forgets her calf Oxfordsh 1928 in London Mercury, Feb 439 Common proverbe in the West Country is "A beloving cow soon forgets her calf"

4 A red cow gives good milk 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 5

5 As comely (or as nimble) as a cow in a cage 1399 Langland, Rich the Redless, u 262, As be-cometh a low to hoppe in a cage! 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch 1, As comely as is a cow in a cage 1577 J. Grange, Golden Aphroditis, sig Fr, As seemely as a cow in a cage 1678 Ray, 287, As nimble 1732 Fuller, No 718, As nimble

6 As cows come to town, some good some bad 1639 Clarke, 219

7 As good luck as had the cow that stuk herself with her own horn 1678 Ray, 287

8 As much use as a cow has for side pockets 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 18 Cf Toad (1)

9 Cow's horn See Butter (3), and Milk (5)

10 Curst cows have short horns 1599 Barclay, Ship of Fools, 1 182 (1874), To a wylde cowe god doth short hornys sende 1588 Greene, Pandosto, in Works, iv 247 (Grosart), A curst cow hath oftimes short hornes, and a willing minde but a weake arme 1599 Shakespeare, Much Ado, II i 1721 Centlivre, Arlisice, III i 1793 Gros, Oho, 281 (2nd ed.), Having thus shown the futilty of your criticism, and thereby the truth of that proverb which says, God sends curst cows short horns 1880 Courtney, W. Cornwall Words, xiii (E.D.S.), 'Tis well that wild cows have short horns

11 He becomes it as well as a cow doth a carl-saddle [Bovi citellas impomere—ap Cicero, Att, V vvv 3] 1530 Palgrave, 427, As mete to be a great mans keever as a kowe to bear a saddle 1639 Clarke, 5

12 He knows no more what to do with it than a cow does with a holiday 1882 Folk-Lore Record, v 159

13 His cow has calved 1596 Jonson, Ev Man in his Humour, IV n, How now! whose cow has cal'd? 1678 Ray, 70 1828 Scott, Fair Maid, ch xxi, How now—what's the matter? whose cow has cal'd?

14 If you buy the cow, take the tail into the bargain 1732 Fuller, No 2743

15 If you sell the cow, you sell her milk too Ibid, No 2786

16 It is not all butter that comes from the cow 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch ix, It is not all butter that
the cow s—. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 294, All is not butter that the cow makes. 1732: Fuller, No. 527.

17. Let him that owns the cow take her by the tail. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Queene” [with “asse” for “cow”].

1694: D’Urivey, Quixote, Pt. II. Act III. sc. ii. 1732: Fuller, No. 3185.

18. Like a crab in a cow’s mouth. 1732: Fuller, No. 2990. It is no more
to him than a crab in a cow’s mouth. 1913: Folk-Lore, xxiv. 77. Like a crab in a cow’s mouth (Oxford.).

19. Look to the cow and the sow, and the wheat-mow, and [all] will be well

20. Many a good cow hath an evil ealf. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I.
ch. x. 1580: Baret, Alvarie, H 406. 1605: Chapman, etc., Eastw. Hoe, IV. ii. Thou art not the first good cow hast had an ill calf. 1681: W. Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 404, Many a good cow has but a bad calf.

1732: Fuller, No. 3337. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 3 (Percy S.).

21. Milk the cow that standeth still. c. 1594: Bacon, Promus, No. 553. Milk the standing cowe. Why follow you the flying? 1688: Gesta Grayorum, 38 (Malone S.). The proverb is a country-
proverb, but significative, Milk the cow that standeth still; why follow you her that flieth away?

22. Steal my cow and give away the hide. 1869: Hazlitt, 345.

23. The cow gives good milk, but kicks over the pail. 1599: Porter, Two Angry Women, sc. xi. Be not you like the cowe, that gives a good sope of milke, and casts it downe with her heelles. 1659: Howell, 14. Like a curst cow that gives a paille of milke, and then kicks it down. 1716: Ward, Female Policy, 84. A cow that gives good milk, but kicks it to the ground. 1753: Richardson, Grandison, iv. 148 (1883), You are a pretty cow, my love; you give good store of milk, but you have a very careless heel.

24. The cow knows not what her tail is worth till she has lost it. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

25. The cow little giveth, that hardly liveth. 1732: Fuller, No. 6325.

26. The old brown cow laid an egg. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 117, . . . used as an answer to importunate questions.

27. The tune the old cow died of. 1732: Fuller, No. 4360. That is the old tune upon the bag-pipe. 1836: Marryat, Japhet, ch. lxviii., This tune, “which the old cow died of,” as the saying is, used to be their horror.

28. Till the cows come home. 1625: in Harl. Miscell., iv. 125 (1745), Drinking, eating, feasting, and revelling, till the cow come home, as the saying is. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II., I warrant you lay abed till the cows came home. 1836: Marryat, Easy, ch. vii., Which receipt . . . was, in point of law, about as valuable as if he had agreed to pay as soon “as the cows came home.” c. 1873: John Hay, Little Breeches, etc., 22, You may neezo-loot till the cows come home. 1924: M. Kennedy, Constant Nymph, 320, You can keep on guessing till the cows come home.

29. To grow down like a cow’s tail. [Haec colonia retroversus crescit tanquam coda vituli.—Petr., 44.] 1649: in Somers Tracts, vii. 87 (1811). I would still be growing, though it be downwards. Why should not old lords, as well as old men, be cows-tails? 1653: Urquhart, Rabelais, bk. ii. ch. xxvii., Which never grow but like cows tailes downwards. 1710: Ward, Nuphial Diaglogues, ii. 76, You’re growing downwards now, Like tail of heifer or of cow. 1894: Northall, Folk Phrases, 19 (E.D.S.), Like a cow’s tail, [he or she] grows down hill.

30. To have a cow’s tongue. 1750: W. Ellis, Housewife’s Companion, vii., The gossiping sort . . . have a cow’s tongue (as we call it in the country), a smooth side and a rough side.


32. To set a cow to get a hare. 1611:
Cotgrave, s v "Vache." A cow may catch a hare 1683 Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697), Sett a cow to get a hare 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 588, We don’t go by size, or a cow would catch a hare
33 To tip the cow’s horn with silver 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 144.
When a butcher pays for the cow he has bought, he expects a "luckpenny" to be returned to him which, in the case of a cow is usually a shilling, and is technically called "tipping the cow’s horn with silver
34 What should a cow do with a wiltmer? 1732 Fuller, No 5502
35 Who will sell the cow must say the word 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum
36 Who would keep a cow when he may have a quart of milk for a penny? 1659 Howell, Letters, 11 666 (Jacobs), In this case it is better to buy a quart of milk by the penny than keep a cow 1680 in Roxb Ballads, viii 859 (BS), What need I keep a cow, or at such charges to be, When I can have a quart of milk for a penny? 1732 Fuller, No 5667 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 155 [with "pottle" for "quart"]

See also Calf (3), (5), and (9), Horse (72), Like cow, Lincolnshire where, Margery, Milk (5), Parson’s cow, and Slander
Coward and Cowards 1 A coward, a coward See Barnard Castle (1)
2 A coward’s fear can make a coward valiant 1732 Fuller, No 58
3 Cowards are cruel 1485 Malory, Morte à Arthur, bk xviii ch 24, Ever wylle a coward shewe no mercy 1591 Hannington Ori Furioso, bk xxxv1, Notes, Cruelty ever proceeds from a vile minde and often from a cowardly heart 1639 Clarke, 76, Cruell people are fearefull 1727 Gay, Fables, 1st ser No 1, 1 33, Cowards are cruel 1891 R L S, Wrecker ch xxii, For once the proverb was right, cruelty was coupled with cowardice
4 Cowards die often 1927 Sphere, 3 Dec, p 414 col 1, It is true that cowards die many times before their death
5 If he be a coward he is a murderer 1595 Polimantoria, sig Nr, Alledging an olde prouerbe to that ende, If he be, etc
6 Make a coward fight and he will kill the devil 1669 New Help to Discourse, 151 1732 Fuller, No 3980, Put a coward to his mettle, and he’ll fight the devil
7 Many would be cowards, if they had courage enough 1732 Fuller, No 3366
Cowardy is unlucky c 1386 Chaucer, Reues Tale, 1 290, ‘Unhardy is unseely,” thus men sayth
Cowfield See Bolney
Cowhithe See quo 1670 Ray, 253, Between Cowhithe and merry Cossingland, The devil s— Benacre, look where it stands 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v “Suffolk”
Cowl See Hood
Cowling moon See quo 1827
Hone, Table-Book, 775, In the vulgar vocabulary of Craven a silly fellow is called a “Cowling moon”
Cox’s pig He thought a lie, like Cov’s pig War 1920 N & Q, 12th ser, vi 67
Coy as a croker’s mare 1546
Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch 1
1670 Ray, 202 Cf Corret
Crab See Cow (18), and Devil (122)
Crab of the wood See quo 1659
Howell, 6, A crabb of the wood is sawce very good for a crabb of the sea, The wood of a crabb is good for a drabb that will not her husband obey 1670 Ray, 210 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v “Crab” [very slightly varied]
Crabbed knot must have a crabbwed wedge, A 1611 Davies (of Hereford), Sc of Folly, 24, in Works, 11 (Grosart)
Crabs The greatest crabs are not always the best meate 1546 Heywood Proverbs, Pt I ch vi 1611 Colgrave, s v ’Beau’ 1670 Ray, 75
Crab-tree Plant the crab-tree where you will, it will never bear pippins 1732 Fuller, No 3880
Crack me that nut See Nut (2)
Crack the nut See Eat (25)
Crack was a good dog See quo 1891 S O Addy, Sheffield Gloss Supp., 14 (E D S), There is a proverb which
Cradle

Cranes. I. *A crafty fellow never has any peace.* 1732: Fuller, No. 59

2. *A crafty knave needs no broker.* 1592: Greene, in *Works,* x 185 (Grosart).


Cranes' stocks. *See quo* 1530: Palsgrave, 719. You sayd true, you can well skyl of cranes dyre, your father was a poulterer. 1592: Lyly, *Mother Bombie,* ii. iii., You are well seene in cranes dirt, your father was a poulterer.

Crave in hope, and have in hap, "oof hast thou heard it." 1583: Melbancke, *Philotinus,* sig. F.12.


Creaking cart goes long, A. 1900: *N. & Q.*, 9th ser., vi. 208, A creaking cart goes long on the wheels [quoted as a common proverb].


Cream of the jest, That's the. 1678:
Cream-pot

Ray, 69 1754 Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v "Cream"

Cream-pot love = Cupboard love 1678 Ray, 69

Credit 1 Credit keeps the crown of the causeway 1875 A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 101

2 Credit lost is like a Venice glass broke 1670 Ray, 6 1732 Fuller, No 4021, Reputation crackt, is a Venice-glass broke

3 He that has cracked his credit is half hanged 1519 Horman, Vulgaria fo 77, Yf a man have lost his credence, he is halfe vndon 1590 Greene, in Works vii 154 (Grosart)

4 He that has lost his credit is dead to the world 1639 Clarke, 87, To lose a mans credit is the greatest losse 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1670 Ray, 6 1732 Fuller, No 2142

5 No man ever lost his credit, but he who had it not 1670 Ray, 6

Crediton, Devon 1 As fine as Kerton spinning 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s.v "Devon"

2 That's extra See quot 1901 Devon N & Q, 1 120, Many years ago it was frequently said in Devonshire, "That's extra," as the old woman said when she saw 'Kerton'"

3 When Kirton, etc 1876 N & Q, 5th ser., vi 364, When Ex'ter was a furry down Kirton was a mayor-town 1892 S Hewett, Peasant Speech of Devon, 145 When Kirton wuz a borough town, Ex'ter wuz a vuzzi-down

Creditors have better memories than debtors 1659 Howell, Proverbs Span.-Eng., 8 1736 Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, I 450 (Bigelow) c 1800 Trusler, Prov in Verse, 53 1880 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures 18

Creep before we can go See First creep

Creep up one's sleeve, To 1821 Clare, Rural Life, 161, For there's none apter, I believe, at "creeping up a mistress sleeve" 1854 Baker, Northants Gloss, s.v "Creep," Creep up your sleeve A colloquial phrase for endeavouring to obtain a favour by coaxing or wheedling 1889 Peacock, Manley, etc., Gloss, 144 (E D S), He's crept up her sleeve till he can do anything wi' her he likes 1926 Phillpotts, Yellow Sands, I, I ain't going to creep up her sleeve because there's money hid there Cf Speak (20)

Cringing is a garniful accomplishment 1719 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs 266, A man's hat in his hand never did him any harm 1732 Fuller, No 1206

Cripple He that dwells near a cripple will soon learn to halt 1579 Lyly, Euphues, 131 (Arber), It is an olde proverbe that if one dwell the next doore to a creeple he will learme to haunt 1647 Curnynm New-Cormonwealth, 12

Critics are like brushers of noblemen's clothes 1651 Herbert, Jac Prudentum, 2nd ed

Crock as the porridge, She will as soon part with the Somerset 1678 Ray, 352

Crocker See Copplestone Croaked as a cammock [a bent piece of wood, a cambrel] Before 1539 Skelton, in Works, I 117 (Dyce), Your longe lothy legges, Croky'd as a camoke 1592 Lyly, Mother Bombe, I ii, They study twente yeares together to make us grow as straight as a wand, and in the end, by bowing us, as crooked as a cammocke

Crooked as a dog's hind leg 1886 Elworthy, West Som Word-Book, 170 (E D S), So crooked's a dog's hind-leg are the superlative absolutes in constant use 1886 R Holland, Cheshire Gloss, 445 (E D S), As crookt as a dog's elbow 1889 Peacock, Manley, etc., Gloss, 146 (E D S) 1926 Tuller, 10 Nov., p 280, He was also as crooked as a dog's hind leg on the turf

Crooked as a ram's horn 1658 Wt Restor'd, 102, [Ironical] Straight as a ram's horn is thy nose 1820 Colton, Laco, Pt II No 130, The dolphin, which is always painted more crooked than a ram's horn 1923 Folk-Lore, xxxiv 329 [Oxfordsh.]

Crooked as S 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 12
Crotchets

Crooked stick will have a crooked shadow. A. 1732: Fuller, No. 61.
Crooked without, crabb’d within. 1593: Passionate Morrice, 86 (N. Sh. S.).
Crooked. See also Crawley; and Wembury.

Cross, adj. 1. As cross as a bear with a sore head. 1830: Marryat, King’s Own, ch. xxvi. The captain was as savage as a bear with a sore head. 1870: N. & Q., 4th ser., vi. 321, Thus we say "As sulky as a bear with a sore head." 1922: Weyman, Ovington’s Bank, ch. v., But I assure you, sir, he’s like a bear with a sore head.

2. As crose as nine highways. 1855: Bohn, 316.

1855: Thackeray, Newcomes, ch. xxxiii., She scolded her maid and was as crose as two sticks. 1909: Pinero, Mid-Channel, III.

Cross and Crosses, subs. 1. Cross or (and) pile. [Capita aut navia.—Macrobius, Sat., i. 7.] [c. 1320: in Gros’s Antig. Repertory, ii. 406 (1808), Item paie a Roi mesmes pour Iewer a Cross et pil ... les Deniers xij.] c. 1390: Gower, Conf. Amantis., ii. 390, Whos tunge neither pyl ne crouche Mai hyre. 1552: Hulot, Abced., sig. E2, Cast lottes or crosse and pyle. 1665: J. Wilson, Projectors, ProL, That, in effect, tis but a cross or pile, In all that’s written, whether well or ill.
1673: A. Behn, Dutch Lover, i. 1., Cross or pile who shall go. 1707: Ward, London Terraflitus, No. IV., p. 18, He is ready to toss up cross or pile. c. 1770: Pegge, Derbietisms, 75 (E.D.S.), When boys turn up a halfpenny at play, the head side they call cross, and the Britannia pile.

2. Crosses are ladders to heaven. 1633: Drake, 36. The crosse is the ladder of heauen. 1670: Ray, 6. 1732: Fuller, No. 1208. 1859: Smiles, Self-Help, 341 (1869), "Crosses," says the old proverb, "are the ladders that lead to heaven."

3. He has not a cross [coin] to bless himself with. 1540: Palsgrave, Acolastus, sig. T4, That hath neuer a crosse left him to bessele him with. 1579: Marr. of Wit and Wisdom, sc. iii., p. 31 (Sh. S.), I have neuer a crosse to bessele me. 1632: Rowley, New Wonder, III., Your good husband will leave you ne’er a cross i’ th’ house to bless you with. 1708: tr. Aleman’s Guzman, i. 318, I ... had not a penny left to bless myself with. 1819: Scott, Bride of L., ch. iv., The Lord Keeper has got all his estates—he has not a cross to bless himself with.

4. The cross on the breast, and the devil in the heart. 1633: Drake, 97, The crosse in his breast and the devil in his actions. 1732: Fuller, No. 4462.

5. To have neither cross nor coin. 1768: Goldsmith, Vicar, ch. xxi., You trumpery, to come and take up an honest house without cross or coin to bless yourself with! 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, i. 94, "I’ve neither cross nor coin," that is, no money at all. 1855: Robinson, Whitby Gloss., "I’m blest wi’ nowther cross nor coin," or as we have otherwise heard it said, "nowther brass nor benediction."

6. To make a cross upon anything =Mark with a white stone. 1540: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi., And now will I make a cross on this gate.
Cross a bridge till you come to it, Never. 1921: R. L. Gales, Old-World Essays, 242.

Cross a stile, and a gate hard by, You’ll be a widow before you die. 1864: “Cornish Proverbs," in N. & Q., 3rd ser., v. 208.

Cross the stream where it is ebbest [shallowest]. 1603: Holland, tr. Plutarch’s Morals, 747. There is still a Lancashire proverb, “Cross the stream where it is ebbest.”

Crotchets in the head (or brain), To have. 1592: G. Harvey, Works, i. 189 (Grosart), A wilde head ful of mad
braine and a thousande crochets
1611 Colgrave, s v “Moucheron,”
Atour des moucherons en teste To have many crochets in the head
1660 Howell Parly of Beasts, 49 When a crochet hath got once into his nodde 1690 New Dict Canting Crow, sig D3 Crochets in the crown, whimsies, maggots 1807 Crabbe, Par Reg in q30 (O) And gloomy crochets fill’d his wandering head
Crouse as a lop [flea] (or a louse) 1670 Ray, 203 Crouse as a new washed louse 1825 Brockett Gloss N’ Country Words 51 [as in 1670] 1855 Robinson Whitby Gloss 40, As croose as a lop, as brisk as a flea 1868 Atkinson, Cleveland Gloss 321, Peert as a lopp used of a person nimble and active in his movements 1889 J Nicholson Folk Speech E Yorks 17 As croose (lively) as a loose or lopp Crow and Crows 1 As good land as any the crow flies over 1684 Bunyan, Pilgr Progr, Pt II, p 98 (O). As fruitful a place, as any the crow flies over 1690 New Dict Canting Crow, sig D4
2 Crows are never the whiter for washing themselves 1678 Ray, 121 1732 Fuller, No 1210
3 Crows do not pick out croos’ eyes 1578 Florio, First Fruits 10 29, One crow will never put out an other crowes eyes 1629 Book of Mery Riddles, Prov 93 1732 Fuller No 3744 1815 Scott, Manners, ch x 1, Nal hawks shouldn’a pike out hawks een
4 Hoarse as a crow 1883 R L S, Treasure I, ch xiv, He was not only red in the face, but spoke as hoarse as a crow 1911 T Edwards, Neighbourhood, 116, Tired as a navigator, and hoarse as a crow
5 It is ill killing a crow with an empty sling 1678 Ray, 120 1732 Fuller, No 2950
6 ’Tis long of your eyes the crowes might have helped it when you were young 1678 Ray, 345
7 The crow becals the sheep, and then eats it 1640 Herbert Jac Prudentium 1670 Ray, 6 Carron crows bewail the
dead sheep, and then eat them 1732 Fuller, No 1211
8 The crow thinks her own birds fairest 1513 Douglas Aeneis IX, Prol, 78 (O), The blak crowe thinks hir awin byrds quhite 1580 H Gifford, Postc, 32 (Grosart), Not unlike the crow, who alwaies thinkes her owne byrdes fayrest 1639 Massinger, Unrat Combat III 11, I like the foolish crow Bevy me my black brood swans 1732 Fuller, No 4463 1855 Gaskell North and South, ch xv, You think you never heard of this wonderful son of mine, Miss Hale You think I’m an old woman whose own croues is the whitest ever seen
9 To have a crow to pluckle (or pull) with one c 1410 Towneley Plays, 18 (E ETS), Na na, abide, we have a crow to pull 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch v We have a crow to pull 1592 Lyly, Mother Bombie, II 1, If I thought thou meanest so thou shouldst have a crown to pull 1665 J Wilson, Proectors, V, I’ve a crow to pluckle w’ye 1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict, s v “Crow” 1841 Dickens, Barn Rudge, ch viii, Tell him that whenever he comes here I have a crow to pluckle with him 1865 N & Q, 3rd ser, vi 104, ‘I’ve a crow to pluckle with you, and a poke to put the feathers in, is I think the usual North country proverb, the poke for the feathers being rather an important part of the threat, judging from the stress the speaker lays upon it
10 To make the crow a pudding c 1598 Deloney, Gentle Craft, Pt II ch iii, Pluck up a good heart woman, let no man say thou gauest the crow a pudding because loute would let thee live no longer 1599 Shakespeare, Henry V, II 1, By my troth he’ll yield the crow a pudding one of these days 1767 Hall-Stevenson, Works, i 208 (1795), But if he drops him, down he goes And makes a pudding for the crows 1889 Folk-Lore Journal, vii 292, Derby He’s nowt good-for till he gies crows a pudding [is dead]
11 To say the crow is white 1528
More, Works, p. 207, col. i (1557), As he that would say the crowe were white. 1579: Marr. of Wit and Wisdom, sc. i., p. 10 (Sh. S.), Say as she sayeth, although that she Doe say the crowe is white. 1640: in Somers Tracts, vi. 52 (1811), If they say the crowe is white, so must the soullder.

12. To strut like a crow in a gutter. 1579: Fulke, Confut. Sanders, 675 (O.), He triumpheth like a crow in a gutter. 1690: New Dict. Canting Crew, sig. D4, Strut like a crow in a gutter, said in jeer of the stalking of a proud fellow. Before 1729: in Roxb. Ballads, viii. 812 (B.S.), I used for to vaunt, as if I would fly, And strut like a crow in a gutter. 1680: Spurgeon, Ploughman’s Pictures, 48, He struts like a crow in a gutter, and thinks himself cock of the walk.

13. When the crow begins to build then sheepe begin to yeald. Glos. 1639: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 31 (1885).

See also Black, adj. (6); Hungry as a June crow; Like crow; March (20) and (42); No carrion; and Safe as a crow.

Crowd. See quotes. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, ii. 268 (1840), All the carts that come to Crowdland are shod with silver. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. “Lincs” [as in 1662]. 1865: W. White, Eastern England, i. 281, “Every cart that comes to Crowdland is shod with silver” is a saying that carries us back to days when there was no gravel.

Crown. 1. A crown in pocket doth your credit more than an angel spent. 1732: Fuller, No. 63.

2. From the crown of the head to the sole of the foot. [Usque ab unguiculo ad capillum summum.—Plautus, Epid., 623.] c. 1300: Hauclok, l. 1847 (E.E.T.S.), Fro the crowne til the to. 1468: Coventry Myst., 241 (Sh. S.), firo the soul of the foot to the hyest ascension. 1547: Borde, Breve. of Hellhe, fo. vi., Which may be fro the crowne of the heede to the heede of the sole of the foote. 1599: Shakespeare, Much Ado, III. ii. 1607: Chester Plays, x. 439 (E.E.T.S.), From the crowne of the head to the right toe I leave no wholl fell. 1741: Arbuthnot, Mart. Scriblerus, bk. i. ch. viii., From the crown of my head to the sole of my foot, I shall ever acknowledge myself your worship’s humble servant. 1857: Dickens, Dorrit, bk. ii. ch. xxxiii., Mr. Merdle was found out from the crown of his head to the sole of his foot the moment he was found out in his pocket.

Crowson’s mare. See quot. 1841. Hartshorne, Salopia Ant., 381, Here a comes, limping along like owd Crowson’s mare. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 593 [as in 1841].

Crowned, You look as if you were. 1678: Ray, 237.

Cruelty is a tyrant that’s always attended with fear. 1670: Ray, 6. 1732: Fuller, No. 1213. c. 1800: Trusler, Prov. in Verse, 103.

Cruelty is God’s enemy, A man of. 1732: Fuller, No. 303.

Crumb not your bread before you taste your porridge. 1594: A. Copley, Wits, Fis, etc., 116 (1614), Taste your pottage before you crumb in your bread. c. 1630: B. & R., Monsieur Thomas, IV. iv. Crumbs. See Pick up.

Crusty. See quotes. 1592: Lyly, Mother Bombie, III. iii., You need not bee crustie, you are not so hard backt [baked]. 1678: Ray, 237 [as in 1592]. Ibid., 352, She is as croustie as that is hard bak’d. Somerset.

Cry. 1. Cry you mercy killed my cat. 1639: Clarke, 281. 1670: Ray, 68.

2. I cry you mercy I killed your cushion. 1530: Palsgrave, 501, I cry you mercy, I kyll your cussheyn. 1592: Lyly, Mother Bombie, IV. ii.


4. To cry notch. See Notch.

5. To cry out before one is hurt. 1548: in Relig. Antiquae, ii. 16 (1843), Ye may the better understand that I cry not before I am pricked. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Anguille,” Such as . . . crye before their paine approach them. 1818: Byron, Don Juan, can i. st. 207, They will not cry out before they’re
hurt 1848 Dickens, Dombev, ch xcv.
My lad don't you sing out afore you're hurt

6 To cry over spilt milk In the first quotation the proverb is in solution 1484 Caxton, Esope, etc., ii 270 (Jacobs), The thyrld [doctrine] is that thou take no sorrowe of the thynge lost whiche may not be recovered 1681 Yarranton, Englands Improvement, Pt II, p 107, Sir, there is no crying for shed milk that which is past cannot he recall'd 1741 True Anti-Pamela, 131, Well, my dear, said I, it is need less crying over shed milk c 1890 Gilbert, Foggarty's Fairy, I, However, it's no use crying over spilt milk 1923 J S Fletcher, The Diamonds, ch xxvii., She was one of those women who do not believe in crying over spilled milk

7 To cry roast meat See Roast meat (3)

8 To cry whores 1676 A Behn, Town Fop, IV iii., She cries whore first, brings him upon his knees for her fault, and a piece of plate, or a new petticoat, makes his peace again 1738 Swift, Polite Convers., Dial I, Nay, miss, you cried whore first, when you talked of the knapsack

9 To cry with one eye and laugh with the other c 1500 quoted in Collier's Bibliogr Cat., ii 482, Full harde it is to fynde a woman stedfast, For yf one eye wepe, the other dothe contrary 1667 L'Estrange, Quevedo's Visions, 106 (1904) One of them I saw crying with one eye and laughing with t'other 1732 Fuller, No 4737, The rich widow cries with one eye and laughs with the other

Cuckold 1 A discontented cuckold has not wit 1612 Cornucopiea, 92 (Grosart), Well doth their folly this old saying fit A male-contented cuckold hath no wit

2 Cuckolds are Christians 1678 Ray, 69 1732 Fuller, No 1215, Cuckolds are Christians all the world over

3 Cuckolds are going to heaven 1659 Howell 12, In rain and sunshine cuckolds go to heaven 1670 Ray, 6

[as in 1659] 1681 Otway, Soldier's Fortune, IV 1, For all cuckolds go to Heaven, that's most certain 1699 Farquhar, Love and a Bottle, V 1 1870 N & Q, 4th ser., v 366, In the West of England it was in my childhood, and probably is still, a saying when the sun shines, and it rains at the same time that the "Cuckolds are going to heaven"

4 Cuckolds are kind 1620 West for Sinelts, 40 (Percy S.), Which made her to beleive that the proverb is true (cuckolds are kinde men) 1696 Mrs Manley, Lost Lover, V 1, Vain hopes of having the proverb of your side, That cuckolds are kind to those who make them so

5 If a cuckold come he'll take away the meat 1678 Ray, 69, viz If there be no salt on the table 1738 Swift, Polite Convers., Dial II, Here's no salt, cuckolds will run away with the meat Cf No 9

6 It is better to be a cuckold and not know it, than be none, and everybody say 1659 Howell, Proverbs Span.-Eng., 14, Better to be a cuckold and none know it, then to be none and yet to be thought so 1732 Fuller, No 871

7 Let every cuckold wear his own horns 1659 Howell, 3 1670 Ray, 6 1762 Smollett, Sir L Greaves, ch xiv., Growling within himself, that theuceforward he should let every cuckold wear his own horns

8 The cuckold is the last that knows of it 1665 Camden, Remains, 332 (1870) 1693 Dryden, Juvenal, S.t. x 1 528, For cuckolds hear the last 1758-67 Sterne, Trist Shandy, ix 4, It is with love as with cuckoldom, the suffering party is generally the last who knows anything about the matter

9 Think of a cuckold 1709 Brit Apollo, vol ii No 59, col 3, 0 When a person is poynting a piece of meat, if he finds it difficult to poynt, he is had to think of a cuckold. I desire to know whence the proverb A Thomas Webb, a carver to a Lord Mayor of London in King Charles the First's reign, was as famous for his being a cuckold as for
his dexterity in carving; therefore what became a proverb was used first as an invocation, when any took upon him to carve. Cf. No. 5.

10. To be a cuckold and know it not, is no more than to drink with a fly in the cup and see it not. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 284 (Arber), To weare a horne and not knowe it, will do me no more harme then to eate a flye, and not see it. 1593: Tell-Trothes N. Years Gift, 20 (N. Sh. S.). 1732: Fuller, No. 5250 [as in 1580].


See also Company (1); and To-day a man.

Cuckoo. 1. A cuckoo for one! An expression of contempt or derision. 1633: Rowley, Match at Midnight, V., You, a new-fangled fowler, came to show your art i’ th’ dark; but take this truth, you caught in truth a cuckoo for ‘t.


5. Cuckoo oats and woodcock hay, Make a farmer run away. 1864: N. & Q., 3rd ser., v. 394. 1891: ibid., 7th ser., xii. 486 [with “Michaelmas” for “woodcock” — Stafis]. 1893: G. L. Gower, Gloss. of Surrey Words, 12 (E.D.S.), Cuckoo oats are late-sown oats, and are never supposed to yield much. “There’ll be nothing but cuckoo oats this year,” said a man in the wet spring of 1889.


7. If the cuckoo sings when the hedge is brown, Sell th’ hors’ and buy th’ corn. Welsh [You will not be able to afford horse corn]. If the cuckoo sings when the hedge is green, Keep th’ hors’ and sell th’ corn. Salop [It will be so plentiful that you will have enough and to spare]. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 136.

8. In April, come he will; In May, he sings all day; In June he alters his tune; In July, he prepares to fly; In August, go he must; If he stay till September, ’Tis as much as the oldest man can ever remember. Ibid., 24.

9. In April, cuckoo sings her lay; In May, she sings both night and day; In June, she loses her sweet strain; In July, she flies off again. N. Yorks. Ibid., 25.

10. In April the cuckoo can sing her song by rote; In June, out of tune, she cannot sing a note. 1562: Heywood, Epigr., 6th Hund., No. 95.

11. In April the cuckoo shows his bill; In May he sings both night and day; In June he alters his tune; In July away he’ll fly; In August go he must. 1838: Mrs. Bray, Trad. of Devon, i. 326 [slightly varied]. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 42 (Percy S.). 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 25 [slightly varied].


13. March he sits upon his perch; April he soundeth his bell; May he sings both night and day; June he alters his tune, And July — away to fly. Derby. 1869: N. & Q., 4th ser., iii. 94.

14. On the third of April Comes in the cuckoo and nightingale. 1879: J. Hardy, in Folk-Lore Record, ii. 54. It is a popular saw that . . .

15. The cuckoo comes in April, Sings a song in May; Then in June another tune, And then she flies away. Gos.
128

Cuckoo

1878 Dyer, Eng Folk-Lore 56 1869 Hazlitt, 363, 'The cuckoo comes in Aperill, and stays the month of May, sings a song at Midsummer, and then goes away.' Wilts

16 The cuckoo comes of mid March, And cucks of mid Aperill And gaunns away of Midsummer month, When the corn begins to fall 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 38 (Percy S) 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 20 [with "Lammas-tide" for 'Midsummer month']

17 The cuckoo goes to Beauches Fair to buy him a pettcoat 1863 Wise, New Forest, ch xvi, "The cuckoo," referring to the arrival of the cuckoo about the 15th of April

18 The cuckoo singeth all the year 1541 Sch House of Women, 1 321, All but that few men doo him hear, The cuckoo singeth all the year

19 The cuckoo sings in April, The cuckoo sings in May, The cuckoo sings at Midsummer, But not upon the day 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 222

20 The first cock of hay Frights the cuckoo away 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 52 (Percy S) 1879 Folk-Lore Record, u 50 1924 Folk-Lore, xxxv 358

21 Turn your money when you hear the cuckoo, and you'll never be without it during the year 1879 Folk-Lore Record, u 90 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 219

22 When the cuckoo comes to the bare thorn, Sell your cow and buy you corn But when she comes to the full bit, Sell your corn and buy you sheep 1659 Howell, 16, When the cuckow sitteth on a dry thorn, Sell thy cow, and sow thy corn 1670 Ray, 43 1825 Hone, Ev Day Book, 1 669 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 6

23 When the cuckoo has pecked up the dirt=Spring 1850 Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 430 I will come when the cuckoo, etc 1893 J Salisbury S E Wores Gloss, 75, In April it is said that the cuckoo comes and picks up all the dirt 1904 Co Folk-Lore Northumb, 176 (F L S)

24 When the cuckoo (see quot) 1879 J Hardy, in Folk-Lore Record, II 58, "When the cuckoo puts its feathers the housewife should become chary of her eggs," is a popular saying in many parts of the country

25 You are like a cuckoo, you have but one song c 1430 Lydgate, Minor Poems, 192 (Percy S), The cokkowe syng can than but oon lay c 1535 Dialogues of Creatures, C (1816), Many folkes synge allwaye oon songe lyke the cuckowe 1630 T Adams, Works 219, He is like the cuckoe, alwayes in one tune 1681 W Robertson Phraseol Generalis 12, To be still cuckow, or to have always the same song 1732 Fuller No 5850 1899 Dickinson Cumberland Gloss, 144, Ye breed o the gowk, ye've nae rhyme but ane

See also Naked, Nightungale, Ragged, Weirling, and Welsh ambassador

Cuckstone See quot 1735 Pegge, Kent Proverbs, in E D S, No 12, p 69, If you would goe to a church mis-went, You must go to Cuckstone in Knt 1849 Halliwell, Pop Rhymes, etc, 193

Cumbumbers See quot 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial II, Madam, I dare not touch it for they say cucumbers are cold in the third degree See also Cool (2)

Culmstock Fair See quot 1886 Elworthy, West Som Word-Book, 191 (E D S), Till Culmstock Fair be come and gone, There mid be apples, and mid be none Cf Devil (43)

Cumberland Jwohny A satirical appellation for a Cumberland man 1846-59 Denham Tracts, I 166 (F L S)

Cumberland See Shrewsbury

Cunning as a dead pig 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial III

Cunning as Captain Drake 1678 Ray, 353

Cunning as Craddock 1678 Ray, 280 1846-59 Denham Tracts, I 45 (F L S), As cunning as a crafty Craddock [It is suggested that the saying refers to John Craddock, vicar of Gamford, 1594, who was a high commissioner for Durham, and J P, etc He is alleged to have taken bribes and to have been guilty of other underhand practices]

Cunning as crowder 1754 Gent
Cunning

Mag., 211, One saying we have in the Northern parts...as cunning as Crowder...and a crowder is a fiddler. 1841: Hartshorne, Salopia Ant., 381. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 594.

Cunning. See Fox (4).

Cunning is no burden. 1539: Taverner, Proverbs, fo. 22, Cumnyng(e) (they say) is no burthen, 1573: G. Harvey, Letter-Book, 121 (Camden S.). 1642: Fuller, Holy State: "The True Gentleman," He knows well that cunning is no burthen to carry, 1732: Fuller, No. 4182, Skill is no burthen.

Cup. 1. A cup in the plate is a mile in the gait. 1694: Motteux, Rabelais, bk. iv. ch. lxv. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II. c. 1791: Pegge, Derbicsims, 135 (E.D.S.) [with "pot" for "cup"].

2. As merry as cup and can. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. iii., Mery we were as cup and can could holde. 1577: Misogonus, II. ii., The mery man, with cupp and cann. 1610: Rowlands, Martin Mark-all, 49 (Hunt. Cl.), Where they, as merry as pot and can passe their time in villany and robbery. 1678: Ray, 287.

3. He has got a cup too much. 1678: Ray, 87.

4. There's many a slip between cup and hlp. [Saepe audivi inter os atque offam multa intervenire posse.—M. Cato, in Gallius, xiii. 17.] 1539: Taverner, Proverbs, fo. 15, Many thynge fall betwene the cuppe and the mouth. 1576: Lambarde, Peramb. of Kent, 422 (1826), Even as many things happen (according to the proverbe) betwene the cup and the lippe. 1633: Jonson, Tale of a Tub, III. iv., Many things fall betwene the cupp and lip. 1712: Arbuthnot, Law a Boll. Pit, Pt. III. App. ch. iii., Many things happen betwene the cup and the lip. 1769: Colman, Man and Wife, III. [as in 1712]. 1840: Barham, Ing. Legends: "Lady Rohesia," There's many a slip 'Twixt the cup and the lip. 1922: Weyman, Ovington's Bank, ch. vii.

5. To be cup and can=To be "pals." 1690: New Dict. Canting Crew, sig. C3, As great as cup and can. 1712: Ward, Poet. Entertainer, No. 2, p. 18, Who was as great as cup and kan With the new-marry'd gentleman. 1788: O'Keefe, Tantara-rara, I. i., My colonel and he are as great as cup and can.

6. When the cup is fullest, then carry it most carefully. c. 1320: in Reliq. Antiquae, i. 112 (1841), "When the coppe is follest, thenne ber hire feyrest," Quoth Hendyng. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Cup," When the cup's full carry it even.

See also Such cup.

Curdly sky will not leave the earth long dry, A; or, will not be twenty-four hours dry. [1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Curdled," A curdled sky and a painted woman are not of long duration.] 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 94.

Cure. See Remedy.

Cured. I. I have cur'd her from laying [sic] in the hedge, quoth the good-man when he had wed his daughter. 1678: Ray, 56. 1732: Fuller, No. 2694.

2. What can't be cured must be endured. 1377: Langland, Plowman, B, x. 439, For qunt OPORTET uent en place sy ny ad quie Pati. c. 1460: How the Goode Wyfe, Thynge that may be tyde is for to dowre, my lere childe. 1579: Spenser, Shep. Cal., Sept., ii. 150-2, Better it were, a little to faigne, And cleyly couer that cannot be cured, Such ill, as is forced, mought needes be endured. 1639: Massinger, Unnat. Combat, II. i., What's past help, is Beyond prevention. 1706: Ward, Hudibras Rediv., Pt. IX. can. xiv, p. 5, 'Tis our prudence to endure With patience what we cannot cure. 1771: Smollett, Clinker, in Works, iii. 191 (1817). 1837: Dickens, Pickwick, ch. xlviii., What was over couldn't be begun, and what couldn't be cured must be endured. 1851: Borrow, Lavengro, ii. 54.

Curiosity is endless, restless, and useless, and Curiosity is ill manners in another's house. 1732: Fuller, Nos 1219 and 1720.

Curlew. See quotes. 1806: N. & Q., 3rd ser., x. 235, A curlew lean, or a curlew fat, Carries twelve pence upon his back, as they say in North Lincoln-
Curses 130

Cut

Custom is second nature c 1390
Gower, Conf. Amantis, bk vi 1 664.
For m phisique this I finde, Usage is the seconde kinde 1422 J Yonge,
Tr of Goet of Princes, 238 (E E T S),
For as yppocrat sayth 'costome is the seconde nature or kynde' 1558
Bullein, Goet of Health, fo 98, Custome
is like vnto another nature 1607
Marston, What You Will, II 1712
Addison, Spectator No 447 1774
C Dabdn, Quaker, II in 1877 Scott,
Rob Roy, ch v, Habit has become a second nature 1864 Mrs H Wood,
Trevlyn Hold, ch xxiv, Habit and use,
Custom makes all things easy c 1598 Deloney, Gentle Craft, Pt II
ch vi, Labour by custome becommeth easy c 1660 L'Estrange, Seneca
Epistles, x, There is nothing so hard,
but custome makes it easie to us 1703
T Baker, Tunbridge Walks, II, Custom
makes every thing familiar 1732
Fuller, No 1225
Custom without reason is but ancient error 1647 Countrym New Common-
wealth, 29, Custome (though never so ancient) without truth, is but an old,
error 1732 Fuller, No 1226
Cut, verb I Cut and come again 1738 Swift, Polie Convers, Dial II,
I vow, 'tis a noble sirlom, Neverout
A3, here's cut and come again 1772
Garlick, Irish Widow, I 2, Give me a slice of a good English sirlom, cut and
come again 1848 in Marchant, Praise
of Ale, 418 (1888). For the boys that
can cut and come again Must quaff
whole butts of ale
2 Cut and long last See Tag, rag, etc
3 Cut down an oak See Oak (1)
and (4)
4 Cut loof See Shive
5 Cut not the bough See quot
1528 Tyndale, Obed of Christian Men
304 (P S), ' Cut not the bough that
you standest upon'' whose literal
sense is, ''Oppress not the commons''
6 Cut off the head and last and throw
the rest away 1678 Ray, 346 1732
Fuller, No 1227
7 Cut or give me the bill 1732
Fuller, No 1228

Shire [Variant at same reference.] Be
it lean, or be it fat, It bears tenence on
its back 1886 Swainson, Folk-Lore
of Brit Birds, 201 (F L S), Be she
white or be she black, The curlew has
tenence on her back (Lincolnshire).

Curses come home to roost c 1275
Prov of Alfred, A 84. Everyches
monnes dom to his owene dure churreth
(Every man's judgment returns to his
own door) c 1386 Chaucer, Parson's
Tale, 41, And ofte tyne swich cursinge
wrongfully returneth again to him that
curseth, as a brid that returneth again
to his owene nest 1816 Scott, Old
Mortality, ch xiii I have heard a good
man say, that a curse was like a stone
flung up to the heavens, and maist like
to return on the head that sent it
1894. Northall, Folk Phrases, 12
(E D S), Curses, like chickens, come
home to roost

Cursing the weather is bad farming
1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 46
Curst cow See Cow (10)
Curst cur must be tied short, A
1605 Camden, Remains, 317 (1870)
(with "dog" for "cur") 1760 Ray,
76 1732 Fuller, No 65 [with
"should" for "must"]

Curtain lectures [Semper habitat lites
alternaque jurgia lectus In quo nupta
iacet minimum dormituir in illo—
Juvenal, Sat, vi 267-8] 1638 A
Curtaine Lecture as it is read by a
Country Farmer's Wife to her Good
Man, etc [title] 1649 Quarles, Virgin
Widow, II, For which I have had
already two curtain-lectures, and a
black and blue eye 1717 Pope, Wife
of Bath, 165, Or curtain-lectures made
a restless night 1821 Combe, Syntax
in Search of Wife can xxxiv, p 19,
Yes, she may toss her head and hector,
But she shall have a curtain lecture
1846 Jerrold, Mrs Caudle's Curtain
Lectures [title]

Cushions See quot I can't identify
the proverb to which allusion is made
1609 Rowlands, Whole Crew of Kind
Gossips, 12 (Hunt Cl), Go to (quoth
I) ye are best beat out my hraunes
With cushions now, to make the pro-
uerbe true
8. See quot. 1880: Spurgeon, Ploughman’s Pictures, 36. The old saying is “Don’t cut off your head because it aches.”

9. He has cut his leg— is drunk. 1678: Ray, 87.

10. To be cut for the simples. 1650: in Simpson, Documents St Paul’s, 148 (Camen S.), The witty of Pauls, or a catalogue of those book-sellers apprentices . . . which are to be cut of the simples the next spring. 1690: New Dict. Canting Crew, sig. Lz. He must be cut of the simples, Care must be taken to cure him of his folly. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I. Indeed, Mr. Neverout, you should be cut for the simples. 1881: Evans, Leics. Words, 239 (E.D.S), “A’d ought to be coot for the simples”; a phrase implying that the person spoken of is a fool. Cf. Battersea.

11. To cut broad (or large) thongs of another's leather. c. 1320: in Reliq. Antiquae, i. 114 (1841), “Ofun-bothhude men kerveth brod thong,” Quoth Hendyng. 1484: Caxton, Æsop, ii. 220 (Jacobs), Ne also it is not honeste to make large thongs of other mennes leder. 1595: Marcusextaticus, 8 (Percy S.), To cut such large thongs of another mans lether. 1667: L’Éstrange, Quevedo’s Visions, 8 (1904), Those that were in for detraction and calumny, and for cutting large thongs out of other men’s leather. 1721: Bailey, Eng. Dict., s.v. “Thong.” 1853: Trench, Proverbs, 100 (1905), On the comparative wastefulness where-with that which is another’s is too often used: Men cut broad thongs from other men’s leather.

12. To cut large shives of another’s loaf. 1630: Tinker of Tunrey, 31 (Halliwell). By this, the prior perceived that the scull [scullion] had cut a shive [slice] on his loafe. 1670: Ray, 162.

13. To cut off one’s nose to spite one’s face. [Stultum est vicinum velle uliscii incendio.—Publ. Syr., 611. Henri iv conçut fort bien que détruire Paris, c’étoit, comme on dit, se couper le nez pour faire dépit à son visage.—c. 1658: Tallemant des Réaux, Historiettes, i. 17

1834.] 1839: R. L. S., Ballantrae, ch. x, He was in that humour when a man—in the words of the old adage—will cut off his nose to spite his face. 1924: Times, 20 Nov., p. 13, col 1, Continual harassing of the railways, in payment for real or fancied grievances, is much like cutting off one’s nose to spite one’s face.

14. To cut one’s coat according to one’s cloth. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. viii., I shall Cut my cote after my cloth when I have her. 1594: Nashe, Unfor. Trav., in Works, v. 54 (Grosart), They must shape their cotes good men according to their cloth. 1669: Dryden, Wild Gallant, I. ii., I love your wit well, sir; but I must Cut my coat according to my cloth. 1720: C. Shadwell, Sham Prince, II. i., I am a plain dealing man, and am fain to Cut my coate according to my cloth. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xii. 1926: Inge, Lay Thoughts, 187, We must Cut our coat according to our cloth and adapt ourselves to changing circumstances.

15. To cut one’s comb. 1542: Becon, in Early Works, 205 (P.S.), This shall pluck down your comb, as they use to say. 1548: Hall, Chron., 17 (1809), My life stood in jeopardy and my comb was delyer cut. 1584: R. Scot, Witchcraft, bk. viii. ch. iii., Since the preaching thereof their combs are cut, and few that are wise regard them. 1642: D. Rogers, Matrim. Honour, 45, God cuts their comb, fits their new hopes with new sorrow. 1826: Scott, Journal, 13 May, Malachi might clap his wings upon this, but, alas! domestic anxiety has Cut his comb.

16. To cut one’s thong according to one’s leather. 1637: R. Whitford, Werke for Housholders, sig. F5, Than (after the commune proverbe) cute your thong after or accordynge vont to your ledder.

17. To cut the grass (or ground) from under the feet. 1567: Fenton, Bindello, ii. 10 (T.T.), I find a greater falt in my self in suffring an other to cut the earthe frome under my feete. 1576: Pettie, Petite Pallice, i. 121 (Gollancz), Seeing this young gentleman, as he thought, in
great favour thought the grass had been cut from under his feet 1672
Marvell, Rehearsal Transpr, Pt 1, in Works, ii 195 (Grosart). While you are all this while cutting the grass under his feet, and animating the people against the exercise of his ecclesiastical supremacy 1760 Murphy, Way to keep him, II ii, The grass is cut under my feet if she ever hears a word of it

18 To cut the hair See Split hairs
Cutpurse A cut-purse is a sure trade, for he hath ready money when his work is done 1659 Howell, 8 1670 Ray, 16
Cutting out well is better than sewing up well 1732 Fuller, No 1230
Dacre was slain in North Acre, The Lord—at the Battle of Towton, 1461. 1849: Halliwell, *Pop. Rhymes, etc.*, 200. 1868: *Quart. Review*, cxv. 518, In Saxton churchyard, where is also the tomb of “The Lord of Dacres Slain in the North Acres,” according to the local rhyme.


Daggers drawn, To be at. 1540: Palsgrave, *Acolastus*, sig. Fr, We never mete together, but we be at daggers drawnynge. 1618: Harington, *Epigrams*, bk. i. No. 91, From spightfull words they fell to daggers drawing. 1694: *Tercene made English*, 82, The captain and she were almost at daggers drawing when I left ’em. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. “Dagger,” To be at dagger’s drawing 1840: Dickens, *Curiosity Shop*, ch. vii., The old man and I will remain at daggers-drawn to the end of our lives. 1867: Mrs. H. Wood, *Life’s Secret*, Pt. I. ch. ii., I am sure there’s no love lost between him and me; we should be at daggers drawn.

Daily cost, and all of it lost, There’s a. 1855: Bohn, 524.


Daisies. See *Spring* (8).


Dalmanazar, As bright as. 1880: Courtney, *W. Cornwall Words*, xiii. (E.D.S.).

Dalton bell-rope, Like. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, i. 86 (F.L.S.), Like Dalton bell-rope. That is, a deed half-done. A story is told how, after many vestry meetings holden by the principal inhabitants of this place to take into consideration the propriety of purchasing a new rope for the one bell of their parish church, the churchwardens and ratepayers at last came to the conclusion that the old one should be spliced.

Dam. 1. The dam of that was whisker. Said of a great lie. 1678: Ray, 89.

2. Where the dam leaps over, the kid follows. 1732: Fuller, No. 5662.

Dame Hockaday’s hen, As disconsolate as. Corn. 1869: Hazlitt, 61.


2. He’ll dance to nothing but his own pipe. 1732: Fuller, No. 2423.

3. If you dance you must pay the fiddler. 1681: in *Roxb. Ballads*, v. 67 (B.S.).

4. I’ll make him dance without a pipe. =I’ll do him an injury, and he shall not know how. 1678: Ray, 71. 1732: Fuller, No. 2039.

5. They who dance are thought mad by those who hear not the music. Spoken
of as an "old proverb" 1927 Times, 16 Feb., p 15, col 4

6 To dance as another ypyre c 1480
Early Miscellanies, 25 (Warton Cl., 1855), I wyll dance wythle the world wyll ypyre 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, 
Pt II ch x1, Whan fooles ypyre, by authorite be maie daunce 1593
Giffard, Dial on Witches, etc, 65 (Percy S) Ignorant people, which are 
ready to beleve all that he telleth, and 
to dance after his pipe 1642 D
Rogers, Matron Honour, 357, If they 
move must not all inferior ones dance 
after their pipe.

7 To dance attendance on one Before 
1529 Skeltan, Why come ye not, 
II 625-6, And syr ye must daunce 
to attendance and take patient suf- 
1594 Shakespeare, Rich III, 
III vii, Welcome my lord I dance 
to attendance here 1645 Howell, Letters, 
bk 1 § 111 No xiii, Going one morning to speak 
with the Duke, and having 
dance attendance a long time 1742
Fielding, Andreas, bk II ch xvii, The 
man hath danced attendance for about 
a month 1923 Lucas, Advisory Ben, 
§ vi p 24, The young men were 
dancing attendance upon creatures 
more capricious

8 To dance Barnaby 1664 Cotton, 
Scarronides, bk 1 1 169, Bounce, enes 
the port-hole, out they fly, And make 
the world dance Barnaby 1727 in 
Roxb Ballades, vii 270 (B S), Speak, 
and we'll let your thunder fly, And make 
the world dance Barnaby

9 To dance in a net 1532 More,
Confut of Tyndale, ccxiv, I go so bare 
dawsyng maked in a net 1587
Greene, in Works, vi 181 (Grosoart), At 
last being Venus scholler, and therefore 
daring with hir to dance in a net 1605
Chapman, All Fools, II, Think not you 
dance in nets [think not you are un- 
dected] 1670 Ray, 6 1821 Scott, 
Kensworth, ch iv, Thou canst not 
dance in a net, and they not see thee

to To dance to every man's pipe 
(or whistle) 1670 Ray, 170 1732
Fuller, No 2644, I will not dance to 
every fool's pipe 1880 Spurgeon, 
Ploughman's Pictures, 25, If we dance 
to every fiddle we shall soon be lame 
in both legs

11 When you go to dance, take heed 
whom you take by the hand 1639
Clarke, 24 1670 Ray, 77 1732
Fuller, No 5614

12 You'll dance at the end of a rope 
without teaching 1732 Fuller, No 6022

13 You will neither dance nor hold 
the candle Ibid, No 6013

Dancing bear As many tricks (antics, 
e a) as a dancing bear 1670 Ray, 
163, He hath as many tricks as a 
dancing bear 1732 Fuller, No 1862
[as in 1670] 1738 Swift, Polite 
Convers, Dial I, I wish you would be 
quiet, you have more tricks than a 
dancing bear 1886 Elworthy, West 
Sane Word-Book, 374 (E D S), He has 
got more antics than a dancing bear 
This is one of the commonest of sayings 1804
Northall, Folk Phrases, 8
(E D S), As full of megrums as a 
dancing bear

Dancing days are done, His (or My) 
1658 Flecknoe, Enigm Characters, 60, 
His dancing days are never done 
1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I, 
I doubt her dancing days are over 
1816 Austen, Emma, ch xxxviii, My 
dancing days are over

Dancing They love dancing well 
that dance among thorns 1639 Clarke, 
326 1670 Ray, 77 1732 Fuller, 
No 4956 [with "barefoot upon thorns" 
instead of "among thorns"]

Danger and Dangers I A danger 
foreseen is half avoided 1658 R 
Franck, Northern Memoirs, 95 (1821), 
Dangers foreseen are the sooner pre- 
vented 1732 Fuller, No 67

2 Better pass a danger once, than be 
always in fear 1670 Ray, 9

3 Danger and delight grow on one 
stock 1580 Lyly, Euphues, 226 
(Arber) [with "stake" for "stock"]
1732 Fuller, No 1231

4 Danger is next neighbour to security 
Ibid, No 1233

5 Dangers are overcome by dangers 
1651 Herbert, Jace Prudentium, 2nd ed
Danger itself the best remedy to 
danger 1732 Fuller, No 1232

6 He that fears danger in tim
Dare

seldom feels it. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Asseur," He that fears, is assured. 1732: Fuller, No. 2099.

7. The danger past God is forgotten. 1670: Ray, 6, The danger past and God forgotten. 1732: Fuller, No. 1234.

Dare not for his (or my) ears, He (or I). 1607: Topsell, Serpents, 640 (O.), The young not daring for their ears to break into their fathers lands. 1678: Ray, 240 (He). 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Ears" (I).

Dark as a wolf's mouth. 1823: Scott, St. Ronan's, ch. xxxvi. 1828: Scott, Fair Maid, ch. xxiv., The moon is quite obscured, and the road as black as a wolf's mouth. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lancs Sayings, I. As dark as a fox's meawth. 1926: Phillpotts, Peacock House, 222, 'Twas blowing and raining that night and dark as a wolf's mouth.

Dark as a Yule (or Martinmas) midnight. 1814: Scott, Waverley, ch. xviii., He may look as black as midnight at Martinmas. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 62 (Percy S.), As dark as a Yule midnight. 1904: Co. Folk-Lore: Northumb., 179 (F.L.S.) [as in 1846].

Dark as black hogs. 1869: Fitz-Gerald, Sea Words and Phrases, 2.

Dark as Newgate knocker. See Newgate.

Dark (or Black) as pitch. c. 1300: in Vernon MS., 354 (E.E.T.S.), As blac as eny pich he was. c. 1380: Sir Ferumbras, 81 (E.E.T.S.), Than lat he thar so blac so pych. 1485: Caxton, Charles the Grete, 165 (E.E.T.S.), He is as blace as pytech boyled. 1598: R. Tofte, Alba, 39 (Grosart), And darke as pitch shall shew the glistening sunne. 1666: Pepys, Diary, 18 Jan., Got home well by coach, though as dark as pitch. 1714: Ozell, Molière, iii. 217, 'Tis as dark as pitch. 1824: Scott, Redgauntlet, ch. xvi., All the windows were dark as pitch. 1890: P. H. Emerson, Wild Life, 42, The wind roared . . . It was as dark as pitch.

Dark as the devil's mouth. 1826: Scott, Woodstock, ch. xii., It is dark as the devil's mouth.

Dark. See also Black.

Dare

Darkest hour is before the dawn, The. 1650: Fuller, Pisgah Sight, bk. ii. ch. xi., It is always darkest just before the dayuseth. 1889: R. L. S., Letters, iii. 245 (Tusitala ed.), It is always darkest before dawn. 1912: Lucas, London Law,. ch. xvi., I'll pull this round safe enough. Things look blackest before the dawn, don't you know.

Darlington. i. Darnton, where the wind once blew a dog's tongue out. 1846–59: Denham Tracts, i. 80 (F.L.S.).


3. To take Darnton Trod, or May take Darnton Trod. Ibid., i. 78.

Darnell for dim sight. 1597: Gerarde, Herbal, Darnell hhursth the eyes and maketh them dim . . . and hereupon it seemeth that the old praverbe came, that such as are dim-sighted should be said to eate of darnell. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 49 [spelt "Darnall" and referred to Cheshire village of Darnhall].

Darnford's dog. See Dainport's dog. Darnton. See Darlington.


Dartford. See Sutton.


Daughter. i. Daughters and dear fish are no keeping wares. 1732: Fuller, No. 1235.

2. He that would the daughter win, Must with the mother first begin. 1670: Ray, 49. 1732: Fuller, No. 6266.
3 When the daughter is stolen, shut Pepper-gate 1662 Fuller, Worthies, 1 291 (1840) 1790 Grose, Prov
Gloss, s v "Cheshire" 1825 Hone, Ev Day Book, 1 430 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 49
Davenham steeped the centre of Cheshire within three barley-corns 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 49
Davenports See Cheshire (7)
Davie Debet = Debt personified, or a ballad 1575 Gascoigne, Posies, in Works, 1 65 (Cunhffe), Till Davie Debet in thyr parly stand 1583 Melbancke, Philotinus, sig Q, Davie debit stode watching with a mace at the door
Dawes Cross 1579 Marr of Wit and Wisdom, 28 (Sh S), Hold heart thou shalt not lease all thy pursel shall not come home weeping for lose, and as for the, thou shalt be committ to Dawes crosse 1583 Melbancke, Philotinus, sig Y, You may sooner be doctors at Dawes crosse 1596 Nash, Haue with you, in Works, 11 16 (Grosart), To grant them their absolute graces, to commence at Dawes Crosse
Daws See Norwich
Day 1 A day after Doomsday = Greek kalends 1540 Palsgrave, Acoslasus, sig VI, At the Greekish calenides or a daye after domesday
2 A day to come shows longer than a year that's gone 1732 Fuller, No 68
3 As the day lengthens so the cold strengthens 1639 in Berkeley MSS, in 30 (1885), When the dates begin to lengthen the cold begins to strength 1646 Browne, Pseudo Ep, bk IV ch xiii, We observe the cold to augment, when the dates begin to increase 1732 Fuller, No 6140 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 11 See also New Year
4 As the days begin to shorten, The heat begins to scorche them 1893 Inwards, 8
5 As the days grow longer, The storms grow stronger 1827 Hone, Table-Book, 667 1893 Inwards, 7
6 Be the day never so long, at length cometh even-song c 1390 Gower, Conf Amantis, bk vi 1 578, Bot hou so that the day be long, The derke nyht comith at laste 1555 Hawes, Past of Pleasure, 207 (Percy S), For though the day be never so longe, At last the belles ringeth to evensong 1563 Fove, Actes, etc, vii 346 (1828), His saying was that, although the day was never so long, yet at the last it ringeth to evensong 1670 Ray, 7 1732 Fuller, No 6132
7 Day and night sun and moon, air and light every one must have, and none can buy 1732 Fuller, No 1237 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 5 (Percy S)
8 No day passeth without some grief 1570 Ray, 6
9 The day is short and the work is long c 1400 Beryn, I 3631 (E E T S)
10 The day that you do a good thing, there will be seven new moons 1732 Fuller, No 4468
11 'Tis day still while the sun shines 1639 Clarke, 294 1670 Ray, 7
12 To come a day after the fair 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch vii, A daye after the fayre cometh this remors 1596 Nash, Haue with you, in Works, 11 205 (Grosart), A day after the faire when he is hangd Harvey takes him in hand 1676 Etheredge, Man of Mode, III 1, I must confess, madam, you came a day after the fair 1864 Mrs H Wood, Treblyn Hold, ch xxiv, They must make good speed, unless they would be "a day too late for the fair" 1910 H James, Letters, 11 164 (1920) 1913 E M Wright, Rustic Speech, etc, 79, There is an old English proverb He's a fond chapman that comes the day after the fair
13 To see day at a little hole 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch x, I see daye at this little hole e 1598 Deloney, Gentle Craft, Pt II ch n, I perceve you can spie day at a little hole 1691 J Wilson, Belphégor, IV n, Men of my station can see day at a little hole—letters make words, and circumstances things! 1714 Ozell, Moliere, v 153 In love, everything speaks, and in this case daylight is to be spy'd thro' a little hole 1859
Smiles, *Self-Help*, 391 (1869), As daylight can be seen through very small holes, so little things will illustrate a person's character.

14. What a day may bring, a day may take away. 1732: Fuller, No. 5475.


6. As dead as Chelsea. 1823: Egans *Grose's Class. Dict. of Vulgar Tongue*, s.v. "Chelsea," To get Chelsea; to obtain the benefit of [Chelsea] hospital. "Dead Chelsea, by God!" An exclamation uttered by a grenadier at Fontenoy, on having his leg carried away by a cannon ball. [The phrase is not in 1st ed. of Grose, 1785.] 1833: *National Mag.*, quoted in *N. & Q.*, 5th ser., xii. 29, Dead as Chelsea.

7. As dead as ditchwater. See flat as ditchwater.

8. As dead as mutton. c. 1770: Bickerstaffe, *Spoiled Child*, II. ii., Thus let me seize my tender bit of lamb—(aside) there I think I had her as dead as mutton. c. 1816: in Farmer's *Musa Pedestris*, 80, Your Larry will be dead as mutton. 1860: Reade, *Cl. and Heath*, ch. xxiv. 1914: Shaw, "Parents and Children," in *Misalliance*, etc., p. vii., The old Bernard Shaw is as dead as mutton.

9. At a dead lift. 1551: R. Robinson, tr. More's *Utopia*, 76 (Arber), Which they graunte to be not so good as horses at a sodeyne brunte, and (as we saye) at a deade lifte 1614: B. Rich, *Honestie of This Age*, 43 (Percy S.), Shee ... hath ... twenty companions at a becke, that will stick to her at a dead lift. 1640: Shirley, *St. Pat. for Ireland*, IV. ii., They talk of woman's wit at a dead lift. 1712: Motteux, *Quixote*, Pt. I. bk. iii. ch. iv. 1881: Evans, *Leics. Words*, etc., 136 (E.D.S.), A dead-lift is a lift or effort that will raise a weight by sheer strength without the intervention of any artificial means.

10. Dead bee. See *Bee* (2).

11. Dead dog. See *Dog* (25).

12. Dead folks are past fooling. 1732: Fuller, No. 1238.

Dead men tell no tales 1664
J. Wilson, Androm. Commentus, I iv, 'Twere best To knock them t' th' head
The dead can tell no tales 1681
Dryden, Span. Friar, IV i 1795
Mrs Cowley, The Town, I ii, 'The dead do tell no tales' 1860 Reade, Cl and
Heath, ch xxv 1901 W. James, in Letters, ii 154 (1920), We never know
what ends may have been kept from
realization, for the dead tell no tales
15 Dead mice feel no cold 1678
Ray, i 23, A dead mouse feels no cold
1732 Fuller, No 1247
16 He demands tribute of the dead
17 He chastises the dead
18 He paints the dead All three—
1813 Ray, 75
19 It's a sad burden to carry a dead
man's child 1655 Fuller, Church
Hist., bk ii § v (29), Our women have
a proverb, 'It is a sad burden'
1670 Ray, 53 1732 Fuller, No 2873
[with 'for a woman,' after 'burden'][20 Speak not of a dead man at the
table 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum
21 The dead, and only they, should
do nothing 1732 Fuller, No 4469
22 The dead have few friends 1303
Brunne, Handl. Synne, I 6302, For the
dead hath few frendys e 1320 in
Reliq Antiq., ii 116 (1841), 'Frendles
ys the dede,' Quoth Hendyng 1621
Cotgrave, s v 'Am,' The dead have
no friends, the sick but pant ones
Before 1701 Sedley, Ballad, in Works,
1 92 (1737), Justice has hid the world
adieu, And dead men have no friends
23 To get a f—t of a dead man 1546
Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi,
I shall as soon as a faryng of
him 1605 Chapman, etc., Eastw
Hoe, IV i 1611 Cotgrave, s v
"Pet." 1681 W. Robertson, Phrasol
Generals, 471
24 To wait for dead men's shoes
1530 Palsgrave, 644, Thou lookest
after dead mens shoes 1597 Hall,
Satires, bk ii sat v, Or if thee hast
not waite for dead mens sboon
1631 Mabbe, Celestina, 24 (T T), He
that lookes after dead-mens scooes,
may chance to goe harefoote 1714
Ozell, Molerie, iii 194 1757 Murphy,
Upholsterer, I ii, You have very good
pretensions, but then its waiting for
dead mens's shoes 1512 Lucas, Lon-
don Law, ch iv, 'It's all waiting for
dead men's shoes,' Naomi quoted
25 To work for a dead horse 1659
in Hari Miscell., v 299 (1745), I shall
be content to play at any game, but
shall be unwilling to play for a dead
horse 1712 Motteux, Quixote, Pt II,
ch lxixi, It shall never he said of me
that I thought it working for a
dead horse, because I am paid before-
hand 1785 Grose, Class Dict Vulgar
Tongue, s v "Dead Horse," to
work for wages already paid 1853
Cooper, Sussex Provincialisms, 41, To
work out a dead horse is to work out
an old debt 1886 Elwes, West
Som. Word-Book, 256 (E D S), Work
done in redemption of debt is called
working out the dead horse
26 When I am dead make me a
candle 1732 Fuller, No 5558
27 You'll not believe a man is dead,
till you see his brains out 1678 Ray,
67 1732 Fuller, No 6031
Deadly disease neither physician nor
physic can ease, A 1629 Book of
Merry Riddles, Prov 56
Deaf I As deaf as a beetle 1867
N & Q., 3rd ser. xi 34 1876
Leveson-Gower, Surrey Provincialisms,
86 (E D S), That there horse is as deaf
as a beetle 1887 Parsh and Shaw,
Dict of Kent Dialect, 11 (E D S),
Beetle A wooden mallet The
phrase—"as death [deaf] as a beetle,"
refers to this mallet, and is equivalent to
"as deaf as a post" 1923
Folk-Lore xxxiv 329 (Oxfordsh.)
2 As deaf as a door 1599 Breton,
in Works, ii 49 (Grosart), Hee is as
deaf as a doore
3 As deaf as a door-nail 1572 T
Wilson, Disc. upon Usury, 224 (1925),
The userer is as deaf as a doore nail
1589 L. Wright, Display of Duhte, 10
1633 Draxe, 38 1587 Mrs Palmer,
Devonsh. Dialect, 42, As deave [deaf] as
door-nail 1501 F E Taylor, Lancs
Sayings, 25, He's as deaf as a dur
nail
4 As deaf as a haddock 1822 Jago,
Gloss of Cornish Dialect, 151, There is
a term also, "deff as a haddock,"
meaning very deaf. 1886: Elworthy,
West Som. Word-Book, 310 (E.D.S.),
We seldom hear ... any other than
"so deaf's a 'addick."

5. As deaf as a post. 1575: Church-
yard, Chippes, 136 (Collier), I threat
seemde dumme and deafae as post.
1720: Gay, Poems, ii. 280 (Underhill).
Till you grow tender as a chick, I'm
dull as any post. 1777: Sheridan, Sch.
for Scandal, I. i., Who you know is as
deaf as a post. 1849: Brontë, Shirley,
ch. i.

6. As deaf as an adder. 1605:
Chapman, etc., Eastw. Hoe, V. ii., I will
be deaf as an adder. 1618: Minshull,
Essayes, etc., 37 (1627). 1702: T.
Brown, in Works, ii. 246 (1760), I would
rather chuse to be deaf as an adder.
1821: Scott, Pirate, ch. xxviii., As deaf
as the adder to the voice of the charmer.
1839: Dickens, Nickleby, ch. xlvii.

7. Deaf nuts=Nuts without kernels.
[1648: Herrick, Hesp., No. 670, As deaf
as nuts. 1686: G. Stuart, Joco-Serious
Discourse, 42. 'Twou'd vex a man to th'
very guts, To sit seven year cracking
deaf nuts.] (a) No deaf nuts. See
quots. 1808: Scott, in Lockhart's
Life, ii. 231, The appointments of our
historian are £300 a year—no deaf nuts.
1825: Scott, Journal, 5 Dec., I received
... a bill for £750, no deaf nuts. 1868:
Atkinson, Cleveland Gloss., 138, He does
not as look as if he lived upon deaf nuts.
1899: Dickinson, Cumberland Gloss., 95,
"He cracks nea deaf-nuts"—said of
a well-fed person or animal. 1917:
Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 65, He
doesna crack many deaf nuts. (b) To
give a ha'porth of deaf nuts=A worthless
gift. Shropsh. saying. 1917: Bridge,
Cheshire Proverbs, 65.

8. Deaf men are quick-eyed and
distrustful. 1732: Fuller, No. 1242.

9. Deaf men go away with the blame.
1670: Ray, 6 [with "injury" for
"blame "]. 1732: Fuller, No. 1243.

10. None so deaf as those that won't
hear. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II.
ch. ix., Who is so deaf or so blynde, as
is hee That willfully will nothere here nor
see? 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Sourd,"

No man's worse deafe then he that will
not heare. 1714: Ozell, Molière, iii. 91,
'Tis a true saying, that none are so deaf
as those that won't hear. 1869: Spur-
geon, John Plungman, ch. ii. 1005:
E. G. Hayden, Travels round our Village,
268, "He! he!" cackled Joane.
"ther be none sa deaf as them who
wun't hear!"

11. To be deaf of that ear. 1598:
Chamberlain, Letters, 12 (Camden S.),
I fere we are deafe on that side. 1654:
Gayton, Pleasant Notes Don Q., 141,
The Don hearing but of one eare.
1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict.,
s.v. "Deaf," He is deaf of that ear.
1814: Scott, Waverly, ch. xxxvi., Ye
are deaf as adders upon that side of
the head.

Deaf, Kent. 1. Deal, Dover and
Harwich, The devil gave with his
dughter in marriage; And by a codicil
to his will, He added Helvot and the
Brill. 1785: Grose, Class. Dict. Vul-
gar Tongue, s.v. "Devil's Daughter's
Portion."

2. Deal savages, Canterbury parrots,
Dover sharps, and Sandwich carrols.
1735: Pegge, Kent. Proverbs, in E.D.S.,
No. 12, p. 69.

See also Dover (i).

Deals in the world, needs four sieves,
He that. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Pru-
dentum.

Deansgate, As long as. Manchester.
1869: Hazlitt, 66.

Dear. 1. As dear as cinnamon.

2. As dear as saffron. Newlyn, W.
Corn., 19th cent. (Mr. C. Lee).

3. As dear as two eggs a penny. 1678:
Ray, 282.

4. Dear bought. See Far fetched.

5. Dear child it behoveth to learn.
c. 1320: in Reélq. Antiquë, i. 110 (1841),
"Lief child lore byhoveth"; Quoth
Hendyng. 1377: Langland, Plowman,
B, v. 38. That the leure child the
more lore byhoveth. c. 1460: Good
Wyfe wold a Pylgrenge, l. xi, That
lothe chylde lore be-howytt, and leve
chylde moche more.

6. It's a dear collop that is cut out of
Deearth 

one's own flesh 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch x, For I have heard sae, it is a deare colup. That is cut out of thowme fleshe 1639 Clarke, 240. It's a deare colup that's taken out of the flesh

Death always begins See England (1) Dearth forsees come not 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

Death 1 Death dealeth doubtfully 1669 Polianerphua, 183
2 Death doctours lands as well as sheep 1650 Shelton, Quixote, Pt II ch xx
1732 Fuller, No 1245
3 Death is the grand leveller Ibid, No 1250
4 Death keeps no calendar 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1670 Ray, 6 1732 Fuller, No 1251
5 Death squares all accounts 1653 Shirley, Cudifh and Death, in Works, VI 357 (Dyce), Death quits all scores 1685-6 Cotton, Montaigne, bk 1 ch vi, 'Tis a saying, 'That death discharges us of all our obligations' 1714 Ozell, Moliere, VI 87, But Death settles all things 1815 Scott, Man-nering, ch xxvii, The Laird's death—awell, death pays a' scores 1860 Reade, Cl and Heath, ch xcvii, Death squares all accounts Cf Die (3)
6 Death when it comes will have no denial 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Appell," Death admits no appeals 1681 W Robertson, Phrases Generalis, 432
7 Death's day is Doomsday 1579 Lyly, Euphues, 181 (Arber), Euer ones deathes daye is his doomes daye 1732 Fuller, No 1255
8 Men fear death as children do to go on the dark 1659 Howell, to 8 1670 Ray, 7 1732 Fuller, No 3392
9 Thou hast death in thy house, and dost bewail another's 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

Debt 1 Debt is an evil conscience 1732 Fuller, No 1257
2 Debt is better than death 1659 Howell, 6
3 Debt is the worst poverty 1732 Fuller, No 1258 1680 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 19. Too often debt is the worst kind of poverty, because it breeds deceit

4 Speak not of my debts unless you mean to pay them 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1875 A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-lore, 88, Don't talk of my debts unless you mean to pay them
5 To pay the debt to nature 1280 in Lanercost Chron 131 (Maitland Cl), Quo dicto, debitem naturae statum exsolvit et in Christo quevit ] 1494 Fabyan, Chron, II vi 28 (O), Fynally he payde the dette of nature 1563 Recon, Reliques of Rome, to 51 When he was an hundred yeare olde, he payed nature her dutye 1606 Shakespeare, Macbeth, V viii, 'Your son, my Lord, has paid a soldier's debt 1758-67 Sterne, Trist Shandy, vol v ch iii, To die, is the great debt and tribute due unto nature 1783 Johnson, Letters, II 337 (Hill), Mrs Williams, from mere maimton, has at length paid the great debt to nature 1845 Planche, Ev- travag, II 26 (1879), In peace to pass, with Jason, all her days, Till he or she the debt o' natur pays

See also Sin, subs (3)

Debtors are liars 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1689 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch xii, Debtors can hardly help being liars

Deceit 1 Decent, weeping, spinning, God hath givn to women kindly, while they may live 1669 Hazlitt, 299
This is a paraphrase of the old leonine verse—Falleere, fere, nere dedit Deus in muliere
2 There's no deceit in a bag pudding 1678 Ray, 193
3 There's no deceit in a brimmer 1660 A Brome, Poems, in Chalmers, VI 653 (1810), Then quaff it round, No deceit in a brimmer is found 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial II 1750 R Heath Account of Sirlcy, 443 Upon the silver mugs in the town of Liskerd. it is written, Qui factst in poculis, factst in omnibus, there is no deceit in a bumper

Deceive 1 If a man deceave me once, shame on him, but if he deceave me twice, shame on me 1736 Bailey, Dist, s v
2 To deceave a deceaver is no deceit c 1580 Pulwell, Ars Adulandi, sig G3

December. I. December cold with snow, good for rye; 2. December's frost and January's flood Never bored the husbandman's good; and 3. Thunder in December presages fine weather—all in 1893, Inwards, Weather Lore, 38. See also August; May, F (16); and October (5).

Deed well done pleaseth the heart, A. c. 1460: How the Good Wife, I. 110. A deede were done, herte it whemyth [pleaseth].

Deeds are fruits, words are but leaves. 1633: Draxe, 40. 1670: Ray, 7. 1732: Fuller, No. 1263.

Deeds are males, words are females. 1578: Florio, First Fruits, fo. 32. 1581: T. Howell, Devises, 31 (1906). Women are wordes, men are deedes. 1645: Howell, Letters, bk. i. § i. No. xxxix. 1732: Fuller, No. 5814. Words are for women; actions for men. 1804: Northall, Folk Phrases, 12 (E.D.S.), Deeds are Johns, and words Nans. Worcs. A local version of the proverb—"Deeds are males, but words females."

Deeds not words. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. v. Deede without wordes shall drive him to the wall. Before 1681: J. Lacy, Sawny the Scot, II.


Deem [Judge] not my deeds. See quot. 15th cent.: in Reliq. Antiquae, i. 205 (1841), Deme noth my dedis, thoghe thyne be noght; Say whate thou wilte, knowyst noth my thought. Deem the best till the truth be tried out. c. 1387: Usk, Test. of Love, in Skeat's Chaucer, vii. 26. Thou shalt not juge ne deeme toforn thou knowest. 15th cent.: in Reliq. Antiquae, i. 92 (1841), Deme the best of every doute, Tyl the truthe be tryed out. Before 1500: in Hill, Commonplace Book, 131 (E.E.T.S.), Deme no thyng that is in dowt till the trowth be tred owt. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. v., Deeme the best, till time hath tryde the trouth out. 1591: Florio, Second Fruits, 105. Judge nothing till the end be seen.

Deep as the North. 1869: Fitz-Gerald, Sea Words and Phrases, 4. Deep as the North star, said... of a very wide-a-wake babe four months old. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 594, As dip [deep=crafty] as the North.

Deeper the sweeter, The. 1596: Jonson, En. Man in Humour, II. iv., My poesy was, "The deeper, the sweeter." 1611: Barry, Ram-Alley, I. 1661: Davenport, City Nightcap, I. 1738: Swift, Polite Cowers., Dial. I., Stir it up with the spoon, miss; for the deeper the sweeter.

Deep in the mud. See quo. 1724: R. L. Gales, Vanished Country Folk, 205, "One's as deep in the mud as the other in the mire" is a proverb I still sometimes hear.

Deer. Where the deer is slain, there will some of his blood lie. 1732: Fuller, No. 5663.

Defend me and spend me. c. 1595: Spenser, State of Ireland, 624 (Globe ed.), The Irish... saying commonly, "Spend me and defend me." 1645: Howell, Fam. Letters, bk. i. § i. No. vii., So that the saying is truly verify'd here, Defend me, and spend me. 1737: Ray, 274, Defend me and spend me. (Saith the Irish churl.) 1853: Trench, Proverbs, 59 (1905).

Delay. After a delay comes a let. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Delay." See also Wise, adj. (35).

Delays are dangerous. c. 1300: Havelok, I. 1352, Dwelling [delay] haueth ofte scathe [injury] wrouht. c. 1384: Chaucer, Troilus, bk. iii. I. 853. That peril is with dreeching in y-drawe. 1457: Paslon Letl., i. 414 (Gairdner, 1900), Taryeng drawly parell. 1579: Lyly, Euphues, 65 (Arber), Delays breede daungers. 1655: Shirley, Gent. of Venice, V. i.,
Deliberating is not delaying. Fuller, No 1266

Demand When the demand is a rest, the answer is a scoff. 1639 Clarke, 86

Depends on another, dines ill and sups worse, He who 1813 Ray, 164, Who depends upon another man’s table often dines late 1855 Bohn 399

Desperate people are nourished by delays. 1833 Drave, 42 1670 Ray, 7

Desperate diseases must have desperate cures 1539 Taverner, Proverbs, fo 4, Stronge disease requireth a stronge medicine 1602 Shakespeare, Hamlet, IV in 1670 Shadwell, Humouristics, IV, Well a desperate disease must have a desperate cure 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, vn 61 (1785), For desperate diseases must have desperate remedies 1831 Hone, Year-Book, 1416, Desperate cuts must have desperate cures

Desperate that thinks himself so, He is 1732 Fuller, No 1913

Devil I An artful fellow is a devil in a doublet 1732 Fuller, No 583

2 As bad as marrying the devil’s daughter, and living with the old folks 1830 Forby, Vocab L Anglia, 434

3 As busy as the devil in a high wind 1811 Gent Mag., xxxi 505, That adage, so common among the vulgar, “as busy as the devil in a high gale of wind” 1821 Scott, Pirate, ch viii,
They are as busy as the devil in a gale of wind.

4. As great [intimate] as the Devil and the Earl of Kent. 1703: Ward, Writings, ii. 90, As great as old Nick, and the old Earl of Kent. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. III. [Scott, in a note to this, says: "The villainous character given by history to the celebrated Goodwin, Earl of Kent, in the time of Edward the Confessor, occasioned this proverb "]

5. As the devil looks over Lincoln. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ix. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, ii. 268 (1840), He looks as the devil over Lincoln. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I. 1822: Scott, Nigel, ch. xxii., When I offer you gold for the winning, you look on me as the devil looks over Lincoln. 1827: Hone, Ev. Day Book, ii. 1238, The origin of the statue of the devil at Oxford [Lincoln College] is not so certain as that the effigy was popular, and gave rise to the saying of "the devil looking over Lincoln" [it was taken down in 1731].

6. As the devil loves apple-dumplings. 1858: Gent. Mag., Pt. II., p. 401, . . . This is a not uncommon saying, but to all appearance a very silly one.

7. As the devil loves holy water. c. 1500: in Hazlitt, Early Pop. Poetry, i. 227 (1864), They dyd flee fro hym, as the dyffy holy fro holy water. 1576: Lambarde, Peramb. of Kent, 301 (1826), You remember the olde proverbe, how well the devill lovet holy water. 1679: Roxb. Ballads, iv. 141 (B.S.). 1715: Centlivre, Wife well Managed, sc. iv., Nothing frights the devil like holy water,—thence comes the proverb, you know. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, i. 232, "He likes him as the devil likes holy water "; i.e. he mortally hates him. 1913: E. M. Wright, Rustic Speech, etc., 205.

8. As the devil mended his dame's leg. c. 1542: Brinklow, Complaynt, 34 (E.E.T.S.), It is amended, even as the devil mendyd his damys legg (as it is in the proverbe): when he shuld haue set it right, he bracke it quitely in pecys!


10. Better keep the devil at the door, than turn him out of the house. 1732: Fuller, No. 907.

11. Between the devil and the deep sea. [Hac urget lupus, hac canis, aitunt.—Horace, Sat., II. ii. 64.] 1637: quoted in N. & Q., 7th ser., i. 453, Betwixt the devill and the depee sea. 1762: Walker, Paræm., II, I am in a twittering case; betwixt the devill and the depee sea. 1762: Smollett, Sir L. Greaves, ch. last. 1820: Byron, Letters, v. 4 (Prothero), Between the devil and deep sea, Between the lawyer and trustee—it is difficult to decide. 1902: Sir H. Lucy, Diary of a Journalist, 170 (1920).

12. Bring you the devil and I'll bring out his dam. 1639: Clarke, 209

13. Down the lane to the devil. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vii., The devel go with the doun the lane. 1619: Chapman, Two Wise Men, VII., Her. By that means thou wilt accompanie him to hell. Sim. Downe the lane to the devill.

14. Every devil has not a cloven foot. 1726: Defoe, Hist. of Devil, Pt. II. ch. vi., p. 242 (4th ed.),

15. Give the devil his due. 1589: Pap with a Hatchet, 31 (1844), Give them their due though they were diuels. 1597: Shakespeare, Henry IV., I. ii. 1669: Dryden, Wild Gallant, II., ii., Let every man speak as he finds, and give the devil his due. 1709: Mandeville, Virgin Unmask'd, 28 (1724), Tho' I give the devil his due, I still defy him. 1825: Planché, Extravag., i. 25 (1879), You certainly have great merit. I will give the devil his due.

16. He does the devil's work for nothing. 1742: Fielding, Andrew, bk. ii. ch. xvi., What a silly fellow must he be who would do the devil's work for nothing! 1830: Forby, Vocab. E. Anglia, 433 [said of a common swearer].

17. He is like the devil, always in mischief. 1659: Howell, 13

18. He that sups with the devil needs a
long spoon  c 1386 Chaucer, Square's Tale, I 594, "Therfor bivoneth him a full long spoone That shal ete with a feend," thus herde I seye 16th cent in Reliq Antiquae, i 208 (1841). He hath need of a long spoone that eath with the devil 1626 Overbury, Characters "A Jesuit," A Jesuit is a larger spoon for a trauyor to feed with the devil, than any other order 1633 Marlowe Jew of Malta, III iv 1840 Barham, Ing Legends "St Nicholas" 1893 R L S Catriona ch xxx

19 He that (a) takes the devil into his boat, or (b) that hath shipped the devil must (c) carry him over the Sound, or (d) make the best of him 1678 Ray, 125 [(a) and (c)] also [(b) and (d)] 1732 Fuller, No 2326 [(a) and (c)], and No 2152, He that has purchased the devil, must make the most of him 1853 Trench, Proverbs, 143 (1905). He who has shipped the devil, must carry him over the water.

20 He that the devil drives, feels no lead at his heels 1732 Fuller, No 2323

21 If the devil be a vicar, thou shalt be his clerk 1670 Ray, 171 1738 Genl Mag, 475

22 If the devil catch a man idle, he'll set him at work 1732 Fuller, No 2705

23 If you buy the devil you must sell the devil 1775 Grose, Antiq Repository, u 395 (1808). Buying and selling the devil has long been a proverbial expression 1820 Colton Lacon, Pt II No 167 u, Booksellers are like horse-dealers in one respect, and if they buy the devil, they must also sell the devil

24 Ill doth the devil preserve his servant 1659 Howell, Proverbs Brit-Eng, 3

25 It is a sin to bele the devil 1548 Hall, Chron, 363 (1809). It wer synne to lyne on the deuel 1607 Delker, Knights Conunring, 21 (Percy S), Tis synne to bylye the duell 1712 Motteux, Quixote, Pt I bk ii ch ii 1732 Fuller, No 2884

26 It is an ill army where the devil carries the colours 1639 Clarke, 70, Tis an ill company where the devil beares the banner 1670 Ray, 7 [with "battel" for "army"] 1732 Fuller, No 2896

27 It is an ill procession where the devil (a) bears the cross, or (b) holds the candle 1633 Draxe, 86 [(a)] 1641 in Harl Miscell, u 222 (1744). There is an old saying, There can be no holy procession where the devil carries the crosse 1844 D'Urfei, Quixote, Pt I Act IV sc 1 [(b)] 1732 Fuller, No 2901 [(b)]

28 More like the devil than St Lawrence 1678 Ray, 250

29 Much about a pitch Quoth the devil to the witch 1846-59 Denham Tracts u 81 (F L S)

30 Never go to the devil with a dishclout in your hand 1738 Genl Mag, 475

31 One devil is like another 1612 Shelton, Quixote, Pt I bk iv ch iv 1732 Fuller, No 3747

32 One might as well eat the devil as the broth he's boiled in 1545 Brinklow, Lamenlacyon, 89 (E E T S), Ye it be so that God, through the Lyngge, hath caste out the devill out of this realme, and yet both he and we sopp the broth in which the devell was soden 1660 T Hall, Funebria Florae, 12, Wee must not so much as tast of the devils broth, lest at last wee bring us to eat of his beef 1690 D'Urfei, Quixote, Pt III Act I, One had as good eat the devil, as the broth he's boiled in 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial II 1834 Taylor, Philip v Art, III i part 2, Hast courage but for half a sin? As good To eat the devil as the broth he's boil'd in 1865 "Lanes Proverbs," in N & Q, 3rd ser, vii 494 1901 F E Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 13, Aw'd as hef ey't the divvle as sup th' broth 'at he's boil't in

33 Seldom lies the devil dead by the gate (or in the ditch) c 1400 Towneley Plays, xiii, p 123 (E E T S), Seldom ly's the dewyll deede by the gate 1670 Ray, 79 [ditch] 1758-67 Sterne, Trist Shandy, vol vii ch xxvii, Which the devil, who never lies dead in a ditch, had put into her head

34 She will scold the devil out of a haunted house 1732 Fuller, No 4149

36. Talk of the devil and he'll appear. [Lupus in fabula.—Terence, Ad., 537. de Varrone loquebamur; lupus in fabula: venit enim ad me.—Cicero, Att., i3, 33, 4.] 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 134. The English say, "Talk of the devil, and he's presently at your elbow." 1697: Vanbrugh, Esop, ii. i., Talk of the devil, and he's at your elbow." 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' Collog., 17, Rather it is according to the old proverb; talk of the devil and he'll appear; for we were just now speaking of you. 1799: T. Knight, Turnpike Gate, ii. i., Speak o' th' devil and behold his horns! 1822: Scott, Nigel, ch. xv. They are the very men we spoke of—talk of the devil, and—humph?


38. The devil and (or) Dick Senhouse. 1826: Brady, Varieties of Lit., 13, A common saying [in Cumberland]. "It will do in spite of the Devil and Dick Senhouse." 1846–59: Denham Tracts, i. 167 (F.L.S.), "I will do it in spite of the Devil and Dick Senhouse"; also "Either the devil or Dick Senhouse." 1876: Defoe, Hist. of Devil, 326 (4th ed.), It is become a proverb, as great as the devil and Dr. Foster [Faustus]. 1749: Fielding, Tom Jones, bk. xviii, ch. viii., What the devil and Doctor Faustus! shan't I do what I will with my own daughter? 1848: Carleton, Fardorougha, 233 (W.), You'd beat the devil an' Doctor Foster.

40. The devil and his dam(c). c. 1440: York Plays, 300 (L. T. Smith). What the devil and his dame schall y now d0? 1550: R. Crowley, Works, 49 (E.E.T.S.), But they saye that ye purchase the devil, his dame, and all. c. 1615: Times Whistle, 97 (E.E.T.S.). Me thought as both their heads together came, I saw the devill kissing of his dam. 1657: Lust's Dominion, IV. v., The devil and his dam, The Moor and my mother. 1830: Scott, Doom of Devorgoil, III. ii., I have heard of the devil's dam before, But never of his child.


42. The devil and ninepence go with her. Before 1704: T. Brown, Works, iii. 245 (1760), The devil and ninepence go with her, that's money and company, according to the laudable adage of the sage mobility! 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II., The devil go with him and sixpence; and there's money and company too.

43. The devil and the master. 1886: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 191 (E.D.S.), It is always said that on Culmstock Fair-day, May 21, "'tis a fight twixt the devil and the master"—to decide if there shall be cider to drink, or whether it must be beer. Cf. Culmstock Fair.

44. The devil can quote Scripture. 1595: Shakespeare, Merchant of Venice, I. iii., The devil can cite Scripture for his purpose. 1609: Armin, Maids of More-clacke, sig. E3. The diuell has scripture for his damned ill. 1821: Scott, Kevilworth, ch. iv. 1850: Dickens, Chuzzlewit, ch. xi., Does any one doubt the old saw, that the Devil (being a layman) quotes Scripture for his own ends?

45. The devil danceth in a woman's placket. 1659: Howell, 15.

46. The devil dares not peep under a maid's coat. 1675: Mistaken Husband, V. v., Good Mrs. Isbel hide me under your petticoats that the devil may not find me, they say he dares not peep under a maid's coat.

47. The devil gets up to the helsby by the vicar's skirts. 1659: Howell, Proverbs: Span.-Eng., 26. 1732: Fuller, No. 4476.

48. The devil goes a nutting on Holyrood Day. 1659: Poor Robin Alman., Sept., The 14th day [of September], for then, they say, the devil goes a nutting.

49. The devil goes share in gaming. 1855: Bohn, 501.
50 The devil has a chapel wherever
God has a church. 1560 Bacon, Cate-
chism, 361 (P.S.), For commonly, where-
soever God buildeth a church, the devil
will build a chapel just by 1609
Dekker, in Works, iv 220 (Grosari),
And where God hath a church, the
devil hath a chappell 1701 Defoe,
True Born Eng., Pt I II 1–2, Wherever
God erects a House of Prayer, The
devil always builds a chapel there.
1748 Richardson, Clarissa, vii 327 (1785).
It is an old proverb
God never had a
House of Pray’r, But Satan had a
chapel there.

51 The devil has no power over a
drunkard 1635 Glapthorne, Lady
Mother, III ii, in Bullen, Old Plays
II 160. They say the devil bas
52 The devil hath cast a bone to set
strife 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II
ch u c 1594 Bacon, Promiscus, No 654
1633 Draise, 197
53 The devil is a busy bishop in his
own diocese 1549 Latimer, Sermon
on Ploughers, 29 (Arber), Who is the
most diligent bishoppe and prelate in
al England? I wyl tel you. It
is the deuyl. He is the moste dyligent
preacher of al others, he is newer out
of his dioces 1732 Fuller, No 4479
1910 N & Q., 11th ser. i 34. The
sanctity of the day became violated by
the devil, who is a busy bishop in his
own diocese,” the proverb says

54 The devil is a knave 1553
Resplicia, I ii. The deuyll ys a
knave 1571 in Ballads, 85 (Percy S,
No o) 1639 Davenport, New Trick
to cheat Devil, IV 1
55 The devil is an ass 1616
Jonson, Devil is an Ass [title] 1681
Otway, Soldier’s Fortune, IV 1. The
devil’s an ass, say 1745 Agreeable
Companion, 304, She found a trick she
thought would pass, And prove the
devil but an ass
56 The devil is at home 1620
Middleton, in Works vii 185 (Bullen),
Why, will he have it in’s house when
the proverb says, The devil’s at home?
1753 Richardson, Grandison, i 231
(1883). The devil’s at home, is a phrase,
and our modern ladies live as if they
thought so 1810 Crabbe, Borough,
xix 56. A foolish proverb says, “The
devil’s at home.”

57 The devil is dead c 1470
Mankind, in Manly’s Spec of Pre-
Shakesp. Drama, i 337. Oyst, pess!
The devil ys ded! Before 1529
Skelton, Col. Clout, I 36. The deuyll,
they say, is dede. The devil is dede
1661 Davenport, City Nightcap, III
. He thinks the devil’s dead too.
1677 Westm Drolery 109 (Ebsworth),
The night is our own, for the devil is dead
1860 Reade, Cl and Heath, ch Il.
Courage, brave wife, the devil is dead
58 The devil is easier to raise than to
lay 1725 Bailey, tr Erasmus’ Colloq.,
202, ’Tis an old saying and a true, ’Tis
an easier matter to raise the devil, than
tis to lay him

59 The devil is God’s ape 1595
Polimantia, sig B1. Satan desiring in
this to bee Gods ape 1639 Fuller,
Holy War, bk. 17 ch. xxI. As the devil
is God’s ape 1666 Torrano, Piazza
Univ., 67 1904 J C Wall, Devils, 22,
“Satan,” says Tertullian, “is God’s
ape”—a term which in those days
(third century and after) became very
general among Christians

60 The devil is good (or kind) to his
own (or to some) 1606 Day, Isle of
Gulls, II 17. You were not worse than
the devil els, for they say hee helps
his servants 1660 A Browne,
Poems ‘New Montebank,’ The devil’s
ever kind to his own 1738 Swift,
Poete Converse, Dial III. They say, the
devil is kind to his own

61 The devil is good when he is
pleased 1581 Woodes, Conflict of
Conscience, III 111. The devil is a good
fellow, if one can him please c 1600
Grim the Collier, II 1677 Poor Robin
Alman, December, The devil’s good when he
is pleased 1738 Swift, Poete Converse,
Dial II 1813 Byron, Letters, etc.,
i 257 (Prothero), But they say the
devil is amusing when pleased

62 The devil is in the dice 1678
Ray, 70 1904 J C Wall, Devils, 121.
Dices are known as the Devil’s Bones

63 The devil is not always at one door
1611 Cotgrave, s v “Diable” 1694

64. *The devil is not so black as he is painted.* 1556: Lodge, *Marg. of America*, 57 (Hunt. Cl.), Wel... diuels are not so blacke as they be painted. 1642: Howell, *Foreine Travell*, 65 (Arber). 1726: Defoe, *Hist. of Devil*, Pt. II. ch. vi., p. 232 (4th ed.), As if the devil was not so black as he was painted. c. 1770: Foote, *Devil upon Two Sticks*, I. 1860: Reade, *Cl. and Hearth*, ch. xxxvii.


66. *The devil laughs when one thief robs another.* 1819: Scott, *Ivanhoe*, ch. xxi., The fiend laughs, they say, when one thief robs another.


69. *The devil lurks behind the cross.* 1612: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt. I. bk. i. ch. vi. 1712: Motteux, *Quixote*, Pt. II. ch. xlvii., Your honour ought not to eat any of the things that stand here before you, for they were sent in by some of the convents; and it is a common saying, "The devil lurks behind the cross."

70. *The devil made askers.* 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers., Dial. II.*, Sir John, will you taste my October?... Sir John. My lord, I beg your pardon; but they say, the devil made askers. *Ld. Smart* [to the butler]. Here, bring up the great tankard, full of October, for Sir John.


72. *The devil may dance in his pocket—because it contains no cross (coin).* 1471: Hoccleve, *Reg. of Princes*, 25 (E.E.T.S.), The feende men seyn may hoppen in a pouche when that no croyes there-inne may a-pere. c. 1470: *Mankind*, I. 474. The devill may daunce in my purse for ony peny. 1567: Drant, *Horace*, I. iii., The deuille may daunce in croslesse purse. 1623: *New and Merrie Prognos.*, 24 (Halliwell), Some wanting money shall both ban and curse That the devill hath roome to dance in their purse. 1785: Grose, *Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue*, s.v. "Devil." 1826: Scott, *Woodstock*, ch. iii., No devil so frightful as that which dances in the pocket where there is no cross to keep him out.

73. *The devil on Dun's back.* 1639: Clarke, 197. 1677: *Poor Robin's Visions*, 25, In term-time the divel upon Dun rides to and frow.

74. *The devil owed a cake and paid a loaf.* 1690: *New Dicol. Cautling Crew*, sig. C3, The devil ow'd her a cake, and has pay'd her a loaf, when instead of a small, a very great disaster, or misfortune has happen'd to a woman. 1732: Fuller, No. 4477, The devil hath ow'd me a cake of a long time, and now hath paid me a loaf.

75. *The devil owed him a shame.* 1542: *Sch. House of Women*, I. 245, The deuil, gossip, ought me a shame. 1679: D'Urfey, *Squire Oldsopp*, V. ii., The devil I think ow'd me a shame, and sought to pay it this way. 1753: Richardson, *Grandison*, i. 320 (1883). The devil has long, continued he, owed me a shame. 1823: Scott, in Lockhart's *Life*, v. 259, I hope the devil does not owe me such a shame.

76. *The devil pay the maltman.* c. 1532: R. Copland, *Spyttal Hous*, I. 682, Make we mery as longe as we can, And drynke a pace : the deuill pay the malt man! 1559: Becon, *Prayers, etc.*, 282 (P.S.), To drinke them all out, to set cock on the hoop, let the devil pay the maltman. 1573: *Bullein, Dialogue*, 123 (E.E.T.S.), A dogge hath but a daile. Let the deuill pae the malt manne.

corrects sin 1682 A Behn, Roundheads, v u , How the devil rebukes sin 1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict, s v "Devil" 1822 Scott, Nigel, ch xvi, "I am afraid," said George Heron, more hastily than prudently, 'I might have thought of the old proverb of Satan reproving sin' 1894 R L S, St Ives, ch x, "Now, really," said I, "is not this Satan reproving sin?" 1922 Ramsay Macdonald in Parl, in Times, 24 Nov, p 7, col 3. That incident is one of the most deplorable examples I have ever known of Satan reproving sin.

78 The devil rides upon a fiddlestick = Much ado about nothing 1597 Shakespeare i Henry IV, ii iv, Heigh, heigh! the devil rides upon a fiddlestick, what's the matter? c 1620 B & F, Hum Lexit IV iv, The fiend rides on a fiddle-stick.

79 The devil run through thee booted and spurred, with a scythe at his back. Called the Sedgeley curse, I know not why Sedgeley is in Staffordshire c 1620 B & F, Woman's Prize, v ii, A Sedgeley curse light on him, which is, Pedro, "The fiend ride through him [as above]" 1659 Howell, 2 1726 Defoe, Hist of Devil, Pt II ch ix, p 297 (4th ed.), And make the devil as the Scots express it, ride through them booted and spurred 1790 Grose Prov Gloss, s v "Staffs" 1829 Scott, Gen Preface to Waverley, app ii, "May the foul fiend, booted and spurred, ride down his bawling throat, with a scythe at his girdle," quoth Albert Drawslot.

80 The devil's — upon a great heap 1659 Howell 6 [with "the usurers heaps" for "a great beap"] 1670 Ray, 80

81 The devil sometimes speaks the truth 1635 Glapthorne Lady Mother, I ii, in Bullen; Old Plays, ii 123 1732 Fuller, No 5308. Truth may sometimes come out of the devil's mouth.

82 The devil spits on the blackberries, or puts his foot on them, or casts his club over them, on Michaelmas Day 1727 Threlkeld, quoted in Folk-Lore Record, 1 155. After Michaelmas the devil casts his club over them [blackberries] 1790 Hudson, Nature in Downland, ch xvii, In Early October the devil flies abroad, as some believe, to spit on the bramble-bushes, and make its berries uneatable.

83 The devil take the hindmost [Occupet extremum scabies—Horace, A P, 417 c 1470 Mankind, 1 709, Hens wyth yowur stuff! fast we were gone I be-schrew the last yall come to hys home] c 1628 B & F, Bondouca, IV ii 1671 Dryden, An Evening's Love, IV iii, If it be come to that once, the devil take the hindmost! 1850 Planche Extravag, iv 83 (1879).

84 The devil tempers some, but an idle man tempts the devil 1709 R Kingston Apoph Curiosa, 57. An idle person tempts the devil to tempt him 1820 Colton, Lacon, Pt I No 70, The Turks have a proverb, which says, that The devil tempts all other men, but that idle men tempt the devil 1875 A B Cleahees, Proverb Folk-Lore, 110.

85 The devil to pay c 1400 in Relig Antiquae, 1 257 (1841). Brit wer be at tome for ay. Than her to serve the devil to pay 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial II, I must be with my wife on Tuesday, or there will be the devil and all to pay 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, vi 87 (1785). Here's the devil to pay 1821 Scott, Pirate, ch xxxvi, If they hurt but one hair of Cleveland's head, there will be the devil to pay, and no pitch hot 1922 Weyman, Ovington's Bank, ch xxvi.

86 The devil was sick, the devil a monk would be, The devil was well, the devil a monk was he c 1450 W Bower, Scotichronicon, ii 292 (Goodall), quoted in N & Q, 8th ser, xu 331. Lupus languebat monachus tunc esse volebat, Sed cum consilvus lupus ut ante fuit 1586 L Evans, Withals Dict Revised, sig K8. The duell was sick and crasse, Good woulde the monke bee that was lasie 1692 L'Estrange, Asop, 104 (3rd ed.) 1757 Garrick, Gamesters, III ad fin 1875 Smiles, Thrift, 314 [with 'samt' for "monk"] 1875 R L S, Letters.
Devil

1. 210 (Tusitala ed.), The story shall be called, I think, *When the Devil was well*, in allusion to the old proverb.


88. The devil will take his own. 1846: T. Wright, *Essays on Middle Ages*, i. 146, We say, "The devil will take his own."


90. The devil would have been a butcher but for the Temples. 1676: Ray, 91.


93. The devil's guts = The devil's surveyor's chain. 1678: Ray, 72.


95. The devil's meal is half bran. 1911: Cotgrave, s.v. "Diable," Half of the devils meale turns unto branne. 1732: Fuller, No. 4487, The devil's flour is half bran. 1865: "Lancs Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., viii. 494, One half of the devil's meal runs to bran.

96. The devil's mouth is a miser's purse. 1600: Bodenham, *Belvedere*, 128 (Spens. S.), The devils mouth is team'd a miser's purse. 1609: *Politeophilia*, 288, A covetous mans purse is called the divels mouth.

97. The devil's run over Jack Wabster —an allusion to one whose affairs are said to be going back in the world.


98. There is a devil in every berry of the grape. 1647: Howell, *Letters*, bk. ii. No. iii., He rails bitterly against Bacchus, and swears there's a devil in every berry of his grape. 1884: H. Friend, *Flowers and Fl. Lore*, 54, Perhaps every one has not heard the proverb, "There is a devil in every berry of the grape." This proverb is in use in some parts of England, and is said to have strayed hither from Turkey.

99. To beat the devil round the gooseberry-bush = To be wordy, roundabout. 1875: Parish, *Dict. Sussex Dialect*, He did not think the new curate was much of a hand in the pulpit, he did beat the devil round the gooseberry-bush so.

100. To drink the devil dry. 1594: R. Wilson, *Coblers Prophecy*, i. 106 (Malone S.), Ile looke in thy purse by and by: And if thou haue any money in it, Wele drinke the diewell dry, diewell dry.

101. To hug as the devil hugged the witch. 1678: Ray, 286. 1715: *Political Merriment*, Pt. III., p. 20, And hug and kiss, and are so great, as the devil and witch of Endor. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.,* Dial. I., I've seen her hug you as the devil hugg'd the witch. 1745: *Agreeable Companion*, 251. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, ii. 84 (F.L.S.), To hug one, as the devil hugs a witch.

102. To lie in the devil's mouth = To be wide open. 1609: in *Roxb. Ballads*, vii. 437 (B.S.), He could not find a privy place, for all lay in the diewel's mouth.

103. To pater the devil's Paternoster. c. 1386: Chaucer, *Parson's Tale*, 506-7, They . . . gruchte and murmur priuely for verray despyt, whiche wordes men clepen the deuelles pater noster. 1552: Latimer, *Sermons*, 350 (P.S.), Go not away with the devil's Paternoster, as some do. Do all things with a good mind. 1567: Golding, *Ovid*, bk. ii. i. 984, Began to mumble with his selfe the divels Paternoster. 1647: Jonson, *Sad Shepherd*, ii. ii., What devil's
pater noster mumbles she? 1847 Hallwell, **Dict.** s. v., To say the devil's pater-noster, to mutter or grumble.

104 To play the devil for God's sake c 1640 in *Harl Miscell.*, iv 155 (1745). To play the devil for God's sake hath been a common proverb, but was never entered for an article in a sober belief 1681 L'Estrange, *Dissenters Sayings*, 50 (1685), Which is no more, in short, than playing the devil in God's name 1820 Scott, *Abbot*, ch xxv, That would be a serving, as they say, the devil for God's sake.

105 To play the devil in the bulomong 1670 Ray, 171

106 To play the devil in the horologe 1579 **Horman**, *Vulgana*, fo 237, Some for a tryfull play the devill in the orologe c 1550 **Udall**, *Roister Doister*, III. [saying] What will he? *M. M.*

Play the devill in the horologe 1593 **Harvey**, in *Works*, i 276 (Grosart). Finding nothing in all those pestilent and virulent sheetes of wast-paper, but meerely--meerely forgeryes, and the duell in the horologe 1659 **Howell**, 6, The devil's in the orologe.

107 To put out the devil's eye See long story in 1593 **Brunne**, *Handlyng Synne*, ll. 12165-12252 (Roxb Cl) 1710 S. **Palmer**, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 81, Come, let's be friends, and put out the devil's eye.

108 To set the devil on sale 1546 **Heywood**, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch vii, Here is a tale, For honestie, mee to set the duell on sale.

109 'Twas surely the devil that taught women to dance, and asses to bray 1732 **Fuller**, No 5319

110 What's got over the devil's back is spent under his belly 1607 **Middleton**, *Mich Term.*, IV i, What's got over the devil's back (that's by knavery) must be spent under his belly (that's by lechery) 1671 **Head and Kirkman**, *English Rogue*, ii 97 1725 **Bailey**, tr Erasmus' *Colloq.*, 30 c 1600 **Trusler**, *Prov in Verse*, 85 1889 **Peacock, Manley**, etc., *Gloss*, 167 (E D S), What's gotten o' th' devil's back goes oot under his belly 1917 **Bridge**, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 150

111 When it rains and the sun shines at the same time the devil is beating his wife 1666 **Torrano, Piazza Univ.**, 79 (quoted as "the French say") 1703 **Ward**, *Writings*, ii 299, To go and thrash him round the church-yard, as the devil does his wife in rainy weather when the sun shines 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers., Dial I.*, [in mungled rain and sunshine] the devil was beating his wife behind the door with a shoulder of mutton 1846 T. **Wright**, *Essays on Middle Ages*, i 130 (saying credited to the Normans) 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 110, If it rains while the sun is shining the devil is beating his grandmother He is laughing and she is crying.

112 When the devil is a dog, you shall eat bacon 1670 Ray, 217 1732 **Fuller**, No 5578

113 When the devil is blind—Never 1678 **Howell**, 12 c 1670 in *Bagford Ballads*, 1 7 (B S), They'll pay me again when the devil is blind 1709 **Ward**, *Works*, iv, *Verse* 35, They pay for when the devil's blind 1678 **Scott**, *Mannerings*, ch xxii, Ay, Tib, that will be when the devil's blind,—and his e'en's no sair yet 1847 **Hallwell**, *Dict.* s. v., "Horn"

114 When the devil is dead 1678 Ray, 84, When the devil's dead, there's a wife for Humphrey 1732 **Fuller**, No 5576 [as in 1678, but with "widow" for "wife"] 1853 Trench, *Proverbs*, 72 (1909), When the devil is dead, be never wants a首席 mourner

115 When the devil prays, he has a bootie in his eye 1732 **Fuller**, No 5576

116 When the devil preaches, the world's near an end 1667 L'Estrange, *Queuevedo's Visions*, 21 (1904)

117 When the devil quotes Latin, the priests go to prayers 1863 N & Q., 3rd ser., ii 492

118 Where had the devil the friar, but where he was? 1639 **Davenport**, *New Trick to cheat Devil*, IV ii 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers., Dial I.*, Why, where 'twas to be bad, where the devil got the friar.

119 Where none else will, the devil must bear the cross 1579 **Lily**.
Devonshire


120. You can't stand between the oak and the rain [wind], where the devil can't go. Torquay. 1910: Devonsh. Assoc. Trans., xlii. 88. Cf. Oak (7).

121. You have daily to do with the devil, and pretend to be frightened at a mouse. 1855: Bohn, 577.

122. You look like a runner, quoth the devil to the crab. 1732: Fuller, No. 5934.

See also Bad priests; Beads; Benfieldside; Black, adj. (4), (14), and (15); Blow, verb (1); Candle (6); Cards (1); Dark as the devil's mouth; Deal (1); Flatterer (4); Friday (10); Give (17); Go (8); God for money; God hath few friends; God sends corn; God sends meat; Happy is the child; Harrow; Idle (2) and (7); Innocent as a devil; Leave, verb (5); Marriage (2); Needs must; No sin; Play at small game; Pull devil; Rake hell; Rise (2); Saint; Sloth is the devil's cushion; Sure as the devil; Truth (3) and (22); Ugly; Up with it; and Woman (4), (9), and (33).

Devonshire. See Derbyshire.

Devonshire ground, To. 1607: Norden, Surv. Dial., 228 (O.), They ... call it in the west parts, burning of beate, and in the south-east parts, Devonshiring. 1681: Worlidge, Dict. Rusticum, s.v., To Denshire, is to cut off the turf of land; and when it is dry, to lay it in heaps and burn it. c. 1770: Pegge, Dervicisms, 16 (E.D.S.), Devonshiring; it being a practice brought from Devonshire. Tis when they pare off the sword [sword] and burn it. 1837: Mrs. Palmer, Devonsh. Dialect, 29, Peat- or sod-burning; an agricultural operation, which appears to have originated in Devonshire, and hence is called Devonshiring in many parts.

Devonshire lawyer, To know as much as a. W. Corn., 19th cent. (Mr. C. Lee).

Dew. If nights three dewless there be, 'Twill rain you're sure to see; and With dew before midnight, The next day will sure be bright—both in 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 103.

Dewsbury. See Birstal.

Diamond. 1. A diamond is valuable,

3. Diamond cut diamond. 1604: Webster and Marston, Malcontent, IV. iii., 'Tis found None cuttes a diamond but a diamond. 1693: Congreve, Double Dealer, I. v., Wit must be foiled by wit; cut a diamond with a diamond. 1738: Swift, Politie Convers., Dial. III., Sharp's the word with her; diamonds cut diamonds. 1844: Thackeray, Barry Lyndon, ch. x., Among such fellows it was diamond cut diamond. What you call fair play would have been a folly.

Dick's as dapper as a cock-wren. 1732: Fuller, No. 1281.

Dick's hatband. See quotes. 1834–7: Southey, Doctor, ch. cxxv., Who was that other Dick who wore so queer a hat-band that it has ever since served as a standing comparison for all queer things? 1841: Hartshorne, Salopia Ant., 393, As curt as [also "as false as," "as contrary as," "as crackit as," "all across like," "as queer as," etc.] Dick's hatband, which will come nineteen times round and won't tie at last. 1854: Baker, Northants Gloss., s.v. "Dick," As queer as Dick's hatband, made of pea-straw, that went nine times round, and would not meet at last. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 25, As queer as Dick's hatband, that went nine times round but was too short to tie. [The saying is used all over the country in differing forms.]

Dick Smith. See Dish-clout.

Dickson. See quo, 1670: Ray, 171, To get a thing as Dickson did by his distress. That is, over the shoulders, as the vulgar usually say.

Die, verb. 1. He dies like a beast who has done no good while he lived. 1855: Bohn, 370.

2. He that died half a year ago is as dead as Adam. 1732: Fuller, No. 2079.

3. He that dies pays all debts. 1611: Shakespeare, Tempest, III. ii. Cf. Death (5).

4. To die in a fog. 1917: Bridge,
Cheshire Proverbs, 132. To give up a task in despair

5 To die in one's shoes—usually, To be hanged 1725 Matchless Rogue, 87. I have been told by a fortune-teller, that I should die in my shoes 1725 Gay, Newgate's Garland, 1 4. Ye honest poor rogues, who die in your shoes 1840 Barham, Ing Legends, 1st ser. 'Sucklemuthblain's Story.' And there is all come to see a man 'die in his shoes.' 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 68. He'll die in his shoon.

6 When you die of old age, I shall quake for fear 1738 Swift Poetle Convers, Dial I. Why, my Lord, when I die for age, she may quake for fear 1919 N & Q., 12th ser. v 235.

This was a common saying among peasants and workpeople, when speaking to some one rather older than themselves Ibid, 325. A common Warwickshire saying round Stratford-on-Avon.

Diet cures more than doctors 1875 A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 82

Dieted bodies See quot 1655 T Muffett, Healths Improvement, 8. These addle proverbs, 1 Dieted bodies are but bridges to physicians munde.

Difference 1 The difference is wide that the sheets will not decide 1678 Ray, 201 1732 Fuller, No 6155 [with "very" before "wide"]

2 There is difference between living long and suffering long 1732 Fuller, No 4893

3 There is difference between staring and stark blind 1546 Heywood Proverbs, Pt II ch vii. The difference between starling and starke bylynde The wise man at all tymes to solow can fynde 1593 G Harvey, in Works, i 235 (Grosart), Hee mought haue sped a difference between staring, and starke-blinde.

4 There is difference between staring and stark mad 1633 Draxe, 44 1681 W Robertson, Phraseol Generals, 471 1787 Wolcot, Works, i 351 (1795). Peter, there's odds 'twixt staring and stark mad.

5 There is difference in servants

1725 Bailey, tr Erasmus' Colloq., 507. The old proverb, There is difference in servants

6 There is no difference of bloods in a bason 1580 Lyly, Euphues, 289 (Arber). You talk of your birth, when I knowe there is no difference of bloods in a bason 1732 Fuller, No 4907

7 There is some difference between Peter and Peter 1612 Shelton, Quixote, Pt I bk iv ch xx 1737 Mabbe, Celestina, 130 (T T.), Know you not, the proverbe tels us That there is a great deale of difference betwixt Peter and Peter? 1732 Fuller, No 4937

Different sores must have different salves 1732 Fuller, No 1283

Difficult before they are easy. All things are Ibid, No 560

Difficulty makes desire Ibid, No 1284

Diffidence is the (a) mother of safety, (b) right eye of prudence (a) 1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict, s v "Mother" (b) 1732 Fuller, No 1286

Dig one's grave with one's teeth. To 1630 T Adams, Works, 108. They have digged their grave with their teeth 1655 Fuller, Church Hist., bk iv § ii in (42). Who by intemperance in his diet, in some sort, digged his grave with his own teeth 1711 Dykes, Eng Proverbs, 173. How many people daily dig their own graves, either with their teeth, their tongues, or their tails 1880 Smiles, Duty, 418. We each day dig our graves with our teeth. 1923 Observer, 25 Feb, p 11, col 6

Digs the well at the river, He 1813 Ray, 75

Dighton When Dighton is pulled down, Hull shall become a great towne 1670 Ray, 257 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Yorkshire" 1878 Folk-Lore Record, 1 162

Diligence is the mother of good luck (or success) 1612 Shelton, Quixote, Pt I bk iv ch xix. It is a common proverb, beautiful lady, that diligence is the mother of good hap 1712 Motteux, Quixote, Pt I bk iv ch xix ("success") 1736 Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i 444 (Bigelow)
Diligent

"good luck". r875: Smiles, Thrift, 160 "good luck".

Diligent scholar, and the master's paid, A. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

Diligent spinner has a large shift, The. 1736: Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i. 445 (Bigelow).


Dim Sarsnick [Dym Sassenach] with him, It's=None so deaf as those who won't hear. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 84.

Dine with Duke Humphrey, To. 1592: G. Harvey, in Works, i. 206 (Grosart), To seek his dinner in poules with Duke humfrey. 1632: Nabbes, Covent Garden, IV. iv., Some breake their fasts with Duke Humphrey. 1753: World, No. 37, Sometimes I eat as little as those who dine with Duke Humphrey. 1794: Gent. Mag., Pt. I., p. 529. r875: D'Arblay, Diary, iv. 344 (1786), Or else the whole party... must have made interest to dine with Duke Humphrey. 1859: Dickens, Chuzzlewit, ch. i., One Diggory Chuzzlewit was in the habit of perpetually dining with Duke Humphrey.

Dines and leaves, lays the cloth twice, He that. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

Dinner. See quot. 1605: Fair Maid of Bristol, sig. C. For as the old saying is, He that hath a good dinner, knowes better the way To supper.

Dinners cannot be long where dainties want. r546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. i. 1670: Ray, 79.

Dirt. 1. Cast no dirt into the well that hath given you water. 1732: Fuller, No. 1067.

2. He that flings dirt at another, dirtieth himself most. Ibid., No. 2177.

3. That dirt made this dust. Ibid., No. 4337.

4. Throw dirt enough and some will stick. r660: T. Hall, Funerea Florae, 38, Lye lustily, some filth will stick. r705: Ward, Huntibras Rediv., Pt. II. 1769: Colman, Man and Wife, Prel., The scandal of others is mere dirt—throw a great deal, and some of it will stick. r857: Hughes, Tom Brown, Pt. I. ch. ix., Only throw dirt enough, and some of it is sure to stick.

Dirt-bird (or Dirt-owl) sings, we shall have rain, The. r785: Ray, 80.


3. Dirty troughs will serve dirty sows. 1732: Fuller, No. 1292.

4. Don't throw away dirty water till you have got clean. r710: S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 89. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. III., Why the fellow's rich; and I think she was a fool to throw out her dirty water before she got clean. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. viii.

Discreet. While the discreet advise, the fool doth his business. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

Discreet women have neither eyes nor ears. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1670: Ray, 7. 1732: Fuller, No. 1295, Discreet wives have sometimes neither eyes nor ears.

Discretion is the better part of valour. c. 1477: Caxton, Jason, 23 (E.E.T.S.), Than as wyse and discrete he withdrew him saying that more is worth a good retrayte than a folisise abydinge. r597: Shakespeare, 1 Henry IV., V. iv., The better part of valour is discretion. 1611: B. & F., King and No King, IV. iii. 1830: Marryat, King's Own, ch. xxxi. 1914: E. V. Lucas, Landmarks, 37, Mrs. Sergison here chose the better part of valour and urged Rudd to go to sleep. See also Valour.

Disdainful as ditch water. c. 1386: Chaucer, Reeve's Tale, l. 44, Sehe was as deyne as water in a ditch As ful of hokir and of bissemare. c. 1394: Piers P. Crede, l. 375. They ben digne [haughty, disdainful] as dich water that dogges in bayteth.

Disease known is half cured, A. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' Colloq., 9. When the disease is known, it is half cured. 1732: Fuller, No. 75.

Disease will have its course. 1655:
T Muffett  Healths Improvement, 8,  
These addle proverbs 3 Every disease will have its course.

Diseases are the price of ill pleasures 1670 Ray, 7, Diseases are the interests of pleasures 1732 Fuller, No 1297

See also Sickness

Disgraces are like cherries, one draws another 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

Dish and Dishes 1 All her dishes are chaffing dishes 1562 Heywood, Epigr., 6th Hund No 38, Wyfe all thy dishes be chaffing dishes plast, For thou chafest at sight of every dish thou hast 1639 Clarke, 34, All his meat is in chaffing dishes 1670 Ray, 7

2 He has got a dish = is drunk 1678 Ray, 87

3 The dish wears its own cover 1680 L’Estrange, Select ColI Erasmus, 135, The dish (as we say) wears its own cover 1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict., s v “Dish”

Dish-clout 1 I will not make my dish-clout my table-cloth 1678 Ray, 125 1732 Fuller, No 2646

2 There’s a thing in it, quoth the fellow when he drank the dish-clout 1639 Clarke, 8 1670 Ray, 196 1732 Fuller, No 4884, when he drank dish-clout and all 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 591, Ahem! as Dick Smith said when he swallowed the dish-clout

Diss, Norfolk See quot Before 1852 S W Rix, m Norfolk Arch Papers, 11 18 (quoted in N & Q, 1st ser, vi 303), [Diss] was formerly so little frequented by travellers that it became a proverb at Cambridge to express indifference respecting trivial matters, “He knows nothing about Diss.”

Dissembled sin is double wickedness 1633 Draxe, 46, Pretended holiness is double iniquity 1647 Countrym New Commonwealth, 12 [as in 1633, but with “Dissembled” for “Pretended”] 1732 Fuller, No 1299

Distrust See quot 1645 Howell, Letters, bk 1 §v No xx, It is a rule in friendship, When distrust enters in at the fore-gate, love goes out at the postern

Ditch See Hedge (5)

Ditton See Hutton

Djanimal-maker is the sub-armer to an historian, A 1659 Howell, 2

Diversity of humors breedeth tumors

Divide See quot 1551 T Wilson, Rule of Reason, sig D8, It is an old saying he y doth well drude, doth teache well

Dizzy (or Giddy) as a goose “Dizzy” was probably used in the old sense of foolish or stupid 1639 Clarke, 286, As dizzy as a goose 1670 Ray, 204 1745 Franklin, Drinker’s Dict., in Works, ii 24 (Bigelow), He’s as dizzy as a goose 1774 Burgoyne, Maid of the Oaks, IV 11, I am as giddy as a goose, yet I have not touched a drop of liquor to-day 1788 Colman, jr., Ways and Means, III 11, Giddy as a goose

Do and Dong 1 By doing nothing we learn to do ill 1567 Fenton, Bandelio, II 63 (T T), Plato, who affirmeth that in doynge nothyng men leme to do evill 1669 Poltiesthphus, 307 1732 Fuller, No 1038

2 Do and undo, the day is long enough 1639 Clarke, 156 1672 Walker, Param., 50 1736 Bailey, Dict., s v “Do”

3 Do as I say, not as I do [Faites ce que nous disons et ne faites pas ce que nous faisons —Tr of Boccaccio (3rd day, 7th novel) by A Sabatier de Castres (1801)] 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch v, It is as folke doce, and not as folke saie 1631 Mabbe, Celestina, 27 (T T), Do you that good which I say, but not that ill which I do 1859 Smiles, Self-Help, 360 (1869) The common saying of “Do as I say, not as I do,” is usually reversed in the actual experience of life 188x Evans, Lercs Words, etc., 300 (E D S), “Do as I say an’ not as I do” says the paa’son A tar of this which I have heard more than once runs “as the paa’son said when they whelt ‘im hum in a wheel-barra”

4 Do as most men do, and men will speak well of you 1546 Heywood,
Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ii., He that doeth as most men doo, shalbe least wondred on. 1670: Ray, 122, Do as the most do, and fewest will speak evil of thee. 1732: Fuller, No. 1309.

Do as you’re bidden and you’ll never bear blame. 1678: Ray, 101.

Do evil and look for the like. 1569: Grafton, Chron., i. 482 (1809), So the common probrue was verified, as you have done, so shall you feele. 1633: Drake, 179, Doe euill and euill will come of it. 1732: Fuller, No. 1305.

Do good and then do it again. 1659: Howell, Proverbs: Brit.-Eng., 12, Do it good, or do it again. 1855: Bohn, 269.

Do good: thou dost it for thyself. 1732: Fuller, No. 1306, Do good, if you expect to receive it. 1864: “Cornish Proverbs,” in N. & Q., 3rd ser., vi. 495.

Do it by degrees. See Cat (35).

Do it well that thou may’st not do it twice. 1732: Fuller, No. 1308.

Do little good, do-little evil, etc. See Come (4).

Do man for thyself, etc. See Cat. 15th cent.: in Relig. Antiqua, i. 314 (1841), Do mon for thisselfe, Wyl thou art alyve; For he that doos after thou dethe, God let him never thrive. Quod Tucket.

Do not all you can; spend not all you have; believe not all you hear; and tell not all you know. 1855: Bohn, 344.


Do the likeliest and hope the best. 1732: Fuller, No. 1310.

Do well and have well. 1632: Langland, Plowman, A, viii. 97, I con no pardoun fynde, Bote “dowel, and haue wel and god schal haue thi soule.” c. 1483: Caxton, Dialogues, 47 (E.E.T.S.), I say atte begynnynge, Who doth well shall well haue. 1546:

Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ix. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. ”Bien,” He that does well shall speed well. 1732: Fuller, No. 1311.


Doing is better than saying. 1633: Drake, 41.

He does well, but none knows but himself. 1639: Clarke, 145.

He doth much that doeth a thing well. 1732: Fuller, No. 1839.

He may do much ill cre he can do much worse. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1594: Bacon, Promis, No. 956. 1639: Clarke, 150.

He that does not love a woman. See Hate (1).

He that does you an ill turn. See Ill turn (2).

He that doth amiss may do well. 1629: Book of Meery Riddles, Prov. 76.

He that doth his own business hurteth not his hand. 1591: Florio, Second Frutes, 11 [with “doth not defile” for “hurteth”]. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum [with “foule” for “hurteth”]. 1732: Fuller, No. 2086.

He that doth ill hath the light. 1629: Book of Meery Riddles, Prov. 77.

He that doth most at once doth least. 1855: Bohn, 385.

He that doth nothing doth ever amiss. 1629: Book of Meery Riddles, Prov. 75. 1865: “Lanes Proverbs,” in N. & Q., 3rd ser., viii. 494, Those who are doing nothing are doing ill. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 10, Thoose ’at are doin’ nowt are doin’ ill.

He that doth well wearieth not himself. 1633: Drake, 32. 1732: Fuller, No. 2090.

He that doth what he will, doth not what he ought. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum, 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, iv. 121 (1785), I am sure he has proved the truth of a hundred times, That he who does what he will seldom does what he ought.

He that hath done ill once will do it again. 1855: Bohn, 400.

He that hath done so much hurt that he can do no more may sit down
42 What we do willingly is easy
1630 T Adams, Works, 422 1631
Hone, Year-Book, col 1612, Nothing is
troublesome that we do willingly
43 Who would do ill, ne'er wants oc-
casion 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum
Dock to a daisy, As like as a 1639
Clarke, 96. An odious comparison! a
dock to a daisy 1670 Ray, 204, As
like as a dock to a daisy That is very
unlike
Dock See In dock
Doctor Diet, etc See quotes 1558
Bullem, Gost of Health, to 51. The first
was called doctor diet, the second
doctor quiet, the third doctor mery-
man 1596 Harington, Metam of
Ajax, 99 (1814), Doctor Diet, Doctor
Quiet, and Doctor Merriman 1660
Howell, Parly of Beasts, 23. After these
two, Doctor Diet and Doctor Quiet,
Doctor Merriman is requit to preserve
health 1738 Swift, Polite Convers,
Dial II , The best doctors in the world
are [as in 1596] 1869 Spurgeon, John
Ploughman, ch v [as in 1738] 1920
Times, 5 Oct, p 6, col 1 [as in 1738]
Doctor Dodipoll A proverbial name
for a simpleton c 1420 Townley
Plays, 173 (E E T S), fly, dotty-pols,
with your bookys! 1550 Latimer,
Sermons, 245 (PS), They, like dod-
poles laughed their godly father to
scorn 1600 The Wisedome of Dr
Dodipoll [title], in Bullem, Old Plays,
vol in 1639 Clarke, 137. Doctor
Dodipoll is more honoured then a good
divine 1887 Evans, Leis Words,
etc., 139 (E D S), Dodipole, a simple-
ton, noodle 1889 Peacock, Manley,
etc., Glass, 169 (E D S), Dodipoll—a
blockhead
Doctors differ (or disagree) 1677
Wycherley, Plain Dealer, I 1, Well,
doctors differ 1735 Pope, Moral
Essays, Epist w, Who shall decide
when Doctors disagree? 1813 Gent
Mag, Pt I , p 627, I shall stand pro-
tected by the rhyming adage "When
Doctors disagree, Disciples then are
free" 1830 Colman, jr, in Hum
Works, 429 (Hotten)
Doe in the month of May See quot
e 1676 in Roxb Ballads, vii 558 (B S ),

And rest him 1633 Draxe, 43 1639
Clarke, 150
33 He that would do no ill must do
all good, or sit still 1655 Bohn, 396
34 I do what I can, quoth the fellow
when he thesht in his cloake 1639
Clarke, 155
35 If thou thyself canst do it, rely
not on another 1541 Coverdale, Christ
State Matrimony, sig I3, That which
thou canst do commendst thy selfe
commytte it not to another 1671
Cotgrave, s V Faire” 1670 Ray, i
1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Pro-
verbs, 152, For what you can do
your self don't depend on another 1631
Hone, Year-Book, col 1612, Never
trouble another for what you can do
yourself 1880 Spurgeon, Ploughman's
Pictures, 33, If you want a thing well
done, do it yourself
36 In doing we learn 1640 Her-
bert, Jac Prudentum
37 That may be done in an hour,
which we may repent all our life after
1648 Wit Restor'd, 151
38 We must do as we may, if we can't
do as we would 1633 Draxe, 32, A
man must doe as he can, when hee
cannot as he would 1698 Terence
made English, 43, They that can't do
as they wou'd, must c'en do as they
did, as the saying is 1732 Fuller,
No 4988
39 We'll do as they do at (see
quot's) 1678 Ray, 80, We'll do as
they do at Quern, What we do not do
to-day, we must do to to'morn 1830
Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 427, You
must do as they do at Hoo, What
you can't do in one day, you must do in
two 1919 Devonsh Assoc Trans, li
77, Oh, my dear love! 'e must do same s
they doo's in France, the best 'e can
40 What is done by night appeares
by day c 1390 Gower, Conf Amantis,
bk v 1 4599, Thing done upon the
derke nyht Is after knowne on dates
liht 1666 Torrano, Pizza Univ,
263, That which is done in the dark,
appears in the sun shine 1732 Fuller,
No 5495
41 What's done can't be undone See
Once done.
Doff

157

If it be true, as old wives say, “Take a doe in the month of May, And a forester’s courage she soon will allay.”

Doff one’s shoes. See Put (r).

Dog and Dogs. 1. A bad dog never sees the wolf. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Loup.” A bad dog hates to looke upon a wolfe. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

2. A barking dog bites little. c. 1350: Alexander, l. 1805, Bot as bremly as he [a “curre’"] baies he bitis never the faster. 1387: Trevisa, tr. Higden, iii. 427 (Rolls Ser.), Hit is ye manere of ye feblest houndes for to berke most. 1584: T. Howell, Devises, 30 (1906), Those dogs byte least, that greatest barkings keepe. 1669: Politiephilus, 198. A dog that barketh much will bite but little. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. “Barking,” Barking dogs seldom bite.


4. A dog in a halter. 1639: Clarke, 274. To take a man up as short as a dog in a halter. 1660: Roxb. Ballads, vii. 648 (B.S.), For the pence hee’s your dog in a halter.

5. A dog is made fat in two meals. 1863: Wise, New Forest, ch. xvi., “A dog is made fat in two meals,” is applied to upstart or purse-proud people.

6. A dog will not cry if you beat him with a bone. 1659: Howell, Proverbs: Brit.-Eng., 24. The dog will not bite, for being struck with a bone. 1732: Fuller, No. 79.


8. A dog’s nose and a maid’s knees are always cold. 1639: Clarke, 72. A dog’s nose is ever cold. 1659: Howell, 9 (7). A womans knee and a dogs snout are always cold. 1670: Ray, 51. 1870: “C. Bede,” in N. & Q., 4th ser., vi. 495, [Old Hunts cottage log.] Why, that’s a very old saying, “A maid’s knee and a dog’s nose are the two coldest things in creation.” [“Knee” is sometimes “elbow.” See a long story of Noah’s ark and the leak therein in Lowsley’s Gloss. of Berkshire Words (1888), quoted in Mrs. Wright’s Rustic Speech, etc., p. 227 (1913).]


10. A man may provoke his own dog to bite him. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vii., A man maie handle his dog so That he maie make him bite him, though he would not. 1670: Ray, 7 [with “cause” for “provoke”]. 1732: Fuller, No. 298.


12. A tarring dog comes halting home. 1732: Fuller, No. 441.

13. All the dogs follow the salt bitch. 1639: Clarke, 13. 1670: Ray, 80.


46. 'Tis a certain truth that an old dog and bite sore

16 An old dog will learn no new

1605 Camden, Remains, 326 (1870), It is hard to teach an old dog

1604 D. Urfe, Quixote, Pt I

Act II sc 1 1758-67 Sterne, Trist

Shandy, vol in ch xxxiv, It is a singular blessing, that nature has formed

the mind of man with the same happy

backwardness and remitency against

conviction, which is observed in old
dogs,—'of not learning new tricks''

1823 Scott, Poems, Intro, par 2

1924 I Hay, The Shallow End, 5, We are an ancient and dignified people,

and you cannot teach an old dog

new tricks

17 As busy as a dog in dough 1879

G F Jackson, Shropsh Word-Book, 128, 'As busy as a dog in dough'

is a proverbial saying heard in some

parts of Shropshire. Northall,

Folk Phrases, 19 (E D S), Like dogs in

dough, i.e. unable to make headway.

1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 17, As busy (as thrum) as a dog in a kitchen

18 As courteous as a dog in a kitchen

Ironical 1777 Langland, Plowman,

B, v 261, 'I am holden,' quod he,

'as hende as houndes is in kyche nyne'

19 As the old dog barks, so the young

one e 1470 G Ashby, Poems, 32

(E E T S), Aftur the oolde dogge the
yonge whelp barks

20 As vain as a dog with two tails

1809 J Nicholson, Folk Speech E

Yorks, 17

21 At every dog's bark seem not to

awake 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch v 1549 Bacon, Promes,

No 662, At every dogge bark to

awake 1633 Drake, 48, Wake not

at every dogges bark

22 At open doors, dogs come in

1620 Scott, Monastery, ch xxxii

23 Better have a dog fawn upon you

than bite you 1639 Clarke, 219

1678 Ray, 128 1732 Fuller, No 902

24 Cut off a dog's tail and he will be

a dog still 1578 Floro, First Fruits,
o 33 1629 Book of Merry Riddles,

Prov 122

25 Dead dogs bark not 1596 A

Copley, Fig for Fortune, 23 (Spens S),

Dead dogges barke not 1667 L'Estrange, Quevedo's Visions, 252 (1904),

A dead dog will never bite

26 Dog and side pockets See Toad (1)

27 Dog does not eat dog [parrot

Cognitio maiuscula summus fera — Juvenal, Sat xv 160] 1651 Herbert, Jac

Prudentum, 2nd ed., A wolf will never

make war against another wolf 1790

Wolcot, in Works, ii 203 (1798), Dog

should not prey on dog, the proverb

says 1809 Pegge, Anonym cent vi

26, It is a common observation that
dog will not eat dog 1869 Spurgeon,

John Ploughman, ch xiv, Dog won't

eat dog, but men will eat each other up

like cannibals

28 Dogs bark as they are bred 1732

Fuller, No 1313 1675 A B Cheales,

Proverb Folk-Lore, 140, Dogs bark as

they are bred, and lown as they are fed

29 Dogs bark before they bite 1546

Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vii, A
dog will barke he bite 1670 Ray,

81 1732 Fuller, No 1316, Dogs ought
to bark before they bite [Camden

(1605, Remains, 316 (1870)) reverses

the saying—A dog will bite ere he bark]

30 Dogs bark more from custom than
deferences 1631 Mabbe, Celestina,

Epist Ded., Like dogges that barke

by custome 1647 Wharton, Melhi

Anghct, Pref., It is a common pro-

verb, "Dogs bark more for custome

than fierenesse"

31 Dogs bark not at him 1546

Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch v, All

dogs barke not at him 1607 Dekker,

Knight's Conjuring, 30 (Percy S), He

car de not what dogges barke, d at

him 1650 Fuller, Piscab Sight, bk

ch iv § 1, In his peaceable country,

where no dog durst bark against him

32 Dogs begin in jest and end in
earest 1855 Bohn, 345

33 Dogs gnaw bones because they

cannot swallow them 1670 Ray, 7

34 Dogs run away with whole should-

ers 1670 Ray, 172

35 Dogs that bark at a distance never

bite 1605 Camden, Remains, 321

(1870), Dogs barking aloof bite not

at hand 1732 Fuller, No 1317
37. Dogs wag their tails not so much in love to you as to your bread. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Amour," Dogs fawne on a man no longer then he feeds them. 1633: Draxe, 21. The dog waggeth his tale, not for you, but for your bread. 1670: Ray, 7. 1732: Fuller, No. 1320.
38. Dogs will run away with the meat but not with the work. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in N. & Q., 3rd ser., vi. 494.
39. Enough to make a dog laugh. c. 1603: in Collier, Roxb. Ballads, 158 (1847), "Two'd make a dog laugh. 1664: Pepys, Diary, 8 Jan., To hear how W. Symons do commend and look sadly . . . would make a dogg laugh. 1794: Wolcot, Works, ii. 526 (1795). Enough to make the sourest cynic smile, Or, as the proverb says, "make a dog laugh."
40. Every dog considers himself a lion at home. 1660: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 36. Every dog is a lion at home. 1732: Fuller, No. 1414. Every dog is stout at his own door. 1865: "Lances Proverbs," in N. & Q., 3rd ser., viii. 494. 1866: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xiii. A dog is a lion when he is at home.
41. Every dog has his day. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. i. ch. xi. A dog hath a daie. 1573: New Custom, II. iii. Well, if it chance that a dog hath a day. c. 1630: in Roxb. Ballads, i. 184 (Hindley), Let's spend while we may; Each dog hath his day. 1705: Ward, Hudibras Redit., Pt. 2, can. iii., p. 18. I've heard a good old proverb say, That ev'ry dog has got his day. 1860: Reade, Cl. and Heathc, ch. xxxvi. 1864: N. & Q., 3rd ser., v. 97. They say in this county [Essex] "Every dog has his day, and a cat has two Sundays." 1896: F. M. T. Palgrave, Hutton-le-Hole Word List, 3 (E.D.S.), A saying sometimes heard is "Every dog has its day, and a bitch two afternoons."
42. For fashion's sake, as dogs go to church. 1732: Fuller, No. 1590.
43. Give a dog an ill name and hang him. 1760: Colman, Polly Honeycombe, sc. iv. 1815: Scott, Manonering, ch. xxiii. 1922: E. Hutton, in Sphere, 8 April, p. 40. "Give a dog a bad name and hang him" has proved too often to be a true proverb. Cf. Ill name.
44. Hang a dog on a crab-tree and he'll never love verjuice. 1659: Howell, 5. He that is hang'd in a crabb tree will never love verjuicye. 1670: Ray, 81. 1692: L'Estrange, Esof, 59 (3rd ed.) 1753: World, No. 32. It is true to a proverb, that if you hang a dog upon a crab-tree, he will never love verjuice. 45. He is a good dog which goes to church. 1826: Scott, Woodstock, ch. i., Bevis, indeed, fell under the proverb which avers "He is a good dog which goes to church."
46. He looks like a dog under a door. 1678: Ray, 70.
47. He that would hang his dog gives out first that he is mad. 1530: Palsgrave, 450. He that will kyll his neigh-bours dogge beareth folkes in hande he is madde. 1670: Ray, 81. 1732: Fuller, No. 2362.
48. He went as willingly as a dog to a whip. 1654: Gayton, Pleasant Notes Don Q., 188.
50. I am not every body's dog that whistle. 1633: Draxe, 18. Hee is ready to runne at every mans whistle. 1659: Howell, 16. I am not like a dogg that cometh at every ones whissing. 1826: Scott, Woodstock, ch. ix., You are sure he will come, like a dog at a whistle.
51. I will never keep a dog to bite me. 1732: Fuller, No. 2640.
52. I'll give you no more quarter than a dog does a wolf. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' Colloq., 555. So that it is grown into a proverb, I'll give you, etc.
54. If you would wish the dog to follow you, feed him. 1855: Bohn, 422.
Dog values his tail 1880 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 47
65 Let the dog worry the hog 1659 Howell, 13
66 Like a dog in a fair c 1520 in Skelton, Works, n 445 (Dyce), Ye come among vs plenty By copies in a petre, As sprites in the haire Or dogges in the hayre 1640 Barham, Ing Legends " Jackdaw of Rheims " That little jack

daw kept hopping about, Here and there Like a dog in a fair 1893 G l Gower, Gloss Surrey Words, vi (E D S), They didn't keep nothing reg'lar, it was all over the place like a dog at a fair
67 Like a dog in a wheel c 1653 in Somers Tracts, vu 73 (1821), But I durst undertake to pose him with a muddle, and stand his intelligence in a dog in a wheel 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, iv 120 (1785), [Like] a dog in a wheel, which roasts meat for others 1827 Scott, Journal, 22 March, It makes me feel like a dog in a wheel, always moving and never advancing
68 Like a dog in the manger [κασιδερη] την έπ τη φοτε μω ημε αυτη των ερωθων των κρεσον πη το ησυχαι εκποθως — Lucian, Timon] c 1390 Gower, Conf Amantis, bk u 1 84 Thoug it be night the houndes künde To ete cheaf, yit wol he weme An oxe which comth to the berne, Therof to taken eny fode 1484 Caxton Assope (Caxton has the faule of the Dog, but does not give the proverb or phrase " dog in a manger " in any form) 1546 Supphication of Poor Commons, 65 (E E T S), They are lyke to a curre dogge lying in a cockpit of haye For he wyll eate none of the hey hym selfe, nother suffer any other beast that commeth to eate therof 1580 Tusser, Husbandrie, 69 (E D S), To dog in the manger some liken I could 1663 Pepys, Diary, 25 Nov, He wittily replaid that there was nothing in the world so hateful as a dog in the manger 1760 Foote Minor, I, Dead to pleasure them selves, and the blasters of it in others —mere dogs in a manger 1836 Marryat, Japhet, ch lxxv, Why what a dog in the manger you must be—
you can’t marry them both. 1923: Lucas, Advisory Ben, 179, But we mustn’t be dogs in the manger: old men like us.

60. Like dogs, if one bark, all bark. 1639: Clarke, 148.

70. Like dogs that snarl about a bone: And play together when they’ve none. 1732: Fuller, No. 6431.

71. Many a dog is hanged for his skin, and many a man is killed for his purse. 1639: Clarke, 97.

72. Many a dog’s dead since you were a whelp. 1732: Fuller, No. 3336.

73. The best dog leap the stile first, i.e. let the worthiest person take place. 1678: Ray, 76.

74. The dog that licks ashes trust not with meat. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1670: Ray, 82.

75. The dog that fetches will carry. 1830: Forby, Vocab. E. Anglia, 429.

76. The dog who hunts foulest hits at most faults. 1659: Howell, 1. 1670: Ray, 7. 1732: Fuller, No. 1318, Dogs that hunt foulest hit off most faults. 177. The foremost dog catcheth the hare. 1670: Ray, 10.

78. The hindmost dog may catch the hare. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 419 (Arber). The last dogge oftentimes catcheth the hare. 1681: W. Robertson, Phrasesol. Generalis, 728. 1732: Fuller, No. 4597 [with “catcheth” for “may catch”].

79. The mad dog bites his master. 1732: Fuller, No. 4644.

80. The scalded dog fears cold water. 1567: Hoby, Courtier, 191 (T.T.), As dogges, after they have bine once scaulded with hott water, are afeard of the colde. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Chien,” The scaulded dog feares even cold water. 1853: Trench, Proverbs, 66 (1905).

81. The worst dog that is will wag his tail. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 33. The worst dog waggeth his tayl. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 36, The pittyfull’st dog that is will wag his tail.

82. There are more ways to kill a dog than hanging. 1678: Ray, 127. 1725: in Swift, Works, vi. 478 (Scott), I know that very homely proverb, More ways of killing a dog than hanging him.

83. To beat the dog before the lion. c. 1386: Chaucer, Squire’s Tale, 1 491, And for to make other be war by me, As by the whelp chasted is the leoun. 1602: Chamberlain, Letters, 148 (Camden S.), It was so well and cunningly conveyed to beate the whelp before the lion, and reade her her lesson in her fellows booke. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Batre,” Batre le chien devant le lyon. To punishe a meane person in the presence, and to the terror, of a great one. 1604: Shakespeare, Othello, II. iii., As one would beat his offenceless dog to affright an imperious lion. 1892: D. G. Rossetti, Dante and his Circle, 314, Since a dog scourged can bid the lion fear.

84 To behave as dogs in a bog. c. 1380: Wiclif, Works, ii. 358 (Arnold), Than shulde pees be in the chirche withouten strif of doggis in a poke. c. 1386: Chaucer, C. Tales, A, 4298 (Skeat), They walwe [wallow, roll about, struggle] as doon two piggis in a poke.

85. To give one the dog to hold—To serve one a dog-trick. 1678: Ray, 70.

86. To have a dog in one’s sleeve. This seems to mean the same as “a flea in one’s ear.” 1577: J. Grange, Golden Aphroditis, sig. Li, Some of the company departed with a dogge in their sleeve.

87. To scorn a thing as a dog scorns tribe. 1670: Ray, 207.

88. To sit where the dog was hanged = “A succession of petty mischances.” 1830: Forby, Vocab. E. Anglia, 409.

89. To sleep a dog’s sleep. 1660: Fuller, Mist Contempli, 269 (1830), He sleepeth not, but only shuttest his eyes in dogsleep. 1669-96: Aubrey, Lives, ii. 40 (Clark), He was wont to sleep much in the house [of Commons] (at least dog-sleepe). 1773: in Garrick Correspond., i. 571 (1831), Mr. Willmot ... fell asleep. Dr. B— thought it dog sleep. 1820: Colton, Lacon, Pt. 11, No. 122 n., A Greek quotation...
roused our slumbering professor, from a kind of dog sleep, in a snug corner of the vehicle.

80 What I keep a dog and bark myself
1583 Melbonchre, Philotimus, sig Q2.
It is small reason you should keep a dog, and barke yourselfe 1670 Ray
81 1738 Swift Polite Convers, Dial I., But I won’t keep a dog, and bark myself 1924 Austen Chamberlain, reported in Times 16 Dec., p 8, col 3.
I said to those with whom I talked "We have an English proverb, ‘Why bark yourself when you keep a dog?"

91 When a dog is drowning every one offers him water (or drink) 1611 Colgrave, s.v. "Chien" 1670 Ray, 7
1736 Bailey, Dict., s.v. 'Dog.' 1875 A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 69
92 When the dog is beaten out of the room, where will they lay their skin? 1732 Fuller, No 5581
93 When the whelp plays the old dog grins 1500 Hill, Commonplace-Book, 232 (B. E. T. S.), When the whelp gameth, the old dogge genneth
94 While the dog (or hound) gnaweth a bone, he looketh no company 1210 in T. Wright’s, Essays on Middle Ages, 1 149 (1846), Wil the hund gnagh bon, ifere neld he non 1586 L. Evans, Revised W. Hals Dict., sig C3. While a dog gnawes a bone, he hateth his fellowe, whom otherwise he loves

95 See quot 1417 in Relig. Antiquae, 1 233 (1841), Who that maketh in Christmas a dogge to his larder, And in Marche a sowe to his gardyner, And in Maye a foile of a wise mannes counsell, He shall never have good larder, fare gardeyn, nor wele keppe counsell.
1486 Boke of St Albs, sig F4 [as in 1417]
96 Who regards not his dog, will make him a choke-sheep" 1864 "Cornish Proverbs," in N. & Q., 3rd ser., vi 404
97 You may choke a dog with pudding 1875 A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 117

See also Another man’s dog, Brag, Brawling curs, Butter (9), Cat (14), (38), (40), (45), and (61) Covetous (3), Crack, Currant cur, Eat (29), Fight (2) and (3), Fat as a pudding, Flesh, Greedy

Greyhound, Hare (7), Horse (66), Hungry, Lame, Lean dog, Lie, verb (3) and (4), Living, Look (19), Love, verb (10) and (20), Man (1), Many dogs, Mastiff, Musk, One dog, Pleased, Plough, verb (3), Pudding (4), Rise (5), Scornful, Silent (4) Sleeping dogs, Stick, subs (1), Two dogs, Waking, We dogs, Wolf (18), and Woman (8) and (38)

Dog-days 1 As the dog days commence, so they end, 2 Dog days bright and clear Indicate a happy year. But when accompanied by rain, For better times our hopes are vain, 3 If it rains on first dog day, it will rain for forty days after—all three in 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 31

Dogmatical tone, a pragmatical pate, A 1732 Fuller, No 77

Dog-trick, To play or serve one a 1540 tr Polydore Vergil’s Eng Hist, 284 (Camden S., No 36) (O.), I will here in the way of mirth, declare a prettie dog tricke or gibe as concerning this mayden 1697 Flecknoe, Tomaso the Wand, II (1925). By which dog-trick of his, he made every one an enemy to him 1699 New Dict Canting Crew, sig D7, He play’d me a dog-trick, he did basely and dittily by me

Dole Ye deal this doe out at a wrong door = Your charity is ill bestowed 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch III
See also Happy man

Don, River See quot 1828 J. Hunter, South Yorks., 2, The shelving shining river Don, Each year a daughter or a son, is an old saw often too fatally verified in modern experience Of Dart, River

Doncaster cuts = Horses Before 1529 Skelton, Magnyfyscence, 1 296. In fayth, I set not by the worlde two

Dauncaster cuttys

Donkey See A back o’ behind, and Ass

Door 1 Make not the door wider than the house 1639 Clarke, I
2 Who will make a door of gold, must knock a nail every day 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

Dorsetshire dorseers 1662 Fuller,
Dotterel


Dotterel. 1. See quot. 1878: Dyer, *Eng. Folk-Lore,* 96. The appearance of the dotterel . . . is regarded by shepherds as a sign of coming winter, and hence the adage:—"When dotterel do first appear, it shows that frost is very near; But when the dotterel do go, then you may look for heavy snow."

2. *A dish of dottrels.* 1639: Clarke, 220.

Doublet. *See Put (1).*


Doubts. *He that casteth all doubts shall never be resolved.* 1732: Fuller, No. 2063.


5. *From Dover to Dunbar; and When it's dark in Dover, 'Tis dark all the world over—both in 1735: Pegge, *Kent. Proverbs,* in E.D.S., No. 12, p. 79.*

*See also Berwick; and Deal.*

Dover-court: all speakers and no hearers. Essex. North in 1740 quot. misunderstands the saying. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies,* ii. 124 (1849). 1700: T. Brown, in *Works,* iii. 66 (1700). The whole room was a perfect resemblance of Dover-court, where all speak, but no body heard or answer'd. 1740: North, *Examen,* 517. As in the proverbial court at Dover, all speakers and no hearers. 1851: *Essex Gloss.,* 6. Dovercourt, a great noise. (Said to have arisen from Dovercourt being famous for its scolds.) 1888: Q.—Couch, *Troy Town,* ch. xix., For up ten minutes 'twas Dover to pay, all talkers an' no listeners.


2. *Down the hill goes merrily.* 1639: Clarke, 260.


Draff is good enough for swine. c. 1535: *Gentleness and Nobility,* sig. Cf, Thou sayst trew draff is good inough for swyne. 1591: Harington, *Orl. Furioso,* bk. xx. st. 83. Tis fit (quoth he) that swine should feed on draffe. 1653: Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale,* 83-7 (1697). 1732: Fuller, No. 1324.
Draft was his errand, but drink he would have 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch vi. That draffe is your errand, but drunke ye wolde 1619 Chapman, Two Wise Men, VII i 1670 Ray, 83 1732 Fuller, No 1325

Draughts 1 If cold wind reach you through a hole Say your prayers, and mind your soul 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 16 (Percy S) 1872 N & Q, 4th ser., x 83. If draught comes to you through a hole, Go make your will, and mind your soul

2 The air of a window is as the stroke of a cross-bow 1678 Ray, 41 1732 Fuller, No 6257

Draw in one's horns, To 1577 Misogenus, III u. It will make you pluck in your anes, and you were near [never] so wilde 1642 D Rogers, Naaman, sig S1. Let them cause you to be ashamed, or to shrinke in your horns ever the more 1672 Walker, Param., 15. To pull in his horns, make a retreat 1776 in Garrick Corresp., u 140 (1832) Give me your assurance not, and I will draw in my horns with great pleasure 1817 Scott, Rob Roy, ch xviii. He drew in his horns, to use the Baile's phrase, on the instant

Draw the nail, To 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 132

Drawn wells are seldom dry 1639 Clarke, 107 1670 Ray, 83 1732 Fuller, No 1327 1853 Trench, Proverbs, 104 n (1905). In the sense of the latter half of this proverb we say, Drawn wells are seldom dry

Drawn wells have sweetest water 1639 Clarke, 107 1681 W Robertson, Phrases Generalis, 1196

Drayton See Hodnet

Dream of a dry summer See Summer (8)

Dream, To See quotes 1639 Clarke, 236. After a dreame of weddiges comes a corse 1670 Ray, 83 [as in 1639] 1683 Burne Shropsh Folk-Lore, 263. We have the sayings, 'To dream of the dead, good news of the living.' 'Dream of a funeral hear of a wedding', 'Dream of a death, hear of a birth,' and vice versa Ibid., 264. As they say at Welshampton, To dream of things out of season Is trouble without reason

Dreams go by contraries  c 1400 Beryn, Prol., 108, for comynyly of these swevenys [dreams] the contrary men shul fynde 1566 W Adlington, tr Apuleius, bk iv So the visions of the night do often chance contrary 1633 Rowley Match at Midnight, IV, 0, strange? to see how dreams fall by contraries 1673 Wycherley, Gent Danc-Master IV 1 Dreams go by the contraries 1731 Fielding, Grub Street Opera, I vi Oh the perjury of men! I find dreams do not always go by contraries 1851 Planché, Extravag., IV 179 (1879), You know That dreams by their contraries always go 1922 Punch, 7 June, p 441, col 2, "Dreams go by contraries," declares a contemporary That must be how our Derby-tiaster got his information

Drift is as bad as unstrip 1659 Howell, 6 1678 Ray, 71

Drinck, subs 1 Drink in wit out [In proverbium cessit sapientiam vno obumbra — Pliny, XXIII i 23] c 1390 Gower, Conf. Amantis, bk vi 1555. For wher that wyn doth wit awee, Wisdom hath lost the nhte were 1566 Becon, Catechism, 375 (P S). For when the wine is in, the wit is out 1599 Shakespeare, Much Ado, III v. Dogb A good old man, sir, he will be talking as they say, When the age [ale] is in, the wit is out 1642 D Rogers, Naaman, sig Eez, Next day when wine was out, and wit in 1712 Swift, Journal to Stella, Lett xlii, But after dinner is after dinner—an old saying and a trae, "much drinking, little thinking" 1854 J W Water, Last of Old Squares, 53. When the drink goes in, then the wit goes out

2 Drunk and drought come not always together 1732 Fuller, No 1329

3 Drunk washes off the dumb, and discovers the man Ibid., No 1330

4 Of all the meat in the world, drunk goes down the best 1855 Bohn, 466

Drink, verb 1 Don't say, I'll never drink of this water, how dirty soever it be 1770 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 236 1732 Fuller, No 5016
Drink

2. Drink as much after an egg as after an ox. 1608: Harington, Sch. of Salerne, sig. A7, Remember . . . For every egg you eat you drink as oft.

1659: Howell, i. 1670: Ray, 36. 1758: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II. And, faith, one should drink as much after an egg as after an ox.

3. Drink in the morning staring, then all the day be sparing. 1659: Howell, i. 1670: Ray, 39. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 14 (Percy S.).

Drink less and go home by daylight. c. 1320: in Reliq. Antiquae, i. 176 (1841), "Drink oft lasse, and go by lyhte hom"; Quoth Hendingy.


5. Drink only with the duck—Drink water only. 1377: Langland, Plowman, B, v. 75, Drynke but myd [with] the doke and dyne but ones.

6. Drink with the devil. See Devil (100).

7. Drink and have the gout; drink no wine and have the gout. 1588: Cogan, Haven of Health, Epist. Ded., As I haue heard many gentlemen say ere now: Drinke wine and haue the gowte: drink none and haue the gowt.

1659: T. Muffett, Health's Improvement, 5. 1669: in Harl. Miscell., ii. 49 (1744) [with "clareat" instead of "wine"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 1331.

9. He drank till he gave up his half-penny—vomited. 1678: Ray, 87. 1745: Franklin, Drinker's Dict., in Works, ii. 25 (Bigelow).

10. He drinks like a hen, with head held up. 1675: in Roxb. Ballads, iv. 45 (B.S.), Though he drinks like a chick, with his eye-balls lift up.

1810: Mary Allen, Poems for Youth, The little chickens, as they dip their beaks into the river, Hold up their heads at every dip, And thank the Giver. 1880: Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 28, There's Solomon Bragg's holding up his head like a hen drinking water, but there's nothing in it.

11. He is drinking at the Harrow when he should be at the plough. 1639: Clarke, 47. 1670: Ray, 180. 1732: Fuller, No. 2456.

12. He that drinketh well sleepeth well, and he that sleepeth well thinketh no harm. 1530: Falsgrave, 721. 1551: T. Wilson, Rule of Reason, sig H8, He that drinkes wel, slepes wel 1609: Lithgow, Rare Adventures, 69 (1906), He that cateth well, drinketh well, he that drinketh well, sleepeth well, he that sleepeth well sinneth not, and he that sinneth not goeth straight through Purgatory to Paradise.

13. If you drink with your porridge, you'll cough in your grave. 1670: Ray, 133. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II.

14. The more one drinks the more one may. 1633: Draxe, 49. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 25 [with "would" for "may"].

15. To drink like a fish. 1646: Shirley, in Works, vi. 321 (Dyce), I can drink like a fish. 1701: Farquhar, Sir H. Wildair, II., Where I may . . . drink like a fish, and swear like a devil. 1778: H. More, in Garrick Corresp., ii. 320 (1832), I shall have nothing to do but to go to Bath and drink like a fish. 1885: A. Dobson, in Poet. Works, 297 (1923), Thou drink'st as fishes do. 1894: R. L. S., St. Ives, ch. xiii., He drank like a fish or an Englishman.


17. When thou dost drink, beware the toast, for therein lies the danger most. 1839: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 37 (1885).

18. You drink out of the broad end of the funnel, and hold the little one to me. 1732: Fuller, No. 5898.

19. You drink vinegar when you have wine at your elbow. Ibid., No. 5899.

Drinking kindness is drunken friendship. Ibid., No. 1333.

Drive, verb. i. Drive the nail that will go. 1655: Fuller, Church Hist., bk. ii. § iv. (12), Thus he drive that nail . . . which would go best for the present.

1737: Gay, Fables, 2nd ser., No. 9, l. 14, Hence politicians, you suggest, Should drive the nail that goes the best. 1857: Hughes, Tom Brown, Pt. II. ch. ii., How often have
I told you, Tom, that you must drive a nail where it’ll go.

2. Drive the nail to the head 1639

Clarke, 3

3. Drive thy business, let not that drive thee 1736. Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i 443 (Bigelow)

4. He drives a subtle trade 1678

Ray, 91

5. It is ill to drive black hogs in the dark 1678. Ray, 103 1732 Fuller, No 2963

Drive a top. See Top

Droppings. See Save (2)


And it is said syns afore we were borne


Drythe never yet bred death 1917. Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 52

Drown not thyself to save a drowning man 1732 Fuller, No 1340


If, in making dough, the good wife should put too much water, she has "droneendid minler" (drowned the miller) 1890. Dickinson, Cumb Gloss, 105. One whose liquor has been diluted too much, will say that the miller has been drowned. Cf. Muller (14)

Drowning men catch at straws 1614. C. Brooke, Rich the Third, 105 (Grosart), And now like to a man (ready to drown) Catch at a helpless thing c 1640 in Harl. Miscell., iv 153 (1745). Sinking she will take hold of reeds c 1660. L’ EstrangeSeneca’s Epistles, vui. We catch hold of hopes as drowning men do upon thorns, or straws 1748. Richardson, Clarissa, vi 5 (1785). The dear implacable, like a drowning man, catches at a straw to save herself! 1860. Reade, Cl. and Heath, ch xcv 1875. R L S Letters, 1 220 (Tutitala ed.). I cling to you as a drowning man to a straw 1926. Phillpotts Marylebone Miser, ch ix

Drum’s entertainment = A rough reception 1583. Melbancke, Philitinus, sig D. Hee had scarce Jacke Drummes enterteynement 1592. Greene, Groats worth, in Works, xi 129 (Grosart). And so gaving him Jacke Drummes entertainment, shut him out of doores 1634.

C. Butler, Feminine Monarchie, 64. They gently give them Tom Drummes entertainment c 1685 in Roxb. Ballads, viu 869 (B S). Thy entertainment shall be like Jack Drum 1834–7 Southey, Doctor, ch cxv. It is at this day doubtful whether it was Jack Drum or Tom Drum, whose mode of entertainment no one wishes to receive.

Drunk as a beggar 1622. Massinger, Virgin Martyr, III 21. Be drunk as a beggar, he helps you home 1670. Ray, 204 1745. Franklin, Drinker’s Dict., in Works, 11 23 (Bigelow) 1899. Hackwood, Inns, Ales, etc., 169. He may be as drunk as a beggar or as a lord

Drunk as a besom 1888 S O. Addy, Sheffield Gloss, 13 (E D S). There is a saying “as drunk as a besom”

Drunk as a boiled owl 1889. Peacock, Manley, etc., Gloss, 182 (E D S)


Drunk as a fish 1704. Congreve, Way of World, IV 1x. Thou art both as drunk and as mute as a fish 1864. T W Robertson, David Garrick, II. He’s drunk as a fish

Drunk as a lord 1659 in Somers Tracts, vii 184 (1811). Yet the proverb goes, “As drunk as a lord” 1670. Cotton, Staccamodied, bk iv 1731. Coffey, Devil to Pay, I 11 1872. Hardy, Greenwood Tree, Pt I ch 1. Time enough to get as drunk as lords!

Drunk as a mouse 19307 in Lyric Poetry, 11 (Percy S.). When that be

Drunk as a piper. 1720: Gay, *Poems*, ii. 277 (Underhill), Drunk as a piper all day long. 1772: Graves, *Spirit. Quixote*, bk. x. ch. xxix., He became as drunk as a piper.


Drunk as a swine (or hog, pig, sow). c. 1440: Lydgate, *Fall of Princes*, bk. iii. i. 2369, 'Thi lai and slepte lik as dronke swyn. c. 1500: in Hazlitt, *Early Pop. Poetry*, i. 100 (1864), To be as drunk as any swyne. 1681: *Poor Robin Alman*, June, Well may they say men drunk as hogs I think. 1700: Ward, *London Spy*, 264 (1924), Both were as drunk as swine. 1744: *Foundl. Hosp. for Wit*, No. II., p. 52 (1749), A man for his health to get drunk—as a sow. c. 1795: Wolcot, *Works*, v. 71 (1801), And Dundas gets as drunk as a pig. 1803: Colman, jr., *John Bull*, III. ii., There's a hog;—for he's as drunk as one, I know, by his beastly bawling. 1889: Peacock, *Manley*, etc., *Gloss*, 182 (E.D.S.), Drunk as a pig.

Drunk as a tinker. 1701: Cibber, *Love Makes a Man*, I., I sent young Louis back again to Marli, as drunk as a tinker. 1799: *Hackswood*, *Inns, Ales, etc.*, 169, He may be . . . as drunk as a tinker.

Drunk as a wheelbarrow. 1678: Ray, 87. 1697: T. Dilke, *City Lady*, I. i., To have made a German general as drunk as a wheel-barrow. 1745: Franklin, *Drinker's Dict.*, in *Works*, ii. 23 (Bigelow).

Drunk as an ape. c. 1500: in Hazlitt, *Early Pop. Poetry*, i. 104 (1864), Such as wilbe as drongen as an ape. 1583: Stubbes, *Anat. of Abuses*, 151 (N. Sh. S.), Swilling and gulling, night and day, till they be as dronke as apes. 1633: Draxe, 49. 1762: Hall-Stevenson, *Crazy Tales*, p. vii, They'll make you drunker than an ape. 1909: Hackwood, *Inns, Ales, etc.*, 169, He may be . . . as fuddled as an ape.

Drunk as an emperor. 1697: T. Dilke, *City Lady*, III. ii., Here's my brother as drunk as an emperor.


Drunk as David's sow. 1671: Shadwell, *Miser*, IV., I am as drunk . . . as David's sow, as the saying is. 1711: *Brit. Apollo*, i. 572 [gives the story which is said to have originated the saying. It is quoted in *Gent. Mag.*. 1811, Pt. I., pp. 634-5]. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' *Colloq.*, 160, He comes home . . . as drunk as David's sow. 1834: *Marriott, P. Simple*, ch. iii. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lanes Sayings*, 2, As drunk as David's soo.

Drunk as muck, and Drunk as soot,—both in 1889: Peacock, *Manley*, etc., *Gloss*, 182 (E.D.S.).


Drunk as the devil. c. 1350: in *Allit. Poems*, 82 (Morris, E.E.T.S.), Now a boster on benche bibbes ther-of Tyl he be drokken as the deuel. 1709: Ward, *Account of Clubs*, 272 (1756), Madam Bibbington, in a chair, as drunk as the devil. 1864: T. W. Robertson,
Drunk

168 David Garrick, II, He's as d-d-drunk as the very de-de-devil

Drunk is as great as a king, He that as 1672 Westm Drollery, Pt II 77 (Eiswhorth) 1696 D'Urfey, Quinsole, Pt III Act III sc ii
Drunk. See also Ever drunk

Drunkard. As the drunkard goes, is knowne by his nose 1623 Wodroope, Spared Hours, 493

Drunkard's purse is a bottle, A 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

Drunkards have a fool's tongue and a knave's heart 1732 Fuller, No 1342

Drunken and drowsy. See quo 1596 Knack to Know an Honest Man I 657 (Malone S.), The proverbe is true that I tell to you, Tis better to be dronken and drowsie Than hunger starved and lousie

Drunken days have all their tomorrows, "as the old proverb says" 1875 Smiles, Thrift, 167

Drunken general is a bad commander, A — "an old proverb" Before 1704 T Brown, in Works, iii 256 (1760)

Drunken men never take harm 1591 Harington Orl Furioso, bk xxx st 13, If fortune that helps frantike men and drunke Had not himsafe conveyed 1604 Meeting of Gallants, 26 (Percy S.), But there is an ouilde proverbe, and now confirmed true, a drunken man never takes harme 1605 Chapman, etc., Eastw Hoe, III 2 1714 Gay, Shep Week, Sat, I 127, The power that guards the drunk his sleep attends 1694 R L S., St Ives, ch xiii, I am well aware there is a Providence for drunken men

Drunken night makes a cloudy morning, A 1601 Cornwallis, Essays, Pt II sig Dd8 (1610) [with 'mustie' for 'cloudy'] 1732 Fuller, No 81

Drunkenness reveals what soberness conceals [Quid non ebrietatis descriptat? Operata rechudit—Horace, Epist. I v 16] c 1586 Chaucer, C Tales, B 776 (Sh.eat), Ther dronkenesse regneth in any ther, Ther is no counsel hid, withouten doubt 1539 Taverner, Proverbs, fo 30, The thynge that lyeth in a sobre mans bart is in the tongue of the dronkarde 1579 Lyly, Enphues,

146 (Arber), It is an old prouerbe, Whatsoever is in the heart of the sober man, is in the mouth of the drunkarde 1681 W Robertson, Phraseol Gener als, 508 1732 Fuller, No 6117

Dry. A dry cough is the trumpeter of death 1655 Howell, Letters, bk iv No ix 1670 Ray, 5 1736 Bailey, Dict., s.v "Trumpeter"

2 A dry year never starves itself c 1685 Aubrey, Nat Hist Wals, 33 (1847) 'Tis a saying in the West, that a dry yeare does never cause a death 1893 Inwards Weather Love, 4

3 As dry as a bone c 1555 in Wright, Songs, etc., Philip and Mary, 14 (Roxb Cl.), Also the congers, as dry as a bone 1678 Ray, 283 1834 Marryat, P Simple, ch 1, Here, Peter, take mine, it's as dry as a bone 1886 Elworthy, West Som Wod-Book, 219 (E D S.), Dry as a bone This is the almost invariable simile to express the superlative of dryness

4 As dry as a chip 1630 Jonson, New Inn, IV 1 1725 Bailey, tr Erasmus' Collog., 533, By that time it came to me it was as dry as a chip, and no more taste in it than a foot of a joint-stool 1850 Dickens, Copperfield, ch xxi, "It's quite dry" "So 'tis! as a chip!" 1877 Ross, Holderness Gloss (E D S.), Ah's as dry as a chip

5 As dry as a fish 1862 Dialed of Leeds, 405 1889 Peacock, Manley, etc., Gloss, 182 (E D S.), I'm as dry as a fish, do gue us a drink o' ale

6 As dry as a keks 1553 Res publica, V x. (E E T S.), An ye bydde mee, chull [I will] squeeze hym as dry as a kyke 1566 Drant, Horace Satires, sig A4, Whose lippes as drye as any kykkes 1684 L'Estrange, Observer, n No 118, The Covenant squeeze'd as dry as a keks 1725 Bailey, tr Erasmus' Collog., 7, You're as thin a body may see through you, and as dry as a kecks 1842 Akerman, Wills Gloss, 30, As dry as keks 1887 Hardy, Woodlanders, ch xlvm, My throat is as dry as a keks 1891 Hardy, Tess, ch xvii

7 As dry as dust 1669 New Help
Duck

to Discourse, 248, Who is by drinking drunk as dry as dust. 1679: D'Urfey, *Squire Oldsapp*, i. i., My Westwhap-hallan at dinner has made me as dry as dust.


11. It is got into dry cock. A haying simile. 1639: Clarke, 234, You have it in dry cocke. 1672: Walker, *Paræm.*, 13, It is got into dry cock; out of harms way. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phrasesol. Generalis*, 678, It is got in a dry cock; Res est jam in vado salutis.

**Duck and Ducks.**

1. A duck will not always dabble in the same gutter. 1732: Fuller, No. 82.


3. Ducks will not lay till they have drunk March water. 1879: *Folk-Lore Record*, ii. 202, There is a saying in Luxulyan [Cornwall] that "ducks will not lay till they have drunk Lide [March] water."

4. Fine weather for ducks = Wet. [1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xiii., Weather meete to sette pad-dockes (frogs) abroode in.] 1840: Dickens, *Curiosity Shop*, ch. ii., From which appearance he augured that another fine week for the ducks was approaching, and that rain would certainly ensue.


7. They follow each other like ducks in a gutter. 1855: Bohn, 525.

8. To make ducks and drakes of money = To squander it. [1585: *Nomenculor*, 299, A stone throwne into the water, and making circles yer it sinke, ... it is called a ducke and a drake, and a halfe penie cake.] 1605: Chapman, etc., *Eastw. Hoe*, i. i., Why, do nothing, be like a gentleman, be idle ... make duckes and drakes with shillings. 1653: Shirley, *Cupid and Death*, in *Works*, vi., 349 (Dyce). And play'd at duck and drake with gold, like pebbles. 1765: in *Garrick Corresp.*, i. 207 (1831), I had rather make ducks and drakes of my money, than buy his book. 1850: Dickens, *Copperfield*, ch. xlvii., He soon made ducks and drakes of what I gave him. 1859: Sala, *Twice Round Clock*, 3 p.m., It is but very rarely indeed that they make ducks and drakes of their customers' money.

9. When ducks are driving through the burn, That night the weather takes a turn. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 133.

10. When the ducks eat up the dirt. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. II., But, Sir John, when may we hope to see you again in London? Sir John. Why, Madam, not till the ducks have eat up the dirt, as the children say. 1910: *N. & Q.*, xi. ser., i. 316, Some time in the early sixties I was told in North Lincolnshire that I might go out to play "when the ducks had picked up [or "had eaten"] the mud."

See also *Drink* (6); and Prate.

**Dudman**


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Dufton

1821 Scott, Kenilworth, ch iv, Depart—vanish—or we’ll have you summoned before the Mayor of Halgaver, and that before Dudman and Ramhead meet 1865 Hunt Pop Romances W of Eng, 182 (1806), Merlyn is said to have pronounced the following prophecy, standing near St German’s Grotto on the shores of Whitsand Bay—"When the Rame Head and Dodman meet, Men and women will have cause to gret".

Dudman See quote 1846-50 Donham Tracts, i 365 (E L S), "'How's that?' says Dufton". This saying is very common in Cumberland, and originated with the notorious thief of the name [He stole corn from farmers' granaries, by boring a hole with an auger through the floor of the granary and bolting a sack under it. One farmer had nailed sheet-iron over his boards. When Dufton failed to penetrate this with his auger he said, 'How's that?'...

Duke Humphrey See Duke

Dulcaron, At=At one's wits' end c 1374 Chaucer, Troilus, bk ii ll 930-3, "I am, til god me brette munde sende At dulcaron, right at my wittes ende". Quod Pandarus, "ye, nece, wol ye bere? Dulcaron called is "flaminge of wrechesh" c 1584 Stanhurst, Descrip of Ireland, 25. These seale soules were (as all dulcarones for the most part are) more to be terrified from midelhote than allureed to Christianitie 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v, To be at Dulcaron, to be non-plussed, to be at one's wits end 1852 N & Q, 1st ser, v 180, I heard it used the other day by a person who, declaring he was at his wits' end exclaimed, "Yes, indeed, I am at Dulcaron"

Dule and dawkin See Better dule

Dull as a beetle 1670 Ray 204 1753 World, No 45, "As dull as a beetle" is a term I have no dislike to

Dull as a Dutchman 1639 Clarke, 296 1681 W Robertson, Phrasel Generals, 510

Dumb as a dog 1362 Langland, Piovman, A, xi 94. As doumbe as a dore c 1440 York Plays, 322 (L T Smth). But domme as a dorne gon he dwell

Dumb as a fish See Mute

Dumb man gets no land, The c 1390 Gower, Conf Amantis, bk vi 1 447, For selden get a domb man lond Tak that proverbe, and understand That wordes ben of vertu grete 1406 Hoceleve, in Minor Poems, 38 (EETS). The proverbe is "the domb man no lond getith" 1670 Ray, 83, Dumb folks get no lands 1732 Fuller, No 84, A dumb man never gets land 1899 Dickinson, Cumb Gloss 106, 'Dumb folk hers nae lam'—said when anything is to be or has been obtained by speaking

Dun as a mouse 1678 Ray, 283

Dun cow, To stand like the 1663 Killigrew, Parson's Weddeling, II vi, I'll make him jolste like the miller's mare [q v] and stand like the dun cow, till thou may'st milk hum

Dun is in the mure c 1386 Chaucer, Manespel's Pro, l 5, Ther gan our hoste for to rape and playe, And seyde, "sirs, what! Dun is in the myre!" 1412 Hoceleve, Regement, 86 (EETS). Be his day kept, he reketh nat a bane, But elles siker, "don is in the myre" Before 1529 Skelton, in Works, i 428 (Dyce), Dun is in the myre, dame, reche me my spur 1592 Shakespeare, Romeo, I iv, If thou art Dun, we'll draw thee from the mure 1694 Motteux, Rabelais, bk iv ch xxviii, We were all out of sorts, moping, drooping as dull as Dun in the mure 1905 N & Q, 10th ser, ii 22, An old proverb "Dun's w the mure" "Dun" is evidently the name of a borse, and the saying no doubt had its origin in the dreadful state of the roads in early times

Dun out of the mire [To draw Dun out of the mire was an old game, described by Gifford in his edition of Ben Jonson, vn 283 ] 1607 Dekker and Webster, Westw Hoe, II iii, I see I'm borne still to draw Dun out of the mire for you that wise beast will I be 1663 Butler, Hudibras, III iv 170, Who has dragged your dunship out o' tb' mire


Dunhill gentleman. *See Gentleman* (2).


2. They may claim the flitch at Dunmow. 1362: Langland, *Plowman*, A, x. 188, Though thei don hem to Dunmow but the deul helpe To folowen aftur the fluchten feche thei hit neuerre. c. 1386: Chaucer, *Wife of Bath's ProL*, i. 217, The bacon was not set for him, I trove, That som man han in Essex at Dunmow. c. 1580: *Tom Tyler*, i. 760, p. 21 (Malone S.), But you may now go for bacon to Dunmo. 1662: *Fuller*, *Worthies*, i. 498 (1849). He may fetch a flitch of bacon from Dunmow. 1790: *Grose, Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Essex." 1821: *Combe, Syntax in Search of Wife*, can. xxxiv., p. 57. While I, though I have married been So many years, at least sixteen; Yes, I with honest heart and hand, Can now the Dunmow Flitch demand.


1824: Scott, *Redgauntlet*, ch. xviii., If this is not plain speaking, there is no such place as downright Dunstable in being! 1852: M. A. Keltie, *Reminisc. of Thought, etc.*, 101, It was mapped out according to square and rule, and I was not to be substituting any heresies of my own in the room of such good old Dunstable doings.

Dunstall. *See Barton.*


2. Durham folks are troubled with afterwit. 1909: *Folk-Lore*, xx. 73.


4. Like a Durham heifer, beef to the heels. 1846-59: *Ibid.*, i. 64.

5. See quot. 1892: J. Hardy, editor, *Denham Tracts*, i. 52, "There's not much law at Durham for a happeny." This is spoken of the heavy expenses attending the Probate Court at Durham, and the obtaining of extracts from wills which are deposited there. It is a common saying at Newcastle.

6. Too dear for the Bishop of Durham. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, i. 30 (F.L.S.). It would appear from the above that the bishops of Durham have been proverbial for their riches from a very early period.

*See also York* (4).

Dursley. You are a man of=one who breaks his word. 1639: in *Berkeley*.
Dust

MSS, in 26 (1885), Hee'1 prove, I thinke, a man of Dursley 1662 Fuller, Worthies 1 551 (1840) 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Gloucest" 1851 Gloucestershire Gloss, 14

Dust in a man's eyes, To cast [Tenebras offudisse inducis — Quintil, II xvii 21 ] 1581 Pettie tr Guazzo's Civil Convers, 1 276 (1586) (O ). They doe nothing else but raise a dust to doe out their owne eyes 1633 Draxe, 18 1690 New Dict Canting Crew, sig B2 1718 W Taverner, Artful Wife, I, To throw dust in the eyes of censure is proper 1928 Times, 9 March, p 14, col 3. He said that the speech was designed to throw dust in the eyes of the public

Dutchman drinketh pure wine in the morning, at noon wine without water, in the evening as it comes from the butt. The 1659 Howell, 20

Dutchman drinks his buttons off, the English doublet and all away. The 1640 Glapthorne, Ladies Priv, III, As is the common proverb, The Dutchman, etc

Dutchman saith that segging is good cope, The 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch ix

Dutchman's headache. The = Drunkenness 1869 Hazlitt, 366

Dwarf on a giant's shoulder sees farther of the two, A 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1654 Whitlock, Zoootamia, 218. A proverb that a child on a giant's shoulder, may see farther than the giant

Dwarf threatens Hercules, A c 1440 Lydgate, Fall of Princes, bk iii 1 531 (E E T S), But it may falle a dwery [dwarf] in his rht Toutraie a geaunt, for at his grete myht 1732 Fuller, No 85

Dwells far from neighbours See Neighbour (2)

Dying is as natural as living 1732 Fuller, No 1348
Each cross. See Every cross. Each man for one. See Every man for himself.

Eagle and Eagles. 1. Eagles fly alone. 1639: Clarke, 291. 1669: Politenphilia, 185, Eagles flye alone, and they are but sheep that always flock together.

2. The eagle does not catch flies. 1573: G. Harvey, Letter-Book, 30 (Camden S.), Now I se Aquila non capit muscas. 1607: Rowlands, Guy, E. of Warwick, 12 (Hunt. Cl.), That proverb in this point might make thee wise, That princely eagles scorn the catching flies. 1640: Shirley, Opportunity, V. ii., Eagles stoop not to flies. 1924: Sphere, 27 Sept., p. 386, col. 2, More subtle is the insult in the saying that “the eagle does not catch flies.”

3. You cannot fly like an eagle with the wings of a wren. 1509: Hudson, Afoot in England, ch. vi., As the proverb says, “You cannot,” etc.

Eagle-eyed. He is eagle-eyed in other mens matters, but as blind as a buzzard in his own. 1633: Draxe, 26.

Ear. If your ear burns (or glows), some one is talking about you. [Quin et absentes [tinnitu] aurium præsentire sermones de se?—Pliny, Hist. Nat., xxviii. 2] c. 1374: Chaucer, Troylus, bk. ii. 1. 1022, And ye shall speke of thee som-what, I trowe, Whan thou art goon, to do thyn eies glowe! 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. i., I suppose that daie hir eares might well glow, For all the towne talkt of hir, hy and low. 1599: Shakespeare, Much Ado, III. i., What fire is in my eares? Can this be true? 1687: Aubrey, Gentilisme, 110 (F.L.S.), When our cheek burneth, or eare tingleth, we usually say that some body is talking of us. 1755: Connoisseur, No 59, If your right ear or cheek burns, your left friends are talking of you. 1868: Dickens, Letters, iii. 257 (1882), I dine with Dolby . . . and if your ears do not burn from six to nine this evening, then the Atlantic is a non-conductor.

Early. 1. Early ripe. See Soon ripe. 2. Early riser. See Name (r).


4. Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy and wealthy and wise. 1523: Fitzherbert, Husbandry, ror (E.D.S.), At grammer-sole I lerned a verse, that is this, Sanat, sanctificat et dilat surgere mane. That is to say, Erly rysyng maketh a man hole in body, holer in soule, and rycher in goodes. 1577: Rhodes, Boke of Nurture, in Babees Book, 72 (E.E.T.S.), Ryse you earely in the morning, for it hath propertyes three: Holynesse, health, and happy welth, as my father taught mee. 1670: Ray, 38. 1736: Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i. 443 (Bigelow). 1854: J. W. Warter, Last of Old Squires, 60.

5. Early up and never the nearer. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. ii., And than, their timely weddyng doth clere appere, That they were earely vp, and neuer the nere. 1594: Greene, Friar Bacon, sc. vi., Your [You are] early up, pray God it be the neere [nearer]. 1633: Jonson, Tale of a Tub, Epil., Wherein the poet's fortune is, I fear, Still to be early up, but ne'er the nearer. 1732: Fuller, No. 1351. 1881: Evans, Leics. Words, etc., 200 (E.D.S.), Never-the-nearer, or Never-the-nigh, adv. none the nearer; no forwarder.


8 The early bird gets the late one's breakfast 1882 Mrs Chamberlain, W Worcs Words, 39 (E D S)

9 The early sower never bovors of the late 1659 Howell, 17. The rash sower never bowrewth of the late 1670 Ray, 22 [as in 1659] 1732 Fuller, No 4492

Earth must to earth c 1480 Early Miscell, 40 (Warton Cl, 1855), How erth schal to erthe he thinkes nothinges 1593 Peele, Eduard I, sc xxiv, An old sawd saw, earth must to earth

Earth produces all things and receives all again, The 1732 Fuller, No 4493

Earthen pot must keep clear of the brass kettle, The ibid No 4494

Earth's the best shelter 1659 Howell, Proverbs Brit-Eng, 38

Eas 1 Ease and success are fel lows c 1300 Hadcolok the Dane, I 1338 (Skeat), Lith and selthe felawes are

2 He is at ease who has enough c 1460 Wisdom sc iv st 70, Farewell, cousins! I know not you, I am at eas, hade I mow 1493 Dives and Pauper, fo I (1536), It is an olde proverbe, He is wel at ease that hath inough and can say ho

3 He may not have all his ease that shall thrive c 1460 How the Good Wife, I 130

4 He that is at ease seeks damnes 1610 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

Easier said than done See Said

Easier to fall (or descend) than rise (or ascend), It is 1605 Camden, Remains, 326 (1670), It is easier to descend than to ascend 1633 Drake, 54, A man may sooner fall then rise 1684 Bunyan, Pilgr Progr, Pt II, p 239 (1840), Then said Mercy, But the pro verb is, To go down the hill is easy 1732 Fuller, No 1353, Easier it is fall, than rise

Easier to pull down than to build up, It is 1587 J Bridges, Defence of Goot in Church of Eng, 518, We may quiclier pull downe with one bande, than wee can easilie builde agame with both 1732 Fuller, Nos 2930 and 1354

Easier to spy two faults than mend one, It is c 1555 Starkey, Life and

Lett, I iii 2 (E E T S), Much easyer hyt ys to spy ii fautes then amend one

Easily done is soon believed, That which is 1670 Ray, 8 1732 Fuller, No 4379

Easily led but dour to drive Derby 1889 Folk-Lore Journal, vii 292

Easily won See Lightly gained

East Cheap See quot c 1430 in Relig Antiquae, i 3 (1841), He that wyll in Eschepe ete a goose so fat, With harpe, pype, and song, He must sleepe in Newgate on a mat, Be the nyght never so long

East Grinstead See quot 1894 A J C Hare, Sussex, io, A Sussex proverb says [of E G ]—Large parish, poor people, Large new church, no steeple

East Looe The Mayor of East Looe, who called the King of England " Brother" 1906 Q -Couch, Mayor of Troy, Prol

East, West, Home's best 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch xii, East and West, Home is best 1920 Lucas, Verena in the Midst, ch xii, p 176, None the less I don't envy the traveller "East, west, home's best"

East Wind See Wind, B

Easter 1 A kiss at Christmas and an egg at Easter 1845-59 Denham Tracts, u 92 (F L S)

2 As hard as an egg at Easter 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 32 (Percy S)

3 At Easter let your clothes be new, or else be sure you will it rue 1592 Shakespeare, Romeo, III 1, Didst thou not fall out with a tailor for wearing his new doublet before Easter? 1902 Lean, Collectanea, i 378

4 At Easter the wind is at Chester 1611 in Coryat, Crudities, i 93 (1905), And as about the time of Easter,* ["(Note) Prov At Easter the winde is at Chester Because it is good for Ireland ] T enrich the towne and trade of shipping, The winde which evermore is skipping, Is said to come and dwell at Chester

5 Easter in snow, Christmas in mud, Christmas in snow, Easter in mud 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 38

7. If the sun shines on Easter Day, it shines on Whit Sunday. 1640: Countryman’s Cons., in Help to Discourse, 224. If the sun shine on Easter day, it shines on Whit Sunday likewise. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 41.

8. I’ll warrant you for an egg at Easter. 1659: Howell, 2. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 323. The English tradition was Hai for an egg at Easter. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. III., I suppose her ladyship plays sometimes for an egg at Easter.


10. Past Easter frost, Fruit not lost. Ibid., 41.

11. Such weather as there is on Easter Day there will be at harvest. Ibid., 41.


14. You keep Easter, when I keep Lent. 1732: Fuller, No. 5927.

See also Christmas (5), (10), (11), and (13); Good Friday; Jews; Lady Day; and Michaelmas (5).

Easy as an old shoe. 1894: Northall, Folk Phrases, 8 (E.D.S.).

Easy as falling off . . . 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 27, Asaisy as fafin off a chair when yo’re drunk. 1924: M. Kennedy, Constant Nymph, 307. They’d find it as easy as falling off a log, you see!

Easy as kiss my hand. 1670: Cotton, Scarronides, bk. iv., But you may make ‘em, at command, As easily stay as kiss your hand. 1734: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. “Easy.” 1878: Sketchley, Mrs. Brown at Paris Exhib., 30. It’s as easy as kiss my ‘and a-goin’ to Paris now-a-days. 1921: Punch, 7 Sept., p. 200. I bet if you only liked you could put me on to the winner of the St. Leger as easy as kiss me ‘and!

Easy as lying. 1602: Shakespeare, Hamlet, III. ii., It is as easy as lying. 1823: Scott, St. Ronan’s, ch. xxvi., Which to me seemed as easy and natural as lying. 1913: L. P. Jacks, All Men are Ghosts, 117. Next morning Piecraft bought the book. As no patients came that day he had ample leisure to read it. “Easy as lying,” he said to himself when he had finished.

Easy as to lick a dish. 1678: Ray, 283.

Easy fool is a knave’s tool, An. 1732: Fuller, No. 6189.

Easy that are done willingly, All things are. 1596: Lodge, Wits Miserie, 102 (Hunt. Cl.). A good will winneth all things. 1732: Fuller, No. 561.

Easy to bowl down hill, It is. 1639: Clarke, 151. 1670: Ray, 3. 1732: Fuller, No. 1352.

Easy to fall into a trap, but hard to get out again, ’Tis. 1732: Fuller, No. 5072.

Easy to find a stick, etc. See Stick, subs. (1).

Easy to hold the latch, etc. See quot. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 81. It’s aizy howdin in’ th’ latch when nobody poos at th’ string.

Easy to rob an orchard when no man keeps it, ’Tis. 1639: Clarke, 55. 1670: Ray, 23. 1732: Fuller, No. 2925.
Easy to wade the stream, etc. See 
iscopt 1615 Brathwait, Strappado, 
222 (1878), (Its ease saies the Pro- 
verb) to wade the streame, Where th' 
foord's at lowest.

Easy to wed a widow as to catch a 
dead horse, It's as 1917 Bridge, 
Cheshire Proverbs, 82, [Shropsh var-
ant] It's as easy to marry a widow as 
to put a halter on a dead horse.

Eat 1 Eat a good dinner See 
Good dinner.

2 Eat and welcome, fast and heartily 
welcome 1678 Ray, 84 1732 Fuller, 
No 1355.

3 Eat at pleasure drink by measure 
1611 Cotgrave, s v Pam” 1670 
Ray, 38 1732, Fuller, No 6079 
1875 A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-
lore, 84, Bread at pleasure Drink by 
measure is also a maxim much to be 
commended.

4 Eat enough and it will make you 
wise 1592 Lyly, Mydas, IV ii 
[quoted as “an old proverb”]

5 Eat less and drink less, and buy a 
knife at Michaelmas 1659 Howell, 6

6 Eat peas See Pea (t)

7 Eat the devil See Devil (32)

8 Eat thy meat and drink thy drink, 
and stand thy ground, old Harry 
Somerset 1678 Ray, 343

9 Eat to live not live to eat [Non 
vivas ut edas, sed edas ut vivere posses 
—Dionysius in Rom, cap x3] c 1410 
tr of Secreta Secret, 67 (EETS).
And ypopcaas anserede, “flair sone, 
I will ete so that y leue, and noght 
lyf that y ete” c 1577 Northbrooke, 
Dicing, etc, 40 (Sh S), Thou lyest 
not to eate, butte eate as thou mayest 
lyue 1671 Shadwell, Misier, III ii, 
People should eat to live, not live to 
eat, as the proverb says 1733 Field-
ing, Misier, III ii 1711 Pinero, 
Preserving Mr Panmure, II, p 85

10 Eat-well is drink-well’s brother 
1732 Fuller, No 1357

11 Eat well of the cresses 1577 
J Grange, Golden Aphroditis, sig F3. 
Remember the proverb, Eat well of 
the cresses [cress was supposed to help 
the memory].

12 Eat when you’re hungry and drink 
when you’re dry 1917 Bridge, Cheshire 
Proverbs, 52

13 Eat your own side, speckle-back 
1863 Wise, New Forest, ch xvi, “Eat 
your own side, speckle-back,” is a 
common Forest expression, and is used 
in reference to greedy people. It is 
said to have taken its origin from a 
girl who shared her breakfast with a 
snake, and thus reprieved her favourite 
when he took too much.

14 He could eat me without salt (or 
with garlic) 1596 Hanntong, Metam 
of Ajax, 3 (1814) The poor sheep still, 
for an old grudge would eat him witho 
out salt (as they say) 1639 Clarke, 
71, You must not think to eat me up 
without salt 1670 Ray, 173, He 
could eat my heart with garlic That 
is, he hates me mortally 1693 
D Urfey, Richmond Harress, V iv, Now 
could I eat that satyrical devil without 
salt for my breakfast 1748 Richar-
dson, Clarissa, vii 59 (1785), Yet I can 
tell thee I could eat him up without 
a corn of salt, when I think of his 
impudence.

15 He eats in plate, but will die in 
iron 1732 Fuller, No 1842

16 He has eat the pot, and asks 
for the pippin 1732, No 1868

17 He has eaten many a Christmas 
pie 1639 Clarke, 189

18 He hath eaten his roast meat first 
Glos 1639 in Berkeley MSS, iv 34, 
(1885).

19 He is so hungry he could eat a 
horse behind the saddle 1678 Ray, 
253 1826 Scott, Woodstock, ch xx. 
I think he could eat a horse, as the 
Yorkshireman says, behind the saddle.

20 He that eats least eats most 
c 1645 MS Proverbs, in N & Q, 
vol chv, p 27

21 He that eats most porridge shall 
have most meat 1732 Fuller, No 2092

22 He that eats the hard shall eat the 
rue 1649 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 
23 He that eats till he is sick must 
fast till he is well 1732 Fuller, 
No 2092

24 He that eats well and drinks well 
should do his duty well 1654 Gayton, 
Pleasant Notes Don Q, 13. He that
eates well does his worke well. 1732: Fuller, No. 2095.

25. He that will eat the kernel must crack the nut. c. 1500: in Antiq. Repertory, iv. 416 (1809), And ye wolde the sweetnes haue of the kyrnell, Be content to byte vpon the harde shell. 1577: J. Grange, Golden Aphroditis, sig. 13, I see the prowerbe is true, who will the curnell of the nut must breake the shell. 1635: Swan, Spec. Mundi, 465, For be it so that we desire the sweetnesse of the well relisht kerrnelf, then must we likewise crack the hard shell. 1729: Coffey, Beggar's Wedding, II. iii., He that wou'd obtain a kernel, must first hazard his teeth in breaking the shell. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 9, Theaw mun crack th' nut afore theaw con eyt th' krindle.

26. He'll as soon eat sand as do a good turn. 1732: Fuller, No. 2421.

27. He'll eat till he sweats, and work till he freezes. Ibid., No. 2424.

28. If she would eat gold he would give it her. 1708: Centlivre, Busie Body, III. iv., If I... eating gold, as the old saying is, can make thee happy, thou shalt be so. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I. 1845: Jerrold, Mrs. Cudle, xxii., You'd have given me pearls and diamonds to eat, if I could have swallowed 'em.

29. If you eat a pudding at home, the dog shall have the skin. 1805: Camden, Remains, 325 (1870). 1732: Fuller, No. 2751.

30. If you eat till you are cold, you will live to be old, and every one will be tired of you. Oxfordsh. 1923: Folklore, xxxiv. 328. 1925: N. & Q., cxlviii. 134 [with last eight words omitted].

31. To eat a stake. See quots. 1530: Palsgrave, 461, Haste thou eaten a stake, I shall make thee[1] bowe. 1667: L'Esstrange, Quevedo's Visions, 140 (1904), He eat stiff and upright, as if he had swallowed a stake. 1732: Fuller, No. 1901, He hath swallow'd a stake; he cannot bow.


33. To eat one's heart out. 1539: Taverner, Proverbs, fo. 54, Eate not thy harte (that is to saye) consume not thy selfe wyth cares... Underdowne, Heliodorus, bk. i., p. 23 (T.T.), And there lived eating (as the proverb saith) his owne harte out. 1633: Draxe, 123, He eateth his owne heart. 1890: W. A. Wallace, Only a Sister?, xviii. 155 (O.), Why, there's poor Alkone... eating his heart out and getting no further.

34. To eat one's words. 1577: Stanhurst, Descrip. of Ireland, fo. 20, Before I eate these wordes, I will make thee eate a piece of my blade. 1670: Ray, 173, 1710: E. Ward, Nuptial Dialogues, i. 353, I'll make you eat your words before I've done. 1838: Hood, Hood's Own, 1st ser., 486 (1865), The Marine Society must despise me for it... but I cannot eat my words.

35. To eat out of house and home. c. 1400: Towneley Plays, xiii. 124 (E.E.T.S.), Bot were I not more gracys and ryche ber, I were eten ouff of howse and of harbar. 1469: Paston Lett., ii. 348 (Gairdner), For I eete lyek an horse, of purpose to eete yow owte at the dorys. 1590: Barclay, Ship of Fools, ii. 93 (1874), They wast and eet theyr mayster out of hous Deouurynge his good, yll he be pore and bare. 1600: Day, Blind Beggar, IV. i., Till we have eat him out of house and home in diet. 1668: Shadwell, Sullen Lovers, V. iii., They would eat me out of house and home, as the saying is. 1734: Fielding, Intrig. Chambermaid, II. vii., So generously condescend to eat a poor citizen out of house and home. 1909: De Morgan, Never can happen Again, i. 17, Who was he, that he was to eat his sister out of house and home?


37. To eat the cheese in the trap. 1813: Ray, 186.

38. To eat the pudding and the bsey. 1659: Howell, 6, You are he that did
eat the pudding and the bagg 1732 Fuller, No 1826. He claws it as Clayton claw'd the pudding, when he eat bag and all

39 We must all eat a peck of dirt before we die 1639 Clarke, 165. You must eat a peck of ashes ere you die 1670 Ray, 57. Every man must eat a peck of ashes before he dies 1709 O Dykes, Eng Proverbs, ii. So that if we must eat a peck of dirt before we die, it must certainly go down when we are a hungry 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I 1881 Evans, Lecg Words, 209 (E D S), Here as elsewhere, "way mut all ate a peck-o'-dirt afore way doy" is very commonly current, and almost equally common is the rider, "but non on us wants it all at woonst." 1722 Observer, to Dec, p ii, col 7. I suppose a little garbage is necessary in newspapers, just as we must all eat a peck of dirt before we die

40 Who eats and leaves, has another meal good 1732 Fuller, No 5700

41 Who eats his cock alone, must saddle his horse alone 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1670 Ray, 8 [with "dinner" for "cock".] 1732 Fuller, No 5701, Who eats his dinner alone, must saddle his horse

42 You cannot eat your cake and have it 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch ix, Wolde ye bothe eat your cake and have your cake? 1650 R Heath, Occasional Poems, 19 I can't I tro Both eat my cake and have it too 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I, She was handsome in her time, but she cannot eat her cake and have her cake 1871 Planché, Extravag, v 307 (1879), "Tis to point to the moral the proverb implies, "You can't have your cake if you eat it," 1922 Punch, 7 June, p 441, col 2, "You cannot eat your cake and have it," says a physical culture journal This of course is the distressing experience of many people at sea

43 You eat above the tongue like a calf 1678 Ray, 348

44 You eat and eat but you do not drink to fill you 1670 Ray, 33

45 You had as good eat your nails

c 1660 in Roxb Ballads, ii 130 (B S), Your roaring-boy Could never yet make the smith eat his nails 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I, Say a word more, and you had as good eat your nails 1784 New Foundi Hosp for Wt, i 287, Jove would not sooner eat his nails Than break with us, to bumour Juno 1827 Scott, in Lockhart's Life vii 62, I shall only revenge myself by publishing the whole extracts in which he will find enough to make him bite his nails

46 You must eat another yard of pudding first = grow older 1830 Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 428 1886 Elworthy, West Som Word-Book, 374 (E D S), You must eat some more beef and potatoes first, I e wait till you are older—a very common phrase

Eaten bread is forgotten 1605 Camden, Remains, 321 (1670), Eaten bread is forgotten 1670 Ray, 84 1732 Fuller, No 1338 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch xiv, Eaten bread is forgotten, and the hand that gave it is desipued 1913 E M Wright, Rustic Speech, etc, 110, Etten cake's soon forgotten is a proverbial saying [cake (Yorks)=bread]

Eating and drinking See quotas

1611 Cotgrave, s v "Mangeant," Eating and drinking will take away any man's stomach 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial II, Well, thus eating and drinking takes away a body's stomach 1785 Grose, Class Diet Vulgar Tongue, s v "Damper," Eating and drinking being, as the proverb wisely observes, apt to take away the appetite

Eating and scratching See quotas

1732 Fuller, No 5158, To eat and to scratch, a man need but begin 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial II, They say, eating and scratching wants but a beginning

Eccles Wakes See Thrunk

Economy See Frugality

Eden, River See quotas 1659 Howell, 20, Let Uter Pendragon doe what he can, Eden will run the same way she ran 1766 MS Tour, quoted in Denham Tracts, i 207 (1846-59) (F L S), Let sly Pendragon do all he

Edged tools, It is ill jesting with.

c. 1568: Wager, *Longer thou Livest*, sig. Dr, It is a proverbe wise and auncient, Beware how you geeu any edge toole, Unto madmen that be insipient, Unto a yonge childe, and unto a foole. 1579: Gosson, *Sch. of Abuse*, 57 (Arber), Some say that it is not good jesting with edge toles. 1652: Tatham, *Scots Figgarres*, III., I say again, ’tis dangerous meddling with edge-tools. 1728: Fielding, *Love in several Masques*, IV. vii., Sir Apish, jesting with matrimony is playing with edged tools. 1839: Planché, *Extravag.*, ii. 58 (1879), To play with edge tools is held unwise.

Education begins a gentleman, conversation completes him. 1732: Fuller, No. 1359.


2. He is as much out of his element as an eel in a sand-bag. 1732: Fuller, No. 1012.

3. He that will catch eels must disturb the flood. 1607: *Lingua, I.* 1.

4. To have an eel by the tail. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. x., Her promise of friendship for any auayle, Is as sure to holde as an ele by the tayle. 1616: B. & F., *Scornful Lady*, II. i., I will end with the wise man, and say, “He that hath a woman has an eel by the tail.” 1640: Shirley, *Arcadia*, V. i., But I see a woman and a wet eel have both slippery tails. 1666: T. Dilke, *Lover’s Luck*, V. i., He that has holt on a young woman has got a slippery eel by the tail. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. “Eel,” There is as much hold of his words as a wet eel by the tail.


See also Breed; Mud; Nimble; Slippery; and Wriggle.

Effect speaks, the tongue needs not, The. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

Egg and Eggs. 1. All your eggs have two yolkes apiece, I warrant you. 1732: Fuller, No. 573.


3. An egg of an hour, etc. See quot. 1623: Wodroeph, *Spared Hours*, 253-4. An eg of one hour old, bread of one day, a goat of one moneth, wine of six moneths, flesh of a yeare, fish of ten yeares, a wife of twenty yeares, a friend among a hundred, are the best of all number. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 181, An egg of an hour’s laying, bread of a daies, flesh of one year’s growth, fish of ten, a woman of fifteen, and a friend of a hundred years standing.

4. An egg will be in three bellies in twenty-four hours. 1678: Ray, 131. 1732: Fuller, No. 1361, Eggs will be, etc.


6. As sure as eggs are eggs. In N. & Q., 3rd ser., vi. 203, A. de Morgan suggested that “as sure as eggs is eggs” = “corruption of the logician’s announcement of identity, ‘X is X.’” 1680: Otway, *Cauns Marius*, IV. ii., Twas to seek for lord Marius, as sure as eggs be eggs. 1720: *Vade Mecum for Malt-worms*, Pt. II., p. 48, Certainly, as eggs are eggs. 1772: Graves, *Spirit. Quixote*, bk. vii. ch. xi., If she lives to Lammas-day next she will be but fourteen years old, as sure as eggs is eggs. 1837: Dickens, *Pickwick*, ch. xlii., And the Bishop says,
"Sure as eggs is eggs, This here's the bold Turpin!" 1857 Hughes, Tom Brown, Pt II ch vi
7 But one egg and that addled too 1732 Fuller, No i 1931
8 From the eggs to the apples [Ab ovo Usque ad mala citaret, Io Bache] —Horace Sat, I in 6) 1639 Clarke, 3. From th'eggs to th'apples 1655 L. Muffett, Health's Improvement, 295. The most nourishing meat is first to be eaten that ancient proverb ratifies: Ab ovo ad mala, from the egg to the apples 1736 Bailey Dict, s.v. "End," From the beginning to the end from the egg to the apples
9 He has brought his eggs to a fine market 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 589. He has brought his eggs to a nice (or fine, or pretty) market, said in irony of a spendthrift or bankrupt trader
10 He'll dress an egg and give the offal to the poor 1678 Ray, 90
11 He'll never be good egg nor bird 1630 T. Adams, Works, 178. Sinne of it selfe is good neither egg nor bird 1670 Ray, 173. Neither good egg nor bird 1784 O'Keefe, Fontainebleau, III iv. She was never good, egg, or bird 1868 Atkinson, Cleveland Gloss, 151. He'll never dow [thrive], egg nor bird
12 To come in with five (or two) eggs 1542 Udall, tr Erasmus' Apoph, 303 (1877). To certain persons coming in with their five eggs, how that Sylla had gotten his office of Dictature, as he shuld do be answered that Sylla was not bokise, nor halfe a good clerke, and therefore gane vp his Dictature [In the Appendix to this edition, R. Roberts, editor and publisher, says "This was rather a common proverb in the sixteenth century, and has never been explained, but it evidently means a silly rumour, equivalent to 'mare's nest'" (Will you take eggs for money? (see 15 below) belongs to the same family""] 1551 R. Robinson, tr More's Utopia, 56 (Arber) 1639 Clarke, 19. He comes in with his five eggs and four be rotten 1683 Menton, Yorkshire Ale, 63-7
(3rd ed., 1697). You come with your five eggs a penny and four of them be rotten 1711 Swift, Journal to Stella, Lett 34. The Whigs are still crying down our peace, but we will have it, I hope, in spite of them the Emperor comes now with his two eggs a penny, and promises wonders to continue the war, but it is too late 1738 Swift, Polite Convers Dial I., That I and you must come in with your two eggs a penny and three of them rotten 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch vii. When there's five eggs a penny, four of them are rotten
13 To have both the egg and the hen 1578 Floro First Fruites, to 33. There be many that wyl have the egg and the hen 1629 Book of Merry Riddles, Prov 178. In the world there be men That will have the egg and the hen
14 To have eggs on the spit 1596 Jonson, Ev Man in Humour, III vi, I have eggs on the spit, I cannot go yet 1674 Jonson, Bart Fair, I, I have both eggs on the spit, and iron in the fire 1670 Cotton, Scurrondes, bk iv, Half-frighted out on's little wit, He now has eggs (i' faith) o' th' spit 1713 Swift, Journal to Stella, 23 April, I write short journals now I have eggs on the spit 1837 Scott, Journal, 28 May, I have other eggs on the spit
15 To take eggs for money 1610 Shakespeare Wint Tale, 1 11, Leon. Alas honest friend, Will you take eggs for money? Mam No, my lord, I' ll fight 1665 Pepys, Diary, 27 June, By the next fight, if we beat the Dutch will certainly be content to take eggs for their money (that was his [Sir W. Coventry's] expression) 1720 New Dict Cunying Crew, He will be glad to take eggs for his money, i.e. compound the matter with loss 1847 Halliwell, Dict, s.v. A proverbial expression, used when a person was awed by threats, or had been overreached into giving money for comparatively worthless things
16 Too many eggs in one basket 1710 S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Pro-
verbs, 344. Don’t venture all your eggs in one basket. 1763: Murphy, Citizen, I. ii., George, too many eggs in one basket.

17. Won with the egg and lost with the shell. 1575: Gascoigne, Posies, in Works, i. 450 (Cunliffe), Nor woman true, but even as stories tell, Wonne with an egg, and lost againe with shell. 1633: Drake, 75.

See also Added egg; Apple (6); Better an egg; Christmas (5) and (13); Dear (2); Drink, verb (2); Easter (2) and (8); Fool (93); Half an egg; Hard (19); Hen (1), (8), (10), and (14); Like as one egg; Omelets; and Reason (7).

Elbow itches, I must change my bedfellow, My. 1659: Howell, 12.

Elbow-grease gives the best polish. 1672: Marvell, Rehearsal Trans., i. 5 (O.), Two or three brawny fellows in a corner with meer ink and elbow-grease, do more harm than ... 1690: New Dict. Canting Crew, sig. Ex, It will cost nothing but a little elbow-grease. 1830: Forby, Vocab. E. Anglia, 437, Elbow-grease gives the best polish. 1872: J. Glyde, jr., Norfolk Garland, 149.

Elbow-grease, It smells of. 1639: Clarke, 92. 1670: Ray, 173.


Elder. When elder is white brew and bake a peck, When elder is black brew and bake a sack. 1678: Ray, 352 [Somerset]. 1732: Fuller, No. 6478. 1904: Co. Folk-Lore: Northumb., 177 (F.L.S.). See also Sheep (20).

Eldershake. See quot. 1842: Akerman, Wills Gloss., 19, They have a rhyme in Wiltshire on the formation of a “stake and ether hedge”—“An elder stake and black-thorn ether [hedge] Will make a hedge to last for ever.” 1875: Parish, Sussex Dict.

Elm. 1928: Times, 29 Nov., p. 10, col. 5, “Every elm has its man” is an old country saying. See also Good elm.

Elm-leaves. See quot. 1856: N. & Q., 2nd ser., i. 429, Here is another Worcestershire saying ... When elm leaves are as big as a shilling, Plant kidney-beans, if to plant ‘em you’re willing. When elm leaves are as big as a penny, You must plant kidney-beans, if you mean to have any. 1866: Field, 28 April, When the elmen leaf is as big as a mouse’s ear, Then to sow barley never fear. When the elmen leaf is as big as an ox’s eye, Then says I, “Hie, boys! hie!” 1881: C. W. Empson, in Folk-Lore Record, iv. 131 [as in 1856 and 1866]. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 152 [as in 1856].

Elm-tree for pears, You ask an. 1732: Fuller, No. 5862.

Elstow Fair, 3 May, O.S., now 15. See quot. 1831: Hone, Year-Book, 1595, It is a common saying in many parts of Bedfordshire, when flies first begin to be troublesome on meat, fish, etc., that “the flies have been to Elstow Fair to buy their bellows.”

Embrace too much. See Grasp.


2. An empty belly makes a lazy back. 1846–59: Denham Tracts, i. 42 (F.L.S.), There is much truth contained in the good old northern proverb—A tume [empty] belly makes a lazy back.


6. An empty purse frights away friends. 1732: Fuller, No. 507.


9. Empty bags cannot stand upright. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 245, An empty sack cannot stand upright. 1736: Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i. 449 (Bigelow), It is hard for
an empty bag to stand upright 1849
Lytton, Caxtons, Pt VIII ch xi. You have found it more difficult, I fear, than you imagined, to make the empty sack stand upright. Considering that at least one-third of those born to work cannot find it, why should I 1880
Platt, Money, 199, As empty bags cannot stand upright

10 Empty barns need no thatch Suffolk 1924 Folk-Lore, xxxv 358
11 Empty chambers make foolish maids 1212 Cotgrave, s.v 'Chambr.,' Empty chambers make women play the wantons 1640 Herbert, Jace Prudentum
12 Empty hands See Hawk (11)
13 Empty vessels make the most sound 1579 Lylly, Euphues, 45 (Arber). The empty vessels giveth a greater sound then the full barrell 1612 Cornu-
copiae, 90 (Grosart), An empty vessel giveth a mighty sound 1754 Berthe-
son, Eng.-Danish Dict, s.v 'Empty,' Empty vessels make the greatest noise 1913 E M Wright, Rustic Speech, etc, 171, Empty barrels make the most noise

14 That is but an empty purse that is full of other men's money 1678 Ray, 194 1732 Fuller, No 4352 (with "fools" for "men's")
15 The empty leech sucks sore 1672 Walker, Paracelsus, 36 1681 W Robertson, Phraseol Generals, 328
End, subs 1 In the end things will mend 1659 Howell, 9 1670 Ray, 8 1736 Bailey, Dict, s.v 'End'
2 Next the end of sorrow, anon entreat joy c 1387 Usk, Test of Love, in Skeat's Chaucer, vu 82
3 The end crowns all (or the work) c 1390 Gower, Conf Amantis, bk vi 1 2383, An ende proeth every thing 1478 Rivers tr C de Psa's Moral Præcaets. Thende dooth shew eveny work as hit is 1578 Florio, First Frates, fo 29, The end maketh al 1592 Shakespeare, 2 Henry VI, V ii, O Chf La fin couronne les œuvres 1658 R Brome, Weeding of Content Garden, III 1, Was ever good patron so rudely handled? but the end crowns all 1820 Scott, Abbot, ch xiii, But as the end crowns the work

1870 Dickens, Drood, ch xviii, Proof must be built up stone by stone As I say, the end crowns the work
4 The end makes all equal 1578 Florio, First Frates, fo 31, The end maketh al men equal 1605 Camden, Remains, 332 (1870) 1732 Fuller, No 4496
5 The end of our good begins our evil 1671 Davies (of Hereford), Sc of Folly, 50, in Works, i (Grosart) 1633 Drake, 117, The end of his good is the beginning of his woe
6 The end trieth all 1639 Clarke, 117 1669 Politephusia, 183
Endure, verb 1 He that endureth is not overcome 1640 Herbert, Jace Prudentum 1670 Ray, 8
2 He that can quietly endure over-
cometh c 1393 Langland, Plowman, C, xvi 138, Quoth Peers the Plouman
patients vinctum" 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 28
3 He that will not endure labour in this world, let him not be born 1578 Florio, First Frutes, fo 28, Who wil not suffer labor in this world, let him not be borne 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 7
Enemy and Enemies 1 An enemies may chance to give good counsel 1732 Fuller, No 600
2 An enemy's mouth seldom says well 1481 Caxton, Reynard, i uu, p 7 (Arber), Sir Isegrym that is euyl sayd it is a comyn prouerbe An enemies mouth saith seeld wel
3 He is no one's enemy but his own 1600 Cornwallis, Essays, sig E7 (1610), It smarts not halfoe so ill as the phrase, Every bodies friend but his owne 1664 in Musarum Deliciae, etc, ii 237 (Hotten, 1874), How ere he fail'd in his lif, 'tis like Jack Friend, Was no man's foe but's own, and there's an end 1749 Fielding, Tom Jones, bk. iv ch v, Tom, though an idle, thought less, rattling rascal, was nobody's enemy but his own 1850 Dickens, Copperfield, ch xxv, He is quite a good fellow—nobody's enemy but his own
4 He that has no enemies has no friends 1725 Bailey, tr Erasmus'
England

Colloq., 131, There is this old saying: He that has no enemies has no friends.

5. Take heed of reconciled enemies. c. 1600: in Roxb. Ballads, i. 432 (B.S.). Trust not a reconciled friend more than an open foe. 1618: Harington, Epigrams, bk. i. No. 87, Dicke said, beware a reconciled foe. 1656: F. Osborne, Advice to Son, 89 (Parry), A reconciled enemy is not safely to be trusted. 1670: Ray, 22, Take heed of enemies reconcil'd, and of meat twice boil'd.


2. England is a little garden full of very sour weeds. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "England." This is said to have been an observation frequently in the mouth of Louis XIV. during the victorious Duke of Marlborough's campaigns.

3. England is a ringing island. 1655: Fuller, Church Hist., bk. vi. § ii. (iii.), This, in England, (commonly called the "ringing-island") was done with tolling a bell. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "England." 1827: Hone, Ev. Day Book, ii. 509, England is proverbially called "the ringing island."

4. England is the paradise of women, hell of horses, and purgatory of servants—with variant. 1593: Florio, Second Fruits, 205, England is the paradise of women, the purgatory of men, and the hell of horses. c. 1593: Deloney, in Works, 377 (Mann, 1912), The wife of every Englishman is counted blest. 1619: New Help to Discourse, 51, England is termed by foreigners the paradise of women, as it is by some accounted the hell of horses, and purgatory of servants. 1642: Howell, Forreine Travel, 69 (Arber), Which makes them call England the hell of horses. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "England."

5. England were but a fling, Save for the crooked stick and the gray-goose wing. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, i. 116 (1840). 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "England."


Here is a variant—1918: N. & Q., 12th ser., iv. 78, A correspondent, writing to the Times under the heading "Perils of the Coast" on January 3, quoted as an East Anglian proverb of immemorial antiquity:—He who would Old England win Must at Weybourne Hoop begin.

7. Long beards heartless, painted hoods witless; Gay coats graceless, make England thireless. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, i. 179 (1840). 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "England." A saying said to have been made by the Scotch in the reign of Edward II., when elated with their victory at Stirling.

8. There is more good victuals in England than in seven other kingdoms. 1639: Clarke, 74.

9. When all England is aloft, etc. See quot. 1636: R. James, Iter Lantcast. (Chetham S.), When all England is aloft, Then happy they whose dwellings in God's Crofte; And where thinke you this crofe of Christ should be, But midst Ribchester's Ribble and the Dee. 1669: New Help to Discourse, 114, When as wars are aloft Safe is he that's at Christ's croft; And where should this Christ's croft be, But betwixt Rible and Mersie.

10. When hemp is spun England is done.
Bacon, Essays "Prophecies," The trumall prophecie, which I heard, when I was a childe, and Queene Elizabeth was in the flower of her yeaes, was, When hempe is sponne, England's done 1662, Fuller, Worthies, 1 114 (1840) 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s.v. "England" 1812 Brady, Claus Cal., u 31

When the black fleet of Norway, etc See quotes These sayings are very obscure I cannot suggest an interpretation c 1500 in Thos of Ercildoune, App., u 59 ("EETS"), Then the blak fleet of Norwaiy is commyn and gone, And drenchid in the flode truly, Mehelle ware bath bene beforne, but after shall none be [Also] Ibid., 61, Thomas of Asheldon sayth the egle of the trewe brute shall see all unglood in peas and rest both spirituall and temporall and every estate of in thare degre and the maydens of englonde bylde your bowses of lyme and stone 1625 Bacon Essays "Prophecies," There was also another prophecie, before the year of 88, which I doe not well understand There shall be scene upon a day, Betweene the Baugh, and the May, The Blacque Fleet of Norway When that that is come and gone, England build Houses of Lime and Stone For after Warres shall you have None 1662 Fuller, Worthies, 1 115 (1840), When the black fleet of Norway is come and gone, England build houses of lime and stone, For after wars you shall have none 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s.v. "England" [as in 1662]

When the sand feeds the clay [wet summer], England cries well-a-day, But when the clay feeds the sand [dry summer] it is merry with England 1662 Fuller, Worthies, 1 116 (1840) 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s.v. "England" 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 7

See also Drought, Hallamshire, Hops, King (14), Lady-day, Mouth (7), Oxford (5), and Sheffield Park.

English are the Frenchmen's apes, The 1605 Sylvester, Du Bartas, Week I Day u 1 231, Much like the French (or like our selves, their apes) 1662 Fuller, Worthies, 1 118

1840) 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s.v. "England" 1826 Brady, Varieties of Lit., 43

English glutton, The c 1540 in Relg Antiquae, i 326 (1841), He sayd that Engliishmen ar callyd the gretyste fedours in the worlde 1662 Fuller, Worthies, 1 118 (1840) 1790 Grose, Prov Anth., s.v. "England" English poke-pudding, The Ibid., s.v. "England"

Englishman 1 A right Englishman See quotes 1639 Clarke, 76, A right Englishman 1659 Howell, 10 (8), You are a right Englishman, you cannot tell when you are well 1670 Ray, 85, A right Englishman knows not when a thing is well

2 An Englishman Italianate is a devil incarnate 1586 J. Overton, Jacobs Troublesome Journey, 8, As manie of our countrmen have doone from the other side of the sea and are therefore become a by-word vnto the worlde to bee called Devils incarnate 1630 T. Adams Works, 12 1645 Howell, Letters, bk. 1 § i 11 No 11, There is an ill-favour'd saying, That an Englishman Italianate is a devil incarnate 1823 D'Israel, Cur of Lit., 2nd ser., 1 468 (1824)

3 In settling an island See quot 1790 Grose Prov Gloss, s.v. "England," In settling an island, the first building erected by a Spaniard will be a church, by a Frenchman, a fort, by a Dutchman, a warehouse and by an Englishman, an alehouse

4 The Englishman greets See quot 1840-59 Denham Tracts, i 302 (F.L.S.), The prosperity of our northern neighbours is further celebrated in proverb lore by the following —the Englishman greets, the Irishman sleeps, but the Scotchman ganges till he gets it See also Scotch mist

Enjoy If you would enjoy the fruit, pluck not the flower 1855 Bohn, 422

Enough and no more, like Mrs Milton's feast 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 54

Enough is as good as a feast [1661 ed.] and p. 4800 race 10 18 p. 1800 support — Eupides, Phen., 554] c 1420 Lydgate,
Enough


Enough is enough. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. xi. 1834–7: Southey, Doctor, ch. xx, p.i., As for money, enough is enough; no man can enjoy more. 1924: Shaw, Saint Joan, sc. vi.

Enough one day. See quo. 1639: Clarke, 38, He’l have enough one day, when his mouth is full of moulds. 1670: Ray, 173 [as in 1639]. 1732: Fuller, No. 2426, He’l ne’er have enough, till his mouth is full of mould. 1903: Wright, Eng. Dial. Dict., s.v. “Mould,” Thou’l never be satisfied til thoo gets thy mouth ful a mould. Yorksh.

Enough who is contented with a little, He hath. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 52.


Envious man is a squint-eyed fool, An. 1732: Fuller, No. 601.


Envious man waxes lean with the fatness of his neighbour, An. 1855: Bolin, 311.

Envy never dies. 1523–5: Berners, Froissart, ch. 428, There is a comune proverbe, the whiche is true, and that is, lowe envy never dyeth.

Envy never enriched any man. 1633: Draxe, 52, A man shall never bee enriched by enuic. 1670: Ray, 8. 1732: Fuller, No. 1380 [with “yet” after “never”].

Envy, Nothing sharpens sight like. Ibid., No. 3674.

Envy shoots at others and wounds herself. c. 1590: G. Harvey, Marginalia, 103 (1913), Enuy shootith at other; but bittith and woundith herself. 1659: Politieuthphia, 25. 1732: Fuller, No. 1381.

Epsom. See Sutton.

Erith. See quo. 1588: A. Fraunce, Lawiers Logike, fo. 27, The mayre of Earth is the best mayre next to the mayre of London.

Error is always in haste. 1732: Fuller, No. 1382.

Errs and mends. See quo. 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. xxviii., Who errrs and mends, to God himself commendes. 1732: Fuller, No. 2037, He that after sinning mends, recommends himself to God.

Escape a scouring, To. 1588: Mar-Prelate’s Epitome, 31 (1843), His grace shall on [one] day answer me this point or very narrowly escape me a scouringe. 1639: Clarke, 80, He scap’d a scouring. 1753: Richardson, Grandison, i. 378 (1883), ‘Tore God, Sir Hargrave, somebody has escaped a scouring, as the saying is.

Escape the rocks and perish in the sands, To. 1732: Fuller, No. 5160.

Escape the thunder and fall into the lightning, To. 1651: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium, 2nd ed.

Eschewing. See Avoidance.


Essex lions = Calves. 1630: Taylor (Water-Poet), Wit and Mirth, 79, Essex calves, called lions. 1672: Poor Rubin
Alman, March, Essex, lyons there might live, Which some name of calves do give 1785 Grose, Class Dict Vulgar Tongue, s v , Essex Lion, a calf, Essex being famous for calves

Essex man Proverbial for a simpleton Cf Essex calves, (1573, 1677, and 1704) 1663 Killigrew, Parson's Wedding, III v, Jolly Have you no friends in the close committee? Capt Yes, yes, I am an Essex man

Essex miles 1662 Fuller, Worthies, 1 497 (1840)

Essex stiles [ditches], Kentish mules, Norfolk wiles, many men begules— with variants 15th cent in Relig Antiquae, 1 269 (1841), Suffolk, full of wiles, Norfolk, full of giles 1580 Tusser, Husbandrie 209 (E D S.), For Norfolk wiles, so full of giles, Have caught my toe 1605 Camden, Remains, 321 (1870), Essex stiles, Kentish miles, Norfolk wiles, many men begules 1622 Drayton Polyol, xun, As Essex hath of old been named, Calves and Stiles Norfolk many wiles 1735 Pegge, Kent Proverbs, in E D S., No 12, p 66 [as in 1605] 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Essex" [as in 1605]

Estate in two parishes is bread in two wallets 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

Este bueth owne brones = Pleasant is one s own fireside c 1320 in Relig Antiquae, 1 111 (1841)

Even reckoning makes long friends 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch iv, Even recknyng maketh longe frendis 1658 Wit Restor'd, 151 1732 Fuller, No 1399, Even reckonings keep long friends 1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict, s v "Even"

Evening 1 A joyful evening may follow a sorrowful morning 1732 Fuller, No 230

2 Evening grey and morning red See quotes 1830 Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 415, Evening grey, and morning red, Send the poor shepherd home wet to his bed 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 9 (Percy S.), But if the evening's grey, and the morning red, Put on your hat or you'll wet your head 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 53, An evening grey and a morning red Will send the shepherd wet to bed, [or] Evening grey and morning red Make the shepherd hang his head

3 Evening oats are good morning fodder 1639 Clarke, 114 [with "orfs" for "oats"] 1670 Ray, 86 [as in 1639] 1732 Fuller, No 1401 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 3 (Percy S.)

4 Evening red and morning grey See quotes 1586 I Evans, Withas Dict Revised, sig N7 The evening red, the morning gray, Foreshewes a cleare and summers day 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Matin," The evening red and morning grey presage a faire succeeding day 1772 Mills, Essay on Weather, 34 (1773), The evening red, and the morning grey, is a sign of a fair day 1830 Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 416, Evening red and morning grey Are sure signs of a fair day 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 8 (Percy S.), An evening red and morning grey, Will set the traveller on his way 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 53, Two sure signs of one fine day

5 Evening words are not like morning 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Parole." The evening chat is not like the mornings tattle 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

6 The evening crowns the day 1605 Chapman, All Fools, II , Well, th' evening crowns the day 1633 Ford, 'Ts Pity, etc., II vi ad fin , Welcome sweet night! the evening crowns the day 1692 L'Estrange, , 264 (3rd ed ) 1754, Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict, s v 'Evening'

7 The evening praises the day 1616 Breton, Cross of Proverbs, 5 (Grosart) 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium, [with addition] and the morning a frost

Evenwood, Co Durham See quotes 1846-59 Denham Tracts, 1 83 (F L S.), Evenwood, Where never straight tree stood, [or] You've been at Evenwood, where never A straight tree grew , [or] You've been to Evenwood, Where straight tree never stood

Ever drunk ever dry 1562 Pilkington, Works, 5 (P S) (O), "A drunken man is always dry," according to the proverb 1605 Camden, Remains, 321

Ever lack evil name. c. 1460: How the Good Wife, l. 45.

Ever out cometh evil spun web. c. 1320: in Relig. Antiquae, i. 115 (1841), "Ever out cometh evil spoune web"; Quoth Hendyng.


Ever the higher. See quot. 15th cent.: in Relig. Antiquae, i. 92 (1841), Ever the hierie that thou art, Ever the lower be thy hert.

Every art, In, it is good to have a master. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

Every ass. See Ass (13) and (14).

Every bean. See Bean (3).

Every beginning is difficult. 1537: R. Whitford, Werke for Householders, sig. A8, Every begynnynge is harde and of greate diffyculte. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 219.

Every bird is known by its feathers. 1616: Breton, in Works, ii. e 5 (Grosart). 1732: Fuller, No. 1407.

Every bird likes its own nest. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Nid." 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. The bird loves her nest. 1732: Fuller, No. 1408, Every bird likes its own nest best. 1836: T. Wright, Essays on Middle Ages, i. 146, We say "every bird likes its own nest," a saying which runs thus in the old French:"—"A chescun oysel Son nye li semble bel."

Every bird must hatch its own eggs. 1616: Breton, in Works, ii. e 6 (Grosart). 1683: Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697). 1732: Fuller, No. 1409.


Everybody's business is nobody's business. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Ou-\b rage," Every bodies work is no bodies work. 1653: Walton, Compl. Angler, Pt. I. c. ii., I remember that a wise friend of mine did usually say, "That which is everybody's business is nobody's business." 1725: Defoe, Every-\b body's Business is Nobody's Business [title]. 1910: G. B. Shaw, Misalliance, p. 10 (ed. 1914).

Everybody's friend. See Friend (8).

Every commodity hath its discommodity. 1583: Melbancke, Philotinus, sig. Ei. 1598: Meres, Palladis, fo. 159. 1633: Draxe, 24. 1672: Walker, Pa-reum., 36, No convenience without its inconveniency. 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, ii. 110 (1785), There's no in-convenience but has its convenience, said Betty, giving me proverb for proverb. 1877: L. J. Jennings, Field Paths, ch. xxi., Sometimes I have thought of taking a missis, but there never was conueniency without an ill conueniency, and so I don't do it.


Every couple is not a pair. 1875: A. B. Cheales, Proverbs. Folk-Lore, 37.

Every cross hath its inscription. 1639: Clarke, 16, Each cross has its inscription. 1670: Ray, 75. c. 1800: Trusler, Prov. in Verse, 62. 1853: Trench, Proverbs, 132 (1903), This of ours is Christian both in form and in spirit: Every cross hath its inscription —the name, that is, inscribed upon it, of the person for whom it was shaped.

Every day brings a new light. 1732: Fuller, No. 1413.

Every day brings its bread with it. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 73, There's no to morrow but brings its bread with it.

Every day cometh night. 1758: Florio, First Fruits, fo. 33.

Every day in the week a shower of rain, and on Sunday twain. 1659: Howell, 11, ... a proverb in many shires of England. 1670: Ray, 257.

Every day is holiday with sluggards. 1542: Udall, tr. Erasmus' Apol., 174 (1877), To this matter he wrested the proverbe, in which it is saied: That with the slouthfull and idle lubbers that love not to do any werke, every day is holidaye. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), Sc. of Folly, Epigr. 142, in
Every day is not Sunday 1611 Cotgrave, s.v. "Feste, Feasts last not always, every day is not Sunday (say we) 1666 Torniano, Piazza Univ. 88, Every day is not holy day
Every day is not yesterday 1639 Clarke, 124
Every day's no Yule-day—cast the cat a castock [stump of a cabbage] 1846 Denham Proverbs, 62 (Percy S.) 1904 Co Folk-Lore Northumb., 179 (F.L.S.)
Every dog has his day See Dog (41)
Every door may be shut but death's door 1666 Torniano, Piazza Univ. 317 1553 Trench, Proverbs, 18 (1905).
What were "All men are mortal," as compared with the proverb Every door may be shut but death's door?
Every evil under the sun, For, there is a remedy, or there is none, if there be one, try and find it, if there be none, never mind it 1869 Hazlitt, 135
Every extremity is a fault 1629 Book of Merry Riddles, Prov. 30
Every eye forms its own beauty 1906 Harper, Brighton Road, 249. It is not true that it is the prettiest place, but, of course (as the proverb truly says), "every eye forms its own beauty"
Every fault there is folly, In 1878 J Platt, Morality, 34
Every foot See Foot (36) and (37)
Every fox. See Fox (8)
Every gap hath its bush 1678 Ray, 351
Every gracious man is also a grateful man. 1875 A. B. Cheales, Proverbs etc 1826 Brady, Varieties of Lit, 37
Every groom. See Every man is a king at home
Every hand fleeceth, Where, the sheep goes naked 1639 Clarke, 187 1647 Countrum New Commonwealth, 19 1670 Ray, 91 1732 Fuller, No 5645
Every hill See Hill (6)
Every hog his own apple 1748 Smollett, Rod Random, ch xli. It was soon spent, because I let them have share and share while it lasted. Howsomerger, I should have remembered the old saying, Every hog his own apple

Every horse See Horse (28)
Every ill man hath his ill day 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 123
Every ill man will have an ill time
Every Jack See Jack has his Jill
Every knife has a fool in his sleeve 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 55
Every light hath its shadow 1669 Politenia, 282
Every light is not the sun 1659 Howell, 12 1670 Ray, 15
Every little helps 1791 O'Keeffe, Wild Oats, V ii., Here—it's not much! but every little helps 1854 N & Q, 1st ser. ix 409 On the principle that every little helps I would offer the following suggestions 1869 Spur- geon, John Ploughman, ch xix. Every little helps, as the saw said when she snapped at a gnat
Every man a knife till found honest 1720 C. Shadwell, Irish Hospitality, I. Besides my maxims, I think every man a knife, till I find him honest
Every man a little beyond himself is a fool 1732 Fuller, No 1421
Every man after the fashion See Every one
Every man as he loves 1639 Clarke, 16
Every man as his business lies 1678 Ray, 107
Every man basteth the fat hog 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi. 1639 Clarke, to 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch xiv. All the cooks baste the fat pig, and the lean one gets burned
Every man before he dies shall see the devil c 1560 Becon, Catechism etc 624 (P.S), The common people have a saying among them, that "every man before he dieth shall see the devil."
Every man born to be rich? Is, 1659 Howell, 9
Every man can rule (or tame) a shrew.  
See Shrew (3).

Every man cannot hit the nail on the head. 1605: Camden, Remains, 321 (1870). 1659: Howell, 8.

Every man cannot speak with the king. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Parler," Everie one hath not the kings care at command. 1687: W. Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 788, Every man cannot come at the king.

Every man (or one) for himself—
(a) without addition; (b) plus and the devil for all; (c) plus and God for us all.
(a) c. 1386: Chaucer, C. Tales, A 1381 (Skeat), At the kinges court, my brother, Ech man for himself. 1478: Paston Lett., iii. 228 (Gairdner, 1900), Th' wyche ye shall understand more when I come, for ther is eury man for hym self. 1550: R. Crowley, Works, xi (E.E.T.S.), Where euerie man is for himself, And no manne for all. 1615: Brathwait, Strappado, 206 (1878), Th' old proverbe's in request, each man for one. 1729: Gay, Polly, ii. 33, Every man for himself, say I. 1869: M. Arnold, Culture and Anarchy: "Sweetness and Light," Our hatred to all limits to the unrestrained swing of the individual's personality, our maxim of "Every man for himself." (b) 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 33, Every one for him selfe and the diuel for al.
(c) 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ix., Every man for him selfe and god for us all. 1641: Cowley, Guardian, III. vi. [as in 1546, but with "one" for "man"]. 1712: Motteux, Quixote, Pt. I. bk. iii. ch. ii., Every man for himself, and God for us all, say I. 1836: Marryat, Easy, ch. ix., At certain times, on board ship, it is every man for himself, and God for us all.

Every man gnaw on his own bone, Let. c. 1430: Lydgate, Minor Poems, 160 (Percy S.).

Every man has his faults. 1607: Shakespeare, Timon, III. 1. I. Every man has his faults, and honesty is his. 1670: Ray, 89. 1732: Fuller, No. 1427, Every man hath his weak side.

Every man has his humour. 1598: Jonson, Every Man in his Humour [title]. 1639: Clarke, 17. 1681: W. Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 554.

Every man hath a fool in his sleeve. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum [with "one" for "man"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 1424. 1754: Bethelison, Eng-Danish Diet., s.v. "Fool."

Every man hath his proper gift. 1639. Clarke, 89.

Every man in his way. 1677: Yarranton, Englands Improvement, 105, Now I see the old saying is true, Every man is a fool when he is out of his own way. 1678: Ray, 84. 1753: Richardson, Grandison, iii. 72 (1883), I understand you . . . you need not speak out—every one in their way.

Every man is a king at home. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), Sc. of Polly, 42, in Works, ii. (Grosart), Every groome is a king at home. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Roy," Every one is a king in his own house.

Every man is best known to himself. 1633: Draxe, 27. 1670: Ray, 13. 1732: Fuller, No. 1429.

Every man is not born to be a boatswain. 1817: Scott, in Lockhart's Life, iv. 76, There is an old saying of the seamen’s, "every man is not born to be a boatswain."

Every man is the architect of his own fortune—with variants. [Nullum numen absit, si sit Prudentia: nos te, Nos facimus, Fortuna, Deam coeloque locamus.—Juvenal, x. 365. Sallust (De Repub. Ordin.) attributes the saying to Appius Claudius Cæcus, the Censor, 312 B.C.] 1539: Taverner, Proverbs, fo. 37, A mans owne maners do shape hym hys fortune. 1612: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. I. bk. i. ch. iv., And, what is more, every one is son of his works. c. 1680: L'Estrange, Seneca's Epistles, xiii., Every man is the artificer of his own fortune. 1707: Dunton, Athen. Sprod, 454, It is a highway saying, that we are architects of our own fortune. 1800: Coleridge, Wallenstein, Man is made great or little by his own will. 1873: E. Tew, in N. & Q., 4th ser., xii. 515, We have not a commoner saying among us than "Every man is the architect of
bis own fortune," and we have very few much older
Every man Jack. 1841 Dickens, 
Barn Rudge, ch xxxix, "Every one of 'em," replied Denh "Every man Jack!" 1883 R L S, Treasure I, ch ix, I am responsible for the ship's safety and the life of every man Jack aboard of her. Cf Every mother's son
Every man knows his own business best 1616 Breton, in Works, ii 65 (Grosart), Every man knowes what is best for himselfe 1742 Fielding, Andrews, bk ii ch v. The gentleman stared and, turning hastily about, said "Every man knew his own business" 1837 J S Knowles, Love-Chase V i. But every man, as they say, to his own business
Every man may not wear a furred hood 1578 T Lupton, All for Money, sig C2. By the olde proverbe euere man may not weare a fourde hood
Every man mend one, all shall be mended, If 1592 Heywood, Three Hund Epigr, No i 1579 Lyly, Euphues, 142 (Arber), Let vs endeavoure every one to amend one, and we shall all soone be amended 1604 Terlno, Friar Bakon s Proph, 27 (Percy S). Let every man mend one. And I will not be out 1740 Richardson, Pamela, ii 4 (1883). At least, it will be answering the good lesson I learned at school, Every one mend one 1793 D'Arblay, Diary, etc, ii 477 (1856) "Let every one mend one" as Will Chip says [Will Chip or Village Politics, by Hannah More], and then states as well as families, may be safely reformed 1880 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 47. Mend your own manners, and if every man does the same all will be mended.
Every man must bear his own burden. 1611 Cotgrave, s v. Chasque, "Every one must look to his owne charge, or bear his owne burthen. 1855 Kingsley, Westo Hol, ch xxvi. It was Heaven's will and to be borne as such. Every man must bear his own burden.
Every man must row with such oars as he has 1875 A B Cbeales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 131
Every man to his trade (or craft, or business) 1539 Taverner, Proverbs, fo 33. Let every man exercise bym selfe in the facultie that he knoweth 1597 Shakespeare, i Henry IV, ii 11. Fal. Every man to his business 1682 A Bohn, False Count, i 11. Father mine, every man to his business, I say 1732 Fuller, No 1435. Every man to his trade, quoth the boy to the bishop 1821 Scott, Kenworth, ch xi. Every man to his craft, says the proberb, the parson to the prayr-book, and the groom to his curry-comb 1895 Shaw, Man of Destiny, Giuseppe Every man to his trade, excelling
Every man will shoot at the enemy, but few will gather the shafts 1678 Ray, 202 [with "go to fetch" or "gather"] 1732 Fuller, No 1436
Every man wishes water to his own mill 1578 Florio, First Fruits, fo 14. Every man draweth water to hym selfe 1593 G Harvey, in Works, ii 181 (Grosart). Every miller is ready to convey the water to his owne mill 1670 Ray, 121. Every miller draws water to his owne mill 1740 North, Lives of Norths, i 133 (Bohn). The sergeants would have no water go by their mill 1823 Scott, Peveril, ch xx1. I hears on nought, except this Plot, as they call it, that they are pursuing the Papschers about, but it brings water to my mill, as the saying is
Every man's nose will not make a shoeng-horn [c 1520 Stanbridge, Vulgaria, sig B5. His nose is lyke a shoynge borne] 1659 Howell, 4. Every one cannot have a nose like a shoeng-horn 1670 Ray, 125 1732 Fuller, No 1434
Every may be bath a may not be 1678 Ray, 174 1932 Fuller, No 1437 Every mule is two in winter 1640 Herbert, Jae Frudentum
Every miller See Every man wishes
Every mother's son. [c 1310 in Wright's PoL Songs, 312 (Camden S, 5). Sur le sollemnemment escomege e malde Trestuz le fize demere. (Upon it be solemnly excommunicates and curses}

Every new thing has a silver tail. 1864: “Cornish Proverbs,” in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., vi. 495.


Every one can keep house better than her mother till she trieth. 1732: Fuller, No. 1443. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 49.


Every one gets his own, you’ll get the gallows, When. 1732: Fuller, No. 5550.

Every one is a master and servant. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

Every one is kin to the rich man. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 235.

Every one is (or should be) master in his own house. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Maison,” . . . master within his own doores. *Ibid.*, s.v. “Maistre,” Every one rules in his own house.

Every one is not born a poet. 1659: Howell, 13.

Every one is weary: the poor in seeking, the rich in keeping, the good in learning. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 1614: Bohn, No. 1447.

Every one will labour, the poor man in seeking what he wants, and the rich man in preserving what he hath.

Every one knows how to find fault. 1732: Fuller, No. 1447.

Every one puts his fault on the times. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 26. 1732: Fuller, No. 1448, Every one lays his faults upon the time.

Every one says. *See* True (15).

Every one swale [sell] his own wuts [oats], *Let.* 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 89.

Every one takes care of himself, care is taken of all, When. 1855: Bohn, 558.

Every one talks of what he loves. 1732: Fuller, No. 1450.

Every one that can lick a dish. 1678: Ray, 76.

Every one thinks he knows much. 1732: Fuller, No. 1451.

Every one thinks his sack heaviest. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Fardeau,” Every one finds his owne burthen heavy enough. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

Every one to catch a salmon, ’Tis not for. 1732: Fuller, No. 5095.

Every one to his taste—(a) *plus as . . . said when he (or she) kissed the cow; (b) without the cow. (a) 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. i., Every man as he loueth Quoth the good man when that he kyst his coowe. 1630: Davenant, *Just Italian*, III., Th’ old amorous deacon that embrac’d his cow Was not so destitute. 1675: Cotton, *Burl. upon Burlesque*, 189 (1765), Why each one as he likes (you know), Quo’ th’ good man when he kiss’d his cow. 1694: Motteux, *Rabelais*, bk. v. ch. xxix., Every one as they like, as the woman said when she kiss’d her cow. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I. [as in 1694, *plus “good” before “woman”*]. 1823: Scott, *Peveril*, ch. vii., She hath a right to follow her fancy, as the dame said who kiss’d her cow. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 591, Every one to his liking, as the old woman said when she kiss’d her cow. (b) 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Chasen,” Every one as hee likes.
Every one to their liking 1714 Ozell, Molière, ii 110, Every one to his mind 1759 Sterne, Trist Shandy, bk 1 ch vi, I never could envy Didius in these kinds of fancies of his — But every man to his own taste

Every one's censure is first moulded in his own nature 1855 Bohn, 351

Every one's faults are not written in their foreheads 1678 Ray, 9

Every path See Path

Every pease hath its veaze—and variant 1599 Buttes, Dyes Dry Dinner. Our common proverb accordeth, speaking somewhat homely Every pease will base a feeze, but euerie beane fifteen 1668 Armin, Nest of Ninnies, 51 (Sh S), It was in Lent, when pease pottage bare great sway, and every pease must have his ease 1670 Ray, 214, Every pease hath its veaze, and a bean fifteen

Every peddler thinks well of his pack 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Panier" 1631 Maibbe, Celestina, 161 (T T), Every peddler prayseth his owne needles

Every penny that is taken is not clear gain 1732 Fuller, No 1454

Every pleasure hath a pain 1598 Chapman, Blind Beggar of Alex, sc v 1631 Maibbe, Celestina, 149 (T T), There is no pleasure without sorrow

Every plume is not for every sound 1732 Fuller, No 1455

Every pot has two handles 1650 Taylor, Holy Living, ch u § 6, There is nothing but hath a double handle, or at least we have two hands to apprehend it 1827 Hone, Ev Day Book u 649, "Every pot has two handles," "This means, that one story's good till another story's told," or "there is no evil without its advantages"

Every question requireth not an answer 1578 Florio, First Fruits, fo 32 [with words "for" "question"] 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 31 1875 A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 118, It is not every question that deserves answer

Every reed will not make a pipe 1732 Fuller, No 1457

Every river See All rivers

Every scale hath its counterpoise 1666 Torrano, Piazza Univ, 53 [with "balance" for "scale"] 1732 Fuller, No 1458

Every shoe fits not every foot 1616 B Rich, Ladies Looking Glass, 21, As every shoe is not fit for every foot 1670 Ray, 142 1754 Berthelson, Eng - Danish Dict, s v "Shoe"

Every slip is not a fall 1732 Fuller, No 1461

Every spot is not the leprosy 1875 A B Cheales, Proverb, Folk-Lore, 117

Every thing has an end See All things have an end

Every thing hath a beginning 1566 Gascoigne, Supposes, v v 1661 Middleton, Mayor of Q, IV ii, Everything has beginning

Every thing hath an ear, and a pitcher has two 1639 Clarke, 237

Every thing hath his seed 1633 Drake, 12

Every thing hath its time 1509 Barclay, Ship of Fools, u 46 (1874). For every thyng God hath a tyme puruyade 1578 Gorgeous Gallery, 47 (Rollins), Eche thing must have a time 1666 Torrano, Piazza Univ, 283 1732 Fuller, No 1466, Every thing hath its time, and that time must be watch'd 1875 A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 12, As another proverb reminds us, Every thing will come into use if you only keep it long enough

Every thing is as it is taken 1552 Latimer, Works, ii 150 (P S), We have a common saying amongst us, "Every thing is as it is taken" c 1597 in Harungton, Nuga Antiquae, i 223 (1804), We must say as is oft sayd, "it was as it was taken" 1632 Jonson, Magnetic Lady, III iii, All counsel's as his taken

Every thing is good in its season 1633 Drake, 184 1670 Ray, 23 1732 Fuller, No 1467 1851 Borrow, Lavengro, ii 261, He had no objection to tea, but he used to say, "Every thing in its season"

Every thing is of use to a housekeeper 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

Every thing is the worse for wearing 1649 Before 1529 Skelton, Magnysyence,
Every

l. 456, All thyng be worse wban it be wone. 1560: T. Wilson, Rhetorique, 151 (1909), Your wyte be good enow, if you kepe it stild and use it not, for every thing, as you knowe, is the worse for the weares. 1694: Southerne, Fatal Marriage, III. ii. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Worse."

Every thing newe is fine. 1639: Clarke, 228, Every thing's pretty, when 'tis new. 1666: Torrano, Piazza Univ., 171, A new, every thing is handsome.


Every tide will have an ebb. 1583: Melbancke, Philotinus, sig. U2, Euerie tide [hath] his eb. 1732: Fuller, No. 1470.

Every time the sheep bleats. See Shepherd (3).


Sloth said, Yet a little more sleep; and Presumption said, Every trib must stand upon his owne bottom. 1721: C. Cibber, Refusal, V. 1781: Macklin, Man of the World, I. 1857: Borrow, Rom. Rye, ch. xxix., "Every vessel must stand on its owne bottom," said I; "they take pleasure in receiving obligations, I take pleasure in being independent." 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lancs Sayings, 8, Let ev'ry trib stond on it' owne bothum.

Every where is no where, He that is. 1586: Pettje, tr. Guazzo's Civil Convers., fo. 63, The proverbe, That he is not any where, who is euerie where. 1669: Politeophilia, 131, He is no where that is every-where. 1732: Fuller, No. 2176.

Every wind bloweth not down the corn. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ix. 1633: Draxe, 234.

Every wind is ill to a broken ship. 1633: Ibid., 171. 1689: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. vii., Every wind is foul for a crazy ship.

Every woman. See quot. 1612: Field, Woman a Weathercock, IV. ii., They say every woman has a springe to catch a woodcock [gull, or silly fellow].

Evil

Evil, adj. 1. An evil lesson is soon learned. 1670: Ray, 8, That which is evil is soon learnt.


3. Evil beginning hath evil end. c. 1400: Mirk's Festival, 120 (E.E.T.S.), For hyt ys of sene, all euell byggynynghath a foule endyyng. c. 1440: Lydgate, Fall of Princes, bk. viii. l. 2241, Ther gyynnyn gyursid hadde a wengable fyyn.

4. Evil crow. See Like crow.

5. Evil doers. See Ill doers.


7. Evil name is evil fame. c. 1430: in Babees Book, etc., 39 (E.E.T.S.), For he that caccith to him an yuel name, It is to him a foule fame.

8. Evil news. See Ill news.

9. Evil will. See Ill will.

10. Evil words corrupt good manners. 1530: Palsgrave, 499, Foule wordes corrupte good maners. 1596: Harington, Ulysses upon Ajax, 23 (1814), Evil words corrupt good manners (saith both Paul and Menander). 1631: Brathwait, Eng. Gentlewoman, 293 (1641), As by good words evil manners are corrected, so by evil words are good ones corrupted. 1749: Fielding, Tom Jones, bk. xii. ch. iii., Evil communica- tion corrupts good manners. 1821: Scott, Pirate, ch. xxx., Gude forgie me for swearing—but evil communication corrupteth good manners.

II. Of evil grain no good seed can come. 1633: Draxe, 13 [without last two words]. 1670: Ray, 8.

12. Of evil life comes evil end. c. 1300: King Alisaunder, 1. 753, Soth hit is, in al thynge, Of covel lif comuth covel eyndyng. c. 1440: La Tour-Landry, 72 (E.E.T.S.), For gladly euelle lyff hathe euelle ende.

13. The evil wound is cured, but not the evil name. 1670: Ray, 18.

Evil, adv. Evil gotten, evil (or worse) kept (or spent). 1481: Caxton, Reynard, 8 (Arber), Therof hym had be better to haue holde his pees for he had stolen it Male quesisti et male perdisisti
hit is rght that it be evil loste that is evil wonne 1541 Coverdale, Christ State Matrimony, sig I2, Evell geten, worse kept 1579 Marr of Wit and Wisdom, sc ii p 28 (Sh S), Evell gotten worse spent 1670 Ray, 8, Evil gotten evil spent 1754 Berthelson, Eng Danisch Diet, s v "Evil," Evil got evil spent

Evil, subs 1 Evil is soon believed 1732 Fuller No 1474

2 Evil to him that evil thinks or seekes c 1386 Chaucer Preuss s Tale I 180, Yvel shall have, that yvel wol desire 1484 Caxton, Esope, n 207 (Jacobs) Now the yuel which men wyssh to other cometh to hym whiche wyssheth hit 1666 Torrano, Piazza Univ, 200, To who thinks evil, evil befallis him 1712 Motteux, Quixote, Pt I lb ii ch vi, Good betide us all, and evil to him that evil seekes

3 He that evil does never good weens c 1386 Chaucer, C Tales, A 4320 (Skeat), Him that nat wene wel that yvel doth

4 He that helpeth the evil hurteth the good c 1615 Time's Whistle, 45 (E E T S), For true's the saying "He harms the good that doth the evil spare" 1669 Politenphila, 186, He that helpeth an evil man hurteth him that is good 1732 Fuller, No 2163

5 No evil without its advantages 1827 Hone, Ev Day Book, n 639

6 The evil that cometh out of thy mouth, flyeth into thy bosom 1633 Draxe, 192 [with "returneth (or falleth)" for "flyeth"] 1670 Ray, 8 1732 Fuller, No 4505

7 Whoso will no evil do See quots 1537 R Whitford Werke for Householders, sig D7, The olde proverbe sayth, who so wyll none euyl do, shulde do nothynge that longeth thereto 1639 Clarke, 202, He that would no evills doe, must shun all things that longs thereto

Evils See Misfortunes, and Two evils Ewell See Sutton

Example 1 Example is better than precept c 1400 Mirk's Festival, 216

(E E T S), Then saythe Seynt Austeyn that an ensampull ym dowyng ys mor commendabull then ys techyng other prechynge 1570 Ascham, Scholemaster, 6r (Mayor), One example is more valiable than twenty preceptes written in bookes 1656 F Osborne, Advice to Son, 34 (Parry), Example prevails more than precept 1742 Fielding, Andrews, bk 1 ch 1, It is a trite but true observation, that examples work more forcibly on the mind than precepts 1868 W C Hazlitt, m N & Q, 4th ser, 1 201, The copy-book says that "Example is better than Precept"

2 He is en ill case that gives example to another 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 125

Excellent soldier, he lacks nothing but a heart and a feather, An 1639 Clarke, 310

Excellent tale and 'twere told in Greek, An Ibid, 231

Exceptions prove the rule 1664 J Wilson, The Cheats, To Reader, I for if I have shown the odd practices of two vain persons pretending to what they were not, I think I have sufficiently justified the brave man even by this reason, that the exception proves the rule 1771 Smollett, Clinker, m Works, vi 82 (1817). They serve only as exceptions, which, in the grammarian's phrase, confirm and prove a general canon 1808 Byron, Letters and Journals, i 204 (Prothero), You will recollect that "exceptions only prove the Rule" 1883 Trollope Autob, ch xx, But the exceptions are not more than enough to prove the rule 1909 W H Helm, Jane Austen, 269, The retort is that they are the exceptions that "prove" the rule Cf Rule Exchange See Fair, adj (19)

Experience is good, if not bought too dear 1732 Fuller, No 1479

Experience is sometimes dangerous 1578 Florio, First Fruites fe 30, Experience somtimes is perilous 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 110

Experience is the father of wisdom, and memory the mother 1732 Fuller, No 1480

Experience is the mistress of fools
Experience  195  Eye

1579: Lyly, 

1618: Breton, in Inedited Tracts, ii7 (Hazlitt). 1692: L’Éstrange, Æsop, 185 (3rd ed.), Experience is the mistress of knaves as well as of fools. 1710: S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 33, As experience is the school-mistress of fools. c. 1800: J. Trusler, Prov. in Verse, 25.

Experience is the mother of knowledge. 1578: Florio, First Fruits, fo. 32, Experience is the mother of all things. 1637: Breton, in Works, ii. 18 (Grosart), Reading makes a scholler by rule... but experience is the mother of knowledge. 1700: D. Craufurd, Courtship at-la-Mode, I. ii.


Experience teacheth fools. 1732: Fuller, No. 1484, Experience teacheth fools, and he is a great one that will not learn by it. 1884: Folk-Lore Journal, ii. 279, Experience makes fools wise. Derbysh.

Experience without learning is better than learning without experience. 1855: Bohn, 352.

Extreme right. See Greater the right. Extremes meet. 1589: Triumph of Love and Fortune, IV., in Hazlitt, Old Plays, vi. 214, A right woman—either love like an angel, Or hate like a devil—in extremes so to dwell. 1780: Walpole, Letters, vii. 395 (Cunningham), We seem to be plunging into the horrors of France... yet, as extremes meet, there is at this moment amazing insensibility. 1822: Lamb, Elia: “Chimney-Sweepers,” That dead time of the dawn, when (as extremes meet) the rake... and the hard-handed artizan... jostle... for the honours of the pavement. 1900: Lucas, Domesticities, 24, Oatmeal marks not only the child’s breakfast, it is the favourite food of Edinburgh Reviewers. Thus do extremes meet.

Eye and Eyes. I. A small hurt in

the eye is a great one. 1732: Fuller, No. 406.

2. Better eye sore than all blind. c. 1320: in Reliq. Antiquae, i, 110 (1841), “Betere is eye sor, than al blynd”; Quoth Hendyng. 1846: T. Wright, Essays on Middle Ages, i. 141, Thus we have the saying “A sore eye is better than all blind.”

3. He has an eye behind him. c. 1565: Still, Gammer Gurton, II. ii. Take hede of Sim Gloyers wife, she hath an eie behind her! 1681: W. Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 1032, He hath an eye behind; a wary man. 1869: P. Fitzgerald, Comediettas, 111, Watch every look, every gesture. She has eyes in the back of her head.

4. He shuts his eyes and thinks none see. 1852: FitzGerald, Polonius, 28 (1903).

5. His eye is bigger than his belly. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum [with “the” for “his”). 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II., I thought I could have eaten this wing of a chicken; but my eye’s bigger than my belly. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, i. 137, “His eyes are bigger than his belly”; spoken of a glutton. 1889: Peacock, Manley, etc., Gloss., 193 (E.D.S.), A person is said to have his “eyes bigger than his belly” who takes more food upon his plate than he can eat. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lancs Sayings, 24, His een are bigger nor his bally.

6. His (or her) eyes draw straws. 1709: Mandeville, Virgin Unmask’d, 98 (1724), My eyes begin to draw straws... I wish ye a good repose. 1790: Gent. Mag., Pt. II. 978. It is a current expression, in a great part of the kingdom, to say of a person, when his eyes are heavy, and he is much inclined to sleep, that his eyes draw straws. 1830: Forby, Vocab. E. Anglia, 430. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 596, The eyes are drawing straws=the person is becoming drowsy.

7. Neither eyes on letters nor hands in coffers. 1578: Florio, First Fruits, fo. 33. Neither eyes, nor handes in other mens writings or purses. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.
Neither my eye nor my elbow
1584 Northall, Folk Phrases, 20
(E D S ), Neither rice neither one thing nor the other 1907 T Ratcliffe, in N & Q., 110th ser., viii 7. I have never heard this phrase except from Derbyshire folks. It is used as a comment on an unsatisfactory answer, promise or arrangement, as "It's neither my eye nor my elbow"—neither the one thing nor the other.

9 One eye of the master's sees more than ten of the servants 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1670 Ray, 17
1732 Fuller, No 3749 Cf Nos 9 and 17

10 The eye and religion can bear no jesting 1630 T Adams, Works, 14. We say it is no safe jesting with holy things 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 322, 'Tis ill jesting with your eye and religion.

11 The eye is a shrew 1678 Ray, 354

12 The eye is the pearl of the face 1580 Lyly, Euphues, 406 (Arber). As the eye hath euer bene thought the pearl of the face 1732 Fuller, No 4506

13 The eye of a master will do more work than both his hands 1736 Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, 1 445 (Bigelow) 1843 Carlyle Past and Present, bk ii ch x, But continual vigilance, rigorou method, what we call 'the eye of the master," work wonders Cf Nos 9 and 17

14 The eye that sees all things else, sees not itself 1732 Fuller, No 4507

15 The eye will have his part 1640 Herbert Jac Prudentium

16 The eyes have one language everywhere Ibid

17 The master's eye fatt the horse 1531 Brathwait, Whimsies, 69 (1559). The proverb is, The masters eye feedes his horse 1709 O Dykes, Eng Proverbs, 281 1869 Austen Leigh, Memoir of Jane Austen, 35. Two homely proverbs were held in higher estimation in my early days than they are now—"The master's eye makes the horse fat," and Cf Nos 9 and 13

18 To whirl the eyes too much shows a kite's brain 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

19 What the eye sees not, the heart rues not c 1477 Caxton, Jason, 83 (E E T S ). Men saye communely that ferre ys from the eye is ferre from the herte 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vii 1592 Greene, in Works, xi 140 (Grosart). What the eye sees not Phylomela neuer hurteth the heart c 1613 Rowlands, Pare of Spy-Knaues, 7 (Hunt Cl). For what the eye ne're sees, the heart ne're rues 1653 R. Brome, City Wit, III 11712 Matteuex, Quixote, Pt II ch 67 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 588, What the eye doesn't see, the heart doesn't grieve Cf Out of sight out of mind, and Seldom seen

20 You may put it in the eye and see none the worse 1530 Palsgrave, 478. I mave put my wynnyng in myn eye 1545 Ascham, Toxopb, 151 (Arber). So that shoter whiche puttheth no difference, but shoteth in all lyke, in rough weather and fayre, shall always put his wynnynges in his eyes 1641 Cowley, Guardian, I 1. What you get by him you may e'en put i your eye, and ne'er see the worse for 't 1738 Swift, Polite Conuers, Dial I

21 You should never touch your eye but with your elbow, i e you should not touch your eye at all 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium, Diseases of the eye are to be cured with the elbow. 1670 Ray, 39 1732 Fuller, No 3529. Never rub your eye but with your elbow 1894 Northall, Folk Phrases, 21 (E D S ). Rub your sore eye with your elbow, i e not at all

See also Every eye, Four eyes, Mistress (3), and Two eyes
Eyelet-holes. See quotes. 1599: Porter, Two Angry Women, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, vii. 381, 'Twill be a good while, ere you wish your skin full of eyelet-holes. 1678: Ray, 219, It will be long enough ere you wish your skin full of holes. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I., You'll be long enough before you wish your skin full of eyelet holes. 1855: Kingsley, West Ho!, ch. iii., I expected to be full of eyelet holes ere I could close with him.

Eye-servant is never good for his master, The. 1659: Howell, 10.

Eye-teeth, To have one's. 1730: Morier, in Atterbury, Misc. Works, v. 147 (O.), There is no dealing with him without having one's eye teeth. 1778: T. Cogan, John Bunclè, Junior, ii. 148, My ladies have all their eye teeth about them, as the saying is. 1870: Emerson, Works, ii. 7 (Bohn) (O.), Progress that is made by a boy "when he cuts his eye-teeth."
Face 1 A face of brass 1578
Whetstone, Promis and Cassandra, Pt II III 1, Well, I will set a face of brass on it 1647 in Somers Tracts, v 490 (1811), Had he not had more brass in his face than in his kitchen 1718 in Roxb Ballads, viii 633 (B.S.), Then, with a face of brass, he ask'd poor Betty more
2 Face to face the truth comes out 1732 Fuller, No 1485 1852 Fitz-Gerald, Polonius, Pol. 59 (1903). Face to face truth comes out space
3 I think his face is made of a fiddle, every one that looks on him loves him 1678 Ray, 243 1762 Smollett, Sir L Greenes, ch viii. We may see your honour's face is made of a fiddle, every one that looks on you, loves you 1816 Scott, Old Mortality, ch xxxvii, How could I help it? His face was made of a fiddle, as they say, for a' body that looked on him liked him
4 The face is index of the heart 1586 L Evans, Withals Dict Revised, sig L7. Your face doth testify what you be inwardly c 1615 Times Whistle, 23 (EETS). That olde sayings is true, "the face is index of the heart." 1645 Howell, Letters, bk 1 § 11 No xvi. The face is oftentimes a true index of the heart 1713 Ward, Hist Grand Rebellion 1 8. For in the face judicious eyes may find The symptoms of a good or evil mind 1864 Mrs H Wood, Trellyn Hold, ch 1, You have not to learn that the face is the outward index of the mind within.

Face with a card of ten See Outface.

Facts are stubborn things 1749 Smollett. Gil Blas, bk x ch 1 1925 E Lyttelton, Memories and Hopes, 228, These are facts, and after all, facts are stubborn things.

Fail at a punch. See Punch.
Failure, He who never, will never grow

Rich 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch xi [cited "as the proverb is"]

Faint as a fowl See Fowl

Faint at the smell of a wall-flower, He will 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "London"

Faint heart never won fair lady [c 1390 Gower, Conf Amantis, bk v i 6573, Bot as men sem, wher herte is failed, Ther schal no castell ben assaule] c 1570 in Black Letter Ballads, etc, 16 (Lilly, 1867). Faint harts fare ladies never win 1580 Lyly, Euphues, 364 (Arber). Faint heart nether wynneth castell nor lady 1581 Cotton, Searsons, bk 1, Faint heart, you know, ne'er wins fair lady 1702 Vanbrugh, False Friend, III c 1750 Foote, Knights, II xvi 256; Planché, Stranger, m 130 (1879), And faint heart ne'er fair lady wins, I'll venture—come what may! Faint praise is disparagement 1813 Ray, 106

Fair, adj 1 A fair booty makes many a thief 1732 Fuller, No 86
2 A fair day in winter is the mother of a storm 1639 Clarke, 171. A faire day is mother of a storme 1651 Herbert, Jac Prudentium, 2nd ed
3 A fair face cannot have a crabbed heart 1593 Passionate Morrice, 92 (N Shaw), Building upon the proverb, A faire face, etc

4 A fair face 1563 Drake, 15, Shee that is faire hath halfe her portion 1732 Fuller, No 89
5 A fair face may be a foule bargain 1590 Greene, in Works, vii 36 (Grosart). Such as marie hut to a faire face, tie themselfe oft to a foule bargain 1732 Fuller, No 87, A faire face and a foule bargain 1875 A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 35 [as in 1732] See also Good face
6 A fair field and no favour 1883
E. Pennell-Elmhirst, *Cassio Leics.*, 202 (O.). He . . . asked only for a fair field and a clear course. 1927: *Sphere*, 27 March, p. 492, col. 3. "What our small body of genuine talent needs is a fair field and no favour.


10. A fair wife and a frontier castle breed quarrels. 1640: Herbert, *Jact.*


16. Expect not fair weather in winter on one night's ice. 1670: Ray, 28.


18. Fair and foolish. *See* *quotes.* 1600: W. Vaughan, *Directions for Health*, Faire and foolish, little and loud, Long and lazie, blacke and proud; Fat and merry, leane and sad, Pale and paevish, red and bad. 1615: R. Tofte, *Blazon of Italicus, 34* [as in 1600 but with "lusty" for "lazie"] and "pettish" for "peevish"]; Before 1658: Cleveland, *Works*, 268 (1742), Foolish (the proverb says) if fair. 1732: Fuller, No. 6409: Fair and foolish, black and proud; Long and lazi; little and loud. Cf. Long and lazy.


20. Fair feathers. *See* *Fine* (12).


23. Fair is the weather where cup and cover doe hold together, i.e. where husband and wife agree. *Glos. 1639: Berkeley MSS.,* iii. 32 (1855). 1852: Plancheton, *Extravag.* i. 104 (1879), Fair play's a jewel, then —let go my hair. 1865: in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., viii. 317. This saying is or was to be found in Kent, as part of a longer formula—"Fair play is a jewel! Lucy, let go my hair." 1898: Weyman, *Shrewsbury*, ch. xx., But fair-play is a jewel, my lord. . . . If you would see my face, show me yours!

27 Fair water makes all clean 1639 Clarke, 66
28 Fair without but foul within 1633 Draxe, to 1732 Fuller, No 88. A fair face and a foul heart
29 Fair words and foul deeds cheat wise men as well as fools 1578 Florio First Fruites, to 25. Fayre words and ye deede deceiue both wise and fools 1633 Draxe, 46. Faire words and foul deede deceiue many 1710 S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 154
30 Fair words and foul play cheat both young and old 1855 Bohn, 353
31 Fair words break no bones c 1460 How the Goode Wyfe I 43. Ne fayre wordes brake nener bone 1621 Davies (of Hereford), Sc of Folly, 42 in Works, ii (Grosart). Faire wordes brake no bones 1670 Ray, 158. Soft words break no bones 1732 Fuller, No 6183. Fair words never break a bone. Foul words have broke many a one
32 Fair words (or Fine words) butter no parsnips (διδὰς ὑμῖν ἅπαν, φάστα, ἡ ἄγρα ἐβαζά - Herodas, vii 49) 1639 Clarke, 12 1680 L’Estrange, Select Coll of Erasmus, 131. Co Your charity upon earth will be rewarded in heaven Fau Those words butter no parsnips 1714. Ozell, Molière, iv 222. Meer praise butters no turnips 1763 Murphy, Citizen, 1, 1. Fine words butter no parsnips 1826 Scott, Journal, 15 April 1843 Planché, Extravag, ii 205 (1879). Fine words, I grant, But sure the proverb says, ’No parsnips butter.
33 Fair words cost nothing 1712 Gay, Mohocks, sc ii, Mr Constable is a great man, neighbour, and fair words cost nothing.
34 Fair words fill not the belly 1580 Lyly, Luphnes, 476 (Arber). Fayre words latte few 1732 Fuller, No 1491
35 Fair words foul deeds 1581 T Howell, Deveses, 16 (1906)
36 Fair words hurt not the tongue 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch ix. It hurteth not the tongue to gene fayre wurd 1605 Chapman, etc., Easwe

Hoe, IV 1, O, madam, "Faire words never hurt the tongue" 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum. Fair language grates not the tongue 1670 Ray, 158. Soft words hurt not the mouth 1732 Fuller, No 4205 (as in 1670).
37 Fair words make fools fam c 1480 Early Miscell, 25 (Warton Cl, 1855). Fayre promise ofte maketh fools sayne c 1530 Everyman, in Hazlitt Old Plays, i 117 Lo, fair words maketh fools fam c 1600 Deloney, Thes of Reading, ch 14. Hold thy peace, faire words make foole fam 1732 Fuller, No 1492. Fair words please fools 1820 Scott, Abbot, ch xxx. I have on my side put him off with fair words, which make fools fam.
38 Fair words make me look to my purse 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum
40 Fair words will not make the pottle 1736 Bailey, Dict s v "Fair"
41 He has a fair forehead to graft on An allusion no doubt to cuckolding 1678 Ray, 245 1732 Fuller, No 1855
42 He who gives fair words feeds you with an empty spoon 1855 Bohn, 399
43 In fair weather prepare for foul 1732 Fuller, No 2678
44 It’s a pity fair weather should do any harm 1633 Draxe, 45. 1665 R. Howard, Committee, I. 'Tis a thousand pities that fair weather should do any hurt 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial II. 'Tis a pity that fair weather should ever do any harm 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 6 (Percy S) 1872 J. Glyde, Jr, Norfolk Garland, 151 [with 'fine' for 'fair]
45 Neay, faire words in flihting 1683 Menton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697)
46 Some to hide faire faults can make
faire weather. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), Sc. of Folly, 44, in Works, ii. (Grosart).

47. To a fair day open the window, but make you ready as to a foul. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1669: New Help to Discourse, 310, To a fair day open your window.

48. There was never fair prison nor love with foul face. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), Sc. of Folly, 46, in Works, ii. (Grosart). 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Prison" [omitting "love with"].

49. Who hath a fair wife needs more than two eyes. 1670: Ray, 9.

Fall, adv. i. Fair and softly. See Lawyer (4); and Soft and fair.

2. Fair chieve all where love trucks. 1670: Ray, 47.

3. Fair chieve good ale, it makes many folks speak as they think. 1678: Ray, 93. 1886: Bickerdyke, Curios. of Ale and Beer, 404, The old proverb, "Fair chieve good ale, it makes folk speak what they think."


Fare, subs. i. Fair is fair, work or play. 1710: S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 31. 1926: Humorist, 20 Nov., p. 409. Fair is fair, when all is said.

2. Fair is not fair, but that which pleaseth. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1670: Ray, 9.

Men speak of the fair as things went with them there. 1631: Mabbe, Celestina, 84 (T.T.). And as you find your pennivorths, so you speak of the faire. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1759: Sterne, Trist. Shandy, bk. i. ch. v., For every man will speak of the fair as his own market has gone in it.

4. The fair is done. c. 1380: Gamllyn, l. 270, in Skeat's Chaucer, iv. 652. For sothe at this tyme this feire is y-doon.

5. The fair lasts all the year. 1541: Sch. House of Women, l. 348, in Hazlitt, Early Pop. Poetry, iv. 118. He need go no farther, the fair is hear; Bye when ye list, it lasteth ouer yeer. 1540: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ii. 1618: Harington, Epigrams, bk. i.

No. 72, Her fayre lasts all the yeare. 1633: Draxe, 120.


Fairest paper the fouler the blot, The. 1732: Fuller, No. 4513.

Fairest looking shoe may pinch the foot, The. Ibid., No. 4514. Cf. Finest shoe.

Fairest rose at last is wither'd, The. 1591: Florio, Second Frides, 105. The fairest and the sweetest rose In time must fade and beauty lose. 1605: Camden, Remains, 333 (1670) [with "in the end" for "at last"]. c. 1630: Rovx. Ballads, i. 296 (B.S.). The fairest flower will wither. 1670: Ray, 138.


Fairlight Down. See quot. 1814: "Sussex Proverbs," in N. & Q., 6th ser., ix. 403. When Fairlie Down puts on his cap, Romney Marsh will have its sap.

Faith sees by the ears. 1732: Fuller, No. 1493.

Fall, verb. i. Fall back fall edge—Whatever may happen. In many Eng. dialects "back and edge" is thoroughly, entirely—see Wright, Eng. Dial. Dict., s.v. "Back." 1553: Respublica, V. v., Fall backe, fall edge, I am ons at a pointe . . . tadenture a joyntec. 1618: Minshull, Essays, etc., 68 (1821). Yet fall back, fall edge, thus trauersse wee our ground. c. 1680: L'Estrange, Seneca's Morals: "Benefits," ch. xvii., And, fall back, fall edge, we must be grateful still. 1712: Motteux, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. 29. But for all that, fall back fall edge, I must and will discharge my conscience. 1825: Scott, Journal, 18 Dec., I will yield to no delusive hopes, and fall back fall edge, my resolutions hold. 1828: Carr,
Fallen Dialect, 1 140, "Fall back," "Fall edge," at all adventures, let what will happen.
2 Fall not out with a friend for a trifle. 1639 Clarke, 25 1670 Ray, 9
3 Fall than rise. See easier.
4 If he falls low that cannot rise again.
1685 Merton, Yorkshire Ale, 72
5 He that falls into the dust, the longer he lies the dirtier he is. 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum, 1732 Fuller, No 2097
6 He that falls to-day may be up again to-morrow.
1620 Shelton Quince, Pt III ch lxv, 1732 Fuller, No 2097
7 He that is fallen cannot help him that is down.
1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum.
8 If it falls not under one's cap.
1740 North, Lives of Norths, 1 62 (Bohn). It fell not under every one's cap to give so good advice.
Falling out of friends is the renewal of love. Terence (Amantum me amis amores integratio est. Terence Andr., IV iii 23) 1576 Parad. of Dainty Devices, No 42. The falling out of faithful friends is the renewing of love. 1610 in Roxb. Ballads, 2 21 (BS). Though falling out of faithful friends renewing be of love.
1748 Richardson, Clarissa, iv 48 (1785), Old Terence has taken notice of that and observes upon it, That lovers falling-out occasions lovers falling-in. 1847 Tennyson, Princess, 1 251, Blessings on the falling out That all the more endears.
Falmouth See quo 1801 Q-Couch, Noughts and Crosses, 185, The Mayor of Falmouth, who thanked God when the town gaol was enlarged.
False, adj. 1 A false abstract comes from a false concrete. Before 1529 Skelton, Bowge of Courte, i 439
2 A false knave. See crafty.
3 A false report rides post. 1659 Howell, Proverbs Brit.-Eng. 14
4 A false tongue will hardly speak truth. 1633 Drake, ii.
5 As false as a fox. 1886 R. Holland, Cheshire Gloss, 445 (EDS). As false as a fox.
6 As false as a Scot. 1670 Ray, 204 1825 Scott, Talisman, ch v.
7 As false as your banner to a Scot.—said I not they were ever fair and false? 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch ix, 1825 Scott [as under No 6]
8 As false as God is true. 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vii, She is, of truth, as fals as God is trew.
9 As false as hell. 1680 D'Urfey, Virtuous Wife, IV iii, Ye are false as hell. 1720 Gay, Poems, 1280 (Underhill). But false as hell, she, like the wind, Changed 1872 Trollope, Golden Lion, ch vi. His passion told him every hour that she was false as hell.
10 As false as the devil. 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch v. The devil is no falser then is he. 1639 Clarke, 139
11 In a false quarrel there is no true valour. 1855 Bohn, 423
Falsehood in fellowship. There is G 1470 G. Ashby, Poems, 26 (EDS), Be wele ware of falseshode in felowship. Before 1529 Skelton, Magnyfycence, 1 723. Falsehood in felowship is my sworne brother. 1599 Porter, Two Angry Women, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, vii 356, I see all is not gold that glitters, there's falsehood in fellowship. 1653 Naunton, Frag Regalia, 204 (1604), That there might be (as the adage hath it) falsity in friendship.
1732 Fuller, No 489.
Falsehood in packing. There is 1574 R. Scott, Hoppe Garden, 49. There is according to the proverbe, much fals-hoode in packing.
Fame is a magnifying glass. 1732 Fuller, No 1495
Fame is but the breath of the people. 1611 in Coryat, Crudities, i 60 (1605). Fame is but wande. 1732 Fuller, No 1497. Fame is but the breath of the people, and that often unwholesome.
Fame is dangerous. All good, bringeth envy, bad, shame. 1732 Fuller, No 513.
Fame, like a river, is narrowed at its source and broadest afar off. 1855 Bohn, 335.
Fame

Fame to infancy is a beaten road. From. 1732: Fuller, No. 1628.
Fame (River). See Yoke.

Familiarity breeds contempt. [Assiduous in oculis hominum, quae res minus verendos magnos homines ipsa satiaret facit.—Livy, xxxv. 10. Parit enim conversatio contemptum, raritas conciliat ipsis rebus admirationem.—Apuleius, De Deo Socratis.] 12th cent.: Alanus de Insulis, in Wright, Minor Anglo-Latin Satirists, Record Ser., ii. 454. c. 1386: Chaucer, Melibeus, § 55. For right as men seyn, that "over-great homliness engendreth dispreysinge," so farreth it by to greet humylitie or mekenesse. 1593: G. Harvey, in Works, i 293 (Grosart), Truth begetteth hatred; Vertue Enuy, Familiaritate contempt. 1600: Shakespear, Merry Wives, I. i., I hope upon familiarity will grow more contempt. 1669: Shadwell, Bury Fair, II. i. 1769: Smollett, Adv. of Atom, 148 (Cooke, 1795), Greater familiarity on his side might have bred contempt. 1852: M. A. Keltie, Reminisc. of Thought, etc., 67, The familiarity which reigns there, and which, according to the old proverb, engenders contempt.


Fan, verb. He fans with a feather. 1813: Ray, 73.

Fancy is a fool. 1633: Draxe, 6.
1639: Clarke, 28.

Far folks fare well. 1633: Draxe, 45, Farre folks fare best. 1678: Ray, 136, Far folks fare well, and fair children die.

Far from Court far from care. 1639: Clarke, 205. 1670: Ray, 73. 1732: Fuller, No. 1503.

Far from eye. See Eye (I). Out of sight; and Seldom seen.

Far from his good is nigh his harm, A man. 1540: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ix. 1621: Cotgrave, s.v. "Flat," We say (more generally) a man thats far from his good is neere his harme. 1670: Ray, 89.

Far from Jupiter, far from thunder. 1692: L'Estrange, Æsop, iii (3rd ed.).

Far from thy kin. See quot. 1427: in Relig. Antiqua, i. 233 (1841), Far from thy kyn cast the, Wreth not thy neighbor next the, In a good corne contey rest the, And sit downe, Robyn, and rest the.

Far geeth the pilgrim as the post, As c. 1594: Bacon, Promus, No. 508.

Far shooting never killed bird. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

Fare, verb. I. Better fare hard with good men, than feast it with bad. 1732: Fuller, No. 893.


Farewell and be hanged. 1575: G. Harvey, Letter-Book, 95 (Camden S.),
Farewell and be hanged, goodman cowe 1634 S Rowley, Noble Soldier, IV ii, Fa? why, farewell and be hang'd 1668 Davenant, Rivals, III 1707 Dunton, Athen Sport, 108, To say, Farewell, be hang'd, that's twice goodbye 1732 Fuller, No 1504, Farewell and be hang'd, friends must part

Farewell fieldfare! This and the three following sayings all seem to have much the same half-contemplous import as Farewell and be hang'd, e 1374 Chaucer, Troilus, bk II 1 867, The harm is done, and fare-wel fieldfare! e 1400 Rom Rose I 5570, Go, farewell fieldfare! 1825 Jennings Somersetish Words, 37, This expression is occasionally heard. It means, I apprehend, that as fieldfares disappear at a particular season, the season is over, the bird is flown.

Farewell forty pence! 1583 Melbancke Philotinus, sig T4, Farewell forte pence, too deare of [=by] three shillings 1599 Sir Clyomon, etc., sig F2 Nay varewell vorty pence, ye are a knaue 1600 Day, Blind Beggar, V, Why, farewell forty pence! I ha fight fair and caught a frog 1639 Clarke, 68, Farewell forte pence, Jack Noble is dead.

Farewell frost! 1564 Bullem Dialogue, 72 (E E T S), Farewell Frost! [said here sardonically] 1592 Lyly, Mother Busbme, II iii, And so farewell frost, my fortune naught me cost 1631 Fare Em, III 1637, T Heywood, Royal King, III 1670 Ray, 174, Farewell frost nothing got nor nothing lost 1732 Fuller, No 6156 [as in 1670].

Farewell, gentle Geoffrey 1546 Heywood Proverbs, Pt I ch xii.

Farewell my good days! they will be soon gone Ibid, Pt II ch xii.

Farmer's care that makes the field bear, 'Tis the 1732 Fuller, No 6350.

Farther from stone See quot 1865 W White, Eastern England, I 4. We find the old proverb realized, "The farther from stone, the better the church".

Further See also Farthest

Fat as a fool 1579 Lyly, Euphues.
Fat

118 (Arber). That feedeth a louver as fat as a foole. 1630: Tinker of Turvey, 59 (Halliwell), To feed him with her faire speeches, till she made him as fat as a foole. 1678: Ray, 283.

Fat as a hen in the forehead. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Pie," Maigre comme une pie. We say (to the same purpose) as fat as a henne's on the forehead. c. 1618: B. & F., Bonduca, I. ii., As fat as hens' i' th' foreheads. 1670: Ray, 204. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. III. Fat lay, fat as a hen in the forehead.

Fat as a hog (or pig, or bacon-pig). 1485: Malory, Morte d'Arthur, bk. vii. ch. i., He shall be as fatte... as a porke hog. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Cochon." Gras comme un cochon, (Wee say the same) as fat as a pigge. 1653: Walton, Angler, Pt. I. ch. x., He will grow not only to be very large, but as fat as a hog. 1767: Garrick, in Garrick Corresp., i. 252 (1831), I am grown as fat as a hog. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 60 (Percy S.), Fat as a bacon-pig at Martlemas.

Fat as a porpoise. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II., I shall grow as fat as a porpoise. 1872: Hardy, Grevewood Tree, Pt. I. ch. vii., There's your brother Bob—as fat as a porpoise.

Fat as Big Ben. 1862: Dialect of Leeds, 247, "As fat as Big Ben," is yet a household phrase. A former bellman in great repute upon account of his huge proportions.

Fat as butter. 1678: Ray, 283. 1720: Gay, Poems, ii. 278 (Underhill), My checks as fat as butter grown.

Fat commodity hath no fellow. A. 1659: Howell, 3.

Fat drops fall from fat flesh. 1678: Ray, 137.

Fat, fair, and forty. 1795: O'Keeffe, Irish Minnie, ii. iii., Fat, fair, and forty were all the toast of the young men.


Fat in the fire. The. c. 1374: Chaucer, Troylus, bk. iii. st. 95. Or caste al the grewel in the fire. 1559: Becon, in Prayers, etc., 277 (P.S.), Or else your cake is dough, and all your fat lie in the fire. 1603: Dekker, in Works, i. 174 (Grosart), Then must he trudge to get gossip, such as shee will appoint, or else all the fatte is in the fire. 1633: Jonson, Love's Welcome. 1740: North, Examen, 506, They might fall in with the King... and then all the fat was in the fire. 1898: H. James, in Letters, i. 287 (1920), It is this morning precisely that one feels the fat at last fairly in the fire. 1910: Shaw, Misalliance, 15 (1914), I said I was sure I knew nothing about such things, and hadn't we better change the subject. Then the fat was in the fire, I can tell you.

Fat man knoweth not what the lean thinketh, The. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

Fat (or Fattest) land (or soil). See Best (16).

Fat paunches make lean pates. 1586: B. Young, tr. Guazzo's Civil Convers., fo. 190, The prouerbe is as true as common. That a fat bellie doth not engender a subtill witte. 1592: Shakespeare, L. L. L., i. i., Fat paunches have lean pates. 1681: W. Robertson, Phrasol. Generalis, 587. 1732: Fuller, No. 1506.

Fat soil. See Worse for the rider.

Fat sorrow is better than lean sorrow. 1678: Ray, 137. 1732: Fuller, No. 1507.

Fat sow. See Sow (2), (10), and (14).

Fat with the lean. To take the. 1850: Dickens, Copperfield, ch. ii., A man must take the fat with the lean; that's what he must make up his mind to, in this life.

Fate leads the willing but drives the stubborn. 1732: Fuller, No. 1508.

Father and Fathers. 1. Father Derby. See Derby's bands.

2. He whose father is judge goes safe
3 His father will never be dead while he is alive 1672 Walker, Parag., 50
4 Our fathers who were wondrous wise, Did wash their throats before their eyes 1613 Wither, Absurd Brit., etc., bk. ii Sat I Prethee let me intreat thee now to drinke Before thou wash. Our fathers that were wise, Were wont to say 'twas wholesome for the eyes 1670 Ray, 212 1732 Fuller No. 6423
5 The father to the bough, the son to the plough See 1730 quot 1576 Lambarde, Peramb of Kent 497 (1826) 1659 W Cole, in Harl. Miscell., iv 365 (1745). And therefore it is the saying in Kent, The father, etc. 1730 Bailey, Eng Dict., s.v. Gavel-kind. In Gavel-kind, tho' the father be hang'd, the son shall inherit, for their custom is, The father to the bough, the son to the plough 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss., s.v. "Kent."
6 Thou art thy father's own son 1672 Walker, Parag., 30 1681 W Robertson, Phrases of Generalis, 587 Fault and Faults 1 A fault is sooner found than mended 1580 Fulwell, Ars Adulans, sig. H4
2 A fault once denied (or excused) is twice committed 1590 G Harvey, Marginalia 100 (1913) [with "excused"] 1669 Polteumphia, 166 ["excused"] 1732 Fuller, No. 93 ["denied"] 1875 A B Cheales, Proverbs, Folk-Lore, 165 as in 1732
3 Fault confessed See Confessing
4 Affairs are thick where love is thin 1659 Howell, Proverbs 670 1670 Ray, 16, Where love fails, we espy all faults 1732 Fuller, No. 5676, Where there is no love, all are faults 1669 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. x
5 Faults that are rich are fair 1855 Bohn, 354
6 He hath but one fault—he is naught 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi

1560 T Wilson, Rhetorique, 153 (1909). Such a man hath no fault but one, and if that were amended, all were well what is that? (quoan other) In good faith he is naught 1633 Draxe, 43 [with "starke" before "naught"] 1732 Fuller, No. 6054, Your man fault is you are good for nothing.
7 The first faults are theirs that commit them, the second theirs that permit them 1732 Fuller, No. 4528 Faulty stands on his guard, The 1578 Flono, First Frutes, fo. 28, Who is faultie is suspected 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1670 Ray, 9 Faustus, Dr See Devil (39)
Favour will as surely perish as life 1651 Herbert, Jac Prudentum, 2nd ed Favour, Without, none will know you, and with it you will not know yourself 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum
Fawn peckles [Brown freckles] once made a vow, They never would come on a face that was foul [foul or ugly] 1877 E Leigh, Cheshire Gloss, 152 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 56 Fear and Fears, subs 1 Fear and shame much sin doth tame c 1550 in Hazlitt, Early Pop Poetry, ii 246
2 Fear causeth a man to cast beyond the moon 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I ch. iv, Fear may force a man to cast beyond the moon 1633 Draxe 63
3 Fear gives (or lends) wings 1580 Sidney, Arcadia, bk. ii p. 195 (1893). They all cried, 'O I see how fear gives him wings' 1590 Spenser, F Q., III, vi. 26, Theif fear gave her wings 1666 Torrano, Piazza Univ., 60, Fear hath wings
4 Fear hath a quick ear 1654 Gayton, Pleasant Notes Don Q., 65
5 Fear is one part of prudence 1732 Fuller, No. 1512
6 Fear is stronger than love 1840 Herbert, Jac Prudentum
7 Fear keeps the garden better than the gardener 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum
8 Fear, the beadle of the law 1651 Iibid 2nd ed
9 Fears are divided in the midst 1640 Iibid
Fear

10. 'Twas fear that first put on arms. 1732: Fuller, No. 5317.

Fear, verb. 1. He that fearseth every bush must never go a-birding. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 354 (Arber). 1732: Fuller, No. 2998.

2. He that fears death lives not. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudent. 1708: tr. Aleman’s Guzman, i. 432, I comforted myself with this saying, That he that fears death, does not deserve to live.

3. It is good to fear the worst; the best will save itself. 1633: Drake, 65. 1639: Clarke, 66, Tis good to fear the worst. 1670: Ray, 89.

4. To fear no colours—To fear no enemy. 1594: True Trag. Rich. Third, 15 (Sh. S.), I will never feare colours. 1601: Yarington, Two Trag. in One, I. iv., I’le fear no coulours. 1679: Dryden, Troilus, II. ii., Take a good heart, man . . . and fear no colours, and speak your mind. 1704: Swift, Tale of a Tub, § xi., He was a person that feared no colours.

Feared men be fearful. 1639: Clarke, 208.


Feast is not made of mushrooms only, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 96.

Feasting makes no friendship. Ibid., No. 1515.

Feastings are the physicians’ harvest, Christmas. 1639: Clarke, 174.

Feather, subs. 1. A feather in one’s cap. 1714: Mandeville, Table of Bess, 197, Men . . . then put feathers in their caps . . . talk of publick-spiritedness. 1754: Bertholsohn, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. “Feather.” That is but feather in his cap. 1803: Colman, jr., John Bull, I. i., Who . . . fancy female ruin a feather in your caps of vanity. 1821: Byron, Letters and Journals, v. 472 (Prothero). 1922: Weyman, Ovington’s Bank, ch. xvi., It would be a feather in the bank’s cap if the money . . . were recovered through the bank’s exertions.

2. A feather of the same wing. 1639: Clarke, 14.

3. Feather by feather. 1653: Middle-

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ton and Rowley, Span. Gipsy, II. i., Feather by feather birds build nests 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 174, Quill by quill is a goose pluck’d. 1732: Fuller, No. 1514, Feather by feather the goose is pluck’d.

4. Let not him that fears feathers come among wild fowl. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudent.

5. The feather makes not the bird. 1572: G. Fenton, Monoplyo, sig. T4, Seing (with the olde prowerbe) as the feather makes not the byrde.

Feather one’s nest, To. 1553: Republica, I. i., And nove ys the tymne come . . . to make vp my mouth, and to feather my neste. 1590: Greene, in Works, viii. 138 (Grosart), She sees thou hast fetherd thy nest, and hast crowns in thy purse. 1653: Urquhart, Rabelais, bk. ii. ch. xvii., If thou didst know what advantage I made, and how well I feathered my nest . . . 1709: Ward, Acc. of Clubs, 77 (1756), Who, as yet, have not had the lucky opportunity of feathering their nests. 1834–7: Southey, Doctor, ch. ixv., He feathered his nest with the spoils of the Loyalists.

1915: Pinero, Big Drum, II. p. 98.


3. All the months in the year curse a fair Februer. 1670: Ray, 40. 1732: Fuller, No. 6151. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 13.


5. February fill-dyke. 1557: Tusser, Hund. Points, in British Bibliog., iii. 20 (1812), And feueller fill dyke, doth good with his snowe. 1577: Tusser, Hish., ch. 34, Feb, fill the dite with what ye like. 1639: Taylor (Water-Poet), Works, 2nd pagm., 257, If foulface’d February keepe true touch . . . By night, by day, by little and by much, It fills the dite, with either blacke or white. 1799: Gent. Mag., Pt. 1.
p 203, February fill dyke Either black or white 1893 Inwards, Weather Love, 13, February fill the dyke Weather either black or white Ibid, 14 February fill dyke, March hick it out February fill dyke, be it black or be it white, But if it be white, it's better to like 1900 N & Q, 9th ser, v 384, [Northants] February fills the dykes, March winds blow the organ pipes 1922 Lucas Genever's Money, 4, February was filling the dykes to the very margin

6 February fire lang March tide to bed gang—' a Craven proverb 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, 1 144

7 February, ye be fair, The sheep will mend and nothing mair, February, if ye be foul [rainy], The sheep will die in every pool 1846 Denham Proverbs, 29 (Percy S.)

8 February makes a bridge, and March breaks it 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1732 Fuller, No 4526 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 27 (Percy S.), February builds a bridge, and March breaks it down

9 February singing, Never stints stinging ' If bees get out in February, the next day will be windy and rainy Surrey 1893 Inwards, Weather Love, 13

10 February's rain fills the barn 1666 Cotgrave, s 7 "Pluye," February rain is the husbandman's gaine 1666 Tornano, Piazza Univ, 86

11 February doth cut and shear 1633 Jonson, Tale of a Turl, I 1, Old bishop Valentine, You have brought us nipping weather—February doth cut and shear 1678 Ray, 44 1893 Inwards, Weather Love, 13 [with ' both' for "doth"]

12 If February calender be summerly gay, 'Twill be winterly weather in the calenders of May 1882 Mrs Chamberlain, W Wores Words, 37 (E D S)

13 If February give much snow, A fine summer it doth foreshow 1878 Dyer, Eng Folk-Lore, 251

14 If in February there be no rain, The hay won't goody, nor the grain 1913 E W Wright, Rustic Speech, etc, 317

15 In February if thou hearest thunder, Thou wilt see a summer's wonder 1893 Inwards, Weather Love, 14

16 Reckon right, and February hath one and thirty days 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1670 Ray, 9

17 When gnats dance in February the husbandman becomes a beggar 1878 Dyer, Eng Folk-Lore, 251

18 When the cat lies in the sun in February she will creep behind the stone in March 1905 N & Q, 9th ser, iii 314

See also August (1), Candlemas, H (4) January (1) October (7), St Matthias, St Valentine, and Snow (4)

Feed, verb 1 Feed by measure and defy the physician 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vii 1670 Ray, 39 [with ' sparingly' for "by measure"]

2 He that feeds the poor hath treasure c 1460 How the Good Wife, I 15, Tresour he hathe that pouere fedith

3 To feed like a boar in a frank 1598 Shakespeare, 2 Henry IV, II ii, Where sups he? doth the old boar feed in the old frank? 1631 F Lenton, Characters, sig C22 (1663), And then feed at ease like a boar in a frank 1825 Scott, in Lockhart's Life, vi 81, From Lowther we reached Abbotsford in one day, and now doth the old boar feed in the old frank

4 To feed like a farmer 1655 Fuller, Church Hist, bk vi § 2 (v 13), On which the abbot fed as the farmer of his grange c 1680 in Roxb Ballads, vii 243 (B S), And if he to a pudding gets he farmer-like doth feed 1754, Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict, s v "Feed," He feeds like a farmer

Feeling hath no fellow 1678 Ray, I 38 1725 Matchless Rogue, 56, Tho' seeing is believing and feeling has no fellow 1732 Fuller, No 1518

Feel See Foot

Fellow-ruler He that hath a fellow-ruler, hath an over-ruler 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Avoir" 1670 Ray, 9

Fencer hath one trick in his budget more than ever he be taught his scholar, A 1693 Clarke, 127

Fennel See quot 1884 Friend,
Flowers and Fl. Lore, 208, An old proverb says: “Sowing fennel is sowing sorrow.”

Fern begins to look red, When, then milk is good with brown bread. 1588: Cogan, Haven of Health, 152–3 (1612), According to that old saying, when fearne waxeth red, then is milke good with bread. 1659: Howell, 11. 1670: Ray, 35.

Fern is as high as a ladle, When the, You may sleep as long as you are able. 1670: Ray, 35.

Fern is as high as a spoon, When the, You may sleep an hour at noon. Ibid., 34. 1732: Fuller, No. 6186. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 50 (Percy S.). 1904: Co. Folk-Lore: Northumb., 178 (F.L.S.).

Festival. See quot. 1660: T. Hall, Funebreia Florae, 10, Insomuch that 'tis a common saying, That 'tis no festival unless there bee some fightings.

Fetters. See Love, verb (13).

Fever lurden=Laziness. See quotes. 1500: in Hazlitt, Early Pop. Poetry, i. 93 (O.), I trow he was infecte certeyn With the faiture, or the fever lordeyn. 1568: W. Fulwood, Enen. of Idlenesse, 132 (1593), You have the palsey or eke the fever lurden. 1606: B. Rich, Relates Faults, sig. F2, One of them growing a little sicke of a fever lordan. 1678: Ray, 172, He that's sick of a feaver lurden must be cured by the Hasel gelding.

Fever of lurk. See Two stomachs.

Few are fit to be entrusted with themselves. 1732: Fuller, No. 1523.

Few days pass without some clouds. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 4 (Percy S.).

Few friends. See Friend (13) and (19).

Few lawyers. See Lawyer (5).

Few leaves and bad fruit. 1732: Fuller, No. 1526.

Few men and much meat make a feast. 1639: Clarke, 74.

Few physicians live well. 1605: Camden, Remains, 322 (1870).

Few words and many deeds. 1633: Draxe, 40.

Few words are best. c. 1600: in Roxb. Ballads, i. 157 (Hindley). It is an old saying, that few words are best.

1660: Tatham, The Rump, II., Well, I know what I know; few words are best. 1771: Smollett, Clinker, in Works, vi. 70 (1817), I wonder what the devil possessed me—but few words are best 1828: Scott, Fair Maid, ch. xxv., Wherefore, few words are best, wench.

Few words the wise suffice. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vii., Fewe wordis to the wise suffice to be spoken. 1605: Camden, Remains, 322 (1870). Before 1680: Butler, Remains, i. 379 (1759), Few words do best with the wise. 1730: T. Salkeld, tr. Gracian’s Compl. Gent., 60, ‘Tis a common saying that few words are sufficient to make a thing intelligible to a man of sense.

Fewer his years, the fewer his tears, The. 1732: Fuller, No. 6233.

Fewer the better cheer. See More the merrier.

Fiddle, subs. 1. As well try to borrow a fiddle at a wakes. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 26.

2. He has got the fiddle but not the stick. 1678: Ray, 86. 1732: Fuller, No. 1871. 1820: Colton, Lacen, Pt. II. No. 231, Those who attempted to imitate them, would find that they had got the fiddle, but not the fiddle-stick.

3. To hang the fiddle at the door. c. 1791: Pegge, Derbsicisms, 100 (E.D.S.), “To hang the fiddle at the door” [said] of a person who is merry and cheerful abroad, but surly and ill-tempered in his family. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 597, To hang up the fiddle at the house-door=to be merry abroad and morose at home.

See also Face (3); and Fine (3).


Fiddler and Fiddlers. 1. Fiddler’s fare. 1668: Dumb Knight, III., in Hazlitt, Old Plays, x. 169, You have had more than fiddler’s fare, for you have meat, money, and cloth. 1660: Howell, Parly of Beasts, 128, He was dismissed fiddler-like, with meat, drink, and money. 1738: Swift, Polite
Convers, Dial III, Fiddler's fare, meat, drink, and money 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, 1 149 [as in 1738]
2 Fiddlers' dogs and fies come to feasts incalled 1683 Meriton, Yorkshire 41, 83-7 (1697)
3 Fiddlers' money = Small change 1755 Grose, Class Dict Vulgar Tongue, s.v., Fiddlers' money all six pence 1877 N & Q, 5th ser vn 173, In Oxfordshire threepenny and fourpenny pieces are called 'fiddler's money' 1889 Peacock, Manley, etc., Gloss, 203 (E D S), Fiddlers' money Groats, threepenny pieces, pennies [The expression is common in many parts of the country]
4 Fiddlers' pay See quotes 1597
1st part Return from Parnassus, I 1 (O), He gave me fiddler's wages, and dismiss me 1690 New Dict Canting Crew, sig E4, Fidlers-pay, Thanks and wine
5 In a fiddler's house See quotes 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium, In the house of a fiddler, all fiddle 1732 Fuller, No 2809, In a fiddler's house, all are dancers
6 Like a fiddler's elbow 1887 T Darlington, S Cheshire Folk Speech 187 (E D S) 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 79, In and out like a fiddler's elbow 1926 Devonsh Assoc Trans, lvii 152, "Too much play, like a fiddler's elbow" Said of something which had worked loose
Field, Always in the See Always in the lane
Field requires three things, fair weather, sound seed, and a good husbandman, A 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 3 (Percy S)
Fields have eyes and woods have ears 13th cent quoted in Wright, Essays on Middle Ages 1 168, Wode has eary, felde has sight e 1386 Chaucer, Knight's Tale, 1 664 Feeld hath euyen, and the wode hath eares 1564 Fulceni, Dialogue, 13 (E E T S), The fielde haue eyes and the wood haue eares Therefore we must comone closehe and beware of blabbes 1611 Cotgrave, s.v. "Bos" 1670 Ray, 95 1732 Fuller, No 1532, Fields have eyes, and hedges ears 1924 I was told by a Wiltshire woman that a very expression saying in that county is, "Hedges have eyes and walls have ears"
Fierce as a dig (duck)—"a Lancashire and probably a Cheshire proverb" 1877 E Leigh Cheshire Gloss, 61
Fierce as a goose 1670 Ray, 204
Fierce as a ratten [rat] 1862
Dialect of Leeds, 406
Fifth wheel to a coach, A=A hinder-

superflity [1531 C B Bouelles, Proverb Vulg, fo 36, La cinquesses roue au chariot, ne faut qu empechemer] 1631 Derker, Match me in London, I ad fin, Thou tyst but wings to a swift gray hounds heele, And add st to a running charriot a fifth wheele 1644 Taylor (Water-Poet) Crop care Curried, 32 in Works, 2nd coll (Spens S) As much pertinent as the fifth wheele in a coach 1921 Observer 11 Dec, p 13, col 2, Asquithian Liberalism by itself is the fifth wheel to the coach
Fig for thy friend, and a peach for thine enemy, Provide a 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 53 1678 Ray, 53
Fight, verb 1 A man that will fight may find a cudgel in every hedge 1639 Clarke 324
2 Fight dog fight bear 1583 Stubbes Anat of Abuses, 178 (N Sh S), Some will not make ane bones of xx xi lb pound at once to hazard at a bait [bear-hating], with "fight dog feight beare (sa) they), the neull part all!" 1632 R Brome, Northern Lasse, II v, We shall have a foul house on't I fear But since it is too late, fight dog, fight bear, I'le turn my master loose to her 1637 A Behn Lucky Chance, III 1, Why, let 'em fight dog, fight bear, mun, I'll to bed 1716 E Ward, St Paul's Church, 21, But cry hallo, fight dog fight bear 1821 Scott, Kentworth, ch xvin 1831 Scott, Journal, 5 March
3 Fight dog fight devil 1656 T Ady, Candle in the Dark, 62 1873 Spilling, Molly Maggs, 5 (W), I had had a pretty guilt spell o' work morning and night, pull dawg pull devil, as the saying is
4. He that fights and runs away may live to fight another day. [Post inde aliquanto tempore Philippus apud Chaeronem proelio magnos Athenienses visit. Tum Demosthenes orato ex eo proelio salutem fuga quaeasit quumque id ei, quod fugerat, probrse objectetur; versu illo notissimo elusit, a n? v o φερόνω, inquit, κατ' επέλα μακρέστα —Aulus Gellius, Noct. All., xviii. 21.]

C. 1320: in Reliq. Antiquae, i viii. (1847), "Wel fytht, that wel flyth"; Quoth Hendyng. C. 1350: Owl and Nightingale, i. 174, "Wel fals that wel fylt," seith the wise. C. 1440: Gesta Rom., 374 (E.E.T.S.). It is an olde sawe, he fethith wele that fleith faste. 1542: Ædall, tr. Erasmus, Apoiph., 372 (1577). That same man, that renneth awake, Maie again fight, an other daie. 1603: Butler, Hudibras, Pt. III. can. iii., For those that fly may fight again, Which he can never do that’s slain. 1761: Art of Poetry or a New Plan, ii. 147, For he who fights and runs away May live to fight another day. 1849: Planché, Extravag., ili. 334 (1870).

5. To fight with one’s own shadow. 1595: Shakespeare, M. of Venice. I. ii., He will fence with his own shadow. 1670: Ray, 175. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Shadow."

Fill the mouth with empty spoons, To. 1630: Clarke, 314. 1670: Ray, 175.

Fill what you will and drink what you fill. 1678: Ray, 8. 1732: Fuller, No. 6180.

Find, verb. 1. Take heed you find not what you do not seek. 1596: Harington, Metam. of Ajax, 122 (1814). Yet he would seel, to seek that he would not find, for fears lest they should find that they did not seek. 1670: Ray, 9. 1732: Fuller, No. 4309.

2. To find fault. See Blames.

3. To find things before they are lost. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi. If ye seelke to fynde thynges er they be lost, Ye shall fynde one daie you come to your cost. 1633: Draxe, 203. He findeth things before they are lost. 1732: Fuller, No. 5918. You have found what was never lost.


2. All is fine that is fit. 1732: Fuller, No. 523.

3. As fine as a fiddle. 1862: Dialect of Leeds, 407.

4. As fine as a horse. 1838: Mrs. Bray, Trad. of Devon, i. 328. This Hobby was very gay and gorgeous, and hence have we, in all probability, the common saying of "as fine as the horse." 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 595. As fine (or proud) as a horse in bells.


... The word [Fillillio] has no particular meaning in Cheshire.

7. As fine as fippence. 1564: Bullein, Dialogue, 62 (E.E.T.S.). Out of the countree . as fine as fippence! C. 1600: Grim the Collier, II., As a man would say, finer than fivepence, or more proud than a peacock. 1685: S. Wesley, Maggots, 109. All finer than fippence, they dazzl’d my eye. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. III., She was as fine as f’pence. 1854: Baker, Northants Gloss., s.v. "Fippence," "As fine as fippence," is a common proverbial simile. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lancs Sayings, 2. As fine as fippence.

8. As fine as flying pigs. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 595.

9 As fine (or proud) as a lord’s bastard. 1678: Ray, 284.

10. Fine cloth is never out of fashion. 1732: Fuller, No. 1537.

11. Fine dressing is a foul house swept before the doors. 1640: Herbert, Jae. Prudentum. 1670: Ray, 8 [with "windows" for "doors"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 1538.

12. Fine feathers make fine birds. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), Sr. of Polly, 46, in Works, ii. (Grovart). The faire feathers still make the faire fowles. 1678: Bunyan, Pilgr. Progr., Pt. I. p 33 (1849). Strange! He’s another man, upon my word! They be fine feathers, that make a fine bird. C. 1560: Foote,
Finest Author, I 1891 Hardy, Tess, ch xxxiv. As everybody knows fine feathers make fine birds 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 57. Fine feathers make fine birds, but they don't make lady-birds.

13 Fine words See Fair (32)
14 To fine folks a little till finely wrought
1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium
Finest flower will soonest fade, The c 1570 in Ruth Ancient Ballads, etc, 374 (1867) Cf Fairest rose

Finest lawn soonest stains, The 1556 Withals, Dict, sig A2. The finest colours will soonest be stained 1600 Bodenham, Belvedere, 44 (Spens S). The purest lawne is apt for every stame 1670 Ray, 90 1873 A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 164. The finest silks are soonest stained Cf Fairest silk

Finest shoe often bursts the foot, The 1639 Clarke, 82. The finest shoe fits not every foot 1670 Ray, 90 Cf Fairest looking

Finger and Fingers 1 At one's fingers' ends 1561 Hoby, Courser, 42 (T T). Ye are so good a courteyn that you have at your fingers ends that belongeth thereto 1596 Knack to Know Honest Man, 1 625 (Malone S). A begger hath fynne of the seuen liberall sciences at his fingers ends c 1630 Dicke of Devonsh, III I, Who is more expert in any quality than he that hath it at his fingers ends 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, v1 57 (1785). An hundred more wise adages, which I have always at my fingers end? 1852 M A Keltie, Remains of Thought, etc, 171. She had the Bible at her fingers' ends 1906 Lucas Listener's Lure, 156. One has so many thoughts about it at all on e fingers end

2 Each finger is a thumb, or All his fingers are thumbs 1546 Heywood, Proverbs Pt II ch v, When he should get ought, eche ynger is a thumb e 1594 Bacon, Promis, No 660. Ech finger is thumb 1642 D Rogers, Matrim Honour, 141. Though each finger were a thumb 1659 Howell, 5 When he should work all his fingers are thumbs 1732 Fuller, No 5556

When he should work every finger is a thumb 1866 Brogden, Linus Words, 207. His fingers are all thumbs, i.e he is very awkward 1920 Times Lit Suppl, 3 Feb, p 73, col 2. Except on metaphysics (a keyboard upon which his fingers are all thumbs) he has usually disguised sound sense under his purple panache

3 Finger in dish, finger in pouch
1654 Gayton, Pleasant Notes Don Q, 83

4 Fingers for fish, prongs for meat
Newlyn, W Corn 19th cent (Mr C Lee, who says of Boswell, Tour to Hebrides, 13 Sept)

5 Fingers were made before forks 1567 in Loseley MSS, 212 (Kempe). As God made hands before knives
1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial II, They say fingers were made before forks, and hands before knives 1914 Lucas, Landmarks, 19. Certain crusted scraps of nursery wisdom were in Sarah's repertory, such as "Fingers were made before forks"

6 His fingers are lime-twigs 1596 Harrington, Metam of Ajax, 65 (1824) (O), A certain gentleman that had his fingers made of lime-twigs, stole a piece of plate 1633 Draxe, 203. His fingers are made of lime-twigs 1672 Walker, Param, 14 1736 Bailey, Diet, s v "Finger"

7 If I am a fool, put you your finger in my mouth 1694 D'Urfey, Quixote, Pt I Act IV, If you meddle with my mouth, I shall snap at your fingers 1732 Fuller, No 2682

8 My hand See quot 1842 Pulman, Sketches, 95 (1871) (V). My hand's all vingers-an-thums [Devon]

9 The finger next the thumb 1579 Lyly, Lutphies 68 (Arber). I will be the finger next thy thombe Cf No 12 to Have a finger in the pie 1553 Republica, I i, And first speake for me, bring me in credyte that my hande be in the pye 1613 Shakespeare, Henry VIII, I i, The devil speed him! no man's pie is freed From his ambitious finger 1694 Southern, Fatal Marriage, I ii, By your good will you would have a finger in every bodies
Fire

Finglesham Church

pie. 1798: B. Thompson, The Stranger, II. iii., The world will be astonished when it comes to light; and not a soul will suppose that Old Solomon had a finger in the pye. 1860: Read, Cl. and Heath, ch. iv., Their law thrusteth its nose into every platter, and its finger into every pie. 1900: Lucas, Waud. in Paris, ch. xviii., All the best French Royal Academicians (so to speak) ... had a finger in this pie.

11. To put one's finger in the fire. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ii., To put my finger to far in the pyre. 1633: Draxe, 29, Let him put his finger in the fire that needeth. 1670: Ray, 175. 1732: Fuller, No. 3986, Put your finger into the fire, and say 'twas your ill fortune.


See also Better a finger.

Finglesham Church. See quot. 1735: Pogge, Kent. Proverbs, in E.D.S., No. 12, p. 71, To be married at Finglesham Church. There is no church at Finglesham; but a chalk-pit celebrated for casual amours; of which kind of reconcounters the saying is us'd.

Fire. 1. A fire of straw. See quot. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 28, Who makes a fire of straw, hath much smoke and nought els. 1629: Book of Merry Riddles, Prov. 71, A fire of straw yeilds naught but smokeo. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Uniu, 97 [as in 1578]. 1732: Fuller, No. 2236, He that maketh a fire of straw, hath much smoke but little warmth.

2. As fire kindled by bellows, so is anger by words. 1732: Fuller, No. 677.

3. Fire and flax (or tow). This un-toward combination has suggested several sayings. See quot. c. 1386: Chaucer, C. Tales, D 89 (Skeat), For peril is bothe fyr and tow t'assembl. c. 1460: Good Wyfe wold a Pygler, l. 79 (E.E.T.S.), Feyre and towe I-leyde to-gedor, kyndoll hit woll, be resson. 1530: Palsgrave, 417, Addye fyre to towe and you shal sone have a flame. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 30, Fire and flaxe agree not. 1633: Draxe, 141, There is no quenching of fire with towes. 1637: B. & F, Elder Brother, i. ii., For he is fire and flaxe. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Uniu, 97 [as in 1578]. 1670: Ray, 175, All fire and tough [tow]. 1717: Pope, Wife of Bath, 30, There's danger in assembling fire and tow. 1732: Fuller, No. 1541, Fire in flax will smoke. 1822: Scott, Nigel, ch. xxx., "I know his Majesty's wisdom well," said Heriot; "yet there is an old proverb about fire and flaxe—well, let it pass."

4. Fire and pride cannot be hid. c. 1375: Babour, Bruce, bk. iv. 1. 119, For men sais [oft], that fire, na pryd, But discoverynge, may no man hyd.

5. Fire and water are good servants but bad masters. 1562: Bullein, Bulwarke of Defence, fo. 12, Water is a very good seruant, but it is a cruell maister. 1630: T. Adams, Works, 178, We say of water, it is a good seruant, though an ill master. 1659: Howell, 5 [with "ill" for "bad"]. 1692: L'Estrange, Aesop, 38 (3rd ed.). It is with our passions, as it is with fire and water, they are good servants, but bad masters. 1738: Swift, Polite Conuers., Dial. II. 1841: Dickens, Barn. Rudge, ch. lii., Fire, the saying goes, is a good servant but a bad master.

6. Fire drives out fire. 1592: Shakespear, Romeo, I. ii., Tut, man, one fire burns out another's burning. 1629: Quaries, in Works, ii. 267 (Grosart), Whose desire Was all this while, by fire, to draw out fire; And by a well advised course to smother The fury of one passion with another. 1706: Vanbrugh, Mistake, III. i., Come! courage, my dear Lopez; fire will fetch out fire. 1732: Fuller, No. 4523, The fire that burneth, taketh out the heat of a burn.

7. Fire in the one hand and water in the other. 1412-20: Lydgate, Troy Book, bk. iv. l. 4988, On swiche folke, platly, is no trist, that fire and water holden in her fist. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. x. 1593: G. Harvey, in Works, ii. 317 (Grosart), Water in the one hand, her in the other. 1681: W. Robertson, Phrasol. Generalis, 314, He.
Fire

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carr'ies fire in one hand, and water in the other 1732 Fuller No 5686
8 Fire is as hurtful as healthful 1669 Politenphus, 184
9 Fire is love and water sorrow 1590
Greene in Works, viii 51 (Grosart) If tb' old saw did not burn, Fire is lone, and water sorrow.
10 Fire of chats See Love (31)
11 Fire, quoth the fox when he p — on the see 1639 Clarke 5 1670
Ray, 93 1732 Fuller No 1542
12 If the fire blows See quote 1839
G C Lewis, Heres Words, 122 The following are old sayings current
If the fire blows (ie makes a flamin noise from the escape of gas), wind will soon follow
13 If you light your fire at both ends, the middle will shift for itself 1712
Addison Spectator, No 265 [called the old kitchen proverb] 1732
Fuller, No 2765
14 Make no fire raise no smoke 1546 Heywood, Proverbs Pt II ch v
15 The closer the fire the holter c 1380 Chaucer, Leg of Good Women,
1 735. Wry [Cover] the gleed [glowing coal], and holter is the fyr 1566
L Wager, Mary Magdalene sig C2, The more closely that you feyre, no doubt The more fervent it is when it breaketh out c 1591 Shakespeare,
Two Gent, I 71 Fire that's closest kept burns most of all.
16 The fire in the first shows not till it's struck 1855 Bohn, 504
17 The fire that does not warm me shall never scorch me. Ibid, 504
18 The fire which lighteth us at a distance, will burn us when near. Ibid, 504
19 To get fire out of a pumice-stone 1658 Willisma, Natures Secrets, 21.
From whence the old adage is derived, To strike fire out of a pumice-stone is to expect an impossibility
20 To go through fire and water c 825 Vesp Psalter, Ivv() 12 (O).
We leordan son fy and weter 1530 Palsgrave, 653. He shall passe thorowe fyre and water or he get it 1600
Shakespeare, Merry Wives, III iv, A woman would run through fire and water for such a kind heart c 1660
in Barford Ballads, 1 291 (B S), Through fire and water I would go I swear 1708 Brit Apollo, 1 No 113,
col 3. That common saying may expound it, I will go thro' fire and water to serve you 1797 Colman, Jr Hear at Law, I 11 1884 R I S and Henley Adm Guinea II vi, I'll go through fire and water.
See also London (5) and Smoke (3) and (5)
1 Fire Hill See quote 1884 Sussex Proverbs in A & Q 6th ser, iv
341, When Fire Hill and Long Man has a cap, We at A'ston [Atcham] gets a drap
1 Fire and last frosts are the worst.
The 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudendum
First blow is half the battle, The Ibid The first blow is as much as two 1773 Goldsmith, She Stoops, II, I fancy, Charles, you're right' the first blow is half the battle 1790 Burns, Profl for Dumfries Theatre, The first blow is ever half the battle
First born, first fed 1633 Drake, 142 1659 Howell, Proverbs Fr. Eng, 4
First breath is the beginning of death.
The 1732 Fuller, No 4524
First come first served c 1356
Chaucer, Wife of Bath's Prot, I 389
Who-so that first to mille comth, first grunt c 1475 Paston Lett, m 733 (Gardner, 1900) For who comyth first to the mylle fyrst must mynd 1593
Pass Morton, 91 (N Sh S), The drift whereof is, that first commers should be first served 1614 Jonson, Bart Par, III, Pardon me sir, first come first serv'd c 1663 Davenant, PlayHouse to be Let, I 1720 C Shadwell, Irish Hospit, II, I was first come, and therefore ought to be first serv'd 1825
Planché, Extravag, I 24 (1870)
First creep then go c 1400 Towneley Plays, 103 (E L T S), fyrfir must vs crepe and sythen go 1540 Palsgrave, Acolustus, sig b 3. They should soner be able perfitely to go, then they coulde afer tymes be able to creepe 1606 Wily Beguiled, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, ix 266 1622 Hornby, Horn-
First book, sig. B3. And as the proverbe old
doth teach vs, so We first must creepe,
before we well can goe. 1662. Fuller,
Worthies, iii. 210 (1840), We did first
creepe, then run, then fly into prefer-
ment. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish
Dict., s.v. "Creep." You must learn
to creep before you can go. 1823:
Scott, St. Ronan's, ch. iii., Folk maun
creepe before they gang. 1901: F. E.
Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 11, Yo' mun
creepe first, an' then goo.

First cut and all the loaf besides, The.
1732: Fuller, No. 4526.

First deserve and then desire. 1605:
Camden, Remains, 322 (1870). 1670:
Ray, 7. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v.
"Deserve." 

First dish pleaseth all, The. 1640:
Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1670: Ray,
9. 1732: Fuller, No. 4527.

First hand buy, At the; At the third
let lie. 1732: Fuller, No. 6337.

First learn then discern. 1568: in
Loseley MSS., 207 (Kempe).
First men in the world were a gar-
dener, a ploughman, a grasier, The.
1732: Fuller, No. 4529.

First of the nine orders of knaves is
he that tells his errand before he goes
it, The. 1855: Bohn, 504.
First pig, but the last whelp of the
litter is the best, The. 1678: Ray, 53.
1732: Fuller, No. 4530.

First point, The. See Hawk, verb (2).

First step is the only difficulty, The.
1639: Clarke, 171, The first step is as
good as half over. 1659: Howell,
Proverbs: Ital.-Eng., 7. The hardest
step is that over the threshold, viz.
the beginning.

First tale, The. See One tale.

First year of wedlock. See quot.
c. 1430: Lydgate, Minor Poems, 45
(Percy S.), And ever think wel on this
proverbe trewe . . . That the first yere
wedlock is calle pleye, The second
dreye, and the third yere deye.

Fish, subs. i. Fish and company
stink in three days. 1580: Lyly,
Euphues, 307 (Arber), Fishes and gesse
[guests] in three days are stale. 1586:
L. Evans, Withals Dict. Revised, sig.
B2. After three dayes fish is vnsauoury,
and so is an ill guest. 1678: Poor
Robin Alman., As the proverbe saies,
Guests and fish stink in three days.
c. 1736: Franklin, in Works, i. 455
(Bigelow), Fish and visitors smell in
three days. 1869: N. & Q., 4th ser.,
iv. 272, "See that you wear not out
your welcome." This is an elegant
rendering of the vulgar saying that
"Fish and company stink in three days."

2. Fish bite the least with wind in the
east. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 141.

3. Fish bred up in dirty pools will
taste of mud. 1563: Googe, Egloges,
etc., 40 (Arber) [with "stynke" for
"taste"]). 1576: Pettie, Petite Pall.
ii. 100 (Gollancz, 1908).

4. Fish, flesh, etc. See Flesh nor
fish, etc.

5. Fish is cast away that is cast in,
dry pools. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs.
Pt. I. ch. xi. 1605: Chapman, etc.,
Eastw. Hoe, V. ii. 1670: Ray, 90,
Fishes are cast away, that are cast
into dry ponds.

6. Fish make no broth. 1732: Fuller,
No. 1546.

7. Fish marreth water and flesh
mendath it. 1578: Florio, First Fruites,
fo. 29, Fish marreth the water, and
flesh doth dresse it. 1629: Book of
Money Riddles, Prov. 104. 1678: Ray,
42, Fish spoils water, but flesh mends it.

8. Fish should swim thrice. 1611:
Cotgrave, s.v. "Poisson," We say, fish
must ever swimme twice [water, wine].
1620: Westv. for Smells, 6 (Percy S.),
Fish . . . never doth digest well . . .
except it swimme twice after it comes
forth the water: that is, first in butter,
sor to be eaten: then in wine or beere
after it is eaten. 1738: Swift, Polite
Convers., Dial. II., They say fish should
swim thrice . . . first it should swim
in the sea . . . then it should swim in
butter; and at last, sirrah, it should
swim in good caret. 1787; O'Keeffe,
Little Hunchback, II. ii., Fish should
swim three times; water, sauce, and
wine.

9. Fish will not enter the net, but rather
turn back. 1623: Wedroephe, Spered
Hours, 508.
Fish

10. Here is fish for catching, etc. See quota 1723 in Bliss, Reriqua Hearn., ii 154. The people there [Great Marlow] commonly say, Here is fish for catching, corn for snatching, and wood for fetching.

11. I have other fish to fry. 1660 Evelyn, Mem., iii 132 (1857). O I hear he hath other fish to fry 1670 Ray, 176 1710 Swift, Journal to Stella, 3 Nov., Which I shall not answer tonight. No, faith I have other fish to fry 1849 Bronte, Shirley, ch xx. Your uncle will not return yet, he has other fish to fry 1910 Lucas, Mr Ingleside, ch v. Most women will continue to be unmoved—they will have other and more primitive fish to fry.

12. It is a silly fish that is caught twice with the same bait. 1732 Fuller, No 2879.

13. It is all catching of fish when the hook is bare. 1583 Greene, in Works, ii 63 (Grosart).

14. Like a fish out of water. [Mus in matella—Petr. 58 Sicut piscis sine aqua caret vita, et sine monastero monachus—Attributed to Pope Euge-

nus, but it is adapted from the Greek. It occurs in Sozomen Eccl Hist., bk. i c 13, and still earlier, in a Life of St. Anthony (c. 85) attributed to St. Athanasius, and not later than A.D. 373 Skeat, Early Eng. Proverbs, 89.] c 1350 Wicth, Gospel Sermons, xxxi, in Works, ii 15 (Arnold). And how the weren out of ther clostre as fishe withouten water c 1386 Chaucer, Prov., 1 180, Ne that a monk whan he is closteries Is likned til a fishe that is waisteris 1655 Gurnall, Christian in Armour, 117 (1679). You may possibly find a tradesman out of his shop now and then, but he is as a fish out of the water 1679 Shadwell, True Wisdom, III 1 1724 Defoe, Roxana in Works, vn 37 (Boston, 1903) I was like a fish out of water 1860 Reade, C. and Heath, ch xxxi. I have been like a fish out of water in all those great dungeons 1916 B. Duffy, The Old Lady, 17. I feel like a fish out of water here.

15. Like fish that live in salt-water, and yet are fresh. 1732 Fuller, No 3228.

16. Sweet is that fish, etc. See quota 1607 E. Topsell, Four-footed Beasts, 46. Whence came the proverbe, That sweet is that fish, which is not fishe at all [beaver].

17. That fish will soon he caught that nibbles at every bait. 1732 Fuller, No 4342.

18. The fish adores the bait. 1640 Herbert Jac Prudentium 1670 Ray, 9. The fish follow the bait 1754 Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s v 'Bait' [as in 1670].

19. The fish may be caught in a net that will not come to a hook. 1732 Fuller, No 4535.

20. There are as good fish in the sea as ever came out of it [c. 1380 Chaucer, Parl. of Foules, in Works, i 356 (Skeat), There been no sterres, god wot, than a pair]. 1822 Scott, Nigel, ch xxxv, 1851 Gilbert, Patience, I. There's fish in the sea, no doubt of it. As good as ever came out of it 1924 H. James, in Letters, ii 10 (1920). I still cling to the belief that there are as good fish in the sea.

—that is, my seal.

21. To find fish on one's fingers. 1587 Greene in Works, iv 140 (Grosart). Who (as the nature of women is, desirous to see and bee scene) thought she should both hear the parte and view the person of this young embassadour, and therefore found fish on her fingers, that she might staye still in the chamber of presence 1590 Lodge, Rosalynde, ii 22 (Hunt Cl), Ganmede rose as one that would suffer no fish to hang on his fingers.

22. To make fish of one and flesh of another. 1639 Clarke, 182. I will not make fleshe of one, and fish of the other 1709 O. Dykes, Eng. Proverbs 137. If the father proves such a partial fool as to make fish of one [child] and flesh of another 1738 Swift, Polite Convers., Dial II 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, i 151, "I will not make fish o' yean and fowl of another," an expression by which a person declares that he will shew no partiality.
See also All fish; All is fish; Best (14); Daughter (1); Great fish; Little fish; Old, E (10) and (11); Sauce; Sea hath fish; Sole; Some fish; Swear (6); and Wind, C (3) and D (4).

Fish. — 1. He has well fished and caught a frog. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi. c. 1548: Latimer, in Works, ii. 419 (P.S.). As the common saying is, "Well I have fished and caught a frog." 1595: Churchyard, Charity, 9 (1816), We angle in the reeds And catch a frog. 1629: in Pepysian Garland, 318 (Rollins, 1922), The man that wedds for greedy wealth, he goes a fishing faire, But often times he gets a frog, or very little share. 1732: Fuller, No. 5903, You fish fair, and catch a frog.

2. It is no sure rule to fish with a cross-bow. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.


4. To fish before the net c. 1400: Towneley Plays, 104 (E.E.T.S.), Ye fyssh before the net. 1460: Lydgate, Order of Fools, I. 131 (E.E.T.S., E.S. 8, p. 83), And he ys a folo afore the nette that fysshes. 1596: Harington, Melam. of Ajax, 20 (1584), Which either we miss (fishing before the net, as the proverb is) . . . 1683: Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697), He that fishes afore the net, lang fish or he fish get.

5. To fish for (or with) a herring and catch a sprat. 1639: Clarke, 2, I fish't for a herring and catcht a sprat. 1670: Ray, 180 ["for "] . . . 1732: Fuller, No. 5165 ["with "].

6. To fish in troubled waters. 1569: Grafton, Chron., i. 283 (1809), Which always desire your vnquietnesse, whereby they may the better fishe in the water when it is troubled. 1591: Harington, Orb. Furioso, bk. xli., Notes, Thinking it (as the proverb saith) best fishing in troubled waters. 1630: Pathomachia, sc. i, It is good fishing in troubled waters. 1660: Tatham, The Rump, III. [as in 1630]. 1756: Murphy, Apprentice, I. ii., We had better get away from this house; all fishing in troubled waters here.

Fisherman. — 1868: N & Q., 4th ser., ii. 94, Never a fisherman need there be, If fishes could hear as well as see (West Kent).


Fisher's folly. — See Kirbie's castle.

Fishing, verb. subs. 1. No fishing like fishing in the sea. 1575: Churchyard, Chipps, 41 (Collier), Some say there is no fishing to the seas. 1605: Camden, Remains, 334 (1870), There is no fishing to the sea. 1609: Melton, Sixfold Politician, 94 [as in 1605]. 1670: Ray, 90, No fishing to fishing in the sea.

2. The end of fishing is catching. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 396 (Arber). 1732: Fuller, No. 4497, The end of fishing is not angling, but catching.

Fishing-net. —See quotas. 1528: More, Works, 224 (1557), It were as soon done to weue a newe web of clothe as to soute up every hole in a net. 1568: Camden, Remains, 334 (1870), There is no fishing to the sea. 1609: Melton, Sixfold Politician, 94 [as in 1605]. 1670: Ray, 90, No fishing to fishing in the sea.

Fit. — See Tempo.

Fit as a fiddle. 1616: Haughton, Eng. for my Money, IV. i., This is excellent, i' faith; as fit as a fiddle! c. 1625: B. & F., Women Pleased, IV. iii. 1683: R. L. S., Treasure I., ch. xxx., Looking fit and taut as a fiddle. 1722: Lucas, Genevra's Money, 86, He hasn't been really sober for years and he's as fit as a fiddle.

Fit as a puddling. 1600: Dekker, Shoem. Hol., IV. v., Tis a very brave shooe, and as fit as a puddling.

Fit as a puddling for (a) a dog's mouth; (b) a friar's mouth. (a) 1592: Lyly, Mother Bombie, II. i., But looke where Prisius' boy comes, as fit a puddling for a dogsse mouth. (b) 1578: Whetstone, Promos and Cassandra, sig. D3, Your answere then in sooth, Fyts me as lume as a puddling a friars mouth.

1593: Pecle, Ed. and L., sc. ii. 1605: Camden, Remains, 318 (1870). 1670:
Ray, 204. 1732 Fuller, No 678 [with "fritter" for "pudding"]

Fit for the chapel See quot 1579
The proverbe (no lesse wise then it is olde) is also profitable, as it is moste true, He that is fitt for the chappell, is meete for the field.

Fitting He that is suffered to do more than is fitting, will do more than is lawfull 1670 Ray 9

Five score See Six score
Flanders mare See quot 1717 in Six N Count Diaries, 82 (Surtees S),
Uncle told me now we are to see you damsel of Mr Collingwood’s She’s like a Flanders mare 1732 Fuller, No 3239, Like Flanders mares, fairest afar off

Flanders reckoning A 1666 T Heywood, If You Know Not Me Pt II, in Dram Works, 1 271 (1874). God send me but once to finger it, and if I doe not make a Flanders reckoning on’t—and that is as I have heard mad waggis say, receive it here, and reuell it away in another place.

Flap with a fox-tail, To give one a 1530 Palsgrave, 563, I flatter hym to begyle hym or I gyve one a slappe with a foxtayle 1565 Calshill, Answ to Martinall, 292 (P S), Break God’s [works], and they either look through their fingers, or else give a flap with a foxtail for a little money 1581 B Rich, Farewell, 4 (Sb S). And when a souldier hath thus served in many a bloudie broile a flappe with a foxtaile shall bee his beste reward 1640 King and Poore North Man, 1 368, in Hazlitt, Early Pomp Poetry, iv 307, Where they with brave claret and brave old canary, they with a foxtale him soundly did puke 1762 Smollett Sir L Graces, ch viii, Your honour has a mortal good hand at giving a flap with a fox's tail as the saying is 1808 Scott, in Lockhart’s Life, u 218, I owe Jeffrey a flap with a foxtail on account of his review of Marmon 1847 Halliwell, Dict, s v "Fox-tail" Fox-tail Anciently one of the badges of a fool. Hence perhaps the phrase to give one a flap with a fox-tail, to deceive or make a fool of him

Flat as a cake (or pancake) 1542
Udoll, tr Erasmus’ Apoph, 250 (1877),
His nose as flat as a cake, bruised or beaten to his face 1580 Baret, Aliceaus, F 649, A nose as flat as a cake 1632 Mabbe, Celestina 200 (T T), My caske strangely bruised, beaten as flat as a cake 1758-67, Sterne, Trist Shandy, vol 11 ch xvii, He has crushed his nose as flat as a pancake to his face 1786 R Twisnng, m Twining Fam Papers, 139 (1887), The Gâtémois is extremely fertile, but as flat as a pancake 1830 Marryat, King's Own, ch vii, Under which it had jam, jammed as flat as a pancake

Flat as a dab 1869 Fitzgerald, Sea Words and Phrases, 3

Flat as a floundr e 1625 B & F, Women Pleased, II iv 1671 E Howard, Six Days Adventure, 1, Who lay as flat as flounders Before 1704 T Brown, Works, 1 313, and 11 137 (1760) 1788 O’Keeffe, Highland Reel, III 1. This instant say in plain, audible English, "How do you do, Mr McGulpin?"—or down you go as flat as a fluke [floundr] e 1860 Irishman in London, II, in Inchbald, Farces, II 95 (1815)

Flat as ditchwater 1772 in Garrick Corresp, I 465 (1831), "The Grecian Daughter’s‘ being dead as dish-water after the first act 1854 Baker, Northants Gloss, s v "Ditchwater,” "As flat," or, "as dead as ditch-water,” said of anything tasteless and insipid 1862 Dialect of Leeds, 406, As dull as ditch-watter 1865 Dickens, Mutual Friend, bk m ch x, He’d be sharper than a serpent’s tooth, if he wasn’t as dull as ditch water 1888 Lowsley, Berks Gloss 70 (E D S), "Dead as ditch water" is said of beer that is flat to the taste
Flatterer. 1. A flatterer's throat is an open sepulchre. 1640: Herbert, *Fec. Prudentum*. 2. Flatterers haunt not cottages. 1732: Fuller, No. 1550. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. xiv. 3. There is no such flatterer as a man's self. 1732: Fuller, No. 4922. 4. When flatterers meet, the Devil goes to dinner. 1696: Ray, p. 139. 1799: Wolfe, in *Works*, v. 196 (1801), Porteus, there is a proverb thou should'st read, "When flatterers meet, the Devil goes to dinner."

Flattering as a spaniel. 1639: Clarke, p. 285. 1670: Ray, p. 204. Flattery. 1. He that rewards flattery begs it. 1732: Fuller, No. 2269. 2. Flattery sits in the parlour, when plain dealing is kicked out of doors. *Ibid.*, No. 1552. 3. The coin that is most current among us is flattery. *Ibid.*, No. 4452. 4. There is flattery in friendship. 1600: Shakespeare, *Henry V.*, III. vii., *Con.* I will cap that proverb with "There is flattery in friendship." Flax. *At leisure, as flax grows.* 1639: Clarke, p. 304. See also Candlemas, H (4); Fire (3); and God will send thee flax.


2. When eager bites the thirsty flea, Clouds and rain you sure shall see 1639: Clarke, p. 263. We shall have rame, the fleas bite. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, p. 148. 3. When fleas do very many grow, Then 'twill surely rain or snow. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, p. 148.

See also Do (14); and Dog (49). Flea-bitten horse never tires, *A. 1577*: Googe, *Heresbach's Husb.*, ii. 1566 (1586) (O.), The flea-bitten horse proveth alwayes good in travell. 1696: D'Urfey, *Quixote*, Pt. III. Act I., Take this proverb with you by way of advice: If you an old flea-bitten ride, you need not fear the dirt; But when you back a young colt, see your saddle be well girt. 1922: *N. & Q.*, 12th ser., xi. 169.

Fleecy and fell, To have both. 1639: Clarke, 39. Will you have both fleecy and fell. 1642: D. Rogers, *Naaman*, sig. D2, Thy servant is for thee to use, not tire or teare out: Thou must not take both fleecy and flesh too.

compromise with sentiment and the proprieties leaves it neither fish, flesh, nor good red herring.

Flesh upon horses and money with women hide a many salts 1917
Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs 57


Flies See Fly.

Fitting of farms makes mailings dear 1846 Denham Proverbs, 3 (Percy S.)

Float is rotten, What does not 1813 Ray 194

Flow will have an ebb, A 1412-20
Lydgate, Troy Book, bk ii 1 2013. After a flow, an ebb folweth 1626 Scoggins Jests, 158 (1864) There was so never great a flood, but there may be as lowe an ebb 1670 Ray ox 1734 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict., s v ", "Flow'.

Flower in his garden, It is the finest 1659 Howell, 15 'Tis the fairest flower in your garden 1732 Fuller, No 3023 Flowers in May See Fresh, and Welcome.

Fly and Flies 1 A fly and eke a friar See quot c 1386 Chaucer, Wife of Bath's Probl., 855, Lo godo men, a flye and eck a frene Wol falle in every dish and eek materre.

2 A fly hath its spleen 1580 Lyly, Euphues, 316 (Arber), Low trees have their tops the flye his spleene 1590 Lodge, Rosalynde, 70 (Hunt Cl), I tell thee, flies have their spleene 1605 Camden, Remains, 317 (1870) 1646 Browne, Pseudo Ep., bk iii ch vi, So is it proverbially said For mica sua buis inest, habet et musca splenem 1732 Fuller, No 1388, Even a fly hath its spleen 1924 Sphere, 27 Sept., p 386, col 2, A Latin tag declares that "even a fly hath its spleen".

3 A fly on your nose See quot 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 148, A fly on your nose, you slap, and it goes. If it comes back again, it will bring a good rain.

4 Flies come to feasts unasked 1683 See Fiddler (2) 1924 Sphere, 27 Sept., p 386, col 2, Another proverb of unimpeachable veracity proclaims that "Flies come to feasts unasked".

5 Flies go to lean horses 1578 Florio, First Fruits, to 25, Vnto the leaner horses, always resort the flies 1631 Mabbe, Celestina, 214 (T T), Flies bite none but lean and feeble.

6 Flies will tickle honeys being dead 1610 Marston, Histrio-Mastix, VI

7 He changes a fly into an elephant 1736 Bailey, Dict., s v "Elephant," To make of a fly an elephant 1813 Ray, 75

8 He takes a spear to kill a fly 1649 Herbert, Jac Prudentium. 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch vi, No flies will go down your throat if you keep your mouth shut.

9 Like a fly in a tar-box (or glue-pot) 1859 Howell, 19. He capers like a flye in a tar-box 1670 Ray, 216 (as in 1659) 1866 Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 437 (E D S), Like a fly in a glue-pot Corn[mon] expression, to express nervous excitement.

10 More flies are taken with a drop of honey than a tun of vinegar 1732 Fuller, No 344. 1821 Combe, Syntax in Search of Vane, can xxxvi. p 24, Madam, the ancient proverb says That one rich drop of honey sweet, As an alluring, luscious treat, Is known to tempt more flies, by far, Than a whole tun of vinegar 1850 Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 433, You will catch more flies with a spoonful of honey than with a gallon of vinegar 1865 "Lances Proverbs," in N & Q., 3rd ser., vii 494. There's more flies caught with honey than elegar.

11 One can not catch a fly when he will 1659 Howell, 11

12 The fly on the wheel 1586 Pettie, tr Guazzo's Civil Convers, fo 71. The flye, which sitting vpon a cart that was drawn on the waye, sayde he had raiseth a very great dust 1712 Bacon, Essays: "Vain-glory," It was pretly desused of
Esop. The sile sate upon the axtree of the chariot wheele, and said, What a dust doe I raise! 1661: Gurnall, Christian in Armour, 299 (1679). Yet these are no more than the file on the wheel. 1732: Fuller, No. 5476. What a dust have I raise'd! quoth the fly upon the coach. 1814: Byron, in Letters and Journals, ii. 401 (Prothero). Like the fly in the fable, I seem to have got upon a wheel which makes much dust; but, unlike the said fly, I do not take it all for my own raising. 1922: Observer, 5 March, p. 12, col. 5. The fly on the cart-wheel might as well have claimed not only that it was raising all the dust, but that it had built the cart.

14. To a boiling pot flies come not. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.
15. Twould make even a fly laugh. 1732: Fuller, No. 5340.
16. You must lose a fly to catch a trout. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

See also Eagle (2); Elstow; Honey (3); Hungry flies; and Lion (5).

Fly, verb. 1. Fly, and you will catch the swallow. 1659: Howell, T. 2. Fly brass, fly father's a tinker. Ibid., T.


4. He has flown high and let it in the cow-clap at last. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 66, ... Said of one very particular in choosing a wife, but who has made an ill-assorted marriage after all.

5. He would fair fly, but wanted feathers. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. i. ch. xi. 1681: W. Robertson, Phrased. Generalls. 614. He would fly, but he wants feathers. 1732: Fuller, No. 2475.


Fly-catcher. See quot. 1885: Swainson, Folk-Lore of Brit. Birds, 49 (F.L.S.), In Somerset these birds are supposed to bring good luck to the homestead they frequent, hence the rhyme:—"If you scare the fly-catcher away, No good luck will with you stay"

Flying enemy. See Bridge (5).


Foe. How can the foal amble, if the horse and mare trot? 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. i. ch. xi. 1614: B. Rich, Honestie of This Age, 32 (Percy S.). The olde proverbe is: If the mother trot how should the daughter amble? 1670: Ray, T. 1732: Fuller, No. 2554. See also Rugged; and Trot sire.

Foe is better than a dissembling friend, A. 1548: Briant, Dispraise of Life of Courtier, sig. D3. Alexander sayd assure me my frendes Parmeno of those that be dissembling frendes, for I will be ware of them that be my open enemies. 1589: L. Wright, Display of Dutie, 19. As good a foe that hurts not, as a friend that helps not. 1600: Bodenham, Belvedere, 176 (Spens. S.). 1647: Countrym. New Commonwealth, 13. It is better to have an open foe, then a dissembling friend.

Fog. 1. See quot. 1874: W. Pencelly, in N. & Q., 5th ser., ii. 254. I often heard the following weather-rhymes in Cornwall in my boyhood:— ... A fog and a small moon Bring an easterly wind soon. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 58.


3. A fog from the sea, Brings honey to the bee: A fog from the hills Brings corn to the mills. Pembroke. 1859: N. & Q., 7th ser., viii. 204.

4. Fog on the hill, water to the mill; Fog in the hollow, fine day to fellow. Oxfordsh. 1929: Spectator, 3 Nov., p. 640, col. 2.

See also March (15), (16), (18), (43).

Folkestone. See quot. 1735: P.50c, Kent. Proverbs, in E.D.S., No. 12, p 72,
Folkstone Washerwomen These are the white clouds which commonly bring rain 1887 Parish and Shaw, Dict Kent Dialect, 57 (E D S), Folkstone Girls, the name given to heavy rain clouds Also Folkstone Lasses and Folkstone Washermens

Follow, verb 1 Follow love and it will flee. Flee love and it will follow thee 1581 T Howell Devises 64 (1606). Flee it [love], and it will flee thee, Follow it, and it will follow thee 1678 Ray 55 1732 Fuller, No 625 1875 A B Cheales Proverb Folk-Lore 29 Follow the river and you'll get to the sea 1732 Fuller, No 1556

3 He that follows Nature is never out of his way Ibid No 2108

4 He that follows truth too closely, etc. See quotes 1651 Herbert, Jac Prudentium, 2nd ed. Follow not truth too near the heels lest it dash out thy teeth 1681 W Robertson, Phrased Generalls, 619. He that follows truth too near the heels, shall have dust thrown in his face 1820 Colton, Lacoon, Pt I No 558. He that follows truth too closely, must take care that she does not strike out his teeth

5 To follow one's nose c 1350 Cleanness, 1 978 in Allit Poems, 67 (Merris, E E T S), Loth and the luly-lh-whyt his klfy two de3ter, Ay follyd here face [followed their face] before her bothe ye3n c 1520 Stanbridge, Vulgara, sig C3, Ryght forthe on thy nose Rector yva mcde 1637 Heywood, Royal King, I, Follow thy nose, and thou wilt be there presently 1742 Fielding Andrews, bk 11 ch 11. The fellow bade him follow his nose and be d—n'd 1917 D Grayson Great Possessions, ch 11. One has only to step out into the open country and follow his nose

6 You may, follow him long ćre a shilling drop from him 1732 Fuller, No 5944

Folly 1 Folly grows without watering 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1854 J W Warner, Last of the Old Squires, ch v p 53

2 Folly is never long pleased with itself 1732 Fuller, No 1560

3 Folly is often sick of itself Ibid, No 1559

4 Folly is wise in her own eyes 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 95

5 Folly may hinder a man of many a good turn 1694 D Urfey, Quixade, Pt II Act II sc 11

6 Folly without faults is as reddish [radish] without salt 1608 Armin, Nest of Ninnies, 40 (Sh S)

7 If folly were wise, every house would weep 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

8 It is folly to run to the foot when one may run to the head 1546 Heywood, Proserbs, Pt II ch v, Folke show much folly, when things should be sped, To ren to the foote that make go to the head 1633 Draxe, 72

9 Many for folly themselves fordo c 1460 How the Good Wife, 1 140. Many for folye hem self for-doothe 10 The chief disease that reigns this year is folly 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

11 The folly of one man is the fortune of another 1607 Bacon, Essays "Fortune"

12 'Tis a folly to fret, grief's no comfort 1813 Ray, 195

See also Zeal

Fond as a besom 1855 Robinson, Whitsby Gloss, 13, He's as fond as a besom—very foolish indeed 1889 Peacock, Mantle, etc., Gloss, 44 (E D S), "He's as fond as a besom—signifies that the person spoken of is very foolish [The phrase is proverbial in other dialects also]

Fond pride of dress is sure a very curse, Ere fancy you consult, consult your purse 1736 Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, 1 448 (Bigelow)

Fool and Fools 1 A fool always comes short of his reckoning 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Fol," A foole oft finds himselfe short of his reckonings

2 A fool and his money are soon parted 1580 Tussor, Husb, 19 (E D S), A foole and his monie be soone at debate c 1640 in Rokb Ballads, 21 550 (B S) 1763 Murphy, Citizen I n 1894 Shaw, Arms and the Man, III
3. A fool at forty is a fool indeed. c. 1670: Cotton, Visions, No. 1, He who at fifty is a fool, Is far too stubborn grown for school. 1725: Young, Satires, No. ii. ad fin., Be wise with speed; A fool at forty is a fool indeed. 1820: Colton, Laco., Pt. I. No. 352 [quotes Young].


5. A fool believes the thing he would have so. 1681: W. Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 620.

6. A fool can dance without a fiddle. 1732: Fuller, No. 99.


8. A fool knows more in his own house than a wise man in another's. 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. xxxiii. 1624: D'Urfey, Quixote, Pt. II. Act V. sc. i. [with "sees" for "knows"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 103.

9. A fool looks to the beginning, a wise man regards the end. c. 1535: Dialogues of Creatures, ccvii. (1816), A fool beholding but only the beginning of his works, but a wise man taketh heed to the ende.

10. A fool loseth his estate before he finds his folly. [c. 1480]: Caxton, Sonnes of Aymon, 485 (E.E.T.S.), For a foole never blyeth till he fele sore.] 1732: Fuller, No. 104.

11. A fool may make money, but it needs a wise man to spend it. 1869: Spurgeon, John Plonkman, ch. xix. 1875: A. B. Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 100.

12. A fool may sometimes give a wise man counsel — with variants. [ревалы а гир кий мрят у айр мелк кирван езер. — Aulus Gallius, ii. 6.] c. 1374: Chaucer, Troilus, bk. i. l. 630, A fool may eek a wys man ofte yde. c. 1450: Partonope, l. 7982, p. 321 (E.E.T.S.). Yet an old proverb sayd ys all day: Of a foole a wyse man take wytt. 1581: Staffard, Exam. of Complaints, 11 (N. Sh. S.). Yet foole (as the proverbe is) sometimes speake to the purpose.

1678: Ray, 140, A fool may put somewhat in a wise bodies head. 1693: Urophart, Rabelais, bk. iii. ch. 37, I have often heard it said in a vulgar proverb, The wise may be instructed by a fool. 1732: Fuller, No. 105, A fool may chance to put something into a wise man's head. 1818: Scott, Heart of Mid., ch. xlv., And if a fule may gie a wise man a counsel . . . 1926: Phillpotts, Marjoleine Misser, ch. i., Listen to everybody, for the biggest fool may come out with a bit of sense when you least expect it.


15. A fool or a physician. An association or alternative in various proverbial forms. See quotes. [Sed gravescent valetudine nihil e libidinibus omittat, in patientia firmitudinem simulans solitusque eludere medicorum artes atque eos, qui post tricesimum annos ad internoscendam corpori suo utilia vel noxia alieni consili indigerunt. —Tacitus, Annals, VI. xlvii.] 1607: B. Barnes, Divils Charter, sig. L3, Eyther mere fooles or good phisitions all. 1634: T. Heywood, Ma-Head Well Lost, III., No matter whether I bee a foole or a phisitian, if I loose, Ile pay. c. 1645: MS. Proverbs, in N. & Q., vol. cliv., p. 27. Every man is either a foole or a phisitian. 1678: The Quacks Academy . . . A New Art to cross the Old Proverb, and make a Man a Fool and Physician both at a Time [title], in Harl. Miscell., ii. (1744). 1707: Dueton, Athen. Spect., p. 13. col. r, Remember, Every man is a fool, or physician to himself at least. 1732: Fuller, No. 1428, Every man is a fool, or a physician, at forty. 1777: in Garrick Corresp., ii. 219 (1832) [as in 1732]. 1793: O'Keefle, World in a Village-III. i. [as in 1732].
16 A fool thinketh himself wise. 1557
North, Diall of Princes, fo 92 v°; He may be called a fool that auaunceth
him selfe to be wise 1601 Shake-
spere, As You Like It V 1, I do
now remember a saying, The fool
doeth think he is wise but the wise man
knows himself to be a fool"

17 A fool wants [lacks] his cloak on
a rainy day 1732 Fuller No 110

18 A fool when he hath spoke hath
done all or A fool is known by his speech
1303 R Brunne Handil Synne I 2970,
By folly wurdvs mov men a foyle kenne
1422 Lydgate, Troy Book, bk ii 1 7022, For be his tongue a foile is ofte
knowe 1570 Barclav, Mirror of
Good Manners, 73 (Spens S), A foole
is known by speche negligent 1611
Cotgrave, s.v "Fol, Fools are wise
untill they speake 1732 Fuller, No
111, A fool, when he hath spoke, hath
done all

19 A fool will ask more questions
than the wisest can answer 1666 Tor-
nano, Piazza Univ, 69. A fool may
ask more than seven wise men can
answer 1670 Ray, 92, A fool may
ask more questions in an hour, then a
wise man can ansr. in seven years
1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial II
1622 Scott, Pirates, ch xvi, He
knows a fool may ask more questions
than a wise man cares to answer
1901 T E Taylor, Larvs Sayings, 7,
A fool' con ax moor questions i five
minutes nor a wise men con answer i'
month

20 A fool will laugh when he is
drowning 1577 Misogonus, I 11. A
foole in laughture putte the all his
pleasure 1676 Breton in Works ii
e 6 (Grosart), A foole is ever laughting
1659 Howell, Proverbs Brit.-Eng. 2

21 A fool will not be fooled 1659
Ibid, 22 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays
on Proverbs, 127

22 A fool will not part with his
bauble for the Tower of London Before
1500 in Hill, Commonplace-Book, 130
(EE T S) [with 'geve' for 'part
with'] 1509 Barclay, Ship of Fools
1 256 (1874) For it is sayd of men
both yonge and olde A foole wyll nat
gyue his babyll for any golde 1599
Porter, Two Angry Women, in Haz-
litt, Old Plays, vii 359 [with "leave"
for "part with"] 1630 T Adams,
Works, 774, The foole will not gue
his bable for the Kings Exchequer
1662 Fuller, Worthies, ii 342 (1840)
1716 E Ward, Female Policy, 86, Some
would not give their babel for
the Tower of London 1790 Grose,
Prov Gloss, s. v 'London' 23

23 A fool's bell is soon rung c 1400
Rom Rose, 1 5266 And foolos can not
holde hur tung, A fooles belle is some
runge

24 A fool's bell is soon shot c 1270
Prov of Alfred, in O E Miscell, 128 (Morris), And sottes bell is some
1-schohte c 1320 in Relig Antiquae,
I 111 (1841), "Sottes bell is some
shote", Quoth Hendyng c 1460
Good Wyse wold a Pylyr, 1 95, A
fools bell vos son 1-schoht 1583
Greene, in Works, ii 79 (Grosart)
1600 Shakespeare, Henry V, III vi
1667 Lord Bristol, Eluera, V, How
soon a fool's bell's shot without dis-
tinction 1748 Smollett, Rod Ran-
dom, ch lu, "Zounds, I have done," he said
"Your bell is soon shot, according to the old proverb," said
she 1826 Brady, Varieties of Lit, 21,
The implement shot from the cross-bow
is called by the English a bolt
Hence the saying "the fool's bell
is soonest shot" 1847 Planche,
Extravag, in 1 198 (1879)

25 A fool's bell may sometimes hit
the white 1732 Fuller, No 107

26 A fool's handel is lucky 1614
Jonson, Bart Fair, II. Bring him a
sixpenny bottle of ale they say, a
fool's handel is lucky 1668 Dryden,
Siv Martin Mar-all, V ii, A fool's plot
may be as lucky as a fool's handel

27 A fool's heart is in his tongue
1566 Drant, Horace Satires, Sat 2,
That sillye foole His harte is euuer
in his tonge 1622 P Hannay,
Poet Works, 184 (Hunt Cl), The wise
man's tongue is euuer in his heart, The
fooes heart is in his tongue 1641
Quarles, Enchyrdisen Cent III cap
ly 1669 Politenphos, 37, The heart
of a fool is in his mouth. Cf. Wise, adj. (50).

28. A fool’s paper. See White (xi).
29. A fool’s paradise. 1462: Paston Lett., ii. 109 (Gairdner, 1900), But I wold not be in a folis paradise. 1549: Mathew’s Bible, 2 Kings, ch. iv., Dyd I desire a sonne of my Lorde? Dyd I not say that thou shouldest not bryngye me in a foles paradise. 1604: Webster and Marston, Mallecontent, V. iii., Promise of matrimony by a yong gallant, to bring a virgin lady into a fooles paradise! 1632: R. Brome, Northern Lasse, V. viii., Why I am fubdooded thus. In I protest and vow a kind of fools Paradise. 1732: Fielding, Mod. Husband, I. ix., A levee is the paradise of fools. 1894: R. L. S., St. Ives, ch. xxvi., The next moment I had recognised the inanity of that fool’s paradise. 1914: Shaw, “Parents and Children,” in Misalliance, etc., p. xiii, A means of pleasing himself and beguiling tedious hours with romances and fairy tales and fools’ paradies.

30. A fool’s speech is a bubble of air. 1732: Fuller, No. 109.
31. A fool’s tongue is long enough to cut his own throat. Ibid., No. 108.
32. Answer a fool according to his folly. [Answer a fool according to his folly lest he be wise in his own conceit. —Prov. xxvi. 5] 1484: Caxton, Æsop, ii. 175 (Jacobs), To foolish demur [question] behoveth a foolish answer. 1589: Nashe, in Works, i. 166 (Grosart), It is therefore thought the best way ... to answer the foole, according to their foolishness. 1692: L’Estrange, Æsop, 10 (3rd ed.), It does not yet become a man of honour ... to answer every fool in his folly. 1740: North, Lives of Norths, i. 332 (Bohn), And so fools are often answered in their folly.
33. As the fool thinks, so the bell clinks. 1607: Lingua, III. vii., As the fool thinketh, so the bell clinketh. I protest I hear no more than a post. 1673: Marvell, Rehearsal Transpr., Pt. II., in Works, iii. 387 (Grosart), I understand, sir, what you mean; “as the fool thinks, so the conscience

34. Bray a fool in a mortar, etc. [Though thou shouldest Bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, yet will not his foolishness depart from him.—Prov. xxvii. 22.] c. 1568: Wager, Longer thou Livest, sig. D2, Beate a fool in a mortar saith the wise man, and thou shalt not make him leave his folly. 1694: D’Urfey, Quixote, Pt. I. Act V. sc. ii., Bray a fool in a mortar, and you’ll find all of him but his brains. 1855: Kingsley, West. Hol., ch. v.

35. By their words we know fools, and asses by their ears. 1586: L. Evans, Revised Withals Dict., sig. C4.
36. Every fool can find faults that a great many wise men can’t remedy. 1732: Fuller, No. 1416.
37. Every fool is a fiddle to the company. 1616: Sharpham, Cupid’s Whirligig, IV., They say, every foolo is a fiddle to the company.
38. Fool’s haste is no speed. 1732: Fuller, No. 1575. 1827: Scott, Journal, 12 Jan., I wish it may not prove fool’s haste, yet I take as much pains too as is in my nature.
39. Fools and fowmarts [polecats]. See quot. 1598: N. & Q., 9th ser., ii. 88, “Fools and fowmarts can’t see by day-leet.” I heard this near here [Epworth] the other day.
40. Fools and little dogs are ladies’ play-fellows. 1583: Melbancke, Philomines, sig. T3.
41. Fools and madmen speak the truth. 1621: Burton, Mamelkoly, II. III. viii. 429 (1836), For fools and mad men tell commonly truth. 1634: Massinger, Very Woman, III. i., Wilt thou be my fool? for fools, they say, will tell truth. 1791: Mrs. Thrale, in Hayward, Mrs. Piozzi, i. 342 (2nd ed.), He is quite light-headed, yet madmen, drunkards, and fools tell truth, they say.
42. Fools are all the world over, as he
said that shed the goose 1732 Fuller, No 1567 1880 Spurgeon, Plough-
man’s Pictures, 141
43 Fools are known by their babbling 1477 Rivers, Diaries and Sayings, 57
(1877), A man may knowe a foole by
his moche clatering 1597 H Lok, Ecclesiastes, 98 Foole if they once
begin, can never end 1641 Jonson, Timner “Homen Ulysses” For too
much talkeing is ever the indice of a fool
1647 Country New Commonwealth, 10, Foole are known by their bablings
44 Fools are of all sizes 1901 F E
Taylor Lanes Sayings, 9, Ther’s fo o
sizes
45 Fools are pleased with their own
blindness 1732 Fuller No 1570
46 Fools are weather-wise 1887
M A Courtney, Folk-Lore Journal,
v 192, Here [Cornwall] it is well known
that ‘fools are weather-wise,’ and that
‘those that are weather-wise are rarely
otherwise’ 1906 Cornish N & Q, 271
47 Fools are wise men in the affairs
of women 1732 Fuller, No 1571
48 Fools build houses and wise men
buy them 1670 Ray, 91 1732
Fuller, No 1573 [with “enjoy for
buy’] c 1860 R S Hawker, in
Byles, Life, etc 82 (1905) [with “in-
habit’ for “buy’] 1875 A B
Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 43 [with
“live in” for “buy’]
49 Fools give, to please all but their
own 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium
50 Fools grow without watering,
1732 Fuller, No 1574 1853 Trench,
Proverbs, 73 (1905)
51 Fools have fortune c 1568
Wager, Longer thou Ewest, sig Ez,
They say that fools are fortunable
1639 Glaston Wt in a Constable,
III, The old proverb of foole have
fortune 1720 Vade Mecum for Mul-
t worms Pt II p 22, Dick fulfills
the proverb which says, Fools have
fortune c 1760 Garrick Lying Vallet,
II Cf Fortune favours fools, and God
sends fortune
52 Fools lade the water and wise men
catch the fish 15th cent in Babees
Book, 332 (Furnivall), Folus [Fools] lade
polys [pools], wisemenn etc Je fysshe
1605 Camden, Remains, 322 (1870)
1670 Ray, 92 1732 Fuller, No
1581, Fools lade out all the water,
and wise men take the fish
53 Fools laugh at their own sport
1855 Bohn, 35b
54 Fools live poor to die rich Ibid,
356
55 Fools love all that is good 1738
Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I, I’m
like all fools, I love everything that’s
good Cf Lord Mayor’s fool
56 Fools make feasts and wise men
eat them 1578 Flomo, First Fruits,
fo 30, Fools make the banquets, and
wise men enjoy them 1683 Meriton,
Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697) 1736
Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works,
1 447 (Bigelow) 1823 D’Israeli, Cur
of Lit, 2nd ser, 1 449 (1824), A great
man in Scotland, who, having given a
splendid entertainment, was harshly
told that “Fools make feasts, and wise
men eat them”
57 Fools may invert fashions that
wise men will wear 1732 Fuller,
No 1579
58 Fools never know when they are
well 1519 Hormann, Vulgarla, fo 67,
He is a foole that can nat holde hym
selve content whan he is well at ease
1794 Wolcot, in Works, 11 528 (1793),
Fools never know when they are well
1822 Scott, Nigel, ch xvii. “Fools
always thus—fools and children never know
when they are well
59 Fools no Latin know 1809
Hazlitt, 134
60 Fools refuse favours 1659
Howell, Proverbs Brit-Eng. 22
61 Fools set stocks for wise men to
stumble at 1605 Camden, Remains,
322 (1870) 1613 S Rawley, When
You See Me, sig F3 Yee know what
the old proverbe saies, “When foole
set stocks and wise men breake their
shims” 1670 Ray, 91 1754 Ber-
thelson, Eng-Danish Dict., 5 v ‘Fool’
1880 Spurgeon, Ploughman’s Pictures,
141
62 Fools should not see half done
work I am not sure that this is not a
purely Scottish saying 1818 Scott,
in Lockhart’s Life, iv 216, It is not
fit to be shown to "bairns and fools," who, according to our old canny proverb, should never see half done work.


64. Fools will be fools. 1650: R. Heath, Satyrs, 9, Fools will still be fools. 1784: New Foundl. Hosp. for Wit, ii. 201, Fools will be fools, say what we will.

65. Fools will be meddling. c. 1380: Chaucer, Parl. of Foulis, l. 574. But sooth is seyd, "a fool can noght be stille." 1670: Ray, 91. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I., Why, madam, fools will be meddling. 1622: Scott, Nigel, ch. xxiii., Beasts and fools will be meddling, my lord.

66. Fools' paradies are wise men's purgatories. 1763: Colman, Deuce is in Him, i. i., A fool's paradise is better than a wiseacre's purgatory. 1922: Saintsbury, Scrap-Book, 254.

67. Fools' thoughts often fail. c. 1374: Chaucer, Troylus, bk. i. l. 217, But alday fayleth thing that foole wenden [imagined]. c. 1387: Usk, Test. of Love, ii. 8, 122, Thus alday fayleth thinges that fooles wende. c. 1534: Berners, Hton, 502 (E.E.T.S.), It is a comune sayning that many thingis lacketh of folyshe thoughtis.

68. Give a fool a candle to tend [light], He will light it at the ind. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 588.

69. He hath great need of a fool that plays the fool himself. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

70. He is a fool that deals with fools. c. 1550: Parlement of Three Ages, l. 264 (Gollancz), Fole es that with foles delys.

71. He is a fool that forgets himself. c. 1270: in Old Eng. Miscell., 59 (Morris, E.E.T.S.), Set is yat is ofer mannes freond more p'au his owe. c. 1374: Chaucer, Troylus, bk. v. l. 98, I have hered seyd, cek tymes tvycs twelve, "He is a fool that wol for-yete himselfe." 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Fol." He is a right foole that forgets himselfe. 1683: Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697).

72. He is a fool that is not melancholy once a day. 1678: Ray, 346. 1683: Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697). He is a feall that is not melancholy yance a day. 1732: Fuller, No. 2434

73. He is a fool that makes a wedge of his fist. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Cong" 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 221.

74. He is a fool that thinks not that another thinks. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

75. He is fool enough himself, who will bray against another ass. 1855: Boilm, 375.

76. He is not the fool that the fool is, but he that with the fool deals. 1683: Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697).

77. He's a fool that is wiser abroad than at home. 1732: Fuller, No. 2435.

78. He's a fool. See quot. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 65 (Percy S.). He's a fule that marries at Yule; For when the bairn's to bear, The corn's to shear. 1904: Co. Folk-Lore: Northumb., 179 (F.L.S.), [as in 1846].

79. He that sends a fool means to follow him. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1659: Howell, 3. Who sendeth a fool upon an errand, must goe himself after.

80. He who is born a fool is never cured. 1732: Fuller, No. 2391.

81. If all fools had baubles we should want fuel. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Marotte," If all that foole are bables wore, of wood we should have but small store. 1670: Ray, 10. If all fools ware bables jewel would be dear. 1732: Fuller, No. 2676. If every fool were to wear a bauble, they would grow dear.

82. If all fools wore white caps, we should seem a flock of geese. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

83. If fools should not fool it, they shall lose their reason. Ibid.

84. It is the property of fools to be always judging. 1732: Fuller, No. 3027.

85. Much abides behind what a fool thinks. c. 1489: Caxton, Blanchardyn, etc., 181 (E.E.T.S.), It ys sayd often in a comyn langage that "moch eydeth behynde a thynke thynkeh." 1683: Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697).
Sometimes 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium, 1604 D'Urfeby Quiretoe, Pt I Act I sc 1. None are fools always, tho' every one sometimes 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, iv 237 (1785) 1854 J W Warter, Last of Old Squires, 53

87 One fool in a play is more than enough Derby 1889 Folk-Lore Journal, vii 293

88 One fool makes many 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum, One fool makes a hundred 1634 Gayton, Pleasant Notes Don Q., 140 1769 Brooke Fool of Quality, iv 228 1821 Byron, The Blues, Ccl i 1 57 1860 Reade, Cl and Hearhh ch xxxiv, Loose tongue found credulous ears, and so one fool made many

89 Only fools and fiddlers sing at meals 1813 Ray, 9. None but fools and fiddlers sing at their meat 1889 Folk-Lore Journal, vii 293 (Derbyshire)

90 Play with a fool at home, and he will play with you in the market 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1670 Ray, 10 1732 Fuller, No 2763

91 Send a fool to the market and a fool he'll return 1586 G Whitney, Emblems, 178, The fool, that farre is sente some visedome to attaine, Returnes an idiot, as he wente, and brings the foole againe 1604 Pasquils Jestis, 38 (1864). You may all depart like fools as you came 1666 Tornano, Piazza Unw., 147, Who sends a fool expects the same back again 1732 Fuller, No 4096 1738 Swift, Polite Cowers, Dial I, You may go back again, like a fool as you came

92 Set a fool to catch a fool 1654 Gayton, Pleasant Notes Don Q., 178, As they say, set a fool, etc

93 Set a fool to roast eggs, and a wise man to eat them 1678 Ray, 241

94 That which a fool doth at last, a wise man doth at first 1666 Tornano, Piazza Unw., 197 1830 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures 20 A wise man does at first what a fool does at last

95 The first chapter of fools is to esteem themselves wise 1578 Florio, First Fruites, fo 29 [with " count " for " esteem "] 1586 Pettie, tr Guazzo's Civil Comers, fo 40 1659 Howell, 1 [with " bold " for " esteem "] 1732 Fuller, No 4525

96 The fool asks much, but he is more fool that grants it 1633 Draxe, 21 1670 Ray, 10 1732 Fuller, No 100, A fool demands much, but he's a greater that gives it

97 The fool is busy in every one's business but his own 1732 Fuller, No 4537

98 The fool runs away while his house is burning down Ibid, No 4538

99 The fool saith, who would have thought it? 1633 Draxe, 13, It is the part of a fool to say, I had not thought 1732 Fuller, No 4539

100 The fool wanders the wise man travels Ibid, No 4540

101 The higher the fool, the greater the fall 1875 J Platt, Morality, 34

102 The more riches a fool hath, the greater fool he is 1732 Fuller, No 4666

103 The praise of fools is censure in disguise 1855 Bohn, 513

104 There is no fool like the old fool 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch u. There is no fool to the olde folk, folke say 1592 Lyly, Mother Bombie, IV ii 1616 Breton, in Works, ii 6 (Grosart) 1712 Gay, Mohocks, sc u. Oh Peter, Peter I an old fool all fools is the worst 1856 Planché, Extrausag, v 157 (1789). In love there's no fool, madam, like an old fool 1922 Weyman, Overton's Bank, ch xvi

105 To deal fool's dole 1670 Ray, 171

106 To the counsel of fools, a wooden bell 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

107 We are fools one to another Ibid

108 Were there no fools bad ware would not be sold 1611 Cotgrave, s v " Marché " It foules went not to markets bad wares would not be sold 1696 D'Urfeby Quiretoe, Pt III Act I [as in 1611, with ' coxcombs ' for 'fooles '] 1732 Fuller, No 2677 [as in 1611] 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman ch xvi [as in 1611]

109 When a fool hath bethought himself, the market's over 1732 Fuller, No 5530
Foolish

110. When the fool finds a horse-shoe, He thinks always so to do. Ibid., No. 6415.

See also April (23); Certainty; Children (2) and (3); Experience; Fortune favours; God sends fortune; Honour (4); Many a one; None but fools; None is so wise; Robin Hood (9); Wise, passim; Wit (4); Woman (5); and World (7) and (10).

Foolish fear doubleth danger. 1732: Fuller, No. 1563.

Foolish pity spoils a city. 1556: Heywood, Spider and Flie, cap. 70, p. 307 (Farmer), This . . . Is either not pity, or peevish pity, Which (as th old saying saith) marreth the city. 1613: Wither, Abuses Stript, etc., bk. i. sat. 13, A foolish pity quickly overthrowes, In warre an army, and in peace a state. 1670: Ray, 131. 1732: Fuller, No. 6216 ['ruins' for 'spoils'].

Foolish tongues talk by the dozen. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

Foot and Feet. 1. He thinks his feet be where his head shall never come. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I., ch. xi. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), Sc. of Folly, 49, in Works, ii. (Grosart), Some thinke their feete be where their head shall never come.


3. Thy foot is longer than thy leg. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 124, Thou'rt like a butterbump [bittern], thy foot's longer than thy leg.

4. To have (or know) the length of one's foot. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 290 (Arber), You shall not shal know the length of my foote, vntill by your cunning you get commendation. 1603: Dekker, in Works, i. 263 (Grosart), Having now the full length of his foot, then shewes she herselfe what she is. c. 1663: Davenant, Play-House to be Let, V., Well, gossip, I know too the length of your foote. 1720: C. Shadwell, Irish Hospit., II., What I speak is in my own praise, 'tis a very easy matter to get the length of my foot. 1858: Hughes, White Horse, ch. iii., I have got the length of his foot, and he has asked me to luncheon. 1922: Weyman, Ovington's Bank, ch. xix., He had taken the length of the Squire's foot.

5. To thrust one's feet under another man's table. 1678: Ray, 272. 1732: Fuller, No. 5247.

See also Leg (4) and (5); and One Foot.

Football. See All fellows; and Two to one.

For ill do well, then fear not hell. 1855: Bohn, 357.

For mad words deaf ears. 1633: Draxe, 69, For foolish talke deafe eares. 1732: Fuller, No. 1593.

For my part. See Kiln (1).


Forbidden fruit is sweet. 1855: Bohn, 357.

Force without fore-cast is of little avail. 1732: Fuller, No. 1589.

Forced kindness deserves no thanks, A. Ibid., No. 113.

Forced put. See quotes. 1657: G. Starkey, Helmet's Vind., 328 (O.), To give poysons to purge, in expectation that Nature being forced to play a desperate game, and reduced to a forc't put, may . . . 1678: Ray, 79, He's at a forc't put. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Put," Tis a forced put. 1880: Courtney, W. Cornwall Words, 23 (E.D.S.), A fo'ced put is no choice.


2. To take the ford as one finds it. 1575: Gascoigne, Posies, 6 (Cunhill), Yet is it true that I must take the foord as I finde it: sometimes not as I woulde, but as I may. 1817: Scott.
Forget, verb 1 To forget a wrong is the best revenge. 1639 Clarke, 324
1670 Ray, 92 c 1800 Trusler, Prov in Verse, 102. To forget an injury is the best revenge. Cf Forget (4)
2 We have all forgot more than we remember. 1732 Fuller, No 5442

Forgetful head makes a weary pair of heels. A 1869 Hazlitt, 12

Forgive. verb 1 Forgive and forget: Before 1225 Ancre R. 124 (O), Al pel hurt and al pel sore were uorziten and frowien ur gleednes. 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vn, All our great frate Is forguenen and forgotten betwene vs quight c 1605 Shakespeare, Lear, IV vn, Pray you now, forget and forgive. 1696 Southern, Oroonoko, V 11, Endeavour to forget, sir, and forgive. 1792 Holcroft, Road to Ruin, V 11, Wo ought all to forget and forgive. 1823 Scott, Pari, ch xxv, Years had taught Deborah to forget and forgive. 1792 22 June, King George V, Speech at Belfast, opening Ulster Parli, I appeal to all Irishmen to pause, to stretch out the hand of forbearance and conciliation, to forgive and to forget
2 Forgive any sooner than thyself. 1670 Ray, 10
3 If it be bound to forgive an enemy, we are not bound to trust him. 1732 Fuller, No 2728

4 Revenge a wrong by forgiving it. 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 81, Forgiveness and a smile is the best revenge. 1831 Hone, Year-Book, col 1427 1853 Trench, Proverbs, 13 (1905) The noblest vengeance is to forgive. Here is the godlike proverb. Cf Forget (1)

Folk. I ask you for a fork and you bring me a rake. 1732 Fuller, No 2587 See also Rake

Forkle-end See "Forkle-end" is not in Wright's Eng Dialect Diet 1869 Hazlitt, 207, He's standing on his forkle-end S Devon 1 e he's ell and on his legs, able to get about. —Shelly

Forms keep fools at a distance c 1750 Foote, Englishm returned from Paris, II. They say forms keep fools at a distance

Rob Roy, ch xxvii, Let ilka ane roose the ford as they find it

Forecast is better than work hard 1612 Chapman, Widow's Tears, II iv [with "labour for 'work hard'] 1670 Ray, 92 1732 Fuller, No 1588

Forehand pay See quotes 1886 Elworthy, West Som Word-Book 186 (E D S), Hence the old saying "Forehand-pay and never-pay's the wst [worst] of all pay". 1894 Northall, Folk Phrases, 13 (E D S), Forehand pay is the worst pay as is. Cf Pay (4)

Forehead and the eye, In the, the lecture of the mind doth lie. 1633 Drake, 60 [heart is read" for last three words] 1670 Ray, 92 1754 Berthelson Eng-Danish Dict., s.v

Lecture Cf Face (4)

Foreheet. [Predict] determine nothing but building churches and louping over them, I'll 1678 Ray, 355 1683 Merton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697) [with 'Foreheet' for Foreheft] 1691 Ray, Words not Generally Used, 43 (E D S)

Forehorse by the head. See quotes 1875 Parish, Sussex Dict., 45 "He has got the forehorse by the head" is a Sussex expression for "he has got matters well in hand". 1894 Northall, Folk Phrases, 28 (E D S), To get the forehorse by the head = To get out of debt to see one's way clear, etc

Forewarned fore-armed, or in some early examples, half-armed [Egon' ut cavere nequeam, cui praeeditur?—Plautus, Pseudol., I v 101] Before 1500 in Hill, Commonplace-Book, 132 (L E T S), He is that warned us half armed c 1569 in Collmann Ballads and Broadsides, 194 (Roxb Cl), But they that were armed in tymne, Halfe armed are gainst daungerous crime 1587 Greene, in Works, iv 154 (Grosart), By his fore-warnning, thou hadst bene fore-armed 1620 Shelton, Quixote, Pt II ch xvii, He that is warned is half armed 1673 Wycherley, Gentle Danc-Master, V i 1712 Spectator, No 395 1834 Mairryat, P Simple, ch liv, I now knew the ground which I stood upon, and forewarned was being forearmed. Cf Once warned
Fort

Fort. See Castle (2).


Fortunate man may be any where, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 114.

Fortune and love. See quot. Before 1704: T. Brown, in Works, ii. 167 (1760). The ancient proverb, which says, that fortune and love don’t always favour the most deserving.

Fortune can take from us nothing but what she gave us. 1732: Fuller, No. 1598.

Fortune favour, It. See quot. 1670: Ray, 212. If fortune favour I may have her, for I go about her; If fortunate fail you may kiss her tail, and go without her.

Fortune favours fools. 1563: Googe, Eglogs, etc., 74 (Arber). But fortune favours fools as old men say. 1599: Jonson, Ev. Man out of Humour, i. i., M. One of those that fortune favours. C. The periphrasis of a fool. 1687: Sedley, Bellamira, II. Does my patron lose? fortune favours fools. 1737: Gay, Fables, 2nd ser., No. 12, i. 119. 'Tis a gross error, held in schools, That fortune always favours fools. Cf. Fool (51); and God sends fortune.


Fortune helps him that is willing to help himself. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Aider."

Fortune is variant. See quotas. c. 1420: Lydgate, Assembly of Gods, st. 46, p. 10 (E.E.T.S.), Varyant she [Fortune] was; ay in short space Hyr whole was redy to turne without let. c. 1490: Partonope, i. 4389 (E.E.T.S.), Lo, thus fortune can turne hur dyse Nowe vp, nowe doune; here where ys vnstable. 1509: Barclay, Ship of Fools, i. 126 (1874), Fortune euer hath an incertaynte end. 1692: L’Estrange, Æsop, 15 (3rd ed.), The wheel of time, and of fortune is still rolling. 1712: Motteux, Quixote, Pt. I. bk. iv. ch. xx., The old proverb is true again, fortune turns round like a mill-wheel, and he that was yesterday at the top, lies to-day at the bottom. c. 1824: in Farmer, Musa Pedestris, 91, But fortune fickle, ever on the wheel . . .

Fortune knocks once at least at every man’s gate. 1567: Fenton, Bandello, ii. 148 (T.T.), Fortune once in the course of our life doth put into our hands the offer of a good torne. 1869: Hazlitt, 136.

Fortune rarely brings good or evil singly. 1732: Fuller, No. 1605.

Fortune smiles, When, embrace her. 1670: Ray, 10. When fortune smiles on thee, take the advantage. 1732: Fuller, No. 5553. 1736: Bailey, Diet., s.v. "Fortune," When fortune knocks be sure to open the door.

Fortune to one is mother, to another is stepmother. 1651: Herbert, Juc. Prudentium, 2nd cd.


Fowl water is thrown down the sink.

1664 White Kennett, tr Erasmus' *Praise of Folioy*, xii (8th ed.), I will take the proverb for a satisfactory reply, namely, *Fowl water is thrown down the sink* which saying, that no person may slight it, may be convenient to advertise that it comes from no meaner an author than that oracle of truth, Aristotle himself.

Fowl water will quench fire as well as fair. 1546 Heywood *Proverbs* Pt I ch vi. 1592 Lyly, *Mother Bombie*, III. iv. Yet I hope fowl water will quench hot fire as soone as faire. 1616 *Jack Drum*, I, in Simpson, *Scho of Shakesb* n. 144. Fowl water quencheth fire well enough. 1670 Ray, 154. Fowl water will quench fire. 1732 Fuller, No 1607 [as in 1670].

Four bare legs. See *Marriage* (9)

Four eyes see more than two. 1666 Tornano, *Piazza Univ.*, 175. Four eyes see better than two. 1732 Fuller, No 1606.

Four farthing and a thimble. Make a tailor's pocket jingle. 1659 Howell, 15, 1670 Ray, 215. 1732 Fuller, No 6328.

Four things drive a man. See *Three things drive a man*.

Four things, it is said. See *quot.* 1869 Pegge, *Anonymana*, cent xx 45. Four things it is said, are most to be desired a good neighbour, a window to every man's heart, that men's tongues and hearts should go together, and an house upon wheels.

Four-pence for that advice. If I had given, I had bought a goat too dear. 1732 Fuller, No 2685.


Stated that though no charter was in the possession of the parish [Fowey], their rights were traditionally inherited by a grant from the Black Prince, as Duke of Cornwall, in reward for services rendered at sea by "the Gallants of Fowey," from which the village takes its name.

Fowl of a fair day. As glad as a 1362 Langland, *Plowman*, A, vi 109. Thence was I as fayn as fowl on fair morwen c 1386 Chaucer, *Canon's Yeoman's Tale* 1789. This sotted priest, who was gladder than he? Was neverbrid gladder againy the day c 1430 Lydgate, *Minor Poems*, 111 (Percy S), Sir John was as glad of this as ever was bowle of daye. 1598 *Servingman's Comfort*, in *Inciated Tracts*, 133 (Hazlitt), Who restes no lesse glad of his place, then the foule of a fayre day 1639, Clarke, 185.

Fox and Foxes. 1 A fox should not be of the jury at a goose's trial. 1732 Fuller, No 116.

2 An old fox need learn no craft. 1639 Clarke, 267, Ray, 127. 1732 Fuller, No 644. An old fox needs not be taught tricks. Cf Nos 3 and 19.


4 As cunning as a klyket [fox]. 1846-59 Denham Tracts, 11. 107. (F. S.)

5 As long as you are in the fox's service, you must hold up his tail. 1738 Gent Mag., 475.

6 At length the fox is brought to the furrier. 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*, 1666. Tornano, *Piazza Univ.*, 399. All votes are found at the furriers shop. 1880 Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 18. They think it is time that the fox went to the furrier, and they had their share of his skin.

7 At length the fox turns monk. 1611 Coigrevre, s v *Mone* 1640. Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*.

8 Every fox must pay his own skin.

9. *Fie upon hops* (query, misprint for “hens”) (quoth the fox) because he could not reach them. 1678: Ray, 142.


11. Foxes when sleeping have nothing fall into their mouths. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Emplumé,” The sleepy fox hath seldome feathered breakfasts. 1633: Draxe, 98. When the foxe sleepeh, nothing falleteh into his mouth. 1670: Ray, 10. 1736: Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, i. 443 (Bigelow), The sleeping fox catches no poultry.


13. *Good following the way where the old fox goes.* 1639: Clarke, 146.

14. He does not know a fox from a fern-bush. 1587: Bridges, *Def. of Govt. in Church of Eng.*, 99. It seemed (as the saying is) either a fox or a fearene brake. 1639: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 33 (1885), Beware the fox in a fearene bush. . . . Hypocrisy often clokes a knave. 1639: Clarke, 143. He spoke of a fox, but when all came to all, it was but a ferne brake. 1659: Howell, 16 [as in 1639]. 1846-59: Denham Tracts, ii. 107 (F.L.S.), Does not know a fox from a fern-bush. Cf. Goose (20).

15. He *has caught a fox = is drunk.* c. 1600: *Fryer Bacon*, in *Thoms, Early Prose Rom.*, i. 52 (1848), They kindly thanked Miles for his song, and so sent him home with a foxe at his tayle. 1690: *New Dict. Canting Crew*, sig. E7. He has caught a fox, he is very drunk.

16. He that hath a *fox for his mate hath need of a net at his girdle.* 1640: Herbert, *Jacc. Prudentium.*

17. He that will deceive the *fox must rise betimes.* 1640: Ibid. 1670: Ray, 10. 1732: Fuller, No. 2357.

18. *It is an ill sign to see a fox lick a lamb.* 1678: Ray, 142. 1748: *Gent. Mag.*, 21.


20. *The fox had a wound, etc., or The fox was sick.* 1659: Howell, 12 [wound]. 1678: Ray, 71, The fox was sick, and he knew not where: He clap’t his hand on his tail, and swore it was there. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial II., Ay; the fox had a wound, and he could not tell where, etc.

21. *The fox is taken when he comes to take.* c. 1610: Rowlands, *More Knaues Yet?*, 10 (Hunt. Cl.), And the old ancient prooverbe true did make, Some fox is taken, when he comes to take.

22. *The fox is the finder.* 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial I., Col. . . . Here’s a very bad smell. Miss. Perhaps, Colonel, the fox is the finder. 1846-59: Denham Tracts, ii. 107 (E.D.S.), The fox the finder.

23. *The fox kills the lambs, and the hounds the old sheep.* 1639: Chapman, *Two Wise Men*, III. i. [quoted as a proverb].

24. *The fox knows much, but more he that catcheth him.* 1631: Mabbe, *Celestina*, 264 (T.T.), If the foxe be crafty, more crafty is hee that catches him. 1732: Fuller, No. 4544. 1846-59: Denham Tracts, ii. 107 (F.L.S.).


26. *The fox praiseth the meat out of the crow’s mouth.* 1732: Fuller, No. 4546.

28 The fox that having lost his tail
See quot 1658 Flecknoe, Enigm Characters, 78, Like the fox, who having lost his own tail, would needs persuade all others out of theirs 1779 Boswell, Letters, ii 299 (Tucker), A Scotchman might preach on union to them [the Irish], as a fox who has lost his tail 1824 Scott, Redgauntlet, ch xxiii, "They that took my land the last time, may take my life this, and that is all I care about it." The English gentlemen who were still in possession of their paternal estates whispered among them of the fox which had lost his tail 1922 Weyman, Ovton's Bank, ch xxxi, Foxes who had lost their tails they felt themselves marked men until others followed their example.

29 The more the fox is cursed, the better he fares c 1560 Spelman, Dialogue, 109 (Roch Cl). The fox fareth best when he is moste careste [cursed] 1594 Greene, Friar Bacon, etc, sec vi 1660 Tatham, The Rump, II, The fox fares best when he is curst 1712 Motteux Quivole, Pt II ch 1 Let them laugh that win the cursed fox thrives the better 1853 Trench, Proverbs, 79 (1905), For the fox thrives best when he is most cursed, the very loudness of the clamour was itself rather an evidence how well they were faring.

30 The tail doth oft catch the fox 1576 Lamharde, Peramb of Kent, 362 (1826). For as the proverb is the tale is yonghe to bewray the foxe 1633 Draxe, 72

31 Though the fox run, the chicken hath wings 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1670 Ray, 4 1732 Fuller, No 5908

32 To be in a fox's sleep 1672 Walker, Param, 25 1681 W Robertson, Phrasol Generals, 639, To be in a foxes sleep, Somnum mensis 1796 O'Keeffe, The Doldrum, II 1, He sleeps aye like a fox 1875 N & O, 5th ser., iv 286, A few days ago I heard a working-man say, 'I was in a fox's sleep'.

33 To set the fox to keep the geese 1639 Clarke, 9 1709 O Dykes, Eng

Proverbs, 45, He sets the fox to keep his geese 1721 Bailey, Eng Dict, s.v. "Fox" [as in 1799]

34 What is the fox but his case? 1637 A Warwick, Spare Minutes, 84 (1826), Methinks the proverb sutes those sutes [gallants in brave stature], what is the fox but his case? Cf No 37

35 When the fox preaches, beware 1546 Towneley Plays, 12 (EEETS), How! let furth your eye, the fox will preache 1460 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vii 1609 Rowlands Whole Crew, etc, 14 (Hunt Cl), Take in your geese, the fox begins to preach 1602 L Estrange Aesop, 319 (3rd ed) 1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict, s.v. "Fox"

36 With foxes we must play the fox 1732 Fuller, No 5797

37 You can have no more of the fox than his skin 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch ix, He can have no more of the foxe but the skyn 1659 Howell, 4 Cf No 34

See also False (s), Fire (ix), Flap, Grapes, Lion (7), Quietness, Ram, Reynard, and Wily

Foxes brewings See Cocking

France 1 France is a meadow that cuts thrice a year 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

2 If that you will France win, Then with Scotland first begin 1548 Hall, Chron., 55 (1809), The old auncent proverbe whiche saith he that will Fraunce wyne, muste with Scotlaine firste beginne 1599 Shakespeare, Henry V, I ii

Fraud and deceit are always in haste 1732 Fuller, No 1611

Fredvile See Betshanger

Free as a bird in air 1635 in Somers Tracts, vii 204 (1811), He may trade as free as a bird in aire

Free as the wind 1609 Shakespeare, Coriolanus, I ix, Were he the butcher of my son, he should be free as is the wind c 1625 B & F, Double Marriage, IV ii, I am free, free as air 1822 Peacock, Maid
Marian, ch. xvi., But he roamed where he listed, as free as the wind.

Free of another man's pottage, You are very. 1732: Fuller, No. 5861.

Free of her lips free of her hips. 1576: Pettie, *Petite Pall,* ii. 32 (Golances), They are as loose of their lips and as free of their flesh as may be. 1678: Ray, 62. 1732: Fuller, No. 6269.

Free of his gifts as a blind man of his eye, As. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs,* Pt. I. ch. xi., As free of gyft as a poore man of his eie. 1580: Baret, *Alvareis,* D 994, As we say, he is as true of his promise, as a poore man of his eie. 1633: Draxe, 92, As free of his guilt, as a Iewe of his eye. 1670: Ray, 205, As free as a blindman is of his eye.


Freer than a gift, What is? 1583: Fulke, *Defence,* xv. 403 (O.), A gift that is freely gien... wherof the proverbe is, what is so free as gift? 1633: Draxe, 80, What is freer than gift? 1670: Ray, 93. 1732: Fuller, No. 5510.

French leave, To take. 1782: D'Aubray, *Diary,* i. 476 (1876), I felt myself extremely awkward about going away, not choosing, as it was my first visit, to take French leave. 1788: Colman, jr., *Ways and Means,* III. ii., You'd have taken leave without asking—French leave—if I had not been here. 1824: Scott, *Redgauntlet,* ch. xv., I took French leave, and... so I am free of all that business. 1883: R. L. S., *Treasure I.,* ch. xxii., As I was certain I should not be allowed to leave the enclosure, my only plan was to take French leave, and slip out when nobody was watching.


Frenzy, heresy, and jealousy. See quotas. Before 1529: Skelton, *Repetition,* l. 406, For he ye were assured
ageless things you say Are fresh as
May’s own flowers.

Fresh as paint 1850 Smedley, Frank
Farelegh, ch xi. You are looking as
fresh as paint, getting round again,
winds and limbs, eh? 1859 Sala, Twice
Round Clock, 8 p.m. 1912 Pmero
Mind the Paint! Girl, III p 146,
I feel as fresh as paint.

Fresh fish. See Fish (r).

Fret like gummed taffety. To 1605
R F, Sch of Slovenne, The Epistle.
The translator vows to conclude that
either Signior Malevola his suite of
gumme is fretted out at elbowes, or
1732 Fuller, No 146, He frets like
gum’d taffety 1738, Swift, Polite
Comers, Dial II, You have made him
fret like gum taffety

Friar and Friars. 1 Friar’s mouth
See Fish as a pudding.

2 Friars observant spare their own
and eat other men’s 1578 Floro,
First Frutes, fo 30, Observant friers
spare their owne, and eate that which
is other mens 1629 Book of Merry
Riddles Prov 112

3 Never friar forgot feud 1820
Scott, Monastery, ch x, I might have
remembered the proverb, “Never Friar
forgot feud.”

4 The friar preached against stealing
and had a goose (or pudding) in his
sleeve 1526. Hundred Merry Tales,
No lxx p 120 (Oesterley, 1866) [the
story of the stolen pudding falling out
of the friar’s sleeve] 1640, Herbert, Jac
Prudentum [goose] 1670, Ray, 95
[pudding] 1732 Fuller, No 4548
[goose] 1871, Smiles Character, 36
The teaching of the friar was not worth
much, who preached the virtue of
honesty with a stolen goose in his sleeve

5 What was good the friar never loved
1670, Ray, 94

6 When the friar’s beaten, then comes
James 1639 Clarke, 282 1670
Ray, 94 1672, Walker, Parrem, 10
See also Devil (118) and Fly, subj 1
Friday. 1 A Friday look (or face)
1592, Greene, in Works, xi 120
(Grosart), The love made a Friday
face, counterfeiting sorrow 1667
L’Estrange, Querido’s Visions, 152

(1904), I look what a Friday-face that
fellow makes! 1846, Denham,
Proverbs, 6 (Percy S). Has a Friday look
(sulkly, downcast) 1872, J Glyde, Jr.,
Norfolk Garland, 150, He has a Friday
look.

2 A Friday night’s dream on the
Saturday told, is sure to come true be it
never so old 1626, Overbury, Char
acters ‘Milkmaid,’” Only a Fridaes
dreamee is all her superstition that she
conceals for fear of anger 1831
Hone, Year-Book, 252, It is a common
saying and popular belief, that, Friday
night’s dreams, etc 1879, Hen
erson, Folk-Lore N Counties, 511
1883, Burne, Skrophsh Folk-Lore, 261
1884, Folk-Lore, Journal, III 279 [with “Sun
day” for “Saturday”—Derby].

3 A Friday’s feast 1639, Daven
port, New Trick, etc, III 1, I’d make
you both make but a Fridayes feast
1640, in Rollins, Cavalier and Puritan,
103 (1923), But now, at last the greedy
Scot, Hath a fridays breakfast got,
Few of such feasts will pull their courage
down.

4 A Friday’s fit will not long sit
1868, Atkinson, Cleveland Gloss [with
“never” for “not long”] 1917
Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 107 [Lanes]
Cf Saturday.

5 A Friday’s sail always fail 1875
A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 19
1924, Folk-Lore, xxxv 347, The
[Suffolk] fishermen say “A Friday’s
sail Always fail.”

6 As the Friday, so the Sunday
1853, N & Q, 1st ser, v 512, Fine
on Friday, fine on Sunday, Wet on
Friday, wet on Sunday (Northants)
1875, A B Cheales, Proverb Folk
Lore, 19, As the Friday, so the Sunday.
As the Sunday so the week 1886
Elworthy, West Som Word-Book, 271
(E D S), As Friday so Sunday 1893
Inwards, Weather Lore, 43, If on Friday
it rain, ’Twill on Sunday again, If
Friday be clear, Have for Sunday no
fear 1904, Ibid, 42, As the Friday so the
Sunday.

7 Friday is the best or the worst day
of the week 1286, Chaucer, Knight’s
Tale, 1 676, Right as the Friday, soothingly
Friday

for to telle, Now it shyneth, now it reyneth faste. 16th cent.: in Reliq. Antique, ii. 10 (1843), Vendredy de la semaine est le plus beau jour, ou le plus laid. 1830: Forby, Vocab. E. Anglia, 415, Friday is either a very fine or a very wet day. 1851: in N. & Q., 1st ser., iii. 153, A Shropshire lady tells me that her mother (who was born in 1760) used to say Friday was always the fairest, or the foulest, day of the week. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 43. Cf. Nos. 8 and 9.

8. Friday will be either king or underling. Wilts. This seems to be a fanciful version of No. 7. 1875: A. B. Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 19.

9. Friday's day as'll have his trick The fairest or foulest day o' the week. Another version of No. 7. 1883:Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 261.

10. Friday's hair and Sunday's horn Go to the Devil on Monday morn. It is considered wrong to cut the hair on Friday or the nails on Sunday. 1678: Ray, 204. 1851: N. & Q., 1st ser., iii. 462, The legend that I have heard in Devonshire... ran thus: Friday cut hair, Sunday cut horn, Better that man had never been born. 1878: N. & Q., 9th ser., ii. 436.

11. Friday's morn come when it will it comes too soon. [1656: Flecknoe, Diarium, 38, Now Friday came, your old wives say, Of all the week's the unluckiest day.] 1825: Brockett, Gloss. N. Country Words, 77. 1878: Dyer, Eng. Folk-Lore, 213.


13. Fridays in the week are never aleek [alike]. c. 1386: Chaucer, Knight's Tale, l. 681, Selde is the Fryday at the wyke i-like. 1850: N. & Q., 1st ser., i. 393, The following meteorological proverb is frequently repeated in Devonshire, to denote the variability of the weather on Fridays:—Fridays in the week are never aleek. 1874: W. Pengelly, in N. & Q., 5th ser., ii. 184. [Corn.] Friday and the week are seldom aleek. 1886: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 271 (E.D.S.), On Friday's weather we have... Friday in the week is seldom alike.

See also Sing (4); and Thursday (1). Friend and Friends. 1. A friend as far as conscience permits. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Conscience."

2. A friend in a corner. c. 1579: Harvey, Letter-Book, 80 (Camden S), Particular contentement of mynde that I have such an odd frende in a corner. 1607: Dekker, etc., Westw. Hoe, II. 11, Had it not been for a friend in a corner [Takes aqua-vita], I had kicked up my heels. c. 1663: Davenant, Play-House to be Let, V., And Caesar, you shall find—a friend in corner. 1681: W. Robertson, Phrascol. Generalis, 1056, A friend in a corner for a refuge. 1740: North, Examen, 611, For it might... happen that a friend in a corner had been of great service to them.


4. A friend in need is a friend indeed. c. 1270: Prov. of Alfred, in Kembre, Salomon and Sal., 247 (Ælfric S.), A sugere þe his help in mod (A safe fere [companion] is he that helps at need). 1484: Caxton, Æsop, ii. 251 (Jacobs), The very and trewe frend is fond in the extreme neede. 1581: T. Howell, Devises, 58 (1906), A friend thou art in deede, That helps thy friend in time of nipping neede. 1618: Harington, Epigrams, bk. ii. No. 101, Behold, how much it stands a man in steed, To have a friend answer in time of need. 1772: Graves, Spirit. Quixote, bk. viii. ch. xxi. [heading].

5. A friend in the market is better than money in the chest. 1732: Fuller, No. 110.

6. A friend is never known till a man
Friends

have need 1303 Brunne, Handl
Synne, I 2251, At nede shal men proue here frendys c 1470 G Ashby
Poems, 67 (E E T S), A frende is known in necesite 1546 Heywood,
Proverbs, Pt I ch vii 1653 Meriton,
Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697), A friend is
not known but in need 1732 Fuller,
No 118, A friend is never known till
needed

7 A friend is not so soon gotten as
lost 1567 Painter, Pal of Pleasure, n
177 (Jacobs), As the common proverbe
and wise sayinge reporteth, that the
vertue is no lesse to conserve frendship
gotten, than the wisedome was great
to get and win the same 1580 Lyly,
Euphues, 324 (Arber), A friend is
long a getting, and soone lost 1661
Webster and Rowley, Cure for a
Cuckold, III 1, They that study man
say of a friend, There's nothung in the
world that's harder found, Nor sooner
lost 1732 Fuller, No 1612

8 A friend to all is a friend to none [2 1570
Diogenes
Laertius, V 1 : Attributed to Aristotle
1623 Wodroope, Spared Housers, 475,
All men's friend, no man's friend
1666 Torriano, Piazza Univ, 8, Every
bodies friend is nobodies friend 1732
Fuller, No 120 1779 Johnson, in
Boswell's Life, 24 April, I believe he
is right, Sir 
He had friends, but no
friend If Many friends

9 A friend's frown See quotes 1570
A Barclay, Mrr of Good Manners, 21
(Spens S), For much better it is, To
bide a frendes anger then a foes kisse
A friends frown is better then a fools
smiles

10 A good friend never offends 1659
Howell, Proverbs Brit.-Eng., 23
11 All are not friends that speak ns
fair 1639 Clarke, x28 1670 Ray,
93 1732 Fuller, No 500
12 Be a friend to thyself, and others
will be so too Ibid No 847
13 Choose thy frie nds like thy books,
few but choice 1659 Howell, 10 (8).
14 Friends are like fiddle-strings,
they must not be screwed too tight 1855
Bohn, 358

15 Friends full flyers 1548 Hall,
Chron, 361 (1809), Freundes fayle fiers
1605 Camden, Remains, 322 (1870)
1639 Clarke, 25
16 Friends may meet but mountains
never 1530 Palsgrave, 635, Hylles do
never mete, but acquayntance dothe
often 1653 Wither, Dark Lantern,
29, Friends possibly may meet (our
proverb sayes) But mountains never
1754 Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict,
sv "Friend," Friends may meet but
mountains never greet

17 Friends must part c 1620 in
Roxb Ballads, 1 253 (B S), For friends,
you know, must part 1727 Gay,
Fables, 1st ser, No 50, But dearest
friends, alas! must part 1821 Scott,
Kensworth, ch vi, The best friends
must part

18 Friends through fortune become
enemies through mishap c 1386
Chaucer, Monk's Tale, I 254, For
what man that hath frendes thurgh
fortune, Mishap wol make hem enemys,
I gesse This provebre is ful sooth and
ful commune

19 Have but few friends though much
acquaintance 1659 Howell, 5 1670
Ray, 11 1732 Fuller, No 1807
20 He is my friend that grindeth at
my mill 1633 Draxe, 74 1670 Ray,
93 1732 Fuller, No 2464
21 He is my friend that succoureth
me 1477 Rivers, Dictes and Sayings,
57 (1877), He is a good frende that
dothe the[e] good c 1640 in Roxb
Ballads, in 288 (B S), But he is my
friend, That helps me i' the end 1732
Fuller, No 1205, He is my friend that
succoureth me, not he that pitthe me
22 He's a friend that speaks well
on's behind our backs 1678 Ray, 143
1732 Fuller, No 2465
23 Here's to our friends and hang up
the rest of our kindred 1678 Ray, 347
24 If you have one true friend, you
have more than your share 1732
Fuller, No 2760
25 It is good to have friends but bad
to need them 1669 New Help to
Discourse, 15
26 Make not thy friend too cheap to
thee, nor thy self to thy friend 1659
Howell, 18 [with "too dear to him" after "thine self"]. 1670: Ray, 10.

27. No man has a worse friend than he brings with him from home—himself. 1605: Camden, Remains, 335 (1670), Where shall a man have a worse friend than he brings from home? 1670: Ray, 94 [as in 1605]. 1738: Swift, Politic Converse, Dial. I., I see there’s no worse friend than one brings from home with one. 1831: Hone, Year-Book, col. 1417, You may find your worst enemy, or best friend, in yourself. 1853: Trench, Proverbs, 139 (1905).


29. Save a man from his friends, and leave him to struggle with his enemies. 1686: Hazlitt, 328.

30. The friend that faints is a foe. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), Sc. of Folly, 46, in Works, ii. (Grosart).


32. Wherever you see your friend trust yourself. 1639: Clarke, 26. 1670: Ray, 94.


See also Afraid of one’s friends;
Among; Best (21); Falling out; God defend me; God hath few; God send me; Good cheer; Kindred; Live (37); Lose (9); Many humble; Many kinsfolk; Merry when friends; Near friend; New friend; Old; C. Prove; Servant (7); True (10 and 13); Try (3); Two friends; and Write (1).

Friendship. 1. A broken friendship may be soder’d, but will never be sound. 1732: Fuller, No. 27.

2. Friendship is not to be bought at a fair. Ibid., No. 1619.


Fright a bird is not the way to catch her, To. 1653: Draxe, 2. 1670: Ray, 95. 1732: Fuller, No. 1627, Frightning of a bird is not the way to catch it. 1875: A. B. Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 127 [as in 1732].

Frog. 1. Frog and feathers. See quotes. 1823: Lockhart, Reg. Dalton, VI. i. 345 (1842) (O.), Whose coat was as bare of nap as a frog’s is of feathers. 1873: N. & Q., 4th ser., xi. 63, I, I remember a farmer in my parish, saying when describing to me an impoverished house, twenty-five years ago,—"It was as bare of furniture as a frog is of feathers." [Another version at the same reference:] "I’m as bare of brass as a toad is of feathers."

2. Frog and harrow. See Toad.

3. If frogs make a noise in the time of cold rain, warm dry weather will follow. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 3 (Percy S.).

4. Like a frog on a chopping-block. 1678: Ray, 289. 1732: Fuller, No. 723, As pert as a frog upon a washing-block.

5. The frog cannot out of her bog. 1670: Ray, 95. 1732: Fuller, No. 6113.

6. When the frog and mouse would take up the quarrel, the kite decided it. 1732: Fuller, No. 5586.

See also April (8); Gossips; Thunder (3); and Toad.

Frost. 1. A white frost never lasts more than three days. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 114.

2. Bearded frost, forerunner of snow. Ibid., 114.

3. Frost and falsehood have both a dirty gangway. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 5 (Percy S.).


5. Hear-frost and gipsies never say
the old folk of Sussex, and the same notion is found from Land's End to John o' Groats.

3. He that would have the fruit must climb the tree 1732 Fuller, No 2366

4. If you would have fruit, you must bring the leaf to the grace; i.e. transplant in autumn 1678 Ray, 53 1893

Inwards, Weather Lore, 8

5. No tree bears fruit in autumn that does not blossom in the spring 1846

Denham, Proverbs, 57 (Percy S)

Fry in one's own grease  See Grease

Fry me for a fool and you'll lose your fat in frying 1864 Cornish Proverbs,

in N & Q, 3rd ser vi 495

Frying-pan into the fire, Out of the [Plato, De Rep, viii 18 18 18, to wp el ip to τό νηστίσιν ζωόν—Lucian, Nechoy, 4. Perrennus igitur de calcana (quod dici solet) in carbonaram—Tertullian, De Carne Christi, vii 1528 Vore. Works, p 179 col 2 (1557), Lepe they like a flounder out of a frying-pan into the fryre 1501 Harrington, Ort Furioso, bk xii st 28, But I was say'd, as is the flounder, when he leapt from the dish into the fire 1627 Burton, Melancholy, I iv 1 286 (1836), Though, many times, as Æsops fishes, they leap from the frying pan into the fire itself 1677 Head and Kirkman, Eng Rogue, ii 53 1772 'Garrick Irish Widow, II, Out of the pan into the fire! there's no putting him off 1842 Barham, Ing Legends, 2nd ser 'M of Venice', 1921 Times Lit Suppl, 8 Sept, p 582, col 2, One is left with an uncomfortable suspicion that Virginias future may not impossibly exemplify the old saying about the frying-pan into the fire

See also Pot (6)

Fuel to the fire, To add [ά πέρι στέιλ —Plato, Legg, 666A Velut materiam igni praehacents —Livy, xx 10 ] καὶ τοξικόν —Troillus, bk 34. 3 1380 Chaucer, Troilus, bk n 1 1332 Through more wode or col, the more fryr 1592 Warner, Alb England, ch lxv st 27 All adding fuel to the fire 1632 Massenger, Maid of Honour, II 1 'Tis far From me, sir, to add fuel to your anger, That burns Too hot already 1671 A Behn, Amorous Prince, I ii , Every look adds
fuel to my flame. 1712: Motteux, *Quixote*, Pt. I, bk. iv, ch. vii., Anselmo . . . so added new fuel to the fire that was to consume his reputation. 1843: Planché, *Extravag.,* ii. 248 (1879), Each look is fuel added to my fire.

Full as a jade, quoth the bride. 1678: Ray, 285. 1732: Fuller, No. 2584.

Full as a piper’s bag. 1678: Ray, 284.


Full as a toad of poison. 1678: Ray, 284.

Full as a tun. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs,* Pt. I, ch. xi., As fulle as a tunne. 1633: Draxe, 79 bis, He is fed as full as a tun.

Full as an egg. See Egg (5).

Full bellies make empty skulls. 1732: Fuller, No. 1633.

Full belly neither fights nor flies well, A. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentium.* 1732: Fuller, No. 1634, Full guts neither run away, nor fight well.


Full cup must be carried steadily, A. c. 1300: *Prov. of Hending,* st. 16 (ed. Berlin, 1878), When the coppe is folest, thenne ber hire feyrest. 1732: Fuller, No. 122.

Full nor fasting. See Never well.

Full of courtesy. See Courtesy (3).

Full of himself that he is quite empty, He’s so. 1732: Fuller, No. 2472.

Full of items. 1886: Elworthy, *West Som. Word-Book,* 374 (E.D.S.), One of the commonest of sayings . . . is “All full of his items,” to describe a restless fidgety person. 1920: *Devonsh. Assoc. Trans.,* lii. 70, “He’s vull o’ items,” meaning he is very fidgety about things.

Full of sin. See quot. 1924: *Devonsh. Assoc. Trans.,* lv. 112, “Her’s zo vull o’ sin’s a cat is of hairs.”

Full of unbelief. Said of a cow that will not stay in her pasture. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs,* 60.

Full purse makes the mouth to speak, A. 1602: Carew, *Surv. of Cornwall,* 315 (1811), A full purse begetting a stout stomach. 1670: Ray, 22. 1732: Fuller, No. 123, A full purse makes the mouth run over.


Further off the better looked upon, The. Glos. 1911: *Folk-Lore,* xxii. 239.


Further you go, the further behind, The. 1477: Rivers, *Dices and Sayings,* 144 (1877), He that goth owte of his weye, the more he goth, the fether he is behinde. 1530: Palsgrave, 852, The farder I go, the more I am behynde. 1670: Ray, 11, The further we go the further behind. 1732: Fuller, No. 4552, The further you run, the further you are behind.

Furze is out of bloom [=never], kissing is out of fashion, When the. 1752: *Poor Robin Alman.,* August, Joan says: “Furze in bloom is still,” and she’ll be kiss’d if she’s her will. 1855: *N. & Q.* 1st ser., xi. 416, When the gorse is out of blossom, kissing is out of fashion. 1899: Dickinson, *Cumb. Gloss.,* 363, When t’ whins is oot o’ blossom kissin’s oot o’ fashion.

Furze. See also Under the furze.
Gabriel blows his horn, When, this question will be decided 1659 Howell, Proverbs, To Philologers

Gadding gossips shall dine on the pot lid 1732 Fuller No 1637

Gain, verb I He gaineth enough whom fortune inoseth 1611 Cotgrave, s v " Gaigner," Asez gaigne qui malheur perd He gets enough that misses an ill turn 1629 Book of Marty Raddies Prov 60

2 He that gains time gains all things 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 380

3 To gain teacheth how to spend 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

Gain, subs I No gains without pains 1577 J Grange, Golden Aphoristics, sig Ml, Who will the fruitle that harvest yeeldes must take the payne 1589 L Wright, Display of Dute, 4. No game without pain 1670 Ray, 129, Without pains, no pains 1736 Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, 1 443 [Bigelow] 1775 O'Hara, Two Misers, II 1853 Trench, Proverbs, 169 (1905), They consequently accept the law of labour, no pains, no gains 2 Who needeth not gain, must expect loss 1664 " Cornish Proverbs," in N & Q 3rd set, vi 494

Gainsborough See quot 1805 W White, East England, u 41, Poor Gainsburgh, proud people, Built a new church to an old steeple 1889 Peacock Manley, etc Gloss, 226 (E D S) [without " Poor "]

Galled horse, Touch a, and he'll kick (or wince) Before 1384 Wichl, Works, in 231 (Arnold). As a horse unrubbed, that has a sore back, wynses when he is oght touched or rubbed on his rugge c 1483 Quatuor Sermones, 27 (Roxb Cl). A gallied horse that is touchyd on the sore wynseth and wryth 1560 L Wager, Mary Magdalene, Proil. A horse will kick if you touche where he is galled 1602 Shakespeare, Hamlet, III ii, Let the galled jade wince, our withers are unwrung 1621 Burton, Melancholy, Dem to Reader, 74 (1836).

It is not my freeness of speech, but a guilty conscience, a galled back of his own that makes him wince 1697 Vanbrugh, Prov Wife, V, How the gall'd horse kicks 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I, Touch a gall'd horse, and he'll wince 1784 New Foundl Hosp for Wit, n 32. Like a gall'd jade he winces

See also Scabbed horse

Gallows groans for you, The 1577 Misogonnis, I iv, The gallows groves for this wage as just ripe ripe 1585 Nomenclator, 525, One for whom ye gallows groves 1611 Cotgrave, s v " Pendard." A rake-hell, crack-ripe, gallow-clapper, one for whom the gallows longeth 1738 Swift, Polite Converses, Dial I 1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict, s v " Gallows." The gallows groans for him

Gallows will have its own at last, The 1855 Bohn, 506

Galtz's cat See quot 1925 Devon and Corn N & Q, xii 206, His race is 146, like Galtz's cat (Mid Cornwall)

Game is not worth the candle, The 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum, It is a poor sport that is not worth the candle 1668 Cowley, Essays, No 10, Yet when the light of life is so near going out, and ought to be so precious, Le jeu ne vaut pas la Chandele, The play is not worth the expence of the candle 1704 Gent Instructed, 556 (1732). After all, these discoveries are not worth the candle 1883 Trollope, Autobag, ch x, To do all this thoroughly was in my heart from first to last, but I do not know that the game has been worth the candle 1919 J A Bridges, Vict Recollections, 163, If he occasionally doubted whether the game was worth the candle, he was generally one of the happiest of men

Game's end we shall see, who gains, At the 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum
Gamsters 243

Garrick, As deep as. 1880: Courtenay, W. Cornwall Words, xiii. (E.D.S.). 1889: Peacock, Manley, etc., Gloss., 162 (E.D.S.). 1907: N. & Q., 10th ser., viii. 257, Seventy years ago a common expression in Cornwall and Devon, in description of a specially acute or clever man, was that he was "as deep as Garrick." [See an article by A. Smythe Palmer in Nineteenth Century, Sept. 1910, pp. 550–2.]

Gaunt as a greyhound. 1678: Ray, 285, As gant as a greyhound. 1848: Thackeray, Van. Fair, ch. lvii., He was quite well (though as gaunt as a greyhound).

Gauntlet of a hedging-glove, Make not a. 1639: Clarke, 5. 1670: Ray, 96. 1732: Fuller, No. 3318.

Gay as a goldfinch. 1821: Scott, Kentworth, ch. v., Thou art gay as a goldfinch.

Geese. See Goose.

Gelt. See quot. Gelt is the last peak of the Helvellyn Mountains. 1846–59: Denham Tracts, i. 160 (F.L.S.), When Gelt puts on his night-cap, 'tis sure to rain.

Gentility without ability is worse than plain beggary. 1670: Ray, 96. 1831: Hone, Year-Book, 1416 [with "plain" omitted].

Gentle as a falcon. [1412–20: Lydgate, Troy Book, bk. ii. l. 6605, Ageyn the faunon—gentil of nature ... ] Before 1529: Skelton, Garl. of Laurell, Gentyll as fauscoun. 1579: Marr. of Wit and Wisdom, sc. ii. p. 14 (Sh. S.), You shall find him as gentell as a fauscoun.

Gentle Craft, The, i.e. shoemaking. 1594: R. Wilson, Coblers Proph., l. 1677 (Malone S.), Ile ... fall to my old trade of the gentle craft the cobler. 1637: L. Price, in Pepsyian Garland, 447 (1922). The gentle craft doth beare good will to all kind hearted trades-men still. 1713: Ward, Hist. Grand Rebellion, iii. 464. When young, of Crispin's gentle craft by trade. 1854–7: Southern, Doctor, ch. iii., St. Crispin in of the Gentle Craft. 1921: Times Lit. Suppl., 29 Dec., p. 868, col. 3. There must have been some reason, in times gone by, for the term of the "gentle

1732: Fuller, No. 826. At the end of the game you'll see who's the winner.

Gamsters and race-horses never last long. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

Gaming, women and wine, while they laugh, they make men pine. Ibid.

Gander. See Goose.

Gangs up. See quot. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, ii. 147. When it gangs up i'sops, It'll fau down i' drops.

Gape, verb. 1. He that gapeth till he be fed. Well may he gape until he be dead. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. ix., He that gapeth till he be fed, Male fortune to fast and famishe for hounger. 1732: Fuller, No. 6459. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. vii., He that gapes till he be fed, will gape till he be dead.


4. You may gape long enough ere a bird fall in your mouth. 1639: Clarke, 153. 1670: Ray, 96. 1732: Fuller, No. 5945.

Gape-seed, She is fond of. 1830: Forby, Vocab. E. Anglia, 437. 1872: J. Glyde, jr., Norfolk Garland, 149.

Gapping is catching. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v.

Gardener, As is the, so is the garden. 1732: Fuller, No. 701.

Garlands are not for every brow. Ibid., No. 1642.


2. See quot. 1609: J. Melton, Sis-fold Politician, 35. (according to the proverbe): the smell of Garlick takes away the stink of dunghills.

See also Eat (14); and White (17).
craft,” applied only to the shoemaker’s occupation.

Gentle heart is tied with an easy thread, A 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

Gentle hound should never play the cur, A Before 1529 Skelton, Gent of Laurell, 1 1436

Gentle housewife mars the household, A 1611 Cotgrave, s.v. Femme, The over gentle housewife marres her household 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

Gentle is that gentle does 1854 J W Warter, Last of Old Squares, 43, His common saying was “Gentle is that gentle does”

Gentleman 1 A gentleman may make a king and a clerk may prove a pope 1591 Harington, Ort Furioso, bk v, Annot. According to the old proverb, A gentleman, etc.

2 A gentleman of the first head, or, A dunghill gentleman 1552 Huloet, Abced, sig N5. Gentlemen of the first head, or ironce to be applied to such as would be esteemed a gentleman, having no poynt or qualitie of a gentleman, nor gentleman borne 1583 Stubbes, Anat of Abuses, 122 (N Sh S). Notwithstanding he be a dunghill gentleman, or a gentleman of the first head, as they use to term them 1666 Choice Chance, etc., 69 (Grosart). A gull, that for a little wealth was made a gentleman of the first head 1681 W Robertson, Phraseol Generalis 710. A gentleman of the first head, Novus homo

3 A gentleman ought to travel abroad, but dwell at home 1732 Fuller, No 127

4 A gentleman should have more in his pocket than on his back 1732 Ibid., No 128 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch ii

5 A gentleman will do like a gentleman 1630 Brathwait, Eng Gent., 148 (1641) [quoted as “a common saying amongst us”]

6 A gentleman without an estate is a pudding without suet 1659 Howell, 12 [with “money” for “an estate”] 1732 Fuller, No 129

7 A gentleman’s greyhound and a salt-box, seek them at the fire 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

8 Gentlemen and rich men are venison in heaven, that is, “very rare and dainty to have them come thither” c 1577 Northbrooke, Against Dying, etc., 22 (Sh S)

9 He was meant for a gentleman but was spoiled in making 1738 Swift, Polite Covers, Dial I, I think she was cut out for a gentlewoman, but she was spoiled in the making 1830 Forby, Virab E Angla 434 1872 J Glyde, Jr., Norfolk Garland, 150

10 It is not the gay coat that makes the gentleman 1639 Clarke, 124 1670 Ray, ii 1732 Fuller, No 3002 [with “fine” for “gay” and “fine” before “gentleman”]

11 Knowledge begins a gentleman, but his conversation that completes him 1732 Fuller, No 3136

12 What’s a gentleman but his pleasure? 1573 G Harvey, Letter-Book, 15 (Camden S.) 1595 Maroccus Exilat, 10 (Percy S), You shall find in an old tracte printed by Winkin de Woorde, this olde sayde sawe What’s a gentleman but his pleasure? 1670 Ray, 96

13 Who would be a gentleman, let him storm a towne... 1670 Ray, 11

See also Adam

Gentry by blood is bodily gentry 1732 Fuller, No 1647

Gentry sent to market will not buy one bushel of corn Before 1598 Lord Buryghley, in Peck, Dest Curiosa, 47 (1779), For a man can buy nothing in the market with gentility 1662 Fuller, Worthies, in 441 (1840) [quoted as “the plain proverb”] 1670 Ray, 96

Geordy Potter See quot 1846-59 Denham Tracts, 1 76 (F L S). Lost in a wood, like Geordy Potter o’ Sadberge there is a rather long explanatory story

George of Green See Good as

Geards Ballif See quot 1678 Ray, 355, Here is Geards Ballif, work or you must die with cold Somerset

German’s lips See quotes 1546

Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch ii, Just (quoth she), As Iermans lips 1579
German's wit is in his fingers, The. 1605: Sylvester, *Du Bartas*, Week II. Day ii. Pt. 3. l. 676, The Northern-man, whose wit in's fingers setteth. 1611: Coryat, *Crudities*, ii. 81 (1605), In so much that they say, the Germanes have their wit at their fingers ends. 1659: Fuller, *Proverbs*: *Ital.-Eng.*, 17. The Germanes have their wits at their fingers ends, viz. good artificers.

Germoe. See Beage.

Get, verb. I. Get up early. See Rise.

2. Get what you can, and what you get hold; 'Tis the stone that will turn all your lead into gold. 1736: Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, i. 451 (Bigelow).

3. Getting out well is a quarter of the journey. 1732: Fuller, No. 1648.

4. He gets by that as Dickens did by his distress. 1639: Clarke, 82.

5. He who gets doth much, but he who keeps doth more. 1855: Bohn, 399.

6. To get out of the way of the waggon = To go one's way. Dorset. 1689: Hazlitt, 416.

7. What he gets, he gets out of the fire. 1678: Ray, 249.


Giant loves the dwarf, The. 1860: Blackmore, *Lorna Doone*, ch. 1. And verified the proverb that the giant loves the dwarf.

Giant will starve with what will surfeit a dwarf, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 209.

Giddy. See Dizzy.

Gift-gaff was a good fellow. 1549: Latimer, Seven: *Sermons*, 84 (Arber), 1598: *Servingw. Comfort*, in *Incredil

Tracts*, 130 (Hazlitt), The giffe gaffe promise he repentes. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 322 (1870), Give gaff is a good fellow. 1670: Ray, 96, Gift gaff was a good man, but he is soon weary. 1824: Scott, *Rogainile*, ch. xiii, I have pledged my word for your safety, and you must give me yours to be private in the matter—gift-gaff, you know. 1868: Atkinson, *Cleveland Gloss.*, 217, Gift-gaff, sb. The interchange of familiar or unstudied conversation on cursory topics. 1913: E. M. Wright, *Rustic Speech*, etc., 121, Gift-gaff . . . mutual obligation, reciprocity, used especially in the proverbial saying; gift-gaff makes good friends.

Gift and Gifts. 1. A gift long waited for is sold not given. 1732: Fuller, No. 130.


4. Gifts from cueenies are dangerous. 1732: Fuller, No. 1650.

5. Gifts make beggars bold. 1669: *Politiephilia*, 86. 1732: Fuller, No. 1651.

6. Gifts on nails. See Nails (3).

7. He has a gift. See quot. 1828: Carr, *Craven Dialect*, i. 182, "He's a gift at God nivver gave him," i.e. he is a notorious liar.

xvi, I thought I was not to look a
gift-horse in the mouth, sir

9 Throw no gift again at the giver's
head 1546 Heywood Proverbs, Pt I
ch xi 1633 Draxe, 80 A man must
not throw a gift at the givers head

Gilt off the gingerbread, To take the
1830 Forby Vocab L Anglia, 432,
It will take the gilding off the ginger-
bread 1927 Observer 27 Feb, p.22,
col 3 It was happy news that our
income had increased by £76,000
and that the new year had started with
a surplus of £26,000 But Mr Jenkin-
son quickly removed the gilt from our
gingerbread

Gilt spurs do not make the knight
1572 J Bossewell, Works of Armorize,
fo 90, Chaucer saveth that habite
maketh no mouche, ne wearing of gylte
spurres maketh no knyghte

Gumingham, Trumingham, Knap-
ton and Trunch, North Repps and South
Repps are all of a bunch 1670 Ray,
245 1790 Gros Prov Gloss, s v
"Norfolk" 1865 W White, East
England, i 688

Gip See quotas 1659 Howell, 4;
Gip quoth Gilbert when his mare 1—
1678 Ray, 85, Gip with an ill rubb0ing,
quoth Badger when his mare kickt
This is a ridiculous expression, used
people to that pertysh and froward
Gipsies See Frost (5)

Girdle will not gird me, That 1732
Fuller, No 4343

Give 1 A givn base is soon put out of
sight 1855 Robinson, Whisty Gloss, 71
2 Give a clowm your finger, and he
will take your hand 1640 Herbert,
Jac Prudentium 1670 Ray, 5 [with
'whole' before 'hand']
3 Give a loaf and a beg a shire [shoe]
1678 Ray 247 1879 G F Jackson,
Shropsh Word-Book, 376, 'Er wuz too
good natured, 'er gud the loaf an' 'as
to beg the shire
4 Give advise See Advice
5 Give and be blessed 1548 Hall,
Chron, 16 (1809), Wheor of the prowerbe
began, gave and be blessed, take awake
and bee accursed
6 Give her the bells and let her fly
1603, Dekker, Pat Grissil, I. He be

hangd if he do not geue her the
belles, let her flye 1847 Hallwell,
Dict, s v "Bells," an old proverb
taken from hawking, applied to
the dismissal of any one that the owner
has no longer occasion for

7 Giving is dead and restoring very
sick 1578 Forno, First Frates, to 30,
Geuyng is dead and restoring is ye
at ease 1670 Ray, 17 [with 'now a
day's after 'dead'] 1732 Fuller,
No 1662, deadly sick 1880
Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 7
They used to say that "Give" is dead,
and "Restore" is buried, but I do not
believe it

8 Giving much to the poor doth enrich
a man's store 1640 Herbert, Jac Pru-
dentium 1732 Fuller, No 6114 1880
Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 7

9 Giving to God is no loss 1875
A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 148
10 He can give little to his servant
that licks his knife 1640 Herbert,
Jac Prudentium

II He gives twice that gives quickly
[Duplex fit bonitas, simul accessit
celenatas—Pub Syr, 147] e 1385
Chaucer, Leg Good Women, Prov, 1 447,
For who so yeve a yift, or doth a
grace, Do hit by tyme, his thanx is
wel the more 1539 Taverner, Pro-
verbs, fo 25, He gyueth twice yt gyueth
quckely 1560 T Wilson, Rhetorique,
119 (1596), He gyueth twaze that gyueth
sone and cherefully 1631 F Lent0n,
Characters, sig H2 (1663), He that gives
timely gives twice 1712 Motteux,
Quixote, Pt I bk iv ch vi 1846
Wright, Essays on Middle Ages, 1 146
12 He that gives his goods before he
be dead See quotas 1640 Herbert,
Jac Prudentium, He that gives all be-
fore he dies provides to suffer 1653
Merton, Yorkshire Ale, 537 (1697).
He that gives all his geir to his bairns
may tuck a mull and knock out his
harness [brauns] 1740 S Palmer,
Moral Essays on Proverbs, 27, Give
away all before I am dead And take a
beetle and knock me o' th head
1735 Inscription on front wall of
Hospital at Leominster, founded 1735.
He that gives away all Before he 1
dead, let 'em take this hatchet and knock him on ye head.

13. He that gives me small gifts would have me live. C. 1320: in Relig. Antiquae, i. 112 (1641), "That me lutele geveth, he my lyf ys on"; Quoth Hendyng. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

14. He who gives to another bestows on himself. 1681: Rycaut, tr. Graciian's Critick, 240. 1732: Fuller, No. 2114, He that gives to a worthy person, bestows a benefit upon himself.

15. I thought I would give him one, and lend him another, "i.e. I would be quit with him." 1670: Ray, 177.


17. To give a thing and take a thing, is to wear the devil's gold ring—with variants. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Retirer." To wear the devills gold-ring (say we in a trivial proverb). 1663: Killigrew, Parson's Wedding, III. v., Fie! give a thing and take a thing? 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 79, As the English say, to give a thing, and take it again is the devil's gold ring. 1678: Ray, 146, Give a thing and take again, And you shall ride in hell's wain. 1816: Byron, Letters and Journals, iv. 11 (Prothero), It is so like these fellows, to do by it as they did by their sovereigns—abandon both; to parody the old rhymes, "Take a thing and give a thing"—"Take a king and give a king." 1894: N. & Q., 8th ser., vi. 155, Another saying among boys is—Give a thing and take a thing, To wear the devil's gold ring. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lances Sayings, 43, Give a thing—'tak a thing; God's good ring!

18. To give always, there is never no end. [Largitto fundum non habet. — Cicero, Off., ii. xv. 55.] 1623: Wodrow, Spared Hours, 475.

19. To give and keep there is need of wit. 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. lviii. [as in 1732]. 1670: Ray, 11. 1712: Motteux, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. lviii., I guess he stuck to the proverb, To give and keep what is fit, requires a share of wit. 1732: Fuller, No. 6353, To give and to have, DOTH a braine cave.

20. To give one as good as one brings.

1542: Udall, tr. Erasmus' Apoph., i. 139 (1877), Plato paid Diogenes home againe well enough, and gave as good as he brought. 1676: Etheredge, Man of Mode, I., To him! give him as good as he brings. 1709: O. Dykes, Eng. Proverbs, 230, You shall have as good as you bring, at Billingsgate; not to say, worse. 1843: Carlyle, Past and Present, bk. ii. ch. xii., Everywhere we try at least to give the adversary as good as he brings.

21. To give one's head for the washing (or for nought). C. 1500: Medwall, Nature, 1. 721, A well drawn man ys he and a well taught That wyl not gyue hys hed for nought. 1596: Nashe, Haue with You, in Works, iii. 106 (Grosart), The time was when he would not have given his head for the washing. 1602: Chettle, Hoffman, III. ii. 1625: B. & F., Cufid's Revenge, IV. iii., And so am I, and forty more good fellows, That will not give their heads for the washing, I take it. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I. 1647: Halliwell, Dict., s.v. "Head," To give ... washing, to submit to be imposed upon.

22. To give or to forbear requires judgment. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Give."

23. To give up the girde—To submit. C. 1350: Alexander, I. 181, Bot gefe thaim up the girdill. 1655: Howell, Letters, bk. iv. No. xix., The other [French] proverb is, II a guillte sa ceinture, he hath given up his girdle; which intimated as much as if he had become bankrupt, or had all his estate forfeited.

24. What thou sparest from giving for God's sake, the devil will carry another way. 1541: Coverdale, Christ. State Matrimony, sig. I4 [cited as "the common proverbe"].

25. Who gives to all denies all. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Donner," He that gives me all denies me all: viz. He that offers me all, means to give me nothing. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium

26. You give me roast and beat me with the spit. 1560: T. Wilson, Rhetorique, 131 (1899), Such are not to bee liked that give a man a shoulder of mutton,
and breake his head with the spitte
when they haue done 1658 in Mus-
sarum Delicia, 1 280 (Hotten) 1776
E Ward, Female Policy, 53, She will
give thee roast-meat, but beat thee
with the spitt 1855 Robinson Whitby
Gloss, 165, Never invite a friend to a
roast and then beat him with the spitt
1913 E M Wright, Rustic Speech,
etc., 172 (as in 1855)
Glad as a fowl See Fowl
Gladness, A man of, seldom falls into
madness 1659 Howell, 17 1670
Ray II 1732 Fuller, No 6235
Glass houses See quots 1630 Her-
bright Jac Prudenum, Whose house is
of glass must not throw stones at
another 1720 C Shadwell, Sham
Prince I u, Ay couzen, no body
should throw stones, whose house is
made of glass 1793 Grose, Ovio, 281
(2nd ed.), One who has a head of glass
should never engage in throwing stones
1842 Barham, Ing Legends, 2nd ser
St Medard," If you‘ve any glass
windows never throw stones! 1802
Shaw, Widowers’ Houses, II, People
who live in glass houses have no right
to throw stones 1909 De Morgan
Never can happen Again, I 159, Why
condemn him? No!—Lizarann lived in
a glass house, and wouldn‘t throw
stones
Glass tells you, What your, will not
be told by counsel 1630 Herbert, Jac
Prudenum 1670 Ray, II
Glasses and lasses are brittle, ware
1666 Torrano, Piazza Univ, 304,
Glass and a maid ever in danger 1736
Bailey, Dict, s v 1875 A B Cheales
Proverb Folk-Lore, 4
Glastonbury See Old, D (7), and
Shaftesbury
Glean before the cart has carried, To
1546 Heywood Proverbs, Pt I ch xi,
Thou goest a glenyng er the cart have
carried 1633 Draxe, 175, Hee goeth
a gleaning before that the cart have
carried
Glorious Sixth of May, The 1917
Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 114 [6 May,
1807—see a long story at the reference
given]
Gloucester See Worcester
Gloucestershire, As sure as God’s in
1655 Fuller, Church Hist, bk vi
§ 11 (iv 15). Hence the topical
wicked proverb "As sure as God
is in Gloucestershire," as if so many
convents had certainly fastened His
gracious presence to that place 1724
Stukeley, Itin Cur., 64, The old
proverb, as sure as God’s at Gloucester
1858 P J Bailey, The Age, 44
1898 Gibbs, Cotswold Village, ch iv
1920 Ditchfield, Byways in Berkshire,
etc., 276
Gloucestershire kindness, giving away
what you don’t want yourself 1894
Northall, Folk Phrases, 14 (E D S)
Glowing coals will be sparkling
1633 Draxe, 84, Glowing coales sparkle
often 1732 Fuller, No 1662
Glouton lights her lamp, When
the, the air is always damp 1893
Inwards, Weather Lore, 145
Glue did not hold, The, “t’ o You were
baulked in your wishes you missed
your aim” 1813 Ray, 196
Glutton 1 A glutton is never generous
1855 Bohn, 287
2 A glutton young a beggar old
Cited as “the old saying” 1880
Spurgeon Ploughman’s Pictures, 11
3 Non sithet so soe as the gloton
that maie no more Before 1500 Hill,
Commonplace-Book, 129 (E E T S)
4 Who hastens a glutton choke him
1640 Herbert, Jac Prudenum
Gluttony kills more than the sword
C 1535 Dialogues of Creatures, ccxxviii
(1876), Many moo people be glotonye
is slayne, Then in batell or in fight, or
with other peyne 1580 Lyly, Euphues,
275 (Arber). More persh by a surfeit
then the sword C 1625 B & F,
Women Pleased, I u, Surtfeits destroy
more than the sword 1669 Pol-
tephusa, 302, By gluttony more die
then persh by the sword 1736
Bailey, Dict, s v “Surfeit,” Surtfeits
slay more than swords Cf More die
Go, verb 1 Do not say go but gaw,
“viz go thy self along,” 1659 Howell,
4 1669 Dudley North, Obs and Adv
Econom, 50, In small families espe-
cially in the country, the master may
say Cow (as we phrase it in East
England) or go we, implying that he will accompany them. 1670: Ray, ii. 1823: Moor, Suffolk Words and Phrases. A farmer observed, that when his mother called the maids at "milking time," she never said "go" but "gow."

2. Go forward and fall, go backward and mar all. 1639: Clarke, i02. 1670: Ray, 177. 1738: Gent. Mag., 475. Go back and fall; go forward and mar all.

3. Go here away, go there away, quoth Madge Whitworth, when she rode the mare i' th' tedder. 1678: Ray, 85.


5. Go it cripples, crutches are cheap. 1809: Hazlitt, 143.

6. Go shake your ears. See Shake your ears.

7. Go to bed and sleep for wit, and buy land when you have more money. 1886: R. Holland, Cheshire Gloss, 448 (E.D.S.). 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 62.

8. Go to the devil and shake yourself. c. 1816: T. Wilson, Companion to Ballroom, 86 [an Irish jig so entitled]. 1846-59: Denham Tracts, i. 46 (F.L.S.). We have also, in the south of England, "Go to Bath!" and the whole of which are pretty much on a par with the still more impious one of "Go to the devil and shake yourself." 1862: Borrow, Wild Wales, ch. xxv. And when I persisted, [he] bade me go to the Divil and shake myself. Cf. Shake your ears.


10. He goes (or runs) far that never turns. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ix. He runneth far that never turneth again. 1577: Misgounis, i. i., He goeth far that never tournes agayne, as folks say. 1606: T. Heywood, If You Know Not Me, Pt. II., in Dram. Works, i. 329 (1784). But he goes far that never turns. 1633: in Pepysian Garland, 420 (1922). He runs farre that ne'r turneth, is a proverbe still in use.

11. He goes upright that never halts. c. 1592: Sir T. More, 23 (Malone S.).

12. He is going to grass with his teeth upwards = He is going to be buried. 1813: Ray, 196.

13. He that goes and comes maketh a good voyage. 1578: Florio, First Fruits, fo 29 [with "returneth" for "comes"]. 1629: Book of Meery Riddles, Prov. 90.

14. He that goes barefoot. See Thorn (1).

15. He that goes softly, goes safely. 1549: Latimer, Seven Sermons, 28 (Arber). For as they say commonly Qui vadit plane, vadit sane, that is, He that walketh playnly, walketh safely. 1861: W. Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 672.

16. He that goes to bed sober. See Often drunk.


18. How does he go through dirt? 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 75. . How does he bear suffering or temptation?

19. To go a high lone. 1586: Pettie, tr. Guazzo's Civil Conuers., fo. 12. All beasts so soone as they are delitered from their dam get vpon there feete, and are able to stand a high alone. 1672: Walker, Param., 37. To go a high lone; by himself.

20. To go about the bush. See Beat (4).


22. To go round land = To die. 1888: Q.-Couch, Troy Town, ch. xi., He went round land at las', and was four' dead in his bed. 1926: Devonsh. Assoc. Trans., lvii. 152, "'E's a gone round land," i.e. died.

23. To go the whole hog. 1836: Narryat, Japhet, ch. liv., As you are not prepared, as the Americans say, to go the whole hog, we will part good
friends 1846 Bentley Ballads, 20 (1876), Each a democrat dog. That will go the whole hog

24 To go to heaven on a feather-bed
1630 Brathwait, Eng Gent., 152
(1641), Wee cannot go to heaven on beds of down 1682 W Robertson, Phraseol Generalis, 718, None go to heaven on a feather-bed 1736 Bailey, Dict. s. v. Way"

25 To go to heaven in a string
To be hanged Before 1635 Corbet, Poems in Chalmers, v. 582, Thou shalt shail to Heaven in a string. We'll all be glad, Great Tom, to see thee hang'd
1679 in Roxb Ballads, iv 147 (B S), But some are gone to heaven in a string
1710 T Ward Eng Reform, 178 (1716), And go to heaven in a string
1778 T Cogan, John Bunche, Jr., ii 251
26 To go to pot See Pot (7)
27 Who goes a borrowing See Borrow (3)

28 Who goes to bed supperless, all night tumbles and tosses 1567 Painter Pal of Pleasure, 0 215 (Jacobs). Accordyng to the proverbe He that go to bed supperlesse, lyeth in his bed restlesse 1670 Ray, 37 1906 J M Rugg, tr Decameron, t 207, I have heard you say a thousand times, "Who fasting goes to bed, uneasy lies his head

29 You go as if nine men held you
1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi. Ye ren to worke in haste as nine men helde ye 1672 Walker, Param., 20, To go as if nine men pull'd you and ten men held you 1678 Ray, 348
30 You may go farther and fare worse [Nota mala res optimast—Plantus, Trim, 63] 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch n, You might have gone further and have faren wurs 1632 Shirley, Lose in a Maze, II u, I may go farther, and fare worse 1738 Swift, Polite Convers., Dial II 1834-7 Southey, Doctor, ch vni p1, Because if there be no Purgatory, the Dean may have gone farther and fared worse 1905 E G Hayden, Travels Round our Village, 95, I reckon them two or three in the gun wed, an' he med go further an'

fare wuss, fur she's a swate purty cuttur

Goat and Goats 1 An old goat it never the more reverend for his beard
1732 Fuller, No 646 1901 N & Q, 9th ser, viii 510
2 Contend not about a goat's beard
1732 Fuller, No 1151
3 Goats are not told at every far
1 bid, No 1667
4 The goat must browse where she is
1611 Cotgrave, sv "Chevre" 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1714 Ozell, Molitre, iii 207 1852 Fitz-Gerald, Polonius, 66 (1903)
5 You have no goads, and yet you sell
1732 Fuller, No 5922

God Almighty by the toe (or foot), To have
1548 Hall, Chron., 462 (1809), The duches thynkynge to have gotten God by the foote, when she bad the dewell by the tayle 1591 Harwington, Orl. Furoso, bk xiv, Notes, For if they may match their daughters so as they may say, my lord my sonne, they thinke they have God almighty by the toe (as the proverbe saith)
1639 Clarke, 125, He hath got God Almighty by the toe

God bade ho, One of them to whom
1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi, She is one of them to whom God bad who, She will all haue, and will right nought forgo e 1594 Bacon, Promus, No 646, He is one of them to whom God bidd how 1659 Howell, 7

God comes at last when we think he is furthest off
1659 Howell, Proverbs, Ital-Eng., 7 1670 Ray, 11

God comes to see without a bell
1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1659, Howell, Proverbs Span-Eng., 2, God comes to visit us without a bell, viz without noise

God comes with leaden feet but strikes with iron hands 1579 Lyly, Euphues, 172 (Arber). Though God haue leaden handes which when they strike pay home, yet haue he leaden feete whiche are as slow to overtake a sinner 1630 T Adams, Works, 777, He will strike
with yron hands, that came to strike
with leaden feet. 1670: Ray, ii.
1853: Trench, Proverbs, 140 (1905).
Cf. God stays long.

God complaints not, but does what is
fitting. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

God defend me from my friends, I’ll
keep myself from my enemies. 1477:
Rivers, Dictes and Sayings, 127 (1877),
Ther was one that praid god to kepe
him from the daunger of his frinds.
1594: A. Copley, Wils, Fits, etc., 50
(1614), A fained friend God shiled me
from his danger, For well I’le saue my
selfe from foe and stronger. 1647:
Howell, Letters, bk. ii. No. 75, There is
a saying that carrieth with it a great
deal of caution; From him whom I trust,
God defend me; for from him whom I
trust not, I will defend myself. 1710:
S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs,
311. 1821: Scott, in Lockhart’s Life,
v. 58. 1890: N. & Q., 7th ser., x. 428,
“God save me from my friends, I can
take care of my enemies myself” . . .
is generally given as the saying of
Maréchal Villars on taking leave of
Louis XIV. [It is obviously older.]

God defend me from the still water,
and I’lke myself from the rough.
1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 2. 1732:
Fuller, No. 1668.

God deliver me from a man of one
Eng., 7. From one that reads but one
book . . . the Lord deliver us. 1855:
Bohn, 362.

God deprives him of bread who likes
not his drink. 1670: Ray, ii.

God for money, He that servers, will
serve the devil for better wages. 1692:
L’Estrange, Æsop, 100 (3rd ed.) [cited
as “the old saying”].

God grant your early rising do you no
harm. “Spoken jeeringly.” 1659:
Howell, ii.

God has a church. See Devil (50).

God hath done his part. 1556: Hey-
wood, Spider and Flie, 4 (1908), God
hath done his part: she hath a good face.
1557: Harman, Cavet, 48 (E.E.T.S.),
But as the proverbe is “God hath done
his part.” 1605: Chapman, etc., Easy.
Hoc, IV. ii., (God hath done his part
in thee), but thou hast made too much,
and beene to proud of that face.

God hath few friends, the devil hath
many. c. 1610: Drayton, Mooncaft, in
Works, ii. 483 (1753).

God hath marked, Beware of him
whom. 1678: Ray, 347. 1710: S.
Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs,
113, Take heed of him that God has
mark’d.

God hath often a great share in a little
house. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Maison.”
1670: Ray, ii. 1880: Spurgeon, Plough-
man’s Pictures, 154.

God, He who serves, hath a good
master. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Maistre,”
The servant of God hath a good master.
1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 69. 1853:
Trench, Proverbs, 138 (1905).

God heals, and the physician hath
the thanks. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Pru-
dentium. 1660: Howell, Party of Beasts,
77. Though God heals, yet the physsian
carries away the fees c. 1736: Franklin,
in Works, i. 456 (Bigelow), God heals,
the doctor takes the fee. 1861: O. W.
Holmes, Elsie Venner, ch. xxii., “I
dressed his wound and God healed
him.” That was an old surgeon’s saying.

God help the fool, quoth Pedley.
1678: Ray, 72. 1732: Fuller, No. 1674.

God help the rich, the poor can beg.
1732: Fuller, No. 1675.

God helps them that help them-
selves. [ev ἀνθρώπων και ἥπια κινεῖ — Zenobius, v. 93.] 1580: Baret, Alvearie,
I. 136, God doth helpe those in their
affaires, which are industrious. 1611:
Cotgrave, s.v. “Ourl,” Begin to helpe
thy selfe, and God will helpe thee.
1736: Franklin, Way to Wealth, in
Works, i. 442 (Bigelow). 1875: Smiles,
Thrift, 177.

God helps, Where, nought harms.
c. 1300: Havelok, l. 648, Ther God wil
helpen, nouht ne dereth. c. 1460: How-
the Good Wife, l. 14, Seldam is the
house pore there God is stywarde.
c. 1534: Berners, Huon, 480 (E.E.T.S),
It is a comone proverbe sayde, whome
that god wyll ayde no man can hurte.
c. 1555: in Wright, Songs, etc., Philip
and Mary, 161 (Roxb. Cl.), Whom Gode
God

God the Father, who is better than praying: 1659 Howell 9 (7)

God is a good man 1526 *Hund Mery Talsys* No 81, p 140 (Oesterley)

There came one which saide ye god was a good man 1599 Shakespeare, *Much Ado*, III v 1646 Quarles, in *Works*, 1 79 (Grosart). It is enough for mee to know, that God is a good man.

God is at the end when we think he is farthest off it 1640 Herbert *Jac Prudentum*

God is better pleased with adverbs than with nouns 1570 in *Complete Hist of England*, u 502 (1706). That evil was not to be done that good might come of it: that God was better pleased with adverbs than with nouns and more approved what as done well and lawfull than what was otherwise good.

1607 Bp Hall, *Holy Observations* §14, God loveth adverbs, and cares not how good, but how well 1620 Ford, *Line of Life*, 64 (Sh S.). This man not only lies but liues well, remembering always the old adage, that God is the rewarder of aduerbes, not of nownes 1860 Motley, *United Netherlands*, I 2 (1876). Fortunately that member of Parliament had made the discovery in time that "The Lord was better pleased with adverbs than nouns."

God is in the ambry 1546 Heywood *Proverbs*, Pt II ch iv 1633 Draxe 159 1659 Howell, 6, There is God in the almery.

God is no botcher 1562 Heywood *Three Hund Epigr*, No 62 1659 Howell 5

God is where he was 1530 Palsgrave 519 Never dispayre man God is there as he was 1602 Breton, in *Works*, u g 12 (Grosart), God is where he was he hath called me home, follow me to him 1678 Ray, 147

God killis, That which, is better than that killed by man 1689 Hazlitt 314

God knowes well which are the best pilgrims 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Pelein," God knowes who is a good

pilgrim 1678 Ray, 147 1732 Fuller, No 1678

God loves, Whom, his house is savoury to him 1620 Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt II ch xiii 1732 Fuller, No 1527


God make you an honester man than your father 1678 Ray, 347

God makes and apparel shapes, but it is money that finishes the man 1650 Bulwer, *Anthropomet*, 256, I shall a little explain this proverb, God makes and the tailor shapes 1670 Ray, 122 [with "makes" for "finishes"] 1732 Fuller No 1680 1626 *Evening Standard*, 11 Dec., p 5, col 2

God never pays his debts with money Said of any bad person who falls ill, or meets with misfortunes 1893 *Co Folk-Lore Suffolk*, 150 (F L S)

God never sends mouths but he sends meat 1377 Langland, *Plowman*, B, xiv 39. For lente neure was lyf but lyfode were shapen e 1560 Becon, *Catechism*, etc., 602 (P S). There is a proverb no less true than common "God never made mouth but he made meat." 1658 R Brome, *New Academy*, IV, There comes not a mouth into the world but there's meat for't 1732 Fuller, No 1681 1629 Cobbett, *Advice to Young Men*, Lett III, "I do not care how many" [children I have], said the man, "God never sends mouths without sending meat"

God only makes heirs 1669 Dudley North, *Olds and Adv Econom.*, 25. Our lawyers have this saying, that God only makes heirs

God or a painter, He is either a, for he makes faces 1592 Shakespeare, *L L L*, V n 1732 Fuller, No 1914

God, our parents and our master can never be requited 1670 Ray, 12

God send me a friend that may tell me of my faults, if not, an enemy, and he will 1678 Ray, 346 [very slight variation] 1732 Fuller, No 1686 [ending with 'faults'] 1748 Richardson *Clarissa*, IV 238 (1785)

God send us of our own when nch men go to dinner 1639 Clarke, 37 1670 Ray, 129
God send you joy, for sorrow will come fast enough. 1633: Draxe, ii. 119.
God send you more wit and me more money. 1659: Howell, 15. 1670: Ray, 199. 1732: Fuller, No. 1689
God sends cold after clothes. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. iv. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Dieu," God sends men cold according to their cloath; viz. afflictions according to their faith. 1732: Fuller, No. 1687. 1853: Trench, Proverbs, 132 (1905). Nor otherwise with the Spanish: God never wounds with both hands; ... for He ever reserves one with which to bind up and to heal.

God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb. [1594: H. Estienne, Précieux, 47, Ces termes, Dieu mesure le froid à la brebis tondue, sont les propres termes du proverbe.] 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium, To a close shorn sheep, God gives wind by measure. 1768: Sterne, Sent. Journey, 162 (1794), How she had borne it, and how she had got supported, she could not tell—but God tempers the wind, said Maria, to the shorn lamb. 1835: Lytton, Rienzi, bk. iii. ch. iii., God help her, and temper the rough wind to the lamb! 1921: Punch, 9 Nov., p. 366, col. 2, It was an advertisement of the Only Infallible Hair Producer. Even so is the wind tempered to shorn lambs.


God that helps a man, He is a. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' Colloq., 517, If the proverb be true, That he is a God that helps a man, then you are a God to me.

God, The grace of, is worth a fair. c. 1400: Mirks Festival, 86 (E.E.T.S.), Ye have a comyn sayng among you, and sayn that Godys grace ys worth a new fayre. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xii. c. 1594: Bacon, Pronums, No. 37. 1595: Shakespeare, M. of Venice, II. ii., The old proverb is very well parted between my master Shylock and you, sir: you have the grace of God, sir, and he hath enough. 1659: Howell, 3. 1868: Quart. Review, cxix. 248. Our old and beautiful adage, "The grace of God ia gear enough."


God will send thee flax, Get thy spindle
God will, What, no frost can kill
1670 Ray, 97 1732 Fuller No 6106
God will, When, all winds bring rain
1633 Draxe, 81, When God will, all winds it will raine 1681 W Robertson,
Phraetol Generalls, 674 1732
Fuller, No 5554 1875 A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 25
God's blessing, Out of See Out of
God's grace See Pilling Moss, and
God, The grace of
God's help is better than early rising
1620 Shefton Quixote, Pt II ch
xxxiv 1732 Fuller, No 1685
God's help, Who hopeth in, his help
cannot start 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch lv
God's mill grinds slow but sure
[printed text]
Proverbs e God Cousl, No 396,
in Gaisford, Parem Grac 164
(1836)] 1619 Herbert, Jac Prudentium
1853 Trench, Proverbs, 140
(1905), The ancient Greek one The
mill of God grinds late, but grinds to
powder
God's name, That never ends ill which
begins in 1639 Clarke 109 Cf the
reverse s v In the name of the Lord
God See also Chantable (2), Danger
(7), Devil (50), (59), and (104), Gift (7),
Move (9) and (24), Gloucestershire, Good
spender, In time, Man (54), (59), (59),
and (77), Means, One God, Out of God's
blessing, Owe (3), Pains, Please (7),
Poor (35) Sow, verb (9), Speed the
plough, Spend (5), Sure as God, and
True (4)
Godalmung I Godalmyn cats, and
2 Godalmyn rabbits 1790 Grose, Prov
Gloss, s v 'Surrey' [Old taunts—the
latter based on the story of Mrs Tofts] 3
See quot 1904 Jekyll, Old West
Surrey, 243, The local saying bas it
that 'If the sun shines before noon on
Godalmung fair-day [13 Feb], the winter
isn't half over
Godamerry, horse? An almost mean-
ingless proverbial exclamation 1546
Heywood, Proverbs Pt II ch vii, God
hane mercy, hors 1579 Marr of Wit
and Wisdom, sc vii, p 27 (Sh S)
1611 Tarltons Jests, 24 (Sh S), But
ever after it was a by word thorow
London, God a mercy horse, and is to
this day 1647 in Polit Ballads, 51
(Percy S), Oh, God-a-mercy, parlia-
ment 1664 in Musarum Delicia, n
232 (Hotten), A taylor is a thief, a
sergeant is worse, Who hee lies dead,
god-a-mercy horse 1681 in Harl
Miscell, 11 100 (1744), God-a-mercy
horse, thus rogue Will was tugging up
stream 1770 Brit Apollo, 3
No ii 18, p 3, col 1, I find I'm whole,
God a mercy horse Cf Gramercy
God-fathers oft give their blessings in
a clout 1611 Davies (of Hereford),
Sc of Polly, 47, in Works, n (Grosart)
Gods love die young, Whom the
[Quem Di dolgent Adolescentes montur
—Plautus, Bacchides, IV vi] 1560
T Wilson Rhetorique, 73 (1909), Whom
God loveth best, those he taketh
sonest 1651 Herbert, Jac Prudentum,
2nd ed, Those that God loves, do not
live long 1819 Byron, Don Juan,
can iv st 12 1894 R L S, Letters, n
125 (Fusitata ed), I was meant to
die young, and the gods do not love me
1823 Lucas, Advisor Ben, § vi p 48,
It has never been satisfactorily deter-
mined whether the saying about the
darlings of the gods dying young means
young in years or young in heart
Gold I Gold dust blinds all eyes
1875 A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-
Lore, 98
2 Gold goes in at any gate except
heaven's 1630 T Adams, Works, 24,
The proverb saith, There is no earthly
gate, but an ass laden with gold can
enter 1670 Ray, 97 1736 Bailey,
Diet, s v 1875 A B Cheales, Pro-
verb Folk-Lore, 98
3 Gold is an orator 1594 Barnfield,
Affect Shep, 48 (Percy S), Gold is a
deepe-perswading orator Cf Money
(38), and also No 12 infra
4 Gold is but much c 1598 Jon-
son, Case is Altered, IV iv [cited as
'the old proverb']
5 Gold makes a woman penny-white
1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict,
s v 'Penny' 1894 Northall, Folk
Plrases, 24 (L D S)
6. Gold maketh an honest man an ill man. 1579: Lyly, *Euphues*, 63 (Arber) [cited as "a by word amongst vs"].

7. He that has gold may buy land. 1683: Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83–7 (1697).

8. If gold knew what gold is, gold would get gold, I wis. 1640: Herbert, *Jae. Prudentium*.

9. Pour gold on him, he'll never thrive. 1639: Clarke, 220.

10. That is gold that is worth gold. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Or." 1667: Gurnall, *Christian in Armour*, Pt. II. v. 15, ch. ix. p. 144 (1679). We say, *that is gold which is worth gold*, which we may anywhere exchange for gold.

1853: Trench, *Proverbs*, 87 (1905). Which the brief Italian proverb long ago announced: *Gold's worth is gold.*

11. What words won't do, gold will. 1700: Ward, *London Spy*, 400 (1924) [called an "old saying"].


13. When we have gold we are in fear, when we have none we are in danger. 1670: Ray, 12.

See also *All is not gold*; *Money*; and *Touchstone*.

Golden. 1. A golden dart kills where it pleases. 1732: Fuller, No. 132.


5. The golden age never was the present age. 1732: Fuller, No. 4556.

6. The golden ball never goes up but once. Oxfordsh, 1913: *Folk-Lore*, xxiv. 77. [No explanation is given.]


8. We must not look for a golden life in an iron age. 1633: Drake, 242, A man must not...iron world. 1639: Clarke, 124. Expect not a golden life in an iron world. 1670: Ray, 14. 1732: Fuller, No. 5450.

Good a maid as her mother, A. 1659: Howell, 11.

Good a will as ever I came from school, With as. 1594: Shakespeare, *Tam. of Shrew*, III. ii., As willingly as e'er I came from school. 1659: Howell, *Letters*, ii. 666 (Jacobs). 1732: Fuller, No 5794.

Good action always finds its recompence, A. 1750: Smollett, *Gil Blas*, iv. 101 [quoted "as the proverb says"].

Good against evil, Set. 1640: Herbert, *Jae. Prudentium*.

Good ale is meat, drink, and cloth. 1602: Carew, *Surv. of Cornwall*, 189 (1811). The liquor [ale] itself is the Englishman's ancientest and wholesomest drink, and serveth many for meat and cloth too. c. 1620: in *Rob. Ballads*, ii. 588 (B.S.). Were't not for this barley broth (Which is meat, drink, and cloth). 1697: in *Marchant, Praise of Ale*, 403. On the rare virtues of this barley broth! To rich and poor it's meat and drink and cloth. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. II. 1815: Scott, *Mannering*, ch. xxxix., Sheer ale supports him under everything. It is meat, drink, and cloth, bed, board, and washing.

Good and all, For. 1519: Horman, *Vulgaria*, fo. 208, We began a new conteigne for good and all. 1663: Pepys, *Diary*, 23 June, I do resolve even to let him go away for good and all. 1710: Swift, *Journal to Stella*, 13 Sept., She is broke for good and all, and is gone to the country. 1850: Dickens, *Chuzzlewit*, ch. ii., Mr. Westlock, sir, going
away for good and all, wishes to leave none but friends behind him 1892 Pinerro, Lady Boxtful I p 45 I've sold my business and I've cleared out of Baxterstoke for good and all

Good and evil are chiefly in the imagination 1732 Fuller, No 1699 Good and quickly seldom meet 1640 Herbert Jac Prudentium 1670 Ray, 12 1736 Bailey, Dict s v " Soon

Good as a Christmas play, As 1880 Courtney, W Cornwall Words, 24 (E D S) is said of anything very funny

Good as a play, As 1638 Taylor (Water-Poet) Bull, Beare etc 43 in Works 3rd coll (Spens S) It was as good as a comedy to hum to see the trees fall 1672 Marvell, Rehearsal Transf Pt I in Works 42 (Grosart) It was grown almost as good as a play 1845 Dickens Crick Chapp 2, John had such a lively interest in all the particulars that it was as good as a play 1915 A Machen, Far-off Things, 130 (1922), The naughty prints and books of Holywell Street were as good as a play

Good as ever drew sword, As 1599 Porter, Two Angry Women, sc xi, You are as good a man as ever drew sword

Good as ever flew in the air, As 1678 Ray, 285

Good as ever struck, As c. 1600 in Roxb Ballads II 131 (B S) Yet is he as good as ever strooke

Good as ever the ground went upon, As—with variants 1599 Porter, Two Angry Women, sc xi, You are as good a man as ever trode on Gods earth 1678 Ray, 285, As good as ever the ground went upon c 1893 Gilbert, Foggerty's Fairy, I I, I know you're as good a girl as ever stepped

Good as ever twanged, As 1577 Misogonus, II u, I must nede loue the, i fanthe that as good as ere twanged 1667 L Estrange, Querido's Visiones, 205 (1904), As good a wench as ever twanged 1678 Ray 285

Good as ever water wet, As 1670 Ray, 205 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v "Wet" See also As ever

Good as ever went endways, As 1678 Ray, 285

Good as George of Green, As 1670 Ray, 205 1727 Bailey, Eng Dict, s v "Greenwich"

Good as gold, As 1843 Dickens, Carol, Stave 3, 'And how did little Tim behave?' asked Mrs Cratchit "As good as gold," said Bob 1876 Blackmore, Criftts, ch xxvii, My mother is as good as gold, and much better 1926 Phillpotts, Yellow Sands, II, Hum and Emma are both so good as gold

Good as good for nothing, So 1639 Clarke, 78

Good as goose skins that never man had enough of, As Cheshire 1670 Ray, 208 1917 Bridge Cheshire Proverbs 13, impossible to explain The meaning has died out

Good as one shall see in a summer's day, As 1599 Porter, Two Angry Women, sc xi [with "upon" for "in"] 1595 Shakespeare, Mids N Dream, I u, A proper man, as one shall see in a summer's day 1742 Fielding, Andrews, bk iv ch xv, As fine a fat thriving child as you shall see in a summer's day

Good at a distance is better than evil at hand 1732 Fuller, No 1700

Good bargain is a pick-purse, A 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Argent," Good cheap commodities are notable pick-purses 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1732 Fuller, No 1701, Good bargains are pick-pockets

Good bargain, On a, think twice 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 29 Cf Great bargain

Good be good, Though, yet better is better (or better comes at) 1639 Clarke, 705 1655 Fuller, Church Hist, bk xi § 3, Ded, Good is not good, where better is expected 1670 Ray, 97 1736 Bailey Dict s v "Good," Good is good, but better is better

Good be still is worth a great, A c 1430 Lydgate, Minor Poems 152 (Percy S), [from a poem in praise of Silence] A good be still is well worth a groote 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch v, A good bestyll is worth a groote 1633 Drake 190 [in the section on "Silence"]
Good bearing. See quot. c. 1460: How the Good Wife, 1. 20, In thi gode berynge begynnynge the thy worchiphe.

Good beer. See Good. Clarke, S. 1410; c. 1639, good have for 1670: 1788 Fuller, 1732 and in a Monpiace-Book, Bohn, c. He3nvood, J. for 1460 Hill, deeds 1320 what 1639 ton.RooA bless 1033: 13S6: "60, Fuller, Fuller, Fuller, 1637: No. thjm worde. better be 1670 Tale, in in in; is. Spur- Trench, 20, lacking, 1280 Goldsmith, 12x605 Good Good Good — sperare, maketh Brit. werke 1477: the the the Lyonking, parson service 48 1825 old a Cf. a pot. "(E.E.T.S),

Good blood, You come of, and so does a black pudding. 1855: Bohn, 576. Good blood. See Blood (2).

Good bourn [jest] to drink of a gourd, It is a. c. 1410: Townley Plays, 175 (E.E.T.S.), It is an old by-worde, It is a good bowerd for to drynk of a gowrde.

Good broth may be made in an old pot. 1666: Torrano, Piazza Univ, 111 [with "sops" for "broth"]. 1880: Spurgeon, Ploughman’s Pictures, 84, Many a drop of good broth is made in an old pot.

Good building without a good foundation, No. 1732: Fuller, No. 3578. Good cake. See Bad custom.


Good cards to show for it, He hath. 1678: Ray, 354. 1732: Fuller, No. 1887.

Good cause makes a stout heart and a strong arm, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 140. Good cheap is dear. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1659: Howell, 8, [as in 1640, plus] for it tempts one to buy what he needs not. 1732: Fuller, No. 1704, [as in 1640, plus] at long run.

Good cheer. See quotas. c. 1477: Caxton, Book of Curteseey, 27 (E.E.T.S.), The poete saith hou that a poure borde Men may enriche with cheerful wil and worde. Before 1500: in Hill, Commonplace-Book, 131 (E.E.T.S.), In a thyn table, good chere is best sawse. 1639: Clarke, 12, When good cheare is lacking, our friends will be packing. 1670: Ray, 60 [as in 1639]. 1732: Fuller, No. 6299 [as in 1639]. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xviii. [as in 1639, but with "such" for "our"].

Good child soon learns, A. c. 1280: Prov. of Hendyng, Sely chyld is sone ylercd. c. 1386: Chaucer, Prioress’s Tale, 1. 60, For sely child wol alday sone lere.

Good cloak, I have a, but 'tis in France. 1732: Fuller, No. 2602.

Good clothes open all doors. Ibid., No. 1705.

Good company. See quotas. 1639: Clarke, 291, Good company is a good coach. 1768: Goldsmith, Vitae, ch. xvii, “Good company upon the road,” says the proverb, “is the shortest cut.” 1853: Trench, Proverbs, 28 (1903). Our own proverb, Good company on a journey is worth a coach, has come down to us from the ancient world (Comes facundus in via pro vehiculo est).


Good cook. See III cook.

Good corn, He that hath, may be content with some thistles. 1732: Fuller, No. 2159.

Good cow. See Cow (20).

Good day will not mend him, nor a bad day impair him, A. 1678: Ray, 71. 1732: Fuller, No. 143.

Good deed is never lost, A. 1633: Drake, 40. 1732: Fuller, No. 1710. Good deeds remain; all things else perish.
Good dinner, He that would eat a, let him eat a good breakfast 1678 Ray, 124
Good divine that follows his own instructions, It is a 1595 Shakespeare, M of Venice, I 11

Good eating See quot 1840 Barham, Ing Legends “Bagman’s Dog”, I’ve seen an old saw, which is well worth repeating, That says, “Good Eatynges Deserveth good Drynkynge”

Good edge is good for nothing, if it has nothing to cut, A 1732 Fuller, No 145

Good elm, good barley, good oak, good wheat 1865 W White, East England, 1 38

Good enough for the parson unless the paint were better, It’s 1678 Ray 187
Good enough is never ought 1678 Ray, 148

Good estate See quot 1678 Ray, 78, He has a good estate, but that the right owner keeps it from him

Good example is the best sermon, A 1732 Fuller, No 146

Good face is a letter of recommendation, A 1751 Fielding, Amelia, bk IV ch v

Good face needs no band, A 1639 Clarke, 131 1670 Ray, 59 1709 O Dykes Eng Proverbs, 175, In opposition to the fantastical humour of emulating butter-flies in the glory of external dress, we commonly say, A good face needs no band 1738 Swift, Polite Conyers, Dial I

Good face needs no paint, A 1581 Lyly, Euphues, 204 (Arber), Where the countenance is faire, there neede no colours 1612 T Heywood, in Somers Tracts, ii 575 (t81), A good face needes no painting, and a cause good abetting 1732 Fuller, No 148

Good face on a thing, To set a 1387 Trevisa, tr Higden, vu 25 (Rolls Ser), And made good face to ye eare and semblant 1412-20 Lydgate, Troy Book, bk ii 1 4366, And whom hast most mater to compleyne, Make ther good face and glad in port the[e] feine c 1540 Bale, Kyne Johan, I 1991, Though it be a foule lye set upon it a good face 1580 H Gifford, Poste, 44 (Grosart), But—as the fashione of the worlde is now a days—set a good face on a bad matter 1621 Brathwatt, Natures Embassse, 107 (1877), Making a good face of an euill matter 1740 North, Examen, 49, His Lordship was not surprised, but set a good face upon the matter 1866 G Eliot, Felix Holt, ch v, Well, madam, put a good face on it

Good fame is better than a good face, A 1732 Fuller, No 150

Good finds good 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

Good fire and clean grate, Just as good as halfe your meat 1665 Newlyn, W Corn, 19th cent (Mr C Lee)

Good fish if it were caught, It is 1659 Howell, 12, Good fish, but all the craft is in the catching 1690 New Dict Canting Cwe, sig E4, Good fish when it is caught 1732 Fuller, No 2936 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 589

Good for something See All women

Good for the back (or head) See quotes 1604 James I, Counterblaste, 107 (Arber), According to the oly proverbe, That which is good for the head, is euill for the necke and the shoulders 1670 Ray, 58, That which is good for the back is bad for the head

Good Friday 1 He may eat his part See quotes 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt 1 ch vi, He maie his parte on good finde eate, And feste neuer the wurs, for ought he shall geat [get] 1596 Shakespeare King John, I 1, Sir Robert might have eat his part in me Upon Good Friday and neuer broke his fast

2 Ram on Good Friday See quotes 1882 Mrs Chamberlain, W Words Words, 37 (EDS), If it ram on Good Friday or Easter Day, "Twill be a good year of grass, but a sorrowful year of hay 1890 J D Robertson, Gloucester Gloss, 187 (EDS), Ram on Good Friday and Easter Day Brings plenty of grass but little good hay 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 40 [to same effect as 1890 quot] [Also] Ram on Good Friday foreshows a fruitful year
Good friend is my nearest relation, A. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Parenté," A sound friend is a second kinsman. 1732: Fuller, No, 151.

Good garden may have some weeds, A. Ibid., No, 152.


Good hand good hire. 1639: Clarke, 45. 1788: *Town’s Book of Pownall Fee*, quoted in Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 62. He... worked sometimes on weekly wages and sometimes good hand good hire, but was never hired for twelve months. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 62. Piece-work.

Good harvest. He that hath a, may be content with some thistles. 1639: Clarke, 158. 1670: Ray, 13. 1840: Denham, *Proverbs*, 57 (Percy S.).


Good health. See quot. 1855: Bohn, 400, He who hath good health is young; and he is rich who owes nothing.


Good house, all things are quickly ready, In a. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Maison." 1631: Mabbe, *Celestina*, 152 (T.T.), In a plentiful house a supper is soon provided. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

Good housewife. See quot. 1678: Ray, 88, She’s not a good house-wife that will not wind up her bottom, i.e. take off her drink.

Good husband, Be a = Be thrifty. See quot. 1813: Ray, 13, Be a good husband, and you will soon get a penny to spend, a penny to lend, and a penny for a friend.


Good husbandry. See also Frugality.

Good ill that comes alone, ’Tis a. 1620: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt. II, ch. iv. 1732: Fuller, No, 5095.

Good in the mouth and bad in the maw [stomach]. 1669: *Politeophilia*, 172, What is sweet in the mouth is bitter in the stomach. 1732: Fuller, No. 5511. 1855: Kingsley, *West. Hol.*, ch. xi, Do I not know that it is sweet in the mouth but bitter in the belly? 1925: E. F. Benson, in *London Mercury*, July, 279 [the converse]. That crisp little roll which may be bitter to the mouth, but is sweet to the belly.

Good is to be sought out, and evil attended [awaited]. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.


Good Jill may mend the bad Jack, A. 1669: Brathwait, *Hist. of Moderation*, 13, See by experience, what may not a wise woman bring a bad husband to in time? *The good Gill may mend the bad Jack*.

Good judge conceives quickly, judges slowly, A. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.


Good kail is half a meal. 1670: Ray, 36. 1732: Fuller, No. 6252. [In both "keal" for "kail".]
Good

Good kin that none do amiss in, 'Tis a 4

1639 Clarke 160

Good knife See quotes 1678 Ray, 255, It's a good knife, it will cut butter when 'tis melted; A good knife, it was made five miles beyond Cutwel 1732

Fuller No 2857, It is a good knife, 'twas made at Dull-edge

Gall and See Best (16)

Good language that all understand not, That's not 1640 Herbert Jac Prudentium 1670 Ray 27

Good lather is half the shave, A 1732

Fuller No 5472, Well lather'd is half shaven 1825 Hone, Ev Day Book, 1 2129, He also says, that "A good lather is half the shave," is a very old remark among the trade [barbers]

Good laws See quotes 1650 Howell, Proverbs Fr-Eng, 9 Good laws come from lewd lives 1855 Bohn 364, Good laws often proceed from bad manners

Good life See quotes 1629 Book of Merry Riddles, Prov 27, A good life makes a good death 1633 Draxe, 113, A good life hath a good death Ibid, 39 A good life will have a good end See also Handful

Good liquer See Cat (18)

Good looks are good cheap 1639

Clarke 34

Good luck comes by cussing 1813

Ray, 136

Good luck for a grey horse 1862

Dialect of Leeds, 316, Good luck for a grey horse!"—a common expression of children, accompanied by the act of spitting over their little finger, at the sight of a grey horse 1922 N & Q, 12th ser xi 169

Good luck in cards bad luck in marriage 1755 Connoisseur, No 59, She is no less sure of a good one [husband] because she generally has all luck at cards 1887 M A Courtney, Folk-Lore Journal, v 219 Good luck in cards, bad luck in a husband (or wife) (Cornish)

Good luck lurks under a black deuce Cornish card saying 1887 M A Courtney, Folk-Lore Journal, v 219

Good luck never comes too late c 1610 Drayton, Mooncalf, in Works, ii 511 (1753)

Good luck reaches farther than long arms 1732 Fuller, No 1717

Good luck See also Calf (2), and Cow (7)

Good maid but for thought, word, and deed, She's a 1678 Ray, 258

Good man, A In a general sense I A good man can no more harm than a sheep The first example seems to be a humorous perversion of the saying 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch x, But she can no more harme than can a shepe 1605 Camden, Remains, 326 (1870) 1670 Ray, 98 1732

Fuller No 160, A good man is no more to be fear'd than a sheep 2 See quot 1485 Malory, Morte d'Arthur, bk xix ch 4 Hit is an old sawe a good man is neuer in daunger but when he is in the daunger of a coward 3 He's a good man whom fortune makes better 1732 Fuller, No 2438

4 If a good man thrive, all thrive with him 1630 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

B The master of the house I The goodman's the last that knows what's amiss at home 1670 Ray, 52 1732

Fuller No 4558 Cf Cuckold (6)

2 When the good man is abroad, the good woman's tale is soon spread 1678 Ray, 61 [with "from home" for "abroad," and "wives" for "wman's"] 1732 Fuller, No 5587

See also As the goodman

Good manners, You know, but you use but a few 1639 Clarke 2 1670

Ray, 285 1732 Fuller No 5919 You have good manners but never carry them about you

Good manners See Lord Mayor (1)

Good marksman may miss, A 1732

Fuller No 263

Good master See quot c 1530 Rhodes, Boke of Nurture, 168 (C.E.S.), He that hath a good mayster and cannot kepe him, He that hath a good servaunt and not content with hym, He that hath such condicions that no man loueth hym, May well know other, but few men wull knowe him 1578 Florio, First Fruits, fo 105

Good masters make good servants 1838 Q-Couch, Troy Town, ch xix
Good maxim is never out of season, A. 1855: Bohn, 288.

Good men are a public good. 1732: Fuller, No. 1718.

Good men are scarce. 1638: D. Tuvill, Vade Mecum, 96 (3rd ed.). 1668: Poor Robin Alman., Sept., Pretending this reason for it, That good people are scarce. 1732: Fuller, No. 3307. Maids, make much of one, good men are scarce. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I. Good folks are scarce.

Good men company, Keep, and you shall be of the number. 1477: Rivers, Dictes, etc., 26 (1877), Accompany the[e] with good people, and thou shalt be on of them. 1560: T. Wilson, Rhétorique, 5 (1909), According to the prouerbe, by companying with the wise, a man shall learne wisedome. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, iv. 242 (1785).

Good mind, good find. 1853: Trench, Proverbs, i. 28 (1905).

Good mother says not "Will you?" but gives, The. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1670: Ray, 18. 1852: FitzGerald, Polonius, 74 (1903), The wise mother says not "Will you?" but gives.

Good name for-winneth, A. c. 1460: How the Good Wife, l. 35.

Good name is better than riches. 1477: Rivers, Dictes, etc., 64 (1877). Good renomme is better than richesse. 1506: A. Barclay, Castell of Labour, sig. E7. Good name is better than rychesse.

Good name is worth gold, A. c. 1460: How the Good Wife, l. 75. Gode name is golde worthe. 1597: in Plasidas, etc., 166 (Roxb. Cl.), For wise men and old Seyne good name is worth gold. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Assez." A good name is wealth sufficient. 1754: Berthelison, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Above." A good name is above the wealth.

Good name keeps its lustre in the dark, A. 1670: Ray, 18.

Good name, Take away my, and take away my life. Ibid., 124. 1732: Fuller, No. 4306. c. 1800: Trusler, Prov. in Verse, 75.

Good neighbour. See Neighbour.


Good news may be told at any time, but ill in the morning. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

Good night, Nicholas, the moon is in the flock-bed. 1659: Howell, 11.

Good office, He hath a, he must needs thrive. 1678: Ray, 263.

Good often fare the worse for the bad, The. 1712: Motteux, Quixote, Pt. I. bk. i. ch. vii.

Good or ill hap. See quot. 1732: Fuller, No. 6413. The good or ill hap of a good or ill life, Is the good or ill choice of a good or ill wife.

Good orator who convinces himself, He is a. 1855: Bohn, 374.

Good painter can draw a devil as well as an angel, A. 1639: Clarke, 311.

Good palliate a bad action, The. 1855: Bohn, 506.


Good paymaster is lord of another man's purse, The. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum, A good payer is master of another's purse. 1748: Franklin, in Works, ii. 119 (Bigelow).

Good paymaster may build Paul's. A. 1732: Fuller, No. 167.

Good paymaster needs no surety, A. 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. xiv. 1694: D'Urfey, Quixote, Pt. I. Act IV. sc. i. 1732: Fuller, Nos. 1726-7. Good paymasters need no surety. Good paymasters need not bring a pawn.

Good paymaster never wants workmen, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 168.

Good physician who cures himself, He is a. c. 1430: Lydgate, Daunce of Mackabbe, l. 424. Good leech is he that can himself recure. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 148.

Good presence is letters of recommendation, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 170.

Good reasons. See quot. 1623: Wodroople, Shared Hours, 477. Good reasons said, and euill understood, are
Good recorder sets all in order, A
1659 Howell, ii 1670 Rav, 22
1732 Fuller, No 6245
Good reputation is a fair estate, A
1732 Fuller, No 172
Good riding at two anchors [Greek, to κοπέλλω, to κεντριά ποτήρι ηΣ τυ μακ
δραμον, δοὐ εψταιν — Pindar, Olym.,
Ode VI 170] 1546 Heywood, Pro-
verbs, Pt II ch iv. Good riding
at two anchors, men have told For if
the tone fail the tither may hold
1579 Lyly, Euphues, i16 (Arber), Hane
more strings to thy bow then one, it
is safe riding at two ankers 1670
Ray, 151 [as in 1546] 1716 E Ward,
Female Policy, 85. It's safe riding
with two anchors 1732 Fuller, No 6450
[as in 1546] Cf Two strings
Good riding See also Safe riding
Good roller, A, a good rider 1869
FitzGerald, Sea Words and Phrases, 9,
"A good roller a good rider", that is
to say, the breadth of beam and bottom
that will make a vessel roll, will also
make her ride comfortable at anchor
Good rye thrives high 1884 Egerton,
Sussex Folks and Ways, 82, When I was
a growing lad a kindly old farmer's wife "would say" and good
rye thrives high"

Good sailor may mistake in a dark
night, A 1732 Fuller, No 173
Good saver is a good server, A
Somerset 1678 Ray, 350
Good scholar is not a good school-
master, Every 1732 Fuller, No 1417
Good seed, Cf, proceedeth good corn
1568 Wager, Longer than Livest, sig A2
Good servant must come, A See quotes
1645 Howell, Letters, bk 1 § v No
xxi, He [a footman] will come when
you call him, go when you bid him, and
shut the door after him 1738 Swift,
Polite Convers., Dial I Remember, that
a good servant must always come when
he's called, do what he's bid, and shut
the door after him

Good servant must have good wages,
A c 1555 in Wright Songs, etc.,
Philip and Mary, 173 (Roxb. Cl), A
goode sarvaunte hopes for to be well
rewardyde 1611 Cotgrave, s.v "Ser-
vier," Good service, of itself, demands
reward 1732 Fuller, No 176
Good service is a great enchantment
1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium
Good shape is in the shears' mouth, A
1855 Bohn, 289
Good shift may serve long, but it will
not serve ever, A 1678 Ray, 201
1732 Fuller, No 177
Good skill in horseflesh See quot
1670 Ray, 181, He hath good skill in
horseflesh to buy a goose to ride on
1738 Swift, Polite Convers., Dial I,
She had good skill in horse flesh that
could choose a goose to ride on
Good small beer See quot 1738
Swift, Polite Convers., Dial II, They
say, there is no such thing as good small
beer, good brown bread, or a good old
woman. Cf Good things

Good spear, He that hath a, let him
try it 1578 Fiero, First Fruits, to 28
[with "prove it against a wal" for
"try it"] 1629 Book of Merry
Riddles, Prov 74
Good spender, To a, God is the trea-
surer 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium
1670 Ray, 24 1732 Fuller, No 5127
Good sport that fills the belly, That is
Ibid., No 4354
Good steward abroad when there is a
wind frost, There is a 1830 Forby,
Vocab E Angla, 431 1872 J Glyde,
Jr., Norfolk Garland, 149
Good stomach is the best sauce, A
Cf Hunger

Good surgeon See Surgeon

Good swimmers are oftentimes drowned
1611 Cotgrave, s.v 'Nageur," Good
swimmers at the length feed haddocks
1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium, Good
swimmers at length are drowned 1732
Fuller, No 1729

Good table, At a, we may go to school
Ibid., No 823

Good take heed doth surely speed
1639 Clarke, 266 1670 Ray, 147
1732 Fuller, No 6093

Good tale ill told is marred in the
 telling, A 1546 Heywood, Proverbs,
Pt II ch vii 1670 Ray 147 1732
Good Bailey, Scott, 1670; good Ray, Skeat’s Chapman, Carew, 227
1387. You 1738 Clarke, in Howell. good.”
1602 Ray, Guazzo’s dead soon Bridge, Fuller, Swift, ^
1534 1678 1816 Ray, ui, Berners, Ray, Ray,
1354 1670 1678 1816 Ray, 
1639: Cornwall, Fuller, 1670 “not beer, to beer.
1676: Scott, Old Morta-
tility, ch. vii.

Good that causeth so many good deeds,
Needs must it be. c. 1387: Ush, Test. of Love, in Skeat’s Chaucer, vii. 79.
Nedes mot it be good that causeth so many good deeds.

Good that does me good, That’s my. 1639: Clarke, ro9. That’s good that doth us good. 1676: Ray, 148. 1732: Fuller, No. 276. A man has no more goods than he gets good by.

Good that knows not why he is good,
He cannot be. 1662: Carew, Surv. of Cornwall, 219 (1681). It hath been well said, “He cannot long be good, that knows not why he is good.” 1732: Fuller, No. 1819.

Good thing is soon caught up, A. 1670: Ray, ro [with “snatch’t” for “caught”]. 1732: Fuller, No. 1818.

Good things I do not love. See quot. 1678: Ray, 148. Some good things I do not love, a long good mile, good small beer, and a good old woman. Cf. Good small beer.


Good tither a good thriver, A. Somerset. 1678: Ray, 352.

Good to be in the dark, as without light, It’s as. 1670: Ray, 77.

Good to be near of kin. See quot. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, ii. 227 (1840). Indeed our English proverb, “It is good to be near a-kin to land,” holdeth in private patentoms, not titles to crowns. 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, i. 81 (1785). My sister says, in the words of an old saw, It is good to be related to an estate.

Good to fetch a sick man sorrow, or a dead man woe. 1670: Ray, 194, . . . Cheshire. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial I. You are fit to be sent for sorrow, you stay so long by the way. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 70.

Good to have some friends both in heaven and hell, It’s. 1639: Clarke, 232, It’s good having a friend both in heaven and hell. 1670: Ray, 93.

Good to learn at other men’s cost, It is. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi., It is good to beware by other men’s harms. Before 1651: in Peck, Desid. Curiosa, 443 (1779). It is good learning by another’s book. 1736: Bailey, Dict, s.v. “Cost.”

Good to send on a dead man’s errand. 1670: Ray, 171 [with “bodies” for “man’s”]. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial I. Well, have you been with my Lady Club? You are good to send of a dead man’s errand.

Good tongue, Who has not a, ought to have good hands. 1813: Ray, 166.

Good trade. See quot. 1659: Howell, Proverbs: Fr.-Eng., 23. He that hath a good trade will have his share. 1732: Fuller, No. 2386. He who hath a trade, hath a share every where. 1855: Bohn, 566, Who hath a good trade, through all waters may wade.


Good tune played on an old fiddle, There’s many a. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 117.

Good turns, One never losteth by doing. 1670: Ray, 12.

Good voice to beg bacon, He hath a. 1659: Howell, 6.

Good walking with a horse in one’s hand, It’s. 1591: Lyly, Endymion, IV. ii., Is it not said, “It is good walking when one hath his horse in his hand.” 1653: Taylor (Water-Poet), Short Relation, 5, in Works, 1st coll. (Spens. S.).

Tis merry walking with a horse in hand. 1685–6: Cotton, Montaigne, bk. iii. ch. ii. He may well go a foot, they say, who leads his horse in his hand. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II. I always love to walk with a horse in my hand.

Good ware. See quot. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Marchand.” Good chaffer cannot want a chapman. 1616: Breton, in Works, ii. c 5 (Grosart), Good
ware makes quick markets 1659
Howell, Proverbs Fr.-Eng, 8, Good
ware will never want a chapman 1681
W Robertson, Phrasalia Generalis, 677, Good
ware will off 1754. Heretshon, Eng.-Danish Dist, s v “Market” [as
in 1616]

Good watch prevents misfortune
1670 Ray, 28

Good weight and measure is heaven’s
treasure 1732 Fuller, No 6161

Good wheat See Wheat

Good wife and a good cat are best at
two, A 1894 Northall, Folk Phrases,
6 (E E S)

Good wife and good name hath no make [mate] in goods nor fame, A
1623 Wodrowfe Spared Hours, 478

Good wife and health is a men’s best
wealth, A 1732 Fuller, No 6313
1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman,
ch xvi

Good wife makes a good husband, A
1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II
ch viii 1659 Howell, 7 1759
Johnson, in Hill’s Boswell, 1 324. We
tell the ladies that good wives make
good husbands Cf Good husband, and
Good Jack

Good wife must be bespoke, A, for
there’s none ready made 1738 Swift,
Polite COnvers, Dial I

Good wife spaces, What the, the cat
eats 1639 Clarke, 242 1670 Ray,
144 1732 Fuller, No 5520

Good will, I’ll do my, as he said that
thrust in his cloak 1602-3 Manning-
ham, Diary, 131 (Camden S), ‘I will
doe myne endeavor,” quoth he that
thrust in his cloke 1670 Ray 176
1732 Fuller, No 6264

Good wmd See quote 1592 Lyl, 
Mother Bombbe, II v, I have heard my
great grandfather tell how his great
grandfather should say that it was an
old proverbe when his great grand-
father was a child, that it was a good
wind that blew a man to the wine

Good wine needs no bush 1539
Taverner, Proverbs to 42, Wyne that is
saleable and good needeth no hushe or
garland of yve to be hanged before
1575 Gascoigne, Glese of Gott, I 1
The good wyne needeth none yne
garland 1608 Day, Law Triches, IV 1
1638 Brathwait, Barn Journal, Pt I
ad fin, Good wine no bush it needs as
I suppose 1711 Addison, Spectator,
No 221 1831 Peacock, Crotchet Castle,
ch xv

Good wit, Such a one hath a, if a wise
man had the keeping it 1605 Camden,
Remains, 331 (1870)

Good wits jump, i e agree 1620
Shelton, Quixote, Pt II ch xxxvii,
I have heard you say “Good wits
will soon meet” 1664 in Musistrum
Delicat, ii 85 (Hotten), Like will to
like Good wits will jump (quoth he)
1710 Centlivre Man’s Beatch’d, IV

Good wits jump—I resolve to marry
too 1775 in Garrick Corresp, ii 94
(1832), See how good wits jump See
also Great wits

Good woman See Woman (2), (28)

Good word is as soon said as a bad
one, A e 1615 R C, Times Whistle,
111 (E E S) 1736 Bailey, Dict,
s v “Word”

Good words and ill deeds deceive wise
and fools 1611 Davies (of Hereford),
Se of Folly, 46, in Works, ii (Grosart)

Good words unjoint us, and ill do
unjoint us 1578 Florio, First Prunts,
fo 31, Good words annoyent a man, the
yl wordes kyl a man 1611
Davies (of Hereford), Se of Folly, 43,
in Works, ii (Grosart)

Good words are worth much and cost
little 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum
1732 Fuller, No 1736, Good words
cost nothing but are worth much

Good words cost no more than bad
1692 L’E strainge, Esop, 249 (3rd ed.).
A good word, they say, costs no more
than a bad 1732 Fuller, No 1735

Good words cost nought 1509
Porter, Tvo Angry Women, in Hazlitt,
Old Plays, vn 356, Good words cost
nought ill words corrupt good manners,
Richard 1670 Ray, 158

Good words fill not a sack 1678
Ray, 220 1732 Fuller, No 1737

Good words make amends for mis-
deeds 1604 Wit of a Woman, sc i
20 (Malone S) [cited as “an olde
saving”]

Good words quench more than a
bucket of water. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudent. 1670: Ray, t58. Good words cool more then cold water.

Good words without deeds are rushes and reeds. 1659: Howell, t7. 1670: Ray, 30. 1732: Fuller, No. 6247. 1875: A. B. Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 86

Good workman is known by his chips, A. 1869: Hazlitt, 16.

Goody. See Handsome (3).

Goodness coming out. See quot. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I. Miss feels a pimple on her face; Lord! I think my goodness is coming out. [In my boyhood, 1863-73, I heard this expression similarly used.—G. L. A.]

Goodness is not tied to greatness. 1639: Clarke, 226. Greatness and goodness goe not alwaye together. 1655: T. Muffett, Healths Improvement, 161. As the Greek proverb saith, Goodness is not tied to greatness, but greatness to goodness.

Goods are theirs who enjoy them. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 31. The ware is not his that gathers it, but his that enjoyes it. 1670: Ray, 12. 1732: Fuller, No. 1739. Cf. Wealth (6).


Goodyer's pigs. See quot. 1678: Ray, 235. They'll come again, as Goodyers pigs did, i.e. never.

Goose and Geese. 1. A goose cannot grate after him. c. 1602: Chapman, May-Day, III. i., What should he do to him, sir? The pasture is so bare with him that a goose cannot grate upon't. 1639: Clarke, 36. 1670: Ray, 178.

2. A goose go barefoot. See Woman (3).

3. A goose is a silly bird. See quot.
Goose

Goose is a bird that eats one egg in a quart. The定制 of a goose is that the great egg will lay 1732 Fuller, No 1696

13 Goose, gander, and goshing are three sounds, but one thing 1659.

Howell, Proverbs Span.-Eng., 20

1670 Ray, 98

14 Goslings lead the goose to water 1732 Fuller, No 1740

15 Have a goose and get a goose 1869.

Spurgeon, John Ploughman ch xiv

16 He hopes to see a goose graze on your head 1583 Melancke, Philotimus, sig Ee2, I hope thou shalt eat of the goose that shall tread on her grace 1670 Ray 178, He hopes to eat of the goose shall graze on your grace

17 He that turneth the goose should have the neck Before 1500 Hill, Commonplace-Book, 131 (EETS)

18 I have a goose to pluck with you 1659 Howell, 2 Cf Crow (9)

If you eat goose on Michaelmas Day you will never want money all the year round 1708 Brut Apollo, 1 No 74, The custom'd proverb That who eats goose on Michaelmas-day, Shan't money lack, he's debts to pay' 1825 Hone Ev Day Book, 1 1339 [cited as "a popular saying"] 1530 Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 414 If you do not baste the goose on Michaelmas-day, you'll want money all the year 1904 Co Folk-Lore Northumb., 178 (FLS)

20 It is a blind goose that knows not a fox from a fern bush 1580 Lyly, Euphues, 319 (Arber) 1732 Fuller, No 2848

21 It is a silly goose that comes to a fox's sermon Ibid, No 2881

22 It is a sorry goose that will not baste herself 1670 Ray, 218 1732 Fuller, No 2886

23 It is an old goose that will eat no oats 1580 Lyly, Endymion, v ii Cf No 36

24 Sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander [Idem Accio quod Tito ius esto —Varro, ap Aul Gall, Noct Att, III xvi 13] 1671 Head and Kirkman, Eng Rogue, ii 120 I could not justly complain, seeing what was sauce for a goose was sauce for a gander 1710

Swift, Journal to Stella, 24 Jan 1785-95 Wolcot, Lousiad, can v 1823 Byron, Don Juan, can xv st 83 1853 Planche, Extravag., iv 364 (1879)

25 Shall the goslings teach the goose to swim? 1732 Fuller, No 4115

26 Steal a goose See Steal (6), (7)

27 There's meat in a goose's eye 1621 Taylor (Water-Poet), Works, pag. 1, 105 (1630), For the old proverb I must here apply, Good meat men may pick from a gooses eye 1678 Ray, 145

28 To as much purpose as the geese sturr [slide] on the ice Cheshire 1670 Ray, 190 1877 E Leigh, Cheshire Gloss., 191 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 125

29 To as much purpose as to give a goose hay Cheshire 1670 Ray, 190 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 125

30 To give a goose and charge for the garlic c 1380 Wichl, in Eng Works, 82 (EETS), For the silien a faat goos for litel or nought, but the garlek cosith many shillynggs

31 To kill the goose that laid the golden eggs 1484 Caxton, Æsop, 11 245 (Jacobs) [story told in a fable of Avian] 1855 Gaskell, North and South, ch xviii, And now they come to us, and say we're to take less And we won't They'll have killed the goose that laid 'em the golden eggs, I reckon 1922 Weyman, Overton's Bank, ch xii, They had cooked their goose with a vengeance—no more golden eggs for them!

32 We desire but one feather out of your goose 1732 Fuller, No 5439

33 You're a man among the geese when the gander's away 1670 Ray, 177 1732 Fuller, No 5842 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 157

34 You are a pretty fellow to ride a goose a gallop 1678 Ray, 248, [plus] through a dirty lane 1732 Fuller, No 5843

35 You find fault with a fat goose 1678 Ray, 248 1732 Fuller, No 5902

36 Young is the goose that will eat no oats 1580 Lyly, Euphues, 366 (Arber) 1732 Fuller, No 6037 Cf No 23
Goose-quill 267 Grace

See also Bos; Candlemas, E.; Children (12); Dizzy; Fierce; Fool (82); Fox (1), (33), and (35); Good goose; Harborough Field; Hare (16); Ice (2); St. Chad; St. Martin (1); St. Valentine (3); Shoe (2); Snow (6); Steal (6) and (7); Tittle-tattle; Wild (3); Wise (2); and Wolf (4).

Goose-quill gentleman, A. 1639: Clarke, 226.

Goose-quill is more dangerous than a lion's claw, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 184. 1688: Quart. Review, cxxv. 252. There is... strong testimony to the superiority of letters to arms, or to the danger of law, in this other, "A goose quill is more dangerous than a lion's claw."

Gorse. See Furze; and Under the furze.


Gospel, All is (or is not), that one speaks; or, more recently, To take for Gospel = To accept as true; or, To be Gospel = to be true. [Credite me nobis folium recitare Sibyllae.—Juvenal, viii. 126.] Before 1250: Owl and Nightingale, 1268 (O). For-thi seide Alfred swithe wel And his worde was godspel. c. 1374: Chaucer, Troylus, bk. v. l. 1265. Every word was gospel that ye seyde! c. 1400: Rom. Rose, 1. 7609. Al is not gospel, out of doute, That men seyn in the townse aboute. 1593: Nashe, in Works, iv. 142 (Grosart), His creditors (thinking all is Gospel he speaks...).

1691: Merry Drolery, 238 (Ebsworth), Now all is Gospel that she saith. 1771: Smollett, Clinker, in Works, vi. 291 (1817). As for Jenkins, she affects to take all her mistress's reveries for gospel. 1883: Trollope, Autobiog., ch. v., I merely showed the letter to my wife, declaring my conviction that it must be taken as gospel. 1910: Lucas, Mr. Ingoldsie, ch. xxii., "No, no, I'm too old to be caught like that." "It's gospel, I assure you."

Gossip speaks ill of all, and all of her, A. 1732: Fuller, No 186.

Gossipping and lying go together. 1732: Fuller, No. 1741.

Gossips are frogs—they drink and talk. 1640: Herbert, Jas. Prudentum. 1670: Ray, 12.

Gotham—in various sayings. See quotes c. 1400: Townley Plays, 106 (E.E.T.S.). Now god gyf you care foles all sam; Sagh I neuer none so fare bot the foles of Gotham. 1526: Hand. Merry Talys, No. xxiv., "Of the iii wyse men of gotam" [title], p. 45 (Osterley). 1597: Hall, Satires, bk. ii. sat. v., Saint Fooles of Gotham ought thy parish be. 1639: Taylor (Water-Poet), Summ. Trav., 16, in Works, 1st coll. (Spens, S)., I saw the ancient town of Gotham, famous for the seven sages (or wise men) who are fabulously reported to live there in former ages. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, ii. 569 (1840). As wise as a man of Gotham. 1703: E. Ward, Writings, ii. 316, I happen'd to be a hopeful branch of that ancient and renown'd family of the wise-men of Gotham. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danoish Dict., s.v. "Wise," A wise man of Gotham. 1842: Halliwell, Nursery Rhymes, 19 (Percy S.), Three wise men of Gotham, Went to sea in a bowl: And if the bowl had been stronger, My song would have been longer. [Date of "song" unknown.] 1853: Kingsley, Water Babies, ch. vii., On the borders of that island he found Gotham, where the wise men live; the same who dragged the pond because the moon had fallen into it. 1894: A. J. C. Hare, Sussex, 74, The proverb, "As wise as the wise men of Gotham"... is believed to refer to Gotham, a manor partly in the parish of Hailsham, partly in that of Pevensey. [The seat of wisdom is more usually identified with the Notts village of Gotham.]

Gout. See Drink, verb (8).

Gown is his that wears it, The, and the world his that enjoys it. 1640: Herbert, Jas. Prudentum. 1670: Ray, 28 [with "hers" for the first "his"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 4560 [as in 1670].

Grace growth after governance, "Is an old said saw in each place." 1566: Becon, in Early Works, 305 (P.S.).
Grace of God = Shipwreck 1659

Grace of God = Shipwreck 1659

Howell, 12 O Master Vier, we cannot pay you your rent, for we had no Grace of God this year, No shipwreck upon our coast a saying of the Cornish

Grace of God See God, The grace of Grace will last, beauty will blast 1639 Clarke, 119 [with 'favour' for 'beautv' ] 1670 Rav, 98 [as in 1639] 1732 Fuller, No 6292

Grace, good fruit all, Or graft not at all

Ibid, No 6335

Grafting on a good stock, 'Tis good 1678 Ray 354 1732 Fuller, No 5082

Grafts be very good, Let the, or the knife be where it stood 1755 Bohn, 441

Graft by graft the hen fills her belly 1653 Middleton and Rowley, Span Gipsy, 11, 1, Grain pecked up after grain makes pulled fat 1732 Fuller, No 1744

Grain of prudence is worth a pound of craft, A Ibid, No 187

Grath and grout See quot 1617 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 78, If you've grath [riches] and grout [good breed]. You'll never be without

Gramercy forty pence, Jack Noble's dead 1659 Howell 13 1670 Ray, 215

Gramercy horse c 1600 in Colher, Roxb Ballads, 29 (1847), The hostler, to maintaine himselfe with money in his purse Approves the proverbe true and says gramercy horse 1631 Brathwaite, Whynetts, 71 (1859), If he [an ostler] rise to any preferment, he may say, Gramercy, horse 1659 Howell, 14, Cf Godamercy horse

Grandfather's servants are never good 1732 Fuller, No 1745

Grant all that is asked, To See quot 1593 Peele, Edward I, se x, Gloucester, an old sad saying — He that grants all is ask'd, Is much harder than Hercules task'd

Grantham gruel, nine galls and a gallon of water 1662 Fuller, Worthies, 11 269 (1840) Before 1674 in Roxb Ballads viii 427 (B S). Some gruel of Grantham, boy'd for the nonce 1790

Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Lines" 1878

Scott, Heart of Mid, ch xxiv, [Newark man log] Thou wilt get naethung at night save Grantham gruel, nine galls and a gallon of water 1689 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch xvi

Grantham steeple stand awry, 'Tis height makes 1596 Lodge, Wits Miscell 14 (Hunt Cl!), His beard is cut like the spier of Grantham steeple, 1604 Middleton, Works, vii 21 (Bullen) Wrestling them quite awry, like Grantham steeple. Before 1659 Cleveland, Poems, 63 (1742) Few churchmen can be innocent and high 'Tis height makes Grantham steeple stand awry 1732 Fuller, No 5086

Grapes are sour, The c 1580 U Fulwell, Ars Adulana, sig B 2, I see full well the fox will caue no grapes because he cannot reache them 1630 T Adams, Works, 69 The foxe dispraiseth the grapes he cannot reach 1661 Wit for Money, 4, And like the foxe, to cry the grapes are sowre 1721 Gibber, Refusal, IV, Poor Tom! What are the grapes sour my dear! 1760 Murphy, Way to Keep Him, 1, You would be glad to have me, but sour grapes, my dear 1876 Blackmore, Crivps, ch III, Ah, poor Mary, the grapes are sour

Grasp all, lose all c 1800 J Trusler, Prov in Verse, 77 1880 Spurgeon Ploughman's Pictures, 152

Grasp no more than thy hand will hold 1732 Fuller, No 1747

Grasps at too much, He that, holds nothing fast c 1205 Layamon, Brut, I 278 (Madden), For the mon is muchel set The nineth to him-selfen Mare thonne he mayen walden (For the man is a great fool who taketh upon himself more than he can manage) c 1386 Chaucer Melibeeus, § 24 For the proverbe seith 'he that to much embraceth, distreyeth hitel' 1578 Florio, First Frutes, fo 6, Who embraceth much, little closeth 1653 Urquhart, Rabelais, bk i ch xlvii, It is too great an undertaking and (as the proverb is), He that grasps too much holds fast but little 1732 Fuller, No 2123
Grass. 1. Grass and hay, we are all mortal. 1631: Brathwait, Whimzies, 73 (1859), Which makes him conclude in his owne element; Grasse and hay, we are all mortall. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 277, Good fellows . . . who say, grass and hay, we are mortal, let’s live till we dye.

2. Grass grows not upon the highway, nor in the market-place 1659: Howell, Proverbs: Brit.-Eng., 24, In market growes no grass nor grain. 1678: Ray, 149, Grass grows not upon the highway.

3. Grass never grows when the wind blows. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 7 (Percy S.).

4. No grass grows where the Turk's horse has trod. 1639: Fuller, Holy War, bk. v. ch xxx., According to the old proverb, Grass springeth not where the grand signior's horse setteth his foot. Before 1658: Cleveland, Works, 77 (1742). Of whom you may say, as of the Great Sultan's horse, where he treads the grass grows no more. 1732: Fuller, No. 5664, Where the great Turk's horse treads, grass never grows.

5. To let the grass grow under one's feet. 1550: Udall, Roister Doister, III iii., There hath grown no grass on my heel, since I went hence. 1707: Spanish Bayad, IV iii., I have not been idle— I have not let grass grow under my feet. 1864: Mrs. H. Wood, Trevlyn Hold, ch. xlvi., Nora never let the grass grow under her feet, or under any one else's feet, when there was work to do. 1923: Lucas, Advisory Ben, I. Her disapproval of the pastoral process known as letting the grass grow under your feet was intense.


7. You must look for grass on the top of the oak tree, i.e. "the grass seldom springs well till the oak comes out"—Inwards. 1670: Ray, 44. 1839: In- wards, Weather Lore, 151. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 159

See also Cut (17).

Grateful man. See quotes. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium, To a grateful man, give money when he asks 1732: Fuller, No. 2113, He that gives to a grateful man, puts out to usury.

Grave as a judge. 1685: S. Wesley, Maggots, 2, As grave as a judge that's giving charge. 1753: World, No. 45, Nor have I any great objection to "as grave as a judge." 1836: Marryat, Easy, ch. xxxii., Mesty sat on the chest between them, looking as grave as a judge. 1907: Do Morgan, Alice-for-Short, ch. viii., "What a funny little tot it is!" he cried. "As grave as a judge!"


Grave as an owl. 1702: Farquhar, Inconstant, III. ii., Why, then, look grave as an owl in a barn. 1828: Scott, Fair Maid, ch. v., What has befallen you, that makes you look as grave as an owl?

Grave, subs., and Graves. 1. Graves are of all sizes. 1732: Fuller, No. 1751.

2. The grave is the general meeting-place. Ibid., No. 4593.

3. The grave's good rest. 1632: Row- ley, Woman never Vexed, v., But I must go before him; and 'tis said, The grave's good rest when women go first to bed.

4. To the grave with the dead, and then that live to the bread. 1612: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. I. bk. iii. ch. v. 1710: S. Palmer, Moral Essays on: Proverbs, 247. 1732: Fuller, No. 6347.


Grave on the plain, To! To be turned out of doors. 1869: Hazlitt, 418.

Grease, To fry in one's own. [Quas
quom caetera cochleae in occulto latent, Suo siti suco vivont, ros si non cadit, Item parasiti rebus prolatis latent In occulto, miseri victatian suco suo Dum run rurant homines quos liguriant—Plautus, Capt., i 80-4] c 1386
Chaucer, Wife of Bath's Prol., i 487 But certenly, I made folk swich dere, That in his owene grece I made him frye For an gre c 1400 Lydgate
Temple of Glas 14 (EETS). Thus is he fryed in his owene grece, To-rent and torn with his owene rage 1540
Palsgrave, Acostus, sig T3. He lyeth and fryeth in his owene grese for anger Before 1577 Gascoigne, Works, i 474 (Hazlitt). The sisters being thus on all sides reected began to melt in their owne grease 1681 in Rosb
Ballads vi 2 (BS), And he like abbeylubbers stew'd in their owne greases 1698 Weyman, Shrewsbur, ch xxiv. If they impeach me, I return to Loo, and they may strew in their own juice

Grease, verb 1 Grease a fat sow
See Every man basteth, and Sow (14)
2 He who greases his wheels, helps his oxen 1732 Fuller, No 2384
3 If you grease a cause well it will stretch Ind., No 2755
4 To grease in the fist = To bribe 1387 Trevisa, tr Higden, vii 7 (Rolls Ser.). Elsinus grooped here bondones, and got slylyche a maundment of pe kyng, and was i put in at Canterbury 1569 E Fenton Wonders of Nature, x35. Annotating their clarkes in the hand with double fee 1576 'Wapull, Tide larneth no Man, sig Cr. Wherefore he will largelie grease me in the hand 1606 Ret from Parnassus, Pt II II n.ought his gowyt fists then first with gold to be greased? 1681 W Robertson, Phrasal Generalis, 281. You must grease him in the fist with a new fee for a bribe 1589 in Farmer, Musa Pedestris, 72. Cease greasing their fist and they'll soon cease their jaw 1681 Evans Letts Words, 159 (EDS). A farmer said to me in reference to a dooceur which his landlord's agent appeared to expect, "but thus are giff-gaff grease a fist sort o' woo'k doon t' dew for may"

5 To grease one's boots = To cajole or flatter 1813 Ray, 198
Greasy as a bager 1917 Bridge,
Cheshire Proverbs, 14
Great and good are seldom the same man 1732 Fuller, No 1752
Great and the little have need of one another, The Ind., No 4564
Great as the devil and Doctor Faustus
See Devil (39)
Great bargain, At a, pause 1736
Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i 447 (Bigelow). At a great pennyworth pause a while 1875 A B Cheales,
Proverb Folk-Lore, 101. At a great pennyworth pause Cf Good bargain
Great barker's are no biters 1605
Camden Remains, 322 (1870) 1659
Howell, 8
Great birth is a very poor dish at table 1855 Bohn, 365
Great boast small roast c 1532
R Copland, Spytell House, i 978, Great boot and small roost 1591 Harington, Ori Furioso, b. xxv st 66. As if there were great boast and little rost c 1660 in Rosb Ballads, ii 490 (Hindley) 1732 Fuller, No 6297 1869
Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch xv., Such hopes lead to great boast and small roast
Great bodies move slowly 1855
Bohn, 365
Great braggers little doers 1539
Taverner, Proverbs, fo 49, Great braggers commonly be least fighters 1732
Fuller, No 1753 Cf Greatest talkers
Great businesses tum on a little pin 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium Cf
Great engines
Great ceremomy for a small saint, A. 1732 Fuller, No 190
Great city, A, a great solitude 1625
Bacon, Essays "Friendship," The Latine adage meeteth with it a little, Magna cunctas, magna solutudo 1732
Fuller, No 191
Great cry "See Much cry"
Great doings at Gregory's, heat the oven twice for a custard 1678 Ray, 72 1732 Fuller, No 1755
Great doings in the North when they bar their doors with tailors, There's 1678 Ray, 341 1683 Menton,
Great Ale, 83–7 (1697). 1846–59, Denham Tracts, ii. 75 (F.L.S.) [with "steek" for "bar"].

Great dowry is a bed full of brambles, A. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1670: Ray, 8 [with "brabbles" for "brambles"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 193.


Great fish eateth the little, The. 1575: Churchyard, Chippes, 145 (Collier). The whales, you see, eats up the little fishe. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 29. 1633: Draxe, 141.

Great force hidden in a sweet command, There is. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

Great fortune, in the hands of a fool, is a great misfortune, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 194.

Great fortune is a great slavery, A. Ibid., No. 195.

Great gain makes work easy. Ibid., No. 1756.

Great gifts are for great men. 1639: Clarke, 188. 1670: Ray, 98 [with "from" for "for"].

Great Glen. See quot. 1678: Ray, 317. At Great Glen there are more great dogs than honest men.

Great harvest. See Harvest (7).


Great head and small necke is the beginning of a gecke [fool]. 1623: Wodroephe, Spared Hours, 518.

Great honours are great burdens. 1670: Flecknoe, Epigrams, 53. If that saying be true, Great honours are great burthens.

Great hopes make great men. 1732: Fuller, No. 1759.

Great journey to the world's end, It is a. 1639: Clarke, 3 1670: Ray, 158. 1732: Fuller, No. 2859 [with "life's" for "world's"].

Great light a great lanthorn, To a. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

Great man, A, and a great river are often ill neighbours. 1732: Fuller,

No. 198. 1813: Ray, 117, A great lord is a bad neighbour.

Great marks are soonest hit. 1732: Fuller, No. 1760.

Great men have great faults. 1633: Draxe, 127. 1639: Clarke, 160. Great mens faults are never small.

Great men's favours are uncertain. 1736: Bailey, Did., s.v: "Favour."

Great men would have care of little ones, If, both would last long. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

Great need of a wife that marries mamma's darling, He has. 1732: Fuller, No. 1872.

Great oaks. See Oak (5).

Great ones, There would be no, if there were no little. 1670: Ray, 12. 1732: Fuller, No. 4868.

Great pain and little gain make a man soon weary. 1633: Draxe, 221. 1670: Ray, 129.

Great pains quickly find ease. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

Great pan. See quot. 1913: Devonsh. Assoc. Trans., xliv. 90. If you've a-got a gurt pan an' little to cook, the pan aits the lot, as the zayin' is.

Great promise small performance. 1562: Heywood, Epigr., 5th Hund., No. 10. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Fair-seur," Great promisers, weak performers. 1880: Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 18, Those who are quick to promise are generally slow to perform.

Great put the little on the hook, The. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

Great river. See quot. Ibid., In a great river great fish are found; but take heed lest you be drowned. 1689: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xix.

Great ship asks deep waters, A. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1670: Ray, 24. 1732: Fuller, No. 203, A great ship must have deep water.

Great shoe fits not a little foot, A. 1633: Draxe, 5. 1639: Clarke, 138.

Great spenders are bad lenders. 1639: Clarke, 262. 1670: Ray, 145 1732: Fuller, No. 6169.


Great talkers are great bards 1736 Bailey, *Dict. s.v. Talker*.

Great talkers are like leaky pitchers, everything runs out of them 1855 Bohn, 366.

Great torch may be lighted at a little candle, A 1583 Melanchte *Philotinus*, sig A3.

Great tree hath a great fall, A 1380 Chaucer, *Trovius*, bk. II 1380-6. When that the sturdy oak on which men haken ofs, for the none, Receyved hath the happy falling strook. The grete swegh doth it come al at ones As doon these rakkes or these mune-stones For swifter cours com th thing that is of wghte, Whan it descendeth, than doon thinges lighte 1732 Fuller, No 204.

Great trees keep under the little ones 1771 Ibid., No 1769.

Great way to the bottom of the sea, *Tis b 1639 Clarke, 4 1670 Ray, 154 1732 Fuller, No 1850. He goes a great voyage, that goes to the bottom of the sea.

Great wealth and content seldom live together 1732 Fuller, No 1771.

Great weights hang on small wires 1639 Clarke, 109 1670 Ray 154 1732 Fuller, No 1773 [with may before 'hang'].

Great wits have short memories. 1668 Dryden, *Syl. M. Mar. All.*, IV 1. He has forgot it, sir, good wits you know have bad memories 1720 Swift, in *Works*, ix 101 (Scott, 1883).

A common-place book is what a provident poet cannot subsist without, for this proverbial reason, that 'great wits have short memories' 1763 Murphy, *Citizen*, II, 4. George do you remember what you read Miss Maria? Not so well as I could wish. Wits have short memories.

Great wits jump 1691 II. 11 for Money 14. 'Tis much like it, I must confess but wits jump 1758-67 Sterne, *Trist. Stand. vol in ch* ix.

Great wits jump—for the moment 1826-44 Hood *Comic Poems* 'To Grimoldi,' Ah, where thy legs—that witty pair! For 'great wits jump'—and so did they! 1884 *N. & Q.*, 6th ser., x 276, 'Les beaux esprits rencontrent' is, of course the same as our 'Great wits jump together' 1922 Punch, 27 Dec p 601, col 3. Lord Riddell considers that Mr H G Wells is one of the world's greatest minds. Great minds, as the saying is, think alike 1855 C F Good wits.

Great would have none great, The, and the little all little 1640 Herbert, *Joc Prudentum*.

Greater state, the more wisdom, The Before 1500 in Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 130 (E E T S.), The gretter state, the more wisdom 1855.

Greater the right, The, the greater the wrong 1569 Grafton, *Chron.*, n 228 (1809). According to the adage, the extreme of justice is extreme injustice 1639 Clarke 182. Extremity of law is extremity of wrong 1880 L'Estrange, *Tully's Offices*, 18. From whence comes that saying, *Extreme right is extreme wrong* 1820 Colton, *Lacon*, Pt II No 139. There is one motto that ought to be put at the head of our penal code, 'Summum jus, summum iuris' 1855.

Greater the sinner, The, the greater the saint 1856 E Hinchcliffe, *Bartholme*, 29. How well is the old proverb illustrated The greater the sinner, the greater the saint 1913 *Folk-Lore*, xxiv 76 (Oxon).

Greatest barker's bite not sorest, The 1587 Greene, in *Works*, n 152 (Grosart). Orlando thought the greatest barker's were not always the sorest biters 1639 Clarke, 153 1670 Ray, 59 1732 Fuller, No 4567. The greatest barker's are not the greatest biters 1855.

Greatest boasters are not the boldest men, The 1509 Barclay, *Ship of Fools*, 1 198 (1874). For greatest crakers are not ay boldest men 1570 Barclay, *Mirror of Good Manners*, 76 (Spens S). The greatest crakers are not the boldest men 1855.

Greatest call. See Calf (8).

Greatest clerks are not the wisest men, The. c. 1386: Chaucer, Reeve's Tale, l. 134, "The greaterst clerkes been noght the wysest men." As whylom to the wolf thus spak the mare. 1496: Paston Letters, in. 153 (Gairdner, 1900), Wherfor, late men deme what they wylle, grettest clerksys are not alwaeye wysest men. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 237 (Arber). 1633: Jonson, Tale of a Tub, i. ii. 1732: Fuller, No. 4570. 1821: Scott, Kenilworth, ch. xxxii., He... may be one of those whom Geoffrey Chaucer says wittily, the wisest clerks are not the wisest men.

Greatest hate springs from the greatest love, The. 1732: Fuller, No. 4573.

Greatest step is that out of doors, The. 1640: Herbert, Joc. Prudentium.

Greatest talkers are always the least doers, The. 1594: Shakespeare, Rich. III., i. iii., Talkers are no good doers. 1607: Marston, What You Will, III., Ther's an old rustic proverbe, these great talkers are never good doers. 1681: W. Robertson, Phrasol. Generalis, 1203. 1692: L'Estrange, Asop, 360 (3rd ed.), The boldest talkers are not always the greatest doers. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Talk." Cf. Great bragers.

Greatest vessel hath but its measure, The. 1732: Fuller, No. 4580.


Greedy as a dog. 1639: Clarke, 285. 1670: Ray, 295. 1714: Mandeville, Fable of Bees, 187, Dogs, tho' become domestick animals, are ravenous to a proverb.

Greedy is the goddes. c. 1320: in Relig. Antiquae, i. III (1841), "Greedy is the goddes"; Quoth Hendyng.

Greek Kalendis, At the = Never. [In literis cum aliquis nunquam soluturos significare vult Ad Kalendas Graecas soluturos ait.—Suetonius, Ost., 87.] 1540: Palsgrave, Acostas, sig. VI, At the Grekish calendes... or a day after domesday. 1595: Lodge, Fig for Momus, Epist. vii., Yea, when the Grecian Calendis come (quotl I). 1653: Urquhart, Rabelais, bk. i. ch. xx, The judgment or decree shall be given out and pronounced at the next Greek Calendis, that is, never. 1740: North, Examen, 477, It must be dated ad Greecas Calendas. 1880: World, 13 Oct., p. 6, Any prospects of earning a dividend on which must be relegated to the Greek kalends. 1922: Observer, 5 March, p. 7, col. 5, The policy... which seemed to postpone to the Greek Kalends the concessions now freely granted to Egypt.

Greek to one, To be. 1603: Shakespeare, Caesar, I. ii., But for mine own part, it was Greek to me 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. xix., All this to the husbandmen was heathen Greek. 1821: Scott, Kenilworth, ch. xxix., But this is Greek to you now, honest Lawrence, and in sooth learning is dry work.

Green, adj. 1. A green shear is an ill shake. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 51 (Percy S.).


3. A green Yule. See Christmas (3) and (4).

4. All green things are gay. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. i., All thing is gay that is greene. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), Sc. of Folly, 48, in Works, ii. (Grosart).

5. As green as a leek. 1585: Nomenclator, 180, A colour as greene as a leek. 1595: Shakespeare, Mids. N. Dream, V. i., His eyes were green as leeks. 1745: Agreeable Companion, 141, If ladies cheek Be green as leek. 1886: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 426 (E.D.S.), So green's a leek is the usual simile.

in Works, 1 272 (Grosart). As greene as the greenest grasse c 1660 in Roxb. Ballads, ii 444 (B. S.). Her gown was of velvet as green as the grass 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch iv, Poor soft Tommy, as green as grass, and as ready to bend as a willow

7 Green wood makes a hot fire 1477 Rivers, Dictes, etc., 65 (1877) The grene wode is hotter than the other when it is weyl hyndeled 1586 G. Whitney, Emblems 173, Greenest wood, though kindlinge longe yet whittest most it burnes 1670 Ray 30 1732 Fuller, No 1774

8 King Green See quot 1887 Parsh and Shaw, Dict Kent Dialect, 155 (EDS). The use of green meat as a purge gives rise to this old Kent saying—' King Grin [i.e Green], Better than all medicin' 9 Strew green rushes for the stranger 1546 Heywood Proverbs, Pt II ch iii, Greene rushes for this stranger c 1594 Bacon Promis, No 118. Ceremonies and green rushes are for strangers c 1618 B & F, Valentinian, II iv, Where is this stranger? Rushes, ladies, rushes, Rushes as green as summer for this stranger 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I, If we had known of your coming, we would have strewed rushes for you

10 When there's a green frost— Never 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-lore, 595

11 You see no green cheese but your teeth must water 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch ix 1553 Republica, III iv Ye can see no green cheese but your teeth will water 1670 Ray, 198

Grenville family See quot 1807 Norway, H and B in Devon, etc., 183, "Never a Grenville wanted loyalty," so say the Cornish still

Grey and green make the worst medley 1678 Ray, 149 ['Gray']

Grey as a badger 1720 Swift, in Works, xiv 134 (Scott) Though she lives till she's grey as a badger all over 1786 Wolcot, in Works, i 140 (1795) x823 Moor, Suffolk Words, 45, We say 'as grey as a badger' of

one whose head is "silvered o'er with age" 1862 Dialect of Leeds, 406 1880 Courtney, W Cornwall Words, 26 (EDS), "Grey as a badger" is a Cornish proverb

Grey as grannum's cat 1732 Fuller, No 693 1880 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures 48, He will be as grey as grannum's cat before he improves

Grey before he is good, He's 1678 Ray, 249

Grey hairs are death's blossoms 1863 Trench, Proverbs, 70 (1905) ['Gray']

Grey mare is the better horse, The 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch iv c 1570 Marv of Wit and Science, II 1, Break her betimes, and bring her under by force Or else the grey mare will be the better horse 1626 Charles I, in Ellis, Orig Letters, ii 249 (1624), My sister and brother (I place them so, because I thinke the gray mare is the best horse) 1723 Steele, Conscious Lovers, I i c 1740 Fielding, Ewrydics 1849 Macaulay, Hist Eng., i ch xi n, The vulgar proverb, that the grey mare is the better horse, originated, I suspect, in the preference generally given to the grey mares of Flanders over the finest coach horses of England 1926 Phillpotts, Yellow Sands, II, And when the grey mare's the better hoss, that's no marriage neither

Grey-hound Proverbial descriptions of the shape of a good grey-hound 1486 Boke of St Albans sig Fm u, The propretes of a goode grehound A grehounde shulde be heded like a snake, and necked like a drake Toted like a kat, Tayled like a rat Syded Iyke a terne Chyned like a berne 1611 Markham Country Contemtments, 39 (1675), An old time lefe by your fore fathers, from which you shall understand the true shapes of a perfect grey-hound and this is If you will have a good tike, Of which there are few like He must be headed like a snake Neckt like a drake, Backt like a beam, Sided like a bream, Tayled like a rat, And footed like a cat 1670 Ray, 212, A head like a snake, a neck
like a drake, A back like a beam, a belly like a bream, A foot like a cat, a tail like a rat. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. “Grey-hound” [as in 1670]

Grind or find, I'll either. 1670: Ray, 178.

Grind with every wind, To. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. “Grind.”

Grist to the mill, To bring. 1583: Golding, Calvin on Dut., 755 (O.). There is no lykethoode that those things will bring gryst to the mill. 1661: Gurnal, Christian in Armour, Pt. III. v. 18, ch. xxx. p. 481 (1679), 'Tis a pick-purse doctrine, contrived to bring grist to the Popes mill. 1720: Vade Mecum for Malt-worms, Pt. I. p. 21, No writs have we, to draw Grist to your mill. 1767: Murphy, Sch. for Guardians, I. iv., (A rap at the door) More grist to the mill. Go and open the door, Peter. 1871: G. Eliot, Midsummer, ch. x. Some people make fat, some blood, and some bile—that's my view of the matter; and whatever they take is a sort of grist to the mill.

Grizzing like a badger. Corn. 1895: Jos. Thomas, Randigal Rhymes, 60.

Groaning horse and a groaning wife never fail their master, A. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. iv. 1611: T. Heywood, Golden Age, I. You know the proverbe: A grunting horse and a groaning wife never deceive their master. 1670: Ray, 51, A grunting horse . . . seldom fail their master. 1732: Fuller, No. 207 [as in 1670, minus "their master "]


Greats. See Blood (2).

Groby pool, Leics. 1. See quotes. 1678: Ray, 317, For his death there is many a wet eye in Groby pool. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Leicestershire" [as in 1678]. 1881: Evans, Leics. Words, 301 (E.D.S.), This is generally used in the form of a prophecy: "When a doys, thee'll ba wet oys i' Groawy Pule."


Groves in the dark, He that, finds that he would not. 1659: Howell, 13. 1670: Ray, 12. 1732: Fuller, No. 2124.


Ground-sweat cures all disorders, A. c. 1616: in Farmer, Musa Pedestris, 81, We . . . sent him to take a ground-sweat [buried him]. 1830: Forby, Vocab. E. Anglia, 434. 1872: J. Glyde, Jr., Norfolk Garland, 150.

Grout [Good breed] afore brass for me. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 63.

Grow, verb. 1. He grow's warm in his harness. 1623: Wodroephe, Spared Hours, 487.

2. See quot. 1678: Ray, 72, This grow'd by night. Spoken of a crooked stick or tree, it could not see to grow.

Growing youth. See Wolf (1).

Grunting horse. See Groaning.

Guest is never welcome, A constant. 1732: Fuller, No. 48.


2. Poor Guildford, proud people, three churches, no steeple. 1886: Hissey, On the Boy Scat, 42.

Guiler is beguiled, The. 1337: Langland, Ploeman, B, xvii. 337, The old lewe graunteh, That gyllours be bigiled.

c. 1386: Chaucer, Recce's Tale, l. 401, A gyllour shal himself bigyled be.
Gilt is always jealous 1732 Fuller, No 1779
Guilty Gilbert See quot 1608
Armyn Nest of Ninnies, 39 (Sh S),
By her cheeks you might find guilty
Gilbert where he had hid the brush
Gull comes against the ram, The
1633 Drake 189, The gull commeth
not, but against a tempest 1670 Ray,
98
Gup quean, gup ' Gup' probably
= Go up 1523 Wydow Edyth Mery
gestys, 36 (1664), Than her lemmam
cast her vp, Go where she wold gup
queen gup 1546 Heywood, Proverbs,
Pt II ch iv, Walk drab, walke
Nay (guoth she), walke knaue walke
1573 G Harvey, Letter-Book, 118 (Camen-
den S ) Marry gupp, hore, gupp, all
the day longe Cl Hop, where
Guts in his brains, He has 1663
Butler, Hudibras, Pt I can ii 11091,
Hard matter for a man to do That has
but any guts in's brains 1697 T Dlke,
City Lady, III ii, They have no guts
in their brains 1720 Swift, Right of
Precedence, par 23, Our vulgar saying,
'' that men have guts in their brains,''
is a vulgar error 1828 Carr, Craven
Dialect, 1 47, ''You have no guts in
your brains'', you are completely
ignorant, you are quite destitute of
skill or cunning 1889 Longman's
Mag Apr 619 (W ), Maurie has good
guts ' her brain
Guts to a bear, Not fit to carry 1659
Howell 17, He is not worthy to carry
guts to a bear 1670 Ray, 200, Not
worthy to carry guts after a bear
1785-95 Wolcot, in Works, 1 193
(1795) George thinks us scarcely fit
(tis very clear) To carry guts, my
brother, to a bear 1826 in Mrs
Hughes, Letters, etc, of Scott, ch vi,
''So, Sir, I hear you have had the
impudence to assert that I am not fit
to carry guts to a bear'' ''Oh no!—
I defended you I said you were''
Gutter Lane, All goeth down 1631,
Brathwait, Whimzies, 145 (1859),
Whatsoever hee drains from the four
corners of the city, goes in muddy
taplash downe Gutter-lane 1662 Ful-
er, Worthies, 11 348 (1840) 1721
Bailey, Eng Diet s v, All goes down
Guttur Lane 1880 Spurgeon, Plough-
man's Pictures, 40
Habler or nab. 1542: Udall, tr. Erasmus’ *Apoph.,* 209 (1877), To be put to the ploughing of making or marring, and of habbe or nhabbe to wyne all, or to lese all. 1595: *Pedlar’s Prophecy,* l. 1174 (Malone S.), Sing and be mery, hab or nab, away the mare. 1693: Urquhart, *Rabelais,* bk. iii. ch. xlv., The chance and hazard of a throw of the dice, hab or nab, or luck as it will 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.,* s.v., ’Tis meer hab-nab whether it succeeds or not. 1828: Carr, *Craven Dialect,* i. 204, To obtain a thing by hab and by nab, i.e. by fair means or foul. 1886: Elworthy, *West Som. Word-Book,* 307. (E.D.S.), Hab or nab = “get or lose”—“hit or miss.”

Habit. See Custom.


Had I fish, is good without mustard. 1639: Clarke, 114. 1670: Ray, 99.


ch. ix., Ye, (quoth she), who had that he hath not, woulde Doo that he dooth not, as olde men haue tolde 1612: Davies (of Hereford), *Sc. of Folly,* 47, in *Works,* ii. (Grosart) [as in 1546].

Haddock to paddock, To bring = To lose everything. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs,* Pt. ii. ch. x., And thus had he brought haddocke to paddocke. 1577: Stanhurste, *Descrip. of Ireland,* fo. 10, I had been like to have brought haddocke to paddocke.

Haddock. See Deaf (4); and May, E (g).


2. He ships like hail on a pack-saddle. 1732: Fuller, No. 2022.

Hail fellow well met. 1519. Horman, *Vulgaria,* fo. 148, He made so moche of his servaunt that he waxed hayle felowe with hym. c. 1550: Becon, *Catechism,* etc., 561 (P.S.), They would be “hail fellow well-met” with him. c. 1630: *Dicie of Devonsh.,* IV. ii., in Bullen, *Old Plays,* ii 72, The hangman and you had bene “hayle fellow well met.” 1748: Richardson, *Clarissa,* v. 146 (1783), Who, being no proud woman, is hail fellow, well met, as the saying is, with all her aunt’s servants. 1858: Carlyle, *Sartor,* bk. i. ch. x. 1857: Hughes, *Tom Brown,* Pt. ii. ch. iii., The ease with which he himself became hail-fellow well-met with anybody, and blundered into and out of twenty friendships a half year . . .

Hailer is as bad as the stailer, The = The receiver is as bad as the thief. 1825: Jennings, *Somersetsh. Words,* 43,
Hailstorm

Hence the very common expression, that the holer is as bad as the stealer. 1879 Folk-Lore Record, 110 203. The holer is as bad as the stealer. [Corn] 1883 Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore 588. The holer is as bad as the heaver 1886 Elworthy West Som Word-Book 335 (E D S). Holer one who covers up or conceals—hence in the every-day saying the heler’s, so bad as the stealer 1892 S Hewett, Peasant Speech of Devon 8.

Hailstorm by day denotes a frost at night, A 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore 115.

Hair I A hair of the dog that bit you 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi I pray the leat me and my fellow have A hair of the dog that bote vs last night—And bitten were we both to the braine aught 1674 Jonson, Bart Fair, I, ‘Twas a hot night with some of us, last night, John shall we pluck a hair of the same wolf to-day, proctor John’ 1674 Head and Kirlman, Eng Rogue, in 91. If they, in the morning, did fall to drinking again, taking a hair of the old dog 1717 E Ward, Brit Wonders, 17, A hair of the same dog next morning Is best to quench our fervish burning 1817 Scott, Rob Roy, ch xii, He poured out a large bumper of brandy, exhorting me to swallow “a hair of the dog that had bit me” 1841 Dickens, Barn Rudge, ch lu.

2 His hair grows through his hood—He is on the road to run c 1450 in Relig Antiquae, II 67 (1843). He that lovyth welle to fare, Ever to spend and never spire, But he have the more good, His here wol grow throw his hood Before 1529 Skelton, Bouge of Courte, I 350, [of Riot] His here was grown thoroweoute his hat c 1600 Deloney, Thos of Reading, ch v, Out you dutty heales, you will make your husbands haire grow through his hood I doubt 1694 Motteux, Kabelas, bk iv ch lii, In so much that Snp was condemn d to make good the stuffs to all his customers and to this day poor Cabidges haire grows through his hood.

3 More hair than wit—often with Bush natural prefixed 1546 Heywood Proverbs, Pt II ch vii, Thy tales (quoth he) shew long heare, and short wit, wife 1589 L Wright, Display of Dutie, 38. According to the old proverbe, bush natural, more hayre than wit 1608 Middleton, Mad World, II 1, There’s great hope of his wit, his hair’s so long a-coming 1670 Ray, 166, Bush natural, more hair then wit 1732 Fuller, No 1025 [as in 1670] 1880 N & Q, 6th ser, 1 403, There was formerly a vague notion that abundance of hair denoted a lack of brains and from this idea arose a proverb, “Bush natural, more hair than wit.”

4 Pull hair and hair and you’ll make the earle bald 1639 Clarke, to 1670 Ray, 134.

Hake See Lose (16).

Haldon, Devon See quotes 1838.

Holloway, Provincialisms, 147. In Devonshire they say, ’When Haledown has a hat. Let Kenton beware of a skatt [shower of rain]” 1750 N & Q, 1st ser, u 511, When Haldon hath a hat, Kenton may beware a skatt 1803 Inwards, Weather Lore, 101 (as in 1836).

Halesworth See Beecles.

Half a loaf is better than no bread 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi 1605 Camden, Remains, 319 (1870).

1642 D Rogers, Naaman, To Reader, He is a foolke who counts not halfe a loafe better then no bread 1681 A Behm, Rover Pt II II ii, You know the proverbe of the half loafe, Aranade c 1720 in Somers Tracts, xiii 824 (1811) 1793 Grose, Olio, 123 (2nd ed) 1857 Hughes, Tom Brown, Pt II ch ii, Yes, he’s a whole-hog man, is Tom Sooner have no bread any day than half the loaf.

Half an acre is good land 1659 Howell, 4 1670 Ray, 99 1732 Fuller, No 1782.

Half an egg is better than an empty shell 1639 Clarke, 86 1679 Ray, 84 1732 Fuller, No 901 1855 Robinson Whitty Gloss, 176, Half an egg is better than a team’d [empty] shell.
Half an eye, To see with. 1531: in State Papers: "Henry VIII.," v. 266, As with half an eye ye may perceive. 1584: B. R., Enterpe, 58 (Lang), Whych any man with halfe an eye may easily discerne. c. 1660: Jer. Taylor, in Works, ix. 386 (Edinb. ed.), But half an eye may see the different accounts 1715: Prior, Alma, can. i. l. 238. 1876: Blackmore, Cripps, ch. xl., Anybody with half an eye could see through that conspiracy. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II. Half an hour is soon lost at dinner. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II. Half an hour past three quarters, and 1639: Clarke, 72. Half an hour’s hanging hinders five miles’ riding. 1678: Ray, 150. Half-baked. See quot. 1864: "Corn- nish Proverbs," in N. & Q., 3rd ser., vi. 494, He is only half-baked; he would take a brush more. Cf. Loaf (1). Half-egg, Give him the other, and burst him. 1678: Ray, 241. Half hanged. See III name. Half is better than the whole, The. [πεπόλεμων πάρεκβα.—Hesiod, Works and Days.] There seems to be an allusion to the saying in the first quotation. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xiii., Thats ist, if the halfe shall judge the whole (quot I. 1550: Latimer, Sermons, 277 (P.S.), There is a proverb which I read many years ago. Dimidium plus toto: "The half some- times more than the whole." 1726: tr. Gracian’s Hero, 4, That seeeminglesslystrange paradox of the wise man of Miltiene, That the half is better than the whole. 1782: T. Twining, in Twining Fam. Papers, 104 (1887), The famous saying of old Hesiod, that "half is more than the whole"... is to nothing more applicable than to a numerous party. Half sheweth what the whole meaneth, The. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vii., This halfe sheweth what the hole meaneth. 1633: Draxe, 79. Half the truth is often a wholiele. 1875: A. B. Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 166. Half the world knows not how the other half lives. 1649: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. e. 1750: Law Life; or One Half of the World knows not how the other Half Live [title]. 1830: Marryat, King’s Own, ch. x. 1925; C. K. S., in Sphere, 27 June, p. 392, col. 3, One half the world, we are told, does not know how the other half lives. Half warned, half armed. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vi. 1605 Camden, Remains, 323 (1570). c 1625 B. & F., Women Pleased, III. iii. Since you’re so high and hot, sir, you have half arm’d us. 1659: Howell, 8. Halfpenny good silver, To think one’s. 1575: Gascoigne, Glasse of Govt., I. v., I thought my halfpenny good silver within these few yeares past, and now no man esteemeth me vnlesse it be for counsell. 1586: Pettie, tr. Guazzo’s Civil Convers., fo. 115, Shee hath great cause... to think her halfe penie better siluer than other womens. 1633: Draxe, 26, He thinketh his halfpenny good siluer. Cf. Farthing; and Penny (26). Halfpenny. See Hand (8). Haldgarver Court. See quot. 1602: Carew, Surv. of Cornwall, 296 (1871), Hence is sprung the proverb, when we see one slovenly appareld, to say “He shall be presented in Haldgarver Court.” 1662: Fuller, Worthies (Cornwall), i. 307 (1840), He is to be summoned before the Mayor of Haldgarver. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. “Cornwall” [as in 1862]. 1821: Scott, Kenilworth, ch. iv., Depart—vanish—or we’ll have you summoned before the Mayor of Haldgarver. 1880: Courtney, W., Cornwall Words, xiii. (E.D.S.), To be presented in Haldgarver Court. Halifax. 1. Go to Halifax. 1878: Folk-Lore Record, i. 165, We have also the expression, "Go to Halifax." 1920: L. J. Jennings, Chestnuts and Small Beer, 140, I refused to admit that I had made a faux pas, and told my critics to go to Halifax 2. Gooide brade, etc. See quot. 1878: Folk-Lore Record, i. 165. A similarity is also said to exist between the local dialect [Halifax] and that of Friesland and the low countries, whence the following distich:—Gooide brade, but- ter, and cheese, Is goid Halifax and goid Friesse.
Halifax Law See quot 1586
Leicester, in Motley, United Neth, 1444 (1860). Under correction my good Lord, I have had Halifax law—to be condemned first and inquired upon after 1609 Quoted in N & Q, 5th ser, iv 154 First executing the prisoner, then enquiring of his dement as men say they doa at Halifax 1708
Haltifax and its Gibbet-Law placed in a True Light [title] 1922 in N & Q, 12th ser, xi 102. This was the celebrated Halifax Gibbet Law, which gave rise to the well-known proverb—From Hell Hull, and Halifax, God Lord deliver us [q v s v "Hells"]

Hallamshire When all the world shall be aloft Then Hallamshire shall be God's croft 1678 Ray, 340 1790
Grose Prov Gloss s v "Yorkshire" 1878 Folk-Lore Record, 1 166

Halloo before you are out of the wood
See Out of the wood

Hallowmas See Beggar (13)

Halt before a cripple, Don't c 1374
Chaucer, Troilus, bk iv 1 1457. It is full hard to halten unespied Before a creful, for he can the craft 1592
Lyly, Gallathea, IV 1, Hee must halt cunningly that will deceive a cripple 1630
Jonson, New Inn, III 1. It is ill halting afore cripples 1653
Urquhart Rabelais, bk 1 ch xx, Halt not before the lame 1732 Fuller, No 1784, Halt not before a cripple

Halt before you are lame, You 1670
Ray 178 1754, Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict, s v "Halt"

Halter 1 A halter and a rope for him that will be Pope Without all right and reason 1659 Howell, ii 1670
Ray, 212

2 He hath made a halter to hang himself 1639 Clarke 200

3 It is ill talking of a halter in the house of a man that was hanged 1612
Shelton, Quotere Pt 1 bk ii ch xi
One should not make mention of a rope in one's house that was hanged 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs 96, Don't talk of a halter in the company of him whose father was hanged 1814 Scott, Waterley, ch lxxi, "There were many good folk at Derby, and it's ill speaking of halters" with a sly cast of his eye toward the Baron

Halterburn See quot 1913 E M Wright, Rustic Speech, etc., 123. A Northumbrian proverbial saying is like the butter of Halterburn, it would neither rug nor rive [be pulled nor torn] nor cut with a knife—it was confounded

Hambleton-bough See Bayton

Hamilton See Hood-hill

Hampshire ground requires every day of the week a shower of rain, and on Sunday twain 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Hants"

Hampshire hog, A = A native of Hampshire 1622 Drayton, Polyol., xxii, As Hampshire, long for her, hath had the term of Hogs 1720 Dodsley's Mecum for Maltworms, Pt I 50, Now to the sign of fish let's jog, There to find out a Hampshire Hog, A man whom none can lay a fault on, The punk of courteze at Alton 1910 in N & Q, 11th ser, ii 57, To the circumstance of this county [Hants] having been proverbially famous for its breed of hogs is owing the fact that a native bears the county nickname of "Hampshire Hog"

Hand 1 A hand like a foot 1732 Fuller, No 5921. You have made a hand of it like a foot 1738 Swift, Politie Comers, Dial I, Whoe wrt it, writers a hand like a foot

2 Don't put or stretch thy hand See Arm (t)

3 From hand to mouth 1605 Sylvestor, Du Bartas, Week II Day 1 Pt 4, I 122 Living from hand to mouth soon satisf'd 1631 Brathwait, Whimieres, 143 (1859). All the meanes of his gettings is but from hand to mouth 1712 Arbuthnot,
John Bull, Pt II ch 11, He has a numerous family, and lives from hand to mouth 1799 Cowper Letter to Newton, 5 Feb 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch x, His poor creditors cannot get more than enough to live from hand to mouth

4 Hand over head c 1440 Bone Flor., 475 (O). Than they fought hand
Hand

Handsome

ovyr heed. 1530: Palsgrave, 836, Hands over heed, confusedly. 1555: Latimer, Sermons, 284 (P.S.). And again sent other servants to bid guests to his bridal, hand-over-head, come who would. 1627: Drayton, Agincourt, st. 204, Hand over head fell upon them run. 1681: W. Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 75, Give not your almes hand over head; Do good with discretion. 1769: Bickerstaffe and Foote, Dr. Last in his Charlot, II., Nor endure to see you run hand over head into all the snares she lays for you. 1823: D’Israel, Cur. of Lit., 2nd ser., i. 462 (1824), Among our own proverbs a remarkable incident has been commemorated; Hand over head, as men took the Covenant! [D’Israel seems to have misunderstood the saying, and taken “hand over head” as descriptive of a physical attitude. It simply meant, as the other illustrations show—hurriedly, confusedly, unthinkingly.] 1803: Reade, Hard Cash, ch. i., He laid out all his powers, and went at the leading skiffs hand over head. 1886: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 316 (E.D.S.), Hand-over-head. In a reckless thoughtless manner.

6. Thy hand [is] never [the] worse for doing thy own work. Ibid., 35.
7. To be hand and glove. 1678: Ray, 347, They two are hand and glove. Somerset. 1732: Fuller, No. 4960, They both put their hands in one glove. 1748: Smollett, Rod. Random, ch. ii., Who was hand and glove with a certain person who ruled the roast. 1824: Scott, Redgauntlet, ch. xii., Poor Harry Redgauntlet, that suffered at Carlisle, was hand and glove with me. 1853: R. L. S., Treasure I., ch. xxxiv., I’m on your side now, hand and glove.
8. To have one’s hand (or heart) on one’s halfpenny = To have an eye to the main chance, or to any particular object. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. vi., So harde is your hande set on your halfpeny, That my reasonyng your reason setteth nought by. 1583: Greene, in Works, ii. 45 (Grosart), She stood as though her heart had bin on her halfpenny. 1639: Clarke, 231, His heart is on his halfpenny. 1681: W. Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 885, His mind is on his halfpenny. 1707: in Thoresby’s Correspondence, ii. 62 (1832), I quickly found they had their hand too much upon their halfpenny.
1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, i. 216, “To have his hand on his hawpny,” a proverbial phrase for being ever attentive to his own interest.

Handful of good life is better than a bushel of learning. A. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, iv. 120 (1785).

Handful of trade is an handful of gold, An. 1732: Fuller, No. 603.

Handle thorns, To. See Thorn (2).

Handle without mittens, To. 1659: Howell, Proverbs: Fr.-Eng., 16, They will not be caught without mittains. 1769: Ray, 216.

Handsaw is a good thing, but not to shave with, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 210.

1880: Spurgeon, Ploughman’s Pictures, 31.

Handsel. See quot. 1867: Harland, etc., Lanes Folk-Lore, 70, Hansell (they [market folk] say) is always lucky when well wet. [First money received is spit upon.]

Handsel Monday. See New Year (1).

Handsome. 1. A handsome bodied man in the face. 1687: Ray, 73

2. A handsome woman. See quot. 1650: Bulwer, Anthropomet., 225, The vote of the proverb, for a handsome woman, would have been English to the neck, French to the waste, and Dutch below.

3. Handsome is that handsome does. 1580: Monday, Sundry Examples, 78 (Sh. S.), But as the auncient adage is, goodly is he that goodly dooth. 1660: Dekker, Shoem. Hol., ii. i., By my troth, he is a proper man: but he is proper that proper doth. 1713: Gay, Wife of Bath, III. i., He is handsome that handsome does. 1768: Goldsmith, Vicar, ch. i. 1826: Lamb, Pop.
Handsome

Failacies, x 1829 Cobbett, Advice to Young Men, Lett III, ‘Handsome is that handsome does,’ used to say to me an old man who had marked me out for his not over-handsome daughter.

4 He that is not handsome at 20, etc. See quotes 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium. He that is not handsome at 20, nor strong at 30 nor rich at 40, nor wise at 50, will never be handsome, strong rich, or wise 1732 Fuller, No 2287 [as in 1640, except ‘wise’ for rich at 40’ and ‘rich’ for ‘wise at 50’] 1822 Southey, Letter to Bedford 20 Dec. You know the proverb, that he who is not handsome at twenty wise at forty, and rich at fifty, will never be rich, wise or handsome.

5 You have a handsome head of hair, pray give me a tester [sixpence] 1678 Ray, 73.

Handsome flower is not the sweetest, The 1855 Bohn, 507.

Hang, verb 1. As good be hanged. See Sheep (2).

2 Better to hang than to hold 1639 Clarke, 86 1685 Menton, Yorkshire Ale, 48 1688 Sike fowkes are fitter to hang than hawd.

3 Hang him that hath no shifts 1639 Clarke, 42 1670 Ray, 141 1732 Fuller, No 1785, Hang him that has no shifts, and hang him that has one too many.

4 Hang saving. See quotes c 1630 Hang Pinching [title of ballad], in Roxb Ballads, iii (B S) 1666 Terrano Piazza Univ 276 As one would say, Hang pinching let’s be merry 1738 Swift, Polite Convers. Dial II, Come, hang saving, bring us up a half-porth of cheese.

5 Hang yourself for a pastime 1678 Ray, 73.

6 He may go hang himself in his own gartors 1597 Shakespeare, i Henry IV. 11 ii. Go hang thyself in thine own heir apparent gartors. 1678 Ray, 246.

7 He was hanged that left his drink behind c 1630 in Roxb Ballads, 1 416 (B S), He was hang’d that left his drink behind 1672 Westm Drellery, Pt II 86 (Ebsworth). Yet he was hang’d, nay some say hang’d.

left his drink behind 1738 Swift, Polite Convers. Dial II, Stay till this bottle’s out you know, the man was hang’d that left his liquor behind him 1830 Forby, Vocab L Anglia, 433. The man was hanged, that left his liquor. See also Bawtry.

8 I have hanged up my hatchet. See Hatchet.

9 I'll not hang all my bells on one horse, i.e. give all to one son 1659 Howell, 14 1670 Ray, 215 1732 Fuller, No 1786, Hang not all your bells upon one horse 1913 Folk-Lore, xxiv 77. To put all the bells on one horse [Oxfordsh]?

10 If I be hanged, I'll choose my gallows 1659 Howell, 16 1670 Ray, 216 1738 Swift, Polite Convers. Dial II, If I must be hanged, I won't go far to choose my gallows.

11 It hangs together as pebbles in a wath 1639 Clarke, 355.


13 To hang in the bell-ropes c 1750 in N & Q, 3rd ser, vii 91. So what so long has been hanging in the bell-ropes will at last be brought to a happy period 1867 N & Q, 3rd ser, vii 139. This is a common phrase in Cumberland at the present day. A couple are said to be ‘hingan’ t’ bell reaps’ during the period which transpires between the first publication of banns and marriage.

In Worcestershire, if marriage does not come off, the deserted one is said to be ‘hung in the bell ropes’ [Also common in Leicestershire] 1884-6 Holland, Cheshire Words (EDS). From the time the banns of a couple are completed asking in church, to the time they marry, they are said to ‘hang’ t’ bell ropes’, 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 138.

14 To hang one’s ears 1670 Ray, 170.

Hanged hay never does [fattens] cattle. 1836 Wilbraham Cheshire Gloss 33 (2nd ed.) 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs 64. Hanged hay is hay that has been weighed or hung on the steel-yard [i.e. bought hay].
Hanging. See Marriage (3).

Hangman is a good trade, A, he doth his work by daylight. 1678: Ray, 91.

Hangman leads the dance, The. 1615: Stephens, Essays, etc., bk. ii. No 28, He [the hangman] hath many dependant followers: for (as the proverb saith) hangman leads the dance

Hap and a half-penny are world's gear enough. 1639: Clarke, 126, Hap and half-penny goods enough. 1670: Ray, 100, [as in 1639, plus] i.e. good luck is enough, though a man have not a penny left him. 1846–59: Denham, Tracts, i. 296 (F.L.S.). 1907: Intro. to A. Brewer, Love-Sick King, in Bang's Materialien, B. 18, p. xii [quoted as "a very ancient proverb"].

Hap good hap ill. c. 1489: Caxton, Sonnes of Aymon, 332 (E.E.T.S.), "I care not," sayd Rychard, "hap as it hap wyll." 1530: Palsgrave, 578, Happe what happe shal. 1587: Greene, in Works, iv. 149 (Grosart). He was so puffed vp with wrath and choller, as hap what hap would, he fell into these tearmes. 1599: Breton, in Works, ii. c 7 (Grosart), Therefore hap good, or hap ill, I will walke on still.

Happeth in one hour, It, that happeneth not in seven years. Before 1500: in Hill, Commonplace-Book, 128 (E.E.T.S.). Hit fallith in a dai, that fallith not all the iere after. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1606: T. Heywood, If You Know Not Me, Pt. II., in Dram. Works, i. 327 (1874), They say, that may happen in one hour that happens not againe in 7 yeare. 1681: W. Robertson, Phrasesol. Generalis, 322, It chances in an hour, that happens not in seven years. 1732: Fuller, No. 2836, It happens in an hour that comes not in an age. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 6 (Percy S.) [as in 1881].

Happy as a king, or, earlier, Merry as a king. c. 1554: Enterlude of Youth, in Bang, Materialien, B. 12, p. 8, I wyll make as mery as a kynge. 1595: Peele, Old Wives Tale, sig. A3, This Smith leads a life as merrie as a king. 1618: B. Holyday, Technogamia, III. v., Be as merry as a king. 1661: Trag. Hist. of Guy, E. of Warwick, V., . . . have thought ourselves as happy as a king. 1781: D'Arblay, Diary, i. 339 (1876), Who again stayed dinner, and was as happy as a prince. 1861: Dickens, Great Expect., ch. xxxvii, Only tip him a nod every now and then . . . and he'll be as happy as a king.

Happy as the day is long. 1631: More, Celestina, 54 (T.T.), Even as merry as the day is long. 1772: Graves, Spirit. Quixote, bk. xi. ch. vnii., They were married in a fortnight's time; and are now as happy as the day is long. 1851: Borrow, Lavengro, iii. 12, I sat there hard at work, happy as the day's long. 1859: Nicholson, Folk Speech E. Yorks, 19, As happy as days is long.

Happy as the parson's wife during her husband's life. Query meaning. 1663: Killigrew, Parson's Wedding, I. i. [cited as a proverb].

Happy is he that chastens himself. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

Happy is he that is happy in his children. 1732: Fuller, No. 1787.

Happy is he who knows his follies in his youth. 1659: Howell, 3. 1670: Ray, 12. 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, iv. 121 (1785) [with "the man" for "he"].

Happy is he whose friends were born before him. 1670: Ray, 99. 1732: Fuller, No. 1790.

Happy is the bride the sun shines on, and happy the corpse the rain rains on. 1607: The Puritan, I. i., If blessed be the corse the rain rains upon, he had it pouring down. 1632: Randolph, Jealous Lovers, V. iii., A fair sun Shine on the happy bridegroom. 1827: Hone, Table-Book, 667, Blessed is the corpse that the rain falls on. Blessed is the bride that the sun shines on. 1859: E. Peacock, in N. & Q., 2nd ser., viii. 319, A superstition prevalent in many parts of Britain . . . Happy is the wedding that the sun shines on; Blessed is the corpse that the rain rains on. Otherwise thus:—Sad is the burying in the sun shine; But blessed is the corpse that goeth home in rain. 1879: Henderson, Folk-Lore of N. Counties, 34. Here, in fact, as all Christendom over—Blest is
the bride that the sun shines on! 1922 Lucas, Genera's Money, 4 "Happy," said some foolish proverbialist, "are the dead that the rain rains on .

Happy is the child whose father goes to the devil 1549 Latermer Third Sermon 97 (Arber) cited as 'the old sayinge'); 1560 Greene, in Works, vii 235 (Grosart) 1593 Shakespeare, 3 Henry VI, II ii And happy always was it for that son Whose father for his hoarding went to hell 1655 Howell Letters, bk iv No 19 (cited as 'the City proverb') 1708 tr Aleman's Guzman, 1 405 1827 Hone, Table-Book, 430

Happy man happy dole 1546 Heywood Proverbs Pt I ch ii 1660 Tatham, The Rump, I, A short life and a merry life I cry Happy man be his dole 1671 Crowne, Juliana I. Here's five thousand crowns but for his head, Happy man be his dole that catches him 1796 White, Falstaff's Letters Preface, A man renown'd among his contemporaries, famous through succeeding centuries, happy be his dole 1840' Barham, Ing Legends, "Leech of Folkstone," par 1. These are genuine and undoubted marks of possession and if you never experienced any of them,—why, 'happy man be his dole!' 1924 Punch 28 May, p. 573 col 3 "The Unemployment Committee are compiling an insular register of persons likely to desire unemployment at the end of the summer season" Manx Paper Hence the expression, Happy man be his dole!

Happy than wise. Better be c 1593 Bacon, Promis, No 970 1605 Camden, Remains, 319 (1670) 1736 Basley, Dict, s v "Better"

Happy that knoweth not himself happy, He is not 1539 Taverner, Proverbs, fo 51 1566 Pettie, tr Guazzo's Civil Converses, fo 58 1732 Fuller, No 1918 He is happy that knoweth not himself to be otherwise

Happy the waxing See Waxing

Harborne See 1894 Northall, Folk Phrases, 16 (EETS), Hungry Harborne, poor and proud Stafs

Harborough Field 1 A goose will eat all the grass that grows in Harborough Field 1622 W Burton, Descrip of Lecs, 128 1895 Billsen, Co Folk-Lore Lecs 151 (FLS)

2 I'll throw you into Harborough Field 1678 Ray, 317 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss s v "Leicestershire"

Hard, adj I A hard beginning hath a good ending 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch iv, A hard beginning maketh a good ending 1605 Camden, Remains, 317 (1870) 1659 Howell, 7

2 A hard thing it is See quot 15th rent in Relig Antiquae, 1 205 (1841). A harde thyme hit is, y-wys. To deme a thynge that unknowen is

3 As hard as a flint (or stone) c 1440 Lydgate, Fall of Princes, bk ii l 63 (EETS). But, hard as ston, Pierides and Meduse c 1489 Cotton, Sonnes of Aymon, 347 (EETS). A lord that hath no pite in him, hath a hert as harde as a stone c 1510 A Barclay, Egloges 18 (Spens, S). Thy bread is harde as a flint 1587 Churchyard, Worth of Wales, 104 (Spens S). A mugheu crageh, as hard as flint or steele 1675 Poor Robin Alman May, A heart as hard as flint 1720 Gay, Poems, n 278 (Underhill). Hard is her heart as flint or stone 1769 Boswell, Letters, n 364 (Tinker), I should have a heart as hard as a stone were I to remain here 1823 Scott, St Ronan's ch xxxv, A selfish, spiteful heart, that is as hard as a flint 1908 Hudson, Land's END, ch xv, It was not ice but something as hard as stone

4 As hard as a north load—tod—lox 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 14

5 As hard as brazil 1867 Waugh, Owd Bl, 85, "Aw m as hard as brazill," said Tip 1879 Jackson, Shropsh Word Book, 45, Brazil [iron pyrites] is so extremely hard as to have given rise to a common proverbial saying "As hard as brazill" 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 15 As hard as brazil

6 As hard as horn (or bone) c 1420 Lydgate, Assem of Gods, st 89, p 19 (EETS). Hard as any horn 1545 Ascham, Toxoph, 113 (Arber). This
wood is as harde as horne and very fit for shaftes. 1631: Brathwait, Eng. Gentlewoman, 196 (1641), . . . was found to have her elbowes as hard as horne. 1670: Ray, 202. 1824: in Lockhart's Scott, v. 326. The remainder of the wood was as hard as a bone.

7. As hard as nails. 1838: Dickens, Twist, ch. ix., "Hard," replied the Dodger. "As nails," added Charley Bates. 1896: Shaw, You Never Can Tell, I., My landlord is as rich as a Jew and as hard as nails 1922 Weyman, Ovington's Bank, ch. xxxv., Hard and sharp as nails! I take off my hat to him!

8. Hard fare makes hungry bellies. 1616: Breton, in Works, ii e 6 (Grosart), Hard fare makes hungry stomaches.

9. Hard winter. See Dog (57); and Wolf (6).


11. It is hard for any man all faults to mend. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), Sc. of Folly, 49, in Works, ii. (Grosart).

12. It is hard to be high and humble. 1732: Fuller, No. 2948.

13. It is hard to be wretched, but worse to be known so. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.


15. It is hard to make a good web of a bottle of hay. 1670: Ray, 154. 1732: Fuller, No. 2950.

16. It is as hard to please a knave as a knight. 1639: Clarke, 275. 1670: Ray. 1732: Fuller, No. 2907.

17. It is hard to please all. c. 1430: Lydgate, Minor Poems, 60 (Percy S.), To please a falk it is ful hard. 1519: Horman, Vulgaria, fo. 93, It is harde to content all menys myndis.


19. It is hard to shave an egg. 1639: Clarke, 243. 1732: Fuller, No. 2952 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xii.

20. It is hard to sup and blow with one breath 1672: Walker, Pararm, 8 [with "a wind" for "one breath"]. 1681: W. Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 110. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Sup," 'Tis hard to sup and blow at the same time.

Cf. Whistle.


22. The hard gives no more than he that hath nothing. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum [with omission of "no"]. 1670: Ray, 12.


2. Hares may pull dead lions by the beard. 1586: Pettie, tr. Guazzo's Civil Convers., fo. 31. Of these this saying rose, That the lion being dead, the verie hares triumph over him. 1593: Nash, in Works, ii. 198 (Grosart), Strike a man when he is dead? So hare may pull dead lions by the beards. 1556: Shakespere, King John, ii. i., You are the
Hare

Hare of whom the proverb goes, Whose
valour plucks dead hons by the beard
1639 Clarke, 216

3 He hath decoyed a hare 1600
W Vaughan, Directions for Health, 17.
Hare
mal th a man to look
amably, according to the proverb
He hath decoyed a hare. But it is
vnholese for laze and melancholck
men Cf No 1

4 He that hunts two hares loses both
1578 (Floro) First Fruits to 28, Who
hunteth two hares, loseth the one and
leaveth the other 1630 T Adams, II orks. 232, The hound that follows two
haires will catch neither 1640 Shirley
Opportunity, III in 1732 Fuller,
No 2782, If you run after two haires,
you will catch neither 1880 Spur-
geon, Ploughman’s Pictures, 24. We
shall be like the man who hunted many
haires at once and caught none.

5 If a man wants a hare for his
breakfast (or dinner) he must hunt over-
night 1505 Camden. Remains, 323
(1670) He that will have a hare to
breakfast must hunt overnight 1670
Ray, 13 [as in 1605] 1732 Fuller,
No 2365 [as in 1605] 1846-1899
Denham Tracts, II 107 (F L S) [as in
1605] 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-
Lore, 589 If a man wants a hare for
his Sunday dinner, he had best catch
it over night.

6 It’s either a hare or a brake-bush
1659 T Fiske, Parnass: Puerp., 143.
He can’t discern a hare from a brake-
bush 1670 Ray, 179, It’s either a
hare or a brake-bush 1121 3 8 9
Aut navius aut galerus Something if
you knew what

7 Little dogs start the hare but great
ones catch it 1640 Herbert, Jact
Prudentium 1670 Ray. 16 1732 Fuller,
No 3254; 1846-1899 Denham Tracts,
II 108 (F L S)

8 The hare starts when a man least
expects it 11284 Chaucer, H Fame,
bk II 173. That been betid, no man
woth why. But as a blind man start an
hare 1712 Motteux, Quixote, Pt II
ch XXXI. But, where we least thinck,
there starts the hare 1869 Spurgeon,
John Ploughman, ch x I for hares pop
out of the ditch just when you are not
looking for them Cf No 9

9 There goes the hare away c 1500
Medwall, Nature, Pt II 1 589 (Brandl,
Quellen, 134), There went the hare away
Before 1529 Skelton, Works, u 10
(Dyce) [as in 1500] 1594 Kyd, Span
Tragedy sig G3 (1618). There goes the
hare away 1670 Ray, 100. Where
we least thinck, there goeth the hare
away 1846-1899 Denham Tracts, u
108 (F L S). There goes the hare away
Cf No 8

10 ’Tis as hard to find a hare without
a muse, as a woman (or knave) without
a excuse 1576 Pettie, Petitie Falt, II
157 (Gollancz), We ourselves have a
comen saying amongst us, that
women are never without an excuse
1592 Greene, in Works, x 277 (Gro-
sart) [’womman’] 1659 Howell, 12.
Take a hare without a muse, and a
knave without an excuse, and hang
them up 1732 Fuller, No 6061.
Find you without excuse, And find an
hare without a muse 1913 E M
Wright, Rustic Speech, etc., 102. The
old English proverbial saying — [as
in 1659]

11 To catch (or hunt) the hare with a
taber [drum] 1399 Langland, Rich
the Redless, 158 Men mystthen as well
hare huntyd an hare with a taber
1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch ix
1579 Lylly, Euphues, 44 (Arber). You
shall asoone catch a hare with a taber
1611 Colgrave, s v “Lievre” Hares
are not to be catch by drumming
1642 D Rogers, Naaman, sig 54 [as
in 1579] 1732 Fuller, No 1341.
Drumming is not the way to catch
an hare 1901 F E Taylor, Lancs
Sayings, 23. Yo' met as weel try for
’t catch a hare wi’ thumnpn on a drum
Cf No 12

12 To fright the hare is not the way
to catch her 1846-1899 Denham Tracts,
II 108 (F L S) Cf No 11

13 To know both hare and hare-gate
1682 Nodal and Milner, Lancs Gloss,
154 (E D S). “He knows both th’ hare
an’ th’ hare-gate,” i.e. he knows both
the hare, and the way the hare runs

14 To run with the hare See Run (15)
15. To seek a hare in a hen’s nest. 1599: Porter, Two Angry Women, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, vii. 355. He is gone to seek a hare in a hen’s nest, a needle in a bottle of hay.


See also Blind, adj. (7); Cow (32); Dog (36), (77), and (78); Kiss, verb (13); Run (18); and We dogs.

Harlow Hill. See Heddon.


Harms the good, He. See Evil, subs. (4).

Harp and harrow, To agree like. 1559: Bacon, Prayers, etc., 283 (P.S.), Agree together like God and the devil . . . as the common proverb is, “Like harp and harrow.” 1589: L. Wright, Display of Dutie, 24, Agreeing like harpe and harrowe. 1659: Howell, 12 (19), They agree like harp and harrow. Before 1704: T. Brown, Works, iii. 29 (1760), Whether the name and thing be not as disagreeable as harp and harrow?

Harp on a string, To (or on the same string). [Cantilenam eandem canere.—Terence, Phorm., III. ii. 10. Chorda qui semper oberrat cadem.—Horace, Ars Poetica, 356.] c. 1573: More, Works, p. 49, col. 2 (1557). He should harp no more upon that string. 1594: Shakespeare, Rich. III., IV. iv., Harp not on that string, madam; that is past. 1644: Quarles, in Works, i. 176 (Grosart), Doctor, you still harp upon the same string. 1753: Richardson, Grandison, i. 478 (1883), The poor girl has been harping upon this string ever since you have been gone. 1821: Scott, in Lockhart’s Life, v. 72, All this is extremely like prosing, so I will harp on that string no longer.

Harp on the string that gives no melody, To. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. iv. 1633: Draxe, 222. He harpeth on that string that will make no good musicke.

Harrow: the visible church. 1725: Defoe, Tour, ii. 20, They tell us King Charles II. . . us’d to say of it [Harrow church] that if there was e’er a visible church upon earth, he believed this was one. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. “Middx.” The visible church; i.e. Harrow on the Hill.

Harrow (or Rake) hell and scum the devil. 1670: Ray, 180. 1732: Fuller, No. 1798, Harrow hell, and rake up the devil.

Harry Sophister. See Henry Sophister.


Hartland Light. See Padstow Point.

Hartlepool. Like the Mayor of Hartlepool, you cannot do that. 1678: Ray, 317. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. “Leicestershire.” 1846-59: Denham Tracts, i. 55 (F.L.S.). . . The sense of this saying is, you cannot work impossibilities. A certain mayor of this (at that time) poor but ancient corporation, desirous to show his old companions that he was not too much elated by his high office, told them that, though he was Mayor of Hart-le-pool, he was still but a man! there being many things he could not do.


2. Harvest comes not every day, tho’ it come every year. 1732: Fuller, No. 1799.

3. Harvest cars, thick of hearing. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ix., You had on your harvest ears, thick of hearing. c. 1594: Bacon, Promis, No. 674, Harvest cars. 1681: W. Robertson, Phrasol. Generalis, 715. You hearken not at all;” you have on your harvest cars. 1654: Baker, Norhants Gloss., s.v., You’ve got your harvest cars on, I can’t make you hear.
4 Harvest will come, and then every farmer's rich 1732 Fuller, No 1800
5 Short harvests make short addings [earnings] 1846 Denham Proverbs 54 (Percy S ) 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 8
6 The harvest moon 1812 Brady, Claus Cal , 1 55 The harvest-moon is also used to denote that month in which harvest is usually collected 1923 Observer, 23 Sept, p 14 col 1. The feature that distinguishes it from other full moons and has earned for it the name of harvest moon is the short interval that separates two successive risings
7 To make a long harvest of a little corn 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi. Ye haue Made a long harvest for a little corn 1587 Greene, in Works v 208 (Grosart). I will not make a long harvest for a small crop 1604 Breton, in Works, u k 22 (Grosart). Yee two haue made a long harvest of a little corn, and haue spent a great deale of money about a little matter 1681 W Robertson Phrasal Generalis, 1207. Not to make a long harvest of so little corn, not to be tedious in a trifle 1748 Richardson Clarissa, iv 175 (1785). But why should I make so long a harvest of so little corn? 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, A long harvest, a little corn 8 When harvest flies him, Warm weather to come 1893 Ibid, 148
See also Christmas (2), (3), and (6). Good harvest, Ill sowers, and May, C, and E (2)
Harwich See Deal
Haste, subs 1 Haste and wisdom are things far odd 1546 Heywood, Proverbs Pt I ch u
2 Haste comes not alone 1611 Cotgrave, s v 'Haste,' Haste never comes alone, viz hath ever some trouble or other t' accompany it 1640 Herbert Jac Prudentium
3 Haste makes waste 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch u 1583 Greene, in Works, u 28 (Grosart) 1663 Butler, Hudibras, Pt I can ii. 1254 1678 Ray, 151. Haste makes waste, and waste makes want, and want makes strife between the good man and his wife 1864 "Cornish Proverbs," in N & Q , 3rd ser, v 1 495 Haste makes waste, and waste makes a rich man poor
4 Haste often rues c 1280 Prov of Heywood, Melibius, § 11. The commune proverbe seth thus "he that sone demeth, sone shall repent" 1477 Rivers Dictes, etc, 62 (1877). Hastynesse engendredh repentance c 1530 Spelman, Dialogue, 2 (Roxb. Cl) Things done in haste bringeth spede, ye repentance
5 Haste trips up its own heels 1732 Fuller, No 1801 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch xix
6 Make no more haste when you come down than when you went up 1604 Pasquil s Jestis, 42 (1864). Take heed that you never get faster down then you go up 1678 Ray, 151, as the man said to him on the tree top 1692 L'Estrange, Asop, 337 (3rd ed). You must take care for the future, whenever you climb another tree, that you come no faster down than you went up 7 There is no haste to hang true men c 1550 Jacke Jugler, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, ii 220. I fear hanging, whereunto no man is hasty 1599 Porter, Two Angry Women, in Ibid, viii 301. There's no haste to hang true [honest] men 1670 Ray, 101 See also No haste
Haste, verb He hasteth well that wisely can abide c 1374 Chaucer, Troylus, bk i 11 956 c 1386 Chaucer, Melibius, § 13 c 1430 Lydgate, Minor Poems, 121 (Percy S )
Hastings, He is none of the See quotes 1546 Heywood, Proverbs Pt I ch x. Ye make such tastings As approve you to be none of the hastings 1577 Misgonous, I iv, Youl come when you list, sir you are none of ye hastings 1658 Flecknoe, Enigm, Characters, 124 A low spirited man he is none of the Hastings es 1662 Fuller, Worthies, iii 243 (1840). Now men commonly say, They are none of the Hastings who being slow

Hasty to outbid another, Be not too. 1670: Ray, 3. 1732: Fuller, No 853

Hat is not made for one shower, A. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

Hat on the wind’s side, Pull down your. 1640: Ibid. 1670: Ray, 29. 1732: Fuller, No. 3978 [with "windy" for "wind’s "]

Hatch before the door, It is good to have a = to keep silence. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1607: Deloney, Strange Histories, 70 (Percy S.), A wise man, then, sets hatch before the dore, And, whilst he may, deth square his speech with heed. 1670: Ray, 101. 1732: Fuller, No. 2941.

Hatchet, To hang up (or bury) the. Before 1327: Pol. Songs, 223 (Camden), (O), Hang up thyn hatchet ant thi knyf. c. 1440: Hoccleve, Minor Poems, 136 (E.E.T.S.), Hange vp his hatchet and sette him adoun. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi., I haue hangd vp my hatchet, God speede him well! 1659: Howell, 6, I have hang’d up my hatchet and scap’d my self. 1794: Wolcot, Works, iv. 485 (1796), Gentle Reader, wouldst thou not have imagined that the war hatchet was buried for ever? 1897: W. E. Norris, Clarissa Furiosa, ch. xliii., She neither affirmed nor denied that she and her husband had buried the hatchet

Hate, verb. 1. He that hates woman sucked a sow. 1665: L’Estrange, Quevedo’s Visions, 144 (1904), “My officious friend,” said I, “he that does not love a woman sucked a sow.” 1732: Fuller, No. 2083 [as in 1667. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I.

2. If you hate a man, eat his bread; and if you love him, do the same. 1732: Fuller, No. 2756.

Hatfield, Yorks. See quot. 1878: Folk-Lore Record, i. 173. There are no rats at Hatfield, nor sparrows at Lindholme.

Hatherleigh, Devon. See quot. 1869: Hazlitt, 362, The people are poor at Hatherleigh moor, and so they have been, for ever and ever.

and slack, go about business with no agility. 1681: W. Robertson, Phrasesol. Generalis, 1114, You are none of the Hastings; you’ll not break your shins for hast. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. “Sussex.”

Hasty bitch bringeth forth blind whelps, The. [Festinatio improvida est, et caeca.—Livy, xxii. 39.] 1536: R. Robinson, tr. More’s Utopia, 2nd ed., To Reader, 19 (Arber), But as the latin prouerbe sayeth: The hastie bitches bringeth forth blind whelps. For when this my worke was finished, the rudenes therof shewed it to be done in poste haste. 1559: Bercher, Nobil. of Women, 97 (Roxb. C.). 1642: D. Rogers, Matrim. Honour, 234, They perceive their haste to have brought forth blind whelps. 1681: W. Robertson, Phrasesol. Generalis, 705.

Hasty climbers have sudden falls. c. 1480: Digby Plays, 154 (E.E.T.S.), Who clymth high, his stalle gret is. 1592: Greene, in Works, xii 158 (Grosart), Hee foresee not that such as clime hastily fall sodainely. 1616: Breton, in Works, ii. c ,9 (Grosart) 1754; Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Diet., s.v. “Climber.” 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xix.

Hasty gamesters oversee themselves. 1678: Ray, 151 [without "themselves"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 1803.

Hasty glory goes out in a snuff. Ibid., No. 1804.

Hasty love. See Soon hot.


Hasty meeting, a hasty parting, A. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. “Woe.”
Hatred is blind as well as love 1732
Fuller, No 1805

Hatred with friends is succour to foes 1578 Florio, First Fruits, to 33. Hatred among friends is succour unto strangers 1633 Drake 30

Have a little See qv 1917 Bridge Cheshire Proverbs, 61. Have a little, give a little, let neighbour lick the mundle [piece of wood for stirring porridge, cream etc] [=Charity begins at home]

Have all, He that will, loseth all. 1481 Caxton, Reynard, 95 (Arber). It falleth ofte who that wold hau, all leseth alle. Ouer couteous was never good 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 87 Cf All covet

Have amongst you blind harpers! 1546 Heywood Proverbs, Pt II ch vii 1593 G Harvey, Works, u 123 (Grosart). But now there is no remedy, have amongst you, blind harpers of the printing house c. 1663 Davenant, Play-House to be Let, V. Have wee [with you] quoth the blind harper, When he wist to be as little seen as he saw others 1785 Grose, Class Dict Vulgar Tongue, s v 'Harp.' Have among you, my blind harpers, an expression used in throwing or shooting at random among a crowd

Have at it, and have at it 1852 Fitz-Gerald, Polonius, 123 (1903)

Have in a string, To 1580 Lilly, Euphues 319 (Arber). Thou hast not love in a string affection is not thy slave 1631 Shirley, Love Tricks I. They have their conscience in a string, and can stifle it at their pleasure 1693 Dryden, Iournal, Sat I 1 72 Since such as they have fortune in a string 1748 Richardson Clarissa, \( v \) 33 (1785), Led us both—like fools, like tame fools, in a string

Have one in the wind. To 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi, I smelde hur out, and hur streth in the wynde 1587 Churchyard, Worth of Wales, 26 (Spens S) That hardly we shal have them in the winde, To smell them forth 1670 Ray, 109

Hawk and Hawks 1 Between hawk and buzzard 1639 Clarke, 70 1670 Ray, 164 1692 L'Estrange, Æsop, 318 (3rd ed.). A fantastical levity that holds us off and on, betwixt hawk and buzzard, as we say, to keep us from bringing the matter in question to a final issue 1745 Agreeable Companion, 56. At which the priest, being driven between hawk and buzzard, told them, he did not know what would please them 1854 Baker, Northants Gloss, s v 'Buzzard,' 'Between a hawk and a buzzard' in a state of perplexity and indecision 1878 N & Q, 5th ser, ix 46, "Neither hawk nor buzzard" is used in North and East Derbyshire, and in parts of Notts, and is thus applied—Persons on being asked how they are will reply, "Oh! I'm neither hawk nor buzzard," which means a state of being "rather out of sorts"

2 By hawk and by hound Small profit is found 1732 Fuller, No 6339

3 Hawks don't poke (speak) out hawks' e'en 1846-59 Denham Tracts, u 107 (F L S)

4 He's a hawk of the right nest 1732 Fuller, No 2439

5 High-flying hawks are fit for princes 1639 Clarke, 41 1670 Ray, 101

1732 Fuller, No 2500 1846-59 Denham Tracts, u 108 (F L S) [with "good" for "fit"]

6 It is easy to reclaim a hawk that has lost its prey c. 1300 Cursor M., 3529 For hawk es eth—als i here say—To reclaim pat has tunt his pray

7 She hath one point of a good hawk, she is Hardy 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch iv

8 The gentle hawk half mends herself 1611 Colgrave, s v 'Debonaire'

1670 Ray, 13 [omitting "half"] 1846-59 Denham Tracts, u 107 (F L S) [as in 1670]

9 To know a hawk from a handsaw 1602 Shakespeare Hamlet, II u. When the wind is southerly I know a hawk from a handsaw 1703 Centlivre, Stolen Heares, III iv, He knows not a hawk from a handsaw 1912 R. Gales, Studies in Arcady, 2nd ser, 211, I have heard the proverb 'He doesn't know a hawk from a handsaw' 1920 Barbellion, Last Diary,
54. I suspect “Charlie”... could not tell a hawk from a handsaw, even when the wind was southerly.

10. Unmaned hawks forsake the lure. 1577: J. Grange, Golden Aphrodilis, sig. G3 [cited as a “proverbe”].


See also Carrion; Crow (3); Goshawk; Hungry as a hawk; Too low; Wild (2).

Hawk, verb. 1. He has been out a hawking for butterflies. 1732: Fuller, No. 1863.

2. The first point of hawking is hold fast. c. 1450: in Relig. Antiqua, i. 296 (1841), Termes of hawkyng... The first is holde fast when abatith. 1579: Lyly, Euphues, 93 (Arber). If thou haddest learned the first point of hauking, thou wouldst have learned to have hold fast. 1665: J. Wilson, Projectors, II., “Tis the first part of falconry to hold fast. 1748: Gent. Mag., 21. 1846-59: Denham Tracts, ii. 108 (F.L.S.).

Hawley’s Hoe. See Blow, verb (5).

Haws. 1. Many haws, cold toes. 1855: Robinson, Whitby Gloss., 22, As many haws, So many cold toes. 1879: N. & Q., 5th ser., xii. 327, A North Riding saying, “Many haws, cold toes.” See also Many hips.

2. When all fruit fails welcome haws. 1732: Fuller, No. 5544.


2. He has hay on his horn. [Fecunum habet in cornu.—Horace, Sat., i. iv. 34.]

1648: Herrick, Hesp., No 444. He’s sharp as thorn And fretfull, carries hay in’s horn.

3. To make hay while the sun shines. 1509: Barclay, Ship of Fools, ii. 46 (1874). Who that in July whyle Phebus is shynynge About his hay is not besy labourynge... Shall in the wynter his negligence bewayle. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. iii., When the sunne shineth make hay. 1625: Dekker, Works, iv. 308 (Grosart). He, drawing out one handful of gold, and another of siluer, cried... I haue made hay whilst my sunne shined. 1702: T. Brown, Works, ii. 63 (1760). 1860: Reade, Cl. and Earnth, ch. xiii., We must lose no time; we must make our hay while shines the sun. 1915: Pinero, Big Drum, I., Some day it’ll turn and rend you? Perhaps. Still, if you make hay while the sun shines...

See also Candlemas, D; Cuckoo (5) and (20); Gammon; Hanged hay; and May, A (2) and (3), E (1), (5), and (6), and F (2) and (5).

He clawes it. See Eat (38).

He hath but one fault. See Fault (6).

He is in his own clothes—Let him do as he pleases. 1830: Forby, Vocab. E. Anglia, 427.

He that doth what he shall not shall feel what he would not. c. 1386: Chaucer, C. Tales, iv. 125 (Skeat). And therfore this proverbe is seyd ful sooth, “Him thar nat wene wel that yvel dooth” [He must not expect good that does evil]. 1591: Florio, Second Frutes, 97, Who dooth what he ought not, Shall finde what he thought not. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1732: Fuller, No. 2089. He that doth not as he ought, must not look to be done to as he would.

He that has but four and spends five, has no need of a purse. 1623: Wod-roepe, Spared Houres, 278, Who hath but four and spendeth seacuen, Neceth no purse to put his money in. 1732: Fuller, No. 2134.

He that hath a good neighbour. See Neighbour (4).

He that hath it, and will not keep it,
He that wanteth it and will not seek it, He that drinketh and is not dry, Shall want money as well as I 1659 Howell, 21 1670 Ray, 211 1669 Spurgeon, John Ploughman ch xi
He that hath plenty of goods shall have more, He that hath but little he shall have less, And he that hath right nought, right nought shall possess 1546 Heywood, Proverbs Pt I ch xi 1665 Camden, Remains 324 (1870) [first line only] 1670 Ray, 222
He that in youth See quot 15th cent in Relig Antiquae, 1 92 (1841), He that in youthe no vertu usit, In age alle honoure hym refusit
He that is in is half way over 1694 D’Urfey Quixote Pt I Act IV sc 1 He that is thought to rise betime See Name (2)
He that speaks See quot 1683 Merton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697), He that speaks the things he said not, hears the things he said not
He that will no evil do, must do nothing that belongs thereto 1546 Heywood, Proverbs Pt II ch v 1660 T Hall, Funerbia Flora, 12 1732 Fuller, No 6305, He that would no evil do, Must do nought that’s like thereto
He that will not be ruled by his own dame shall be ruled by his stepdame [14th cent Guy of Warwick, 1 1593 (E E T S), For often ichaue herd it say, and y me self it sigge may, “Who that nill nought leue his fader, He schel leue his steffader”] 1546 Heywood, Proverbs Pt II ch ix 1670 Ray, 77
He that will not when he may, when he will he shall have nay [Coriggant se, qui tales sunt, dum vivunt, ne postea veint et non possunt - St Augustine, Opera, xxviii 1095 (Migne) Cf Isaiah iv 6] 10th cent A-S Homerly quoted in Skeat, Early Eng Proverbs, vii 108, gif he nu nelle ya hule pe he maeg, et ponne he late wile, pæt he ne maeg (Lest, if he will not now (do so) while he may, afterwards, when he at last will, he may not] c 1150 John of Salisbury, Policraticus, lib vii c xvii, Nam et proverbia dicit solet, qua quon non vult cum potest, non utique poterit cum vOLET Before 1225 Ancren R, 296, hwo ne dey hwan he mei ne schal nout hwan he wolde 1303 Brunne, Handl Synne, I 4790, He pat wyl nat whan he may, He shal nat when he wyl. 1422 J Yonge, tr Governance of Princes, 161 (E E T S), That is to say, "Who so will not whan he may, he shal nat when he wille” 1546 Heywood Proverbs, Pt I ch iii c 1590 Greene, Alphonus, V iii , No, damsel, he that will not when he may, When he desires, shall surely purchase nav, 1621 Burton, Melancholy, III ii vi 5 p 612 (1836) 1709 O Dykes, Eng Proverbs, 188 1880 Mrs Oliphant, He Who Will Not When He May, When He Wills He Shall Have Nay [title of novel]
He whom God will have kept See quot c 1489 Caxton, Blanchardyn, 155 (E E T S), Men sayen comynly, that he whome god wyll have kept, may not be perysshed
He will never have a thing good cheap that is afraid to ask the price 1633, Draxe 4 1639 Clarke, 41 1732 Fuller, No 2427, He’l ne’er get a pennworth, that is afraid to ask a price
He’s a fond chapman See Day (12)
Head 1 An head that’s white to maidis brings no delight Glos 1639, in Berkeley MSS, in 30 (1855)
2 Cover your head by day as much as you will, by night as much as you can 1678 Ray, 41
3 He that has no head needs no hat 1611 Cotgrave s.v. "Chaperon," He that hath no head needs no hood 1670; Ray, 101 1732 Fuller, No 2145, He that has no head, deserves not a laced hat
4 He that hath a head of wax must not walk in the sun 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1732 Fuller, No 2255 1854 J W Warter, Last of Old Squares, 53 1864 "Cornish Proverbs," in N & Q, 3rd ser, vi 495, People with wax heads shouldn’t walk in the sun
5 He that will be a head, let him be a bridge 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s.v. "Cardiganshire"
6 Head and feet kept warm, the rest
will take no harm. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Demeurant," The foot and head kept warme, no matter for the rest. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium, Dry feet, warm head, bring safe to bed. 1678: Ray, 41, Keep your feet dry and your head hot, and for the rest live like a beast. 1732: Fuller, No. 6255.

7. Head full of bees. See Bee (9).

8. Heads I win, tails you lose. 1672: Shadwell, Epson Wells, II. i., The cheat . . . worse than Cross I win, Pile you lose: but there are some left, that can lose upon the square. 1846: in Croker Papers, in. 59 (1884), A game which a sharper once played with a dupe, intituled, "Heads I win, and tails you lose." 1909: De Morgan, Never can happen Again, ch. xxxviii., Women's claims are not allowed in law-courts. It's heads Law wins, tails they lose.

9. Let your head be not higher than your hat. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 284 (Arber), When you match, God send you such a one as you like best: but be sure alwayes, that your head be not higher then your hat. Cf. Hair (2).

10. The grief of the head is the grief of griefs. 1659: Howell, 10.

11. The head grey, and no brains yet. 1732: Fuller, No. 4587.

12. To have a head full of proclamations. 1567: Fenton, Baudello, ii. 146 (T.T.), At last, beinge past the misterye of his trauue, he repaired to his house with his head full of proclamations. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Moucheron," Avoir des moucherons en teste. To be humorous, moodie, giddle-headed, or to have many proclamations or crotchets in the head. 1631: Brathwait, Whimzies, 97 (1859). 1690: New Dict. Canting Crew, sig. 18, His head is full of proclamations, much taken up to little purpose. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Proclamations."

13. To have a man's head under one's girdle. To have him at one's mercy. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. v., Then have ye his head fast vnder your gyrdell. 1605: Chapman, etc., Eastw. Hoe, IV. ii., I list not ha my head fastened under my child's girdle. 1642: D. Rogers, Naaman, sig. Qq3, I will not doe so meane a fellow such honour, as to subdue my spirit, or put my neck under his girdle. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Girdle." 1829: Scott, Geisterst, ch. xxv., I am a man little inclined to put my head under my wife's girdle.

14. When the head ache all the body is the worse. c. 1230: in Wright, Pol. Songs John to Edw. II., 31 (Camden S.), Cui caput infirmum cetera membra dolent. c. 1399: Gower, Pr. of Peace, l. 260, in Skeat's, Chaucer, vii. 212, Of that the head is syk, the limmes aken. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vii. 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. ii., I mean . . . that when the head aches all the body is out of tune. 1670: Ray, 13. 1732: Fuller, No. 5588 [with "feels it" for "is the worse"].

15. You have a head and so has a pin. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I., Thou hast a head, and so has a pin. 1797: Colman, jr., Heir at Law, V. ii. 16. Your head will never fill your pocket. 1855: Bohn, 582.

17. Your head will never save your legs. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, i. 216, Thy head'll niver saay thy legs. 1895: S. O. Jewett, Life of Nancy, 253, You'd ought to set her to work, and learnt her head to save her heels.

18. Your head's running upon Jolly Robins=Your ills are wool-gathering. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 159. [Jolly Robin used to figure in old ballads.]

19. Your head's so hot that your brains bubble over. 1732: Fuller, No. 6950.

Headlam hens lay twice a day. "A gentle hint in the place of one more discourteous: to wit, that of telling a person he's a liar. Headlam, a small village in the extensive Saxon parish of Gainford." Durham. 1846-59: Denham Tracts, i. 89 (F.L.S.). 1909: Folk-Lore, xx. 73.

Head is ruled by a fool, He that is. 1732: Fuller, No. 2178.

Headly man and a fool, may wear the same cap. A. Ibid., No. 212.

Healed as hurt, One is not so soon. 1670: Ray, 77.
Health

Health and money go far 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum
Health and wealth create beauty 1855 Bohn, 405
Health is better than wealth 1678
Ray, 153 1736 Bailey Dict, s.v "Health," Health surpasses riches 1832 Scott, Fam Letters, 255 (1894). As health is better than wealth, I trust you will hasten the period of your return
Health is great riches 1639 Clarke, 314 Health is a jewel 1672 Walker, Pararm, 45 [as in 1639] 1732 Fuller, No 2477
Health not valued till sickness comes 1666 Torrano, Piazza Univ, 119 In sickness health is known 1732 Fuller, No 2478
Health without money is half an age 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1732 Fuller, No 2479 Health without wealth is half a sickness
Healthful man can give counsel to the sick, The 1651 Herbert, Jac Prudentum, 2nd ed
Hear, verb 1 He hears not on that side 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch 15, Than were ye deafe, ye could not here on that side. 1632 Jonson, Magnetic Lady, 1, He will not hear of it Rut Not of that ear 1681 W Robertson Phrasal Generalis, 713, He cannot hear on that ear 1736 Bailey, Dict, s.v "Ear" [as in 1681]
2 He may be heard where he is not seen 1639 Clarke, 58 1670 Ray, 180
He that hears much and speaks not at all, shall be welcome both in boisterous and hallow 1586 G Whitney, Emblembs, 191, Heare much, but little speake 1670 Ray, 192 1694 D'Urley, Quixote, Pt I Act III sc ii 1732 Fuller, No 6161
4 He who hears one side only, hears nothing 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xvi, A man should here all parts, et he judge any 1750 Smollett, Gal Blas, iv 105
5 Hear all, see all See quotes 1578 Follo, First Fruits, fo 10, Who heares, sees and holds his peace may alwaye lye in peace 1623 Wodroephe, Spared Hours, 276, Hears all, see all, and hold thee still, if peace desirous with thyme will 1925 Yorkshire "motto" in N & Q, vol 149, p 411, Hear all, see all, say not, tAK all, keep all, ge now't, and if tha ever does ow't for now't do it for thyse'n" [There are several variants of this compendium of selfishness]
6 Hear twice before you speak once 1855 Bohn, 405
7 To hear as hogs do in harvest 1670 G Firmin, Real Christian, ii, quoted in N & Q, 2nd ser, viii 17, The country proverb is Hear as hogs in harvest When they are gotten into good shank, when they at home call them or knock at the trough, the hogs will lift up their heads out of the stubble and listen, but fall to their shank again
Hearers, Were there no, there would be no backbiters 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum
Hearing From hearing comes wisdom, from speaking, repentance 1855 Bohn, 359
Heart 1 Every heart hath its own ache 1732 Fuller, No 1418
2 He is heart of oak 1609 Old Meg of Herefs (Nares, s.v "Heart"). Here is a dozen of yonkers that have hearts of oake at fourescore yeares 1672 Walker, Pararm, 24, He was heart of oak, he wore like iron 1694 Terence made English, 125, Marry, I think, you're heart of oake 1870 Dickens, Drood, ch xii, So small a nation of hearts of oak
3 Heart of the sober man See Drunkenness
4 Heart on halfpenny See Hand (b)
5 Hearts may agree though heads differ 1732 Fuller, No 2480
6 His heart is in his hose (or, later, boots) e 1410 Towneley Plays, 113 (E E T S.), A, thy hart is in thy hose! Before 1529 Skelton, in Works, n 35 (Dyce), Their hertes be in theyr hose 1616 Breton, Works, n 19 (Grosart), Hangmg doune his head as if his heart were in his hose 1694 Motteux, Rabelais, bk v ch xxxiv, If I be not half dead with fear, my heart s sunk down into my hose 1767 in Garrick

Heart
Corresp., i. 271 (1831), Whose soul and spirit... are now even in her shoes. 1883: R. L. S., Treasure I., ch. xiii., My heart sank, as the saying is, into my boots. 1900: Lucas, Domestickes, 39, My head was adamant, but, as the saying is, my heart was in my boots.

7. His heart is in his mouth. [Mihi animam in naso esse.—Pet., 62.] 1548: Udall, tr. Erasmus' Par. Luke, xxiii. 199 (O.), Haunyng their herte at their veral mouth for feare. 1618: B. Holyday, Technogania, V. v., My heart's almost at my mouth with feare. 1664: Dryden, Love Triumphant, i. i., He's come on again; my heart was almost at my mouth, 1740: Richardson, Pamela, i. 136 (1883), My heart was at my mouth; for I feared... 1876: Blackmore, Cripps, ch. ii., She... glided along with her heart in her mouth. 1883: R. L. S., Treasure I., ch. iv., A sound that brought my heart into my mouth.

8. Never set at thy heart what others set at their heel. 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi., Nor suche foly feele, To set at my hert that thou settest at thy heele. c. 1580: Tom Tyler, l. 807, p. 23 (Malone S.), Never set at thy heart, thy wives churil part, That she sets at her heel. 1659: Howell, 13, I will not set at my heart what I should set at my heel. 1871: N. & Q., 4th ser., viii. 506, [A common Lancashire proverb] Never lay sorrow to your heart, when others lay it to their heels.

9. The joy of the heart makes the face merry. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), Sc. of Folly, 46, in Works, ii. (Grosart), The joy of the heart fairly coulers the face. 1629: Book of Mercy Riddles, Prov. 54, The heart's mirth doth make the face fayre. 1633: Draxe, 128.

10. To take heart of grace. 1530: Palsgrave, 748, They lyved a great whyle lyke cowarde... but at the laste they toke herte a gresse to them. 1560: Becon, Catechism, 345 (P.S.), It is now high time to take hart of grace unto them. 1593: Tell-Trothes New-yeares Gift, 23 (N. Sh. S.), She... tooke harte at grace, and woulde needes trie a newe conclusion. 1630: Tinker of Turry, 58 (Halliwell), Rowland, at this taking heart of grasse, stopt to her. 1687: A. Behn, Emp. of the Moon, II., Come, come, take heart of grace. 1712: Motteux, Quixote, Pt. I. bk. iii. ch. vi., He took heart of grace, and made shift to carry over one goat, then another. 1826: Scott, Journal, 15 Sept., I even took heart of grace and finished my task. 1922: Weyman, Ovington's Bank, ch. v., He took heart of grace.

11. To wear one's heart upon one's sleeve. 1604: Shakespeare, Othello, I. i., I will wear my heart upon my sleeve For daws to peck at. 1909: Lucas, Wand. in Paris, ch. xix., Had he too... carried in his breast or even on his sleeve a great heart... like Hugo's.

12. What the heart thinks the tongue clinks (or speaks). 1477: Rivers, Dictes, etc. 26 (1877), The mouth sheweth often what the hert thinketh. 1583: Greene, in Works, ii. 116 (Grosart), Gonzaga... thought, what the heart did think, the tongue would clink. 1670: Ray, 13, What the heart thinketh, the tongue speaketh. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Heart" [as in 1670].

13. Whatever comes from the heart goes to the heart. 1878: J. Platt, Morality, 10 [cited as "an old proverb"].

14. When the heart is a fire, some sparks will fly out of the mouth. 1732: Fuller, No. 5589.

15. Where hearts are true, Few words will do. 1875: A. B. Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 86.

16. Where the heart is past hope, the face is past shame. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 341 (Arber) [with "minde" for "heart"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 5665.

17. With all one's heart and a piece of one's liver. 1598: Mucedorus, sig. F.4, Weele waite on you with all our hearts. Clo. And with a piece of my luer to [too]. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I., With all my heart, and a piece of my liver.

Heat nor cold abides always in the sky.
Neither. 1678: Ray, 47. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 6 (Percy S.).

Heave and theave, To. Somerset. 1678: Ray, 354.

Heaven upon earth, A. 1618: Bract.,
Court and Country, 5 (Grosart), If there may be a simile of heaven upon earth, See also Hell (6) and (8)

Heavy as lead c 1300 Brunne, Langtof's Chron., 252 (Heare), and we're heavy as lead c 1320 in Relig. Antiquae, 1 121 (1841), Myn herte is heavy so led 1414 T Brampton, Seven Pens. Psalms, 13 (Percy S.), My synnes ben hevy as hevy led 1592 Shakespeare, Romeo III v., Unweldy, slow, heavy and pale as lead 1694 Dryden, Lose Triumphant, I i Try his wit senor you'll find it as heavy as lead 1714 Vandelove Fable of Bees 54, He is heavy as lead, the head is hung down 1850 Dickens Copperfield ch vi My head is as heavy as so much lead

Heavy purse makes a light heart, A c 1510 A Barclay, Egloges, 29 (Spens S.), When purse is heavy ofttimes the heart is light 1595 Pedler's Prophecy, I 1592 (Valone S.), An heauie purse maketh a mans heart light 1630 Jonson, New Inn, I i 1670 Ray, 114 1754, Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. 'Light'

Heckmondwike See Bursitl

Hector's Cloak, To take =~To deceive a friend who confides in one's fidelity 1662 Fuller, Worthies, ii 542 (1840) 1700 Grose Prov Gloss s.v. Northumberland 1846-59 Denham Tracts, i 242 (F.L.S.)

Heddon See quot 1892 Heslop, Northumb. Words 33 (E.D.S.), East Heddon, West Heddon, Heddon on the Waal, Harlow Hill, an' Horsley, an' Wylam bangs them all! Old saying

Hedge and Hedges I A hedge between keeps friendship green [See Prov xxv. 17] 1710 S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs 168, A wall between preserves love 1875 A.B. Cheales Proverbs Folk-Lore, 93 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 3

2 Hedge abides that fields divides 1130 A-S Chron., in Sket. Early Eng. Proverbs, vi., Man said to beworde henge sittet þa aceres deeleth

3 Hedges have eyes (or ears) 1650 Fuller, Pugah Sight, bk vii ch l § 7, If policy be jealous, that hedges may have ears 1738 Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. III. Ay, madam, but they say hedges have eyes, and walls have ears c 1800 J. Trusler, Prov in Verse, 18

4 If you would a good hedge have, Carry the leaves to the grave 1678 Ray, 350 1732 Fuller, No 6141

5 Where the hedge is lowest men may soonest over 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch v 1564 Bullein Dialogue, 65 (E.E.T.S.), Where the hedge is lowest that commonest is sonest cast to grounde 1610 Rowlands, Martin Mark-all 14 (Hunt Cl), You will vesse the old saying where the ditch is lowest, there men goe over thuckle and three-fold 1685 Menton, Yorkshire Ale, 62, Where th' hedge is law, its eath [easy] getting ore there 1732 Fuller No 5666 [with ' leap over' for 'may soonest over'.]

6 You seek a brack where the hedge is whole 1639 Clarke, 80, You'd break a gap where the hedge is whole 1670 Ray, 165

Hedgehog See quotes 1623 Wodroope, Spared Hours, 487, Decke a hedgehog, and he will seeme a baron 1659 Howell, Proverbs Fr.-Eng, 9 Trim up a hedge-hog, and he will look like a lord 1695 Jos Thomas, Randigal Rhymes, 62, Cornwall Scrump'd up like a hedgehog

Heeler See Hailer

Heighton, Denton and Tarrning All begins with A 1861 Lower, in Sussex Arch. Coll., xiii 270

Heller See Hailer

Hell 1 From Hell, Hull, and Halifax, Good Lord deliver us 1594 A Copley, Wits, Fits, etc., 112 (1614), It is proverbial in our country, From Hull, Hell, and Halifax, Good Lord deliver us 1599 Nashe, in Works, v 284 (Grosart) Let them seek him, and neither in Hull, Hell, nor Halifax, 1622 Taylor (Water-Poet), in Works, pagin 2, p. 12 (1630) 1662 Fuller, Worthies, ii 398 (1840) 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s.v. 'Yorkshire' 1875 E. Peacock, in N. & Q. 5th ser., iv 154, From Hull, Hell and Halifax, Good Lord, deliver us, is a saying well known in these parts [Lines] 1922 in N. & Q., 12th
ser., xi. 102, This was the celebrated Halifax Gibbet Law [see Halifax], which gave rise to the well-known proverb:—From Hell, Hull, etc.

2. Hell and Chancery are always open. 1732: Fuller, No. 2486.

3. Hell, Hull, and Halifax all begin with a letter; Brag is a good dog, but hold-fast is better. c. 1791: Pegge, Derbicusms, 137 (E.D.S.).

4. Hell is broken loose. 1577: Misogonus, II. v., I think, hell breake loose, when thou gast ye this porte. 1596: Jonson, Ev. Man in Humour, IV. i., They should say, and swear, hell were broken loose, ere they went hence. 1667: Milton, Par. Lost, iv. 918, Wherefore with thee Came not all Hell broke loose? 1694: D’Urfey, Quixote, Pt. II. Act II. sc. ii., All hell is broke loose yonder! 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I., Hey! what a clattering is here; one would think, hell were broke loose. 1822: Byron, Vis. of Judg., st. 58, And realised the phrase of "Hell broke loose."

5. Hell is paved with good intentions. 1574: E. Hollowes, Guevara’s Epistles, 205, Hell is full of good desires. 1654: Whitlock, Zootomia, 203, It is a saying among Divines, that hell is full of good intentions, and meanings. 1775: Johnson, in Boswell, ii. 360 (Hill), He said one day, talking to an acquaintance on this subject, "Sir, Hell is paved with good intentions." 1825: Scott, in Lockhart’s Life, vi. 82. 1865: Dickens, Mutual Friend, bk. iv. ch. x., You recollect what pavement is said to be made of good intentions.

6. Hell is wherever heaven is not. 1669: Politicusphlia, 310. 1732: Fuller, No. 2489.

7. There is no redemption from hell. 1468: Coventry Mys., 240 (Sh. S.), Quia in inferno nulla est redemption. 1619: Chapman, Two Wise Men, I. i., It is so deep . . . that it reacheth to hell, and ther’s no redemption. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, ii. 413 (1740). 1799: Groce, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Westminster," [In the last two examples the saying is applied to a prison at Westminster for the King’s debtors.]

8. They that be in hell seen there is no other heaven. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1605: Camden, Remains, 334 (1870). 1621: Wither, Motto, in Juvenilia, iii. 681 (Spens. S.), For, those the proverb saith, that hue in hell, Can ne’er conceive what ‘ts in heaven to dwell. 1670: Ray, 102, They that be in hell, think there’s no better heaven.

See also Harrow.


Hell-kettles, Deep as the. [1577: Harrison, England, I. xxiv. iii. 164 (1881) (O), There are certeine pits, or rather three little pooles, a mile from Darlington . . . which the people call the kettles of hell, or the duels kettles. 1727: Defoe, Tour, iii. 188, As to the Hell Kettles . . . which are to be seen as we ride from the Tees to Darlington.] 1846-59: Denham Tracts, i. 79 (F.L.S.), Deep as the hell-kettles . . . the name of three deep pits at Oxen-le-Hall, in the parish of Darlington.

Help a lame dog. See Lame dog.

Help at a pinch. See Pinch.

Help hands! for I have no lands. 1567: Golding, Ovid, bk. iii. l. 745. [An allusion His handes did serve in steade of landes] 1605: Armin, Foole vpon Foole, 36 (Grosart). c. 1630: in Robb. Ballads, i. 305 (B.S.), He passeth some with house and lands; when that decays, he cries "Help, hands!"


Help to salt. See Salt (2).

Help yourself. See quo. c. 1460: How the Goode Wife, in Hazlitt, Early Pop. Poetry, i. 191, Thi thrife is thi frendis myrthe, my dere childe. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II., Come, Colonel; help yourself, and your friends will love you the better.

Helps little that helpeth not himself, He. 1629: Book of Merry Riddles, Prov. 16.

Helsby (Hill) wears a hood, As long as, The weather's never very good. 1886: R. Holland, Cheshire Gloss., 445
remembered the proverb, that “where hens crow, and cocks hold their peace, there are sorry houses” 1678 Ray, 64 1732 Fuller, No 2842 [with “bad” for “sad”]

8 It is better to have a hen to-morrow than an egg to-day—but the first reference gives the reverse 1659 Howell, Proverbs Ital.-Eng., i. “Tis better to have an egg to-day, then a hen to-morrow 1732 Fuller, No 2976

9 It is no good hen that cackles in your house, and lays in another’s 1864 Tbid., No 2087

10 It is not the hen that cackles most which lays most eggs 1665 “Lancs Proverbs,” in N & Q., 3rd ser., viii 494 1901 F E Taylor, Lancs Sayings, 8. It’s no’ th’ hen ‘at cackles th’ moost ‘at lays th’ moost eggs Cf No 6

11 It’s a poor hen that can’t scrat for one chick 1882 Mrs Chamberlain, W Worcs Words, 39 (E D S) 1894 Northall, Folk Phrases, 17 (E D S)

12 Never offer your hen for sale on a rainy day 1768 Goldsmith, Vicar, ch xi. I’ll warrant we’ll never see him sell his hen on a rainy day 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 3 (Perry S) 1872 J Glyde, jr., Norfolk Garland, 151

13 The hen discovers her nest by cackling Before 1225 Ancren R., 66, The hen hwn heo haueth theld, ne con buten kakele. And hwat hagt heo perof? Kume8 pe coue [chough] anomnht and rene8 hire hire eiren 1664 D’Urfey, Quixote, Pt II Act IV sc ii

14 The hen lays as well upon one egg as many 1620 Shelton, Quixote, Pt II ch vi 1664 D’Urfey, Quixote, Pt I Act IV sc i

See also Cock (3), (6), and (8), Drink (10), Fat as a hen, Gram., January (10), Son (1), and Woman (39)

Hengsten Down, well ywrought, is worth London Town dear ybought 1602 Carew, Surv of Cornwall, 272 (1811) 1610 Holland, tr Camden’s Britanna, 196 1659 Howell, 21 [“Hinkeson Down.”] 1662 Fuller, Worthies, 1 306 (1840) 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v “Cornwall” 1864 “Cornish Proverbs,” in N & Q., 3rd
ser., v. 276, Kingston down, well wrought, is worth London Town, dear bought. 1880: Courtney, W., *Cornwall Words*, xiii. (E.D.S.) [as in 1664].


Henry Sophister, A, shortened to Harry-Soph. Sophista Henricanus. The expression originated in Henry VIII.'s time. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, i. 227 (1840). 1720: Stukeley, *Memoirs*, i. 40 (Surtees S.), I... threw off my ragged Sophs gown... and commenced Harry Soph as its there [Cambridge] styled, and took the habit accordingly. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Cambs." 1859: N. & Q., 2nd ser., viii. 239, A student at Cambridge, who has declared for Law or Physic, may put on a full-sleeved gown, when those of the same year, who go out at the regular time, have taken their degree of Bachelor of Arts. He is then styled a *Harry-Soph*, i.e. *epoisoph*. [This Greek reference is a University joke.]


Here a little and there a little. 1633: Draxe, 13.

Here is the door and there is the way. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1633: Draxe, 29. 1639: Clarke, 70.


Heresy. See Frenzy; and Hops (x). Heros to his valet, No man is a. [δεν Ἄρτεγος ὁ γέρων Ἐρμοθόνος τίνος ἐν πολιμαιας ἀνάθειν Πλαο πάθῳ καὶ θέν αναγορεύοντος ὡς τὸν ἰδίον μοι, εἰσερ το λασιάφορον σινώδος.—Plutarch, *De Iside et Osiride*, c. xxiv.] 1685–6: Cotton, *Montaigne*, III. ii., Few men have been admired by their own domestics. 1764: Foote, *Patron*, II. i., It has been said, and I believe with some shadow of truth, that no man is a hero to his valet de chambre. 1899: Wheatley, *Pepysiana*, 240 [as in 1764]. 1924: *Sphere*, 9 Feb., p. 137, col. 2, I referred in these columns to the well-known statement that "no man was a hero to his valet."


3. Of all the fish in the sea, herring is the king. 1659: Howell, 21.

Hertfordshire

The herring-man hates the fisherman [1633 Ames, Against Cerem, Preface, 28 (O), It's a hard world when herring men revile fishermen] 1869 Hazlitt, 373

See also Barrel, Dead (4), Fish, verb (5), Lean, Lose, Red herring, Straight, and Wet (7)

Hertfordshire 1 Hertfordshire clubs and clouted shoon 1662 Fuller, Worthes, ii 39 (1840) 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s.v “Herts.” A gibe at the rusticity of the honest Hertfordshire yeomen and farmers

2 Hertfordshire hedgehogs 1662 Fuller, ii 39 1790 Grose Prov Gloss, s.v “Herts”

3 Hertfordshire kindness 1662 Fuller, ii 40 1703 Ward Writings, ii 67. For want of a third in our mess, we were fain To use Hertfordshire kindness, Here’s to you again 1738 Swift, Polite Concours, Dial II 1785 Grose, Class Dict Vulgar Tongue, s.v., Hertfordshire kindness, drinking twice to the same person

4 If you wish to go into Hertfordshire, Hitch a little nearer the fire. A rather childish play on the word “hearth” and the name of the county 1806 Lysons, Magna Brit., i 117 (Bedford) 1854 Baker, Northants Gloss, s.v “Hitch,” The distich on the old beam which separated Bedfordshire from an insulated portion of Hertfordshire in the dining-room of the late parsonage house, at Mappershall, near Shefford If you wish, etc

Hesky’s library, Like—all outside 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 90

Hewin or Dick, Be either—Be either one thing or the other 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 160

Hews too high may get a chip in his eye. He that c 1300 Brunne, tr Langtoft’s Chron., i 91 (Heane). Sorow pan is his pyne, pat he wis over his heed, ye chip falles in his ine c 1310 in Wright, Pol Songs, 323 (Camden S). It falles in his eghe That the hakes ovre hege c 1390 Gower, Conf Amantis, bk. i 1 1518 Fulofte he heweth up so hihe, That shipps fallen in his yhe 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vii, Hewe not to bye lest the shipps fall in thine ye 1589 Peele, in Works, ii 270 (Bullen). Thou art too crank, and crowdest all too high, Beware a chip fall not into thine eye 1659 Howell, 4 [as in 1546] 1732 Fuller, No 2164

Hexham Eight sayings 1846–59 Denham Tracts, i 278–81 (F LS), (1) Hexham, the heart of all England (2) Hexham measure, up heaped, pressed down, and running over (3) He comes fra’ Hexham green, and that’s ten miles ou’t of Hell (4) Every one for their am hand, like the pipers o’ Hexham (5) Hexham, where they knee-band lops [fiæs], and put spectacles upon blind spiders (6) Silly—good-natured, like a Hexham goose, bid him sit down, and he will lie down (7) A Hexham sixpence-worth (8) Go to Hexham [a Newcastle malaposition] (2) 1802–4. Heslop, Northumb Words (E D S). “Hexham measure, heaped full an’ runnin’ over,” was a proverb, which originated in the circumstance that the “beatment” [quarter-peck measure] at Hexham had twice the capacity of the Newcastle “beatment”

Heyden family See Paston

Heytor See quot 1869 Hazlitt, 458, When Heytor rock wears a hood, Manxton folk may expect no good

S Devon

Hickup See quot 1825 Brockett, N Country Words, s.v., Hickup, suck up, stand up, straight up, One drop two drops—good for the hickup [There are variants]

Hide can find, They that c 1400 Seven Sages, 68 (Percy S), He may well fynde that hyde hym selven 1671 Westm Drollery, 21 (Lbsworth), But now I am lost, and here am crowst, ‘Tis they that hide must find 1740 North, Examen, 172, As they say, he that hides can find 1816 Scott, Antiquary, ch xxi, Trust him for that—they that hide ken best where to find 1855 Bohn 406, Hiders are good finders 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 71, He that feals [hides stylly] can find Hide nothing from thy minister,
physician and lawyer. 1578: Florio, First Fruits, fo. 27. From the phisition and attorney keepe not the truth hidden. 1596: Harington, Melam. of Ajax, 98 (1814), From your confessor, lawyer, and physician, Hide not your case on no condition. 1670: Ray, 103. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Hide," Hide nothing from thy priest, physician or lawyer; Let thou worse thy soul, body, or estate.

Higgledy-piggledy, Malpas shot.—All share alike. See story of "Two Rectors," in Leigh's Ballads and Legends of Cheshire, 133 (1867). 1869: N. & Q., 4th ser., iii. 194. 1913: E. M. Wright, Rustic Speech, etc., 186, The kernel of the story . . . is the refusal of the then Rector of Malpas [either temp. James I. or William III.] to treat the monarch to his share of a dinner at the village inn. In spite of the remonstrances of the Curate, who was also present, the shot was equally divided between the three: higgledy-piggledy all pay alike. Later the monarch caused the same rule to be applied to the benefice, and henceforth the Curate received a moiety of the glebe and tithes. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 73.

High, adj. 1. A high building, a low foundation. 1605: Camden, Remains, 316 (1870). 1670: Ray, 103. 1732: Fuller, No. 2499, High buildings have a low foundation.

2. As high as three horse loaves. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. x., As high as two horse sons loyes his person is. 1639: Clarke, 73. 1670: Ray, 202.

3. High as a hog. See Hog (3).

4. High days and holidays. 1653: The Queen, I., in Bang's Materialien, B. 1, p. 2, col. 1. Or at a feast upon high holy dayes. 1857: Hughes, Tom Brown, Pt. I. ch. i., The Pusey horn, which . . . the gallant old squire . . . used to bring out on high days, holidays, and bonfire nights. 1859: Sala, Twice Round Clock, One p.m., Who consume an orthodox dinner of meat, vegetables, and cheese—and on high days and holidays pudding—at one p.m. 1997: Hackwood, Old Eng. Sports, 2, Popular games and diversions on all "high days and holy days."

5. High places have their precipices. 1616: Haughton, Englishm. for my Money, IV. ii., They say high climbers have the greatest falls. 1732: Fuller, No. 2501. Cf. Higher standing.

6. High words break no bones. 1584: Greene, in Works, iii. 231 (Grosart), Words breake no bones, so we cared the lesse for hir scolding. 1683: Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697), foul words break ney bones. 1734: Fielding, Don Quix. in England, II. vi., High words break no bones. 1774: C. Dibdin, Quaker, I. viii.

7. To be high in the instep. To be proud. 1542: Boorde, Introd., ch xxvi. p. 159 (E.E.T.S.), They be hyghe in the instep, and stondeth in theyr owne consayte. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I., ch xi., He is so hy in thinstep, and so straight laste [laced]. 1655: Fuller, Church Hist., bk. x. § vi. (16), Too high in the instep . . . to bow to beg a kindness. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Instep." 1854: Baker, Northants Gloss, s.v. "Instep," "She's high in the instep," i.e. proud and haughty.

8. To be on the high ropes. 1690: New Dict. Cunting Crew, sig. K5, Upon the high ropes, Cock-a-hoop. 1771: in Garrick Corresp., i. 433 (1831). Who, as I hear, were always upon the high ropes with her. 1864: Mrs. H. Wood, Trevlyn Hold, ch. xxii., Nora was rather on the high ropes just then, and would not notice him.


Higher standing the lower fall, The. 1633: Draxe, 7. The higher that I clime, the greater is my fall. 1658: Franck, North, Memories, 39 (1821). The higher any man rises, the greater is his fall expected. 1670: Ray, 102. 1709: O. Dykes, Eng. Proverbs, 248. The highest standing, the lowest fall.

Higher the ape goes. See Ape (10).

Higher the tree. See Plum-tree.

Highest branch is not the safest roost, The. 1855: Bohn, 507.
The highest flood has the lowest ebb. There's Cheales, Carr, hill Do I Hit all slack Weight, Norfolk Smedley, is 1670 1902 He Glyde, He did I'll 15^ See Hills the Tohttoverthethumbs=:

1555 in Wright, Songs, etc., Philp and Mary 59 (Roxb Cl), Thought that the flood be great, the ebc as lowe done 1598 J Dickenson, Greene in Concept, 32 (Grosart) 1658 France, North Memories, 39 (1821), High tides have their low ebbs 1709 O Dykes, Eng Proverbs, 248

Highest spoke in Fortune's wheel may soon turn lowest, The 1732 Fuller, No 4595

Highest tree See Tree (5)

High Garret See Bramtree

Highgate I'll make him water his horse at Highgate 1678 Ray, 86 1790 Grose Prov Gloss, s v "Middx"

2 To be sworn at Highgate See long accounts in Hone, Ev Day Book ii 79-87 c 1720 J Smedley, in Somers Tracks, xxi 825 (1811), Dined, and was sworn at Highgate 1769 Colman, Man and Wife, III ii, I have been sworn at Highgate, Mrs Lettice, and never take the maid instead of the mistress 1822 Byron, Childe Harold, can i st 70 1826 G Daniel Sworn at Highgate [title] 1902 Wright, Dialect Dict, s v "Highgate," He has been sworn in at Highgate, used of a man who is very sharp or clever

Highway is never about, The 1670 Ray, 13 1732 Fuller, No 4596

Hill and Hills 1 A hill an a fill an' an d'er-neet an 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 3, Hill=Bed (covering) Fill=A meal O er-neet=A place to pass the night The whole=A night's lodging

2 Do on hill as you would do in hall 1570 A Barclay, M miracle of Good Manners, 25, Lue thou ypon hill as thou would hue in hall 1732 Fuller, No 1307, Do in the hole as thou would st do in the hall 1853 Trench, Proverbs, 21 (1905) In the proverb you will find [alliteration] of continual recurrence Thus Do on hill as you would do in hall

3 Hills are green afar off 1904 N & Q, 10th ser, 1 434

4 The higher the hill the lower the grass 1732 Fuller, No 4593

5 There's always a hill against a slack [hollow] 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, Ollas a hill amnest a slack 1899 Dickinson, Cumb Gloss , 165, To set hills against slacks is to equalise matters by giving and taking Cf No 6

6 There's no hill without his valley 1583 Melbancke, Philotinus, sig U2, Euerie hill hath his dale 1633 Drake, 5 Cf No 5

Hinckley See Higham

Hinckley field See quotes 1678 Ray, 317, The last man that he kill'd keeps hogs in Hinckley field Spoken of a coward that never durst fight 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v 'Leicestershire 1881 Evans, Leics Words, 301 (E.D.S.), 'The last man Hinckley Field,' is now, and I imagine always was, applied rather to a boaster of the "Ancient Pistol" type

Hire the horse must ride before, He that 1639 Clarke, 99 1670 Ray, 166 1873 A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 99 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 71 He who hires the horse should ride first

Hit, verb 1 He that once hits will be ever shooting 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium, He that once hits, is ever bending [his bow] 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 378

2 Hit or miss 1560 T Wilson Rhetorique, 87 (1909), Which shot in the open and plaine fields at all adventures hitte missse 1566 Choyce Drollery, 21 (Ebsworth), But hit or missse I will declare The speeches at London and elsewhere 1678 Ray, 73, Hit or missse for a cow-heel 1709 O Dykes, Eng Proverbs, 272, For we have a smart saying to this effect, Hit or miss, luck is all 1823 Byron, Don Juan, can viii st 33, Renown's all hit or miss 1872 J Glyde, jr, Norfolk Garland, 248, Hitty missy, as the blind man shot the crow

3 Hit the nail See Nail (5)

4 To hit over the thumbs= To rebuke 1540 Palsgrave, Acolustus, sig B4, Hauke men hytte the[c] upon the thomboes 1560 T Wilson Rhetorique, 3 (1909) Phanorinus did hit a young man over the thumbs very handsomely, for vsing ouer old, and over
strange words. 1607: Dekker, etc., Westw. Hoe, V. i., And he, bristling up his beard to rail at her too, I cut him over the thumbs thus... 1678: Ray, 349.

5. To hit the bird o' th' eye. 1670: Ray, 161.

Ho (or whooping), Out of all = Out of all bounds. c. 1374: Chaucer, Troylus, bk. ii. l. 1034 (1063) (O.), pan gan he telle his wo, But pat was endlesse withouten ho. 1577: Misogonus, II. iii., Though you think him past whoo, He may yet reduce him. c. 1592: Sir T. More, 67 (Sh. S.), Would not my lord make a rare player? Oh, he would vpholde a companie beyond all hoe. 1599: Shakespeare, As You Like It, III. ii., O wonderful... out of all whooping. 1631: Mabbe, Celestina, 108 (T.T.), You will hold your peace, will you not?... What? Is there no ho with you? 1711: Swift, Journal to Stella, Lett. xx.

When your tongue runs there's no ho with you. 1855: Kingsley, Westw. Hol!, ch. xxiii., Wonderfull, past all whooping. 1894: Northall, Folk Phrases, 20 (E.D.S.), Out of all ho, i.e. immoderately.

Hoardeth up money, He that, taketh pains for other men. 1669: Politenphuisa, 130. 1732: Fuller, No. 2165.

Hoarfrost. See Frost.

Hoarse. See Crow (4); and Cuckoo (5).

Hoathly. See Hellingly.

Hobbledehoy. 1540: Palsgrave, Acostus, sig. D4, Their hobbledehey tyme, the years that one is neyther a man nor a boye. 1670: Ray, 216, A hoberdehoy, half a man and half a boy 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I. c. 1791: Pegge, Derbicioms, 195 (E.D.S.), A hobblyt-hoy, neither man nor boy. 1879: Jackson, Shropsh. Word-Book, 209, Yo' dunna think I'd take up ooth a 'obbety'-oy like that fur a sweet eart! 1894: W. Raymond, Love and Quiet Life, 103, No rascally Upton hobbledehey, half man and half boy.

Hobson's choice = No choice at all. 1699: in Somers Tracts, vii. 87 (1811), I had Hobson's choice, either be a Hobson or nothing. 1660: Bradshaw's Ultimam Vale, quoted in N. C. Q, 6th ser., ii. 426, I know no other remedy [for death]; 'tis Hobson's choice 1712: Spectator, No. 509 [the story of Hobson, the Cambridge carrier]. 1718: Cibber, Non-Juror, I, Can any woman think herself happy, that's obliged to marry only with Hobson's choice? 1867 Dutton Cook, Hobson's Choice [title].


 Hodder, The. See quot. 1869: Hazlitt, 374, The Hodder, the Calder, the Ribble and rain, all meet in a point on Milton's domain.

Hodnet, Shropsh. See quot. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 579, As sure as Hodnet sends the wind, A rainy day will Drayton find.

Hog. 1. A hog that's bemired endeavours to bemire others. 1732: Fuller, No. 214.

2. A hog upon trust grunts till he's paid for. Ibid., No. 215.

3. As high as a hog all but the bristles. 1670: Ray, 202.

4. It is hard to break a hog of an ill custom. 1678: Ray, 154. 1732: Fuller, No. 2949, It is hard to break an old hog off a custom.

5. Like a hog in armour. 1659: Howell, 19, He looketh like a hogg in armour. 1708: Ward, London Terrestrial, No. v. p. 26. 1740: North, Examen, 572, So ridiculous was the figure, as they say, of hogs in armour. 1820: Scott, Monastery, ch. x. 1847: Halliwell, Dict., s.v., A hog in armour, a person finely but very awkwardly dressed. 1867: Larwood and Hotten, Signboards, 449, "Hog in armour..." a favourite epithet applied to rifle volunteers by costermongers, street fishmongers and such like.


7. The hog is got into the honey-pot. 1678: Ray, 354, The hogs to the honey pots. 1732: Fuller, No. 4595.

8. The hog never looks up to him that threshes down the acorns. Ibid., No. 4599.

Quixote, Pt II ch xxi, He will go through stitch with it he will make a hog or a dog of it, I will warrant you

10 What can you expect of a hog but his bristles? 1813 Ray, 201

See also Better my hog, Draft, Drive (5), Every hog, Every man basteth, Go (23) Hear (7), Lincolnshire, October (2), One hog, Pig, Swarston Bridge, and Swine

Hoghton, near Blackburn, Lancs See quotation 1869 Hazlitt 156, He who would see old Hoghton right, must view it by the pale moonlight

Hogs Norton To be born (or brought up) at Hogs Norton, where the pigs play on the organs It is said that this saying refers to the village of Hock-Norton, Leicestershire, where the organist once upon a time was named Pigg's 1 e 1554 Entertlude of Youth, in Bang's Materials, B 12, p 79, I shall laye on the ear were thou borne in trumpington and brought vp at Hoggens Norton 1593 Nashe, in Works, II 273 (Grosart), I was brought vp at Hoggenorton, where pigges play on the organs 1615 Armin, Val Welshman, II 11, This fellow was porne at hogs Norton, where pigges play on the organ 1670 Ray, 249, You were born at Hogs Norton 1670 Cotton, Scarrondes, bk iv, And pillows all surely snort on, Like organists of fam'd Hog's-Norton, 1725 Bailey, tr Erasmus Colloq, 317, He being in a violent passion, says to him, out you saucy fellow, where was you drag'd up, at Hogs Norton? 1739 Fielding, Author's Parce, III, Though his voice be only fit to warble at Hogs Norton, where the pigs would accompany it with organs 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I 1821 Scott, Kenilworth, ch ix, He was born at Hogs Norton, where, according to popular saying, the pigs play upon the organ

Holbeach, Lincs See quotation 1869 Hazlitt, 206, Holbeach pots, Whaplode pans Houlton organs, Weston tungs-tangs Higson's MSS Coll, No 214, These are four places in South Lincolnshire, and the lines are satirical of the Church bells at each town

Holbom-hill, He will ride backwards up=He will be hanged 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "London"

Hold fast when you have it 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch x 1583 Melbancke, Philolatinus, sig Fr, As to have is good hap, so to hould fast is a great vertue 1605 Camden Remains, 324 (1870) 1859 Howell, 8

Hold him to it See Buckle (3)

Hold one's tongue in an ill time, One may 1633 Draxe, 5, A man may holde his peace in an ill time 1670 Ray, 103 1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict, s v "Hold" [as in 1633]

Hold or cut codpiece point 1678 Ray, 73

Hold the dish while I shed my pottage 1670 Ray, 218

Hold up your dagger-hand A drinking phrase 1639 Clarke, 46 1679 Ray, 216

Hold up your head there's money bid for you 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I, Well, methinks here's a silent meeting Come, miss, hold up your head, girl, there's money bid for you 1836 Marryat, Japhet, ch 1v, As the saying is, there's money bid for you

Hold your tongue, husband, and let me talk that have all the wit 1678 Ray, 84 1732 Fuller, No 2521

Hole 1 He has a hole under his nose, that all his money runs into 1659 Howell, Proverbs Fr-Eng, 10, The hole too ope under the nose, breeds ragged shoes and tattered hose 1732 Fuller, No 1858 1880 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 39, He has a hole under his nose, and his money runs into it

2 The hole calls the thief 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

3 To make a hole in the water = To drown oneself 1813 Ray, 201 1926 Phillpotts, Yellow Sands, I, I'll make a hole in the water—I'll drown to-night sure as death!

4 You tell how many holes be in a scummer 1639 Clarke, 146

Holiday dame, She's an 1678 Ray, 73

Hollow as a kex, As 1678 Ray, 284 1883 A Easther, Almondbury Gloss, 73 (EDS), He is as hollow as a


Holly. See quot. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 6 (Percy S.), He never lies but when the hollin’s green.


Holme. See quot. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, i. 169 (F.L.S.), ... saying, which is prevalent in the north-west part of the county [Cumberland], is valuable as characteristic of the dour and satirical disposition of the natives. When they wish to say a particularly severe thing against any of the gentry, they remark, "When he dies there will be dry eyes at Holme." [Holme is pronounced as "home."]


1906: Harper, *Brighton Road*, § xxix., p. 276, It is ... that Vale of Holmesdale Never wonne, ne never shall, as the braggart old couplet has it, in allusion to the defeat and slaughter of the invading Danes at Ockley, A.D. 851.

Holt, Cheshire. 1. *Go to Holt to see Farne Races* = You are going the wrong way to work. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 62.

2. Holt lions. Ibid., 73 [Bridge has a long discussion of the meaning of the phrase].

Holy, I’ll be, I, marry will I. 1639: Clarke, 139.

Holyrood, 14 Sept. See quot. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 34, If dry be the buck’s horn On Holyrood morn, ’Tis worth a kist of gold; But if wet it be seen Ere Holyrood e’en, Bad harvest is foretold. Yorkshire. See also Devil (48).

Holy Thursday. See Whitsuntide (2).

Home, He that lives always at, sees nothing but home. 1618: Breton, in *Works*, ii. 17 (Grosart) [cited as a "proverb"].

Home is home though never so homely (or poor). c. 1300: *Prov of Hending*, st. 14 (Berlin, 1878), Este bueth oune brondes (Pleasant are one’s own brands—i.e. one’s own fireside).


Homer sometimes nods. [Quandoque bonus dormit Homerus.—Horace, *Ars Poet.*, 359.] 1530: Palsgrave, 897, And ther where they shall se the good Homer have ben aslepe to be wylling by good maner to wake him, in correcting the fautes in the whiche by cause of the same he is fallin. 1648: Herrick, *Hesp.*, No. 95, Homer himself, in a long work, may sleep. 1820: Byron, *Don Juan*, can. v. st. 159, Meanwhile, as Homer sometimes sleeps, perhaps You’ll pardon to my muse a few short naps.

Honest, adj. 1. *An honest good look covereth many faults*. 1732: Fuller, No. 600.

2. *An honest man*. See Wind, E (2) and F (1).

3 *An honest man and a good bowler*. 1592: Shakespeare, *L. L. L.*, V. ii., An honest man, look you... a marvellous good neighbour, faith, and a
very good bowler 1635 Quarles, Emblemata, bk 1 No v, The vulgar proverb’s crost He hardly can Be a good bowler and an honest man 1670 Ray, 181
An honest man’s word is as good as his bond 1670 Ray 103 1730 Lillo, Silva, I ix And every honest man is as good as his word
An honest plain man, without pleats 1546 Heywood Proverbs, Pt II ch v Be plain without pleates 1659 Howell, 15
An honest shilling is better than a knavish sovereign 1875 A B Cheales Proverbs Folk-Lore, 100
An honest woman dwells at the sign of an honest countenance 1615 in Hari Missell, II 147 (1744) [cited as "the common saying"]
As honest a man as any in the cards when the kings are out 1639 Clarke, 286 1678 Ray, 291 1732 Fuller, No 667
As honest a man as ever broke bread 1599 Porter, Two Angry Women, sc xi, You are as good a man as ever broke bread 1600 Shakespeare, Much Ado, III v 1696 J. Harris, City Bride, IV II 1793 O’Keeffe, World in a Village, I 1. As good natur’d a man as ever broke bread
As honest (or good) a man as ever trod on shoe leather 1599 Porter, Two Angry Women, sc xi, You are as good a man as ere went on neat’s leather 1670 Ray, 181 1754 Berthelson Eng-Danish Dict, s v "Shoe" 1889 J. Nicholson, Folk Speech E Yorks 17 As good as never stepped upo shoe leather 1901 F E Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 33 He were as bonny a lad as ever step t’1 shoe-leather
As honest a man as the sun ever shone on 1789 G. Parker, Life’s Painter, 26
As honest a woman as ever burnt mall 1589 Pap with a Huichet, 23 (1844)
Honest men do marry but wise men not 1659 Howell, Letters, II 666 (Jacobs), Honest men use to marry but wise men not 1696 D’Urfey, Quixote, Pt III Act III sc 11, A pure proverb, that says, Honest men marry quickly, but wise men not at all
Nobody so like an honest man as an arrant knave 1732 Fuller, No 2525, Honest men and knaves may possibly wear the same cloth 1855 Bohn, 463
Of all crafts, to be an honest man is the master-craft 1678 Ray, 13 1732 Fuller, No 3696, Of all crafts to an honest man downright is the only craft
The honest man the worse luck 1611 Colgrave, s v "Mesceour" 1670 Ray, 117
Honesty A man never surfeits of too much honesty 1639 Clarke, 213, Too much honesty did never man harm 1670 Ray, 13
If honesty is a fine jewel, but much out of fashion 1732 Fuller, No 2533
If honesty is ill to thrive by 1639 Clarke, 30
Honesty is plain, but no good fellow 1594 Knack to Know a Knave, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, vi 509
Honesty is the best policy 1599 Sandys, Europae Spec, 102 (1632) (O), Our grosse concepts, who think honesty the best policy 1622 P Hannay, Poet Works, 165 (Hunt Cl), Honesty In shew, not deed, is policie 1638 D. Tuvill, Vade Mecum, 27 (3rd ed), He would ever say that Honesty is the best policy 1671 Head and Kirkman, Eng Roque, II 92 1788 Colman, Jr, Ways and Means, I 1, My policy was chosen from the proverb, Random, I thought honesty the best 1850 Dickens, Copperfield, ch iv
Honesty may be dear bought, but can never be a dear pennyworth 1732 Fuller, No 2535 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v
If honesty cannot knavery should not 1732 Fuller, No 2680
Honey A honey tongue, a heart of gull 1583 Melbancke, Philotinus, sig D3, With hymse in her mouth, and a sting in her tayle 1590 in Roxb Ballads, u 5 (B S) 1670 Ray, 104 1732 Fuller, No 619
Being anointed with honey she sweately 1725 Bailey, tr Erasmus’ Colloq, 571 (cited as "the old saying")
Honey

3. Cover yourself with honey and the flies will eat you. 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II, ch. xlii. 1712: Motteux, Quixote, Pt. II, ch. xliii, It is so, daub yourself with honey, and you will never want flies. 1853: Trench, Proverbs, 65 (1905). We say: Daub yourself with honey, and you'll be covered with flies.

4. He guides the honey ill, that may not lick his fill. 1623: Wodropehe, Spared Hours, 503.

5. He that handles honey shall feel it cling to his fingers. 1481: Cotgrave, s.v. "honej' (Hazlitt), "Honey;" 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 313.


7. Honey is dear bought if licked off thorns. c. 1175: Old Eng. Homilies. i. 185 (Morris), Nis nan blisse sothes in an thing that is utewth, thet ne beo to bitter aboht; thet et huni ther-in, beoth licked of thornes (There is no true bliss in anything external that is not too dearly bought; he that eats honey therein, it is licked off thorns). c. 1320: in Relig. Antiquae, i. 14 (1851), "Dere is botht the hony that is licked of the thorne"; Qnoth Hendyng. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Achter," He that licks honey of thornes paies too deare for it. 1732: Fuller, No. 2215. He that licks honey from a nettle, pays too dear for it. 1827: Hone, Table-Book, 686, One who marries an ill-tempered person attempts to lick honey from off a thorn. 1809: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xix., Never try dirty dodges to make money. It will never pay you to lick honey off of thorns.

8. Honey is not for the ass's mouth. 1732: Fuller, No. 2537.


10. Honey is too good for a bear. Ibid, No. 2539.


13. The best honey. See quot. 1924: Devansh. Assoc. Trans., lv. iii, "The best honey id'l'n got by squeezin'" Meaning that what is given spontaneously is better than what is gained by pressure.

14. To lick honey through a cleft stick. 1670: Ray, 184. 1732: Fuller, No. 5197. See also Bee; Broom; Fly (11); Fog (3); Sweet as honey; and Wine (3).

Honeymoon, It will not always be. 1639: Clarke, 123.

Honeymoon with them, It is but. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I, ch. vii., It was yet but hony moone. 1633: Draxe, 118. 1659: Howell, 4.


3. Honour is but ancient riches. Before 1598: Ld. Burghley, in Peck, Desid. Curiosa, 48 (1779). For gentility is nothing else but ancient riches. 1618: Breton, Court and Country, in Incited Tracts, 190 (Hazlitt), Honour was but ancient riches. 1623: Webster, Devil's Law-Case, I. i., What tell you me of gentry? 'tis nought else... But ancient riches. 1737: Ray, 52, Nobility is nothing but ancient riches.

4. Honour is unseemly for a fool. 1598: Meres, Palladis, fo. 211. 1633: Draxe, 3.

5. Honour will buy no beef. 1668: Shadwell, Sullen Lovers, V. iii. [cited as "the excellent proverb"]=

6. Honour without profit is a ring on the finger. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Signeur," Honour without profit is like a six-penny rent to one that hath nothing else to live on. 1631: Mabbe,
Honour

Celestina, 140 (T T) 1659 Howell, *Proverbs* Span.-Eng., 19

7 Honours change manners [Honores

mutant

mores — Polydore Vergil,

*Adagia*, Prov ccm p 89 (Basel, 1541)]

c 1430 Lydgate, in Skeat's *Chaucer, v* 297, Ther beth four things that

maketh a man a fool, Honour first

putteth him in outrang [extravagant

self-importance] 1552 Latimer Ser-

mons, 437 (P S), So they verify that

saying *Honores mutant mores* "Honours

change manners." 1590 Greene, in

*Works, v* 294 (Grosart), Honours

chaungeth manners 1616 Haughton,

*Englishe for my Money, IV* i [cited

as "an old said saw"] 1712 *Spectator, No*

259, This good creature is resolved

to show the world, that great honour

cannot at all change his manners, he is

the same civil person he ever was

1748 Richardson *Clarissa, vii* 325

(1785) 1820 Scott, *Abbott, ch xxu*,

How I have offended the Lord of

Lindesay I know not, unless honours

have changed manners

8 Honours nourish arts c 1570

F Thyn, *Pride and Lowliness*, 22

(Sh S), Sayeth not the proverbe,

honors nonishe artes? 9

9 There is honour among thieves

[Cum igitur tanta vis iustitiae sit, ut

ea etiam latronum opes firmet atque


Motteux, *Quiroxte Pt II* ch lx, The

old proverbe still holds good Thieves

are never rogues among themselves

1723 Defoe, *Col Jack, ch 1*, Which is

what other thieves make a point of honour of, I mean that of being honest

to one another 1824 Scott, *Red-

gauntlet, ch v* 1840 Dickens, *Curiously

Shop, ch xii, Honour among—
among gentlemen, sir," returned the

other, who seemed to have been very

near giving an awkward terminacion

to the sentence

10 We cannot come to honour under

coverlet 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

11 Where honour ceaseth, there know-

ledge decreases 1639 Clarke, 137

1681 W Robertson, *Phraseol Gener-

alis, 737 1736* Bailey, *Dict*, s v

12 Where there is no honour, there is

no grief 1633 Draxe, 91, He that hath

no honour hath no sorrow 1640

Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Hoo See Do (39)

Hoo, Kent See quot 1735 Pegge, *Kent

Proverbs, in EDS, No* 12, p 73, He that rideth into the Hundred of

Hoo Besides piffing seamen, shall

find dirt enow

Hood does not make the monk, The

c 1387 Usk, *Test of Love*, in Skeat's

*Chaucer, vi* 91, For habit maketh no

monk c 1400 Rom Rose, 1 6192,

Habit ne maketh monk ne frete 1617

Greene in *Works, ix* 19 (Grosart), The

hood makes not the monk, nor the

apparrell the man 1673 Wycherley,

*Gen Danc-Master, IV* i 1754 Con-

noisseur, No 10, Mere regimentals no

more create a soldier, than the cowl

makes a monk 1820 Scott, *Abbott,

ch xvi*, The cowl makes not the

monk, neither the cord the friar

Hood for this fool, A c 1566 in

Collmann, *Ball and Broadsides, 93*

(Roxb Cl), A hood a hood, for such a

foole 1570 in Huth, *Ancient Ballads,

etc., 128* (1667), And, as the proverbe

doeth show very playne, A hood for this

foole, to kepe him from the rayne

Hood-iull [Cleveland, Yorks] has on

his cap, When, Hamilton's sure to come

down with a clap 1846-59 *Denham

Tracts, n* 14 (F L S) 1878 *Folk-Lore

Record, 1 169

Hook or by crook, By c 1380

Wiclif in *Eng Works, 250* (EE T S),

Comynly the schiulle die hem with poore

mennes goodis with hook or with crook

c 1390 Gower, *Conf Amantis*, bk v

I 2872 So what with hepe [hook] and

what with crok Then make here master

ofte winne 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs,

Pt I* ch xi, By hooke or crooke nought

could I wyn there 1583

Stubbes, *Anat of Abuses, 75* (N Sh S),

Yet will they have it eather by

hooke or crooke, by right or wrong, as

they say 1694 Motteux, *Rabelais*

bk v ch xv, Well, by hook or by

crook we must have something out of

you 1761 K O'Hara, *Midas, II* n

1860 Read, *Cl and Hearth, ch 1*, The
Church could always maintain her children by hook or by crook in those days.

Hook well lost to catch a salmon, A. 1633: Drake, 5. 1670: Ray, 104. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v.

Hool. See Hutton.

Hop, verb. 1. Hop where! pipe thief! 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vii., Where all thy pleasure is, hop hoore, pipe theefe. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), Sc. of Folly, 47, in Works, ii. (Grosart), Hop whereon, pipe theefe, hangman lead the dance.

2. To hop against the hill. See quotas. 1575: Gascoigne, Posies, in Works, i. 335 (Cunliffe), So strive I now to shewe, my feeble formed will, although I know my labour lost, to hop against the hill. 1576: Pettie, Petite Pall, i. 27 (Gollancz), For to hop against the hill and strike [* strive] against the stream, hath ever been counted extreme folly. 1597: Bacon, Col. of Good and Evil, 10, Running against the stream: Roving against the stream, etc.

3. To hop in a person's neck. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 138. To have one's revenge on him.

Hop o' my thumb = a dwarf. 1530: Palsgrave, p. 232, col. 1 (O.), Hoppe upon my thombe, fretillon. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi., It is a small hop on my thombe. 1630: Wine, Beer, Ale, etc., 27 (Hanford, 1915), Away hop of my thumbe.... I am ashamed of thee. 1888: S. O. Addy, Sheffield Gloss., 112 (E.D.S.), He's a little hop-o-my-thumb, and stands no higher than nine penn'orth of brass.

Hope, Derby. See quot. 1689: Folk-Lore Journal, vii. 293, [Derby sayings] Mony a one lives in Hope as ne'er saw Castleton [one and a half miles away].

Hope, subs. 1. He that liveth in hope, danceth without a fiddle. 1670: Ray, 13 [with " minstrel!" for " fiddle "]. 1732: Fuller, No. 2224.

2. He that lives on hope will die fasting. 1623: Wodroephe, Spared Hours, 302, Hee who lives of hope makes a thimne belly. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' Colloq., 12, They that feed upon Hope, may be said to hang but not to live. 1736: Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i. 443 (Bigelow).

1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xv., He who lives on hope has a slim diet.

3. He that wants hope is the poorest man alive. 1732: Fuller, No. 2342.

4. Hope deferred makes the heart sick. 1631: Mabbe, Celestina, 38 (T.T.), For (as it is in the proverb) delayed hope affliceth the heart. 1633: Drake, 42, Long hope is the fainting of the soule. 1768: Sterne, Sent. Journey, 102 (1794), And felt what kind of sickness of the heart it was which arises from hope deferred. 1836: Marryat, Easy, ch. xxix.

5. Hope is a good breakfast but a bad supper. Before 1626: Bacon, in Aubrey, Lives, i 74 (Clark), "But," sayd his lordship, "Hope is a good breakfast, but an ill supper." 1732: Fuller, No. 2541. 1817: Mrs. Piozzi, in Hayward, Autobiog., etc., of Mrs. P., ii. 358 (1861), Ah! he was a wise man who said Hope is a good breakfast but a bad dinner. It shall be my supper, however, when all's said and done.

6. Hope is a lover's staff. 1855: Bohn, 408.

7. Hope is as cheap as despair. 1732: Fuller, No. 2542.

8. Hope is grief's best music. 1855: Bohn, 408

9. Hope is the poor man's bread. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

10. Hope is worth any money. 1732: Fuller, No. 2543.

11. Hope of long life beguileth many a good wife. c. 1320, in Reliq. Antiqua, i. 116 (1841), "Hope of long lyf Gyleth mony god wyf "; Quoth Hendyng.


13. If hope were not heart would break. Before 1225: Ancren R., 80, Ase me seith, gif hope nere, heorte to breke. c. 1340: Hampole, Prick of Con., I. 7266 (Morris), And men saye, warn hope ware it [the " hert "] suld brest. c. 1440: Gesta Rom., 228 (E.E.T.S.), He made thos wordes to be wretten, "yf hope wer not, hert shulde breke." c. 1590: Harvey, Marginalia, 05 (1913), But for hope y' hart wold brust. 1655: A.
Brewer, Love-sick King, II., in Bang's Materials, B 18, p 13 Hope keeps the heart whole 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, vi 200 (1785), 1893 Co Folk-Lore Suffolk, 150 (F L S), If it warn't for hope the heart 'ud die 14 Too much hope deceitful 1578 Florio, First Frutius, to 33 1629 Book of Merry Riddles, Prov 126 Hope, verb 1 He that hopes not for good, fears not evil 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1732 Fuller, No 2166, He that hopes no good, fears no ill 1854 Surtees, Handley Cross, ch lviii, Where no hope is left is left no fear 2 I hope better, quoth Benson, when his wife bade him come in cuckold 1678 Ray, 86 1732 Fuller, No 2608 3 Hope for the best and prepare for the worst 1587 J Bridges, Defence of God of Church of Eng, 74, I wishe the best, and therefore if I feare the worst I hope I am the easier to be pardoned 1590 Spenser, F Q, IV vi 37, Its best to hope the best, though of the worst array'd c 1680 L'Estrange, Seneca's Morals Happy Life," ch x, I'le hope the best, and provide for the worst 1706 Ward, Works, iii 337 [as in 1680] 4 Hope helpeth 1568 in Loseley MSS, 209 (Kempe) 5 Hope well and have well 1583 Melbancke, Philotinus, sig H2 1617 A Brewer, Countrie Carles, sig G2 1712 Motteux, Quixote, Pt II ch lvv 1732 Fuller, No 2545, Hope well and have well quoth Hickwell Hopkins See quotes 1678 Ray, 290 As well come as Hopkins, that came to 1541 over night and was bang'd the next morning 1732 Fuller, No 695 [with "hasty" for "well come" and 'Hopkins' for 'Hopkin'] 1869 Hazlitt, 113, Don't hurry, Hopkins This seems to be an Americanism [clearly not] Hops 1 Hops and turkeys, carp and beer, Came into England all in one year As the examples which follow show, there are several versions of this saying They are brought together here, with cross-references from the various objects named The year referred to is sup- posed to be 1520 1599 Buttes Dyds Dry Dinner, sig G4, Heresie and beer came hopping into England both in a yeere 1643 Sir R Baker, Chron., 208 (1730), About his [Henry VIII's] fifteenth year it happen'd that diverse things were newly brought into England, whereupon this rhime was made Turkeys, Carps, Hops, Piccard, and Beer, Came into England all in one year c 1685 Aubrey, Nat Hist Wells, 62 (1847), Greece, carps, turkey cocks, and beer, Came into England all in a yeare 1714 Ward, Hudd Brewer, 21, To the same year's produce, we see, Ascribe both hops and heresy 1724 Defoe, Tour, Lett II p 34, Hops, Reformation, bays [barle], and beer, Came, etc 1899 Pegge, Anonym, Cent V 88 [as in 1643] 1826 Brady, Varietes of Lit, 264 [as in 1724] 1834-7 Southey, Doctor, inter-chap xvi 1866 Bickerdyke, Curios of Ale and Beer 67 [as in 1724] 1909 Hackwood, Insns, Ales, etc, 44 2 Hops make or break Referring to the speculative nature of the hop har vest 1869 Hazlitt, 208 3 Plenty of lady-birds, plenty of hops Ibid, 377 See also Bean (2), St James's Day, and Thuck as hops Hopton See Horner Horestone See Fadwell Horn and Horns 1 A horn heard soon though hardly seen 1659 Howell, Proverbs Brit-Eng, 9 2 He cannot hold a horn in his mouth, but must blow it c 1470 Songs and Carols, 23 (Percy S), I hold hym wyse and wel taught, Can bar an horn and blow it naught 1571 Edwards, Damon, etc, in Hazlitt, Old Plays iv 77, I can wear a horn and blow it not 1681 W Robertson, Phraseol Generalts, 733 3 He had better put his horns in his pocket than wind them 1678 Ray, 74 1732 Fuller, No 1852 4 He that hath horns in his bosom, let him not put them on his head 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1670 Ray, 104 1732 Fuller, No 5704 [with "forehead" for "head"]
Horn

5. Horns and grey hairs do not come by years. 1678: Ray, 156.
6. Let the horns go with the hide. 1855: Bohn, 441.

Horn Fair, All is fair at. 1813: Brand, Pop. Antig., ii. 195 (Bohn), So many indecencies were committed upon this occasion on Blackheath . . . that it gave rise to the proverb of “All is fair at Horn fair.” 1862: Chambers, Book of Days, i. 645 (1860).

Horner, Popham, Wyndham, and Thynne, When the abbot[s] went out, then they came in. 1669–96: Aubrey, Lives, i. 279 (Clark), Hopton, Horner, Smyth, and Thynne, When abbots went out, then they came in. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. “Somerset.”

Hornet, He is as mild as a. An ironical Glos. saying. 1639: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 30 (1885).

Horse and Horses. 1. A boisterous horse must have a rough bridle. 1633: Draxe, 171. 1639: Clarke, 200 [with “boystrous” for “rough”].
2. A free horse is soon tired. 1593: Pass. Morrice, 93 (N. Sh. S.), How easie is a free horse tired.
4. A good horse oft needs a good spur. 1639: Clarke, 93. 1670: Ray, 105.
5. A good horse should be seldom spurred. 1732: Fuller, No. 156.

7. A horse foaled of an acorn = the gallowes. 1678: Ray, 253, You’ll ride on a horse that was foal’d of an acorn. 1762: Smollett, Sir L. Greaves, ch. viii. 1827: Lytton, Pelham, ch. lxxxi.
8. A horse is neither better nor worse for his trapping. 1732: Fuller, No. 217.
10. A horse of another colour. 1840: Barham, Ing. Legends: “Leech of Folkestone,” They are manifest asses; but you, good Leech, you are a horse of another colour. 1880: Spurgeon, Plooughman’s Pictures, 51, Farmer Gripper thinks we can live upon nothing, which is a horse of another colour.
11. A horse stumbles that hath four legs. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1683: Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83–7 (1697), A horse may stumble on four feet.
12. A horse that will not carry a saddle must have no oats. 1732: Fuller, No. 218.
13. A horse that will travel well, a hawk that will fly well, a servant that will wait well and a knife that will cut well. 16th cent.: in N. & Q., 4th ser., iii. 10.
14. A horse will not void oats. See quot. 1745: Franklin, in Works, ii. 35–6 (Bigelow), If, as the proverb says, it is unreasonable to expect a horse should void oats, which never eat any.
15. A horse with a wane. See quotes. 1670: Ray, 44, A nagg with a weamb and a mare with nean. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, ii. 233, “A horse wi’ a vaam And a meear in naan.” This Craven distich denotes that a horse should have a large paunch and a mare a small one.
17. A pair of good spurs to a borrowed horse is better than a peck of hayr [oats]. 1683: Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83–7 (1697).
18. A restless horse must have a sharp
spur 1639 Clarke, 167 Ray, 1670

19 A spur and a whip for a dull horse 1639 Clarke, 76

20 All lay the load on the willing horse 1546 Heywood Proverbs, Pt I ch vi, Folke call on the horse that will carry alwaye 1611 Cotgrave, s v 'Cheval' [as in 1546, plus] the willingest are sorest laid unto 1670 Ray 116 1732 Fuller, No 532

21 An inch of a horse is worth a span of a colt 1640 Ray 116 1732 Fuller, No 532

22 As holy as a horse 1530 Palsgrave, 620 He maketh as though he were as holy as a horse

23 As shortly as a horse will lick his ear 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch ix

24 As strong as a horse 1703 Ward, Writings 11 8 It 1845 Jerold, Mrs Caudle, xxi, You're not as strong as a horse

25 Behind, before, behind, a horse is in danger to be prick't 1670 Ray, 44

26 Choose a horse made and a wife (or man) to make 1611 Cotgrave, s v 'Cheval,' A made horse, and a man unnarm'd are fittest for use 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum [has two sayings, one 'man,' the other 'wife'] 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v 'Wife,' A horse broken and a wife to break

27 Do not spur a free horse [Addere calcana sponte currenti — Pliny, Ep, I viii 1] 1477 Paston Lett, in 200 (Gardner), It shall never neede to prykk nor threte a free horse I shall do what I can 1633 Jonson, Tale of a Tush, Ill, w, Syr x a true horse, ha u, run himself to death 1712 Motteux, Quixote, Pt II ch lxxi, Ride not a free horse to death 1820 Scott, Monastery, ch xxv, Be advised therefore, by me—Spur not an unbroken horse

28 Every horse thinks his own pack heaviest 1732 Fuller, No 1420 1675 A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 120

29 Good horses make short miles 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

30 Have a horse of your own, and then you can borrow one 1869 Surgeon John Ploughman, ch vii

31 He hath eaten a horse and the tail hangs out at his mouth 1678 Ray, 74

32 He hath taken my horse and left me the tether 1672 Walker, Parven', 17

33 He is ready to lend a horse who never had one c 1320 in Relig Antiquae, 1 114 (1847) 'He is fre of horses that nere made none, Quoth Hendyng

34 He that hath a white horse and a fair wife is never without trouble 1586 Pettie, tr Guazzo's Civil Conuers, fo 124 [with "woman" for "wife" — cited as "an ordinary saying"] 1591 Florio, Second Frutes, 191, He that a white horse and a fayre wife keepeth, For feare, for care for elousie scarce sleepeth 1716 Ward, Female Policy, 33 1732 Fuller, No 2156

35 He that hath neither horse nor cart, cannot always load 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Charger," Hee loads not when he lists that wants both horse and cart 1623 Wodroephe, Spared Hours, 480

36 He that lets his horse drink at every lake, And his wife go to every wate, Shall never have a good horse, Nor a good wife which is worse 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum, Who lets his wife go to every feast and his horse drink at every water, shall neither have good wife nor good horse 1670 Ray, 28 [as in 1640] 1696 D Urfey, Quixote, Pt III Act IV sc 1, He that lets his wife drink of every cup, ugh, and his horse at every water shall be sure to have neither of 'em good for any thing 1732 Fuller No 6187

37 His horse’s head is swollen so big, that he cannot come out of the stable—He owes the ostler so much 1659 Howell, 6

38 Horse and man = Completely 1639 Clarke, 86 He's undone horse and man 1666 Tornano, Piazza Univ, 134, As much as to say, Undone, horse and man 1740 Walpole, Letters, 1 87 (1820) (O), She cheats horse and foot

39 Horse in hand See Good walking

40 It is a good horse that never stumbles 1530 Palsgrave, 742, He is a good horse that stumbleth not sometime 1579 G Harvey, in Works, 1 23
Horse

(Grosart), A good horse that trippeth not once in a journey. 1676: Breton, in Works, ii. 6 (Grosart). 1709: O. Dykes, Eng. Proverbs, 19. 1859: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. x., It is a good horse that never stumbles, And a good wife that never grumbles.

41. It is the bridle and spur that makes a good horse. 1732: Fuller, No. 3021.

42. It would make a horse break his bridle, or a dog his halter. 1577: Stanishurst, Descrip. of Ireland, fo. 6, It would make a horse break his halter, to see so drunken a pageant. 1659: Howell, io, It would make a horse break his halter. 1670: Ray, 165.

43. It's an ill horse can neither whinny nor wag his tail. 1595: Maroecus Extaticus, 6 (Percy S.) ["a jade"]).

1639: Clarke, 70. 1670: Ray, 105. 1732: Fuller, No. 2882 ["a silly horse"].

44. Lend thy horse for a long journey, thou mayest have him again with his skin. 1659: Howell, 4. 1670: Ray, 14.

45. Let a horse drink when he will, not what he will. 1678: Ray, 157.

46. Let the best horse leap the hedge first. 1732: Fuller, No. 3191.

47. Let the quick horse. See quot. 1573: Bullein, Dialogue, 123 (E.E.T.S.). Mingle the good with the bad, as men saie, lette the quicke horse drawe the deade horse out of the myre.

48. Live, horse! and thou shalt have grass. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. 1. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 8, Live, havse [horse], an' theawst ha' grass.

49. One white foot. See quot. 1659: Howell, Proverbs : Ital.-Eng., 13. A four white-foot horse is a horse for a fool, A three white-foot horse is a horse for a King, and if he hath but one he give him to none. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 59. A horse with one white foot is suppos'd to be best. 1851: Fitz-Gerald, Euphralor, 84 (1655). One [white foot], I have heard say, is as good a sign, as all four white are a bad.

1877: N. & Q., 5th ser., vii. 64, One white foot, buy a horse; Two white feet, try a horse: Three white feet, look well about him; Four white feet, do without him. 1922 : N. & Q., 12th ser., xi. 169, One white leg, ride him for your life; Two white legs, give him to your wife; Three white legs, give him to your man; Four white legs, sell him if you can. Ibid, 212, Four white feet and a white nose, Strip off his hide, and give him to the crows. [There is more than one variant of these rhymes.]

50. Put no more on an old horse than he can bear. 1775: Garrick, May-Day, sc. i. [cited as "an excellent saying"].


52. Steal the horse and carry home the bridle. 1678: Ray, 342. 1732: Fuller, No. 4173, Sim steals the horse, and carries home the bridle honestly.

53. That horse is troubled with corns = is foundered. 1678: Ray, 74.

54. The biggest horses are not the best travellers. 1732: Fuller, No. 4425.

55. The blind horse is fittest for the mill. 1692: Southerne, Maid's Last Prayer, III. 1.


57. The fault of the horse is put on the saddle. 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. lxvi., According to the opinion of wise men, the fault of the ass must not be laid upon the pack-saddle. 1640: Herbert, Jace. Prudentum. 1732: Fuller, No. 4519 [as in 1620].

58. The good horse must carry drink. S. Devon. 1869: Hazlitt, 370.

59. The good horse must not cocky to a gally-whacker [start at a scarecrow]. S. Devon. Ibid.

60. The good horse must smell to a pixy [know where the bog is]. S. Devon. Ibid.

61. The horse may starve. See Grass (6).


63. The horse that draws his halter is not quite escaped. 1639: Clarke, 250,
73 You may know the horse by 
heavy by 
his harness 1670 Ray, 105 1732 
Fuller, No 5883, [a contradiction] 
You can't judge of the horse by 
the harness

74 You may take a horse to the water, 
but you can't make him drunk c 1175 
Old Eng Horsemus, 1st ser, p 9 
(Morris), Hwa is thet mei thet hors 
water to the horse and not drink himself? 1546 
Hey- 
wood, Proverbs Pt I ch vi, A man 
make well bring a horse to the water, 
But he cannot make him drink 
without he will 1616 Jack Drum, I., in 
Simpson, Sch of Shakesp, ii 143, 
What a man may lead a horse to the water, 
but heeel chuse to drinke 1763 
Johnson, in Hill's Boswell, i 427, As 
the proverb says, "One man may lead 
a horse to the water, but twenty cannot 
make him drink" 1830 Marryat, 
King's Own, ch xxxiv 1884 J Platt, 
Povery, 62

75 You'll ride a horse that was foaled 
of an ass 1855 Bohn, 581 
76 Your horse cast a shoe 1678 
Ray, 349

See also Afterthought, Ass (10) and 
(14), Beat (3), Better be the tail, Better 
riding, Blind, ait (9) and (26), Change, 
verb (4), Colt (1), Cough, Eat (19), 
Fine (4), Flea-bitten, Flesh, Fly (5). 
Foal, Galled, Gift (8), Good luck, Grey 
mare, Groaning, Hang (9), Hires, Lazy 
groom, Like a horse, Like a loader's 
horse, Mad horse, Man (1), (55), and 
(78), One saddle, Ox (7), Proud horse, 
Saddle, Scabbed, Scald, Short, Shoulder 
of mutton, Sick (4), Stable-door, Steal 
(1) and (5), Throw (4), Two ride, Up the 
hull, Wife (12), Wild (9), Willow, Win 
(4), and Young (9)

Horse-load to a cart-load, To fall away 
from a 1678 Ray, 243 1690 New 
Dict Canting Crew, sig Gx, Fallen away 
from a horse-load to a cart-load, spoken 
ironically of one considerably improved 
in flesh on a sudden 1738 Swift, 
Polite Convers, Dial I

Horse-nest See Mare (6)
Horseshoe See Rudgwick
Horsley See Heddon

1732 Fuller, No 4602 1853 Trench, 
Proverbs, 139 (1905)

64 The horse thinks one thing, and he 
that saddles him another 1631 Mabbe, 
Celestina, 264 (T T) 1696 D Urfe, 
Quixote, Pt III Act III sc ii, D'ye 
hear, friend of mine, the ass thinks one 
thing, and he that rides him another 
1732 Fuller, No 3799, One thing 
thinketh the horse, and another he 
that saddles him

65 The willing horse is always most 
ridden 1546 Heywood Proverbs, 
P i ch vi, Folke call on the horse 
that will carry alway

66 They are scarce of horses where two 
ride on a dog 1678 Ray, 157, They are 
scarce of horse-flesh who two and two 
ride on a dog 1732 Fuller, No 4958 
67 They cannot set their horses 
together--cannot agree 1639 Clarke, 
94, They cannot set their horses 'th' 
same stable 1670 Ray, 181 c 1710 
Swift, in Works, v v 109 (Scott), And 
since we're so near, like birds of a 
feather, Let's 'e'en, as they say, set our 
horses together 1776 in Garrick 
Corresp, ii 171 (1832), We do not 
quite set our horses together, though 
I have done a piece of service lately 
he knows nothing of, nor ever shall 
1887 Parish and Shaw, Dict Kent 
Dialect, 79 (E D S), Muster Nudgett 
and his old 'ooman can't set their horses 
together at all

68 To make a horse's meal, i e to eat 
without drinking 1793 Grose, Ohio, 
91 (2nd ed.)

69 Trust not a horse's heel nor a dog's 
tooth 1678 Ray, 158

70 When the horse is starved, you 
bring him oats 1732 Fuller, No 5591

71 Where the horse lies down, there 
some hairs will be found Before 1500 
in Hill, Commonplace-Book, 129 
(E E T S ), When the horse waloweth, 
som horns be loste 1602 Carew, Surv 
of Cornwall, 9 (1811), Where the horse 
waloweth, some hairs will still remain 
1662 Fuller, Worthes, i 299 (1840) 
1732 Fuller No 6331 1864 Cornish 
Proverbs," in N & Q, 3rd ser, vi 494

72 You may beat a horse till he be sad, 
and a cow till she be mad 1678 Ray, 95
Horton town. See Wotton hill.

Hosed and shod, he came in—He was born to a good estate. 1678: Ray, 74.

Host. See Reckon.

Host's invitation is expensive, An. 1732: Fuller, No. 512.

Hot as a toast. c. 1430: Two Cookery-Books, 12 (O.). Scene forth al hote as tostes. c. 1520: in Skelton, Works, ii. 415 (Dyce), Chafyng lyke myne hoste, As hote as any toste. c. 1580: in Roxb. Ballads, i. 94 (Hindley), Six pelican chickens as hote as a toast. 1696: D'Urfey, Quixote, Pt. III. Act II. sc. i., She makes me as hot as a toast. 1714: Ozell, Molière, ii. 9, You'll have it as hot as a toast, monster! 1860: Reade, Cl. and Hearth, ch. xxv., They were soon as warm as toast, and fast asleep.

1901: F. E. Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 4. As waarm as a toast.

Hot as coals. 1551: T. Wilson, Rule of Reason, sig. U4, You shalbe as whote as coles by and by. 1563: Foxe, Actes, etc., v. 19 (1846), The bishop and all his doctors were as hot as coals.

Hot as fire. c. 1350: Will. Palerne, 36 (E.E.T.S.), Sum-time it hentis me with hete as hot as ani fure. c. 1440: Gesta Rom., 46 (E.E.T.S.), For he woll . . . make me foryet me my anger, though I wer as hote as fire. 1579: Spenser, Shep. Cal., March, i. 48, A stepdame eke as hote as fyre. 1634: Fletcher, Two Noble Kins., V. vi., The hot horse, hot as fire. 1786: D'Arblay, Diary, ii. 212 (1876), I was as hot as fire at this question. 1855: Gaskell, North and South, ch. xiv., My cheeks were as hot as fire. 1872: Hardy, Greenwood Tree, Pt. I. ch. viii., You dance and get hot as fire.

Hot as if he had a bellyful of wasps and salamanders, He is as. 1732: Fuller, No. 1911.

Hot love hasty vengeance. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Vengeance.


Hot needle. See Put (11).

Hot porridge (or worts) will soak old crusts. 15th cent.: in Reliq. Antiqua, i. 82 (1841), This is to saye to your levde undurstandyng, that hote wortes erased crussistes makeyn soft hard wortes. Before 1500: in Hill, Common-Place-Book, 132 (E.E.T.S.), Whote wortis make softe crustis. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 75, Hot porridge will soak old crusts.

Hot shot indeed, You are a, "spoken in a slighting derision." 1659: Howell, 4. 1678: Ray, 86, He's a hot shot in a mustard pot, when both his heels stand right up. 1732: Fuller, No. 2440 [as in 1678].

Hot sup, hot swallow. 1639: Clarke, 200. 1670: Ray, 106. 1732: Fuller, No. 2551.

Hot water. See quot. 1654: Gayton, Pleasant Notes Don Q., 79, This same search hath not cost me hot water (as they say).

Hotsprurs, You are none of the. 1732: Fuller, No. 5855, You are none of the hastings, nor hotsprurs. 1846-59: Denham Tracts, i. 228 (F.L.S.), You're none of the hotsprurs. Made use of when accusing a noisy braggadocio, be he soldier or civilian, of cowardice.

Houlton. See Holbeach.

Hound gnaweth bone. See Dog (94).

Hour in a day between a good housewife and a bad, There's but an. 1678: Ray, 74.

Hour in the morning, before breakfast, is worth two all the rest of the day, An. 1827: Hone, Ev. Day Book, ii. 477 [cited as "an old and a true saying"]). 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 3 (Percy S.).

Hour may destroy what an age was a building, An. 1732: Fuller, No. 613.

Hour of pain is as long as a day of pleasure, An. Ibid., No. 614.

Hour's cold will suck out seven years' heat, An. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 3 (Percy S.).

Hours Sayings. See quotas. 1891: R. P. Chope, Hartland Dialect, 21 (E.D.S.), 'Twixt twelve an' two You'd ree 'ot the day'll do. 1893: Inwards,
Weather Lore, 44. Between the hours of ten and two Will show you what the day will do [also as in 1897]

House 1 A house built by the wayside is either too high or too low 1666 Tornano Piazza Univ, 40 Who buildeth a house in the street, either it is too high or too low 1676 Ray, 106 1732 Fuller, No 220
2 A house filled with guests is eaten up and ill spoken of 1855 Bohn, 291
3 A house ready made and a wife to make 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Acheter," Buy a house made and a wife unman'd 1732 Fuller, No 222
4 After the house is finished leave it 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum
5 Better one's house too little one day, than too big all the year after 1670 Ray, 106 1732 Fuller, No 919 1852 FitzGerald, Polonius 30 (1903) 1868 Quart Review, cvxv 252 [with last words "too large all the year"]
6 Choose not a house near an inn [for noise], or in a corner [for filth] 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum
7 He that buys a house ready wrought hath many a pin and nail for nought 1605 Camden, Remains 324 (1870) 1670 Ray, 106 1732 Fuller, No 6442
8 He that hath no house must lie in the yard 1591 Lyly, Endymion IV 11
9 His house stands on my lady's ground 1678 Ray, 75
10 Much it behoveth him to do that house shall hold c 1460 How the Good Wife, I 120, Mykelle mote hym be-houethe to don that house schall holden

II One's house one's castle 1602–3
Mannington, Diary, 27 (Camden S.), His house is his castle 1669 Dudley North, Obs and Adv Econom, 72, Masters of families are much favoured in our law, for their houses are term'd their castles 1767 Murphy, Sch for Guardians, III v, My house is my castle, gentlemen, and nobody must offer violence here 1848 Dickens, Dombey, ch 1x Mrs MacStinger immediately demanded whether an Englishwoman's house was her castle or not
12 Set not your house on fire to be retenged of the moon 1732 Fuller, No 411 1880 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 36, to spite the moon
13 The house goes mad when women gad 1822 Scott, Nigel, ch IV
14 The house shows the owner 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Maison," The house discovers the owner 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum
15 To eat out of house and home See Eat (35)
16 To throw the house out of the windows 1562 Bulmer, Bulwarke of Defence, to 28 Hane at all cast the house out at the window 1659 in Pol Ballads, 161 (Wright, Percy S.), If we take them there any more, we'll throw the house out of the window 1714 Oxell, Mother, I 180, I'll have a virtuous wife, or I'll throw the house out of the window 1836 Dickens, Sketches by Boz, 248 (C D ed.), The whole family was infected with the mania for Private Theatricals, the house, usually so clean and tidy, was, to use Mr Gattleton's expressive description, "regularly turned out of the windows" 1889 Peacock, Manley, etc, Gloss, 563 (L D S.), To throw the house out of the windows, To make a great noise, disturbance, or tumult in a house
17 When house and land are gone and spent Then learning is most excellent 1753 Toote Taste, I [cited as "the old saying"] 1773 Garrick, Prol to Goldsmith's She Stoops, When ign'tance enters, folly is at hand Learning is better far than house and land 1805 Scott, Tam Letters, I 31 (1894), I am at pains with her education, because you know "learning is better than house or land" 1859 Planché, Extra-vag, v 266 (1879) [as in 1805]
18 When my house burns, it is not good playing at chess 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1670 Ray, 106 1732 Fuller, No 5539, When a man's house is on fire, it's time to break off chess
19 When the house is burned down you bring water 1732 Fuller, No 5592
20 Who would hold his house very clean, Ought lodge no priest nor pigeon therein 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Pigeon," He that in a neat house will dwell, must
See also Marriage (5).

Housekeeping is a privy thief. 1542: Udall, tr. Erasmus’ Apoph., 44 (1877), And (as our Englishe proverbe saith) Hous kepynge is a priuy thewe. See also Marriage (5).

Housekeeping, to be at the = in anger. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. v., He is at three woordis vp in the house roufe. 1626: Scoggin’s Jests, 92 (1684), I defe thee, said Scogins wife (and was up in the house top). 1633: Drake, 10, At three words he is at the top of the house. 1726: Carr, Craven Dialect, i. 236, To be at t’ house-top, to be in a great rage. 1875: Parish, Sussex Dialect, 123, If you say anything to him, he’s up-a-top-of-the-house drakkly minut.

Housewifery is a great revenue, Good. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus’ Collog., 144. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xvi., A thrifty housewife is better than a great income. Cf. Frugality.


Howick Hole, No good ever came out of. 1846-59: Denham Ifacts, ii. 364 (F.L.S.).

Hulch and stubch, By=By hook or by crook. 1541: Schoolhouse of Women, By huch or by cruich. 1913: E. M. Wright, Rustic Speech, etc., 125. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 33.

Hull cheese, You have eaten some = You are drunk. 1678: Ray, 340. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. “Yorkshire.” 1878: Folk-Lore Record, i. 162.

Hull. See also Dighton; Hell (3); and Oxford (1).


Humble hearts have humble desires. 1646: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1854: J. W. Warter, Last of Old Squires, 53.

Humphrey Hambly’s ducks, as is said to look: larger than they be. 1888: O.-Couch, Troy Town, ch. viii.

Hundred and County (or Shire). There are two contradictory sayings; or rather, two ways of expressing the same idea. (a) What is won in the hundred is lost in the shire (or county). 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ix., What ye wan in the hundred, ye lost in the sheere. 1605: Camden, Remains, 335 (1870), What some win in the hundred, they lose in the shire. 1625: Bacon, Essays: “Of Empire,” Taxes and imposts vpon them, doe seldome good to the Kings reueneu, for that he winnes in the Hundred, he leseth in the Shire. 1682: Bunyan, Holy War, ch. xv., [Lucifer names two agents] They are Mr. Penny-wise-pound-foolish, and Mr. Get-i’-the-hundred-and-lose-i’-th’shrire. (b) What is won in the shire (or county) is lost in the hundred. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, ii. 538 (1840), As our English proverb saith, “What is lost in the hundred will be found in the shire.” 1732: Fuller, No. 5522, What they lose in the Hundred they gain in the County. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 151, What is got in the County is lost in the Hundred.

Hundred pounds of sorrow pays not one ounce of debt, An. Before 1704: T. Brown, Works, iii. 247 (1760) [cited as “the country proverb.”] 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xii., A hundred years of regret Pay not a farthing of debt.


Hunger and cold deliver a man up to his enemy. 1813: Ray, 126.

Hunger and ease. See Dog (7).

Hunger breaks through stone walls. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xii., Some saie, and I feeke hunger perseh stone wall. c. 1580: Spelman, Dialogue, 121 (Koeb Cl.), As the oule sayinge is, hunger breketh stone walles. 1605: Chapman, etc., East. Hor. V. i. 1651: Cartwright, Ordinary, II. i., Hunger may breke stone walls, it ne’er hurts men. 1759: Colman, Reliad.
Hunger droppeth out of his nose
Before 1529 Skelton, Magnificence, I. 2288, I gyue hym Crystys curse, With neuer a peny in his purse
Ye, for requem aeternam growth forth of his nose 1546 Heywood, Proverbs Pt I ch vi, Hunger droppeth even out of bothe their noses 1611 Cotgrave, s.v "Chiche-face," A wretched fellow one out of whose nose hunger drops 1659 Howell Letters II 666 (Jacobs), She will in a short time make hunger to droop out at your nose
Hunger fetcheth the wolf out of the woods 1567 Painter, Pali of Pleasure, in 216 (Jacobs), I well perceave that hunger forceth the woulfe oute of hur denne 1611 Cotgrave, s.v "Bois," Hunger drives wolves out of the wood 1750 Smollett, Gil Blas, iv 245.
Hunger, thou knowest, brings the wolf out of the wood
Hunger finds no fault with the cookery 1732 Fuller, No 2566 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch v with "cook" for "cookery"
Hunger in frost that will not work in heat, They must 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi, 1605 Camden, Remains, 333 (1870) 1670 Ray, 30 1754 Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict, s.v "Hunger"
Hunger is not dainty 1732 Fuller, No 2567
Hunger is sharper than thorn c 1560 Becon, Catechism, etc, 601 (P S), ye know the common proverbs "Hunger is sharper than thorn" 1684 Cudworth, Dialect -Sketches, 15 (W), Hunger, they say, is a sharp thorn, an' begow it's true
Hunger is the best sauce [Optimum culi condimentum famas, situs potus — Cicero De Finibus, lib 2 Cl Horace, Sat II ii 38] c 1375 Barbour, Bruce, in 540 That sought nan othir salso that till Bot appetyt, that oft men takys (That sought for no other

Hunger makes dinners, pastime suppers 1640 Herbert, J ac Prudentiam Hunger makes hard beans sweet Before 1500 Hill, Commonplace-Book, 133 (E E T S), Hungre maketh harde bones softe 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch x 1670 Ray, 107, Hunger makes hard bones sweet beans 1732 Fuller, No 2570, Hunger makes raw beans relish well

Hunger is as a church-mouse 1670 Ray, 205 1901 F E Taylor, Lancs Sayings, 3
Hunger is as a dog 1862 Dialect of Leeds, 405 Hunger is as a hawk 1652 Taylor (Water-Poet), Works, 1st roll, Christmas In and Out (Spens S), I and my men were as hungry as hawks 1681 W Robertson, Phraseol Generals, 749 1703 Ward, Writings, II 105, Hungry as hawks, having food to delight'em 1883 R L S, Treasure I, ch vi, I made a hearty supper, for I was as hungry as a hawk

Hunger is as a hunter 1800 Lamb, Letters, i 162 (Lucas), I came home hungry as a hunter 1834 Marryat, P Simple, ch ii 1864 Mrs H Wood, Trellyn Held, ch xv, I am as hungry as a hunter Get me something to eat Hunger as a June crow 1886 C Swanson, Folk-Lore of Brit Birds, 87 (F L S), About June and July, should there be a drought of long duration, rooks suffer terribly, hence the proverb "As hungry as a June crow"

Hunger is a kite c 1555 in Wright, Songs, etc, Philisp and Mary, 17 (Roxb Cl) When Lent cummys to the towene as hangre as a glede [kite] 1855
Hungry


Hungry bellies. See Belly.


Hungry, If thou be, I am angry, let us go fight. 1678: Ray, 65.


Hungry man smells meat afar off, A. 1732: Fuller, *No. 224.

Hungry men think the cook lazy. Ibid., No. 2574.


Hunters that blow the horn, All are not. 1586: L. Evans, *Withals Dict. Revised*, sig. E6, Every horne blower is not a hunter. 1678: Ray, 158. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. i, All are not hunters that wear red coats, and all are not working men who call themselves so.

Huntingdon sturgeon, A. See quot. 1667: Pepys, *Diary*, 22 May, This day coming from Westminster, . . . we saw at White Hall stairs a fisher-boat, with a sturgeon that he had newly caught in the River; which I saw, but it was but a little one; but big enough to prevent my mistake of that for a colt, if ever I become Mayor of Huntingdon. [Lord Braybrooke’s note on this is: “During a very high flood in the meadows between Huntingdon and Godmanchester, something was seen floating, which the Godmanchester people thought was a black pig, and the Huntingdon folk declared it was a sturgeon; when rescued from the waters, it proved to be a young donkey. This mistake led to the one party being styled ‘Godmanchester black pigs,’ and the other ‘Huntingdon sturgeons,’ terms not altogether forgotten at this day. Pepys’s colt must be taken to be the colt of an ass.”] 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. “Hunts.”

Huntingdonshire. See quot. 1855: W. White, *East. Engl.,* ii. 95, Huntingdonshire . . . where, in the words of the proverb, “they have churches for mile-stones.”

Hurstpierpoint. See *Wolstonbury.*

Hunts another hurts himself, He that. 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 29. 1629: *Book of Merry Riddles*, Prov. 84.
Husband and Husbands 1 A husband must be deaf, and the wife blind, to have quietness 1666 Torrano Piazza Univ. 144 Cf Wife (24)

2 A husband ofttimes makes the best physician 1840 Barham, Ing Legends 'Lady Rohesia''

3 Husbands are in heaven whose wives scold not 1546 Heywood, Proverbs Pt II ch vi 1670 Ray. 14 [with 'chide' for 'scold'] 1732 Fuller No 2579 [as in 1670]

4 The calmest husbands make the stormiest wives 1823 D'Israeli, Cur of Lit., 2nd ser., 1 423 (1824). The husband was reminded of his lordly authority when he only looked into his trencher [temp. Elizabeth], one of its learned aphorisms having descended to us,—"The calmest husbands make the stormiest wives."

5 When the husband drinks to the wife, all would be well When the wife drinks to the husband, all is well 1659 Howell 9 (7) When the good wife dranketh to the husband all is well in the house 1670 Ray 53 1732 Fuller, No 5593

6 When the husband is fire and the wife tow, the devil easily sets all in a flame 1732 Fuller, No 5594

See also Bachelor (1), Good husband, Hold your tongue, Ill husband, Maid (13), Sorrow for a husband, and Wife (3), (21) and (24)

Husbandman See quot 1569 Grafton, Chron., u 5 (1809). The olden auncient adage which sayeth, that the husbandman ought first to taste off the newe grown fruite

Hus, By the, you may guess at the nut 1732 Fuller, No 1044

Hustings (or Hoistings), You are all for the 1662 Fuller Worthies, u 349 (1840) 1670 Ray, 244

Hutton See quot 1869 Hazlitt, 210, Hutton an' Huyton, Ditton an' Hoo [Hool in Cheshirc] are three [3 four] of the merriest towns that ever a man rode through Higson's MSS Coll., No 37 Huyton See Hutton, and Preston Hypocrisy can find out a cloak for every rain 1573 New Custom, II 14 1580 Spelman, Dialogue, 56 (Royb Cl). (speaking of hypocrites) Such a cloak use they for the rayne

Hypocrisy is a sort of homage that vice pays to virtue 1732 Fuller, No 2580
I know what I do when I drink. 1639: Clarke, 85. 1670: Ray, 216.
I made of my friend my foe. See quot. 15th cent.: in Relig. Antiquae, i. 316 (1841), I made of my friend my foe, I will beware I do no more so.
I stout. See Stout.
I was by (quoth Pedley) when my eye was put out. 1678: Ray, 242.
I'll make one (quoth Kirkham) when he danced in his clogs. Cheshire 1670: Ray, 182. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 78.
I'm very wheamow [nimble], said the old woman, when she stept into the milk-bowl. 1670: Ray, 217. 1875: E. Leigh, Cheshire Gloss., 225 [with "bittlen" for "milk-bowl"]. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 79 [with "middle of the bittlin" for "milk-bowl"].

Ice. I. If at Christmas ice hangs on the willow, clover may be cut at Easter. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 39.
2. If the ice will bear a goose before Christmas, it will not bear a duck after. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 62 (Percy S.). 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 9.
3. If the ice will bear a man before Christmas, it will not bear a goose (or duck, or mouse) after. c. 1870: Smith, Isle of Wight Words, 62 (E.D.S.). 1881: Folk-Lore Record, iv. 126 ["duck."] Notts]. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 39 ["mouse"]. 1902: N. & Q., 9th ser., x. 506 ["goose"].
5. See also Martinmas (2); November (3); and St. Matthias (3).
6. Idle, adj. 1. An idle lead is a box for the wind. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.
7. An idle person is the devil's cushion (or playfellow). 1630: T. Adams, Works, 197. The idle man is the devil's cushion, whereupon he sits and takes his ease. 1660: Howell, Parly of Beasts, 134. To avoid idleness, which is the devil's couch. 1732: Fuller, No. 620 ["playfellow"]. 1859: Smiles, Self-Help, 273 (1869), A lazy man [is] the devil's bolster.
9. As idle as Dain's [Dean's] dog as laid 't deaun 't bark. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 17. Cf. Lazy as Ludlam's dog.
10. Be not idle and you shall not be longing. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.
11. He is idle that might be better employed. 1732: Fuller, No. 1919.
13. Idle folks have the least leisure. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. i.
15. Idle folks take the most pains. 1678: Ray, 161, Idle folks have the most labour. 1732: Fuller, No. 3056. 1831: Hone, Year-Book, 1416. Cf. Lazy folks.
16. Idle men are dead all their life long. 1732: Fuller, No. 3055.
See also Devil (22) and (84).

Idle, subs. You'll soon learn to shape Idle a coat. 1602: Carew, Surv. of Cornwall, fo. 56 (1769), To reprove one of lazines, they will say, Doest thou make Idle a coate? 1678: Ray, 254.

Idleness is the greatest prodigality in the world. 1650: Taylor, Holy Living, ch. i. § 1. 1732: Fuller, No. 3069.

Idleness is the key of beggary (or mother of poverty). 1616: Rich Cabinet, fo. 73, Idlenesse is the mother of poverty. 1670: Ray, 14. Idleness is the key of beggary. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. [as in 1670].
Idleness

Idleness is the parent of all vice c 1440 Lydgate, Fall of Princes, bk ii 1 2249 (EETS), Moode off vices, call'd idlenesse c 1483 Quatuor Sermones, 35 (Rotb Cl), Ple ydlenesse for it is the key of all vices c 1568 W. Wager, Longer thou livest sig C2, Idlenes the parent of all vice 1630 Brathwait, Eng Gent, etc, 61 (1641), Idleness being the mother of all vices 1851 Borrow, Laengro, 1 189, It has been said that idleness is the parent of mischief

Idleness is the root of all evil 1566 Becon, in Early Works, 444 (P S), Idleness, which is the well-spring and root of all vice 1598 Servius' Annales, 158 (Hazzlitt), Idleness is the root of all mischief 1760 Foote, Minor, I 1850 Dickens, Copperfield ch x

Idleness makes the wit rust (or turns the edge of wit) 1660 Bodenham, Belvedere, 131 (Spens S), Idleness is the canceler of the mind 1650 Taylor, Holy Living, I 1 14, Idleness is the rust of time 1670 Ray, 14, Idleness turns the edge of wit 1732 Fuller, No 3601, Idleness makes the wit rust

Idleness, Of, comes no goodness 1611 Cotgrave, s v 'Gueule 1608 Ray, 161 1732 Fuller, No 3608, Of idleness never comes any good

If it be not true here's my elbow 1659 Howell, 17

If my aunt had been a man, she'd have been my uncle 1813 Ray, 202

If you want clear water, you must go to the head of the well 19th cent (Mr C Lee)

If thou won't have me old Shenton will 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 77, [Two men courting a farm-house servant came the same evening] She put one in the brick oven, and being somewhat piqued at the slowness of the other, she said, 'If thou won't have me old Shenton will' "Will he?" said Shenton from the oven, and ever since then it has been a saying in that neighbourhood

If you wish a thing done, go, if not, send 1566 Painter, Pal of Pleasure, i 87 (Jacobs), Always fixe fast in breast, in prompt and ready wise This prouerbe olde and true, a sentence of the wise The thing do not expect, by friends for to atchieue Which thou thyselfe canst doe, thy selfe for to rehence 1692 L'Estrange, Aesop, 53 (3rd ed.), He that would be sure to have his business well done, must either do it himself, or see the doing of it 1736 Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, 1 445 (Bigelow), If you would have your business done, go, if not, send 1842 Barham, Ing Legends, 2nd ser "In-goldsby Penance" 1859 Smiles, Self-Help 272 (1869), "If you want your business done," says the proverb, "go and do it, if you don't want it done, send some one else

If's and And's c 1513 More, Works, p 54, col 2 (1557), What quod the protectour thou seruest me I wene with if's and with andes 1589 Nashe, Introd to Greene's Menaphon, 10 (Arber), Sufficeth them to bodge vp a blanke verse with if's and ands c 1624 Davenport, King John, I ii, Well, well, with if's and ands Mad men leave rocks and leap unto the sands 1681 W. Robertson, Phraseol Generals, 90, Without If's and And's, plane, absolute 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, v, 237 (1785), Then he came with his If's and And's 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, 1 241, "Let's hev naan o' yower ifs an' ans," let us have no hesitation, be decisive 1889 Peacock, Manley, etc, Gloss, 286 (E D S), If ifs and ands was pots and pans There'd be noa wark for th tinkers 1924 Sir R Horne, in Times, 30 May, p 9, col 4, If he might vary an old saw he would say, "If ifs and ands' could create employment, then there would be little use for the Munster of Labour to tinker at it"

Ignorance is a voluntary misfortune 1669 Politeness, 63

Ignorance is the mother of devotions 1559 Rp Jewell, Works, in pt ii, 1202 (P S), Ignorantia enim, inquit, mater est yerae potestis, quam ille appel-lavit devotionem 1573 New Custom, I 1 1593 G Harvey, Works, ii 138


Ignorance. *See also Knowledge.*

Ignorant hath an eagle's wings and an owl's eyes, The. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.


Ill air where we gain nothing. It is an. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, i. 1732: Fuller, No. 2895.


Ill bird that fouls its own nest, It is an. c. 1520: *Owl and Nightingale*, 99, Dahet habbe that ilke best That fuleth his owne nest (A curse be upon that beast [creature, bird] that defiles his own nest). 1402: Hoccleve, *Minor Poems*, 80 (E.E.T.S.), An olde proverbe syde ye in englyssh: men seyn "that brid or foule ys dyshonest, what that he be and holden ful chrylyssh, that vseth to defoule his oone neste." 1509: Barclay, *Ship of Fools*, i. 173 (1874), It is a lewe byrde that fyleth his owne nest. 1583: Greene, in *Works*, ii. 31 (Grosart), It is a foule bird defiles the own neast. 1685: *Mother Bunch's Closet*, etc., 6 (Gomme, 1885). An ill bird befoules its own nest. 1817: Scott, *Rob Roy*, ch. xxvi. 1851: Fitzgerald, *Euphranor*, 13 (1855), *You* . . . must not, like a bad bird, foul your own nest.

Ill boy that goes like a top, no longer than 'tis whipt, He's an. 1732: Fuller, No. 2449.

Ill cause. *See* *quot*. 1855: Bohn, 399. He who hath an ill cause, let him sell it cheap.


Ill cook that can't lick his own fingers, He's an. c. 1520: Stanbridge, *Vulgaria*, sig. C4, He is an euyll coke *it* can not lycke his owne lippes. 1592: Shakespeare, *Romeo*, IV. ii. 1646: Quarles, *Works*, iii. 222 (Grosart), He's but a silly cook that wists not how To lick his fingers. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I. 1822: Scott, *Nigel*, ch. vi., They say, a good cook knows how to lick his own fingers.


Ill fortune, He that hath no, is troubled with good. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 10 [with "cloy'd" for "troubled"].

Ill game that hath not one trump, It is an. 1740: North, *Lives of Norths*, i. 357 (Bohn).

Ill gathering of stones where the sea is bottomless, 'Tis. 1659, Howell, *xi.*
Ill gotten goods (a) thrive not, (b) thrive not to the third heir (a) 1519
Horman, Vulgaria, fo 77. Euyll gotten ryches wyl neuer proue longe 1591
Spenser, Moth Hubh Tale, 1 1140. Ill might it prosper, that ill gotten
was c 1630 in Roxb Ballads, 1 184 (Hindley), Ill gotten goods never do
thrive 1732 Fuller, No 3070. Ill
gotten goods seldom prosper 1826
Lamb, Pop Falleast, II 1842 Bar-
ham Ing Legends 2nd ser "Babes
in Wood" (b) 1393 Brunne, Handl
Syne, I 9436. Here mayst thou see
Euyl-winne thyngh Wyth eyre shal
neuer make gode ending Ibid, I
9479. For thes men se, and sey
alday, "The threde eyre sellethe alle
away", c 1430 in Twenty-six Poems,
149 (E E T S.), Men seyen "good gotten
untrewly, The myd eye browke hit ne
may", 1493 Dives et Pauper, It is a
common proverbe Of euyl gotten
goods the thyrde heyre vrineth hath toy
1593 Nashe in Works, iv 146 (Gro-
sart), Ill gotten goods neuer touche the
third heyre 1619 Helpe to Discourse,
70 (1640), Of piles of wealth, rais'd by
unjust extortion. The third heir seldom
doeth nyoy his portion 1708 ir Ale-
man's Guzman 1 405. It being next to
impossible that ill-got wealth should
descend to the third heir 1875 A B
Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 101. Ill
gotten gear Wilna enrich the third heir
Ill gotten ill spent (Male partum
male dispent—Plautus Poem, IV u
22) 1539 Taverner, Proverbs, fo 24,
Euyll gotten go euyl away 1564
Bullen, Dialogue, 72 (C E T S.). For
euyl gotten goodes are euyl spent,
said our curate upn Sondae 1603
Bréton, in Works, II 1 11 (Grosart)
1680 L'Estrange, Select Colloq of
Erasmus 55 It is but reasonable that
what's Ill got should be Worse spent
1703 Murphy, Citizen, III 1. The
moment young master comes to pos-
session, "I'll got, ill gone" I warrant me
Ill guest that never drinks to his host,
It's an 1678 Ray, 86
Ill healing of an old sore, It is 1546
Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch viii
1659 Howell, 4

III husband 1 He is an ill husband
that is not missed 1633 Draxe, 2
2. She that has an ill husband shews
it in her dress 1732 Fuller, No 4139
Ill language, There were no, if it were
not ill taken 1640 Herbert, J ac Prud-
dentum 1699 Farquhar, Love and a
Bottle IV u, For as nothing s all said,
but what's ill taken 1732 Fuller,
No 4945
Ill look among lambs, He has an
Ibid, No 1861
Ill luck 1 Ill luck is good for some-
th ing 1605 Camden Remains, 326
(1870) 1732 Fuller, No 3074
2 Ill luck is worse than found money
1670 Ray, 110
3 What's worse than ill luck? 1639
Clarke, 166 1641 Roxb Ballads, vi
613 (B S.), The proverb says, "What's
worse than ill-luck?" 1685 Meriton,
Yorkshire Ale, 47 1736 Bailey, Dict,
s v 'Worse'
4 When ill luck falls asleep, let nobody
wake her 1659 Howell, Proverbs
Span.-Eng, 1. When ill fortune lies
asleep, let none awake her 1699
Hazlitt, 458
Ill man he in thy straw, Let an, and
he looks to be thy heir, 1640 Herbert,
Jac Prudentum
Ill marriage is a spring of ill fortune,
An 1633 Draxe, 229
Ill master makes an ill servant, An
1665 Tornano, Piazza Univ, 258
Ill master makes bad scholars, An
1639 Clarke 238
Ill name is half hanged, He that hath
an 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II
ch vii 1560 T Wilson, Rhetorique, 186
(1909) 1613 T Heywood, Silver Age,
II. I am halfe hang'd already, for my
good name is lost 1732 Fuller, No
2133 1822 Peacock, Maid Marian,
ch xxiv. Your hero makes laws to
get rid of your thief, and gives him
an ill name that he may hang him
Cf Dog (43)
Ill natures never want a tutor 1732
Fuller, No 3076
Ill natures, the more you ask them,
the more they stick. 1640 Herbert,
Jac Prudentum
Ill neighbour. See Neighbour (a) and (3).

Ill news are commonly true. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), Sc. of Folly, 42, in Works, ii. (Grosart). 1633: Draxe, 139.

Ill news flies apace. 1574: E. Hollowes, Guevara's Epistles, 91, Euill news never commeth to late. 1629: Massinger, Picture, II. i., Ill news, madam, Are swallow-wing'd, but what's good walks on crutches. 1694: Terence made English, 46, Bad news always fly faster than good 1792: Holcroft, Road to Ruin, II. i., Ill news travels fast. 1850: Dickens, Chuzzlewit, ch. xxxi., There's a true saying that nothing travels so fast as Ill news. 1922: Weyman, Ovington's Bank, ch. xxi., Ill news has many feet. Rides apace and needs no spurs.

Ill paymaster never wants excuse, An. 1732: Fuller, No. 627.

Ill pipe that wants his upper lip, He can. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ix. [with "lacketh" for "wants"]. 1670: Ray, 131. 1732: Fuller, No. 6374. 1819: Scott, Ivanhoe, ch. xxxix., I had mumbled but a lame mass an thou hadst broken my jaw, for the pipe plays ill that wants the nether chops.

Ill playing with short daggers, It be. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xii.

Ill plea should be well pleaded, An. 1855: Bohn, 312.


Ill run that cannot go, He may. 1468: Coventry Mys., 97 (Sh. S.), He may evyl go that is ner lame; In sothe I com as fast as I may. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ix. 1670: Ray, 138.

Ill sack that will abide no cloutage, It is an. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. iv. 1670: Ray, 23. 1732: Fuller, No. 2843.

Ill seed ill weed. c. 1440: Lydgate, Fall of Princes, bk. v. i. 116 (E.E.T.S.), Of froward seed may growe no good corn. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Moisson."

Ill servant will never be a good master, An. 1683: Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697). 1887: Brighouse News, 23 July (W.).

Ill shaving against the wool, It's. 1670: Ray, 141.

Ill song who has neer a tongue, He makes an. 1855: Bohn, 379.

Ill sowers make ill harvest. 1732: Fuller, No. 3078.

Ill spin web. See quotes. c. 1300: Prov. of Heding, st. 35 (Berlin, 1878), Euer out cometh euel sponne web. c. 1410: Towneley Plays, 21 (E.E.T.S.), Ill spon wef ay comes foule out. c. 1460: Wyse Man taught his Sone, I. 7 (E.E.T.S.), For 3erne that is euyle spine Euylle it comes out at the laste. 1670: Ray, 154, An ill-spun weft [web] will out either now or eft... This is a Yorkshire proverb.


Ill stake that can't stand one year in a hedge, It's an. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. iv. 1670: Ray, 145. 1732: Fuller, No. 2845.


Ill to himself will be good to nobody, He that's. 1732: Fuller, No. 2284.

Ill to trust who will trust nobody, He is. 1644: Taylor (Water-Poet), Cropleare Curried, 19, in Works, 2nd coll. (Spens. S.).

Ill turn. 1. An ill turn is soon done. 1732: Fuller, No. 631.

2. He that does you a very ill turn, will never forgive you. 1710: S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 263 [with "an injury" for "a very ill turn"].

1732: Fuller, No. 2085.

Ill vessels seldom miscarry. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

Ill ware is never cheap. Ibid. 1650: Howell, Proverbs: Fr.-Eng., 8, Bad ware is never too cheap.

Ill weather comes unsent for. 1583: Melbancke, Philotimus, sig. F3, Though
I come like ill weather, vnsent for 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 3 (Percy S.), Ill weather and sorrow come un sent for Cf Sorrow

Ill weather is seen soon enough when it comes Ibid., 1

Ill weeds grow apace c 1490 Harl MS, quoted in Hulme Proverbs Lore, 12, Eul. weed ys sone y-growe 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch x, Ill weede growth fast 1594 Shakespeare, Rich III, II iv, Small herbs have grace, great weeds do grow apace 1660 Tatham, The Rump, I 1732 Fielding, Miser, III v c 1750 Foote, Knights I 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 1 (Percy S.)

Ill will never speaks well 1566 L Wager, Mary Magdalene, Pro, For euill will never saud well, they do say 1599 Shakespeare, Henry V, III vi 1660 Fuller, Mxt Contempl, 300 (1830) 1732 Fuller, No 3081

Ill wind that blows nobody good, it's an c 1540 J Heywood Song against Idleness 1580 Tusser, Husbandre, 29 (E D S.) c 1640 Capt Understand, II, in Bullen, Old Plays, n 347 1692 Congreve, Old Bachelor, II 1 1769 Smollett, Adv of Atom, 113 (Cooke, 1795) 1837 Dickens, Pickwick, ch xxvii 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 81, It's an ill wind that blows no-one any good, but it's well-a-day to them as lost it

Ill words are bellows to a slackening fire 1732 Fuller, No 3082

Ill workman quarrels with his tools, An 1611 Cotgrave, s v 'Outil,' A bungler cannot find (or fit him selfe with) good tooles 1696 D Urley, Quxote, Pt III Act I sc 1, Tis an ill workman that quarrelers with his own tooles 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial II, They say an ill workman never had good tooles 1828 Byron, Don Juan, can i st 201 Good workmen never quarrel with their tooles 1859 Smiles, Self-Help, 124 (1869), It is proverbial that the bad workman never yet had a good tooel

Ill wound is cured, not an ill name, An 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium, III youth See also Untoward.

Image of rye-dough See quot 1687 Aubrey, Gentilism, etc., 107 (F L S.), We have a saying, She looks (or He stands) like an image of rye-dough M'din In the old time the little images that did adorn the altars were made of rye-dough

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery 1820 Colton, Laco, Pt I No 217 [omitting 'form'] 1892 B Pain, Playthings and Parodies, § 1 [title] The Sincerest Form of Flattery Impressions soon fade, Slight c 1374 Chaucer, Trojulus, bk ii 1 1238, For why men seyth, impressiones lighte Ful lightely been yt redy to the fliyghte

Impudence to show himself a fool, He hath 1732 Fuller, No 1888 Impudence See also Ignorance

In a quandary 1577 Misogonius, III 1, Thou makest me in a greater quandary 1577 J Grange, Golden Aphrodites sig D3, The capitaine standeth in a quandare, not knowing what to doe 1694 Terence made English, 61, I'm in a strange quandary 1742 Fielding, Andrew, bk ii ch iv, "Poof woman!" says Mrs Slipslop, "what a terrible quandary she must be in!" 1816 Scott, Old Mortality, ch vii 1894 R L S., St Ives, ch xxvii, This put me in a quandary It was a degree of risk I was scarce prepared for

In dock out nettle, or In nettle dock out = unstable, fickle c 1374 Chaucer, Trojulus, bk iv 1 461, But canstow pleyen raket, to and fro Nettle in, dokke out, now thus, now that, Pandare 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch 1, Waueryng as the wynde, in docke out nettle 1586 L Evans, Withals Dict Revised, sig E2, Oute nettle, in docke 1655 Fuller, Church Hist, bk ii § v (47-8), Thus was it often, "in dock, out nettle," as they could strengthen their parties 1732 Fuller, No 3831, Out, nettle in, dock 1882 Jago, Gloss of Cornish Dialect, 225 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 80

In for a penny See Penny (13)

In the name of the Lord begins all mischief 1703 Ward, Writings, ii 193 [cited as an "old saying"] Cf the reverse, s v God's name


Ince, Go to = Go to Jericho. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 63.


2. *An inch in a man's nose is much.* 1732: Fuller, No. 634.

3. *An inch in an hour is a foot a day.* 1678: Ray, 74. 1732: Fuller, No. 633.


5. *To see an inch before one's nose.* 1683: Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83–7 (1697), He sees an inch before his nose.

1853: Planché, *Extravag.,* iv. 272 (1879), The stupid painters fancied, I suppose, That I might see an inch beyond my nose.

See also Break (8). 

Inconvenience. See Every commodity. 

Indentures. See Make (18). 

Industry is fortune's right hand and frugality her left. [c. 1300: *Havelok*, l. 1338, p. 49 (Skeat), Lith and selthe felawe are (Helpfulness and success companions are).] 1670: Ray, 14. 1732: Fuller, No. 3092.

Ingleborough. See Pendle.

Ingratitude drieth up wells, and the time bridges fells. 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Hours*, 490.

Ingratitude is the daughter of pride. 1620: Shelton, *Quitxote*, Pt. II. ch. li. 1732: Fuller, No. 3094.

Ingratitude is worse than witchcraft. 1846–59: *Denham Tracts*, ii. 83 (F.L.S.).

Ink in his pen. See quotes. 1540: Palsgrave, *Acolastus*, sig. H3, Is there no more of thynge and is there no more ynke lefte in thy penne, or nothynge yet left the? *Pant*, Nothynge at all. 1678: Ray, 254, He hath no ink in's pen, i.e. no money in his purse, or no wit in his head.

Ink. See also Milk (3).

Inkle-weavers. See Thick as.

Inn diversely, but end alike, We. 1639: Clarke, 13.

Inner Temple. See Gray's Inn.

Innocence is no protection. 1732: Fuller, No. 3100.

Innocence itself sometimes hath need of a mask. Ibid., No. 3101.

Innocent actions carry their warrant with them. 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 31, Innocencie beareth her defence with her. 1732: Fuller, No. 3102.

Innocent as a devil of two years old, As. 1678: Ray, 286. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.,* Dial. I, No, to be sure, my lord! you are as innocent as a devil of two years old.

Innocent as a new-born babe (or as child unborn). 1609: Armin, *Maid's of More-oe-akes*, sig. D3, I . . . am now as cleare as is the babe new borne. c. 1679: in *Somers Tracts*, viii. 131 (1811), Though they died as innocent
as the child unborn 1745 Swift, Direct to Servants "Chambermaid," Offering to take her oath that she was innocent as the child unborn 1777 in Garrick Corresp., ii 250 (1832) I am as ignorant of it as the child unborn 1816 Scott, Old Mortality, ch x. If he were as innocent as the new-born infant, they would find some way of making him guilty 1883 R. L. S., Black Arrow Pro! I am as innocent as the babe unchristened.

Insult to injury, To add [Imnurae qu addiders contumeliam—Phaedrus, V iv 5.] 1748 E. Moore, The Foundling V ii, This is adding insult to injuries 1831 Peacock, Crotchet Castle, ch u., To offer me a sandwich when I am looking for a supper is to add insult to injury 1837 Dickens, Pickwick ch xxv.

Interest will not lie 1709 R. Kingston, Apoph. Curiosa 8o, 'Tis a common proverb, that interest will not lie.

Inward sore puts out the physician's eye, An 1587 Greene in Works, ii 114 (Grosart).

Ipswich See quot 1790 Gros, Prov. Gloss., s v "Suffolk," Ipswich, a town without inhabitants, a river without water, streets without names, where asses wear boots.

Iron nails that scratcheth with a bear, He must have 1678 Ray, 96 [omitting with"] 1732 Fuller, No 1991 1801 Wolcot, Works v 124 A man must have, the proverb says, Good iron nails that scratches with a bear.

Iron to swim, He is teaching 1813 Ray, 75.

Iron windfall, An See quot 1863 Wise New Forest, ch vi, Forest proverbs such as "An iron windfall," for anything unfairly taken.

Iron in the fire, To have other (or many) Before 1549 Sir W. Paget, Lett to Somerset (PRO St Páp Dom Edw VI, viii No 4) (O.), Put no more so many irons in the fyre at ones 1576 Lambarde, Peramb of Kent, 336 (1826). To the ende that the King should have at once many irons (as the saying is) in the fire to attend upon e 1590 G. Harvey, Marginalia.

94 (1913), On[e] iron in ye fyre at once 1612 Chapman, Widow's Tears, II 1. But you know, brother, I have other irons on the anvil 1639 Clarke, 78, He that hath many irons in the fire, some will coole 1671 Dryden, An Evening's Love, IV 1, Make haste, then, for I have more irons in the fire 1750 Foote, English in Paris, I. Leave her to my management, and consider we have more irons in the fire than one 1849 Lytton, Cavilons, Pt VII ch ii, Uncle Jack had other irons in the fire 1883 R. L. S., Letters, ii 273 (Tusitala ed.), I have many irons in the fire.

Irwell See Yoke.

It comes with a fear 1598 G. W. T. Woodp, Shadwell, 24 (Grosart), Thou fear'st I am in love with thee (my deare), I prethy fear not, It comes with a fear 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, vi 205 (1785), For they seldom enquire, but when they fear—and the proverb, as my lord has it, says, It comes with a fear. That is, I suppose, what they fear generally happens, because there is generally occasion for the fear.

Italians are wise before the deed, the Germans in the deed, the French after the deed, The 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1669 New Help to Dis course, 56, The Italian is wise before hand, The German wise in the action, And the French after it is done.

Ith and ease can no man please 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch iv e 1594 Bacon, Proverbs, No 456 1670 Ray, 14 1732 Fuller, No 6237.

Ith is worse than a smart, An—but the first quotation says the reverse 1539 Palsgrave, 594, It is better to yteche than to smarte 1670 Ray, 14 1732 Fuller, No 3114, Ith is more intolerable than smart.

Ith, He that will not bear the, must endure the smart 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch x, And he, Whom in itching no scratching will forbere, He must bear the smartynge that shall follow there 1678 Ray, 162 1732 Fuller, No 2349.

Iveston (Icei) See Tanfield.

Ivinghoe See Tring.
Jack-a-lent. A. See 1827 quot. c. 1560: in Wright, Songs, etc., *Philip and Mary*, 191 (Roxb. Cl.), Then Jack-a-lent comes justlynge in, With the hedpece of a herynge. 1575: Churchyard, *Chippes*, 50 (Collier), He was dressed up like Jack a Lent. 1626: Breton, in *Works*, ii. t 12 (Grosart), It is now Easter, and Jack of Lent is turned out of doore. 1646: Quarles, *Works*, iii. 223 (Grosart), How like a Jack-a-lent He stands, for boys to spend their shrovetide throws. 1742: Fielding, *Andrews*, bk. i. ch. ii., His office was to perform the part the ancients assigned to the god Priapus, which deity the moderns call by the name of Jack o’ Lent. 1821: Scott, *Pirate*, ch. xxxvi. 1827: Hone, *Table-Book*, 135, Jack o’ Lent. This was a puppet, formerly thrown at, in our own country, during Lent, like Shrove-cocks.

Jack-a-thrum. See Wise (5).


Jack and Jill. See Bad Jack.

Jack at a pinch. *See quots.* 1622: Mabbe, tr. Aleman’s *Guzman*, i. 130 (O.), When there was neede of my seruice I was seldome or never wanting; I was Jacke at a pinch. 1690: *New Dict. Canting Crew*, sig. G2, Jack at a pinch, a poor hackney parson. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.,* s.v. “Jack.” 1847: Halliwell, *Dict.,* s.v., *Jack-at-a-pinch*, a sudden unexpected call to do anything. Also, a poor parson.


Jack Drum. See Drum’s entertainment.

Jack has his Jill, Every, or Jack shall have Jill. Before 1529: Skelton, *Mag-nificentce*, I. 290, What anayleth lord-shyp, yourselfe for to kyll With care and with thought howe Jacke shall haue Gyl? 1595: Shakespeare, *Mids. N. Dream*, III. ii. *ad fin.* Jack shall have Jill; Nought shall go ill. 1639: Clarke, 63, All shall be well and Jack shall have Jill. 1725: Defoe, *Everybody’s Business*, in *Works*, ii. 531 (Bohn), For not a Jack among them but must have his Gill. 1823: Scott, *St. Ronan’s*, ch. ii., Every Jack will find a Jill, gang the world as it may. 1886: Bickerdyke, *Curios. of Ale and Beer*, 168, As every Jack will have his Jill, so . . . 1911: T. Edwardes, *Neighbourhood*, 10, After much water-spilling and cracking of crowns, Jack has got his Jill, and the wedding-bells are fin-lan-loning.


Jack of all trades 1618 Minshull, Essayes, etc. 50 (1821), Some broken citizen, who hath plaid Jack-of-all-trades 1639 Mayne, City Match, II v. Why, you mongrel, You John-of-all-trades 1690 Dryden Amphitryon, I 1, Yet I am still in my vocation, for you know I am a Jack of all trades 1776 Colman, Spleen, I, The town Jack of all trades, a mere Jack o' lantern 'tis half bookseller, half apothecary! 1836 Dickens, Sketches by Boz "Parish," ch ii, He is a bit of a Jack of all trades or to use his own words, "a regular Robinson Crusoe" 1923 Lucas Advisory Ben, 66, You might have chosen something better to do than to be a Jack-of-all-trades at the command of anyone with the money to pay your fee

Jack of both sides 1557 Grindal, Let to Foxe, 28 Dec, 233 (P S), Nam qui in tota vita praeposterissimam (ut ita dicam) fuit, omnium rerum humanarum et divinarum inversor, consentaneum est ut in scribendo etiam praeposterum esse ostentet, et, ut vulgo diei solet Joannem ad oppositum 1609 Dekker, in Works, iv 158 (Grosart), Who plaid ye' jacks on both sides, and were indee Neuters 1671 Westm Drollery, 89 (Ebsworth), She I play Jack a both sides in war. And cares not a pin for her foes 1729 Defoe, Comple Gent, Pt I ch i p 30 (1800), How often have those men of honour play d Jack a both sides, to-day for and to-morrow against as the money could be got or the party was strongest 1809 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch xvi, They try to be Jack-o-both-sides, and deserve to be kicked like a football by both parties

Jack out of office 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch iii, And Jack out of office she made bid me walke c 1591 Shakespeare, 1 Henry VI, I 1 1598 Servantman's Comfort, in Inedited Tracts, 166 (Hazlitt), In good credite with his master at noone, and Jacke out of office before night 1735 Pegge, Kentiscisms, in E D S, No 12, p 51

Jack roast beef 1855 Bohn, 436

Jack Robinson, Before one can say 1778 Burney, Evelina, Lett lxxiv, "Will you?" returned he, "why, then, 'fore George, I'd do it as soon as say Jack Robinson" 1812 Miss Edgeworth, Absentee, ch i, I'd get her off before you could say Jack Robinson 1843 Dickens, Carol, Stave 2, Let's have the shutters up before a man can say Jack Robinson 1872 Hardy, Greenwood Tree, Pt III ch ii, You've got him before you can say Jack Robinson 1911 T Edwardes, Neighbours, 277, Afore I could s s say Jack Robinson

Jack Sprat could eat no fat See quotes The single appearance—in 1659—of Jack as an ecclesiastical dignitary is very surprising 1639 Clarke, 17, Jack will eat no fat, and Jill doth love no leane, Yet betwixt them both they lick the dishes cleane 1659 Howell, 20, Archdeacon Pratt would eat no fatt, His wife would eat no lean, Twixt Archdeacon Pratt and Joan his wife, The meat was eat up clean 1670 Ray, 211, Jack Sprat he loved no fatt, and his wife she lov'd no lean. And yet betwixt them both, they lick the platters clean 1843 Halliwell, Nursery Rhymes, 34, Jack Sprat could eat no fat. His wife could eat no lean, And so, betwixt them both, you see, They lick'd the platter clean

Jack Sprat would teach his grandame 1639 Clarke, 4, Jack-Sprat teacheth his grandame 1670 Ray, 108 1754 Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict, s v "Jack"

Jack will never make a gentleman 1681 W Robertson, Phraseol Generals, 659 1727 Bailey, Eng Dict, s v "Gentleman"

Jack would be a gentleman Before 1529 Skelton, Works, i 15 (Dyce), Lo Jack wold be a gentylman! 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi, Jacke would be a gentleman, if he could speake frenche 1599 Breton, in Works, ii c 42 (Grosart), And nowe Jacke will bee gentleman, no longer a sheepearde 1662 Fuller, Worthies, i 118 (1840), We ape the French chiefly in two particulars First, in their language (' which if Jack could speak,
he would be a gentleman"). 1732: Fuller, No. 3052 [as in 1546].

Jack would wipe his nose if he had one. 1659: Howell, 8. 1670: Ray, 108.


Jackdaw. See quot. 1886: Swainson, *Folk-Lore of Brit. Birds*, 81 (F.L.S.), At Norwich there is an old rhyme—"When three daws are seen on St. Peter's vane together, Then we're sure to have bad weather." 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 137 [as in 1886].

Jackson's end. See quot. 1889: *Folk-Lore Journal*, vii. 294, [Staffs sayings] Fly round by Jackson's end [= to make haste].

Jackson's hens, To fly up with=To become bankrupt. 1577: Misogenus, IV. ii., Ye may fly vp toth roust with Jacksons hens. 1678: Ray, 86, I'll make him fly up with Jacksons hens; i.e. undo him. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 132.

Jackson's pig. See Borough Hill.

Jacob Dawson's wife died, We live as. 1777: Nicolson and Burn, *Hist. and Antiq. of Westmore. and Cumb.*, i. 78, On the third pillar in the south isle of the church of Kendal is the following inscription—Here liye Frances late wife of Jacob Dawson Gent. who departed this life 19th June 1700, in the 25th year of her age: Who by a free and chearful resignation of herself, even in the midst of this world's affluence, has left us just grounds to hope she is now happy.—This epitaph we only take notice of, as it hath occasioned a display of the droll humour of the people, who upon any particular occasion of festivity have from hence framed a proverb, "We live as Jacob Dawson's wife died."

1918: A Durham correspondent, in N. & Q., 12th ser., iv. 214, I have frequently heard this proverb or saying.


Jailor's conscience and his fetters [are] made both of one metal, A. 1659: Howell, 18.


7. If grain grows in January, there will be a year of great need. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 10.


9. If January calends fall on Thursday. See quot. 1493: *Dives and Pau-iper*, fo. 66 (1536), The kalendas of Januarie fell on the thursday, whan (as they saye) shulde fall plentie of all good and peace also.

10. If one knew how good it were To eat a hen in Janivere; Had he twenty in the flock, He'd leave but one to go with the cock. 1659: Howell, 21 [with slight variations in third and fourth lines]. 1670: Ray, 213. 1732: Fuller, No. 6306. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 26 (Percy S.).


12. If the sun shine the 12th of January, there shall be store of wind
January

that year 1669 New Help to Discourse, 283

13 If you see grass in January, Lock your grain in your granary 1893

Inwards, Weather Lore, 10

14 In January if the sun appear, March and April pay full dear Ibid, 10

15 Jack I rust in Jaunweer Nips the nose of the nascent year 1893 Dyer

Eng Folk Lore, 247 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 11

16 Janweer freeze the pot by the fire 1557 Tussor, Husbandry, in Brit Biblog, III 20 (1812), As Janeuer tryse pot, bidth corne kepe hym lowe 1670

Ray, 40 1744 Claridge, in Mills, Essay on Weather, 100 (1773) 1879 Jackson, Shropsh Word-Book, 224 January-freeze-the pot-by-the-fire, sb the month of January

17 January and May e 1400 Lydgate Temple of Glas 7 (E E T S), For it ne sit not vnto fressehe May Foro be coupled to colde Januan is 1580

Spelman, Dialogue, 94 (Roxb Cl), When I loked apone her husband with his white heede and horye berde I judged January and May to be coupled together 1604 Of a Woman, sc vi (Malone S), Is not this a prettie world 2 January and May make a match 1656 Musarum Delicia, 103 (Hotten), Lustfull he was, at forty needs must wed, Old January will have May in bed 1717 Pope, January and May [title] 1655 Kingsley, West Ho!, ch vii, If they had never allowed that fresh and far young May to be forced into marrying that old January

18 January commits the fault and May bears the blame 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 11

19 January never lies dead in a dyke gutter 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 23

(Percy S)

20 January warm, the Lord hate mercy 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 10

21 March in Jaunweer, Jaunweer in March, I fear 1678 Ray, 44 1732

Fuller, No 6148 1893 Inwards 11

1912 R L Gales, Studies in Arcady, 2nd ser, 102

22 The blackest month in all the year, Is the month of Jaunweer 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 26 (Percy S) 1893 Inwards, 10

23 The first three days of January rule the coming three months Ibid, 11

24 To have January chickens = To have children in old age 1813 Ray, 202

25 Who in Janweer sows oats Gets gold and groats, Who sows in May Gets little that way 1732 Fuller, No 6149

1893 Inwards II

See also December, and July (2)

Jape with me See Play with me

Jarrow 1 Bump against Jarrow 1825 Brockett, Gloss of N Country Words, 32, is a common expression among the keelmen when they run foul of any thing 1846-59 Denham Tracts, I 88 (F L S)

2 It's never dark in Jarrow Church

Ibid, 1 89

Jaws See quot 1887 T Darlington, S Cheshire Folk Speech, 280 (E D S), "Dunna let yer jaws o'errun your claws" is a proverbial saying equivalent to "Do not live beyond your means" 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 50

Jays See Cherry (4)

Jealous head is soon broken, A 1732

Fuller, No 225

Jealous man's horns hang in his eyes, A 1666 Torriano, Piazza Univ, 174. A jealous man hath his horns in his eyes 1732 Fuller, No 226 Cf Horn (7)

Jealousy shuts one door and opens two 1770 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 370

Jealousy See also Frenzy

Jenny Rule's larks, Gone—like 1888 Q Crotch, Troy Town, ch vi

Jenny Kemp, who had an occasion for all things, Like 1884 "Cornish Proverbs," in N & Q, 3rd ser, vi 6

Jericho, Go to 1643 Mercurius Aureus, 23-30 March, If the Upper House and the Lower House Were in a ship together, And all the base Committees, they were in another, And both the slopes were botomlesse, And saying on the mayne, Let them all goe to Jericho, And ne ere be seen againe 1694 Terence made English, 146, Ay,
Jericho

let him be jogging to Jericho for me. 1778: Mrs Thrale, in D'Arbly's Diary, i. 31 (1870), They wish the poor children at Jericho when they accept it. 1840: C. Brontë, Shirley, ch. vii, Her habit was to... come forward hurriedly, yet hesitatingly, wishing herself meantime at Jericho.

Jericho, He has been to is drunk. 1745: Franklin, Drinker's Dict, in Works, ii. 24 (Bigelow).

Jerusalem, He's going to is drunk. Ibid., ii. 24.

Jest breaks no bones, A. 1781: Johnson, in Boswell's Life, iv. 129 (Hill), It is a certain thing, it is proverbially known, that a jest breaks no bones.

Jesters do oft prove prophets. 1855: Bohn, 436.

Jesting lies bring serious sorrows. Ibid., 436.

Jesting while it pleaseth, Leave, lest it turn to earnest. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

Jests are never good till they're broken. 1869: Hazlitt, 250.

Jewel. See quot. 1639: Fuller, Holy War, bk. iii. ch. iv., So true it is, none can guess the jewel by the casket.

Jew's eye, Worth a. 1593: G. Harvey, in Works, ii. 146 (Grosart), As deare as a Jewes eye. 1595: Shakespeare, M. of Venice, II. v., There will come a Christian by, Will be worth a Jewess' eye. 1842: Barham, Ing. Legends, 2nd ser., "Old Woman in Grey." Hence the late Mr. Froude, and the late Dr. Pusey. We moderns consider as each worth a Jew's eye. 1886: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 382 (E.D.S.), Take care of it, and put it away, it will be worth a Jew's eye some day.

Jews, The, spend at Easter, the Moors at marriages, the Christians in suits. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1670: Ray, 24 [with "of law" added at end].

Jill. See quot. 1678: Ray, 146, There's not so bad a Gill but there's as bad a Will. 1690: New Dict. Canting Crow, sig. F2, There's not so ordin'ny a Gill, but there's as sorry a Jack 1732: Fuller, No. 6112 [as in 1678]. See also Jack.

Joan Blunt. See quot. 1854: Baker, Northants Gloss., s.v., Joan-Bult One in the habit of speaking her mind freely, without ceremony.

Joan is a good contriver, My wife; and a good contriver is better than a little eater. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in N. & Q., 3rd ser., vi. 6

Joan is as good as my lady in the dark. 1601: Munday, Downfall of Earl of Hunt., III. ii., Prior... He is our lady's chaplain, but serves Joan. Don. Then, from the friar's fault, perchance, it may be The proverb grew, Joan's taken for my lady. c 1640: in Roxb. Ballads, i. 390 (Hindley) 1720: C. Shadwell, Irish Hospitality, I. i. 1838: Carlyle, Sartor, bk. i. ch. x., Much also we shall omit about confusion of Ranks, and Joan and My Lady ["Society in a state of Nakedness"].

Job, Poor as. See Poor (11).

Job's comforter, A. 1630: Brathwait, Eng. Gent., 132 (1641), Job called his friends miserable comforters 1724: Defoe, Roxana, in Works, xii 20 (Boston, 1903), They sat down, like Job's three comforters, and said not one word to me for a great while. 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, vii. 230 (1785), He called her Small Hopes, and Job's comforter 1824: Scott, Redgauntlet, ch. xxv., O, this was a new theme for my Job's comforter. 1864: Mrs. H. Wood, Trevlyn Hold, ch. ii., "You are a pretty Job's comforter," gasped Mr. Chattaway.

Jock Webster. See Devil (97).

John at night. See quot. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 596, To be John at night and Jack in the morning =to boast of one's intentions overnight and leave them unfulfilled next day.

John Barley-corn is no body with him, Sir. 1639: Clarke, 306.


John Dod about him, He has a deal o'. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 68, ... Conceited, arrogant. Dodd or Dod is a well-known Cheshire name.

John Drawlatch. See quot. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. viii,
Why will ye (quoth he) I shall follow him will? To make me John drawlache, or such a sneckbill.

John Drum See Drum's entertainment.

John Grey's bird See quotes C 1575, Gascogne, Frutes of Warre, cxxxi, The greene knight was amongst the rest like John Greyes birde that ventured with the best 1579, Querrell between Hall and Mallerie, 6 in Misc Ant Angl (1816), Master Robert Audeley perceiving them to cluster together like John Greyes birde, ut dictitur, who always loved company.

John Lively See Kelloe.

John Long, the carriër 1546, Heywood, Proverbs Pt I ch vi, I will send it him by John Long, the carriër 1611, Cotgrave, sv "Attendre," To stay for John Long the Carriër, to tarry long for that which comes but slowly 1681, W Robertson, Phrases Generalis, 839. Whether all things are carried by Tom Long the Carriër, Quo tardisamine omnia perferuntur 1783, Grosse Class Dict Vulgar Tongue, sv "Tom Long," It is coming by Tom Long the carriër, said of anything that has been long expected c 1791, Pegge, Derbeziums 129 (E D S), Tom Long, carriër, [said] of a person that loiters and is long in coming or returning 1830, Scott, Doom of Devorgoil, II 1, A lumping sonnet Which he had fashion'd to his cousin's glory, And forwarded by hand Tom Long the carriër 1883, Burne Shropsh Folk-Lore, 597. To send by John the long carriër—by a roundabout route.

John of Cumber See Devil (41).

John o'Groats See Land's End.


John Toye See quotes 1864, Cornish Proverbs, in N & Q, 3rd ser, vi 6, Like lucky John Toye 1886, Spurgeon Ploughman's Pictures 20, The luck that comes to them is like Johnny Toye's, who lost a shilling and found a two-penny loaf 1883, Burne Shropsh Folk-Lore.

598, O lucky Tom Hodges! lost five punds an' fund a pig's yok'!

Johnny Middleton's hints, Like Durham 1909, Folk-Lore, xx 73.

Johnny's tuth Bellas See quot 1849, Halliwell, Pop Rhymes and Nursery Tales, 200, Johnny tuth' Bellas daft was thy poll, When thou changed Bellas for Henknoll [said to date from 1386, Halliwell says we can only account for the saying by supposing that at some former period Bellasye had been exchanged for lands, but not the manor of Henknoll. He gives an account of the tradition on which the saying is said to be founded].

Johnson's End See quot 1860 in N & Q, 2nd ser, x 249, I have frequently heard it said in Worcestershire, when a man has become very poor, "He is gone up Johnson's end.

Joke never gains over an enemy, but often loseth a friend, A 1732, Fuller, No 228.

Jokes are as bad coin to all but the jocular 1831, Hone, Year-Book, col 1416.

Jolly as a sandboy 1863, Kingsley, Water Babies, ch vii, She would send them a lot of tops, and balls, and marbles, and ninepins, and make them all as jolly as sandboys 1894, Northall, Folk Phrases, 9 (E D S).

Jone's ale is new 1594, Jones Alest Neve, [title of ballad] 1630, Wine, Beer, Ale, etc, 30, (Hanford, 1915), To growne to a prourerbe Jones ales new.

Jove laughs at lovers' lies [Perjury nidet amantium, Juppiter et venutos estra ferre jubet—Tibullus, III vi 49 Cl Horace, Carm, II viii 13] 1567, Lady Lucre, in Plasidas, etc, 143, (Rovb Cl), Jupiter rather laugheth then taketh angrily the perurynge of louers 1592, Shakespeare, Romeo, II ii, At lovers' perjuries, They say, Jove laughs 1627, Massinger, Great Duke of Florence, II ii, For the queen of love, As they hold constantly, does never punish, But smile at lovers' perjuries 1700, Dryden, Pal and Arcate, Il 149, And Jove but laughs at lovers' perjury!

1829, Cobbett, Advice to Young Men, Lett III, Though I do not approve of
the saying, "At lovers' lies Jove laughs." 1822: Judge Parry, in *Evening Standard*, 17 Oct., p. 5, col. 1. Perjury in the Divorce Court has been openly permitted to the upper classes for many years, following the maxim, perhaps, which our poets have borrowed from Tibullus, that "Jove but laughs at lovers' perjury."

Joy go with you. See quot. 1854: Baker, *Northants Gloss.*, s.v., "Joy go with you, and sixpence; and then you'll want neither love nor money," is a common familiar phrase.

Joy of the heart. See *Heart* (9).

Judas kiss. A. c. 1540: Bale, *Kynge Johan*, l. 2109, A false Judas kysse he hath gyven and is gone. 1570: Barclay, *Mirror of Good Manners*, 75, Of a flattering foe to have a Judas kisse. 1684: in *Roxb. Ballads*, vii 473 (B.S.), Their lune to you a Judas kisse. 1708: *Bril. Apollo*, i. No. 116, col. 5, They once with Judas kisse With artful smiles . . . 1838: Hood, *Hood's Own*, 1st ser., 323 (1865), Her lips were glued on his, in a close 'Judas' kisse' 1925: *Punch*, 2 Sept., p. 237, col. 1, 'Twas ever thus with misses, They leave the ancient home To plant their Judas kisses Upon some manly dome.

Judge, subs. He who will have no judge but himself, condemns himself. 1855: Bohn, 401.

Judge, verb. He who judges hastily. See quot. c. 1450: *Parlouope*, l. 9975 (E.E.T.S.), Full yor now hit ys a-goo I have herd sey, and other moo, That who so yeveth hasty juggeyment Must be the yrst that shall repent. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 105, Who suddenly will judge, hastens himself to repentance. 1732: Fuller, No. 2244, He that passeth a judgment as he runs, overtaketh repentance.


2. As July so the next January. Ibid., 30.


(Percy S.). 1886: Bickerdyke, *Curios. of Ale and Beer*, 58 [cited as "the old saying"].


5. If the first of July, it be rainy weather, 'Twill rain, more or less, for four weeks together. 1732: Fuller, No. 6467. 1893: Inwards, 30.

6. In July, some reap ripe, In August, if one will not, the other must. 1831: Hone, *Year-Book*, 1595. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 51 (Percy S.), In July, shear your rye. 1893: Inwards, 30 [both 1831 and 1846 versions].

7. July chickens. See quot. 1921: Observer, 20 March, p. 5, col. 5. An old saying, which used to be current in my youth, grouped clergymen's sons and doctors' daughters in the same category as July chickens, and declared that, with some exceptions, of course, none of the three ever came to good.


9. To the 12th of July from the 12th of May All is day. 1732: Fuller, No. 6201, 'Tis said from the twelfth of May To the twelfth of July, all is day. 1893: Inwards, 31.

10. Whatever July and August do not boil, September cannot fry. Ibid., 30. See also Bee (3); *Cuckoo; March* (18); and *Thistle* (2).


4. Calm weather in June Sets corn in
June 1732 Fuller, No 6207 1893 Justice

5 If it rains on June 27th, it will rain seven weeks 1855 Bohn, 325

6 If it rain the twenty-fourth day of June, hazel-nuts will not prosper 1669 New Help to Discourse, 284

7 If on the 8th of June it rain, It foretells a wet harvest, men say 1732 Fuller, No 6204 Cf St Medard

8 June damp and warm Does the farmer no harm 1893 Inwards, 29

See also April (6) and (20), Bee (3), Cuckoo, passim, March (14), May, B, C, E (2), F (11), (12), (17), and (26), and Thistle (2)

Just before you are generous, Be 1744-6 Mrs Haywood, Fem Spectator, u 27 (1771), There is, I think, an old saying, that we "ought to be just before we are generous. 1777 Sheridan, Sch for Scandal, IV 1 1850 Dickens, Copperfield, ch xviii

Just to all, but trust not all, Be 1855 Bohn 325

Justice pleaseth few in their own house 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum Justice  See also Basket Justice
Ka' me, ka' thee. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi., Ka me, ka the, one good tourne askth an other. c. 1570: in Skelton's *Works*, I. lxv. (Dyce), Yea, sayde the hostler, ka me, ka thee; ye she doo hurte me, I will displease her. Before 1627: Middleton, *More Diss. besides Women*, I. iv., Ka me, ka thee; if you will ease the melancholy of my mind with singing, I will deliver you from the calamity of boots-haling. 1821: Scott, *Kenilworth*, ch. v., Ka me, ka thee— it is a proverb all over the world. 1823: Byron, *Don Juan*, can. xi. st. 78. Cf. Claw (2); and Scratch me.  


Kate Mullet. See quot. 1888: Q.-Couch, *Troy Town*, ch. xi., As knowing as Kate Mullet... they say she was hanged for a fool.  


2. He keeps a stir but is no constable. 1639: Clarke, 20.  

3. He keeps his road well enough who gets rid of bad company. 1855: Bohn, 378.  

4. It is no less praise to keep than to get. 1559: Bercher, *Nobil. of Women*, 97 (Roxb. Cl.) [cited as "the owlde vers"]. 1663: Killigrew, *Parson's Wedding*, II. vii., According to the proverb, keep a thing seven years, and then if thou hast no use on't, throw't away. 1816: Scott, *Antiquary*, ch. xxi., They say, keep a thing seven year, an ye'll aye find a use for't. 1826: Scott, *Woodstock*, ch. xxviii.  


10. Keep your feet. See Head (6).  


15. Keep yourself from the anger of a great man, from the tumult of a mob, from a man of ill fame, from a widow that has been thrice married, from a wind that comes in at a hole, and from a reconciled enemy. 1855: Bohn, 437. 16. To keep band in the neck = To make things meet c. 1791: Pegge, *Derbyisms*, 88 (E.D.S.).  

17. To keep it in Pimlico. See *Pimlico*.  

18. You'll keep it no longer than you can a cat in a wheel-barrow. 1732: Fuller, No. 6025.  

John Lively, Vicar of Kelloe, had seven daughters and never a fellow
Kelsey  See Bramtree
Kensington  See Sutton-Well
Kendal fox, as a creature as a 1659
Howell, 20 1670 Ray, 254
Kennon of hounds  See Pound of butter
Kensington  See Ashford
Kenspeckle [Conspicuous] as a cock
on a church broach [spire], As 1855
Robinson, Whitby Gloss, 95
Kent  A man of Kent 1662
Fuller, Worthies, n 122 (1840) c 1750
C Smart, Fables, No n., Are all to
idle discord bent These Kentish men—
those men of Kent 1887
Parish and Shaw, Dict Kent Dialect, 98 (E D S)
Man of Kent A title claimed by the
inhabitants of the Weald as their
peculiar designation, all others they
regard as Kentish men

2 Kent and Christendom Various
proverbial uses See quot 1579
Spenser, Shep Cal, Sept, I 168,
Neuer was wolfe seene, many nor
some, Nor in all Kent, nor in Christen-
dome 1592 Lyly, Mother Bombie,
III iv., I care not I can live in
Christendome as well as in Kent 1599
Nashe, in Works, v 221 (Grosart), How
Wilham the Conquerour hauing heard
the proverb of Kent and Christendome,
thought he had woone a countrey as
goode as all Christendome when he was
enfeode of Kent 1651 Randolph,
Hey for Honesty, I 1, All the cudgels
in Christendom, Kent, or New England,
shall never make me quyet 1662
Fuller, Worthies, n 122 (1840), Neither
in Kent nor Christendom 1790
Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Kent" [as in 1662]

3 Kent is divided into three parts
See quot 1576 Lambarde, Peramb
of Kent, 181 (1826), Very reasonable is
their conceit, which doe imagine that
Kent hath three steps, or degrees, of
which the first (say they) offereth
wealth without health the second,
giveth both wealth and health, and
the thirde affoordeth health onely, and
little or no wealth 1670 Ray, 234,
Some part of Kent hath health and no
wealth, viz East Kent Some wealth
and no health, viz The weald of Kent
Some both health and wealth, viz the
middle of the countrey and parts near
London 1735 Pegge, Kent Proverbs,
in E D S., No 12, p 76, Health and no
wealth, Wealth and no health, Health
and Wealth 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss,
s v "Kent" [abbreviated version of
1670]

4 Kent, red veal and white bacon
1735 Pegge, Kent Proverbs, in E D S.,
No 12, p 61

See also Knight of Cales

Kentish Jury  See London (1)
Kentish Long-tails Versions of the
legend or story may be found in 1205
Layamon, Brit, II 2955–86 also in
Polydore Vergil, Angl Hist., lib vii
218 (ed Basel, 1546) There is a ver-
sion in Lambarde, Peramb of Kent,
356–62 (1826) See also Matthew Paris,
783 790 2551 Bale, Eng Votaryes,
30, For castynge of fyse tayles atthis
Augustyne, Dorsett shyre men had
tales ever after But Polydorus
applyeth yt vnto Kentysch men at
Stroude by Rochester, for cuttynge
of Thomas Beckettes horses tayle c 1600
Deloney, in Works, 383 (Mann), The
valiant courage and policie of the
Kentishmen with long tayles 1639–61
in Rump Songs, Pt II 47 (1662, repr
1874), I shall not dispute whether Long-
tails of Kent, Or papist, this name of
disgrace did invent 1701 T Brown
Works, i 154 (1760), Advice to the
Kentish Long-tails, by the Wise Men
of Gotham 1887
Parish and Shaw,
Dict Kent Dialect, 95 (E D S.), Long-
tails An old nickname for the natives
of Kent

Kentish miles  See Essex stales
Kentish yeoman  See Knight of Cales
Kenton  See Haldon
Kentish, hot as fire 1735 Pegge,
Kent Proverbs, in E D S., No 12, p 61
Kent-street distress, A 1790
Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Surrey"

Kerdon  See Crediton
Kerne  See East (25)
Kerton  See Crediton
Kettle  See Pot (6)
Kettle of fish, A pretty! 1742
Fielding, Andrus, bk 1 ch xiv,
"Here's a pretty kettle of fish," cries Mrs Tow-wouse, "you have brought upon us!" 1767: Brooke, Foot of Quality, ii. 249. If matters come to this pass, I shall have made a fine kettle of fish on't. 1850: Dickens, Copperfield, ch. xix. ... And then it will go in, you know—and then ... there'll be a pretty kettle of fish! 1872: Hardy, Greenwood Tree, Pt. II. ch. viii., Here's another pretty kettle o' fish for thee.

Kex. See Dry (6): Hollow; and Light as a kex.

Key fits not that lock, Your. Before 1529: Skelton, Works, i. 20 (Dyce), You're key is mete for every lok. 1732: Fuller, No. 6052.

Key under the door, To leave the = To become bankrupt. 1602: Chamberlain, Letters, 156 (Camden S.). The mercer of Temple Barre ... hath laide the key under the doore and is become bankrupt. 1670: Ray, 182, To lay the key under the threshold. 1677: Yarranton, Eng. Improvement, 126, If it hold cheap for three or four years, the tenant lays the key under the door. 1724: Swift, Drapier Letters, Lett. i., The shopkeeper ... must break, and leave the key under the door.


Keystone. See quot. 1863: Wise, New Forest, ch. xv., The smuggler's local proverb, "Keystone under the hearth, keystone under the horse's belly." [The smuggled spirits were concealed either below the fireplace or in the stable.]

Kick, verb. 1. To kick against the pricks. [πρός κόπτειν μη λατιστε μη πεσθαι μοιγ. —Æschylus, Agam., 1624. Adiurousum stimulum calcas. —Terence, Phorm. I. ii. 28.] 1382: Wiclif, Acts, ix. 5 (O.). It is hard to thee, for to kyke a'gens the prickle. 1539: Taverner, Proverbs, fo. 14, It is harde kyckynge against the gode. 1567: Pickering, Horestes, 1. 977. c. 1594: Bacon, Promis, No. 962, Folly it is to spurn against the pricke. 1605: Camden, Remains, 322 (1870) [as in 1594]. 1638: D. Tuvill, Vale Mescum, 46 (3rd ed.). It is madnesse in a man to kick against a thorne, to strive against a streame. 1842: Marryat, P. Keene, ch. iii., It's folly to kick against tenpenny nails.

2. To kick the beam. 1838: Hood, Hood's Own, 1st ser., 5 (1865), Despencency ... may make you kick the beam and the bucket both at once.

3. To kick the bucket. 1796: Wolcot, Works, v. 242 (1812), Pitt kicked the bucket. 1828: Carr, Crawn Dialect, i. 55, To kick the bucket, an unfeeling phrase for to die 1890: G. Allen, Tenks of Shem, ch. x. (Farmer), Sir Arthur ... will do the right thing in the end before he kicks the bucket.

4. To kick the wind. 1598: Florio, Worldes of Wordes, s.v. "Dar de’ calci a Rouaio," To be hang’d, to kicke the wind. 1813: Ray, 203.


2. The kick of the dam hurts not the coll. 1732: Fuller, No. 4611.


Kidney, All of a; or Of such and such a kidney. Before 1555: Latimer, Sermons and Rem., 312 (P.S.) (O.), To pronounce all to be theves to a man, except myself, of course, and those men ... that are of my own kidney. 1658: R. Franck, North. Memoirs, 39 (1821), Such Furiosos, I must confess, are of an odd kidney. 1694: Terence made English, 6, If any such has got a tutor of his own kidney, he shall be sure to be ply’d o’ the weak side. 1742: Fielding, Andrews, bk. ii. ch. viii., I am heartily glad to meet with a man of your kidney. 1854: Baker, Northants Gloss., s.v. "Kidney," "All of a kidney." A common expression when children inherit the bad qualities of their parents; also applied to a number of dissolute associates, "such young men are all of a kidney."
Kill, verb 1. He often kills See quotation c 1645 MS Proverbs, in N & Q, vol 154, p 27, Hee often kills that thinkes but to hurt that which is worth the restorings

2. He that killeth a man when he is drunk shall be hanged when he is sober. 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt 1 ch x 1605 Camden, Remains, 324 (1870) 1641 in Marchant, Praise of Ale 154 (1888). Suppose you should kill a man when you are drunk, you shall never be hanged for it until you are sober 1732 Fuller, No 2204

3. He that kills himself. See Buried

4. He will kill a man for a mess of mustard 1562 Heywood, Three Hundy Epigr., No 207 1659 Howell, 7

5. I killed her for good will, said Scot, when he killed his neighbour's mare 1678 Ray 85

6. To kill a man with a cushion 1639 Clarke, 310 1670 Ray 218

7. To kill one with kindness 1594 Shakespeare, Taming of Shrew, IV 1, This is a way to kill a wife with kindness 1607 T Heywood, A Woman Kill'd with Kindness (title) 1699 Farquhar, Love and a Bottle, III 1, I bear her an amorous grudge still I could kill her with kindness 1761 Colman, Jealous Wife, IV 1, You absolutely kill him with kindness 1815 Byron Letters and Journals, in 205 (Prothero), Don't let them kill you with claret and kindness at the national dinner in your honour 1876 in N & Q, 5th ser, vi 246, They say here [Worksop] of a man who shortened his days by excess of any kind, that he has 'killed himself with kindness'.

8. To kill two birds with one stone [Iam ego uno in saltu lepide apsos capiam dupos—Plautus, Cas., II viii 40 Una mercede duas res adsequi—Cicero Rosc Am., xxix 80] 1611 Cotgrave, s.v. 'Coup', 1671 T. Shadwell Miser, II, And (if you can bring this lady) I should kill two birds with one stone, as that excellent thrifty proverb says 1734 Fielding Univ Gallant, V ii, This is better than my hopes! This is killing two birds with one stone 1850 Dickens, Chuzzlewit, ch viii

9. To kill two flies with one flap 1678 Ray, 275

10. We will not kill but whoave [cover] Cheshire 1691 Ray, Words not Generally Used, 74 (E D S) 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 150, Spoken of a pig or fowl which has been covered by some utensil in readiness to kill

11. Who was killed by a cannon bullet was curst in his mother's belly 1659 Howell, 6 1670 Ray, 110 1738 Swift Politic Convers Dial I

Kiln 1. For my part burn the kiln boldly 1639 Clarke, 77

2. For my peck of malt set the kiln on fire Ibid, 254 1666 Torrano, Piazza Univ., 164, The English say, For my peck of malt, set the keel on fire 1681 W Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis 982 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 58

3. Kill's-a-fire See quotation 1851 Sternberg, Dialect, etc., of Northants, 58, Kill's-a-fire A proverbial expression intimated the existence of enmity 'Kill's-a-fire 'tween they two'

4. My kiln of malt is on fire 1605 Camden, Remains, 328 (1870)

5. The kiln calls the oven burnt house 1603 Florio, Montaigne, 503 (1634) (O), Which some say proverbially, 'I'll may the call the oven 'burnt taile' I' 1639 Clarke, 196 (with 'hearth' for 'house') 1670 Ray, 110 1853 Trench, Proverbs, 63 (1905)

Kim-kam See quotation 1611 Cotgrave, s.v. 'Anguille, To doe a thung cleane kamme, out of order, the wrong way 1690 Shakespeare, Coriol., III 1, Sc. This is clean kam Brv Merely awry 1637 Clarke, 7, Kim kam arse verse 1740 North, Examen, 151, The reason of all this chum-cham stuff is 1879 Jackson, Shropsh Word-Book, 235, Let's 'a none o' yore kim-kam ways

Kind [Soft] as a glove 1628 Carr, Craven Dialect, 1 264

Kind as a kite 1639 Clarke, 287

1670 Ray, 202, As kind as a kite, all you cannot eat you'll hide

Kind as Cockburn 1600 Weakest
Goeth to the Wall, II. iii, Faith, as kind as Cockburn; I'll break my heart to do them good. [A note on this in Hazlitt's Webster's Dram. Works, iv. 252, says "An old proverb"; but I have not met it elsewhere.]

Kind heart losteth nought at last, A. 1639: Clarke, 45.

Kind to-day, cross to-morrow. Ibid., 159.

Kind, subs. See Love; and Nature.


Kinder than he was wont. See Use (1).

Kindle not a fire that you cannot extinguish. 1584: B. R., Euterpe, 136 (Lang). I will kindle no moe coales than I may well quenche. 1869: Hazlitt, 253.

Kindness is lost that's bestowed on children and old folks. 1639: Clarke, 45.

Kindnesses, like grain, increase by sowing. 1855: Bohn, 437.

Kindred, Wheresoever you see your, make much of your friends. 1659: Howell, 5. For all your kindred make much of your friends. 1670: Ray, 15

1732: Fuller, No. 5660.

King and Kings. 1. A king promises, but observes only what he pleases. 1855: Bohn, 292.

2. A king without learning is but a crowned ass. c. 1534: Berners, Huon, 730 (E.E.T.S.). For comonly it is said that a kyng without letter or conynge is compared to an ass crowned.


4. A king's favour is no inheritance. 1678: Ray, 163. 1732: Fuller, No. 4618.

5. He climbs the King's English—He is drunk. 1745: Franklin, Drinker's Dict., in Works, ii. 24 (Bigelow).

6. He shall have the king's horse=He is a liar. 1678: Ray, 89.

7. He that eats the king's goose. See quotes. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Oye," He that eats the king's goose doth void fethers an hundred years after. 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, iv. 243 (1785). Often have I thought of that excellent old adage; He that eats the King's goose shall be choked with his feathers.

8. Kings and bears often worry their keepers. 1738: Gent Mag., 475.


10. The king and his state Be a man and a half. 1856: Blackmore, Lorna Doone, ch. liv. [cited as "an ancient saying"].

11. The King and Pope. See quot. 1659: Howell, 12. The King and Pope, the lion and the wolf: a proverb used in King John's time, in regard of the great excations.

12. The king can make a serjeant, but not a lawyer. 1732: Fuller, No. 4613.

13. The king must wait while his beer's drawing. 1869: Hazlitt, 375 1888: Q.-Couch, Troy Town, ch. xix., They do say as the Queen must wait while her beer's a-drawn'.


15. The king of good fellows is appointed for the queen of beggars. 1605: Camden, Remains, 333 (1870). 1732: Fuller, No. 4616.

16. The king's chaff is better than other people's corn. 1612. Shelton, Quixote, Pt. I. bk. iv. ch. xii., Men say that a king's crumb is more worth than a lord's loaf. 1738: Gent Mag., 474 1825: Scott, Fam. Letters, ii. 318 (1894).
"King's chaff being better than other folk's corn," his Excellency's lunch served me for my dinner.

17 The king's cheese goes half away in parings 1659 Howell, 3 1660 Howell Parly of Beasts, 19 Whence grew the proverb, that the King's cheese goes away three parts in parings? 1709 O Dykes, Eng Proverbs 299 1738 Gent Mag 474

18 The King's English It will be observed that in 1560 1600 and 1602, when a queen was on the throne, the phrase used was still 'The King's English" c 1580 Chaucer, Astrolabe Prol, And praye god save the king that is lord of this landage 1560 T Wilson, Rhetorique, 163 (1909), If a man should charge them for counterfeiting the Kings English 1593 Nashe, Works, u 184 (Grosart), Still he must be abusing the Queens English 1600 Look About You, so ix , in Hazlitt, Old Plays, vu 412, Marry, here's a stammerer taken clipping the king's English 1600 Shakespeare, Merry Wives I iv 1603 Dekker, Works, i 136 (Grosart) Before 1681 Lacy, Sir Hercules Buffon, V iv , That is not shorthand, 'tis called clipping the King's English 1714 Spectator, No 616 1787 OKeefe, The Farmer, I vii , My dear ma'am how do you chack away, King George's English hack away 1864 Alford, The Queen's English [title] 1886 R L S Kidnapped, ch v, I have translated it here, not in verse but at least in the king's English.

19 The king's errand may lie in the cadger's gate 1808 Scott, Journal, 22 Feb

20 The king's word is more than another man's oath 1554 Princess Elizabeth, in Ellis, Orig Letters, 2nd ser, u 255 [cited as "this olde saynge"]

21 The king's word must stand 1509 Bp Fisher, Eng Works 230 (EETS), It is a comyn proverbe Verbun regis stet oportet A kynges worde must stand

See also Kingdom, Nothing (36), Subject, and Two Kings

King Arthur See Arthur

King Harry 1 A King Harry's face 1678 Ray, 73

2 King Harry loved a man 1605 Camden, Remains, 327 (1870) 1613 S Rowley, When You See Me, sig D3, King Harry loves a man, I can tell thee 1653 Naunton, Frag Regalia, 182 (1694), The people hath it to this day in proverb, King Harry loved a man 1670 Ray, 70, King Harry lov'd a man, i.e. valiant men love such as are so, hate cowards 1825 Scott, Talesman ch xx, The King of England, who as it was emphatically said of his successor Henry the Eighth, loved to look upon a man.

3 King Harry robbed the Church and died a beggar 1678 Ray, 354

4 This was a hill in King Harry's days 1718 Ibid, 73

King Log, If you despise, you shall fear King Crane 1732 Fuller, No 2749

King's Sutton See Bloxham

Kingdom 1 In the kingdom of a cheater, the wallet is carried before 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

2 In the kingdom of the blind, the one eyed is king Before 1529 Skelton, in Works, u 43 (Dyce), But haue ye nat harde this, How an one eyed man is Well sughted when He is amonge blynde men? 1540 Palsgrave, Acostus, Amongst xx blynde an one-eyed man may be a kyng 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1666 Sir W Temple, Miscellanea, 2nd part, 342 (4th ed.), For among the blind, he that has one eye is a Prince 1732 Fuller, No 2137, He that has but one eye is a prince among those that have none 1822 Scott, Fam Letters, u 147 (1894), The purblind is a king you know among the blind.

3 Woe to the kingdom whose king is a child c 1513 More, Works, p 63, col 2 (1557), That the greater wise manne well perceived, when hee sayde Veh regno cuius rex puer est, Woe is that realme that hathe a childe to theyr kyng 1596 Lodge, Diall Comured, 80 (Hunt Cl) 1594 Shakespeare, Rich III, II m, Woe to that land
that’s govern’d by a child! 1642: Fuller, Holy State: “Gust. Adolphus.”

Kingston Down. See Hengsten Down.

Kinsman helps kinsman, but woe to him that hath nothing. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 32, Kinsfolks with kinsfolke, wo to hym that hath nothing. 1629: Book of Meery Riddles, Prov. 19.

Kinsman. See also Servant (7).


Kirbie’s castle and Megse’s glory, Spinola’s pleasure, and Fisher’s folly. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, ii. 343 (1840).


Kirby. See Sutton.

Kiss, subs. 1. A kiss of the mouth often touches not the heart. 1855: Bohn, 292.

2. Kisses are keyes, and Wanton kisses are keyes of sin. 1639: Clarke, 28.

See also Christmas (5).

Kiss, verb. 1. Do not make me kiss, and you will not make me sin. 1855: Bohn, 345.

2. He that doth kiss and do no more, may kiss behind and not before. 1659: Howell, 9 (7).

3. He that kiseth his wife in the market-place, shall have enough to teach him. 1605: Camden, Remains, 323 (1870) [with “many teachers” for “enough to teach him”]. 1670: Ray, 110. 1732: Fuller, No. 2205.

4. If you can kiss the mistress, never kiss the maid. 1670: Ray, 111. 1742: in Hone, Ev. Day Book, ii. 377. To kiss with the maid when the mistress is kind, A gentleman ought to be loth, sir.

5 Kiss and be friends. c. 1300: R. Brunne, tr. Langtoft’s Chron., 64 (Hearne), Kisses and be gode frende in luf and in a wilie. 1419: in Twenty-six Poems, 69 (E.E.T.S.), Make hem kyssen and be frende. 1672: Lacy, Dumb Lady, IV., Weep not, Nurse! I am satisfied. Come, kiss and be friends. 1740: Richardson, Pamela, ii. 73 (1883), Dear aunt, said her kinsman, let’s see you buss and be friends. 1775: Franklin, in Works, v. 450 (Bigelow), “They should kiss and be friends,” said I. 1847: Tennyson, Princess, vi. 271.

6. Many kiss the child for the nurse’s sake. 13th cent.: MS. quoted in 1846: Wright, Essays on Middle Ages, i. 150, Osculor hunc ore natum nutricis amore. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II ch. vii. 1590: Lodge, Rosalynde, 98 (Hunt. Cl.), Alena ... thoght she kist the childe for the nurses sake 1683: Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697). For love of the nurse the bairn gets mony a cuss, 1732: Fuller, No. 3351.

1823: Scott, Peveril, ch. viii., But among men, dame, many one caresses the infant that he may kiss the child’s maid.

7. Many kiss the hand they wish cut off. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

1760: Ray, 15. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. “Kiss,” Many do kiss the hands they wish to see cut off.

8. She had rather kiss than spin. 1732: Fuller, No. 4123.

9. To kiss a man’s wife, or wipe his knife, is a thankless office. 1639: Clarke, 45. 1670: Ray, 111.

10. To kiss and tell. 1616: Jonson, Forest, V., ’Tis no sin love’s fruit to steal, But the sweet theft to reveal. 1675: Cotton, Burl. upon Burlesque, 200 (1765), And if he needs must kiss and tell, I’ll kick him headlong into Hell. 1695: Congreve, Love for Love, II. x., Oh he, Miss, you must not kiss and tell. 1757: Murphy, Upholsterer, II., Why must they kiss and tell? 1816: Byron, in Letters and Journals, iii. 339 (Prothero), The old reproach against their admirers of “Kiss and tell.”

1910: Shaw, Misalliance, 88 (1914), As a gentleman, I do not kiss and tell.

11. To kiss one where he sat on Sunday. 1583: Melbancke, Philotinus, sig. Y. When a mans hose be doune, it is easie to kiss him where he sat on Saterday. c. 1685: in Roxb. Ballads, viii. 869 (B.S.), Thou shalt kiss me where I sat on Sunday.

12. To kiss the Counter. c. 1560: in Huth, Ancient Ballads, etc., 227 (1867), Then some the Counter oft doe kisse, If that the money be not paid.

13. To kiss the hare’s foot. See quotes. 1598: Servimgmans Comfort, in Inedited
Tracts, 112 (Halliwell, 1868). Upon payne to dyne with Duke Humine, or kisse the Hares fote 1616 Browne; Brit Past, II u, 'Tis supper time with all and we had need make haste away, unless we mean to speed With those that kiss the hare's foot 1738 Swift, Polite Convers Dial II. Well, I am the worst in the world at making apologies. It was my lord's fault. I doubt you must kiss the hare's foot 1857 Scott in Lockhart's Life iv 118. The poor clergyman [got] nothing whatever, or as we say, the hare's foot to lick 1847 Halliwell, Dict s.v. 'Kiss,' To kiss the hare's foot, to kiss the post, to be too late for anything.

14 To kiss the post Before 1529 Skelton, Philip Sparrow, 1716. Troilus also hath lost On her moch loue and cost, And now must kys the post 1595 Churchyard, Chrritie, 10 (1816). But some that lost their blood in countries right May kisse the post 1623 New and Morrie Prognos, 19 (Halliwell). That such as come late must kisse the post 1847 See No 13.

15 You must kiss a parson's wife 1678 Ray, 86. He that would have good luck in horses must kiss the parson's wife 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial II, Sir John. I have had devilish bad luck in horse flesh of late. La Smart Why, then, Sir John, you must kiss a parson's wife.

Kissing, verb subs 1. After kissing comes more kindness 1484 Caxton, La Tour-Landry, ch xxxix p 185 (EETS). The kyssyng is nyge parente and cosyn unto the fowle faytte or dede 1639 Clarke, 28 1681 Davenport, City Nightcap, 1. She that will kiss, they say, will do worse.

2 Kissing goes by favour 1605 Camden Remains, 327 (1670) 1649 Quarles, Virgin Widow I. 1725 Bailey tr Erasmus Colloq, 239 1671 Planché, Extravag, v 300 (1879). And kissing more than ever now is found to go by favour. See also Furse.

Kit after kind = A chip of the old block. 1599 Life of Sir T More, m

Wordsworth, Eccl Biog., II 112 (1853) (O). She would now and then show herself to bc her mother's daughter, kit after kinde 1670 Ray, 183.

Kit to watch your chickens. Never put the Corn 1869 Halliwell 299.

Kitchen I By a kitchen fat and good makes the poor most neigbourhood 1623 Wodrowe, Spared Hourse, 487.

2 Kitchen physic is the best physic 1562 Bulkin Bulwarke of Defence. According with kitchen physic, which kitchen, I assure you, is a good pote-cary's shop 1670 Rotb Ballads, vn 238 (B.S). Good kitchen-physick is the best 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial II.

3 The smallness of the kitchen makes the house the bigger 1732 Fuller, No 4753.

4 The taste of the kitchen is better than the smell 1633 Drase, 41 1670 Ray, 26. 1732 Fuller, No 4784.

Kite sees a dead horse afar off, An hungry 1732 Fuller, No 616.

Kite See also Carrion, Hungry, Kind, Lark (1), and Yellow (2).

Kiting I Did you ever know a kiting bring a mouse to the old cat? 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 50.

Children are not always ready to support their aged parents.

2 Wanton kitins may make sober old cats 1732 Fuller, No 5415. Cf Untoward girl or boy See also Kit, and Mouse (10).

Knaek me that nut See Nut (2).

Knapten See Gimmingham.

Knafe and Knaves I A knave discovered is a great fool 1732 Fuller, No 232.

2 A knave (or rogue) in grain 1540 Palsgrave Acolastus, sig S2, Whan knaes in grame me 1593 Tell-Trothes New-yeares Gift, 18 (N Sh S). But those of the sixte kinde are knaes in grame 1640 The Knave in Grain New Vampi [title of comedy] 1728 Swift, in Works, xiv 241 (Scott). Among his crew of rogues in grain 1785 Grosè, Class Dict Vulgar Tongue s.v., Knafe in grain, a knave of the first rate 1855 Bohn, 299. A rogue in grain is a rogue amain 1869 Spur-
Knavery, John Ploughman, ch. xviii., Like corndeesalers, they are roges in-grain.

3. As good a knave I know as a knave I know not. 1678: Ray, 74.

4. I'd rather have a knave than a fool. Oxfordsh. 1913: Folk-Lore, xxiv. 77.

5. If ye would know a knave, give him a staff. 1640: Herbert, J. Prudentium.


7. Knaves and whores go by the clock. 1659: Howell, 1Q.

8. Knaves imagining nothing can be done without knavery. 1732: Fuller, No. 3135.

9. One of the four and twenty polities of a knave is to stay long at his errand. 1659: Howell, 2.


11. When a knave is in a plum-tree, he hath neither friend nor kin. 1640: Herbert, J. Prudentium.

Knavery in all trades. There is. 1671: Head and Kirkman, Eng. Rogue, ii 115. 1692: L'Estrange, Æsop, 161 (3rd ed.). Hence comes the old saying: There's knavery in all trades, but most in tailors.

Knavery is in credit, Where, honesty is sure to be a drug. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Drug."

Knavery may serve a turn, but honesty never fails. 1678: Ray, 164 [with "is best at long run", for "never fails"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 3131.

Knavish wit, a knavish will. A. 1736: Bailey, Diet., s.v.

Knife. 1. Carry your knife even, between the paring and the apple. 1732: Fuller, No. 1065.

2. Every knife. See quot. 1877: E. Leigh, Cheshire Gloss., 96, "Every knife of his'n has a golden haft," i.e. everything he undertakes turns out well. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 55.

Knight of Cales [Cadiz], A, and a gentleman of Wales, and a laird of the North countree, A yeoman of Kent, with his yearly rent, will buy them out all three. 1659: Howell, 17. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, ii. 121 (1840). 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Kent."


Knights. See quot. 1666: B. Rich, Faultes, fo. 28. The prouerbe is olde, and it may be true, that as knights grow poor, ladies grow proud.


Knock at a deaf man's door, To (or at the wrong door). 1616: B. Rich, Ladies Looking Glassé, 3. Therefore it is but to knocke at a deafe mans doore. 1639: Clarke, 7. You knock at a deafe man's doore, or wrong doore.

Knock in the cradle, He got a. 1678: Ray, 255.

Knock under the board, To = To yield. 1678: Ray, 74. Knock under the board. He must do so that will not drink his cup.

Knock Cross, As old as. 1846-59: Denham Tracts, i. 207 (F.L.S.).

Knot. 1. To find (or seek) a knot in a rush. 1340: Ayenbite, 253, pet zelk pet uel ine pe aye oyer pane knotte ine pe resse. 1532: More, Works, 778 (1557). 1567: Jewel, Defence of Apol., Pt. IV. 733 (P.S.). It is a childish labour to seek a knot in a rush, and to imagine doubts where the case is clear. 1579: Gosson, Sch. of Abuse, 46 (Arber). They thiike themselves no scholers, if they bee not able to finde out a knotte in every rush. 1661: Davenport, City Nightcap, III, The trick's come out, And here's the knot i' th' rush. 1740: North, Lives of Norths, i. 206 (Bohn). To cavil at every step, and raise moot points, like finding knots in bulrushes.

2. To tie a knot with the tongue not to be undone with the teeth. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 468 (Arber). We might knite that knot with our tongues, that we shall neuer vn doe with our teeth. 1617:
Greene, Works, ix 76 (Grosart), A woman may knit a knot with her tongue, that shee cannot vnite with all her teeth 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I, He has tied a knot with his tongue, that he can never unite with his teeth 1831 Scott, Journal, 6-7 May, I cannot conceive that I should have tied a knot with my tongue which my teeth cannot unite with his teeth 1913 E M Wright, Rustic Speech, etc, 272, To get married is to tie a knot with the tongue, 'at yan cannot louze wi' yan's teeth (Yorkshire and Northamptonsire)

3 Where the knot is loose the string slippeth 1639 Clarke, 248 1670 Ray, 111 1732 Fuller No 5667 Knott Mill Fair, As throng [busy] as Manchester 1669 Hazlitt 74 Knotty timber See quotes 1670 Ray, 15, A knotty piece of timber must have smooth wedges 1835 Bohn, 438, Knotty timber requires sharp wedges

Know, verb 1 He knows best what good is that has endured evil 1855 Bohn 378

2 He knows enough that can live and hold his peace 1586 Pethe, It Guazzo's Civil Comers, fo 55, It is likewise saide, That he knoweth yonough who knoweth nothing if he know how to holde his peace 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Scavoiur", He is cunning enough that can live and hold his peace 1629 Book of Merry Riddles, Prov 21 (as in 1586)

3 He knows no end of his wealth 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi, They know no ende of their good 1639 Clarke, 97

4 He knows not whether his shoe goes awry 1678 Ray, 81

5 He knows one point more than the devil Spoken of a cunning fellow 1620 Shelton, Quixote, Pt II ch xxvii, I know that you know an ace more than the devil in all you speak or think 1659 Howell, Proverbs Span-Eng 2


'It's a wise man that knows tin" alludes to the various forms it takes

7 He that knoweth himself best, esteemeth himself least 1647 Countryr New Commonwealth, 26

8 He that knoweth when he hath enough is no fool 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch viii

9 He that knows little often repeats it 1732 Fuller, No 2209

10 He that knows not how to hold his tongue, knows not how to talk 1669 Politenhima, 157, He that knows not when to hold his peace, knows not when to speak 1732 Fuller, No 2210

11 He that knows nothing doubts nothing 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Rien" 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1669 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch n, He who knows nothing is confident in everything

12 He that knows thee will never buy thee 1667 L'Estrange, Quevedo's Visions, 28 (1904) [cited as "the old proverb"

13 I know enough to hold my tongue, but not to speak 1732 Fuller, No 2609

14 I know him as well as if I had gone through him with a lighted link 1732 Fuller, No 2611 1880 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 97 [with candle" for "link"]

15 I know him not though I should meet him in my dish 1672 Walker, Param., 13 1732 Fuller, No 2513 [with "porridge" for "dish"]

16 I know no more than the man in the moon 1305 Scott, in Lockhart's Life, ii 28, So on I wrote, knowing no more than the man in the moon how I was to end 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, i 329, "I kna naa maar nar man ith moon," I am totally ignorant of it 1878 R L S, Inland Voyage "Down the Ouse," I knew no more than the man in the moon about my only occupation

17 I know no more than the Pope of Rome 1663 Butler, Hudibras, Pt II can iii I 894 He knew no more than the Pope of Rome 1706 Oxford Jests 93, "Read I truly, my lord," says he, "I can read no more than the Pope of Rome" 1793 Looker-on, No 73,
He...assured the gentleman...that he knew no more of Italy than the Pope of Rome. 1863: N. & Q., 3rd ser., iii. 470, I have often heard persons, when professing entire ignorance of any subject, exclaim "I know no more than the Pope of Rome about it."

18. In the world who knows not to swim, goes to the bottom. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.


20. One may know by his nose what porridge he loves. 1590: Lodge, Rosalynde, 91 (Hunt. Cl.). Your nose bewrayes what porridge you loue. 1631: Mabbe, Celestina, 104 (T.T.), I know by your nose what porridge you love. 1730: Fuller, No. 3775.

21. One may know your meaning by your gaping, (etc.). 1639: Clarke, 64, I know your meaning by your winking. 1659: Howell, 21, You may know his meaning by his gaping. 1667: L’Estrange, Quevado’s Visions, nii (1904), They might have known their meaning by their mumping. 1670: Ray, 186. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II., I can tell your meaning by your mumping. 1753: Richardson, Grandison, iv. 226 (1883), You know my meaning by my gaping.

22. They that know one another, salute afar off. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

23. To know one from a black sheep. 1670: Ray, 183.

24. To know what’s what. See What’s what.

25. To know when one is well. 1553: Republica, IV. iv., Thou canst not see, thow wretch, canst thou, when thow art well? 1576: Wapull, Tide latrieth no Man, Prol., Neyther of them know when they are well. 1602: Southerne, Wives Excuse, III. ii., You are very happy in the discretion of a good lady, if you know when you’re well. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I., I won’t quarrel with my bread and butter for all that: I know when I’m well. 1855: Kingsley, West. Hol!, ch. xix., “Overboard with you!” quoth Amyas.

"Don’t you know when you are well off?"

26. With all thy knowledge know thyself. 1659: Howell, xi (g).

27. You know not where a blessing may light. 1869: Hazlitt, 486.

28. You may know by a handful the whole sack. 1732: Fuller, No. 5949.

29. You never know what you can do till you try. 1837: Dickens, Pickwick, ch. xlix.

Knowledge hath no enemy but ignorance. 1559: W. Cunningham, Cosmog. Glasse, 46 (O.). 1613: Wither, Abuses Stript, etc., bk. ii. sat. 1, For thus the saying goes, and I hold so; Ignorance onely is true wisedomes foe. 1654: Whitlock, Zoononia, 160.

Knowledge is a treasure, but practice is the key to it. [c. 1460: Prov. of Good Counsel, in E. E. T. S., Ext. Ser. No. 8, p. 69, For of all tresure conynge ys flowur.] 1732: Fuller, No. 3139. Cf. Knowledge without practice.


Knowledge is power. [Nam et ipsa scientia potestas est.—Bacon, De Heresibus. A wise man is strong.—Prov. xxiv. 5.] 1620: Bacon, Novum Organum, 1, Knowledge and human power are synonymous, since the ignorance of the cause frustrates the effect. 1822: Byron, Letters and Journals, vi. ii (Prothero), They say that “Knowledge is Power”: I used to think so. 1878: Platt, Business, 2, To commercial men knowledge is power. 1923: Sphere, 29 Dec., p. 368, col. 1, The old copybook maxim, "Knowledge is power”


Knowledge without practice makes but half an artist. 1732: Fuller, No 3141. 1885: N. & Q., 6th ser., xii 450 [cited as "The English proverb"]: Cf. Knowledge is a treasure.

Knowledge. See also Gentleman (11); and Zeal.

Kype. See Scrape.
Labour for one’s pains, To have one’s 1589 Nashe in Greene’s Works, vi 13 (Grosart), They have nought but (to bring it to our English proverbe) their labour for their travaile 1609 Shakespeare, Troilus, 1 1, I have had my labour for my travail 1675 Cotton, *Bird upon Burlesque*, 186 (1765), And all that I by that should gain Would be my labour for my pain 1709 Mandeville, *Virgin Unmask’d*, 59 (1724). You’ll get nothing but your labour for your pains 1778 Burney, *Evelina*, Lett xxxii, I’m glad the villain got nothing but his trouble for his pains *Labour in vain is loss of time* 1639 Clarke, 67

Labour is light where love doth pay 1594 Drayton, *Ideas*, lxv

Labour to be as you would be thought c 1597 in Hanington, *Nuga Antiqua*, 1 210 (1804)

Labour See also Past labour

Labour and thrive, spuns gold, He that 1640 Herbert, *Fac Prudentum*, 1670 Ray, 15 1732 Fuller, No 2211 Lack a tile, lack a sheaf 1639 Clarke, 10

Lacketh a stock, Whoso, his gain is not worth a chaw 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch ix 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 335 (1870) 1670 Ray, 146 1732 Fuller, No 5731

Lad to wed a lady See quo 1513 Bradshaw, *St Werburghs*, 43 (EE STS), By a proverbe auncient “A lad [lout] to wedde a lady is an inconstent”

Ladder to bed, You’ll go up the = be hanged 1678 Ray, 256

 Laden with iron, laden with fear 1631 Mabbe, *Celestina*, 204 (TT), It is not saide in vaine, Laden with iron, laden with fear 1666 Torrano, *Piazza Univ*, 88 [’ loaded ” for “ laden ”]

Lady Lift See quo Ladie Lift

Clump is a clump of trees on the top of a high hill near Bredwadine, Herefordshire 1881 C W Empson, in *Folk-Lore Record*, iv 130, When Ladie Lift Puts on her shift, She feares a downright rame But when she doffs it, you will finde The rain is o’er and still the wind, And Phœbus shine againa—Herefordshire

Lads’ love’s a busk of broom, hot awhile and soon done Cheshire 1670 Ray 46 1877 E Leigh, *Cheshire Gloss*, 34 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 87 Cf Love, subs (31)

Lads’ love is lassies’ delight, And if lads don’t love, lassies will flite 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, i 273 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 87

Lady-birds See Hops (3)

Lady-day 1 On Lady-day the latter, The cold comes on the water 1732 Fuller, No 6217

2 When our Lady See first quo 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, i 113 (1840), “When our Lady falls in our Lord’s lap, Then let England beware a sad clap (or mushap)’ Alias “Then let the clergyman look to his cap” I behold this proverbial prophecy, or this prophetical menace, to be not above six score years old, and of Popish extrac- tion since the Reformation 1590 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v “England” [as in 1662] 1812 Brady, *Classis Cal.*, 1 261 [as in 1662] Cf Easter *Lady Done See Fair* (15)

Lady’s heart and a beggar’s purse, Nothing agreeeth worse than a 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch x Cf Lord (1)

Lag puts all in his bag 1666 Torrano, *Piazza Univ*, 322, The English say, Lagg puts all in his bag

Lamb 1 A lamb in the house a lion in the field c 1387 Usk, *Test of Love*, in *Sheat’s Chaucer*, vii 24, Lyons in the feld and lames in chambr 1589 Puttenham, *Eng Poesie*, 299 (Arber), We say it is comely for a man to be a lambe in the house, and
Lamb's skin

a Lyon in the field. 1503: G. Harvey, Works, i. 277 (Grosart). A lion in the field, a lamme in the townne.

2. A lamb is as dear to a poor man, as an ox to the rich. [1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Povre." An egg's as much to a poor man as an ox.] 1732: Fuller, No. 234.

3. Every lamb knows its dam. Ibid., No. 6490.

4. Go to bed with the lamb. See Rise (12).

5. The first lamb. See quot. 1862: R. S. Hawker, Byles, Life, etc., 357 (1905). Did you ever hear the saying that if the first lamb be a lady the Mistress of the house will govern for that year, and if versa vice the first be a gentleman then the Master?

See also Fox (18) and (23); God tempers; Mild; and Quiet.

Lamb's skin. See Soon goes.


Lambskin, To lap in a. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vi., She must obey those lambs, or els a lambs skyn Ye will prouyde for him, to lap her in. Cf. The Wyfe lapped in Morels Skyn (c. 1570), in Hazlitt, Early Pop. Poetry, iv.

Lambtons. See quot. 1846-59: Denham Tracts, i. 106 (F.L.S). In the northern portion of the bishoprick [of Durham], and southern border of Northumberland, they have an old saw, when speaking of a dashing, flashing, stylish fellow, "Oh! he's fit to keep company with the Lambtons."

Lame as a cat, As. 1889: Peacock, Mauley, etc., Gloss., 98 (E.D.S.) [a "proverb"].

Lame as a dog, As. 1889: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 202 (E.D.S.). "Lame as a dog" is the constantly used expression to denote severe lameness, whether in man or beast.

Lame as a tree, As. 1869: Hazlitt, 65

Lame dog over a stile. To help a. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch xi., As good a deede As it is to helpe a dogge ouer a style. 1630: Taylor (Water-Poet), Works, 2nd pagin., 249.

My wit should be so crippled with the gowt, That it must have assistance to compile, Like a lame dog, that's limping o' r a stile. 1720: C. Shadwell, Hasty Wedding, II., You're a clever fellow to lead a lame dog over a stile. 1788: Wolcot, Works, i. 509 (1795). Let me display a Christian spirit, And try to lift a lame dog o'er a style. 1901: S. Butler, in H. F. Jones's Life, i. 344 (1919). When my nightly game of patience goes amiss . . . I sometimes help a lame dog over a style [sic] by a little cheating rather than waste the game.

Lame Giles has played the man. 1639: Clarke, 17.

Lame goes as far as the staggerer, The. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1670: Ray, 15.

Lame hares are ill to help. 1732: Fuller, No. 3143.

Lame post brings the truest news, The. Ibid., No. 4620.


Lame traveller should get out betimes, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 235.

Lammas, After, corn ripens as much by night as by day. 1698: Ray, 352. 1803: Inwards, Weather Lore, 33.

Lammas-tide. See Cuckoo (16).


Lancashire law, no stakes, no draw. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, i. 274. 1847: Halliwell, Dict., s.v., . . . a saying to avoid payment of a bet when verbally made. 1901: F E Taylor, Lancs Sayings, 41 Cf Stopford law.

Lancashire man. See quotes 1599: Buttes, Dyets Dry Dinner, sig. A2. Here are neither eg-pies for the Lancashireman, nor . . . 1622: Drayton, Polyol.
Land and Lands 1 He that hath lands hath quarrels 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1855 Bohn, 566, Who has land has war
2 He that hath some land must have some labour 1639 Clarke, 59 1670 Ray 112 1732 Fuller, No 2161
3 Land was never lost for want of an heir 1678 Ray, 165
See also House (17)
Land's End See quotes 1546 Heywood Proverbs, Pt II ch vii, Thou gospeilst at home to meete me at lands end 1560 T Wilson, Rhetorique, 148 (1909) Some newe fellowes when they think one a papist, they will call him straight a catholique, and bee even with him at the lands end
Land's End to John o' Groats, From 1823 Scott St Ronan's, ch x, I can beat Wolverine from the Land's-End to Jolimne Groat's 1831 Peacock, Crotchet Castle, ch iv, Who forages for articles in all quarters, from John o' Groat's House to the Land's End Landlords See Quick landlord Land-mark stones See Stone (4)
Lane, In the See Always in the lane Lansallos treat, A, everybody pay for hussell 1906 Cornish N & Q, 265
Lapped See Wrapped Lapwing cries most farthest from her nest, The 1584 Lyly Campaspe, II 1, Wherein you resemble the lapwing, who crieth most where her nest is not c 1620 Massinger, Old Law IV 11, He has the lapwing's cunning I am afraid, That cries most when she's furthest from the nest 1732 Fuller, No 4621 Lareovers See Layers Lark and Larks 1 A leg of a lark is better than the body of a kite 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch iv 1605 Chapman, etc., Eastw Hoe, V 1, The legge of a lark is better then the body of a light 1732 Fuller, No 3765
2 It were better to hear the lark sing than the mouse cheep 1855 Bohn, 435
3 Larks fall there ready roasted 1659 Howell, Proverbs Fr-Eng, 3, He thinks that roasted larks will fall into his mouth, spoken of a sluggard See also Lovers, Rise (12), and Sky falls
Lartington See quot 1846-59 Denham Tracts, i 81 (F L S), Lartington for frogs, And Barney Castle for butcher's dogs, or, Lartington frogs, And Barney Castle butcher-dogs 1852 Longstaffe, Richmondshire, 123
Lass in the red petticoat shall pay for all, The 1664 J Wilson, The Cheats, I ii, That estate Which you believe so fair is at present At that low ebb, that if I don't look to't In time, it will be past recovery Come, the red petticoat must piece up all 1678 Ray, 80
Lassies are lads' leavings Cheshire 1670 Ray, 217 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 88
Last benefit is most remembered, The 1732 Fuller, No 4622
Last but not least 1580 Lyly, Euphues, 343 (Arber), Of these three but one can stand me in steede, the last, but not the least 1676 Shadwell, Virtuoso, IV 1v, These are the last, but not the least 1782 in Tuning Fam Papers, 103 (1887), Upon my word, a goodly party, and the rear well brought up by Mr George T, though "last, not least"
Last dog See Dog (78)
Lastdog makes the cup run over, The 1855 Bohn, 509
Last evil smarts most, The 1732 Fuller, No 4623
Last for his shoe, He has found a. Ibid, No 1869
Last has luck Finds a penny in the muck Wores 1904 Lean, Collectanea, iv 27
Last legs, To be on one's 1599 Massinger etc., Old Law, V 1 (O), Eugenia My husband goes upon his last hour now 1st Courter On his
last, I am sure 1678: Ray, 89. He goes on's last legs 1753: Richardson, Grandison, iv. 50 (1833), What would poor battered raked and younger brothers do, when on their last legs, were it not for good-natured widows? 1829: Hone, Ev. Day Book, ii. 1013. The "regular drama" is on its last legs 1859: Trollope, Barh Towers, ch. i., The bishop was quite on his last legs.

Last makes fast. 1659: Howell, 6. Last makes fast, viz Shut the door. 1851: Evans, Leics. Words, 302 (E.D.S.). "Last makes fast" . . . is a recognised rule in passing through a gate that has been opened. Cf. Come (14).

Last prayers, She is at her. 1678: Ray, 79. 1690: New Dict. Canting Crew, sig. L5, Stale maid, at her last prayers. 1698: Terence made English, 157 (2nd ed.), S'death! I'm at my last prayers.

Last race-horse brings snow on his tail, The. 1864: "Sussex Proverbs," in N. & Q., 6th ser., ix. 402. Last straw breaks the camel's back, The. [Quemadmodum clepsydrum non extremum stillicidium exhaustit, sed quidquid ante defluxit; sic ultima hora qua esse desinimus, non sola mortem facit, sed sola consummat. — Seneca, Ep., xxiv. 19.] 1677: Archbp. Bramhall, Works, iv. 59. It is the last feather that breaks the horse's back. 1732: Fuller, No. 5120 [as in 1677]. 1848: Dickens, Domby, ch. ii., As the last straw breaks the laden camel's back . . . 1869: P. Fitzgerald, Comediettas, It is the Last Straw that breaks the Camel's Back [title of play].


Last to the pot is soonest wroth, He that cometh. c. 1400: Beryn, l. 3366, p. 101 (E.E.T.S.), fuit solit is that by-word, "to pot, who comyth last! He worst is servit"; and so it firth by me. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. ii. ch. x. 1659: Howell, 8.

Last word though he talk bilk for it, He'll have the. 1678: Ray, 228 Late repentance is seldom true. 1552: Latimer, Works, ii. 193 (P.S.). It is a common saying, Penance sera raro vera. 1639: Clarke, 255. 1732: Fuller, No. 3145.

Latham and Knowsley. See quot. 1858: N. & Q., 2nd ser., v. 211. It is a very common expression [Lancashire] to say of a person having two houses, even if temporarily, that he has "Latham and Knowsley" . . . Though separate possessions for above 150 years, the expression "Latham and Knowsley" still survives.


Laugh, verb. 1. He can laugh and cry both in a wind. 1670: Ray, 184. 1732: Fuller, No. 4120 [with "she" for "he"].

2. He is not laughed at that laughs at himself first. Ibid., No. 1936.

3. He laughs best that laughs last. 1706: Vanbrugh, Country House, II v. 1823: Scott, Peveril, ch. xxxvii, Your Grace knows the French proverb, "He laughs best who laughs last." But I hear you. 1920: O. Onions, A Case in Camera, 147, Very well, young-fellow-me-lad; you watch it! They laugh best that laugh last. It isn't over yet!


5. Laugh and grow fat. 1506: Harrington, Metam. of Ajax, 68 (1814). Many of the worshipful of the city, that make sweet gains of stinking wares; and will laugh and be fat. c. 1610: in Roxb. Ballads, i. 476 (B.S.), He laugh and be fatte, for care kills a catte. 1765: Garrick, in Garrick Corresp., i. 201 (1831). Laugh and be fat
all the world over 1823 Scott, Peveril, ch xxviii, He seems to have reversed the old proverb "laugh and be fat" 1926 Humorist 9 Oct., p 237, col 3 I was told, by my excellent daddy, To laugh and grow fat

6 Laugh and die down Before 1529 Skelton, Works, n 55 (Dyce), Now nothynge but pay, pay With, laugh and lay downe, Borrow, cyte, and towne 1596 A Copley Fig for Fortune, 24 (Spens S), Ts faire he downe and laugh 1641 R Brome Jovall Crew, III 1671 Westm Drolery 28 (Eshworth), And when we have done These innocent sports, we'll laugh and he downe 1823 Jennings, Somerset Words, 52, Laugh-and-die down A common game at cards

7 Let them laugh that win 1546 Heywood Proverbs, Pt I ch v He laugheth that wineth 1599 Sir Clymson, etc., sig F1, Wel let them laugh that win 1604 Shakespeare, Othello, IV 1, So, so they laugh that win 1674 Head and Kirkman Eng Rogue, m 132, If the proverb be true, Let them laugh that win 1767 Garrick, Eplt to Colman's Encom Merchant 1844 Thackeray, Barry Lyndon, ch viii, Let those laugh that win 1862 Borrow, Wild Wales, ch iv

8 Shut your eyes when you laugh, and you'll never see a merry day W Corn (Mr C Lee)

9 To laugh from the teeth outwards 1532 More, Confit of Tyndale, cxlvii, He laugheth but from the lyppes forward 1611 Cotgrave, s v 'Rire' Rire à grosses dents From the teeth outwards, say we 1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict, s v 'Laugh'

10 To laugh in one's face and cut one's throat 1670 Ray, 184 1716 E Ward, Female Policy, 53 A woman will laugh in your face, and cut your throat 1732 Fuller, No 5194

11 To laugh in one's sleeve [Tu videcheft tecum ipse rides — Cicero, De Fin., II xxiii 76] 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch v 1567 Harman, Caveat, 46 (EETS), Hee laughd in his sleue 1683 Chalkhill, Thealma, etc., 89 (1820), Now Orandra laugh within her sleeve 1744-6 Mrs Haywood Fem Spectator, ii 95 (1771), A certain gentleman may be laugh ing in his sleeve at me 1849 C Bronte, Shirley, ch vii, There was a kind of leer about his lips, he seemed laughing in his sleeve at some person or thing

12 To laugh like a piskie 1865 Hunt Pop Romances W of Eng, 82 (1896). They [the fairies] must have been a merry lot, since to "laugh like a Piskie" is a popular saying

13 To laugh on the wrong side of one's mouth 1666 Torriano, Piazza Univ., 173, Now you can laugh but on one side of your mouth, friend 1714 Ozel, Mohbere, iv 36. If you provoke me, I'll make you laugh on the wrong side of your mouth, you have as sour a look at this moment as one need wish to see 1925 Times, 6 March, p 12, col 2, You laugh immoderately, and end by laughing on the wrong side of the mouth

Laughton See Bolsover

Laundress washeth her own smock first, The 1732 Fuller, No 4626

Lavants, The See 1789 White, Selborne "Letters to Harrington," xxv. The land springs which we call lavants break out much on the Downs of Sussex, Hampshire, and Wiltshire The country people say "When the lavants rise, corn will always be dear"

Lavishness is not generosity 1732 Fuller, No 3147

Law and Laws 1 A suit at law and a umnal bring a man to the hospital 1670 Ray, 15 1732 Fuller, No 6238

2 He is a crust of the law, he will never know a crumb of it 1830 Gorby, Vocab E Anglia, 430

3 He that goes to law holds a wolf by the ears 1621 Burton, Melancholy, Dem to Reader, 48 (1839). He that goes to law (as the proverb is) holds a wolf by the ears Cf Wolf (15)

4 He will go to law for the wagging of a straw 1615 W Goddard, Nest of Wasps, No 16, Thou knowst a barlie strawe Will make a parish parson
Lawless

goe to lawe. 1670: Ray, 184 Cf. Wagging.
5. In a thousand pounds of law there’s not an ounce of love. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Amour,” In a hundred pound of law there’s not a half-penny weight of love. 1670: Ray, 15. 1732: Fuller, No. 2811. In a thousand pounds worth of law, there is not a shilling’s worth of pleasure.
6. Law governs man, and reason the law. 1732: Fuller, No. 3149.
7. Law, Logic and Switzers may be hired to fight for anybody. 1593: Nashe, Christ’s Tears, in Works, iv 148 (Grosart). 1630: Brathwait, Eng. Gent., etc., 7 (1641). It is commonly said that Law, etc. . . . c. 1640: Davenport, in Works, 327 (Bullen), Law, logick, Switzers, fight on any side.
8. Laws catch flies, but let the hornets go free. 1591: Harington, Ort. Furioso, bk. xxxii. Notes. For the most part lawes are but like spiders webs, taking the small gnats, or perhaps sometime the fat flesh flies, but hornets that have sharpe stings and greater strength, breake through them. 1625: Bacon, Aphor., No. 181. One of the Seven was wont to say, “That laws were like cobwebs: where the small flies were caught, and the great brake thorough.” 1732: Fuller, No 3150.
9. The law growth of sin and doth punish it. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 32. 1620: Book of Meery Riddles, Prov. 39 [with “ chastiseth” for “ doth punish”]
10. The law is not the same at morning and at night. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1670: Ray, 15.
11. The worst of law is that one suit breeds twenty. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1670: Ray, 15.
See also Agree.
Law-makers. See Make (13).
Lawn. See quotes. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. viii., He that will sell lawne before he can folde it, He shall repent him before he have solde it. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 290 (Arber), He that will sell lawne must learne to folde it. c. 1594: Bacon, Promus, No. 474 (as in 1546). 1670: Ray, 112, He that byues lawne before, etc. . . . 1732: Fuller, No. 6443 [as in 1670].
Lawrence. See Lazy Lawrence.
Lawton-gate a clap, She hath given. 1678: Ray, 300. 1710: Brit. Apollo, iii. No. 26, col. 7. 1877: E. Leigh, Cheshire Gloss., 43. They say of a girl who from misconuid finds it convenient to leave the county, “She has given Lawton Gate a clap”—Lawton being the boundary of Cheshire towards Staffordshire. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 109.
2. A good lawyer must be a great liar. 1703: E. Ward, Writings, ii. 319 [cited as “a common saying”].
3. A wise lawyer never goes to law himself. 1855: Bohn, 303.
4. Fair and softly as lawyers go to Heaven. 1670: Ray, 193. 1694: Motteux, Rabelais, bk. v. ch. xxviii., Come, let’s now talk with deliberation, fair and softly, as lawyers go to Heaven. 1856: N. & Q., 2nd ser., i. 267, The following was related to me the other day by a Salopian: “An inch every Good Friday, the rate lawyers go to Heaven.” 1894: Northall, Folk Phrases, 11 (E.D.S.), By degrees, as lawyers go to Heaven. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 75 [as in 1894].
5. Few lawyers die well. 1605: Camden, Remains, 321 (1670).
6. He hath as many tricks as a lawyer. 1672: Walker, Param., 51.
7. He who is his own lawyer, has a fool for his client. 1875: A. B. Cheales, Proverb, Folk-Lore, 76.
9. Lawyers and assës always die in
their shoes 1867 Harland, etc., Lanes Folk-Lore, 20. The proverb that "lawyers' shoes" is invariably quoted
10 Lawyers' goings are lined with the
11 Lawyers' houses are built on the
heads of fools 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1660 Howell, Parly of Beasts, 17. The lawyer replied this
house [his own] is made of asses heads and
fools sculls 1865 "Lanes Proverbs," in N & Q, 3rd ser, v 2184 [ Attorneys' "for 'Lawyers'"]
12 You are one of those lawyers that
never heard of Littleton 1732 Fuller, No 5858
See also Hide nothing, and Part three
things
Lay a stone at one's door, To=To "cut" one 1872 J Glyde, Jr., Norfolk Garland 150, He has laid a
stone at my door
Lay a straw, To=To make a stop, or
mark a stopping-place c 1570 A Barclay, Egloges 47 (Spens S.), Have
done nowe Faustus, lay here a straw
1562 Bullem, Bulwarke of Defence, fo 21, But here will I stoppe, and lase a
strawe, and fall into my bis againe
1619 B Rich, Irish Hubub, 54, But
I will here stop and lay a straw
Lay a thing in one's dish, To=To accuse, or to charge against, one 1559 Becon, Prayers, etc., 390 (P'S), Let no
man object and lay in my dish old custom 1560 T Wilson, Rhetorique, Prol (1909), That it be not yet once
again cast in my dish 1609 in Hallwell, Books of Characters, 96 (1857) Your former follies shall be
laide in your dish 1681 W Robertson, Phrased Generalis, 806, To lay in ones dish Aliquid aleam, ut crimen, obiecte
1740 North, Lives of Norths, 1 191 (Bohn), He found that, when they were pressed, they laid a fresh
story in his dish 1815 Scott, Old Mortality, ch v, If I had thought I was
to have had him cast in my dish
1894 Northall, Folk Phrases, 31 (E D S), To throw a thing in one's teeth, or dish = to reproach
Lay a water, To=To defer judgment

Lazy Lawrence. Several sayings are grouped under this head. In all, Lawrence is the embodiment of laziness. 1784: Gent. Mag., Pt. II. 349. When a person in hot weather seems lazy, it is a common saying, that Lawrence bids him high wages. [St. Lawrence’s Day is to August.] 1809: Pegge, Anonymiana, cent. viii. 19, Lawrence bids wages; a proverbial saying for to be lazy. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, i. 280, When a person is remarkably idle, he is often thus addressed. “I see long Lawrence hes gotten hod on thee.” 1830: Forby, Vocab. E. Anglia 427, Laurence has got hold of him. 1880: Courtney, W. Cornwall Words, 33 (E.D.S.), He’s as lazy as Lawrence, One would think that Lawrence had got hold of him. 1882: Jago, Gloss. of Cornish Dialect, 205, He is as lazy as Lawrence. 1882: N. & Q., 6th ser., v. 266, He’s got St. Lawrence on the shoulder [Kent]. 1886: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 420 (E.D.S.), “So lazy as Lawrence” is a common saying.

Lazy man. See Idle (2).

Lazy man’s guise, The. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, i. 294, T’lither man’s guise, Is nivver to bed And nivver to rise. Cf. Sluggard’s guise.

Lazy sheep thinks its wool heavy, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 237. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. i., Like lazy sheep, it is too much trouble for them to carry their own wool.

Lead by the nose, To. [τῆς ἴνδρας, φασὶν, ἔλκουσ.—Lucian, Dial. Deorun, vi. 3.] 1583: Golding, Calvin on Deut., cxxi. 745 (O.), Men . . . suffer themselves to be led by the noses like brute beasts. 1598: Florio, World of Wordes, s.v. “Mener,” To lead by the nose. 1625: Bacon, Essays: “Suitors,” Let him chuse well his Referendaries, for else he may be led by the nose. 1714: Ozell, Molière, iii. 92, Go, go, you must not suffer your self to be led by the nose. 1766: Garrick, Neck or Nothing, II. i., I heard her say myself that she could lead you
Leaden sword See quotes 1562 Heywood, Three Hund Æner, No 71, Thou makst much of thy poynted sheathe 1568 W Fulwood, Enomes of Idlenesse, 244 (1593), Drawe not (as the proverbe saith) a leaden sword out of a golden scabbard 1579 Lly, Euphues, 69 (Arber), Hee you may see the paynted sheath with the leaden dagger, the faire wordes that make fooles fame 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Cousteau," A leaden sword in a golden sheath a foule heart in a faire body 1630 Brathwait, Eng Gen, etc, 47 (1641), The first sort generally, are so miserably eamoured of words, as they care little for substance These are ever drawing a leaden sword out of a gilded sheath 1732 Fuller, No 238, A leaden sword in an ivory scabbard

Lean arbitration See III agreement

Lean as a rake c 1386 Chaucer, ProI, 1 287, As leene was his hores as is a rake c 1480 Early Miscell, 8 (Warton Cl), I waxe as lye ne as anny rake 1567 Golding, Ovid, bk 9 l 967, Hir bodie leane as any rake 1653 Upriquart, Rabelais, bk 6 ch 22, He was as lean as a rake 1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict, s v "Lean", 1823 Moor, Suffolk Words, 305, "Thin as a rake" is not an infrequent comparison with us 1875 Parish, Sussex Dict, 93, a common proverb among Sussex people

Lean as a shotted herring 1659 Howell,Proverbs Fr-Eng, 18 1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict, s v "Shotted," He looks like a shotted herring 1889 Folk Lore Journal, vii 291 (Derbyshire)

Lean dog for a hard road, A. 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 4

Lean fee is a fit reward for a lazy clerk, A 1583 Melbancke, Philotinus sig E3 In deede a leane fee befits a lazye clarke 1669 Politianphusa, 182

Lean liberty is better than fat slavery 1732 Fuller, No 3158

Lean not on a reed. c 1586 Deloney, Carly of Goodwill, 13 (Percy S) But, senseless man, what do I mean Upon a broken reed to lean? 1732 Fuller, No 3157

Lean sorrow is hardest to bear, A 1895 S O Jewett, Life of Nancy, 278 [quoted as "the ancient proverb"]

Leap, subs A leap in the dark 1697 Vanbrugh, Pror Wife, V v, So, now, I am in for Hobbes's voyage, a great leap in the dark [Hobbes is said to have used the expression when dying, 1680] c 1716 The Merry Musician, 1 238, All you that will take a leap in the dark, think of the fate of Lawson and Clark [both executed] 1726 Disraeli, Vivian Grey, bk 8 ch xvi, I saw the feeble fools were wavering, and, to save all, made a leap in the dark

Leap, verb 1 He is ready to leap our nine hedges 1678 Ray, 353 2 He leaps into a deep river to avoid a shallow brook 1732 Fuller, No 1963 3 If you leap into a well, Providence is not bound to fetch you out Ibid, No 2795

4 Leap over the stile See Stile 5 She cannot leap an inch from a slit 1678 Ray, 256 [with "doth" for "can" and "shrew" for "slit"] 1732 Fuller, No 4221

6 To leap at a crust 1633 Draxe, 94, Hee will leape at a crust 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial 1, I believe, Colonel, Mr Neverout can leap at a crust better than you

7 To leap at a daisy=To be hanged 1553 Repubrica, V 8, Some of vs erelong make happie leape at a dasie 1592 Greene, Black Book's Messenger, To Reader, At last bee leapt at a dasie with a halter about his necke 1604 Pasquil's Jest, 48 (1864), He sayd Haue at you dasie that grows yonder, and so leaped off the gallows

8 To let leap a whiting=To miss an opportunity 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vii, There lepte a whiting, (quoth she) 1597 Breton, in Works, ii 8 (Grosart). There are many such misfortunes in the world, a man may leape a whiting whilst he is looking on a codshead 1670 Ray, 199 1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish
Diet., s.v. “Whiting.” To let go a whiting.

Leap year is never a good sheep year, A. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 17 (Percy S.). 1920: Sphere, 3 April, p. 10. Whether it be true to say that—"A leap year is never a good sheep year." remains to be proved so far as this season goes.


Learn to lick betimes, you know not whose tail you may go by. 1670: Ray, II.

Learn to pray, He that will, let him go to sea. 1612: Cotgrave, s.v. “Mer.” 1640: Herbert, Jac Prudentium. 1732: Fuller, No. 2368.

Learn to say before you sing. 1639: Clarke, II. 1670: Ray, II. 1732: Fuller, No. 3165.

Learn weeping and thou shalt laugh gaining. 1640: Herbert, Jac Prudentium.

Learning and law, To, there's no greater foe, than they that nothing know. 1592: Greene, Works, xii. 103-4 (Grosart) [cited as "an olde said saw"].

Learning in a prince is like a knife in the hand of a madman. 1591: Harington, Or. Furioso: “Allegory,” 413 (1634), The chiefe fault commonly is, in those counsellors that put a sword into a mad-mans hand, by putting such conceits into Princes heads. 1638: D. Tuvill, Vade Mecum, 16 (3rd ed.) [with “dangerous” before “knife”].

Learning is the eye of the mind. 1633: Draxe, 111.

Learning makes a good man better and an ill man worse. 1732: Fuller, No. 3162.

Learning. See also House (17).

Learte young is hard to lose, What is. c. 1275: Prov. of Alfred, A, 100-5. The mon the on his youth the yeorne leorneth Wit and wisdom, and iwriten reden, He may beon on elde wenliche lortheu [good teacher]. c. 1320: in Reliq. Antiquae, i 110 (1841), “Whose yong lerneth, olt he ne leseth” ; Quoth Hendyng. c. 1400: Beryn, 938. For thing i-take in [youthe, is] hard to put away.

Least boy always carries the biggest fiddle, The. 1670: Ray, II. 1732: Fuller, No. 4629 ["always" omitted].

1880: Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 28. As a rule, the smallest boy carries the biggest fiddle.

Least foolish is wise, The. 1640: Herbert, Jac Prudentium.

Least room. See quot. 1913: E. M. Wright, Rustic Speech, etc., 17. A proverbial saying applied to any one who has a great deal to say about the conduct or characters of other people, and is not above suspicion himself, runs: Where there's leest reawm, there's moast thrutchin' [crowding].

Least said soonest mended. 1776: T. Cogan, John Bunle, Junior, i. 237-8. But mum's the word; least said is soonest mended. 1818: Scott, Heart of Midln., ch. vi 1837: Dickens, Pickwick, ch. xlviii 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 89, Least said soonest mended, but nout said needs no mending. Cf. Little meddling; and Little said.

Least talk most work. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Besongner,” The fewer words the more worke. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 189, Where there is least talk there is most work.

Leave, subs. 1. He must have leave to speak who cannot hold his tongue. 1683: Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697). 1732: Fuller, No. 1992.

2. Leave is light. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. x., Ye might haue knoxt or ye came in; leave is light. c. 1598: Deloney, Gentle Craft, Pt. II. ch. ii., Leave is light, which being obtained a man may be bold without offence. 1633: Jonson, Love's Welcome, Our English proverb, Leave is light. 1757: Franklin, in Works, ii. 518 (Bigelow), I am sorry, however, that he took it without leave... Leave, they say, is light. 1827: Hone, Ev. Day Book, ii. 248.

Leave, verb. 1: He has left off work to go and make bricks. 1864: “Cornish Proverbs,” in N. & Q., 3rd ser., vi. 494.

2. He that leaves the highway, to cut short, commonly goes about. 1732: Fuller, No. 2213.
3 Leave a jest when it pleases you 
   best Ibid, No 6357
4 Leave boys' play  See Boy (5)
5 Leave her on a ley  See quotes 1599 Porter, Two Angry Women, in Hazlitt, Old Plays vii 355, They should set her on the ice-land, and bid the devil split her 1659 Howell, x6 Leave her on a ley, and let the devil flutt her, A Lincolnshire proverb spoken of a scolding wife, viz tye her to a plow-ridge, and lett the devill remove her to a better pasture 1847 Halwell, Dict, s v Flotten ᵃ [as in 1659]
6 Leave off with an appetite 1558 Bullem, God of Health, fo 37, And so leave with an appetite 1588 Cogan, Haven of Health 167 (1612), The surest way in feeding is to leave with an appetite, according to the old saying 1648 Herrick, Hesp, 1 236 (Hazlitt), Go to your banquet then, but use delight, So as to rise still with an appetite 1693 Penn, Fruits of Solitude, No 64, If thou rise with an appetite, thou art sure never to sit down without one
7 Leave the Court ere the Court leave thee 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 61 1738 Gent Mag, 475
8 To leave in the breers (or sueds) 1533 Udall, Flowers out of Terence, fo 18 Doest thou not se me brought in the breers through thy devise 1577 Morisonus, III 1, Leave me not now ith breers, you hane told me thus much of my sonne c 1590 G Harvey, Marginalia, 87 (1913), Lett not any necessary or expedient action lye in the suedes 1631 Mabbe, Celestina, 280 (T T) Out alas! Our solace is in the sueds 1670 Ray, 166, To leave one in the breers (or sueds) 1690 New Dict Canting Crew, sig B8, In the breers, in trouble 1753 Richardson, Grandison, i 86 (1883), How, madam!—Why, we are all in the sueds, then! 1784-1815 Annals of Agric, xxxix 83, Very favourable weather must occur, or the farmer is in the sueds
9 To leave in the lurch 1576 G Harvey, Letter-Book, 163 (Camden S), Lest he fail in his reckning and so leave himself in the lurch 1611

Tarlton's Jests, 37 (Sh S), Ile leave him in the lurch, and shift for my selfe Before 1680 Butler, Remains, i 255 (1759) And leaves the true ones in the lurch 1768 Brooke, Fool of Quality, in 240, But here the Master in whom he trusted, happened to leave him in the lurch 1823 Scott, Fam Letters, u 182 (1824), It will be an eternal shame if they leave the poor fellow in the lurch after all he has done 1923 Lucas, Advisory Ben 234, She doesn't like to leave me in the lurch, she says
to To leave no stone unturned [πᾶσα 
   καὶ τὴν πέτραν — Eur, Herac., 1002] c 1548 Latimer in Works, n 427 (P S), I will leave no one stone un
   moved to have both you and your brother saved 1560 Becon, Cath
   chism, etc., 313 (P S) I would wish that according to the common proverb, ev
   ery stone should be moved to win them unto the truth 1642 D
   Rogers, Matrim Honour, 163, Therfore roll each stone to find this grace 1599 Mandeville, Virgin Unmask'd, 144 (1724), I find, Aunt, you leave no stone unturned 1839 Dickens,
   Nickleby, ch In, Don't leave a stone unturned It's always something, to know you've done the most you could 1925 Sphere, 6 June, p 298, col 1, No stone should be left unturned in the endeavour to make the piece a success
11 To leave the meal and take the bran 1639 Clarke, 5
12 Who leaveth the old way for the new, will find himself deceived 1578 Florio, First Fruites, fo 28 1623 Wodrowe, Spraid Houres, 278, Who leaves ye old way for to seeke a newe, Is intangled with dangers not a fewe 1666 Torrano, Piazza Univ, 271 1862 Borrow, Wild Wales, ch xv, "There is a proverb in the German," said I, ' sayng, ' ne'er leave the old way for the new"

Leaves, The 1 He that fears leaves See Afraid of leaves
2 If on the trees the leaves still hold, The coming winter will be cold 1661 M Stevenson, Twelve Monthes, 48, They say if leaves now [October] hang on the tree, it portends a cold winter, or many
lechery
359 leicestershire
caterpillars. 1893: Inwards, Weathel Lore, 150.


4. when the leaves show their undersides, be very sure that rain betides. 1893: Inwards, Weathel Lore, 150.

Lechery and covetousness go together. 1653: The Queen, IV., in Bang's Materialien, B. 13, p. 30, col. 1 [cited as "an old proverb."]

Leek. See Green (5).

Leeks. See Lovers live.

Leeks in March. See Quots [1558: Bullein, Govt. of Health, t. 64, Leekes purgeth the blood in March] c 1665: Aubrey, Nat. Hist. Wilts 51 (1842), Eate leeks in Lide [March], and ramssins [wild garlic] in May, And all the yeare after physitans may play. 1875: A. B. Cheeke, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 85, Eat leeks in March, Garlick in May, All the rest of the year The doctors may play. Sussex. 1912: E. M. Wright, Rustic Speech, etc., 238 [as in 1685].

Lees. See Cheshire (7).

Left hand luck. 1540: Palsgrave, Acostus, sig. X2, A lette hande lucke, this is yll lucke.

Left or right Brings good at night. 1831: Hope, Year-Book, 252 1849: Halliwell, Pop. Rhymes and Nursery Tales, 183 [with "and" for "of"].

Left shoulder. See Over the shoulder.

Left side, To rise on one's. 1579: Marr. of Wit and Wisdom, sc. iii. p. 30 (Sh. S.), I rose on my lift side [i.e. wrong side] to day. Cf. Right side.

Leg and Legs. 1. Leg of a lark. See Lark (1).

2. Stretch your legs according to your overcot. 1640: Herbert, Fac. Prudentium, Every one stretcheth his legs according to his overcot. 1670: Ray, 25. 1880: Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 136, Stretch your legs according to the length of your blanket, and never spend all you have.

3. To lay one's legs on one's neck (or to ground) = To be off. 1611: Tarlton's Jest, 41 (Sh. S.), The fellow ... laid his legges on his neck, and got him gone. 1913: Devonsh, Assoe. Trans., xlv. 290, In phrase "lay legs to ground," a curious but common idiom, implying speed.

4. To see which leg one is lame of. 1586: D. Rouland, Lazarillo, 40 (1924), As for me, when I perceived upon which foot hee halted, I made hast to eat. 1631: Mabbe, Celestina, 212 (T. T.), I now perceive on which foot you halt. 1732: Fuller, No. 2623, I now see which leg you are lame of. 1823: Scott, Q. Durward, ch. xxix., 'Tis a sure sign what foot the patient halts upon

5. While the leg warmeth the boot harweth Before 1500: Hill, Common-place-Book, 128 (E. E.T.S.), While the fote warmith, the sho warthith. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ii. e. 1594: Bacon, Prouius, No. 385. 1670: Ray, 113 1732: Fuller, No. 6309.

Leg-bail, To give. 1774: Ferguson, Poems, 234 (1807) (O.), They took leg-bail and ran away. 1784: O'Keeffe, Positive Man, II. ii., I'll give him leg-bail for my honesty (runs off). 1819: Scott, Ivanthoe, ch. xix., Shall we stand fast ... or shall we e'en give him leg-bail? 1876: Blackmore, Cripps, ch. xii., Two Sundays, when even an attorney may give leg-bail to the Power under whose "Ca. ad sa." he lives.

Leicestershire, Bean-belly. 15th cent.: in Relgh. Antiquas, 1. 269 (1841), Leicestershir, full of benys. 1622: Drayton, Polyol, xxiii, Bean belly Le'stershier, her attribute doth bear. 1662: Fuller, Worthes, ii 225 (1849), Those in the neighbouring counties used to say merrily, "Shake a Leicestershire yeoman by the collar, and you shall hear the beans rattle in his belly." 1732: Fuller, No 4114 [as in 1662]. 1762: St. James Magazine, ii. 13, Shake a Leicestershire woman by the petticoat, and the beans will rattle in her throat. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v., "Leicestershire." 1818: Scott, Heart of Midl, ch. xxix, An ye touch her, I'll give ye a shake by the collar shall make the Leicester beans rattle in thy guts.

Leighs See Cheshire (7)
Leighton Buzzard See Tring (2)
Leisure He hath no leisure who useth it not 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum
Lemster See Leominster
Lend, verb 1 He that doth lend doth lose his money and friend 1602 Shakespeare Hamlet, I vii. For loan oft loses both itself and friend 1666 Tornano Piazza Untu, 217, Who lends loseth double 1708 tr Alemans's Guzman, I
2 He that lends, gives 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum
3 Lend and lose so play fools 1737 Ray, 271
4 Lend never that thing thou needest most Before 1500 Hill Commonplace-Book, 152 (E E T S)
5 Lend not horse, nor wife, nor sword 1574 E Hellowes, Guenwards Epistles, 509 It is an old proverb that the wife and the sword may be shewed, but not lent 1575 Fenton, Golden Epistles, 300 (1582), A wife being the dearest of the two things (according to the common saying) which we ought not to lend 1577 Kendall, Flow of Epigr., 284 (Spens S), Three thungs a man not lendeth rife, His horse, his fighting sword, his wife 1605 Camden, Remains, 332 (1870) [as in 1574] 1647 Countrym New Commonwealth, 43. Thy sword, thy horse, and eke thy wife, Lend not at all, lest it breed strife 1922, N & Q, 12th ser vi 499, The Yorkshire version of this is 'Lend neither your horse nor your wife.' I fear in ancient Yorkshire the horse would come first as being the most valued
Length of one's foot See Foot (4)
Lenson-hill to Pilsen pen, As much akin as 1662 Fuller, Worthies, 1 453 (1840) 1790 Grose Prov Gloss, s v Dorset
Lent 1 Dry Lent fertile year 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 40

2 He has but a short Lent See quotes
1659 Howell, Proverbs Ital-Eng., II, Who desires a short Lent, let him make a debt to be paid at Easter 1736 Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, I
450 (Bigelow), Those have a short Lent who owe money to be paid at Easter 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 32 (Percy S), Lent seems short to him that borrows money to be paid at Easter
See also Ash Wednesday, Christmas (8) and Shrovetide
Leominster bread and Weobley ale 1610 P Holland, tr Camden's Britannia, 620, Lemster bread and Weabley Ale are growne unto a common proverb 1619 Jonson, For the Honour of Wales, 4th song, And what you say to ale of Weobley 1662 Fuller, Worthies, II 70 (1840), Lemster bread and Weabley ale 1700 J Brome, Travels, 102, Hence it is grown proverbial among the inhabitants, for Lemster bread and Weabley beer, none can come near 1725 Defoe, Tour, II 72 1886 Bickerdyke, Curios of Ale and Beer, 171, 'Lemster bread and Weobley ale' had passed into a proverb before the seventeenth century 1905 A G Bradley, March and Borderland of Wales, 156
Leominster wool Before 1530 Barclay, Eloges, 16, Cornwall hath tynne and lymsterwoole fine 1593 Drayton, Shep Garland, Ecl iv, Her skin as soft as Lemster wool 1648 Herrick, Hesp, No 444 And far more Soft than the finest Lemster ore [wool] 1670 Ray, 258, Monmouth caps and Lemster wool 1725 Defoe, Tour, II 72, This town [Leominster], besides the fine wool, is noted for
Leopard, In a, the spots are not observed 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum
Less of your courtesy and more of your purse 1639 Clarke, 43 1670 Ray, 74 1732 Fuller, No 3172, Less of your courtship, I pray, and more of your coin
Less wit a man has, The, the less he knows that he wants it Illud, No 4630
Let him alone with the saint's bell, and give him rope enough 1737 Ray, 63
Let the world pass (or slide, or wag, etc) e 1400 Townley Plays, 201
(E.E.T.S.), Whoso couthe take hede and lett the world pas. 1519: Four Elements, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, i. 20. With huffa gallant, sing tirl on the berry, And let the wide world wind! Before 1529: Skelton, Works, ii. 6 (Dyce), Let the world wag. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. v. To let the world wag, and take mine ease in mine. 1550: Udall, Roister Doister, III. iii., Let the world pass. 1594: Shakespeare, Tam of Shrew, Ind. i., Let the world slide. 1678: Dryden, Limberham, V. i., Let the world pass. 1848: Planché, Extravag., iii. 258 (1879), Let the world wag.

Let well alone. [Actum, aint, ne agas.—Terence, Phorm., II ii. 72.] c. 1586: Chaucer, Minor Poems, in Works, i. 399 (Skeat), Unwys is he that can no wele endure. 1829: Peacock, Misfor. of Elphin, ch. ii., It is well: it works well; let well alone. 1863: Kingsley, Water Babies, ch. i., Let well alone, lad, and ill too at times. 1913: Hankin and Calderon, Thompson, III., Why the devil can people never let well alone.

Letter stay for the post, Let your, not the post for the letter. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Uni., 127, Let a letter expect the messenger, not the messenger the letter. 1670: Ray, 15. Lettuce. See Like lips.

Lewes, Proud, and poor Brighelmstone. 1827: Horsfield, Hist., etc., of Sussex, ii. 34. 1894: A J. C. Hare, Sussex, 99. "Proud Lewes and poor Brighelmstone" is a proverb of the days when letters were addressed, "Brighelmstone, near Lewes."


Liar and Liars. I. A liar is not believed when he speaks truth. 1477: Rivers, Dices, etc., 117 (1877). The reward of a liar is that he be not beleued of that he rehesters. 1586: Pettie, tr. Guazzo’s Civil Convers., fo. 42. The liar neuer is beleued, although an oath he take. 1645: Howell, Letters, bk. i. § v. No. xi., It being one of the punishments... of a liar, not to be believ’d when he speaks truth. 1681:

in Somers Tracts, viii. 290 (1811), Do not be deceived by an old saying, That when one usually tells lies, he is not trusted when he speaks truth. 1820: Colton, Lacon, Pt. I. No. 553.

2. A liar is worse than a thief. 1630: Taylor (Water-Poet), Works, 2nd pagin., 123, But sure the proverbe is as true as briefe, A lyer’s ever worsen then a thiefe. 1639: Clarke, 150.


4. Liars should have good memories. [Verumque est illud, quod vulgo dictur, mendacem memorem esse oportere—Quintilian, Inslit. Orator, IV. ii. § 91.] c. 1531: Latimer, Works, ii. 312 (P.S.), You may learn how necessary it is for a liar to have a good memory. 1565: Calfhill, Answ. to Martial, 88 (P.S.), I see it is true... "a liar had need have a good remembrance." 1673: Marvell, in Works, iii. 367 (Grosart), There is one sort of men, for whose sake there is a common maxime establish’d, that there is an absolute necessity they should have good memories. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I., Here’s a pin for that lie; I’m sure liars had need of good memories.

5. Show me a liar and I’ll show you a thief. 1607: R. West, Court of Conscience, sig. Fr, He that will lie will steal. 1630: T. Adams, Works, 505. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus’ Collog., 178, It is sometimes for a man’s advantage to have pilfering hands; and the old proverb is a witness, that that is a vice that is cousin-german to yours of lying.

Lick honey, To. See Honey (7), (11), and (14).

Lick one’s cauf [call] over again, To. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 140, ... To do one’s work a second time. Lick one’s self whole again, To. 1670: Ray, 184.

Lick the mundle, To. See quotes. 1879: Jackson, Shropsh. Word-Book, 254, [To] lick the crame-mundle [=to live well].
To lick the crame-mundle= to live well, as in a dairy or farm-house [The "mundle" is a piece of wood used for stirring porridge, cream, etc.] 1917
Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 64 [as in 1883] Ibid, 4, That's th'lad as licked the mundle [curned favour]

Lid worthy of the kettle, A A correspondent of N & Q (12th ser., n 7) refers to the story of Crassus laughing at an ass eating thistles, instead of lettuce, finding that they mocked his mouth (whence the saying Similes habent labra lactucas—see Luke tops), and adds 'Jerome illustrates the story by another proverb, Patellæ dignum operculum,' a lid to match the kettle' 1540 Palsgrave, Acocolas, sig M2, He shall gyue a lykke or couer worthy for the lyttell panne 1586 L Evans Withals Dict Revised, sig G7, Like pot, lyke potlid 1611 Cotgrave, s.v. 'Couvercle,' Such pot, such pot-lid, like master like man 1653 Urquhart, Rabelais, Prol to bk 1, If perhaps he had met with as very fools as himself, (and as the proverb saies) a lid worthy of such a kettle 1732 Fuller, No 4276, Such a pot must have such a lid Lide [March] See quot 1639, in Berkeley MSS., iii 30 (1885), Lide pilles the hide meaninge that March punches the poare man's beast (Gloc.)

Lidford See Lydford

Lie, subs 1 A lie begets a lie 1732 Fuller, No 262, A lyke begets a lye, till they come to generations 2 A lie has no legs 1666 Tornano, Piazza Univ., 30, A lye hath no feet 1732 Fuller, No 263 A lye has no leg, but a scandal has wings 1583 Trench, Proverbs, 120 (1905)

3 A lie made out of the whole stuff without foundation 1830 Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 427

4 A lie stands on one leg, and truth on two 1659 Howell, 10 (b)

5 His lies are lattice lies, and you may see through them 1830 Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 429

6 If a lie could have choked him, that would have done it 1678 Ray, 89

7 Lies have short wings (or legs) 1578 Florio, First Frutes, to 31, Lyes haue short legges 1611 Davies (of Hereford), Se of Folly, 43, in Works, n (Grosart), Lyes have short wings 1666 Tornano, Piazza Univ., 30, legs

8 Tell a lie and find out the truth 1678 Ray, 75 1732 Fuller, No 4324 9 That's a lie and a loud one 1678 Ray 89. That's a loud one 1879 Scott, Ivanhoe, ch xliii, "That's a lie, and a loud one," said the Friar

10 That's a lie with a latch 1678 Ray, 89 1732 Fuller, No 6157, [as in 1678, plus] All the dogs in the town cannot match it 1828 Carr Craven Dialect, p 283, Lee-with-a-latch A notorious lie 1849 Hallwell, Pop Rhymes and Nursery Tales, 182, "A lie with a latchet" as they say in the North, of a circumstantial self evident falsehood

11 That's a lie with a lid on 1680 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 99 1901 F E Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 28, That's a lie wi a lid on—'an' a brass handle for t' lift it wi

12 Though a lie be well a dre [sic] it is ever overcome 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentim

13 To tell a man a lie, and give him a reason for it 1678 Ray, 257

Lie, verb To tell a falsehood 1 He'll not let anybody lie by him=He is a liar 1678 Ray, 89

2 Thou'll lie all manner of colours but blue, and that is gone to the letting it g dyeing Ibid, 75

3 To lie as fast as a dog can lick a dish 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vi, She will he as fast as a dogge will lick a dishe 1670 Ray, 154

4 To lie as fast as a dog (or horse) will trot 1530 Palsgrave, 610 He wyll lye as fast as a dogge wyll trotte 1589 Hay any Worke for Cooper, 65 (1845), Thou canst cog, face and lye, as fast as a dog can trot 1607 Dekker, etc., Westw Hoe, IV 1 [dog] 1694 Mottewx, Rabelais, bk v ch xxx [dog] 1737 Ray, 70 [dog] 1845

J Petheram, Note to 1589 quotation, p 83, "To lie as fast as a dog can
trot” is still in use in Somersethshire.
1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xii. [horse].
5. You licked not your lips since you lied last. 1732: Fuller, No. 5931.
See also Swear (3) and (4).
Lie, verb. To be in a recumbent position. He lies bare of a suit= He has no money. 1830: Forby, Vocab. E. Anglia, 434. 1872: J. Glyde, jr., Norfolk Garland, 150.
2 He that lies long abed, his estate feels it. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1763: Murphy, Citizen, I ii., He that lies in bed, his estate feels it.
3 He that lies on the ground can fall no lower. 1570: A. Barclay, Mirror of Good Manners, 46 (Spens S.). A man on grounde resting can not much lower fall. 1648: Wither, Single St Quis, r (Spens S.). He that is prostrate on the floor, Lies there, whence he can fall no lower. 1732: Fuller, No. 2217.
5. She lies backward and lets out her fore-rooms. 1639: Conceits, Clinches, etc., No. 278. One asked a gentlewoman in which part of the house she did use to lye. It was answer’d, that she lay backwards and did let out her fore-rooms. 1694: Motteux, Rabelais, bk. iv. ch. lxiv. 1785: Grose, Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue, s.v. “Rooms,” She lets out her fore-room and lies backwards, saying of a woman suspected of prostitution.
7. To lie in bed and forecast. 1678: Ray, 75.
8. To lie like a lapwing. 1606: Sir Giles Goosecappe, I. i., As fearfall as a haire, and will lye like a lapwing.
9 We shall lie all alike in our graves 1639: Clarke, 13. 1670: Ray, 56. 1732: Fuller, No. 5455
2 Life is a shuttle. 1855: Bohn, 442.
3. Life is half spent before we know what it is. 1600: Cornwallis, Essays, sig. B3 (1610). We begin not to lye before we are ready to die. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum, 1670: Ray, 16. 1732: Fuller, No. 3208.
4. Life is sweet. c. 1350: Patience, l. 156, in Allit. Poems, 96 (E.E.T.S., For be monnes lode neuer so luther, the lyle is ay sweete. c. 1390: Gower, Conf. Amanis, v. 1861, Bot nou our feerfull prelat seith “The lile is swete.” c. 1440: York Plays, 65 (L. T. Smith), A! dere fadir lyf is full swete. 1576: Pettie, Petite Pall, ii. 45 (Gollancz), Life is sweet to every one. 1664: Dryden, Kval Ladies, IV. iii., Well, life is sweet. 1743: Fielding, Jon. Wild, bk. iv. ch. xiii., All this is very true; but life is sweet for all that. 1851: Borrow, Lavengo, i. 325, Life is sweet, brother.
5. Life lies not in living but in liking. 1639: Clarke, 322. 1670: Ray, 173 1732: Fuller, No. 3209 [with “by” for “but in,” misprint].
6. Life without a friend is death without a witness. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum 1670: Ray, 10 [with “with” for second “without”]. 1732: Fuller, No. 3211, Life without a friend is death with a vengeance.
7. Life would be too smooth if it had no rubs in it. Ibid., No 3212.
8. The life of man is a winter way.
1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentium* 1670
Ray, 16, The life of man is a winters day and a winters way 1644 D Ur-
fey, *Quixote*, Pt I Act V sc ii [as in 1670] 1732 Fuller, No 6239 [as in 1670]
9 What is life where living is extinct? 1546 Heywood *Proverbs*, Pt II ch xv
1633 Drake, 160 [with wanting for "extinct"]
10 While there is life there is hope 1707 Cibber, *Double Gallant*, V ii 1761
Murphy, *Old Maid*, II 1888 RLS Black Arrow, bk iv ch ii, But while there
is life, Joanna, there is hope!
Lifeless that is faultless, He is 1546
Heywood *Proverbs*, Pt I ch xi 1681
W Robertson, *Phraestol Generals*, 825
1732 Fuller, No 1522 1869 Spur-
geon, *John Ploughman*, ch v, The old
saying is, "Lifeless faultless"

**Light**

See *Sore eyes*

Light as a feather 1548 Hall, *Chron.*, 474 (1809) 1567 Golding, *Otid*, bk iv 1 765, Now here, now there, as light as any feather 1629
Shirley, *Wedding*, II ii, Light as a feather, hangung will neer kill you
1778 Johnson, *Letters*, ii 73 (Hill), I hope we will soon shake off the black
dog, and come home as light as a feather 1813 Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, ch xl 1906 Doyle, Sir
*Nigel*, ch ix

Light as a fly 1670 Ray, 206
Light as a kex 1562 Heywood, *Epigr.*, 1st Hund, No 47, Ye make my heart light as a kyx
Light as leaf See *Lind*
Light as the Queen's gown 1639
Clarke, 159

Light beginning, a heavy ending, A 1593 G Harvey, *Works* ii 196 (Grosart)
Light burden far heavy 1546 Hey-
wood *Proverbs*, Pt II ch ix, A sir
light burdens far heavy (quotus she)

1594 Drayton, *Ideas, liv*., (Saith he)
Light burdens heavy, if far home 1670 Ray, 114
Light cheap letter yield c 1320 in
*Relig. Antiquae*, i 114 (1841), "Light
cheap withere yeldes", Quoth Hendyng
*1400 Townley Mys*, xi 171
1670 Ray, 114 Cf Good cheap
Light come See *Lightly*

Light fare begets light dreams 1851
Borrow, *Lavengro*, ii 77 Cf Light
suppers

Light gains make heavy purses 1546
Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch xi 1597
Bacon, *Essays* "Ceremonies, etc" 1605 Chapman, etc, *Eastw Hoe*, I i
1685 Aubrey, *Nat Hist. Wirts*, 95
(1847), Perhaps they did not consider
the proverb, that "light gains with
quicks returnes make heavy purses"
1754 Berthelson, *Eng-Dansen Dict*, s.v. "Light"

Light hand makes a heavy wound, A 1602-3 Manningham, *Diary*, 52 (Cam
den S)

Light heart See quotes 1733 C Coffey, *Boarding-School*, sc i, A light
heart and thin pair of breeches, Go thro' the world brave boys c 1742
*Merry Companion*, 175 [as in 1733]
1748 Smollett, *Rod Random*, ch v [as in 1733] 1778 in Doran's *Lady
of Last Century*, 243 (1873), He will be in better spirits as a light heart and a
thin pair of breeches as a conjunction he
has little notion of

Light heeded mother makes a heavy
heeded daughter, A 1670 Ray, 53
1732 Fuller, No 3214 [in the plural]
Light load See *Light burden*

Light love will change 1575 G Fenton, *Golden Epistles*, 321 (1582),
Light love is an affection great and
vexement, and yet lasteth not long
1576 *Parad of Dainty Devices*, in *Bril
Bithog.* ii 63 (1812), Light love will
change

Light purse is a heavy curse, A 1732
Fuller, No 6493

Light purse makes a heavy heart, A 1600 G Thynne *Embl and Epigr.* 59
(*E.L.T.S.*) 1716 E Ward, *Female
Policy*, 36, When thy purse is light,
then will thy heart be heavy 1732
Fuller, No. 241. 1880: Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 12.


Lightening before death, A. 1588 Cogan, Haven of Health, 135 (1612), Whereof is grown a Latin proverbe, Cynegna cantio, which among the common people is termed, a lightening before death. 1592: Shakespeare, Romeo, V. iii. 1641: R. Brome, Joviall Crew, V. 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, vui 65 (1785), Her late tranquility and freedom from pain seemed but a lightening, as Mrs. Lovick and Mrs Smith call it 1647: Halliwell, Dict., s. v. . . . a proverbial phrase, alluding to the resurrection of the spirits which frequently occurs before dissolution. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 31, He'd a bit of a leetin' like afore he dee'd.


Lightly gained quickly lost. c. 1580: Fulwell, Ars Adulandi, sig. E2, Experience taught me that easily wonne was lightly loste. 1583: Greene, Works, ii. 25 (Grosart), He wil judge that is lightly to bee gained, is as quickly lost. 1808: Besant, Orange Girl, II. iv. (O), Lightly got, lightly spent.

Lightning. 1. Forked lightning at night, The next day clear and bright. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 119.

2. Lightning brings heat. Ibid., 117.


4. When caught by the tempest, wherever it be, If it lightens and thunders beware of a tree! 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 19 (Percy S.).

Like a cat. See Cat.

Like a feather on a hill, He's. Glos.

Applied to an inconstant man. 1639: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 26 (1885).

Like a fiddler's elbow. See Fiddler (6).

Like a horse in a mill. c. 1540: J. Heywood, Wit and Folly, 22 (Percy S.), Evin lyke the myll hors, they be whyppyd amayne. 1607: Dekker, etc., Northw. Hoe, I. iii., I that like a horse Ran blind-fold in a mill, all in one circle. 1654: Whittlock, Zootomia, 432, Carefull men, like horses in a mill, run round in a competency. 1720: Stukeley, Memoirs, iii. 461 (Surtees S.), The same circle must be observed every day of one's life, like a horse in a mill. 1825: Lamb, Superann. Man, par. 11, Like horses in a mill, drudging on in the same eternal round. 1839: Dickens, Nichleby, ch. lxiv., I am perpetually turning, like a demd old horse in a demnition mill

Like a house on fire = rapidly. 1577: Dickens, Dorrit, bk. ii. ch. xxxiv., I assure you he is making out his case like a house a-fire.

Like a loader's horse, that lives among thieves. Somerset. 1678: Ray, 350. 1732: Fuller, No. 3223.


Like a silver pin. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xviii., They are like a silver pin, Fair without but foul within.

Like a thrieeapenny chick in a wheaten arish [stumble]. Corn. 1895: Jos Thomas, Randigal Rhymes, 60.

Like a young bear with all your sorrows to come. 1870: in N. & Q., 4th ser., vi. 321.

Like as one egg to another. [Tam similem quam lacte lacti est.—Plautus, Mid. Glor., II. ii. 85.] 1542: Becon, Early Works, 90 (P.S.), Our houses . . . are so like one to another, that ye can less discern an egg from an egg . . . as they say. 1654: Gayton, Pleasant
Like
Notes Don Q 23 Not eggs to eggs are liker 1738 Swift Polite Comers, Dial III c 1783 in Roxb Ballads, vn 94 (B S). Like as two peas [αὐτόν εἶχον ὁικία —Herodas, vi 60] 1580 Llyl, Euhnes, 215 (Arber), Who was as lyke as one pease is to an other c 1680 in Roxb Ballads vn 77 (B S), And will be as like her as one pease’s like another 1725 Bailey, tr Erasmus’ Collog., 40 1846 Planche, Extravag 139 (1879), They are as like each other as two peas! 1884 R L S and Henley Adam Gunea, II vi 1925 E Lyttelton, Memories and Hopes 322, He and his twin brother were as like as two peas Like author like book 1670 Ray, 15 Like Benjamin’s mess 1628 Earle, Microcos, 124 (1811) His talk at the table is like Benjamin’s mess, five times to his part Like blood, like goods, and like age, make the happiest marriage 1639 Clarke, 28 1681 W Robertson Phraseol Generals, 266 1732 Fuller, No 6284 Like carpenter See Such carpenter Like carver like cook 1673 Vinegar and Mustard, 23, in Hindley, Old Book Coll. Miscell., 111 Like cow like calf 1573 Bullem, Dialogue, 21 (E E T S.), Her sonne is like the mother as seemeth by one in the house, like cow like calf Like crow like egg 1536 Latumer, Sermons, 42 (F S), Ye know this is a proverb much used ’ An evil crow an evil egg” 1611 Cotgrave, s v “ Corbeau Of an ill bird, an ill brood 1655 T Muffett, Healths Improvement, 135, As the Greek proverb saith, Like crow, like egg Like cup See Such cup Like father like son 1377 Langland, Plamman, B, 11 28, Qualis pater, talis filius 1509, Barclay, Ship of Foods, 1 236 (1874), An olde proverbe hath longe agone be sayde That off the sone m maners lyke will be Vnto the father 1605 Camden, Remains 331 (1870), Such a father, such a son 1721 Bailey Eng Dict, s v “ Father” 1860 Reade, Cl and Hearth, ch lxxix 1907 De Morgan Alice-for-Short, ch xxx, ’’Like father, like son’—so people say,’’ says Alice Like fault like punishment 1542 Becon, Early Works, 243 (P S) [cited as ’the common proverb’] Like host like guest 1540 Palsgrave, Acolasatus, sig M2, Such a geste, such an hoste 1560 L Evans, Wuthals Diet Revised, sig H2, Lyke hoste, lyke guest c 1613 Rowlands, Pyne of Spy-Knaues, 21 (Hunt Cl), Such oast, such ghost, the proverbe says 1654 Gayton Pleasant Notes Don Q, 9, Like guest like landlord Like it or jump it 1880 Courteny, W Cornwall Words, 36 (E D S), If you don’t like it you must jump it 1601 F E Taylor, Lancs Sayings, 20, They con like it or jump it, as beggars done pot-bo’ Like John Gray’s bird See John Gray Like lips like lettuce [Summell habent labra lactuca (a saying of M Crassus when he saw an ass eating thistles) — Hieronymus, Ep. vii 5] 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vii, Suche lips,such lettuce 1587 Greene Works, 60 (Grosart), As you said before, like lips like lettuce, as the man is so is his manners 1634 Massinger, Guardian II iii, There’s other lettuce For your coarse lips 1631 W Robertson, Phraseol Generals, 330 1732 Fuller, No 3231 1853 Trench, Proverbs, 21 (1609), In the proverb you will find it [alliteration] of continual recurrence Thus Like lips, like lettuce Like lord like chaplain c 1540 Bale, Kynee Johan, 73 (Camden S) Like lord, lyke chapayne, neyther harrell better herynge Like master like man [Plane qualis dominus tals et servus—Petr, 58] c 1390 Gower, Conf Amanis, 2421, Such capitam such retenue 1568 Fulwell, Like will to Like, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, 330 Like master, like man 1584 Lyly, Sapho and Phao, II ii 1641 Marmion, Antiquary, IV 1750 Smollett, Gil Blas, iii 189, Scipio, on his side, (for it was like master, like man) I ept
Like

Like

table also, in the buttery. 1830: Marryat, King's Own, ch. xix., She call me d—d nigger, and say like massa like man. 1855: Gaskell, North and South, ch. xv., What the master is, that will the men be, without overmuch taking thought on his part. See also Trim-tram.

Like me, God bless the example. 1670: Ray, 184.


Like mother like daughter. 1309: Barclay, Ship of Fools, i 236 (1874), An olde proverbe hath long agoe be sayde That off, the mayde or daughter, vnto the mother wyll agre. 1611: Bible, Ezek. xvi. 44, Every one that useth proverbs shall use this proverbe against thee, saying, As is the mother, so is her daughter. 1860: Reade, Cl. and Heath, ch. xlviii.

Like priest like people. 1382: Wiclif, Bible, Hos. iv. 9, As the peole so the prest. 1589: Nashe, Works, i. 121 (Grosart), Like people, like priest begins now to be verified. 1611: Bible, Hos. iv. 9, Like people, like priest. 1681: Yarranton, Eng. Improvement, Pt. II. 183, In most places, it is at this day, like parson, like people 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' Colloq., 246, Like people, like priest.

Like punishment and equal pain, both key and key-hole do sustain. 1639: Clarke, 239. 1670: Ray, 135.

Like saint. See Such saint.

Like the boose. To. See quot. 1877: E. Leigh, Cheshire Gloss., 170, When men or women marry for fortune they are said . . . "To like the boose [stall for cattle] but not the ring-stake," i.e. they like the plenty round but fret at the confinement and chains, with which plenty has been purchased. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 140.

Like the Irishman's pig. See quot. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 5, He's like th' Oirschmon's pig—he'll noather leed nor droive.

Like the old woman's dish-cloth, looks better dry than wet. Oxfordsh. 1913: Folk-Lore, xxiv. 76.

Like to one as if spit out of his mouth. c. 1400: Beryn, l. 3232 (E.E.T.S.), Behold thy sone! it semeth crope out of thy movith. 1602: Breton, in Works, ii. g8 (Grosart), The one as like an owle, the other as like an urchin, as if they had beene spitethod out of the mouths of them. 1616: Haughton, Englishm. for my Money, IV. i., Now look I as like the Dutchman as if I were spit out of his mouth. 1668: Dryden, Sir Martin Mar-all, V. i. 1703: Centlivre, Stolen Heirest, III. iv. 1738: Swift, Politie Convers., Dial. III. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, ii. 155, "That barn's as like his fadder, as an he'd been spit out of his mouth," i.e. he very much resembles him. 1887: Parish and Shaw, Dict. Kent. Dialect, 158 (E.D.S.), Spat A double or counterfeit. "He's the very spit of his brother."

Like water. See Duck (6).

Like will to like—with varied additions. [Pares autem vetere proverbio cum paribus facillime congruentur.—Cicero, De Senect., 7.] c. 1375: Sc. Leg. Saints, i. 543 (Petrus O.), Lyk to lyk accordis wele. c. 1430: Lydgate, Churl and Bird, st. 38, Eche thinge draweth to his semblable. c 1460: Prov. of Good Counsel, in E.E.T.S., Ext. Ser., No. 8, p. 70, As for this proverbe dothe the specify, "lyke wyll to lyke in eche company." 1509: Barclay, Ship of Fools, ii. 35 (1874), For it is a proverbe, and an olde sayde sawe That in every place lyke to lyke wyll drawe. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch iv. 1568: Fulwell, Like will to Like [title]. 1580: Baret, Alwaree, A 589, Lyke will to lyke, quoth the deuill to the collier. 1614: B. Rich, Honestie of This Age, 48 (Percy S.) [as in 1580]. 1664: Poor Robin Alman. Prognost., sig. C5 [as in 1580] 1670: Ray, 15, Lyke to like, and Nan for Nicholas 1679: A. Behn, Feign'd Curtezans, V. i. [as in 1580]. 1732: Fuller, No. 3239 [as in 1670]; and No. 3240 [as in 1580].
Like wood like arrows 1633 Draxe.

Lion See Devil (5)

Lincoln, As loud as Tom of 1662 Fuller, Worthies, ii 267 (1840) 1790 Grose Prob Gloss, s v "Lincs".

Lincoln shall be hanged for London's sake c 1502 Sir T More, 21 (Malone S.), This the olde proverbe now compleat dooth make that Lincolne should be hanged for Londons sake

Lincoln was, London is, and York shall be 1603 Dekker, Wond Year, in Works, i 201 (Grosart) [cited as

'that worme-eaten proverbe '"] 1662 Fuller, Worthies, ii 413 (1840) 1700

J Brome, Travels, 148, Lincoln was, and London is, And York shall be, The fairest city of the three 1724 Stukeley, Hist Cur., 85 [as in 1700] 1725 Defoe, Tour, ii 140 [as in 1803] 1865 W White East Englands, ii 45 [as in 1700]

Lincolnshire See Cheshire (6)

Lincolnshire bagpipes c 1590 Three Lords, etc, in Hazlitt Old Plays, vi 393. The sweet ballad of the Lincolnshire bagpipes 1568 Shakespeare, i Henry IV, 1.1, I am as melancholy as the drone of a Lincolnshire bagpipe 1622 Drayton, Polyol, xxviii, And bells and bagpipes next, belong to Lincolnshire 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Lincs," Lincolnshire bagpipes

Lincolnshire where the hogs sh—soap, and the cows fire 1659 Howell, 21 1670 Ray, 236 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Lincs." 1889 Peacock, Manley, etc, Gloss, 324 (L D S)

Lincoln's Inn See Gray's Inn

Lind [Linden or Lino-tree], As light as leaf on c 1370 in Ritson, Songs and Ballads, 55 (Hazlitt), And let is lyht on lynde 1377 Langland, Plowman, B.1 254, Was neuer leef vpon lynde lighter ther—after c 1386 Chaucer, Clerk's Tale, 1 2255, 2457 in Relig antiques, ii 70 (1843), Be ay of chere as lighte as lefe on lynde 1520 in Ballads from M S, 1 450 (B S), As lyght as lefe on lynde

Lindholme See Hatfield

Line to the wall, Bring your, not the wall to the line 1732 Fuller, No 1021

Lingered love breeds mislike 1593

Pass More, 87 (N Sh S)

Lion A lion among sheep and a sheep among lions 1589 Puttenham, Eng Poetes, 299 (Arber), As the proverbe goeth a lyon, etc

2 A lion may be beholden to a mouse 1639 Fuller, Holy War, bk iii ch vii, As the fable telleth us the mouse [may] befrend the lion 1732 Fuller, No 264, A lion may come to be beholding to a mouse

3 A lion's skin is never cheap 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Lion," A lyons skynne
was never bought good cheape. 1670: Ray, 16. 1732: Fuller, No. 4643.

4. Destroy the lion while he is yet but a whelp. Ibid., No. 173. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. i. You know it is best to kill the lion while it is a cub.

5. Even the lion must defend itself against flies. 1924: Sphere, 27 Sept., p. 386, col. 2.

6. He is a lion in a good cause. 1732: Fuller, No. 1907.

7. (a) If the lion's skin cannot do it, the fox's shall, or (b) To patch a fox's tail to a lion's skin =to supplement strength by craft. 1605: Camden, Remains, 326 (1870) [(a)]. Before 1634. Chapman, Alphonsus, i. i. And where the lion's hide is thin and scant, I'll firmly patch it with the fox's fell. 1645: Howell, Letters, bk. i. § 1, No. xlii. [(b)]. 1664: J. Wilson, Andron. Commentins, IV. iv. Craft, where strength doth fail, And piece the lion with the fox's tail! 1670: Ray, 184 [(a)]. 1736: Bailey, Dict. s.v. "Lion." If the lion's skin cannot the fox's shall.

1745: Agreeable Companion, 182. The lion's skin too short, you know. Was lengthen'd by the fox's tail; And art supplies, where strength may fail. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Lion," [(b)].

8. If thy hand be in a lion's mouth, get it out as fast as thou canst. 1666: Cornish Comedy, V. My hand is in the lion's mouth; I must agree with him. 1732: Fuller, No. 2724. 1819: Scott, Ivanhoe, ch. xix., "Our heads are in the lion's mouth," said Wamba. "Get them out how we can."

9. It is a base thing to tear a dead lion's beard off. 1596: Shakespeare, King John, II. i. You are the hare of whom the proverb goes, Whose valour plucks dead lions by the beard. 1632: Randolph, Jealous Lovers, IV. iii., Do not, live hare, pull the dead lion's beard. 1656: R. Fletcher, Ex Oto Negotium, 95, Be afeard To pull a deceas'd lyon by the beard. 1732: Fuller, No. 2846.

10. Little birds may pick a dead lion. Ibid., No. 3250.

11. The lion is not so fierce as he is painted. 1633: Drake, 64 [with "furious" for "fierce"]). 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1670: Ray, 114 [with "half" before "so"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 4642 [as in 1670].

12. To see the lions. Originally the lions in the Tower of London, and, by extension, sights generally. 1590: Greene, Works, viii. 68 (Grosart). This country Francesco was no other but a meere nounce, and that so newly, that to use the old proverbe, he had scarce seene the lions. 1595: Marocus Exoticus, 8 (Percy S.). Indeed those be the young men that never sawe the lions. 1765: Mrs. Cibber, in Garrick Corresp., i. 200 (1831). This is not the right season of the year to show the lions. 1785: Grose, Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue, s.v. "Lion." To shew the lions and tombs, to point out the particular curiosities of any place. 1843: Dickens, Letters, iii. 46 (1882). He has been in London too, and seeing all the lions under my escort.

13. Wake not a sleeping lion. 1580: Sidney, Arcadia, bk. iv. 426 (1893). Dametas, thinking it not good to awake a sleeping lion. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Esveiller." To awake the sleeping lion (say we). 1693: Urquhart, Rabelais, bk. iii. ch. xiv., As when we say proverbially to incense horns, to move a stinking puddle, and to awake a sleeping lion.

See also Better be the head; Dog (40) and (83); Fly (6); Hare (2); Lamb (1); Living dog; and Waking dog.

Lip-honour costs little, yet may bring in much. 1659: Howell, Proverbs: Ital.-Eng., 13. The honor one doth with the mouth avails much and costs little 1732: Fuller, No. 3245.

Lip-wisdom that wants experience, All is but. 1580: Sidney, Arcadia, bk. i. 92 (1893). 1647: Countryr. New Commonwealth, 22. 1732: Fuller, No. 522.

land a proverb, “Little and little make muckle,” which appears again under the shape, “By little and little the bird makes his nest.”

Little and little, By, the poor whose sinks her barn 1678 Ray, 170
Little and often fills the purse 1666
Torrano, Piazza Univ, 211 1685
L'Estrange, Observer, m No 2, But a little and often is a good rule 1732
Fuller No 3249

Little barrel can give but a little meal,
A 1732 Fuller, No 243

Little betwixt right and wrong 1659
Howell, Proverbs Brit-Eng, 38

Little Billing See All the world

Little bird is content with a little nest,
A 1633 Drake 115 For a little bird, a little nest 1732 Fuller, No 244

Little body doth often harbour a great soul,
A 1661 Cotgrave, s v “Lievre,”
A little bush may hold a great hare, a little body a great heart 1670 Ray, 16 1732 Fuller, No 3252, Little bodies have commonly great souls 1875 A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 9, Little bodies have large souls

Little, By the, is known the much
1541 Sch House of Women, I 846, in Hazlitt, Early Pop Poetry, iv 138

Little cannot be great unless he devour many, The 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1670 Ray, 16

Little cattle little care 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 92

Cf Little goods

Little debt makes a debtor, but a great
one an enemy, A 1732 Fuller, No 245

Little dogs See Hare (7)

Little drops See Constant dropping

Little end of the horn Pictures of the “horn of suretyship” used to be common— I had the horn of suretyship ever before my eyes You all know the device of the horn where the young fellow slips in at the butt-end and comes squeezed out at the buckall”—1605 Jonson, etc., Easton Hoe, I 1 See also 1624 B & F, Wife for a Month, III 11 The horn also represented prison—the wide mouth indicating ease of entrance, the small opening at the other end indicating difficulty of exit Larwood and Hotten, in Hist of Signboards 339 (1867),

Lips 370

1681 W Robertson, Phrased Gener-
als, 621, A born fool, his lips hang in’s
light

Lips however rosy must be fed 1875
A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore 29

Liquorish See quot 1668 Davenant, Man’s the Master, IV, That baggage carres her purse in her bosom, and, according to the Northern proverb, is as liquorish at a penny as at a possent

Liquorish tongue, A, a lecherous tail c 1386 Chaucer Wife of Bath’s Pro.
1 466, A likerous mouth moste han a likerous tail 1560 T Wilson, Rhetori-
que 119 (1909), Likenish of tongue, light of tale 1670 Ray 16 1717 Pope, Wife of Bath, 1 218, A liquerous mouth must have a lecherous tail 1732

Fuller, No 3205

Liquorish tongue is the purses canker,
A 1678 Ray, 159

Lispering lass is good to kiss, A 1638
Ford, Lady’s Trial, IV 11, No, sweet madam, Your lips are destined to a
better use Or else the proverb failes of lisping maids 1737 Ray, 273 1917

Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 4

Listeners hear no good of themselves
1678 Ray, 75 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, v 116 (1785), The event
justified the old observation, that
listeners seldom hear good of themselves 1822 Scott, Nigel, ch xxxiv, They
say that hearkeners hear ill tales of
themselves 1857 Borrow, Rom Rye, ch xi

Lith and selith See Ease and success

Lith as lass of Kent 1579 Spenser,
Shep Cal Feb, His dewelap as lythe
as lasse of Kent 1735 Pegge, Kent
Proverbs, in EDS, No xz, p 61.

Lythe as lass of Kent, 16e gentle,
lithsome, etc.

Luther See Lazy man’s guse, and
Long as he is lither

Luther look See Wanton look

Little and good fills the trencher
1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1666

Torrano, Piazza Univ 211 1670 Ray, 16 [with ‘ which is “for and”]

Little and little See Cat (35)

Little and little, By, the bird makes
his nest 1846 T Wright, Essays on
Middle Ages, I 130, We have in Eng-
say: "Among the Roxburghe Ballads (ii. 138) there is one entitled 'The Extravagant Youth, or an Emblem of Prodigality,' with a woodcut representing a youth jumping into the mouth of a large horn. On one side stands the father, seemingly in distress; on the other is a mad-house, with the sign of The Pool, two of the inmates looking out from behind the bars. The extravagant youth... says:

But now all my glory is clearly decay'd,
And into the horn myself have betray'd

All comforts now from us are flown,
My father in Bedlam makes his moan,
And I in the Counter a prisoner born:
This horn is a figure by which it is known

1639-61: in Rump Songs, Pt. I., 127 (1662, repr. 1874). So that a poor delinquent fleec'd and torn Seems like a man that's creeping through a horn, Finds a smooth entrance, wide, and fit, but when Hec's squeeze'd and forc'd up through the smaller end, He looks as gaunt and pin'd, as he that spent A tedious twelve years in an eager Lent. 1887: J. Eliot Hodgkin, in N. & Q., 7th ser., iv. 323, "Coming out of the little end of the horn." This expression... I first heard it used many years ago by a Warwickshire man.


Little fellow, He's a; but every bit of that little is bad. 1732: Fuller, No. 2441.

Little field. See Little house.

Little finger. See quot. [Cuius pluris erot unguis, quam tu totus es.—Petr, 57.] 1618: B. Holyday, Technogamia, i. iv., 'As more louve in's little finger, then both they in their whole bodies. 1670: Ray, 175, He hath more in's little finger, then thou in thy whole body. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II., She has more goodness in her little finger, than he has in his whole body.

Little fish are sweet. 1830: Forby, Vocab. E. Anglia, 434. 1872: J. Glyde, jr., Norfolk Garland, 149.

Little fishes slip through nets, but great fishes are taken. 1598: Meres, Palladis, fo. 246.

Little good is soon spent, A. 1605: Camden, Remains, 327 (1870) 1670: Ray, 116. 1732: Fuller, No. 3255. Little goods are soon spent.

Little good to stark naught, To come from. 1639: Clarke, 83. 1670: Ray, 178.


Little, He that hath, is the less dirty. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

Little house has a wide mouth, A. 1838: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 589.

Little house well filled. See quot. 16th cent.: in N. & Q., 4th ser., i. 10, A little grounde well tilled, A litel house well tilled, A litel wife well willed. Would make him live that werea halfe killed. c. 1582: G. Harvey, Marginalia, 200 (1913), A lytle house well filled: a lyttle land well tilled. 1670: Ray, 53, [as in 1582, plus] and a little wife well will'd. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II. [as in 1670]. 1880: Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 156 [as in 1670, but with "field" for "land"].

Little in the morning. See quot. 16th cent.: in Relig. Antiqua, i. 208 (1841), A little in the morning, nothing at noone, And a light supper doth make to live longe. 1619: Help unto Discourse, 125 (1640). A little in the morning is enough, enough at dinner is but a little; a little at night is too much.

Little John. See quot. 1605: Camden, Remains, 328 (1870), Many a man talks of Little John that never did him know.

Little journeys and good cost bring safe home. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.
Little kitchen makes a large house, A
\[\text{Ibid}\ 1666\ Torrano, Piazza Univ., 57\]
Little knocks Rive great blocks 1830
Forby, Vocab L Anghia, 430 1872
J Glyde, Jr., Norfolk Garland, 148
Little knows the fat sow See Sow (10)
Little labour, much health, A 1640
Herbert, Jac Prudentium
Little leak will sink a great ship, A
1642 Fuller, Holy State "Good Servant," Many little leaks may sink a
ship 1736 Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, 1 447 (Bigelow) [with small"
for "little"] 1875 A B Cheales,
Proverb Folk-Lore, 165 (a.s in 1736)
Little let (hurdance) lets an ill work-
man, A 1640 Herbert, Jac Pru-
dentium
Little London=Penrith 1846-59
Denham Tracts, 1 182 (F L S )
Little London beyond Wales=Beau-
mans 1670 Ray, 258
Little losses amase, great tame 1640
Herbert, Jac Prudentium
Little love and a little money, A
Before 1704 T Brown, in Works, 1
293 (1760) [cited as 'a good old years"
]["Little"
Little love, little trust Before 1500
Hill, Commonplace-Book, 47 (E E T S ),
An old said sawe "Wher is lytull
love ther is lytull tryste"
Little man See quot 1921 Times,
10 Sept., p 9 col 4 We are ready to
join in the general welcome [to C
Chaplin] "A little man may," as
the adage truly says, 'cast a great
shadow"
Little mead, little need Somerset A
mild winter hoped for after a bad
summer 1678 Ray, 352
Little meddling, Of, cometh great rest
(or ease) c 1380 Chaucer, Manuscrits
Tale I 350, That hitel jangling causeth
much of rest 1546 Heywood, Proverbs,
Pt II ch 11., reste 1590 Porter
Two Angry Women, in Hazlitt, Old
Plays, vu 337, rest 1669 Pol-
tephuma, 160, much rest 1694
D Urfey, Quivole, Pt I Act II sc ii,
 ease 1902 in N & Q, 9th ser
v 475, In chastising a child for undue
curiosity, with a view to unpress
the young mind with the truth of the
proverb that "of little meddling comes
great ease"
Little minds like weak hquors are
soonest soured 1855 Bohn, 444
Little mischief too much 1659
Howell, Proverbs Brit-Eng., 31
Little money little law & 1550 Parl
of Byrdes, 1 146, in Hazlitt, Early Pop
Poetry, in 174, Than sayde the Cornish
daw, Lytte money lyttle lawe
Little neglect may breed great mis-
chief, A 1736 Franklin, Way to
Wealth, in Works, 1 446 (Bigelow)
Little, Of a, a little 1611 Cotgrave,
sv "Petit," Of a little take a little, of
a muckle, muckle 1631 Mabbe, Celts
Tina, 212 (T T ), That common saying
of your little children Of a little, a
little, of much, nothing
Little of everything is nothing in the
man, A 1732 Fuller, No 247
Little pitchers have wide ears 1546
Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch v,
Auoyd your children small pitchers
have wide ears 1594 Shakespeare,
Rich III., II iv, Pitchers have ears
1617 Jonson, Vis of Delight [as in
1594] Before 1681 J Lacy, Sauny
the Scot, IV, I would have it private
Pitchers have ears, and I have many
servants 1721 Bailey, Eng Diet,
sv "Pitchfork" [with "great" for
"wide"] 1852 Dickens, Bleak House,
ch xxcv, Charley verified the adage
about little pitchers, I am sure, for she
heard of more sayings and doings, in a
day, than would have come to my ears
in a month 1914 Lucas, Landmarks,
ch iv, Certain crusted scraps of nursery
wisdom such as "Little Pitchers
have long ears" 1917 Bridge, Cheshire
Proverbs, 92, Little pigs have long ears
Little pot is soon hot, A 1546
Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi
1666 J Day, Ille of Gulls, II iv, Nay,
the I be but a little pot, I shall be as
soone hote as another 1659 Howell,
Letters, ii 665 (Jacobs) 1732 Fuller,
No 6173
Little rain See Rain, sub (3), (22)
Little said soon amended c 1555 in
Wright, Songs, etc., Philip and Mary,
31 (Roxb Cl), Therfor lyttlely sayd ys
sowne amended 1577 J Grange,
Golden Aphroditis, sig. Bl. 1603 : Dekker, Pat. Grissil, III. 1664 : in MUSE- 
rum Delicia, etc., ii. 162 (Hotten), Little or nothing said, soon mended is 1748 : 
Richardson, Clarissa, V. iii. (1785), I should be angry if I proceed in my 
guesses — and little said is soon amended. Cf. Least said.

Little saving is no sin, A. 1792. Wol- 
cot, Works, ii. 313 (1795) [cited as a 
proverb "that economic souls revere"]

Little spark. See Spark.

Little sticks kindle the fire, great ones 
put it out. 1303 : Brunne, Handelyng 
Synne, I. 12438, Thou seest stykkes 
that are smale, They brenne fyrst 
feyre. 1640 : Herbert, Jac Prudentum. 

Little stone may overturn a great 
wagon, A. c. 1375 : Barbour, Bruce, bk 
xi. l. 24, A littel stane, as men sayis, May 
get wettir ane mekill wane.

Little stream may quench thirst as 
well as a great river, A. 1732 : Fuller, 
No. 249.

Little stream will drive a light mill, A. 
1639 : Clarke, 88, A little stream serveth 
to drive a light milne. 1670 : Ray, 116 
1732 : Fuller, No. 250.

Little string will tie up a little bird, A. 
Ibid., No. 251.

Little strokes fell great oaks. 1539 : 
Taverner, Proverbs, fo. 26, Wyth many 
strokes is an oke ouerthrown. 1579 : 
Lyly, Euphues, 8i (Arber). Many 
strokes ouerthrow the tallest oke. 1607 : 
J. Day, Trav. of Three Eng. Brothers, 69 
(Bullen), By many strokes the tallest 
okes are shaken. 1736 : Franklin, Way 
to Wealth, in Works, i. 444 (Bigelow). 
c. 1800 : Trusler, Prov. in Verse, 83. 
1869 : Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. 
xxii., By little stroke Men fell great 
oaks.

Little thing, Of a, a little displeaseth. 
1640 : Herbert, Jac Prudentum.

Little things are good. 1666 : Tor- 
riano, Piazza Univ., 215. That which is 
good is ever little.

Little things are great to little men. 
1627 : Hone, Table-Book, 170.

Little things are pretty. 1539 : 
Taverner, Proverbs, fo. 50, Vnto lytle 
thynge is a certayne grace annexed.

1678 : Ray, 169 1754 : World, No. 65, 
Recollecting the proverb, that "every 
thing that is little is pretty."

Little things please little minds. 1584 : 
Lyly, Sapho and Phao, II. iv. [with " 
catch" for "please"]. 1880 : Spurge- 
con, Ploughman’s Pictures, 81.

Little tif, all tail. 1546 : Heywood, 
Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. x., Little titte 
til tayle, I haue heard er this. c. 1570 : 
G. Harvey, Marginalia, 139.

Little wealth. See Little goods.

Little wibble will let in the great 
anger, The. 1732 : Fuller, No. 4632.

Little wind kindles, much puts out the 
fire, A. 1586 : B. Young, tr. Guazzo’s 
Civil Coversers, fo. 193. 1640 : Herbert, 
Jac. Prudentum. 1732 : Fuller, No. 253.

Little wit in the head makes much 
work for the feet. 1555 : Bohn, 445. 
Cf. Head (17).

Little wit will serve a fortunate man, 
A. Ibid., 293.

Little wit, You have a, and it doth you 
good sometimes. 1670 : Ray, 30. 1732 : 
Fuller, No. 5911.

Little with honesty is better than a 
great deal with knavery, A. 1659 : 
London Chanticleers, sc. i., in Hazlitt, 
Old Plays, xii. 325 [cited as "that 
precise axiom"][d.

Little with quiet. See quotes. 1611 : 
Cograve, s.v. "Peu," A little with 
quietnesse is Gods owne gift. Ibid., s.v. 
"Paix," A little with peace is a great 
blessing. 1640 : Herbert, Jac. 
Prudentum, A little with quiet is the 
only diet.

Little Witham. Used in punning 
references to lack of wit. 1589 : Nashe, 
in Works, i. 192 (Grosart), I gave and 
bequeath . . . to each of them an 
advouson : To the former of small 
Witam : and to the other of little 
Brainford. 1595 : Pedlars Prophecy, 
I. 481 (Malone S), At Little Wytham 
seven years I went to schoole. 1662 : 
Fuller, Worthies, ii. 269. He was born 
at Little Witham. 1790 : Grose, Prov. 
Gloss., s.v. "Essex" and "Lincs" 
as in 1662]. 1818 : Scott, Heart of 
Midl., ch. xxxii., "Has she the capacity 
of taking care of herself?" "Why, 
your Reverence, . . . I cannot just say
that lives but one year, will sorrow for it seven years.

Little

Little wood will beat a little area. A little word will beat a little area. A little man will beat a little area.

Little wood will beat a little area. A little man will beat a little area.

Little wood will beat a little area. A little man will beat a little area.

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Little wood will beat a little area. A little man will beat a little area.

Little wood will beat a little area. A little man will beat a little area.

Little wood will beat a little area. A little man will beat a little area.
alwaies, let him turn priest. 1809: Pegge, Anonym., cent. ii. 19, "If you would live well for a week, kill a hog; if you would live well for a month, marry; if you would live well all your life, turn priest" [i.e. never marry]. This is an old proverb. 1827: Hone, Table-Book, 430 [as in 1809].

23. If you would not live to be old, you must be hanged when you are young. 1670: Ray, 126.

24. Live and learn. c. 1620: in Roxb. Ballads, i 80 (Hindley), A man may live and learn. 1663: Killigrew, Person’s Wedding, II iii. 1747. Garrick, Miss in her Teens, i. ii, I was innocent myself once, but live and learn is an old saying, and a true one. 1837: Dickens, Pickwick, ch xix. 1885: M. Twain, in Letters, 256 (ed. Painé), One lives and learns. I find it takes 7 binderies four months to bind 325,000 books. 1922: Weyman, Ovington’s Bank, ch. xix.


26. Live well. See Man (47).

27. Living upon trust is the way to pay double. 1732: Fuller, No. 3265

28. Living well is the best revenge. 1610: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.


30. One must live long to learn much. c. 1568: W. Wager, The longer thou livest, the more foolè thou art [title]. 1633: Drake, 58, The longer that one liueth, he more knoeweth. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 313.

31. She lives by love and lumps in corners. 1678: Ray, 75.

32. They live but ill who always think to live. 1600: Bodenham, Belvedere, 228 (Spens. S.). 1732: Fuller, No. 4971, They seldom live well, who think they shall live long.

33. They live not most at ease that have the world at will. 1577: J. Grange, Golden Aphroditis, sig. H2.

34. They that live longest must die at last. 1670: Ray, 116 1732: Fuller, No 4982.

35. They that live longest must go farthest for wood. 1639: Clarke, 190, He that lives longest most fetch his wood furthest. 1670: Ray, 116. 1732: Fuller, No. 4983.

36. They who live longest will see most. 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. lii., My mother was used to say that it was needful to live long to see much. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xx., But now they have left they say there’s a screw loose, and they who live longest will see most.

37. We can live without our friends, but not without our neighbours. 1732: Fuller, No. 5435.

38. We must live by the quick and not by the dead. 1578: Florio, First Frittes, fo. 34, Quicke with the quick and dead with the dead. 1605: T. Heywood, If You Know Not Me, in Dram. Works, i. 243 (1874) [quoted as "the old proverb"]. 1626: Overbury, Characters: "Sexton." 1694: Souttherne, Fatal Marriage, IV. i., We must live by the living, you know. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II. [with "living" for "quick "].

39. We shall live till we die. 1600: Dekker, Shoem. Hol., IV. iii., Hereof am I sure, I shall live till I die 1655: T. Muffett, Healths Improvement, 8, We shall live till we dye, in despit of diet. 1889: Jefferies, Hedgerow, 65 (W.). The old country proverb, "Ah, well, we shall live till we die if the pugs don’t eat us, and then we shall go acorning." 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lancs Sayings, 10, We shan o live till we dee’n—iv th’ dogs dunny worry us. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 149, We... die
if the pigs don’t eat us 
Cf Tanteria 
Bobus
40 Who lives well dies well 1506 Pysson, Cal of Shepherds, 169 (1892), He that leyneth well maye not dye 
ams 1537 R Wuttford, Werke for 
Householders sig G, 4, The moste sure 
way to dye well is well to lyne 1578 
Flomo, First Fruites, to 28 1639 
Clarke, 215. They die well that live 
well 1732 Fuller, No 1890 He hath 
lyd ill that knows not how to the well 

Lively as a cricket  See Merry 
Lively as a maggot 1883 Burne, 
Shropsh Folk-Lore, 505

Living dog is better than a dead lion, 
A 1382 Wicht, Bible Eccles iv 4 
(O), Betere is a quy dogge thanne a 
leoun dead 1558 When Queen Mary 
died one preacher of a funeral sermon 
comforted his audience on the virtues 
of her successor by observing that “a 
living dog was better than a dead 
lion”—see Johnson, Letters, n 437 
(Hill) 1607 Vansbrugh, Prov Wife, 
V 1708 Wolcot, Works, v 252 (1801) 
1855 Gaskell North and South, ch 
xlvi, “I like you twenty times better than 
Hamlet”’ “On the principle that 
a living ass is better than a dead lion” 
1909 Lucas, Wand in Paris ch xi 
1924 Phillpotts, Human Boy’s Diary, 
Term 3, 18 April, “True,” admitted 
Briggs “Better be a live ass than a 
dead lion” 

Lazar  See Better to be 
Lazar, The  See Rain, subs (27) 
Loaded  See Laden 

Loaf and loaves 1 He went in 
with the loaves and came out with the cakes— 
He is “half-baked” 1864 “Cornish 
Proverbs ’ in N & Q, 3rd ser, vi 494 
He is only half baked, put in with the 
bread and taken out with the 
ch D S ), Put in with the bread 
and pull out with the cakes 1917 
Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 70 
2 Set not your looin till the oven s 
hot 1732 Fuller, No 4110 
3 The loaves and fishes—of office 
1614 Bp Hall, Recoll Treat 954 (O) , 
If it were not for the loaves and fishes, 
the trame of Christ would bee lesse 
1789 Wolcot, Works, n 59 (1795), 
What pity ’tis, in this our goodly land, 
Amongst the apostolic band, So ill 
divided are the loaves and fishes 1816 
Scott, Old Mortality, ch xxvii, Thou 
art one of those that follow the Gospel 
for the loaves and for the fishes 1880 
Spurgeon, Ploughman’s Pictures, 122, 
They go to the church for the loaves, 
and then go over to the Baptist Chapel 
for the fishes 

See also Half a loaf 

Loan should come laughing home, A 
borrowed c 1300 Prov of Hedingy, 
st 25 (Berlin, 1878), Selde cometh lone 
lahynde hom 1732 Fuller, No 6314 
Lob’s pound Described by A H 
Bullen as “the thraldom of the hen-
pecked married man” also=a prison 
1595 Peele, Old Wives Tale, sig E, 
Lobb be your comfort, and cuckold bee 
your desterne 1612 Cornicopia, 64 
(Grosart), Thus is the woodcocke fall’n 
into the gin, And in Lobs-pound int-
tangled by a wile 1623 Massenger, 
Duke of Milan, III n 1671 Crowne, 
Juliana, I 1, And so there’s a heavy 
bustle, the Cardinal on one side, and 
the Princess on the t’other, and 
between ’um both he’s got into Lobb’s 
pound Before 1704 T Brown, Works, 
v 323 (1760), Instead of paradise, they 
have got into lob’s pound 1785 
Grose, Class Dict Vulgar Tongue, s v 
Lob’s pound, a prison 1823 Moot, 
Suffolk Words, 215, Lob’s-pound The 
bridwell 1866 J G Nall, Great 
Yarmouth, etc, 595 (as in 1823) 
Lobster  See Apple (5) 

Lock and key, To have under 
Before 1250 Owl and Nightingale, I 1557 (O) , 
He lute bi hulp myd keye and loke 
c 1390 Gower, Conf Amanis, bk v 
1 6621, Whiich under lock and under 
keo 
Hath al the Tresor 

c 1440 Lydgate, Fall of Princes, bk 1 
1 4886, The brand reseryuing vnnder lok 
and kee 1584 Robinson Handk 
Pleas Delights, 42 (Arber), Some are 
as sure as lock and key 1630 
Winne, 
Beere Ale, etc, 27 (Hanford, 1915), Art 
not thou kept vnnder locke and key, con 
finde to some corner of a cellar? 1693 
Dryden, Juvenal, Sat vi 1 464, Keep
close your women under lock and key. 1740: North, Examen, 112, There was a paper found under his lordship's lock and key in his closet. 1894: R. I. S., St. Ives, ch. xii., The great thing is to have me under lock and key. 1925: Bodleian Quart. Record, iv. 102, Books of the smaller sizes, which were kept under lock and key.

Lock, stock and barrel. 1817: Scott, in Lockhart's Life, iv. 102, She wants stock, lock, and barrel to put her into repair. 1914: H. A. Vachell, Quinney's, bk. ii. ch. xxiii. (i.), I'd sooner be ruined, lock, stock, and barrel, than give my daughter to that man!


Lombard Street to a china orange, All —with variants for the orange. 1752: Murphy, Gray's Inn Journal, No. xi., 30 Dec., I'll lay all Lombard-street to an egg-shell that it is true. 1819: Moore, Tom Cribb's Mem., 38, All Lombard Street to ninepence. 1826: G. Daniel, Sworn at Highgate, I. iv., I'd bet Lombard Street to a Brumma- gem sixpence. 1849: Lytton, Caxtons, Pt. IV. ch. iii., "It is Lombard Street to a China orange," quoth Uncle Jack. 1898: Sun., 7 June, Lombard Street to a china orange did not represent the odds against Horsford. 1918: Muirhead, Blue Guide to London, 375, Lombard Street, the proverbial wealth of which is indicated in the phrase "All . . . China orange." 1921: A. Dobson, Later Essays, i. ii, The eighteenth-century "All . . . China orange."

London. 1. A London jury; hang half and save half. Said also of Kentish and Middlesex juries—see quotes. 1608: Middleton, Trick to Catch Old One, IV. v., Thou that goest upon Middlesex juries, and wilt make haste to give up thy verdict, because thou wilt not lose thy dinner. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, ii. 340 (1840). 1732: Fuller, No. 231, A Kentish jury; hang half and save half. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "London."

2. London Beer. See Derby ale.


4 She hath been at London to call a streea a straw, and a waw a wall. Cheshire. 1670: Ray, 218. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Cheshire." 1913: E. M. Wright, Rustic Speech, etc., I, There is a very old proverb in Cheshire, applied to any one who goes out of the county for improvement, and returns without having gained much; such a one is said to have "been at London to learn to call a streea a straw." 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 108.

5. The Fire of London was a punishment for gluttony. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss, s.v. "London."

6. They agree like the clocks of London. 1589: Nashe, in Works, i. 111 (Grosart), The preachers of England begin to strike and agree like the clocks of England, that never meete jumpe on a point together. 1678: Ray, 325. 1823: D’Israeli, Cur. of Lit., 2nd ser., i. 469 (1824). It was probably some sarcastic Italian, and perhaps, horo- loger, who, to describe the disagreement of persons, proverb’d our nation—"They agree like the clocks of London!"

See also Country (3); Lincoln; Lord Mayor; Oxford (1) and (2); Ware; and Which way.

London Bridge was built upon wool-packs. c. 1685: Aubrey, Nat. Hist. Wilts, 96 (1847), There is a saying also that London-Bridge . . . 1708: Brit. Apollo, i. No. 43, col. 3, Is the receiv’d report of London-Bridge’s being founded upon wool, true? 1812: Brady, Clavis Cal., i. 194, The very
common [saying] "that London Bridge was built upon wool sacks" 1913 W Whitten, Londoner’s London, 308, The saying that the bridge is built upon wool-packs, refers to the impost on wool which helped to defray its cost.

London Bridge was made for wise men to go over and fools to go under. This refers to the danger incurred by boats in "shooting" the arches of the old bridge 1639 Clarke 249 1670 Ray, 16 1874 Smiles Lives of Engineers, II 64 1913 W Whitten, Londoner’s London 308

Londoner-like ask as much more as you will take 1678 Ray 349

Lone sheep See Sheep (15)

Long—Longdon Stafs 1883 Burne Shropsh Folk-Lore 583. The stoutest beggar that goes by the way, Can't beg through Long on a midsummer’s day.


Long and lazy 1591 Florio, Second Tracts, 189 If long, she is lazy, if little, she is lowde. If feare, she is sluttish, if foule, she is proud 1648 Herrick, Hesp., No 357, Long and lazy That was the proverb 1732 Fuller, No 3267

Long and slender, like a cat’s elbow Ibid., No 3268

Long and the short of it, The ‘The short and the long’ was common earlier than the now more usual form and is still used c 1330 Brunne, tr Langtoft’s Chron 1222 (Heorne) To say longly or sorteste, alle [that] armes bheare 1571 Edwards Damon, etc., in Hazlitt, Old Plays, iv 47. However this be, this is the short and long 1589 Nashe, in Works, i 185 (Grosart), This is the short and long and the somme of all 1599 Shakespeare Henry II, III, the breaf and the long 1622 Taylor (Water-Poet), in Works, 2nd pagin, 3 (1630) Here’s the long and short on’t 1676 Shadwell, Libertine, II, The short and the long on’t is 1681 W Robertson, Phrasesil Gener-

ass, 837, The long and the short of a business, Summae: 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, i 289 (1785). The short and the long was c 1760 Poete, Lane Lover, II, And that, Mr John, is the long and the short on’t 1838 Dickens, Twist, ch xx, "The short and the long of what you mean," said Nancy 1849 C Bronte, Shirley, ch 19, The short and the short of it is 1850 Dickens Chuzzlewit, ch xxviii, The long and the short of it is 1886 R LS Kidnapped, ch xviii, The short and the long of it is

Long as he is lither [lazy], If he were as, he might thatch a house without a ladder 1678 Ray, 257 1828 Cart Craven Dialect, i 294 1860 P H Emerson, Wild Life 72 You are as long as you are lazy 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 76

Long as I live, I’ll spit in my parlour, As 1732 Fuller, No 710

Long be thy legs, and short be thy life 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vii

Long beards heartless, etc See quot 1569 Puttenham, Eng Poesie, 184 (Arber), The cracking Scotts as the Cronicle reportes at a certaine time made this bald nme vpon the English man Long beards hartlesse, Painted hoods witlesse Gay coates gracelesse, Make all England thrillesse 1602–3 Manningham, Diary, 116 (Camden S) 1605 Camden, Remains, 211 (1870), As in the time of King Edward the third "Long beards"

Long-Compton See quot 1719 R Gale in Stukeley Mem., ii 155 (Surtees S), The country tradition joynyn in to thyme they all have—If Long Compton thou can’st see, Then King of England thou shalbe 1743 Stukeley, Abury, 83 [as in 1719] 1849 Hallwell Pop Rhymes and Nursery Tales, 193 [as in 1719]

Long-Crown See quot 1847 Hallwell Dict., s.v. ‘That caps Long-Crown and he capped the Devil’ a Lincolnshire saying in reference to a great falsehood.

Long day, Not a, but a good heart ris work 1611 Cotgrave, s.v. ‘Grand,”
Not long days, but strong hearts, dispatch a worke. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

Long day that never pay, They take a. 1678: Ray, 188.


Longer forenoon, the shorter afternoon, The. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xiii.

Longer lives a good fellow than a dear year. 1678: Ray, 170.

Longest day must have an end, The. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 250 (Arber). The longest summers day hath his evening. 1694: Southerne, Fatal Marriage, IV. ii. [with “will” for “must”]. 1732: Fuller, No. 4633.

Longest way round, nearest way home, The. 1635: Quarles, Emblems, bk. iv. No. ii., The next way home's the farthest way about. 1681: W. Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 1300, The farthest way about is the nearest way home. 1734: Fielding, Intrig. Chambermaid, i. i., The young fellow finds, though he go round about, It's only to come The nearest way home. 1776: Colman, Spleen, II., The longest way about is the shortest way home, you know.


Long harvest. See Harvest (7).

Long home = the grave. 1303: Brunne, Handlyng Synne, I. 9195, And thy trauyle shalt thou some ende, For to thy long home some shalt thou wende. c. 1400: Mirk's Festial, 295 (E.E.T.S.). Their also is a mete-yorde leyde be hym [the corpse] insteed of a staf, in tokening that he goth to hys long home. 1598: Servingmans Comfort, in Inedited Tracts, 128 (Hazlitt), Yet would I, at my owne charges, have seene him honestly brought foorth to his long home (as the saying is). 1611: Bible, Eccles. xii. 5. Before 1681: J. Lacy, Saunty the Scoll, V. 1762: Smollett, Sir L. Grevases, ch. iv., A fever, which, in a few days, brought Sir Everhard to his long home. 1843: Dickens, Chuzzlewit, ch. xxv., Playing at butterins down in the shop, and follerin' the order-book to its long home in the iron safe!

Longing than loathing, Better go away. 1732: Fuller, No. 942.

Long jesting was never good. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

Long journey, In a, straw weighs. Ibid.

Long lane and a fair wind, and always thy heels here away, A. 1678: Ray, 75.

Long lane that has no turning, It is a. 1670: Ray, 117, It's a long run that never turns. 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, iv. 237 (1785). 1774: C. Dibdin, Quaker, II iii. 1849: Lyttton, Caxtons, Pt. XVII. ch. i. 1880: A. Dobson, Old-world Idylls: "Dead Letter," II.

Long life hath long misery, 1611: Cotgrave, s v. "Vivre," The longer life the greater grieve. 1669: Politeuophysia, 203, A long life hath commonly long cares annexed with it. 1732: Fuller, No. 3270.

Long liveth. See Merry man.

Long looked for comes at last. c. 1483: Quatuor Sermones, 53 (Roxb. Cl.), A thyng that is long desired at the last it comyth. 1605: Armin, Foele upon Foele, 11 (Grosart), Though long looke for comes at last. 1658: in Musarum Delicia, etc., i. 261 (Hotten). 1740: Richardson, Pamela, i. 179 (1883). Here's a letter for you: long looked for is come at last.

Long spoon. See Devil (18).

Long standers. See quot. 1600: J. Day, Blind Beggar, IV. iii., 'Tis an old saying in our country [Norfolk], "Long standers are but short doers."

Long standing and small offering maketh poor parsons. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ix. 1659: Howell, 4 [with "poor" for "small" and "priests" for "parsons"].

Long time to know the world's pulse, There needs a. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1670: Ray, 30.
Long tongue is a sign of a short hand, A 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1670 Ray, 26 1880 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 28, A long tongue generally goes with a short hand Long-tongued wives go long with barn 1670 Ray, 49

Look, subs Looks breed love 1639 Clarke, 28

Look, 1. A man need not look in your mouth to know how old you are 1639 Clarke, 280 1670 Ray, 188

2 He looks as if he had eaten live birds 1868 Quril Remen xcvv 231 In modern parlance a person unwontedly animated is told he looks as if "he had eaten live birds".

3 He looks as if he had neither won nor lost 1590 Lodge, Rosalynde 120 (Hunt Cl), The shepheard stooed as though hee had neither wonne nor lost 1594 Greene, Friar Bacon, se xvi 1678 Ray, 257 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial 1, What's the matter? You look as if you had neither won nor lost 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, 1 299, He looks as an heed neyther won nor lost

4 He looks as if he had sold all and took nothing for it 1659 Howell, 13

5 He looks like a tooth-drawer, ie thin and meagre 1620 B & G, Philaster, 11 1, The outlandish prince looks like a toothdrawer 1678 Ray, 83

6 He looks not well to himself that looks not ever 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Garder," He looks not, that still looks not to himselfe 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

7 He looks one way and rows another 1583 Melbancie, Philomus, sig Pr, And so imitate the waterman, which looketh one way, and roweth another 1636 Dekker, Wond of a Kingdom, V 11, She has but us d you As watermen use their faires, for she loked one way And row'd another 1694 D'Urban, Quixote Pt II Act III sc 1, Like rowers we look one way—move another 1740 North, Examen, Pref, v, The opposers bore a false face, looking one way and rowing another 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch xviii

8 He that looks not before finds himself behind 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1670 Ray, 3 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v "Before"

9 Look before you leap 1528 Tynadle, Obad of Chryst Man, 304 (P S), "Look ere thou leap", whose literal sense is, "Do nothing suddenly, or without advisement" 1567 Painter, Pal of Pleasure, iii 53 (Jacobs), Accord ing to the common saying, He that looketh not before he leaseth, may chauce to stumble before he sleepeth 1621 Burton, Melancholy, II in 7, p 427 (1836) 1705 Steele, Tender Husband III 11, I love to look before I leap 1849 C Bronte, Shirley, ch ix, When you feel tempted to marry, think of our four sons and two daughters, and look twice before you leap 1920 Hudson, Dead Man's Plack, 41, Let me exercise caution and look before I leap to Look behind thee and consider what thou wast 1659 Howell, 21

10 Look high and fall low 1670 Ray, 13, Look high and fall into a cowturd 1732 Fuller, No 3272

11 Look like a runner See Devil (122)

12 Look not too high lest a chip fall in your eye 1584 Robinson, Hands, Pleas and Delights, 39 (Arber) 1666 D'Urfey, Quixote Pt III Act II sc ii 1732 Fuller, No 6316

13 Look on the wall and it will not bite you 1678 Ray, 83 ["spoken in jeer to such as are bitten with mustard"

—Ray, 65 (1737)]

14 Look to him, tailor, there's a frog in the stocks 1678 Ray, 72 1732 Fuller, No 3274

15 Look to as if he had eaten his bedstraw 1678 Ray, 286

16 To look as if he had eaten his bedstraw 1678 Ray, 286

17 To look as though he had sucked his dam through a hurdle 1670 Ray, 170 1732 Fuller, No 1071

18 To look both ways for Sunday 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, II 180 "He was born in the middle of the week, and looked both ways for Sunday" — a hurlesque expression for a person who squants 1854 Baker, Northants Gloss, s v "Sunday" [as in 1828] 1920 E Gepp, Essex Dialect Dict 35, The phrase " to look all ways for Sunday", 
Look

is used of a bewildered person failing to see the obvious. The similar phrase "to look two ways for Easter" is used in some parts. Cf. No. 24.

19. To look like a dog that hath lost his tail. 1678: Ray, 286.

20. To look like a drowned mouse. e. 1591: Shakespeare, i Henry VI., I ii., Or piteous they will look, like drowned mice. 1678: Ray, 286.

21. To look like a Jew. 1611: Coryat, Crudities, i. 372 (1905), Our English proverbe: To look like a Jew (whereby is meant sometimes a weather beaten wasp-faced fellow, sometimes a phren-ticke and lunaticke person, sometimes one discontented).


23. To look like the picture of ill luck. 1639: Clarke, 119. 1670: Ray, 206

24. To look nine ways. 1542: Udall, tr. Erasmus’ Apoph., 203 (1877). Squintyed he was, and looked nyne wayes. Before 1680: Butler, Remains, ii. 213 (1759), Which commonly is squint-ey’d, and looks nine ways at once. 1688: Crowne, City Politiques, I. i., He looks ten ways at once. 1696: D’Urfey, Quixote, Pt. III. Act III. sc. ii., I’ll make her look nine ways at once before I have done with her. Cf. No. 18.

25. To look through the fingers. 1532: Tyndale, Explo. Si. Mathew, 127 (P.S.), They either look through the fingers, or else give thee a flap with a fox-tail, for a little money. 1535: Coverdale, Bible, Lev. xx. 4. The people of the londe Locke thorowe the fyngers upon that man which hath geuen his sede vnto Moloch. 1583: Stubbes, Anat. of Abuses, 100 (N. Sh. S.), The magistrates wincke at it, or els, as looking thorowe their fingers, they see it, and will not see it. 1691: J. Wilson, Belphegor, III. i., Enough to make a modest woman look through her fingers.

26. To look to one’s water. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi., By my faith, you come to looke in my water. 1621: B. & F. Pilgrim, III. iv., Yes still I’ll watch his water, he shall pay for it. 1709: Manley, New Atlantis, i. 132 (1736), He would have watched his waters for him to some purpose. 1894: Northall, Folk Phrases, 31 (E.D.S.), To watch one’s waters = To keep an eye on a person; to follow his movements.

27. You look for hot water under the ice. 1732: Fuller, No. 5933.

28. You must look where it is not, as well as where it is. Ibid., No. 5964.

Lookers on see most of the game. [A]u infinit homines plus in alieno negotio videre quam in suò.—Seneca, Ep., cix. 16] 1597: Bacon, Essays: “Followers, etc.” To takeadvice of friends is ever honorable: For lookers on many times see more then gamsters. 1640: R. Brome, Sparagus Garden, Epil., For we know lookers on more then the gamsters see. 1706: Vanbrugh, Mistabe, I. i., A stander-by, sir, sees more than a gamester. 1850: Smedley, Frank Fairleigh, ch. xlvii. 1909: Pinero, Mid-Channel, I. p. 43.


Loose in the haft = unreliable. e. 1325: in Pol. Songs, 339 (Camden) (O.), Unnethe is ny eny man that can cny craft That he nis a party los in the haft. e. 1555: in Wright, Songs, etc., Philip and Mary, 68 (Roxb. Cl.), For, alas! she was nat sur in the haffe. 1888–90: Addy, Sheffield Gloss. (E.D.S.), He’s a bit loose i’ th’ heft. 1889: Peacock, Manley, etc., Gloss., 329 (E.D.S.), Lohse i’ th’ heft. That is, loose in the handle. A person of a wild, profigate or wasteful disposition is called “a loshe’i’ th’ heft.” 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 70.

Loose in the hilts = usually, unfaithful in marriage, or loose in life. 1623: Webster, Duchess of Malfi, II. v., She’s loose i’ th’ hilts; grown a notorious strumpet. 1650: Howell, Epist. Ded. to Cotgrave’s Dict., So in French cocu is taken for one whose wife is loose in the hilts. 1712: Motteux, Quixote, Pt. I. bk. iii. ch. vi., The shepherd thought her no better than she should be, a little loose in the hilts, and free of her hips. 1745: Franklin, Drinker’s Dict., in
Like my Lord Mayor's fool, full of business, and nothing to do. 1738 Swift, Polite Convers., Dial 1

3. Like my Lord Mayor's fool, I like everything that is good. 1678 Ray, 247. I am a fool, I love everything that is good. 1812 Brady, Class Cal., ii 252.

The Lord Mayor's Fool, who likes everything that is good, is set a common expression 1895. J.R. Robinson, Old Q., 233. In drinking as in eating, March was a veritable Lord Mayor's fool, "the best of everything did for him." Lose, v. A man lost his time that comes early to a bad bargain. 1732. Fuller, No. 286.


3. He has lost his lease. He has broken down. 1917. Bridge Cheshire Proverbs. 67. The lease is the crossing of the farm up and down over the warp in regular order. If by chance the warp is divided the lease is then lost and weaving at a standstill.

4. He has not lost all who has one cast left. 1670. Ray, 16 [with throw to cast" for "cast left"]. 1732. Fuller, No. 1876.


7. He lost nothing that lose not. 1640. Herbert, Jus Prudentum, 1732. Fuller, No. 2976. He lost nothing that keepeth God for his friend.


9. He'll not lose his jest for his guest, if he be a Jew. 1639. Clarke, 255.
10. I have lost all and found myself. 1732: Fuller, No. 3278.
11. Lose a leg rather than life. 1732: Fuller, No. 3278.
12. Lose a wife. See Wife (13).
13. Lose an hour in the morning and you'll be all day hunting for it. 1859: Smiles, Self-Help, 275 (1860). It was wittily said by Lord Chesterfield of the old Duke of Newcastle—"His Grace loses an hour in the morning, and is looking for it all the rest of the day." 1875: A. B. Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 18.
14. Lose nothing for (want of) asking. 1586: B. Young, tr. Guazzo's Civil Convers., fo. 218, Nothing is lost for asking. 1639: Clarke, 38, Hee'll not lose it for asking. 1665: R Howard, Committee, I., I see thou wouldest not lose any thing for want of asking. 1670: Ray, 58.
15. Lose with a nut. See Apple (13).
Losers leave to speak. Give. 1533: More, in Works, 1018 (1557). Hit is an olde courtesye at the cardes perdy, to let the lesar haue hy words. 1594: First Part Content., 36 (Sh. S.), I can give the loser leaue to speake. 1630: Taylor (Water-Poet), Works, 2nd pagin., 233. 1673: Wycherley, Gent. Dane-Master, V. i. 1769: Colman, Man and Wife, III., We must give losers leaue to talk, you know. 1818: Scott, Heart of Midl., ch. xlviii., The Captain ... was in the pouting mood not unusual to losers, and which, says the proverb, must be allowed to them. Loss embraceth shame. 1640. Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.
Loss of one is a gain for two and a chance for twenty more, Tho. Corn. 19th cent. (Mr. C. Lee).

Loss of the bell more than the loss of the steeple, To fear the. 1678: Ray, 351.
Lost, part. adj. 1. As good lost as found. 1639: Clarke, 68. 1670: Ray, 184.
2. It is lost that is unsought. 1546. Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1659: Howell, 14.
3. Lost in the hundred. See Hundred and County.
4. Lost time is never found again. 1736: Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i. 443 (Bigelow).
"Loth to drink and loth to leave off," they say. 1880: Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 40.
Loud as a horn, As. 1659: Howell, 19 1670: Ray, 206.
Louse. 1. A louse is better than no meat. 1639: Clarke, 241. Better a louse i' the pot than no flesh at all. 1656: Musarum Deliciae, i. 31 (Hotten). Cf. Better a mouse.
3. He'd drive a louse a mile for the skin and tallow of 'en. S. Devon. 1869: Hazlitt, 198.
4. He'd skin a louse for the sake of its hide. 1591: Florio, Second Fruits, 117. He was such a couetous miser, that he would haue fleade a louse to saue the skin of it. 1623: Wodroephe, Spared Houres, 265. He would haue flayed a louse for her skin, he was so couetous. 1916. B. Duffy, The Coin, 7, Thrifty! Man, she'd skin a fleas for his hide.
5. If a louse miss its footing on his coat, 'twill be sure to break its neck. 1362. Langland, Plowman, A, v. 112. But yf a lousy couthe lepe I can hit not i-leue Hleo scholde wandre on that walk hit was so thred-bare. 1530: Palsgrave, 620. He hath made my gowne so bare that a lowse can get no holde on it. c. 1580: Spelman, Dialogue, 116 (Roxb Cl), Truth among clothyers hath lesse harborewe then the lowce upon a thryd-bare clotehe. c. 1610: Ballad, quoted in Wright, Essays on Middle Ages, ii. 277 (1846), Thy doublet and breech that were so playne, On which a louse could scarce remayne. 1732. Fuller, No. 2661.
6 Love in Pomfret See Pomfret
See also Beggar (1) and (16). Crouse, and Three skips

Love, subs 1 All is fair in love and war c 1630 B & F. Lovers Progress, V i, All stratagems in love, and that the sharpest war, are lawful 1687 A Behn, Emp of the Moon, I ii, Advantages are lawful in love and war 1710 Centlivre, Man s Browsch d, V i, Stratagems were ever allowed of in love and war 1850 Smedley, Frank Fairleigh, ch i 1906 Lucas, Listener s Lure, 196

2 He that hath love in his breast, hath spurs in his sides 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1732 Fuller, No 2160 (with 'at his heels for 'in his sides'

3 In love is no lack c 1400 Mirk s Festival, 165 (E E T S), For love hath no lake 1546 Heywood Proverbs, Pt I ch iv 1759 Lyly, Mother Bombie, I ii 1641 R Brome for all Crew, III, Where love is there s lack 1670 Ray, 117

4 In love s wars he who flyeth is conqueror 1732 Fuller No 2819

5 Love and a cough cannot be had c 1300 Cursor Mundi, I 4276, Luken love at pe end wil sip (Concealed love will show itself at last) 1590 Greene, in Works, vii 294 (Grosart), There are foure things cannot be hydden 1 The cough 2 Love 3 Anger 4 And sorrow 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1709 Mandeville, Virgin Unmask d, 196 (1724) 1732 Fuller, No 3298, Love the itch, and a cough cannot be hid 1660 Love and business teach eloquence 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

6 Love and knowledge live not together 1611 Cotgrave, s v Amor 1658 Flecknoe, Enigm Characters, 134 He is bound by the proverb, 'Tis impossible to love and to be wise 1666 Torrano, Piazza Univ, 7, Knowledge and love, altogether cotten not

7 Love and lordship like no fellowship [Non bene convenunt nec in una sede morantur Maestas et Amor Ovid, Met, i 846] c 1386 Chaucer, Knight s Tale, 1 767, Ful sooth is sayd that love ne lordshipe Wol noght, his thankes, have no felawe shipe c 1440 Lydgate, Fall of Princes, bk vi 1 2221, Vnto purpos was saide ful yore ago, How that love nouter hih lordshippe Nowther of hem wolde haue no felashe 1587 Greene, in Works, vi 251 (Grosart) Ambition not suffering love or lordship to brooke any fellowship 1658 R Brome, Love-sick Court, I ii, Love, and ambition (I have heard men say) admit no fellowship 1687 W Robertson, Phraseol Generalls, 846 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v Love, and lordship never like fellowship

9 Love and peace porridge will make their way 1674 Head and Kirkman, Eng Rogue, vii 176, You know the old proverb, that sad are the effects of love and peace porridge 1738 Swift, Poet Convers, Dial I, Ay, they say love and peace porridge are two dangerous things, one breaks the heart, and the other the belly 10 Love and pride stock Bedlam 1732 Fuller, No 3284

11 Love asks faith, and faith asks firmness 1670 Ray, 16

12 Love comes in at the window and goes out at the door 1605 Camden, Remarks, 327 (1870) 1670 Ray, 47 1732 Fuller, No 3285 [with "flies" for "goes"]

13 Love does much but money does all 1587 Greene, in Works, vi 61 (Grosart) 1611 Cotgrave, s v Amour 1667 L Estrange, Quenedo s Visions, 39 (1904) 1732 Fuller, No 3286 [with "more" for "all"]

14 Love is a sweet torment 1633 Drake, 119

15 Love is above King or Kaiser, lord or lares 1583 Greene, in Works, vi 122 (Grosart)

16 Love is blind c 1386 Chaucer, Merch Tale I 354, For love is blind al day, and may nat see c 1490 Parlowne, I 10796, In this case love is bynde 1566 Panter, Pal of Pleasure, ii 43 (Jacobs) 1621 Burton, Melancholy, III ii 4 1, p 564 (1836), Love is blind, as the saying is 1733 Gay, Achilles, III 1837 Dickens, Pickwick, ch xvi 1893 Gilbert, Utopia, I

17 Love is full of busy fear c 1374 Chaucer, Troilus, bk iv 1 1645, For
I am ever a-gast, for why men rede, 
That "love is thing ay full of bisy drede." 1506: A. Barclay, Cast. of 
Labour, sig. D2, This proverbe that I 
the lere . . . Loue goth never without 
fere. 1595: Munday, *John a Kent*, 50 
(Sh. S.), Loue is full of feare. 1654: 
Flecknoe, *Loves Dominion*, II. i., Love's 
a solicitous thing, and full of fears. 
is never without jealousy. 
18. Love is liberal. 1639: Clarke, 28 
19. Love is not found in the market. 
1640: Herbert, *Jae. Prudentium*. 
20. Love is the leadstone of love. 1732: 
Fuller, No. 3288. 1870: Hawker, *Foot- 
prints of Former Men*, 77, No man ever 
more fully realised the truth of the 
saying that "Love makes love." 
21. Love is the true price of love. 
c. 1420: in *Twenty-six Poems*, 76 
(E.E.T.S.), Loue for loue is euenc 
boughte. 1569: E. Fenton, *Wonders 
of Nature*, 66 v°, Al things . . . be priced 
at a certaine rate, except Loue, which 
can not be payed but withh loue. 1631: 
Mabbe, *Celestina*, 138 (T.T.), Love 
is never pay'd but with pure love. 1696: 
Mrs. Manley, *Lost Lover*, V. iii., What 
can pay love but love? 1700: Dryden, 
Pal. and Arcite, ii. 373, For 'tis their 
maxim,—Love is love's reward. 1837: 
love's the coin to market with for love. 
22. Love is without law. 1581: B. Rich, 
Farewell, 191 (Sh. S.). 1630: Clarke, 27, 
Love is lawlesse. 1700: Dryden, Pal. 
and Arcite, i. 326, Know'st thou not, no 
law is made for love? Cf. Lover. 
23. Love lasteth as long as the money 
endureth. 1474: Caxton, *Chesse*, III. 
iii. [cited as "a comyn proverbe in 
England"]. 
24. Love laughs at locksmiths. 1803: 
Colman, jr., *Love Laughs at Locksmiths* 
1923: Lucas, *Advisory Ben*, 4, We know 
how Love treats locksmiths. 
25. Love lives in cottages as well as 
in courts. 1590: Lodge, *Rosalynde*, 95 
(Hunt. Cl.), Loue lurkes assoone about 
a shoepecoate as a pallaice. 1611: 
Cotgrave, s.v. "Amourettes" [with
Love

1753 Richardson, Grandison, 1 403 (1833) [*can not*] 1517 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 93 [*can not*]

35 Love will find a way to 1597 Deloney, Gentle Craft, ch xv, Thus love you see, can find a way. To make both men and maid's obey c 1600 in Roxb. Ballads, ii 639 (B S) [with "out", after "find"] 1662 Fuller Ill orthis ii 227 (1840), But love and money will find or force a passage

36 Neither for love nor money 971 Blickl Hom., 43 (O), Ne for feo, ne for names mannes lufon c 1370 in Wright, Pol. Songs 302 (Cameron S.), Pur amy ne pur dener Ray ne dait esparmer (For love nor for pence—A King ought not to spare) 1595 Pedlers Proph., 1 578 (Malone S.), Neither for love nor money they will worke 1669 Shadwell, Royal Ship, Prol. If it were to be had For love or money 1771 Smollett, Chinker in Works, vi 45 (1817). It can't be had for love nor money 1894 Shaw, Arms and the Man II, You shall never get that out of me, for love or money

37 The love of a woman, etc See quotes 2578 Flomo First Fruits, fo 25. The love of a whore and the wine of a bottle at night is good in the morning naught 1629 Book of Meery Riddles Prov 57, The love of a harlot and wine of a flagon, is good in the morning and naught in the evening 1666 Tornano, Piazza Univ., 9 [as in 1578, with "woman" for "whore", "evening" for "night," and "spoyld" for "naught"] 1678 Ray, 55. The love of a woman, and a bottle of wine, Are sweet for a season but last for a time 1732 Fuller, No 6401 [as in 1678]

38 The love of money and the love of learning rarely meet 1651 Herbert, Jac Prudentium, 2nd ed

39 There's love in a budget 1678 Ray, 258

40 Though love is blind, yet 'tis not for want of eyes 1732 Fuller, No 5004

41 When love puts in friendship is gone c 1630 B & G, Lovers Progress, I 1 [quoted—' as the proverb says "]

42 Where love fails See Fault (4)

43 Where love's in the case, the doctor is an ass 1667 L'Estrange, Quedodo's Visions, xxi (1904) [quoted as "the old thyme"] 1678 Ray, 50 1722 Defoe, Moll Flanders, in Works, iii 35 (Bohn)

See also One love

Love, verb 1 He loves bacon well that locks the swine-sty door 1678 Ray, 96 1732 Fuller No 1978 [with "sow's breech" for "swine-sty door"]

2 He that does not love a woman See Hate (1)

3 He that loves Glass without G. Take away L and that is he 1669 New Help to Discourse, 265 1678 Ray, 55 1732 Fuller, No 6260

4 He that loves the tree loves the branch 1639 Clarke, 285. If you love the boll, you cannot hate the branches 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

5 I love thee like pudding, if thou were pie I'd eat thee 1678 Ray, 349 1685 S. Wesley, Maggots, 24, I love you so that I could eat ye 1711 Spectator, No 47, Whom the common people of all countie admite, and seem to love so well, that they could eat them, according to the old proverb 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial II, I love him like pye, I'd rather the devil had him than I

6 I love you well but touch not my pocket 1732 Fuller, No 2618

7 I must love you and leave you 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs 79

Often said on taking leave of a person

8 If you love not the nose of bells See Bell (5)

9 Love me little love me long 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch ii 1580

Munday, Sundry Examples, 73 (Sh S) 1633 Marlowe, Foe of Malta, IV vi 1711 Steele, Spectator, No 140, My mother says As he is slow he is sure. He will love me long, if he love me little 1859 Reade, Love me Little, Love me Long [title]

10 Love me love my dog [Qu me amat, amat et canem meum—12th cent St Bernard, Fest S Misch, Ser i § 3] c 1480 Early Miscell., 62 (Warton Cl), He that lovteth me
Lubberland. See quotes. Nares (Glossary, s.v.) says: "There was an old proverbial saying about 'Lubberland, where the pigs run about ready roasted, and cry Come eat me.'" 1598:

Lover. Who may give law to a? [Quis legem dat amantibus? Maior lex amor est sibi.—6th cent.: Boethius, De Consol. Philos., bk. iii. metre xii.]

C. 1386: Chaucer, Knight's Tale, l. 306, Wostow nat wel the olde clerkes sawe, That who shal yeve a lovere any lawe?

c. 1450: Partonope, l. 8710 (E E.T.S.), Ther-for this ys a full old sawe: Who may gyfe to a lover lawe? 1587: B. Rich, Farewell, 131 (Sh. S.), What is he, I praie you, that is able to prescrible lawes to love? Cf. Love, subs. (15), (22).

Lovers live by love as larks live by leeks. Desire for alliteration seems to be the only explanation of the absurd comparison. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. x. c. 1596: Churchyard, Pleas. Disc. of Court, etc., sig. B4 (Boswell, 1816), All one we live . . . By love as larks do live by leeks. 1623: Wodrowe, Spared Hours, 313, They bee some that do live of love, Well yea, as larks do of leeks. 1670: Ray, 46.

1633: T. Hook, Parson's Daughter, vol. i. ch. xi., One of those sighing swains who, the proverb says—why, nobody has ever exactly ascertained—"live on love, as larks on leeks." 1884: H Friend, Flowers and Fl. Lore, Notes, 641.

Loving comes by looking. 1639: Clarke, 28.

Low hedge is easily leapt over, A. 1605: Camden, Remains, 317 (1870).

1670: Ray, 16.


Lower mill-stone grinds as well as the upper. The. 1519: Horman, Vulgaria, fo. 153. The lower stone can do no good without the hyar. 1678: Ray, 172.

1732: Fuller, No. 4638 [with "much" for "well"]').

Lowly sit, richly warm. 1670: Ray, 117.

Lubberland. See quotes. Nares (Glossary, s.v.) says: "There was an old proverbial saying about 'Lubberland, where the pigs run about ready roasted, and cry Come eat me.'" 1598:

Love the my hound. 1527: Tyndale, in Treatises, 84 (P.S.), We say also, He that loveth not my dog, loveth not me. 1583: Stubbes, Anal. of Abuses, 178 (N. Sh. S.). 1664: in Musarum Deliciæ, etc., ii. 77 (Hotten). 1714: Spectator, No. 579. 1826: Lamb, Pop. Fallacies, xiii. 1920: W. H. Mallock, Memoirs, 42.

11. Love to live and live to love. 1576: Pettie, Petite Pall., i. 133 (Gollancz), Whatesoever be your common saying, that you must as well love to live as live to love.


13. No man loves his fettors, though they be made of gold. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. viii. c. 1594: Bacon, Promus, No. 475. 1607: Webster, Sir T. Wyatt, in Works, i. 9 (1857), Who would weave fettors though they were all of gold? 1670: Ray, 89.

1732: Fuller, No. 1522, Fettors of gold are still fettors; and silken cords pinch.


15. She loves the poor well, but cannot abide beggars. Somerset. 1678: Ray, 350.

16. They love like chick. Somerset. Ibid., 347.

17. They love too much that die for love. 1611: Colgrave, s.v. "Mourin" [with "He" for "They'"]. 1670: Ray, 16.

18. They who love most are least set by. 1659: Howell, 12. 1670: Ray, 16.

1748: Richardson, Clarissa, iv. 119 (1785), Those, Mr. Belford, who most love, are least set by.

19. To love at the door and leave at the hatch. 1678: Ray, 258. 1732: Fuller, No. 5200 [omitting each "at"].

20. To love it as a dog loves a whip. 1678: Ray, 287.

21. Whom we love best, to them we can say least. 1670: Ray, 47. 1732: Fuller, No. 6259.

22. You love to make much of naught, i.e. yourself. 1678: Ray, 347.
Lynn from Warburton, To tear 1901 E Taylor, Folk-Speech of S Lancs, s.v. "Lamb," Lamb-tro-Warbutto A term used to denote the division or pulling to pieces of anything 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 144. Lynn-cum-Warburton were two medieteries of one parish on the Chester side of the Mersey

Lythe See Lithe

but a Saint Luciues night 1659 Howell, Proverbs Span-Eng, 13, San Lucy bright, the shortest 1678 Ray, 52 1732 Fuller, No 6222 1881 C W Empson, in Folk-Lore Record, iv 129, Lucy light! Lucy light!

Longest day and shortest night 1889 Peacock, Manley, et c, Gloss, 333 (E DS), Ludington poor people, With a stool chech an' a wooden steepcle

Ludgate bird, A 1639 Clarke, 245
Ludlam's dog See Lazy

Lundy high, Sign of dry, Lundy plain, Sign of rain 1891 R P Chope, Hantland Dialect, 20 (E DS).

Lust See Pleasure (4)

Lust is as young as his limbs are old, His 1659 Howell, 10

Lyford Law See quotes 1399 Langland, Richard Redless, u 145, Be the lawe of Lydford 1644 Browne, Lyford Castle, st r, I oft have heard of Lyford Law, How in the morn they hang and draw, And sit in judgment after 1662 Fuller, Worthies, i 399 (1840), First hang and draw, Then hear the cause by Lidford law 1774 Ossel, Mohaire, iv 275, Hang a man first, and try him afterwards, Lidford law you know! 1838 Mrs Bray, Trad of Devon, u 12, The old sayin of Lyford Law, To express an arbitrary procedure in judgment 1855 Kingsley, West Hat, ch xvi, And by Lydor' law if they will, hang first and try after 1887 Cornhill Mag, Nov, 543, "Hang first and try afterwards" was the fundamental maxim of Lyford Law

Lying rides on Death's back, 1736 Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i 449 (Bigelow) 1875 Smiles, Thrift, 242

Lyon see 1326-1544 Bohn, 522

Lyon see 1326-1544 Bohn, 522

Lyon see in odd numbers 1600 Shakespeare, Merry Wives, V 1, This is the third time, I hope good luck lies in odd numbers 1672 Dream of the Cabal, quoted in Wheatley's Pety's, vi 229 n, Methought there met the grand Cabal of Seven, (Odd numbers, some men say, do best please Heaven) 1784 New Foundl Hosp for Wit u 118, Odd numbers are lucky 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 262, We say now, "There's luck in odd numbers"

See also Good luck, Hit (2), and Ill luck.

Lucky men need no counsel 1855 Bohn, 447

Lucky light, the shortest day and the longest night 1633 Donne, Poems, 1 254 (Grierson), Laces thee to sleepe

Luck 1 Give a man luck and throw him in the sea 1576 Parad of Dainty Devices, No 27, She [Fortune] vseth never partiall hands for to offend, or please, Geve me good Fortune all men sayes and throw me in the seas 1580 Churchyard, Charge, 28 (Collier) Our old proverie is given me hap and cast me in the sea 1632 Rowley, Woman never Vered, I [with woman" for "man"] 1671 Head and Kirkman, Eng Rogue u 202 1709 O Dykes, Eng Proverbs, 271 1837 Planché, Extravag, i 268 (1859), Give a man but luck they say, sir, In the sea fling him you may, sir.

2 Luck for the fools and chance for the ugly 1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict, s.v. "Luck."

3 Luck is a lord 1564 Bullem, Dialogue, tor (EETS), If good lucky had been our good lord 1709 O Dykes, Eng Proverbs, 272 Luck is a lord, we say 1848 Planché, Extravag, i 143 (1879)

4 There is luck in leisure 1855 Bohn, 522

5 There is luck in odd numbers 1600 Shakespeare, Merry Wives, V 1, This is the third time, I hope good luck lies in odd numbers 1672 Dream of the Cabal, quoted in Wheatley's Pety's, vi 229 n, Methought there met the grand Cabal of Seven, (Odd numbers, some men say, do best please Heaven) 1784 New Foundl Hosp for Wit u 118, Odd numbers are lucky 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 262, We say now, "There's luck in odd numbers"

See also Good luck, Hit (2), and Ill luck.

Lucky men need no counsel 1855 Bohn, 447

Lucky light, the shortest day and the longest night 1633 Donne, Poems, 1 254 (Grierson), Laces thee to sleepe

but a Saint Luciues night 1659 Howell, Proverbs Span-Eng, 13, San Lucy bright, the shortest 1678 Ray, 52 1732 Fuller, No 6222 1881 C W Empson, in Folk-Lore Record, iv 129, Lucy light! Lucy light!

Longest day and shortest night 1889 Peacock, Manley, et c, Gloss, 333 (E DS), Ludington poor people, With a stool chech an' a wooden steepcle

Ludgate bird, A 1639 Clarke, 245
Ludlam's dog See Lazy

Lundy high, Sign of dry, Lundy plain, Sign of rain 1891 R P Chope, Hantland Dialect, 20 (E DS).

Lust See Pleasure (4)

Lust is as young as his limbs are old, His 1659 Howell, 10

Lyford Law See quotes 1399 Langland, Richard Redless, u 145, Be the lawe of Lydford 1644 Browne, Lyford Castle, st r, I oft have heard of Lyford Law, How in the morn they hang and draw, And sit in judgment after 1662 Fuller, Worthies, i 399 (1840), First hang and draw, Then hear the cause by Lidford law 1774 Ossel, Mohaire, iv 275, Hang a man first, and try him afterwards, Lidford law you know! 1838 Mrs Bray, Trad of Devon, u 12, The old sayin of Lyford Law, To express an arbitrary procedure in judgment 1855 Kingsley, West Hat, ch xvi, And by Lydor' law if they will, hang first and try after 1887 Cornhill Mag, Nov, 543, "Hang first and try afterwards" was the fundamental maxim of Lyford Law

Lying rides on Death's back, 1736 Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i 449 (Bigelow) 1875 Smiles, Thrift, 242

Lyon see 1326-1544 Bohn, 522

Lyon see in odd numbers 1600 Shakespeare, Merry Wives, V 1, This is the third time, I hope good luck lies in odd numbers 1672 Dream of the Cabal, quoted in Wheatley's Pety's, vi 229 n, Methought there met the grand Cabal of Seven, (Odd numbers, some men say, do best please Heaven) 1784 New Foundl Hosp for Wit u 118, Odd numbers are lucky 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 262, We say now, "There's luck in odd numbers"

See also Good luck, Hit (2), and Ill luck.

Lucky men need no counsel 1855 Bohn, 447

Lucky light, the shortest day and the longest night 1633 Donne, Poems, 1 254 (Grierson), Laces thee to sleepe
M under one's girdle. See Carry (3).

Mackerel sky. A. See quotes. [1669: Worledge, Syst. Agric., 295 (1681) (O.), In a fair day, if the sky seem to be dappled with white clouds (which they usually term a mackerel-sky) it usually predicts rain.] 1854: Baker, Northants Gloss., s.v. A mackerel sky, Never holds three days dry, c. 1870. Smith, Isle of Wight Words, 62 (E.D.S.), (a) Mares’ tails and a mackerel sky, Not four and twenty hours dry. (b) A mackerel sky and mares’ tails Make lofty ships carry low sails. 1886: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 453 (E.D.S.), Mackerel-sky! not much wet, not much dry. 1891: Addy, Sheffield Gloss. Suppl., 36 (E.D.S.), In this district it is said that A mackerel sky is never long dry. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 94, [as in 1870 (b), plus] (a) Mackerel sky, mackerel sky, Never long wet and never long dry, (b) Mackerel clouds in sky, Expect more wet than dry, (c) Mackerel scales, Furl your sails, (d) A mackerel sky, Not twenty-four hours dry.

Mad as a hatter. 1849: Thackeray, Pendennis, ch. x. 1857: Hughes, Tom Brown, Pt. II. ch. iii., He’s a very good fellow, but as mad as a hatter. 1863: F. A. Marshall, Mad as a Hatter [title of farce].

Mad as a March hare. c 1386: Chaucer, Friar's Tale, I. 29, For thogh this Somsour wood [mad] were as an hare. c 1450: Partonope, I. 7934 (E.E.T.S.), There he rennyth wode [mad] as ony hare. c 1500: in Hazlitt, Early Pop. Poetry, i. 105, And be as braynles as a Marshe hare. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch v., As mad as a marche hare. 1577: Stanihurst, Descrip. of Ireland, fo. 14. c. 1620: Fletcher, Wild-Goose Chase, IV. iii., They are all, all mad. I came from a world of mad women, Mad as March hares. 1678: Dryden, Limberham, V. i. 1749: Fielding, Tom Jones, bk. xii. ch. vii. 1850: Dickens, Chuzzlewit, ch. xlv. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 26, As wyny [wild] as a March hare.

Mad as a tup. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 595, As mad as a tup [ram] in a halter. 1901: in N. & Q., 6th ser., viii. 503, In Derbyshire... there is no commoner saying to express anger shown by any one than to say that he or she was "as mad as a tup." "A tup" is a ram.

Mad as a weaver. 1609: Ev. Woman in Humor, I., in Bullen, Old Plays, iv. 314, If he were as madde as a weaver.

Mad as Ajax. 1592: Shakespeare, L. L. L., IV. iii., By the Lord, this love is as mad as Ajax. 1607: Chapman, Bussy d’Ambois, III., And run as mad as Ajax. 1732: Fuller, No. 3287, Love is as mad as Ajax.

Mad horse. See quot. 1685: Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 66, A weand [mad] horse I’ve heard it oft reported And a rotten harrow are sean parted.

Mad world, my masters. A. 1603: Breton, A Mad World my Masters [title], in Works, (Grosart), ii. 1608: Middleton, A Mad World my Masters [title]. 1649: Taylor (Water-Poet), Western Voyage, i. i, ’Tis a mad world, my masters.

Mad, You’ll never be, you are of so many minds. 1670: Ray, 118. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I.

Madam Parnell, crack the nut and eat the kernel. Howell says that this saying alludes to a woman’s labour. It may be noted that “Pernel” in the seventeenth century and earlier was a name for a woman of loose life. 1659: Howell, i. 1670: Ray, 84.
Madge  See Margery

Madman and a fool are no witnesses, A 1732 Fuller, No 267

Mad parish must have a mad priest, A 1675 in Harl Miscell vii 597

Maggot bites, When the = When the whom takes one 1683 L'Estrange, Observer 1 No 470, Prethee, where bites the magot to-day, Trimmer t 1765 in Harl Miscell vii 597 (1746). He puts off the maggot of his own brain for divine inspiration 1704 D'Urley, Tales Trag and Comical 51.

Maggots in the brain, To have — To have whimsies c 1625 B & I Women Pleased, III iv, Have not you maggots in your brains? 1675 in Harl Miscell vii 597 (1746). He puts off the maggots of his own brain for divine inspiration 1704 D'Urley, Tales Trag and Comical 51. The maggots in the brain With novelty possess'd his pate

Magistracy See quot 1642 D Rogers, Matrim Honour, 45. The old speech is Magistracy makes not the man but discovers what mettell is in him

Magnificat, The 1 To correct Magnificat = To find fault unreasonably, and presumptuously 1540 Palsgrave, Acolastus, sig B3, Thou whiche takest uppon the to correct Magnificat 1563 Melanieke, Phalatrix, sig E1, That correcteth Magnificat before he can sing To Deum 1589 Nashe Works i 152 (Grosart), They would correct Magnificat, not knowing Quod signifieth 1681 W Robertson, Phrases and Generalis, 388, To correct the Magnificat, Nodum in scrup Quarere 1686, 856. Lumen soli mutuare 1694 L'Estrange, Esope, 283 (3rd ed) Tis the same case where subjects take upon them to correct Magnificat, and to prescribe to their superiors 1736 Bailey, Dict. s v "Correct

2 See quot 1588 Bp Andrewes, Sermon at Spital, 24 (1629) (v) The note is here all out of place and so their note comes in like Magnificat at Matins 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Magnificat," Chapter Magnificat à matines, To doe things disorderly, or use a thing unseasonably, or use a thung unseasonably 1653 Urquhart Rabelais, bk 1 ch xi, He made a mock at the gods, would cause sing Magnificat at Matines

Magpie 1 Query the proverb alluded to 1570 G Harvey, Letter-Book, i 65 (Camden S). May perhaps fl at a pie, as ye proverb is, but he is most likely to catch a dawe 2 Omens and sayings 1849 Dunsdale, Teesdale Gloss, 95. One's sorrow, Two's good luck, Three's a wedding, Four's death 1867 Harland, in Lanes Folk-Lore, 224. In Lancashire they say — "One for anger, Two for mirth, Three for a wedding, Four for a birth, Five for rich, Six for poor, Seven for a witch, I can tell you no more." 1878 Folk-Lore Record, 1 8, In speaking of the magpie they confidently tell you that — "One is for sorrow, two for mirth, Three for a wedding, Four for a birth" 1883 Burne, Sprotsh Folk Lore, 224, [as in 1878, plus] "Four for a death," say some, and from Church Stretton we have another variation, "One for anger, two for luck," etc 1886 Elworthy, West Som Word Book, 454 (E D S). One, sign of anger, two, sign o' muth, Dree, sign o' wedding-day, vower, sign o' death, Vive sign o' sorrow, ziz, sign o' joy, Zebuf, sign o' mad, an' eight sign o' boy 1692 S Hewett, Peasant Speech of Devon, 26 Wan is vur sorrow, Tû is vur mirth, Dree is vur a wedding, Vowr is vur death 1901 F E Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 41. One for cryin'—two for mirth—Three for a weddin'—four for a d'yeth

3 Worth one's weight in magpies Corn 1869 Hazlitt, 45r

Mahomet and the mountain 1625 Bacon, Essays "Boldness," Mahomet calld the hill to come to him, againe, and againe, and when the hill stood still, he was neuer a whit abashed, but said, If the hill will not come to Mahomet Mahomet will go to the hill Before 1704 T Brown, in Works, iv 259 (1760). And then 'twas with us in the case of drink what it was formerly between Mahomet
Maid, Maids, and Maidens. 1. A maid and a virgin is not all one. 1639: Clarke, 152.


4. A maid that laughs is half taken. 1670: Ray, 16. 1732: Fuller, No. 269.

5. A maid's knee. See Dog (8).


7. If the maid be a fool. See Cat (25).

8. Maidens must be mild and meek; Swift to hear, and slow to speak. 1732: Fuller, No. 6410. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v.


10. Maid's children. See Bachelor (3).


13. Maids want nothing but husbands. 1678: Ray, 347. . . . Somerset. 1732: Fuller, No. 3309, [as in 1678, plus] and then they want every thing.


15. There are never the fewier maids for her. 1678: Ray, 258.

16. This maid was born old. Ibid., 77.

17. When maidsens sue, men live like gods. 1855: Bohn, 559.

18. Who knows who's a good maid? 1678: Ray, 172: “See also All meats; Good a maid; Meeterly; and Wife (25).

Main chance, Have an eye to the. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 430 (Arber), Always have an eye to the mayne, what souer thou art chauned at the buy. c. 1610: in Roxb. Ballads, i. 454 (B.S.), She had a care of the main-chance. 1681: W. Robertson, Phrases. Generalis, 322, Have a care of the main chance. 1722: Defoe, Moll Flanders, in Works, iii. 40 (Bohn), A man . . . getting money, seldom at home, thoughtful of the main chance. 1924: Sphere, 29 March, p. 344, col. i, Ernest Stanton, M.P., has a suave manner and an eye for the main chance.

Main lost, cast the by away, The. 1594: Drayton, Ideas, lix. (Proverbs). Maisemore. See quot. 1694: Northall, Folke Phrases, 7 (E.D.S.), All together like the men of Maisemore, and they went one at a time.

Make, verb. 1. As you make your bed so you must lie on it. [Tute hoc intristi: tibi omne est exedendum.—Terence, Phorm., 318]. c. 1590: G. Harvey, Marginalia, 88 (1913). Lett them . . . go to the bed, as themselves shall make it. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudent. He that makes his bed ill, lies there. 1670: Ray, 3 [as in 1640]. 1732: Fuller, No. 2233 [as in 1640], but ending “must be contented to lie ill.”). 1842: Barham, Ing. Legends, 2nd ser.: “Aunt Fanny,” She could not prevent her—'twas no use in trying it—Oh, no—she had made her own bed, and might lie in it. 1922: Weyman, Ovington's Bank, ch.
xxx. He has disgraced our blood he has done it! He has made his bed and must lie on it!

2 He that can make a fire well can end a quarrel 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

3 He that makes his mistress a gold-finch, may perhaps find her a wagtail 1647 Countrym New Commonwealth, 8-9

4 He that makes the shoe can't tan the leather 1580 Lyly, Euphues, 224 (Arber), You know that it is not for him that fashioneth the shoe, to make the grame of the leather 1732 Fuller, No 2235

5 I'll make you know your driver 1678 Ray, 345, Somerset

6 I will not make my dish-clout my table-cloth 1732 Fuller, No 2646

7 Make a-do and have a-do 1678 Ray, 70

8 Make haste and leave nothing to waste 1827 Hone, Ev Day Book, 11 927 [quoted as 'the old proverb']

9 Make hay See Hay (3)

10 Make me a dinner and I will make thee rich 1578 Florio, First Fruits, 9 10 1623 Wodroopthe, Spared Hours, 172, Make me a guesser, and I shall make you rich of it 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 132 1732 Fuller, No 3315 [with 'sooth-sayer' for 'diviner']

11 Make nor meddle See Meddle

12 That which will not make a pot, may make a pot-lid 1732 Fuller, No 4386

13 They that make laws should not break them 1386 Chaucer, Introductory to Man of Law's Prologue, 1. 434 For such laws as man yeveth another wight, he shold be hum-selven usen it by right 1598 Servignmans Comfort, in Inedited Tracts, 154 (Hazlitt), It is a shame for the lawgiver to break and violate his owne institutions 1669 Politeness, 95, It becometh a law-maker not to be a law-breaker 1739 Gent Mag, 427, The old proverb that law-makers ought not to be law-breakers 1830 Marryat, King's Own, ch xi [as in 1739]

14 They who make the best use of their time have none to spare 1855 Bohn, 527

15 To make a wry mouth — To be hanged 1690 Cotgrave, s.v 'Moue,' We say of one that's hanged, he makes a wry mouth

16 To make both ends meet 1639 Clarke 242, I cannot make, etc 1662 Fuller, Worthes "Cumb," Worldly wealth he cared not for, desiring onely to make both ends meet 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, iv 137 (1785), Tho' he had a good estate, hardly making both ends meet 1864 Mrs H Wood Trewlyn Hold, ch xx, If you have the pleasure of making both ends to meet upon the moderate sum of one hundred pounds sterling 1913 E M Wright, Rustic Speech, etc, 14, The sort of life where it is hard to make both ends meet

17 To make buttons See Breech

18 To make indentures — To walk unsteadily, as when drunk 1605 R F, Sch of Slovenes, 35, Before he with his feete do seeme indentures for to make 1615 Stephens, Essays, etc, bk ii No 11, If he bee drunken you must say hee staggeres, to avoid aequovocation, for when he is sober hee makes indentures [character of a lawyer's clerk] 1681 in Round Ballads, vi 3 (B S), Being so drunk that he cuteth indentures 1745 Franklin, Drinker's Dict, in Works, ii 25 (Bigelow), He makes indentures with his legs

19 To make no bones about a thing 1565 Shacklock, Hatch of Heretickes, fo 14, They have made no bones at it to say 1608 Armin, Nest of Ninnies, 27 (Sh S). Which, making no bones of, the sweete youth gaue his doings thus 1533 T May, tr Barclay's M(ist) of M(inds), 196, Which [dinner] they make no bones many times to prolong till supper time 1740 North, Examen, 604, He made no bones of telling this passage in all companies 1894 R L S, St Ives, ch xxv, 'O, don't make any bones about it!' he interrupted

20 To make ors of good hay 1639
in Berkeley MSS., iii. 29 (1885), Hee's well served, for hee hath oft made orts of better hay. 1670: Ray, 188. 1732: Fuller, No. 3317, Make no orts of good hay.

21. To make up one's mouth. This bears more than one meaning See quotes. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi., His wife to make yp my mouthe, Not onely his husbandes taunttyng tale auothe, But therto deuiseth to cast in my teeth, Checks and chokyng oysters c 1570. T. Preston, Cambysses, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, iv. 175, According to the prover old, My mouth I will up make. 1669: Shadwell, Royal Shp., III. i., My mother . . . would have made a hard shift to have sat the upper end of my Lord Neander's table, to have had occasion to have made up a fine mouth, and have said . . . Before 1704: T. Brown, in Works, iv. 202 (1760). All the while she was at church, she made up her mouth as demurely as the best of the congregation. 1888: N. & Q., 7th ser., vi. 38, "A snack of bread and cheese to make up your mouth" is often the goodwife's suggestion to her farmer lord [Shropsh.].


Malachi's child, choke full of sense, Like. 1906: Cornish N. & Q., 266.

Malice hath a sharp sight and strong memory. 1650: Fuller, Pisgah Sight, bk. ii. ch. iii., Yet we know malice hath a strong memory. 1732: Fuller, No. 3328.

Malice hurts itself most. 1639: Clarke, 197. 1732: Fuller, No. 3327, Malice drinketh up the greatest part of its own poison.

Malice is mindful. 1639: Clarke, 196. 1670: Ray, 118. 1732: Fuller, No. 3329.

3329 Malice never spoke well. 1574: E. Hellowes, Guevara's Epistles, 492, Malice findes manic faults. 1605: Camden, Remains, 328 (1870).

Malice seldom wants a mark to shoot at. 1855: Bohn, 448.

Malpas ales and Malpas gales [S.W. winds] Cheer the farmer, fill his pails. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 164.

Malpas shot. See Higgledy-piggledy.

Malt is above the water, The=He is drunk. 1678: Ray, 87. 1745: Franklin, Drinker's Dict., in Works, ii. 26 (Bigelow).

Malt is above wheat with him = He is drunk. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1588: Cogan, Haven of Health, 217 (1612), Take good heede that malt be not aboue wheate before you parte. c. 1640: in Roxb. Ballads, ii. 95 (Hindley), Men will call for it [tobacco] when malt's above wheat. 1824, Scott, Redgauntlet, ch. xii., "Come, come, Provost," said the lady, rising, "if the maunt gets abune the meal with you, it is time for me to take myself away."

Malt to sell, They may sit in the chair that have. 1639: Clarke, 99. 1670: Ray, 68. 1732: Fuller, No. 4967.


Malvern Hill. 1. All about Malvern Hill, A man may live as long as he will. 1882: Mrs. Chamberlain, W. Wors. Words, 39 (E.D.S.).


Malvern measure, full and running over. 1694: Northall, Folk Phrases, 19 (E.D.S.).

Malvern. See also Severn.

Mamma's milk is scarce out of your nose yet, Your. 1732: Fuller, No. 6055.

Man and Men. 1. A man, a horse, and a dog are never weary of each other's company. 1749: W. Ellis, Shep. Sure Guide, etc., 9 [quoted as a proverb].

2. A man among children will be long a child, a child among men will be soon a man. 1732: Fuller, No. 270.

3. A man assaulted is half taken. 1629: Book of Meery Riddles, Prov. 22.


5. A man at sixteen will prove a child at sixty. 1732: Fuller, No. 273.
6 A man can do no more than he can 1530 Palsgrave, 474 No man can do aboue his power 1626 Scoggins Jests, 158 (1664). No man can ask for more of a man than he is able to doe 1670 Ray, 67 1814 Scott, in Lochart’s Life, in 152 The islands retort, that a man can do no more than he can 1901 F E Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 11 A body conno do moar nor he con, con he?

7 A man cannot lie by the a v 1633 Drake 180 A man cannot lie by thankful 1670 Ray, 56 1748 Gent Mag, xviii 21

8 A man every inch of him 1639 Clarke 247 1678 Ray 76 1698 Terence made English, 64 (2nd ed), Thou’re a man every inch of thee 1870 Carlyle, in Forster’s Dickens in 475. The good, the gentle high-gifted, ever-friendly noble Dickens,—every inch of him an Honest Man

9 A man has choice to begin love, but not to end it 1855 Bohn, 294

10 A man has often more trouble to digest meat than to get it Ibid, 294

11 A man hath many enemies when his back is to the wall 1639 Clarke, 166

12 A man in distress or despair does as much as ten 1732 Fuller, No 282

13 A man is a lion in his own cause 1738 Gent Mag, 476

14 A man is a man if he have but a nose on his face 1612 Shelton, Quixote, Pt I bk 3 ch vi, A man is but a man though he have a nose on his head 1738 Swift Polite Convers, Dial II

15 A man is a man though he have but a nose on his head This saying was popular in the 16th and 17th centuries but its meaning is not clear It may mean that a man is not to be judged by his apparel, however grotesque that may be [e 1386 Chatterc, Canon’s Yeoman’s Tale,] 171, Ther I was went to be right fresh and gay Of clothing and of other good array. Now may I were an bese upon my head. And wher my colour was bothe fresh and reed, Now is it wan and of a leden bese.] 1593 Nashe, in Works, ii 249 (Grosart) 1652 Tatham, Scots Figgaries, IV 1664 Cotton, Sarronmes, bk 1 1709 O Dykes, Eng Proverbs, 255 (2nd ed), A man is a man still, if he bath but a hose on his head 1732 Fuller, No 277

16 A man is as old (or young) as he feels [Tam miser est quisque, quam credit — Seneca, Epist, 78,] 1921 R L Gales, Old-World Essays, 243, ’You are always as young as you feel’ is a saying quoted in this book I have heard it all my life 1926 Times 25 March, p 14, col 2, A fine figure of a man is Owen Keegan ”A man is only as old as he feels, he says

17 A man is known by his company 1620 Shelton, Quixote, Pt II ch xviii, You may know the man by the conversation he keeps 1673 Wycherley Love in a Wood, 1 l., There is a proverb, Mrs Joyner, ”You may know him by his company” 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, vi 362 (1765), Men are known by their companions 1829 Cobett, Advice to Young Men, Lett 1, “Show me a man’s companions,” says the proverb, ”and I will tell you what the man is” 1871 Smiles, Character, 65. It is a common saying that men are known by the company they keep

18 A man is not so soon healed as hurt 1599 Porter, Two Angry Women, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, vii 357 [with “whole for ‘healed’”] 1670 Ray, 102 1732 Fuller, No 281

19 A man is weak or wise, As he thinks himself so [There is a base proverb, thou shalt bee so much esteemed by others, as thou esteemest thy selfe — 1642 D Rogers, Naaman, sig E 5] 1732 Fuller, No 6312

20 A man may be an artist tho’ he have not his tools about him Ibid, No 288

21 A man may hear till his back break 1611 Colgrave, s v ’Sommer,’ Tant travaille et tracasse l’homme, qu’en fin il se rompt, ou somme, A man so long doth toil and swank, till under his own charge he sink 1639 Clarke, 15 1670 Ray, 59 1732 Fuller, No 3397 [in the plural]
22. A man may come soon enough to an ill bargain. 1633: Drake, 54. 1639: Clarke, 157.
23. A man may hold his tongue. See Hold one's tongue. 24. A man may lose. See Lose (1) and (2).
26. A man must go old to the Court, and young to a cloister, that would go from thence to heaven. 1678: Ray, 117.
27. A man of courage never wants weapons. 1732: Fuller, No. 302.
28. A man of many trades begs his bread on Sundays. [1642: Fuller, Holy State: "Lady Paula," I know two trades together are too much for one man to thrive upon.] 1732: Fuller, No. 304.
31. A man or a mouse. 1541: Sch. House of Women, I. 386, Fear not, she saith unto her spouse, A man or a mouse whether be ye. 1590: Tarltons Neues out of Purg., 54 (Sh. S.), What, old acquaintance, a man or a mouse? c. 1623: B. & F., Love's Cure, II. ii., I will make a man or a mouse on you.
1681: W. Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 863. 1709: O. Dykes, Eng. Proverbs, 113 (2nd ed.). His...final resolution to make himself either a man or a mouse. 1843: Carlyle, Past and Present, bk. ii. ch. vii., To see how Monks elect their Abbot in the Twelfth Century; how the St. Edmundsbury mountain manages its midwifery; and what mouse or man the outcome is. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 13, Aw'd oather be a mon or a mouse if aw were thee.
32. A man should keep from the blind. See quot. 1461: Paston Lett., ii. 73 (Gairdner). And also understandyng that he was kynnyes man to my master, and it is a comon proverbe, "A man xuld kepe fro the blynde and gevty to is kyn."
33. A man surprised is half beaten. 1732: Fuller, No. 310.
34. A man that cannot sit still. See quot. 1662: Pepys, Diary, 8 Aug., Another rule is a proverb that he hath been taught, which is that a man that cannot sit still in his chamber...and he that cannot say no...is not fit for business.
35. A man that does what no other man does, is wondered at by all. 1387: Trevisa, tr. Higden, viii. 19 (Rolls Ser.), pat proverbe is ofte had in his mouy..."Alle men wondre of hym pat dop as noon over dop." c. 1440: Anon., tr. Higden, viii. 19 (Rolls Ser.), This proverbe: "A man that dooth a thynge whiche noon other man usethe, causethe alle men to meravyle."
36. A man that keeps riches and enjoys them not is like an ass that carries gold and eats thistles. 1732: Fuller, No. 312.
37. A man under no restraint is a bear without a ring. Ibid., No. 313.
38. A man will rather hurt his body than displease his palate. 1659: Howell, 1.
39. A man without money is a bow without an arrow. 1732: Fuller, No. 376.
40. A man without money is no man at all. Ibid., No 317.
41. A man without reason is a beast in season. 1659: Howell, ii. 1670: Ray, 22. 1732: Fuller, No. 6244.
42. A man's best fortune, or his worst,
is a wife 1659 Howell, 5 1732
Fuller, No 306

43 A man's country is where he does well 1576 Pettie, Sall, 1 40 (Gollancz), I count any place my country where I may live well and wealthily 1599 Kyd, Sol and Perseda, IV, And where a man lives well there is his country 1659 T Pecke, Parnass. Puerp 94 My country is where ever I am well 1732 Fuller No 569, Whereas we live well that's our country

44 A man's praise in his own mouth doth sink c 1615 Times Whistle 37 (E E T S), Hast thou that auncient, true saide saufe forgot That a mans praise in his owne mouth doth stinke' 2

45 A man's wealth is his enemy 1659 Howell, Proverbs Brit-Eng, 3

46 As a man is friended so the law is ended 1538 Latumer, in Works, u 399 (P S), The assize, where as men be friended, so (they say) things be ended c 1542 Bruklow Complaynt 25 (E E T S) 1600 Day, Blind Beggar III 11 Remember this old law 'As men are friended, So either right or wrong their sutes are ended' 1681 W Robertson, Phrases General, 470.

47 As a man loves so shall he die, As a tree falls so shall he live 1678 Ray, 906

48 Every man thinks he may live another year [Nemo enim est tam senex, qui se amnum non putet posse vivere—Cicero, De Senect vii 24] c 1577 Northbrooke, Dicing, etc 14 (Sh S) As Cicero saith, no man is so old and ageth, that he perswaketh nor him selfeth, that he may live a whole year 1669 Politenphoma, 203 No man is so old, but thinketh he may yet live another year 1784 Johnson, in Boswell's Life iv 270 (Hill) Yet we hope and hope, and fancy that he who has lived to-day may live to-morrow. Cf None so old.

49 Give a man luck See Luck (1)

50 He'll be a man among the geese 1690 New Dict Catching Crew, sig F 3 He'll be a man among the geese when the gander is gone

51 If a man once fall, all will tread on him 1530 Palsgrave 757. When a man is thrown under the foote ones [once] than every man gothe upon hym 1618 B Holyday, Techn.-gama, V 4, When a man's once downe, I perceive he shall be trod uppon 1681 W Robertson, Phrases General, 572, 1754, Berthelson, Eng.-Dansk Dict, s v 'Fall'

52 If men become sheep, the wolf will devour them 1611 Davies (of Hereford), Se of Folly, 42, in Works, u (Grosart)

53 It is meet that a man be at his own bridal 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt 1 ch vi 1633 Draxe, 230 [with "every for "a"]

54 Man doth what he can and God what He will 1633 Draxe, So his 1670 Ray, 97 1736 Bailey Dict, s v "Man"

55 Man hath as many diseases as a horse 1660 Howell, Parly of Beasts, 77

56 Man is a God to man 1548 Hall, Chron., 324 (1809), The olde Greeke proverbe to bee very trew, which is that a man to a man shall sometyme be as a God 1566 L Wager, Mary Magd., sig C 3 1630 T Adams, Works 190 Before 1680 Butler, Remains, u 378 (1759), The philosopher said—Man to man is a God and a wolf

57 Man is a wolf to man [Lupus homo homini—Plautus, As., II 4 88] c 1577 Northbrooke, Dicing, etc 57 (Sh S) A man is a wolfe to a man that is, a devourer one of another 1585 Sir E Dyer, in Writings, 90 (Grosart), We are (by our owne censure) judged wolves one to another 1620 Ford, Life of Life, 50 (Sh S). The old proverbe was that a man is a beast to a man 1707 Dunton, Athen. Sport, 251 'Tis enmity makes one man a wolf to another

58 Man is the head but woman turns at 1875, A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, i 2 1913 Folk-Lore, xxiv 76. (Oxfordsh.) The man's the head and the woman's the neck, and the neck turns the head 1917 Bridge, Cheshir. Proverbs, 93

60. Man, remember thy end, And thou shalt never be shend. 15 cent.: in Relig. Antiquae, i. 316 (1841).


62. Man's extremity. See Need (6).


64. May the man be damned and never grow fat, who wears two faces under one hat. 1855: Bohn, 451.

65. Men are April when they woo, December when they wed. Ibid., 451.


67. Men are not to be measured by inches. 1732: Fuller, No. 3390.


69. Men fear death. See Death (8).

70. Men may meet but mountains never. c. 1541: Mellynge of Dr. Barnes and Dr. Powell, It is sene often That men mete now and than, But so do hyelles never. 1590: Three Lords, etc., in Hazlitt, Old Plays, vi. 410. Men may meet, though mountains cannot. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Montaigne," Men meet often, mountains never. 1681: W. Robertson, Phrasesol. Generalis, 760. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Men," Men meet but mountains never greet. 1823: Scott, Q. Durward, ch. xxi., Mountains, it is said, may meet, and why not mortal creatures . . .


72. Men of principle. See quo. 1820: Colton, Lauen, Pref., The old adage may be verified, that "the men of principle may be the principal men."

73 Men shut their doors against a setting sun. 1607: Shakespeare, Timon, I ii.

74. Men use to worship the rising sun. Before 1634: Chapman, Alphonius, i. i., Men rather honour the sun rising than the sun going down. 1639: Clarke, 12. 1670: Ray, 137. 1732: Fuller, No. 3470, Most men worship the rising sun.

75 Men's vows are women's traitors. 1855: Bohn, 452.

76. Men's years and their faults are always more than they are willing to own. Ibid., 452.

77. The man of God is better by having his bows and arrows about him. 1659: Howell, 4.

78. The man shall have his mare again. 1595: Shakespeare, Mids. N. Dream, III. ii., The man shall have his mare again, and all shall be well. 1653: R. Brome, Damaiselle, IV. ii. [as in 1595]. 1694: Dryden, Love Triumphant, III. ii., Then all shall be set right, and the man, etc 1712: Addison, Spectator, No. 481, Honest Sampson . . . solves it very judiciously, by the old proverb, that if his first master be still living, The man must have his mare again. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I., Col. . . . but her parents forced her to take the old fellow for a good settlement. Ld. Sparkish.

So the man got his mare again. 1827: Creevey, in C. Papers, ii. 123 (1904) (O.), No tidings of the Beau yet! but he must have his mare again.

79 Those, or that which, a man knows best, he must use most. [c 1384: Chaucer, H. Fame, bk. i. l. 290, Therfor
I wol seye a proverbe, That "he that fully knoweth therbe May sauffly leye hit to his ye""] 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Herbe"

80 What's a man but his mind? 1639 Clarke, 16
81 When a man grows angry his reason rides out 1732 Fuller, No 5533
82 You'll needs be a man before your time 1639 Clarke, 267

See also Every man, No man, and Wise man

Man, verb He that is manned with boys and horsed with colts shall have his meat eaten and his work undone 1605 Camden, Remains, 323 (1870) 1670 Ray 1732 Fuller No 2286
1846 Denham, Proverbs, 6 (Percy S.)

Manchester bred long in the arms, and short in the head 1869 Hazlitt, 273

Manners and money make a gentleman 1732 Fuller, No 3333
Manners make a man 1670 Ray, 17

Manners make the man 1460 in Babees Book, etc, 14 (E E T S), Nurtur and good maners maketh man 1513 Bradshaw, St Werburge, 231 (E E T S), Good maners and conyng make a man 1602 Rowlands, Merce when Goss meete, 44 (Hunt CI). The proverbe says tis manners that doth make 1659 Howell 16, Manners make a man, quoth William of Wicham 1694 D'Urfey, Quixote, Pt II Act I sc 1 [as in 1659, but with "the" for "a"] 1729 Defoe, Compl Gent., Pt I ch 1 p 18 (1890), The manners the man 1732 Fuller, No 3334 [as in 1659] 1887 E J Hardy, Manners makyth Man [title] 1922 in Sphere, 5 Aug, 142, "Manners," they say, make the man " I maintain also that a climate makes manners

Manners See also Unmannerliness

Manxton See Heytor

Many a little makes a mickle [el γόραν και σμικράν τοις εσμικράν καυτάσσων τοις γορούσι τόκοιν ἐν και τό γύρωσιν —Hesiod Works and Days 359-60] Before 1225 Ancren R., 54, "put off, as me sooth of iutel wacest muchel 1303 Brumne, Handl Synne, I 2366, For many smale makep a grete c 1386 Chaucer, Parson's Tale, § 21, Manye smale makep a grete 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi [as in 1385] 1593 G Harvey, Works, u 311 (Grosart), Many a little, by little and little makest a mickle 1616 Jack Drum, I., in Simpson, Sch of Shakesp., u 137, Oh, sir, many a small make a great 1680 L'Estrange, Select Collog of Erasmus, 19 1712 Speculator, No 509 1758 Franklin, Poor Rich Imp., in Arber, Garner, v 582 (1882) 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch ix, Many littles make a mickle

Many a man sungeth See quotes c 1300 Prov of Alfred, in Relig Antiquae, i 178 (1841), Monymon sungeth, that wi hom bryngeth, wi Kate his hant, wepen he mylhte c 1320 in Ibid, i 112, "Mon mon sungeth When he hom bringeth Is yonge wyf, Wyste wot he brohte, Wepen he mohte, He his lyf syth ", Quoth Hendyng

Many a miller See Miller (8)

Many a one for land takes a fool by the hand c 1320 in Relig Antiquae, i 115 (1841), "Mon mon for londe wyveth to shonde", quoth Hendyng 1639 Clarke, 99, For a little land, take a fool by the hand 1670 Ray, 116 [as in 1639] 1678 Ray, 56
1732 Fuller, No 6263

Many a one says well that think's ill 1738 Swift, Politie Convers, Dial I
Many by wit purchase wealth, but none by wealth purchase wit 1647 Counrym New Commonwealh, 15

Many can bear adversity, but few contempt 1732 Fuller, No 3340
Many can brook the weather that love not the wind 1592 Shakespeare, L L L, IV ii

Many dishes make many diseases 1655 T Moffett, Healths Improvement, 272 [quoted as a proverb]

Many dogs may easily worry one 1639 Clarke, 56

Many drops make a shower 1616 Honest Lawyer, sig G2, Many drops make a flod 1736 Bailey, Dial, s v Drop" 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 1 (Percy S.)
Many drops of water will sink a ship.
1732: Fuller, No. 3345.

Many estates are spent in the getting,
Since women for tea forsook spinning
and knitting, And men for punch forsook hewing and splitting. 1736: Franklin,
*Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, i. 446 (Bigelow).
1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 578 [as in 1736, but with "their beer"
for "punch." Given as a Chirbury saying].

Friend (8).

Many frosts and many thawes, Make
many rotten yowes [ewes]. 1846: Denham,

Many hands make light work. 1401:
in Wright, *Pol. Poems*, ii. 106 (Rolls
Ser., 1861), Yit many hondis togerider
maken ligt werk. c. 1460: *How the Goode
188, Many handys make light werke,
my leue childe. c. 1550: *Parl. of
Byrdes*, i. 192, in Ibid., iii. 177. 1634: G. Markham, *Art of Archeirche*, 20. 1665:
1732: Fuller, No. 3347. 1923: *Observer*, ii. Feb., p. 9, col. 7, What is the
use of saying that "Many hands make
light work" when the same copy-book
tells you that "Too many cooks spoil
the broth"?

Many hands will carry off much
plunder. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' *Coloq.*, 342 [cited as "the old saying "].

Many have been ruined by buying good
pennyworths. 1732: Fuller, No. 3349.
1736: Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in
*Works*, i. 447 (Bigelow).

Many haws. See Haws.

Many-headed beast, *The=The multi-
tude. [Bellua multorum es capitum.—
Erasmus’ *Apoph.*, 122 (1877). The multitude
of the grosse people, being a beaste of many heads. 1580: Sidney,
*Arcadia*, 226 (1893), O weak trust of
the many-headed multitude. 1604: Webster, etc., *Malcontent*, III. iii., That
beast with many heads, The staggering
Commenti*, III. ii., What is this giddy
multitude?—this beast Of many heads?
l. 221, The people are a many-headed
beast. 1773: in *Garrick Corresp.*, i. 527 (1831). The public is a many-
headed monster and hard to please.
1810: Scott, *Lady of Lake*, can. v. st. 30,
Thou many-headed monster-thing, Oh,
who would wish to be thy king! 1834—7:
Southey, *Doctor, interch. xxii.*, I will
tell you [the public] what you are;
you are a great, ugly, many-headed
beast.

Many hips and haws, Many frosts and
snaws. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 24
(Percy S.). 1913: E. M. Wright,
*Rustic Speech*, etc., 318, Many hips,
many haas, Many frosts, many snaas.
Cf. Haws.

Many humble servants, but not one
tree friend. 1732: Fuller, No. 3350.

Many kinsfolk and few friends. 1546:
Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1616:
*Rich Cabinet*, fo. 50, A man may haue
many kinsfolks, but few friends. 1639:
Clarke, 26. 1710: S. Palmer, *Moral
Essays on Proverbs*, 252, Many relations,
few friends.

Many knacks in his budget, He hath.
1659: Howell, 14.

Many lords many laws. 1633: Draxe,
7.

Many masters. See *Toad* (2).

Many men have many minds, But
women have but two: Everything would
they have, And nothing would they do.
494. 1891: *N. & Q.*, 7th ser., xii. 373.

Many nuts (or nits). See *Nut* (3).

Many rains, many rowans [mountain-
ash berries]; Many rowans, many
yawns. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 54
(Percy S.).

Many relations. See *Many kinsfolk.

Many sands will sink a ship. 1630: T. Adams, *Works*, 708, Many little sands
gather'd to an heape, faie not to swal-
low a greet vessell. 1639: Clarke, 11.
1670: Ray, 118.

Many seames many beanes. Glos.
1639: in *Berkeley MSS.*, iii. 33 (1883).

Many sloes [sloes] many greans.
1850: *N. & Q.*, 1st ser., ii. 511. 1884:
H. Friend, *Flowers and Fl. Lore*, 207,
In Cornwall they have a proverb "Many stones, many groans"

Many speak much who cannot speak well 1639 Draxe, 11 1670 Ray, 17
Many strike on an anvil, When, they must strike by measure 1670 Ray, 17
1732 Fuller, No 556r [with "observe order" for "strike by measure"]

Many strokes See Little strokes
Many things are lost for want of asking 1630 Herbert, "Prudentiam"
Many things grow in the garden which were never sowed 1659 Howell Proverbs Span-Eng, 6 1670 Ray, 12
1732 Fuller, No 3363

Many things lawful are not expedient
1855 Bohn, 450
Many ventures make a full freight 1633 Draxe, 5 1670 Ray, 17 1674
D Urfey Quixote, Pt II Act IV sc ii
Many wells, many buckets 1546
Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vii 1633 Draxe, 237

Many without punishment, but none without fault 1633 Draxe, 62 1670 Ray, 17 [with "sin" for "fault"]

Many women See Woman (30)
Many words hurt See Word (16)
Many words, In See quotes 1548
Hall, "Chren", Dedn, I have redd a olde proverbe, whiche saith, that in many woordes, a lyre or twayne some man scape 1633 Draxe, 11, Where many words are the truth often goeth by

Many words will not fill a bucket 1659 Howell, 9 1712 Motteux, Quixote, Pt I bk xi ch iv [with "bushel" for "bucket"] 1732 Fuller, No 3365 [as in 1712]

Marathon to learn manners, You must go to 1864 "Cornish Proverbs," in N & Q, 3rd ser, v 275

Marathon See also Market-Jew
Marbles See quote 1880 Courtney, W Cornwall Words, viii (E D S).
Those that have marbles may play, but those that have marbles must look on March, subj 1 A bushel of March dust is worth a king's ransom 1533
Heywood, Play of Weather, 114 (Farmer) 1580 Tusser, Husbandrie 97 (E D S) March dust to be sold, Worth ransome of gold 1662 Fuller, Worthies, 1 120 (1840), In England a bushel, etc 1732 Fuller, No 30
1753 Gent Mag, 267 [with "peck" for "bushel" Midland Counties] 1812
Brady, Claus Cal, i 66 1783 In wards, Weather Lore, 18 [both "bushel" and "peck"]

2 A damp rotten March gives pan to farmers Ibid, 19, March damp and warm Will do farmer much harm
3 A dry March and a wet May Fill barns and bays with corn and hay 1886 Holland, Cheshire Gloss, 443 (E D S) 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 162

4 A dry March, an' a windy A full barn an' a findy 1876 C C Robin son, Mid-Yorks Gloss, 40 (E D S)
5 A dry March never begs its bread 1346 Denham, Proverbs, 31 (Percy S) 1803 Inwards, Weather Lore, 18 [with "and cold" after "dry"]
6 A dry March, bet Aprile, and cool May, Fill barn, cellor, and bring much hay Ibid, 20
7 A fair March is worth a king's ransom c 1508 Jonson, Case ii Allerd, V iv
8 A March sun sticks like a lock of wool 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 19
9 A March wind is salt which seasoneth all pulse c 1620 Markham Farew to Husbandry, 95 (1686) [quoted as "an old saying among the best farmers"

10 A March wisher (or whiser) Is never a good fisher 1732 Fuller, No 6127 [whiser''] 1893 Inwards Weather Lore, 19 ['wisher'']
11 A peck of March dust and a shower in May, Makes the corn green and the fields gay 1732 Fuller, No 6476 1893 Inwards 18
12 A wet March makes a sad har vest 1878 Dyer, Eng Folk-Lore, 252 1893 Inwards, 19
13 A windy March and a rainy April make May beautiful 1659 Howell Proverbs Span-Eng, 21 1732 Fuller No 408 1893 Inwards, 20
14 As it rains in March, so it rains in June Ibid, 20
15 As much dew in March, so much fog rises in August Ibid, 19
16. As much fog in March, so much rain in summer. Ibid., 19

17. Dust in March brings grass and foliage. Ibid., 18

18. Fog in March, thunder in July. Ibid., 19.

19. In beginning or in end, March its gifts will send. Ibid., 18.

20. In March, kill crow, pie and cadow [jackdaw], Rook, buzzard, and raven; or else go desire them To seek a new haven. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 35 (Percy S.).

21. In March, the birds begin to search; in April, the corn begins to fill; in May, the birds begin to lay 1869: Hazlitt, 233.

22. In Valentine March lays her line. Ibid., 235.


24. March borrows. See quots. 1646: Browne, Pseudo. Epis., bk. vi. ch. iv., So is it usual among us . . . to ascribe unto March certain borrowed days from April 1670: Ray, 41, April borrows three days of March and they are ill. 1687: Aubrey, Gentilisme, etc., 95 (F.L.S.) [as in 1670]. 1710: Bril. Apollo, iii. No. 18, col 4, March borrows of April Three days, and they are ill; April returns them back again Three days, and they are rain. 1732: Fuller, Nos 6133, 6134, March borrows of April Three days, and they be ill. April borrows of March again Three days of wind and rain. 1893: Inwards, 22, [as in 1732, φίλην] March borrowed of April, April borrowed of May, Three days, they say; One rained, and one snew, And the other was the worst day that ever blew. Staffs. March borrowed from April Three days, and they were ill: The first of them is wan and weet, The second it is snae and sleet, The third of them is peel-a-bane, And freezes the wee bird’s neb to the stane. 1921: R. L. Gales, Old-World Essays, 250, March borrowed a cloak from his father and pawned it after three days. Cf. Borrowing days.

25. March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb—very occasionally reversed. 1624: B. & F., Wife for a Month, II. i., Men. I would choose March, for I would come in like a lion. Tony. But you’d go out like a lamb, when you went to hanging. 1670: Ray, 41, March hackam comes in, etc. 1740: North, Lives of Norths, i. 259 (Bohn). Then came my Lord Shaftesbury, like the month of March, as they say, “in like a lion, and out like a lamb” 1849: Brontë, Shirley, ch. xv. Like March, having come in like a lion, he purposed to go out like a lamb. 1893: Inwards, 19, March, black ram Comes in, etc. Ibid., 20, March comes in like a lamb and goes out like a lion 1921: Sphere, 12 March, p 254, col. 1, In all proper well-regulated years March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.


28. March dust on an apple-leaf brings all kinds of fruit to grief. 1876: Bull, Pomonia Hereford., 50.


33. March rain spoils more than clothes. 1659: Howell, Proverbs: Span.-Eng., 21, March water is worse than a
March, there will be some in May 1737 Ray, 269 1893 Inwards, 19
45 The March sun causeth dust, and
the wind blows it about 1670 Ray, 17
46 The March sun raises but dissolves
not 1610 Herbert, Jac Prudentum
47 Whatever March does not want,
April brings along 1893 Inwards, 23
48 When it thunders in March, it
brings sorrow Ibid, 19

2 If the mare have a bald [white] face,
the filly will have a blaze 1659
Howell, 2 1656 D'Urfey, Quixote,
Pt III Act I 1732 Fuller, No 5596
1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, 1 21
3 I'll not go before my mare to the
market 1678 Ray, 259
4 Mares’ tails See Mackerel sky
5 There are more mares in the wood
than Grisell 1678 Ray, 173
6 To find a mare's nest 1576 R
Peterson, Galateo, III (1802), Not stare
in a mams face, as if he had spied
a mares nest 1582 Breton, Works,
1 a6 (Grosart), To laughe at a horse
nest and whine too like a boy 1619
B & F, Bonduca, 21 Why dost
thou laugh? What mare's nest hast
thou found? 1704 D'Urfey, Tales
Tryg and Comical, 216 n, An old wife’s
saw He has found a mare's nest,
and laughs at the eggs 1864 "Com-
ish Proverbs" in N & Q, 3rd ser, vi
494. They have found a wee's nest
[mare's nest], and are laughing over
the eggs 1922 Weyman, Ovengton’s
Bank, ch a xxi

7 Whose mare is dead? = What's
the trouble? 1595 Marcocci Ex-
tatus (5) (Percy S), Whose mare is
dead, that you are thus melancholy?

8 1598 Deloney, Gentle Craft Pt II
ch in 1598 Shakespeare 2 Henry IV
II 1, How now! whose mare's dead?
What's the matter? 1738 Swift, Polic
Convers, Dial, I

stain in cloath 1882 Mrs Chamber-
lan, W Worcs Words, 37 (EDS)
1893 Inwards, 19 [as in 1659 and
1882]
34 March, search April, try May
will prove if you live or die 1855
N & Q, 1st ser, vi 416 1893 In-
wards, 20
35 March sun lets snow stand on a
stone Ibid, 18
36 March thunder makes all the world
wonder 1805 Rye, E Anglian Words,
228 (EDS)
37 March wind and May sun Makes
clothes white and mends dun 1670
Ray, 41 1744 Clarendon, in Mills
Essay on Weather, 100 (1773) 1882
N & Q, 6th ser vi 14 1893 In-
wards, 20
38 March wind hinders the ether
adder] and blooms the whin 1846
Denham Proverbs, 39 (Percy S)
39 March winds and April showers
Bring forth May flowers 1886 El-
worthy, West Som Word-Book, 461
(EDS) 1893 Inwards, 20
40 March yeans the lamme And
buds the thorn, And blows through the flint Of
an ox's horn Northumb Ibid, 18
41 Never come March never come
winter 1882 Mrs Chamberlain, W
Worcs Words, 37 (EDS)
42 On the first of March, The crows
begin to search 1846 Denham, Pro-
verbs, 39 (Percy S)
43 So many fogs in March, so many
frosts in May 1669 New Help to
Discourse, 284, So many mists as there
be in March, so many hoar frosts there
will be after Easter 1732 Fuller, No
6474, So many mists as in March you
see, So many frosts in May will be
1823 Moor, Suffolk Words, 570 1830
Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 416 1879
N & Q, 5th ser, x 327 "Fogs in
March, frostes in May" is a common
proverb in this part of Surrey [Lumps-
field] 1893 Inwards, 19 [as in 1732
plus] As many mistses in March, So
many frostises in May —Wils Ibid,
20 Mists in March bring rain, Or in
May frosts again
44 So many frosts in March so many
in May 1659 Howell 16 If frost in
Margaret’s flood [Devon] = heavy rain about St. Margaret’s Day—20 July. r 850: N. & Q., 1st ser., ii. 512.

Margery, good cow. See quotes. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vii., Margery good coowe, (quoth he), gaue a good meele, But than she cast it downe again with his heele. 1639: Clarke, 83 ["gives" for "gave," and "kicks" for "cast"]. 1670: Ray, 185, Madge, good cow, gives a good pail of milk, and then kicks it down with her foot.

Mariners’ craft is the grossest, yet of handicrafts the subtillesst. 1629: Book of Meery Riddles, Prov. 101.

Mark after her mother, She hath a. 1678: Ray, 259.

Market. 1. As the market goes wives must sell. 1732: Fuller, No. 734.


3. My market’s made. 1590: Lodge, Rosalynde, 104 (Hunt. Cl.). Well, sir, if your market may be made no where els, home again. 1649: Quarles, Virgin Widow, I., Is it even so? Quack’s thread is fairly spun, Quack may go home again, his market’s done. 1724: Defoe, Roxana, in Works, xiii. 143 (Boston, 1903), "In her coach!" said I; "upon my word, she had made her market then; I suppose she made hay while the sun shone."

4. No man makes haste to the market where there’s nothing to be bought but blows. 1670: Ray, 119. 1732: Fuller, No. 3651.

5. The market is the best garden. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1670: Ray, 17, [as in 1640, plus] At London they are wont to say, Cheapside is the best garden.


Mark Lane. See quot. 1501: Greene, Works, x. 99 (Grosart), Percieved he was bitten [cheated] of all the bite [money] in his bung [purse], and turned to walke penylesse in Marke lane, as the old prouerbe is.

Marls sand, He that. See quot 1753: Gent. Mag., 120, We have an old saying [Lances]: He that marls sand, may buy land; He that marls moss, suffers no loss; But he that marls clay, throws his money away. 1815: W. Peck, Topog. Acc. of Isle of Axholme, 47, If you marle sand, you may buy land; If you marle moss, you shall have no loss; But if you marle clay, you throw all away. 1889: Peacock, Manley, etc., Gloss., 342 (E.D.S.) [as in 1815, but with "there is" for "you shall have," and "fling" for "throw"]). 1908: W. Johnson, Folk Memory, 220 [as in 1889]. 1817: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 72, He who marls sand may buy the land.

Marriage. 1. At marriages and funerals friends are discerned from kinsfolk. 1578: Florio, First Fruits, fo. 25, At marriages and burials friends and kinrede is known. 1629: Book of Meery Riddles, Prov. 55 [as in 1578]. 1732: Fuller, No. 829.

2. He has a great fancy to marriage that goes to the devil for a wife. Ibid., No. 1856.

3. Marriage and hanging go by destiny. 1519: Homan, Vulgaria, fo. 19, It is my destyne to be hanged. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. iii., Wedding is destiny And hanging likewise, saith that proverb. 1595: Shakespeare, M. of Venice, II. ix., The ancient saying is no heresy, Hanging and wiving goes by destiny. 1624: B. & F., Wife for a Month, II. i. 1664: Butler, Hudibras, Pt. II. can. i. l. 839, If matrimony and hanging go By dest'ny, why not whipping too?
Marriage is a lottery. Smiles, Thrift, 252. The maxim is current, that ‘marriage is a lottery.’

5 Marriage is honourable but housekeeping is a shrew. Breton, Works, u e 8 (Grosart), Marriage is honourable. 1670 Ray, 48. Mother Bunch, 2nd Pt 28 (Gomme, 1885). For although housekeeping is chargeable, yet marriage is honourable.

6 Marriage leapeth up upon the saddle and repentance upon the crupper. Polite\n
7 Marriage with peace is this world’s Paradise with strife, this life’s Purgatory. 1669 Polite\n
8 Marriages are made in heaven. [A prudent wife is from the Lord—Prov xix 14] 1567 \n
9 More belongs to marriage than four bare legs in a bed. 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I, ch viii c 1630 in Revd Ballads, 166 (Hindley) 1738 Swift, Poetic Convers, Dial I 1850 Smedley Frank Fairleigh, ch xiv 1922 Lucas, General’s Money ch vi

Married man must turn his staff into a stake, The. 1640 Herbert, Jacc Prudentium [with turns for ‘must turn’] 1670 Ray, 17

Marrow to the patch = well suited. 1917 Bridge Cheshire Proverbs 94

Marvin, verb I Before thou marry Make sure of an house wherein to larry. 1666 Torrano Piazza Univ, 144. Before thou marry, get thy habitation ready. 1670 Ray, 17 1732 Fuller, No 6396

2 He that goes to marry likes to know whether he shall have a chimney to his house. Corn 1869 Hazlitt, 178

3 He that marries a slut eats muckle durt. 1683 Merton, Yorkshire Ale 83-7 (1697)

4 He that marries late marries ill. 1589 Nashe, Works, i 17 (Grosart).

This common proverb, he that marrieth late marrieth evil. 1666 Torrano, Piazza Univ, 143.

5 He that marrieth for wealth sells his liberty. 1670 Ray, 17 1732 Fuller, No 2238

6 He who is about to marry should consider how it is with his neighbours. 1855 Bohn, 400

7 If you marry in Lent you will live to repent. 1850 N & Q, 1st ser, ii 259 1879 Henderson, Folk-Lore N Counties 34

8 It is better to marry a quiet fool than a witty scold. 1647 Countrum New Commonwealth, 34 1669 Polite\n
9 It’s good to marry late or never. 1670 Ray, 47

10 Marry and thrive. See Wife and thrive

11 Marry first and love will follow. 1714 Spectator, No 605. The old family maxim that if she marries first, love will come after. 1780 Mrs Cowley Belle’s Stratagem, 111

12 Marry in haste, repent at leisure. 1566 Painter Poal of Pleasure, i 115 (Jacobs) laste in making lustie chosse, leasure for repentance shuld follow. 1592 Grene, Works, i 86 (Grosart). She was a fra de to match in haste least shee might repent at lesure. 1632 Randolph, Jealous Lovers V ii, Marry too soon, and you’ll repent too late. 1692 Congreve, Old Batchelor, V vii 1713 Gay, Life of Bath I 1842 Barham, Ing Legends, 2nd ser “Aunt Fanny. They repent at leisure who marry at random.”

13 Marry your daughters betimes, lest they marry themselves. 1651 Herbert Jac Prudentium 2nd ed 1670 Ray 47 1732 Fuller, No 3373

14 Marry your son when you will,

15. To marry the mixen for the sake of the muck—"to marry an undesirable person for money." 1737: Ray, 202, You'd marry a midden for muck. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 597.


18. Who marrieth for love without money, hath merry nights and sorry days. 1666: Ibid., 19, He who marries for love, in the night-time hath pleasure, in the day-time sorrow. 1670: Ray, 17. 1732: Fuller, No. 5710. See also May, F (14) and (15); Wed; Wife; and Widow.


Marsham, Lindes. See quotes. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, ii. 269 (1840). They held together as the men of Mar{sh}am when they lost their common. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Linde" [as in 1662]. 1818: Scott, Heart of Midl., ch. xxix., [Newark man log.] They hold together no better than the men of Marsham when they lost their common.

Marshland, He is arrested by the bailiff of. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, ii. 447 (1840). 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Norfolk." 1874: Smiles, Lives of Engineers, i. 15. When a man was stricken down by the ague, it was said of him, "he is arrested by the bailiff of Marshland."

Martin. See Robin (5).

Martin Harvey's duck, Weak in paarts, Like. 1506: Cornish N. & Q., 262.

Martin's hammer. See quot. 1847: Halliwell, Dict., s.v., "She has had Martin's hammer knocking at her wicket," said of a woman who has twins.

Martinmas. I. Between Martinmas

and Yule, Water's worth wine in any

pule. 1846–59: Denham Tracts, ii. 96

(F.L.S.). 1878: Dyer, Eng. Folk-Lore, 261. In the North of England, there is a curious rhyme descriptive of the value of rain in the latter part of the year—

"T'ween Martinmas and Yule, Water's wine in every pool."

2. When the ice before Martelmas

bears a duck, Then look for a winter o' mire and muck. 1881: Evans, Leics. Words, 191 (E.D.S.) [cited as "a common weather proverb"].

3. Where the wind is on Martinmas

Eve, there it will be the rest of the winter. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 37 ['an old saying with the people round"—Atherstone].

4. Wind north-west at Martinmas,

severe winter to come. Hunts Ibid., 37.

See also St. Martin.

Marton Chapel, All on one side like. 1886: Holland, Cheshire Gloss., 444 (E.D.S.). 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 9. . . The meaning is lost.

Marvel. See Wonder.


Master, subs. I. A master of straw

casts a servant of steel. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

2. He can ill be master that never was scholar. 1639: Clarke, 149.

3. He that is a master must serve

(another). 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

4. He that is master of himself will soon be master of others. 1732: Fuller, No. 2182.
5 He that teaches himself has a fool to his master 1641 Jonson, Timber "Consilia." For he that was only taught by himself, had a fool to his master 1692 L'Estrange, Esop, 283 (3rd ed.) 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 32 1867 F C H., in N & Q., 3rd ser., xi 192, [as to origin of the saying] I believe it has arisen from the following sentence of St Bernard — "Quo se sit magistrum constitut, stulto se discipulum subdit" Ep 83—which may be thus rendered in English: He that will teach himself in school, Becomes a scholar to a fool.

6 If the master say the crow is white, the servant must not say 'tis black 1672 Walker, Parare, 10 1681 W Robertson, Phraseol Generals, 871.

7 Masters should be sometimes blind, and sometimes deaf 1732 Fuller, No 3376.

8 The master's eye See Eye (9), (13), and (17).
9 The master's footsteps fallen the soil 1537 R Whitford, Werke for Householders, sig F5. The steppe of the husband [farmer] maketh a fatte donghyll 1659 Howell, 10 1666 Tornano, Piazza Univ., 206 [with field for soil.]

Master, verb Better master one than engage with ten 1732 Fuller, No 916.

Master Hogge See quotes 1857 Archæologica, xxxvii 483, "Master Hogge and his man John, they did cast the first can non" [No date given for original] 1894 A J C Hare, Sussex, 125 The Hog House, with a hog and a bed carved over the door [near Buxted] It was the residence of the Hogge or Huggett family, of whom Ralf Hogge, in 1543, cast the first iron cannon made in England — "Master Huggett and his man John, They did cast the first cannon.

Mastif I A mastiff groweth the fiercer for being tied up 1732 Fuller, No 330.

2 The mastiff never looth the greyhound 1576 Pettie, Pettie Pall, 11 85 (Gollancz) [quoted— 'as the saying is'].

3 Though the mastiff be gentle, yet bite him not by the lip 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1666 D Urley, Quixote, Pt III Act I sc 1. As the proverb says, tho' the bear be gentle, don't bite him by the nose 1732 Fuller, No 5011.

Match, A See quotes 1670 Ray, 216, A match quoth Hatch, when he got his wife by the breech 1678 Ray, 76, A match quoth Jack, when he kist his dame 1732 Fuller, No 321 [as in 1678, but with "John" for "Jack"]

Matter but the mind, 'Tis not 1732 Fuller, No 5105.

Matter heth a bleeding, His 1562 Heywood, Epigr, No 209. Here heth all and bleethed 1633 Draxe, 198 [section on 'Ill success '.]

Matty Tasker's jarlers, Like one o' wold "Jarler" = anything out of the common 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 91.

Mavern Hill See Malvern Hill.

Maxfield, heap and thrust = very good measure 1670 Ray, 217. Macklesfield measure, heap and thrust 1779 Grose, Prov Gloss, s.v. "Cheshire" 1877 E Leigh, Cheshire Gloss, 132 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 94. Maxfield measure, heap and thrust, or, Maxfield mazer, uptopped and thrusted [pressed down].

May, sub A COLD MAY I A cold May and a windy makes a fat barn and findy 1659 Howell, 21 1744 Claridge, in Mills, Essay on Weather, 101 (1773) [with "full" for "fat"] 1825 Hone, Ev Day Book, 1 669 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 26 [as in 1744].

2 A cold May is good for corn and hay 1893 Inwards Weather Lore, 26.

4 A cold May is kind 1882 Mrs Chamberlan, W Worcs Words, 17 (E D S). Local proverb ["kind" = favourable].

5 A cold May is kindly, And fills the barn finely 1893 Inwards, 26.

6 Cold May brings many things 1893 Inwards, 26.

7 Cold May enriches no one 1893 Inwards, 26.
8. For an east wind in May 'tis your duty to pray. Ibid., 26.

B. DRY MAY. 1. A dry May and a dripping June Bring all things into tune. Beds. Ibid., 28.

2. A dry May and a leaking June Make the farmer whistle a merry tune. Ibid., 27.

3. A dry May is followed by a wet June. Ibid., 27.

4. Dry May brings nothing gay. Ibid., 25.


2. For a warm May the parsons pray. 1893: Inwards, 25.

E. WET MAY. 1. A dropping May Fills the barns with corn and hay. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 162.


4. A May wet was never kind yet. Ibid., 25.

5. A wet and windy May, Fills the barn with corn and hay. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 162.


F. UNCLASSIFIED. 1. A red gay May. See quot. 1623: Wodroephe, Spered Hours, 425. A red gay May is best in any yeare; February full snow is to ye' ground most deare; A whistling March (that makes the ploughman blithe); and moistie April that fits-him for the sithe.


3. As fine as a May-pole on May-day. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 43 (Percy S.).

4. Be it weal or be it woe, Beans blow before May doth go. 1678: Ray, 351. 1732: Fuller, No. 6202 [with "should" before "blow"]. 1893: Inwards, 27 [as in 1678].

5. Be sure of hay Till the end of May. 1732: Fuller, No. 6197.


7. Come it early or come it late, In May comes the cow-quake [tremulous grass]. 1670: Ray, 41, May come she early or come she late, she'll make the cow to quake. 1732: Fuller, No. 6197, May come early, come late, 'Twill make the cow to quake. 1893: Inwards, 26.


9. If May will be a gardener, he will not fill the granaries. Ibid., 25.

10. If you sweep the house with broom in May, You'll sweep the head of that house away. 1878: Folk-Lore Record, i. 52. 1879: Henderson, Folk-Lore N. Counties, 50 [heard in Sussex].

1887: Zincke, Hist. of Wherstead, 179. I used to hear the rhymes:—"Sweep with a broom that is cut in May, And you will sweep the head of the house away."

11. In May an east-lying field is
worth wain and oxen, in June, the oxen
and the yoke 1693 Inwards 27

12 Look at your corn in May, and
you'll come weeping away. Look at the
same in June, and you'll come home in
another tune. 1639 Clarke, 307 [a
little varied] 1670 Ray 41 1827
Hone, Table-Book, 667. He that goes to
see his wheat in May comes weeping
away 1883 Burne, Shropshire Folk-
Lore, 579. Of green corn Go in the
May, And come weeping away Go in
the June, And come home another tune
1893 Inwards, 27. a proverb al-
luding to the magical way in which
unpromising crops sometimes recover

13 Many thunderstorms in May, And
the farmer sings "Hey! hey!" Ibid, 27

14 Married in May will soon decay
1846 Denham, Proverbs, 48 (Percy S.),
From the marriages in May All the
barns die and decay 1872 J. G. Lyde
jr, Norfolk Garland, 16 [as in 1846]
1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 93

15 Marry in May, you'll rue it for
aye 1675 Poor Robin Alman, May,
The proverb saes Of all the
moneths 'tis worst to wed in May
1879 Henderson, Folk-Lore N Counties,
34, The ancient proverb still lives on
the lips of the people of Scotland and
the Borders—Marry in May Rue for aye
1913 E. M. Wright, Rustic Speech, etc, 218, Marry in May, you'll rue it for aye,
is a Devonshire saying

16 May and December (or January)
c 1386 Chaucer, Merche Tale, 1 449.
That she, this mayden, which that
May us byghte should weded be
unto this Januare 1606 Dekker,
Works, II 71 (Grosart), You doe wrong
to Tune, enforcing May to embrace
December c 1613 Rowlands, Paire
of Spy-Knaues, 7 (Hunt CI), Yonder
goes cold December match'd with May
1634 Massenger, Guardian, I 1, I am
in the May of my abilities, And you in
your December 1892 R. Buchanan,
Comin Terrors, 287 (O.), When astmatic
January weds buxom May

17 May and June are twin sisters
1846 Denham, Proverbs 49 (Percy S.)
18 May-bees don't fly this month

A punning saying 1738 Swift, Polite
Corners, Dial I, Miss Maybe there is
colonel Col Ay, but May bees don't
fly now, miss

19 May chets bad luck begets "Chets"
=children in Cornwall, and, hence,
kittens also 1690 Dryden, Amphi-
tryon, III, Blear-ey'd, like a May
kitten 1865 Hunt, Pop Romances
W of Eng 430 (1896) 1878 Dyer,
Eng Folk-Lore, 276 1879 Hender-
son, Folk-Lore N Counties, 115. A
certain unluckiness is held all England
over to attend a May kitten as well as
a May baby 1882 Jago, Gloss of
Cornish Dialect 131 1902 N & Q, 9th ser., v 77, In Huntingdonshire it
is a common saying that a "May
kitten makes a dirty cat." 1913
E. M. Wright, Rustic Speech, etc, 218
20 May never goes out without a wheat
ear 1830 Forby, Vocab E Anglia,
477 1893 Co Folk-Lore Suffolk, 163
(FLS)

21 May-day has come and gone, thou
art a gosling and I am none 1846
Denham, Proverbs, 44 (Percy S.) 1904
Co Folk-Lore Northumb, 277 (FLS)

22 Never cast a clout till May be out
1732 Fuller, No 6193 [with "Leave not
off" for "Never cast"] 1886 Eli
worthy, West Sorn Word-Book, 457
(FlS), If you would the doctor pay
Leave your flannels off in May 1887
Parish and Shaw, Dict Kent Dialect,
99 (EDS) 2893 Inwards, Weather
Lore, 25, Till May be out Leave not
off a clout or, Change not a clout
Till May be out 1906 N & Q, 20th
ser., v 433. Never change a thing Till
May comes in Never cast, etc Ibid,
424, Button to chin Till May be in,
Cast not a clout till May be out

23 No grass first of May, Fetch
another cow to the ley 1917 Bridge,
Cheshire Proverbs, 98

24 The first of May is Robin Hood's
day 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 47
(Percy S.)

25 The more thunder in May, the
less in August and September 1893
Inwards Weather Lore, 27

26 They who bathe in May will soon
be laid in clay, They who bathe in June

27. To get up (or over) May hill 1825: Hone, Ev. Day Book, i 652. The month of May is called a “trying” month, to persons long ailing with critical complaints. It is common to say “Ah, he’ll never get up May-hill!” or, “If he can climb over May-hill he’ll do.” 1863: Wise, New Forest, ch xvi, “He won’t climb up May Hill,” that is, he will not live through the cold spring. 1887: Parish and Shaw, Dict Kent. Dialect, 99 (E.D S.), I don’t think he’ll ever get up May hill.


30. You must not count your yearlings till May-day. 1823: D’Israeli, Cur. of Lit., 2nd ser., i 441 (1824). The state of an agricultural people appears in such proverbs as “You must not,” etc.

See also April (3), (4), (9), (12), (13), and (17); Bee (3); Cuckoo, passim; Doe; Fresh as flowers; January (4), (8), (17), and (18); July (9); Leeks; March, passim; Merry month; Sage; Sheep (13) and Thistle (2).

May, verb. 1. That one may not another may. 1540: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II, ch. ii.

2. That which may fall out at any time, may fall out to-day. 1732: Fuller, No. 4383.

3. What may be done at any time will be done at no time. ‘Ibid., No. 5500.

4. Who that may not as they will, must will as they may. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II, ch. v 1633: Drake, i.

5. You may if you list, but do if you dare. 1678: Ray, 350.

Mayors. See Altringham; Calenick; East Looe; Falmouth; Halsover; Hartlepool; Lord-Mayor; Market-Jew; Northampton; Over; Tregonay; and Wigan.

Measure

Mazed. See quotas. 1895: J. Thomas, Randigal Rhymes, 61, Mazed as a curley [Corn.]. 1926: Devonsh. Assoc Trans, Ivii. 144, “Mazed as a brish” [brush] is a common saying about Newton Abbot . . . Still commoner, “mazed as a sheep.” I have also heard “mazed as a broom-stick.”

Meal make before sail take. Corn 1869: Hazlitt, 279.

Meals. See Better are meals.


Mean as an higgler, As. 1017: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 18, Higgler = Huckster or hawker.

Mean as tongs, As. 1899: S. O. Addy, in N. & Q., 9th ser., iv. 206. . . . I have occasionally heard this phrase in Sheffield.

Means, Use the, and God will give the blessing. 1633: Drake, 109. 1670: Ray, 17. 1732: Fuller, No. 5413. Use the means, and trust to God for the blessing

Measure, subs. 1. He that loves measure and skill, ofth hath his will. c. 1460: How the Good Wife, 1. 55. That mesure louethe, and skille, ofte hath his wille.


1603: Shakespeare, Measure for Measure [title]. 1834-7: Southeby, Doctor, interch. xxi. [title].


4. Measure is medicine. 1362: Langland, Plowman, A, i. 33.

5. Measure is treasure. c. 1225: Ancren R., 336 (Morton), The middel wele of mesure is euer guldene [golden]. c. 1420: Lydgate, Minor Poems, 82 (Percy S.), An olde proverbe—“mesour is tresoure.” Before 1529: Skelton,
Meat

Magnificence, I 126 1639 Clarke
206 1732 Fuller, No 6321
6 There is a measure in all things [c 1450 Alice of Aristotill, in E E T S, Ext Ser, 67 (1869), For a measurable mene is best for vs alle] 1633 Drake, 129

Measure, verb 1 He measures a
1813 Ray, 75
2 He that measures not himself is measured 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium
3 Measure three and cut once 1591 Florio Second Futes, 97, Alaways measure manie Before you cut anie 1623 Wodroephc Spared Houses, 275, Measure thrice, before thou shapest once 1670 Ray, 17, Measure thrice what thou buyest, and cut it but once 1732 Fuller No 3381
4 To measure another by your own yard 1580 Pap with a Hatchet, To Reader, They measure conscience by their owne yard 1659 Howell, 12, You measure every one by your own yard 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 597, To measure your neighbours cloth by your own yard
5 To measure another's corn by one's own bushel 1631 W Saltonstall, Picture Loquentes, sig F1, Her corn stands not long for the sellers sake, and she crosses the proverbe, for she measures it out by another's bushell 1670 Ray, 186, You measure every ones corn by your own bushel 1713 Gay, Wife of Bath, I, Pray do not measure my corn with your bushel, old Drybones! 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, 1 58, "You measure me a peck out of your own bushel", you judge of my disposition by your own 1920 L J Jennings, Chestnuts and Small Beer, 138, No man is inclined to measure his own corn by another man's bushel

Meat, sub 1 A man is not sure of his meat till it is in his mouth 1684 Great Frost, 14 (Percy S) [quoted as an old proverb]
2 If twasn't for meat and good drink the women might gnaw the sheets 1698 Terence made English, 56 (2nd ed) [quoted as the old saying]
3 Look not on the meat but on the man 1533 Heywood, Play of Love,

I 1230 (Brandl, Quellen, 198) 1639 Clarke, 84, Shew me not the meat, but shew me the man 1678 Ray, 354
To measure the meat by the man
4 Meat and drink to one, To be 1533 Frith Answ More, E7 (O) It ys meate and drinke to this childe to plane 1573 G Harvey, Letter-Book, 51 (Camden S), Whitch were such matter as would be meat and drink to M Proctor 1642 Fuller, Pro fane State "Hypocrite, Even fasting itself is meat and drinke to him, whilst others behold it 1681 Robertson Phrascd Generalis, 876, It is meat and drink to me
5 Meat and mass (or matins) hinder no mans journey (or work) 1639 Clarke, 273, Meat and mattens hinder no mans journey 1670 Ray, 120 [as in 1639] 1732 Fuller, No 3382 [as in 1639, but "not a" for 'no mans' ] 1823 Scott, Q Durward, ch xi, "Meat and mass" (crossing himself) "never hindered the work of a good Christian man" 1893 R L S, Catriona, ch xix, I beg to remind you of an old musty saw, that meat and mass never hindered man Of Mass and meat, Meals and matins, and Prayers and provender
6 Meat is much but manners is more 1639 Clarke, 93 1685 Menton, Yorkshire Ale, 54, For meat is muckle but mence [credit] is more 1732 Fuller, No 3383 [with "malice, for 'manners," but this must surely be a misprint]
7 Meat must be had, but work may stay 1687 Poor Robin Alman Prog nost sig C8 [quoted as "ancient proverb"]
8 Meat was made for mouths 1609 Shakespeare, Cortolusan, I 1
9 One man's meat is another man's poison [Tantaque in his rebus dis tanta, differens rasque est, Ut quod albus est, alius suum acre venenum - Lucretius, iv 638 ] 1546 Heywood Proverbs, Pt II ch 11, That one loveth not, another doth 1630 Taylor (Water Poet), Works 2nd pagin 254, And one man's meat, another's poison is 1709 O Dykes, Eng Proverbs, iv (2nd ed)
Meddle

1759: Townley, High Life below Stairs, I. i., Alas, Sir! what is one man's poison is another man's meat. 1883: Trollope, Autobiog., ch. x. [with "food" for "meat"]. 1914: Lucas, Landmarks, 197.

10. To be meat for another's mouth. [Non ego sum pollucta pagō.—Plautus, Rud., 425.] 1598: Shakespeare, 2 Henry IV., II. iv., I am meat for your master. 1616: Haughton, Englishism for my Money, II. i., I am no meat for his mowing [mouthing], nor yours neither. 1681: Otway, Soldier's Fortune, II. i., Let my doxy rest in peace, she's meat for thy master. 1738: Swift, Pohle Convers., Dial. I., That's meat for your master. 1855: Kingsley, West. Hol. ch. viii., And that you can't have, for it's meat for your masters.

11. To bring meat in the mouth. 1580: G. Harvey, Works, i. 92 (Grosart). Those studies and practices, that carry as they saye, meate in their mouth. 1639: Clarke, 43, It brings meat i' th' mouth. 1670: Ray, 186.

12. When meat is in anger is out. 1639: Clarke, 178.

Meddle, verb. I. He that meddleth with all things may goe shoe the goslings. c. 1434: inscrip. in Whalley Church, cited in Farmer's Heywood's Proverbs, 377 (1906), Whoso melles of wat men doo, Let hym cum hier and sho the ghos. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. iii., Who medleth in all thynge maie shooe the goslyng. 1670: Ray, 120. 1732: Fuller, No. 6445.

2. I will neither meddle nor make, 1593: Nashe, Works, iv. 151 (Grosart) If in speech you neither meddle nor make with hym. 1609: Shakespeare, Troilus, I. i., For my part, I'll not meddle nor make no further. 1675: Cotton, Burl. upon Burlesque, 259 (1765), I should do very imprudently ... Either to meddle or to make. 1759: Lillo, Sibyl, III. v., They are ticklish things, and I don't much care to meddle or make with 'em. 1849: Bronté, Shirley, ch. xxi., Moore may settle his own matters henceforward for me; I'll neither meddle nor make with them further. 1920: E. Gepp, Essex Dialect

Dict., 22, "I'on't nuther meddle nor make," I won't interfere.

3. Meddle with your old shoes. 1577: Misogonus, II. v., What, are you his spokesman? meddle you with your old showes. 1639: Clarke, 18, Meddle with what you have to doe. 1670: Ray, 186. 1682: Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 877, Meddle with your old shoes; Tuà quod nihil refert, ne cures Medgelly's cow. See quot. 1753: in Stukeley Memoirs, iii. 179 (Surtees S.), A proverb in this country [Shropsh.], "Medgelly's cow, for one that gives a deal of milk."

Medicines be not meat to live by. 1659: Politephuia, 175.

Medlars are never good till rotten. 1599: J. Weever, Epigr., 19 (1911), Medlars are newer ripe before that they be rotten. 1674: Head and Kirkman, Eng. Rague, iii. 259, A medlar, which is never good till rotten. 1678: Ray, 52.

Medlock. See Yoke.

Meet with one's match, To. c. 1305: Miracle of St. James, 48, in E.E.P., 59 (1862) (O.), Je schrewe fond his macche jë. c. 1400: Beryn, 4 (E.E.T.S.), Lo! howe je clowdis worchyn, eche man to mete his mach. 1485: Malory, Morte d'Arthur, bk. x. ch. 54, Goo feche sire launcelot or sir Tristram and there shalle ye fynde your matche. 1594: Greene, Frier Bacon, sc. ix., How now . . . have you met with your match? 1632: Shirley, Witty Fair One, I. iii., Clare. I am married, sir. Bra. Then I hope you have met with your match already. 1700: Congreve, Way of World, III. vii., Well, Mr. Famall, you have met with your match. 1874: N. & Q., 5th ser., i. 205, Nor insult any one, lest you meet with your match.

Meeterly [Tolerably, Indifferently] as maids are in fairness. 1678. Ray, 355 1683: Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697).

very tall woman, from one famous in
story, called Long Meg of Westminster.

Melancholy as a cat, As 1592
Lely, Mudas, V ii 1597 Shakespeare,
1 Henry IV, I ii, I am as melancholy
as a gib cat 1599 Chapman
Hum. Day's Mirth, sc i 1609 in Hall
well, Books of Characters, 115 (1857)
1694 D'Urfey, Quiver Pt II Act I
sc 1, Yonder he lies, and as melancholy
as a cat in a church-steeple, expecting
my return 1720 Guy, Poems, n 278,
(Underhill), I melancholy as a cat. Am
kept awake to weep 1785 Grose
Class Diet Vulgar Tongue, s.v. 'Gib
cat." As melancholy as a gib cat as
melancholy as a he-cat who has been
catterwauling whenever they always
return scratched, hungry, and out of
spirits 1820 Lamb, South-Sea House
Melancholy as a gib-cat over his counter
all the forenoon

Melancholy as a collier's horse, As
1659 Howell, io

Melancholy as a sick monkey, As
1836 Marryat, Easy, ch xx

Melancholy as a sick parrot, As
1682 A Behn, False Count, I ii

Melverley, Shropsh 1841 Harts
horne, Salopian Ant, 504. Its remote
ness, perhaps, and the frequency of
misd-margin to which it is subject, has
occasioned the place to pass into a bye
word, and its inhabitants to be called
Melverley God helps [Also, after good
crops] Melverley where do you think?
1913 E. M. Wright, Rustic Speech,
etc., 181. To direct a person to go to a
place not to be named to ears polite is
to tell him to go to Melverley, a saying
which has arisen from the fact that
this village is continually flooded by
the inundations of the Severn, and is
therefore a place where ills and mis
fortunes befall the inhabitants 1928
Truth, 12 Sept p 454, col 2, Melverley
God help us! Melverley, where else?

Memory is the treasure of the mind
1560 T Wilson Rhetorique, 209 (1909)
The memorie called the treasure of
the minde 1642 Fuller, Holy State
"Memory," Memory is the
treasure-house of the mind
IV. i., Fisher. . . who knowes but I
In tyme may proove a noble marchant? Clowine. Yes, of eele skinnes. 1655: A. Brewer, Love-sick King, I., in Bang, Materialien, B. 18, p. 13, Then am I a merchant, not of eels-skins, but lamb-skins.


4. He is not a merchant bare that hath money-worth or ware. 1670: Ray, 17732. Fuller, No. 6240.

5. He that could know what would be dear, need be a merchant but one year. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch i. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Adventure," We say, he that did know what would be deare, might grow full rich within a yeare. 1670: Ray, 78. 1732: Fuller, No. 6077.

6. He that loseth is a merchant as well as he that gains. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 150.


8. To play the merchant = To rob or cheat. 1593: Nashe, Works, iv. 240 (Grosart), Is it not a common proverbe amongst us when any man hath cossed or gone beyonde vs, to say, Hee hath playde the merchant with us? 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Larron," Either a merchant or a theefe. 1632: Rowley, New Wonder, IV., I doubt, sir, he will play the merchant with us.

Mercury. See quot. 1588: Cogan, Haven of Health, 45 (1612), It is a common proverbe among the people, Be thou sикce or whole, put Mercurie in thy koale.

Mere scholar. See Scholar.

Mere wishes are silly fishes. 1732: Fuller, No. 6290.

Merry and wise. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. ii., Good to be merie and wise, they thinke and feele. 1593: G. Harvey, Works, ii. 247 (Grosart), It is good, they say, to be merie, and wise. 1668: Davenant, Man’s the Master, Prol., The proverbe says, "Be merie and be wise." 1774: Colman, Man of Business, I. 1779: Johnson, in Letters, ii. 114 (Hill), Old Times have bequeathed us a precept, to be merie and wise, but who has been able to observe it? 1840: Dickens, Curiosity Shop, ch. vii.

Merry as a cricket. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1597: Shakespere, I Henry IV., II. iv. 1653: Urquhart, Rabelais, bk. i. ch. xxix., And send them home as merry as cricketes unto their own houses. 1787: O’Keeffe, The Farmer, I. ii. 1834: Marryat, Peter Simple, ch. i. 1918: Walpole, Green Mirror, bk. i. ch. i., Healthy, happy, . . . lively as cricketes—not a happier family in England

Merry as a Greek. c. 1551: Udall, Roister Doister, I. i. [one of the characters is Mathew Merygreeke]. 1611: Jonson, in Coryat, Crudities, i. 17 (1905), Hee is a mad Greeke, no lesse than a merry. 1655: Fuller, Church Hist., bk ii. § iii. (22), We know the modern proverb, of a merry Greek. 1670: Cotton, Scarronides, bk. iv., Merry as Greeks, and drunk as Lords. 1784: New Foundl. Hosp. for Wit, iii. 176, Make me merry as a Greek.

Merry as a grig. 1566: Drant, Horace, Sat., I. iii., A merry grigge, a loane-cende frende. 1675: Cotton, Budl. upon Burlesque, 195 (1765), A merry grig, and a true toper. Before 1704: T. Brown, in Works, ii. 188 (1760), They drank till they all were as merry as grigs 1713: Gay, Wife of Bath, V. iii., Ah! friend, we were merry grigs in times past. 1775: Jos. Wedgwood, in Letters (priv. printed 1903), We have a housefull of children, all as merry as Griggs. 1859: Sala, Twice Round Clock, 3 p.m., They can be as merry as grigs among themselves when they so choose. 1886: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 301 (E D S.), “So merry’s a grig” and “So merry’s a cricket” are equally common.

Merry as a king. See Happy.

Merry as a pie. c. 1386: Chaucer, Shipman’s Tale, l. 209, And forth she gooth,
as golff as a pye 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vii 1590 Tarltons Newes out of Purg 68 (Sh S), Home went Lystetta, as merry as a pye 1600 Dekker, Shoem Holiday, V v , Ile be as merrife as a pie 1613 S Rowley, When You See Me, sig C3, Hele lafe and bo as merry as a mag-pie 1630 B & F, Mons Thomas, IV ii , At Valentine's house so merry? As a pie, sir

Merry as beggars 1659 Howell, II, As merry as fourty beggars 1700 Ward, London Spy, 264 (1924), Both were as merry as beggars 1724 Swift, Draper, Lett IV, We should live together as merrily and sociable as beggars

Merry as he that hath nought to lose, Who so? 1672 Walker, Param., 39

Merry as mice in malt 1639 Clarke, 185 1659 Howell, 3 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch vii , Some families are as merry as mice in malt on very small wages

Merry as the maid's c 1530 in Roxb Ballads, i 448 (B S), For with joviall blades I'm as merry as the maid's 17th cent in Marchant, Praise of Ale, 249 (1888), We will be as merry as the maides 1670 Ray, 202

Merry as three chips 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch vii

Merry as tunkers 1659 Howell, 3

Merry at meat, It is good to be 1633 Draxe, 66 1670 Ray, r8

Merry be the first, and merry be the last, and merry be the first of August 1869 Hazlitt, 280

Merry but unlook'd-for guest See quot 1819 Combe, Syntax Consol Tour, can xxxix, And if the proverb says what's true, Which those old saws are apt to do, The merry, but unlook'd for guest, Full often proves to be the best

Merry companion, A. See quotes 1597 Lyly, Woman in Mone, IV, A merry companion is as good as a wagon 1616 Breton, in Works, ii c 8 (Grosart), A merry companion is a wagon in the way 1666 Torrano, Piazza Univ, 49, A merry companion on the way is as good as a nag 1732 Fuller, No 324, is musick in a journey

Merry-go-down=good ale c 1470 in Songs and Carols, 92 (Percy S), I know a draught off merry-go-downe 1567 Golding, Ovid, bk v i 556, On she brought her by and by a draught of merrie go downe 1591 Lodge, Daltaros, 21 (Hunt Cl) c 1791 Pegge, Derbisins, iii (E D S) 1886 Bickerdyke, Curios of Ale and Beer, 120, Used by those ancient worthies in compounding their ' merrie-go-downe'

Merry in hall when beards wag all, 'Tis c 1310 King Alsaundar, i 1163 Smithe myrty hit is in halle, When the burdes waven alle 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vii 1598 Shakespeare, 2 Henry IV, V iii 1616 Jonson, Masque of Christmas 1712 Addison, Spectator, No 371 1846 Wright, Essays on Middle Ages, i 43, The object at which they now aimed being to make 'beards wag merry in hall'

Merry is the company till the reckoning comes 1678 Ray, 175, Merry is the feast-making till we come to the reckoning 1732 Fuller, No 3409

Merry man as the sad, As long liveth the c 1300 in Vernon MS, 347 (E F T S), Lengor lueth a glad mon then a soni c 1550 Udall, Roast Doster, I i, As long liveth the merry man (they say), As doth the sorry man and longer by a day 1590 Porter, Two Angry Women, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, vii 308 1630 Tinker of Turbery p iv (Hallwell), Lives not a merry man longer than a sad? 1732 Fuller, No 711 ["beart" for "man"] 1861 Peacock, Gyll Grange, ch xxxi [as in 1550]

Merry meet merry part. 1678 Ray, 175 1732 Fuller, No 3410

Merry month of May, The [1412-20 Lydgate, Troy Book, bk i 1293 And May was come, the monyth of gladnes] 1577 J Grange, Golden Aphroditis, sig E4, It might be the merry moneth of May 1594 Barnfield, Affect Sheph 41 (Percy S) c 1610 in Roxb Ballads vii 42 (B S) c 1680 in Ibid, vii 434 (B S) 1700 Dryden, Pal and Arcite, ii 41.
Merry

Observance to the month of merry May.
1889: Gilbert, Gondoliers, i., All the year is merry May!

Merry nights make sorry days. Staffs.

Merry pin, On. c. 1386: Chaucer, M. Orch. Tale, I. 272, Your herte hangeth on a foly pin.
1480: Digby Plays, 156 (E.E.T.S.), I will no more row a-geyn the ffloede, I will sett my soule on a merry pynne.
1553: Respublica, II. iii., Canne Avarice harte bee sett on a merie pynne . . .? 1639: Davenport, New Trick to cheat Devil, I. ii., Faith I was never on a merrier pinn, Nor my breast lighter hearted.
1710: Matt. Henry, Commentary (Dan. v. 4), The cups going round apace, and all upon the merry pin.
1818: Lent. Mag., Pt. II. 13-17, When a person is much elated, we say he is in a merry pin, which no doubt originally meant he had reached that mark [in a pegged tankard] which had deprived him of his usual sobriety.
1909: Hackwood, Inns, Ales, etc., 146, By which time he was in merry mood, or, as the phrase ran, "in merry pin."

Merry that dance, All are not. c. 1430: Lydgate, Daunce of Machabree, I. 392, Al be not merye which that men seen daunce.
1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Aise," Every one is not merry that dances.
1640: Herbert, Fac. Prudentium, All are not merry that dance lightly.

Merry to keep one's own, It is. c. 1460: How the Good Wife, I. 60, Merry is owne things to kepe.

Merry when friends meet, It's. 1639: Clarke, 26.

Merry when gentle-folks meet, 'Tis.
1647: A. Brewer, Countrie Girl, sig. H3, And soo—as the proverbe is, tis merry when gentle folks meete.

Merry when gossipes meet, It is.
1616: Breton, in Works, ii e 6 (Grosart).
1625: Jonson, Staple of News, Induction.
1639: Clarke, 184.

Merry when knaves meet, It is. c. 1520: Cock Lorells Bote, 14 (Percy S.), But merry it is when knaues done mete.
1590: Three Lords and Three Ladies, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, vi. 470.
1639: Clarke, 290.

Merry when maltmen meet, It is.
1631: Brathwait, Whimzies, 145 (1859).

Mersey. See Yoke.

Mettle is dangerous in a blind horse.
1670: Ray, 18, Metal, sc. 1696: D'Urfey, Quixote, Pt. III. Act I., Too much mettle is, etc.
1732: Fuller, No. 3411.

Mettle to the back, He is. c. 1591: Shakespeare, Titus Andr., IV. iii., But metal, Marcus, and to the very back.
1773: Coffey, Boarding-School, sc. v., The girl is mettle to the back.
1745: Agreeable Companion, 105, A notable fellow of his inches, and metal to the back. Cf. Steel.

Mice. See Dead (15); Mouse; No larder; and Rat (1) and (6).

Michaelmas. 1. At Michaelmas time, or a little before, half an apple goes to the core; at Christmas time, or a little after, a crab in the hedge, and thanks to the grafter.
1869: Hazlitt, 77.

2. He spent Michaelmas rent in Midsummer noon.
1605: Camden, Remains, 323 (1870).
1665: J. Wilson, Projectors, II., A good honest man's daughter, that shall bring him no charge . . . One that shall not spend his Michaelmas rents in Midsummer noon.
1732: Fuller, No. 2026.
1846: Denham, Proverbs, 6 (Percy S.).
3 Michaelmas chickens and parsons' daughters never come to good.
1894: Northall, Folk Phrases, 19 (E.D.S.).
4. The Michaelmas moon. See Moon (17).
5. 'Tis good to have a Michaelmas-groat at Easter.
1710: S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 280, . . . The . . . proverb is vulgar and peculiar to the watermen, whose business is brisk only in the summer.
See also Eat (5); Goose (19); Moon (13) and (17); St. Michael; and Three things that never.

Mickle ado and little help. 1670: Ray, 120.

Middle Temple. See Gray's Inn.

Middlesex clowns.
1662: Fuller, Worthies, ii. 313 (1840) [in the singular].
Middlesex

1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s.v. 'Middlesex'.

Middlesex jury See London (1).

Middlesex See also Derbyshire.

Midsummer Eve See *quot* 1878 Dyer, *Eng Folk-Lore*, 257. According to an old saying 'If it rains on Midsummer Eve, the filberts will be spoilt.'


1670 Ray, 214. 'Tis Midsummer moon with you, I e you are mad. 1732 Fuller, *No 2974* [as in 1670] 1846 Denham, *Proverbs*, 51 (Percy S) [as in 1670].

Midsummer rain spoils hay and grain.


Midsummer See also St John.

Might is (or overcometh) right [Plus potest, qui plus valet—Plautus, *Trucul*, IV iii 30] c 1311 m. Wright, *Poets Songs*, *to* *Edw II*, 254 (Camden S). For might is right 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II by v. Might overcometh right 1591 Greene, *Works*, v 60 (Grosart), Might overcometh right 1638 D. Tuvell, *Vade Mecum*, 182 (3rd ed.). It is an old country proverbe, that Might overcometh right. 1742 North, *Lives of Norths*, ii 66 (Bohn) [as in 1591] 1836 Marryat, *Easy, ch vi*. This is the age of iron, in which might has become right. 1846 Bentley *Ballads*, 22 (1876). That often might has vanquished Right, is now a thince-told tale.

Might or slight, Either by 1639 Clarke 127 1670 Ray, 186.

Mild as a lamb 1530 Palsgrave, 626, I can make hym as mylde as a lambe. 1596 Shakespeare, *Rych II*, II 1. In peace was never gentle lamb more mild 1670 Ray, 206 1707 tr. Aleman's *Guzman*, ii 62. From a tygress she became as mild as a lamb. 1883 R. L. S. *Treasure I.*, ch xiii.

Mile from an ess-mudden, He'll never get a 1886 R. Holland *Cheshire Gloss*, 449 (E.D.S.) 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 69. He hasn't the pluck or energy to go far or do much.

Mile of an oak, Within a 1599 Porter, *Two Angry Women*, sc xi, *Coo*.


Mill, subs 1. *His milk boiled over* 1732 Fuller, *No 2510*.

2 I'll have none of your flat milk 1659 Howell, ii.

3 Mylke is white And thieth not in the dake, But all men know it good meate Inke is all blacke And hath an ill smache No man will it drunk nor eat 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch 19.

4 Milk says to wine, 'Welcome friend' 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*.

5 My milk *See* *quot* 1639 in *Berkeley MSS*, iii 31 (1885). My milk is in the cowes horror, now the zune is rvy'd at Capricorne [Glos *].

See also Nothing (29).

Mill, subs 1. As good water goes by the mill as drives it 1732 Fuller, *No 691*.

2 From mill and market See *quot* Before 1225 *Ancren R.*, 88, From mull and From cheping, from smieth and From anre huse, me thigende bringen 1611 Cotgrave, s.v. *Moulin,* 'An oven and mill are nurseries of news' 1659 Howell *Proverbs*, tr. Eng., ii. If you will learn news, you must go to the oven or the mill.

3 His mill will go with all winds 1732 Fuller, *No 2511*.

4 In vain does the mill clack, if the muller his hearing lack 1631 Mably, *Celestana*, 244 (TT). To what use serves the clapper in the mill, if the muller be deaf? 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*, 1670 Ray, 121 1732 Fuller, *No 6388*.

5 Mills and wervs ever want 1586 Pette, tr. *Guazzo's Civil Comers*, to 137, Whereupon it is said that muls and

6. Mills will not grind if you give them not water. 1732: Fuller, No. 3414.

7. The mill cannot grind with water that’s passed. 1633: Draxe, 151. The water that is past cannot make the mill goe. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1712: Motteux, *Quixote*, Pt II ch. Ixxi. Delay breeds danger. It is best grinding at the mill before the water is past. c. 1890: S. Doudney, *Lesson of the Watermill*, And a proverb haunts my mind As a spell is cast, “The mill cannot grind With the water that is passed.”

8. The mill gets by going. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

9. You had rather go to mill than to mass. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 336 (1670), Ye had as lief go to mill as to mass. 1732: Fuller, No. 5909

*See also Born in a mill; Change, verb (1); First come; Friend (20); Horse (55) and (62); and No mill*.


3. As stout as a miller’s waistcoat, that takes a thief by the neck every day. 1732: Fuller, No. 731.

4. It is good to be sure, toll it again, quoth the miller. c. 1386: Chaucer [See the allusion to “tollen thries” in the first quotation under No. 2]. 1678: Ray, 91. 1820: Scott, *Monastery*, ch. xxxviii., “It will not be the worse of another bolting,” said the Miller: “It is always best to be sure, as I say when I chance to take multure twice from the same meal-sack.”

5. Like a miller he can set to every wind. 1732: Fuller, No. 3224.


7. Like the miller’s filler. See quot 1869: Hazlitt, 199, He’s always behind hand, like the miller’s filler. *Northampton*.


10 Put a miller, a tailor and a weaver into one bag, and shake them, the first that comes out will be a thief. 1659: Howell, 8. 1670: Ray, 217. Cf Hundred tailors.

11. The miller grinds more men’s corn than one. 1596: Nashe, *Works*, iii 25 (Grosart).

13 The miller's boy said so— It was a matter of common report 1872
J Glyde, Jr., Norfolk Garland, 149

14 To put out the miller's eye See quotes 1678 Ray, 343 1783 Gent Mag., 675. The phrase of putting the miller's eye out when too much liquid is put to any dry or powdery substance 1854 Baker, Northants Gloss, s.v. "You've put the miller's eye out" A general phrase when any liquid is too much diluted with an excess of water 1887 Parish and Shaw, Duct Kent Dialect, 102 (E D S). To put the miller's eye out is when a person in mixing mortar or dough, pours too much water into the hole made to receive it 1920 E Gepp, Essex Dialect Duet, 23, to overdo the water in a mixture

15 Ye brade of the millers dogg, Ye lick your mouth or the poke be open 1683 Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697)

See also Drawn the miller

Mill-post to a pudding-prick, He hath swincked [whittled] a 1528 More, in Works, p 236, col 2 (1555). His process came to be a wise purpose, here was a great post wel whyted to a pudding-prick 1611 Cotgrave, s.v. "Arbre," Wee say of one that hath squandered away great wealth he hath, etc 1660 Howell, Parly of Beasts, 59 She will bring her poor husband quickly to thwittten a mill-post into a pudding-prick 1691 Ray, Words not Generally Used, 70 (E D S)

Mince-pies See Christmas (9)

Mind to me a kingdom is, My [Mens regnum bona possidet—Seneca, Thyestes, II 380] 1588 Sir E Dyer, in Byrd, Psalines, etc., My minde to me a kingdome is Such perfect joy therein I finde c 1598 Jonson Case is Altered, I 1618 Breton, in Works, ii 49 (Grosart) 1775 in Roxb Ballads, vii 520 (B S), My mind is a kingdom to me, there's danger in being too great 1871 Smiles, Character, 371, "applies alike to the peasant as to the monarch 1912 H James, in Letters, ii 253 (1920)

Mind See also Hand (8)

Mine ease See Take (28)

Mirth and mischief are two things 1732 Fuller, No 3415

Mirth of the world dureth but a while, The 1629 Book of Mery Riddles, Prov 11

Mischief 1 He that mischief hatcheth, mischief catcheth 1605 Camden, Remains, 324 (1870) 1732 Fuller, No 6348

2 Mischief comes by the pound and goes away by the ounce 1578 Flore First Fruits, to 29 The vll commeth by poundes and goeth away by ounces 1670 Ray, 122 [in the plural] 1732 Fuller, No 3417

3 Mischief has swift wings 1609 J Melton Six-fold Politician, 13, Mischief is well sENCE to have swift wings 4 Mischief is ever too bold 1664 in Ballads from MSS, ii 47 (B S) [quoted as a familiar saying]

5 There is no mischief done See quotes 1577 Missogonius, II v, Ther's no mischief, as they say commonly, but a preist at one end 1658 H'el Restor'd, 150, There is no mischief, but a woman is at one end of it 1670 Ray, 50, There's no mischief in the world done. But a woman is always one 1732 Fuller, No 6405 [as in 1670] 1875 Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 5 There's no mischief done, But a woman's one

See also Better a mischief

Miser spares See quote 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Despendre," That which the wretch [miser] doth spare the waster spends

Miserer father has a thriftless son, A 1612 W Parkes, Curtains-Drawer of the World, 30 (Grosart) Conferre the proverbe, that it currant runne, A miser father finds a thriftless sonne

Miserly acquaints a man with strange bed-fellows 1611 Shakespeare Tempest, II ii 1837 Lockhart, Life of Scott, 1 411, Literature, like misery, makes men acquainted with strange bed-fellows Of Poverty

Miserly enough to have once been happy, It is 1639 Clarke 166

Miserly may be the mother when one beggar begs of another 1546
Misfortunes

Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. x. 1633 : Draxe, 14.

Misfortunes come on wings and depart on foot. 1855 : Bohn, 452.


Misfortunes tell us what fortune is. 1732 : Fuller, No. 3420.

Misfortunes, when asleep, are not to be awakened. Ibid., No. 3422.

Miserereoning is no payment. 1546 : Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. iv. 1670 : Ray, 121. 1732 : Fuller, No. 3423.

Miss is as good as a mile, A. Cf. Inch in a miss is as good as an ell—the earlier form of the saying. 1825 : Scott, Journal, 3 Dec., He was very near being a poet—but a miss is as good as a mile, and he always fell short of the mark. 1869 : Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. vii., A little too late is much too late, and a miss is as good as a mile. 1894 : Shaw, Arms and the Man, I., A narrow shave; but a miss is as good as a mile.

Miss one's mark, To. 1530 : Pals-grave, 638, If I mysse nat my mate, he is a busy felowe. 1639 : Clarke, r., To misse of his marke. 1690 : New Dict. Canting Crew, sig. Bx, He has mist his aim or end. 1754 : Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Mark,"

Miss the cushion, To. Before 1529: Skelton, Colin Clout, l. 998, And when he wene to syt, Yet may he myssse the quysshon. 1533 : Latimer, in Works, ii 366 (P.S.), No doubt he did miss the cushion in many things. 1585 : Greene, in Works, v. 124 (Grosart), Evry one yelded his verdicte but all mist the cushion. 1639 : Clarke, 2, You mist the cushion.

Mist. See quotes. 1846 : Denham, Proverbs, 18 (Percy S.), When the mist comes from the hill, Then good weather it doth spill; When the mist comes from the sea, Then good weather it will be. 1891 : R. P. Chope, Harl- land Dialect, 20 (E.D.S.), Mist vrom the say Bring'th vore a dry day; Mist vrom the 'llis, Bring'th watter to the mills. 1893 : Inwards, Weather Lore, 98 [as in 1846]. Cf. Fog (3) and (4).

Mistress. 1. All is well when the mistress smiles. 1659 : Howell, 17.


3. The mistress's eye feeds the capon. 1616 : Breton, in Works, i. e 8 (Grosart), The mistirs eye makes the capon fatt. 1639 : Clarke, 163.

4. When the mistress is the master, The parsley grows the faster. Mon. 1905 : Folk-Lore, xvi. 67.

See also Hackney mistress; and Like mistress.

Misty morning may have a fine day, A. 1732 : Fuller, No. 327.

Misunderstanding brings lies to town. 1639 : Clarke, 2, 1670 : Ray, 121. 1712 : Motteux, Quixote, Pt. I. bk. iii. ch. xi., 1732 : Fuller, No. 3424.

Misunderstandings are best prevented by pen and ink. 1831 : Hone, Year-Book, col. 1416.

Mitcham whisper, A=A shout. 1880 : Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, So, They generally speak four or five at a time, and every one in a Mitcham whisper, which is very like a shout. 1881 : N. & Q., 6th ser., ii. 336. In this town [Leigh, Lancs] an unearthly yell, given at the close of a convivial evening and as a sequel to a popular toast, is called a "Leigh whisper."
Mob has many heads but no brams, The 1732 Fuller, No 4653

Mobberley, Cheshire 1 Always behind, like Mobberley clock 1886 R Holland, Cheshire Gloss, 444 (E D S) 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 7

2 It rains, it pains See quot 1917 Ibid, x63, It rains it pains it patterns 'th' docks, Mobberley wenches are weshun their smocks

3 The rain always comes out of Mobberley hole Ibid, 117

4 Thou'rt like See quot Ibid, 124, Thou'rt like old Mode o' Mobberley that seed th' new moon 1 th morning

5 You may know a Mobberley man by his breeches Ibid, 158

Mock no panzer-men, your father was a fisher 1678 Ray, 78 1732 Fuller, No 3425 [with ' if" before your ]

Mock not, quoth Mumford, when his wife called him cuckold 1659 Howell, 9 1670 Ray, 286 1732 Fuller, No 3426

Mock the lame you will go so yourself. If you c 1577 Northbrooke, Dicing, etc, 80 (Sh S), According to the old saying—If thou with him that haltes doest dwell, To learne to halt thou shalt full well 1732 Fuller, No 2774

Mocking is catching 1533 Heywood, Play of Love, 1 568 (Brandt Quellen, 177), For who so that mocketh shall surely stir Tho olde proverbe mockum mole cabitur 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 319 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial 1 1880 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures 15, The old saying is "Hanging's stretching, and mocking's catching

Modest words See quot e 1645 MS Proverbs, in N & Q, vol cli, p 27 It is good to find modest words to express immodest things

Mole—the animal 1 A mole wants no lanthorn 1732 Fuller, No 329

2 He holds a looking-glass to a mole 1813 Ray, 75

See also Blind (14)

Mole—a growth on the body 1 A mole on the neck See quot 1883 Burne Shropsh Folk Lore 267 A mole on the neck You shall have money by the peck 1923 Folk-Lore, xxxv 156, Mole on the neck, trouble by the peck (Gloucest)

2 Free moles in a span, You shall have houses and land 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk Lore, 267

3 If you've got a mole above your chin You'll never be beholden to any of your kin Ibid, 267

Molchill See Mountain (3)

Monday 1 A stranger on Monday means a stranger all the week Suffolk 1924 Folk-Lore, xxxv 358

2 Monday'st never sit 1641 Best, Farming Book, 135 (Suttees S.), As for Monday they account it ominous, for they say, Monday sitte, Neaver sitte

Of Saturday (2)

3 Monday for wealth, etc See quot 1879 Henderson Folk-Lore N Counties, 33, [Marriage] Monday for wealth, Tuesday for health, Wednesday the best day of all, Thursday for losses, Friday for crosses And Saturday no luck at all Durham

4 Monday is Sunday's brother 1611 Tarltons Jests, 41 (Sh S), One asked Tarlton why Monday was called Sundaeis fellow 1637 in Pepsian Garland, 445 (Rollins), Tho Munday Sundayes fellow be, when tuesday comes to worke fall we 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 15 (Percy S.), Monday is Sunday's brother, Tuesday is such another Wednesday you must go to church and pray, Thursday is half holiday On Friday it is too late to begin to spin, The Saturday is half holiday ajen 1890 J D Robertson, Gloucest Gloss, 187 (E D S), [Cobbler's Creed] Monday is a Saint's day, Tuesday's just another such a day, Wednesday's the middle pin, Thursday's too late to begin, Friday we must fast and pray, Saturday never was but half a day

5 Monday's child See quot 1839 Mrs Bray, Trad of Devon, ii 268, Monday's child is fair of face, Tuesday's child is full of grace, Wednesday's child is full of woe, Thursday's child has far to go, Friday's child is loving and giving, Saturday's child works hard for its livin', And a child that's born on
Christmas Day Is fair and wise, good and gay. 1877: N. & Q., 5th ser., viii. 424, Born on Monday, fair in the face; Born on Tuesday, full of God’s grace; Born on Wednesday, sour and sad; Born on Thursday, merry and glad; Born on Friday, worthy given; Born on Saturday, work hard for your living; Born on Sunday you will never know want [there is a variant at 5th ser., viii. 45]. 1879: Henderson, Folk-Lore N. Counties, 9 [as in 1838, but with “Sabbath day” for “Christmas Day,” and “blithe and bonny” for “fair and wise”). Cf. Sunday (4).

Money. 1. All things are obedient to money. [Omnis enim res, virtus, fama, decus, divina humanaque pulchris divitiiis parent.—Horace, Sat., II. iii. 94–6.] 1539: Taverner, Proverbs, fo. 14. Vnto money be all thynges obedient. 1542: Becon, Early Works, 222 (P.S.). 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Argent,” All (earthly) things are commanded, and compassed, by it. 1602: L’Estrange, Æsop, 359 (3rd ed.). The old saying, that money does all things, is not much wide of the truth. 1775: Grose, Antiq. Repertory, ii. 395 (1808), That “every thing may be had for money,” is . . . no less ancient than true. Cf. No. 31.

2. He that gets money before he gets wit, Will be but a short while master of it. 1732: Fuller, No. 6432.

3. He that hath money in his purse, cannot want a head for his shoulders. 1659: Howell, r3. 1763: Murphy, Citizen, i. ii.

4. He that hath no money needeth no purse. 1633: Drake, r38. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 63.

5. He that wants money wants all things. 1542: Becon, in Early Works, 223 (P.S.), He is a wretch that hath no money. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Argent.” 1633: Drake, 24. When wee want mony, we want all. 1772: Cumberland, Fash. Lover, ii. i., In England, he that wants money wants everything.


7. He’ll find money for mischief, when he can find none for corn 1732: Fuller, No. 2425.

8. His money burns in his pocket. c. 1530: More, in Works, 195 (1557). A little wanton money, which . . . burned out the bottom of his purse. 1601: Cornwallis, Essays, Pt. II. sig. P4 (1610), Like an vnthrifty money that burns in his purse. 1637: Shirley, Hyde Park, IV. iii., My gold has burnt this twelve months in my pocket. 1702: Farquhar, Inconstant, V. iii., Time lies heavy on my hands, and my money burns in my pocket. 1857: Hughes, Tom Brown, Pt. I. ch. vi., Tom’s new purse and money burnt in his pocket.

9 His money comes from him like drops of blood. 1678: Ray, 90.

10. If money go before, all ways lie open. 1542: Becon, in Early Works, 223 (P.S.), Whosoever hath money may go where he list . . . at his own pleasure. 1600: Shakespeare, Merry Wives, II. ii. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 163, Money makes all gates to fly open.

11. If thou wouldest keep money, save money; If thou wouldest reap money, sow money. 1732: Fuller, Nos. 2721 and 2722.

12. If you would know the value of money, try to borrow some. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum, Would you know what money is, go borrow some. 1732: Fuller, No. 2801 ["a ducat" for "money," and "one" for "some"]. 1736: Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i. 448 (Bigelow). 1875: Cheaves, Proverb, Folk-Lore, 101 [as in 1840].


14. Money begets money. 1587: Turbervile, Trag. Tales, etc., 22 (1837). But, where wealth is, there lightlie follows more. 1625: Bacon, Essays: "Usurie," They say . . . that it is against Nature for money to beget money. 1748: Franklin, in Works, ii. 119 (Bigelow), Money can beget money, and its offspring can beget more. 1865: Dickens, Mutual Friend, bk. iii. ch. v., We have got to recollect that money makes money, as well as makes everything else.
Money governs the world 1754
Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v.
"Money."

Money has no smell 1932 A
Bennett, Prohack, ch. r (1), He under-
stood in a flash the deep wisdom of
that old proverb that money has
no smell. Cf. Chink

Money in purse will be always
in fashion 1633 Draxe, 82. Money
never cometh out of season 1639
Clarke, 220 [as in 1633] 1732 Fuller,
No 3435

Money is a good servant but a bad
master 1655 Bohn, 453

Money is a great traveller in the
world 1616 Breton, in Works ii e.5
(Grosart) ["continuall for great"]
1639 Clarke, 98

Money is ace of trumps 1732
Fuller, No 3438

Money is no fool if a wise man
have it in keeping Glo. 1639 in
Berkeley MSS, in 27 (1885)

Money is oft lost for want of money
1633 Draxe, 69

Money is round. See quota.
1619Help to Discourse, 120 (1640),
Why is the forme of money round?
Because it is to runne from every man
1666 Tornano, Piazza Univ., 64.
Moneys are round, and that makes
them roll away 1669 Spurgeon,
John Ploughman, ch. 7, Money
is round, and rolls away easily

Money is that which art hath
turned up trump 1659 Howell, 18
1670 Ray, 18

Money is the sinew of love as well
as of war 1732 Fuller, No 3442

Money is welcome though it come
in a dirty clout 1542 Becon, in
Early Works, 222 (P. S.), The savour
of lucre is good, howsoever a man come
by it 1647 Howell, Letters, bk 11
No. xxv 1670 Ray, 18 1723
Defoe, Col Jack, ch. 11, I have often
since heard people say, when they have
been talking of money, that they could
not get in, I wish I had it in a foul
clout

Money is wise, it knows its way
Somerset 1678 Ray, 352

Money, like dung, does not good

Money

15 Money governs the world 1754
Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v.
"Money."

16 Money has no smell 1932 A
Bennett, Prohack, ch. r (1), He under-
stood in a flash the deep wisdom of
that old proverb that money has
no smell. Cf. Chink

17 Money in purse will be always
in fashion 1633 Draxe, 82. Money
never cometh out of season 1639
Clarke, 220 [as in 1633] 1732 Fuller,
No 3435

18 Money is a good servant but a bad
master 1655 Bohn, 453

19 Money is a great traveller in the
world 1616 Breton, in Works ii e.5
(Grosart) ["continuall for great"]
1639 Clarke, 98

20 Money is ace of trumps 1732
Fuller, No 3438

21 Money is no fool if a wise man
have it in keeping Glo. 1639 in
Berkeley MSS, in 27 (1885)

22 Money is oft lost for want of money
1633 Draxe, 69

23 Money is round. See quota.
1619 Help to Discourse, 120 (1640),
Why is the forme of money round?
Because it is to runne from every man
1666 Tornano, Piazza Univ., 64.
Moneys are round, and that makes
them roll away 1669 Spurgeon,
John Ploughman, ch. 7, Money
is round, and rolls away easily

24 Money is that which art hath
turned up trump 1659 Howell, 18
1670 Ray, 18

25 Money is the sinew of love as well
as of war 1732 Fuller, No 3442

26 Money is welcome though it come
in a dirty clout 1542 Becon, in
Early Works, 222 (P. S.), The savour
of lucre is good, howsoever a man come
by it 1647 Howell, Letters, bk 11
No. xxv 1670 Ray, 18 1723
Defoe, Col Jack, ch. 11, I have often
since heard people say, when they have
been talking of money, that they could
not get in, I wish I had it in a foul
clout

27 Money is wise, it knows its way
Somerset 1678 Ray, 352

28 Money, like dung, does not good
Money

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well paid, and the arms broken.”
1631: Mabbe, Celestina, 67 (T.T.), How softly she goes! How one leg comes drawing after another! Now she has her money, her arms are broken.
1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 257, A servant paid, his arm broke.

38. Money talks. 1586: Pettie, tr. Guazzo’s Civil Convers., fo. 88. It is said that ... the tongue hath no force when golde speaketh. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 179, Man prates, but gold speaks 1915: F. G. Wodehouse, Something Fresh, ch. iii. (vi), The whole story took on a different complexion for Joan.

40. Money will make the pot boil. 1602: L’Estrange, Æsop, 305 (3rd ed.), ‘Tis that [Money] which makes the pot boil (as the proverb says). 1732: Fuller, No. 3449.

41. Money without love is like salt without pilchers. 1880: Courtney, W. Cornwall Words, 42 (E.D.S.).
42. Of money, wit, and virtue, believe one-fourth of what you hear. 1855: Bohn, 466.
43. The abundance of money ruins youth. 1670: Ray, 18.
44. The money you refuse will never do you good. 1855: Bohn, 510.
45. The skilfullest wanting money is scorned. 1670: Ray, 18.
46. They that take money. See quot. c. 1640: in Roxb. Ballads, iii. 253 (B.S.), The proverb observing—"They that money take Must pay all the charges."
47. What will not money do? 1581: T. Howell, Devises, 54 (1906), But briefe to bee, what can you craue, That now for golde you may not haue? 1623: Webster, Devil’s Law-Case, IV. i., Lord, lord, To see what money can do! 1681: Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 892. 1708: tr. Aleman’s Guzman, i. 13. What is not to be done with money?

See also Beauty (6); Fool (2) and (11); Little money; Love, subs. (13), (23), (36), and (38); My son; Pretty things; Ready money; and Sinews of war.
Moneyless man goes fast through the market, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 330.
Mongst many chapmen there are few that buyes. 1606: Heywood, If You Know Not Me, Pt. II., in Works, i. 263 (1874).

Monk. See Melancholy.


Monkey’s grease, As useless as. 1732: Fuller, No. 744.

Monmouth caps. See Leominster wool.

Month of Sundays, A = A prolonged but indefinite period. 1832: Marryat, N. Forster, v. (O.), It may last a month of Sundays. 1850: Kingsley, Alton Locke, ch. xxvii., I haven’t heard more fluent or passionate English this month of Sundays. 1898: Gibbs, Cotswold Village, ch. iv. 71 (3rd ed.), A joint of mutton is not seen by the peasants more than “once in a month of Sundays.” 1923: Punch, 20 June, p. 582, col. 3, I will engage to talk at that level for a month of Sundays.

Month that comes in good, will go out bad, The. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 42.

Month’s mind, A = An eager desire. 1575: Gascoigne, Glasse of Goot, II. v., She hath a monethes minde vnto Phylosarchus. 1605: London Prodigal, I. ii., He hath a month’s mind here to mistress Frances. 1631: Brathwait, Eng. Gentlewoman, 355 (1641), I have a moneth’s mind to see the man! 1731: in Peck, Desid. Curiosa, 229 (1779), When people earnestly desire a thing, they frequently say, they have a month’s mind to it. 1766: Garrick and Colman, Clandest. Marriage, I. i., Persuading a silly girl to do what she has more than a month’s mind to do. 1824: Scott, Redgauntlet, Lett. III., I have a month’s mind ... to give
thee the history of a little adventure
which befell me yesterday 1877 E
Leigh, Cheshire Glass, 136, "To have
a month's mind' is to have a strong
inclination to do something 1913
T. M Wright, Rustic Speech, etc., 282,
To have a month's mind to anything
[in general dialectal use] This alludes
to a pre-Reformation practice of repeated
one or more masses at the end of a
month after death for the repose of a
departed soul
Moon 1 A dry moon is far north and
soon seen 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore,
59
2 A new moon soon seen is long
thought of 1846 Denham Proverbs
2 (Percy S) 1904 Co Folk-Lore
Northumb, 171 (F L S)
3 A Saturday's moon See quotes
1732 Fuller, No 6491, A Saturday's
moon If it comes once in seven years,
it comes too soon 1818 Mrs Piozzi,
in Hayward, Mrs Piozzi, II 391 (1861),
St David's Day has been a rough one,
and your brother Dorset forces me
on the reflection that it was a Saturday's
moon 1830 Forby, Vocab E
Arabia, 417, On Saturday new, on
Sunday full, was never good, and never
wooll 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 9
(Percy S), A Saturday's moon, Come
when it will it comes too soon Ibid,
18, A Saturday's change brings the
boat to the door, But a Sunday's
change brings it upon t' mid floor
1864 "Cornish Proverbs," in N & Q,
3rd ser., v 209, A Saturday or a Sunday
moon, Comes once in seven years too
soon c 1870 Smith, Isle of Wight
Words, 62 (E D S) [essentially as in
1830] 1879 Henderson, Folk-Lore
N Counties, 114, Throughout North-
umberland this couplet is said and believed
in A Saturday's moon and a
Sunday's prime Never brought good in
man any time 1887 M A Courtney,
Folk-Lore Journal, v 191, A Saturday's
moon is a sailor's curse Cornwall
1893 Co Folk-Lore Suffolk, 161
(F L S) [as in 1830] 1893 Inwards,
Weather Lore, 59 [as in 1732, 1839, etc.]
4 An old moon in a mist Is worth
gold in a kist [chest] But a new moon's
myst Well never lack thirst 1878
Dyer, Eng Folk-Lore, 41 1893 In
wards, Weather Lore, 65 Cf No 23
5 Auld moon mist Ne'er died of
thirst Ibid, 65
6 Have a care, etc See quote 1846-
59 Denham Tracts, II 57 (F L S), We
have, however, an old, very old proverb
to wit, "Have a care lest the
churl fall out o the moon"
7 If the full moon rise red expect
wind 1588 A Fraunce, Laurens
Logische, to 43, When the moon is
red, shee betokeneth wind 1893 In
wards 64
8 If the moon show a silver shield Be
not afraid to reap your field But if she
rises halced round, Soon we'll tread on
deluged ground 1893 Ibid, 64
9 In the old of the moon a cloudy
morning bodes a fair afternoon 1639
in Berkeley MSS, in 31 (1885) A misty
morn in th' old of th' moon doth
always bring a faire post-noone
An hilly proverb about Simondall
(Glouc) 1678 Ray, 48 1831 Hon.
Year-Book, 300, In the waning of the
moon, A cloudy morn—fair afternoon
1893 Inwards, 59, In the decay of the
moon A cloudy morning bodes a fair
afternoon Ibid, 64, Near full moon,
a misty sunrise Bodes fair weather and
cloudless skies
10 It is a fine moon, God bless her
1678 Aubrey, in Aniq Repertory,
I 73 (1807), Some of them sitting astred
on a gate or stile the first evening
the new moon appears, and say, A fire
moon, God bless her! 1846 Denham
Proverbs, 4 (Percy S)
11 No moon, no man See quote
1878 Dyer, Eng Folk-Lore, 41, In
Cornwall, when a child is born in the
interval between an old moon and the
first appearance of a new one, it is
said that it will never live to reach
the age of puberty Hence the saying
"No moon, no man"
12 Pale moon doth rain, red moon
doth blow, White moon doth neither rain
nor snow 1639 Clarke, 263
13 So many days old the moon is or
Michaelmas Day, so many floods after
1661 M Stevenson, Pictetic Monaths.
Moon

44. 1819: Henderson, Folk-Lore, 3 Counties, 96. 1885: Harley, Moon Lore, 185.

14. Sunday's moon. See quotes. 1831: Sternberg, Dialed, etc., of Northants, 110, Thus the proverb, "Sunday's moon floods 'for 'ts out."

1839: Inwards, 59, If the moon change on a Sunday, there will be a flood before the month is out. Worcestershire. See also No. 3

15. The full moon brings fine weather. Ibid., 64.


18. The moon does not heed the barking of dogs. 1813: Ray, 208.

19. The moon is a moon still, whether it shine or not. 1732: Fuller, No. 4654.

20. The moon is made of green cheese, To believe (or To tell one) that. This is one of the most frequently found sayings in 16th- and 17th-century literature. 1529: Frith, Antith. Works, p. 105, col. 1 (1573) (O.), They woulde make men beleue ... that ye moone is made of greene chesse. 1542: Udall, tr. Erasmus' Apoph., 193 (1877), With this pleasant mery toye, he ... made his frendes beleue the moone to be made of a greene chesse. 1584: R. Scot, Witchcraft, bk. xvi. ch. v. 1638: in Musarum Deliciae, etc., i. 199 (Hotten), The moon is made of nothing but green cheese. 1699: Cornish Comedy, IV. i. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Believe."

21. The moon is not seen where the sun shines. 1670: Ray, 122. 1826: Brady, Varieties of Lit., 38.

22. The moon on her back holds water = a sign of rain. 1803: Inwards, Weather Lore, 82, The bonnie moon is on her back; Mend your shoes and sort your thack [thatch]. When the new moon lies on her back, She sucks the wet into her lap. Ellesmere. 1893: Rye, E. Anglia Words, 143 (E.D.S.).


24. Two full moons in a mon... on a flood. Beds. 1855: N. & Q., 1st ser., xi. 416, It will be a wet month when there are two full moons in it. 1893: Inwards, 64.


26. When round the moon there is a burr [halo], The weather will be cold and rough. 1831: Brathwait, Whinzie, 104 (1859), A burre about the moone is not halfe so certaine a presage of a tempest, as ... 1659: Howell, Proverbs. Span.-Eng., 21, The moon with a circle brings water in her beak. 1690: New Dict. Canting Crew, sig. C2, Bur, a cloud or dark circle about the moon, boding wind and rain. 1830: Forby, Vocab. E. Anglia, 417, Near bur, far rain. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 17 (Percy S.). 1887: Parish and Shaw, Dict. Kent. Dialect, 23 (E.D.S.), The weatherwise in East Kent will tell you, "The larger the burr the nearer the rain." 1893: Co. Folk-Lore: Suffolk, 162 (F.L.S.), If it [the halo] is large, the proverb is:—Far burr, near rain; Near burr, far rain. 1893: Inwards, 56 [as in 1659]. 1899: Dickinson, Cumb. Gloss., 48, A far-off burgh tells of a near-hand storm. When t' burrs far t' rains nar.

27. When the moon lies on her back, Then the sou'-west wind will crack; When she rises up and nods, Then north-easters dry the sods. 1687: Symons' Meteorological Mag., Sept., quoted in Inwards, Weather Lore, 62.

28. When the moon's in the full, then wit's in the wane. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 4 (Percy S.).

29. You gazed at the moon and fell in the gutter. 1732: Fuller, No. 5994. 1846: Denham, 5. See also Bean (5); Changeful; and Fog (1).

Mooney's goose, Like. 1850: N. & Q., 1st ser., ii. 153, Full of fun and fooser, like Mooney's goose.

Moonshine in a can. 1639: Clarke, 154, The moone shine i' th' water-pot.
Moonshine

1688 Carr, Craven, Dialec. p. 73, "to be run away in no useful purpose.

Moonshine in the mustard-pot for it, Thou shalt have, i.e. nothing 1639
Clarke, 68, Moonshine i' th mustard pot 1678 Ray, 76

Moonshine in the water = Nothing 1688 Paston Letters, ii 326 (O), if Sir Thomas Howys wer made byeleve and put in hope of the moonshine in the water and I wot nat what 1530 Palsgrave 865 For moone shyne in the water, pour une chose de rien 1655 Shacklock Hatch of Heresies, quoted in N & Q, 2nd ser. v 411 Shakespeare, L.L.L., V ii 1659 Howell, 15, He waits for moonshine in the water 1817 Scott Rob. Rosa, ch xxvi, I care little about that nonsense — it's a moonshine in water— waste threads and thrums as we say 1861 Peacock, Gryll Grange, ch iv, He will not break his heart for any moon in the water, if his cooks are as good as his waiting-maid.

Mope-eyed by living so long a maid, You are 1678 Ray, 346

More acquaintance the more danger, The 1732 Fuller, No 4565

More balks. See quot 'Balk'=a strip of unploughed land, also little ridges left in ploughing 1888 N & Q, 7th ser. v 194. We have here [Lincs] a proverb, More balks, more barley, more seams more beans.

More bold than wise (or welcome) 1591 Florio, Second Fruits, 53. You are not so bold as welcome 1633 Drake, 17, He is more bolde than wise 1738 Swift, Polite Converse Dial I, You are more bold than welcome.

More brass than pash=More money than brams 1877 L. Leigh, Cheshire Gloss, 152 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 160

More clout than dinner=More show than substance 1628 Carr, Craven Dialect, 1 78. Cf More poke.

More cost more worship 1591 Hannonint, Orl. Furog. Adv to Reader, At least (by the old proverb) the more cost, the more worship 1615 Markham, Eng. House-wife, 163

(1775). According to the old proverb (Most cost, most worship) 1670 Ray, 73 1821 Scott, Pirate, ch xi, The more cost the more honour.

More cost than worship 1732 Fuller, No 3451 1738 Swift, Polite Converse, Dial III. She was as fine as a fipence, but, truly, I thought there was more cost than worship 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, 1 86, "More cost than worship," i.e. more expense and trouble than the acquisition is worth 1877 F. Ross, etc., Holder ness Gloss, 45 (E.D.S.), "It's mair cost an-worship, it is more trouble than it is worth 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 95. More cost nor worship. Cf More trouble.

More danger, the more honour, Th. c 1534 Berners, Htn, 56 (E.F.T.S.) Where as lyeth grete parelles [pens] there lieth grete honour c 1625 B & F., Women Pleased, III ii, Where the most danger is there's the most honour 1671 E. Howard, Six Days Adventure, I 1720 S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 85 1772 Garrick, Irish Widow, I 111.

More die by food than famine 1588 Cogan, Haven of Health, 219 (1612), The Greeke poet Theogams most truly hath written, that surfeit hath destroyed more than famin 1732 Fuller, No 3453. Cf Gluttony.

More faults than hairs, and more wealth than faults, He hath Idbd. No 1892.

More folks are wed than keep good houses 1685 Menton, Yorkshire Ale 67.

More fool than fiddler 1678 Ray, 245.

More frightened than hurt — originally, More afraid 1530 Palsgrave, 558. He was sorer frayd than hurt 1579 Lyly, Euphues, 189 (Arber), Certenely thou art more afrade th'en hurt 1628 J. Clavell, Recantation, 12. Thus more afraid than hurt you often are Before 1704 T. Brown, Works, 1 74 (1760), Thou art more afraid than hurt 1768 Sterne, Sent Journ. 34 (1794). All of us being ten times more frighten'd than hurt by the very
More report. 1872: Butler, Erewhon, ch. xiii., The Erewhonians, therefore, hold that death, like life, is an affair of being more frightened than hurt. 1883: R. L. S., Treasure I., ch. xxi.

More good victuals. See England (8).

More guts than brains, He has. 1678: Ray, 249. 1732: Fuller, No. 1873.

More haste, worse speed. The. 1542: Udall, tr. Erasmus' Apoph., 41 (1877). Soche persones, as do make moste hast in the beginning, haue common (according to our Englishe proverbe) worst sped toward the endyng. c 1560: Jacke Jugeler, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, ii. 121. When a man hath most haste, he speedeth worst. 1633: Rowley, Match at Midnight, I. 1705: Ward, Hudibras Redux., Pt. I. can. i. p. 23. The greater hurry, the worst speed. 1776: Colman, The Spleen, I. 1829: Scott, Journal, 15 Feb., Unhappily there is such a thing as more haste and less speed. 1919: Weyman, Great House, ch. xxvii., More haste, less speed, you know.

More have repented speech than silence. 1640: Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1875: Cheales, Proverbs, Folk-Lore, 86.

More he hath, The. See Much would have more.

More hope of a fool than of him that is wise in his own eyes, There is. 1629: Book of Meery Riddles, Prov. 23.

More knave than fool. c. 1630: in Roxb. Ballads, i. 72 (Hindley), This man’s more knave than foole. 1634: Strange Metam. of Man, sig: G4. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II.

More knave, the better luck, The. 1550: Latimer, Sermons, 280 (P.S.), It is an old proverb, “the more wicked, the more fortunate.” 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Eschoir,” The verier knave the better lucke, say we. 1670: Ray, 111. 1732: Fuller, No. 6332, He’s like Marten; The more knave, the better fortune. 1917: Devonsh. Assoc. Trans., xlii. 68. The greater the rogue, the better the luck.

More knave, the worse company, The. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi.


More laws, the more offenders, The. 1732: Fuller, No 4663.

More light a torch gives, the less while it lasts, The. 1889: Ibid., No. 4664.

More maids than Malkin, There are. [c. 1377: Langland, Plowman, B, i 181, Ye ne haue na more meryte in masse ne in houres [church-services] Than Malkyn of hire maydenehode that no man desireth.] 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi., [I] there was no mo maydes but malkyn tho Ye had been lost. c. 1598: Deloney, Gentle Craft, Pt. II. ch. iii. 1659: Howell, Letters, ii. 666 (Jacobs). 1732: Fuller, No. 4859. There are more maids than Moggy, and more men than Jockey.


More mischief, the better sport, The. 1750: Smollett, Gil Blas, i. 130. 1816: Scott, Black Dwarf, ch. xii.


More noble that deserves than he that confesses benefits, He is. 1732: Fuller, No. 1925.

More noble, the more humble, The. 1633: Drake, 140. 1670: Ray, 19 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, iv. 238 (1785), The more noble any one is, the more humble.

More painful to do nothing than something, It is. 1659: Howell, 6. 1732: Fuller, No. 2978.


More places than the parish church, There are. 1579: Gosson, School of Abuse, 37 (Arber), There are more houses then parische churches. 1725:
More stars than a pair cf 1380
Chaucer, Parl of Founes, 1 555, There
been mo sterres god wot, than a pare
More store more stank SW Whits
1901 Folk-Lore, xi 82
More talk than trouble, There n.
1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium
More than enough is too much
1629 Book of Merry Riddles, Prov
107, More than enough breaks the
cover 1732 Fuller, No 3461
More than nits in his head, There's
1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 118,
[also] There's more in his yed nor a sma
Tooth comb con fot cawt (Lancashire)
More than we use is more than we
want 1732 Fuller, No 3492
More the merrier, The, the fewer
the better fare (a) The full sayings
1530 Palsgrave, 885, The mo the
meryer, the fewer, the better fare
1546 Haywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch
vii 1681 Robertson, Phrasd Gener
als, 598 ['cheer' for 'fare']
1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I,
[Neverout, as Miss is standing, pulls
her suddenly on his lap, and then says]
Now, colonel, come sit down on my
lap, more sacks upon his mill, More sacks
more free-quarter
1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I
['cheer'] 1769 Colman, Man and
Wife, II ['cheer'] 1855 Kingsley,
West Hol, ch v 1863 Kingley,
Water Babies, ch vi 1917 Bridge
Cheshire Proverbs, 95, More and merrier
less and better fare, like Yeag o' Wood's
merry meal (b) The first part only 1553
Respublica, III v, Come here, an
Goddess halfe, the mo knaves the merier
c 1570 Marr of Wit and Science, III v
The more company the merrier 1692
Ford, Lover's Melancholy, II ii 1696
Vanbrugh, Relapse, IV 1727 Van
brugh and Cibber, Prov Husband, II
1772 Garrick, Irish Widow, I ii, The
more the merrier I say—who's afraid?
1841 Dickens Barn Rudge, ch vi,
Who's afraid ? Let 'em come, I say,
let 'em come The more, the merrier
1918 A A Milne Make-Believe Proc
in Second Plays, 6 (1921) (c) The second
part only 1605 Camden, Remains, 331
(1870) 1704 Steele, Lying Lover, II
n, The fewer the better cheer
More thy years, the nearer thy grave,
The 1605 Camden, Remains, 333
(1870) ['nigher' for 'nearer'] 1670
Ray, 31 1732 Fuller, No 6248
More tongue See quot 1861

Defoe, Everybody's Business 1760
Colman, Polly Honeycombe, sc 4v
1864, 'Cormish Proverbs, in N & Q, 3rd ser, v 276
More pleasure in loving than in being
beloved, There is 1732 Fuller, No 4900
More poke [bag] than pudding—More
show than substance 1828 Carr, Craven
Dialect, ii 52 1892 Heslop, Northumb
Words, 546 (E D S) Cf More clout
More riches See Fool (102)
More sacks to the mill 1590 Nashe,
Works, i 238 (Grosart) To the next,
to the next more sacks to the mill
1607 Dekker and Webster, Westw Hoe
IV 1 1601 in Hali Miscell, ii 503
(1744), Come, sirs more sacks unto the
mill, More taxes, more free-quarter
1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I,
[Nextout, as Miss is standing, pulls
her suddenly on his lap, and then says]
Now, colonel, come sit down on my
lap, more sacks upon his mill, More sacks
to the mill is a game played in Oxfordshire and Berks
shire. It is a rough-and-tumble boys' game, in which as many boys as possible
are heaped together, one above another
As each successive boy is added to the
heap—the boys shout 'More sacks to the
mill!' More said the less done, The
1760 Colman Polly Honeycombe, sc 1, It's
an old saying and a true one, The more
there's said the less there's done
More sauce than pig 1671 Poor
Robin Alman Prognost, sig C 1690
New Diet Canting Crew, sig K8
1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial II
More spends the naggard than the
liberal 1557 North, Dial of Princes
fo 199 recto So sayth the common
proverbie yt the naggard spendeth
asmuchie as the liberal 1639 Clarke,
39 1666 Torrano, Piazza Univ, 17,
A covetous man out-spends a liberal
man Cf No feast to a miser's
More squeak than wool 1740 North,
Lives of Norths, i 220 (Bohn), And for
matter of title, he thought there was
more squeak than wool Cf Much cry
"Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., vi. 494. He has more tongue than teeth; better keep a heps [hapse, or hatch] before his mouth. 1580: Courtne
*y, *W.* CornwVall Words*, 28 (E.D.S.)["She" for "He" and "her" for "his").


More ways to kill a dog. See Dog (82).


More witty than wise. 1714: *Spectator*, No. 568, Ay, says he, more witty than wise I am afraid.

More words than one go to a bargain. 1670: Ray, 58. 1732: Fuller, No. 3465. Cf. Two words to a bargain.

More you heap, the worse you cheap, The. 1670: Ray, 102. 1732: Fuller, No. 6101.

More you stir, the worse it will stink, The. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. vi. 1596: Harington, *Metam. of Ajax*, 105 (1814). As the proverb is, "Tis noted as the nature of a sink,

Ever the more it is stirred, the more to stink." 1632: Jonson, *Magn. Lady*, IV. ii. 1664: J. Wilson, *Cheats*, V. ii., 'Tis a foul business—the more you stir, the worse 'twill be. 1710: S. Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 150. A stink is still worse for the stirring. 1752: Fielding, *Cov. Garden Journal*, No. 7. Pray let Grub-street alone, for the more you stir the more it will stink. 1924: *Folk-Lore*, xxxv. 358. The more you stir, the more it stinks (Suffolk).

Morley's ducks, Like, born without a notion. 1878: *N. & Q.*, 5th ser., x. 10, This was . . . a Nottinghamshire saying, but a very common one—spoken of some one on the occasion of his committing a stupid action.

Morning. 1. *A foul morn may turn to a fair day.* [1586: Pettie, tr. Guazzo's *Civil Cheers*, fo. 142, As the proverb be, That by the morning it may be gathered how all the day will prove after.] 1732: Fuller, No. 115.


4. *Morning dreams are true.* [Post medium noctem visum quum somnia vera.—Horace, Sat., I. x. 33.] 1540: Palsgrave, *Acolastus*, sig. II. After myndnyght men saye, that dreams be true. 1584: R. Scot, *Witchcraft*, bk. x. ch. viii., In the morning . . . there happen more pleasant and certain dreams. 1611: Jonson, *Love Restored*, last line, And all the morning dreams are true. 1681: Dryden, *Span. Friar*, III. iii., At break of day, when dreams, they say, are true. 1713: Gay, *Wife of Bath*, IV. ii., Morning dreams, I learned . . . are most to be relied upon. c. 1820: Shelley, *Boat on the Serchio*, If morning dreams are true . . . 1867: Harland, etc., *Lancs Folk-Lore*, 147, Morning dreams are more to be relied on than those of any other time. See also *Evening*.

Morning sun, or, *Morning without clouds*. See *Sun* (7).


Morpeth compliment, A. 1834: Service, *Metrical Leg. of Northumb.*, 140, She gav' me nout i’ plenty but her tongue, O’ that a Morpeth compliment she flung.

Morsel eaten gains no friend, A. 1813: Ray, 140.

Mortar on head. See *Rome* (3).

Mortar, To have one's finger in—To dabble in building. 1639: in *Berkeley MSS.*, iii. 28 (1885), Dip not thy finger in the mortar, nor seeke thy penny in the water. 1662: Gerbier, *Disc. of
Mouse

Building, 3, Those who say, That a wise-man never ought to put his finger into mortar 1738 Swift, Polite Convers., Dial 11, You are come to a sad, dirty house but we have had our hands in mortar

Mort-stone, He may remove 1662 Fuller, Worthies, 1 399 (1840) 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss s v "Devonshire"

Movah Downs—ploughed, not harrowed, Like Corn 1895 Jos Thomas, Randial Rhymes, 61 1906 Cornish N & Q, 264, Like Movah Downs, harved and never ploughed

Movah Fair See quot 1870 Botrell, Traditions of W Cornwall, 42, The old saying of ‘riding three on one horse, like going to Movah fair’

Moss and his mare See Napping

Most take all 1678 Ray, 347

Most things have two handles, and a wise man takes hold of the best 1732 Fuller, No 3472

Most time See Time

Most wild See quot 1630 T Adams, Works, 493, The proverb saith, that the most wilde are in least danger to be starke madde

Mote is a beam, Every 1615 R Toffe, Blason of Jealousie, 29, Hee will then quickly take occasion to be angry with her and query mote (as the proverb goeth) is a beame in his eye

Mote may choke a man, A 1670 Ray, 122

Mother 1 It is not as thy mother sayeth, but as thy neighbours say 1732 Fuller, No 2995

2 Mother’s cheek See Child (6)

3 Mothers’ darlings make but milk-sop heroes 1732 Fuller, No 3474

4 The mother’s side is the surest 1548 Hall, Chron., 101 (1809), If the old and trite proverb be true that the woman’s side is the surer side, and that the childe foloweth the wombe Before 1627 Middleton, More Diss besides Women, I 11, Only death comes by the mother’s side, and that’s the surest

See also Ask (4), and Oven (2)

Mother-in-law and daughter-in-law are a tempest and hailstorm 1855 Bohn, 455

Mother-in-law remembers not that she was a daughter-in-law, The 1659 Howell, Proverbs Brit.-Eng., 36 1732 Fuller, No 4675

Mother-in-law, There is but one good, and she is dead A New Forest proverb 1693 Wise, New Forest, ch xvi

Motions are not marriages 1678 Ray, 56

Mountain 1 A mountain and a river are good neighbours 1640 Herbert, Jc Prudentium

2 The mountain was in labour and produced a mouse [Parturunt montes nascentur ridiculus mus—Horace, Ars Poetica, 139] c 1390 Gower, Conf. Amantis, bk vii, ll 3553-75 [the story of the mountain and mouse] 1579 Gossen, Sch of Abuse, 21 (Arber), It is a pageant woorth the sight, to beholde how he labors with mountaines to bring forthe mous 1599 Greene, Works, xii 7 (Grosart) Then might you thinke I had sweld with the mountaines, and brought forthe a mousc 1624 Massanger, Bondman, IV 111, Cleo Why do you laugh 2 Leost To hear the labouring mountain of your praise Deluer’d of a mouse 1709 O Dykes, Eng Proverbs, 304 (2nd ed) 1853 Planché, Extravag., IV 291 (1879), Oft of the mountain in labour you have heard, Which but gave birth to a mouse so absurd

3 To make a mountain of a mole hill [προορισμος to μυρον θορος—Lucian, Muse Enc., ad fin] 1560 Becon Catechism, 338 (P S), They make of a fly an elephant, and of a mole-hill a mountain 1573 G Harvey, Letter Book, 14 (Camden S), To make huge mountains of small low molhils 1653 R Brome, City Wat, IV 1, She takes me for a mountaine, that am but a mole hill c 1760 Foote, Lame Lover, II, Those people are ever swelling mole hills to mountains 1834 Marryat, Peter Simple, ch xxxix 1909 De Morgan, Never can happen Again, ch xxxviii

See also Man (20), and Morning (3)

Mountsorrel See quot 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v Leicestershire," He leaps like the Bell giant, or devil of Mountsorrel

Mouse and Mice 1 A mouse in time
Mouse

may bite in two a cable. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vii. 1736: Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i. 444 (Bigelow), By diligence and patience the mouse ate in two the cable. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Time."

2. A mouse must not think to cast a shadow like an elephant. 1732: Fuller, No. 332.

3. As sure as a mouse tied with a thread. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vii.

4. As warm as a mouse in a churn. 1678: Ray, 290.

5. Can a mouse fall in love with a cat? 1732: Fuller, No. 1051.

6. Don't make yourself a mouse or the cat will eat you. 1875: Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 105.

7. I gave the mouse a hole, and she is become my heir. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

8. It must be a bold (or wily) mouse that can breed in the cat's ear. c. 1430: Lydgate, Minor Poems, 167 (Percy S.), An hardy mouse that is bold to breede In cattis eisrs. Before 1529: Skelton, Why Come Ye Not?, l. 753, Yet it is a wyly mouse That can byilde his dwellinge house Within the cattes eare Withouten drede or feare. 1579: Lyly, Euphues, 63 (Arber) ["wily "]. 1623: Webster, Duchess of Malfi, IV. ii., Thou sleepst worse than if a mouse should be forc'd to take up her lodging in a cat's ear. 1732: Fuller, No. 3040 ["wilyly"]. 1894: R. L. S., St. Ives, ch. xiv., We ate like mice in a cat's ear.

9. Like a mouse in a cheese. 1658: Flecknoe, Enigm. Characters, 16. She is like a mouse in a Holland cheese, her house and diet all the same. 1736: Ainsworth, Lat. Dict., s.v. (O.), He speaketh like a mouse in a cheese.

10. Mice care not to play with kittens. 1732: Fuller, No. 3412.

11. The escaped mouse ever feels the taste of the bait. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.


13. The mouse that has only one hole is easily taken. c. 1386: Chaucer, Wife of Bath's Provt., l. 572, I holde a mouses herte not worth a leek, That hath but oon hole for to sterete to. 1586: L. Evans, Withals Dict. Revised, sig. C3, That mouse is in an ill case that hath but one hole to lurke in. 1631: Mabbe, Celestina, 139 (T.T.), It goes hard (daughter) with that mouse that hath but one hole to trust to. 1717: Pope, Wife of Bath, 298, The mouse that always trusts to one poor hole, Can never be a mouse of any soul. 1865: "Lancs Proverbs," in N. & Q., 3rd ser., viii. 494. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lancs Sayings, 7, A mousew 'at's nobbut-getten one hole's soon takken.

See also Better a mouse; Cat, passim; Dead (r5); Dun; Frog (6); Lark (2); Lion (2); Mountain (2); No larder; Plough, subs. (3); Quiet; Rat (1) and (6); Safe as a mouse; and Water (4).

Mousehole, where they eat their beef before they sup their broth. Corn., 19th cent. Mr. C. Lee says, "The story is that when the Spaniards raided Mount's Bay, they landed at Mousehole just as the inhabitants were sitting down to their Sunday dinner—broth, duff (dumpings), and beef. Broth and duff had been consumed when the alarm was given, and the diners fled, leaving the Spaniards to eat the beef. Ever since, they have made sure of the beef first. Cf. Scott, Peveril, Note P, 'Cutlar MacCulloch.'"

Mouse-trap smell of cheese, You must not let your. 1659: Howell, ii. 1670: Ray, 18. 1732: Fuller, No. 3189 [with "blood" for "cheese"].

Mouth. 1. A mouth like a Low-country loop-hole = A wide mouth. 1888: Yorkshire N. & Q., ii. 73 (W.).

2. Between the mouth and the morsel. c. 1594: Bacon, Promus, No. 791. Cf. Cup (4).

3. He has a mouth for every matter. 1732: Fuller, No. 1859.

4. He that hath a mouth of his own must not say to another. Blow. 1640: Jac. Prudentium. 1732: Fuller, No. 2130 ["should" for "must"].

5. Mouth full of moutl. See Enough one day.

*P
6 Mouth in the heart See Wise (50)
7 Whoso hath but a mouth will never in England suffer drought 1670 Ray, 42 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 4 1904 Co Folk-Lore Northumb, 171 (F.L.S.)
8 Your mouth hath beguiled your hands 1678 Ray, 260 1732 Fuller, No 6957
Mouthful of moonshine, To give one a 1813 Ray, 208
Mow breeze See quot 1917 Bridge Cheshire Proverbs, 164. It's always dull when there's a Mow breeze [=when wind blows from Mow Cop= east wind]
Much ado about nothing 1748 Richard- son Clarissa, v 12 (1785) It were better for herself that she had not made so much ado about nothing 1683 Kingsley, Water Babies ch vi, I know some people will only laugh at it and call it much ado about nothing
Much bran and little meal 1633 Draxe, 17 1670 Ray, 65 1732 Fuller, No 3477 ["flour" for "meal"]
Much brut little fruit 1639 Fuller, Holy War, bk ii ch xxix 1670 Ray, 65 1732 Fuller, No 6122
Much business much pardon 1750 Franklin, in Works ii 208 (Bigelow), Remember in my favor the old saying, They who have much business must have much pardon
Much com much care [Crescen- tem sequitur cura pecuniam.—Horace, Carm., III xvi] 1639 Clarke 98 1647 Countryman New Commonwealth 22 1732 Fuller, No 3428
Much com. See Corn (5)
Much courtesy See Courtesy (3)
Much cry and little wool c 1475 Fortescue, Govern of England ch x 132 (Plummer). And so his highness shall have theroft but as hadd the man that sheard is hogg, much crye and littel wool 1579 Gosson, Sch of Abuse, 28 (Arber). Or as one said at the shearing of hogs, great crye and little wool 1663 Butler, Hudibras, Pt I

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can 1 I 852 Thou wilt at best but suck a bull. Or shear swine, all cry and no wool 1711 Spectator, No 231 1827 Scott Journal, 24 Feb, As to the collection, it was much cry and like wool", as the deil said when he shored the sow 1871 S. Butler, in H F Jones's Life, i 143 (1919). So I fought shy of Taine, who, too—for I did read some of him rapidly—seemed to me to be much cry and little wool 1912 Punch, 29 Nov., p 520, col 2. Ministers have taken good care that the adage, "Much cry and little wool" shall not apply to them. Cf More squeak.

Much hath, much behoveth. He that 1493 Duces et Pauper, to 4 (1536)
Much heed doth no harm 1639 Clarke 66
Much law but little justice 1694 Terence made English, 139. The old saying's true, You may have much law o' your side, and but little equity 1732 Fuller, No 3482
Much learning much sorrow 1639 Clarke, 101 ['science' for 'learning'] 1660 Politeness, 183
Much matter of a wooden platter= Much fuss about nothing in particular 1639 Clarke, 133 1670 Ray, 185 1732 Fuller, No 6159
Much meat much malady 1639 Clarke, 98 1670 Ray, 120 1732 Fuller, No 3483 c 1600 J. Trusler, Prov in Verse, 22

Much meddling, Of, comes no sound sleeping 1639 in Berkeley MSS. in 30 (1885)

Much of a muchness 1727 Van brugh and Cibber, Prov Husband, I. Man I hope at least, you and your good woman agree still John M Ay! ay! much of a muchness Bridget sticks to me 1857 Reade Never too Late, ch xvii. Why they are all pretty much of a muchness for that 1905 E G Hayden, Travels Round our Village, 24 Folks is folks all the world over—much of a much- ness, I reckon when you gets inside 'um, so to speak

Much power makes many enemies 1736 Bailey, Dict., s v "Much"
Much smoke little fire. Glos. 1639: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 32 (1885).


Much wit as three folks, As—two fools and a madman. Cheshire. 1670: Ray, 299. r732: Fuller, No 716. r828: Lytton, Pelham, ch. lxxvii., "No, no, my fine fellow," said Thornton with a coarse chuckle, "you have as much wit as three folks—two fools and a madman, but you won't do me for all that." 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 19.

Much would have more. [Multa potenti-bus desunt multa.—Horace, Carm., III. xvi ] e. 1350: Alexander, I. 4308, Bot ay mekill wald have mare 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 32, The more a coar man hath, the more he desireth. 1618: W. Lawson, New Orchard and Garden, 5 (1676), 'Tis with grounds in this case, as it is with men . . . Much will have more. 1732: Fuller, No. 3487. Much would have more; but often meets with less. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, i. 323, Mickle wad hev maar. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lancs Sayings, 9, Mitch would ha' mooar, an' mooar would have o [all].


2. You'll have his muck for his meat. 1639: Clarke, 170. 1670: Ray, 186. Muckhill at his door, He hath a good =He is rich 1678: Ray, 261.

Muckhill on my trencher, You make a, quoth the bride = You carve me a great heap. 1678: Ray, 77. 1732: Fuller, No. 5936.

Muck-midden. See quot. 1846-59: Denham Tracts, ii. 97 (F.L.S.), There is an old proverb which says "The muck-midden is the mother of the meal-ark [chest]."

Muckson up to the buncoks—Dirty up to the knuckles. Derby. 1889: Folk-Lore Journal, vii. 293.

Mud chokes no eels. 1732: Fuller, No. 3488.

Muddy springs will have muddy streams. Ibid., No 3489.

Mulbery leaf. See quot. 1659: Howell, Proverbs: New Sayings, 3, With time and art, the mulberry leaves grow to be satinn. 1852: M. A. Keltie, Reminiscences of Thought and Feeling, 36, I would also say, value greatly, and exercise as often as possible, small efforts of self-denial. "By little and little the mulberry leaf becomes satin."


Mule. See also Beware; Horse (51); and One mule.


Mum. See Silence.


Murder will out. Before 1300. Cursor Mundi, I. 1084, For-ji men sais into
Mustard See also After meat, Cat
(II), Pity, Strong, and Tewkesbury
Muston, Kent See quo 1576
Lambarde, Peramb of Kent, 224 (1826)
The common rhythe of the coontrre
He that will not live long, Let
hun dwell at Muston, Tenham, or Tong
1735 Pegge, Kent Proverbs, in E D S
No 12, p 73 (as in 1576)

Mute as a fish [cat. any Aqwamrep trade
way is—Lucian, The Dream, or The
Cock] e 1450 Burgh (and Lydgate),
Secrees, st 330, p 73 (E E T S),
Dowmbe as ffysh 1620 J Melton,
Astrologaster, 38, She shall be as mute
as a fish 1693 Urquhart, Rabelais, bk
13 ch xxiv), They are all of them be-
come as dumb as so many fishes 1704
Congreve, Way of World, IV 17, Thou
art both as drunk and as mute as a fish
1788 Wolcot, Works,1 477 (1795), The
handsome bar-maids stare, as mute as
fishes 1844 Thackeray, Barry Lynd-
on, ch xvi 1915 Galsworthy, Bil
o’ Love, II u., Round which are
gathered five or six sturdy fellows,
dumb as fishes

Mutton is meat for a glutton 1611
Cotgrave, s v “Mouton,” Flesh of a
mutton is food for a glutton 1623
Wodroephe, Spared Hours, 514, Flesh
of mutton is cheere of glutton 1666
Torrano, Piazza Unv, 42

Mutton’s going, When the See quo
1678 Ray, 350, When the shoulder of
mutton is going ’us good to take a
slice 1732 Fuller, No 5598 [omitting
“shoulder of”]

Mutton See also Sheep
Muxy See quo 1633 Draxe, 54,
He is gotten out of the myre and is
fallen into the nuer 1849 Halliwell,
Pop Rhymes, etc, 183 He got out of the
muxy [dunghill], And fell into the
pucksy [quagmire]

My house, my house, though thou
art small, thou art to me the Escurial
1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium
My Lord Baldwin’s dead Sussex
1670 Ray, 163
My son, put money in thy purse
1654 Gayton, Pleasant Notes Don Q, 9
My wife See Wife (16)
Nab me, I'll nab thee. 1678: Ray, 351.

Nail, subs. 1. Another nail in one's coffin. 1789: Wolcot, Works, ii. 100 (1795), Care to our coffin adds a nail, no doubt. 1824: Scott, Redgauntlet, ch. xvi., Every minute he hes here is a nail in his coffin.

2. Drive not a second nail, till the first be clinched. 1732: Fuller, No. 1334.

3. Nail of wax. See quot. 1852: Fitzgerald, Polonius, 39 (1903). You can't... drive a nail of wax.

4. Nail that will go. See Drive (1).

5. To hit the nail on the head. [Acu rem tangere.—Plautus, Rud., V. ii. 10.] c. 1520: Stanbridge, Vulgaria, sig. B5. Thou hytest the nailye on the head. c. 1580: Spelman, Dialogue, 115 (Roxb. Cl.), How saye you... to this discourse of this husbandman, I thinke he hath hitte the nailye on the heade. 1656: Choyce Drollery, 11 (Ebsworth), Tis true what we have sed, In this we hit the naile o' th' head. 1728: Fielding, Love in Several Masques, II. vi., You have hit the nail on the head, my dear uncle. 1834: Marryat, P. Simple, ch. xii., He has hit the right nail on the head.

6. Upon the nail. 1596: Nashe, Works, iii. 59 (Grosart), Speake the word, and I will help you to it vpon the naile. 1637: T. Heywood, Pleas. Dialogues, etc., Dial. 4, in Bang's Materialien, B. 3, p. 69, That could not pay One single halfpenny dowe vpon the naile. 1692: L'Estrange, Aesop, Life, 13 (3rd ed.), Lay down the mony upon the nail, and the business is done. 1729: Gay, Polly, I., I'll have her I'll pay you down upon the nail. 1859: Sala, Twice Round Clock, 6 a.m., We would drink brown ale, and pay the reckoning on the nail. 1902: C. M. L'Estrange, Aesop, Life, 13 (3rd ed.), Lay down the mony upon the nail, and the business is done. 1729: Gay, Polly, I., I'll have her I'll pay you down upon the nail. 1859: Sala, Twice Round Clock, 6 a.m., We would drink brown ale, and pay the reckoning on the nail. 1922: Punch, 20 Dec., p. 598, col. 1, I paid for them on the nail—a little over fifteen pounds. See also One nail.

Nails of fingers, etc. 1. Cutting them. 1596: Lodge, Wits Miserie, 18 (Hunt. Cl.), He will not... paire his nailes while Tuesday, to be fortunat in his love. 1618: B. Holyday, Technogamia, II. vi., That you may neuer pare your nailes vpon a Friday. Before 1627: Middleton, Anything for Quiet Life, IV. ii., What a cursed wretch was I to pare my nails to-day! A Friday too; I looked for some mischief. 1695: Congreve, Love for Love, Ill. ix., As melancholie as if thou hadst... pared thy nails on a Sunday. 1830: Forby, Vocab. E. Anglia, 411, Cut them on Monday, you cut them for health; Cut them on Tuesday, you cut them for wealth; Cut them on Wednesday, you cut them for news; Cut them on Thursday, a new pair of shoes; Cut them on Friday, you cut them for sorrow; Cut them on Saturday, see your true-love to-morrow; Cut them on Sunday, the devil will be with you all the week. 1879: Henderson, Folk-Lore N. Counties, 18, [as in 1830, except that the last three lines read] Cut them on Saturday, a present to-morrow; But he that on Sunday cuts his horn, Better that he had never been born! Ibid., 17, Better a child had ne'er been born Than cut his nails on a Sunday morn! [Also] Friday hair, Sunday horn, Better that child had ne'er been born! [There are other variants of these sayings—see N. & Q., 9th ser., vi. 93, and 12th ser., vii. 67.]

2. See quot. 1869: Hazlitt, 482, Ye've nails at wad scrat your granny out of her grave. Leeds.

3. Specks on nails—commonly called "gifts." 1620: J. Melton, Astrologaster, 45, That to haue yellow speckles on the nailes of one's hand's a great signe of death. 1646: Browne, Pseudo Ep., bk. v. ch. xxi., That temperamental dignotions, and conjecture of prevalent humours, may be collected.
from spots in our nails, we are not averse to concede that white specks presage our felicity, blew ones our misfortunes 1755 Constant, No 59 A white speck upon the nails made them as sure of a gift as if they had it already in their pockets 1854 Baker, Northants Gloss, s v "Gifts, (a) A gift, a friend, a foe, a lover to come, a journey to go (b) A gift on the thumb is sure to come A gift on the finger is sure to finger 1879 Jackson Shropsh Wood-Book 173 [as in 1854 (b)] 1882 Jago, Gloss of Cornish Dialect 176 [as in 1854 (b)] 1884-6 Holland Chesh Gloss (EDS) The popular belief is that they [white specks on finger-nails] betoken a present and children say—beginning with the thumb, and ending with the little finger A gift, a friend a foe, a sweetheart, a journey to go The event to happen is indicated by the word which corresponds to the finger on which the white spot is seen 1886 Elworthy, West Som Word-Book, 284 (EDS) [as in 1854 (b), but in plural] Naked as a cuckoo 1609 Dekker, Guls Horne-Booke, 20 (Hindley), As naked as the cuckoo in Christmas 1879 J Hardy, in Folk-Lore Record, u 66 It is from the reported deplumed condition of the cuckoo in winter that the proverb originates, 'As naked as a cuckoo,' which I have heard in Northumberland applied to a prodigal

Naked as a needle c 1350 Alexander, 1 4027, And ay is naked a nedel as natour tham schapis 1377 Langland, Plowman, B, xii 162, Botte naked as a nedle 1485 Malory Morte d'Arthur, bk xi ch 1, She was naked as a nedle 1858 P J Bailey, The Age, 75, Nude as a needle

Naked as a robin 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 505

Naked as a shorn sheep 1654 Gayton, Pleasant Notes Don Q 88, As naked and bare as a shorne sheep, as we say in our English proverb

Naked as a stone 14th cent in Wright, Songs and Carols 3 (1856): He stod as nakyd as a ston

Naked as a worm c 1400 Rom Rose, I 454, For naked as a worm was she

Naked as my nail 1533 Heywood, Play of Wether 1 922, Thou mightest go as naked as my nail 1600 Day, Blind Beggar, V, Yet would I had her as naked as my nail 1629 Mas singer, Renegado, I 1 1681 Robert son, Phrasel Generalis, 905, As naked as ones nail

Naked as truth 1647 in Somers Tracts, v 491 (1811), Lest it strip him as naked as truth

Naked sword See ill putting

Name, subs 1 When your name is up you may lie abed 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Brut," Hee that is thought to rise betime, may he abed till noon 1659 Howell II (g), He that hath the name to be an early riser may sleep till noon 1714 Spectator, No 602, So that to use the old proverb, When his name is up he may lye a-bed c 1730 Swift, in Works, xiv 423 (Scotti), His name is up, he may in bed he 1772 Graves, Spiritual Quixote, bk 1 ch viii, If our name were thus once up we might lie a-bed

2 You had not your name for nothing 1633 Drake, 135, He hath not his name for naught 1678 Ray, 261

Napping, as Moss caught his mare

The allusions to this saying and song in 16th- and 17th-century literature are very numerous 1569-70 in Arber, Stat Registers, I 193 Receivd of William Grefith for his lyncense for the pryntinge of a ballett intituled taken nappyng as Mosses toke his meare, und 1597 Discovere of Knights of Poste, sig C 4, Fortune feeding them, as Mosses did his mare, through a hurdle, which made him take her so soone napping 1641 J Taylor, Swarme of Scatories, etc [motto], The cobler preaches and his audience are As wise as Mosses was, when he caught his mare 1658 Wit Restored, 304 (reprint) 1672 Westminster Drolleriy, Pt II 74 (Ebsworth), Her cresses that were wrought Most like the golden snare, My loving heart has caught, As Mos did catch the mare 1785 Grose Class Durt Vulgar Tongue, s v "Nap"
Nature draws more than ten oxen. 1640: Herbert, 

Nature gives what no man can take away. Before 1500: in Hill, Common-

Nature is the true law. 1578: Florio, First Fruits, fo. 214. Nature is the right law. 1629: Book of Meery Riddles, Prov. 34.

Nature out of the door, Shut. See quot. 1692: L’Estrange, Asob, 61 (3rd ed.), How impossible it is to make Nature change her bias, and that if we shut her out of the door, she’ll come in at the window.


Nature requires five. See Sleep, subs. (1).

Nature, time, and patience are the three great physicians. 1855: Bohn, 437.

Nature will have her course. C. 1400: Beryn, 195 (E.E. T.S.), for “kynde well have his cours.” 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 326 (Arber). C. 1647: Wither, Doubtfull Almanack, 6 (Spens. S.), It is a true saying, Nature will not be hid.


Naught is that muse that finds no excuse. 1629: Book of Meery Riddles, Prov. 123

Naught. See also Nothing; and Nought.

Nay, stay, quoth Stringer, when his neck was in the halter. 1678: Ray, 82. 1732: Fuller, No. 3512.

Near as fourpence to a great. As. C. 1550: Jacke Jugeler, 75 (Grosart), And in euery thing as just as iii pens to a gröt. 1670: Ray, 205 [“like” for “near”]. 1886: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 302 (E.D.S.), The usual simile for exactness is “Tis as near’s fowerpence is to a gröt.” 1894: Northall, Folk Phrases, 9 (E.D.S.).

Near bur. See Moon (26).

Near friend is better than a fardwelling kinsman, A. 1669: Politeu-

Near is my kirtle (or petticoat), but nearer is my smock. [Tunica propior pallio est.—Plautus, Trin., V. ii. 30.] 1461: Paston Letters, i 542 (Gairdner), He answered a geyn in these wordes, “Nere is my kyrtyl, but nerre [nearer] is my smok.” 1546: Heywood, Pro-

Near is my purse, but nearer is my soul. 1860: Reade, Cl. and Heath, ch. lxvi.

Near is my shirt, but nearer is my skin. [1539: Taverner, Proverbs, fo. 15, My cote is nerer me than my robe or gowne.] 1570: in Ballads (Percy S., No. 1), 99, Neerer is my skin then shirte. 1593: G. Harvey, Works, ii. 311 (Grosart), That every man was nearest to himselfe, and the skinne neerer then the shirte. 1685: Meri-

Near is my shirt, but nearer is my skin. [1539: Taverner, Proverbs, fo. 15, My cote is nerer me than my robe or gowne.] 1570: in Ballads (Percy S., No. 1), 99, Neerer is my skin then shirte. 1593: G. Harvey, Works, ii. 311 (Grosart), That every man was nearest to himselfe, and the skinne neerer then the shirte. 1685: Meri-

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Near

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Necessity

313 (1795) 1883 A Easther, Almonbury Gloss, ii (E D S). A local saying here was Nar [Near] is mi sark, but narrer's mi skin" 1890 Caine, Bondman, II x (O).

Near love by craft maketh the far love loathed, The c 1386 Chaucer, Miller's Tale, I 206, Ful sooth is this proverbe, it is no lye, Men seyn right thus, alwey the nye slye Maketh the ferre leve to be looth c 1390 Gower, Conf Amantis, bk in I 1899, An old sawe is, "Who that is slyh In place where he mai be nyh, He maketh the ferre leve loth."

Nearer the bone the sweeter the flesh, The 1559 in Ballads (Percy S., No 1) 21, The nigher the bone, the flesh is much sweeter 1624 Cook, City Gallant, in Hazlitt Old Plays, xi 207 1661 Davenport City Nightcap. I 1819 Scott, Bride of L., ch vi, The nearer the bone the sweeter, as your honours weel ken

Nearer the church the farther from God, The 1303 Brunne, Hand Synne, I 9243 The nere the cherche, the furyr fro Gode Before 1500 in Hull Commonplace-Book, 130 (E E S.) 1579 Spenser, Shep Cat., July, I 104, To kurke the naere, to God more farre, has bene an old sawe saw 1611 Tourneur, Atheist's Tragedy, I iv 1662 Fuller, Worthies, ii 266 (1840) 1784 New Found Hosp for Witt, iv 160, The old proverbe That the nearest the church are the farthest from God 1824 Scott, Redgauntlet, ch viii, For the nearer the church—the proverb is somewhat musty

Nearer the kin the farther in, The 1591 Harrington, Ori F toasted, bk xvi 1615 Moral. The nearer of kin, the sooner in 1615 R. Tofte, tr Blazon of Tealouste, 28 The nigher kinne the farther in 1639 Clarke, 26

Nearest to the well See quot 1639 in Berkeley MSS, ii 32 (1855). Nearest to the well furthest from the water, Like nearest to the church furthest from God (Gloucester)

Neat as a new pin See New pin

Neat as ninepence, As 1659 Howell, xi 1857 Blacke Mag., lxxxi 397 (O), If I didn't see him whip a picture out of its frame, as neat as ninepence 1911 Devonsh Assoc Trans., xlii 94, "So neat as ninepence" is the common superlative absolute of neatness

Neat but not gaudy 1631 Brathwait, Eng Gentlewoman, 399 (1641), Making this her imprize Comely, not gaudy 1806 Lamb, Letters, I 354 (Lucas), A little thin flowerly border round, neat not gaudy 1838 Ruskin, in Archt Mag., Nov., 483, That admiration of the "neat but not gaudy," which is commonly reported to have influenced the devil when he painted his tail pea green

Necessary See Sew, subs (4)

Necessity and opportunity may make a coward valiant 1732 Fuller, No 3514 1783 Day, Sandif and Merton, 44 1891), Necessity makes evn cowards brave

Necessity has no law In the earlier examples it is always Need [Necessitas] dat legem, non ipse accipit—Publ. Syrus, Ter reus careat necessitas—Palla dius, I vi 7 Legem non habet necessitas—St Augustine, Sotl anima ad Deum, c 2] 1377 Langlaw, Plowman, B, xx 10, Nede ne hath no lawe c 1390 Gower, Conf Amantis, bk iv I 1167, For as men sem, nede hath no lawe c 1450 Partonope. I 868, But thus ys a full olde sawe Nede had no maner of lawe 1493 Dues et Pauper, to 1536 (as in 1390) Before 1529 Skelton, Colin Clout, I 865 (as in 1390) 1577 Kendall, Flow of Epigrams, 292 (Spens S) (as in 1390) 1608 Rowlands Hum Look Glasse, 9 (Hunt Cl), Necessitie it hath no law, I must my gelding sell 1678 Dryden, Lumberham, III vi, Necessity has no law, I must be patient 1713 C. Shadwell, Hum of the Army, V ii [as in 1678] c 1800 J. Trusler, Prov in Verse, 79 [as in 1678] 1864 Mrs H Wood, Trelyn Hold, ch xxiv), But necessity has no law, and he was obliged to rise

Necessity is a hard dart 1560 Becon, in Catechism, etc, 601 (P S) [quoted as "the common proverb"]

Necessity is coal-black 1678 Ray, 180


Neck and heels. 1740: North, *Examen*, 72, The liberty of the subject is brought in neck and heels, as they say, that the Earl might be popular.

Neck as long as my arm. I'll first see thy. 1678: Ray, 261.

Neck of another, One trouble in the. 1533: Udall, *Flowers out of Terence*, fo. 203, One myschief on an others necke. 1567: G. Fenton, Bandello, i. 232 (T.T.), Other straun mischifes...one in the necke of another. c 1640: in *Roxb. Ballads*, i. 370 (P.S.), One vice on the neck of another pursues. 1708: tr. Aleman's *Guzman*, i. 80, My misfortunes came so upon the neck of one another. 1889: Peacock, *Manley, etc.*, Gloss., 367 (E. D.S.), "One bad job alas falls on th' neck of another," is a common saying when misfortunes follow each other quickly.


Need subs. 1. *Need and might make the lame to trot*. Glos. 1639: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 32 (1885).


5. Need will have its course. 1678: Ray, 180.

6. When the need is highest, the help is nighest. 1630: T. Adams, *Works*, 619, Mans extremity is Gods opportunitie. 1822: Scott, *Nigel*, ch. xxii. 1853: Trench, *Proverbs*, 61 (1900), Our own proverb, Man's extremity, God's opportunity, or as we sometimes have it, When need is highest, help is highest. Cf. Boot after bale.

See also Necessity.

Need, verb. I. I may see him need, but I'll not see him bleed. Spoken by father of erring son 1639: Clarke, 42. 1670: Ray, 187. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict*, s.v. "Need."

2. They need much whom nothing will content. 1639: Clarke, 38. 1670: Ray, 124. 1732: Fuller, No. 4969.

3. You need not doubt, you are no doctor. 1670: Ray, 172.

Needham. See quotes. 1580: Tusser, *Husb.*, 188 (E. D. S.), Soone sets thine host at needams shore, to crave the beggers bone. 1602: Fuller, *Worthies*, iii. 161 (1840), They are said to be in the highway to Needham who hasten to poverty. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Suffolk," You are in the highway to Needham. 1869: Spurgeon, *John
Needingworth

Ploughman, ch vi, They will find out their mistake when want finds them out, they are already a long way on the road to Needham.

Needingworth, It comes from 1639 Clarke, 68

Needle in a bottle of hay, Like a 1532 More, Works 837 (1557), To see out one lyne in all hys works wer to go looke a needle in a medow 1592 Greene, Works, xi 252 (Grosart). The poore man greweth in the darke to find a needle in a bottle of hay 1608 Day Law Truxes, I ii, My father is gone to seeke a needle in a bottle of hay 1691 Merry Drollery 79 (Ebsworth), You'd as soon find a needle in a bottle of hay 1720 C Shadwell, Sham Prince II 1 1772 Graves Spirit Quixote bk vii ch v (with "bundle for 'bottle'] 1834 Marryat P Simple, ch vii [bundle'] 1886 R L S, Kidnapped ch xx 1913 R E Trancullon, Med-Vict Memories, I discovered what had hitherto been the proverbial needle in the bottle of hay

Needles and pins, needles and pins, When a man marries his trouble begins 1843 Hallwell, Nursery Rhymes, 122 1876 Blackmore, Cripps, ch 1880 N & Q, 6th ser., ii 205 (with "girl" for "man ")

Needles must go when the devil drives c. 1420 Lydgate Assem of Gods, s 3 p 2 (EETS), For hit ys oft seyde by hem that he lacketh, but He must nedys go that the devill dryues 1533 Heywood, John Tyb, etc., 77 (Farmer, 1905), He must needs go that the devill driveth 1594 Kyd, Span Trag, III vi, Needs must he go that the devils drive 1633 Jonson, Tale of a Tub, III v, Wife, I must go, needs whom the devil drives 1672 J Lacy, Old Troop, II c 1750 Foute, Orators II 1822 Scott, Niel, Introd Epistle 1840 Barham, Ing Legends "St Odille," Needs must when a certain old gentleman drives Needs must trot afoot, that tires his horse, He 1607 T Heywood, Woman Killed with Kindness, IV v

Needy when he is married, shall be rich when he is buried, He that is 1633 Draxe, 229 1670 Ray, 48 1732 Fuller No 2183 [with "scarce" alter 'shall']

Neighbour and Neighbours. 1 Every man's neighbour is his looking glass 1659 Howell, Proverbs Brit-Eng, 3 2 He hath ill neighbours (or dwells far from neighbours) that is fain to praise himself 1548 Hall Chron, 70 (1809), He that praiseth him self lacketh louing neighbours 1599 Porter, Two Angry Women, sc xi, You dwell by ill neighbours Richard that makes yec praise your selfe 1631 Brathwait, Eng Gentlewoman, 320 (1641), Beware of self-prayse, it argues you have slow neighbours, or few deserts 1670 Ray, 125 1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict, s v "Fam"

3 He's an ill neighbour that is not missed 1639 Clarke, 75

4 He that hath a good neighbour hath a good morrow 15th cent. in Reliq Antiquae, 1 376 (1841), He that hath a good neigbhoure hath a good morowe, He that hath a schrewyd wyfo hath much sorowe, He that fast spendyth must nede borowe, But when he schal paye aegn, then ys al the sorowe 1591 Floro, Second Trules, 57, You have a good neighbour then And by consequence a good morrow 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Matin" morrow, viz. good words next his heart a mornings 1633 Draxe 138 1670 Ray, 124, A good neighbour, a goodmorrow 1732 Fuller, No 165 [as in 1670]

5 Here's talk of the Turk and the Pope, but it's my next neighbour that does me the harm 1659 Howell, 4 ["hurt" for "harm"] 1670 Ray, 125 1732 Fuller, No 2497

6 Hold him not for a good neighbour that's at table and wine at every hour 1623 Wodrowepe, Spaned Horses, 521

7 Neighbour's fare. See quotes 1678 Ray, 180, Neighbour-quart is good quart, i.e. gifte gaffe [q v] is a good fellow c. 1650 in Robt Ballads, in 429 (B S), Since neighbour's fare always is counted the best 1869 Fitzgerald Sea Words and Phrases 8, I mayn't make a fortune, but I look
for neighbour's fare nevertheless 1901
F. E. Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 19, Neighbour's fare's no ill-fare.

8. When thy neighbour's house doth burn, then look to your own. [Nam tua res agitur paries cum proximo ardet. —Horace, Epist., I. xviii. 84] 1519: Hearman, Vulgaria, fo. 126. When my neighbours house is a fyre, I can nat be out of thought for myn owne. 1548: Hall, Chron., 438 (1609), He remembred the proverbe that sayth, when thy neighboures house is a fyre, thy stafie standeth nexte the doore 1593: Pass. Morrice, 75 (N. Sh S.), When our neighbours house is on fier, we haue neede to bestirre vs. 1681: Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 744. 1732. Fuller, No. 5599: When the next house is a fire it's high time to look to thy own.

9. Who more ready to call her neighbour scold, than the arrantest scold in all the street? 1639: Clarke, 79 [with "i' th' parish" for "in all the street"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 5712.


See also All is well.

Neither ashe nor afloat. Corn. 1895: Jos. Thomas, Randigal Rhymes, 61.

Neither borrow nor flatter. See Rich (8).

Neither do right nor suffer wrong, He'll. 1678: Ray, 206. 1732: Fuller, No. 2426 [with "ne'er" for "neither"].

Neither end nor side to it, There's. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 119. There's noather eend nor side to 't.

Neither fish nor flesh, etc. See Flesh nor fish.

Neither give to all nor contend with fools. 1855: Bohn, 458.

Neither great poverty nor great riches will hear reason. 1855: Bohn, 458.

Neither idle nor well occupied. 1567: Harman, Caveat, 33 (E.E.T.S.), In the night they be not idle,—nether, as the common saying is, "well occupied." c. 1570: Marr. of Wit and Science, IV. iv., The proverb is verified, I am neither idle, nor yet well-occupied. 1611: W. Goddard, A Satyrical Dialogue... Imprinted... for all such gentlewomen as are not altogether idle nor yet well occupied 1662: Fuller, Worthies, ii 513 (1840), He had an excellent wit, which, the back friends to stage-plays will say, was neither idle nor well employed.

Neither lead nor drive. 1667: L'Esrange, Quevedo's Visions, 80 (1904), Another... would neither lead nor drive. 1678: Ray, 75.

Neither maid, wife, nor widow, She is. 1678: Ray, 90. She is neither wife, widow nor maid. 1732: Fuller, No. 4132.

Neither seeds nor meal. 1892: Heslop, Northumb. Words, 471 (E.D.S.), "Nowther seeds nor meal"—neither one thing nor another—is a common proverb.

Neither sugar nor salt. 1738: Swift, Polte Convers., Dial. I, We were neither sugar nor salt, we were not afraid the rain would melt us 1880: Banks, Woovers, ii. 7 (W), Bless the bairn, shoo's noather sugar nor salt, schoo'l noan melt.

Nene and Welland, The Rivers. See quotas. 1596: Spenser, F. Q., IV. xi. 35. And after him the fatal Welland went, That, if old saves prove true, (which God forbid!) Shall drowne all Holland with his excrement. 1865: W. White, Eastern England, i. 273. Nene and Welland Shall drowne all Holland, recites the ancient saying upon the district... between the two rivers.

Nertown. See quot. 1851: in N. & Q., 1st ser., iv. 149. At Taunton, in Somersetshire, there is a similar tradition current: Nertown was a market town When Taunton was a fuzzy down. This Nertown is a village adjoining Taunton, and lying on the north side of it.

Net fills though the fisherman sleeps, The. 1683: White-Kennett, tr Erasmus' Praise of Folly, 135 (8th ed.), Thus Timotheus, the Athenian commander, in all his expeditions was a mirror of good luck, because he was
a little under-witted, from him was occasioned the proverb, "The net fills though the fisherman sleeps"

Nettle 1 Better be stung by a nettle than prick'd by a rose 1670 Ray, 25
1732 Fuller No 878

2 He that handles a nettle tenderly is soonest stung 1579 Lyly, Euphues of (Arber), Hee which toucheth the nettle tenderly, is soonest stung. 1732 Fuller, No 2126

3 Nettles in March  1845 See quoted Denham Proverbs, 38 (Percy S.), If they would drink nettles in March, And eat mugwort in May, So many fine maidens Wouldn't go to the clay. 1882 N & Q, 6th ser, v 408 If they had drunk nettles in March, And eat muggins in May, Saé mony braw maidens Wad not go to clay 1713 E M Wright, Rustic Speech, etc., 241, As the old rhyme says [as in 1882]

4 Nip a nettle hard, and it will not sting you 1830 Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 430 1872 J Glyde, Jr., Norfolk Garland, 149

See also In dock.

Never a fou' face, but there's a fou' fancy, There's is 1917 Bridge Cheshire Proverbs, 119

Never a whit, As good, as never the better 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch xi 1553 Republica IV m 1597 Bacon, Coulers of Good and Evil, 10 1639 Fuller, Holy War, bk iv ch vii 1670 Ray, 125 1709 R Kingston, Apoph Caroda, 72, We say, as good never a whit at all, as never a whit the nearer. 1732 Fuller, No 687

Never be ashamed to eat your meat 1639 Clarke, 269 1670 Ray, 57

Never be weary of well doing 1633 Drake, 32, Neuer weary of that which is good 1670 Ray, 154

Never climbed See Climb (1)

Never drank was never athirst, He that 1659 Howell, 13

Never enough where nothing left, There was 1639 Clarke, 38 1670 Ray, 85, Ther's never enough where nought leaves 1736 Bailey, Dict., s v "Enough"

Never go home See quot 1888 Lowsley, Berks Gloss, 31 (E D S.), Never go whom W. out stick or stone [stone]

Never good that mind their belly so much 1678 Ray, 347

Never is a long day e 1386 Chaucer, Canon's Yeoman's Tale, l 858 Never to thrive were to long a date 1736 Bailey, Dict., s v "Term," Never is a long term 1839 Dickens, Nickleby, ch li, Never, though never is a long day 1841 Dickens, Barn Rudge, ch last 1886 Elworthy, West Som Wort-Book, 508 (E D S.), Stamp cheel! never's a long day

Never less alone than when alone 1586 Pettre, tr Guazzo's Civil Convers, fo 19, Scipio sayd ye he was never less alone, then when he was alone 1596 Lodge, Divel Contureed, 9 (Hunt C1), A good man is never lesse alone then when alone (as Themistocles said) 1669 Politeness, 45, A wise man is never, etc 1680 L'Estrange, Tully's Offices, 141, It was the sayng of Scipio Africanus the Elder, that he was never less idle, or alone, then when he most appeared so to be 1816 Scott, Black Dwarf, ch 1v

Never-mass, At = never 1639 Clarke, 229

Never quiet but when she is sleeping, She is 1631 Brathwait, Whimsies, 104 (1859)

Never quit certainty for hope 1855 Bohn, 459

Never sigh but send 1678 Ray, 8i, Sigh not but send, he'll come if he be unhang'd 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I Come, miss, never sigh, but send for him 1852 FitzGerald, Polonius, 78 (1903)

Never tell thy foe that thy foot acheth e 1320 in Relig Antiqua, 111 (1841), Quoth Hendyng

Never the nearer See Early (5)

Never too late to learn 1670 Ray, 112 ["old ' for "late"] e 1680 L'Estrange Seneca's Epistles, xx, It is never too late to learn what it is always necessary to know 1726 Southern, Money the Mistress, V iii 1752 Fielding, Cov Garden Journal, No 72, An old proverb, which says It is never too late to grow wise
Never too late to mend. [ἀκεραι τοι φήμες φανθήϊν.—Homer, Iliad, xiii. 115.]
1590: Greene, *Never too Late* [title].
1655: Howell, *Letters*, bk. iv. No. 38, It is never over-late to mend. 1856: Reade, *It is Never too Late to Mend* [title]. 1891: R. S. Letters, iv. 54 (Tusitala ed.).

Never too late to repent. 1670: Ray, 112. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Late."

Never trust a Little. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, i. 65 (F.L.S.), Never trust a Little. Although this saying is nearly universally used under another name in the bishoprick [Durham], and elsewhere in the North of England, I have reason to believe that the above is the correct form, and the other a mere adaptation. A family of this name (Little) were celebrated rievers, or . . . thieves.

Never was bad woman fair. 1640: Herbert, *Jae. Prudentium*.


Newbridge Hollow. *See* Bowdon Wakes.


Newcastle. i. *Canny Newcastle, 1790:*


2. Coals to Newcastle. *See* Coals.


5. Newcastle hospitality. *See* quot. 1892: Heslop, *Northumb. Words*, 498 (E.D.S.), Newcastle hospitality—that is, roasting a friend to death; or, according to a more popular colloquial phrase, "killing a person with kindness"

6. Newcastle Scots are the worst of all Scots. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, i. 298 (F.L.S.).


New College. *See* quot. 1659: Howell, 20, They thrive as New Colledge students, who are golden schollers, silver batchelors and leaden masters.

New friend makes the old forgotten, A. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Aime." 1800: Lamb, *Letters*, i. 159 (Lucas), But ever the new friend driveth out the old, as the ballad sings. [Mr. Lucas notes: "The ballad I have not found."]


Newgate Knocker. *See* quot. 1881: in *N. & Q.*, 6th ser., iii. 248, "As black as Newgate Knocker"—I heard this expressive phrase used the other day by a servant. 1893: G. L. Gower, *Gloss. of Surrey Words*, 12 (E.D.S.), Coming from Croydon on a very dark night the driver remarked "Ay! it is a dark night, dark as Newgate Knocker."

New grief awakens the old. 1732: Fuller, No. 3535.

New honours. *See* Honour (7).
New lords, new laws 1548 Hall, Cron, 233 (1809) c 1597 in Harington, Nuge Antique, i 201 (1804). To such reprovers I answer, new lords, new laws 1605 Sylvester, Du Bartz, Week I Day ii 1 97 1659 R Brome, Queen and Concubine, II v 1712 Motteux Quirote, Pt II ch xliu 1823 Scott, St Ronan’s ch xiv. But new lords new laws—naething but fine and imprisonment.

Newmarket heath, A fine morning to catch herrings on 1639 Clarke, 308

New meat begets a new appetite 1633 Drake, 23. New meats provoke the appetite 1670 Ray, 28 1732 Fuller, No 3534 New dishes beget new appetites.

New pin, Clean (or Neat) as a 1829 Scott, Journal, 19 April. It is a great thing to have a certainty to be clear as a new pin of every penny of debt. R L S Treasure I ch v. Always glad to see me in the galley which he kept as clean as a new pin 1886 Elworthy West Som Word-Book, 504 (E D S). Her was a-dressed off so fine and so nate as a new pin 1889 Peacock Manley, etc., Gloss, 366 (E D S.). Neat as a new pin 1923 Alice Brown, Old Crow, ch vi, Charlotte told me he was neat as a new pin.

News See Country (3)

New things are fair 1412-20 Lydgate, Troy Book, bl. iv 1 30t. It is natural Ven to delite in thing that is newe] 1611 Cotgrave sv ‘Nouveaue,’ Every new thing looks faire 1651 Herbert Jac Prudentum, 2nd ed 1700 T Brown Scarrow, ii 248 (1892). As all new things are apt to please 1732 Fuller No 3537. New things are most look’d at.

New Year 1 A good new year and a merry Handsel Monday 1846 Denham, Proverbs 23 (Percy S).

2 At New Year’s tide The days lengthen a cock’s stride 1710 Brit Apollo ii No 90 col 3 That old saying, that the days lengthen a cock’s stride 1759 Gent Mag., 16. The countryman has a saying that I believe is very general all over England —At New Year’s tide, etc. 1846

Denham, Proverbs, 30 (Percy S). At new-year’s day, a cock’s stride, At Candlemas, an hour wide 1904 Co Folk-Lore Northumb, 174 (F L S).

3 If New Year’s eve See quot 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 23 (Percy S). If new-year’s eves night wind blow South, It betokeneth warmth and growth, If West, much milk, and fish in the sea, If North, much cold, and storms there will be, If East, the trees will bear much fruit—If north-east, flee it man and brute.

4 Pay away money on New Year’s day, And all the year through you’ll have money to pay. Worcs and Herefs 1882 N & Q, 6th ser., vi 186 Next to love quietness 1678 Ray, 164

Next to no wife See Wife (17). Next way, round about, is at the far door 1639 Clarke, 8

Nice as a halporth of silver spoons 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch ix, Sodemly waxen as nyse. As it had bene a halporth of sylyr spoones c 1550 Jacke Juegelcr, 40 (Grosart). As denty and nice, as an halpeny worth of siluer spoons.

Nice as a nun’s hen 15th cent in Reliq Antiquae, i 248 (1841) Some (women) be nyse as a nanne hene 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch i 1670 Ray, 202 1847 Halliwell Dict, s v ”Nanny,” As nice as a nanny hen, i e very affected or delicate [Halliwell follows the 15th-century example in rendering ‘nanny’ as ‘nanny’ but the other references give ‘nun’s’ as also does Wilson in his Rhetorique, 1560, p 219 (1609)].

Nice as nip 1854 Baker, Northants Gloss, s v. Nice as nip. Just the thing, to a nicety. A very common colloquial expression 1901 F E Taylor, Lancs Sayings, 3 Cf Clean as nip.

Nice wife and a back door Do often make a rich man poor. A. c 1450 Pro of Good Counsel, 1 33 (L E T S).

For a nyse wyfe and a backe dore 1639 Clarke, 218 1732 Fuller, No 6268 Nichils in nine holes = Nothing at
Nicholas

445

Nimble

all. Variants of "holes" are "pokes," "nooks," etc. 1564: R. Scot, *Witchcraft*, bk. xvi. ch. vi., And their bodies to the hangman to be trussed on the gallows, for nichels in a bag. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, ch. xxv., There is an officer in the Exchequer, called Clericus Nihilorum, or the Clerk of the Nichills, who maketh a Roll of all such sums as are Nichill'd by the Sheriff upon their estreats of the Green Wax, when such sums are set on persons, either not found, or not found solvable. 1670: Ray, 188. 1730: Bailey, *Eng. Dict.*, s.v., Nichils (in Common Law) are issues or debts, which the sheriff being opposed, says are worth nothing, by reason that the parties that should pay them are nothing worth. 1852: "Cheshire Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 1st ser., vi. 386, Nichils in nine nooks. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 97.

Nicholas Kemp. See quot. 1888: Q.-Couch, *Troy Town*, ch. xi., Like Nicholas Kemp, he'd occasion for all.


Nick in the post. See quot. 1847: Halliwell, *Dict.*, s.v. "Nick," The proverbial expression "to knock a nick in the post," i.e. to make a record of any remarkable event.

Niggard. See More spends.

Niggard never hath enough, The. 1493: *Divus et Pauper*, fo. 8 (1536).


Night to run away with another man's wife, A fine. 1591: Florio, *Second Fruites*, 165, It were even a fine night, etc. c. 1630: B. & F., *Lovers' Progress*, III. ii., Here were a night to choose to run away, etc. 1633: Rowley, *Match at Midnight*, IV., They say a moonshine night is good to run, etc. 1659: Howell, 6, A fit night to steal away a fair lady, viz. A clear moonshine. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.,* Dial. I., Oh! 'twas a delicate night to run, etc.

Nightingale and cuckoo sing both in one month, The. 1659: Clarke, 106. 1696: D'Urfey, *Quixole*, Pt. III. Act V. sc. i., D'ye hear, sir, as great as you are, remember this, the nightingale and cuckoo sing both in a month.

Nightingale cannot sing in a cage, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 335.

Nightingale. See also Cuckoo (14).

Nightingales can sing their own song best. 1732: Fuller, No 3542.


* Nimble as ninenpence, As. 1882: Mrs. Chamberlain, *W. Worces. Words*, 13 (E.D.S.), 'E gamboled over the yat [gate] as nimble as ninenpence.

Nimble penny is worth a slow sixpence, A Clos 1911 Folk-Lore

Nimblest footman is a false tale, The 1659 Howell, Proverbs Brit-Eng, 3
Nine crabs high, Ever since I was Yorks 1801 N & Q, 2nd ser., vi 309, That is, I suppose, since I was a mere child

Nine days wonder, A [Romanis quoque ab eodem prodigio novendiale sacrum publice susceptum est, seu voce cælesti ex Albano monte massa—nam id quoque traditur—seu aruspiciomomitu—Livv, 1 31] e 1374 Chancer Troylus, bk iv l 588, A wonder last but nyne might never in tome 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch 1 This wonder, (as wonders last,) lasted nine days 1600 Kemp, Nine Days Wonder [title] 1621 Burton, Melancholy, II u 7, p 424 (1836), Be content, 'tis but a nine days wonder 1633 Massinger, New Way, etc., IV u 1767 Murphy, Sch for Guardians, I ii, And when the nine days wonder is over, I shall pack off 1818 Byron, Don Juan, can 1 st 188 The nine days wonder which was brought to light 1898 Shaw, Plays Pleasant, etc., I Pref., xu, The volume is a curious relic of that nine days wonder 1926 Phillpotts, Peacock House, 221

Ninepence to nothing, As like as 1670 Ray, 206
Ninepence to nothing, To bring Before 1729 in Roxb Ballads, vii 812 (B.S.), A brace of as delicate jades As ever brought ninepence to nothing 1833 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 596, To bring one's ninepence to nothing = to lose property by neglect and waste
Nine tailors make a man The earlier examples show an uncertainty as to the number required for the composition Before 1603 Q Elizabeth—see 1838 quotation 1607 Dekker and Webster, Northw Hoe, II, They say three tailors go to the making vp of a man 1611 Tarltons Jest, 20 (Sh S) Two tailors go to a man 1630 Taylor (Water-Poet), Works, 3rd pagin., 73, Some foolish knaxe (I think) at first began The slander that three tailors are

one man 1639-61 Rump Songs, Pt I 159 (1662, repr 1874), Like to nine tailors, who if nightly spell d, Into one man are monosyllable d 1603 Butler, Hudibras, Pt I can 11 22, Just like the manhood of nine tailors 1720 C Shadwell, Sham Prince, II 1 1771 Smollett, Clinker, in Works, vi 236 (1817), Who made her believe I was a tailor, and that she was going to marry the ninth part of a man 1638 Carlyle, Sartor, bk vi ch x, Does it not stand on record that the English Queen Elizabeth, receiving a deputation of Eighteen Tailors, addressed them with a 'Good morning, gentlemen both!' Nineteen bits of a bilberry, He'll make 1698 Ray, 229
Nine words at once, To talk 1611 Cotgrave, s v 'Tost,' To speak, thick, or fast, or (as we say) nine words at once Nip the brar in the bud 1732 Fuller, No 3543

Nippence, no pence, half a grain wanting twopence 1659 Howell, 12 1670 Ray, 215, Nippence no pence, etc
Nits will be lice 1690 New Dict Canting Crew, sig H7 1823 D Israel, Cur of Lit., 2nd ser., i 431 (1824), Oliver Cromwell's coarse, but descriptive proverb "Nits will be lice"

No alchemy to saving 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 162, No alchemy like to thrift 1736 Bailey, Diet, s v 'Alchemy' 1923 Times, 11 May, p 17, col 3
No better than she should be 1604 Pasquil's Jest, 35 (1664), A man whose wife was no better then she should be 1666 Torrano, Piazza Univ, 172, As much as to say, she is no saint, she is no better, etc 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I 1781 Macklin, Man of the World, V 1875 Griffiths, Mem of Millbank, 281 (1884), These daughters were not a bit better than they should have been 1925 Punch, 11 Nov, p 506 col 3, We're working now on a screen version of the Iliad — and Helen no better than she should be

No bishop no king 1641 Smectymnuus, Vind Answ, § 16 208 (O), King James of blessed memory said,
Noble

no Bishop, no King. 1653: Chetwynd, Dedn. to Harington's Briefe View of the Church, Who held that prophetick axiom as a sure truth, and we see it fulfilled, No Bishop, No King. 1709: O. Dykes, Eng. Proverbs, 278 (2nd ed). Cf. No mitre.


Noble blood to market, and see what it will bring, Send your. 1732: Fuller, No. 4999


Noble plant suits not with a stubborn ground, A. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1670: Ray, 27, Noble plants suit not a stubborn soil.

Noble to ninepence, To bring a. A proverbial expression for idle dissipation of money. 1568: Fulwell, Like will to Like, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, iii. 344. For why Tom Tosspot, since he went hence, Hath increased a noble just unto ninepence. 1685: Robertson, Phrascol. Generalis, 922, A noble quickly brought to ninepence. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' Collog., 235, I have brought a noble to nine pence, and of a master of seven arts I am become a workman of but one art. 1854: Baker, Northants Gloss., s.v. "Noble," It is said of a person who is thoughtless and wasteful in expenditure, "He'll soon bring his noble to ninepence." 1880: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 516 (E.D.S.), To spend lavishly or to live extravagantly is said to be the way to bring the noble to ninepence. 1914: R. L Gales, Vanished Country Folk, 199, As a child I remember "Their noble has come to a ninepence" as the commonest of sayings.

Nobody calls himself rogue. 1855: Bohn, 463.

Nobody hath too much prudence or virtue. Ibid., 463.

Nobody is fond of fading flowers. Ibid., 463.

No carrion will kill a crow. 1670: Ray, 76. 1685: Meriton, Yorkshire Ale.

49. 1732: Fuller, No. 3553 ["poison" for "kill"]; 1890: J. D. Robertson, Gloucester Gloss., 186 (E.D.S.).

No chin, no drink. 1659: T. Pecke, Parnassi Puer., 64.

Noke anew, nocke anew, i.e. Try again. Glos. 1639: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 32 (1885).

No cross, no crown. [1587: Greene, Works, iv. 48 (Grosart), He deserueth not to have the crowne of victorie, which hath not abide the brunt of the bataille.] 1660: W. Penn, No Cross No Crown [title]. 1709: O. Dykes, Eng. Proverbs, 278 (2nd ed.). 1853: Trench, Proverbs, 21 (1905).


Nod as good as a wink. See Blind, adj. (26).

No day so clear but hath dark clouds. 1651: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum, 2nd ed.

No deceit in a brimmer. See Deceit (3).

Nod for a wise man, and a rod for a fool, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 337.

Nod from a lord is a breakfast for a fool, A. Ibid., No. 338. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lanec Sayings, 7, A nod fro' a lord's a breakfast for a foo'.

Nod, Land of Sleep. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. III., I'm going to the land of Nod. 1818: Scott, Heart of Midl., ch. xxx.

Nod of an honest man is enough, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 336.

No fault is, Where, there needs no pardon. c. 1617: Machivels Dogge, fo. 8 ["excuse" for "pardon"]. 1631: Mabbe, Celestina, 83 (T.T.), There is no neede of pardon, where there is no fault committed. 1653: Draxe, 28. 1670: Ray, 89. 1732: Fuller, No. 5651 ["punishment" for "pardon"].

No feast to a miser's. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Chiche." 1670: Ray, 90. 1733: Richardson, Grandison, iii. 175 (1863), It is an observation that the miser's feast is often the most splendid.

No fee, no law. 1597: G. Harvey, Works, iii. 26 (Grosart). 1618: B. Holyday, Technogamia, II. v., A man may as well open an oister without a
knife, as a lawyer's mouth without a fee.

No fence against a flail 1670 Ray, 89 1685 S.Wesley, Maggots, 96 1707 Dunton, Athenian Sport, 317. The common old proverb here meant, is that—there's no fence against a flail 1730 Swift, Works, xiv, 256 (Scott) 1830 Forby, 'Vocab E Anglia, 428.

No fence against ill fortune 1605 Camden, Remains, 329 (1870) [''for'' for ''against''] 1670 Ray, 89 1732 Fuller No 3566

No fishing See Fishing (1)

No foe to a flatterer 1576 Parad Dainty Devices 59 (1810) 1630 T Adams, Works, 194, There is no foe to the flatterer.

No folly to being in love 1659 Howell Proverbs Brit-Eng, 27 No folly to love 1678 Ray, 50 1710 S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 137.

No foolery to falling out 1659 Howell, Proverbs Brit-Eng, 27 1875 Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 106 [''like'' for ''to'']

No further See Bull (7)

No gains See Gain (1)

No garden without its weeds 1716 E Ward, Female Policy, 89, 'The finest garden is not free from weeds' 1732 Fuller No 3576.

No going to heaven in a sedan, There is Ibid., No 4970

No gold See No silver

No good accord where every man would be a lord, There is 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vi 1594 Bacon, Promul, No 968 [''jack'' for ''man''] 1633 Drake, 8 [omitting ''good'']

No grass grows in the market-place 1855 Bohn, 461

No great banquet but none fares ill, There is 1640 Herbert Jac Prudentium 1670 Ray, 2

No great loss but some small profit Ibid., 117

No harm, no force [matter] 1604 Pasquil's Fests, 21 (1864) Why then, no harme no force (quoth the fellow), and so went his ways.

No haste but good c 1534 Berners, Huan 320 (EETS), It is a saynge that an yll haste is not good 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch ix 1576 Wapulle, Tule tarnation no Man, sig F2, No haste but good, stay yet a while c 1640 in Roxb Ballads, ii 104 (B.S), No haste but good I hope there be.

No heart See quote 1578 Flomo, First Fruits, fo 28, Who hath not a hart let hym have legges 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 78, He that hath no heart, hath legs 1732 Fuller, No 2146 He that hath no heart, ought to have heels.

No hell like a troubled conscience 1590 Lodge, Rosalynde, 60 (Hunt Cl.), There is no stinge to the worme of conscience, no hell to a munde toucht with guilt 1754 Connoisseur No 28 A dreadful instance of the truth of that maxim, There is no hell like a troubled conscience.

No heralds in the grave 1732 Fuller, No 3581

No joy without annoy 1576 Parad Dainty Devices, 64 (1810), No pleasure without some paine 1587 Greene, Works, in 101 (Grosart), No blisse without bale 1670 Ray, 109 1732 Fuller, No 6322

No knives and forks, If there were, all the world would be alike Ibid., No 2715

No lack to lack a wife 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vi 1630 Clarke, 329, No lack to a wife

No land without stones, Or meat without bones 1875 Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 120

No larder but hath its muce 1732 Fuller, No 3587

No law for a town's bull 1886 R Holland Cheshire Gloss, 454 (E D S) 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 119 Cf. Lawless.

No law for lying = A man may lie without danger of the law 1678 Ray, 172

No lying man all things can [Non omnia possimus omnes.—Virgil.] 1639 Clarke 147 1670 Ray, 56

No longer foster, no longer friend.
"Foster" = food, nourishment. 1412: Hoccleve, Regement, st. 238, l. 1661, p. 60 (E.E.T.S.). Stynynge the cause, the effect stynthieth eke; No longer forster, no longer lemmam. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. IX., No longer foster, no longer lemmam. 1639: Clarke, tw. 1681: Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 638. 1734: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Foster".

No longer pipe. See Pipe.

No love is foul nor prison fair. 1651: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum, 2nd ed.

No love to a father's. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

No man. See Call (3).

No man. See quotes. 1577: Kendall, Flow. of Epigrams, 264 (Spens. S.), No man can doe twoo thyngs at once, the proverbe old doeth tell. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Moulin," One cannot be in two places, or follow two businesses at once.

No man can master his own mind. 1764: Garrick, in Garrick Corresp., i. 171 (1831) [quoted as "the old saying"].

No man can please all. Before 1500: in Hill, Commonplace-Book, 132 (E.E.T.S.), Ther may no man all men please. 1633: Draxe, 45, One can hardly please all men. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 204, One cannot please all people.

No man can serve two masters. c. 1330: in Wright, Pol. Songs, 325 (Camden S.), That no man may wel serve twee lorde to queme. c. 1477: Caxton, Jason, 57 (E.E.T.S.). For no man may wel serve two maisters for that one corumpheth that other. 1649: T. Forde, Lusus Fort., Epistle, We cannot serve two masters with a single heart. 1924: Shaw, Saint Joan, sc. iv., Men cannot serve two masters.

No man can stand always upon his guard. 1732: Fuller, No. 3592.

No man comes to heaven with dry eyes. 1630: T. Adams, Works, 180, The proverbe is too true for many; No man, etc.

No man is born wise. 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. xxxiii., For no man is born wise, and bishops are made of men and not of stones. 1710: S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 285, No man is born a Master of Arts. 1732: Fuller, No. 3599, No man is born wise or learned.

No man is his craft's master the first day. 1639: Clarke, 35. 1670: Ray, 75. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Crafts-master."

No man knows what is good except he hath endured evil. 1600: Bodenham, Belvedere, 6 (Spens. S.), We never know what 'tis in heaven to dwell, Till wee haue had some feeling of grim hell 1633: Draxe, 59. 1670: Ray, 8, No man better knows what good is, then he who hath endured evil. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Endure" [as in 1670].

No man lives so poor as he was born. 1732: Fuller, No. 3604.

No man liveth without a fault. 1659: Howell, 9.

No man so good. See quot. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, i. 265 (1640), And some will oppose to this narrow county-proverb, an English one of greater latitude, viz. "No man so good, but another may be as good as he."

No marvel if water be lue. 1678: Ray, 215.

No mill no meal. 1639: Clarke, 163. 1670: Ray, 120. 1732: Fuller, No. 3613. 1853: Trench, Proverbs, 106 (1905). They courageously accept the law of labour . . . No mill, no meal.

No mitre no crown. 1639-61: in Rump Songs, 121 (1662, repr. 1874), The proverbe proves true No mitre no crown. Cf. No bishop.

No money, no Swiss. [1687: Dryden, Hind and Panther, iii. 177, Those Swisses fight on any side for pay.] Before 1704: T. Brown, Works, iii. 162 (1760). After long observation, I find it to hold truer no money, no mistress, than no money, no Swiss. 1737: Gay, Fables, 2nd ser., No. 9, l. 61, For these, like Swiss, attend; No longer pay, no longer friend. 1829: Cobbett, Advice to Young Men, Lett. V., "No money, no Swiss," is a proverb throughout the world.

No more mortar no more brick. A cunning knave has a cunning trick.
No more Ray, 296 1732 Fuller, No 291 1880 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 83

No more purpose, To, than to beat your heels against the ground (or wind)

1670 Ray, 190 1732 Fuller, No 5209

No more sib See Sieve and Middle

No more water than the ship drew, There was 1546 Heywood, Proverbs Pt II ch v 1594 Bacon Promus, No 672 1659 Howell, 14

No more wit than a coot c 1540 Bale Kyng Johan, I 1 176, Thou semyste by thy worde to have no more wytt than a coote

None are so wise as those who know nothing 1875 Cheales, Proverbe Folk-Lore, 103

None but fools lay wagers 1677 Poor Robin's Visions, 16, Your actions verify a proverbe among you, none but fools lay wagers 1711 Brit Apollo, in No 146, col 4, Its an old saying (and I think a true one) That none but knaves or fools lay wagers 1732 Fuller, No 452 A wager is a fool's argument

None is born master 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

None is offended but by himself

Ibid

None is so wise but the fool overtakest him c 1205 Layamon, Brut, i 32 (Madden), Nis nauer nan so was mon That me ne mai bi-swiken c 1275 Bid, u 211, That nis no man so wis That me ne mai bi-swine 1540 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1670 Ray, 29 1732 Fuller, No 3654 [with "sometimes" after "fool"]

None knows the weight of another's burden. 1640 Herbert Jac Prudentum

None plays the fool well without wit 1611 Davies (of Hereford), Sec of Folly 42, in Works, u (Grosart)

None says his garner is full 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

None so blind See Blind, ady (24)

None so deaf See Deaf (10)

None so good that's good to all 1639 Clarke, 16

None so old that he hopes not for a year of life c 1520 Calisto and Mel., in Hazlitt, Old Plays, i 78, None so old but may live a year, And there is none so young, but, ye wot well May die in a day 1631 Brathwait, Whimnres, 45 (1859), Hee seemes to verifie the proverbe There is none so desperately old, but he hopes to live one year longer 1732 Fuller, No 3653 Cf Man (48)

No news is good news 1616 James I., in Loseley MSS, 493 (Kempo), No news is better than evil news 1632 Lupton, Lond and Country "Country," No 12, The best newes is when we heare no newes 1776 Colman, Speter, I., No news is good news, sometimes, as the proverbe goes 1850 Dickens, Copperfield, ch xxxvi 1921 S Gwynn, in Observer, 31 July, p 5, col 2. People not unnaturally grow a little impatient under the delays here But it was never truer that no news is good news

No one is always wise 1539 Taverner, Proverbs, fo 37, No man in the worlde is wyse at all houres 1666 Torrano, Piazza Univ, 249, No body is wise at all times 1714 Ozell, Molde, i 173 If none is wise at all times, yet the shortest errors are the best

No pains See Gain (2)

No penny, no pardon 1531 Tyndale, Exp. i John, in Works, p 395, col i (1573) (O), O Popish forrenesse with whom it goeth after the comon proverbe, no peny no pardon 1732 Fuller, No 3616

No penny, no Paternoster 1528 Tyndale, Obed of Christ Man, 245 (P S), After the common saying, "No penny, no Paternoster" 1546 Sands of Poore Commons, 87 (E L T S) c 1598 Deloney Gentle Craft Pt II ch vii 1651 Randolph, Hey for Honesty, I ii 1709 O Dykes, Eng Proverbs 200 (2nd ed.), Whence came this comical saying, No penny, no Paternoster, but from pecunary Indulgences? 1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict, s v "Penny"

No pipe, no pudding Glos 1639 in Berkeley MSS, ii 27 (1883)

No play without a fool in it 1650 Newes from New Exchange 14 "Tis an
old proverb, there can be no play without a fool in it.

No priest, no mass. 1732: Fuller, No. 3628.

No raillery is worse than that which is true. 1855: Bohn, 462.


Norfolk dumpling, A = A Norfolk man. 1600: Day, Blind Beggar, I. iii., Make me your cheat, your gull. your Norfolk dumpling. 1608: Armin, Nest of Ninnies, 17 (Sh. S.). He lookt like a Norfolk capon dumpling, thick and short. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, ii. 446 (1840), Norfolk dumplings ... This ... relates to the fare they commonly feed on. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss, s.v. “Norfolk.”

Norfolk wiles. See Essex stiles.

No rogue like to the godly rogue. 1732: Fuller, No. 3624.

No rose without a thorn. [Nulla est sincera voluptas.—Ovid, Met., vii. 453.] c 1440: Lydgate, Fall of Princes, bk. i. l. 57. As there is no rose Spryngyn in gardeyns, but ther be sum thorn. 1579: Lyly, Euphues, 33 (Arber). The sweetest rose hath his prickell. 1681: Robertson, Phrasel. Generalis, 1084. No rose without its prickell. 1754: Berthelston, Eng.-Dutch Dict., s.v. “Rose.” 1855: Kingsley, West. Hol., ch. viii. True, the rose has its thorn.


Northamptonshire for spires and squares. 1859: Hazlitt, 297.

North country. See Knight of Cales.

North-Crawley. See quot. 1854: Baker, Northants Gloss, s.v., How North-Crawley her bonnet stands; i.e. not straight, all on one side.


Northern air brings weather fair, A. Ibid., 15.

Northern har [mist] brings drought from far, A. 1849: Halliwell, Pop. Rhymes, 156.

North Repps. See Gimmingham.

North wind. See Wind.

Norwich. See Caistor.

Norwich, St. Peter's. See quot. 1859: Hazlitt, 464, When three daws are seen on St. Peter's vane together, then we are sure to have bad weather.

Nose. I. A nose of wax. See quotes. 1533: in Ballads from MSS., i. 206 (B.S.), The text to turne and glose, like a weishe manes hole, or lyk a waxen nose. 1596: Lodge, Marg. of America, 40 (Hunt. Cl.), Where-through justice is made a nose of waxe warned. 1609: J. Melton, Six-fold Politician, 77. They meeete with no such noses of waxe as will be so jested withall. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Tordre,” To make a nose of wax of; to wrest, wrie, manage, turne, at pleasure. 1740: North, Lives of Norths, i. 366 (Bohn), To treat plain words and expressions as a nose of wax to bend one way or other to gratify parties. 1815: Scott, Mannering, ch. v., Because I let ... the constable draw the warrants, and manage the business his ain gate, as if I had been a nose o' wax. 1847: Halliwell, Dict., s.v. “Nose,” ... a proverbial phrase for anything very pliable.
2 As plain as the nose on a man's face 1639 Clarke, 188 1683 White-Kennett tr Erasmus Praise of Folli, 25 (8th ed.), I can make it (as the proverb goes) as plain as the nose on your face 1773 Graves, Spirit Quixote bk v ch vvm, The gentleman talks man-well, and has made it as plain as the nose in one's face 1906 Q-Couch, Mayor of Troy, ch iii
3 Doth your nose swell (or eek, o itch) at that? 1678 Ray, 77
4 He can't tell where to turn his nose c 1565 in Huth, Ancient Ballads, etc., 211 (1867) [cited as a proverb]
5 He that has a great nose thinks everybody is speaking of it 1732 Fuller, No 2129 1826 Scott, Journal, 24 Jan, I went to the Court for the first time to-day, and, like the man with the large nose thought everybody was thinking of me and my mishaps
6 His nose will abide no jests 1588 Mar-Prelate Epit., 9 (1843), I am sure their noses can abide no jest 1592 Lodge, Euphues Shadow, sig H3, My nose loues no testing 1659 Howell, 6 1678 Ray, 77
7 If your nose itcheth, you will shake hands with (or kiss) a fool 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I, My nose itched and I knew I should drink wine or kiss a fool 1755 Connoisseur, No 59
8 To hold one's nose to the grindstone 1546 Heywood, Proverbs Pi ch v, I shall, to revenge former hurts, Hold their noses to grindstone 1553 Middleton and Rowley, Span Gipsy, IV vii, Hold his nose to the grind stone, my lord 1732 Fuller No 5187 1865 Dickens, Mutual Friend, bk vii ch xiv
9 To put one's nose out of joint 1581 Rich, Apolonius and Silla, 71 (1912), It could be no other than his own man that had thrust his nose so far out of joint 1607 The Puritan, V 1, Now all the knights' noses are put out of joint 1663 Pepys, Diary, 22 July, As soon as the King can get a husband for Mrs Stewart, however, my Lady Castlemaine's nose will be out of joynt 1754 Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s v "Nose" 1848 Planché, Extravag., ii 247 (1879), Your lovely eyes Out of joint have put her nose 1912 Lucas, London Lov., ch xxxvi, Every baby puts some one's nose out of joint
10 You make his nose warp 1737 Ray, 204 [Query -- the same as 9]
See also Follow (5), Know (20), and Lead

Nosegay to him as long as he lives, It will be a 1678 Ray, 262
No service to the King's 1484 Caxton, tr Charteris's Curial, 19 (E T S), Ne servys se lyke to the kyng souerayn c 1580 G Harvey, Marginalia, 142 (1913), No fishing to y'se nor service to a king 1618 Breton, Court and Country, in Incised Tract, 190 (Hazlitt) 1659 Howell, 14
No silver no servant 1633 Draxe, 179 1670 Ray, 143 1732 Fuller, No 3629, No silver, no service
No silver (or gold) without dross 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Or," No gold without some dross 1633 Draxe, 62, No silver without his dross 1639 Clarke, 80 (as in 1633)

No sin to cheat the devil 1726 Deloe Hist of Devil, Pt II ch v, 304 (4th ed.), The old Latin proverb, Fellere falleniem non est frons "tis no sin to cheat the devil
No song no supper 1613 B & G, Burning Peste, II vii, Let thy father go suck-up let him stay at home and sing for his supper, boy 1863 R L S, Ebb-Tide, ch viii, If you're not there by the time named, there will be no banquet, no song, no supper, Mr Whish f
No sooner up but head in the ambry, and nose in the cup 1639 Clarke, 136 1670 Ray, 198 1736 Bailey, Dict., s v "Ambry" [ending with ' ambry ']

No sport, no pie c 1620 B & F, Woman's Prize I vii, I'll bring it to th old proverb, "No sport, no pie" 1670 Ray, 147

No sure dungeon but the grave 1825 Scott Talisman, ch xix, It is an
ancient saying,—no sure dungeon but the grave.

No sweat. See Sweet (3).

Notch (or Notchel), To cry. 1681: Dialogue, in Harl. Miscell., ii. 114, Will. The first I think on is the king's majesty (God bless him!), him they cried notchel. Sam. What, as Gaffer block of our town cried his wife? Will. I do not know what he did; but they voted that nobody should either borrow or lend, nor sell nor buy with him, under pain of their displeasure. 1859: Blackburn Standard, quoted in N. & Q., 3rd ser., x. 108, On Wednesday there was at Accrington an extraordinary instance of the disgraceful practice of "notchel crying." [Bellman sent round first by husband disclaiming responsibility for wife's debts, and then by wife doing the same as regards her husband and also making scandalous charges against him.] 1892: N. & Q., 8th ser., ii., 526. A short time ago, at St. Helens County Court, the defendant in an action disclaimed his responsibility on the ground that he had "cried the notchel," an expression which meant, as explained to the judge, that he had published a notice in the journals that he would not be held responsible for debts contracted by his wife. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 131, To cry notch or nichil (or notchel).

Not free that draws his chain, He is. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

No, thank you. See quotes. 1883: A. Easther, Almondbury Gloss., 20 (E.D.S.). No thank ye has lost mony a goodid butterchauv. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 9, "Nowe, thank yo'" has lost mony a good butter-cake.

Nothing. 1. He has nothing to eat and yet invites guests. 1732: Fuller, No. 1877.

2. He that has nothing is frighted at nothing. 1639: Clarke, 41. They that have nothing, need fear to lose nothing. 1732: Fuller, No. 2150.

3. He that hath nothing is not contented. 1670: Ray, 19.

4. If you put nothing into your purse, you can take nothing out. 1732: Fuller, No. 2781.

5. It's more painful to do nothing than something. 1670: Ray, 19.


9. Nothing for nothing. Before 1704: T. Brown, in Works, i. 132 (1760). Thou know'st the proverb, nothing due for nought. 1714: Ozell, Mottere, ii. 129. She must refuse all presents offer'd her by men; for now-a-days nothing is given for nothing. 1800: Miss Edgeworth, Castle Rackrent, 61 (Everyman). Nothing for nothing, or I'm under a mistake with you, Jason. 1864: Mrs. H. Wood, Trelyn Hold, ch. xxii., I might have known a lawyer wouldn't give nothing for nothing.


12. Nothing is a man's truly, that he cometh not by duty. Ibid. No. 6280.

13. Nothing is easy to the unwilling. Ibid., No. 3663.

14. Nothing is good or ill but by comparison. 1670: Shadwell, Virtuoso, II., No man is happy but by comparison. 1763: Mrs. F. Sheridan, Discovery, IV. i.

15. Nothing is impossible. See quot. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 96,
Naught’s impossible as t’auld woman said when they told her cauf had swallowed grindstone

16 Nothing is impossible to a willing heart. 1546 Heywood Proverbs, Pt I ch iv 1555 S Hawes, Past of Pleasure, 7 (Percy S). To a willing harte is nought impossible 1631. Mabbe, Celestina, 183 (T T) ["minde" for "heart"] 1707 Spanish Bawd IV ii [as in 1631].

17 Nothing is lost in a good market. 1827 Hone, Table-Book, 8.

18 Nothing is more easily bled out than a good turn. 1647 Country New Commonwealth, 26 Nothing sooner waxeth old then a good turne or benefit. 1732 Fuller, No 3677. Nothing to be got without pains, but poverty 1669 Spurgeon, John Ploughman ch vii [as in 1732, plus "and dirt"] Cf No 32.

19 Nothing is stolen without hands. 1639 Clarke, 149.

20 Nothing is to be bought in the market without a penny. Before 1704 T Brown, Works, 1 293 (1760) [quoted as a proverb].

21 Nothing handles sooner than fire. 1560 T Wilson, Rhetorique, 133 (1609) [cited as "a common saying"]

22 Nothing like leather. 1692 L’Éstrange, Asop, 421 (3rd ed.) Up starts a currier Gentleman, says he, when ye’ave said all that can be said, there’s nothing in the world like leather 1655 Gaskell, North and South, ch v, "I dare say, my remark came from the professional feeling of there being nothing like leather," replied Mr Hale.

23 Nothing more proud. See quot 1642 in Harl Miscell, 11 65 (1744). By his carriage the proverb is verified, Nothing more proud than basest blood, when it doth rise aloft.

24 Nothing more smooth than glass. Yet nothing more brittle. Nothing more fine than vit, yet nothing more fickle. 1732 Fuller, No 6472.

25 Nothing new. See quot 1850 Emerson, Repr Men "Montague," "Ah," said my languid gentleman at Oxford "there’s nothing new or true—and no matter" 1887 N & Q, 7th ser, iv 257. The Cornish version of this proverb has been known to me for many years. There’s nothing new, and there’s nothing true, and it don’t signify [signify]."

26 Nothing stake. See Nought (4).

27 Nothing succeeds like success. 1883 Sir Stafford Northcote, quoted in N & Q, 6th ser, v 189. Cf Success 28 Nothing to be got without pains. 1594 Churchyard, Mirror of Man, sig A4 (Boswell, 1816). Nothing is gotten without toyle and labor 1611. Cotgrave, s v "Pene," Nor bread, nor ought is gotten without pannes 1732 Fuller, No 3677. Nothing to be got without pains, but poverty 1669 Spurgeon, John Ploughman ch vii [as in 1732, plus "and dirt"] Cf No 32.

29 Nothing turns sorer than milk. 1630 Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 428.

30 Nothing venture, nothing have. [Necessæ est facere sumptum qui quaent lucrum—Plautus, Asin., I in 65] c 1374 Chaucer, Trojlus, bk ii 1 567, And seye, he which that no-thing under-taketh, No-thing ne acheveth, be him looth or dere c 1390 Gower, Conf. Amantis, bk iv 1 2694, For he which dar nothing beginne, I not what thynge he scholde achieue 1481 Caxton Reynard, 27 (Arber). He that wil wynte he muste laboure and aventure 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch vii, Nought venter, nought haue 1580 Tusser, Husb., 44 (E D S) [as in 1546] 1624 T Heywood, Captives, IV i, I see here that nought venturers, nought gaynes 1674 Head and Kirnman, Eng Rugs., in 142 1709 O Dykes, Eng Proverbs, 113 (2nd ed) 1791 Boswell, Johnson, in 189 (Hill) 1840 Lytton Money, III vi.

31 Nothing will come of nothing. c 1374 Chaucer, Bath, bk v pr i. For this sentence is verray and sooth. that 'nothing ne bath his benge of maught' 1599 Breton, in Works, ii c 23 (Grosart). Then of nothing growes nothing, but nothing c 1605 Shakespeare, Lear, 1 i 1652. Flecknowe, Miscell., 73. Of nothing, nothing's made (they say) c 1750 Fielding, Essay on Nothing, Sect 1. There is nothing fælser than that old proverb which is in every one's mouth.
"Ex nihilo nihil fit." Thus translated by Shakespeare in Lear's "Nothing can come of nothing," 1818: Scott, *Heart of Midlothian*, ch. i. ["can" for "will"]. 1846: Planché, *Extravag.,* iii. 117 (1879) [as in 1818].

32. There is nothing done without trouble, only loosening the fire out. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 588. Cf. No. 28.

33. There's nothing but is good for something. 1639: Clarke, 72.


35. Where nothing is, nothing can be had. 1630: Taylor (Water-Poet), *Works*, 2nd pagin., 38, Where nought is, there's nothing to be got. 1675: Poor Robin Alman., Sept., He who hath nothing, nothing can he pay. 1734. Fielding, *Don Quix. in England*, I. iii., Where nothing is, nothing can come on't. 1774: Colman, *Man of Business*, Epil., Where nothing's in, there's nothing can come out.


37. Who nothing save shall nothing have. 1732: Fuller, No. 6338.


See also Naught; and Nought.


Not Jack out of doors nor yet gentleman. 1639: Clarke, 206.

Not lost that a friend gets, It is. 1642: Taylor, *Answer to Tale of a Tub* (Lean), It is no tint that a friend gets. 1816: Scott, *Old Mortality*, ch. xli. Not lost that comes at last, It is.


Not so good to borrow as be able to lend. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I ch. x.

Not so old. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.,* Dial. I., Col. Not so old nor yet so cold—You know the rest, miss. [I hope "Miss" did know the rest—I do not].

Nottingham ale. 1672: Drayton, *Polyol.,* xxiii., Little Rutlandshire is termed raddleman. As Nottingham's, of old (is common) ale and bread. 1708: in *Bagford Ballads*, i. 389 (B.S.), With Nottingham ale At every meal. 1763: in *Hawkwood, Insns, Ales, etc.,* 99 (1909), I grant that fair Nottingham once bore the bell For our grand sires that tasted the sweets of good ale.


Not worth a (1) band's end; (2) bean; blue point—see No. 29; (3) button; (4) cherry; (5) chip; (6) cobbler's curse; (7) cress; (8) curse; (9) dodkin; (10) farthing; (11) fig; (12) fia; (13) fly; (14) gnat; (15) gooseberry; (16) groat; (17) haddock; (18) hair; (19) haw; (20) hen; (21) herring; (22) leek; (23) louse; (24) needle; (25) nut; (26) pea; (27) pear; (28) pin; (29) point and blue-point [a tagged lace or cord]; (30) potato; (31) rush; (32) shoe; (33) straw; (34) tinker's curse; (35) an apple; (36) egg; (37) ivy leaf; (38) onion; (39) hiring, who talks of tiring; (40) shoe-buckles; (41) three halfpence.

(1) 1855: Robinson, *Whitty Gloss*,
It is not worth a hand's end"—valueless.

(2) 1297 R. Glouc., 497 (O.), Al nas worth a bene c 1374 Chaucer, 

Troylus, bk. i 1167, Swich arguments ne been not worth a bene 

1430 in Twenty-six Poems, 131 

(E E T S), I am nat worth a bene 

Before 1529 Skelton, Boiye of Court, 

1 955 Pedlars Prophecy, 1 1002 

(Malone S), All is not worth a beane 

1620 Skelton, Quixote Pt II ch 

118, An office that will not afford a 

man his victuals is not worth two beans 

1823 Scott, Pentwel ch xvii.

(3) 14th cent Guy of Warwick, 1 

2216 (E E T S), His scheld [shield] has 

nought worth a botom 1532 More 

Confut of Tyndale, Pref, sig Eei All 

hys welbeloved boke is not worth a 

botom 1590 Nashe, Almond for a 

Parrot, 37 (1846), All is not worth a 

button, if it be too stale 1609 in Halli- 

well, Books of Characters, 119 (1857). 

1776 T. Cogan, John Bunce, Junior, 

1 9, 1857 Hughes, Tom Brown, Pt 

II ch ii, He'll never be worth a button, 

if you go on keeping him under your 

skirts.

(4) c 1390 Cheveller Aisgine, 1 329 

(E E T S), I charde not thy crose 

cross [cross] the value of a chere 

cheere (5) 1672 Walker, Param., 15 

(6) 1886 Elworthy, West Som Word-

Book, 146 (E E T S), Cobler's curse 

The extreme of valuelessness.

Why! he is an wo th a cobbler's cuss 

1897 N & Q., 8th ser., vi 452, Our 

every-day apprasure is "not wo th a 

cobbler's cuss" [Somerset].

(7) c 1350 Pearl, 1 343, For anger 

gayne the not a cressa [not a mate] 

c 1387 Ush., Test of Love, in Skeat's 

Chaucer, vii 73, Their might is not worth a cressa 

c 1390 Gower, Conf 

Amantis, bk. vi 588, And so to me 

nys worth a kerse c 1400 Beryn, 

1 974 (E E T S), for [ne] to body, ne 

to soule this vaylyth nat a karse 

(8) 1820 Byron, in Letters, etc., 

v 57 (Prothero), The Neapolitans are 

not worth a curse, and will be beaten 

(9) 1660 B & F., Faithful Friends, 

IV v., If my trade then prove not 

worth a dodkin 1672 Cowell, In-

terpreter, s v "Dotton" (O.), Hence 

probably we retain that phrase when 

we would undervalue a man, to say, 

He is not worth a dot or dothin 1881 

Duffield, Don Quix., III xxvii 266 (O.), 

I did not care two dotkins.

(10) 1613 S. Rowley, When You See 

Me, sig D2, As for the Popes faith 

(good faith's) not worth a farthing 

1633 Dux Grammaticus, quoted in N & 

Q., 5th ser., vii 165, All the game that 

thou shalt get by this bargain is not 

worth a farthing 1786 Wolfe, Works, 

1 118 (1795) 1824 Scott, Redgauntlet, 

Lett III 1876 C. Loftus, My Youth, 

1 87, He was never "worth a farthing" 

afterwards, his heart and his spirit 

were broken.

(11) [Non tressis agaso—Persius, vi 

76] 1528 More, Works, 241 (1557) 

1566 Harrington, Metam of Ajax, 68 

(1824), It had not been worth a fig, if 

they had not 1667 Poor Roban 

Alman, July, For what is out of date 

is not worth a fig 1750 Smollett, Gil 

Blas, vi 98, Although it was not worth 

a fig, it met with great success 1880 

Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 55, 

Some pretty nothing, not worth a fig 

(12) c 1450 Henryson, Moral Fables 

195 (O.), For it is said in proverb, But 

lawte all other vertewas ar nocht worth 

ane fle c 1640 in Robb Ballads, 1 

527 (B S), All your warrants are not 

worth a fle.

(13) 1297 R. Glouc., 428 (1724) (O.), 

Wat was fy strenthe worp? ywys 

nocht worp a flye c 1352 in Wright, 

Pol Pomes, 1 59 (Rolls Ser., 1859), 

And all thaire nare nought worth a 

flye c 1380 Sir Pernebras, 1 4930 

(E E T S), c 1386 Chaucer, Frank- 

lin's Tale, 1 404 1412 Hoccleve, 

Regement, st 88, 1 673, By that sette 

I nght the worth of a flye 1489 

Skelton, in Works, 1 10 (Dyce), Of whos 

[wife] they counted not a flye c 1550 

in Heywood, Spider and The, 440 

(Farmer) c 1640 in Robb Ballads, 

1 160 (B S). Your speeches are not 

worth a flye 1744 Clardige, in Mills, 

Essay on Weather, 101 (1773), But a 

swarm [of bees] in July Is not worth
a fly. 1906: Doyle, Sir Nigel, ch. xii., Mistress Edith told me that she counted him not a fly.

(14) c. 1395: Plowman's Tale, in Skeat's Chaucer, vii. 161, Such maters be nat worth a guat. c. 1565: Still, Gunn ear Gupton, V. ii., Al is not worth a guat—thou canst sweare till to morow.

(15) 1598: Shakespeare, 2 Henry IV., I. ii., All the other gifts . . . are not worth a gooseberry.

(16) 1530: Palsgrave, 657, He pyncheth as though he were nat worth a grote. 1587: Turberville, Trag. Tales, etc., 309 (1837), He that feares caliuer shot, Can neuer . . . skirmiss woorth a grote. 1694: Terence made English, 189, And the woman's not worth a groat. 1709: Ward, Acc. of Clubs, 257 (1756), In all its bloom not worth a groat, It does so quickly die. 1784: New Foundl. Hosp. for Wit, iv. 30, Notions to you not worth a groat.

(17) 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. x., Till they both were not woorth a haddock.

(18) 1613: Wither, Abuses Stript, etc., Epigr. 10, To call you best, or the most faire . . . Is now not commendations woorth a haire. 1639: Conceits, Clinches, etc., No. 18, Give me a man's face: a boyes face is not worth a haire.


(20) c. 1386: Chaucer, Wife of Bath's Tale, l. 256, Swich arrogance is nat worth an hen. 1508: Dunbar, Twa Marriit Weemen, 269 (O.), That hurtis sow nought woorth a hen.

(21) c. 1270: in Old Eng. Miscell., 95 (Morris, E.E.T.S.), Al were sone his prute [pride] agon hit nere on ende wroth on herynge.

(22) c. 1350: Alexander, 1 4229, And your lare of a leke suld nevir the les woorth. c. 1370: Chaucer, Rom. of Rose, in Works, fo. 130 (1602), Such louse I preise not at a leke. c. 1400: Sawdole of Babylone, 50 (E.E.T.S.), His witte was not worth a leke. c. 1480: in Hazlitt, Early Pop. Poetry, ii. 2. Before 1529: Skelton, Collin Clout, l. 183. 1594: Greene, Works, xiv. 203 (Grosart) 1612: Cornucopia, 79 (Grosart), This opinion is not worth two leekes.

(23) c. 1380: Sir Ferunbras, l. 439 (E.E.T.S.), Him semede it nas noght worth a lous batayl with him to wage. c. 1540: in Hazlitt, Early Pop. Poetry, iii. 308, Then seke an other house; This is not worth a louse. 1595-6: Gosson, in Ibid., iv. 253, All this now pelfe now sold in shops, In value true not worth a louse. 1639-61: Rump Songs, Pt. II. 168 (1662, repr. 1874). 1698: in Harl. Miscell., ii. 276 (1744). But, faith, I'm scarce worth a louse. 1720: Vade Mecum for Malt-worms, Pt. I. 21. 1801: Wolcot, Works, v. 380 (1801), Life was never worth a louse To the man who ne'er was mellow. 1886: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 840 (E.D.S.), An equally common deprecatory saying is, "He idn a-w'lo th' louse."

(24) Before 1225: Ancren R., 400, And alle þeos þinges somed, aȝeȝan mine bode, ne beogȝ nout wyrð a nelde [needle]. c. 1395: Plowman's Tale, in Skeat's Chaucer, vii. 172, Such willers wit is nat worth a neld. c. 1450: Towneley Plays, 13 (E.E.T.S.), When all mens corn was fares in feld Then was myne not worth a neld.

(25) c. 1300: Haveldok, l. 1332 (E.E.T.S.), Nouth the worth of one nouth [nut].

(26) c. 1393: Langland, Plowman, C, x. 345, Ich sette by pardon nat a pease. c. 1430: Roland and Othuel, l. 1157 (E.E.T.S.), Your lawes are noghte worthe a pye [pea]. 1561: Queene Hester, 21 (Grosart), It is not worth a pease 1587: Turberville, Trag. Tales, etc., 393 (1837), With idle words not woorth a parched pease.

(27) 1303: Brunne, Handl. Synne, l. 769, For every gadling nat wurrth a pere. c. 1420: Lydgate, Assembly of Gods, 18 (E.E.T.S.), Without myn
helpe, be nat worth a peere 1485
Malory, Morte d'Arthur, bk xv ch vi, Vayne glory of the world, the whiche is not worth a peere c 1540 Bale, Kynge Johan, 38 (Camden S), And that is not worth a rottyn warden [pear]
(28) 1533 Heywood Play of Wether, 1 750, And all our other gare not worth a pyn 1539 Greene, Works, vi 39 (Grosart), Cupide must be bnde (at all were not worth a pinne) 1685-6 Cotton Montaigne, bk ii ch xvi, I cannot carve at table worth a pin 1782 Wolcot, Works, i 36 (1795) 1865 Planche, Extravag, v 243 (1879), Your violn Not worth a pin
(29) 1542 Udall, tr Erasmus' Apoph, 187 (1877), He was for the respect of his qualitees not to be esteemed worth a blewwe point or a good lous 1547 Barde, Brew of Helihe, fo lxix v, All is nat worth a blewwe point 1570 Googe, Popish Kingdome, 14 v (1880), That now he is not worth a poyn, in any kinde of place 1666 Tornano, Piazza Univ, 228 A head without tongue is not worth a point 1672 Walker, Paraz, 59, Not worth a point
(30) 1823 Byron, Don Juan, can vst 4, Who knew this life was not worth a potato
(31) 1562 Langland, Plowman A, vi 17, Wisdam and wit nou is not worth a russche c 1470 G Ashby, Poems, 39 (EETS), Suche manner releu is nat worthe two russches 1594 Wildobie's Ausa, 76 (Grosart), Yet this is all not worth a rush 1653 Walton, Angler, Pt i ch ii, If this chub that you ete of had been kept till to-morrow, he had not been worth a rush 1733 Arbuthnot, John Bull, Pt V ch vii, His friendship is not worth a rush 1838 Dickens, Twist, ch xxxviii, Don't move a step forward, or your life is not worth a bulrush 1878 R L S, Letters, ii 49 (Tusitala ed), It is a rotten book, and not worth a rush at best
(32) c 1250 Orison our Lady, 28, in Old Eng Miscell, 160 (O), pis lues blusse nis wurd a slo c 1300 Havelok, 1 849 Of me ne is me nonth a slo c 1380 Sir Ferumbras, 1 4338 (EETS), Hit were noght worth a slo 14th cent Guy of Warwick, 1 2936 (EETS), Scheld no hauberken him worth a slo
(33) c 1300 Havelok, 1 315, He let his oth al ouer-ga [entirely be disregarded], Therof ne gaf he nouht a stra [Thereof he gave not a straw] c 1386 Chaucer, Tale of Melibeous, § 34, And when that they been accomplisched, yet be they nat worth a stree c 1470 G Ashby, Poems, 74 (EETS), His wyt is not worth a strawe Before 1529 Skelton, Magnysfyczence, 1 1394, Yet lybertye without rule is not worth a strawe Before 1635 Corbet, Poems 20 (1807) The doctors of the civil law Urg'd ne re a reason worth a straw 1740 North, Examen, 439, Their cogency is not worth a straw 1863 Reade Hard Cash, ch 1, When he has got a headache, Hardie of Exeter is not worth a straw in a boat
(34) 1894 Northall, Folk Phrases, 20 (EDS), Not worth a tinker's curse
(35) c 1489 Caxton, Sonnes of Aymon, 543 (EETS), The sones of a traytour whice ben not worthe a roten apple
(36) c 1430 Roland and Ouill, 1 222 (EETS), That the laves of Crystyanite ne are noghte worthe an aye [egg] c 1500 More, in Works (1557), "Juvenile Poems," And all not worth an egge 1659 Howell 74, Tis not worth an egg-shel 1883 R L S, Letters, ii 260 (Tusitala ed), Pouring words upon hym by the houre about some truck not worth an egg that had befallen me
(37) c 1390 Gower, Conf Amanis, iv 586, That all nys worth an yvy lef
(38) 1509 Barclay, Shyp of Fools, 1 63 (1874), A yonge boy that is nat worth an onyon 1556 Heywood, Spider and Fise, cap 23, p 103 (Farmer), Your case in law is not worth an union
(39) 1883 Burne, Shroph Folk-Lore, 588, He's not worth hiring, who talks of tunng
(40) 1670 Ray, 192, Not worth shooe-buckles
(41) 1672 Walker, Paraz, 26, Not worth three halfpence
Not worthy to carry books, to loose
the latches of shoes, to wipe one's shoes, etc., etc. See quotas. c. 1410: Towneley Plays, 196 (E.E.T.S.), I am not worthy for to lawse the leste thwong that longes to his shoyne. 1569: in Huth, Ancient Ballads, etc., 21 (1867), For I with all that I can doo, vnworthie... To undoe the lachet of her shoe. 1611: Coryat, Crudities, Epist. to Reader, i. 15 (1905), Travellers of that learning, that I am not worthy to loose their shoe-lachet. 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. iii., I have seen... of your governors... that are not worthy to wipe my shoes. 1631: Mabb, Celestina, t47 (T.T.), She is not worthy to carry her shoes after her. 1670: Ray, 200, Not worthy to carry his books after him;... to be named the same day;... to wipe his shoes. 1672: Walker, Param., 54, Not worthy to... hold him water to wash his hands. 1709: Mandeville, Virgin Unmask'd, 30 (1724), Treats him... as if he was not worthy to wipe her shoes. 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, ii. 201 (1785),... not worthy to buckle his shoes. 1821: Scott, Pirate, ch. xiv., Not fit to tie the latches of John's shoes. 1909: Hudson, A Foot in England, ch. xxiv., As a poet he was not worthy to unloose the buckles of their shoes. 1926: Phillipotts, Yellow Sands, I., You hold your tongue about Arthur. You ain't worthy to black Arthur's boots. See also Guts to a bear.


2. He that hath nought shall have nought. c. 1550: Parl. of Byrdes, i. 221, in Hazlitt, Early Pop. Poetry, iii. 179.

3. Nought can restrain consent of twain. [Non caret effectu, quod voluere duo.—Ovid, Amares, II. iii. 16.] 1591: Harington, Ori. Furioso, bk. xxviii. Notes. c. 1596: Marlowe, Ovid's Elegies, bk. ii. cl. 3, What two determine never wants effect. 1740: Richardson, Pamela, i. 162 (1883), I should have had a hard task to prevent you, I find; for, as the saying is, Nought can restrain consent of twain.


5. Nought won by the one, nought won by the other. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi.

6. Where nought is to wed with, wise men see the eel. Ibid., Pt. I. ch. xi. 1605: Camden, Remains, 335 (1870). 1659: Howell, 10. See also Naught; and Nothing.

November. 1. As November so the following March. 1693: Inwards, Weather Lore, 36.

2. As November 21 so is the winter. Ibid., 37.

3. If there's ice in November that will bear a duck, There'll be nothing after but sludge and muck. 1878: Dyer, Eng. Folk-Lore, 260. 1891: R. P. Chope, Hartland Dialect, 20 (E.D.S.), Vrost in November to carr a duck, The rest o' the winter'll be a muck. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 36.

4. November and flail. See Thresher. 5. November 10. See quot. 1669: New Help to Discourse, 285, If on the roth of November the heavens be cloudy, it prognosticates a wet winter; if clear and dry, a sharp winter.

6. On the 1st of November, if the weather hold clear, An end of wheat sowing do make for the year. 1580: Tusser, Husb., 181 (E.D.S.), Wife, some time this weeke, if the wether hold cleere, an end of wheat sowing we make for this yeere. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 36.

7. The third of November. See quot. 1659: Howell, 6. The Third of November the Duke of Vansom was under water, The fourth of November the Queen was delivered of a daughter, The fifth of November we were like to have a great slaughter, And the sixth of November was the next day after.

8. Thunder in November a fertile
No year to come 1893 Inwards, Weather
Lore, 36
No venom to that of the tongue 1659 Howell, 11
No vice goes alone 1732 Fuller, Nos 3637
No vice like avance Ibid, No 6171
No weal without woe 1578 Floto,
First Fruits, fo 33
No wheat without its chaff c 1440
Lydgate, Fall of Princes, bk 1 l 6732
(E E T S.) Out off good corn men may
sum darnel weede 1611 Cotgrave
s v "Paille," No corne without some
chaffe 1681 Robertson, Phraseol
Generals, 1312 1736 Bailey, Dict,
s v "Wheat '"
Now I have got See quotes 1732
Fuller, No 3601, Now I have got an
ewe and a lamb every one cnes, Wel
come, Peter 1736 Franklin, Way to
Wealth, in Works, 1 445 (Bigelow), Now
I have a sheep and a cow, everybody
bids me good morrow
Now no wisdom to silence 1659 Howell,
Proverbs Brit-Eng, 27
Now's now 1631 Mabbe, Celestina,
144 (T T). Now is now, and then is
then 1707 Spanish Bard, III in [as
in 1631] 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 6
(Percy S.), Now's now, but Yule's in
winter
No where See Every-where
Number See One is no number
Numbers the waves, He 1813 Ray,
75
Nurse and Nurses 1 A nurse spoils
a good huswife 1659 Howell, 3
2 A nurse's tongue is privileged to
talk 1659 Howell, Proverbs Brit-
Eng, 4, 1670 Ray, 19
3 Nurses put one bit in the child's
mouth and two in their own 1639
Clarke 39
4 The nurse is valued till the child is
done sucking 1732 Fuller, No 4688
See also Kiss, verb (6)
Nursed in cotton, To be ==To be
brought up very tenderly 1813 Ray,
209
Nurtture passes nature [1579 Jou-
bert, Erreurs Populaires 1 v 9 (Lean),
Nourture passe nature] 1611 Cot
grave, s v 'Nourture' Nurture
surpasseth nature 1633 Draxe, 50,
Nurture is above nature 1754
Berthelson, Eng-Danish Diet, s v
"Nurture," Nurture goes beyond
nature Cf Nature
Nut and Nuts 1 A good nut year, a
good corn year 1846 Denham, Pro-
verbs, 55 (Percy S.) 1893 Inwards,
Weather Lore, 5
2 Crack me that nut 1546 Hey
wood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vii, Knak
me that nut 1564 Bullein, Dialogue,
62 (E E T S.), Ha, ha, ha, how crack
you this nutte? 1600 Dekker, Old
Fortunatus, I 1, My tongue speaks no
language but an almond for a parrot,
and crack me this nut 1670 Ray,
214, Crack me that nut, quoth Bumsted
1732 Fuller, No 1221 [as in 1670]
1828 Scott, Fair Maid, ch xxv.
While this prince of reveillers exhorted
him,—"Crack me this nut, and do it
handsomely"
3 Many nuts [nuts], many pits
[graves] = If hazel nuts be plentiful,
the season will be unhealthy [1672
Howard, All Mistaken, I, A very hope
ful generation! sure, This was great
nut year!] 1850 in N & Q, 1st ser,
1 510, Many nts Many pits A com
mon saying hereabouts [locality not
indicated], meaning that if hazel nuts,
haws, hips etc., are plentiful, many
deaths will occur 1884 H Friend,
Fleurs and Fl Lore, 207, still in
use in Devon 1861 R P Chope
Harland Dialect, 71 (E D S) Many nts,
Many pits, Many stones, Many groans
4 To be nuts to one 1589 Hay
any Wrake for Cooper, 33 (1845), Like
you any of these nuts Iohn Canter
bury? [The context shows that
"nuts" is used in this No 4 sense ]
1674 Head and Kirkman, Eng
Rogue, in 102 It was honey and nuts
to him to tell the guests 1740 North,
Lives of Norths, 1 33 (Bohn), This was
nuts to the old lord who thought he
had outwitted Frank 1819 Byron,
Letters, etc., iv 204 (Prothero) It will
be nuts to all of them they never had
such an opportunity
See also Ape (9), Apple (6) and (13),
and Deaf (7)
Oak and Oaks. 1. An oak is not felled at one stroke. c. 1440: Lydgate, _Fall of Princes_, bk. i. l. 96. These oaks grete be nat doun ihewe First at a strok. 1477: _Paston Letters_, iii. 169 (Gairdner). It is but a sympill oke, That [is] cut down at the first stroke. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Arbre," Though a little man can fell a great oke, yet fals it not at the first blow. 1732: Fuller, No. 639 ["chop" for "stroke"]. 1880: Spurgeon, _Ploughman's Pictures_, 127.

One stroke fells not an oak.

2. As close as oak = Close as the grain of oak. 1604: Shakespeare, _Othello_, III. i., To see her father's eyes up close as oak. 1763: Colman, _Denice is in Him_, II., I am close as oak, an absolute free-mason for secrecy. 1764: Murphy, _The Choice_, I., I never repeat a word; I am as close as oak.

3. Beware of an oak, It draws the stroke; Avoid an ash, It counts the flash; Creep under the thorn. It can save you from harm. 1878: _Folk-Lore Record_, i. 43.

4. Cut down an oak and set up a strawberry. 1662: Fuller, _Worthies_, i. 396 (1840), I would not wish this county [Devon] the increase of these berries, according to the proverb; "Cut down," etc. 1670: Ray, 188.

5. Great oaks from little acorns grow. Before 1635: Corbet, _Poems_ in _Chalmers_, v. 584. An acorn one day proves an oke. 1732: Fuller, No. 4576, The greatest oaks have been little acorns. 1852: FitzGerald, _Polomius_, 6 (1903), Every oak must be an acorn. 1923: Mackenzie King, _Speech_ in _Times_, 13 Oct., p. 7, col. 2, Here in England, as nowhere else in the world, "great oaks from little acorns grow."

6. Oaks may fall when reeds stand the storm. 1732: Fuller, No. 3692.

7. To go between the oak and the rind. 1886: Elworthy, _West Som. Word-Book_, 528 (E.D.S.), "To go 'twixt th' oak and the rind" expresses the making of very fine distinctions—hair splitting; hence the phrase has come to mean the quibbling by which a trimmer agrees with both sides. 1917: _Devonsh. Assoc. Trans._, xlii. 338, To creep between the oak and the rind. Cf. Bark and tree; and Devil (120).


See also Ash; Beech; Good elm; and Grass (7).

Oar in another's boat, To have (or put) an. 1542: Udall, tr. Erasmus' _Apoph.,_ 203 (1877), Whatsoever came in his foolyshe brain, Out it should, wer it neuer so vaine. In eche mans bote would he haue an ore, But no woorde, to good purpose, lesse or more. 1551: R. Crowley, _Works_, 120 (E.E.T.S.), You had an owre in echnams barge. 1597: G. Harvey, _Works_, iii. 33 (Grosart), Those... that will... haue an oare (as we say) in euerie mans boate. 1650: Brathwait, _Eng. Gent.,_ etc. 6 (1641), Youth... putting his oare in every mans boat. 1712: Motteux, _Quixote_, Pt. II. ch. xxii., He has an oar in every man's boat, and a finger in every pye. 1731: Coffey, _Devil to Pay_, I. ii., I will govern my own house without your putting in an oar. 1922: Weyman, _Ovington's Bank_, ch. xxxv., Then a pretty fool you were to put your oar in!


Oatmeal. See quot. 1678: Ray, 352. Where there is store of oatmeal, you may put enough in the crock. _Somerset._

Oats. See _Eel_ (1); _Horse_ (14); _January_ (25); _May_ (8); _St. David_ (3); _Water_ (21); and _Wild_ (7).
Occasion is bald behind [Fronte capillata, post est occasio calva—Catol, Disstech, n 26] 1553 Respublica, III vi. The goddesse occasion behinde hath no heare 1566 Panter, Pal of Pleasure, i 266 (Jacobs), Occasion being balde can not easely be gotten againe if she be once let slip 1629 Quarles, Arg and Parth, bk 1 in Works, ii 246 (Grosart) 1634 Massinger, Guardian, IV i 1655 Heywood and Rowley, Fortune by Land and Sea, IV 1, Occasions head is bald behind

Occasion lost cannot be redeemed, An 1813 Raj 144

October 1 Dry your barley land in October Or you'll always be sober. If not, there will be no malt 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 60 (Percy S) 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 35

2 Good October, a good blast, To blow the hog acorn and mast 1732 Fuller, No 6218 1893 Inwards, 35

3 In October dung your field, And your land its wealth shall yield 1854 Doran, Table Traits, 335, There was an old adage that—He who goes to bed and goes to bed sober, Falls as the leaves do, and dies in October, But he who goes to bed, and goes to bed mellow, Lives as he ought to do, and dies a good fellow Cf Often drunk.

5 Much rain in October, much wind in December 1893 Inwards, 35

6 There are always twenty-one fine days in October But the number appears to be variable 1855 Gaskell, North and South, ch ii, And when the brilliant fourteen fine days of October came on her cares were all blown away 1871 N & Q, 4th ser, vii 505, It is an old saying that October always gives us twenty-one fine

Days 1881 Folk-Lore Record, iv 128, October always bas twenty-one fine days 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 35, There are always nineteen fine days in October—Kent

7 Warm October, cold February

Ibid, 35

Odd numbers See Luck (5)

Odds in all things, There are 1864 "Cornish Proverbs," in N & Q, 3rd ser., vi 494

Odds in evil 1633 Drake, 55, In cuill there is ods 1639 Clarke, 197 [as in 1633]

Odds in gossips 1797 Wolcot, in Works, v 44 (1801), 'There's odds in Gossips,' says an old adage

Odds will beat anybody 1666 Torrana, Piazza Uni, 320, The English say that odds will beat anybody

Offender never pardons, The 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum Before 1680 Butler, Remains, ii 39 (1759), Bad men never use to forgive those whom they have injured, or received any extraordinary obligation from 1732 Fuller, No 2303, He who is the offender, is never the forgiver

Offer much, To See quotes 1631 Mabbe, Celestina, 116 (T T), It is a common saying, To offer much to him that asketh but a little, is a kinde of denial 1666 Torrana, Piazza Uni, 176, To proffer much is a kind of denial

Offices may well be given, but not discretion 1578 Florio, First Fruites, fo 33 ["are" for "may well be"] 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 116

Oftspring of those that are very young or very old, lasts not, The 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1670 Ray, 19 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, iv 121 (1785), The children of very young and very old men last not long

Off the hinges 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Hallebrenè," Off the hinges, clean out of heart 1645 Howell, Letters, bk i § in No xxxi, All businesses here are off the hinges 1661 Webster and Rowley, Care for a Cuckold, V 1, Bear with him, sir, he's strangely off oth' hinges 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, s v 'Hinges,' To be off hinges, to be out of health 1894 Northall,
Folk Phrases, 26 (E.D.S.), ... = To be out of temper, or in bad spirits.

Off the hooks—used with various significations. See quot. 1621: B. & F., Pilgrim, III. vi., What fit's this? The pilgrim's off the hooks too! [mad, "off his head"]). 1635: in Somers Tracts, vii. 188 (1881). If debts ... flinging not off the hooks. 1639: Davenport, New Trick to cheat Devil, I. ii., What, Roger, al amont, me thinks th'art off' th' hookes [crestfallen]. 1681: Robertson, Phrasol. Generalis, 739, To be off the hooks, or out of humour. 1692: L'Estrange, Æsop, Life, 8 (3rd ed.), Easily put off the hooks, and monstrous hard to be pleased again. 1740: North, Lives of Norths, i. 377 (Bohn). He was continued in his office by King James II., but then he was soon off the hooks. 1824: Scott, Redgauntlet, ch. i. Then this smart young hopeful is off the hooks with too hard study. 1881: Evans, Leics. Words, 205 (E.D.S.), Off-the-hooks, or Off-of-the-hooks...shabby; "seedy"; worn-out; ailing. 1889: Peacock, Manley, etc., Gloss., 277 (E.D.S.), Maaster seems clear off th' hooks to-daay [ill, or in bad temper].

Off craving makes soon forgetting. 1869: Hazlitt, 301.

Often and little eating makes a man fat. 1670: Ray, 38.

Often drunk, and seldom sober, Falls like the leaves in October. 1732: Fuller, No. 6219. Cf. October (4).

Often happeneth evil for a good turn. c. 1489: Caxton, Sommes of Aymon, 265 (E.E.T.S.) [quoted as a proverb].

Often to the water often to the tatter. Said of linen. 1678: Ray, 347. 1732: Fuller, No. 6378, Linnen often to water, Soon to tatter.

Oil. subs. i. He that measureth oil shall anoint his fingers. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Huile" ["besmeares" for "shall anoint"]. 1670: Ray, 126.

2. The oil-bottle. See quot. 1827: Hone, Table-Book, 775, "He's got t' oil bottle in his pocket." Craven = he is double-faced.

3. To bring (or add) oil to fire. [Oleum adde camino.—Horace, Sat., II. iii. 321.] c. 1386: Chaucer, C. Tales, C. 60 (Skeat). For wyne and youth the doon Venus encreas, As men in lyr wol casten oilre or grece. c. 1560: Ingelund, Disob. Child, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, ii. 280, And, after the proverb, we put oil to the fire. c. 1605: Shakespeare, Lear, II. ii., Bring oil to fire, snow to their colder moods. 1647: Cowley, The Mistress: "The Incurable," st. 4. But vine, alas! was oil to th' fire.

4. To cast oil in the fire is not the way to quench it. 1639: Clarke, 167. 1670: Ray, 126. 1732: Fuller, No. 5142.

5. To hold up oil = To aid and abet, or consent flatteringly. [Narratur belle quidam dixisse, Marulle, Qui te ferre oleum dixit in auriculam.—Martial, Epigr., V. lxxviii.] 1387: Trevisa, tr. Higden, iii. 447 (Rolls Ser.), Alisandre gan to boste and make him self more worthy than his fader, and a great deel of hem [them] that were at the feste hilde up the kynges oyl. c. 1390: Gower, Conf. Amantis, bk. vii. vol. iii. 159 (Pauli). For, when he doth extortion, Men shall not finden one of tho To gruerche or speake there again, But holden up his oile and sain, That all is well that ever he doth.

6. To pour oil on troubled waters. 1855: Kingsley, West. Hol, ch. iv., Campion ... the sweetest-natured of men, trying to pour oil on the troubled waters.

See also Truth (4).

Old, adj. Classification: A. Sayings relating to human life: (a) General, (b) Man, (c) Woman. B. Sayings relating to other living creatures. C. Sayings relating to books, friends, etc. D. Similes. E. Unclassified.

A. SAYINGS RELATING TO HUMAN LIFE.

(a) General. i. An old child sucks hard. 1602–3: Manningham, Diary, 12 (Camden S.). ... i.e. children when they growe to age proye chargeable.


5 Old be or young be. Ibid., 182
6 Old heads and young hands
Somerset. Ibid., 347
7 Old heads on young shoulders
1639 Clarke, 7. You set an old man's head on a young man's shoulders
at 1760 First Floor, l. i., in Inchbald's "Farces, vi 243 (1815). Ah, sir, there is no putting an old head on young shoulders 1850 Dickens, Chuzzlewit, ch vi, We should not expect to find old heads upon young shoulders 1906 Lucas, Listener's Lane, 154
8 Though old and wise, yet still advise
1640 Herbert, "Prudentium" 1670
Ray, 1 1732 Fuller, No 6227 1875 Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 49
9 Where old age is evil, youth can learn no good 1633 Drake, 145
["faulty" for "evil," and goodness" for "good"] 1670 Ray, 20
1736 Bailey, Dict. s v "Youth"
(b) Man I An old man is no babe
1528 More, Works, p 422, col 1 (1557). They shall for al that well fynde in some of us yt an olde knawe is no chyld 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch 11 ["childe" for "babe"]
1670 Ray, 20
2 An old man is a bed full of bones
1678 Ray, 184 1732 Fuller, No 648
3 An old man never wants a tale to tell
Ibid., No 649
4 An old man's end is to keep sheep
1659 Howell, Proverbs Brit.-Eng., 2
1823 D'Israel, Cur of Lit., 2nd ser 1 441 (1824). The state of our agricultural people appears in such proverbs as "An old man's end is to keep sheep"
5 An old man's staff is the raper at death's door 1640 Herbert, "Prudentium" ["of" for "at"] 1670 Ray, 19 1732 Fuller, No 6490
6 An old man who feeds a buxom young maiden, bideth fair to become a freeman of Buckingham 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Bucks"
7 An old physician and a young lawyer, and confide in both with equal frankness
8 An old soldier. See quot 1894 R L S. St Ives, ch xx, I own myself an idiot. Well do they say, an old soldier, an old innocent!
9 An old wise man's shadow is better than a young buzzard's sword 1640 Herbert, "Prudentium"
10 Better be an old man's darling than a young man's warling 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch 1602 Breton, Works, ii g 12 (Grosart) ["worldling" for "warling"] 1611 Barry, Ram-Alley, II 1738 Swift, Polite Converse, Dial I 1842 Harr Amsworth, Miser's Daughter, bk ii ch xv 1859 Planché, Extravag., v 206 (1879). Better be an old man's darling, Than become a young man's slave
11 He that would be well old must be old betimes [Nec enim unquam sum assensus illi veteri landaquo proverbio, quod monet, mature fieri senem, si diu velis esse senex —P Vergil, Adag Op., 67 (1541)] 1539 Taverner, Proverbs fo 10. Become an old man betyme thou wilt be an old man longe 1583 Melbancke, Philotimur, sig C. He that will be an old man long, must bee an old man soone 1640 Herbert, "Prudentium" 1670 Ray, 34, (a) They who would be young when they are old must be old when they are young [Also] (b) Old young and old long 1711 Steele, Spectator, No 153. It was prettily said, "He that would be long an old man must begin early to be one" 1732 Fuller, No 6179 [as in 1670 (b)] Ibid., No 854 Be old betimes, that thou may'st long be so
12 He wrongs not an old man that steals his supper from him 1640 Herbert, "Prudentium" 1670 Ray, 19 1732 Fuller, No 2420
13 Old man, when thou diest give me thy doubtet 1678 Ray, 77
14 Old men and travellers may be he by authority 1605 Camden, Remains, 330 (1870) 1681 Robertson, Phraloseh
Generals, 947 1732 Fuller, No 3715 Cf Painters and Poets, and Traveller
15 Old men are twice children 1539 Taverner, Proverbs, fo 16. Olde folk


17. Old men. See these two quotations. The first is not very intelligible. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum, Old men, when they scorn young, make much of death. 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, iv. 121 (1785), Old men, when they marry young women, are said to make much of death.

18. Old men will die and children soon forget. c. 1567: in Black Letter Ballads, etc., 53 (Lilly, 1867), Bot as the proverbe speikis, it plaine appeiris, Auld men will die and barnes will sone forget.

19. When an old man will not drink, look for him in another world. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 298. 1670: Ray, 20 ["go to see" for "look for"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 5548, When an old man will not drink, you may safely promise him a visit in the next world.

See also Young, passim.


2. He is teaching an old woman to dance. 1813: Ray, 75.

3. Old maids. See Ape (12).

4. Old maids' children. See Bachelors (3).

5. Old wife. See Wife (15).


7. Old wives' tales. 1387: Trevisa, tr. Higden, iii. 265 (Rolls Ser.), And vsep telynge as olde wifes doop. 1509: Barclay, Ship of Fools, i. 72 (1874), A folke he is for his moste felycyte Is to byleue the tales of an olde wyfe. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 347 (Arber), Thinking euery olde wifes tale to be a truth. 1604: Marlowe, Faustus, sc. vi., Tusli; these are trifles, and mere old wives' tales. 1614: Rowlands, Fodes Bolt, 12 (Hunt. Cl.). 1672: Marvell, Works, iii. 39 (Grosart), Who will . . . tax up an old-wife's fable to the particularity of history. 1720: C. Shadwell, Irish Hosp., Dram. Pers., Lady Peevish . . . a mighty observer of cross days, foolish superstitions, and old wives' sayings. 1860: Reade, Cl. and Heath, ch. lxiv., "These be old wives' fables," said Jerome contemptuously. 1921: Locke, Mountebank, ch. iv., Mine differed only in brevity from an old wife's tale.

8. The old wives' Paternoster. Query = the devil's Paternoster—see Devil (103). 1580: in H. G. Wright, Arthur Hall of Grantham, 63 (1929), He plucking his hatte about his cares, rumbling the olde wifes Paternoster, departed.

B. Sayings relating to other living creatures.

1. My old mare would have a new crupper. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. ii. ch. i. 1578: Lupton, All for Money, sig. E7, Gyle my olde mare must haue a newe crupper. 1670: Ray, 19, Old mares lust after new cruppures.

2. Old ape. See Ape (4).

3. Old birds and chaff; See Bird (13).

4. Old cat. See Cat (7), (8), and (39).

5. Old cattle breed not. 1639: Clarke, 1670: Ray, 127.

6. Old cock. See Young (17).

7. Old dog. See Dog (14)—(16), (19), (53), (60), and (93).

8. Old foxes. See Fox (2), (3), (13), and (19).

C. Sayings relating to books, friends, etc.

1. An old friend is a new house. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

2. Old friends and old wine are best. 1589: see quot. under No. 3. 1633: Draxe, 75. 1670: Ray, 19, 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Old." 1884: A. Dobson, in Poet. Works, 387 (1923), All these I prize, but (entre nous) old friends are best!

3. Old wood to burn. See quotes. 1589: L. Wright, Display of Dutte,
19-20, As olde wood is best to burne, old horse to ride, old booke to reade, and old wine to drinke, so are old friends always most trusty to see 1504. A Copley, Wits, Fitts, etc., 4 (1614), Olde wood for fewell an olde horse for easie riding, wine of a yere olde, olde frendes and old bookees 1773 Goldsmith, She Stoops, I 1, I love every thing that's olde! old friends, old times, old manners old books, old wane 1816 Scott, Antiquary, ch vi, One who professes the maxum of King Alphonso of Castile—old wood to burn—old books to read—old wine to drunk—and old friends to converse with Cf E (11)

D SIMILES 1 An old ewe dressed tomb fashion 1777 Gent Mag, xlix
187, Here antique maids of sixty three Drest out lamb fashion you might see 1785 Grose, Class Dict Vulgar Tongue, s v "Ewe," An old ewe drest lamb fashion, an old woman drest like a young girl 1909 N & Q, roth ser, xi 189

2 As old as Adam c 1579 G Harvey, Letter-Book, 82 (Camden S), Yower newe complaynte is nye as owde as Adam and Eve 1662 in Rob. Ballads, n 578 (B S), If I had as many lives I should be as old as Adam 1888 Lowsley, Berks Gloss, 38 (E D S), "As awld as Adam" is the common phrase to denote great age or antiquity

3 As old as Aldgate 1725 Defoe, Tour, u 153, Aldgate was very anciet and decay'd, so that as old as Aldgate was a city proverb for many years

4 As old as Cale-hill 1639 Clarke, 171

5 As old as Charing Cross 1678 Ray, 287

6 As old as Egerton 1709 in Stukeley Memoirs, n 124 (Surtees S), 'Tis proverbial [Dorset] when they would express what has a long time been, to say, 'tis as old as Egerton

7 As old as Glastonbury lor Somerset 1678 Ray, 344

8 As old as my tongue See quote 1738 Swift, Polite Censures, Dial I, I am as old as my tongue, and a little older than my teeth 1828 Carr, Crawn Dialect, n 213, "As oud as my tongue and ouder ner my teeth," a sancy answer given to the question, "bow oud isto?" 1862 Dialect of Leeds, 379 [as in 1828] 1889 J Nicholson, Folk Speech E. Yorke, 16, Ashow as mu tongue, an' a bit awdlher then mi teeth

9 As old as Pandon Gate 1649 Grey, Chorography, As old as Pandon 1776 Stukeley, Itin Cur, cent u 65, It is an old proverb in this country [Northumberland], "As old as Pandon gate" 1847 Hallwell, Dict, s v "As old as Panton-Gates," a very common proverb There is a gate called Pandon Gate at Newcastle on Tyne 1846-59 Denham Tracts, 1 300 (F L S), As old as Pandon As old as Pandon Yatts The latter is used in the southern portions of the Bishopnc [Durham] and the county of York Nothing is more general than the above saying, when any one would describe the great antiquity of anything Pandon Gate is believed to have been of Roman workmanship

10 As old as Paul's See Paul's

11 As old as the hills 1820 Scott, Monastery, ch ix 1850 Dickens, Copperfield, ch xv 1824 Sphere, 30 Aug., p 264, col 1, The capital city, Luxembourg old as the hills

12 As old as the rich 1732 Fuller, No 722

13 To come the old soldier 1823 Scott, St Ronan's, ch xvii, I should think he was coming the old soldier over me, and keeping up the game

E UNCLASSIFIED 1 An old band is a captain's honour 1578 Florio, First Fruits, fo 28, An old ensigne is the honor of a captain 1629 Book of Merry Riddles, Prov 65

2 An old nought will never be ought 1678 Ray, 184 1732 Fuller, No 6342

3 An old sack asketh much patching 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch u 1578 Lupton, All for Money, sig E 1, When I was a boye it was an olde sonyng That an olde sacke would lache much clouting and patching 1670
Ray, 127. 1732: Fuller, No. 3726, Old
sacks want much patching.

4. An old thing and a young thing
both of an age. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire
Proverbs, 8, . . . Things must be
considered old or young by comparison.

5. An old wrinkle never wears out
1732: Fuller, No. 654.

6. Be off with the old love before you
are on with the new. 1571: R. Ed-
wards, Damon and Pithias, in Hazlitt, 
Old Plays, iv. 447, 'Tis good to be off
wi' the old love Before you are on wi'
the new. 1861: Peacock, Gryll Grange,
ch. xxx. 1923: Lucas, Advisory Ben,
§ xxxix. p. 210, That proverb about
being off with the old love is a very
sound one.

7. Better keep under an old hedge,
than creep under a new furze-bush.

8. If the old year goes out like a lion,
the new year will come in like a lamb.

9. Old enough to lie without doors.
1678: Ray, 77.

10. Old fish and young flesh do feed
men best. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs,
Pt. II. ch. iv. 1588: 'Cogan, Haven of
Health, 118 (1612) [quoted as 'that
English proverbe']. 1611: Cotgrave,
s.v. 'Chair,' Young flesh and old
fish (are daintiest). 1666: Torrino,
Piazza Univ., 39, Young flesh and old
fish. 1717: Pope, Jan. and May, 102,
There goes a saying, and 'twas shrowdly
said, Old fish at table, but young flesh
in bed.

11. Old fish, old oil and an old friend
are the best. 1678: Ray, 41. Cf. C.

12. Old Johnny. 1911: A. S. Cooke,
Off Beaten Track in Sussex, 285, Ague
is also referred to in the phrase, "Old
Johnny has been running his fingers
down my back."


14. Old muckhills will bloom. 1678:
Ray, 77.

15. Old porridge is sooner heated than
new made. 1670: Ray, 47, Old pottage,
etc. 1732: Fuller, No. 3724["warmed"
for "heated"]. Cf. Broth (3).

16. Old praise dies unless you feed it.
1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

17. Old reckonings make new quarrels.
1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Dispute," Old
accomts breed new differences. 1732:
Fuller, No. 3725.

18. Old sin makes new shame. c. 1300:
Havelok, l. 2461. c. 1390: Gower, Conf.
Amantis, bk. iii. l. 2033, Men sein,
"Old senne newe schame." c. 1470:
Hardyng, Chron., can. 114, st. 18, Thus
synnes olde make shames come ful
newe. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo.
32, Old sinne and new penance. 1611:
Cotgrave, s.v. "Honte," Old sinne
inflicts new shame. 1666: Torrino,
Piazza Univ., 197, An old sin, new
repentance.

19. Old sores are hardly cured. 1509:
Barclay, Ship of Fools, i. 164 (1874),
In olde sores is grettest lepordapye.
1670: Ray, 19, It's ill healing an old
sore. 1732: Fuller, No. 3727.

20. Old thanks pay not for a new debt.
Ibid., No. 3728.


22. Old vessels must leak. 1666:
Torrino, Piazza Univ., 163. 1732:
Fuller, No. 3729.

23. Out of old fields comes new corn.
c. 1390: Chaucer, Parl. of Fousles, l. 22.
For out of olde feldes, as men seith,
Cometh al this newe corn fro yeer to
yeere.

24. The old withy-tree would have a
new gate hung at it. 1732: Fuller, No.
4991.

25. To bring an old house over one's
head = To get into trouble. 1576:
Gascoigne, in Works, ii. 548 (Cunliffe),
My boye (q'd he) who badd the be so
bolde, As for to plucke an olde house
on thy heed? 1607: Dekker and Webster,
Westw. Hoe, V., Well do so . . . and
bring an old house over your heads if
you do. 1687: Sedley, Bellamira, II.,
She may be a person of quality, and
you may bring an old house upon your
head. 1758-67: Sterne, Trist. Shandy,
ii. ch. xvii., If, in our communion, sir, a
man was to insult an apostle . . . he
would have an old house over his head.
1907: De Morgan, Alice-for-Short, ch.
xxxviii., Papa observes in an undertone
to Dr. Fludyer that he has brought an
old house about his ears.
To throw an old shoe after one—

for luck 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch ix, Nowe for good luke, cast an ole shoe after me 1621 Brathwaite, Natures Embassie, 204 (1677). One should have throwne an old shoe after thee 1665 R Howard, Surprisal, III vi, I shall need nothing now but an old shoe cast after me 1754 Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dic, s.v. "Shoe" 1842 Tennyson, Will WATERPROOF And, whereas e thou move, good luck Shall fling her old shoe after

Older the more covetous, The 1655 Fuller, Church Hist, bk iv § in (42) 1659 in Hart Miscell, iv 311 (1745)

Older the wiser, The 1639 Clarke, 267 1683 White-Kennett, ed Erasmus' Praise of Folly, 17 (8th ed). Contrary to the proverb of older and wiser, the more ancient they grow, the more fools they are 1707 in Aleman's Guzman, u 339, If I did not grow wiser as I grew older

Older the worse, The 1639 Clarke, 84, The older the worse, like my old schooes 1732 Fuller, No 4693, The older a fool is the worse he is

Oldham See quot 1669 Hazlitt 233, In Oldham brewes wet and warm, and Rochdale puddings there's no harm Higson's MSS Coll 212

Olive Call me not an olive till thou see me gathered 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudenium

Olive's Mount See quot 1878 Folk-Lore Record, 1 169, When Olive's Mount puts on his hat, Scarborough town will pay for that

Omelets are not made without breaking of eggs Mr A B Cheales, in his Proverbial Folk-Lore, p 131 (1875), fathers this saying on Robespierre 1859 Gen P Thompson, Audi Alt, 11 xc 65 (O.). We are walking upon eggs, and whether we tread East or tread West, the omelet will not be made without the breaking of some 1894 R L S, St Ives, ch vii, " My dear Miss Flora, you cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs" said I 1922 Weyman, Ovington's Bank, ch xix, But it could not be helped

Without breaking eggs one could not make omelettes

Once a captain always a captain 1831 Peacock, Crotchet Castle, ch ix 1638 Mrs Bray, Trad of Devon, in 239 [cited as "the old proverb"]

Once a knife and ever a knife 1659 Howell, 6 1672 Walker, Param., 49, Once a knife and never an honest man

Once a man twice a child See Old, A (b) (15)

Once a whore and ever a whore 1613 H Parrot, Laques, Ridiculas, bk ii epi 121 1659 Howell, 15 1663 Killigrew, Thomaso, Pt I II iv 1670 Ray, 155 1703 in Hart Miscell, v 432 (1745) 1754 World, No 51

Once a wood See Pilling Moss

Once a year a man may say, On his conscience 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudenium

Once an use and ever a custom 1605 Camden, Remains, 330 (1670) 1670 Ray, 153 1732 Fuller, No 3733

Once in use, and ever after a custom

Once and use it not 1678 Ray, 263

Once at a Coronation Ibid, 263

Once at a wedding Ibid, 263 and 346, I never see t but once and that was at a wedding

Once bit twice shy [1484 Caxton, Aesope, u 203 (Jacobs). And therfore he that hath ben ones begyled by somme other ought to kepe hym wel fro the same] 1894 Northall, Folk Phrases, 20 (E.D.S.), Once bitten, twice shy 1920 Conrad, The Rescue, Pt III ch ix 168

Once deceives is ever suspected, He that 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudenium

Once done is never to be undone, What is 1601 Yarnington, Tuo Trag in One, I in, in Bulen, Old Plays, iv 23.

Whats done already cannot be undone 1609 Man in the Moone, 41 (Percy S).

That which is done cannot be undone Before 1704 T Brown, Works, 1 238 (1760) 1836 Maryat, Easy, ch xxxv, I felt much the same, but what's done cannot be undone Cf Thing (5)

Once in seven years See quot 1733 Tull, Horse-hoing Husb, Pref, v, Contrary to the proverb that says
That once in seven years, the worst husbands [farmers] have the best corn.

Once in ten years one man hath need of another. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 33. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 26, Every ten years, one hath need of another. 1732: Fuller, No. 3732.


Once out and always out. 1678: Ray, 77.

Once paid never craved. 1639: Clarke, 182. 1678: Ray, 188.

Once poor. See quot. 1618: W. Lawson, New Orchard and Garden, 5 (1676), 'Tis with grounds in this case, as it is with men... Much will have more: and, Once poor, seldome or never rich.


[Continued on next page]
Tock hiel hede of al that ever he mente, Oon ere it herde, at the other out it wente & 1500 m Hazhitt, Early Pop Poetry, 1 229 1552 Latumer, Works, 1 87 (P.S) & 1610 Hamington, Briefe View of Church, 145 (1653) 1640 Art' sleepe Husband?, Frontispiece, But she might full as well her lecture smother, For ent'ring one ear, it goes out at t'other 1750 Smollett, Gil Blas, ii 182, A world of thanks, which would only have entered at one ear and gone out at the other, had he not assured me 1855 Gaskell, North and South, ch xviii 1909 Hudson, A foot in England, ch xviii
One enemy is too much 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1855 Bohn, 468 One enemy is too much for a man in a great post and a hundred friends are too few
One extreme produces another 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, vi 213 (1785)
One eye 1 Better to have one eye than be blind altogether 1670 Ray, 8 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v "Better," Better one eye than quite blind
2 He that has but one eye, had need look well to that 1611 Cotgrave, s v ' Garder,' He that hath but one eye had need make much of it, had best looke well to it 1732 Fuller, No 2136
3 He that hath but one eye, sees the better for it 1639 Clarke, 44 1639 Conceits, Clinches, etc, No 113, Hee that hath but one eye is more like to hit the marke he aims at then another, because he hath a monstroues sight [This is a lame explanation of an absurd saying] 1678 Ray, 134, a ridiculuous saying
One eye-witness is better than ten ear-witnesses [Plums est ocularus testis unus quam auni decem—Plautus, Truc, II vi 8] 1539 Taverner, Proverbs, f 0 43 [with 'of more value" for 'better'] 1582 Robinson, tr Assertion of K Arthur, 39 (E E T S), Of more force standes eye witnesse one, Than ten eare witnesses among 1681 Robertson, Phraseol Generals, 567 1732 Fuller, No 3750 ["bearsays" for 'ear-witnesses']

One fair day assureth not a good summer 1548 Hall, Chron, 42 (1809)
One fair day in winter makes not birds merry 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium
One false knewe accuseth another 1639 Clarke, 79
One father is more than a hundred schoolmasters 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium
One fault (they say) doth but one pardon need 1615 Wither, A Satyre, i 720
One favour qualifies for another 1732 Fuller, No 3751 Cf One kindness
One flower makes no garland 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1670 Ray, 10
One fool See Fool (87) and (88)
One foot in the grave [One foot in Charon's boat—Lucian, Apol, 1] 1566 Painter, Pal of Pleasure, ii 109 (Jacobs), To visite him, who hath one of his feet alreadie within the grave 1592 Warner, Albion's Eng, bk ix ch 47, Old doting foole, one foote in grave c 1620 B & F, Little Fr Lawyer, I 1, You that already Have one foot in the grave 1694 Terence made English, 196 1707 Spanish Bawd, III 1 1822 Peacock, Maid Maran, ch viii, What, in the devil's name, can you want with a young wife who have one foot in flannels, and the other in the grave?
One foot in the straw, He that hath, hath another in the spittle [hospital] 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium
One foot is better than two crutches
Ind
One gate See One Yate
One God, no more, but friends good store 1639 Clarke, 26 1670 Ray, 94 1732 Fuller, No 6704
One good forewit is worth two afterwits 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch viii 1633 Draxe, 169
One good head is better than an hundred strong hands 1732 Fuller, No 3753
One good turn asks (or deserves, or requires) another 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi ['"asketh"] c 1610 Rowlands, More Knaues Yet,
hand claweth another." The Pope was advanced by Pipine; and Pipine was likewise advanced by the Pope.

One hand washeth the other, and both the face. [Manus manum lavat.—Seneca, Apoc., 9, fin.] 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 34. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 221 (Arber). 1607: Middleton, Phæinx, I. i., 'Tis through the world, this hand will rub the other. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1732: Fuller, No. 3759, One hand may wash the other, but both the face.

One hand will not clasp. 1875: A. B. Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 91.

One head for the reckoning. See quot. 1373: New Custom, III. i., I could have tarried longer there [at the tavern] with a good will, But, as the proverb saith, it is good to keep still One head for the reckoning, both sober and wise.

One hog. See quot. 1670: Ray, 20, He who hath but one hog, makes him fat, and he who hath but one son makes him a fool. 1732: Fuller, No. 2138 [as in 1670].

One honest man is worth two rogues. 1855: Kingsley, West. Ho!, ch. xx.

One honest man scares twenty thieves. c. 1770: in Roxb. Ballads, vii 645 (B.S.) [quoted as a "saying of old "].

One hour to-day is worth two to-morrow. 1732: Fuller, No. 3761.

One hour’s sleep. See Sleep, subs. (2).

One ill turn. See One shrewd turn.

One ill weed mars a whole pot of pottage. 1579: Lyly, Euphues, 39 (Arber), One leafe of Colloquintida marreth and spoyleth the whole pot of porridge. 1665: Camden, Remains, 329 (1670). 1666: in Antiq. Repertory, 1. 193 (1807), But last of all, to marre all the pottage with one filthy weede, to mar this good prayers with an il conclusion ... 1670: Ray, 154.

One ill word asks another. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. ix. 1591: Harington, OrL Furioso, bk. xxvi. st. 77, Thus one ill word another doth draw on. 1670: Ray, 30. 1685: Mother Bunch’s Closet, etc., 15 (Gomme, 1885), One evil word brings in another.

One is a play, and two is a gay [toy]. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in N. & Q.,
One is wise, two are happy, Where 1710 S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs 338

One kind ness is the price of another 1645 Howell, Letters, bk i §11 No iv, Sir, Thanks for one courtesy is a good usher to bring on another 1732 Fuller, No 3764, Cf One favour

One knock on the iron, and two on the anvil, He gives Ibid, No 1849

One lie makes many 1533 Udall, Flowers out of Terence, fo 25, One falshode or substilte bringeth in another 1732 Fuller, No 3766. One lie calls for many

One lordship is worth all his manners
A punning saying—"manors" 1670 Ray, 185

One love expels another 1666 Torriano, Piazza Univ, 10

One man is worth a hundred and a hundred is not worth one 1578 Fletio, First Frates, fo 32 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 42

One man's breath, another's death 1639 Clarke, 253 1670 Ray, 128 1732 Fuller, No 6343 [with "is after "breath "]

One man's fault is another man's lesson 1855 Bohn, 469

One man's meat See Meat (9)

One man's will is another man's wit 1647 Country New Commonwealth, 14

One mend-fault is worth twenty

One mouth doth nothing without another 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

One mule scrubs another [Mutilum multi scabant — Anson, Idyl, xx Praef monos] 1638 Randolph, Muses' Looking-Glass, III iv 1666 Torriano Piazza Univ, 15, Asses scratch one another 1738 Swift, Politie Comers, Dial III, It looked like two asses scrubbing one another

One nail drives out another Before 1225 Ancren R, 404 (Morton), Vor, also so as on neil drued ut pen othere 1387 Trevisa, tr Higden (Rolls Ser), vii 25, panne pe kyng drof out on naile wi anoter c 1570 Marr of Wit and Science, I, Much like the nail, that last came in, and drives the former out 1607 Tourneur, Revenger's Trag, IV 1, Slaves are but nails to drive out one another 1658 R Brome, Love sick Court, V 1, Variety of objects Like nails abandon one another 1725 Bailey, tr Erasmus' Colloq, 492 1781 T Francklin, Lucian's Works, u 136, And thus, according to the old adage, drive out one nail by another 1852 FitzGerald, Polonius, 129 (1903)

One of his hands is unwilling to wash the other for nothing 1732 Fuller, No 3787

One of these days is none of these days 1855 Bohn, 470

One of those gentle ones, that will use the devil himself, with courtesy Ibid, 470

One pair of ears draws dry a hundred tongues 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

One pair of legs is worth two pairs of hands c 1565 Still, Gammer Gurton, IV 11, If one pair of legs had not bene worth two pair of hands 1597 Harvey, Works, iii 52 (Grosart) 1600 Weakest goeth to the Wall, I 11 ["running" before "legs," and "working"]
before "hands"). 1611: Coryat, Cru-
dities, i. 35 (1695). 1688: in Bagford Ballads, i. 375 (B.S.) ["heels" for "legs"). 1712: Motteux, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. lxvii. [as in 1688]. 1817: Scott, Rob Roy, ch. xlv., Take the bent, Mr. Rashleigh. Make ae pair o' legs worth twa pair o' hands.

One poison drives out another. 1567: G. Fenton, Bandello, ii. 218 (T.T.). 1591: Harington, Orl. Furioso, bk. xxv. st. 1, Ev'n as one poison doth another heale. 1659: Howell, Pro-
verbs: Brit.-Eng., 34. One poison expels another.

One pretty child. See quot. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 119, There's only one pretty child in the world, and every mother has it. Cf. One good wife; and One shrew.

One saddle is enough for one horse. 1732: Fuller, No. 3791.

One shoe will not fit all feet. 1672: Walker, Paræm., 47. To make one shoe serve for all feet. 1690: New Dict. Cauting Crew, sig. L2.


One sows. See Sow, verb (10).

One's too few, three too many. 1678: Ray, 342.

One stroke. See Oak (1).

One swallow. See Swallow.

One sword keeps another in the sheath. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Pruden-
tum. 1747: Franklin, in Works, i. 57 (Bigelow), It is a wise and true saying, that one sword often keeps another in the scabbard. 1853: Trench, Proverbs, 88 (1905) [as in 1747].

One tainted sheep. See Sheep (10).

One tale is good till another is told. [μηδε μην διακρινοντες πρω αν αμφω μιθεον ακοην —Cicero, ad Att., vii. 18.] 1593: Greene, Works, ii. 222 (Grosart), Tush yrth quo the Marqusses, one tale is always good vntil another is heard. 1617: Taylor (Water-Poet), Works, 3rd pagin., 83. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, i. 125 (1840), One story is good till another is heard. 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, vii. 314 (1785) [as in 1662]. 1827: Hone, Ev. Day Book, ii. 649, "Every pot has two handles." This means "that one story's good till another story's told." One thief robs another. c. 1510: A. Barclay, Egloges, 46 (Spens. S.), It is ill stealing from a thief. 1600: Sir John Oldcastle, l. 1382 (Malone S.), Just the proverb, one thief robs another. 1681: Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, s.v. "Thief," One thief accuseth another.

One to-day is worth two to-morrows. 1641: Quarles, Enchyriddion, Cent. IV., C. xcv. 1736: Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i. 444 (Bigelow). 1875: Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 134. One to-day is better than ten to-
morrows.

One tongue. See Woman (31).

One tongue and two ears (or eyes). c. 1535: Dialogues of Creatures, ccvi. (1816), To every creature longith but oon tonge and two erys; and so a man shulde suffir more with his tway erys than any man myght speke with oon tonge. 1572: T. Wilson, Disc. upon
Usury, 211 (1925). You have two cares and one tongue, because you should hear more than you speak. 1820 Colton, Lazon, Pt I No 112, Men are born with two eyes, but with one tongue, in order that they should see twice as much as they say.

One trick needs another trick to back it up 1732 Fuller, No 3801, One trick needs a great many more to make it good 1880 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 19

One, two, or three tell you, you are an ass, put on a tail, If 1732 Fuller, No 2697

One, two, three, four, are just half a score 1678 Ray, 86

One vice See quotes 1561 B Rich, Farewell, 155 (Sh S.), Like as we sail, one vice spoils a greater number of virtues 1736 Franklin Way to Wealth, in Works, 1440 (Bigelow), What maintains one vice would bring up two children.

One wedding begets another c 1640 in Ross Ballads, in 54 (B S.), 'Tis said that one wedding produceth another 1773 Gay, Wife of Bath, I

One woodcock See Woodcock.

One word for me and two for yourself 1854 Baker, Northants Gloss, s v "Word," Said to one who is selfish under an appearance of disinterestedness.

One word in time than two afterwards, Better 1659 Howell Proverbs Brit.-Eng., 17 1732 Bailey, Dict., s v "Better"

One yate [gate] for another, good fellow 1678 Ray, 263. They father the original of the upon a passage between one of the ears of Rutland and a country fellow. The ear, riding by himself one day, overtook a countryman, who very civilly opened him the first gate they came to, not knowing who the earl was. When they came to the next gate, the earl expecting he should have done the same again, Nay, soft, saith the countryman, one yate for another, good fellow.

One year a nurse and seven years the worse 1678 Ray, 182 1732 Fuller, No 6377

One year of joy See quote 1678 Ray, 63. One year of joy, another of comfort, and all the rest of content. A marriage wish 1732 Fuller, No 3866 [after "content " — "make the married life happy"] 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xvi [as in 1678]

One year's seed seven years' weed 1854 H Friend, Flowers and Fl Lore, 230. If we would keep our gardens free from weeds let us bear in mind what a Northamptonshire peasant recently told me in the following homely but expressive rhyme, which still passes current as a proverb — "One year's seed, Seven years' weed.' Or, as they give it in Oxfordshire ' One year's seedling makes seven years' weeding" 1917 Bridge Cheshire Proverbs, 100

Onion, It may serve with an. An ironical saying 1659 Howell, I 1670 Ray, 214

Onion's skin very thin, Mild winter coming in, Onion's skin thick and tough, Coming winter cold and rough A gardener's rhyme 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 155

Onion See also Capon (2), Garle (1), and Spruce.

On the hip, To have one c 1400 Beryn, I 1761, p 55 (EETS), So within an hour or so, Beryn he had r-caughte Somewhat oppen the hipp, that Beryn had the wers 1595 Harington, Ori Furioso, bk xvi st 117, In fine he doth apple one speciall drift, Which was to get the pagan on the hipe 1604 Shakespeare, Othello, II. 1, I'll have our Michael Cassio on the hip 1681 Robertson, Phrasal Generalis, 805. He has him on the hip, at an advantage in Law 1865 Planche, Extravag., 262 (1879), Now, infidel, I have thee on the hip.

Open door may tempt a saint, An 1659 Howell, Proverbs Span.-Eng., 10, An open gate tempts a saint 1732 Fuller, No 655

Opens the door with an ax, He 1813 Ray, 75

Opinion rules the world 1615 Markham, Eng House-wife, 70 (1675), Yet it is but opinion, and that must be
Oppenshaw


Opportunity. See quot 1660: Howell, Parly of Beasts, 72, Opportunity is the best moment in the whole extension of time. 1869: Hazlitt, 311, Opportunity is the cream of mankind.

Opportunity is whoredom's bawd. 1605: Camden, Remains, 329 (1870).


1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict, s.v. "Opportunity." 1834-7: Southey, Doctor, ch. cv, Opportunity, which makes thieves, makes lovers also. 1925: Sphere, 14 Nov., p. 197, col. i.

Orchard is his shambles, His. 1639: Clarke, 50.

Orts. See Make (20).


Other people's fires. See quot. 1692: L'Estrange, Æsop, Life, 13 (3rd ed.), There's an old saying; What have we to do to quench other people's fires? And I'll e'en keep myself clear of other peoples matters.

Other side of the road always looks cleanest. The. 1852: FitzGerald, Polonius, 20 (1903).

Ounce of debt will not pay a pound of care, An. 1599: Porter, Two Angry Women, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, vii. 308.

Ounce of discretion is worth a pound of learning, An. 1630: T. Adams, Works, 9r. 1670: Ray, 79 ['"wit" for "learning"].

Ounce of fortune is worth a pound of forecast, An. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Sagesse," An ounce of luck excels a pound of wit. 1732: Fuller, No. 657.

Ounce of good fortune is worth a pound of discretion, An. 1672: Walker, Param., 42.

Ounce of mirth is worth a pound of sorrow, An. 1619: B. Rich, Irish Hubbub, 4. A little mirth (they say) is worth a great deale of sorrow. 1734: Carey, Chronon., II. iv.

Ounce of mother-wit is worth a pound of clergy [learning], An. 1690: New Dict. Canting Crew, sig. C7. 1712: Addison, Spectator, No. 464, There is a saying among the Scotch, that an ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy. 1827: Hone, Table-Book, 285 ("learning" for "clergy"). 1880: A. Dobson, in Poet. Works, 444 (1923), This was, as Hamlet says, "a hit"; Clergy was posed by Mother-wit.

Ounce of prudence is worth a pound of gold, An. 1748: Smollett, Rod. Random, ch. xv.


Ounce of wit that's bought is worth a pound that's taught, An. 1732: Fuller, No. 6495. Cf. Wit (2) and (12).

Out at elbows. 1590: Nashe, Almond for a Parrot, 26 (1846), Your witte wilbe welyn worn thredbare, and your banquerout inuention cleane out at the elbows. 1685: S. Wesley, Maggots, To the Reader, Who knows but . . . my stockings happen to be a little out at elbows. 1700: Ward, London Spy, 163 (1924), They are one day very richely drest, and perhaps out at elbows the next. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, i. 129, "Hee's gitten his land out at elbows"; that is, his estate is
mortgaged 1875 Smiles, Thrift, 273
He [Steele] died out at elbows on his wife's little property in Wales.

Out face with a card of ten, To See 1847 quot Before 1529 Skelton, Bowge of Courte I 315, Fyrste yecke a quarrell, and fall oure with hym then, And soo out face hym with a card of ten c 1542 Branklow Complaynt, 45 (E.E.T.S.), Eyther he shal hane favor for his masters sake, or els bragg it out with a card of v 1594 Shakespeare Tam of Shrewes, II, Yet I have faced it with a card of ten 1633 Dux Grammaticus quoted in N & Q 5th ser v 165, I set very little or nought by him that cannot face out his ware with a card of ten 1847 Hallswell, Dic, s v Face 'Face A term at the game of Primero, to stand boldly upon a card. Whence came the phrase to face it with a card of ten, to face anything out by sheer impudence.

Out of debt grows rich, He that gets 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Acquiter" 1657 Gurnall Christian in Armour, Pt II v 15 ch v p 129 (1679)

Out of debt out of danger 1639 Clarke, 82, Out of debt and deadly danger 1667 Peachment, Worth of Penny, in Arber, Garner, vi 256 (1883) 1770 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs 132 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch xii

Out of debt out of deadly sin 1605 Camden, Remains, 330 (1870)

Out of door out of debt Somerset 1678 Ray, 354. Spoken of one that pays not when once gone.

Out of God's blessing into the warm sun = From better to worse 1540 Talesgrave, Acuastus, sig H3, To leape out of the halle into the kytchyn, or out of Chryst's blessyng in to a warme sone 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch v 1579 Lylly Euphues, 196 (Arber), Therefore if thou wilt follow my advice than shalt come out of a warme sone into Gods blessing 1593 G Harvey, in Works, u 207 (Grosart), What reason hath Zeale to fly from Gods blessing into a warm sone c 1605 Shakespeare, Lear, II u [The editor of the "Temple" Shake-

Outface notes on this passage "Prof Skeat suggests to me that the proverb refers to the haste of the congregation to leave the shelter of the church, immediately after the priest's benediction, running from God's blessing into the warm sun. This explanation seems by far the best that has been suggested."
1642 Howell, Foreigne Travell, 37 (Arber) 1772 Motteuv, Quixole, Pt I bk iii ch iv [Motteux takes the saying to mean 'out of the fryng pan into the fire'—but the earlier quotations show clearly that this is wrong] 1846-59 Denham Tracts, i 77 (F.L.S.) [This gives the same misinterpretation as in the 1712 reference.]

Out of gunshot 1551 Robinson, tr Utopia, 26 (Arber), Beyng them selues in the meane season sauffe, and as sayeth the proverbe, out of all daunger of gomeshotte 1672 Walker, Param, 25. Out of reach of gunshot 1678 Ray, 249

Out of sight out of mind c 1270 Prov of Alfred, in Old Eng Miscell 134 (Morris, E.E.T.S.), For he that is ute bi-loken [shut out = absent] he is none some for-geten c 1320 in Relig Antiqua, v 114 (1341), "Fer from ey, fer from herte," Quoth Hendyng c 1366 Chaucer, Miller's Tale, I 106, Ful sooth is this proverbe, it is no lye, Men seyn right thus, "alway the nye slye Maketh the ferre leve to be looth." 1546 Heywood Proverbs, Pt I ch ii c 1590 Marr of Wit and Science, V i 1697 Vanbrugh Esoy, I i 1711 Spectator, No 77 1791 Boswell, Letters, u 434 (Tinker) 1863 Kingsley, Water Babies, ch i Cf Eye (19), Long absent, and Seldom seen.

Out of the North an ill comes forth 1649 in Harl Miscell, u v 299 (1746) [quoted as "the old saying"]

Out of the wood, Don't shout till you are [by m'ry] Ct leger vel verumtaur 1573 —Sophocles, in Cicero, ad Att. iv 8 ai] 1792 D'Arblay, Diary, u u 473 (1876), Mr Windham says we are not yet out of the wood, though we see the path through it 1840 Barham, Ing Legends, 1st ser "Spectre of Tappington, There is a rustic
adage, which warns us against self-gratulation before we are quite "out of the wood." 1897: W. E Norris, Clarissa Furiosa, ch. xiii., I should have told you so before this, only it was better not to shout until we were out of the wood. 1909: De Morgan, Never can happen: Again, ch. xxviii., Marianne is greatly relieved. But we must not halloa before we are out of the wood.


Outrun the constable, To. The quotations show the progress from a literal meaning of the phrase to the now current one — to run into debt. 1600: Kemp, Nine Dales Wonder, 15. I far’d like one that had... tride the use of his legs to out-run the constable. 1635: in Somers Tracts, vii. 204 (1811). If the gentleman be predominant, his running nagge will outrun the constable. 1694: Terence made English, 241. But we shou’dn’t have out-run the constable as the saying is. 1748: Smollett, Rod. Random, ch. xxiii., "How far have you over-run the constable?" I told him that the debt amounted to eleven pounds. 1843: Planche, Extravag., ii. 197 (1879), Light (whispering). Outrun the constable; lived fast, you know.

Outshoot a man in his own bow, To. 1605: Bacon, Adv. of Learning, II. xxiii. 88 b (O.), I doubt not but learned men with meane experience, woulde... outshoothe them in their owne bowe. 1639: Fuller, Holy War, bk. iv. ch. vi., Let us see if the Greek church may not outshoot her in her own bow. 1670: Ray, 188. 1732: Fuller, No. 5212. Oven. I. He (or she) that has been in the oven knows where to look for son, daughter, etc. This was a very common 16th- and 17th-century saying, and was most frequently said of mother and daughter. 1520: W. de Worde, Seven Wise Masters, 40 (Gomme, 1885). But it appereth by a comyn prouerbe, he yf is defectyve or culpable hymselne in a synne, he iugeth every man to be in the same, or elles yf fader soughte neuer his sone in ye oven: but yf he had bin therin hymselfe. 1583: Greene, Works, ii. 16 (Grosart). They seeke others, where they have been hidde them selues. 1596: Nashe, Works, iii. 191 (Grosart), That meazild inuention of the good-wife my mothers finding her daughter in the oven, where she would neuer have sought her, if she had not been there first her selfe: (a hackney prouerbe in mens mouths euer since K. Lud was a little boy).

1605: Camden, Remains, 329 (1870). No woman seeks another in the oven which hath not before been there. 1678: Dryden, Limberham, III. ii. [an allusion to the saying in a passage too long to quote]. 1740: North, Lives of Norths, i. 146 (Bohn), For he, as they say, had been in the oven himself, and knew where to look for the pasty. 1785: Grose, Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue, s.v. "Oven," The old woman would never have looked for her daughter in the oven, had she not been there herself. 1854: Baker, Northants Gloss., s.v. "Oven," [as in 1785, plus] This proverb... is still in common use.

2. It is time to set in when the oven comes to the dough. 1678: Ray, 186. 1714: Ozell, Molière, iv. 206, Ho, ho! a coming girl! truly—It's time, etc. 1732: Fuller, No. 3020 ["bread" for "dough"].

3. Like stopping an oven with butter. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 91. See also Christmas (18).

Over, Cheshire. See quot. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 57. For honours great and profits small Thé Mayor of Over beats them all. See also Altringham.

Over head and ears. [Ire praeceptum in lutum, per caputque pedesque.—Catullus, xvii. 9.] c. 1565: Still, Gam. Gurton, I. iii., And Gyb, our cat, in the milke pan she spied over head and
eares 1630 Wine Beere, Ale etc 36 (Hanford, 1915), Over head and eares in ale 1679 Crowne, Ambitious Statesman IV u Must plunge his soul O'er head and ears betimes in wickedness 1681 Robertson, Pharsel Generalis 434, He is in debt over head and ears 1738 Swift, Polite Convers Dial I, Over head and ears in love with some lady 1831 Peacock, Crotchlet Castle, ch xvi, The plunge [into love] must have been very sudden, if you are already over head and ears 1889 Gilbert, Gondoliers, II, I am over head and ears in love with somebody else Cf Over shoes

Over-niceness may be under-niceness 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, vi 213 (1785)

Oversee workmen, Not to, is to leave them your purse open 1732 Fuller, No 3685 1736 Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i 446 (Bigelow)

Over shoes, over boots 1616 Breton in Works, ii e 6 (Grosart) 1616 Sharpham, Cupid's Whirligig, II, Over-shoes, over-boots now goe deeper even 1726 L Welsted, Dissentid Wanton, IV i, Hol hol since she has heard of me, I'll over shoes over boots 1740 North, Examen, 218, The faction was engaged, over shoes, over boots, and must flounce through 1824 Scott, Redgauntlet, Lelt XIII, Never mind the Court of the Gentiles, man we will have you into the Sanctuary at once over shoes, over-boots Cf Overhead and ears

Overtakes at last who tires not, He 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v Overtake "Over the coals, To fetch (or haul) = To rebuke 1580 The Bee Hive of the Romish Church wherein the Catholike Religion is substantially confirmed, and the Heretikes finely fetch d over the coales [title] 1639 Fuller Holy War, bk v ch u, If they should say the Templars were burned wrongfully, they may be fetched over the coals themselves for charging his Holinesse so deeply 1691 Merry Drollery, 228 (Ebsworth) 1818 Byron, Beppo, st iv, They'd haul you over the coals 1825 Brockett, Gloss of N-Country Words, 43, To call over the coals, is to give a severe reprimand Supposed to refer to the ordeal by fire 1834 Marryat P Simple, ch vii, The captain had been hauling him over the coals for not carrying on the duty according to his satisfaction

Over the fire-stones S Devon te to prison 1869 Hazlitt, 312

Over the shoulder, or Over the left shoulder 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Espa,' Over the shoulder, or the wrong way 1659 Howell, 17, I have gott it ore the left shoulder 1670 Ray, 177, To get over the shoulders 1861 Robertson, Pharsel Generalis, 655, He gains over the left shoulder, re his gain is mischief c 1750 in Peck, Desid Curiosa 233 (1777), The face of Bacchus as I have been informed, is very like a certain, quodnam dean for whom Verrio [the painter of the Bacchus] they say, had a respect over the left shoulder 1841 Harshorne, Salopia Ant., 525 Over the left a metaphor by which one who speaks by figure is reproved 'Ah that's over the left 1889 Peacock Manley, etc, Gloss, 384 (E.D.S), Over the left In debt

Ovington-Edge See quout 1846-59 Denham Tracts 1 85 (F.L.S), Ovington Edge and Cockfield Tell Are the coldest spots twixt Heaven and Hell Ovington is a village near Greta Bridge, in Yorkshire Cockfield is near Stanhope in the bishoprick of Durham They are both lofty and extremely exposed places

Owe, verb 1 He that owes nothing, if he makes not mouths at us, is courteous 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 2 He who oweth is in all, [?] all in the wrong 1732 Fuller, No 2398 3 I owe God a death 1597 Shakespeare, 1 Henry IV, V i, Why, thou owest God a death 1655 Heywood and W Rowley, Fortune by Land and Sea, I i, He owed a death and he hath payed that debt 1681 Robertson, Pharsel Generalis, 569

Owl and Owls 1 An owl is the king of the night 1633 Draxe, 69 1639 Clarke, r
2. He lives too close to the wood to be frightened by owls. 1664: "Cornish Proverbs," in N. & Q., 3rd ser., vi. 494. 1683: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 589. 1686: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 549 (E.D.S.), Another very common saying now become literary is ... I live too near the wood to be frightened by an owl.


7. *The owl was a baker’s daughter*. 1602: Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, IV. v., They say the, etc.

8. *They have need of a bird, that will give a greater for an owl*. c. 1685: in *Roxb. Ballads*, iv. 72 (B.S.).

9. To bring owls to Athens—"Coals to Newcastle." [γλάσκετα ἄφθαρε.—Aristophanes, *Av.*, 301.] 1583: Melancbeke, *Philotimus*, sig. L3, Thy exhor- tation ... is as if thou shouldst bring owles to Athens 1591: Harington, *Ori. Furioso*, bk. xl. st. 1, To beare pots (as they say) to Samos Ile. ... Or owls to Athens, crocodiles to Nyle. 1600: F. Thynne, *Embl and Epigr.*, 3 (E.E.T.S.), Therfore in vaine for mee to bring owles to Athens, or add water to the large sea of your rare learning.


See also Ass (3); Drunk; Grave; and Poor (12).


Ox and Oxen. 1. A lazy ox is little better for the goad. 1732: Fuller, No. 236.


4. An old ox will find a shelter for himself. Ibid., No. 651.

5. An ox is taken by the horns, and a man by the tongue. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Homme," An ox is bound by the horn, a man by his word. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Span.-Eng.*, 5, Take a bull by the horn, and a man by his word.


4 Oysters 1732 Fuller, No 5238
To swallow an ox and be choked with the last 1659 Howell, 6 1670 Ray, 194 1732 Fuller, No 5238
Where shall the ox go but he must labour 1631 Mabb, Celestina, 78 (T.T.), Which way shall the ox go, but he must needs plough 1670 Ray, 20 1732 Fuller, No 5657
See also Black (24), Build (1), Lamb (2), Plough, subs (5), verb (8) and (9), St Jude, and Sow, subs (3), verb (7)
1 Oxford for learning, London for wit, Hull for women, and York for all 1859 Hazlitt, 312
3 Send farthingales (fardingales) to Broad-gates, Oxford 1562 Heywood Epigr., 5th hund., No 55 Alas poore verdimagas must he in the streete To house them, no doore the cate made mette Syns at our narow doores they in can not win Send them to Oxford, at Brodgates to get in 1662 Fuller, Worthies, iii 7 (1840) 1790 Grose, Prov. Gloss, s.v. "Oxfordshire." 1834 W Toone, Gloss, s.v. "Fardingale." They [fardingales, c. 1600] were so preposterously large, as to give rise to a proverb—"send farthingales to Broad-gates (in Oxford)," for the wearners could not enter an ordinary sized door-way except sideways
4 Testons are gone to Oxford, to study in Brazen-nose 1562 Heywood, Epigr., 5th hund., No 63 1662 Fuller Worthies, iii 6 (1640). Thus proverb began about the end of the reign of King Henry the Eighh, and happily ended about the middle of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. [A teston—a shilling of Henry VIII.] 1790 Grose, Prov. Gloss, s.v. "Oxfordshire," 1823 D’Israel, Cur. of Lit., 2nd ser., i 462 (1824)
5 When Oxford scholars fall to fight See quot 1662 Fuller, Worthies, iii 8 (1840) Mark the chronicles angh When Oxford scholars fall to fight Before many months expir’d England will with war be fir’d 1790 Grose, Prov. Gloss, s.v. "Oxfordshire"
Oyster 1 He opens an oyster with a dagger 1732 Fuller, No 7001 cf. Northamton (2)
2 Oysters are a cruel meat See quot 1611 Tarlons jests, 6 (Sh 5). They [oysters] are ungody, because they are eaten without grace, uncharitable, because they leave nought but shells, and unprofitable, because they must swim in wine 1783 Swift, Polite Convers., Dial II. They say, oysters are a cruel meat, because we eat them alive. Then they are an uncharitable meat, for we leave nothing to the poor, and they are an ungody meat, because we never say grace.
3 Oysters are not good in the month that has not an R in it 1599 Buttes. Dyets Dry Dinner, sig N. The oyster is unseasonable and vnholesome in all moneths that have not the letter R in their name 1600 W Vaughan, Directions for Health, 22, Oysters must not bee eaten in those moneths, which in pronouncing wante the letter R 1655 T Muffett, Healths Im provement, 46, Oisters in all months in whose name eu. R is found 1733 Ray, 273, Oysters are not good in a month that hath not an R in it 1868 Quart Review, cvxv 251, What epique would act in contravention of the adage that "Oysters [as in 1737]?"
4 Oysters would be profitable food if the servants could eat the orts (shells) 1683 Burne, Shropsh. Folk Lore, 590.
5 The oyster is a gentle thing, and will not come unless you sing 1869 Hazlitt, 381
See also Apple (5), and St. James (3)
P's and Q's. To mind one's. 1602: Dekker, Syllo-gnastix, in Works, i. 211, (1873). For now thou art in thy Pee and Kue. 1612: Rowlands, Knave of Hearts, 20 (Hunt. Cl.), Bring in a quart of Maligo right true: And looke, you rogue, that it be Pee and Kew. 1779: Mrs. Cowley, Who's the Dupe?, I. ii., You must mind your P's and your Q's with him, I can tell you. 1807: Mrs Piozzi, in Hayward Autobiog., etc., of Mrs Piozzi, ii. 253 (2nd ed.), I used to tell the borough folks who kept our books, they must mind their p's and q's. 1825: Brockett, Gloss. of N. Country Words, 167, P's and Q's . . . perhaps from a French injunction to make proper obeisances, "Soyez attentifs a vos pier et vos cues." 1842: Barham, Ing. Legends, 2nd ser.: "Lay of St. Aloys." 1885: Piner, Magistrate, I. 1909: De Morgan, Never can happen Again, ch. xxxii., And then the Rector had to mind his p's and q's. For he hadn't so much as thought of the text he should preach on.

Paced like an alderman, He is. 1583: Mel bancce, Philotinus, sig. I4, Vsing an aldermans pace before he can wel gange. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Abbé," Alderman's pace, a leisurely walking, slow gate. 1630: Clarke, 32. 1685: S. Wesley, Maggots, i, And struts . . . as goodly as any alderman. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Alderman," To walk an Aldermans pace

Pad in the straw, A. 1530: Palsgrave, 595, There is a padde in the strawe. 1575: Still, Gam. Curton, V. ii., Ye perceive by this lingering there is a pad in the straw. 1616: Haughton, Englishm. for my Money, V. ii., Yet take heed, wench, there lies a pad in straw. 1650: Fuller, Pisgah Sight, bk. iii. ch iv. § 8, Latet angius in herba, "there is a pad in the straw." 1737: Ray, 61. 1847: Halliwell, Dict., s.v. A pad in the straw, something wrong, a screw loose. . . . Still in use.

Paddington Fair. See quot. 1690: New Dict Cantaing Crew, sig. I2, Paddington Fair, an execution of malefactors at Tyburn. 1793: Grose, Olio, 232 (2nd ed.), Of those advent'rous youths, who make their exit At fair of Paddington. 1898: Weyman, Shrewsbur, ch. xlii., Send her packing, and see she takes naught of mine, not a pinner or a sleeve, or she goes to Paddington fair for it!


Padstow Point. See quot. 1870: Hawker, Footprints of Former Men, 213, From Padstow Point to Lundy Light, Is a watery grave by day or night. 1897: Norway, H. and B. in Devon, etc., 342 ['"Hartland" for "Lundy"].

Padwell. See quot. 1851. Sternberg, Dialect, etc., of Northants, 190, If we can Padwell overgoe, and Horestone we can see, Then Lords of England we shall be.

Page of your own age, Make a = Do it yourself. 1633: Draxe, 30, Let him make a page of his age. 1670: Ray, 189. 1738: Swift, Polie Convers., Dial. I.


Pain past is pleasure. 1567: G. Fenton, Bandello, i. 4 (T.T.). The remembrance of the paine that is past is sweete. 1732: Fuller, No. 3838. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. v., Pain past is pleasure, and experience comes by it.
Pains are the wages of ill pleasures
1732 Fuller, No 3839

Pains be a pleasure to you, If, profit will follow Ibid, No 2699

Pains is the price that God putteth upon all things 1659 Howell, 19

Pains to get, care to keep, fear to lose 1633 Draxe, 181. There is pain in getting, care in keeping, and grief in losing riches 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1703 Murphy, Citizen, I ii

Painted pictures are dead speakers 1616 Breton, in Works ii 5 (Grosart) 1670 Ray, 131

Painted sheath See Leaden sword

Painters and Poets may lie by authority 1591 Harington Apol of Poetrie, par 3 According to that old verse Astronomers, painters, and poets may lie by authority 1618 Harington, Epigrams, bk 11 No 88, Besides, we poets lie by good authority 1650 R. Heath, Epigrams 35. Poets and painters by authority As well as travellers we say may lie 1681 Robertson, Phraseol Generalis, 1003 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v ‘Poets,’ Poets and painters lye with license Cf Old, A (b) (14), and Traveller (1)

Painting and fighting, On, look aloof 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1670 Ray, 20

Pair of shears See Shears

Pains his pasture, It = It does credit to its food Said of a child 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs 80

Pale as ashes c 1385 Chaucer, Leg Good Women, ix 1 88, Deed wex her hewe, and lyk as ash to sene c 1386 Chaucer, Knight’s Tale, I 506. His hewe salow, and pale as ashen cole c 1477 Caxton, Jason, 156 (E ETS). He after became pale and dode as ashes c 1490 Parliamope I 10166 (E ETS) 1507 Merry Tales, etc No 48 p 64 (Hazlitt) 1607 Conceits of Old Hobson, 30 (Percy S) As pale as ashes for feare 1758-67 Sterne, Trist Shandy, iv ch xix, Seeing her turn as pale as ashes at the very mention of it 1817 Byron, Letters, etc, iv 51 (Prothero) 1870 Dickens Drood, ch v, He was still as pale as gentlemanly ashes at what had taken place in his rooms

Pale as clay c 1600 in Collier, Roxb Ballads 328 (1847). His face was pale as any clay 1823 Scott, Rokety, V xxxiv, He looks pale as clay 1839 R L S, Letters, v 11 (Tusitala ed) He was as pale as clay, and walked leaning on a stick

Pale as death 1567 Painter, Pal of Pleasure, iii 9 (Jacobs), The colour whereof is more pale than death 1602 Chettle, Hoffman, I 1, Desert looks pale as death 1700 T Brown, etc Scarron, i 214 (1892), He gave a great shriek, turned pale as death 1751 Fielding Amelia, bk vi ch 1 1815 Scott, Mannering, ch xxxv, Lucy turned as pale as death 1886 Hardy, Casterbridge, ch xxxiv, ‘Tis me!’ she said, with a face pale as death

Palm Sunday See quot 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 33 (Percy S), He that hath not a palm in his hand on Palm Sunday must have his hand cut off 1904 Co Folk-Lore Northumb, 176 (F L S)

Pancake Tuesday See Shrove-tide

Pancridge parson, A 1612 Field, Woman a Weathercock, II, Thou Pan-cridge parson I 1847 Halliwell, Dict, s v, a term of contempt

Pardon See Old, D (g)

Pant of sheep See Stand (7)

Pap before the child be born, Boil not the 1732 Fuller, No 1002

Pap with a hatchet 1589 Pap with a Hatchet [title of pamphlet] 1729 Urley, Pills, iv 329 (O), A custard was to him pap with a hatchet 1847 Halliwell, Dict, s v "To give pap with a hatchet, a proverbial phrase, meaning to do any kind action in an unhawk manner

Paradise, He that will enter into, must have a good key 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1670 Ray, 20 1732 Fuller, No 2347 ["come with a right key"]

Pardon all but thyself 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Pardonner" 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum
Parings of a pippin are better than a whole crab, The. 1732: Fuller, No. 4701. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. v.

Parings of his nails, He'll not lose the = He is a miser. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi., She will not part with the parying of his nails. c 1598: Deloney, Gentle Craft, Pt. II. ch. i., Such penny fathers and pinch-fisters, that will not part, etc. 1631: Mabbe, Celestina, 212 (T.T.), She will not part with anything, no, not so much as the parings of her nails. 1681: Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 843. 1894: Northall, Folk Phrases, 15 (E.D.S.), He would not give anyone the parings of his nails.

Parkgate, All on one side like. 1886: R. Holland, Cheshire Gloss., 444 (E.D.S.). 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 9. ... Parkgate consists of a row of houses facing the Dee.

Parrot must have an almon, The. This expression was proverbial in the 16th and 17th centuries, but its meaning is not apparent. Before 1529: Skelton, in Works, ii. 2 (Dyce), Then Parrot must have an almon or a date. 1590: Nashe, Almond for a Parrot [title]. 1609: Shakespeare, Troilus, V. ii., The parrot will not do more for an almon than he for a commodious drab. 1616: Haughton, English, for my Money, IV. ii., An almond for parrot! a rope for parrot! 1632: Jonson, Magnetic Lady, V. v., Almond for parrot. 1635: Taylor (Water-Poet), A Bawd, 25, in Works, 3rd coll. (Spens. S.), Shee knowes a bribe to a catchpole is as sufficient as an almon for a parrot.

Parrot. See also Melancholy.

Parsley. 1. Parsley fried will bring a man to his saddle, and a woman to her grave. This seems a meaningless saying. 1678: Ray, 345. 1884: Friend, Flowers and Fl. Lore, 209

2. Parsley must be sown nine times. See quotes. 1658: R. Barnsley, in Wit Restored, 152 (Hotten), Or else the weed, which still before it's born Nine times the devil sees. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 248, Parsley must be sown nine times, for the devil takes all but the last. 1885: N. & Q., 6th ser., xi. 467, There is a saying in the North Riding of Yorkshire that "parsley seed (when it has been sown) goes nine times to the devil," a phrase which seems to have originated in the fact that it remains some time in the earth before it begins to germinate.

3 The baby comes out of the parsely-bed. 1640: R. Brome, Antipodes, I. iv., For I am past a child My selfe to thinke they are found in parsely beds. 1659: London Chantiereers, sc. ii., My mother indeed used to say that I was born to be a gardener's wife, as soon as ever I was taken out of her parsely bed. c. 1730: Swift, Receipt for Stewing Veal, Some sprigs of that bed Where children are bred. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 249, We have the common English saying that the baby, etc. 1886: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 557 (E.D.S.), Parsley-bed ... the source whence children are told that the little girls come. 1918: N. & Q., 12th ser., iv. 256.

See also Mistress (4).

Parson gets the children, The. 1663: Killigrew, Parson's Wedding, II. iii. [quoted as a proverb].

Parson of Saddlewick. See Saddlewick.

Parson Palmer. See 1785 quot. 1682: A. Behn, Roundheads, IV. iii., Bread, my Lord, no preaching o'er yer liquor. 1709: O. Dykes, Eng. Proverbs, 295 (2nd ed.), Dangerous to preach over your liquor. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II., Ld. Smart [interrupting]. Pray, Sir John, did you ever hear of parson Palmer? Sir John. No, my Lord; what of him? Ld. Smart. Why, he used to preach over his liquor. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Liquor," To preach over ones liquor. 1785: Grose, Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue, s.v. "Parson Palmer," Parson Palmer, a jocular name or term of reproach, to one who stops the circulation of the glass by preaching over his liquor, as it is said was done by a parson of that name, whose cellar was under his pulpit.
Parson's cow with a calf at her foot,
To come home like the Cheshire 1670
Ray, 209 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Pro-
verbs, 131

Parson's side, To punch on the
1579 Lyly, Euphuues, 87 (Arber),
Lucilla perceiving the drift of the olde
foxe hir father shaped him an
aunswere which punched Phlausius
on the persons syde c 1580
Fulwell, Ars Adulandi, sig H1, Finch
on the parson's side, my lorde
the whorsons have to much 1630 T
Adams Works, 77, This is a common
slander, when the
coetous wretch
purcheth on the priest's side 1690
New Dict Canting Crew To punch on
the parson's side, or sharp him of his
lives 1737 Ray 268
Parson's are souls' waggoners 1640
Herbert, Jus Prudentum

Parsons pay for the clerks 1612
Combe, Syntax Pict Tour, can 44,
And there's a proverb, as they say,
That for the clerks the parsons pay

Part three things, To See quot
1659 Howell, 17, It is pitie to part
three things—the lawyer and his client,
the physician and his patient, and
a pot of good ale and a toast

Partridge 1 If the partridge had
the woodcock's thigh, 'twould be
the best bird that ever did fly 1670 Ray,
44 1732 Fuller, No 6400 1854
Doran, Table Traits, 176, [with the
addition] If the woodcock had but the
partridge's breast, 'twould be
the best bird that ever was dress'd 1888
S O Addy, Sheffield Gloss, 255 (E D S,)
If a partridge had but a woodcock's
thigh [thigh] Twere the finest bird that
ever did see

2 If you had not aimed at the par-
trage, you had not missed the snipe
1840-59 Denham Tracts, 11 108
(FLS)

See also Plump

Pass the pikes, To = To get out of
danger 1567 G Fenton, Bandello,
1 239 (T T), Hee wolde graunte him
dispence and saffe conduit to passe
through the pikes of his unfortunate
dangers 1581 Pettie tr Guazzo's
Civil Conters, Pref, Having alreadie

past the pikes in a dangerour con-
flict, without wound of honor 1626
Breton in Works, 1 v6 (Grosart), To
passe the pikes of Danger's deadly
smart 1682 A Behn, Roundheads,
V 1v, With much ado I have
passe'd the pikes, my house being sur-
rounded 1690 New Dict Canting
Crew, sig I5 1785 Cowper, Let to
Lady Hesketh, 30 Nov (O), So far,
therefore, have I passed the pikes
The Monthly Critics have not yet
noticed me

Passion entereth at the fore-gate,
wisdom goeth out of the postern, When.
1732 Fuller No 5564

Passion will master you, if you do
not master your passion 1831 Hone,
Year-Book, col 1417

Passionate men See quotes 1692
Sir T P Blount, Essays, 141, 'Twas the
usual saying of a very ingenuous person
that passionate men, Like Yorkshire
hounds, are apt to overrun the scent
1732 Fuller, No 283 A man in
passion rides a horse that runs away
with him 1830 Spurgeon, Plough-
man's Pictures, 143 [as in 1732]

Past cure past care 1593 Greene,
Works, u 154 (Grosart), Remember the
olde proverbe past cure, past care
without remedie, without remembrance.
1593 Shakespeare, L L L, V u
1625 B & F, Double Marriage, 1 1.
But what is past my help is past my
care

Past dying of her first child, She is=
She hath had a bastard 1678 Ray,
240

Past labour is pleasant 1539
Taverner, Proverbs, fo 34, Labours
ones [once] done be sweete 1732
Fuller, No 3845

Paston Family 1678 Ray, 327.
There never was a Paston poor, a
Heyden a coward, nor a Cornwallis a
fool 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s
Norfolk'

Pastor Sunday See Whitsuntide (3)

Patch and long sit, build and soon
fit 1670 Ray, 21

Patch by patch See quot 1639
in Berkeley MSS, u 33 (1885), Patch
by patch is yeomany but patch upon
patch is beggerly. 1670: Ray, 129, Patch by patch is good husbandry, but patch upon patch is plain beggery.

1732: Fuller, No. 6181 [as in 1670, but "housewifery" for "husbandry"]. 1909: Folk-Lore, xx. 73, [Durham saying] Patch neighbourly, patch on patch beggarly.

Paternoster. 1. A man may say even his Pater-noster out of time. 1732: Fuller, No. 299.

2. A paternoster while = A little while, a time in which one might say a Paternoster. 1362: Langland, Plowman, A, v. 192, In a paternoster-while. 1536: Latimer, Sermons, 37 (P.S.), Though it be but a Pater-noster while. 1584: R. Scot, Witchcraft, To Readers, And yet they last not Pater noster while the longer. 1888: R. L. S., Black Arrow, Prol., And think ever a paternoster-while on Bennet Hatch.

3. He may be in my Pater-noster, but never in my Creed. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ix., He maie be in my Pater noster in deede, But be sure, he shall never come in my Creed.

c. 1590: in Roxb. Ballads, iii. 92 (B.S.).
c. 1594: Bacon, Promus, No. 270. 1659: Howell, 5.

4. Paternoster built churches, and Our Father pulls them down. 1630: T. Adams, in Works, 16. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, i. 44 (1840). There is a generation of people who, to prevent the verifying of the old proverb, "Pater noster built churches, and Our Father plucks them down," endeavour to pluck down both churches and our Father together, neglecting, yea despising the use both of the one and the other. 1670: Ray, 70. 1732: Fuller, No. 3851.


Patience. 1. He preacheth patience that never knew pain. 1855: Bohn, 381.


3. He that hath patience, hath fat thrushes for a farthing. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.


5. Patience carries with it half a release. 1642: D. Rogers, Matrim. Honour, 196.

6. Patience conquers. c. 1374: Chaucer, Troylus, bk. iv. l. 1584, Men seyn, "the suffraunet overcometh" pardee. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), Sc. of Folly, 46, in Works, ii. (Grosart), Who suffers o'recomes. 1639: Clarke, 242, Patient men win the day.

7. Patience is a flower that grows not in every garden. 1645: Howell, Letters, bk. i. § vi. No. 58. 1694: D'Urfey, Quixote, Pt. I. Act I. sc. i. 1732: Fuller, No. 3854, Patience grows not in every garden. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. v., It is not every garden that grows the herbs to make it [patience] with.

8. Patience is a good nag, but she'll bolt. 1875: Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 121.

9. Patience is a plaister for all sores. c. 1390: Gower, Conf. Amantis, bk. iii. l. 614, And tak into thi remembrance If thou mih't gete pacience. Which is the leche of alle offence, As tellen ons these olde wise. c. 1393: Langland, Plowman, C, xx. 89, And yet be plastered with pacience. 1560: Wilson, Rhetorique, 206 (1899), Pacience is a remedy for every disease. 1605: Breton, in Works, ii. m 4 (Grosart) ["paine" for "sores"]. 1694: D'Urfey, Quixote, Pt. II. Act I. sc. i. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 9, Payshunce is a plaister for o maks o' sores.

10. Patience is a virtue. 1377: Langland, Plowman, B, xi. 370, Suffraunce is a souereigne vertue. c. 1386, Chaucer, C. Tales, F, 773 (Skeat): Patience is an heigh vertu, certéyn. 1599: Breton, in Works, ii. c v (Grosart).

1614: R. Tailor, Hog hath lost his Pearl, V. 1706: Vanbrugh, Confederacy, III. ii. 1729: Gay, Polly, I. 1798:
Morton, *Speed the Plough*, IV in., There is a point when patience ceases to be virtue 1681 Byron, *Letters*, etc., v 287 (Prothero)

11 Patience is the best remedy 1578 Florio, *First Fruits*, fo 44. Patience is the best medicine that is, for a sick man 1761 Colman, *Jealous Wife*, IV 1 Cf No remedy

12 Patience, money, and time, bring all things to pass 1640 Herbert, *Jae Prudentium*, Patience time and money accommodate all things 1732 Fuller, No 3858


14 Patience with poverty is all a poor man's remedy 1639 Clarke, 15 1656 Tiecknoe, *Diurnal*, 6, Patience, virtue of the poor 1670 Ray, 130 1732 Fuller, No 6361 [omitting all"

See also Nature, Tune, and No remedy

Patient, and you shall have patient children, Be 1678 Ray, 346

Patient is not like to recover who makes the doctor his heir, That 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Fr.-Eng.*, 11 He is a fool that makes his physician his heir 1732 Fuller, No 4368

Paul, a village on the Humber See 1878 *Folk-Lore Record*, 1 167, High Paul, and low Paul, and Paul Holme, There never was a fair maid married at Pauli town

Paul's, Old a.s. 1662 in *Roxb. Ballads*, 1577 (B.S.) I can call 'um pretty souls, though they be as old as Pauls

1667 L'Estrange, *Quevedo's Vision* 184 (1604), Let her be as old as Paul's 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I 1752 Fielding, *Cov Garden Journal* No 28, And told me that my secret was not only a lye, but as old as Paul's 1888 Lowesley, *Berk's Gloss*, 124 (EDS), The expression as "awid as St Paul's" is used to denote great antiquity

Paul's steeple, Old as 1659 Howell, *Proverbs, Ded., Some of them may be said to be as old as Paul's steeple* 1670 Ray, 242 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*., s.v. "London"

Paul's will not always stand 1593 G Harvey, in *Works*, 1 297 (Grosart), Powles steeple, and a hugyter thing is done 1659 Howell, *Proverbs, Ded.*, A very ancient proverb viz. Paul's cannot always stand 1670 Ray, 130 1732 Fuller, No 3861

Paul's See also Westminster

Paves the meadow, He 1813 Ray, 75

Pay, verb 1 He pays him with pen powder 1639 Clarke, 58
2 He that cannot pay let him pray 1611 Cotgrave, s.v. "Argent" 1670 Ray, 130 1732 Fuller, No 6362
3 He that payeth another remembereth himself 1bid., No 2247
4 He that payeth beforehand shall have his work ill done 1591 Florio, *Second Fruits*, 39, He that payeth afore hand, hath never his works well done 1611 Cotgrave, s.v. "Bras", lames his worke, or, hath it but lamely done 1732 Fuller, No 2245
5 He that pays last never pays twice 1659 Howell, 4, Who payeth last, payeth but once 1670 Ray, 130 1732 Fuller, No 2246
6 It is hard to pay and pray too 1631 F. Lenton *Characters*, sig D11 (1663). In his trade above all others you must both pray and pay 1642 D. Rogers, *Matrim Honour*, 53, And now I adde, pray for it, pay and pray too 1725 Defoe, *Everybody's Business* Nor would I be so unchristian to put more upon any one than they can bear, but to pray and pay too is the devil 1732 Fuller, No 2951
7. Pay what you owe, And what you're worth you'll know. Ibid., No. 6362.
8. Pay with the same dish you borrow. 1639: Clarke, 14.
9. To pay it with thinking. Say, verb (9).
10. To pay one in his own coin. 1589: Greene, Works, vii. 133 (Grosart), Glad that he had given hir a soppe of the same sauce, and paid hir his debt in hir owne coine. 1612: Chapman, Widow's Tears, II. iii., I did but pay him in's own coin. 1687: A. Behn, Lucky Chance, I. ii., I would make use of Sir Cautious's cash: pay him in his own coin. 1748: Richardson, Clarissisa, i. 71 (1785), They had best take care he did not pay them in their own coin. 1821: Byron, Blues, Ecl. i. 132, Or he'll pay you back in your own coin. 1851: Borrow, Lavengro, iii. 355, If you attempt to lay hands on me, I'll try to pay you in your own coin.
11. To pay the debt to Nature. See Debt (5).
12. To pay the piper. 1638: J. Taylor (Water-Poet), Taylors Feast, 98, in Works, 3rd coll. (Spens. S.), Always those that dance must pay the musicke. 1695: Congreve, Love for Love, II. v., I warrant you, if he danced till doomsday, he thought I was to pay the piper. c. 1701: Pegge, Derbitisms, 15 (E.D.S.), "To pay the piper," to bear the expense. 1923: Evening Standard, 24 Feb., p. 3, col. 1, The old adage of "He who pays the piper can call the tune" has held good.
13. To pay the shot = To pay the reckoning or bill. 1519: Horman, Vulgaria, fo. 165, He loueth well to be at good fare but he wyll pay no scottie. c. 1534: Berners, Huon, 704 (E.E.T.S.). Yf it may please you to let me eat and drynke with you I wyll pay for my scot ["shotte" in 1601 ed.]. 1587: Churchyard, Worth. of Wales, 15 (Spens. S.), The shot is great, when each man pays his groate. 1607: Dekker and Webster, Northw. Hoe, II. i., Did thy father pay the shot? 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Escorter," Every one to pay his shot, or to contribute somewhat towards it. 1842: in Crawhall, Fishers Garlands, 109 (1864), Yet still while I have got Enough to pay the shot Of Boniface . . . 1907: Hackwood, Old Eng. Sports, 222, The customers called, for their ale . . . and . . . expected the losers "to pay the shot."
14. You pay more for your schooling than your learning is worth. 1639: Clarke, 59. 1732: Fuller, No. 5955.
15. To sow peas and beans in the wane of the moon, Who soweth them sooner, he soweth too soon. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 42 (Percy S.).
16. The smaller the peas. See quotes. 15th cent.: in Relig. Antiqua, ii. 40 (1843), Tho smallere pese theo mo to the pott; Tho fayrere woman the more gyglott: 1541: Sch. House of Women, I. 558, in Hazlitt, Early Pop. Poetry, iv. 126, The smaller pease, the mo to the pot, The fairer woman the more gilott.
17. To give a pea for a bean = To give a present with an eye to future return. Stuffs. 1866: Folk-Lore, vii. 377.
19. See also Candlemas, B; St. Benedict; and St. David (1).
Peach

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Pede4ar

Pride and Pride in the end is it that brings in penury 1659 Howell, 19, Through peace cometh plenty

3 'Tis safest making peace with sword in hand 1699 Farquhar, Love and a Bottle, V in

4 Where there is peace, God is 1740 Herbert, Jace Prudentium

Peach will have wine, and the fig water, The 1577 J Grange, Golden Aphrodites, sig E1 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 103

Peacock hath fair feathers but foul feet, The 1633 Draxe, 10

Peacock loudly bawls, When the, Soon we'll have both rain and squalls 1893 Inwards Weather Lore, 135

Peacock See also All's well, and Proud

Peak, To send a wife to the 1663 Pepys, Diary, 19 Jan My lord did presently pack his lady into the country in Derbyshire, near the Peake, which becomes a proverb at Court, to send a man's wife to the Devil's arse-a-Peake, when she veys him

Pear and Pears 1 After pear wine, or the priest 1588 Cogan, Haven of Health, 89 (1612), That saying which is commonly used, that peares without wine are poysen 1608 Harrington, Sch of Sarne, sig B3 Peares wanting wine, are poysen from the tree 1611 Cotgrave, s v " Poire," After a (cold) pear wine, or the priest 1666 TORRANO, Piazza Univ., 201, A pear must have wine after it, and a fig water

2 A pear must be eaten to the day, If you don't eat it then, throw it away 1686 N & Q. 7th ser, n 506

3 A pear year, A dear year 1855 N & Q. 1st ser, xu 260 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 5

4 Share not pears with your master, either in jest or in earnest 1611 Cotgrave, s v " Poire," He that eats pears with his lord picks none of the best 1732 Fuller, No 4117

See also Apple (7)

Pearl on your nail, Make a 1592 Nashe, Works, n 78 (Grosart), After a man hath turnd vp the bottom of the cup, to drop it on hys naile, and make a pearle with that is left 1678 Ray, 88 1732 Fuller, No 3311 1909 Hackwood Inns, Ales, etc., 165, The custom of turning upside down the cup, from which the drinker has quaffed the whole contents, to make a pearl, with the last drop left in the vessel, upon his thumb-nail Of Supernaculum

Pears before swine, To cast 1340 Aeuenbite, 152 (E.E.T.S.), Huerof zayl ous god ine his spele pet we ne prauwe na&t ourte precious stones to wore pe zuyn 1401 in Wright, Pol Poems, u 110 (Rolls Ser, 1861), And the precious perils ye strowen to hoggys e 1430 Lydgate, Minor Poems, 183 (Percy S.), Men shuld not put perles whight, To-for rude swyne 1550 R Crowley, Eprgr., in Works, 6 (E.E.T.S.), For before suche swyne no pearles maye be caste 1660 Day, It is of Gulls, III, To cast elocuence amongst a companie of stunctards is all one as if a man should scatter pearls amongst the hoggish animals eloped swine 1848 Dickens, Domby, ch xxm 1905 Shaw, How He Lied, etc., Introducing a fine woman to you is casting pearls before swine

Pearl See Pert

Pease-field, He is going into the = He is falling asleep 1678 Ray, 264

Pease-pottage and tawny Never made good medley 1659 Howell, 12

Peckham See All holiday

Peck of dirt See Eat (39)

Peck of malt See Kiln (2)

Peck of salt See Bushel (3)

Peck of troubles, A c 1535 in Archaeologia. xxv 97 (O), The said George told hym that Mr More was in a pecke of troubles 1569 Grafton, Chiron., i 235 (1869), You bring your selfe into such a pecke of troubles 1633 Draxe, 37 1785 O Keeffe, Beggar on Horseback, II iv, I dare say he's in a peck of troubles 1857 Hughes, Tom Brown, Pt I ch viii, A pretty peck of troubles you'll get into

Pedlar, A small pack becomes a small 1611 Cotgrave, s v " Mercier," The little pedler a little pack doth serve 1670 Ray, 143 1732 Fuller, No 409
Pedlar carry his own burden, Let every. 1650: Howell, 17. 1732: Fuller, No 3176.

Pedlar's mare. See quot. 1541: Coverdale, Christ. State Matrimony, sig. G2, It is no vntrue proverbe: She that taketh the pedlers mare must be fayne to haue the pedler himself also at the last.


Pedley. See also Candle (7); God help the fool; I was by; and Rope (5).

Peep. I see a knave. 1639: Clarke, t81.

Peeps through a hole may what will vex him, He who. 1710 Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 135.

Peewit. See Acre.

Peggy behind Margit, To ride. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 142, . . . To ride one behind the other.

Peg in, To put the=To give no more credit. "A peg of wood above the latch inside . . . effectually locked it." Ibid., 141.

Pelton. See quot. 1846–59: Denham Tracts, i. 112 (F. L.S.), They'd come back again like the pigs o' Pelton Ibid., i. 113, Thicker and ranker, like pigs o' Pelton.

Pen and ink is wit's plough. 1639: Clarke, 35. 1670: Ray, 130.

Pen and ink never blush. 1577: J. Grange, Golden Aphroditis, sig. K2, Better might you have done it with penne and ink, who (as the proverbe goeth) neuer blushest. Cf. Pens.

Penance. See quot. 1593: Tell-Trothes N. Yeares Gift, 10 (N. Sh. S.), The old saying is, that he which will no penance doe, must shonne the cause that belongs thereto.

Pence. See Penny.


Pendle, Ingleborough, and Penigent, Are the three highest hills between Scotland and Trent. 1586: Camden, Britannia, 43t, Ingleborough, Pendle and Penigent are, etc. 1622: Drayton, Polyol., xxviii., That Ingleborough hill, Pendle, and Penigent, Should named be the high'st betwixt our Tweed and Trent. 1653: Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83–7 (1667). 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s v. "Yorks," [as in heading, with variant] Pendle, Penigent, and Ingleborough Are the three highest hills all England thorough. 1878: Folk-Lore Record, i. 167 [as in 1790].

Penniless bench, On. 1560–1: in W. H. Turner, Select Rec. Oxf., 284 (1880) (O), Item, to . . . for mending the pedels benche [see note to 1604 quot.]. 1598: Greene, James IV., iv. iii., Wee will teach him such a lesson as shall cost him a chiefe place on pennilesse-bench for his labour. 1604: Mid-dleton, Black Book, in Works, viii. 27 (Bullen), Pierce should be called no more Penniless, like the Mayor's bench at Oxford. [Bullen's note: "At the east end of the old Carfax church at Oxford there was a seat for loungers which was known as Penniless Bench. Hence came the proverbe 'To sit on Penniless Bench' (=be very poor)."] 1651: Randolph, Hey for Honesty, IV. i., I now must pine and starve at Pennless Bench. 1860: Warter, Sea-board, ii. 43 (O.), Though he have sometimes to sit on the Penniless Bench.

Penny and Pence. 1. A penny at a pinch is worth a pound. 1639: Clarke, 45.

2. A penny earned is better than a shilling given. 1875: Smiles, Thrift, 163.

3. A penny for your thought. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. iv., Freend (quoth the good man) a penny for your thought. 1594: Greene, Frier Bacon, etc., sc. vi., How cheer you, sir? A penny for your thought! 1602: Marston, Antonio and Mellida, II. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I. 1762: Hall Stevenson, Crazy Tales, Tale II. p. 28, Now, said the Marchioness, and smil'd, I'll give a penny for your thoughts.

4. A penny in purse will bid me drink, when all the friends I have will not.
1670 Ray, 130 1732 Fuller, No 3865 ["make for "bid"]

5 A penny in the forehead See quotes This alludes to an old game of making a child believe that a coin pressed on its forehead, and surreptitiously removed, is still there. 1658/9 T. Burton Diary, 9 March, Sir A. Haslerigge turned from the chair, and they called him to speak to the chair. He said, "I am not bound always to look you in the face like children to see if you have a penny in your forehead." 1740 North Examen, 324. We may hope better of their abilities than to be wheedled as children with a penny in the forehead.

6 A penny in the purse is better than a friend at Court. 1875 Smiles Thrift, 126 [quoted as a true saying] Cf Friend (3)

7 A penny more buys the whistle. 1732 Fuller, No 341

8 A penny saved is a penny got. [c. 1550] Gentleness and Nobility, in Heywood, Spider and Fly, 447 (farmer), I tell thee plainly, without any boast, A halfpenny is as well saved as lost. 1640 Herbert, Jux Prudentium. A penny saved is twice got. c. 1686 in Roxb. Ballads vi 349 (B. S.), A penny well sav'd is as good as one earn'd. 1711 Steele, Spectator, No 2. He abounds in several frugal maxims. A penny saved is a penny got. 1733 Fielding, Miser, III xii 1852 Dickens, Bleak House, ch 19.

9 A penny soul never comes to twopence, 1859 Smiles, Self-Help, 297 (1869), Narrow-mindedness leads to failure. The penny soul, it is said never came to twopence.

10 A penny to serve one's need. 1637 in Petysian Garland, 447 (Rollins). The gentle craft doth bear good will, to all kind hearted tradesmen still. That keep the provider to fulfill a penny to serve their need.


12 Every one hath a penny for the new ale house. 1678 Ray, 181 1732 Fuller, No 1445

13 In for a penny in for a pound. 1695 Ravenscroft, Caut. Guests, V 1 (O). Well then, O'er shoes, o'er boots. And in for a penny, in for a pound. 1815 Scott, Manners, ch xlii 1823 Byron, Letters, etc., vi 285 (Prothero) 1877 S. Butler, in Life by Jones, i 259 (1919), Feeling, there fore, that if I was in for a penny, I might as well be in for a pound, I wrote about your father's book exactly as I should have done about any one else's.

14 Penny and penny laid up will be many. 1639 Clarke, 35 1670 Ray, 130 1732 Fuller, No 288

15 Penny come quick soon makes two pence. Ibid., No 3863

16 Penny in pocket is a good companion. 1659 Howell, 10 1670 Ray, 130 1712 Arbuthnot, John Bull, Pt II, ch iv, I am sure that a penny in the purse is the best friend John can have at last. 1732 Fuller, No 3864 ["merry" for "good"]

17 Penny to bless oneself. See Cross (3)


19 Sometimes a penny well spent is better than a penny ill spared. 1672 Walker, Parame., 32


21 The penny is ill saved that shames the master. 1736 Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Shame".

22 The penny is well spent that gets the pound. C 1400 Beryn, l 2244. p 69 (EETS), fior pere is a comyn byword. If ye it herd havi vp, "Wele settip he his peny, pat the pound [therby] savip." 1536 in Liule...
Penny-weight

Papers, xiv. art. 40, The old saying, "Well is spent," etc.


24. There is more honesty in a penny than in five pounds. 1683: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 588. [Miss Burne says that this is an argument for lending a large sum.]


26. To think one's penny good silver. 1580: G. Harvey, Works, i. 71 (Grosart), Every one highly in his owne favoour, thinking no man's penny so good siluer as his own. 1637: Breton, in Works, ii. h 20 (Grosart), There are more batchelors then Roger, and my penny is as good siluer as yours. 1732: Fuller, No. 3112, Is no coin good silver but your penny? Cf. Farthing; and Half-penny.

27. Who will not lay up a penny Shall never have many. 1541: Coverdale, Christ. State Matrimony, sig. I3, Who so spareth not the penye shall never come by the pownde. 1670: Ray, 131 ["keep" for "lay up"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 6383. Cf. No. 20.

28. You may know by a penny how a shilling spends. 1678: Ray, 78. 1732: Fuller, No. 5951.

See also Pennyworth.

Penny-weight of love is worth a pound of law, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 343.

Pennyworth, Great. See Great bargain.


Pennyworth of mirth is worth a pound of sorrow, A. 1678: Ray, 176.


Penrith, Peerless. 1635: Brathwait, Barn. Itiner., 151 (1774), Thence to Peerless Penrith went I, Which of mer-

chandise hath plenty. 1846–59: Denham Tracts., i. 182 (F.L.S.). See also Little London.

Pensford. See Stanton Drew.

Pension never enriched a young man. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

Pens may blot but they cannot blush. 1596: Harington, Metam. of Ajax, vn. (1814) [quoted as "the old saying "]. 1639: Clarke, 268. Cf. Pen and Ink.

Pentecost. See Whitsuntide.

Penzance, Not a word of. This refers to the glaring cowardice of the Penzance men when Cornwall was invaded by the Spanish in 1595. 1678: Ray, 350, Not a word of Pensants. 1750: Heath, Scilly and Cornwall, 407. 1906: Cornish N & Q., 264.

People's love is the king's life-guard, The. 1738: Gent. Mag., 475. Cf. Subject (2).

Pepper. See Snow (7).

Pepper-gate. See Daughter.

Pepper in the nose, To take=To take offence. 1377: Langland, Plowman, B, xv. 197, And to pore peple han peper in the nose. c. 1500: Skelton, Why Come Ye Nat, l. 38i, For drede of the red hat Take peper in the nose [Lest the cardinal take offence]. 1583: Greene, Works, ii. 52 (Grosart), As old women are soone angry, she tooke pepper in the nose at the sharpe reply. 1607: Marston, What You Will, Induction, He's a chollerick gentleman; he will take pepper in the nose instantly. 1682: Bunyan, Holy War, ch. x. 1714: Ozell, Moliere, ii. 13, I approve of a husband's vigilance in this particular; but I'm afraid you take pepper i' th' nose too soon. 1732: Fuller, No. 2032. Cf. Snuff.

Percy's profit was the Lucys' loss, The. 1846–59: Denham Tracts, i. 228 (F.L.S.).


PERT and PEART:

(a) Peart as a maggot, As. Oxfordsh. 1913: Folk-Lore, xxiv. 77.
Pearl as a robin, as 1592 Warner, Albion's Eng., ch. xxxi. st. 4, As pearl as bird.) 1862 Dialect of Leeds, 405
1901 F. E. Taylor, Lanoe Sayings, 3. As peart as a robin

Peart as a sparrow, As 1837 Mrs Palmer, Devonsh Dialect, 79, a common phrase for a lively little chit

Peart as a spoon, As 1882 Mrs Chamberlain, W. Words Words, 22 (EDS) means unusually bright and cheerful

(b) Peart as a pearmonger, As 1564 Harding, quoted in Jewel, Defence of the Apol., 822 (PS). Here pricketh forth this hasty defender as pert as a pearmonger 1678 Ray, 281. As pert as a pearmongers mare. Before 1732 Gay, New Song of New Smiles, Peart as a pearmonger I'd be if Molly were but kind 1738 Swift, Polite Convers., Dial I 1855 N & Q, 1st ser., x 114. As pert as a pearmonger (Lancs) 1855 Ibid., 232. "Peart as a pearmonger" does not belong to Lancashire. I have often heard it in Oxon and Bucks.

Pert See also Crouse

Perverseness makes one squint-eyed 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

Peter of Wood, Church and mills are all his Cheshire 1670 Ray, 217 1852 N & Q, 1st ser., vi 386 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 103


Physic, subsystems. 1 He takes physic before he is sick 1639 Clarke 283 1670 Ray, 189

2 He that liveth by physicke liveth miserably 1588 Cogan, Haven of Health, Epist. Ded [quoted as "a common saying"]

3 If physic do not work, prepare for the kirk 1678 Ray, 189

Physician, heal thyself 1511 Colet, Sermon, in Dunton's Phemix, ii 8 (1708)

'Tis an old proverb, Physician heal thyself 1543 Becon in Early Works, 385 (PS) 1579 Lyly, Euphues, 118 (Arber) 1638 D. Tuveill, Vade Mecum, 152 (3rd ed., First therefore physician, cure thine own ills 1692 L'Éprange, Æsop, 205 (3rd ed.) ("cure" for heal") 1781 Franck, Lucian, ii 134 n. According to the old adage, 'physician, cure thyself" 1875 Smiles, Thrift, 23

Physicians' faults are covered with earth 1620 J. Melton, Astrologaster, 17. The sun doth always behold your good success; and the earth covers all your ignorances 1637 T. Heywood, Dialogues, etc., in Bang, Materialien B 3, 197. "Tis said of all physicians What good comes by their physick, the sun sees But in their art, if they have bad successe, That the earth covers 1669 Polthenphius, 175. Physicians are happy men, because the sun makes manifest what good success soever happeneth in their cures, and the earth burareth what fault soever they commit [As to the Greek original of this saying, by Nicocles, see N & Q, 6th ser., vi 246]

Physicians kill more than they cure 1703 E. Ward, Writings, n 328 ["an old maxim"]

Physicians See also Feasings, Feed (1), Few, Fool (15), God heals; Good physician, Hide nothing, Inward sore, Old, A (b) (7), and Patient

Pick a hole in a man's coat, To 1589 Mar-Prelate's Epitome, 3 (1813). There is a deuce to fynde a hole in the coat of some of you punctanes 1639 Clarke, 80 It's easie to pick a hole in another man's coat, if he be disposed 1670 Ray, 189 1745 Agreeable Companion, 105. You have great reason to pick holes in your neighbour's coats 1808 Manning, Let to Lamb, 110 (1925). God forgive me if I'm censorious and pick holes in another man's coat.

Pick a quarrel, To c 1449 Paston Letters, i 87 (O). The seyde parson hathe pekyd a quarella to on Masseye Recheforthe 1519 Horman Vulgaris, fo 128. He begynneth to pyke or fyndeth a quarrel of my wordes c 1550 Jacke Jugeler, 83 (Grosart). Wellsome pike a quarella, be it wrong or right 1579 Lyly, Euphues, 107
Pick

(Arber). 1669: Brathwait, Hist. of Moderation, 75, Neighbours... would be... ready to pick any quarrel with her. 1894: Caine, Manxman, V. xiv. 325 (O.), Some of the men began to pick quarrels.

Pick and choose and take the worst. 1884: H. Friend, Flowers and Fl. Lore, 228, We say more colloquially, "Pick and choose," etc.

Pick-pockets are sure traders; for they take ready money. 1732: Fuller, No 3872.

Pickpockets in a fair, They agree like. 1813: Ray, 178.

Pick up one's crumbs, To = To be convalescent. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 302 (Arber), What with him merry serving, and good nourishing, I began to gather vp my crumbs. 1645: Howell, Letters, bk. i. § ii: No. i, I... am recovering and picking up my crumps apace. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Pick." 1886: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 566 (E.D.S.), Our Liz bin ter'ble bad... but her's pickin' up her crooms again now, like.

Piddinghoe, a Sussex village near Newhaven, in the valley of the Ouse, which has a Gotham-like reputation. See quotes. 1884: "Sussex Proverbs," in N. & Q., 6th ser., ix. 401, At Piddinghoe they dig for daylight... moonshine... [and] smoke. 1911: A. S. Cooke, Off Beaten Track in Sussex, 283, More famous Piddinghoe——"where they shoe their magpies"—with its reputed ague and celebrated chalk-pits——"where they hang ponds out to dry." Ibid., 284, Englishmen fight, Frenchmen too: We don't—we live Piddinghoe!

Pie-lid makes people wise. 1678: Ray, 79. 1875: Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 114, One can't tell what a pie is till the lid is off.

Pig and Pigs. 1. A brinded pig will make a good brawn to breed on="A red-headed man will make a good stallion" (Ray, 1737). 1678: Ray, 67.

2. A pig may fly. See quotes. 1732: Fuller, No. 4350, That is as likely as to see an hog fly. 1872: De Morgan, Budget of Paradoxes, 275, There is a proverb which says, A pig may fly, but it isn't a likely bird.

3. A pig of one's own sow. c. 1535: Gentleness and Nobility, sig. A1, v, That is euyn a pyg of our own sow. 1579: G. Harvey, Works, i. 112 (Grosart), A misshapin illfavor'd freshe copy of my precious poems, as it were, a pigg of myne owne sowe. 1608: Day, Humor out of Breath, III., 'Tis a pig of your owne sow, madam; and I hope your wit will bestow the nursing of it 1681: Robertson, Phrases. Generals, 1110, 'Tis a pig of your own sow, your own self sold it. 1860: Reade, Cl and Hearth, ch. xcviii., "Who more charitable than monks?" "Go to! They do but give the latty back a pig of their own sow."

4. A pig of the worse panier. 1533: Heywood, John, Tyb, etc., 89 (Farmer), And, peradventure, there, he and she Will make me cuckold, even to anger me; And then had I a pig in the worse panier. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. xi, He hath a pyg of the worse panier sure.

5 A pretty pig makes an ugly old sow. 1732: Fuller, No. 363.


7. As happy as a pig in muck. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, ii. 43. 1899: Peacock, Manley, etc., Gloss., 358 (E.D.S.), "As happy as pigs e' muck," means having one's fill of sensual pleasure.


9. Feed a pig and you'll have a hog. 1732: Fuller, No. 1517.

10. He has brought his pigs to a fine (or fair) market. 1660: Look About You, c. xiii., My fa-fa-father has brought his ho-ho-hogs to a fa-fa-fair m-m-market.

1673: Rowlands, Paré of Spy-Knaues, 9 (Hunt. Cl), As wise as Iohn of Gotehams calf: or this fellow brought his hoggges to a faire market. 1693: Urquhart, Rablatas, bk. iii. ch. xlv, I have fish'd far now (quoth Panurge) and brought my pigs to a
fine market 1713 C Shadwell, Hum of Army, V ii, Ah, Gemini, I have brought my hogs to a fair market 1757 Murphy, Upholsterer, I iii, Yes, you've carried your pigs to a fine market 1806 Lamb, Mr H—, II, Your Honour has had some mortification, to be sure you have brought your pigs to a fine market 1849 Planché Extravag, iv 32 (1879), To a fine market you have brought your pigs

11 He is teaching a pig to play on a flute 1813 Ray, 75
12 He knows not a pig from a dog 1737 Ray, 206
13 He that loves noise must buy a pig 1813 Ray, 143
14 Like a pig, he'll do no good alive 1589 L Wright, Display of Dutc, io, a noisome hog, that is never profitable till he be dyed 1630 T Adams, Works, 452, Like a two-leg'd hog never doth good, till he is dead 1732 Fuller, No 3226, Like an hog, he does no good till he dies Ibid, No 5852, You are like a hog, never good, while living 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect u 43, 'He's like a pig he'll do no good alive,' said of a covetous man, regardless of the happiness of others 1847 Hallwell, Dict, s v "Pig"
15 Like a pig's tail, going all day, and nothing done at night 1865 Lancs Proverbs," in N & Q, 3rd ser, viii 494 1901 F E Taylor, Lancs Sayings, 5
16 Pigs can see the wind 1663 Butler, Hudibras, Pt III can u l 1105, Had lights when better eyes were blind, as pigs are said to see the wind 1703 E Ward, Writings, u 271, 'Tis as natural as 'tis for a hog to see the wind 1831 Hone, Year-Book, 29 Feb [quoted as a common saying] 1890 N & Q, 7th ser ix 14, That pigs can see the wind—in particular the east wind—is a notion pretty general in the Midlands 1016 N & Q, 12th ser, u 358 I have often heard it said that wind looks like fire to a pig, and that only a pig can see the wind
17 Pigs fly in the air with their tails

for 1639 Clarke, 147 1670 Ray, 189 1880 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 32, They say that if pigs fly they always go with their tails forward
18 Pigs love that lie together 1678 Ray, 189 1707 C Gibber, Double Gallant, V ii, You know the old saying, Sir Solomon, Lying together makes pigs love 1732 Fuller, No 3874 19 Pigs play on the organs 1639 Clarke 7, A pig plays, etc 1670 Ray, 189 1685 S Wesley, Maggots, 22, Why should not other pigs on organs play, As well as they, 1732 Fuller, No 3875 Of Hogs Norton 20 The worst pig often gets the best pear 1855 Bohn, 519 21 The young pig grunts like the old sow 1678 Ray, 184 22 There are more ways See quot 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 590, Theer's more ways o' killin' pigs than chokin' em 'ooth [with] butter
23 To buy a pig in a poke [bag] 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch ix, Ye lose not to bye the pig in the poke 1583 Greene, Works, u 121 (Grosart), He is a foole, they say, that will buy ye pig in the poke 1631 F Lenton Characters, sig BII (1663), You may perhaps buy a pigge in a poke 1694 Tavence made English, 165, I don't love to buy a pig in a bag 1705 Steele, Tender Husband, III ii, I thought it would be proper to see how I liked you, as not caring to buy a pig in a poke 1806 Lamb, Mr H—, II, No great harm if you had you'd only have bought a pig in a poke 1920 Hudson, Dead Man's Plack, u 20, Athelwold with a friend's privilege told him not to be so simple as to buy a pig in a poke
24 To drive pigs to market = To snore 1738 Swift, Polite Comers, Dial II, He fell asleep, and snored so hard, that we thought he was driving his hogs to market 1785 Grose, Class Dict Vulgar Tongue, s v "Hog' To drive one's hogs, to snore 1854 Baker, Northants Gloss, s v "Pigs,' To drive your pigs to market' To snore 1901 F E Taylor, Lancs
Sayings, 16. He were drovin’ th’ pigs to th’ market (He was snoring).


26. When pigs carry sticks, The clouds will play tricks; When they lie in the mud, No fears of a flood. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 130.

27. When the pig is proffered hold up the poke. c. 1400: Douce MS., 52, cited in Farmer’s Heywood’s Proverbs, 422 (1906), When me profereth the pigge, open the poche 1530: Palsgrave, 594, When the pyggge is profferd it is good to apen the poke. c. 1580: Fulwell, Ars Adulata, sig. Gx, When pig is proferd, ope the poke. 1670: Ray, 131. 1732: Fuller, No. 5601.

28. You can never make a good shaft of a pig’s tail. 1605: Camden, Remains, 328 (1870), Make a pipe of a pig’s tail. 1651: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum, 2nd ed. 1670: Ray, 104, You can’t make a horn of a pigs tail. 1732: Fuller, No. 5872. 1880: Spurgeon, Ploughman’s Pictures, 31. There’s sense in choosing your tools, for a pig’s tail will never make a good arrow.

See also First pig; Goodyer’s pig; Hog; Like the Irishman’s pig; More pigs; Pears; Pelton; Please (6); Sleep, verb (9); Snug; Sow; Stare; Subtle; Swine; and Willful.

Pigeon and Pigeons. 1. Full pigeons find cherries bitter. 1623: Hodroephe, Spared Hares, 509.

2. Pigeons are taken when crows fly at pleasure. 1732: Fuller, No. 3873.


4. To catch two pigeons with one bean. 1557: North, Dial of Princes, fo. 56. For the proverbe sayeth, that with one beane, a man maye take two pigeones. 1577: J. Grange, Golden Aphroditis, sig. E2, In hoping to take two pigeons with one beane you are decuyed. 1602: Chamberlain, Letters, 124 (Camden S.), You deserve double thanckes, and serve two pigeons with one beane. 1678: Ray, 353.


See also Children (9); and House (20).

Pilchards. 1. Cream upon pilchards, said of a smart dress upon a slatternly woman. S. Corn 19th cent. (Mr. C. Lee).


3. See quot. 1875: Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 53, The results of a school of pilchards coming into one of their bays—Meat, money and light, All in one night.

Pilgarlic. Originally a bald head, but became a proverbial name for any unlucky wight, sometimes in self-application. [c. 1400: Beryn, 5 (E.E.T.S.), And yee shull here howe pe Tapster made pe Pardoner pull Garlik al the longe nynte, til it was nere end day.] Before 1529: Skelton, in Works, i. 122 (Dyce), Ye losse hyr fauyr quy; Your pylyd garleke hed Cowde hocupy there no stede. c. 1620: B. & F., Hum. Liens., ii. ii., There got he a knock, and down goes pil-garlick. 1671: Westm. Drollerie, 38 (Ebsworth), Then to the cupboard Pilgarlick must hie, To seek for some crusts that have long lain dry. 1676: Shadwell, Virtuoso, iI., Do you think to make a fool of Pilgarlick? 1709: Centlivre, Busy Body, V. iii., So, here’s everybody happy, I find, but poor Pilgarlick. I wonder what satisfaction I shall have. c. 1760: Foote, Lane Lover, III., So then it seems poor Pill Garlick here is discarded at once. 1813: Life of Pill Garlick, Rather a Whimsical Sort of Fellow [title]. 1894: Punch, 21 April, 186 (O.), No! ’tis Bull is pilgarlic and martyr.
Pill and Pills 1 If the pills were pleasant, they would not want gathering.
1633 Dray, 57. If the apothecaries' pills had a good taste, they would never glide them over 1732 Fuller, No 2712
To give one a pill to swallow—To tell one something unpleasant 1567 Painter, *Pal of Pleasure*, in 52 (Jacobs). The good lady swallowed down that pill without chewing 1889 Peacock, *Manley, etc., Gloss*, 405 (E D S). It'd be a sore pull for him at his time of life.

Pill to post, From Often From post to pillar c 1420 Lydgate, *Assembly of Gods*, 34 (E E T S). Thus fro post to pylour was he made to daunce c 1532 R Copland, *Spyttel Hous*, I 715. And turnymoyle always fro pyler to post 1572 *Appius and Virg.*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, iv 151. Thus in hurly burly, from pillar to post, Poor Hap hazard daily was tosse'd 1605 Chapman, *All Fools*, III 1, from post to pillar 1609 Dekker, in *Works*, iv 136 (Grosart), from poste to pillar 1673 Marvell, in *Works*, in 279 (Grosart), hunted from post to pillar 1777 in Garrick *Corresp.*, II 202 (1832). Your good nature will forgive me, especially when you consider how I am tosse'd from pillar to post 1852 Dickens, *Bleak House*, ch xxiv. The man was so badgered, and worried, and tortured, by being knocked about from post to pillar, and from pillar to post 1903 H James, *Letters*, I 435 (1902). It all makes me glad I am old, and thereby soon to take leave of a world in which one is driven, unoffending, from pillar to post.

Pilling Moss, Lancs 1 God's grace and Pilling Moss are endless Lancs 1843-50 Denham *Tracts*, I 180 (F L S).

2 Once a wood, then a sea, now a moss, and e'er will be 1869 Hazlitt, 305

Pilsen-pun See Lenson-hill.
Pimlco pun See quotes c 1680 Aubrey, *Nat Hist Surrey*, v 221. To walk in Pimlco became proverbial for a man handsomely drest, as these walks [Pimlco-Path, near the Globe]

Theatre] were frequented by none else 1803 *N & Q*, 3rd ser., iv 327. There is a Devonshire proverb, "To keep it in Pimlco,' that is, to keep a house in nice order.

Pimpernel No heart can think, no tongue can tell, The virtues of the pimpernel 1849 Halliwell, *Pop Rhymes*, 179 1876 Dyer, *Eng Folk-Lore*, 26 1910 Devonsh Assoc *Trans*, xii 90. No heart can think, no tongue can tell. The virtue there is in pimpernel.


2 He that takes not up a pin, slight's his wife 1649 Herbert, *Joc Prudentium*, 1670 Ray, 21 1732 Fuller, No 2324

3 He that will not stoop for a pin, will never be worth a pound 1667-8 Pepys, *Diary*, 2 Jan., Sir W Coventy answered "I see your Majesty do not remember the old English proverb, 'He that will not,' etc" 1732 Fuller, No 2355 [with "point" for "pound"]

4 He that will steal a pin will steal a better thing 1537 R Whitford, *Werke for Housholders*, sig D7. The chyllde y' begineth to pilke at a pynne or a poynte wyly after y' pilke a penny or a pounde 1639 Clarke, 84. He that begins to steale a pin will be hang'd for a pounde one day 1670 Ray, 145 1732 Fuller, No 6087 1896 *N & Q*, 8th ser., x 320. It is a sin To steal a pin has sometimes helped to keep me straight.

5 Not to care (or pass) a pin c 1410 Towneley Plays, 34 (E E T S). In fayth the fellowship Set I not at a pin c 1555 in Wright, *Songs*, etc., Philip and Mary, 89 (Roxb Cl). Of Goddes for full vengeance they[y] passyde note a pynne 1576 Wapull, *Tide turneth no Man*, sig D3. So that for her mother she cares not a pin 1612 in Marchant, *Praise of Ale* 234 (1888). Yet I care not a pin, for I see no sin 1663 in Amanda, *Bagf Ballads*, 480* (B S). Let them laugh that win, I care not a pin.
Pin

1779: S. Crisp, in D'Arblay, Diary, i. 104 (1876), As to your vexation, child, I don’t mind it of a pin. 1856: in Marchant, Praise of Ale, 415 (1888), For whiskey or gin, I don’t care a pin.

6. Pick up pins pick up sorrow. 1883: Burne, Shrosh. Folk-Lore, 279, Salopians too say, “Pick up,” etc. 1913: E. M. Wright, Rustic Speech, etc., 220. Pick up pins, pick up sorrow, is a saying which is contradicted by other versions such as [see Nos. 7 and 8].

7. See a pin and let it lie, You’ll want a pin before you die. 1843: Halliwell, Nursery Rhymes, 120. See a pin, and let it lay, Bad luck you’ll have all the day! 1872: N. & Q., 4th ser., x. 477, I have frequently heard the following in Cornwall: “To see a pin and let it lie, You’ll want a pin before you die.” 1878: Dyer, Eng. Folk-Lore, 270. See a pin . . . All the day you’ll have to cry. 1880: N. & Q., 6th ser., ii. 205. 1913: E. M. Wright, Rustic Speech, etc., 220.

8. See a pin and pick it up, All the day you’ll have good luck. 1843: Halliwell, Nursery Rhymes, 120. 1883: Burne, Shrosh. Folk-Lore, 280. 1913: E. M. Wright, Rustic Speech, etc., 220.

See also Merry pin.

Pin, verb. To pin one’s faith on another’s sleeve. 1599: Life of Sir T. More, in Wordsworth, Eccl. Biog., ii. 149 (1853) (O.), I never intended to pinne my soule to another mans sleeve. 1642: Fuller, Holy State: “Moderation,” He never pinned his religion on any man’s sleeve. 1656: T. Ady, Candle in the Dark, 4. To pin their opinion upon the sleeve of other mens judgements. 1706: E. Ward, Works, iii. 20, All that pinn’d their faith upon their pastor’s sleeve. 1725: Matchless Rogue, 17, With your leave, good Mr. Poet, we must not pin our faith upon your sleeve. 1809: Pegge, Anonymiana, cent. iii. 63, I find now, that the custom formerly was, for people to wear both badges and presents, such as New-year’s gifts, on their sleeves . . . Hence, I suppose, the expression to pin one’s faith on another’s sleeve.

Pinch, At a. 1489: Caxton, Faytes of A., I. xviii. 53 (O.), Courageously at a pynche [he] shal renne vpon hem. 1540: Palsgrave, Acolaustus, sig. Aa3, Do nowe helpe me at a pynche. 1564: Bullein, Dialogue, 10 (E.E.T.S.), You are welcome . . . now helpe at a pynche, or els neuer. 1594: Greene, Frier Bacon, sc. v., Helpe, Frier, at a pinch. 1614: Jonson, Bart. Fair, I. 1679: Counterfeits, I. ii., We women seldom fall at a pinch. 1828: Scott, Journal, 4 April, He had not lived so long by the Crown to desert it at a pinch. 1888: R. L. S., Black Arrow, bk. iv. ch. i., It . . . yet might serve him, in a pinch, against Sir Daniel.

Pinch on the parson’s side. See Parson’s side.

Pine wishes herself a shrub when the ax is at her root, The. 1732: Fuller, No. 4705.

Pinnock to pannock. See quot. 1552: Huloet, Abeced., sig. D3, Brynde somethynge to nothynge, as the vulgare speache is, to bryngyno pyncock to pannock.

Pint of wine to a vintner is but as a pippin to a coster-monger, A. 1659: Howell, xi.

Pipe in an ivy leaf, You may go = You may do any silly thing you like. c. 1370: Wille, Eng. Works, 372 (E.E.T.S.), The seculer party may go pipe with an yuy lefe for eny lorde-schipis that the clerkis wille gene hem agen. c. 1386: Chaucer, Knight’s Tale, I. 980, That oon of yow, al be him looth or leef, He moot go pyppen in an ivy-leaf. c. 1430: Lydgate, Desir. of Thebes, Pt. II., But let his brother blowe in an horn, Where that him list, or pipe in a reade. c. 1547: in Ballads from MSS., i. 136 (B.S.), They may gowe blowe ther fluet. 1587: Turlerivle, Trag. Tales, etc., 309 (1837), Gine him an iue leafe in stead of pipe to play, That dreads to bourd a gallant dame for feare she say him nou. 1626: Scogginus Jests, 109 (1864), Unlesse that hee have some man to speake for him, hee may goe pipe in an ivy leafe.

Pipe, No longer, no longer dance. 1605: Camden, Remains, 328 (1870). 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. vii,
It shall not be said, master, for me, "No longer pipe, no longer dance." 1709 O Dykes, Eng Proverbs, 197 (2nd ed) 1806 Scott, Fam Letters, i 61 (1894). The vulgar saying of "No longer pipe, no longer dance," applies to landlord and tenant, chuffian and clan in short, to all the relations of mankind 1874 N & Q, 5th ser. 1 203

Piping hot c 1386 Chaucer, Miller's Tale, l 193. And wafres, pypinge hole out of the glede. 1567 Golding, Otid bk viii l 850, Whote [Hot] meate came piping from the fyre. 1595 Marcoux Exstaticus, in (Percy S) A piece of beege puld piping hot out of the furnace. 1638 H Shirley, Martyr'd Souldier, V, I gave her a messe of porridge piping-hot 1701 Gibber, Love Makes a Man, Prol, A raggon, piping hot from Paris. 1766 Garrick, Neck or Nothing, i 1 1821 Byron, Blues, ec 1 1 17, I am just piping hot from a publisher's shop

Pipkin, She has cracked her 1681 in Roxb Ballads, v 67 (B S). For if you should your pipkin crack, your credit will away c 1685 in Bagford Ballads, 1 467 (B S). Were not my pipkin crack before, I vow I would be his wife 1707 Spanish Baed, III 11. If her husband shou'd find out that she has crackt her pipkin, he'll cut your throat 1732 Fuller, No 4124. She has broke her pipkin

Pirates may make cheap pennyworths of their pilage 1855 Bohn, 474

Piss on a nettle, To =To be out of temper 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch x 1579 Mart of Wit and Wisdom se in p 30 (Sh S) 1681 Shadwell Lancs Witches, I 1714 Ozell, Mather, iv 255 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect u 8 'Thou's p—d of a nettle this mornin' ' said of a waspsh, ill-tempered person

Passed his tallow, He has c 1450 M E Med Book, 232 (Hennich), (O). Take talow of an hert, suche as he pyssep by twene two seynt many dayes 1600 Shakespeare, Merry Wives, V v 1604 Motteux, Rabelais, bk v ch xxviii. Do but see how down o the mouse the curr looks he's nothing but skm and bones, he has p—d his tallow 1737 Ray, 61. This is spoken of bucks who grow lean after rutting time,

Pitch and pay=Pay ready money 15th cent in Hazlitt, Early Pop Poetry, u 9. Yt ys fulde hard bothe to pyche and paye 1584 in Roxb Ballads, I 6 (B S). And there was neither fault nor fray, Nor any disorder any way, But every man did pitch and pay. 1599 Shakespeare, Henry V, II iii. The word is "Pitch and Pay". Trust none 1847 Hallwell, Diet, v 7. "Pitch." Pitch and pay, throw down your money at once, pay ready money

Pitch He that touches pitch shall be defiled (Ecclesiasticus viii 1 Ex quo ostenditur noxium esse vivere cum peccatoribus, qui enum tangit peccem, inquinatur ab ea—St Jerome, Comment in Esai, vi 5.) 1703 R Brunne, Handl Synne, 1 678, Who so handly pycche wellyng hot, He shall hau e fylpe perof sumdeyl (in some degree) c 1380 Wicht, Works, 278 (Matthew, 1880). He that handly pitch schal be found thereof c 1440 Lydgate, Fall of Princes, bk 1 1 4596. Who touchith pitch, bassay men may see, It faillith nat he shall defourle be 1579 Lyly, Euphues, III (Arber) 1600 Dekker, Works, iv 198 (Grosart) 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 249 1863 R LS, Treasure I, ch x. 'There,' John would add, "you can't touch pitch and not be mucked" 1922 Wevman, Ovington's Bank, ch xxxi. You can't touch pitch and keep your hands clean

Pitcher goes often to the well, but is broken at last, The 1340 Ayenbite, 206 (EETS), Zuo longe gep pet pot to pe wetere pet hit compe to-broke from 1412 Hoccleve, Regement, 1 4432. The pot so longe to the warf goth, That hoom it cometh at the laste 3-broke 1431 Caxton, Reynard, 67 (Arber), A pot may goo so longe to water that at the laste it cometh to broken hoom 1583 Greene, in Works, u 30 (Grosart). So longe the pitcher goeth to the brooke, as in tyme it comes
broken home. 1665: Head and Kirkman, *Eng. Rogue*, i. 69. I found the proverb verified. The pitcher goes not so often to the well, but that it comes home crackt at last. 1714: Ozell, *Molière*, vi. 50. 1748: Smollett, *Red. Random*, ch. xxiv. 1826: Scott, *Journal*, i Oct., They speak about the pitcher going to the well; but if it does not go to the well, how shall we get water? 1926: J. S. Fletcher, *Massingham Butterfly*, 275, You know the old proverb about the pitcher going to the well?

Pitchers. *See Little pitchers.*


Pity cureth envy. 1732: Fuller, *No. 3876.*

Pity is but one remove from love. 1753: Richardson, *Grandison*, i. 34 (1683). [Nowadays the more usual form is, Pity is akin to love.]


Place for everything, and everything in its place, A. 1875: Smiles, *Thrift*, 66. 1927: *Evening Standard*, 24 Oct., p. 6, col. 1, He appeals to the more rational view that there is a place for everything, but that everything should be in its place.


Plain as a (a) pack-staff; (b) pike-staff. (a) 1532: More, *Works*, 814 (1557), 1542: Becon, *Early Works*, 276 (P.S.), He is as plain as a pack-staff. 1589: Greene, *Works*, vi. 68 (Grosart). 1608: Middleton, *Family of Love*, V. iii., It shows 'em a flat case as plain as a pack-staff. 1690: Dryden, *Amphitryon*, III. i. 1881: Evans, *Leics. Words*, 207 (E.D.S.). The common proverbial simile, "as plain as a pike-staff," is here generally, "as plain as a pack-staff" [the pedlar's staff on which he carries his bundle over his shoulder]. 1866: Elworthy, *West Som. Word-Book*, 552 (E.D.S.). "So plain's a pack-stave," which literature has corrupted into "plain as a pike-staff."

(b) 1565: Shacklock, *Hatchet of Here-sies*, fo. 1, They be as playne as a pyke staff. 1591: Greene, *Works*, x. 21 (Grosart). Plain as a pike-staff. 1664: Cotton, *Scarronides*, bk. i, Plain as a pike-staff without gilding. c. 1750: Foote, *Knights*, II. 1859: Dickens, in *C. Dickens as Editor*, 273 (1912), I have read the letter to Evans (which is as plain as a pike staff). 1921: Hutchinson, *If Winter Comes*, Pt. I. ch. 1, Can imagine him riling any wife with wrinkling up his nut over some plain as a pikestaff thing.

Plain as the nose. *See Nose (2).*


Plain dealing is dead. 1616: B. Rich, *Ladies Looking Glass*, 60, Plaine dealing: honesty is dead. 1732: Fuller: *No. 3879, Plain dealing is dead; and dyed without issue. 1880: Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 20 [as in 1732].

Plain dealing is praised more than practised. 1639: Clarke, 138.
Plain fashion is best, The 1562
Heywood, Epigr, No 201 1659
Howell, 7

Plam of poverty and die a beggar
1698 Ray, 191

Plany See Schemey

Plants trees, He that, loves others besides himself 1732 Fuller, No 2248

Plant thorns See Thorn (1)

Play, verb

Play at chess See House (18)

Play at small game before he will sit out, He will 1605 Camden, Remains, 323 (1870) 1631 Brathwait, Whimsies, 148 (1859) Before 1680 Butler, Remains, 1 253 (1759), The devil himself will rather chuse to play At paltry small game, than sit out, they say 1732 Fuller, No 3882 ['stand out for "sit out"]

Play Benall, To Glos 1639 in Berkeley MSS, iii 27 (1885), I must play Benall with you A frequent speach when the guest, immediately after meat, without any stay departeth

Play booty, To = To play a treacherous part 1540 Palsgrave, Acolastus, sig T4, Shall not I be boty or party fellow with the? 1560 Awdeley, Vacabondes, 9 (EETS), They will consent as though they will play booty against him 1692 L'Esrange, Æsop, 116 (3rd ed.), We understand what we ought to do, but when we come to deliberate, we play booty against our selves 1707 Cibber, Comical Lovers, II, I believe the Devil plays booty against himself and tells you of my sins 1742 Fielding, Andrews, bk i ch u, He had scornfully refused a considerable bribe to play booty on such an occasion 1817 Scott, Rob Roy, ch vii, My uncles is sensible that were he caught playing booty, he would be disarmed 1838 Dickens, Twist, ch ix, Five of 'em strung up in a row, and none left to play booty, or turn white-livered! 1898 Weyman, Shrewsbury, ch vii, He had played booty, and played the traitor

Play fast and loose, To 1557 Toltes Miscell, 157 (Arber), Of a new married student that played fast or loose 1580 Lyly, Euphues, 326 (Arber), Thus with the Egyptian thou playest fast or loose 1601 Yarrington, Two Trag in One, III ii, in Bullen, Old Plays iv 49, Thou dastard fast and loose, Thou weathercocke of mutabilitie 1629 in Pepysian Garland, 320 (Rollins), But she that wanton is and fond, that fast and loose will play 1853 Dickens, Letters, iv 139 (1882), The journal itself is blowing hot and cold, and playing fast and loose in a ridiculous way

Play for nought as work for nought, As good 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi 1642 D Rogers, Newman, sig Q6, They had as good sit for nought as toyle for nought 1714 Mandeville, Table of Bees, 278, The fellow told him he'd rather play for nothing than work for nothing 1823 Scott, Peveril, ch xxv

Play in summer starve in winter 1669 Poor Robin Alman, July

Play least in sight, To 1607 R West Court of Conscience, sig D1, Now forasmuch as you play least in sight, That Master Derrick [the hangman] cannot serve upon you 1659 Howell, to 1678 Ray, 75 1714 Spectator, No 616, We had with us the attorney, and two or three other bright fellows The doctor plays least in sight

Play on both hands, To = To be guilty of double-dealing 1530 Palsgrave, 433, If he ones apperceyve you howe you play on bothe the handes, he will never truste you after 1633 Drake, 47, He playeth on both handes

Play one tune and dance another, They 1639 Clarke, 18

Play racket, To c 1374 Chaucer, Troylus, bk iv 1 432, Canstow playen racket, to and fro, nettle in, dokke out? c 1387 Usk, Test of Love in Skeat's Chaucer, vn 13 "Ye wete wel, lady, eke," quod I, "that I have not played racket, nettle in, docke out," and with the wethercocke waved'
Plays 501

Plays his money ought not to value it, He that. 1640: Herbert, *Jac.Prudentum*.

Plays more than he sees, forfeits his eyes to the king, He that. 1695: Camden, *Remains*, 324 (1870). 1670: Ray, 132.


Plays you as fair as if he picked your pocket, He. 1678: Ray, 79.

Play the devil for God's sake. *See Devi* (104).

Play the fool. *See quotas. 1659:* Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 7. If thou play the fool, stay for a fellow. 1732: Fuller, No. 2849. It is a cunning part to play the fool well.

Play the Good Luck, To = To do mischief. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 141.

Play the Jack, To = Query, To play the knave. 1567: Golding, *Ovid*, bk. xiii. I. 289, Yit durst Thersites bee So bold as rayle upon the kings, and he was payd by mee For playing so the sawcye Jacke. 1611: Shakespeare, *Tempest*, IV. i., Monster, your fairy . . . has done little better than played the Jack with us 1670: Ray, 182.

Play wily beguile, To. 1633: Draxe, 40. He playeth wily beguile you with himselfe. 1732: Fuller, No. 1895. He hath play'd a wiley trick, and beguil'd himself. 1737: Ray, 66. He hath plaid wily beguiled with himself.

Play with a fool. *See Fool* (90).

Play with boys, you must take boys' play, If you. 1732: Fuller, No. 2779.


Play with you for shoe-buckles, I'll not. 1639: Clarke, 195, We play not for shoe-buckles. 1678: Ray, 347.

Playden, Sussex. *See quot. 1804:* A. J. C. Hare, *Sussex*, 63, The proverb— "Sauket church, crooked steeple, Drunken parson, wicked people" refers to Playden, known as Sauket or Saltcot Street, from the salted cod spread on its banks to dry.

Pleasant hours fly fast. 1732: Fuller, No. 3886.

Please, verb. 1. He had need rise betimes that would please everybody. 1639: Fuller, *Holy War*, bk. iv. ch. xiv., He must rise early, yea, not at all go to bed, who will have everyone's good word. 1670: Ray, 132. 1732: Fuller, No 1854. 1875: Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 115, He must rise early that would please everybody.

2. He that all men will please shall never find ease. 1639: Clarke, 282. 1692: L'Estrange, *Aesop*, 325 (3rd ed.), He that resolves not to go to bed till all the world is pleas'd, shall be troubled with the head-ach. 1880: Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 25.


4. If you be not pleased, put your hand in your pocket and please yourself. 1678: Ray, 79. 1732: Fuller, No. 2739 ["content" for "pleased"].

5. Please the eye and plague the heart. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Marchandise," Please the eye and pick the purse.] 1655: A. Brewer, *Love-sick King*, III., in Bang, *Materialien*, B. 18, p. 38, She may please your eye a little . . . but vex your heart. 1754: *World*, No 80, It is a fatal maxim among women, "To please the eye, though they torment the heart." 1829: Cobbett, *Advice to Young Men*, Lett. III., "Please your eye and plague your heart" is an adage that want of beauty invented, I dare
say, more than a thousand years ago
1913 Folk-Lore, xxiv 77, (Oxfordsh.) I'll please my eye if I plague my heart
6 Please the pigs Before 1704 T Brown, in Works, n 198 (1760), I'll have one of the wigs to carry into the country with me, and please the pigs
1755 Gent Mag, xi 5, The expression I mean is Are't please the pigs, in which pigs is most assuredly a corruption of Pyx [This suggested origin of the phrase is as doubtful as that given in the 1886 quot infra] 1790 Gent Mag, 876, 1086-7 1826-44 Hood, Comic Poems 'Report from Below.' "But please the pigs"—for that's her way of swearing in a passion 1849 Planche, Extravag, iv 33 (1879). You'll have no end of money, please the pigs 1886 Elworthy, West Som Word-Book, 569 (ED S), Pigs Contraction of pixes, in the common saying, Plaze God and the pigs"
7 When it pleaseth not God, the saint can do little 1670 Ray, 23 Pleased as a dog with two tails, As 1889 Peacock, Manley, et al., Gloss, 169 (ED S)
Pleased as if the pot was on, As Oxfordsh 1913 Folk-Lore, xxiv 77 Pleased as Punch, As 1854 Dickens, Hard Times, bk 1 ch vi, When Sissy got into the school here her father was as pleased as Punch 1871 G Eliot, Middlemarch, ch x1, I'm as pleased as Punch, now I've thought of that 1901 F E Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 3, As pleec'st as Punch
Pleasing ware is half sold 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Chose." Ware that doth please is half sold 1640 Herbert, Jas Prudentium 1670 Ray, 132 1732 Fuller, No 56177. When ware is bk d, it is half sold
Pleasure, subs 1 Consider not pleasures as they come, but as they go 1855 Bohn, 339
2 Follow pleasure and pleasure will flee, Flee pleasure and pleasure will follow thee 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch vi 1667 Peacock, Worth of Penny, in Arber, Garner, vi 261 (1883), ["fly for first "flee," and "be migh" for "follow thee"] 1736 Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i 445 (Bigelow), Fly pleasures, and they will follow you
3 It is a great pleasure to eat, and have nothing to pay 1855 Bohn, 427
4 Let pleasure overcome thee and thou learnest to like it c 1320 in Relig Antiqua, i xi 10 (1841), "Let lust over- gon, eat hit shal the lyke," Quoth Hendyng 1869 Hazlitt, 259
5 Never pleasure without repentance 1605 Camden, Remains, 329 (1870) 1670 Ray, 21 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v "Pleasure"
6 Pleasure has a sting in its tail 1650 Taylor, Holy Living, ch ii § 1, All the instances of pleasure have a sting in the tail 1692 Congreve, Old Bac, Epil, To think o' th' sting, that's in the tail of pleasure Before 1704 T Brown, Works, i 313 (1760), You know the old saying, pleasure, etc 1709 O Dykes, Eng Proverbs, 172 (2nd ed.), There's a sting in the tail of all unlawful pleasures
7 The pleasures of the mighty are the tears of the poor 1633 Draxe, 141 1670 Ray, 21 1732 Fuller, No 4708, The pleasures of the rich are bought with the tears of the poor 8 Who will in time present from pleasure refrain, Shall, in time to come, the more pleasure obtain 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch vi
See also Short pleasure
Pledge your own health, You must not 1678 Ray, 152
Plentiful See Blackberries
Plenty breeds pride 1639 Clarke 33 Plenty is better than a flush, A 1881 Evans, Laws Words, 202 (ED S), I once quoted the proverb 'A plenty's better nur a flush," to a farm-labourer, who answered me with "Ah, sure! that's what o d Bendigo Bulson said when the yong masster gen 'im a chaarge o' rabbit-shot 1' the leg"
Plenty is no dainty 1449 Peacock, Rep'r, 184 (O), Experience wole weel scheme that plente is no deinite 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch iv 1583 Melancke, Philotinus, sig Q2, I will not be dainte suche guests as I be plente 1678 Ray, 190
Plenty know good ale but don’t know much after that. N. Corn. 20th cent. (Mr. C. Lee).

Plenty makes dainty. 1732: Fuller, No. 6375, Tis plenty that makes you dainty. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. v.

Plenty makes poor. 1590: Spenser, F. Q., I. iv. 29, Whose plenty made him poor. 1621: Brathwait, Nature’s Embassie, 269 (1877), She prou’d this true: Much plenty made her poore. 1669: Politeophilia, 130, Plenty begetteth want; for he that hath much needs much.

Plenty never wrings its master by the ear. Glos. 1639: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 31 (1885).

Plenty. See also Abundance; and Peace (2).


2. Keep thy plough jogging, so shalt thou have corn for thy horses. 1659: Howell, ii. If your plow be jogging, you may have meat for your horses. 1732: Fuller, No. 3119.


Don’t stop the plough to catch a mouse. 4 The plough goes not well if the ploughman hold it not. 1639: Clarke, 92. 1670: Ray, 132. 1732: Fuller, No. 4710.

5. The plough goeth before the oxen — The cart before the horse. 1571: Satir. Poems Reformed., xxix. 9 (O.), That makis ... the plewche befor the oxin go, the best the man to gyde. 1623: Wodroephe, Spared Hones, 501. 1653: Urquhart, Rabelais, 1 (Farmer) (O.), He would put the plough before the oxen.

6. There belongs more than whistling to going to plough. 1678: Ray, 191. 1732: Fuller, No. 4886 (“a plowman” for “going to plough”).

7. Where the plough shall fail to go,

There the weeds will surely grow. 1880: Spurgeon, Ploughman’s Pictures, 146.

See also Better have one plough; Borrowed ploughs; and Scythe.

Plough, verb. 1. He is ploughing a rock. 1873: Ray, 75.

2. He ploughs the air. Ibid., 75.

3. I night as well plough with dogs. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Charrue,” The plough that a dog draws is not worth the driving. 1795: Gent. Mag., Pt. i., 299, I have seen a friendly dame, winding a ravelled skin of thread or yarn, exclaim with a curse, “This is as bad as ploughing with dogs.” 1807: Addy, Sheffield Gloss. Stnpl., 44 (E.D.S.), Get on wi’ thee; it’s as bad as plewin’ wi’ dogs. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 79.

4. Plough deep while others sleep And you shall have corn to sell and keep. 1659: Howell, Proverbs: Span.-Eng., 8, Plow deep, thou shalt have bread enough. 1736: Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i. 444 (Bigelow) [“sluggards” for “others.”] 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 14 (Percy S.). 1872: J. Glyde, jr., Norfolk Garland, 158.

5. Plough or plough not, you must pay your rent. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 14 (Percy S.).

6. To plough the headlands before the butts—“To begin a thing at the wrong end (as by a suitor applying to the father before the daughter).” 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 597.

7. To plough the sands. [Nos tamen hoc agimus tentuque in pulvere sulcos Dicimus et litus sterilis versamus aratro. —Juvenal, Sat., vii. 48-9.] Before 1529: Skelton, Speke, Parrot, 1. 342. To sowe corn in the see sande, ther wyll no crope grote. 1576: Pettie, Petite Pall., ii. 95 (Gollancz), So that I plough the barren rocks, and set my share into the shore of the sea. 1587: Turbervile, Trag. Tales, etc., 404 (1637). And fruitlesse cleane to sowe the bairren sand. 1647: Stapylton, Juvenal, 121, Yet still we plow the shoure and sowe the sund. 1894: Mr. Asquith, Speech, 21 Nov., All our time, all our labour, and all our assiduity is certain to be thrown away as if you were to plough
the sands of the seashore the moment that Bill reaches the Upper Chamber
of Sow, verb (3)

8 To plough with the ass and the ox =
To sort things ill 1873 Ray, 212

9 You must plough with such oxen as
you have 1678 Ray, 191, A man
must, etc 1732 Fuller, No 5968
1694 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch i,
You know we are obliged to plough with
such cattle as we have found for us

Ploughman See Bad ploughman,
and Yeoman

Plover See quot 1655 T Muffett
Healths Improvement, 98, The gray
plover is so highly esteemed, that this
proverb is raised of a curious and male-
contented stomach A gray plover can-
not please him

Plum as a juggle-mear, As = As soft
as a quagmire Devon 1670 Ray 218

Plum year, a dumb year, A 1678
Ray, 52 1732 Fuller, No 6139 1856
N & Q, 2nd ser, i 84 [Norfolk] 1893
Inwards, Weather Lore 5. A plum year,
a dumb year Kent In the year when
plums flourish all else fails Devonshire

Plum See also Black (i)

Plumbland Church 1660 Whellan,
Cumberland, etc, 366, The greatest
wonder ever was seen Is Plumbland
Church on Parsonby Green

Plump as a partridge, As = 1678 Ray,
281 1694 Terence made English, 62
1720 Gay, Poems, ii 278 (Underhill),
Plump as a partridge was I known
1829 Scott, Geverstein, ch vii 1831
Peacock, Crotchet Castle, ch xiv

Plum-tree See quot 1639 Clarke, 88
The higher the plum-tree, the
sweeter the plumme 1659 Howell, 17.
The higher the tree, the sweeter
the plumb, The better the shoe, the
The higher the plum-tree, the riper
the plum, The richer the cobler, the blacker
his thumb 1732 Fuller, No 6420 [as
in 1670]

Plymouth cloak, A = A cudgel 1625
Massinger, New Way, etc, i 1, I must
tell you if you but advance Your
Plymworth cloke 1631 F Lenton,
Characters, sig F (1663) A Plummouth
cloake, otherwise call'd a batuone

1681 A Behn, Roter, Pt II IV v
1655 Kingsley, West Hol, ch viu.
"Thou wilt please to lay down that
Plymouth cloath of thine," and he
pointed to the cudgel

Plymouth was a furry down, When,
Plympton was a borough town 1850
N & Q, 1st ser, ii 511

Pocket a wrong, etc, To = To accept
it without protest 1595 Monday,
John a Kent, 28 (Sh S), I will not
pocket this murtherous wrong 1597
Shakespeare, I Henry IV, III iv.
You will not pocket up wrong 1638
D Tuvill, Vade Mecum, 184 (3rd ed).
To pocket up one wrong, is to allure
another 1772 Graves, Spirit Quivole,
bk vi ch xvi, I thought it best to
pocket the insult, as well as the money
1826 Scott, Woodstock, ch xxvii, The
bravest man sacrifices nothing by
pocketing a little wrong which he can
not personally resent

Poets are born, but orators are made
1581 Sidney, Apologie, 62 (Arber),
Therefore is it an old prouerbe, Orator
fit, Poeta nascetur 1600 Bodenham
Belvedere, 55 (Spens S) 1669 Poli-
terphua, 58

Poets See also Painters

Poison embitters much sweetness, A
little c 1575 Old Eng Homilies, 1st
ser, p 23 (Morris), A little alter bitterer
muchel sweete 1581 Lyly, Euphues,
39 (Arber), One drope of posyson
infecteth the whole tunne of wne

Poison is poison though it comes in a
golden cup 1630 T Adams, Works,
705 1633 Draxe, 60, In golden pottes
are hiden the most deadly posyson

Pole-cat, To stink like a. 1639
Clarke, 293, He stinkes like a pole-cat
Spy, 44 (1924), Which made the crooked
vermin out-stink a pole-cat 1740
North, Examen, 172, All which stuff
is as rank as a pole-cat 1889 J
Nicholson, Folk Speech E Yorks, 22, It
stinks like a fummat (pole-cat)

Policy goes beyond strength c 1590
G Harvey, Marginalia, 100 (1915), A
lytle policy prauaileth when a great
deale of strength fayleth Before 1634
Chapman, Alphonsius, II iii, Policy

Polperro. See quot. 1906: Q.-Couch, Mayor of Troy, ch. x. The pro-

verb says that a Polperro jackass is surprised at nothing.


Pomfret, As sure as a louse in. 1638: Brathwait, Barn. Journal, Pt. III., A louse in Pomfrait is not surer, Then

the poor through sloth secures. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Yorkshire."

1878: Folk-Lore Record, i. 168, As "sure as a louse in Pomfret," speaks ill for that place.

Pompey is on your back. 1869: Hazlitt, 317, The black dog Pompey is said to be on a child's back, when he is

fraudious. This is a common saying in some parts of the country . . . In South Devonshire, they say in a similar

sense, "your tail's on your shoulder."

Pontefract. See Pomfret.

Poole, Dorset. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Dorset," [three sayings] (1) If Pool was a fish-pool, and the men of

Pool fish, There'd be a pool for the devil, and fish for his dish. (2) When do you fetch the five pounds? (3)

Shoot saftly, doey now. [(2) refers to a story of a never-claimed bequest of £5 for honesty; (3) refers to a yarn

about a man holding a kettle to receive shot discharged from guns.]

Poor, adj. 1. A poor beauty finds more lovers than husbands. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

2. A poor man's cow dies, a rich man's child. Ibid.

3. A poor man's debt makes a great noise. 1732: Fuller, No. 355.


5. A poor man's tale. See quot. 1639: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 31 (1885), A poor man's tale may now be heard:

viz: when none speaks the meanest may (Gloucest.).

6. A poor man wants some things, a covetous man all things. c. 1680:

L'Estrange, Seneca's Epistles, ii., The poor man wants many things, but the covetous man wants all. 1732: Fuller, No. 356.

7. A poor spirit is poorer than a poor purse. Ibid., No. 358.

8. A poor wedding is a prologue to misery. Ibid., No. 359.

9. As poor as a church mouse. [1659: Howell, 13, As hungry as a church-

mouse.] 1672: Corye, Generous Enemnes, I., All that live with him Are as poor as church-rats. 1714: Ozell,

Molière, iv. 38, They're most of them as poor as church mice. 1778: T. Cogan, John Bunce, Junior, ii. 146. 1803:

Colman, jr., John Bull, ii. iii. 1841: Dickens, Barn. Rudge, ch. lxxvii., I have come back, poorer than a church mouse. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lances Sayings, 3, As poor as a church-measewe. 1906: Shaw, Major Barbara, V.

10. As poor as a rat. 1703: Ward, Writings, ii. 120, Whilst men of parts,

as poor as rats . . . 1834: Marryat, P. Simplic, ch. xxxi., He's as poor as a rat, and has nothing but his pay.

1866: T. W. Robertson, Ours, I., Angus, a distant cousin, poor as a rat. 1907: De Morgan, Alice-for-Short, ch. xvi.

11. As poor as Job. c. 1300: Brunne, tr. Langtoft's Chron., 323 (Hearne), Als bare was his toure as Job pe pouere man. c. 1390: Gower, Conf. Amantis, bk. v. l. 2505, To ben for evere til I deie As poore as Job. 1560: T. Wilson, Rhetorique, 207 (1909), Thou art as poore as Job. c. 1640: in Roxb. Ballads, i. 503 (B. S.), I am backe return'd, as poore as Job. 1700: Dryden, Prol. to The Pilgrim. 1750: Smollett, Gil Blas, iii. 93. 1822: Scott, Nigel, ch. viii., Who are all as proud as Lucifer, and as poor as Job. 1850: Dickens, Copperfield, ch. vi., Old Mrs Mell, his mother, was as poor as Job. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lances Sayings, 3.


14. He is not poor that hath little, but he that desireth much. 1550: G. Colville,
Poor

tr Boethius, 34 (1807), He that feareth that he shall lacke, and is not contented with that he hath, but sorroweth for more, is not riche, but poore 1637 A Warwick, *Sparse Minstres, 4* (1829), Nor her poore that hath but little, but hee that wants more 1640 Herbert, *Joc Prudentium* 1732 Fuller, No 1937 [*"craves", for "desireth"]

15 He is poor indeed that can promise nothing 1639 Clarke, 142, He is poore, can promise nothing 1670 Ray, 132 1732 Fuller, No 1941
16 He is so poor that he has not salt to his porridge *Ibid*, No 1945
17 It's a poor family which hath neither a whore nor a thief in it 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Span Eng*, 1, There's no family but there's a whore or a knave of it 1678 Ray, 9
18 It's a poor heart that never rejoices 1834 Marryat, *P Simple*, ch v, "Well," continued he, "it's a poor heart that never rejoiceth" He then poured out half a tumbler of rum 1841 Dickens, *Barn Rudge*, ch iv 1850 Dickens, *Chuzzlewit*, ch v
19 Poor and liberal, rich and covetous 1640 Herbert, *Joc Prudentium*
20 Poor and pert See quotes
1887 T Darlington S Cheshire Folk Speech 289 (E D S), He is poor an'peart [lively] like th' parson's pig 1913 E M Wright, *Rustic Speech, etc*, ii [as in 1887] 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 104 [as in 1887]
21 Poor and proud, fie, fie! 1605 Camden Remains, 330 (1870) 1670 Ray, 132
22 Poor and proud, still tailor-like c 1620 in *Robb Ballads, 11* 580 (B S) The saying old hath oft beene told, It plain doth verifie "Poor and proud, still tailor-like" Cf Tauler (4)
23 Poor cook See III cook.
24 Poor folk fare the best 1639 Clarke, 205
25 Poor folks are glad of porridge c 1580 Fulweil, *Ars Adulandi*, sig Ga, Poor men are pleasaie with potage aye, till better vittailes fall 1659 Howell, 4, Poor folks must be glad of potage 1732 Fuller, No 3892
26 Poor in appetite See quot 1653 R Brome, *City Wit*, i i, *It is
rightly said, He that is poor in appetite, may quickly be rich in purse*
27 Poor men See Children (5)
28 Poor men have no souls 1562 Heywood, *Three Hund Epigr*, No 167 1670 Ray, 21
29 Poor men seek meat for their stomachs rich men stomachs for their meat 1594 A Copley, *Wits, Fits, etc*, 105 (1614) [*"want" for "seek"] 1678 Ray, 79 [*"walketh to get" for "seek"] 1732 Fuller, No 3895
1820 Scott, in *Lockhart's Life*, v 44, The poor man labours to get a dinner to his appetite, the rich man to get an appetite to his dinner
30 Poor men's reasons are not heard 1633 Draxe, 162, A poore mans tale cannot be heard 1640 Herbert, *Joc Prudentium*, The reasons of the poor weigh not 1666 Torrano, *Piazza Univ*, 214, The poor mens reasons are of no weight 1732 Fuller, No 3897
31 The poor man's labour is the rich man's wealth 1846 Denham, *Proverbs*, 6 (Percy S)
32 The poor man's shilling is but a penny 1732 Fuller, No 4716
33 The poor man turns his cake, and another comes and eats it *Ibid*, No 4714
34 The poor must pay for all 1639 Clarke, 99
35 They are poor whom God hates 1633 Draxe, 162, 1659 Howell, xi, There's none poor but such as God hates 1732 Fuller, No 2470, He's poor indeed, whom God hates
36 To be in a poor reed = in poor condition 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 126
37 To be poor and to look poor, is the devil all over 1913 Folk-Lore, xxiv 77

2. If you would be a Pope, you must think of nothing else. 1855: Bohn, 422.

Popham. See Horner.

Poppies. See quot. 1880: N. & Q., 6th ser., ii. 164, The other day I heard a Staffordshire man say "Pluck poppies—make thunder." This was a proverbial saying that was quite new to me.

Possession is (a) eleven, (b) nine points of the law. (a) 1630: T. Adams, Works, 97, The devil hath eleven points of the law against you; that is, possession. 1639: Fuller, Holy War, bk. v. ch. xxix. 1670: Ray, 132 1692: L’Estrange, Æsop, 291 (3rd ed.). 1709: O. Dykes, Eng. Proverbs, 213 (2nd ed.). Possession is a mighty matter indeed; and we commonly say, 'tis eleven points of the law. 1712: Arbuthnot, Law a Bolt. Pit, Pt. III. ch. ix., Poor Nic has only possession; eleven points of the law! 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I. 1822: Peacock, Maid Marian, ch. v., In those days possession was considerably more than eleven points of the law. (b) 1809: Malkin, Gil Blas, xxii. 20 (O.), She had possession, and that is nine points of the law. 1817: Scott, Rob Roy, ch. xxxvii., Take all necessary measures to secure that possession, which sages say makes nine points of the law. 1923: J. S. Fletcher, The Diamonds, ch. iii., He knew that possession is sometimes more than nine points of the law.

The following is doubtful, but should probably come under (a). 1703: Farquhar, Twin-Rivals, II. ii., Upon this you take immediate possession, and so you have the best part of the law on your side.

Post. See Pillar.


Pot, subs. 1. A pot that belongs to many is ill stirred and worse boiled. 1732: Fuller, No. 360. 2. He's dwindled down from a pot to a pippin. Ibid., No. 2457. 3. Neither pot broken nor water spill = No harm done. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1619: B. Rich, Irish Hubbub, 16. 1659: Howell, 14. 4. Pot and can. See Cup (2). 5. Pot in the pate. See Cup (1). 6. The pot calls the kettle black. 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. lxviii., You are like what is said that the frying-pan said to the kettle, "Avant, black-brows." 1639: Clarke, 8, The pot calls the pan burnt-arse. 1679: A. Behn, Feign’d Courtezans, V. iv., As another old proverb says, do not let the kettle call the pot black-arse! 1685-6: Cotton, Montaigne, bk. iii ch. v. ad fin., It is much more easy to accuse one sex than to excuse the other; 'tis according to the saying, "The pot and the kettle." 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' Colloq., 365 [as in 1679]. 1732: Fielding, Cov. Garden Tragedy, II. v., Dares thus the devil to rebuke our sin! Dare thus the kettle say the pot is black! 1834: Marryat, P. Simple, ch. xxxii., Do you know what the pot called the kettle? 1920: G. Lambert, M.P., in Times, 27 March, p. 10, col. 3, I would say to my esteemed leaders that the pot calling the kettle sooty doesn’t whiten either of them.

7. To go to pot. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. v., The weaker goeth to the potte, we all dale see. 1591: Harington, Orb. Furioso, bk. xxxviii. st. 60, We may assure our selves if any more We take the field, our side goes to the pot. 1649: in Somers Tracts, vii. 88 (1811), Many a wiser man than I hath gone to pot. 1694: Terence made English, 7, If these brains don’t help me out at a dead lift, to pot goes Pilgrimick. 1740: North, Lives of Norths, i. 151 (Bohn), It was well for us that we were known there, or to pot we had gone. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, ii. 55, "To go to pot," to be reduced to beggary, to suffer.

8. To make the pot boil. c. 1663: Davenant, Play-House to be Let, V., We’ll find out rich husband to make you the pot boil. c. 1750: C. Smart, Ballads, No. xiii., She teaches you economy, Which makes the pot to boil. 1864: Carlyle, Fredk. Gl., XVI. ii. VI. 151 (1872) (O.), A feeling that glory
6109. Want makes strife Between the good man and his wife

Poverty comes in at the door, love flies out of the window, When 1631
Brathwart, *Eng Gentlewoman*, 346 (1641). It hath beene an old maxim, that as poverty goes in at one doore, love goes out at the other. 1732
Fuller, No 5565 ['creeps "for "flies']
c 1810 C Dibdin, *My Spouse and I, Love and poverty they say do not agree, but the love that flies out of the window at the sight of poverty deserves to have the door shut in his face* 1924 Divorce Court evidence in *Evening Standard*, 4 April, p 9, col 2. She might then realise that poverty might come in at the door and love fly out of the window

Poverty destroyeth not, There is no virtue that 1578 Florio, *First Fruites*, to 32, There is no virtue, but pouertie wyl marre it 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 8

Poverty is an enemy to good manners 1585 Sir E Dyer, in Writings, 97 (Grosart) [quoted as "a proverbe amongst vs"]

Poverty is not a shame, but the being ashamed of it is 1732 Fuller, No 3908 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman, ch v*, Poverty is no shame, but being discontented with it is

Poverty is no vice but an inconvenience 1591 Florio, *Second Fruites*, 105 1619 Rich Cabinet, to 114, Pouertie is no vice yet a woffull in
convenience 1666 Torrano, *Piazza Univ*, 214 1781 Macklin, *Man of the World, IV*, Her poverty is not her crime, sir, but her misfortune

Poverty is still in suspicion, He that is in 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 73

Poverty is the mother of all arts and trades 1666 Torrano, *Piazza Univ*, 214

Poverty is the mother of health 1377 Langland, *Plowman B*, vv 298, Pouerte is moder of helthe 1610 Herbert, *Jac Prudentium* 1748 Richardson, *Clarissa*, ii 110 (1785)

Poverty makes strange bed-fellows 1849 Lytton, *Caxtons*, Pt IV ch iv,
Poverty


Poverty very ill, He bears, who is ashamed of it. Ibid., No. 1811.

Povey’s foot. See quotus. 1841: Hartshorne, *Salopia Ant.*, 535, "Wos and was like "[or]" As large as Povey’s foot." 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 594. Worse and worse, like Povey’s foot.


Praise, subs.:


Praise makes good men better and bad men worse. 1659: T. Pecke, *Parnass Puerp.*, 95, Good men are made better; bad, worse by praise. 1732: Fuller, No. 3918.

Praise of fools. See *Fool* (103).

Praise without profit puts little into the pot. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 131, Praises fill not the belly. 1732: Fuller, No. 3922.

Praise, verb:


Praise day at night—similar in
meaning to the preceding saying c 1440
Lydgate, Fall of Princes, bk ix I 2024,
The faire day men do praise at eve
1605 Camden, Remains, 330 (1870),
Praise a fair day at night 1637
Shirley, Example, Epil [as in 1605]
1681 Robertson, Phrases Generalis,
324 [as in 1605] 1732 Fuller, No 3926
Praise not the day before night
1846 T Wright, Essays on Middle Ages, I 148, We say, "praise the day
when it is over"

Praise no man till he is dead 1887
R L S, Hanging Judge, III vi (un.)
Praise nor dispraise thyself, Neither,
thy actions serve the turn 1640 Herbert,
Jac Prudentium 1670 Ray, 21
Praise not the ford See Ford
Praise the bridge he goes over, Let
every man 1678 Ray, 106 1740
North, Examen, 368, It is strange men
cannot praise the bridge they go over,
or be thankful for favours they have
had 1797 Colman, Jr, Hear at Law,
I I, Well, praise the bridge that carried
you over 1827 Scott, in Lochhart's
Life, iv 59, I am bound to praise the
bridge which carried me over 1875
Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 58, As we
have it—Speak well of the bridge that
carries you over

Praise the child and you make love to
the mother 1829 Cobbett, Advice to
Young Men, Lett IV [quoted as "an
old saying"]

Praise the sea but keep on land
1591 Florio, Second Fruits, 99 Praise
the sea, on shore remaine 1640 Her-
bert, Jac Prudentium 1659 Howell,
Letters, II 666 (Jacobs), Commend the
sea, but keep thy self ashoar 1754
Berthelson, Eng - Danish Dict, s v
"Praise" 1875 Cheales, Proverb
Folk-Lore 83

Praise the wine before ye taste of the
grape, Ye 1546 Heywood, Proverbs,
Pt I ch x
Praiseth himself, spattereth himself,
He that 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum
Praiseth publicly, will slander pri-
vately, He that 1669 Politephiatus,
140, He that praiseth a man openly
will not stick to flatter him secretly
1732 Fuller, No 2250

Praise
Praise is prate, but it is the duck that
lays the eggs 1659 Howell, 13
1670 Ray, 215 1732 Fuller, No
3926 Cf Talk is but talk
Praise like a parrot, To 1639 Clarke,
133, He prates like a parrot 1678
Ray, 265 Cf Talk
Pray, verb I He that would learn to
pray, let him go to sea 1660 Howell,
Parly of Beasts, 9, The common saying
is, that he who cannot pray, must go
to church at sea 1670 Ray, 133
1736 Bailey, Dict, s v "Pray"
2 Pray for yourself, I am not sick
1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vi
Prayers and provender hinder no
journey 1640 Herbert, Jac Pruden-
tum 1854 J W Warter, Last of Old
Squires, 53 1863 N & Q., 3rd ser.,
u 258 1926 R A Knox, Other Eyes
than Ours, 182, We're letting luncheon
get cold, ain't we? I always used to
be told that prayer and provender
hinder no man Cf Mass and meat,
Meals and matins, and Meat (5)
Prayers are done, my lady is ready,
When 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Messe;"
When prayers were ended, Madame
ends her pranking 1640 Herbert,
Jac Prudentum
Prayers bring down the first blessing,
and praises the second 1659 Howell, 8
Prayers See quot 1678 Ray, 191.
They shall have no more of our prayers
then we of their pies (quoth vicar of
Layton)
Prayers See also Say, verb (4) and
(17)
Preach over liquor See Parson
Palmer
Preacher's wages Before 1635 Cor-
bet, Poems, in Chalmers, v 577. Wee
all had preacher's wages, thankes and
wine

Preaches war is the devil's chaplain.
He that 1670 Ray, 27 1732 Fuller,
No 2252, He that preacheth up
war, when it might well be avoided, is
the devil's chaplain
Preaches well that lives well, He
1620 Shelton, Quixote, Pt II ch x
1732 Fuller, No 2006
Precepts may lead but examples draw
1855 Bohn, 475 Cf Example
Press a stick and it seems a youth. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

Preston, Lancs. i. See quot. 1869: Hazlitt, 319, Preston for panmugs, Huyton for pride; Childwall for tolling, and playing beside.

2. *Proud Preston*. 1727: Defoe, *Tour*, iii. 221, The people are gay here, though not perhaps the richer for that; but it has by that obtained the name of Proud Preston. 1835: Walker, *The Original*, No. xi, Preston, then always called Proud Preston, because exclusively inhabited by gentry. 1889: N. & Q., 7th ser., viii. 56, Proud Preston, poor people, Built a church and no steeple. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 42, Preawd Preston—poor people—Eight bells in a crack't steeple!


Prettiness makes no pottage. 1678: Ray, 192. 1732: Fuller, No. 3931.

Pretty as paint, As. 1922: E. V. Lucas, *Genewra's Money*, ch. xvi. Now, there's that girl—she's as pretty as paint.

Pretty fellow. See Axle-tree.

Pretty that have pretty conditions, They are. 1633: Draxe, 15.

Pretty things men make. See quot. c. 1590: Plaine Percovall, 19 (1860), He spide a J acke an apes, in a gai cote.

. . . Good Lord what knacks are made for money, now adai es. 1594: A. Copley, *Wits, Fits, etc.*, 145 (1614). A cockney seeing a squirrel in a shop, greatly admir'd it, and said: Jesu God, what pretty things are made for money. 1604: *Jacke of Dover*, 347 (1864), A jack an apes! quoth she; now, Jesu! what these Fleminges can make for money!—thinking verily it had been a thing made by mens hand. 1732: Fuller, No. 5503, What pretty things men will make for money, quoth the old woman, when she saw a monkey.


Pricketh betimes that will be a good thorn, It. Before 1500: in *Hill, Commonplace-Book*, 128 (E.E.T.S.), Sone hit sharpith, that thorn will be. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. ix. 1568: *Jacob and Esau*, IV. iv., It hath been a proverb, before I was born, Young doth it prick, that will be a thorn. 1590: Greene, *Works*, viii. 35 (Grosart), Soone prickes the tree that will prowe a thorne. 1670: Ray, 84, It early pricks that will be a thorn. 1732: Fuller, No. 3043.

Pride and grace dwell never in one place. Ibid., No. 6273.

Pride and poverty are ill met, yet often seen together. Ibid., No. 3933.


Pride costs us more than hunger, thirst, and cold. 1831: Hone, *Year-Book*, col. 1612.


Pride had rather go out of the way, than go behind. Ibid., No. 3937.
Pride in prosperity turns to misery in adversity. Ibid., No 3940
Pride is as loud a beggar as want, and a great deal more saucy. Ibid., No 3941 1736. Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, 1 448 (Bigelow)

Pride is good even in a wild horse. A little 1864. "Cornish Proverbs," in N & Q, 3rd ser., vi 495

Pride is in the saddle, shame is on the crupper. When 1647. Countrymen New Commonwealth, 26. Lewis the eleventh, King of France, was wont to say, when pride was in the saddle, mischief and shame were on the crupper. 1732. Fuller, No 5566

Pride is the sworn enemy to content. Ibid., No 3944

Pride makes naked side, Overdone c 1460. How the Good Wife, I 95. Oure done pride make the naked side

Pride may lurk under a thread-bare cloak. 1732. Fuller, No 3947

Pride must abide 1855. Gaskell, North and South, ch xxix, I kept myself up with proverbs as long as I could, "Pride must abide"—and such wholesome pieces of proverbs. 1901. F E Taylor, Lancs Sayings, 9. Pride mun abide. (Upstart people must bear with rebuffs)

Pride of the rich makes the labours of the poor, The 1639. Clarke, 18

Pride rides, shame lacqueys, When 1732. Fuller, No 5567

Pride scorns the vulgar, yet lies at its mercy. Ibid., No 3950

Pride will have a fall 1509. Barclay, Ship of Fools, ii 161 (1874). The pride in them at last should have a fall before 1529. Skelton, in Works, i 131 (Dyce). I have red, and rede 1 xall, inordinate pride will haue a fall 1593. G Harvey, Works, iii 61 (Grosart).

Without more circumspection, pride hath a fall 1654. Gayton, Pleasant Notes Don Q, 8. You see pride will have a fall 1701. Gubber, Love Makes a Man, III ii. So Pride has got a fall 1748. Richardson, Clarissa, vi 258 (1785). 1848. Dickens, Dombey, ch lix. "Pride shall have a fall and it always was and will be so!" observes the housemaid.

Pride will spit in pride's face 1732. Fuller, No 3953

Pride. See also Charity, Fire (4), and Love (10)

Priest and Priests 1. Priests love pretty wenches 1568. in Loseley MSS, 212 (Kempe)

2. The priest forgets that he was clerk. 1533. Heywood, John, Tyb, etc., 86 (Farmer). But now I see well the old proverb is true. That parish priest forgetteth that ever he was clerk. 1587. Greene, Works, iv 102 (Grosart). Shall the old proverb be verified in thee, that the priest forgetteth himselfe that euer he was a clere? 1612. R. Johnson, Crown Garland, 48 (Percy S). The proverb old is come to passe. The priest when he begins the masse, Forgets that ever clarke he was 1732. Fuller, No 4721

3. To know more than the priest spoke on Sunday c 1540. Bale, Kyng Johan, in Manly, Spec Pre-Shakesp., Drama, i 537 (1903). Clargy, marke yt well, I have more to yow to say Than, as the sayeng is, the priest dyd speke a Sunday 1595. Pedlers Prophecy, i 398 (Malone S). True maud, he for shame, why do ye swere? I know more than the priest spake of a Sunday 1894. Northall, Folk Phrases, 20 (EDS). More than ever the parson preached about

4. To the purpose, as priests praise God in the morning 1623. Wodroephe, Spared Hours, 474

See also Bad priests, Beware, Devil (117). House (20). Such as the priest, Three things are unsatisfiable, and Woman (59)

Princes that is feared of many must of necessity fear many, The 1669. Polsterphina; 79

Princely mind will undo a private family. A 1732. Fuller, No 364

Princes' privados See Quot 1662. Fragmenta Aulica, 108. It is an old adage that princes privados and favorites of Kings were like casting counters, which are used in the exchequer or in play to count by. That sometimes they stand for one, sometimes for ten, sometimes for a hundred.
Priscian's head, To break—To speak or write bad Latin, and, by extension, bad English. [The *locus classicus* for the idea that "speaking false Latin" is equivalent to inflicting violent personal injury on Priscian is Nicodemus Frischlin's comedy *Priscianus Vapulans* (the preface to which is dated 1 January, 1584).—Prof. E. Bensly, in *N. & Q.*, 10th ser., ix 376] Before 1529: Skelton, *Works*, ii. 9 (Dyce), Priscians had broken now handy dandy. 1589: Puttenham, *Eng. Poesie*, 258 (Arber), As when we speake false English . . . every poore scholler knowes the fault, and calis it the breaking of Priscians head, for he was among the Latines a principall grammarian. 1592: Shakespeare, *L.L.L*, V i., Bon, bon, fort bon! Priscian a little scratched: 'twill serve. 1642: Fuller, *Holy State*: "Hildegardis," So that throwing words at random she never brake Priscian's head; as if the Latin had learned to make itself true without the speaker's care. Before 1660: Butler, *Remains*, i. 220 (1759), And counted breaking Priscian's head a thing More capital, than to behead a king. 1742: Pope, *Dunciad*, iii. 164. 1824: Byron, *Don Juan*, can. xv. st. 24, 'Gainst rhyme I never should have knocked my brows, Nor broken my own head, nor that of Priscian. 1858: O. W. Holmes, *Anticrat*, v., They are bound to speak decent English, unless, indeed, they are rough old campaigners . . . in which case, a few scars on Priscian's head are pardoned to old fellows that have quite as many on their own.


Prodigal robs his heir, the miser himself, The. 1732: Fuller, No. 4722. Proffered service stinks. c. 1386: Chaucer, *Can. Yeoman's Tale*, l. 513, Ful sooth it is, that swich profferd servyse Stinketh, as witnesse these olde wyse. c. 1480: *Early Miscell.* , 22 (Warton Cl., 1855), I se proferd serves stynkit. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. iv. 1658: R. Brome, *New Academy*, II., She offers up her selfe; now may the proverb Of profferd service light upon her. 1710: Swift, *Journal to Stella*, 22 Oct., Is not this vexatious? and is there so much in the proverb of proffered service? 1809: Scott, *Pam. Letters*, i. 139 (1894), It is vulgarly said that proffered service is of an evil savour.

Promise and Promises, subs. i. All promises are either broken or kept. 1590: Q. Elizabeth, in *Dee, Diary*, 37 (Camden S.), There was never promisse made, but it was broken or kept. 1641: Taylor (Water-Poet), *Last Voyage*, 8, in *Works*, 2nd coll. (Spens S.), 1692: L'Estrange, *Esop*, 333 (3rd ed.). 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial. I., Why, madam, you know, promises are either broken or kept.

2. Promise is debt. e. c. 1310: in Wright, *Pol. Songs*, 312 (Camden S.), Promis est dette due, si fay ne seit oublie.] c. 1386: Chaucer, *Introduct. to Man of Law's Prole.*, l. 42, Biheste is dette. 1412: Hoccleve, *Regement*, 64 (E.E.T.S.), Of a trewe man, be-heste is dette. c. 1477: Caxton, *Jason*, 83 (E.E.T.S.), I haue promised hit and promis is dew. c. 1530: *Everyman*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, i 137, Yet promise is debt; this ys well wot. 1592: G. Harvey, in *Works*, i 174 (Grosart). c. 1630: in *Roxb. Ballads*, i. 201 (B.S.), For promise is a debt. 1664: in *Musarum Deliciae*, ii. 177 (Hotten), If it be true that promise is a debt.

Promise, verb 1 He promises like a merchant but pays like a man of war 1639 Clarke, 194 1670 Ray, 21
1732 Fuller, No 2007
2 He promises mountains and performs molehills [Manna et montes polluen—Sallust, C xvi 3] 1578
Florio, First Fruits, fo 29, He promiseth seas and mountains 1629
Book of Merry Riddles, Prov 103 1886
Spurgeon, Ploughman’s Pictures, 18 They promise mountains and perform molehills
3 He that promises too much means nothing 1633 Draxe, 167, He that promiseth all deceaveth all 1732
Fuller, No 2253
4 To promise and give nothing is a comfort for a fool 1633 Draxe, 167, To promise and give nought is to com-
fort a fool 1670 Ray, 22 1732
Fuller, No 5215
Promising is the eve of giving 1578
Florio, First Fruits, fo 29, The eve to gene is to promise 1640 Herbert
Jac Prudentum 1666 Torrano, Piazza Univ, 219 Promise is the eve of the gift
Proof of the pudding is in the eating, The
[Exitus acta probat — Ovid, Heroid’, ii 85] c 1300 King Alfred, I 4042, Hit is y-written, every thynge Himself sheweth in tystang
1635 Gaphorne, Hollander, III
1714 Spectator, No 567 1828 Scott, Fair Maid, ch vi. The thyn soft cakes were done liberall justice to
in the mode which is best proof of cake as well as pudding 1842 Barham, Ing Legends, 2nd ser ‘Black Mous-
quetaire,” can 2
Proper that hath proper conditions,
He is 1599 Porter, Two Angry Women, sc xi. 1670 Ray, 22
Properer man the worse luck, The
1633 Jonson, Tale of a Tub, III iv
1670 Ray, 134, The properer man (and so the homester) the worse luck.
Prospect is often better than possession 1732 Fuller, No 3958
Prosperity 1 He who swells in
prosperity, will shrink in adversity 1855
Bohn, 401
2 In time of prosperity friends will
be plenty In time of adversity not one among twenty [ερεκόμενος πρεσβυτέρος,
εκτοθον ἡμι—Menander, Sent, 32] c 1500 in Antiq Repertory, iv 308
(1809), In tymes of prosperity remember adversity 1659
Howell, 20 1670
Ray, 11 1732 Fuller, No 6394 1869
Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch iv
3 Prosperity gets followers, but adversity distinguishes them 1669 Polemicka, 176, Prosperity geteth friends,
but adversity trieth them 1732 fuller, No 3962
4 Prosperity lets go the bridle 1640
Herbert, Jac Prudentum
Proud as an apothecary 1639
Clarke, 32 1678 Ray, 288
Proud as a peacock c 1200 in
Wright, Pol Songs John to Edw II, 159 (Camden S.), A prouest proue ase a po c 1410 Towneley Plays, 117
(E.E.T.S.), Ther shall com a swane as prowe as a po 1513 Bradshaw, St
Wierburga, 69 (E.E.T.S.), Frowde as a peacock 1555 Shacklock, Hatchet
of Heresies, quoted in N & Q, 2nd ser, v 411 1681 Robertson, Phrasal
Generals, 1030 1753 Richardson, Grandison iv 152 (1883) 1869 Spur-
geon, John Ploughman, ch iii
Proud as Lucifer c 1394 in
Wright, Pol Poems, i 315 (Rolls Ser, 1859), They been as proud as Lucilare c 1459
Paracorne, i 9740 (E.E.T.S.) Be ase as prowe of Lucifere 1649 Quarles,
Virgin Widow, V c 1686 in Rover
Ballads vii 21 (B.S.) 1764 Mrs F
Shenando, Duple, III vii 1822 Scott,
Nygel, ch viii 1848 Dickens, Dom-
vey, ch xxvi 1866 Conan Doyle,
Rodney Stone, ch v
Proud as old Cole’s dog 1834-7
Southey, Doctor, ch cxxv, Who was
Old Cole whose dog was so proud that
he took the wall of a dung-cart and
got squeezed to death by the wheel 1
Proud come behond as go before, As
c 1505 Still, Gam Girtin, V ii. As
proude coms behinde, they say, as any
goes before! 1609 Camden, Remains,
318 (1870) 1655 Fuller, Church Hist.
bk. iii. § iii. (5), Pleasing itself that "as stout came behind as went before." 1732: Fuller, No. 724. 1853: Trench, Proverbs, 76 (1905).

Proud eye, A, an open purse, and a light wife, bring mischief to the first, misery to the second, and horns to the third. 1647: Countrym. New Commonwealth, 35. 1669: Politiephilia, 281.

Proud folks, for they will not complain, It's good beating. 1639: Clarke, 31. 1670: Ray, 133.

Proud heart and a beggar's purse agree not well together, A. c. 1430: Lydgate, Minor Poems, 56 (Percy S.). A prowde hert in a beggers brest . . . it accordeth nought. c. 1532: R. Copland, Spyttel Hous, I. 977, Lo, here one may see that there is none worse Than is a proude herete and a beggers purs. 1631: Brathwait, Eng. Gentlewoman, 272 (1641). Wee say there is no good congruity in a proud heart and a beggars purse. 1670: Ray, 133 ["mind" for "heart"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 369, A proud mind and a poor purse are ill met. Ibid., No. 6386, There's nothing agrees worse, Than a prince's heart, and a beggar's purse.

Proud horse that will not bear his own provender, A. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ix. 1597: G. Harvey, Works, iii. 14 (Grosart), Go too, I say, he is an ill horse that will not carry his owne provender. c. 1660: in Roxb. Ballads, ii. 159 (Hindley). 1670: Ray, 105 [as in 1597].

Proud look makes foul work in a fine face, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 367.

Proud looks lose hearts, but courteous words win them. 1647: Countrym. New Commonwealth, 18.

Proud man hath many crosses, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 368.


Provender pricks him. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi. For when prouander prickt them a little tyne, They did as thy wife and thou did both dote Eche one on other. 1591: Drayton, Harmony of Church, 9 (Percy S.). That now to lust thy provender doth pricke. 1673: B. & F., Honest Man's Fortune, V. i., But, by my soul, my provender scarce pricks me. 1716: Ward, Female Policy, 84, When provender pricks a woman, then she'll grow knavish.

Proves too much, proves nothing, That which. 1732: Fuller, No. 4384.

Provide for the worst, the best will save itself. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. v. 1659: Howell, 15. 1680: L'Estrange, Citi and Bumpkin, 6, 'Tis good however to prepare for the worst, and the best (as they say) will help itself.

Providence is better than rent. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1670: Ray, 22. 1732: Fuller, No. 3971.

Providing is preventing. 1883: Burne, Shrosh. Folk-Lore, 588.

Prudence. See Ounce; and Zeal.

Prudent pauses forward business. 1732: Fuller, No. 3976.

Pr'y thee lad, shape. "Shape = set to work—go on—get along." 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 104.

Public. He that does anything for the public is accounted to do it for nobody. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 29, Who serueth the commons serueth no body. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Commun," Ouvrage de commun ouvrage de nil; All mens worke is no mans worke; or that which is done for many is acknowledged by none. Quoi sert commun nil ne le paye, et s'il défaut chascun l'abbaye; The service done to a people no man rewards, the disservices every man railes at. 1732: Fuller, No. 2082. 1742: North, Lives of Norths, ii 120 (Bohn), Which confirms an old lesson, that "He who serves a community must secure a reward by his own means, or expect it from God."

Public reproof hardens shame. 1732: Fuller, No. 3977.

Pudding. i. A pudding hath two ends. 1598: T. Bastard, Chrestoleros, bk. iii. Ep. 12, A pudding merits double praise, a pudding hath two ends. 1659: Howell, 11, A pudding hath two ends, but a fool hath none.
2 A pudding in the fire See quot 1639 Howell, 13, Ther's a pudding in the fire, and my part lies thereanna

3 If it won't pudding, it will froze— If it won't do for one thing it will for another 1830 Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 427 1872 J Glyde, jr, Norfolk Garland, 148

4 It would ser a dog to see a pudding creep c 1630 in Raw Ballads, 1 58 (B S) Would not a dog for anger swell to see a pudding creep 1673 in Halliwell, Norfolk Anthology, 17 (1852) 1738 Swift Polite Convers, Dial II

5 Pudding before praise 1847 Barham Ing Legends 3rd ser "House-Warming. An old proverb says, Pudding still before praise."

6 Pudding for a friar's mouth See Fit as a pudding

7 Pudding is no meal with you 1639 Clarke, 74

8 Pudding is poison See quot 1738 Swift Polite Convers Dial II, O! Madam, they say a pudding is poison when it is too much boil'd

9 To come in pudding time—To come at the right moment 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch ix, This gear cometh even in pudding time right the 1568 Fulwell, Like will to Like, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, iii 319 1596 Nashe, Works, iii 169 (Grosart), In pudding time you have spoken 1604 Dekker, Honest Whore, Pt I V ii, We come in pudding-time, for here is the duke 1663 Butler Hudibras, Pt I can ii, 1 865 1738 Swift, Polite Comers, Dial II 1769 Cumberland, Brothers, II iv, I want to have a little chat with you, and thought to have dropped in at pudding-time, as they say 1830 Colman Jr, in Hum Works, 421 (Hotten), The good luck of setting concerns of the greatest consequence, exactly at the critical minute, is expressed by being "just in pudding time" 1854 Baker, Northants Gloss, s 1, You've hit pudding-time well, is a common salutation to any one who pops in accidentally to dinner See also Cold pudding, and Run (13)

Puff not against the wind. 1605 Camden, Remains, 330 (1870) 1670 Ray, 156 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 7 (Percy S)

Pulborough See Chichester

Pull devil pull baker 1759 Colman, Rollad, can ii, Pull Tom, pull Nick, pull baker, and pull devil 1831 Planché, Extravag, i 75 (1879), Orpheus [to Pluto] But when she went, it was "pull you, pull baker!" 1881 in N & Q, 11th ser, iv 437. When the Mayor of Birmingham Alderman Baker, tried to unveil the statue of George Dawson at Birmingham in 1881, the mechanism did not work The Mayor tugged at the cord in vain In the strained silence was heard a stage whisper from J H Chamberlain, the architect of the canopy, "Pull devil—pull Baker!" 1922 Ramsay Macdonald in H of C, Times, 14 Dec, p 8, col 4, Workmen and engineers must see that the old game of pull devil, pull baker" was not worth the candle

Pullet in the pen is worth an hundred in the fen, A 1869 Hazlitt, 31

Pulls with a long rope that waits for another's death, He 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1666 Tornano, Piazza Univ, 159, He pulls at a long rope, who longs for another bodies death

Pulse beats matrimony, Her 1678 Ray, 265 1732 Fuller, No 2493 Punch coal See Break (3)

Punctuality is the soul of business 1869 Hazlitt, 321 1878 Platt, Business, 95, Punctuality is the very hour of business

Punishment is lame, but it comes 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1666 Tornano, Piazza Univ, 199 ["over-takes" "for" "comes"] 1853 trench, Proverbs, 140 (1905)

Purse 1 Ask thy purse what thou should'st buy 1732 Fuller, No 820

He hath left his purse in his other hose 1639 Clarke, 244 1670 Ray, 22 1732 Fuller, No 1889 ["breeches" for "hose"]

He is purse-sick and lacks a physician 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I, ch xi

He that shows his purse longs to be
rid of it. 1639: Clarke, 176. 1670: Ray, 135. 1732: Fuller, No. 2299. He that sheweth his wealth to a thief, is the cause of his own pillage. Ibid., No. 2301 [as in 1639].
5. His purse and his palate are ill met. Ibid., No. 2513.
6. His purse is made of a toad's skin. 1678: Ray, 90.
7. Keep your purse and your mouth close. 1732: Fuller, No. 3122.
9. The purse-strings are the common ties of friendship. 1732: Fuller, No. 4727.
10. To give one's purse a purgation. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi., Ye would by my purs, geue me a purgacion. 1562: Bulleyn, Balw. of Defence, fo. 27. Can give his masters purse a purgacion.
See also Be it better; Devil (72) and (96); Empty (3)-(7); Heavy purse; Less; Light purse; Nothing (4); Proud eye; Proud heart; Silk purse; Silver (2); Two hands; Wrinkled purses.
Put, verb. 1. He'll not put off his doublet before he goes to bed—He'll not part with his property before death. 1645: Howell, Letters, bk. i. § iii. No. xi., This does not suit with the genius of an Englishman, who loves not to pull off his clothes till he goes to bed. 1737: Ray, 186 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 597. To doff one's shoon before going to bed = to part with one's property before death.
2. He puts out one of his own eyes, to put out both of his adversary's. 1730: Bailey, Eng. Dict., s.v. "Solace" [cited as "the old proverb"].
3. Never put off till to-morrow what you can do to-day. c. 1386: Chaucer, Melibens, § 71, "Ther is an old proverbe," quod she, "seith: that the goodnesse that thou mayst do this day, do it; and abyde nat ne delaye it nat til to-morwe." 1541: Coverdale, Christ. State Matrimony, sig. 13. Whatsoever thou mayest do to nyght dyferre it not tyll to morowe. 1633: Draxe, 41, Deferre not vntill to morrow, if thou canst do it to day. 1736: Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i. 444 (Bigelow). 1785: Observer, No. 96. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. vii., These slow coaches ... take for their rule an old proverb turned topsy-turvy —"Never do to-day what you can put off till to-morrow."
4. Put in with the bread. See Loaf (1).
5. Put no more in the pocket than it will hold. 1639: Clarke, 11.
6. To be put to one's trumps. See Trumps.
7. To put a churl upon a gentleman. 1586: L. Evans, Withals Dict. Revised, sig. D7, Lay not a churl vpon a gentleman, drinne not beer after wine. 1637: Taylor (Water-Poet), Drink and Welcome, 20, in Works, 2nd coll. (Spens. S.), And after to drinne beer, nor will nor can He lay a churle upon a gentle
man. 1690: New Dict. Canting Crew, sig. C6. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II., Neverout [offered ale], No, faith, my lord; I like your wine, and won't put a churl upon a gentleman; your honour's claret is good enough for me. 1785: Grose, Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue, s.v. "Churl."
8. To put something in the eye. See Eye (20).
9. To put to bed with a shovel—To bury. 1859: in Farmer, Mnsa Pedes-
tris, 160, With shovels they were put to bed. 1910: Devonsh. Assoc. Trans., xlii. 68. She callously replied, "Oh, he's no gude, 'tis taime he were put to bed wi' a shovel."
10. To put two and two together. See Two and two.
Quake like an oven, To 1670 Ray, 207

Quality See quot 1887 Folk-Lore Journal, v 219 To cut an honour for the trump card is unlucky, for "when quality opens the door there is poverty behind."

Quarrel with a knave than with a fool, It is better to 1820 Colton, Lacon Pt II No 67, These considerations have given rise to this saying, It is better," etc

Quarrel with one's bread and butter, To 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I, I won't quarrel with my bread and butter for all that, I know when I'm well 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, v 21 (1785) 1833 Planche, Extravag, 1 155 (1879) 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch xix, He who turns up his nose at his work quarrels with his bread and butter 1911 T Edwards, Neighbourhood, 213, Of course I must not quarrel with my bread-and-butter!

Quartan ago kills the old and cures the young, A 1659 Howell, Proverbs Ital-Eng, 15 1678 Ray, 41 1732 Fuller, No 3991 [in the plural] Quarter-master where-ever he comes, He'll be 1678 Ray, 266 1732 Fuller, No 2414, He would be quarter-master at home, if his wife would let him

Queen Anne's dead 1722 Ballad, in Lady Pennyman, Miscellanies, 1740, He's as dead as Queen Anne the day after she dy'd 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I, And pray, what news, Mr Neverout? Neverout Why, madam, Queen Elizabeth's dead 1797 Colman, jr, Hear at Law, I 1, Tell em Queen Anne's dead my lady 1840 Barham Ing Legends, 1st ser "Look at the Clock," Mrs Wimfread Pryce was as dead as Queen Anne! 1908 Read, H & B in Hants, 353 Portsmouth offers text and reference for the saying "Queen Anne is dead"

Queen-apple-tree, To be up the 1670 Ray, 198

Queen Dick 1667 L'Estrange, Quenedo's Visions, 50 (1904), This was well enough in the days of Queen Dick, when the poor creatures knew no better Queen's English See King's English

Queen See Do (39)

Quest See Wood-pigeon

Questioneth, He that nothing, nothing learneth 1732 Fuller, No 2241

Quay out of a quay, A, Will breed a byre full of kye "Quay" = a heifer 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 14 (Percy S)

Quick and nimble, more like a bear than a squirrel 1732 Fuller, No 3992

Quick and nimble 'twill be your own another day 1678 Ray, 345

Quick as a bee 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch ix 1595 Churchyard, Charite, 16 (1616), As quicke as bee, seekes home every where 1633 Drake, 172

Quick as lightning c 1440 Lydgate, Fall of Princes, bk vi 1 2114, His conquest was swift as wynnd or leuene [lightning] c 1623 B & F, Love's Cure, I 1, Swift as lightning he came on Upon the other 1763 Mrs F Sheridan, Discovery, I ii, I am rather petulant, flash, flash, flash, as quick as lightning 1787 D'Arblay, Diary, ii 427 (1806), I turned back, quick as lighting 1880 RLS and Henley, Deacon Brodie, I 111 1, I was as quick as lightning

Quick as thought Before 1225, Ancren R., 94 (O), Asc swife ase is nu monnes pouht 1412-20 Lydgate, Troy Book, bk 1 li 1764, By sodeyn chawenge, hasty as a thought 1468 Coventry Mys., 298 (Sh S), I am as whyt [quick] as thought 1594, Zepherna, 30 (Spens S), But now (old man) flye on, as swift as thought 1620 Shelton, Quixote, Pt II ch xlvii...
Quick


Quick baker, A, and a slow brewer. 1732: Fuller, No. 373.

Quick believers need broad shoulders. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

Quick child is soon taught. c. 1320: in *Relig. Antiqua*, i. 110 (1841), "Sely chyld is sone y-lered"; Quoth Hend- yng. 1869: Hazlitt, 322.

Quick landlord makes a careful tenant, A. 1678: Ray, 165. 1732: Fuller, No. 3994 [in the plural].

Quick, To the. See Touch (2).

Quick with the quick. See Live (38).

Quick. See also Nimble.

Quickly come, quickly go. 1631: Mabbe, *Celestina*, 29 (T.T.), Quickly be wonne, and quickly be lost.

Quiet as a lamb. 1362: Langland, *Plowman*, A, vi. 43. He is as louh [quiet] as a lamb. c. 1440: Lydgate, *Fall of Princes*, bk. i. l. 6934 (E.E.T.S.), Stille as a lamb, most meek off his visage. 1592: Shakespeare, *Romeo*, II. v., I'll warrant him, as gentle as a lamb. 1694: *Terence made English*, 180, I can presently make him as quiet as a lamb. 1787: D'Arblay, *Diary*, ii. 337 (1876), I used to ... wander about as quiet as a lamb. 1872: Hardy, *Greenwood Tree*, Pt. V. ch. i., I walked into the church as quiet as a lamb, I'm sure!

Quiet (or Still) as a mouse. 1656: Flecknoe, *Diarium*, 9, Was wont to be as still as mouse. c. 1670: in *Roxb. Ballads*, iii. 377 (B.S.), I must be silent as a mouse. 1709: Cibber, *Rival Fools*, II., I'm mute as a mouse in a cheese. 1772: Graves, *Spirit. Quixote*, bk. ii. ch. xiv., Tugwell was as still as a mouse during this discourse. 1824: Scott, *Redgauntlet*, ch. xvi., A place where you will be as snug and quiet as a mouse in his hole. 1894: R. L. S., *St. Ives*, ch. xi, Both armies lay as quiet as mice. 1923: *Punch*, 7 March, p. 218, col. 1, If she has her bricks and a pencil and paper she'll be as quiet as a mouse.


Quiet sleep feels no foul weather. 1732: Fuller, No. 3997.


Quiet tongue makes a wise head, A. 1562: Heywood, *Epigr.*, 6th Hund., No. 83, Hauyng a styll toung he had a besy head. 1776: T. Cogan, *John Bunle, Junior*, i. 238, But mum's the word ... A quiet tongue makes a wise head, says I.

Quietness is best. See quotes. 1886: R. Holland, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 453 (E.D.S.), Quietness is best, as the fox said, when he bit the cock's head off. 1908: *Eng. Ill. Mag.*, Jan., 357, Quietness is the best noise, as Uncle Johnny said when he knocked down his wife [Cornish]. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 104 [as in 1886].

Quit bride, quit tit. 1820: Scott, *Abbot*, ch. xvii., They are as sharp here north-away as in anyn Yorkshire her- self, and quit bride, quit tit, as we say.

Quits his place well that leaves his friend there, He. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

Quoth the young cock. See Young (15).
Rabbit for a rat, Who will change a? 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vi
Rabbit, He's like a, a fat and lean in twenty-four hours 1678 Ray, 288
Rabbit-hunting See quot 1732 Fuller, No 5170, To go a coney-catching with a dead ferret
Race-horse See Running horse
Race is got by running, The 1732 Fuller, No 4728
Rack and manger, To lie (or live) at c 1376 Wyclif in Eng Works, 435 (Matthew, 1880), It is yuel to kepe a wast hors in stable but it is worse to have a womman walpynne or walpoute at racke and at manger 1599 Greene, Works, 1x 178 (Grosart), Mars himselfe hateth to be euer on Venus lapphe, he scorneth to lye at rack and manger 1628 Robin Goodfellow, 1o (Percy S), Leaped and curveted as nimbly as if he had bee ne in stable at rack and manger a full moneth 1640 Shirley, Love's Cruelty, III 11, You think you are at rack and manger, when you divide beans with the horses, and help to fould the stable 1740 North, Lives of Norths, 1 335 (Bohn), He took divers of them to rack and manger in his family 1843 Carlyle, Past and Present, bk 11 ch 1, Tearing out the bowels of St Edmundsbury Convent (its larders namely and cellars) in the most rumous way, by living at rack and manger there 1889 Peacock, Manley, etc, Gloss, 426 (EDS), To live at rack and manger is to lye plentifully, without stunt
Rag on every bush See quot 1866 in N & Q, 3rd ser, 1x 474 A Rag upon Every Bush—This saying, or proverb is usually applied to young men who are in the habit of showing marked attention to more than one lady at a time "Oh he has a rag on every bush"
Ragged as a colt, As 1863 Wise

New Forest, ch XVI, The proverb of "as ragged as a colt Pixey" is every where to be heard, and at which Dray ton seems to hint in his Court of Famce "This Puck seems but a dreaming doll, Still walking like a ragged colt" 1894 Northall, Folk Phrases, Io (EDS)
Ragged as a cuckoo, As Oxford, 1923 Folk-Lore, xxxiv 329
Ragged as a sheep, As 1862 Dialect of Leeds, 405 If the child of a slatternly woman is seen with tattered garments, it is pronounced at once to be "as regg d as a sheep"
Ragged colt may make a good horse, A Before 1500 in Hill, Common- place-Book, 128 (EETS), Of a ragged colte cometh a good hors 1546 Hey wood, Proverbs, Pt I ch vi, For of a ragged colte there cometh a good horse 1605 Chapman, etc., Eastw Hoe, V [with "prove" for "make"] 1670 Ray, 72 1754 Berthelson, Eng- Danish Dittys &y "Colt" 1786 Burns, Dream, xi (O), Aft a ragged cowte's been known To mak a noble arier 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 7 (Percy S), Of a ragged colt cometh many a good horse
Ragged colt See also Scald horse
Rags o'th' hob, There'll be 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 117.
There will be a quarrel or unpleasantness
Rain, subj I A foot deep of rain Will kill hay and grain. But three feet of snow Will make them come more [more] 1869 Blackmore, Lorna Doone, ch I [quoted as "the old saying"] 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 111
2 After rain comes sunshine (or fair weather) 1484 Caxton, Fables of Æsop, II vni (O), After the rayne cometh the fair weder 1597 C Middleton, Chonon of England, 26 (EE TS), After showers at length would come a sunne 1678 Ray, 194. After rain comes fair weather 1869
Rain


4. All the rain avore Midsummer Goth into the farmer's puss; All the rain arterwards Is so much the wuss. 1891: R. P. Chope, *Harland Dialect*, 20 (E.D.S.).


6. Between twelve and two You'll see what the day will do. 1872: J. Glyde, jr., *Norfolk Garland*, 155.

7. Bright-backed rain Makes fools rain. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 162, ... When a rain cloud is succeeded by a little brightness in the sky, fools rejoice and think it will soon be fair weather.


10. If the rain comes out of the east, 'Twill rain twice twenty-four hours at the least. c. 1685: Aubrey, *Nat. Hist. Wills*, 16 (1817). 1890: Forby, *Vocab. E. Anglia*, 417, When it rains with the wind in the east, it rains for twenty-four hours at least. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 109, Rain from the east Two days at least.

11. Marry the rain to the wind and you have a calm. Ibid, 110. Cf. No. 3.


14. Plenty rain, plenty sunshine, Plenty rain, plenty root. 1899: *N. & Q.*, 9th ser., iv. 165, ... old hands know that after an early summer, with nice rains and hot suns alternating, there is sure to be abundance of fruit, corn and root.

15. Rain before seven, Fine before eleven. 1853: *N. & Q.*, 1st ser., vii. 512. 1888: *Lowlesy, Berks Gloss.*, 30 (E.D.S.), Raain avoor zeven vine avvor 'leven is a very common weather proverb. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 44, Rain at seven, fine at eleven; Rain at eight, not fine till eight. 1899: *N. & Q.*, 9th ser., iii. 317, ... I have always heard this proverb with two additional lines—If it rains at eleven, 'Twill last till seven.


19. Rain on the green grass, and rain
Rain

on the tree. And rain on the house-top, but not upon me 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 8 (Percy S.)

20 Rain, rain, go away, Come again on Saturday 1867 Aubrey, Gentilisme, etc., 180 (F.L.S.) 1899 in N. & Q., 9th ser., iv 105 with "for washing day" for "on Saturday."

21 Rain, rain, go to Spain. See quot 1659 Howell, 20, Rain, rain, go to Spain Fair weather come again 1837 Mrs. Palmer, Devonsh Dialect, 46, Rain, rain, go to Spain, Come again another day When I brew and when I bake, I'll give you a figgy cake 1864 "Cornish Proverbs" in N. & Q., 3rd ser., v 209, [as in 1837, plus] and a glass of brandy.

22 Small rain lays a great dust 1670 Ray, 135 1732 Fuller, No 4103 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 5 (Percy S.) ['will lay" for 'says']

23 Some rain some rest A harvest proverb 1678 Ray, 80 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 108, Some rain, some rest, Fine weather isn't always best Cf No 12

24 Sunshine and shower, rain again to-morrow Ibid, 111

25 The farther the sight the nearer the rain Ibid., 105

26 The faster the rain, the quicker the hold up Norfolk Ibid., 109

27 When the Lizard is clear, Rain is near Corn Ibid., 105

28 When the rain rained and the goose winketh, Little wots the gesting what the goose thinketh Before 1529 Skelton, in Works, 1 418 (Dyce) 1667 Poor Robin Alman, Sept

29 When the rain's before the win', 'Tis time to take the topsails in, But when the wind's before the rain, Let your topsails out again 1875 A B Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 27

Rain, verb I Although it rain throw not away thy watering-pot 1640 Herbert, Jac. Prudentium

2 If it rains before church. See quot [16th cent in Relig Antiquae ii 10 (1843). Du Dimanche au matin la pluye Bien souvient la semaine ennuye] 1846 Denham Proverbs, 11 (Percy S.) If it rains on a Sunday before mass, It will rain all the week, more or less 1881 in Folk-Lore Record, iv 130, Rain afore church Rain all the week, little or much —Norfolk 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 261 [as in 1846]

3 If it raineth at tide's flow See quot c 1685 Aubrey, Nat Hist Wils, 16 (1847). A proverbial rime observed as infallible by the inhabitants on the Severn side —If it raineth when it doth flow, Then yoke your oxe, and goe to plough, But if it raineth when it doth ebb, Then unyoke your oxe and goe to bed 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 107, If it raineth at tide's flow, You may safely go and mow, But if it raineth at the ebb, Then, if you like, go off to bed

4 If it should rain porridge he would want his dish [1583 Melbancke, Philotinus, sig Co3. All the world is otemeale and my poke left at home] 1670 Ray, 102 1692 Poor Robin Alman, May, What is he better for his wish, When it rains porridge to want a dish 1732 Fuller, No 2687 1805 S O Jewett, Life of Nancy, 221. "When it rains porridge hold up your dish," said Mrs. Flagg 1923 Devonsh Assoc. Trans., iv 130, if it shud be ramin' porridge, my dish'd sure to be upside down

5 It never rains but it pours 1726 Swift and Pope, Prose Miscellanies, [title of paper] It cannot rain but it pours 1755 Franklin, in Works, ii. 413 (Bigelow), You will say, It can't rain, but it pours 1857 Borrow, Rom Rye, ch xxviii x360 Read, C. and Heath, ch i in 1904 Co Folk-Lore Northumb., 171 (F.L.S.), It does not rain but it pours down

6 It rains by planets 1670 Ray, 45 1809 Pegge, Anonymiana, cent xix 48. The common people will say in the summer-time, it rains by planets 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, ii 48, "T rain faws 'n planets' e the rain falls partially 1887 Parish and Shaw, Dict Kent Dialect, 117 (E.D.S.), "It rains by planets," when showers fall in a small compass, in opposition to general rain
7. It rains cats and dogs. 1653: R. Brome, _City Wit_, IV. i., It shall raine . . . dogs and polecats, and so forth. 1738: Swift, _Polite Convers_, Dial. II., He was sure it would rain cats and dogs. 1829: Scott, _Journal_, 16 April. 1840: Barham, _Ing. Legends_, 1st ser.: "Grey Dolphin.

8. It rains in summer as well as in winter. 1732: Fuller, No. 3044.

9. To see it rain is better than to be in it. 1639: Clarke, 278. 1670: Ray, 140. 1732: Fuller, No. 5223, To see a storm is better than to feel it.

Rain, subs. and verb. See also After drought; Bee (10); Cloud; Devil (111); Dew; Dirt-bird; Dog-days; Easter (13); Every day in the week; February; Fleas; Friday (6) and (7); Frost (6) and (8); God will; Good Friday (2); July; Mobberley; Peacock; Rainbow; Red at night; St. John (1); St. Mary; St. Medard; St. Peter; Swithin; St. Vitus; Smoke (2); Snail; Spring (7); Sun; Whitens tide; and Wind, A (a) (1), (13) and (14); B (2), (5) and (6); D (3) and (5); E (r) and (f); F (5), (8), (9) and (10).

Rainbow. 1. A rainbow in the morning and in the evening. See quotes. 1555: L. Digges, _Prognostication_, sig. B2, If in the mornying the raynebow appere, it signifieth moysture . . . If in the evening it spend it self, layre weather ensueth. 1666: Torriano, _Piazza Univ., 13_, The evening rainbow portends fair weather. 1825: Hone, _Ev. Day Book_, i. 670, A rainbow in the morning is the shepherd's warning; But a rainbow at night is the shepherd's delight. 1886: R. Holland, _Cheshire Gloss._, 444 (E.D.S.), A rainbow at morn is a sign of a storm; A rainbow at night is a shepherd's delight. 1893: Inwards, _Weather Lore_, 112, [as in 1825, also as follow] The rainbow in the marnin' Gives the shepherd warnin' To car' his gurt cwoat on his back; The rainbow at night is the shepherd's delight, For then no gurt cwoat will he lack. _Witts_. A dog [small rainbow near the horizon] in the morning, Sailor, take warning; A dog in the night Is the sailor's delight.

2. A rainbow in the morn, put your hook in the corn; A rainbow in the eve, put your hook in the sheave. Corn. _Ibid.,_ 112.

3. Go to the end of the rainbow and you'll find a crock of gold. 1850: _N. & Q._, 1st ser., ii. 512, Where the rainbow rests is a crock of gold. 1875: Parish, _Sussex Dict._, 31 [given as a "Sussex proverb"].


5. If there be a rainbow in the eve, It will rain and leave: But if there be a rainbow in the morrow, It will neither lend nor borrow. 1670: Ray, 43. 1825: Hone, _Ev. Day Book_, i. 670. 1893: Inwards, _Weather Lore_, 112.

6. If two rainbows appear at one time, they presage rain to come. 1669: _New Help to Discourse_, 203.

7. Rainbow to windward, foul fall the day; Rainbow to leeward damp runs away. 1893: Inwards, _Weather Lore_, 112.

Rainy day, To keep something (or To lay up or by) for a. 1582: Breton, in _Works_, i. a 29 (Grosart), Wise men say Kepe somewhat till a rayny day. 1583: Stubbes, _Anat. of Abuses_, 115 (N.Sh. S.), Is it not good to lay vp something against a stormie day? 1653: R. Brome, _City Wit_, IV. i., I hope I had the wit to cozen my husband of somewhat against a rainy day. 1666: Pepys, _Diary_, 31 Oct., I . . . do provide for it by laying by something against a rainy day. 1690: Dryden, _Amphiltryon_, I. ii. 1705: _Centlivre, Gamester_, III. i. 1744-6: Mrs. Haywood, _Fem. Spectator_, i. 113 (1771). 1860: Reade, _Cl. and Heathr_, ch. ii., So she met current expenses, and laid by for the rainy day she saw coming. Raise no more spirits than you can conjure down. 1639: Clarke, 247. 1670: Ray, 135. 1732: Fuller, No 4000. 1754: Berthelson, _Eng.-Danish Dict._, s.v. "Raise" ["lay" for "conjure "]

Raise one downstairs, To. 1917: Bridge, _Cheshire Proverbs_, 142.
Rake gathers, the fork scatters, What the 1580 Lyly, Euphues, 228 (Arber), Youth tedding that with a forke in one yere, which was not gathered together with a rake, in twentie c 1630 in Rov Ballads, 1 134 (B S ), Great use he did take, And for me did rake, Which now with the forke I will scatter 1775 in Rov Ballads, on 520 (B S ) What the old folks scrap'd together I spread it abroad with my forke 1869 Hazlitt 369, The fork is commonly the rake's heir

Rake hell and skim the devil, you can't find such another man 1754 Berthelson, Eng - Danish Dict., s v "Rake"

Rake more than the fork, He uses the 1670 Ray, 190, He is better with a rake then a fork 1732 Fuller, No 2375

Ram See Crooked, and Sheep (8)

Ram[fetid] as a fox, As [1601 Shakespeare, Twelfth Night, II v., Though it be as rank as a fox 1693 D'Urfe, Richmond Heavess, I Red and rank as a fox.] 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, u 69, He's as ram as a fox 1862 Dialect of Leeds, 406 1889 J Nicholson, Folk Speech & Yorke 20, As ram as an awd fox

Rame Head See Dudman

Ramsey the rich 1662 Fuller, Worthies, u 98 (1840) 1708 Brit Apollo, I, Suppl Paper, No 10, col 4 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Hunts" Rancor sticks long by the ribs 1639 Clarke, 178 1659 Howell, 16

Rank courtesy when a man is forced to give thanks for his own, It's a 1670 Ray, 20 1732 Fuller, No 2871

Rap See Haste (4)

Rap and rend, To = To seize 1528 Roy, Rede me, 74 (Arber), To rape and rende All that commeth in their fingrynge 1540 Palsgrave, Acobatus, sig Qz, All that he may gete or laye hande on or rape and rende 1817 Scott, Rob Roy ch xxvi Every onee' them will maintain as mony as he can rap and rende means for 1866 J G Nall, Gt Yarmouth etc 631, 'A spend everything 'a can rap and rend,' i e 'All he can seize and lay hands on

1866 Brogden, Linces Words, 163, Rap and rend — By fair or foul means 1920 E Gepp, Essex Dialect Dict., 29, I've giv ye all I could rap and rend

Rap and run, To c 1386 Chaucer, Can Yeoman's Tale, 1 1422, But wasten all that ye may rape and renne 1607 R West, "Court of Conscience, sig E 4 When they have got what they can rap and run 1742 North, Lives of Northis, n 280 (Bohn), All that he could (as they say) rap or run went the same way

Rare thing to do good, It is a 1659 Howell, 9

Rashness is not valour 1732 Fuller, No 4002

Rasp [Put aside] the scythe drank some cyder S Devon 1869 Hazlitt, 323

Rat and Rats 1 He'd starve the rats, and make the mice go upon scrutches [crutches] S Devon 1869 Hazlitt, 198

2 Rats fly from the falling house 1625 Bacon, Essays "Wisdom for Man's Self," It is the wisdome of rats, that will be sure to leave a house, somewhat before it fall 1649 T Forde Lusus Fort, 32, That ill such friends run from, like mice from a falling house 1663 Butler, Hudibras, Pt I, can u 1 699 1672 Crowne, Charles VIII, V, All vermin from a falling palace run 1724 Defoe, Tour, Lett III, 98, The mice and rats have abandoned many houses more, as they say they will, when they are likely to fall 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, vi 324 (1785) 1848 Dickens Dombeey, ch lux , It is a great house still but it is a run none the less, and the rats fly from it

3 Rats in Ireland See Rhyme to death

4 The rats may safely play when as the cat's away 1611 Colgrave, s v "Rat"

5 Too late repents the rat when caught by the cat 1591 Florio, Second Frolues 165, Too late repents the ratt If once her tale be caught by the catt 1623 Wedroephe Spared Hores, 516

6 You can't get rats out of mice S Devon 1882 Folk-Lore Record, v 159
Rate  

1. Thou art a bitter bird, said the raven to the starling. 1678: Ray, 195.  
2. Thou art a bitter bird, said the raven to the starling. 1678: Ray, 195.  
3. See also Black, adj. (7); and Carcase.  
4. See also Black, adj. (7); and Carcase.  
5. See also Black, adj. (7); and Carcase.  
6. See also Black, adj. (7); and Carcase.  
7. See also Black, adj. (7); and Carcase.  
8. See also Black, adj. (7); and Carcase.  
9. See also Black, adj. (7); and Carcase.  
10. See also Black, adj. (7); and Carcase.  
11. See also Black, adj. (7); and Carcase.
would have been as red as your roses
1863 Kingsley, Water Babies, ch n
Red as a turkey-cock c 1430
B & F, Faithful Friends, III n. The
very sight of his scarlet gown made me
blush as red as a turkey-cock 1733
C Coffey, Boarding-School, sc n. Your
gills look as red as a turkey-cocks
1880 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures,
6. Joe came from behind the stack,
looking as red as a turkey-cock 1880
Courtney, W Cornwall Words, 36
(E D S). As red as a lubber cock [turkey-
cock] 1894 W Raymond, Love and
Quiet Life, 167
Red as blood c 1205 Lay, 15949
(O), ye oder is milclwhit ye oder
red alse blod 1387 Trevisa, tr
Higden, i 123 (Rolls Ser.), ye seconde
pre motyres red as blood 1485
Malory, Morte d'Arthur, bk xvi ch iv.
Hitt was red as blood 15944 First
Part Contention, 22 (Sh 5) 15944
W Raymond, Love and Quiet Life, 246.
Wine was dripping into the gutters as
red as blood
Red as fire c 1310 King Horn
(Oxf.), i 520 (Hall), Red so any glede
1489 Caxton, Sonnes of Aymon, 27
(E E T S), He wexed for grete wrathe
as redde as ony fyr in his face 1567
Golding, Ovid, bk i 1 1554, At this
reproch old Phaeton wax as red as
any fire 1681 Robertson, Phras'd
Generals, 267. He blusht as red as fire
1709 Manley, New Atlantis, ii 87
(1736), I blush'd as red as fire 1722
Defoe, Moll Flanders, in Works, ii 60
(Bohn)
Red as Martlesham hon=very red
Suffolk. 1892 E Anghan Daily
Times (W)
Red at night and red in the morning
Several sayings to like effect may be
conveniently grouped under this head-
ning Cof Evening 1551 T Wilson,
Rule of Reason, sig M4, The skie was
very red this morningy, Ergo we are
like to have rayne or [ere] nyght
1584 R Scot, Witchcraft, bk xi ch
xv., The skie being red at evening,
Foresheuws a faire and clear morning!
But if the morning riseth red, Of wind
or rame we shall be sped Before 1627

Red as a cherry 1558 Bullen,
Gvt of Health, fo 49, Read as chery
1577 Kendall, Flow of Epigrams, 292
(Spens S). Her nipples red as cherries
1614 Cobbes Proph, sig Dr, (Eacs
1890), When a cup of good sacke
Will make the cheeks red as a cherry
Red as the cherry from the Kentish
1849 Bronté, Shirley, ch xi.
To-day you see them bouncing, buxom,
red as cherries
Red as a ferret 1600 New Diet
Cantling Crew, sig E4 Eyes as red as a
ferret 1862 Dialect of Leeds, 407
Red as a rose c 1260 King Horn
(Camb.), i 16 (Hall), Rose red was his
color Before 1300 Cursor Mundi, 571
(E E T S), As rose red hit is in spring
c 1374 Chaucer, Troilus, bk ii 1 1256,
"Nay, nay," quod she, and wex as
reed as rose c 1477 Caxton, Jason,
156 (E E T S). His blood began to
change and he woxe rede as a rose
c 1505 in Huth, Ancient Ballads, etc.
208 (1867), With bloud I hard sawe,
as red as a rose c 1675 in Roxb
Ballads, vi 244 (B S). She stopt to
him, as red as any rose 1798 Cole-
ridge, Anc Mariner, Pt I, st 9. The
bride Red as a rose is she 1828
Austen, North Abbey, ch x, My cheeks
recken twyce 1579 Lyly, Euphues,
84 (Arber), He reckoneth without his
hostesse 1605 Camden, Remains,
324 (1870) [as in (b)] 1669 Polste-
phin, 183 [as in (b)] 1709 O Dykes,
Eng Proverbs, 262 (2nd ed.) [as in (b)]
1766 Garrick and Colman, Clandest
Marriage, III 1, Odso! I had quite
forgot We are reckoning without our
host here 1846 Planché, Extravag.,
i 140 (1879), Ah, madam, there with-
out your host you reckon! She has
deserted us
Reconciled friend is a double enemy,
A 1732 Fuller, No 379
Recover the horse See Win (4)
Red and yellow See quot 1874
in N & Q 5th ser., i 219. An old say-
ing is familiar to me—"Red and
yellow, Tom Fool's colours" Doubt-
less the allusion is to the glowing part-
coloured dress of the Fool or Jester
Red as a cherry 1558 Bullen,
Gvt of Health, fo 49, Read as chery
1577 Kendall, Flow of Epigrams, 292
(Spens S). Her nipples red as cherries
1614 Cobbes Proph, sig Dr, (Eacs
1890), When a cup of good sacke
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him, as red as any rose 1798 Cole-
ridge, Anc Mariner, Pt I, st 9. The
bride Red as a rose is she 1828
Austen, North Abbey, ch x, My cheeks
Middleton, Anything for Quiet Life, IV.
i., You shall find her beauty as malevolent unto you as a red morning, that doth still foretell a foul day to follow. 1661: Webster and Rowley, Cure for a Cuckold, III. i., Like a red morning, friend, that still foretells A stormy day to follow. 1664: in Musarum Deliciae, etc., ii. 59 (Hotten). When red the sun goes down, we use to say, It is a signe, we shall have a faire day. 1696: J. Harris, City Bride, III. i. [as in 1661]. 1831: Hole, Year-Book, 300, If red the sun begins his race, Expe[ct that rain will fall apace. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 50 [as in 1831]. Ibid., 53, Sky red in the morning Is a sailor's sure warning; Sky red at night Is the sailor's delight. 1920: Punch, 14 July, p. 36, cols. 2 and 3, "Red sky at night shepherd's delight," she quoted. At dawn Titania looked out of the window and gave a wild cry. "Red sky in the morning shepherd's warning," she wailed.

Red cap, You shall have the. Said to a marriage-maker. Somerset. 1678: Ray, 352.

Red cow. See Cow (4).

Red hair. Several sayings are grouped hereunder. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 30, If thou meete a red man, and a bearded woman, greet them three myle off.[f]. 1591: Florio, Second Fruites, 99, Beware of red men, of women that are bearded, and of such as God hath marked. 1600: W. Vaughan, Directions for Health, To a red man reade thy read, With a browne man breake thy bread. 1615: R. Toftt, tr. Blazon of Iealousie, 21, The red is wise, the broun trusty, The pale envious, and the blacke lusty. Ibid., 21, [as in 1600, plus] At a pale man draw thy knife, From a blacke man keep thy wife. 1619: Helppe to Discourse, 153 (1640) [as in the immediately preceding quotation]. 1623: Wodropohe, Spared Houris, 276, In all places keepe thee well from redhaired men, from barded women, and from them that are marcked in the face. 1659: Howell, 12, A red beard and a black head, Catch him with a good trick, and take him dead. 1659: Howell, Letters, ii. 666 (Jacobs), Touching a red-haired man and bearded woman, salute them a hundred paces off. 1670: Ray, 212 [as in first 1659 quot.]. Ibid., 210 [as in second 1615 quot.]. 1732: Fuller, No. 1975, He is false by nature that has a black head and a red beard. 1908: W. Johnson, Folk Memory, 57, The old saw puts it thus, "From a black man keep your wife, With the red man beware your knife."

Red herring. See quot. 1678: Ray, 52, Red herring ne'er spake word but een, Broil my back, but not my weamb [stomach].

Red man. See s.v. Red hair.

Red petticoat. See Lass.

Red pig. See Pig (6).

Reeds, Where there are, there is water. 1732: Fuller, No. 5674.

Refuse with the right and take with the left, To. 1639: Clarke, 149 1732: Fuller, No. 2009, He refuseth the brie, but putteth forth his hand.

Regal honours have regal cares. 1855: Bohn, 479.

Relations. See quot. 1858: R. S. Hawker, in Byles, Life, etc., 312 (1905). There is an old English Proverb which hints thus, Love your relations, but live not near them.

Religion is copyhold, and he has not taken it up, His his has none. 1830: Forby, Vocab. E. Anglia, 427. 1872: J. Glyde, jr., Norfolk Garland, 148.

Religion is the best armour in the world, but the worst cloak. 1732: Fuller, No. 4011. 1827: Hone, Table-Book, 414.

Religion. See also Eye (10).

Remedy for all things but death, There is a. c. 1430: Lydgate, Daunce of Machabree, l. 432, Againes Death is worth no medicine. 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. xiii., There is a remedy for everything but death. 1640: Mabbe, tr. Exemp. Novels, i. 177 (1900). 1712: Motteux, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. xiii.

Remedy for everything, could men find it, There is a. 1651: Herbert, lac. Prudentum, 2nd ed. 1732: Fuller, No. 4879.
Remedy, If there be no, then welcome
Pilvall 1670 Ray, 189
Remedy is worse than the disease,
The [Ingratus L Sulla, qui patratum
dunorbus remedium, quam penicula crat
sanavit — Seneca, De Beneficiis, V xvi
4] 1607 Bacon, Essays " Counsel."
The doctrine of Italie, and practise of
Fraunce hath introduced Cabanell Coun-
celles, a remedy worse than the disease
1624 Nassinger, Bondman, I 1 . The
cure Is worse than the disease 1697
Vanbrugh, Prov Wise, V 1762 Hall
Stevenson Crazy Tales, 18 [as in 1624]
1807 Byron in Letters etc, 1 139
(Prothero) Things will therefore stand
as they are, the remedy would be
worse than the disease 1898 Shaw,
Plays Pleasant, etc I Pref, xv
Remove an old tree and it will die
1570 A Barclay Mirrour of Good
Manners, 67 (Spens S), An olde tree
transposed shall finde small auaantage
1605 Camden Remains, 330 (1870)
1670 Ray, 22 1732 Fuller, No
4016, Remove an old tree, and you'll
kill it
Repairs not a part, builds all, He that
1640 Herbert, Jac Prudencium
Repentance always comes behind
1584 Robinson, Hand Pleas Delights,
38 (Arber)
Repentance comes too late c 1440
Lydgate Fall of Princes, bk III 1 915
(EETS), Harm done, to late folweth
repentance 1670 Ray, 22, Repentance
comes too late, when all Is cons-
sum'd 1732 Fuller, No 5545 When
all is gone repentance comes too late
Repents is a fool, He that 1710 S
Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 256,
He that repents either was, or is, a fool
1732 Fuller, No 2264 He that repents
of his own act, either is, or was a fool
by his own confession
Report See Common (7)
Reputation is seldom cured, A
wounded 1855 Bohn, 304
Reputation is the life of the mind, as
breath is the life of the body 1730
T Saldkeld tr Gracian's Compl. Gent.,
96
Reserve the master-blow 1659
Howell, Proverbs Ital-Eng, 13. Re-
serve thy master-piece 1813 Ray,
20, Reserve the master-blow to teach
not all thy skill, lest the scholar over
reach or insult the master
Resolved mind hath no cares, The
1640 Herbert, Jac Prudencium
Respect a man, he will do the more
1659 Howell, Proverbs Brit-Eng, 16
Respect is younger brother to love
1691 J Bancroft, King Edw III, III
11, I have often heard it said, respects
the younger brother sure to love
Respects not Is not respected, He that
1640 Herbert, Jac Prudencium
Rest a while See Sit (6)
Retreat, In a, the lame are foremost
1640 Herbert, Jac Prudencium
Revenged every wrong, Had I See
quotes Before 1500 in Hill, Common-
place-Book, 140 (EETS), He that will
venge every wretch, the longer he leveth
the lesse he hath 1575 Gosson, Posses,
Posses, 147 (Cunliffe), This old sayde
sawe, Had I revenged bene of every
harme, My coate had never kept me half
so warme 1639 in Berkeley MSS,
in 32 (1685), Hee that wreakes himselfe
at every wronge, Shall never singe the
rith mans songe 1670 Ray, 136,
If I had reveng'd all wrong, I had not
worn my skirts so long 1732 Fuller,
No 6462 [as in 1670]
Revenge is sweet 1566 Painter,
Pal of Pleasure, II 35 (Jacobs), Ven-
gence is sweete 1658 Whole Duty
of Man, Sunday, 16, It is a devilish
phrase in the mouth of men, That
revenge is sweet 1691 Southern, Sir
Antony Love, IV in 1818 Byron,
Don Juan, can I st 124 1864 Mrs
H Wood, Trevlyn Hold, ch lvi., Re-
venge may be very sweet, but
Reverend are ever before, The
1640 Herbert, Jac Prudencium
Reveus See Rivaulx
Revolutions are not made with rose-
water In 1789 two months before the
fall of the Bastille, Chamfort, the friend
and confidant of Mirabeau, said to
Marmontel—" Je vous que mes espe-
rances vous attistent vous ne voulez
pas d'une liberte qui coulera beaucoup
d'or et de sang. Youzez-vous qu'en
vous fasse des revolutions a l'eau
doone in Ireland. 1601: Shakespeare, As You Like It, III. ii., I was never so be-rhymed since Pythagoras' time, that I was an Irish rat, which I can hardly remember. 1632: Randolph, Jealous Lovers, V. ii., My poets Shall . . . Rhyme 'em to death, as they do rats in Ireland. Before 1680: Butler, Remains, i. 377 (1759), Will rather take thee for an Irish rat-catcher, that is said to rhyme vermin to death. 1692: Temple, On Poetry, in Works, iii. 418 (1770), The proverb of rhiming rats to death, came I suppose from the same root [Runic incantations].

Ribble, The. See Hodder.

Ribchester. 1586: Camden, Brit., 431, It is written upon a wall in Rome, Ribchester was as rich as any towne in Christendome. 1602: Fuller, Worthics, ii. 191 (1840) [as in 1586]. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Lancs" [as in 1586].

Rich, adj. 1. A rich man and a miserable. 1600: Nashe, Works, vi. 99 (Grosart), It is a common proverbe, Disques miserue, a rich man, and a miserable.

2. A rich man's money hangs him oftentimes. 1639: Clarke, 98.


4. Always you are to be rich next year. 1732: Fuller, No. 757.

5. As rich as a Jew 1720: Gay, Poems, ii. 280 (Underhill), Great as an emph'ror should I be, And richer than a Jew. 1771: Cumberland, West Indian, II., She is as rich as a Jew. 1823: Scott, Peveril, ch. xxvi. 1871: G. Eliot, Middlemarch, ch. xl. 1896: Shaw, You Never Can Tell, I.

6. As rich as a new shorn sheep. An ironical saying. [c. 1440: Lydgate, Fall of Princes, bk. iii., l. 3262, Bare as a sheep that is but newe shorne.] c. 1520: Cock Lorells Bote, i (Percy S.), The nexte that came was a coryar, And a cobeler, his brother, As ryche as a newe shorne shepe. 1595: Churchyard, Charity, 2 (1816). 1637: Breton, in Works, ii h xi (Grosart). 1681: Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 1077. 1732: Fuller, No. 725
7 As rich as Cræsus [Superare Crassum divitus—Cicero, Att., 1 4 fin.] 1577 Kendall, Flow of Epigrams, 57 (Spens S.), As riche as Cræsus Affric is 1696 T. Dilke, Lover’s Luck, II 1. And I get a patent for it, I shall be as rich as Cræsus 1724 Defoe, Roxana, in Works, xi 73 (Boston, 1803) 1850 Smedley, Frank Fairleigh, ch 11

8 He is rich enough that needeth neither to flatter nor borrow 1669 Politeuswha, 128. He hath riches sufficient that, etc 1732 Fuller, No 1942

9 He is rich enough that wants nothing c 1387 Usk, Test of Love, in Skeat’s Chaucer, viii 88. Is he not riche that hath subsistence? c 1577 Northbrooke, Dicting etc, (Sh S.) Seneca sayeth Dues est, non qui magis habet, sed qui minus cupit. He is riche, not that hath much, but that couteeth least 1637 A. Warwick, Spare Minutes, 4 (1629). Hee is not rich that hath much, but hee that hath enough 1640 Herbert, Jac, Prudentium 1732 Fuller, No 1943. He is rich that is satisfied 1875 Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 101

10 He that will be rich before night, may be hanged before noon 1692 L’Éstrange, Æsop, 337 (3rd ed.), This a roguy kind of a saying, that He that will, etc

11 In a rich man’s house the cloth is soon laid 1712 Motteux, Quixote, Pt II ch xi xu 12 Rich men have no faults 1732 Fuller, No 4036

13 Rich men may have what they will c 1630 in Roxb. Ballads, 1 60 (B S). Rich people have the world at will 1639 Clarke, 99. Rich men may doe any thing 1869 Hazlitt, 325

14 The richer the cobbler see Cobbler (6)

15 The rich feast, the poor fast, the dogs dine, the poor pine 1630 T. Adams, Works, 39

16 They are rich who have true friends 1732 Fuller, No 4957

17 Why should a rich man steal? 1678 Ray, 196 1732 Fuller, No 5736

Riches abuse them who know not how to use them 1732 Fuller, No 4040

Riches are but the baggage of fortune 1580 Lyly, Euphues, 228 (Arber), To bee rich is the gift of fortune 1659 Howell, 8 1732 Fuller, No 4042

Riches are gotten with pain, kept with care, and lost with grief 16th cent in Relig Antiquae, 1 208 (1841). Riches are gotten with labor, helden with care, and lost with greyfe and excessive care 1732 Fuller, No 4043

Riches bring off harm, and ever fear 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xu 1633 Drake, 180. Riches bring care and feares

Riches come to him sleeping 1754 Berthelston, Eng-Danish Dict., s v Sleep

Riches got by craft see quot 1589 L. Wright, Display of Dutie, 3 Whereby the proverbe is verifie, that riches got with craft is commonly lost with shame

Riches have wings 1855 Bohn, 480

Riches, He is not fit for, who is afraid to use them 1732 Fuller, No 1934

Riches increase, the body decreasest, When 1670 Ray, 22 1736 Bailey, Dict., s v “Riches”

Riches rule the roast 1732 Fuller, No 4046

Riches serve a wise man but command a fool. Ibid, No 4047

Riches see also Money, and Wealth

Richmond see Barnard Castle

Ride a free horse see Horse (27)

Ride an inch behind the tail, You shall 1678 Ray, 266

Ride as if you went to fetch the mul—wife, You Ibid, 266

Ride post for a pudding, To Ibid, 79 1732 Fuller, No 5219

Ride softly that you may get home the sooner 1678 Ray, 204. Ride softly, that we may come sooner home 1732 Fuller, No 4050

Rides well that never falls, He 1485 Malory, Morte d’Arthur, bk ix. ch xxviii, He rydeth wel that never fyle 1732 Fuller, No 2017. He rode sure indeed, that never caught a fall in his life
Ride the dun-horse, To = To dun a debtor. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, i. 123.

Ride the fore-horse, To = To be early, or to be in the front. 1664: Etherege, Comical Revenge, III. v., Palmer [coming late to duel ground.] I see you ride the fore-horse, gentlemen. 1754: World, No. 68, “You still love to ride the fore-horse,” alluding to his desire of being foremost in all parties of pleasure. 1823: Scott, St. Ronan’s, ch. i., Determined to ride the fore-horse herself, Meg would admit no helmate.

Ride the heps, To. 1864: “Cornish Proverbs,” in N. & Q., 3rd ser., vi. 404. He is put to ride on the heps. 1880: Courtney, W. Cornwall Words, 28 (E.D.S.), When a person has been brought before his superiors and remanded, he is figuratively said “to have been made to ride the heps [hatch].”

Ride the high horse, To. 1765: in Garrick Corresp., i. 205 (1831), Altogether upon the high horse, and blustering about Imperial Tragedy. 1836: Marryat, Easy, ch. xii., He was determined to ride the high horse—and that there should be no Equality Jack in future. 1854: Baker, Northants Gloss., s.v. “Horse,” “To ride the high horse,” or “to be on the high horse,” is to assume unbecoming airs, or claim unacknowledged superiority. 1881: Evans, Leics. Words, 173 (E.D.S.).

Ride the wild mare, To. 1598: Shakespeare, 2 Henry IV., II. iv., [He] drinks off candles’ ends for flap-drangons, and rides the wild-mare with the boys. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Asne,” Deserrer l’asne. To unshoo the ass; we say, to ride the wilde mare.

Ride who will, shod is the mare. 1547: Sch. House of Women, l. 572, in Hazlitt, Early Pop. Poetry, iv. 127.

Right as a line. c. 1430: Lydgate, Minor Poems, 373 (E.E.T.S.), Lede us thedeward as ryt as by a lyne. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi. c. 1602: Chapman, May-Day, II.

Right as a ram’s horn = crooked. c. 1320: in Relig. Antiqua, ii. 19 (1543), As ryt as rams orn. c. 1400: Beryn, 6 (E.E.T.S.), And a red [it] also right as a rammys hornyd. c. 1430: Lydgate, Minor Poems, 171 (Percy S.), Conveyde by lyne rytgh as a rammes horne. Before 1529: Skelton, Colin Clout, l. 1201, They say many matters be born By the rytgh of a rammes horne 1670: Ray, 207.

Right as a trivet. 1837: Dickens, Pickwick, ch. xvi. 1817: Barham, Ing. Legends, 3rd ser.: “Blasph. Warning.” 1907: De Morgan, Alice-for-Short, ch. ii., Wait till . . . she’s had time to get sober, and she’ll be as right as a trivet.

Right as my glove. 1816: Scott, Antiquary, ch. xxx., Right, Caxton, right as my glove.

Right as my leg. c. 1630: in Roxb. Ballads, iii. 338 (B.S.), That are as right’s my leg. 1696: D’Urley, Quixote, Pt. III. Act III. sc. ii., And she as right as is my leg, Still gave him leave to louze her. 1701: Farquhar, Sir H. Wildair, I., Are they right? No Gray’s Inn pieces amongst ’em—all right as my leg. 1737: Ray, 225.

Right as ninepence. 1850: Smedley, Frank Fairleigh, ch. li., Well, let her say “no” as if she meant it . . . and then it will all be as right as ninepence. 1894: R. L. S., St. Ives, ch. xxvii., The members would all be up and “as right as ninepence” for the noon-day service. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lance Sayings, 1, As reet as ninepence.

Right as rain. 1694: W. Raymond, Love and Quiet Life, 108, “Tes so right as rain, Zir,” zes I. 1921: Hutchinson, If Winter Comes, Pt. III. ch. v. (viii.), In about a week she’ll be as right as rain and writing me letters all day.

Right for the first . . . miles, You are. 1678: Ray, 343. [Apparently the lacuna might be filled at pleasure.]

Right hand from his left, He knows not his. 1681: Robertson, Phrasol. Generalis, 1079. 1888: R. L. S., Black Arrow, Prol., The poor innocent that cannot tell his right hand from his left.

Right, master, right, four nobles a year is a crown a quarter. Cheshire.
Right

1670 Ray, 217 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 105

Right mixture makes good mortar 1732 Fuller, No 4052

Right or wrong, put Bagley in the stocks—Give a dog a bad name, etc 1883 Burne Shropsh Folk-Lore, 590

Right reckoning makes long friends 1537 R Whitford, Werke for Householders, sig A6 The commune proverbe is that ofte reckoning holdeth longe felawshyppe 1732 Fuller, No 4053

1760 Colman Polly Honeycombe sc n e 1786 The First Floor, I 111, in Inchbald Farces, vi 235 (1815)

Right, Roger See Sow, subs (11)

Right side See Sow, subs (11)

See Right side See &.quot; 1760 Ray, 195, To take from ones right side, to give to ones left 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, iv 321 (1785), What the right side gives up, the left, he says, may be the better for

Right side, To rise on the [It was a good omen for the eagle to appear on Pram's right—Homer, Iliad xxiv 308-13.] 1540 Palsgrave Acolastus, sig M3 Howe happily rose I on my right syde to-day c 1565 Still, Gam Burton, II 1, Thou rose not on thy right syde, or else blest thee not well 1607 Marston, What You Will, Y 1665 J Wilson Projectors I Certain I rise with the right end upward to-day I have had such good luck! 1670 Ray, 101 He rose on his right side Cf Left side

Right wrongs no man 1853 Trench Proverbs, 8 (1905)

Right Better no ring, than a ring of a rusk 1732 Fuller, No 418

Ripe See Beddington

Ripon rowsel, As true steel as 1625 Jonson, Staple of News, I u, There's an angel if my spurs Be not right Ripon 1662 Fuller, Worthies, in 398 (1849) 1683 Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697) 1790 Grose Prov Glass, s v 'Yorks' 1807 Hogg, Culmanncluch, in Mountain Bard The rowsel of his silver spurs Were of the Rippon steel 1878 Folk-Lore Record i 168, To trustworthy persons the expression has been applied—' As true steel as Rippon rowsel' 1918 N & Q, 12th ser, iv 104

Rip up old sores, To 1573 G Harvey, Letter-Book, 18 (Camden S), Such nipping up of old matters 1652 Wal singham Arcana Autica, 32 (1694), A hater of those that nip up old offences 1694 Terence made English, 236, What occasion had you to nip up th' old sore? 1712 Arbuthnot John Bull, Pt I ch ix Such a trial would nip up old sores 1773 Garrick, in Garrick Correspond, i 518 (1831), I am very much hurt to hear that he has ripped up old sores 1827 Scott, in Lockharts Life, vu 90, I am not clear that it is a healthful indulgence to be nipping up old sores

Rise, verb I As riseth my good so riseth my blood 1560 Bacon, in Catechism etc, 599 (PS) [quoted as a "common proverb"]

2 He must rise I betimes who will cosen the devil 1659 Howell, to (8)

3 He must rise I betimes See Please, verb (1)

4 He must rise early who can—do this, that or the other 1562 Heywood Three Hund Epigr No 128(9) Who shall that enterprize This measure from thee, for to gleame, Right early must he rise 1593 Peele Edw I, sc x, She riseth early, Joan, that beguneth thee of a Gloucester 1662 Fuller, Worthies, i 426 (1849), They must rise early, yea not sleep at all who over-reach monks in matter of profit 1681 Robertson, Phraseol Generals, 1291, They must rise betimes that go beyond him, a very wary man 1791 R. Jephson, Two Strings to your Bow, I 1, Let me alone, he must rise early, brother, who makes a fool of Don Pedro 1838 Dickens, Twist, ch xxv, You must get up very early in the morning to win against the Dodger

5 He rises betimes that lies in a dog's lair 1860 Reade Cl and Hearth, ch XXIV

6 He that riseth betimes hath something in his head 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

7 He that riseth first is first dressed Ibid.

8 He who does not rise early never
does a good day's work. 1633: Draxe, 142, He that riseth not in the morning, loseth his journey. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Span.-Eng.*, 17, Who riseth late must trot all the day. 1736: Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, i. 443 (Bigelow), He that riseth late must trot all day, and shall scarce overtake his business at night. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 5 (Percy S.).

9. In vain they rise early that used to rise late. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), *Sc. of Folly*, 46, in *Works*, ii. (Grosart). 1639: Clarke, 67, They can't rise early that use to rise late.


12. To rise with the lamb and go to bed with the lamb. e. 1555: in Wright, *Songs*, etc., *Philipp and Mary*, 38 (Roxb. Cl.), And wythe the lark yche day I ryes. 1560: Lyly, *Euphues*, 229 (Arber), Goe to bed with the lambe, and rise with the lark. 1633: Jonson, *Tale of a Tub*, i. iv., Madam, if he had couched with the lamb, He had no doubt been stirring with the lark 1826: Lamb, *Pop. Fallacies*, xiv., That we should rise with the lark. xv., That we should lie down with the lamb.

Rising of one man is the falling of another. The. 1605: Chapman, etc., *Eastw. Hoe*, i. i., As for my rising by other men's fall, God shield me! 1633: Draxe, 7.

Rising, Norfolk. See quotes. 1815: *N. & Q.*, 1st ser., iii. 206, Rising was, Lynn is, and Downham shall be, The greatest seaport of the three. 1865: W. White, *Eastern England*, i. 237, Rising was a seaport town When Lynn was but a marsh; Now Lynn it is a seaport town, And Rising fares the worse.

Rivaulx, Yorks. 1754: *Gent. Mag.*, 426, Near Howden, in Yorkshire, when a person cannot easily come at a place, without going a great way about; or . . . is forced to make use of several synonimous words; or . . . produces several arguments before he comes to the main point; it is a common saying, that he is going "Round about Re-vess" [Abbey of Reves or Rivaulx].

River is deepest. See Still waters.

River passed and God forgotten, The. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Sainct," The danger past our vows are soon forgotten. 1640: Herbert, *Jae. Prudentum* ["past"]. 1853: Trench, *Proverbs*, 68 (1905), In English we say, [as in 1640].

Rivers need a spring. 1640: Herbert, *Jae. Prudentum*.

River will run as it did, A thousand years hence, the. 1732: Fuller, No. 436.


Roach. See Sound.

Roast a stone, To=To waste time and effort. Before 1529: Skelton, in *Works*, ii. 30 (Dyce), They may garlycke pyll, Cary sackes to the myll. Or pescoddes they may shylly, Or elles go rost a stone. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. ii., I doo but roste a stone In warnyng hir. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), *Sc. of Folly*, 49, in *Works*, ii. (Grosart), He roasts but a stone.

Roast meat. 1. He loves roast meat well that licks the spit. 1670: Ray, 137. 1732: Fuller, No. 1980. 1880: Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 73, If they are fond of roast beef, they must needs suck the spit.

2. Roast meat does cattle. 1877: E. Leigh, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 63, "Roast meat does cattle," which means that in dry seasons cattle, if they can only get at plenty of water, often milk better than in cold wet seasons, when there is more grass. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 105.

forth the praises of such a person, would, in the vulgar phrase, be crying roast-meat, and calling in partakers of what they intend to apply solely to their own use 1820 Lamh, *Christ's Hospital* 1822 Scott, *Nigel*, ch xxxvii. 1894 Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 27 (E D S). To cry roast meat (x) to make known one's good luck, (2) to boast of women's favours

4. You are in your roast meat when others are in their sod 1639 Clarke, 115 1670 Ray, 190 1732 Fuller, No 5849

5. You give me roast meat. See Give (25)

Rob, verb 1. He that doth not rob makes not a robe or garment 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 83

2. He that robs a scholar robs twenty men 1639 Clarke 243 1670 Ray, 23 1732 Fuller, No 5716, Who robs a Cambridge-scholar, robs twenty

3. To rob Peter and pay Paul [Tanquam si quis cruciigeret Paulum ut redimeret Petrum,—12th cent Herbert of Bosham 287] Before 1584 Wiclif, *Works*, ii 174 (Arnold) How schudle God approve yat jou robbe Petur, and gij pis robbere to Poule in pe name of Crist? c 1400 Lanfranc, *Crissuge*, 337 (E E T S). For sum medicine is for Peter that is not good for Poule, for the diversitie of complexisoun c 1440 Jacob's Well, 138 (E E T S) pe abbot seyde, "To robbe Petyr, and geve it Poule, it were non almesse but get synne" 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch xi. 1621 Burton, *Melancholy*, Dem to Reader, 36 (1836) 1637 D Tuvill, *Vade Mecum*, 36 (3rd ed.), To take from Peter, to give to Paul, is meer oppressioun 1661 Heylyn, *Hist of Reform*, 121 (1674). The lands of Westminster, so dilapidated by Bishop Thirlby the rest laid out for reparation to the church of St Paul, pared almost to the very quick in those days of Rapine From hence first came that significant By-word (as is said by some) of Robbing Peter to pay Paul [A baseless guess] 1768 Hall-Stevenson, *Works*, 1 27 (1795), I need not steal, like thrifty George, From Paul, in order to pay Peter 1882 J Platt, *Economy*, 87, Give credit if they will still have it, and charge for it, but cease to rob Peter to pay for Paul

4. To rob the spittle [hospital] 1639 Clarke, 6 1670 Ray, 191 1736 Bauley, *Dict.*, s v "Spital"

Robbers See quot 1750 Smollett, *Gil Blas*, iv 12, We got in four days to Ovedo, without meeting with any bad accident on the road, notwithstanding the proverb, which says, that robbers smell the money of travellers afar off

Robin (redbreast) 1. As blithe as a robin 1639 in Berkeley MSS, i 29 (1825), Hee drew it as blith as a Robin reddocke [redbreast]

2. He that hunts robin or wren, Will never prosper by nor man 1864 "Cornish Proverbs," in *N & Q*, 3rd ser., v 208

3. If the robin sings in the bush, Then the weather will be coarse. But if the robin sings on the barn, Then the weather will be warm 1830 Forby, *Vocab E Anglia*, 416 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 138

4. Robin and wren See Spider (1)

5. The robin and the wren are God Almighty's cock and hen c 1555 *Harmony of Birds*, 10 (Percy S.), Then sayd the wren, I am called the hen Of our Lady most cumly 1825 Hive, *Ev Day Book*, i 647, [as in heading, plus] The martin and the swallow Are God Almighty's bow and arrow (Warwickshire) 1830 Forby, *Vocab E Anglia*, 409 [as in 1825, except that the last of the four lines=="Are the next two birds that follow"] 1851 Sternberg, *Dialect*, etc., of Northants, 159 The robin and the wren Be God Almighty's cock and hen 1867 Harland, etc., *Lanes Folk-Lore*, i 42, A Cock Robin and a Jenny Wren Are God Almighty's cock and hen, A Spink and a Sparrow Are the Devil's bow and arrow 1879 Henderson, *Folk-Lore of N Counties*, 123, Those who say—as in heading, plus] Him that harries their nest, Never shall his soul have rest, add—The Martin and the swallow Are God Almighty's bow and arrow, or, as it runs in some of our midland
counties.—The martin and the swallow are God Almighty's birds to hollow. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 216, [as in heading, plus] The martin and the swallow are God Almighty's scholars. 1912: E. M. Wright, *Rustic Speech*, etc., 219, ... Other versions of this rhyme are: Martins and swallows are God's teachers and scholars. Robins and wrens are God's chickens and hens. Those who kill a robin or a wren will never prosper, boy or man.

See also Naked; One bush; and Pert.

Robin Goodfellow. I. Robin Goodfellow was a strange man. 1639: Clarke, 69.

2. See quot. 1567: Harman, *Caveat*, 36 (E.E.T.S.), I verily suppose that when they wer wel waked with cold, they surely thought that Robin goodfellow (accordinge to the old saying) had bene with them that night.


Robin Hood. I. A Robin Hood wind.

[One correspondent of the *Manchester City News* suggests that the expression belongs originally to the neighbourhood of Rochdale, and refers to the bitter north and east winds that come from the direction of Blackstone Edge, a predominant feature of which hill is Robin Hood's Bed. The thawing winds from the south and west are not referred to as "Robin Hood winds."—N. & Q., 12th ser., x. 378.] c. 1855: *Life and Ballads of Robin Hood*, ch. ii., Every Yorkshireman is familiar with the observation that Robin Hood could brave all weathers but a thaw wind. 1870: H. Fishwick, in *N. & Q.*, 4th ser., v. 58, A Robin Hood Wind. In Lancashire this name is given to a wind that blows during the thawing of the snow. The reason alleged is, that Robin Hood said that he could stand any wind except a thaw wind. 1913: E. M. Wright, *Rustic Speech*, etc., 189 [to the same effect as 1870 quot.]. 1922: *N. & Q.*, 12th ser., x. 411, I have frequently heard in this locality [Clitheroe, Lancs] not only the saying, "Robin Hood could stand any wind but a thaw wind," but also: "All sorts of weather could Robin Hood bide, But a cold thaw wind off a high hill side."


4. Good even, good Robin Hood! Before 1529: Skelton, in *Works*, ii. 32 (Dyce).


8. Robin Hood's pennyworths. 1630: T. Adams, *Works*, 207, He makes the world beleue that he sels Robin-hoods penny-worths. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, ii. 569 (1840), "To sell Robin Hood's pennyworths." It is spoken of things sold under half their value; or, if you will, half sold, half given. 1721: Bailey, *Eng. Dict.*, s.v., ... This proverb is usually applic'd to such as having gotten any thing dishonestly, sell it at a price much below the value. 1889: *Folk-Lore Journal*, vii. 293 (Derby). 1922: *N. & Q.*, 12th ser., x. 412.

9. Tales of Robin Hood are good among fools. 1377: Langland, *Plowman,*
To go round Robin Hood's barn
Robin Hood's barn must have been the surrounding corn lands 1878 N & Q., 5th ser., ix 486 It is used thus "Where have you been to-day?"

'All round Robin Hood's barn! I have been all about the country, first here and then there" 1913 E M Wright Rustic Speech, etc 189, To go round by Robin Hood's barn (Cambridge and West Midlands) is to go a roundabout way to go the farthest way 1922 N & Q. 12th ser., x 412

II To overshoot Robin Hood 1869

Hazlitt, 425
See also May, G (24)
Rochdale See Oldham

"Rochester portion, A, two torn smocks, and what nature gave" 1690 New Dict Canting Crew, sig K5 1735 Pegge, Kent Proverbs, in EDS., No 12, p 74

Rock the cradle empty, If you, Then you shall have babies plenty Sussex 1879 Henderson, Folk-Lore of N Counties 1893 E M Wright, Rustic Speech etc., 266, Rock the cradle empty, You'll rock the babies plenty

Rock the cradle in spectacles, To 1678 Ray, 69 1732 Fuller, No 5220

Rod breaks no bones, The 1633
Draxe, 182 1639 Clarke, 75 Cf Burchen twigs

Rod for one's own back, To make a. c 1374 Chaucer, Troilus, bk i 1 740, For it is sayd "man maketh ofte a yerde With which the maker is hum-self y-beten In sondry maner" c 1489 Caxton, Sonnes of Aymon, 97 (EETS).

It is often sayd That men make often a rodie for them selfe Before 1520

Skelton, in Works, i 186 (Dyce). For your owne tayle ye made a rod 1593 Tell-Trothes N Years Gift, 35 (N Sh S), To lock vp ones wife and to seeke to rule her by correction, when he cannot gouerne himself with discretion, is to gather a rod to beate his owne breeche 1694 Terence made English, 20. But now he makes a rod for his own back 1738 Swift, Politie Comers, Dial 1, I am not the first man has carried a rod to whup himself

Rod in pickle, To have a 1553 Respictula, III v, But we have roddes in pyss for them everye chone 1666 Chapman, Mons d'Olives, I, My little parcel of wits, I have rodes in pass for you 1690 A Behn Widow Ranter, III 1, Here's the young rogue that drew upon us too: we have rodes in pass for him, i faith 1784 O'Keefe, Peeping Tom, ad fin., Though you have as poets see, Rods in pickle steeping, Forgive poor Tom of Coventry, And pardon for his peeping 1854 Baker, Northants Gloss., s v "Rod," "Rod in pickle (or soak)" Punishment in store

Rod in school See Whip for a fool
Rodings, The See quoth 1880 E Walford, in N & Q., 6th ser., vi 307, A stupid fellow in Essex is generally said to come from the "Rodings" or else from the "sheets"—shires Cf Shires Roger See Sow, subs (11)

Roger Cary's dinner 1877 E Leigh, Cheshire Gloss., 171, Roger Cary's dinner —A saying when the dinner is scanty, or "just enou" and nought to spare 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 87

Rooge as ever peeped at a speer [chimney-post]. As big a. Ibid, 10

Rogue, but he's no fool on the march, He may be a 1864 "Cornish Proverbs," in N & Q., 3rd ser., vi 495

Rogue in gram See Knave

Rogue's wardrobe is harbour for a louse, A. 1639. Clarke 71 1670
Ray, 137 1732 Fuller, No 383

Roland for an Oliver, A==Tit for tat 1548 Hall, Chron., 266 (1809), To have a Rowland for an Olyuer 1659
Howell Letters, ii 665 (Jacobs) She will always have a Rowland for your
Oliver. Before 1704: T. Brown, in Works, i. 219 (1760), I am resolv’d to give him a Rowland for his Oliver. 1706: Vanbrugh, Confederacy, III. ii. 1790: Wolcot, A Rowland an Oliver [title]. 1843: Carlyle, Past and Present, bk. ii. ch. xii., Look also how my Lord of Clare, coming to claim his undue “debt” in the Court of Watham, with barons and apparatus, gets a Roland for his Oliver! 1898: Weyman, Shrews bury, ch. xvii. 1919: Barbellion, Journal of Disapp. Man, 168, It exasperates me to be unable to give a Roland for an Oliver.

Rolling stone gathers no moss, A. 1362: Langland, Plowman, A, x. 101, Selden moseth the marbelston that men ofte treden. c. 1406: Book of Precedence, 39 (E.E.T.S.), Syldon mossyth the stone That eftyn ys tornynd and winde. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi., The rollyng stone neuer gathereth mosse. 1593: Passionate Morrice, 87 (N. Sh. S.). 1606: Marston, The Pawne, I. ii., Thy head is always working; it roles, and it roles, Dondolo, but it gathers no moss. c. 1610: in Roxb. Ballads, ii. 512 (B.S.). 1720: Vade Mecum for Malt-worms, 6 (part 2), The proverb says . . . That stones, when rolling, gather little moss. 1776: Colman, The Spleen, I., Well, well; a rolling stone’s always bare of moss, as you say. 1852: Dickens, Bleak House, ch. xxxiv. 1914: Shaw, “Parents and Children,” in Misalliance, etc., lxxiv, We keep repeating the silly proverb that . . ., as if moss were a desirable parasite. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 5. A rolling stone gathers no moss, but a tethered sheep winna get fat. (In Sussex they add—“And a sitting hen never grows fatter.”)

Rome. I. All roads lead to Rome. c. 1380: Chaucer, Astrolabe, Prol., Right as diverse paths leden diverse folk the righte way to Rome. 1860: Reade, Cl. and Heath, ch. xxiv., All roads take to Rome. 1869: Browning, Ring and Book, bk. v. l. 296, Every one soon or late comes round by Rome.


3. To go to Rome. There are several old sayings which all appear to mean— to go on a fool’s errand. See the quotes. c. 1520: Hickscorner, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, i. 168, For if any of us three be mayor of London . . . I will ride to Rome on my thumb. c. 1550. Udall, Roister Doister, II. ii., It were better to go to Rome on my head than so. 1600: Kemp, Nine Daies Wonder, Dedn., Me thinkes I could flye to Rome (at least hop to Rome, as the olde proverb is) with a morter on my head. 1611: Corbet, Poems, in Chalmers, v. 562, No more shall man with mortar on his head Set forwards towards Rome. 1653: Middleton and Rowley, Span. Gipsy, II. ii., A cousin of mine in Rome, I go to him with a mortar.


Romford, The ready way to =? 1656: Musarum Delicia, i. 31 (Hotten), There is a proverb to thy comfort, Known as the ready way to
Rumford. That, when the pot ore fire
you heat, A lowse is better than no
meat

Rumford, To ride to 1738 Swift,
Polite Convers., Dlal II. Well, one may
ride to Rumford upon this knife, it is
so blunt 1785 Grose, Class Diet
Vulgar Tongue, s v ' Rumford.' To
ride to Rumford, to have one's backside
new bottomed 1901 N & Q, 9th
ser, vii 306, "You might ride to Rom-
ford on it." When a youngster I often
heard my old grandmother make this
remark & propos any blunt carving or
other knife which failed to come up to
expectations.

Romney Marsh. See quot 1911
A S Cooke, Off Beaten Track in Sussex,
286, There is an East Sussex saying as
to Romney Marsh, which gives the best
idea of its area—"The world is divided
into five parts, Europe, Asia, Africa,
America—and Romney Marsh!"

Romney Marsh. See also Faitlight
Down

Roodse, As rank [rank, rich] as th'
1877 E Leigh, Cheshire Gloss., 173
1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 19
[The Roodse is the Chester race-course.]

Rook, The See quot 1872 J
Glyde, Jr, Norfolk Garland, 154
The weather will fine when the rooks play
pitch half-penny. That is, if flying in
flocks some of them loaf down and
pick up worms, imitating the action of
a boy playing pitch half-penny. See
also Raven

Room than your company, I'd rather
have your 1579 Marr of Wit and
Wisdom, sc in p 27 (Sh S), I had
rather have your roome as your com-
pone 1592 Greene, Works, xi 255
(Grosart), Let him depart out of this
place, for his roome is better than his
company 1615 Brathwart, Strap-
pado, 66 (1878), Whose room I love
more than his company 1664 Witts
Recr., Epigr. 268 "1798 T Dibdin,
Jew and Doctor, II 1 1865 Dickens,
Mutual Friend, bk 1 ch vi

Rootless, must green soon die
C 1374 Chaucer, Troilus, bk iv 1 770
Rope, sub s A rope and butler, if
one slip the other may hold 1678 Ray,

267 1732 Fuller, No 384 ["will"
for "may"]

2 As meet as a rope for a thief 1540
Palsgrave, Acolastus, sig M2, An host
that shall be mete for him as a rope is
for a thief 1579 Marr of Wit and
Wisdom, sc in p 15 (Sh S) c 1625
B & F, Women Pleased, III iv, As fit
for him as a thief for a halter! 1671
Poor Robin Alman Prognost, sig C5,
A good fire will be now as season-
able as a rope for a thief at any
time

3 Give him rope enough and he'll hang
himself 1639 Fuller, Holy War, bk
v ch vii, They were suffered to have
rope enough, till they had halted
themselves in a praemunire 1652
Burroughs, On Hosea, iv 577, As we
speak of some, 'Give them line enough,
and they will quickly hang themselves.'
1753. Richardson, Grandison, i 29
(1883), Give you women but rope
enough, you'll do your own business
1849 Bronte, Shirley, ch iii

4 He puts a rope to the eye of a needle
1813 Ray, 75

5 I thought I had given her rope
enough, said Pedley, when he hanged his
more Yorks. 1670 Ray, 191 1732
Fuller, No 2627

6 Ropes of sand [r to the ¥j/9
exceut i/9korn—Aristides (ed Jebb,
ii 309)] c 1594 Bacon, Pro-
manus, No 778, To knytt a rope of
sand 1649 T Forde, Lusus Forti, 31.
One shall sooner knitt a rope of sand
then unte their affections 1672
Corye, Generous Enemies, II 1, O
woman, woman, thy vows are ropes of
sand. Before 1686 Butler, Remains,
ii 206 (1759), A quibbler dances
on a rope of sand 1712 in Somers
Tracts, xxii 144 (1811). I leave to my
said children a great chest full of broken
promises and cracked oaths, likewise
a vast cargo of ropes made with sand
1845 Carlyle, Lett to Emerson, You
have done one very ingenious thing to
set Clark upon the Boston booksellers'
accounts, Michael Scott setting the
devil to twist ropes of sand [See
Scott's Lay of Last Minstrel, can ii st
137n]
7. Throw the rope in after the bucket. 1732: Fuller, No. 5042.


Rose proveth a thorn, The. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. x., I take hir for a rose, but she breedeth a burre. 1633: Drake, 4r. 1659: Howell, Letters, ii. 665 (Jacobs), She may prove a wolf in lambs skin, instead of a rose you will have a burre. 1813: Ray, 155, For the rose the thorn is often plucked. Rose. See also Fresh; and Red.


Rosemary. See quot. 1884: H. Friend, Flowers and Fl. Love, 217, The old saieing respecting another equally popular flower—"Where Rosemary flourishes the lady rules." 1911: A. S. Cooke, Off Beaten Track in Sussex, 286, Old sayings... are more often aimed at the weaker sex. "Except where the missus is master, the rosemary will never blossom," is one such remark.

Rotheras, Every one cannot dwell at. 1659: Howell, 21. 1700: J. Brome, Travels, 19, ... Rotheras, it having formerly been a place of too profuse hospitality. 1799: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Herefordshire." 1868: Quart. Review, cxiv. 230, One well known to Herefordshire men, "Every one can't dwell at Rotheras"... a handsome mansion near Hereford, requiring, no doubt, a handsome income to keep it warm.

Rotten as an asker [newt], As. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 19, ... rotten because it can drop its tail off.

Rotten case abides no handling, A. 1598: Shakespeare, 2 Henry IV., IV. i. Rough as a brier, As. c. 1410:

Towneley Plays, 119 (E.E.T.S.), As rough as a breere.

Rough as gorse, As. 1876: N & Q., 5th ser., v. 94, The English proverb "As coarse as gorse"... is common in several parts of England, and about Nottingham I have often heard it "As coarse as Hickling gorse." Ibid., 477, "As coarse as bean-straw" is a common Lincolnshire saying. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 19, As rough as gorse.

Rough as it runs. 1687: T. Brown, in Dk. Buckingham's Works, ii. 129 (1705) (O.), If you don't like me rough, as I run, fare you well, madam. 1813: Ray, 237, Rough as it runs, as the boy said when his ass kicked him.


Rough with the smooth, To take the. c. 1400: Beryn, 37 (E.E.T.S.), Take your part as it comyth, of roughe and eke of smooth. 1900: Jcrome, Three Men on Bummel, 190 (O.), One must take a little rough with one's smooth.

Roukg-town. See quot. 1670: Ray, 52, A rouk-town's seldom a good house-wife at home. This is a Yorkshire proverb. A rouk-town is a gossipping house-wife.

Round about for the next road, To go. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 134.

Round as a hoop, As. c. 1555: in Wright, Songs, etc., Philip and Mary, 98 (Roxb. Cl.), Untyll she ryll as round as a hoope. c. 1660: in Songs and Ballads, 132 (Percy S., No. 7), He draws them up as round as a hoop. 1676: Shadwell, Virtuoso, I. 1720: Gay, Poems, ii. 278 (Underhill), Round as a hoop the bumpers flow.

Round table. See quot. 1623: Wodroopehe, Spared Hours, 483, A round table yealds no debate. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 132, At a round table there's no dispute about the place. 1732: Fuller, No 824, At a round table the herald's useless.

Row against the flood. See Strive.
Rowan tree and red thread. Had the witches a' in dread. 1846-59 *Denham Tracts* ii 329 (F L S).

Row one way. See Look (7).

Royston horse. See Cambridge.

Ruan Vean men. See *quot.* 1895 *Jos. Thomas Randegil Rhymes,* 61. Like Ruan Vean men—don't know and want be told. [Corn.]

Rub and a good cast. A warning saying of bowling origin. 1639 Clarke, 213 1678 Ray 81. Rub and a good cast. Be not too hasty, and you'll speed the better.

Rub on the gall. To. Before 1529 Skelton in *Works,* i 365 (Dyce). Yet wrote he none ill. Sauté his rubbed sum upon the gall. 1552 Latimer, in *Works,* ii 211 (P S). When a thief or a briber heareth this, it rubbeth him on the gall. 1607 *Barley-Brea* 27 (Grosart). Forbear to rub me on that sore.


Rubs in the smoothest road. There will be 1710 S. Palmer *Moral Essays on Proverbs* 364. No way so smooth but it has some rub. 1821 Scott *Kensworth* ch xvi.


Ruffians' Hall. He is only fit for a merchant's apprentice dressed as a gallant and exclaims—'Hey day!' Ruffians' Hall! Sword pumps, here's a racket indeed!'—1605 Chapman, etc. *East Hoe,* i 1. 1662 Fuller *Worthies,* ii 347 (1840). 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss,* s v *London*.


Rugged cot. See *Ragged*.


Rule, verb. 1. He that will not be ruled by his dame. See *He that will not,* etc.

2. He who will not be ruled by the rudder, must be ruled by the rock. 1823

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D. Israel. *Cur of Lit,* 2nd ser., i 454 (1824) [cited as "a Cornish proverb"]

1853 Trench, *Proverbs,* 60 (1905).


4. Rule youth well, for age will rule itself. 1736 Bailey, *Dict* s v 'Rule'.

5. Rule the roast c 1400 *Carpenter's Tools,* in *Halliwell Nuge Poetics* 17. Whatsoever ye brage your boste. My meyster yet shall rule the roste. Before 1529 Skelton, *Col Clout,* i 1021. But at the pleasure of one. That ruleth the roste alone c 1540 Heywood, *Four PP* in *Hazlitt Old Plays,* i 361. Nay, if riches might rule the roost. Behold what cause I have to boast! 1593 Greene, *Works,* ii 285 (Grosart). If then it be a woman's wish to have her owne will, and as the common proverbe saith, to rule the rost after her owne diet. 1606 Chapman, *Gent Usher,* v 1. I do domineer, and rule the roast. 1637 Nabbes *Microcosmus,* III. I am my ladies cooke, and king of the kitchin, where I rule the roast. 1690 Vanbrugh, *Relapse,* II 1736 Fielding, *Pasquin,* II. They bear the name of power, we rule the roast. 1857 Borrow, *Rom Rye,* ch xxxvii. The son a puppy who now rules the roast over his father and mother.


Run, verb. 1. He is run off his legs.

= He is bankrupt. 1678 Ray, 89

2. He runs far. See *Go* (10)

3. He runs far back that means to leap a great way. 1681 Robertson, *Phraseol Generals,* 480

4. He that runs fastest gets most ground. 1639 Clarke 319 1670 Ray, 138

5. He that runs fast will not run long. 1855 Bohn, 392

6. He that runs in the dark may well stumble. 1670 Ray, 19. He that runs
in the night stumbles 1732: Fuller, No. 2271.
7. He that runs may rally. Ibid., No. 2272.
8. I cannot run and sit still at the same time. Ibid., No. 2590.
9. If you could run as you drink, you might catch a hare. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.
10. Ill run that cannot go. See III run.
12. Run tap run tapster. 1678: Ray, 86.
13. To run as swift as a pudding would creep. 1668: Armin, Nest of Ninnies, 23 (Sh. S.). They puff and they blowede; they ran as swifte as a pudding would creepe.
14. To run at rovers=To follow wild or random courses. 1528: More, in Works, p. 228, col. 2 (1557), For so shold they nede no such titles at al, nor should nede neither roune at rouers, nor lieue in ley mens houses. 1533: Udall, Flowers out of Terence, fo. 191r, His hart or mynde, whiche now runneth at rouers in ryot and wantonnes. 1567: Painter, Pal. of Pleasure, iii. 47 (Jacobs), Who I had rather should be somewhat restrayned, than run at rouers to hir dishonour and my shame. 1639: Clarke, 228, You run at random, shoot at rouers. 1847: Halliwell, Dict., s.v. "Rovers," Running at rouers, having too much liberty.
15. To run before one's mare to market. 1700: R. Kingston, Apoph. Curiosa, 79. Taking a great deal of pains for nothing, and with the country proverb, is like running before ones mare to the market.
16. To run him through the nose with a cushion. 1672: Walker, Param., 57.
17. To run over shoes=To get heavily in debt. 1598: Servmgman's Comfort, in Inedfed Tracts, 154 (Hazlitt). He is runne ouershooes. Cf. Over shoes.
18. To run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. c. 1440: Jacobs Well, 263 (E.E.T.S.), Thou hast a crokyd tunge heldyng wyth hownd and wyth hare. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. l. ch. x., To holde with the hare, and run with the hound. 1579: Lyly, Euphues, 107 (Arber). 1598: Greene, James IV., IV. v. 1614: C. Brooke, Rich. the Third, 86 (Grosart), And both could runne with hound, and hold with hare. 1705: Ward, Hud. Rediv., Pt. 3, can. iv. p. 11. 1893: R. L. S., Catriona, ch. i., The whole thing...gave me a look of running with the hare and hunting with the hounds. 1897: W. E. Norris, Clarissa Furiosa, ch. xxxix. 1924: Times, Sept. 19, p. 13, col. 4. His policy of running with the hare and hunting with the hounds is becoming a menace to the general safety.
19. You run as if. See Go (29).
20. Running horse is an open sejulchre, A. 1578: Florio, First Fruits, fo. 28 ("grau" for "sejulchre"). 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Sepulchre" Torriano, Piazza Univ., 43. 1732: Fuller, No 376 ("race-horse" for "running horse").
21. Rush for him that cares a straw for me, A. 1639: Clarke, 72.
22. Rushes. See Green (9).
25. Rye (grain). See December; Good rye; July (6); March (27); St. Peter (2); and Wheat (2).
27. Rynt you wish. See Aroint.
S

Sack 1 A short sack hath a wide mouth 1583 Melbancke, Philastus, sig G2
2. He has given the sack a turn—"He has turned the tables—reversed the order of things" 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs 66
3. If it isn't in the sack See quot 1911 Devon Assoc Trans, xlii 93, "If it isn't in the sack, 'ts in the pig's back" This means, you will get, one way or the other, your money's value What you cannot show for it in the meat left in the sack, you will see in what you gain for the fat bacon you have to sell in return for the money spent on the sack's contents
4. Let every sack stand upon its own bottom 1659 Howell 4 Cf Every tub
5. Many a sack is tied up before it be full 1607 Rowlands, Diog Lanthorne, 7 (Hunt Cl) [quoted as "the olde proverb"] 1612 W Parkes, Curtain-Drawer of the World, 60 (Grosart) ["knit" for "tied"] 1671 Head and Kirkman, Eng Rogue, ii 111, When we fell short at meals he would put us off with an old proverb, that many a sack is tied up before it be full
6. Sacks to the mill See More sacks
7. There comes noth out of the sack, but what was there 1586 L Evans, Withals Dict Revised, sig Gr, When the sack is opened, it is knowne what is therein conteined 1623 Wd Roopehe, Spared Houres, 489 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch ii, Nothing comes out of a sack but what was in it See also Broken (5), Empty (9), Ill sack, Know (28), Old, E (3), One grain, and Wish (7)
Sackworth See Knipe-scar
Sad See quot 1550 Udall, Rosset Doster, III vi, Merry Why speak ye so faintly, or why are ye so sad? R R Thou knowest the proverb—because I cannot be had Saddle, subs 1 He has a saddle to fit every horse = a salve for every sore 1813 Ray, 214
2. To put the saddle on the right horse 1607 Dekker and Webster, Westie Hoe, V, How say you wenches, haue I set the saddle on the right horse? 1678 Dryden, All for Love, Pret I, I suppose he would think it a wiser part to set the saddle on the right horse, and chuse rather to live with the reputation of a plain-spoken honest man, than to die with the infamy of an incestuous villain 1720 Vade Mecum for Malt-worms, Pt I p 4, Turn Justice to its proper course, And place the saddle on the right horse 1843 Carlyle, Past and Present, bk ii ch v, On all sides he laid about him like a man putting consequence on premuss, and every where the saddle on the right horse
3. To set beside the saddle 1534 Becon, in Early Works, 368 (P 5), Yet by this means have they obtained their purpose, and set the other beggarly fellow besides the saddle 1630 T Adams, Works, 175, Riot rustles and the wit is turned besides the saddle 1636 Taylor (Water-Poet), Travels, 52, in Works, 3rd coll (Spens S), Wines predominant and capital, To set a horseman quite beside the saddle
4. Where saddles lack better ride on a pad than on the horse bare back 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt 1 ch x 1605 Camden, Remains, 335 (1870) 1670 Ray, 239 1732 Fuller, No 6464 See also Cow (11), Sow, subs (12), Win (4)
Saddle, verb You saddle to-day and ride out to-morrow 1659 Howell Proverbs Span-Eng, 4, He saddled to day, and goes to morrow 1732 Fuller, No 5984 Saddlewick, or ? Saddleworth See quotes 1670 Ray, 299, Like the

Sadness and gladness succeed each other. 1639: Clarke, 326. 1670: Ray, 139. 1732: Fuller, No. 4063.

Safe as a church, As. 1891: Hardy, *Tess,* ch. xiv., The plain ones be as safe as churches.

Safe as a crow in a gutter, As. 1639: Clarke, 97 [with "sowe" for "crow"]. 1670: Ray, 207.

Safe as a mouse in a cheese, As. 1678: Ray, 288.

Safe as a mouse in a malt-heap, As. 1639: Clarke, 47. 1670: Ray, 207.

Safe as a mouse in a mill, As. 1600: *Weakest to the Wall,* l. 345 (Malone S.), And all without feare, safe as mouse in a mill. 1639: Davenport, *New Trick to cheat Devil,* III. i., She's safe as mouse in mill.


Safe from the East Indies, and was drowned in the Thames, He came. 1732: Fuller, No. 1817.

Safe riding in a good haven, 'Tis. 1659: Howell, 16. 1732: Fuller, No. 5083, 'Tis good riding in a safe harbour.

Saffron. See *quoit.* 1904: C. G. Harper, *Newmarket, Bury, etc., Road.* 110, The very least of the benefits it [saffron] conferred was the exhilaration of the spirits, so that the old proverb for a merry fellow was "He hath slept in a bag of saffron."

Sage in May. See *quots.* 1588: Cogan, *Haven of Health,* ch. xi. p. 32 (1612), In *Schola Salerni* it is demanded, Cur moriatur homo cui salua crescit in horto? As who should say, such is the vertue of sage, that if it were possible, it would make a man immortal. 1635: Swan, *Spec. Mundi,* 247, Such a desire hath sage to make a man immortal. 1661: M. Stevenson, *Twelve Months,* 23, I shall conclude with the old proverb, Set sage in May, and it will grow alway. 1732: Fuller, No. 6253, He that would live for aye Must eat butter and sage in May. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs,* 44 (Percy S.) [as in 1732, but omitting "butter and"].


Sail and Sails, *sub.* 1. As sails are to a ship, so are the passions to the spirits. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.,* s.v. "Spirit."
2. Make not thy sail too big for the ballast. 1732 Fuller, No 3322
3. To set up a sail to every wind. c 1630 B & F Bloody Brother, IV n., Then he would sail with any wind. 1670 Ray, 192 1732 Fuller, No 5228 c 1733 Swift, Poems The Storm, He knows to sail with every wind.

Sail, vb He that will not sail till he have a full fair wind will lose many a voyage. 1732 Fuller, No 2354
2. He that will sail without danger must never come upon the main sea. 1639 Clarke 250 1670 Ray, 130 1732 Fuller, No 2353, He that will not sail till all dangers are over must never put to sea.

3. Sail, quoth the king, hold saith the wind. 1732 Fuller, No 4064 1738 Gent Mag 474
4. To sail with wind and tide. 1580 Sidney Arcadia, bk n 109 (1893), All men set their sails with the favourable wind, which blew on the fortune of this young prince, 1591 Florio Second Fruits, 97 For wisdom saith with wind and tide. 1639 Clarke, 15 Sayle with the wind and tide. 1783 Windham, in Boswell's Johnson, iv 201 n (Hill), Set sail and see where the winds and waves will carry you.

Saint and Saints 1. A saint abroad and a devil at home. 1678 Bunyan, Pilgr Progress Pt I 81 (1849), Thus, say the common people that know him, A saint abroad, and a Devil at home. 1880 Spurgeon, Poughman's Pictures, 67, They are saints abroad, but ask their kinds what they are at home.
2. All saint without, all devil within. 1732 Fuller, No 542
3. They are not all saints that use holy water. 1586 L Evans, Withals Dict Revised, sig K6 They be not all saints of this be you sure, that goe in and out at the churche door. 1732 Fuller, No 4056

See also Young (27)

SAINTS AND SAINTS' DAYS

St Andrew, 30 Nov. 1630 Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 416, Saint Andrew the King, Three weeks and three days before Christmas comes in

St Barnabas, 11 June On St Barnabas Put a scythe to the grass. 1659 Howell, Proverbs Fr-Eng, 21, At Saint Barnabe the sithc in the medow. 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 29. See also Barnaby Bright

St Bartholomew, 24 Aug. 1 All the tears that St Swithin can cry, St Barthlemy's mantle wipeth them dry. 1878 Dyer Eng Folk-Lore, 258 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 32 [with 'dusty' before 'mantle']

2. As St Bartholomew's Day, so the whole autumn. 1893 Inwards, 33 1912 R L Gales, Studies in Arcady, 2nd ser., 107, If St Barthlemy's day be fair and clear, Hope for a prosperous autumn that year.

3. Bathe your eyes on Barnaby Day. You may throw your spectacles away. Mon 1905 Folk-Lore, xv 67

4. If the wind change. See Stock 1669 New Help to Discourse, 284, If the wind change on St Bartholomew's day at night, the following year will not be good.

5. St Bartholomew brings cold dew. 1678 Ray, 52 1732 Fuller, No 6210 1783 Inwards, Weather Lore, 33. At St Bartholomew there comes cold dew.

St Benedict, 21 March 1678 Ray, 52, S Benedict sow thy pease or keep them in thy rick. 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 21 [as in 1678] 1913 E M Wright, Rustic Speech, etc., 290, Then comes Benedict, if you ain't sowed your beans you may keep 'em in the rick.

St Catharine, Isle of Wight. 25 Nov. St Catharine wears a cap. Then all the Island wears a hat. 1870 Smith, Isle of Wight Words, 61 (E D S) St Catharine, 25 Nov. At Catharine foul or fair, so will be the next February. 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 37

St Chad, 2 March Before S Chad every goose lays both good and bad. 1678 Ray, 51 1732 Fuller, No 6163 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 40 (Percy S.), On or before, etc. See also St David, and St Valentine (3)

St David, 1 March 1 David and
Chad sow pease good or bad. 1659: Howell, 21 [omitting “pease”]. 1670: Ray, 43. 1872: J. Glyde, jr., Norfolk Garland, 157. Sow beans and peas on David and Chad, Be the weather good or bad. 1913: E. M. Wright, Rustic Speech, etc., 290, David and Chad sow your beans be the weather good or bad.


St. Distaff, 7 Jan. On St. Distaff’s day, Neither work nor play. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 23 (Percy S.).


St. Gervatius, 13 May. Who shears his sheep before St. Gervatius’ day loves more his wool than his sheep. Ibid., 28.


3. St. Giles’s sweat. 1869: Hazlitt, 200. He’s in a St. Giles’s sweat. Lancashire. . . . I e. He lies in bed, while his clothes are being mended.


St. James, 25 July. 1. If it be fair. See quot. 1669: New Help to Discourse, 284, If it be fair three Sundays before St. James’s day, corn will be good; but wet corn will wither.

2. Till St. James’s day be come and gone, You may have hops, or you may have none. 1670: Ray, 44. 1732: Fuller, No 6469 1856: N & Q., 2nd ser., i 226 (Herefs.). 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 32.


St. John, 24 June. 1. Before St. John’s Day we pray for rain: after that we get it anyhow. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 29

2. Cut your thistles before St. John, You will have two instead of one 1830: Forby, Vocab. E. Anglia, 418. 1893: Inwards, 30.

3 Never rued the man That laid in his fuel before St. John. 1732: Fuller, No. 6205.

4. Previous to St. John’s Day we dare not praise barley. 1893: Inwards, 29.

5 Rain on St. John’s Day, and we may expect a wet harvest. Ibid., 29.

St. Joseph, 19 March Is’t on St. Joseph’s Day clear, So follows a fertile year. Ibid., 21.

St. Jude, 28 Oct. On St. Jude’s Day The oxen may play = wet is expected. Ibid., 36.

St. Keverne’s bells, No metal will run within the sound of. Corn. 1887: M. A. Courtney, Folk-Lore Journal, v. 22.

St. Lawrence. See Devil (28); and Lazy Lawrence.

St. Leonard’s saddle [at Bromley, Essex], A ride upon. Spoken to a barren woman 1659: Howell, 20.

St. Levan’s stone. See quot. 1849: Halliwell, Pop. Rhymes and Nursery Tales, 193, When with panniers astride A pack-horse can ride Through St. Levan’s stone, The world will be done.

St Margaret, 13 Aug. St Margaret's flood. 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 33. St Margaret's flood is proverbial, and is considered to be well for the harvest in England.

St Mark. See St George.

St Martin. ii Nov. 1 If the geese at Martin's day stand on ice, they will walk in mud at Christmas. 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 37.
2 St Martin's summer. c 1591 Shakespeare, i Henry VI, I ii., Expect Saint Martin's summer, halcyon days. 1831 Hone, Year-Book, 1343. St Martin's little summer is a term for the fine days which sometimes intervene about the beginning of November. 1869 A Dobson, in Poet Works, 26 (1923). For these were yet the days of halcyon weather—A "Martin's summer," when the nation swam 1921 Treves, Riviera, 42. In age she was just past the meridian. She was, indeed, the embodiment of St Martin's summer.

St Mary. 25 March (Annunciation). Is't on St Mary's bright and clear, Fertile is said to be the year. 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 21.

St Mary, 2 July (Visitation). If it rains on St Mary's Day, it will rain for four weeks. Ibid., 30.

St Mary Magdalen, 22 July. See quot 1884 in Folk-Lore Journal, ii 279. Alluding to the wet usually prevalent about the middle of July, the saying is—"St Mary Magdalen is washing her handkerchief to go to her cousin St James's fair." [25 July] Derbyshire.

St Matthew, 21 Sept. 1 Matthew's Day, bright and clear, Brings good wine in next year. 1893 Inwards, 35
2 St Matthew shut up the bee. 1678 Ray, 52. 1732 Fuller, No. 6217 1893 Inwards, 34.

3 St Matthew brings on the cold dew. 1732 Fuller, No. 6212. 1893 Inwards, 34.
4 Saint Matthew gets candlestick new, Saint Matthew lay candlestick by. 1830 Forby, Vocab. E Anglia, 418. 1893 Inwards, 35.

St Matthias, 24 Feb. 1 If it freezes on St Matthias' Day, it will freeze for a month together. 1893 Inwards, 17.
2 Saint Matthias both leaf and grass. 1659 Howell, 21. 1893 Inwards, 17 ("sow" before "both").

3 St Matthias breaks the ice. If he finds none he will make it. 1878 Dyer, English Folk-Lore, 253. [by a slip "Matthew" is printed for "Matthias"] 1893 Inwards, 17.

4 St Matthias all the year goes by. 1678 Ray, 52. 1893 Inwards, 17.
5 St Matthew sends sap into the tree. 1678 Ray, 50. 1893 Inwards, 17.
6 St Matthew take thy hopper [seed-basket] and sow. 1678 Ray, 52. 1893 Inwards, 17.

St Medard, 8 June. If on the 8th of June it rain, It foretells a wet harvest, men say. Ibid., 29.

St Michael, 29 Sept. 1 A Michaelmas roll comes ne'er in the pot. 1639 in Berkeley MSS., in 31 (1865), Michaelmas roll comes short of the pot. 1670 Ray, 44. 1732 Fuller, No. 6215. 1893 Inwards, 35.
2 If St Michael brings many acorns, Christmas will cover the fields with snow. Ibid., 35. See also Michaelmas, and Moon (13) and (17).

St Michael's Mount. As formal as the Mount Newlyn, Corn. Said of an old-fashioned child. 19th cent. (Mr C. Lee).

St Paul's Cathedral. See Paul's.

St. Peter 547  St. Thomas

cara. Si fiant nebuleœ, morientur bestiaque. Si fiant venti, præliant prælia genti. Before 1500: in R. Hill, Commonplace-Book, 134 (E.E.T.S.) [as in first two lines of preceding quotation]. 1584: R. Scot, Witchcraft, bk. xi. ch. xv., If Paul th' apostles day be clear, It doth foreshew a lucky year. 1658: Willsford, Natures Secrets, 145, If Saint Paul's day be fair and clear, It does betide a happy year; But if it chance to snow or rain Then will be dear all kinds of grain: If clouds or mists do dark the skie, Great store of birds and beasts shall die: And if the winds do fly aloft, Then wars shall vex that kingdom oft. 1725: Bourne, Antiq. Vulgares, 160 [a shorter version of 1658 quoted]. 1753: World, No. 10 [much as in 1658, but omitting the "clouds or mists" lines]. 1866: N. & Q., 3rd ser., ix. 118, To-day, January 25, has been a lovely day, sunny and mild. A Huntingdonshire cottager said to me: "We shall have a fine spring, Sir. There is an old proverb that says: 'If Paul's day is fine, it will be a fine spring.'" 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 12 [a slightly varied version of 1658 quoted].

St. Peter le Poor, Where's no tavern, alehouse, or sign at the door. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, ii. 345 (1840), St. Peter's in the poor, Where, etc. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "London."

St. Peter's Day, 29 June. 1. If it rains on St. Peter's Day, the bakers will have to carry double flour and single water; if dry, they will carry single flour and double water. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 30.

2. Peter and Paul will rot the roots of the rye. Ibid., 30.

St. Peter's needle, To go through — To have serious misfortune. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 134.

St. Pratt's little summer = the fine weather that often occurs at the beginning of autumn. "St. Pratt" = St. Protasius, patron saint of Blisland, N. Corn. 1908: Heard by Mr. C. Lee.

St. Robert gave his cow, As freely as. 1670: Ray, 208.

St. Stephen, 26 Dec. 1. Blessed be St.


2. If you bleed your nag on St. Stephen's-day, He'll work your work for ever and ay! 1528: More, Works, p. 194, col. 2 (1557), On saint Stephens day we must let al our horses blood with a knife, because saynt Stephen was killed with stones. 1687: Aubrey, Gentilisme, 27 (F.L.S.), On St. Stephen's day the farrier came constantly and blouded all the cart-horses, etc. 1744: Tusser Reditiu, 148, About Christmas is a very proper time to bleed horses in. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 66 (Percy S.). 1904: Co. Folk-Lore: Northumb., 179 (F.L.S.).

St. Swithin, 15 July. 1. If it rains on St. Swithin's it will rain for forty days 1599: Jonson, Ev. Man Out of Humour, L., O here, St. Swithin's... why it should rain forty days after. 1639: Taylor (Water-Poet), Part of Summers Travels, 5, in Works, 1st coll. (Spens., S.), Upon Saint Swithin's day, I noted well The wind was calm, nor any rain then fell, Which faire day (as old sawes saith) doth portend, That heav'n to earth, will plentuous harvest send. 1776: Gay, Trivia, bk. i. 1. 183, How, if on Swithin's feast the welkin lowers, And ev'ry penthouse streams with hasty showers, Twice twenty days shall clouds their fleeces drain. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 52 (Percy S.), St. Swithin's day, if thou dost rain, For forty days it will remain: St. Swithin's day, if thou be fair, For forty days 'twill rain na mair.


See also St. Bartholomew.

St. Thomas, 27 Dec. 1. St. Thomas gray, St. Thomas gray, the longest night,
St Valentine's Day be rainy weather, it will rain for thirty days together. 1846 Denham, Proverbs 49, (Percy S.) 1893 Inward, Weather Lore, 29

2 Oh! St. Valentine, do not rain, so that we may not want barley. Ibid, 29

Salad 1. A good salad may be the prologue to a bad supper. 1670 Ray, 119 ['is' for 'may be'] 1732 Fuller, No 174

2 He that sits upon a salad goes not to bed fasting. Ibid, 2322

See also Wine (2)

Salisbury Plain is seldom without a thief or twain. 1659 Howell, 17 e 1685 Aubrey, Nat Hist Wilt, 69 (1847) ('never' for 'is seldom'). 1790 Grose, Proven Gloss, 55 'Wilt's' 1808 W. Johnson, Folk Memory 280, Nor, save 'a thief or twain,' were there any signs of human life [on Salisbury Plain a century ago]

Sally Hatch, Dressed to death, like 1864 'Cornish Proverbs,' in N & Q, 3rd ser., vi 6

Salmon and sermon have both their season in Lent. 1659 Howell, Proverbs Fr-Eng, 21, Salmons and sermons have their seasons in Lent. 1666 Toreman Piazza Univ., 246. A sermon and a sermon come much of a season. 1670 Ray, 23 1717 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 166

Salmon. See also Hook

Salt, adj. Salt cooks bear blame, but fresh bear shame. 1670 Ray, 73

1732 Fuller, No 6300

Salt, subs. 1 Help me to salt, help me to sorrow. 1872 J. Glyde, Jr., Norfolk Garland, 44 1879 Henderson, Folk-Lore of N Counties, 121
1832: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 278.

2. Not worth (or Worth) one's salt.
[Non valet lotium suum.—Petr., 57.]
1830: Marryat, King's Own, ch. liii.
The captain...is not worth his salt.
It was plain from every line of his body that our new hand was worth his salt.

3. Of all smells, bread; of all tastes, salt.
1591: Florio, Second Frutes, 53.
Salt no saour, God no greater.
1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.
1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 70.
Above salt there's no saour.

4. Salt seasons all things.
1591: Florio, Second Frutes, 53.
Salt sanourenth, and seasoneth all things.
1659: Howell, 9.

5. To put salt on a bird's tail.
It is...a foolish bird that staieth the laying salt on hir taile.
1654: Gayton, Pleasant Notes Don Q., 203.
To catch recall birds, by laying salt upon their tails.
As boys [catch] sparrows with flinging salt upon their tails.
1806: Lamb, Mr. H—II., My name is Finch—Betty Finch...you can't catch me by throwing salt on my tail.
1858: Dickens, Great Expectations, ch. iv.
Plenty of subjects going about, for them that know how to put salt upon their tails.

See also Black, subs. (1); Bushel; and Neither sugar.

Salve for every sore, There's a.
1542: Sch. House of Women, 1. 401.
A salve there is for every sore.
1566: Gascoigne, Supposes, II. i.
1639: Clarke, 15.
1762: Smollett, Sir L. Greaves, ch. xv.
You must have a little patience, Crabshaw—there's a salve for every sore.
1913: Folk-Lore, xxiv. 76 (Oxon.).

Salve where you got your sore, Seek your.
1732: Fuller, No. 4090.

Sam Babb's pig. See quot. 1925:
Devon and Cornwall N. & Q., xiii. 206.
Like Sam Babb's pig, live 'pon nothing and get fat in a minute: he had water-broth all the week and essence o' whip 'pon Sundays (North Cornwall).

Same boat, To be in the.
[†αρ' ἐκολ [γυν τρίβεισ.—Herodas, vi. 12.]
1594: Bacon, Promus, No. 740.
You are in the same shippe.
1710: E. Ward, Nuptial Dialogues, ii. 360.
Therefore the sinner, and the saint, Are often in the selfsame boat.
1836: Marryat, Japhet, ch. lxvi.
Will, I will row in the same boat, and I will be a Quaker as well as you both.
1922: Weyman, Ovington's Bank, ch. xiii.
Oh, he's quite right to speak his mind. We are all in the same boat—though we do not all steer.

Same knife cuts bread and fingers,
The. 1633: Draxe, 223.
The same knife cutteth bread and a mans finger.
19.
The same knife cuts my bread and my finger.

Sammy Dawkin. See quot. 1880:
Courtney, W. Cornwall Words, 48 (E.D.S.), You are a regular Sammy Dawkin, can't scull a boat.

A Padstow proverb.

Samson than of Solomon in him,
There is more of.
1830: Forby, Vocab. E. Anglia, 430.

Samson was a strong man, but he could not pay money before he had it.
1659: Howell, 11 (9), Salomon was a wise man, and Sampson was a strong man, yet neither of them could pay money till they had it.
1732: Fuller, No. 4066.
1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xii.

Sand and clay. See England (12).

Sandbach. See quot. 1917: Bridge,
Cheshire Proverbs, 163.
A wind from Sandbach in the East, Blows good to neither man nor beast.

Sandwich. See Deal.

Sandwich Bay (or Haven), Conscience is drowned in.
1735: Pegge, Kent. Proverbs, in E.D.S., No. 12, p. 74
[an explanatory story].

Sap and heart are the best of wood.
1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 166.

Sarum, Secundum usum. 1589: Pah
with a Hatchet, 17 (1844).
And for the winter nights the tales should be told
secundum Vsum Sarum.
1655: Fuller, Church Hist., bk iii. § i. (23), Henceforward the most ignorant parish priest
understood the meaning of *secundum usum Sarum*, that all service must be ordered “according to the course and custom of Salisbury church” c 1685 Aubrey, *Nat Hist Wills*, 95 (1847). The constable of this church [Salisbury] was as eminent for learning as any in England, and the choir had the best method: hence came the saying *secundum usum Sarum*. 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s.v. “Wilts. It is done, *secundum usum Sarum*.

**Satan** See Devil

1 Saturday, *A fine Saturday, a fine Sunday, a fine week* 1693 Co *Folk-Lore Suffolk*, 163 (FLS)

2 Saturday’s fit will never sit 1851 Sternberg, *Dialect of Northants* 169, Thus the saying—Saturday servants never stay, Sunday servants run away. 1854 Baker, *Northants Gloss*, s.v. “Filt,” “Saturday’s fit will never sit,” is a proverb of prediction with superstitious servants, who reluctantly enter upon a new service on that day 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 107, “Saturday’s fittings, light sittings of Monday (2)

3 There is never a Saturday without some sunshine 1866 New *Suffolk Garland*, 166. There is also a saying that “the sun is always seen on a Saturday,” and this is firmly believed by many of the country people 1893 Inward, *Weathor Lore*, 43

4 This is silver Saturday, The morn’s the resting day, On Monday up and to’t again, And Tuesday push away. 1846 Denham, *Proverbs*, 12 (Percy’s)

See also Friday (2), and Moon (3)

Sauce before you have caught the fish, Make not your 1732 Fuller, No 3324

Save, verb 1 He that saith his dinner will have the more for supper 1639 Clarke, 241 1670 Ray, 79 1732 Fuller No 2288


3 Save a thief from the gallowes, and he’ll cut your throat c 1440 Lydgate, *Fall of Princes*, bk vi 1 3253. Who saueth a thief when the rop is knet Aboute his nekke, as olde cleriks write, With sum fals tourn the bibrour wil hym quite 1484 Caxton, *Esop*, v 15 (Jacobs), For as men sayen comunly if ye kepe a man fro the gallowes he shall never loue you after 1583 Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig X4, True is the proverbe, saue a thief from the gallowes, and he will be the firste shall doe the a mischefe 1622 Massinger, *Virgin Martyr*, II vii, She saved us from the gallowes, and, only to keep one proverb from breaking his neck, we’ll hang her. Before 1704 T Brown, in *Works*, vii 290 (1760) 1771 Smollett, *Clinker*, in *Works*, vii 177 (1817) 1820 Scott, *Monastery*, ch x, “Save a thief from the gallowes,” said the Sacristan—“you know the rest of the proverb.”


5 Save me from my friends See God defend me

6 Save something for the man that rides on the white horse 1639 Clarke, 129 1670 Ray, 139 1732 Fuller, No 4068

7 Save your breath See Breath

8 To save a snuff he throws away whole candles 1864 "Cornish Proverbs," in N & Q, 3rd ser., vi 495

9 To save one’s bacon 1682 A Behn, *City Harress*, I 1, I go [to church] to save my bacon, as they say, once a month 1729 Fielding, *Author’s
Saving

Farc, III. iii., No tricks shall save your bacon. 1742: North, Lives of Norths, ii. 193. (Bohn). 1829: in Farmer, Musa Pedestris, III, I cuts and runs and saves my bacon.

Saving cometh having, Of. 1633: Draxe, 196. 1670: Ray, 139. 1732: Fuller, No. 6102. 1829: Scott, Journal, April 20, It is saving, not getting, that is the mother of riches.

Saving is getting. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 265, Saving is the first getting. 1732: Fuller, No. 4069. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, i. 3, Saving's good addlin. 1855: Robinson, Whitby Gloss, 2 [as in 1828].

Saving must equal having, i.e. you must make both ends meet. 1815: Gloucester Gloss., 14.

Sawtrey, by the way, Now a grange, that was an abbey. 1568: in Loseley MSS. 212 (Kempe).


2. He cannot say his Pater-noster. 1552: Latimer, Sermons, 389 (P.S.), When we be disposed to despise a man . . . we say, "He cannot say his Pater-noster."

3. He grants enough that says nothing. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Octroyer," He that says nothing yields enough. 1623: Wodrophe, Spered Houres, 476.

4. He says anything but his prayers, and them he whiskes. 1732: Fuller, No. 2014. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I., Miss says anything but her prayers, and those she whiskes.

5. He who says what he likes shall hear what he does not like. 1539: Taverner, Proverbs, fo. 2, He that speaketh what he wold, shall hear what he wold not. 1583: Melbancke, Philotinus, sig. Yr. Since they say what they liste, they shall hear what they list not. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 379, Who says what he lists, hears is against his will. 1732: Fuller, No. 6303, He that speaks the thing he should not, Shall hear the thing he should not. 1853: Trench, Proverbs, 82 (1905).

6. I will say no more till the day be longer. 1562: Heywood, Three Hund. Epigr., No. 168.

7. I will say nought but mum. 1659: Howell, 7.

8. Say as men say, but think to your- self. 1639: Clarke, 327.

9. Say little but think the more. c. 1430: Lydgate, Minor Poems, 155 (Percy S.), Take no quarelle, thynk mekyl and saye nought. c. 1490: Partonope, 84 (E.E.T.S.), He seyerth butte lytell, butte more thynckyth he.

c. 1535: Pain of Evil Marriage, 22 (Percy S.), Therfore thynke moche and saye nought. c. 1600: Deloney, Thos. of Reading, ch. 5. Vpon these words away went her husband, and though he said little, he thought more. c. 1640: in Roxb. Ballads, ii. 97 (Hindley), And though he said little, yet he thought the more. 1678: Ray, 82, Though he saith nothing, he pays it with thinking, like the Welchnans jackdaw. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I., Miss says nothing; but I warrant she pays it off with thinking. 1836: Marryat, Easy, ch. xiv., As for Jack, he said nothing, but he thought the more. 1886: Swainson, Folk-Lore of Brit. Birds, 82 (F.L.S.) [as in 1878].

10. Say nay. See Maid (II).


12. Say nothing when you are dead, i.e. be silent. 1676: Ray, 82.

13. Say still no, an' ye'll ne'er be married. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I., But if you always say no, you'll never be married. 1869: Hazlitt, 328.

14. Say well is good but do well is better. 1536: in Brit. Bibliog., iv. 283 (1814), Men say wel that do wel. c. 1550: Six Ballads, 6 (Percy S., No. 59). 1639: Clarke, 194, Say well and do well, end with a letter, Say well is good, but do well is better. 1640: Brome, Speragus Garden, IV. xi. 1732: Fuller, No. 6447 [as in 1639]. c. 1791: Pegge, Derbicisms, 137 (E.D.S.). 1852: FitzGerald, Poloniws, 136 (1903) [as in 1639].

15. Say well or be still. c. 1480:
Early Miscell, 63 (Warton Cl, 1855), Eyre say wylie, or hold the[e] styll Before 1529 Skelton, in Works, i 17 (Dyce), A proverbe of old, say well or be styll

16 Say you saw me not c 1520 Stanbridge, Vulgaris, sig Ca, Yf any man aske for me saye thou sawest me not 1672 Walker, Param., 19, Say you saw it not 1681 Robertson, Phraseol Generals, 1097

17 To say his prayers backward 1678 Ray, 265 1840-59 Denham Tracts, i 84 (F LS ), Ye're like a witch, ye say your prayers backward

18 You say true, will you swallow my knife? 1678 Ray, 255

See also Said, and So said

Saying and doing are two things 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch v 1572 T Wilson Disc upon Usury, 249 (1925), To saye and doe are twoe thynges 1678 Bunyan, Pilgr Progr., Pt I 82 (1849), I see that saying and doing are two things, and hereafter I shall better observe this distinction 1712 Matteux, Quixote, Pt II ch xxiv 1787 O'Keefe, The Farmer, I ii 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch xx

Scabbed See Cuckoo (2)

Scabbed horse abides no comb, A c 1430 Pilgr Lyf Manhode, II civ 114 (1869) (O), For riht as a scabbed beste haeth horf comb 1611 Davies (of Hereford), Sc of Folly, 50 in Works, n (Grosart) 1732 Fuller, No 1639, Gall d horses can't endure the comb 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch m, If any of you get cross over it, I shall tell you that sore horses cannot bear to be combed

Scabbed horse is good enough for a scald square, A 1540 Palsgrave, Acostas sig Mz, For suche a scald squier as he is a scabbad horse 1562 Heywood Three Hund Epigr, No 161 1732 Fuller, No 385 [ scabbad knight for "scald square"] 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v ' Squire [ shabby" for "scald"] Cf Scald horse

Scabbed sheep See Sheep (10)

Scabby heads love not the comb 1623 Wodroope, Spared Houses 516, A scabbad head doth never love the comb 1732 Fuller, No 4072 1801 Wolcot, in Works, v 369 (1801), But George dishketh much to hear About his Scottish home, Thus scabby heads, the proverb says, For ever hate a comb

Scald head is soon broken, A Before 1500 in Hill, Commonplace-Book, 130 (E E T S), A skalde mans heed is sorne brokyn 1598 Meres, Palladis, fo 302 1621 Burton, Malancholy, III ii 6, 2, p 580 (1836) 1683 Monten Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697), A scald head is seann broken

Scald horse is good enough for a scabbad squire, A 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi c 1580 Fulwell, Ars Adulans, sig F4, A ragged colte may serve a scabbad squire 1681 Robertson, Phraseol Generals, 1098 Cf Scabbad horse

Scald not your lips in another man's pottage 1598 Servignmans Comfor, in Inedited Tracts, 99 (Hazlitt), It is not good to scald ones lipps in other mens pottage 1666 D'Urfey, Quixote, Pt III Act II sc ii 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 355 c 1800 J Trusler, Prov in Verse, 58 1823 Scott, S Roman's, ch viii, I can tell you, Mr Meiklewham that you are scalding your lips in other folks' kale

Scandal will rub out like dirt when it is dry 1732 Fuller, No 4076

Scaborough See Oliver's Mount

Scaborough warning, A = no warning at all 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi, Scaborough warning I had (quoth he) c 1550-70 in Hindley, Old Book-Coll Miscell, i 40, This term, Scaborough warning, grew (some say) By hasty hangynge, for rank robry theare 1589 Puttenham, Eng Poesie, 199 (Arber) 1593 G Harvey, Works, ii 225 (Grosart), He meaneth not to come vpon me with a cowardly stratagem of Scaborough warning 1662 Fuller, Worthies, in 398 (1840)

1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Yorkshire" 1824 Scott, Redgauntlet, ch xx, The true man for giving Scaborough warning, first knock you down, then bid you stand 1913 E M Wright,
Scarcé

Rustic Speech, etc., 189, A Scarborough warning signifies no warning at all. The origin of the saying rests on the statement that in 1557 Thomas Stafford entered and took possession of Scarborough Castle before the townsmen were aware of his approach. [The occurrence of the phrase in 1546, vide supra, disproves this theory.]

Scarcé of horses. See Horse (66).

Scarcé of news who told that his father was hanged, He was. 1732: Fuller, No. 2378. 1852: FitzGerald, Poloniús, 40 (1903), He was scant o' news who taud his father was hanged


Sceptre is one thing and a ladle another, A. 1640: Herbert, Joc. Prudentium. 1670: Ray, 23. 1732: Fuller, No. 386.

Schemey must louster, He that can't. 1869: Hazlitt, 432, Yeker that can't scheme must louster. S. Devon and Cornwall. 1879: Folk-Lore Record, ii 203 (Cornwall). 1913: Devonish. Assoc. Trans., xlv. 291, A common proverb in Devon is, "He that can't schemey must louster," meaning that he who cannot work with his head must work with his hands. Cf. Work, verb (3).

Scholar, A mere, a mere ass. 1639: Clarke, 151. 1659: Howell, 3. 1703: Centlivre, Stolen Heiress, 1. A mere scholar is a meer—you know the old proverb, father. 1732: Fuller, No. 322, A mere scholar at Court is an ass among apes.

Scholar as my horse Ball, As good a. 1639: Clarke, 145.

Scholar may be gulled thrice, a soldier but once, A. 1659: Howell, Proverbs: Brit.-Eng., 11.

Scholar teacheth his master, The. 1639: Clarke, 4.

Schoolboys. See quot. 1678: Ray, 81, Schoolboys are the reasonabllest people in the world, they care not how little they have for their money.

School-butter = a flogging. 1604: Pasquils Jests, 24 (1864), An unhappy boy, willing to have one of his fellows

taste of such schoole-butter as hee had often broke his fast with. 1607: R. West, Court of Conscience, sig. D4, [Whipper says] When thou hast tasted some of my schoole-butter, Thy limmes will be so hethy thou wilt leap. 1618: B. & F., Loyal Subject, V. iv., He was whipt like a top... court school-butter? Is this their diet? 1690: New Dict. Canting Crew, sig. K8, Schoole-butter, a whipping.


Scoggin's a doctor, Among the common people. 1639: Clarke, 143. 1670: Ray, 140.


Scold like a cutpurse, To. 1678: Ray, 288.


Scold the devil, To. See Devil (34).

Score twice before you cut once = Look before you leap. 1688: Holme, Acad. of Armory, bk. iii. cap. vi. p. 292. The point on the back of the shoemakers pareing knife is to score or trace out the leather before he venture to cut it, according to the saying score twice before you cut once, else they will cut themselves out of doors. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 107.

Scorn at first makes after-love the more. 1855: Bohn, 482.

Scornful dogs will eat dirty puddings. 1709: Mandeville, Virgin Unmask'a 32 (1724). Dirty puddings for dirty dogs 1738: Swift, Polite Convers, Dial. I.
Scorning is catching [c 1440 Lydgate, Fall of Princes, bk i i 601 (E.T.S.) For it was said sithe gone ful yore, He that reenoshith to scorne folk in veyn, Whan he wer foteest shall scorned been ageyn] 1670, Ray, 140 1732 Fuller, No 4081 1754 Berthelson Eng.-Danish Dict, s v 'Scornfully' After scorning comes catching

Scott, subs 1 A Scot a rat and a Newcastle grindstone travel all the world over 1662 Fuller, Worthies ii 543 (1680), A Scottishman and a Newcastle grind-stone, travel all the world over 1790 Grose Prov Gloss s v 'Northumberland' 1821 in Lockhart Life of Scott, 1 99, The old saying—in every corner of the world you will find a Scot, a rat, and a Newcastle grindstone 1846-59 Denham Tracts, i 391 (FLS)

1 A Scot on Scots bank 1678 Ray, 81

3 The Scot will not fight till he see his own blood 1822 Scott, Nigel, ch 1

4 We will not lose a Scot 1662 Fuller, Worthies ii 542 (1840) 1790 Grose Prov Gloss s v 'Northumberland' 1 'He' for 'We' 1846-59 Denham Tracts, i 248 (FLS), We will not lose a Scot That is anything, however inconsiderable, which we can possibly save or recover

See also Hard-hearted

Scottish ordnary, The=The house of office 1678 Ray, 81 Scottish mist will wet an Englishman to the skin, A 1589 Pap with a Hatchet, Defn, We care not for a Scottish mist, though it wet to the skin 1639 Clarke ii ['may'' for 'will'] 1641 in Harl Miscell, iii 228 (1744) 1681 Robertson Phraseol Generalis, ii 100 [as in 1639] 1732 Fuller, No 388 [as in 1639] 1814 Scott, Waterley, ch xxv, To beware of Scotch mist which she had heard would wet an Englishman through and through 1872 J Glyde, jr, Norfolk Garland, 150

Scottish warming-pan, A = A wench 1678 Ray, 83 1685 S Wesley, Maggots, 36, 'Twould better heat a man Than two Bath faggots or Scotch warming-pan Note—Scottish warming-pan is the hostesses brown daughter 1785 Grose, Class Dict Vulgar Tongue, s v 'Warming-pan' 1826 Brady, Varieties of Life 40, This saying arose from the well-known story of a gentleman travelling in Scotland, who, desiring to have his bed warmed, the servant-maid immediately undressed herself and lay down in it for a while

Scrambling at a rich man's door, 'Tis brave 1639 Clarke, 39. 1670 Ray, 136 1732 Fuller, No 5069

Scraper and save See sect 15th cent in Relig Antiquae, 1 316 (1841), Kyte [Scraper] and save, and thou schalle have, Frest [Lend] and leve, and thou schall crave, Walow and wast, and thou schalle want

Scratch a beggar before you die, You'll = You will be a beggar 1639 Clarke, 209, You'll scratch a beggar one day 1670 Ray, 164 1732 Fuller, No 6035

Scratches his head with one finger, He 1855 Bohn, 381

Scratching See Cat (14)

Scratch me and I'll scratch thee [Mutuum multi scabant—Austen, I'dill, xii, Prall Monos] 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Controoler, To scratch the back of one who hath already clawed his elow 1694 D'Urfey, Quixote, Pt II, Act II sc ii, Scratch my back and I'll claw your elbow 1760 E Ward Works, iii 145, Scratch me says one, and I'll scratch thee Cl Claw (2) and Ka me

Scratch where it does not itch, To c 1510 A Barclay, Egloges, 30 (Spens S), I claw oft where it doth not itch
1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vii., Thou makest me claw where it itcheth not. 1578: Whetstone, Promos and Cass., sig. D3. And straight (through fear) where he claws it doth not ythc. 1639-61: in Rump Songs, Pt. II. 7 (1662, repr. 1874), 'Twould make a man scratch where it does not itch, To see . . . 1680: Shadwell, Woman Captain, I. ad fin., 'Twould make one scratch where 't does not itch, To see fools live poor to die rich. 1737: Ray, 232 [as in 1680 with very slight variation].

Scythe. See quo. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 17 (Percy S.), Where the scythe cuts, and the plough rives, No more fairies and bee-bikes [nests].


Sea, sail, Being on; being on land, settle. 1640: Herbert, Jac Prudentium, 1670: Ray, 23.

Sea. See also Praise the sea.

Sealed with butter. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vii., Every promise that thou therin dost vttre Is as sure as it were sealed with butter. 1584: R. Scot, Witchcraft, bk. iii. ch. iv., Surely the indentures, containing those covenants, are sealed with butter. c. 1625: Middleton, Game of Chess, I. i., I think they have seal'd this with butter. 1634: S. Rowley, Noble Soldier, IV. ii. 1670: Ray, 198, A warrant seal'd with butter.

Seaman. A. i. See quo 1670: Ray, 218, A seaman if he carries a millstone will have a quail out of it. Spoken of the common mariners, if they can come at things that may be eat or drunk.

2. A seaman is never broken till his neck be broken. 1671: Head and Kirkman, Eng. Rogue, ii. 194 [cited as a proverb].

Search not too curiously lest you find trouble. 1659: Howell, 17.

Seasonable. See Snow (2).


Second shaft, Shoot the, and perhaps thou mayest find again the first. 1659: Howell, 19.

Second thoughts are best. [at διευρέατον φορνίτες φορνίτεια.—Euripides, Hippol., 438. Posteroires enim cogitationes, ut aiunt, sapienteroles solent esse.—Cicero, Phil., xii. 5] 1586: Pettie, tr. Guazzo's Civil Convers., fo. 23, The second thoughts are ever the best. 1607-12: Bacon, Essays: "Youth and Age," Generally youth is like the first cogitations, not so wise as the second. 1681: Dryden, Span. Friar, II. ii. 1715: Centlivre, Gotham Election, sc. ii. 1787: O'Keeffe, The Farmer, I. iii., Indeed, Molly, as second thoughts are best, I'll return to my first design, and have you. 1813: Byron, Letters, etc., ii. 305 (Prothero), In composition I do not think second thoughts are the best, though second expressions may improve the first.

Second vice is lying, The, the first being that of owing money. 1732: Fuller, No. 4743. 1736: Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i. 449 (Bigelow), . . . the first is running in debt.

Secret, subs. 1. If you would know secrets, look for them in grief or pleasure. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium, 1670: Ray, 23.

2 Wherever there is a secret there must be something wrong. 1837: Lockhart, Life of Scott, ii. 42 [cited as "an old saying "].


2. See quo. 1695: Congreve, Love for Love, III. iii., He only is secret who never was trusted; a satirical proverb upon our sex.

Sedgefield, Durham. Four sayings. See quo. 1846-59: Denham Tracts, i. 85 (F.L.S.), (1) I've been as far travelled as Sedgefield, where the folks call strea—STRAW! (2) Montpellier of
the North To meet with persons here
of 80, 90, or even 100 years of age, is
no uncommon circumstance (3) To
go at a thing, like a Sedgefield Hunt
Ibid., i 86, (4) "A Sedgefield Chap"
- The knave of clubs
Sedgely curse See Devil (79)
See, verb I I see much, but I say
little, and do less 1546 Heywood, Pro-
verbs, Pt I ch vi 1576 Parad Dandy
Devices, in Brit Bibliog., ii 86 (1812).
The best wane is in all worlds sent. Se
e al, sae nought, holde thee content
2 See for your love, buy for your
money 1639 Clarke 79 1670 Ray,
184, 1736 Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Love"
3 See me and see me not 1546
Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch v, If he
plae falsched in fellowship, plae yee
See me, and see me not 1633 Draxe,
46 1639 Clarke, 289
4 To see as far into a mill-stone as
another 1540 Palsgrave, Acolusius,
sig B3. Or wolde see me to see farther
in a mill stone, than excellent auctours
have done before us 1575 Gas-
cogne, Posies, in Works, i II (Cun-
liffe). They wolde seeme to see
vere farre in a mylstone 1690 Dry-
den, Amphitryon, V. I am a fool. I must
confess, but yet I can see as far into a
mill-stone as the best of you 1712
Arbuthnot, Law a Bott Pitt., Pt IV
ch v, He can see as far into a mill-
stone as another! 1778 Burney,
Evelina, Lett xxv 1911 T Edwards,
Neighbourhood, 36, I swear allers th' sort
as could see through a brick wall fur as
most folk.
5 To see day See Day (13)
6 We see not what is in the wallet
behind 1639 Clarke, 52 We see
not what sits on our shoulder 1732
Fuller, No 5453
7 Who sees thee by day will not seek
thee by night 1659 Howell, Proverbs
1645, 1732
Seeing is believing [Pluins est
oculatus testis unus, quam aucti
decem.—Plautus, True, II vi] 1639
Clarke, 90 1706 Farpabar, Recruit-
ng Officer, IV iii 1850 Smedley, Frank
Found ch xxxi, "What an un-
believing Jew it is," said Archer, "hand

Seldom comes a loan laughing home
See 1320 in Relic Antiquae, i 173 (1841),
'Seilde cometh lone lahannde home,'
Quoth Hendyng
Seldom comes the better Before
1272 MS Temp Hen III, in Douce
II of Shakesp., 334 (1839), Seilde comed
Seldom

557

Send

upon this reason, that selfe-preservation is of Natural Law. 1675: Marvell, 
Hodge’s Vision from Monument, 
Self-preservation, nature’s first 
great 
law. Before 1680: Butler, Remains, 
i. 27 (1759). 1720: C. Shadwell, 
Irish 
Hospitality, V. i., 
Self-preservation 
shou’d exert it self, ‘tis then indeed 
the first principle of nature. 1751: 
Smollett, 
P. Pickle, 
ch. lvii. 1838: 
Dickens, 
Twist, 
ch. x.

Sell as markets go, You must. 1584: 
Greene, in Works, iii. 224 (Grosart), 
If thou bee wise . . . make thy market 
while the chaffer is set to sale. 1670: 
Ray, 23, 
A man must sell his ware after 
the rates of ye market. 1732: 
Fuller, 
No. 5969.

Sell nothing on trust. See Trust, 
subs. (2).

Sell the bear’s skin before the bear 
have been caught, To. 1580: 
Lylly, 
Euphues, 273 (Arber), I trusted so much 
that I solde the skinne before the beast 
was taken. 1647: in Polit. Ballads, 
20 (Percy S., No. 11), Yet they divide 
the skinne Of the beare among them e’re 
they ha’t. 1692: L’Estrange, 
Æsop, 
270 (3rd ed.), He bad me have a care 
for the future, to make sure of the bear, 
before I sell his skin. 1726: 
Defoe, 
Hist. of Devil, Pt. II. ch. viii. p. 276 
(4th ed.), Indeed the devil may be said 
to sell the bear-skin, whatever he buys. 
1819: Scott, Leg. of Montrose, ch. iii., 
Somewhat irregular, though, and smells 
a little too much of selling the bear’s 
skin before he has hunted him.

Selsey. See Chichester.

Selvage showeth the cloth, The. 
1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Maistre,” We 
say, the selvidge makes shew of the 
cloth. 1670: Ray, 141 [as in 1611]. 
1732: Fuller, No. 4744

Send, verb. 1. He sendeth to the Eas 
Indies for Kentish pippins. Ibid., No 
2017.

2. Send a fool. See Fool (91).

3. Send a wise man. See Wise (33).

4. Send him to the sea and he will not 
get water. 1683: Meriton, Yorkshire 
Ate, 83–7 (1697).

5. Send not to market for trouble. 
1732: Fuller, No. 4098.
Neither take too young a boy, nor kinsman, nor one that is intreated for thy servant 1855 Bohn, 422
8 One must be a servant before that he can be a master 1633 Draxe, 18
Cf Serve, verb (2)
9 Servants should put on patience when they put on a hivery 1732 Fuller, No 41011
10 Servants should see all and say nothing 1771 Smollett, Clinker, in Works, vi 3 (1817) 1819 Scott, Ivanhoe, ch 11, Like good servants, let us hear and see, and say nothing 1820 Scott, Abbot, ch vi [as in 1819]
Serve, verb 1 He serves the poor with a thump on the back with a stone= He is a miser 1678 Ray, 90
2 He that hath not served knows not how to command 1539 Taverner, Proverbs, fo 2, No man can be a good ruler, onles he hath bene fyrste ruled 1578 Flomo, First Fruites, fo 28, Who hath not serued can not command 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 81
Cf Servant (8)
3 He that serves everybody is paid by nobody 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Abbayer," He that serves a communaltie is controlled by every one, rewarded by none 1732 Fuller, No 2295
4 He that serves will need not be afraid to ask his wages 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium [omitting "be afraid to"] 1670 Ray, 23 1732 Fuller, No 2295
5 Serve God  See God
6 To serve two masters  See No man can serve
7 To serve two pigeons  See Pigeon (4)
Service is no inheritance 1412 Hoccleve, Regement, I 841 (E E T S, Ext Ser , 72), Seruyse, I wot wel, is non heritage c 1440 Songs and Carols, 22 (Warton Cl, 1856) For servyse is non erytage 1509 Barclay, Ship of Fools, I 106 (1874) Thus worldly seruyc is no sure herytage 1600 T Heywood 1 Edw IV, in Works, I 51 (1874), Service is no heritage 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1712 Centlivre, Perplex'd Lovers, I iii 1759 Townley, High Life below Stairs, I I 1776 Mrs Cowley, Runaway, V
1830: Marryat, King's Own, ch. x.
1841: Dickens, Barn. Rudge, ch. lxxx.,
Though she was but a servant, and
knowed that servitudes was no in-
heritances.

Service without reward is punishment.

1604: Herbert, Juc. Prudentium.

Service. See also No service.

Serving-man. See Young (8).

Set a good face on it. See Good face.

Set my house afire only to roast his
eggs, He. 1692: L'Estrange, Aesop,
375 (3rd ed.), These are the people that
set their neighbours houses on fire to
roast their own eggs. 1732: Fuller,
No. 2018.

Set up one's rest, To. This is a term
taken from the game of Primero. 1576:
Lambarde, Peramb. of Kent, 430 (1826),
She resolved . . . to set up her last
rest, in hope to recover her losses againa.
1590: Lodge, Rosalynde, 50 (Hunt. Cl.),
Aliena resolved there to set up her
rest. 1592: Shakespeare, Romeo, V. iii.
1653: Middleton and Rowley, Span.
Gipsy, IV. iii., Set up thy rest, her
marriest thou or none. c. 1680: L'Estr-
ange, Seneca's Epistles, vii., Teach
me . . . to dispute with Socrates . . .
to set up my rest with Epicurus. 1768:
Brooke, Fool of Quality, iii. 1811, Here
I counted to set up my rest for life.
1840: Dickens, Curiosity Shop, ch.
Ixxi., So we . . . will set up our rest
again among our boyish haunts. 1852:
M. A. Keltie, Reminisc. of Thought and
Feeling, 165, As the estate had then to
be sold, it became a question where I
was to set up my rest.

Set up one's staff, To. 1573: Harvey,
Letter-Book, 4 (Camden S.), He hath
set down his staf, and made his reckning.
1591: Shakespeare, Com. of Errors, III.
i., Have at you with a proverb:—Shall
I set in my staff? 1766: Garrick,
Neck or Nothing, I. i., Then my young
master may e'en make a leg to his
fortune, and set up his staff somewhere
else. 1815: Scott, Mannerings, ch.
xix., Here, then, Mannerings resolved,
for some time at least, to set up the
staff of his rest. 1826: Scott, Journal,
13 Nov., She has set up the whole staff
of her rest in keeping literary society
about her. [In these last two passages,
Scott has curiously combined this and
the preceding proverbial phrase.]

Seven hours' sleep. See Sleep, subs. (1).

Seven may be company but nine are
confusion. 1630: Brathwait, Eng.
Gent., 178 (1641), Which use was
occasion of that adage, Septem con-
vivium, novem convenitum faciunt; Seven
make a banquet, nine a riot. 1681:
Robertson, Phrasol. Generalis, 598,
Seven at a feast, nine at a fray. 1732:
Fuller, No. 4113.

Seven years = any indefinite period.
1762: Langland, Plasman, A, v. 122,
Hit hedde ben vn-sold this seuen yer
so me god helpe! c. 1460: in Hazlitt,
Early Pop. Poetry, i. 170, For thou
may speke a word to-day That vij 3ers
then may be for thost. c. 1475: Rauf
Coilyear, 25 (E.E.T.S.), Thair suld na
man be sa wyse, To gar me cum to
Parise, To luke quhair the King lysis,
In faith, this seuen yier! 1519: Four
Elements, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, i. 47,
That is the best dance without a pipe,
That I saw this seven year. 1594:
Lodge and Greene, Looking Gasse,
l. 246, [Thou] shalt not be worth a horse
of thine owne this seuen yeare. 1674:
J. Howard, Eng. Mounseur, II., I have
not seen you these seven years Wel-
bred. . . . I tell you 'twas not half an
hour ago since you saw me 1778:
Burney, Evelina, Lett. xxiii., I don't
think I shall speak to you again these
seven years. 1889: Peacock, Manley,
etc., Gloss., 470 (E.D.S.), Seven-year-
end. A long but indefinite period.
1913: E. M. Wright, Rustic Speech, etc.,
175. A long, indefinite period of time is
from seven year end to seven year end,
for years long years and donkey's ears

Severn, River. 1. Blessed is the eye.
See quotas. 1659: Howell, 21, Happy
is the eye that dwelleth twixt Severn
and the Wye. 1662: Fuller, Worthies,
i. 70 (1840), Blessed is the eye, That is
betwixt Severn and Wye. 1790: Grose,
Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Herefordshire" [as
in 1662]. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-
Lore, 584, Happy is the eye Between
Severn and Wye, But thrice happy he
Between Severn and Clee.
Shake your ears, Go 1573 G 
Harvey, Letter-Book, 42 (Camden S), 
His Mastership may go shake his ears elsewhere 1607 Shakespeare, Twelfth Night, II 111, Maria Go shake your ears 1647 in Pol Ballads, 69 (Wright, Percy S), And you may goe and shake your eares, Who had, and could not hold 11 1764 Mrs F Sheridan, Dupe, I 11, March off and leave him to shake his ears

Shall be, shall be, That which c 1386 Chaucer, Knight's Tale, 1 668, 
As, when a thing is shapen, it shall be c 1399 Gower, Conf Amanis, bk 1 1 1714, Bot nede be mot that nede schal 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch 1, That shalbe, shalbe 1604 Marlowe, 
Faustus I 1, What will be, shall be 1639 Clarke, 225

Shame, subs 1 He has swallowed shame and drank after it=He has no sense of shame left 1830 Forby, 
Vocab E Anglia, 433

2 He that has no shame has no conscience 1732 Fuller, No 2148

3 It's a shame to steal, but a worse to 
carry home 1639 Clarke, 190, It's a 
shame to steal, but a greater shame to 
bring again 1670 Ray, 141 1732 
Fuller, No 2875

4 Shame in a hundred cannot be 
avoyded 1605 * Camden, Remains, 330 
(1870)

5 Shame is as it is taken 1534 
More, Works, 1253 (1557) 1546 Hey-
wood, Proverbs, Pt I ch ix

6 Shame take him that shame think-
eth Ibid, Pt I ch ix 1596 Spenser, 
F Q, IV vi 61, "Shame be his meede," 
quot he, "that meaneth shame" 1596 
Harrington, Metam of Ajas, 104 
(1814). Wherefore shame to them that 
shame think 1605 Camden 
Remains, 330 (1870) 1659 Howell, 9

7 'Tis no shame to eat one's meat 
1611 Cotgrave, s v "Manger," He 
thats ashamed to eat is ashamed to live 1672 Walker, Parum, 10

Shameful leaving is worse than 
shameful eating 1894 Northall, Folk 
Phrases, 22 (E D S)

Shameless beggar See Beggar (3)

Shameless craving must have a

Shameless is graceless, He that is. 1732: Fuller, No. 2192.

Shankey Hall. See quot. 1846–59: Denham Tracts, i. 69 (F.L.S.), Like Shankey Hall, he takes no hints A highly popular bishoprick [Durham] proverb.

Share and share alike. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Escot," Whereat every guest paies his part, or, share and share like. 1635: in Somers Tracts, vii. 191, (1811). Not share and share alike, but to every each one the more according to their defects. 1670: Ray, 218. Share and share like, some all, and some never a whit. Leonia societas. 1821: Scott, Pirade, ch. xviii. They say, that a 'man share and share equal-aquals in the creature's ulzie. 1914: Lucas, Landmarks, ch. xxxiv., That's the way, Sargent, in married life; share and share alike.

Sharp as a cobbler's selin [awl]. 1855: Robinson, Whitby Gloss., 52.


Sharp as a razor. 1519: Horneman, Vulgaria, fo. 277. My wodkynfe was as sharpe as a rasur. 1577: Misogonus, IV. i., Take my penknife then, ites as sharpe as a razer. 1694: D'Urfey, Quixote, Pt. I. Act I. sc. ii. 1720: Gay, Poems, ii. 279 (Underhill), Her glance is as the razor keen. 1830: Scott, Doom of Devorgoil, III. ii., Your razor's polisht', But, as the proverb goes, 'tis cruel sharp. 1907: De Morgan, Alice-for-Short, ch. viii.


Sharp as vinegar. 1631: Mabbe, Celestina, 110 (T.T.), And poure forth words as sharpe as vinegar. 1693: D'Urfey, Richmond Heiress, II. i., She's as sharp as vinegar this morning. 1737: Ray, 225. 1821: Scott, Kenilworth, ch xxvii., Thou art as sharp as vinegar this afternoon!


Sharply chides is ready to pardon, He that. 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. Ixx. 1732: Fuller, No. 2298 [with "the most" before "ready"].


Sharp's the word. 1709: Gibber, Rival Fools, I., Sharp's the word! we'll have half ours too. 1720: Vide Mecum for Malt-worms, Pt. II. 24, Cry Sharp's the word, and bite that deepest can 1854: Dickens, Hard Times, bk. iii. ch. vii., They farewell to your family, and tharp't the word. 1896: Doyle, Rodney Stone, ch. i. 1922: Weyman, Ovington's Bank, ch. xvii., Queer old place, and—sharp's the word, here we are.

Sharp stomach makes short devotion, A. 1639: Clarke, 272. 1670: Ray, 142. 1732: Fuller, No. 4118 [in the plural].

Sheared. See quot. 1914: Devonsh. Assoc. Trans, xlv. 92, "When it is sheared, it likes to be leared." Used of lambs and then applied as a proverb to persons (Devon).

Shears between them, But a pair of—little or no difference. 1579: Lyly, Euphues, 46 (Arber), And as it were but a pair of sheers to goe betweene their natures 1603: Shakespeare, Meas. for Meas., I. ii 1611: Middleton, Roaring Girl, III. i., One pair of shears sure cut out both your coats. 1626: Overbury,
Characters "An Apparator," There went but a paire of sheeres between him and the pursuivant of hul, for they both delight in sinne 1633 Rowley, Match at Midnight, II c 1791 Pegge Debatesms, 120 (E D S), "Only shears between them, both alike

She devils are hard to tame c 1550
in Hazlitt, Pop Poetry, in 140
Shed riners with a whaver, To 1836
Wilbraham, Cheshire Gloss 68 (2nd ed.) To shed riners with a whaver" means to surpass any thing skilful or adroit by something still more so 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 143
Sheen See Son Sheep [There are two groups of sheep sayings, none of the members of which occurs elsewhere and it is a little doubtful whether they were ever truly proverbial. It will be convenient to enter both groups here A 1550-3 The Decaye of England, 96 (E E T S). The morc shepe, the dearer is the woll The more shepe, the dearer is the motton The more shepe the dearer is the bee The more shepe, the dearer is the corne The more shepe, the skanter is the whit meate The more shepe, the fewer egges for a peny. Before 1641 Best, Farming Book (Surtees S., No 33). For as the saying is, Sheepe that will live in winter, will live and thrive in summer, and sheepe that growe fselysh with foure teeth, will growe fatte with eight (p 3) The husbandman's saying is, that the losse of an ewe's lambe is as greate as the losse of a cowe's calf (p 3) Hence anseth the shepheardes phrase, that Whiles the grasse groweth, Ewe dryeth, lambe dyeth (p 5) The country proverbe is, The man that is aboute to clippe his sheepe, Must pray for two faire dayes and one faire weke (p 20)

1 A black sheep is a bitting beast c 1550 Six Ballads, 4 (Percy S.), The blacke shepe is a peryous beast. 1598 T Bastard Chrestoloros, bk iv Ep 20, Till now I thought the proverbe did but rest, Which said a blacke shepe was a bitting beast

2 As good be hanged for a sheep as a lamb 1678 Ray, 350 ['old sheep' and "young lamb"] 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, 1 60 (1785), So in for the lamb, as the saying is in for the sheep 1841 Dickens, Barn Rudge, ch ix, Others comforted themselves with the homely proverb, that, being hanged at all, they might as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb 1920 O Omians Case in Camera, ii 42, Not worth while going home for lunch now May as well be hung for a sheep as a lamb. I wonder if they've got a snack of anything here? 1924 Shaw, Saint Joan, sc ii

3 Every time the sheep bleats, it loses a mouthful 1623 Wodorecape, Spared Houres, 476, The yewe that doth bleate doth loose the most of her meate 1666 Tormano, Piazza Univ, 23. The sheep that bleats, loseth its pasture 1732 Fuller No 1471 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch v

4 He loves sheep's flesh well that eats the wool c 1460 Good Wyfe wold a Pylgremage, 1 71 (E E T S). He wyll lowys scheppis flesche, That wetteth his bred in woll Before 1500 in Hill, Commonplace-Book, 131 (E E T S). He loveth well meotes, that wethet his bred in woll 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch v [as in Hill, but with 'sheeps flesh' for 'moton'] 1696 D'Urfey Quixote Pt III Act I, He loves mutton well that can dine upon the wool 1732 Fuller, No 1979 [as in 1696 but with 'eats' for "can dine upon"] 1816 Scott, Antiquary, ch xliv. They liked mutton well that licket where the yowe lay

5 He that hath sheep, etc See quotas 1523 Fitzherbert Husbandry, 74 (E D S). For it is an olde sayinge he that hath both shepe, swyne, and bees, slepe he, wake he he maye thryve 1634 C Butler, Feminne Monarche, 139 The proverbe Who so keepeth wel shepe and bee'en, Sleepe or wake, their thrift cooms in

6 He that makes himself a sheep shall be eaten by the wolf 1583 Melbancke, Philotimes, sig Bb4, He that will needes be a shepe, cannot greatly grudge to be bitten with a fox 1593 Harvey, Works ii 38 (Grosart), It was
Sheep

want to be said by way of a prouerbe; Hee that will be made a sheepe, shall find wolves inough. 1619: B. Rich, *Irish Hubbib*, 4, He that will make himselfe a sheepe, it is no matter though the wolves doe eat him. 1651: Herbert, *Fac. Prudentium*, 2nd ed. 1710: S. Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 360. 1773: Franklin, *Works*, v. 86 (Bige-low), There is much truth in the Italian saying, *Make yourselves sheep, and the wolves will eat you.* 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. iv., He that makes himself a sheepe, will find that the wolves are not all dead.

7. *It is a foolish sheep that makes the wolf his confessor.* 1670: Ray, 23.

8. *It is possible for a sheep to kill a butcher.* Ibid., 22 [with "ram" for "sheep"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 3010.

9. *Let the black sheep keep the white.* 1639: Clarke, 69.


11. *One sheep follows another.* 1816: Scott, *Old Mortality*, ch xxxvi., One sheep will leap the ditch when another goes first.

12. *Shear sheep that has them.* 1678: Ray, 201.


14. *The dust raised by the sheep does not choke the wolf.* 1732: Fuller, No. 4491.


16. *There's a scabby sheep in every flock.* 1872: J. Glyde, jr., *Norfolk Garland*, 150 [more usually a "black sheep"].

17. *To cast a sheep's eye.* 1577: J. Grange, *Golden Aphroditiis*, sig. Dx, On whom he many a sheepish eye did cast. c. 1580: Tom Tyler, l. 124, p. 4 (Malone S.), If he look but awry; or cast a sheeps eye. c. 1663: Davenant, *Play-House to be Let*, V., On Cleopatra he has cast a sheep's-eye. 1738: Swift, *Polite Converss.*, Dial. I., I have often seen him cast a sheep's eye out of a calf's head at you. 1855: Kingsley, *West. Hol.*, ch. ii., What a plague business had he making sheep's eyes at his daughter?

18. *To lose the sheep for a ha'porth of tar.* Tar is used to protect sores or wounds in sheep from flies, and the consequent generation of worms 1600: Day, *Blind Beggar*, V., To him, father; never lose a hog for a half'north of tar. 1643: Wither, *Se Defendendo*, 5 (Spens S.), Much like the saving of a half-penny worth of tarre by the losse of a hogge, jeered in an English proverb. 1749: W. Ellis, *Shepherd's Sure Guide*, etc., 273, That a sheep may not, according to the proverb, be lost for want of a halfpennyworth of tar. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 7 (Percy S.), Lose not a hog for a halfpenny worth of tar. 1878: Smiles, *Lives of Engineers*, iv. 214, He at length came to the conclusion . . . that it was better "not to lose a sheep for a ha'porth of tar."

19. *You have no more sheep to shear.* 1678: Ray, 344.


See also Better to give; Crow (7); Every hand; February (7); Lazy sheep; Leap Year; Lion (1); Many frosts; Naked; Ragged; St. Gervatius; Some good; Soon goes; Stamps; Wolf, *Passion*; Wool (5); and You (7).

Sheep-skin shoe lasts not long, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 393.

Sheffield park is ploughed and sown, When, Then little England hold thine own. 1678: Ray, 340. 1790: Grose,
She hath...564

Prov Gloss, s v "Yorkshire" 1878

She hath eaten a snake 1580 Lyly, Euphues, 365 (Arber), Therefore hath it grown to a proverb in Italy, when one seeth a woman striken in age to looke amiable, he saith she hath eaten a snake

Shelter against every storm, 'Tis good to have a 1665 R Howard, Committee, I [called "a wise saying"]

Sheltering under an old hedge, It is good 1674 Learne to be Warm or, An Apology for that Proverb, 'Tis good sheltering under an Old Hedge [title of tract] 1732 Fuller, No 2939 1818 Scott, Heart of Mid, ch xliv, It's better sheltering under an awld hedge than under a new-planted wood Cf Old, E (7)

Shermanbury  See Bolney

She that will not See He that will not

Shew  See Show

Shields  See quotes 1 1846-59

Denham Tracts, 1 57 (F LS), We'll a' gan together like the folks o' Shields 1802 Heslop Northumb Words, 2 (E'D S), Aall together, like the folks o' Shields 2 1840-59 Denham Tracts, 1 46 (F LS), Go to Shields And fish for eels [a Newcastle phrase]

Shields,  See also Newcastle

Shilling to numpence, To bring a 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch v, To bring a shilling to n' pens quickly 1560 T Wilson, Rhetoric, 185 (1909). But yet, sir, your cunning was such that you brought a shilling to numpence 1755 Connoisseur, No 9r, The old saying was inverted, and we lost eleven-pence out of a shilling

Shilling  See also Penny (2)

Shins of beef  See quot 1871 N & Q, 4th ser vii q, Useful as a shins of beef, which has a big bone for the big dog, a little bone for the little dog, and a souse for the cat [an old Shropshire saying]

Ship and Ships 1 As broken a ship has come to land 1732 Fuller, No 668 1800 Colman, jr, The Review I 11, Far more unlikely ships have com'd into harbour than this 1823 Scott, St Roman's, ch x, As broken a ship's come to land

2 A ship and a woman are ever repairing, (or trumming) 1602-3 Manningham, Diary, 12 (Camden S), To furnish a shipp requirith much trouble, But to furnishe a woman the charges are double 1619 Help to Discover, 8o (1640), There are two things that cannot bee too much trummed and what are they? A ship and a woman 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum, repairing 1669 New Help to Discourse, 310, A ship and a woman always trumming 1732 Fuller, No 394, A ship, a mill, and a woman are always repairing

3 A ship under sail, a man in complete armour, a woman with a great belly are three of the handsomest sights 1659 Howell, 2

4 Ships fear fire more than water 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1670 Kay, 24 1732 Fuller, No 4153

5 To lose the ship  See Sheep (18)

See also Woman (47)

Shipshape and Bristol fashion 1826 Scott, Chron of Canongate, Introd, Stretching our fair canvas to the breeze, all ship-shape and Bristol fashion 1840 Dana, Two Years before Mast, ch xx. Her decks were as white as snow everything on board "shipshape and Bristol fashion," al though he hailed from another port

Shipwreck be your sea-mark, Let another's 1855 Bohn, 440

Shires, To come out of the 1735 Pegge, Kent Proverbs, in G D S, No 12, p 78, To come out of the Shires This is a proverbial saying relative to any person who comes from a distance 1875 Parish, Sussex Dic!, 103 The true Sussex man divides the world into two parts Kent and Sussex form one division, and all the rest is "The Sheeres" 1882 N & Q, 6th ser, v 496 The natives [of Kent] speak with contempt of distant compatriots who
live "down in the sheers." Cf. Rodings.

Shirt full of sore bones, I will give you a. 1732: Fuller, No. 2637.

Shirt knew my design, I'd burn it, If my. 1654: Clarke Papers, iii. 12
(Camden), (O), The designer is secrett, knowne to the designer onely, whose saith if hee thought his shirt knew it hee would burne it. 1732: Fuller, No. 2653.


Shive of a cut loaf, It is safe taking a. "Shive"=slice. 1600: Shakespeare, Titus Andr., II. i. And easy it is Of a cut loaf to steal a shive. we know.

1670: Ray, 52. 1732: Fuller, No. 3012 ['"slice" for "shive"']. 1828: Scott, in Lockhart's Life, vii. 115. "A shave [? misprint for "shive"] from a broken loaf" is thought as little of by the male set of delinquents as by the fair frail.

1901: F. E. Taylor, Lancs Sayings, xI. A shoive off a cut loaf's never miss't.

Shive of my own loaf, A. 1670: Ray, 188.

Shoe and Shoes, subs. i. His shoe pinches him = He is drunk. 1745: Franklin, Drinker's Dict., in Works, ii. 26 (Bigelow).

2. His shoes are made of running leather. 1575: Churchyard, Chippes, 130 (Coller), My minde could never rest at hoem, My shoes wear maed of running leather suer. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Divague," Straying, ranging ... wandering up and downe, whose shoes are made of running leather. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Run." 1831: Hone, Year-Book, col. 1544, This child's shoes are made of running leather.

3. The shoe will hold with the sole. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. v.

1595: Pedlars Prophecy, l. 730 (Malone S.), Who should hold with the shoe but the sole? 1605: Camden, Remains, 333 (1870). 1670: Ray, 142 1732: Fuller, No. 4759, The sole holdeth with the upper leather.


Tip at the toe, live to see woe; Wear at the side, live to be a bride; Wear at the ball, live to spend all; Wear at the heel, live to save a deal.

5 To know where the shoe pinches.

c. 1386: Chaucer, Merchant's Tale, I 309, I wot best wher wringeath me my sho. 1541: Coverdale, Christ. State Matrimony, sig. B5. It may easily be perceaul where the shoe wringeath them.

1580: Lyly, Euphues, 413 (Arber), I see that others maye gesse where the shoe wringes, besides him that weares it. 1609: Rowlands, Whole Crew, etc., 4 (Hunt. Cl.), Ah little do you know where my sho wrings. 1668: Dryden, Sir Martin Mar-all, IV. i., I know where it is that your shoe wrings you.

1693: Urquhart, Rabelais, bk. III. ch. xxviii., That is not the thing that I fear; nor is it there where my shoe pinches. 1714: Ozell, Molière, vi. 6, Tho' he has not yet told me any thing, I could lay a wager that there the shoe pinches. 1860: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xvi., Those who wear the shoe know best where it pinches.

1922: Weyman, Ovington's Bank, ch. xxxvii., But there, your honour knows best where the shoe pinches.

Shoe, verb. i. To shoe the colt. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, i. 83, "To shoe the colt" is also a quaint expression of demanding a contribution from a person on his first introduction to any office or employment. 1886: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 664 (E.D.S.).

Shoe a colt. To cause to pay colt-ale, or the fine customary on first entering an employment. 1924: N. & Q., cxvii. 126, The old custom of "shoeing the colt" still obtains in Hampshire.

2. To shoe the goose. c. 1410: Hoccleve, Poems, 13 (1796), Ye medle of al
Shoeing-horn

566

Shoot

thyng, ye moot sho the goos Before 1529 Skelton, Colin Clout, 1 198, What hath lay men to do The gray goos for to sho? 1583 Stubbes, Anot of Abuses, 117 (N Sh S) But if this [gold in the lawyer's palm] he wanting, than farewell client, he may go sho the goose for any good successe he is like to haue of his matter 1604 Breton, in Works, ii 45 (Grosart), And though I be no great wise man, yet I can doe something else, then sho the goose for my hung 1801 Miss Edgeworth, Lame Jervas, ch 11, 'The smith that will meddle with all things may go sho the goslings,' an old proverb which became ever after a favourite of mine 1902 N & Q, 9th ser., x 475 One of the most curious carvings in the church formerly belonging to the monastery of St John at Beverley, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, represents a blacksmith in the absurd act of hammering a shoe on a goose's foot Shoeing-horn to help on his gloves, He calls for a 1732 Fuller, No 1816 Shoemaker See Cobbler, and Six awls Shoemaker's son is a prince born, A c 1597 Deloney, Gentle Craft, ch 1x, Then answered Vrsula, My Royall Father, a shoemakers son is a Prince born 1637 L Price, in Pethyan Garland, 445 (Rollins), Shoemakers sons were princes borne c 1710 Robb Ballads, vn 35 (B S) Shoemaker's stocks, In the = in shoes too small for the feet 1678 Ray, 347 Shoemaker's wife, Who is worse shoed than the? 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi 1560 T Wilson, Rhetorique, 119 (1609) 1593 Pass Morrice, 69 (N Sh S) Before 1680 Butler, Remains, ii 165 (1759) No man goes worse shoed than the shoemaker 1690 New Dict Cuming Crew, sig Lz 1722 Graves, Spirit Quixote, bk iii ch ii But, says he, the shoemaker's wife often goes in ragged shoes 1851 Borrow, Lattegro, iii 197, It is said that the household of the shoemaker invariably go worse shoed than that of any other craft.

Shoot, verb t He hath shot his fry

1611 Cotgrave, s v "Pouvoir," He hath shot his fre done the worst or most he can 1639 Clarke, 223 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, i 168, "To shoot one's fry," to lose the good opinion of others which he had once possessed.

2 He shooteth well that hits the mark 1659 Howell, 20

3 He shoots like a crow-keeper c 1605 Shakespeare, Lear, IV vi, That fellow handles his bow like a crow-keeper c 1770 Barrington, Hist of Archery, quoted in Brady, Varieties of Lit 22, So that "to shoot like a crow-keeper" became a proverb.

4 He shoots like a gentleman 1545 Ascham, Toxoph., 150 (Arber), Tell me sometime, how I should shoote nere leste that proverb may be sayd rustyle of me some-tymes, He shoots lyke a gentle man fayre and far of.

5 He shoots wide of the mark 1562 Heywood, Three Hund. Epigr., No 134, He shooteth w, de 1659 Howell, 7 1680 D'Urley, Virtuous Wife, I, You are merry sir, and shoot wide o' th' mark 1709 Mandeville, Virgin Un-mask'd, 134 (1724), The King of France has several times shot wide of the mark 1736 Bailey, Dict., s v "Mark," To shoot wide of the mark.

6 He that shoots always aright forfeits his arrow 1659 Howell, Proverbs Brit.-Eng., 34.

7 He that shoots oft shall at last hit the mark [Quis est enim, qui totum iaculam non aliando collimit? --Cicero, De Divin., ii 59] 1551 Robinson, in Morus's Utopia, 52 (Arber) 1732 Fuller, No 226, He that's always shooting, must sometimes hit.

8 I have shot my bolt 1826 Brady, Varieties of Lit, 21, The implement shot from the cross-bow is called by the English a bolt. Hence the saying 'I have shot my bolt' Cf Fool (24).

9 To be shot with one's own feathers 1587 Underdoune, Heliodorus, bk ii 74 (TT), That which greeveth me most, is that (as the proverb saith) she useth mine owne fethers against mee 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays.
on Proverbs, 332, We are often shot with our own feathers.

To shoot at a pigeon and kill a crow. 1639: Clarke, 2. 1670: Ray, 189. 1767: Colman, jr., Inkle and Yarico, III. i., But of all the shots, he’s the worst in the art Who shoots at a pigeon and kills a crow 1850: Planche, Extravag. iv. 104 (1879).

To shoot at rovers. See Run (14).


Short acquaintance brings repentance. 1670: Ray, 142.

Short and sharp. 1546. Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ii., All thing that is sharpe is short, folke haue tolde. 1655: Fuller, Church Hist., bk ix. § v (19), [comment on letter by Lord Burleigh] Short but sharp. 1926: Phillpotts, Yellow Sands, III., I see a way—short and sharp.


Short boughs, long vintage. 1640: Herbert, Jac Prudentium.

Short counsel is good counsel. 1828: Scott, Fair Maid, ch. vii., “Short rede, good rede,” said the Smith. 1846-59: Denham Tracts, i. 98 (F.L.S.), Short counsel is good counsel; slay ye the bishop. 1892: Heslop, Northumb. Words, 570 (E.D.S.), The proverb is specially associated with the death of Walcher, the first Bishop of Durham appointed by William the Conqueror. At Gateshead the bishop had met the leaders of the people, and on retiring to the church the cry was raised, “Short rede, good rede, slay the bishop.” The church was thereupon set on fire, and the bishop was slain. A.D. 1080.

Short cut of a way without some ill way, There is no. 1732: Fuller, No. 492.

Shortest answer is doing, The. 1640: Herbert, Jac Prudentium.

Short harvests. See Harvest (5).


Short prayer reaches Heaven, A. c. 1460: Good Wyfe word a Pylgrenage, i. 167 (E.E.T.S.), A short prayer wynneth the heyyvn. 1493: Dives et Pauper, fo. 74 (1536). It is a common proverbe, that a short prayer thirlet [penetrates, or reaches] heuen. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 178, A short prayer penetrates. 1732: Fuller, No. 397, A short prayer may reach up to the Heaven of Heavens.
Short reckonings are soon cleared
Ibid, No 4156 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch xi Pay as you go, and keep from small scores Short reckonings are soon cleared.

Short reckonings make long friends
1831 Hone, Year-Book, col 1417 1918 Orczy, Man in Grey “Silver-leg.”

Short shooting loseth the game
1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch ix [with ‘your for the ‘] c 1580 Harvey, Marginalia 147 (1913). Let not short shooting loose your game 1670 Ray, 142 1732 Fuller, No 4257

Short visits make long friends
Oxford sh 1923 Folk-Lore, xxxiv 329
Shortley See Axwell Park
Shoulder of mutton for a sick horse, A 1541 Sch House of Women, i 95. As balsome for a man is a woman’s corse, As a shoulder of mutton for a sick horse 1596 Jonson, Ev Man in Humour, II i. Counsel to him is as good as a shoulder, etc 1639 Clarke, 4. As fit for him as a shoulder, etc 1678 Ray, 236 1752 Fuller, No 1179
Shoulder out, To put the =To be annoyed, to take offence 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 142
Shouter of Gatley, A Ibid, 6. A shawouter o’ Gatley Said of any loud-spoken boisterous person
Show a fair (or clean) pair of heels
To 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vii, Except hur maid shewe a fayre paire of heelez 1577 J Grange, Golden Aphoristis, sig D3. The valiant soulidoure hadde rather truste to the force of his armes than in the fielde a fayre payre of heelez to shew 1630 T Adams, Works, 55. But for these shackles debt would often shew a light paire of heelez 1698 Terence made English, 241 (2nd ed.). I’d ha shew him a fair pair of heels for’t 1737 Ray, 70 1829 Scott, Ivanhoe, ch x. Or Folly will show a clean pair of heels, and leave Valour to find out his way as best he may 1883 R L S, Treasure I ch ii, Black Dog, in spite of his wounds, showed a wonderful clean pair of heels, and disappeared in half a minute 1899 Dickinson, Cumberland Gloss.

66. When a person runs away through fear, he shews a pair of clean heels
Show me the man See quot 1819 Scott, Bride of L, ch 1. The adage “show me the man, and I will show you the law,” became as prevalent as it was scandalous

Shows all his wit at once, He 1633 Drake, 70 1670 Ray, 190
Shrew and Shrews, subs 1 A shrew is better than a sheep 1580 Tusser, Husb, 157 (E D S). This proverbe looke in mind ye keepe, As good a shrew is as a sheepe, For you to take to winc 1600 Grim the Colter, II. ’Tis better to be a shrew, sir, than a sheep 1630 Taylor (Water-Poit), Works, 3rd pagin, 59 1659 Lady Alimony, V ii, I see one must thank God for a shrew as well as for a sheep 1732 Fuller, No 873 Better be a shrew than a sheep 1680 Spurgeon, Ploughman’s Pictures, 89 A shrew is better than a slut Cf No 4

2 A shrew profitable may serve a man reasonable 1695 Camden, Remains, 317 (1870) 1676 Breton, in Works, ii e 5 (Grosart) ["is good for", instead of 'may serve'] 1732 Fuller, No 398

3 Every man can rule a shrew but he who has her 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vii 1596 Harrington, Metam of Ajax, 95 (1814) 1628 Burton, Melancholy, II ii 6, i, p 364 (1836) 1681 Robertson, Phrased Generals, 565 1732 Fuller, No 1444 ["tame" for "rule"] 1883 Bume, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 588. Every one can manage a bad wife but he who has her

4 One shrew is worth two sheep 1575 Gascoigne, Glasue of Gott III 1 [quoted as "an olde saying"] Cf No 1

5 When all shrews have dined See quot 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xiii. And when all shrews have dined, Change from foule weather to faire is oft enclind 1678 Ray, 243. It will be fair weather when the shrews have dined

Shrewsbury See quot 1662 Fuller, Worthies, 11 54 (1840). He that
fetcheth a wife from Shrewsbury, must carry her into Staffordshire, or else shall live in Cumberland. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. “Salop” [as in 1662].
1846—59: Denham *Tracts*, i. 174 (F.L.S.) [as in 1662].


Shrink in the wetting. To. 1540: Palsgrave, *Acolastus*, sig. V.4. Where is my golden chain become . . . it is shrunk in the wetynge. 1596: Lodge, *Divel Contured*, 4 (Hunt. Cl.), Those conceits are shrunke in the wetting. 1612: Chapman, *Widow’s Tears*, II. iv., Then had I been here a fool . . . if for a lady’s frowne . . . I should have shrunk in the wetting. 1639: Fuller, *Holy War*, bk. v. ch. xxii., Who washed himself in Jordan, and then shrinking in the wetting returned presently home again. 1825: Scott, *Betrothed*, ch. v., They [Flemings] are of an enduring generation, and will not shrink in the washing.

Shropshire is full of trout and Tories. 1885: *Burne, Shrops. Folk-Lore*, 581.


3. Rejoice Shrove-tide to-day; for to-morrow you’ll be Ashes. 1732: Fuller, No. 4009.

4. So much as the sun shineth on Pancake Tuesday, the like will shine every day in Lent. 1669: *New Help to Discourse*, 283. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 40.
5. When the sun is shining on Shrove-tide Day, it is meant well for rye and peas. Ibid, 40.

Shut not the barn-door. See quot. 1860: *Reade, Cl. and Heath*, ch. xxxvi., The law meddles but with men and women, and these cannot utter a story all lies, let them try ever so. Wherefore we shut not the barn-door (as the saying is) against any man’s grain. Only having taken it in, we do winnow and sift it.

Shut up shop-windows, He has—He is bankrupt. 1678: *Ray*, 89.

Sick, adj. 1. *As sick as a cat*. 1869: *Spurgeon, John Ploughman*, ch. xx., These great talkers . . . make me as sick as a cat.


Sickle

A common vulgar simile, used when a person is exceedingly sick without vomiting, 1901 F. E. Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 4. As sick as a hawse.

5 Ever sick of the slothful guse, Louth to bed and loath to rise 1639 Fuller, 292 Cf. Stugard's 'guse.

6 He who was never sick, dies the first fit 1732 Fuller, No. 2409.

7 Sick of the fever burden-See Fever burden.

8 Sick o' th' idle crick, and the belly-work; th' keel 1678 Ray, 254

9 Sick of the idles 1639 Clarke, 144 1670 Ray, 182.

10 Sick of the Lombard fever 1659 Howell, 1670 Ray, 275.


12 Sick of the silver dropsy 1633 Drake, 33. He hath the silver dropsies 1639 Clarke, 40.

13 Sick of the simples 1754 Borthelson Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Sick.

14 Sick of the sollens 1580 Lyly, Euphues, 285 (Arber). She was solitary by walking with hir frowning cloth, as sick lately of the sollens 1596 Lodge, Wise Miserie, 101 (Hunt Cl.). Rather die sticke of the sollens then tell his greefe c. 1620 B. & F., Woman's Prize, IV 11., Is fallen sick o' th' sollens 1828 Scott, Journal, 9 March, I do not know anything which relieves the mind so much from the sollens as trifling discussion.

Sickle, subs 1 Between the sickle and the scythe, What is born will never thrive Derby 1884 Folk-Lore Journal, 11 279 Cf. Marry (16).

2 The sickle and the scythe, that love I not to see, But the good ale-tambard, happy might it be 1639 Clarke, 47.

3 To put one's sickle into another man's corn 1387 Trevisa tr. Higden, viii 183 (Rolls Ser.), And sede to hym, "pot hast no love to sette hym hook in oper men ripe." 1440 Anon., n.

Higden, in ibid., viii 183. Hit is not lawfull to the to put a sythe into the corne of oper men 1576 Lambarde, Peramb of Kent, 455 (1826), Least I be blamed for thrusting my sicle into another mans harvest 1602 Carew, Surv of Cornwall, 211 (1811). I have thrust my sickle overfar into another's harvest 1681 Robertson, Phrasel Generalis, 291. You have no business to do there. Put not your sickle into your neighbours corn 1732 Fuller, No. 5218.

Sickness comes on horseback, but goeth away on foot 1611 Cotgrave, s.v. "Maladie," Diseases come on horsebacke and return on foot 1654 Whitlock, Zoologia, 124. Sickness posteth to us, but crawlith from us 1809 Hazlitt, 336.

Sickness is felt, but health not at all 1732 Fuller, No. 4160.

Sickness is the chapel of devotion, The chamber of 1633 Drake, 190 1670 Ray, 24 1732 Fuller, No. 4444 1803 The Moralist's Medley, 1.

Sickness tells us what we are 1732 Fuller, No. 4161.

Side pockets See Toad.

Sieve and riddel See quotes 1670 Ray, 207. As much sib'd [akin] as sieve and riddel, that grew both in a wood together 1691 Ray, Words not Generally Used, 63 (EDS). No more sib'd than, etc. Prov. Cheshire 1824 Scott, Redgauntlet, Lett. xvi, Whil ye are aware sounds as like being akin to a peatship and a sherrifdom, as a sieve is sib to a riddle 1917 Bridge.

Cheshire Proverbs, 98 [as in 1691, but with sib' for "sib'd"].

Sift him grain by grain and he proveth but chaff 1633 Drake, 46 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. 1. Sift a sluggard grain by grain and you'll find him all chaff.

Sift might and day, and get nothing but bran, You 1732 Fuller, No. 5997.

Sigh not See Never sigh.

Sight of a man hath the force of a lion, The 1640 Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

Sign invites you in, but your money...
must redeem you out, The. 1732: Fuller, No. 4746.

Silence gives consent. c. 1387: Usk, Test. of Love, in Skeat's Chaucer, vii. 36. Lo eke an olde proverbe amonges many other: "He that is still semeth as he granted." 1412: Hoecelev, Regement, st. 442, l. 3093 (E.E.T.S.), And for he negh ne seith, he his assent ȝeuep perfo, by mannes lügëment. c. 1490: Partonope, 467 (E.E.T.S.), This proverbe was seide full longe a-go: "Who so holdeth hym still dothe assent." 1591: Lyly, Endymion, V. iii., Silence, madam, consents. 1616: Jonson, Devil an Ass, I. iii., Let me take warrant, lady, from your silence, which ever is interpreted consent. 1638: Randolph, in Works, ii. 616 (1875), And modest silence gives consent. Before 1754: Fielding, Fathers, II. ii., At least I shall take your silence for consent 1768: Goldsmith, Good-Natured Man, II. 1821: W. Combe, Syntax in Search of Wife, can. xxxv. p. 109, But Ma'am said nought—though that's consent, He thought, if but the adage old Does a decided truth unfold.

Silence is a fine jewel for a woman, but it's little worn. 1732: Fuller, No. 4166. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. vi.


Silence is wisdom (or counsel). c. 1374: Chaucer, Troilus, bk iii. l. 294, These wyse clerkes that ben dede Han ever yet proverbed to us yonge, That "firste vertu is to kepe tongue." c. 1470: G. Ashby, Poems, 85 (E.E.T.S.), Grete wisdom is, litil to speke. 1540: Palegrave, Acostasus, sig. B2, I dare not... saye mum is counselye. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. v., I will say nought but mum, and mum is counsell. 1620: Two Merry Milkmaids, II. ii., Silence lady is the best part of wisdome. 1732: Fuller, No. 4169, Silence is wisdom, when speaking is folly. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. vi.

Silence seldom doth harm. 1630: Brathwait, Eng. Gent., etc., 51 (1642), Silence... may doe good, but can doe little harme. 1670: Ray, 24. 1732: Fuller, No. 4170, Silence seldom hurts.

Silence. See also No wisdom; Sorrow makes silence; and Speech.

Silent, adj. 1. A silent woman is better than a double-tongued man. 1659: Howell, xi.

2. As silent as death. 1377: Langland, Plowman, B, x. 136, As doumb as deth. 1679: The Counterfeits, I. i., All the houses silent as Death.

3. As silent as the grave. 1604: Shakespeare, Othello, V. ii., Ha! no more moving? Still as the grave. 1778: H. Brooke, Marriage Contract, I ii., I will be silent as the grave, with respect to your secret. 1829: Scott, Journal, I July, The house... then became silent as the grave. 1893: R. L. S., Ebb-Tide, ch. viii.

4. Beware of a silent dog and a still water. 1732: Fuller, No. 1806 1875: Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 115

5. He that is silent gathers stones. 1813: Ray, 159.

Silk and scarlet walks many a harlot, In. 1869: Hazlitt, 234.

Silk purse out of a sow's ear, You can't make a. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Pigeon," A man cannot make a cheverill purse of a sow's care. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, iv. 119 (1785), Who would expect velvet to be made out of a sow's ear? 1806: Lamb, Mr. H—, II 1877: S. Butler, Life and Habit, 201, Every man and every race is capable of education up to a certain point, but not to the extent of being made from a sow's ear into a silk purse. 1921: Times, 18 August, p. 7, col. 5, A firm of chemists of Cambridge, Massachusetts, have succeeded in manufacturing a silk purse out of a sow's ear.
They admit that it is not yet a commercial proposition, but sufficiently complete and substantial to demonstrate the fallacy of the ancient proverb

Silks and satins put out the kitchen fire 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum, Silks and satins put out the fire in the chimney 1736 Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i 447 (Bigelow) [with "scarlet and velvets" after "satin's"] 1912 N & Q, 11th ser., vi 255. In my childhood in Ulster I often heard the proverb, "Silks," etc

Silly as a lamb's stiver [sheep], As Oxfordsh 1923 Folk-Lore, xxxiv 329

Silly fish See Fish (12)

Silly goose See Goose (3) and (21)

Silver, adj and subs 1 A silver key can open an iron lock 1732 Fuller, No 400

2 He that has no silver in his purse, should have silver on his tongue 1659 Howell, Proverbs Ital-Eng , 5. Who hath not money in his purse let him have honey in his mouth 1732 Fuller, No 2149

3 Silver dropsy See Sick (12)

4 Silver hook See Anger (2)

5 There is a silver lining to every cloud 1634 Milton, Comus, 221. Was I deceived or did a sable cloud turn forth her silver lining on the night? 1852 Dickens, Bleak House, ch xvi , I expand, I open, I turn my silver lining outward like Milton's cloud 1885 Gilbert, Mskado, II Don't let's be down-hearted! There's a silver lining to every cloud

6 To be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth [Gallinæ filius albæ — Juvenal, xii 141 ] 1639 Clarke 39. He was borne with a penny in's mouth 1712 Motteux, Quixote, Pt II ch ixxi , Every man was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth 1850 Dickens, Chuzlewit, ch vi 1869 Hazlitt, 399 They who are born with silver spoons in their mouths don't know how to use them 1922 C K Shorter, in Sphere 9 Dec. , p 266, col 2, Assuredly he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth He knew none of the struggles and anxieties which some of us have faced

See also White (18)

Sin steals See Horse (52)

Simondsall sauce See quart Simondsall is a Gloucestershire farm on high ground 1639 in Berkeley MSS, xi 39 (1885). When a man eats little, to say bee wants some of Simondsall sauce

Simpers as a mare when she eats thistles, She 1639 Clarke, 120

Simpers like a bride on her wedding-day, She 1678 Ray, 288

Simpers like a furmity kettle, She 1631 W Saltonstall, Picture Loquenctes, sig C5. Makes her simper like a pot that's ready to run o're 1667 L'Estrange Quevedo's Visions, 136 (1904). This sets the widow a pinking and simpering like a furmity-kettle 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I 1846-59 Denham Tracts, ii 92 (FLS), She simpers like a frummetry kettle at Christmas

Simpers like a riven dish, She 1678 Ray, 288

Simple as a ha'porth o' soap in a washin mug, As 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 19

Sin and Sins, subs 1 It is a sin to belte the devil See Devil (25)

2 It is a sin to steal a pin 1875 Cheales, Proverbs Folk-Lore, 129, as we used to be informed in the nursery 1914 Lucas, Landmarks, ch iv, Certain crusted scraps of nursery wisdom such as "It is a sin to steal a pin"

3 Our sins and our debts are always greater than we take them to be 1659 Howell, Proverbs Ital-Eng , 1 1732 Fuller, No 4799 'I think "for" take') 1774 Franklin, in Works, v 291 (Bigelow) 1827 Hone, Table-Book, 505, greater than we think of 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch vi (as in 1732)

4 Sins are not known till they be acted 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

5 Sin that is hidden is half forgiven 1567 G Fenton, Bandello, ii 149 (TT), Me thinkes a falete don in secret is halfe perdoned 1666 Torriano, Piazza Univ., 197, Sin conceall'd, hal pardoned

Sin, verb See quot c 1386
Chaucer, *Melibæus*, § 29, The proverbe seith: that "for to do sinne is mannish, but certes for to persevere longe in sinne is wepe of the devel."


Sing, verb. i. He may sing before thieves. [Can tantavit vacus coram latrone viator.—*Juvenal*, x. 22.] c. 1230: in Wright, *Pol. Songs John to Edw.*, II., 35 (Camden S.) [Juvenal's line]. c. 1374: Chaucer, *Boethius*, bk. ii. Pr. v., A pore man, that berth no richesse on him by the weye, may boldely singe .biforn thieves, for he hath nat wherof to ben robbed. c. 1440: Lydgate, *Fall of Princes*, bk. iii. l. 582 (E.E.T.S.), The poore man affo the theef doth synge. 1593: Peele, *Edw. I.*, sc. xii., *'Tis an old said saying... a man's purs-penniless may sing before a thief. 1659: T. Peake, *Parnass Puerph.*, 21, Clients returning before thieves may sing; For back from London they can't money bring. 1707: Dunton, *Athenian Sport*, p. 155, col. 1, The money-less traveller can sing before a thief. 1804: Mrs. Piozzi, in Hayward, *Mrs. Piozzi*, ii. 263 (1861), The poor traveller always sung safely even in company of thieves.

2. *He sings at a deaf man's door.* 1633: Draxe, 38.

3. *He that sings in disaster [confesses], Shall weep all his life-time thereafter.*


5. *He that sings worst let him begin first.* c. 1410: *Towseley Plays*, 108 (E.E.T.S.), [Here "worst" is "best"], Who so can best syng Shall haue the begynnyng. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' *Colloq.*, 204, According to the old proverb, He that sings worst let him begin first.

6. *Many a one sings that is full sorry.* 1561: *Queene Hester*, 19 (Grosart), "I with their mouth thei sing, Though thei wepe in their hart. 1612: Cotgrave, s.v. "Chanter."


8. *Thou singest like a bird called a swine.* 1678: Ray, 269. 1732: Fuller, No. 5230, To sing like, etc.


10. *To sing Placebo = To be flattering or servile.* 1340: *Aynbide*, 60 (O.), *'pe nerpe zenne is pet huanne hi alle zingep "Placebo,"' pet is to zigge: "mi lhorz zayp zup, mi lhorz dep wel." c. 1550: *Bale, Kyng Johan*, 30 (Camden S.), By the mass, me thinke they are synyng of placebo. 1542: *Becon, in Early Works*, 276 (P.S.), He cannot bear fire in one hand and water in the other. He cannot play *placebo*. 1592: *Nashe,*
Singers

Works, n 50 (Grosart), That poets and good fellows may drinke, and soulhers sing Placebo 1618 Harngton, Epigrams, bk n No 56, [entitled] Of a Preacher that sings Placebo

11 To sing the same song (or one song) 1580 Baret, Alvearie, E 2, They harpe alwaie vpon one string they are alwaie in one song 1639 Clarke, 8, To sing the old song 1670 Ray, 192, To sing the same song 1681 Robertson, Phraseol Generals, 1133 1736 Bailey Dict, s v "Tune, You are always in the same tune

12 To sing three thrums = To purr like a cat 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs 143

13 Who can sing so merry a note as he that cannot change a groat 1546 Heywood Proverbs, Pt 1 ch vi 1594 Barnfield, Affect Sheph 40 (Percy S) 1692 L'Esrange Aesop, 390 (3rd ed.), the old saying, No man sings a merrier note Then he that cannot change a groat 1732 Fuller, No 6449 ["the cobler" for 'he']

14 See quot 1699 Hazlitt, 482, Yeow mussent sing a Sunday, because it is a sin, but yeow may sing a Monday, till Sunday cums again Suffolk

Singers and ringers are little home bringers 1803 Co Folk-Lore Suffolk, 151 (F L S)

Singing man keeps his shop in his throat, The 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1670 Ray, 24 1732 Fuller, No 4747

Single long, shame at last 1659 Howell, Proverbs Brit-Eng 21

Sink in his own sin, He shall 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch x, Thou shalt sure sinke in thine own syn for vs 1659 Howell 15

Sink or swim, To c 1386 Chaucer, Knight's Tale, 1 1539, She recchet newere when I synke or flinte [float] c 1450 in Reliq Antiquae, 1 76 (1841), Whedyr she ever flinte, or synke c 1520 in Skelton, Works II 438 (Dyce), But some shall go astray, And lerne to swyme or sinke 1594 Nashe, Dido, IV vi, She cares not how we sinke or swimmme c 1620 B & G, Night-Walker, III vi 1667 Pepys

Deary, 4 April 1709 in Harl Miscell, 1 206 (1744) 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, vi 211 (1785). She was deter mined to get out herself as fast as she could, let me sink or swim 1818 Scott, Heart of Mid, ch xxvi 1869 Doyle, Rodney Stone, ch vi, I sink or swim with my friends! A Whig I started, and a Whig I shall remain

Sion and Sheen See quotas 1659 Howell, 21, The nun of Sion, with the frier of Shean, Went under water to play the quean 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Middlesex," The nun of Sion with the friar of Sheen [=birds of a feather]

Sirrah your dog! 1670 Ray, 192 1732 Fuller, No 6496 Sirrah your dog, but sirrah not me, For I was born before you could see

Sit, verb I Better sit idle than work for nothing 1642 D Rogers, Hylrm Honour, 225, Our proverbe saith, better sit for naught, then stir for naught 1683 Menton Yorkshire Ale, 63-7 (1697), Better sit idle than work teain [for nothing]

2 Better sit still than rise up and fall c 1410 Townley Plays, 229 (E R T S) 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch v 1592 Warner, Albion's England, bk vi ch 37, And rather sit thou safely still, Then for a fall to rise 1618 Breton, in Inedited Tracts, 190 (Hazlitt), 1732 Fuller, No 4781, Sit still, rather than rse and fall down

3 He sits not sure that sits too high 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Assured"

4 He that sits to work in the market place shall have many teachers 1732 Fuller, No 2303

5 He that sitteth well thinketh ill 1578 Florio First Frustes, fo 28, Who sitteth wel thinketh vil 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 10

6 Sit a while and go a mile 1530 Palsgrave, 436, Rest a while and ronne a myle 1639 Clarke, 235

7 Sit by the good, and by the good arise 1572 T Wilson, Disc upon Usury, 359 (1925) [cited as "an old proverbe"]

8 Sit in your place and none can make you rise. 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Seoir,}
He need not fear to be chidden that sits where he is bidden. 1640: Herbert, <i>Jac. Prudentum</i>. 1670: Ray, 24, 1752: Fuller, No. 4180, Sit firm in thy place, and none can hurt thee. 1853: Trench, <i>Proverbs</i>, 108 (1905), How excellently this unites genuine modesty and manly self-assertion: Sit in your place, and no man can make you rise.

9. To sit on one’s skirts. 1546: Heywood, <i>Proverbs</i>, Pt. I. ch. v., And also I shall, to reueng former hurts Hold their noses to grinstone, and syt on theyr skurtis That erst sate on mine. 1598: Bernard, <i>Terence</i>, 58, I will be reuenged on thee. I will sit on thy skirts. 1732: Fuller, No 2653, I will stick in your skirts for this. 1816: Scott, <i>Old Mortality</i>, ch. xii., “D—n seize me, if I forgive him for it, though!” replied the other; “and I think I can sit in his skirts now.” 1880: Peacock, <i>Manley, etc.</i>, Gloss., 490 (E.D.S.), To sit on a person’s skirts is to annoy, baffle, or impede him.


11. To sit upon thorns. See Thorn (8).

Sitenhill. See Barton.

Six awls make a shoemaker. 1670: Ray, 216.

Sixes and sevens, At. Originally this seems to have been dice-dicing—dice—phrase, “To set at six or seven.” The <i>Oxford English Dictionary</i> says—“probably a fanciful alteration of to set on cinque and sice, these being the two highest numbers.” c. 1340: <i>Avowyn of Arthur</i>, st. 65 (Camden S.), Alè in sundur hit brast in six or in scyn. c. 1374: Chaucer, <i>Troylus</i>, bk. iv. l. 622, Lat not this wrecched wo thin herte gnawe, But manly set the world on sice and sevne. c. 1400: <i>Townley Plays</i>, 169 (E.E.T.S.), Bot be thy past me by me mahovne in heuen, I shall, and that in hy set all on sex and seuen. 1542: Udall, tr. Erasmus’ <i>Apoph</i>, 298 (1877). There is a proverbe, <i>onnum tacere alien</i>, to cast aft dice, by whiche is signified, to set al on sise and seuen, and at al aventure to iepoperd, assaiyng the wild chaunce of fortune, be it good, be it bad. 1596: Shakespeare, <i>Rich. II.</i>, II. ii., All is uneven, And everything is left at six and seven. 1630: Taylor (Water-Poet), <i>Works</i>, 2nd pagin., 71, Nor carelessly set all at six and seuen. 1670: Cotton, <i>Scarronides</i>, bk. iv., But like a dame of wits bereaven, Let all things go at six and seven. 1710: Centifivre, <i>Man’s Bewitch’d</i>, II. iv., Did he make any will? . . . No, Sir, he has left all sixes and sevens. 1768: Goldsmith, <i>Good- Natural Man</i>, I., Haven’t I reason to be out of my senses, when I see things going at sixes and sevens? 1829: Cobbett, <i>Advice to Young Men</i>, Lett. III., Leaving books and papers all lying about at sixes and sevens. 1870: Locke, <i>House of Balthazar</i>, ch. xviii., “We’re all at sixes and sevens,” cried Weatherley one day in despair. . . . “Unless we’re careful, the project will drop to pieces.”

Six feet of earth make all men equal. 1659: Howell, <i>Proverbs</i>: Ital.-Eng., 8 1666: Torriano, <i>Piazza Univ.</i>, 285, Six foot of earth shuts up every one.

Six o’clock with him, It’s welly—He is failing in health 1817: Bridge, <i>Cheshire Proverbs</i>, 86.

Six of one and half a dozen of the other. 1852: Dickens, <i>Bleak House</i>, ch. xxiv., Mostly they come for skill—or idleness. Six of one, and half-a-dozen of the other. 1859: Sala, <i>Twice Round Clock</i>, 3 a.m. 1907: De Morgan, <i>Alice-for-Short</i>, ch. xvi.

Six score. See quot. This is what is known as the “long hundred.” 1647: in <i>Somers Tracts</i> v. 488 (1811), For in things without heads six score go to an hundred. 1849: F. T. Dinsdale, <i>Tiesdale Gloss.</i>, 111, Five score’s a hundred of men, money, and pins, Six score’s a hundred of all other things. 1881: Evans, <i>Leics. Words</i>, 187 (E.D.S.), I have often heard quoted the old rule—as in 1849). But the long hundred is now seldom heard of except in piece-work in some few trades. 1889: Peacock, <i>Manley, etc.</i>, Gloss., 330 (E.D.S.) [as in 1849]. 1917: Bridge, <i>Cheshire Proverbs</i>, 55. Everything is counted six-score except men, money and bricks. Ibid., 96, Naught is
counted six score to the hundred but old women and gorse kids [aggots]

Size cinque will not, If See quot 1678 Ray. 348, If size cinque will not and duce ace cannot, then quatre trey must The middle sort bear public burthens, taxes, etc., most

Sker [Rake out] your own fire This is of the family of "Sweep before your own door" 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs 109

Skiddaw 1 If Skiddaw hath a cap, Crisiel wots full well of that In the quotations 1610 to 1709 'Crisiel' is given as 'Scuffell' and in 1790 as "Scuffell" 1610 P Holland, tr Camden's Britan.ia, 767 1655 Fuller Church Hist, bk xi §5I 9) 1709 O Dykes, Eng Proverbs (at end) 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Cumbeland" 1818 Scott, Heart of Midli, cb xl 1899 Dickerson, Cumberland Gloss 34, When Crisiel gets a cap, Skiddaw wots well of that 2 Skiddaw, Lamlillin and Casticand Are the highest hills in all England 1650 P Holland, tr Camden's Britannia, 767 1659 Howell, 21 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Cumbeland"

Skull and confidence are an unconquered army 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentm

Skimmington, To ride 1634 C Butler, Feminine Monarchie, 64 Yet when they have it, let them use poore Skimmington as gently as they may, especially in publik, to hide his shame 1714 E Ward, Cattaclde, 35, That those who knew not the occasion Of such a noisy strange procession, Expected they should find anon The same to be 2 Skimmington 1825 Jennings, Somerset Words, 68 To ride Skimmington, is an exhibition designed to ridicule some one who unfortunately possesses an unfaithful wife 1886 Hardy, Casterbridge, ch xxxix, Have you seen any gang of fellows making a devil of a noise—skimmington ridding, or something of the sort?

Skin a flint, To 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentm, You cannot play a stone 1659 Howell, 11, To skin a stone for a penny, and break a knife of twelve-

pence 1670 Ray, 9, No man can play a stone 1690 New Diet Canting Crew, sig E5, He'll play a flint, of a meer scrob, or miser 1754 Berthelson, Eng -Danish Dict, s v "Skin," He would skin a flint 1841 Hartshorne Salopina Ant., 567, A covetous person, one who, it if were possible, would "skin a flint, to save a penny" 1851 Sternberg, Dialect, etc., of Northants 97, One who, as the proverb says, will 'Skin a flint worth a fardin Spwile [Spool] a knife worth a grat [groat]" 1901 Folk-Lore, xi 82, [S W Wilts] A would skin a vint vur a warden and spwile a tenpenny nayl in don' on't 1910 R L Gales, Studies in Arcady, 335 The writer remembers hearing "to skin a flint, and spoil a shilling knife in doing it"

Skin between the brows See quot 1575 Sull, Gam Guron, V ni, I am as true, I would thou knew, as [the] skin between thy brows 1599 Shakespere, Much Ado, III v, An old man, sir, but, in faith, honest as the skin between his brows 1605 London Prodigal, V i, She is as true as the skin between any man's brows here 1696 D'Urfey, Quixote, Pt III Act I, I warrant she's as virtuous as the skin between her brows

Sky falls we shall catch larks, When the [Quid si? Redeo ad illos qu a aunt Quis s. coelum rust?—Terence, Haut, IV in 41] Before 1500 in Hill, Commonplace-Book, 128 (EETS) And hewn [heaven] fall, we shall have many larks 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch iv "[have" for 'catch'] 1606 Day, Ile of Gulls, V ['have" for "catch"] 1638 Randolph, Muses' Looking-Glass, II u, Should heaven fall— Aph Why then we should have larks 1709 R Kingston, Aposh Curiosa, 17, When the sky shall fall, and blind men catch larks 1721 Bailey, Eng Dict, s v 'Sky" 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch xx 1914 Shaw, "Parents and Children" in Missalliance etc, xxx, Just as I do not admit that if the sky fell we should all catch larks

Slam that had warning, not he that
took it, He was. 1659: Howell, Proverbs: Brit.-Eng., 3.  
Slander, but it is no lie, It may be a. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vii.  
Slander flings stones at itself. 1732: Fuller, No. 4183.  
Slander is a shipwreck by a dry tempest. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.  
Slander leaves a scar behind it. 1633: Draxe, 191, Slander leaueth a skarre. 1670: Ray, 24 [" score " for " scar "]. 1681: Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 1136. 1732: Fuller, No. 4184 [as in 1670].  
Slander one with a matter of truth. To. 1678: Ray, 269.  
Slander that is raised is ill to fell, A. c. 1460: How the Good Wife, I. 25, A slanderer that is raised is euell to felle.  
Slanderer. The most dangerous of wild beasts is a slanderer; of lame ones a flatterer. 1855: Bohn, 511.  
Slapton, Where fools will happen. 1851: Sternberg, Dialed, etc., of Northants, 192.  
Slave that cannot command himself, He's a. 1732: Fuller, No. 2445.  
Slavering folks. See Snotty folks.  
Sleep, subs. 1. Hours of sleep. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 114, Five hours sleepeth a traveller, seven a scholar, eight a merchant, and eleven every knave. 1732: Fuller, No. 4112, Seven hours' sleep will make a clown forget his design. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 5 (Percy S.) [as in 1732, but with " the husbandman " for " a clown "]. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 578, Nature requireth five, Custom taketh seven, Idleness takes nine, And Wickedness eleven. 1912: N. & Q., 11th ser., v. 52, Six hours for a man, seven for a woman, and eight for a fool. The precept seems to be based on the Latin lines: — Sex horis dormire sat est juvenique senique, Septem vix pigro, nulli concedimus octo.—Collecto Salernitana, ed. De Renzi, vol. v. p. 7.  
2. One hour's sleep before midnight is worth two after. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum [" three " for " two "]. 1731: in Peck, Desid. Curiosa, 226 (1779). As experience it self shews, one hour's rest before twelve of the clock is worth two after. 1829: Cobbett, Advice to Young Men, Lett. I [" worth more than two "]. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 3 (Percy S.).  
Sleep, verb. 1. He hath slept well that remembers not he hath slept ill. 1732: Fuller, No. 1897.  
2. He sleeps with his eyes open. 1586: Pettie, Guazzzo's Civil Convers., to 140, Which sleepeth (as they say) her eies being open. 1732: Fuller, No. 1947, He is so wary that he sleeps like a hare, with his eyes open.  
3. He that sleeps bites no body. 1567: Merry Tales, etc., No. xxxvi. p. 50 (Hazlitt), Here by ye maye se, that many thinges passe by them that sleepe, and it is an old sayenge: He that slepteth, byteth no body. 1615: Stephens, Essays, etc., bk. i. No. 21, Hee that drinkes well, sleepe well, and hee that sleepe well thinkes no harme.  
4. I don't sleep to all. 1593: G. Harvey, Works, ii 165 (Grosart), Some sleepe not to all: and I watch not to everyone. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus's Collog., 487, You know the old proverb, I don't sleep to all.  
5. Sleep without supper, and wake without owing. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.  
6. To sleep as sound as a church. 1839: Dickens, Nickleby, ch. xxxii., Asleep she did fall, sound as a church. Cf. Fast as a church.  
7. To sleep in a field. See quot. 1926: Devonsh. Assoc. Trans., Ivi. 152, " You've bin sleepin' in a field wi' the gate open." Said to a man who was fussing about a cold.  
8. To sleep in a whole skin. See Whole skin.  
9. To sleep like a pig. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. " Pig," He sleeps like a pig. 10. To sleep like a top. 1668: Davenant, Rivals, III., Or else I shall sleep like a top. 1762: Hall-Stevenson, Crazy Tales, 56, Scolded a while, and slept like any top. 1820: Byron, Letters, etc., v. 115 (Prothero), I slept like a top. 1855: Gaskell, North and South, ch. xxiii.  
11. To sleep on both ears. [In aurem utramvis otiuse ut dormias.—Terence,
make clear the much disputed origin of the phrase "A sleeveless errand," i.e. a futile, bootless errand. The use of "sleeveless" with this signification naturally spread to other things besides errands. One would have expected to find "sleeveless errand" at an earlier date than the wider uses, but I have not been able to find examples of the former so early as examples of the latter. There follow illustrations of A, the wider applications of the adjective, and B, the preciser use in "sleeveless errand."

A c. 1387 Usk, Test of Love, in Skeat's Chaucer, vii 76, And merrysth his goodnesse not by sleevelesse wordes.

15th cent. in Relig. Antiquae, 13 (1841), Thinke not y schall telle you a sleveles resoun c. 1440 Jacob's Well 181 (EETS), Summs in schriftly schal tarye the preest wyth sleeveles talys [idle talk] that no-thyng longth to schryfte 1593 Pass Morrice, 65 (N Sh. S.). So vnmannery to vse hym by sleeveles excuses 1726 in Hone, Ev Day Book, ii 782, Having, under a sleeveless pretence, been deny d a combat 1821 Scott, Fam Letters, ii 111 (1804). He had no honourable mode of avoiding the sleeveless quarre fixed on him 1867 Waugh, Tattin, Mathy, 18, Single-step doacnic, an' sich like sleeveless war, as that

B 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch vii, To make a sleeveles errande 1604 Jacke of Dover, 4 (Percy S.). To whose house I went upon a sleeveles arrand 1670 Cotton, Scarronides, bk iv 1712 Motteux, Quixote, Pt II ch x 1825 Carr, Craven Dialect, ii 290, As I ve had a sleeveless errant

Sleender in the middle as a cow in the waist, As 1621 Burton, Anatomy of Melancholy, III ii 3, 1, vol iii p 178 (Shuleto). She stoops, is lame as sleender in the middle as a Cow in the waist 1670 Ray, 207 1732 Fuller, No 727 1881 Evans Leas Words, 242 (EDS). "As slender," etc. This periphrasis to describe obesity is still in use.

Slight impressions See Impressions
Sloth between cup and lip. See Cup (4).
Sip of the foot may be soon recovered, A; but that of the tongue perhaps never. 1732: Fuller, No. 403. Cf. Better the feet slip.

Sip one's neck out of the collar, To. 1583: Golding, Calvin on Deut., cxxv. 772 (O.), Albeit we . . . would slippe our heads out of the collar seeking to shift off ye matter. 1633: Draxe, 189, He draweth his nekke out of the coller. 1678: Ray, 350. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Sip." 1857: Hughes, Tom Brown, Pt II ch. vii, If we can slip the collar and do so much less without getting caught, that's one to us.

Slippery as an eel. 1412: Hoccleve, Regement, I. 1985, p. 72 (E.E.T.S.), Mi wit is also slipir as an eel. c 1420: Lydgate, Assem. of Gods, 32 (E.E.T.S.), Whyche made the grounde as slepyr as an yele. 1533: Heywood, Play of Love, I. 1414 (Brandl, Quellen, 204), And coryd [curried (of a horse)] tyll he be slyse as an eel. 1633: S. Marmion, Fine Companion, V. ii, He is as slippery as an eel, in love. 1690: Shadwell, Amorous Bigot, I. 1740: Richardson, Pamela, I. 207 (1883), You'll find her as slippery as an eel, I'll assure you. 1855: Gaskell, North and South, ch. xvii

Sloes. See Black, adj. (8), and Many slones.

Sloe-tree's as white as a sheet, When the, Sow your barley whether it be dry or wet. 1678: Ray, 49 1732: Fuller, No. 6482. 1825: Hone, Ev. Day Book, i. 670. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 152.

Sloth breeds a scab. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. iii, Sens we see slouthe must breede a scab 1611: Davies (of Hereford), Se. of Folly, 48, in Works, ii. (Grosart).

Slothful is the servant of the covetous, The. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

Slothful man is the beggar's brother, The. 1732: Fuller, No 4748. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 6

Sloth is the devil's cushion or pillow. 1660: Politieuphuia, 306.

Sloth is the key to poverty. 1669: Politieuphuia, 306 [with "mother" for "key"]. 1853: Trench, Proverbs, 107 (1905), And to many languages another with its striking image, Sloth, the key of poverty, belongs.

Sloth, like rust, consumes faster than labour wears. 1736: Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i. 443 (Bigelow).

Sloth makes all things difficult, but industry all things easy. Ibid., i. 443.

Sloth turneth the edge of wit. 1579: Lyly, Euphues, 126 (Arber). 1670: Ray, 24

Slow and sure. 1633: Draxe, III bis, Slownesse is sure 1639: Fuller, Holy War, bk. iii. ch. v., These, though slow, were sure 1692: L'Estrange, Æsop, 337 (3rd ed.), Slow and sure in these cases is good counsel. 1711: Steele, Spectator, No 140, He is rich, and my mother says, As he is slow he is sure. 1768: Goldsmith, Vicar, ch. xxi, What signifies minding her? . . . if she be slow she's sure. 1922: Weyman, Ovington's Bank, ch. v., Slow and sure is a good rule.

Slow help is no help. 1853: Trench, Proverbs, 19 (1905).

Slow worm. See Adder.

Sluggard makes his night till noon, The. 1732: Fuller, No. 4749

Sluggard must be clad in rags, The. 1605: Camden, Remains, 333 (1870).

Sluggard's guise. See Quos. 1639: in Berkeley MSS. iii, 32 (1885), Hec is tainted with an evill guise, Loth to bed and lother to rise. 1670: Ray, 143. The sluggards guise, Loath to go to bed and loath to rise. 1732: Fuller, No. 6368 [as in 1670]. 1825: Jennings, Somerset. Words, 70, Sluggardy-guisse, Loth, etc 1842: Akerman, Wills Gloss., 46, Sluggard's guise Loth to bed And loth to rise.

Sluggard takes an hundred steps because he would not take one in due time, A. 1855: Bohn, 300.


2. A slut will poison thy gut. 1685: Mother Bunch's Closet, 14 (Gomme, 1885) [quoted as "The old saying"].

3 Of all tame beasts I hate sluts.
Small

1678 Ray, 81 1732 Fuller, No 3607
4 Sluts are good enough to make a slowen's porridge 1639 Clarke, 287 [in the singular] c 1685 in Roxb. Ballads, viii 869 (B S) [as in 1639] 1732 Fuller No 4190
See also Apple (6)
Small birds must have meat 1600 Shakespeare, Merry Wives, I ii, Young ravens must have food 1639 Clarke, 292 1670 Ray 63
Small cheer and great welcome makes a merry feast c 1600 Shakespeare, Com. of Errors, III 1
Small choice in rotten apples, There is 1594 Shakespeare, Tam of Shrew., I i Before 1651 J Lacy, Savvy the Scot, I 1875 Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 116
Smaller the peas See Pea (3)
Small family is soon provided for, A 1732 Fuller, No 405
Small fish than an empty dish, Better are 1678 Ray, 204 1732 Fuller, No 6369
Small fish to catch a great one, Venture a 1639 Clarke, 41 1670 Ray, 152 1732 Fuller, No 5348 Cf Spar.
Small heart hath small desires, A 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum
Small house has a wide throat, A 1865 " Lanes Proverbs," in N & Q, 3rd ser., viii 494: 1901 F E Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 7, A smo heawse has oft gotten a wide throttle
Small invitation See Beggar (15)
Small pack See Pedlar
Small pitchers See Little pitchers
Small sore wants not a great plaster, A 1567 Fenton, Bandello, i 222 (T T), " Like as," sayth he, "small soares require slender medicins" 1732 Fuller, No 412
Small spark See Spark
Small stake makes cold play c 1597 in Harington, Nugae Antiquae, i 205 (1804), I know the sayng" small stake makes colde play
Small stomachs, light heels 1855 Bohn, 487
Small sum will serve to pay a short reckoning, A 1639 Clarke, 128

1695 D'Urice, Quivore, Pt III Act V sc i 1732 Fuller, No 413 1753 Foote, Taste, I 1, A paltry affair, a poor ten guinea job, however, a small game—you know the proverbe
Smart as a carrot 1780 in Farmer, Musa Pedestres, 56, I still was as smart as a carrot all day c 1791 Pegge, Derbitisms, 135 (E D S) 1894 Northall, Folk Phrases, 11 (E D S), As smart as a carrot Said of one gaily dressed 1923 Folk-Lore, xxxiv 329 (Oxfordshire)
Smell, verb i He smellseth best that doth of nothing smell [Quoniam optimus odor in corpore est nullus Seneca, Epist. cvii] 1598 Meres, Palladis, fo 32, As women do smell well, which smell of nothing 1607 Lingua, IV vii 1619 Help to Discourse 93 (1649) Since as the proverbe is, They smell best that smell of nothing 1659 New Help to Discourse, 245. They that smell least, smell best
2 He that smells the first savour, is the fault's first father Glos 1639 in Berkeley MSS., iii 32 (1885)
3 To smell a rat 1533 in Ballads from MSS., i 182 (B S), For ye if they smell a ratt c 1598 Deloney, Gentle Craft, Pt II ch iii, What would you so faire be md of my company?—If with Gill I smell a rat 1608 Middleton, Family of Love, IV 11, Master Gerardine, disguised and ashore lay, then I smell a ratt 1669 Dryden, Wild Gallant, IV 1, Oh, are you there abouts, sir? then I smell a ratt, t' faith 1714 Ozell Moliter, i 202, All these signs betoken no good, I smell a rat 1872 Butler, Erevhon, ch xvin, If they smell a rat about the precincts of a cherished institution, they will always stop their noses to it if they can
4 To smell of the lamp [The expression lampe lew is attributed to Pytheas by Plutarch (Vit Demosth. c 8)] 1542 Udall tr Erasmus' Apoph., 379 (1877) The sayng of Pytheas is common and muche speaken of, that the oracoes of Demosthenes smelled all of the candle, for that the same did in the night season wryte and recorde soche things as he had to saye to the
people in the daye time. 1608: in Harington, Nigae Antiquae, ii. 190 (1804), A well-labour'd sermon ... that smelt of the candle. 1647: Howell, Letters, bk. ii. No. xxi., I thank you heartily for your last letter, in regard I found it smelt of the lamp. 1754: Connoisseur, No. 3. Our compositions are so correct that ... they may be said to smell of the lamp. 1820: Colton, Lacon, Pref., Knowledge ... will smell of the lamp.

5. To smell of the oil. 1577: J. Grange, Golden Aphroditis, sig. Ni, This little volume of mine smelleth of the oyle and candle. 1646: Browne, *Pseudo. Epì.*, To Reader, A work of this nature ... should smell of oyl, if duly and deservedly handled. 1883: Trollope, *Autobiog.*, ch. x., A man who thinks much of his words as he writes them will generally leave behind him that smells of oil.


2. He smiles like a brewer's horse. 1659: Howell, 18.

3. See quot. 1702: Centlivre, *Beau's Duel.*, Epîl., He surest strikes that smiling gives the blow; Poets, with us, this proverb do defy, We live by smiles, for if you frown we die.

4. You smile and bite. 1732: Fuller, No. 5999.

Smiling boy seldom proves a good servant, A. 1659: Howell, 8. 1670: Ray, 24. 1852: FitzGerald, *Polonius*, 60 (1903), An old proverb says, "A smiling boy is a bad servant."

Smith, subs. 1. A right skilful smith. See quot. c. 1225: *Ancren R.*, 52 (Camden S.), Ofte a ful havur smið smeœeð a ful woc knif (Often does a right skilful smith forge a full weak knife).


3. The smith hath always a spark in his throat, i.e. he is always thirsty. 1678: Ray, 90. 1732: Fuller, No. 4754. 1880: Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 39, He is not a blacksmith, but he has a spark in his throat.

Smithfield bargain, A. 1662: J. Wilson, *Cheats*, V. v., Is not this better than a Smithfield bargain? 1704: T. Baker, *An Act at Oxford*, III. ii., Our marriage is a perfect Smithfield bargain. 1753: Richardson, *Grandison*, iii. 434 (1883). The hearts of us women ... are apt, and are pleaded with, to rise against the notions of bargain and sale Smithfield bargains, you Londoners call them. 1775: Sheridan, *Rivals*, V. i.

Smithfield. See Westminster.

Smithwick. See quot. 1678: Ray, 291, You been like Smithwick, either clem'd [starved] or borsten [replete].

Cheshire. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 157 ["bin" for "been," and "bossten" for "borsten"].

Smocks than shirts. See quot. Ray attributes this saying to Chaucer, but I have failed to find it in Chaucer. Hazlitt follows Ray, but also gives no reference. 1678: Ray, 353, He that hath more smocks then shirts at a bucking [washing], had need be a man of good forelooking. 1732: Fuller, No. 6427 [as in 1678].

Smoke, subs. 1. Smoke follows the fairest. 1639: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 31 (1885), Smoke will to the smicker. If many gossips sit against a smokey chimney the smoke will bend to the fairest. 1646: Browne, *Pseudo. Epi.*, bk. v. ch. xxxiii., That smook doth follow the fairest, is an usual saying with us
yet is it the continuation of a very ancient opinion, as Petras Victorinus and Casaubon have observed from a passage in Athenæus, wherein a parasite thus describeth himself — "To every table first I come Whence Peridge I am call'd by some,

Like smoke, unto the fair I fly' 1687 Aubrey, Gentilisme, etc., 111 (F.L.S.) That smoke doth follow the fairest is ancient opinion, as is to be observed in Athenæus. 1738 Swift, Polite Comers, Dial. I. They say smoke always pursues the fair 1851 Sternberg Dialect, etc. of Northants, 172 Smoke and dust always follow the fairest.

2 Smoke rain and a very curst wife
Makes a man weary of house and life
1647 Countrvm New Commonwealth, 42 1683 Merton Yorkshire Ale, 83 7 (1697), A reeking house and a scolding wife will make a man weary of his life. 1774 Colman, Man of Business, IV u., She would ring it in my ears as long as I live— a smoky house, and a scolding wife you know! I need say no more — It is a kind of hell to inhabit one, and the devil himself would scarce live with the other. Cf. Three things drive

3 There is no smoke without fire [Flamma fumo est proxima — Plautus, Curculio ! i 53] c 1375 Barbour, Bruce, bk. iv I 123 And thair may no maie sa covir, [Bot] low or reek sall it discover c 1440 Hoecele, Minor Poems, 134 (E.E.T.S.) When no fyr maie is may no smoke arse 1579 Lyly, Euphues, 153 (Arber), Their can no great smoke arse, but there must be some fire, no great reporte without great suspicion 1649 Quarles, Virgin Widow, I. There's no smoke without some fire 1679 Shadwell True Widow V 1, 'Sdeath! there must be some fire under all this smoke 1757 Murphy, Upholsterer, II I 871 Planché, Extraits, v 302 (1879), Where so much smoke is, there must be some fire.

4 The smoke of a man's own house is better than the fire of another 1633 Draxe, 93 1670 Ray, 20 1732 Fuller No 4756

5 To escape the smoke and fall into the fire 1548 Hall, Chron., 210 (1809), There is an olde sayd saw, that a man entenying to avoide the smoke, falleth into the pyre 1639 Clarke, 250, Shuning the smoke he fell into the fire.

6 When the smoke goes west, Good weather is past. When the smoke goes east, Good weather comes next [next] 1836 Denham, Proverbs, 17 (Percy S.)

Smoking chimney in a great house is a good sign, A 1732 Fuller, No 415 Smooth as a carpet 1678 Ray, 289

Smooth as glass 1580 Lyly, Euphues, 320 (Arber), I see now that there is nothing more smooth then glasse 1590 Spenser, F Q., I 1318, Could file his tongue as smooth as glass c 1660 in Roxb. Ballads, u 445 (B.S.), Her skin was as smooth as glass 1720 Gay Poems, u 279 (Underhill), As smooth as glass, as white as curds 1821 Scott, Pirate, ch. 20. The bajar seemed almost as smooth as glass.

Smooth as oil 1716 E. Ward Female Policy, 51, Her tongue as smooth as oil.

Smooth language grates not the tongue 1659 Howell, 5

Smoothy's wedding, All on one side like 1864 " Cornish Proverbs," in N & Q., 3rd ser., vi 6 1888 Q.

Couch Troy Town, ch. viii.

Snail and Snails, sub. 1 As quick as a snail crawling through tar W. Corn. 19th cent. (Mr C. Lee)

2. Snailsie, snailsie, shoot out your horn, And tell us if it will be a bonnie day the morne 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 114

3. The house is blest Where snail do rest W. Corn. 10th cent. (Mr C. Lee)

4. The snail slides up the tower at last though the swallow mounteth it sooner 1580 Lyly, Euphues, 410 (Arber), The slow snail clymeth the tower at last, though the swift swallow mount it 1583 Melbank, Philotimus, sig Fi. Can the sluggish snailie with creeping pace ever reache the castell tower? 1732 Fuller, No 4757

5. To go a snail's gallop 1546 Heywood Proverbs, Pt I ch x, If I shall nedes this viage make — I will.
thyetherward hye me in haste lyke a snayle. 1670: Ray, 103. To drive snails; A snails gallop 1680: Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 672, Ye go a snails gallop. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' Collog., 32, I see what haste you make, you are never the forwarder, you go a snails gallop. 1803: Colman, Jr., John Bull, III. 1, There he comes, in a snail's trot. 1821: Combe, Syntax in Search of Wife, can. xxxvi. p. 120, He, by degrees, would seldom fail T'adopt the gallop of a snail. 1866: Brogden, Lines Words, 188, Sneel-gallop—A slow pace, compared to the crawl of a snail.

6. When black snails cross your path, Black cloud much moisture hath. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 144

7. When black snails on the road you see, Then on the morrow rain will be. Ibid., 144.


2. The head of a snake with garlic is good meat. 1568: in Loseley MSS., 213 (Kempe).

3. There is a snake in the grass. [Latet anguis in herba.—Virgil, Ec., iii. 93.] c. 1290: in Wright, Pol. Songs John to Edw. II., 172 (Camden S.), Cum totum fecisse putas, latet anguis in herba. 1548: Hall, Chron., 236 (1809). But the serpent lurked vnder the grasse, and vnder sugered speache was hide pestiferous poysen. 1593: G. Harvey, Works, ii. 294 (Grosart), Take heed of the snake in the grass, or the padd in the straw. 1677: Yarranton, Eng. Improvement, 101, Hold, hold, you drive too fast; there is a snake in the bush. 1714: Ozel, Molière, iv. 254. 1777: in Garrick Corresp., ii. 248 (1832). There are snakes in the grass, and you seem to foster them. 1526: Phillpotts, Yellow Sands, i., What cares he for your wishes—young snake in the grass!

See also Thunder (3).


Sneek. See quot. c. 1770: Pegge, Derbicisms, 65 (E.D.S.), The sneek is the latch itself, and not the string. Hence the proverb: "to put a sneek before one's snout."

Sneeze, subs. See quot. 1732: Fuller, No. 2436, He's a friend at a sneeze; the most you can get of him is a God bless you.

Sneeze, verb. 1. He hath sneezed thrice, turn him out of the hospital. 1659: Howell, 2.

2. Sneeze on a Monday, etc. See quot. 1867: Harland, etc., Laus Folk-Lore, 68, Sneeze on a Monday, you sneeze for danger; Sneeze on a Tuesday, you kiss a stranger; Sneeze on a Wednesday, you sneeze for a letter; Sneeze on a Thursday, for something better; Sneeze on a Friday, you sneeze for sorrow; Sneeze on a Saturday, your sweet-heart to-morrow; Sneeze on a Sunday, your safety seek, The Devil will have you the whole of the week. 1878: Dyer, Eng. Folk-Lore, 239, In Devonshire, it is said that if you—"Sneeze on Sunday morning fasting, You'll enjoy your own true love to everlasting." 1879: Henderson, Folk-Lore of N. Counties, 137 [much the same as in 1867, but with the omission of the Sunday couplet]. 1913: E. M. Wright, Rustic Speech, etc., 223 [as in 1867].

Snipe. See quot. 1678: Ray, 344. The snite needs not the woodcock betwite [taunt]. Somerset. 1732: Fuller, No. 4939, There is winter enough for the snipe and woodcock too. 1886: Swainson, Folk-Lore of Brit. Birds, 192 (F.L.S.) [as in 1732]. See also Partridge (2).

Snotty folks. See quot. 1678: Ray, 204, Snotty folks are sweet, but slavering folks are sweet. Others have it, Slavering folks kiss sweet, but snotty folks are wise.

Snow, subs. 1. A snow year, a rich year. 1580: J. Frampton, tr. Monardes, ii. 192 (T.T.), For this it is said, The yeare of snow, the yeare of fertilitie. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Pruden-
Though peeper be black, it hath a good smell: c. 1520 Stanbridge, Vulgaria, sig Ci [as in Hill] 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch iv 1586 L Evans, Withals Diet Revised, sig E4 [the full saying reversed—pepper coming first and snow second] 1633 Draise, 16, Pepper is blacke, and snow is white 1650 Howell, 3 1681 Robertson, Phrases General, 983 Pepper is black, yet it hath a good smell 1692, 1142., Snow is white, yet it lyes on the dike.

8 Under water, famine, under snow, bread 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum, 1865 W White Eastern Eng land, u 32 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore 9 ["dearth" for "famine"]

9 When snow falls in the mud, it steams all winter 1692, 1161

10 When now in the ditch the snow doth lie, 'Tis waiting for more by-and-by 1692, 1161

11 When the snow falls dry, it means to lie, But flake light and soft bring rain oft 1692, 1161

12 When the snow is in the orchard, A crab is worth a costard 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 579

13 Whether you boil snow or pond it, you can have but water of it 1692, 1732 Fuller, No 5687 ["bake" for "pond"]

See also Apnl (14) and (22), Candlemas, D and G, Last racehorse, March (35), May, F (2), Ram, sub (1), and White (7), (8) and (14).

Snowdon will yield sufficient pasture for all the cattle of Wales put together 1662 Fuller, Worthies, iii 527 (1840) 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Caer Parvynshone".

Snow in the nose, To take = To take offence 1670 Rowlands, Marin Mark-all, 34 (Hunt Cl.), And not by any means to cross them least they take snuff in the nose, and so fall together by the eares 1661 Pepys, Diary, 6 Oct, Who, I expect, should take in snuffe that my wife did not come to his child's christening 1714 Ozell, Mottre 1 83. How very hasty you are You take snuff in a minute 1821
Scott, Kenilworth, ch. i., But take no snuff in the nose about it. Cf. Pepper.

Snug as a bug in a rug. 1769: Stratford Jibibiee, II. i., I'll have her, as snug as a bug in a rug. 1772: Franklin, in Works, iv. 525 (Bigelow), Here Skugg Lies snug As a bug In a rug. 1886: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 96 (E.D.S.). 1913: Folk-Lore, xxvii. 77 (Oxfordshire.)

Snug as a pig in pea-straw. 1639: Davenport, New Trick, etc., III. i., He snores and sleepes as snug As any pigge in pea-straw. c. 1662: in Bagford Ballads, i. 198 (B S.), Like pigges in the pea-straw, intangiil they lie.

Soap in a wash tub, They are like a ha'p'orth of. 1855: Bohn, 525.

Sober as a judge. 1694: Terecne made English, 82, I thought my self as sober as a judge. 1712: Arbuthnot, John Bull, Pt. III. ch. vi., Lewis ... kept himself sober as a judge. 1896: Doyle, Rodney Stone, ch. xvi. 1924: Sphere, 7 June, p. 259, col. i, A dignitary proverbially "sober as a judge."


Soberness. See Drunkenness.

So cunning. See Weather (3).

Soft and fair goes far. c. 1400: Beryn, 28 (E.E.T.S.), But feir and soff as e'e, homward they hir led. 1542: Udall, tr. Erasmus' Apolh., 286 (1877). The proverbe, spedhe thee faire and softly, is a lesson of conscious. 1563: Greene, Works, ii. 28 (Grosart), Goe as the snaille faire and softly. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1668: Dryden, Sir Martin Mar-all, II. ii. 1714: Ozell, Moliere, ii. 13. 1768: Goldsmith, Good-Natured Man, IV. Soft and fair, young lady. You that are going to be married think things can never be done too fast. 1818: Scott, Heart of Midlothian, ch. xlv., "Fair and softly gangs far," said Meiklechose.

Soft as butter. 1567: Golding, Ovid, bk. xiii. i. 937, More soft than butter newly made. 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. xii., My lady is as gentle as a lamb and as soft as butter. c. 1625: Wither, Schollers Purgat., 95 (Spens. S.), I found the words of their mouths as soft as butter. 1771: Smollett, Clinker, in Works, vi. 8 (1817), She is a poor good-natured simpleton, as soft as butter. 1923: O. Seaman, in Punch, 23 May, 482, Soft my words shall be as butter.

Soft as pap. c. 1590: Plaine Perceval, Dedn., The first ladlefull had a smacke as soft as pap. 1720: Gay, Poems, ii. 279 (Underhill), As soft as pap her kisses are.

Soft as silk. c. 1307: in Lyric Poetry, 36 (Percy S., No. 19), Eythar side soft ase yylk. c. 1386: Chaucer, Squire's Tale, l. 605, And strawe hir cage faire and softe as silk. c. 1430: Lydgate, Minor Poems, l.388 (E.E.T.S.), Hir body, softe as selke. c. 1450: Partonope, 66 (E.E.T.S.), Her lees were as softe as yylk. Before 1529: Skelton, Philip Sparrow, l. 1119, And handes soft as coyle. 1555: S. Hawes, Past. of Pleasure, 63 (Percy S.), By her propre hande, soft as any yylk. 1605: Sylvester, Du Bartas, Week II. Day ii. Pt. 1, l. 162. 1782: Wolcot, Lyric Odes, Ode vii., in Works, i. (1795), Sweet is the voice of Praise!—oh, soft as silk. 1892: B. Pain, Playthings, etc., 227, Her cheek was soft as silk.


Soft pace goes far. 1598: Meres, Palladis, fo. 259. 1669: Politeophilia, 182.

Soft wax will take any impression. 1672: Walker, Param., 35.

Soft words and hard arguments. 1670: Ray, 158. 1732: Fuller, No. 4203 ["are" for "and"].

Soft words. See also Fair (31).

Softly as foot can fall. 1530: Palsgrave, 570, I go as softe as foote maye fall. 1587: Turbervile, Trag. Tales,
So got etc., 30 (1837), There stalked he on, as softe as foote could tread. 1601 Shakespeare, *As You Like It*, III ii 1681 Robertson, *Phrasal Generalis*, 1145

So got so gone 1678 Ray, 349

So great is the ill that doth not hurt me, As is the good that doth not help me 1578 Florio, *First Fruits*, fo 32 (slightly varied) 1629 *Book of Merry Riddles* Prov r

Sold See quot Glos 1639 in Berkeley MSS, iii 29 (1885), He hath sold a beane and bought a peaze. He hath sold a pound and bought a penny. He hath sold Bristoll and bought Bedminster.

Soldiers in peace are like chimneys in summer 1594 A Copley *Wits, Fets etc.* 34 (1614). Before 1598 Lord Burghley, in Peck's *Desid Curiosa*, 48 (1779), r611 *Tartons Jestis*, ii (Sh S). There was a nobleman that asked Tarlton what hee thought of soldiers in time of peace. Marry, quoth he, they are like chimneys in summer [Tarlton was a plagiarist] 1670 Ray, 24 1732 Fuller, No 4207

Sole is the bread and butter of fish, A Corn 1897 N & Q, 8th ser. vi 448 Sole See Shoe, subs (3)

So like that they are the worse for it. They are 1678 Ray, 354 1732 Fuller, No 4959 ['both' for the second 'they']

Solitary man See quotes 1669 Politieuthula, 137. The solitary man is either a God or a beast 1732 Fuller, No 418. A solitary man is either a brute or an angel

Solomon See Samson

Solomon's wise, loath to go to bed, but ten times loather to rise. 1882 Mrs Chamberlain, *W Worcs Words*, 39 (E D S) Cf. Snuggard's guise

So long as you'll crowdy [fiddle] they'll dance. E Corn 1880 T Q Couch, *E Cornwall Words*, 82 (E D S)

So many countries, so many customs (or laws) 10th cent in *A Saxon Gnomic Verses*, i 17 (Gren) en—fela boga, peoda and peawa [an equal number both of countries and customs]

Some are very busy and yet do nothing 1732 Fuller, No 4211

Some are wise and some are otherwise 1659 Howell, I 1738 Swift *Polite Conters*, Dial I 1746 Smollett *Rod Random*, ch vi

Some come, some go. This life is so 1732 Fuller, No 6340


So many servants, so many foes 1539 Taver *mer Proverbs*, fo 34. Loke how many bondmen we haue and so many enemies we haue 1586 Pettie, *Tr Guazzo's Civil Conters* fo 169. According to the saying, We haue so manie enemies as we haue servants 1666 Tonnaio, *Piazza Univ*, 257 1669 Dudley North, *Obs and Adv* *Aconom* 40 ["enemies" for "foes"]

Some are very busy and yet do nothing 1732 Fuller, No 4211

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Some come, some go. This life is so 1732 Fuller, No 6340
Some fish, some frogs. c. 1500 : More, *Fortune*, st. 32, in *Hill, Commonplace-Book*, 79 (E E.T.S.), Lo, in this pond be fishe and froggis bothe. 1579: Lyly, *Euphues*, 196 (Arber), It is in the courte as in all ryuers, some fish some frogs.

1792: Wolcot, *Works*, ii. 434 (1795), Whereas it is in Courts, as in a pond, Some fish, some frogs.

Some good, some bad, as sheep come to the fold. 1678: Ray, 247. Some have hap [luck], some stick in the gap. 1639: Clarke, 125. 1659: Howell, 16. Some have the happ and others sticke in the gap. 1732: Fuller, No. 6274. 1846–59: *Denham Tracts*, i. 296 (F.L.S.).

Some men must love my lady, and some Joan. 1592: Shakespeare, *L.L.*, III. last line.


So much is mine. *See* quotes. 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 32, So much is myne as I enjoy, or els geue for Gods sake. 1629: *Book of Merry Riddles*, Prov. 17, So much is mine as I possesse, and give, or lose, for God’s sake. 1732: Fuller, No. 4198, So much is mine as I enjoy, and give away for God’s sake.

Son, subs. 1. *A son of the white hen* = a lucky one [*Qui tu gallinae filius albae, Nos viles pulli nati infelicibus ovis?—Juvenal, xiii. 141.] 1630: Johnson, *New Inn*, I. i., *Yet all*, sir, are not sons of the white hen. 1764: Poor Robin Aman., Feb., For money, like a chick of the white hen, has generally luck on its side.

2. *He is the son of a bachelor, i.e. a bastard.* 1678: Ray, 66. 1732: Fuller, No. 1949.

3. *My son is my son till he have got his wife; But my daughter’s my daughter all the days of her life.* 1670: Ray, 53. 1732: Fuller, No. 6076. 1851: Planché, in *Extravag.,* iv. 201 (1879), We lose a son who takes a wife, —Our daughter is our daughter all her life.

Song, A, or *An old song* = little value. c. 1605: Shakespeare, *All’s Well,* III. ii., I know a man. . . . hold a goodly manor for a song. 1675: Cotton, *Burl. upon Burlesque*, 266 (1765), And there’s an end of an old song. 1694: Crowne, *Regulus*, II. i., I bought it for a song. 1704: Swift, *Tale of Tub*, § ix., Hence comes the common saying, and commoner practice, of parting with money for a song. 1714: *Spectator*, No. 597, An hopeful youth. . . . was forced. . . . to resign all for an old song. 1849: Lytton, *Caxtons*, Pt. XVII. ch. iv., Jack had. . . . purchased, in his own account, “for an old song,” some barren land. 1919: J. A. Bridges, *Victorian Recollections*, 187, The inn cost very little to rent; indeed, he might have bought it for a song if he had cared to.

Soon crooketh the tree that good gambrel would be. “Gambrel” (also “cambrel” and “camock”) = a “bent piece of wood used by butchers to hang carcasses on” c. 1460: *Good Wyfe wold a Pylgr.* The tree crokoth the son that good gambrel will be. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. ix., Timely crooketh the tree that will a good camok bee. 1570: A. Barclay, *Mirror of Good Manners*, 24 (Spens S.), Soone crooketh
the same tree that good camel wilbe
1670 Ray, 75, 1726 W Lawson, New Orchard and Garden 37. The common homely proverb Soon crooks the tree That good camel must be 1732 Fuller, No 6118.

Soon enough See Well (19)

Sooner named sooner come c 1550 Jacke Ingeler, in Hazlitt Old Plays, ii 176, If I had sooner spoken, he would have sooner been here 1587 Woodes Conflict of Conscience, III 11, I marvel what doth him from hence so long stay, Sooner named, sooner come, as common proverbs say.

Sooner said See Said

Sooner sp arrow than got 1541 Coverdale, Christ State Matrim, sig 13. A thing is sooner spared than gotten

Soon espied where the thorn pricketh, It is Before 1529 Skelton, in Works i 418 (Dyce)

Soonest begun soonest over 1872 Trollope, Golden Lion, ch xx

Soon goes the young sheep as the old to market (or pot, etc.), As [c 1440 Gesia Rom, 364 (E ETS)]. The same saide, "also some dayeth the yong as the olde] c 1520 Calisto and Melissa, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, i 78, As soon goeth to market the lambs fell As the sheepe's 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch iv, As soon goth the yonge lamskyn to the market As tholest yeues 1590 Porter, Two Angry Women, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, vi 302, Take heed, as soon goes the young sheep to the pot as the old 1631 Mabbe, Celestina, 86 (T T), As soone (lady) thes the young lambe as the old sheep 1712 Motteux, Quixote, Pt II ch vii, As soon goes the young lamb to the spit, as the old wether 1819 Scott, Bride of L, ch iv, As soon comes the lamb's skin to market as the auld tups.

Soon gotten, soon spent 1546 Heywood Proverbs, Pt II ch vi 1605 Camden, Remains, 331 (1870) 1732 Fuller, No 4227 1849 Bronte, Shirley, ch xxvii, 'Unless I beard the whole repeated, I cannot continue it," she said "Yet it was quickly learned." Soon gained, soon gone morhazd the tutor 1880 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 9. This was a case of "soon gotten, soon spent"

Soon hot soon cold c 1450 Burygh (and Lydgate), Secretes, 60 (EETS) 1485 Malory, Morte d'Arthur, bk xxvii ch xxv 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch ii. Than perceive they well, hote louse soone cold 1587 Greene, Works, iv 146 (Grosart) 1617 Withers, Fidelia, i 4, Loue that's soonest hot, is ever soonest cold 1732 Fuller, No 4228

Soon learnt soon forgotten c 1374 Chaucer, Troylus, bk ii 1238, For why men seyth, "impressions lighte Ful lightly been ay reedy to the fighte" 1869 Hazlitt, 342

Soon ripe soon rotten c 1393 Langland, Plowman, C, xiii 223, And that that rathest ryppet roteth most saunest 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch x 1566 Harman, Caveat, cap xxvii 1604 Jacke of Dover, 22 (Percy S.) 1683 White-Kennett, tr Erasmus' Praise of Folly, 14 (8th ed).

Therefore for the curbing of too forward parts we have a disparaging proverb Soon ripe, soon rotten 1756 Gent Mag., 556 1889 Peacock, Manley, etc. Gloss., 507 (E D S)

Soon todd [toothed] soon with God— an idea which has found expression in several forms 1659 Howell, 4, Soon todd, soon with God, a Northern proverb, when a child hath teeth too soon 1670 Ray, 52, Quickly too'd, and quickly go, Quickly will thy mother have moe [more]. Yorksh. Ibid. 26 [as in 1659] 1879 W Henderson Folk-Lore of N Counties, 19. The proverb "Soon teeth, soon toes," shows another portent of such an event. If baby's teeth come early there will soon be fresh toes, i.e another baby. 1888 N & Q. 7th ser, v 285 My mother used always to say, "soon toothed, soon turfed".

Sooth bourd See True (11)

Sore be healed, Though the, yet a scar may remain 1732 Fuller, No 5013

Sore eyes 1 The light is naught for sore eyes 1580 Lyly, Euphues, 394
Sorrow makes silence her best orator.
1600: Bodenham, Belvedere, 171 (Spens. S.).


Sorrow to one’s sops, To have. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. viii., I had sorrow to my sops ynoough, be sure. 1670: Ray, 218. 1788: Grose, Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue (2nd ed.) (O.), Sorrow shall be his sops, he shall repent this.

Sorrow will pay no debt. 1669: New Help to Discourse, 310, Sorrow quits no scores. 1670: Ray, 144. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. “Sorrow.”

Sorrow. See also Lean sorrow; Ounce of mirth; Pennyworth of mirth; Sup (4); and Weal (3).

Sorry, but I can’t cry, I am. 1584: Three Ladies of London, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, vi. 319, Alas! Lucre, I am sorry for thee, but I cannot weep. 1613: B. & F., Knight of Burning Pestle, I. ii., Beshrew me, sir, I am sorry for your losses, But, as the proverbe says, I cannot cry. 1641: Archy’s Dream, 6, in Hindley, Old Book-Coll. Miscell., iii., Archy said he was very sorry, but could not cry. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I. 1827: Scott, Journal, 4 June, We have lost our Coal Gas Bill. Sorry for it, but I can’t cry.

So said so done. 1594: Shakespeare, Tam. of Shrew, I. ii., So said, so done, is well. 1615: T. Heywood, Foure Prentises, in Works, ii. 200 (1874), So said, so done, braue lord.

Soulgrove [February] is seldom warm. 1687: Aubrey, Gentilisme, 9 (F.L.S.), The shepheards, and vulgar people in South Wilts call Februarie Soulgrove; and have this proverbe of it: viz. Soulgrove sil [seldom] liew. February is seldom warme. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 28 (Percy S.), “Soulgrove sil liew,” is an ancient Wiltshire proverb.

Sound as a bell. 1599: Shakespeare, Much Ado, III. ii., He hath a heart as sound as a bell. 1607: B. Barnes, Diuils Charter, sig. Kf. 1687: Sedley, Bella-mira, III., I am as sound as a bell, fat, plump and juicy. 1720: Gay, Poems,
Sound

ii 278 (Underhill), Hearts sound as any bell 1862 Dialect of Leeds, 407 1882 Mrs Chamberlain, W. Worces. Words, i (E D S), "Sound as a bell" is the regular superlative absolute 1918 Walpole, Green Mirror, bk 1 ch 1, Healthy, happy, sound as so many bells

Sound as an acorn 1862 Dialect of Leeds, 407 1882 Mrs Chamberlain, W. Worces. Words, i (E D S), "As sound as an acorn" is a local proverb 1884-6 Holland, Cheshire Gloss (E D S) As sound as a acorn 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 20, As sound as an acorn

Sound as a roach 1655 T. Muffett, Healths Improvement, 186, According to the old proverb, as sound as a roach 1668 Shadwell, Sullen Lovers, V iii 1697 Vanbrugh, Prov. Wife V 1703 Centlivre, Love's Concrivence, 1 iii 1760 Poote, Mayor of Garratt, I 1, Tar-water and turpentine will make you as sound as a roach 1881 Evans, Lees Words, 250 (E D S) Sound as a roach, a common simile

Sound as a trout Before 1300 Cursor Mundi, 1 11884, Bi pat pou commer of oute pou shal be hool as any trout Before 1529 Skelton, Magnificence, i 1643, I am forthwith as hole as a trout 1588 Cogan, Haven of Health 142 (1612) 1599 Butteres, Dyets Dry Diness, sig Mr 1678 Ray, 269 1838 Carr, Craven Dialect, 11 219, 'As sound as a trout,' applied to a person of a sound or good constitution 1891 P. H. Emerson, East Coast Yarns, 43, Now look at 'em with their red skins and dewy noses, healthy as trout

Sound love is not soon forgotten 1849 Northall, Folk Phrases, 23 (E D S)

Sound travelling far and wide, A stormy day will betide 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 106 Sour ale See Mend (6)

Sour apple-tree See quot 1670 Ray, 193 To be tied to the sourre apple-tree, 1 To be married to an ill husband 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v "Sour" [as in 1670]

Sour as vargis [verjuice] 1600

Dekker, Shoom Holiday, II 1, He lookt upon me as sourre as verjuice 1700 E. Ward, Works, iv, Verse, 12, And live on small drink, that's as sooner as vargis 1854 Baker, Northants Gloss, s v "Vargis," Verjuice, "As sour as vargis" 1886 Elworthy, West Yorks Word-Book, 798 (E D S), Can't drink this yer stuff, 'tis so sour let's vars

1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 20, As sour as vargis (or varjus)

Sour as vinegar See Sharp Sour as wer [crab-apples] 1633 Drake, 194, As sourre as a crab 1691 Ray, Words not Generally Used, 73 (E D S), As sour as wharre 1877 Leigh, Cheshire Gloss, 225, Sour as wharre 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 21, As sour as wer (or wharre)

Sour as whig [sour whey] 1854 Baker, Northants Gloss, s v "Whig," a common proverbial simile

South Darne See Sutton South Molton See Bishop's Nympton

South Repps See Gimmingham South wind See Wind Southwold See Walberswick.

Sow (female swine) subs 1 A barren sow was never good to pigs 1835 Bohn, 281

2 A fat sow causeth her own bane 1659 Howell, 7 Of Swine (1)

3 An alewife s sow is always well fed 1732 Fuller, No 578

4 As necessary as a sow among young children 1678 Ray, 267 1732 Fuller, No 717 ["an old sow" for "a sow"]

5 A sow doth sooner than a cow bring an ox to the plough Gloss 1639 in Berkeley MSS', ii 31 (1885)

6 A sow to a faddle 1639 Clarke, 5 1670 Ray, 193 1672 Walker, Parrem, 53

7 As the sow fills the draft sores 1639 Clarke, 113 1685 Menton, Yorkshire Ale, 38, For as the sow [sow] doth fill the draife doth soore

8 Every sow to her own trough 1678 Ray, 204 1712 Motteux, Quiv., Pt Il ch vii

9 It works like soap in a sow's tail—and like expressions 1592 Lyly,
one of these duties would do any good to the working people.

15. To have a good nose to be a poor man's sow. 1530: Palsgrave, 580. He hath a good nose, etc. 1579: Marr. of Wit and Wisdom, 27 (Sh. S.), I have a good nose, etc. 1670: Ray, 187 [as in 1530, but with "make" for "be"].

1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I., Colonel, I find you would make a very bad poor man's sow.

16. You prick up your ears like an old sow in beans. 1889: Parish and Shaw, Dict. Kent. Dialect, 121 (E.D.S.), A proverbial saying is, "You prick up," etc.

See also Cow (1) and (19); Hog; Pig; Silk purse; Still sow; Swine; and Wrong (4).

Sow, verb. 1. As you sow so will you reap. 8th cent.: Cynewulf, Christ, I. 8 (Gollancz), Swa eal manna bearn Sorgum sawað swa eft ripað Cennað to cewalme (All the children of men as they sow in sorrow, so afterwards they reap, they bring forth for death).


1609: Dekker, Works, iv. 219 (Grosart), I haue made the olde saying true, who soweis shall reap, 1664: Butler, Hudibras, Pt. II. can. ii. 1. 504, As you sow, y'are like to reap.

1766: Garrick and Colman, Clandest. Marriage, I. i. 1836: Marryat, Japhet, ch. xxxi., No, no, Japhet, as I have sown, so must I reap. 1895: Wilde, Import. of being Earnest, II., As a man sows so let him reap.

2. Forbear not sowing because of birds. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

3. He is sowing on the sand. 1813: Ray, 75. Cf. Plough, verb (7).

4. He that soweth good seed, shall reap good corn. 1633: Draxe, 12.
5 He that soweth virtue, shall reap same 1629 Book of Merrie Riddles, Prov 48
6 He that sows iniquity shall reap sorrow 1732 Fuller, No 2266
7 He that sows in the highway tires his oxen, and looth his corn 1633
Draxe, 222 ['weaneth' for 'tires,' and 'labour' for 'corn'] 1732 Fuller, No 2205
8 He that sows thistles shall reap prickers 1611 Cotgrave, s.v "Char- don," reapeth thornes 1732 Fuller, No 2307
9 He that sows his trusts in God 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1650 Ray, 24, Who sows his corn in the field trusts in God
10 One sows another reaps 1709 Dyles, Eng Proverbs, Pref ii (2nd ed.)
11 Sow dry and set wet [1580 Tusser, Husb, 101 (EDS), Time faire, to sow or to gather be bold, but set or remoue when the weather is cold] 1678 Ray, 49, This rule in gardening, never forget To sow dry, and to set wet 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 11 (Percy S.) ['plant' 'for' set ] 1904 Co Folk-Lore Northumb, 179 (FLS) [as in 1846]
12 Sow [wheat] in the slop (or sop). Heavy at top 1823 Moor, Suffolk Words, 376 1830 Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 417 1872 J Gryde, Jr, Norfolk Garland, 154
13 Sown corn is not lost 1875 Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 126
14 The brain that sows not corn plants thistles 1670 Ray, 3
15 To sow the wind and reap the whirlwind 1816 Scott, Black Dwarf, ch xvii , Indiscriminate profusion is sowing the wind to reap the whirl- wind 1895 Purcell, Life of Manning, n 82, He could no longer call an hour in the day his own He had sown the wind and was reaping the whirlwind
16 To sow wild oats See Wild (7)
17 Who sows little mows the less Before 1300 Cursor Mundi, l 2831, It was said, "Qua littil saus, pe lesse he maus " 1611 Cotgrave, s.v "Semer," Little sow little mow 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 33 (Percy S.), Sow thin, shear thin
See also Quiet sow
Sowley hammer See quot 1863 Wise, New Forest, ch vi , Nothing now remains to tell their former importance [iron-works] but a few mounds and a country proverb, "There will be rain when Sowley hammer is heard"
Space cometh grace, In 1541 Coverdale, Christ State Matrim, sig G8 1595 Maruccius Extales, 8 (Percy S.), In space grows grace 1670 Ray, 144 1732 Fuller, No 6167
Spade a spade, To call a ["a sōm
ček, τυν ααδήν & αακήν αριδωρων — Lucian Hist Conscr, 41] 1539 Taverner, Garden of Wysdome, sig C4, Whiche can call a spade a spade 1600 Kemp, Nine Dases Wonder, in Arber, Gardiner, vn 34 (1883), That he may being a plain man, call a spade a spade 1632 Jonson, Magd Lady, I ad fin, Faith we do call a spade a spade, in Cornwall 1668 Shadwell, Sullen Lovers, IV 1 1725 Bailey, tr Erasmus' Collogy, 181, Who call a fig a fig, and a spade a spade 1854 Dickens, Hard Times, bk 1 ch vi, There's no imaginative sentimental humbug about me I call a spade a spade
Spaniel See Flattering, and Woman (6)
Spannels that lawn when beaten, will never forsake their masters 1732 Fuller, No 4236
Span new See Spark and span
Spare at brim See Better spare
Spare not to spend, but spare to go
thither 1659 Howell, 11
Spare the rod and spoil the child [quam demaeli aperit et wældeanum — Med- nander ] c 1000 Ælfric, Hom, n. 324 (O), Se he spered his yarde, he hated his cold 1777 Langland, Plowman, B, v 41, Who-so spareth the spryenge spyleth his children 1422 J Yonge, tr Gourn of Prynces, 161 (EETS), Salamon sayth, Qn paras virge odit filium, "who sparth the yarde he hatyth the chylde" 1577 Misogonus, II 11, He that spareth the rode, hates the childe 1692 L'Estrange, Æsop, 264 (3rd ed) [as in
Spare

1577]. 1732: Fuller, No. 4238. 1855: Thackeray, Newcomes, ch. iii., A brother to whom my poor mother spared the rod, and who . . . has turned out but a spoil child. 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, vii. 306 (1785), How soon a little spark kindles into a flame. 1884: Folk-Lore Journal, ii. 250, A spark may raise an awful blaze Derbysh.

Sparrow-hawk of a buzzard, You can't make a. c. 1400: Rom. Rose, i. 4933, This have I herd ofte in saying, That man [ne] may, for no daunting, Make a sperhaue of a bosarde. 1732: Fuller, No. 420.

Sparrows fight for corn which is none of their own. Ibid., No. 4242. 1730: Lillo, Silvia, I ix. 1732: Fuller, Man of the World, V.


Spare when you are young and spend when you are old. 1541: Coverdale, Christ. State Matrim., sig. I3. Spare for thynge age. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Souper," Hee that spares when he's young may the better spend when he's old. 1869: Hazlitt, 343. 1732: Fuller, No. 420.

Spare. See also Spend. 1541: Coverdale, Christ. State Matrim., sig. I3.

Sparing is the first gaining. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 229 (Arber), Sparing is good getting. 1629: Book of Meery Riddles, Prov. 108.

Spark in the throat. See Smith (3). 1730: Owl and Nightingale, l. 1070, Wel fight that wel speath—seide Alwred.

Great fire doth a small spark kindle! 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, vii. 306 (1785), How soon a little spark kindles into a flame. 1884: Folk-Lore Journal, ii. 250, A spark may raise an awful blaze Derbysh.

Spark makes a great fire, A small. 1412-20: Lydgate, Troy Book, bk i. l. 785, And of sparkys that ben of syghte smale, Is fire engendered that devoureth al. c. 1470: G. Ashby, Poems, 61 (E.E.T.S.), For of a little spark a grete fyre comyth. 1509: Barclay, Ship of Fools, i. 194 (1874), A small sparce often tyme doth augment It selfe, and groweth to flames peryllous. 1607: Dekker, etc., Northw. Hoe, II., 'Tis a small sparke gues fire to a beauti- full womans discredit. 1655: Fuller, Church Hist., bk. iii. § ii. (60), What a
Some that speak no ill of any, do no good to any. 

To speak fair and think what you will, 1665 Camden, Remains, 331 (1670) 1704 Ray, 144 1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict, s.v. "Speak." 

She speaks truly or is silent wisely. 

Who speaks not, errs not. 

To speak as though he would creep into one's mouth. 

To speak ill of others is the fifth element. 

To speak like a mouse in a cheese. 

To speak like an oracle now-a-days speaks like an oracle, who speaks tricks and ambiguities. 

Swift, Polite Convers, Dial II, Colonel, you spoke like an oracle.
595

Spick

Spell

1798: Morton, Speed the Plough [title of comedy]. 1902: N. & Q., 9th ser., ix. 12. The saying implies merely a wish for prosperity, in the same way that "God speed the plough" applied to the pursuit of agriculture. [In its later uses "speed the plough" seems to have been little more than an expletive phrase, meaning much the same as "Good luck to you!"]

Spell for spell is fair play = turn for turn.

1855: Robinson, Whitby Gloss., 164

Spend, verb. i. He that spendeth much See quot. 15th cent.: in Reliq. Antiquae, i 316 (1842), He that spends myche and getythe nowghte, And owith myche and hathe nowghte, And lokys in hys purse and fynde nowghte, He may be sory, thoue he seythe nowghte. c. 1530: Rhodes, Boke of Nurture, 107 (E.E.T.S.) [slightly varied by beginning the second and third lines with "He that "]]. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 104 [as in 1530].

2. In spending lies the advantage. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentnim.

3. Know when to spend and when to spare, And you need not be busy; you'll never be bare. 1732: Fuller, No. 6437.

4. Never spend your money before you have it. 1831: Hone, Year-Book, col. 1612.

5. Spend and be free, but make no waste. 1639: Clarke, 129. 1670: Ray, 24. 1732: Fuller, No. 4247.

6. Spend and God will send. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. ii. ch. v. ["shall" for "will"]. 1575: Gascoigne, Posies, 64 (Cunliffe), The common speech is, spend and God will send. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Manger." 1710: S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 282. There is indeed an unlucky proverb that is often cited on such occasions, Spend, etc. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xvi., He must squander it, always boasting that his motto is, "Spend," etc.

7. Spend not where you may save; spare not where you must spend. 1678: Ray, 348.

8. What we spent we had; What we gave, we have; What we lent is lost. 1669: New Help to Discourse, 250.

9. Who more than he is worth doth spend, He makes a rope his life to end. 1523: Fitzherbert, Husb., 99 (E.D.S.), He that dothe more expende, thanne his goodes wyll extende, meruayle it shall not be, though he be greued with pouerthe. 1670: Ray, 24. 1732: Fuller, No. 6397.

10. Who spends before he thrives, will beg before he thinks. c. 1460: Good Wyfe wold a Pylgremage, 1. 151 (E.E.T.S.), He that spendyth more then he gettythe, a beggarris lyfe he shall lede. 1647: Countrim. New Commonwealth, 35. 1732: Fuller, No. 5720.

1875: Smiles, Thrift, 172, He who spends all he gets, is on the way to beggary.

11. Who spends more than he should, shall not have to spend when he would. 1670: Ray, 25. 1732: Fuller, No. 6074.

See also Spare.

Spice, sub. i. If you beat spice, it will smell the sweeter. 1732: Fuller, No. 2741.

2. Who hath spice enough may season his meat as he pleaseth. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentnim, He that hath the spice may season as he list. 1670: Ray, 25. 1732: Fuller, No. 4140 [" she "] for "he "]

Spick and span new; originally Span new, which is now found only in dialectal use. c. 1300: Havelok, l. 968 (E.E.T.S.), And bouthe him clothes, al spannewe. c. 1374: Chaucer, Troylus, bk. ii. l. 1665. His tale ay was spannewe to, biginne Til that the night departed hem a-twinne. 1590: Nashe, Almond for a Parrot, 27 (1846), He offered her a spicke and spanne new Geneva Bible. 1595: Munday, John a Kent, 52 (Sh. S.), Heeres a coat, spick and span new. 1614: B. Rich, Honestie of This Age, 18 (Percy S.). 1665: Pepys, Diary, 15 Nov. 1712: Motteux, Quixote, Pt. ii. ch. Ivii., And all, as they use to say, spick and span new, and shining like beaten gold. 1829: Hunter, Hallamsh. Gloss., 84, Span-new, quite new. 1863: Kingsley,
Spick

Water Rapes, ch 1. Some spick and span new Gothic or Elizabethan thing 1886 Elworthy, West Som Word-Book, 696 (E D S), Havee seed our millerd's span new cart

Spick nor crack, There's no S Devon = There is no flaw 1891 Hazlitt, 396

Spider, subs 1 But for the robin and the wen A spider would o come on a man 1879 Smith, Isle of Wight Words, 62 (E D S)

2 If you wish to live and thrive, Let a spider run alive 1863 N & Q, 3rd ser, ii 262 1879 Henderson, Folk-Lore of N Counties, 312, He who would wish to thrive, Must let spiders run alive 1913 L M Wright, Rustic Speech etc, 219

3 When spiders' wed in air do fly, The spell will soon be very dry 1891 Inwards, Weather Lore 147

See also Bee (17), Swallow, verb (1)

Spies are the ears and eyes of princes 1651 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 2nd ed

Spigot See Save (4)

Spin, verb 1 A man cannot spin and reel at the same time 1678 Ray, 205 1732 Fuller, No 2593, I cannot spin and weave at the same time

2 She spins well that breeds her children 1640 Herbert Jac Prudentum 1732 Fuller, No 4137, She spins a good thread that brings up her daughter well

3 Spinning out of time never made good cloth 1660 Howell, Party of Beasts, 80 [quoted as 'a true proverb']

4 That which will not be spun, let it not come between the spindle and the distaff 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1670 Ray, 25 1732 Fuller, No 2726, If 'twill not be spun, bring it not to the distaff

5 To spin a fair thread [1412 Hoccleve, Regement I 1763 p 64 (E E T S), Alasse! this likerous damnable error, In this londe hath so large a thredle I-sponne, That wers pepil is non vnndir the sonne] 1562 Heywood, Three Hund Epigr No 228 She hath spun a fair thread 1595 Locrine II ii (Malone S), O wife I have spunne

a faire threddede c 1625 B & F, Chances, III iv, You have spun your self a fair thread now 1691 J Wilson, Balthegor, I iii, And if I lose my place by the bargain, I have spun a fine thread 1730 Lillo, Silvia, III xvii, Ah Lettice, Lettice, what have you been doing? You've spun a fine thread, truly 1737 Ray, 63

Spit and a stride, A = A short way 1621 B & F, Pilgrim, II ii, Wilt thou take a spit and a stride, and see if thou canst outrun us? 1676 Cotton Walton's Angler, Pt II ch ii, You are now within a spit and a stride of the Peak 1824 Scott, Redgauntlet, ch xvii, I am to carry you to old Father Crackenthorps, and then you are within a spit and a stride of Scotland, as the saying is 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, u 155, Spit and a stride, a very short distance

Spit, verb 1 Spit in his mouth and make him a mastiff It was an old idea that to spit in a dog's mouth gave him pleasure 1670 Ray, 216

2 Spit in your hands and take better hold 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch iv, Nay, I will spit in my hands, and take better holde 1577 J Grange, Golden Aphrodites, sig Ht Spitte on your handes and take good holde 1738 Swift, Polite Conters, Dial I, I warrant, miss will spit in her hand, and hold fast

3 To spit in the church See quotes 1591 Flora, Second Fruits, 13 Who sometimes make it a matter of conscience to spitt in the church, and at another time will berey the altar 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum, Some make a conscience of spitting in the church, yet rob the altar

4 Who spits against heaven it falls in his face 1557 North, Diall of Princes, fo 106, As he whiche spitteth into the element, and the spittel falleth againe into his eies 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1670 Ray, 13 1732 Fuller, No 4252, Spit not against Heaven, 'twill fall back into thy own face

5 You spit on your own sleeke 1639 Clarke, 54
Spiteful as an old maid, As. 1732: Fuller, No. 730.

Spite of one's teeth, In. 1387: Trevisa, tr. Higden, vii. 7 (Rolls Ser.). What I have longe desired now I have it maugre pyn teeth c. 1489. Caxton, Sonnes of Aymon, 109 (E.E.T.S.). Reynard the wolf makes out of his enemies handes, maugre theyr teeth. c. 1500: More, Juvenile Verses, in Works (1557). Maugry thy teeth to lyue cause hym shall I. c. 1534: Berners, Hoon, 175 (E.E.T.S.). In the dyspyte of his teth I wyll se my nece. 1567: Painter, Pal. of Pleasure, ii. 248 (Jacobs). It behould to obey, and in despite of my teeth to do that which the Romane Emperour commandeth. 1618: B. Holyday, Technogamia, V. vi., I will stand here in spight of your teeth. 1678: Otway, Friendish in Fashion, V. i., She, like a true wife, may, spite of his teeth, de-ceive him quite. 1732: B. Mandeville, Honour and War, 130. The more I have perceiv'd and felt the truth of it in spight of my teeth. 1768: Walpole, Let. to Gray, 18 Feb., He forced himself upon me at Paris in spite of my teeth and my doors. 1894: R. L. S., Letters, v. 153 (Tusitala ed.), I read over again . . . and it is good in spite of your teeth. 1924: Shaw, Saint Joan, sc. vi. Spite of the cock and his comb. 1613: Rowlands, Paire of Spy-Knaues, 9 (Hunt. Cl.), He will to London spite of cock's comb.

Split hairs, To. 1678: Ray, 249, To cut the hair, i.e. to divide so exactly as that neither part have advantage. 1732: Fuller, No. 1122, Come, slit me this hair. Ibid., No. 6457, It's hard to split the hair, That nothing is wanted, and nothing to spare. 1846: Jerrold, Chron. of Clovenook, 130, Whose keen logic would split hairs as a bill-hook would split logs.

Spoon before you spin, You must. 1639: Clarke, 110. 1670: Ray, 145. 1732: Fuller, No. 5970 [with "well" after "spin"].

Spoke in one's wheel, To put a. 1600: Weakest to the Wall, I. 848 (Malone S.), Ile set a spoke in your cart. 1682: A. Behn, Roundheads, V. ii., She speaks as if she were Queen, but I shall put a spoke in her rising Wheel of Fortune. 1712: Spectator, No. 498, Tho' indeed I thought they had clapt such a spoke in his wheel, as had disabled him. 1848: Dickens, Dombey, ch. x., Mrs. Dombey, eh, ma'am? I think not, ma'am. Not while Joe B. can put a spoke in your wheel, ma'am. 1901: N. & Q., 9th ser., vii. 258, The allusion is to the pin or spoke used to lock wheels in machinery; hence, to put an impediment in one's way.

Spoon or spoil a horn, To make a. 1820: Byron, Letters, etc., v. 16 (Prothero), I can't cobble: I must "either make a spoon or spoil a horn." 1824: Scott, Redgauntlet, ch. i., His voice faltering, as he replied, "Ay, ay, I kend Alan was the lad to make a spoon or spoil a horn." 1910: N. & Q., 11th ser., i. 58, A lad showing much promise was commonly referred to [in the Border counties] as one who would "either make a spoon or spoil a horn."

Spoon. See also Silver (6).

Sport is sauce to pains, Some. 1639: Clarke, 191.

Sport is sweetest when no spectators. 1670: Ray, 145.

Sports and journeys men are known, In. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum

Spot is most seen upon the finest cloth, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 421.

Sprained her ankle, She has. 1785: Grose, Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue, s.v. "Ankle," A girl who is got with child is said to have sprained her ankle. Cf. Broken.

Sprat to catch a whale, To throw a—with variants. 1827: Hone, Ev. Day Book, ii. 1410, It is but "giving a sprat to catch a herring," as a body may say. 1850: Dickens, Chuzzlewit, ch. viii., It was their custom, Mr. Jonas said, . . . never to throw away sprats, but as bait for whales. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in N. & Q., 3rd ser., vi. 495. Give a sprat to catch a mackerel. 1869: Hazlitt, 331, Set a herring to catch a whale. 1893: R. L. S., Letters, v. 87 (Tusitala ed.), Baxter . . . will let you see a proof of my introduction,
which is only sent out as a sprat to
catch whales. Cf Small fish
Spread nets, To See quot 1630
Taylor (Water-Poet), Works, 2nd pagn, 152. The old proverb never failed yet,
Who spreads nets for his friends, snare
his own feet

Spring (the season), subs i A late
spring is a great blessing 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 39 (Percy S) 1893
Inwards, Weather Lore, 6
2 A late spring never deceives Ibid, 6
3 A wet spring, a dry harvest 1846
Denham, Proverbs, 32 (Percy S). A
wet spring is a sign of dry weather for
harvest. 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 6
4 Better late spring and bear, than
early blossom and blast Ibid, 6
5 He takes the spring from the year
1823 Ray 75
6 If there's spring in winter, and
winter in spring, The year won't be good
for anything 1659 Howell, Proverbs
Span-Eng, 22, When there is a spring
in winter, and a winter in spring, the
year is never good 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 7
7 In spring a tub of rain makes a
spoonful of mud. In autumn a spoonful
of rain makes a tub of mud Ibid, 6
8 Spring and the daisies See quotes
1852 Chambers, Book of Days, 1 312
(1859), Still we can now plant our "foot
upon many daisies," and not until that
can be done do the old-fashioned
people believe that spring is
really come. 1878 Dyer, Eng Folk-
Lore, 27, "It ain't spring until you
plant your foot upon twelve daisies." is a
proverb still very prevalent 1881
Glos N & Q, 21 43 [as in 1878]
9 The spring is not always green
1846 Denham, Proverbs, 31 (Percy S) 1893
Inwards, Weather Lore, 6
1904 Co Folk-Lore Northumb, 175
(F S L)

See also Blossom, Easter (9), Janu-
ary (2), and Thunder (1) and (4)
Spring at his elbow, He hath a. Said
of a gamester 1678 Ray, 351
Sprotborough, near Doncaster 1869
Hazlitt, 474. Whoso is hungry, and
likes well to eat let him come to Sprot-
borough for his meat, and for a night,
and for a day, his horse shall have both
corn and hay, and no man shall ask
him, when he goeth away

Spruce as an onion, As 1678 Ray,
289

Spun See Spin
Spur in the head is worth two in
the heel, A 1670 Ray, 218 1694
Motteux, Rabelais, bk iv ch lxv, The
horses will perform the better, and that
a spur in the head is worth two in
flank, or in the same horse dialect,
That a cup in the pate Is a mile in the
the gate. 1738 Swift, Polite Con-
vers, Dial II 1854 Baker, Northants
Gloss, s.v "Spur," "A spur"
A common invitation to a person on
horseback to take a parting glass

Spur See also Horse (4), (5), (17),
(18), (19), (27), and (41)

Spy faults if your eyes were out, You
would 1678 Ray, 271

Squirrel, subs i See quot 1830
Forby, Vocal E Anglia, 420, From
the general discouragement shown to
this sport [squirrel-hunting on Christ-
mas Day] probably comes the common
saying, 'Hunt squirrels, and make no
noise.'

2 Within a squirrel's jump Glos
1911 Folk-Lore, xxv 239

Stable door when the steed is stolen,
To shut the [Ne post tempus praedae
paessidnul parem — Plautus, Asin,
294] c 1390 Gower, Conf Amantis,
bk iv l 901, For whom the gret e steede
is stole, thanne he taketh fede, And
maketh the stable doore fast 1484
Caxton, Aesope, n 245 (Jacob), It was
not tyme to shette the stable when the
horses ben loste and gone 1509
Barclay, Shif of Foes, 1 76 (1874),
When the steed is stolyn to shyt the
stable doore Comys small pleasure
profyte or vauntage 1579 Lyly,
Euphues, 37 (Arber), It is too late to
shutte the stable doore when the steede
is stolen 1628 J Clavell, Reca-
tation 38 This like shutting vp the stable
doore When as the horse was stolne
out before 1705 Ward, Illudbris
Rediv, Pt i, can 1 p 10, And that's
but almost like my host, Who stable
shuts when steed is lost, 1725 Bailey,
tr. Erasmus' Colloq., 576. 1886: R. L. S., Kidnapped, ch. xiv. 1907: De Morgan, Alice-for-Short, ch. xxxv., Nothing I have said would warrant such an absurd mistrust of Providence. Besides, it would be merely shutting the stable-door after the steed had broken loose.

Staff, subs. 1. If the staff be crooked, the shadow cannot be straight. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

2. To hold at staff's end. c. 1374: Anel. and Arc., 164 (O.), His new lady holdeth him vp so narowe Vp by the bridil at the staves ende. 1565: Shacklelock, Hatchet of Heresies, fo. 23. They so helde one an other at the staves end. 1596: Lodge, Wits Miserie, 83 (Hunt. Cl.). The most chollerick and troublesome woman living vpon the earth, shee was alwaies at the staves end with my father. 1642: D. Rogers, Matrim. Honour, 294-5, Waspish, froward, holding their husbands at staves end. 1816: Scott, Antiquary, ch. xvi. 1889: R. L. S., Ballantrae, ch. ii., Mrs. Henry had a manner of condensation with him . . . she held him at the staff's end.

See also Stick, subs. (1).

Stafford law = the "law" of the big stick. [c. 1400: Towneley Plays, 29 (E.E.T.S.), But thou were worthi be cled In stafford blew [=blue from bruises from beating]; for thou art alway adred.] 1589: Hay any Wroke, 10 (1845), That I therenghim with blowes, and to deale by stafford law. 1624: T. Heywood, Captives, III. ii., Mildew. Is this lawe? Godfrey. Yes, Stafford's lawe. 1630: Taylor (Water-Poet), Works, 2nd pag., 156, If it were lawfull for me to examine thee at Stafford's Law, I would make thee confess the receit of ten shillings.

Staffordshire. See Shrewsbury.

Stale as custom, As. c. 1592: Sir Thos. More, 32 (Sh. S.), To vrdge my imperfections in excuse, Were all as stale as custome.

Stalking-horse, To make a person or thing a. 1601: Shakespeare, As You Like It, V. iv., He uses his folly like a stalking-horse. 1604: Webster, etc., Malcontent, IV. i., A fellow that makes religion his stalking-horse. 1642: D. Rogers, Matrim. Honour, 55, Pretending that their conscience is the ground, whereas it is but a stalking-horse. 1714: E. Ward, Cavalcade, 3, And Faith . . . Was made a stalking-horse to gold. 1740: North, Examens, 157, To make a stalking horse of the exclusion, to shoot him down. 1855: Kingsley, West. Hol., ch. xxix., Mary's death was as convenient a stalking-horse to him as to the Pope.


Stamps like an ewe upon yeaning, She. Somerset. 1678: Ray, 344.


4. Stand on one side, John Ball, and let my wife see the bar [beard]. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 590. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 44.

5. To stand buff = To stand firm. 1603: D'Urfey, Richmond Heiress, I., I have only hedg'd him into this business to stand buff with his purse upon occasion. 1708: Gibber, Lady's Last Stake, III., She . . . stands buff at the head of the mode, without the least tincture of virtue to put her out of countenance. 1777: Sheridan, Sch. for Scandal, II. iii., Ha! ha! that he should have stood buff to old bachelor so long, and sink into a husband at last! 1827: Scott, Journal, 4 Sept., There is no reason why he should turn on me, but that if he does, reason or none, it is best to stand buff to him.

Standers

600

Steady

Stars begin to huddle, When the, The earth will soon become a puddle 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 65

Starve 'em See quot 1785 Grosi, Class Dict Vulgar Tongue, s v , Starve- 'em, Rob'em, and Cheat'em, Stroud, Rochester and Chatham, so called by soldiers and sailors and not without good reason

Starve in a cook's shop, To 1611 Cotgrave, s v " Aimer," He that loves another better than himselfe, starves in a cooks shop 1630 T Adams, Works, 565, As the by-word is, starving in a cooke's shoppe, wretched in their highest fortunes 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial II , No, my lord, I'll never starve in a cook's shop

Stay, verb 1 He that can stay obtains 1611 Cotgrave, s v " Attendre," He that can stay his time, shall compass any thing 1640 Herbert, jac Prudentum e 1736 Franklin, in Works, i 455 (Bigelow), He that can have patience can have what he will

2 He that stays does the business 1640 Herbert, jac Prudentum

3 She will stay at home, perhaps, if her leg be broke 1732 Fuller, No 4150

4 Stay a little and news will find you 1640 Herbert, jac Prudentum

5 Stay awhile that we may end the sooner 1580 Sidney, Arcadia, bk i p 63 (1803), His horse taught him that " discreet stays make speedy journeys" 1651 Herbert, jac Prudentum 2nd ed 1732 Fuller, No 4203, Stop a little, to make an end the sooner 1823 D'Israeli, Cur of Lit , 2nd ser , i 432 (1824), Sir Ansas Pawlet, when he perceived too much hurry in any business, was accustomed to say, " Stay awhile, to make an end the sooner " 1659 Smiles, Self-Help, 271 (1869), A wise man used to say, " Stay a little, that we may make an end the sooner "

6 Stay till the lame messenger come, if you will know the truth of the thing 1640 Herbert, jac Prudentum

Steady as a buggun [ghost] in a bush, As 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 21

1635 in Somers Tracts, vii 168 (1811), If he either stand in his owne light through wilfulness 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I , Mr Neverout, methinks you stand in your own light 1848 Dickens, Domby, ch xxxix, I can't afford to stand in my own light for your good

7 To stand upon one's pantofles, i.e. on one's dignity 1573 G Harvey, Letter-Book, 14 (Camden S ), He was altogether set on his merrie pinnes, and walked on his statefull pantocles 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Bout," To stand upon his pantofles, or on high tearmes 1631 Mabbe, Celestina, 255 (T T ), The villaine stands upon his pantofles, and begins to looke big 1681 Robertson, Phraseol Generales, 1031, He is grown very proud, he stands on his pantofles 1755 Walpole, Letters, ii 156 (1846) (O), I could not possibly today step out of my high historical pantofles to tell it you

Standers by See Lookers on

Standing pools gather filth 1639 Clarke, 144 1670 Ray, 145 1732 Fuller, No 4257

Stanton Drew See quot 1776 Stukeley, Itin Cur , cent u 169, There is an old proverb common in Somers- shire, " Stanton Drew, a mile from Ponsford, another from Chue " 1849 Halliwell, Pop Rhymes and Nursery Tales 198 [as in 1776]

Stare, verb I See quot 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 143 To stare like a choked throate To stare like a throttled earwag or cat

2 To stare like a stuck pig 1694 Motteux, Relais, bk v ch ix p 41 (O), Pamurge star'd at him like a dead pig 1720 Gay, Poems u 278 (Underhill), Like a stuck pig I gap'ng stare 1759 G Parker Life's Painter, 124, Who gape and stare, just like stuck pigs at each other 1805 Jos Thomas, Randigal Rhymes 61

Staring See Raven

Stars are not seen by sunshine 1623 Wodrowe,e, Spared Hours, 503, The starres do not shine at mid-day 1732 Fuller, No 4258 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 5 (Percy S )
Steal, verb. 1. As good steal a horse as stand by and look on. 1659: Howell, s. 5.
2. He has stolen a roll out of the brewer’s basket. 1678: Ray, 87 ["manchet" for "roll"]; 1732: Fuller, No. 1900. 1745: Franklin, Drinker’s Dict., in Works, ii. 23 (Bigelow) [as in 1678].
3. He that steals can hide. 1732: Fuller, No. 2315.
4. He that will steal an egg will steal an ox. 1639: Clarke, i48. 1670: Ray, i45. 1875: Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 129.
5. One may steal a horse while another may not look over the hedge. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ix., Some man maie steals a hores better Than some other may stonde and looke vpone. 1591: Lyly, Endymion, III. iii., Some man may better steal a horse than another look over the hedge. 1607: Middleton, Mich. Terme, I. i., Some may better steal a horse than others look on. 1683: in Harl. Miscell., vi. 62 (1745). There is an old proverb,—That one may better steal a steed, than another peep over the hedge. 1728: Gay, Beggar’s Opera, III. ii. 1772: Garrick, Irish Widow, I. iii., But an Englishman may look over the hedge, while an Irishman must not steal a horse. 1921: A. Bennett, Things that have Interested Me, 375.
7. To steal a goose and stick down a feather. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi., As dyd the pure penitent that stole a goose And stack downe a fether. 1608: in Harington, Nugas Antiquae, ii. 200 (1804). 1714: Walker, Sufferings of Clergy, Pt. II. 337. For the managers of those times thought fit, when they stole the goose, to stick down a feather.
8. To steal a pin. See Pin, subs. (4); and Sin, subs. (2).

Steed. See Stable door.

Steal to the back. c. 1591: Shakespeare, Titus Andronicus, IV. iii., We are . . . Steele to the very backe. 1633: Draxe, 87. 1678: Ray, 346. Cf. Mettle.


Stew in one’s own juice. See Grease.

Stick and Sticks, subs. 1. A stick is quickly found to beat a dog with. 1563: Becon, Early Works, Pref., 28 (P.S.). How easy a thing it is to find a staff if a man be minded to beat a dog 1594: First Part Contention, 35 (Sh. S.), A staffe is quickly found to beat a dog 1616: Breton, Works, ii. e 6 (Grosart) ["soone" for "quickly"]. 1674: J. Wilson, Andr. Commenius, II. i., One need not go far to find a staff to beat a dog, nor circumstance To make him guilty that’s before foredoom’d! 1727: Bailey, Eng. Dict., s.v. "Dog," He who has a mind to beat a dog, will easily find a stick. 1842: Planché, Extravag., ii. 165 (1879), When you wish to lick A dog, ’tis easy, sir, to find a stick.
2. I gave you a stick to break my own head with. 1732: Fuller, No. 2505.

3. Sticks and stones. See quotes. 1807: N. & Q., 8th ser., xii. 508, I heard this saying in Warwickshire—"Sticks and stones may break my bones; but cruel words can never harm me." 1898: N. & Q., 9th ser., i. 177, "Sticks and stones will break my bones, but scolding will not hurt me," was an old saw in York thirty years ago.

Stick, verb. 1. To stick by the ribs. 1670: Ray, 194.
2. To stick like burs. c. 1510: A. Barclay, Egloges, i8 (Spens. S.), Together they cleave more fast then do
burres 1533 Heywood, *Play of Love*, 1 601, I thought her owne tale lyke a burr Stacke to her owne back 1570 Googe tr *Popish Kingd.*, 20 (1880), But fast as burres to wooll they sticke 1584 Flecknoe, *Loves Dominon*, IV u, Still does this burr stick on me 1720 Gay, *Poems*, u 280 (Underhill), Let us like burrs together stick 1821 Scott, *Pirate*, ch vii, He got rid of his travelling companions, who at first stuck, as fast as burrs 1854 Baker, *Northants Gloss*, s v "Burr," Hence the old adage, "Sticks like a burr to a beggar's rag" 1925 *Temes Lit Suppl.*, 21 May, p 348 col 2, Phrases that stick like burrs in the memory Cf Cleave

Stiff as a poker 1797 Colman, jr., *Heir at Law*, III u, Stuck up as stiff as a poker 1828 Carr, *Graven Dialect*, u 52, "As stiff as a poker," a proverbial simile generally applied to a haughty coxcomb "He's as stiff as an ad swallowed a poker"

Stiff as a stake c 1566 *Albon Knight*, in Malone S's *Colins*, i 236, As styffe as a stake Battayle to make 1607 T Dilke, *City Lady*, III u, In the morning he may find himself as cold as a stone, and as stiff as a stake

Stiff as Barker's knee See the 1913 quot 1865 Hunt, *Pop Rom W* of *England*, 88 (1896) 1882 F W P Jago, *Gloss of Cornish Dialect*, 112 1913 T M Wright, *Rustic Speech*, etc., 199, Once upon a time there was a miner called Barker, who was so foolhardy enough to say he did not believe there were any Knockers [spirits that haunt Cornish tin-mines] In revenge for this insult, a crowd of Knockers waylaid him and pelted him with their tools, causing him a lifelong injury, whence grew up the proverb As stiff as Barker's knee

Stile, subs 1 He that will not go over the stile, must be thrust through the gate 1678 Ray, 206

2 You would be over the stile before you come at it 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch 9 1566 Gascogne, *Supposes*, II 1, You would fayne leape over the stile before you come at the hedge 1670 Ray, 184, To leap over the hedge, before you come at the stile 1710 S Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 188, Don't go over, etc 1712 Motteux, *Quvrot*, Pt I bk III ch 4v [as in 1670] See also Style

Still as a stone c 1300 Havelok, 1 928 (EETS), Havelok sette him dun anon, Also stilte als a ston c 1400 Beryn, 1 653 (EETS), But lay as styll as ony stome c 1490 *Pastonope*, 1 1282 (EETS), But lyethe as stytle as any stone c 1530 *Thos of Erckeldeome*, 1 233 (Lansdowne, EETS), Thomas stode styll as stone 1768 Brooke, *Foot of Quality*, u 117 1820 Scott, *Monastery*, ch xiv 1922 Weyman, *Ovington's Bank*, ch xxix

Still dog See Dog (II)

Stillest humours are always the worst, The 1670 Ray, 25 1732 Fuller, No 4768

Still he fishes See Fish, verb (3)


Clarissa, viii. 146 (1785), The stillest waters is the deepest. 1781: Macklin, Man of the World, I., Smooth water, you know, sir, runs deepest. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. vi., Still waters are the deepest; but the shallowest Brooks brawl the most.

Still waters, Take heed of, the quick pass away. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.


Still. Cf. Quiet.

Stink. See Polecat.

Stinking fish, No man cries. 1664: J. Wilson, Cheats, IV. ii., Did you ever hear a fishwife cry stinking mackarel? 1708: tr. Aleman's Gazan, i. 278, He won't cry stinking fish, and tell you he has none that's good. 1801: Wolcot, Works, v. 302 (1801). Yet people will in answer say, "'Tis the world's way—We never hear a man cry 'Stinking Fish!'" 1844: Thackeray, B. Lyndon, ch. iii., I replied that I was a young gentleman of large fortune (this was not true; but what is the use of crying bad fish?)

1927: Sphere, 26 Nov., p. 366, col. 4, I for one should like to cry truce to everlasting criticism... Let us for a while cry no more stinking fish.


Stitch in time saves nine, A. [Principis obsta.—Ovid, Rem. Am., 91.] 1732: Fuller, No. 6291, A stitch in time may save nine. 1845: Planché, in Extravag, iii. 31 (1879). We take a stitch in time that may save nine.

1922: Times, 2 June, p. 5, col. 2, With streets, as with clothes, a stitch in time saves nine.

Stitch your seam before you've tacked it, Don't. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 50.

Stoat. See quot. 1805: Jos. Thomas, Randigal Rhymes, 61, Screech like a whitneck [stoat].


Stockport. See quot. Ibid., 155, When the world was made the rubbish was sent to Stockport.

Stockport chaise, A = Two women riding sideways on one horse. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, ii. 171, Stopport-Chaise, Two women riding together on horseback. Stopport is the Craven pronunciation of Stock-port. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 21.

Stoke in the Vale. See Higham.

Stolen pleasures are sweetest. 1611: Bible, Proverbs ix. 17, Stolen waters are sweet 1632: Massinger, City Madam, II. i., And, pleasure stolen being sweetest... 1636: Dekker, Wonder of a Kingdom, II, Gold barr'd with locks, Is best being stolen 1671: Head and Kirkman, Eng. Rogue, II., Pref. to Reader, Following the proverb, that stolen meat is sweetest. 1696: Vanbrugh, Relapse, III., Nay, I must confess stolen pleasures are sweet. 1709: Cibber, Rival Fools, I, Stolen sweets are best. 1840: Barham, Ing. Legends: "A New Play," Stolen kisses are sweet. 1855: Gaskell, North and South, ch. xxxi., Some one had told you that stolen fruit tasted sweetest.

Stomach. See quot. 1605: Camden, Remains, 333 (1870), To have a stomach and lack meat, to have meat and lack a stomach, to lie in bed and cannot rest are great miseries.

Stone and Stones, subs. 1. A stone in a well is not lost. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

2. It is evil running against a stone wall. 1560: T. Wilson, Rhetorique, 189 (1909).

3. The stone that lieth not in your way need not offend you. 1732: Fuller, No. 4770.


See also Still as a stone.

Stool in the sun. See quot. 1659: Howell, 4, Put a stool in the sun, when one knave riseth another comes. 1670: Ray, 146 [as in 1659]. 1732: Fuller, No. 4105 [as in 1659]. 1780: Mother
Bunch, Sec Part, 27 (Gomme, 1885), Remember the old proverb, Set thy
stoil in the sun, if a knave goes an
man may come
Stoop so low to take up just nothing
at all, I will never 1732 Fuller, No
2641
Stoop that hath a low door, He must
1678 Ray, 171 1732 Fuller, No
1995
Stop, verb 1 He who will stop every
man's mouth, must have a great deal of
1855 Bohn, 401
2 Stop stitch See quot 1828
Carr, Craven Dialect, n 169, "Stop
stitch while I put t'needle in," a
proverbial expression when one
washes not to be in a hurry about
anything
3 To stop two gaps with one bush
1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch
1594 Bacon, Promus, No 678
1639 Fuller, Holy War, bk v ch
xxvi, These Italians stopped two gaps
with one bush 1681 Robertson,
Phraseal Generalis, 1174 1732 Fuller,
No 5234
4 To stop two mouths with one morsel
1639 Clarke, 45 1670 Ray, 197
1681 Robertson, Phraseal Generalis,
1174
5 Ye will as soon stop gaps with
rushes 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt
II ch ix
Stopford law, no stake no draw
1678 Ray, 301 1790 Grose, Prov
Gloss, s v "Cheshire" 1917 Bridge,
Cheshire Proverbs, 110, Stopford law,
etc Cf Lancashire law
Store is no sore 1471 Ripley,
Comp Alch XII vii, in Ashm 186
(1652) (O), For wyse men done sey store
ys no sore 1553 Respublica, I 1
The worlde waxeth harde, and store
(they saie) is no sore 1632 Jonson
Magna Lady, II 1646 Quares, Shep
Oracles, Egl n 1720 C Shadwell,
Sham Prince, II 1 1776 Colman,
Spleen, I 1869 Spurgeon, John
Ploughman, ch xvi, Why not get two
or three weeks' supply at once and so
get it cheaper? Store is no sore
Storm, subs 1 After a storm comes
a calm 1377 Langland, Plowman,
B, xvii 409, "After sharpe shoures,"
quod Pees, "moste shene is the sonne"
1590 Greene, Works, v11 101 (Grosart),
Euerie storme hath his calme 1614
Minshull, Essayes, etc, 18 (1821), After
storms calmes will arise 1630 Dav-
nant, Cruel Brother, I 1712 Motteux,
Quixote, Pt II ch xix 1804 Byron,
Letters, etc, i 40 (Prothero) 1893
Inwards, Weather Lore, 75
2 Always a calm before a storm
1590 Greene, Works, v11 57 (Grosart),
Little thinking poore soules such a
sharp storme shuld follow so quiet a
calme 1597 H Lok, Poems, 108
(Grosart), And stormes insue the calme
before that went 1633 Drake, 23,
After a calme commeth a storme
1803 Inwards, Weather Lore, 75
3 The sharper the storm, the sooner
its over Ovirdsh 1913 Folk-Lore,
xxiv 76
4 The sudden storm lasts not three
hours 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore,
74
5 To raise a storm in a tea-cup
[Ellucr excitare in simpulo—Cicero,
De Legibus, in 16] 1678 Ormond,
in Hist MSS Comm, Ormonde MSS,
v 292 (O), Our skirmish com-
pared with the great things now on
foot, is but a storm in a cream bowl
1872 W Black, Strange Adv Phaeton,
ch xix
Story See Tale
Stout, I, and thou stout, who shall
bear the ashes out? "Stout" = proud
1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch x
["proud" for "stout"] 1631 J Donne,
Polydorom 44 carry the dirt out?
1732 Fuller, No 6284 [as in 1631]
Straight
As a line 1412-20 Lyd
gate, Troy Book, bk ii 1 6739, The wey
hem ladde To the pales, streight as any
lyne 1587 Churchyard, Worth of
Wales, 17 (Spens S), Upright as
straight as line 1641 Evelyn, Diary,
1 28 (Bray, 1883), The river, ten miles
in length, straight as a line 1872
Hardy, Greenwood Tree, Pt II ch ii, I
say that we all move down-along
straight as a line to Pa'son Mayble's'
1896 Conan Doyle, Rodney Stone, ch
xv. If I didn't know that he was as
straight as a line, I'd ha' thought he was planning a cross and laying against himself. 1901: Raymond, Idler Out of Doors, 118. This tidal river, in one part straight as a line.

Straight as a loitch [loach]. 1682: N. & Q., 6th ser., v. 28, "Straight as a loitch." . . . has been in common use in this part of Yorkshire [Batley] from time immemorial. It is used to express . . . perfect straightness.


Straight as a rush. 1892: Heslop, Northumb. Words, 566 (E.D.S.), "Streit as a rasher" [rush] is a proverbial expression.

Straight as a yard o' pump water, As. 1886: R. Holland, Cheshire Gloss., 446 (E.D.S.), . . . Often said of a tall, lanky girl.

Straight as my leg. 1720: Gay, Poems, ii. 279 (Underhill), Straight as my leg her shape appears. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I., Straight! Ay, straight as my leg, and that's crooked at knee.

Straight as the back-bone of a her- ring. 1678: Ray, 289.

Straight stick is crooked in the water, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 425.

Straight trees have crooked roots. Ibid., No. 4264.


Strange beast that hath neither head nor tail, It is a. 1633: Draxe, 201. 1639: Clarke, 8.

Stranger's eye sees clearest, A. 1860: Reade, Cl. and Hearth, ch. ivii. [cited as "a common saying"]. Cf. Lookers on.

Straw and Straws, subs. 1. He gives straw to his dog, and bones to his ass.

1813: Ray, 75.

2. Straws show which way the wind blows. 1802: Gouv. Morris, in Life, etc., by Sparks (1832), iii. 166 (O.), Straws and feathers . . . show which way the wind blows. 1860: Reade, Cl. and Hearth, ch. ivi., Such straws of speech show how blows the wind 1920: Lucas, Ingleside, ch. ii. 1922: We- man, Ovington's Bank, ch. xiii.


See also Candelmas, D; and Drowning. Strawberry. See Oak (4).

Stream can never rise above the spring-head, The. 1732: Fuller, No. 4771.

Stretcheth his foot beyond the blanket, shall stretch it in the straw, Whoso. c. 1240: Grosteste, Book of Husbandry, quoted Riley, Memorials of London, 8, n. 4. Whoso streket his fot forthere than the whitel [blanket] will reche, he schal streken in the straw. 1377: Langland, Plowman, B, xiv. 233. For when he streyneth hym to streche the straw in his schetes. c. 1393: Ibid., C, xvii. 76 [as in 1377, but with "whitel" for "schetes"]. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Arm." Stretch your legs according to your coverlet.


Strie. See Wife (10).


2. He that strikes with his tongue, must ward with his head. 1640: Her- bert, Jac. Prudentum. 1670: Ray, 26. 1732: Fuller, No. 2319.

3. He that strikes with the sword. See Sword (1).

4. Strike Dawkin! See Devil (35).

5. Strike, or give me the bill—Mind what you are about. 1672: Walker, Paroem., 37.

6. To strike while the iron is hot. c. 1374: Chaucer, Troylus, bk. ii. l. 1276, Pandare, which that stood hir faste by,
Felte irron hoot, and he bogan to smythe 1412-20 Lydgate, Troy Book, bk ii 1 6210, The irron hoot, tyme is for to smyte c 1489 Caxton, Sonnes of Aymon, 136 (EETS), When the irron is well hoot, hit wereth the better 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch vii, When thyron is hot strike 1603 Dekker, Works, 1 100 (Grosart), Seeing the dice of Fortune run so sweetly, and resolving to strike whilst the iron was hote 1668 Shadwell, Sullen Lovers, IV 1. Ask no more questions, but to her, and strike while the iron's hot 1706 Farquhar, Recruit Officer, IV ii c 1750 Foote, English in Paris, I 1841 Dickens, Barn Rudge, ch xlv, Where's the good of putting things off? Strike while the iron's hot, that's what I say 1922 Weyman, Ownton's Bank, ch xii

Strip it See quot 1678 Ray, 289, Thou'll strip it as Slack stript the cat, when he pull'd her out of the churn

Strive against the stream, To [Dingere brachia contra Torrentem—Juvenal, iv 89] c 1270 Prov of Alfred, in Morris, Old Eng Miscell, i10 (EETS), Strong hit is to reowe a-yein the see that floweth c 1311 in Wright, Pol Songs, 254 (Camden S), Whoso roweth agen the flod, Off sorwe he shall drinke c 1390 Gower, Conf Amantis, bk iv 1 1780, Heere is to wayte upon the tyde Than rowe a-yein the stremes stronge c 1480 Digby Plays, 156 (EETS), Ya, I wyll no more row a-yein the flode Before 1529 Skelton, in Works, i 418 (Dyce), He is not wyse a-yein the stremme that stryvith c 1590 Greene, Alphonsus, I i, In vain it is to strive against the stream 1694 Terence made English, 207, For what a madness is it to strive against the stream 1728 Fielding, Love in several Masques, V xii 1822 Scott, Nigel, Intro Epistle, No one shall find me rowing against the stream I care not who knows it— I write for general amusement

Stroke at every tree without falling any, A 1855 Bohn, 301

Strokes are good to give, they are good to receive, If 1732 Fuller, No 2700

Stroke with one hand, and stab with the other, To 1bid, No 5236

Strong affections give credit to weak arguments 1639 Clarke, 27

Strong as a horse See Horse (24)

Strong as mustard 1659 Howell, 18 1670 Ray, 207 1720 Gay, Poems, ii 277 (Underhill), My passion is as mustard strong

Stronger house = prison See quot 1639 Clarke, 209, 'You'll be sent to a stronger house than ever your father built for you

Strong man, The See quot 1871 Smiles, Character, 16 , ' The strong man and the waterfall,' says the proverb, "channel their own path"

Stumble in a fallow field, He seeks for Glos 1639 in Berkeley MSS, in 27 (1885)

Studies his content, wants it, He that 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Aise," Hee that studies his contentment overmuch, ever wants it 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

Study, In a See Brown study

Stumble may prevent a fall, A 1732 Fuller, No 424

Stumble, verb I He that stumbles and falls not, mends his pace 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Choper," He that stumbles without falling, gets the more forward 1650 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1655 Fuller, Church Hist, bk vii § 11 (32), He that stumbles, and doth not fall down, gaineth ground thereby 1732 Fuller, No 2316, He that stumbles and falls not quite, gains a step

2 He who stumbles twice over the same stone, deserves to break his shins 1875 Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 114

3 To stumble at a straw and leap over a block 1526 Hund Mery Tayles No xvi p 29 (Oesterley), As ye comen proverbs is they stumble at a straw and lepe over a blok 1585 Greene Works, v 90 (Grosart), Tush fond foole, if thou stumble at a straw thou shalt never leap over a blocke 1630 T Adams, Works, 327, Doe they not stumble at our strawes, and leape over their owne blockes? 1732 Fuller, No 4270
4. To stumble at the truckle-bed. 1678: Ray, 81.

5. To stumble on plain ground. 1869: Hazlitt, 432.

Sturdy. See Great tree.

Style toward, A, and a wife forward, are uneasy companions. Glos. I do not understand this saying. Perhaps it should be s.v. “Stile.” 1639: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 32 (1885).

Subject, subs. i. The subject’s love is the King’s life-guard. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s. v. Cf. People’s love.

2. The subject’s riches is the King’s power. Ibid.

Subjects. See Wife (9).

Subtle as a dead pig, As. 1672: Walker, Parem, i. 1681: Robertson, Phrased. Generalis, i185. He’s as subtle as a dead pig; Non plus sapit, quam sus metata

Subtlety is better than force. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s. v.

Success is never blamed. 1732: Fuller, No. 4273. Cf. Nothing (27).

Success makes a fool seem wise. 1855: Bohn, 492.

Such a beginning, such an ending. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ix., Such beginning, such ende 1670: Ray, 3. 1732: Fuller, No. 4274.

Such a cup, such a cruse. 1549: Latimer, Seven Sermons, 143 (Arber).

Such as the priest, is such the clerk. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., I, Such as the abbot is, such is the monk. 1732: Fuller, No. 4279.

Such a welcome, such a farewell. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vii. 1670: Ray, 28. 1732: Fuller, No. 4278.

Such beef, such broth. 1598: Meres, Palladis, fo. 218.


Such cup, such cover. 1532: More, Confut. of Tyndale, Pref., sig. Bbl. A very mete cover for such a cuppe. 1565: Shacklock, Hatchet of Heresies, sig. b 6. As saythe the proberb, a mete couer for such a cup 1639: in Berkeley MSS. iii., 32 (1885), The cup and cover will hold together. 1642: D. Rogers, Matrim Honour, 277. 1655: Fuller, Church Hist., bk. ix. § ii. (20), And became great with the Duke de Alva (like cup, like cover!) . . .

Such saint, such offering. 1581: T. Howell, Devises, 74 (1906), Such saintes, such seruice. 1651: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium, 2nd ed. 1670: Ray, 115, Like saint like offering.

Such tree, such fruit. Before 1300: Cursor Mundi, l. 38, O gode pertre coms god peres Wers tre, vers fruit it beres. [Of good pear-tree comes good pears Worse tree worse fruit it bears.] c. 1370: Wichl, Eng. Works, 331 (E.E.T.S.), But who shold preise this lawe therfore? sith yuel fruit witnesseh yuel rote. 1402: Hoccleve, Minor Poems, 79 (E.E.T.S.), A wikked tre, gode frute may noon forth bryng; for swiche the frute ys as that is the tre. Before 1529: Skelton, Works, i. 214 (Dyce), For it is an aucyent brute, Suche apple tre, suche, frute. 1584: Greene, Works, iii. 10 (Grosart). 1611: Cotgrave, s. v. “Doux,” Such as the tree such is the fruit. 1664: J. Wilson, Andr. Commentis, III. iii., Don’t we know the tree By its fruit. 1732: Fuller, No 4280 [as in 1611]. Cf. Tree (8).


Sudden friendship, sure repentance. Ibid., No. 4281. Cf. Sudden trust.

Sudden glory soon goes out. Ibid., No. 4282.

Sudden joy kills sooner than excessive grief. 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. ii., It is usually said that sudden joy as soon kills as excessive grief. 1732: Fuller, No. 4283

Sudden rising hath a sudden fall, A. c. 1440: Lydgate, Fall of Princes, bk. ix. 1. 1211, Sodeyn clymbing axeth a sodeyn fall, c 1615: R. C., Times Whistle, 39 (E.E.T.S.), And ’tis a saying held for true of all, “A sudden rising hath a sudden fall.”

Sudden trust brings sudden repentance.
Suds, In the See Leave, verb (8)
Suff er See Patience (6)
Suff erance cometh ease, Of c 1386
Chaucer, Merch Tale, 1 871, Passe over
is an ese, I see na-more c 1390
Gower, Conf Amantis, bk m 1 1672,
For sufrance is the welle of Pes [Peace]
1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch x
1598 Shakespeare, 2 Hen IV V iv
1607 Marston What You Will, Prol,
Ile give a proverbe,—Suff erance giveth ease
1678 Ray, 207 1736 Bailey,
Dict s v
Suff erance See also Forbearance
Suff er and expect 1640 Herbert,
Jac Prudentium
Suff erer overcomes See Patience (6)
Suff er the ill and look for the good
1578 Flono, First Fruites, fo 33, I
suffer the bad hoping for the better
1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 117
Suffolk cheese—proverbial for hard-
ness 1661 Pepys, Diary, 4 Oct,
I found my woman vexed at her
people for grumbling to eat Suffolk
cheese 1662 Fragn Aulica, 60,
He could be glad to have had
a suffolke cheeste and twelfpenny loafe
1691 Shadwell, Scourers, V 1, Who
snores with fumes from Suffolk cheese
and bacon 1706 Ward, Works m
124 Curse his thin beer, and rail at
Suffolk cheese 1737 Pope, Imit of Horace, Sat vi bk 11, Chees as such as
men in Suffolk make, But wished it
Stilton for his sake 1865 W White,
Eastern England, ii 176, I forebore to
ask him if he liked Suffolk cheese which
is described as hard as ground-
stones so hard that even rats and mice
refuse it See also Hunger
Suffolk fair maids 1622 Drayton
Poliov, xxiii, Fair Suffolk maids and
milk. 1662 Fuller, Worthies, n 161
(1840) 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v
"Suffolk"
Suffolk milk. 1622 Drayton, Polyol,
xxiii at supra 1790 Grose, s v
"Suffolk."
Suffolk stiles = ditches 1662 Ful-
er, Worthies, n 161 (1840) Cf Essex
stiles

Suffolk whine, The 1790 Grose,
Prov Gloss, s v "Suffolk"
Sut is best that best suits me, That
1639 Clarke, 16 1670 Ray, 46
[with "fits" for "suits"]
Suts hang half a year in West-
minster Hall, at Tyburn half an hour's
hanging endeth all 1869 Hazlitt,
347
Sulky See Bull (2), and Cross (1)
Summer, subs 1 A cool summer and
a light weight in the bushel 1893
Inwards, Weather Lore, 8
2 A dry summer never begs its bread
Somerset Ibid., 7
3 A dry summer never made a dear
peck Ibid., 7
4 A dry summer never made a full
peck 1882 Mrs Chamberlain, W
Worcs Words 38 (E D S)
5 An English summer 1846 Den-
ham, Proverbs, 48 (Percy S),
two
fine days and a thunderstorm 1854
Doran, Table Traits, 27,
three hot
days and a thunderstorm 1893 In-
wards, Weather Lore, 7,
two hot
days and a thunderstorm
6 Summer in winter, and a summer's
flood Never boded England good 1846
Denham, Proverbs, 68 (Percy S) 1893
Inwards, 8 ["an Englishman" for
"England"]
7 There's no summer, but it has a
winter 1846 Denham, 48 1904 Co
Folk-Lore Northumb, 178 (F L S)
8 To dream of a dry summer 1568
W Fulwood Ennemie of Idlenesse, 217
(1593), I thinke you dreame of a dre-
summer 1639 Clarke, 64 1670
Ray, 172
See also One fair day, Swallow, and
Winter, passim

Sun, subs 1 A morning sun See
quots 1640 Herbert, Jac Pruden-
tum, The morning sun never lasts a
day Ibid., A morning sun and a wine-
bred child and a Latin-bred woman
seldom end well 1887 N & Q, 7th
ser., iv 447, The old proverbe in com-
mon use in Yorkshire certainly seventy
years ago, which runs thus "A morn-
ing without clouds, a child that drinks
wine and a woman that talks Latin
seldom come to a good end" 1893
Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 48 [as in 1640, first quart.].


3. He hath the sun on his face, and th' wind on's back. 1639: Clarke, 42.


5. If the sun goes pale to bed, 'Twill rain to-morrow, it is said. 1893: Inwards, 52.


7. If the sun sets clear, it is a sign of fair weather. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Clear."

8. The sun can be seen by nothing but its own light. 1732: Fuller, No. 4774.


10. The sun shines on both sides of the hedge. Ibid., 49

11. They that walk in the sun will be tanned at last. 1560: T. Wilson, *Rhetorique*, Proli. (1909). He that goeth in the sunshine shall bee sunne burnt, although he thinke not of it. 1638: D. Tuvill, *Vade Mecum*, 56 (3rd ed.). Hee that walketh in the sun shall be tan'd. 1670: Ray, 146. 1732: Fuller, No. 4986. They that walk in the sun must be content to be tanne'd.


Thos' the sun shines take your cloak. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 1 (Percy S.) ["coat" for "cloak"].


14. When the sun is highest he casts the least shadow. 1732: Fuller, No. 5607.


16. When the sun sets in a bank, A westerly wind we shall not want. 1846: Denham, 12. 1893: Inwards, 52 ["lack" for "want"].

17. When the sun shines, no body minds it; but when he is eclipsed, all consider him. 1732: Fuller, No. 5608. 1846: Denham, 5.

See also *Candlemas*, A and F; *Christmas* (22); *Cloud* (2–4); *Easter* (7); *January* (12) and (14); *March* (18), (35), (37), (45), and (46); *Red at night*; *Saturday* (3); *Shrovetide* (4) and (5); *Sunday* (2); and *Wind*, A (a) (18).


2. If sunset on *Sunday* is cloudy, it will rain before Wednesday. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 43.

3. Sunday clearingly, clear till Wednesday. Ibid., 43.

4. Sunday's child is full of grace, Monday's child is full in the face, Tuesday's child is solemn and sad, Wednesday's child is merry and glad, Thursday's child is inclined to thievings, Friday's child is free in giving, Saturday's child works hard for his living. 1865: Hunt, *Pop. Romances W. of Eng.*, 430 (1896). Cf. Monday (5).

5. Sunday shaven, Sunday shorn, Better hadst thou ne'er been born! 1879:
Sunderland, Folk-Lore of N Counties, 18

6 The first Sunday in the middle of the week = never 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 596

7. When it storms on the first Sunday in the month, it will storm every Sunday 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 43

See also Alike every day, Christmas (19), Come (8), Friday (6), (10), and (12), Monday (4), Moon (3) and (14) and Saturday (1)

Sunderland sowies  See quot 1846–59 Denham Tracts 167 (F L S) This rather coarse and unenviable epithet is even down to the present day, applied to the fair sex of Sunderland The meaning of the word sowies, although now nearly forgotten, is evidently the diminutive of sow

Sunshine but hath some shadow, No 1658 R Franck, North Memoirs, 36 (1821), No sun shines without some cloud 1670 Ray, 146 1732 Fuller, No 3631

Sunshiny rain See Rain (5)

Sup, verb  He sups ill who eats up all at dinner 1611 Cotgrave, s v Disner, Mal soupe qui tout disne He sups ill that dines all, after a glutonous and disordinate youth, follows a needle and hungre age 1732 Fuller, No 2030

2 He sups who sleeps 1860 Reade, Cl and Hearn, ch xxiv, It is ill sitting up wet and fasting, and the byword saith, He sups who sleeps

3 Sup, Simon  See quot 1607 The Puritan, III v, Sup, Simon, now! eat porridge for a month 1639 Clarke, 46, Sup Simon 'tis best th bottome [or] here's good broth 1670 Ray, 217, Sup Simon, the best is at the bottom 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial II, Sup, Simon, very good broth 1854 Baker, Northants Gloss, s v Sup, Sup, Simon! its excellent broth! A common ironical recommendation to any one taking medicine or anything nauseous or disagreeable

4 To sup sorrow c 1395 Plowman's Tale, in Skeat's Chaucer, vn 182, Hir servaunts sitte and soupe sorowel 1738 Swift Polite Convers, Dial I,

I'll make you one day sup sorrow for this

5 Who sups well sleeps well 1666 Torriano, Piazza Univ, 44

Supermaculum, To drink = to the last drop See 1813 quot 1592 Nashe, Works, ii 78 (Grosart), He is no body that cannot drinke super nagulum 1617 T Young, quoted in Brand Pop Aniq, ii 331 (Bohn), He is a man of no fashion that cannot drinke super-nagulum 1675 Mistaken Husband, IV vi, Pledge the gentleman—super-nagulum 1682 A Behn, False Count, IV 1, Your true bred woman of honour drinks all, Supernaculum, by Jove 1709 Ward, Acc of Clubs, 283 (1756), Here's your old health, To the best in Christendom, and off it went to a super-nagulum drop 1813 Brand, Pop Aniq, ii 342 (Bohn), To drink supernaculum was an ancient custom of emptying the cup or glass, and then pouring the drop or two that remained at the bottom upon the person's nail that drank it, to show that he was no fincher 1823 Moor, Suffolk Words, 409, Supernaculum A word well known and occasionally heard in social circles in Suffolk something supercunous [This is a "supercunous 'perversion of the word's meaning"] 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, ii 181, Supernaculum Good liquor of which there is not even a drop left to wet one's nail! Cf Pearl

Supplerless Better to go to bed supplerless than to rise in debt 1659 Howell, Proverbs Span-Eng, 6, Tis wholsomer to go to bed without a supper, then rise in debt 1670 Ray, 7 1736 Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i 451 (Bigelow) ["Rather ' for "Better"] 1859 Smiles, Self-Help, 305 (1869)

Supple knees feed arrogance 1855 Bohn, 492

Sure and unsure are not all one 1639 Clarke 29

Sure as a club 1577 Misogonus, III ii, Laturgus brings him as sure as a club 1584 R Scot Witchcraft bk iv ch xix, Her prophese fell out as sure as a club 1656 Flecknoe
Sure

Diarium, 45. Sure as a club 'twill happen t' ye.

Sure as a gun. 1622: B. & F., Prophetaes, I. iii., You are right, master, Right as a gun. 1656: Musarum Deliciæ, i 94 (Hottén), But when he thought her as sure as a gun, She set up her tail, and away she run. 1693: Congreve, Double Dealer, V. xx. 1734: Fielding, Don Quix. in England, II. viii., As sure as a gun—this is he. 1766: Anstey, New Bath Guide, Lett. viii. 1846: Bentley Ballads, 7 (1876). 1886: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 729 (E.D.S.), Sure or Safe as a gun. Usual similes.


Sure as check = Exchequer pay. 1630: Taylor (Water-Poet), Works, 1st pagin., 85, But those worthy mariners are dead, and an old prouerbe, As sure as Check with them. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, ii. 412 (1840), As sure as Exchequer pay. 1670: Ray, 207, As sure as Check, or Exchequer pay. This was a proverb in Queen Elizabeth's time. 1732: Fuller, No 732 [as in 1662].

Sure as death. c. 1460: Wyse Man taught hys Sone, I. 93 (E.E.T.S.), For deth, my chylde, is, as y trove, The most ryght serteyn [thing] it is. 1484: Caxton, tr. Chartier's Curial, 19 (E.E.T.S.), Ne than the deth nothing more certayn. 1596: Jonson, Ev. Man in Humour, II. i., Nay as sure as death, That they would say. 1606: Chapman, Mons. d'Olive, IV. ii., A love-letter from that lady would retrieve him as sure as death. 1726: Defoe, Hist. of Devil, Pt. II. ch. vi. 232 (4th ed.), Things as certain as death and taxes. 1780: Burgeyne, Lord of Manor, I. i. 1850: Dickens, Copperfield, ch. li., It is as certain as death. 1926: Phillpotts, Yellow Sands, I., I'll drown to-night sure as death!

Sure as God made little apples. 1894: Northall, Folk Phrases, ii (E.D.S.). 1911: N. & Q., 11th ser., iv. 289, . . . I recently heard this saying twice in the same week in the Manchester dis-

trict. 1911: Ibid., 377, I have always understood that this was a Devonshire or West Country proverb, and that the full rendering was: "As sure as God made little apples on big trees." [Other correspondents at the same reference testify to the use of the saying in the North Midlands, Norwich, and Bristol. The Derbyshire version has "crab" for "little."]

Sure as the coat's on one's back. 1639: Clarke, 209 ["your" for "one's"]. 1670: Ray, 208. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Cap," As sure as the cloths on his back.


Sure bind. See Safe bind.

Surety. See Certainty.

Surety for another. See quotes. 1539: Taverner, Proverbs, 20, Be sure tie for an other and harme is at hande. 1633: Draxe, 199, He that is surety for another must pay. 1651: Herbert,Jac. Prudentium, 2nd ed., He that will be surety shall pay. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. iv., He who is surety is never sure

Surgeon must have an eagle's eye, a lion's heart, and a lady's hand, A. 1589: L. Wright, Display of Dutie, 37, In a good chirurgian, a hawkes eye: a lyons heart: and a ladies hand. 1619: Helpe to Discourse, 104-5 (1640) [as in 1589]. 1670: Ray, 36, A good chirurgian must, etc. c. 1671: in Roxb. Ballads, vii. 546 (B.S.), This maid with ingenuity had every surgeon's part, A lady's hand, an eagle's eye, but yet a lyon's heart. 1732: Fuller, No. 4292. 1868: Quart. Review, cxxv. 252.

Surgeon. See also Pitiful.

Surly as a butcher's dog. 1670: Ray, 208. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. iv.


Suspicion has double eyes. 1597: Shakespeare, Henry IV., V.ii., Suspicion all our lives shall be stuck full of eyes. c. 1680: in Roxb. Ballads, vi. 317 (B.S.), It is a proverb of old, "Suspicion hath double eyes."
Sussex weeds — oaks 1911 A S Cooke, Off Beaten Track in Sussex, 332, If you are not quite among the "deep ghylls" at Hartfield, you are certainly among the "Sussex weed." The oaks in Buckhurst Park are a sight to gladden the eyes.

Sutton See York


Sutton-Well and Kenchester are able to buy all London, were it to sell. 1659 Howell, 20. 1790 Grose, Proverbs, s.v. "Sutton." There is current in the district of West Kent and East Surrey a couplet which runs thus: "Sutton for mutton, Kirby for beef, South Darnem for gingerbread, Dartford for a thief."

Sutton windmill See quot. 1600 Heywood, Eau IV, Pt 1, in Dramatic Works, i 45 (1874). I am just akin to Sutton windmill. I can grind which way soe're the winde blow.

Swallow does not make a summer, One [a]xlad, yop, av wisti—Anstottle, Eliz. N. i 17 (16). 1539 Taverner, Proverbs, fo. 25. It is not one swallow that grytheth in somer 1597 Deloney, Tacke of Newthere, ch. 1. Nay soft (said the widow) one swallow does not make a summer, not one meeting a marriage 1634 C. Butler, Feminine Monarchie 46. 1784 New Foundl. Hosp. for War, ii 67. One swallow does not make a spring 1850 Dickens, Chuzzlew. ch. xiii. 1854 J. W. Warner, Last of Old Squares, 139 [as in 1784]. 1920 Sphere, 10 Apr., p. 27, col. 2. One swallow does not make a summer, but one gazer inevitably makes a crowd.

Swallow See also Robin and Snail (4)

Swallow, verb. 1 He hath swallowed a spider—He has been bankrupt 1659 Howell, 6. 1670 Ray, 334. 1754 Berthelson, Eng. -Danish Dict., s.v. "Swallow.

2 To swallow a gudgeon = To be gull'd 1579 Lyly, Euphues, 68 (Arber). Take heed thy Phialatous, that thou thy self swallow not a gudgeon 1854 Lodge, Alarum Against Usurers 44 (Sh. S.), Those gentlemen who have swallowed the gudgeon and have been intangled in the hoopke 1607 Dekker and Webster, Northw. Hoe, iv 19. If the gudgeon had been swallowed by one of you it had been vile 1732 Fuller, No. 1902. He hath swallow'd a gudgeon 1554. Halliwell, Dict., s.v. "Gudgeon."

To swallow a gudgeon to be caught or deceived, to be made a fool of 1683 Squire, 43. To swallow an ox See Ox (10)

4 To swallow a stake See Eat (31)

5 To swallow a tavern token See Tavern token.

Swan sings before death, The [Olorum morte narratur siebilis cantus, falsa ut arbitror alquoth experimentum —Pliny, Hist., x 23] 1398 Trespass, tr. Glanville's De Propr. Rer., XII n. x. And when she (the swan) should dye and that a fether is pyght in the brayn, then she syngethe, as Ambrose sayth e 1430 Lydgate, Minor Poems, 257 (Percy S.). The yelwe swan famous and aggreable, Ageyn his deth melodioussyngyn 1577 Kendall, Flow of Epigrams, 61 (Spens S.). The swanne doeth sweetely syng Burg his deye 1532 Massinger, Emp. of East, V iv. Thus, like a dying swan, to a sad tune I sing my own dirge 1681 Otway, Soldier's Fortune, V i. I'll sing a song like a dying swan 1712 Pope, Rape of Lock, v 66. Thus on Meander's flowery margin lies The expiring swan, and as he sings he dies 1719. Byron.
Swan. See also Goose.


3. He that sweareth. See quotes. c. 1530: Rhodes, *Book of Nurture*, 107 (E.E.T.S.), He that sweareth till no man trust him, He that lyeth till no man belieue him; He that boroweth till no man will lend him; Let him go where no man knoweth him. 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 104 [as in 1530]. 1880: Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 19 [as in 1530, but prudishly emended by "promiseth" for "sweareth"].

4. He that will swear will lie. 1630: Taylor (Water-Poet), *Works*, 2nd pagin., 189, The proverbe saies, hee that will sweare will lie. 1650: R. Heath, *Epi-

grams*, 24. 1692: L'Estrange, *Esof*, 398 (3rd ed.), Come wife, says he, they that will swear, will lye.

5. He who sweareth when he is at play, may challenge his damnation by way of purchase. 1659: Howell, 2.

6. If you swear you will catch no fish. 1607: Heywood, *Fair Maid of Ex-

change*, in *Works*, ii. 69 (1874), What are you cursing too? then we catch no fish. c. 1630: B. & F., *Monsieur Thomas*, i. iii., And next, no sweating; He'll catch no fish else. 1790: Wolcot, *Works*, ii. 115 (1795). Besides, a proverb, suited to my wish, Declares that swearing never catcheth fish. 1830: Forby, *Vocab. E. Anglia*, 414, If you swear, you will catch no fish. 1872: E. FitzGerald, in *East Anglian*, iv. 114, Opinions differ as to swearing. One captain strictly forbade it on board his lugger; but he also, continuing to get no fish, called out, "Swear away, lads, and see what that'll do." 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 588, Dunna swear, or thee'll ketch no fish.

7. To swear—various extraordinary feats, expressive of rage, perjury, etc. 1658: R. Franck, *North. Memoirs*, 191 (1821), It's thought they would have sworn through a double deal-board, they seem'd so enraged. 1678: Ray, 271, He'll swear dagger out of sheath. He'll swear the devil out of hell. Before 1680: Butler, *Remains*, ii. 363 (1759), He will swear his ears through an inch-board. [This seems to suggest the pillory for perjury.] 1731: Swift, *Poems*: "Judas," Some who can per-

jure through a two-inch board. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 69, He'll swear through an inch board. Ibid., 100, "Oo'd ["Oo"—She] swear the cross off a jackass's back.

Swearing, verb. subs. See quot. 1812: Brady, *Clavis Cat.*, i. 339, There was formerly an expression very current, that "Swearing came in at the head, but is going out at the tail."

Sweep before your own door. 1650: Fuller, *Pisgah Sight*, bk. iii. ch. i. § 5, How soon are those streets made clean, where every one sweeps against his own door. 1684: *Great Frost*, 20 (Percy S.), Each one his sins to God confess; Let every one sweep clean and neat his door. 1732: Fuller, No. 4296. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lanes Sayings*, 22, Thee sweep up thi own dur-step (Look to your own faults).

Sweet, subs. 1. All sorts of sweets are not wholesome. 1732: Fuller, No. 543.

2. He deserves not sweet that will not taste of sour. [c. 1387: Usk, *Test. of Love*, in Skeat's *Chaucer*, vii. 18, For he is worthy no welthe, that may no wo suffer.] c. 1535: *Dialogues of Creatures*, xxii. (1816), Who that desyryth the sweate to assaye, He must taste byttyr, this is no naye. c. 1575: H. Golding-

ham, *Garden Plot*, 60 (Roxb. Cl), In-

deede he had not deserued this sweate before he had tasted some sowere. 1611: in Coryat, *Crudities*, i. 109 (1905),
For he no sweet hath merited (they say) That bath not tasted of the sower by th' way 1670 Ray, 25 1732 Fuller, No 1834

3 No sweet without sweat 1576 Pettie, Petite Pall II 138 (Golmanz). You live by the sweet of other men's sweat 1639 Clarke, 87 1681 Robertson, Phraseol Generals, 1196 1732 Fuller No 3632 [with some] before "sweat" 1859 Smiles, Self-Help, 305 (1869). No sweat no sweet

4 Take the sweet with the sour 1546 Heywood, Proverbs Pt II ch iv 1560 T Wilson, Rhetorique, 4 (1909) Both can and will ever, mingle sweete among the sower, be he preacher, lawyer, yea, or Cooke

Sweet as a nut 1599 Buttes, Dyets Dry Dinner, sig O4. As sweete as a nutte 1654 Gayton, Pleasant Notes Don Q, 34. So have you hun uncorrected sweet as a nut 1838 Holloway, Provincialisms, 120. We frequently say, "as sweet as a nut"

Sweet as honey 1506 Pynson, Kal of Shepherds, 75 (1892). Swete in our mouth c 1550 Udall, Roister Doster, ad fin., Custance is as sweete as honey 1595 Churchyard, Praise of Poesie, 41 (1816). As sweete as honey sure 1612 Shelton, Quixote, Pt I lk iv ch v. All these things are as sweet as honey to me 1716 E Ward Female Policy, 51. Her words as sweet as honey 1844 Planché, ExtraVag u, 310 (1879). Pay me in smiles and kisses, sweet as honey 1905 E G Hayden, Trav Round our Village, 87. Who'd hand 'ee over the brass as sweet as honey—never ax ee fur a penny, I don't, to put in the bank!

Sweet beauty with sour beggary 1546 Heywood Proverbs, Pt I ch xi

Sweet discourse makes short days and nights 1670 Ray, 7

Sweetest wine makes sharpest vinegar 1567 Paunter, Pal of Pleasure, u 323 (Jacobs). How much the sweeter is the wyne, the sharper is the egred sauce thereof 1579 Lyl. Enphases, 39 (Arber). The sweetest wine turneth to the sharpest vinegar 1647. Howell, Letters, bk II No vii. This shews, that the sweetest wines may turn to the tarrest vinegar 1681 Robertson, Phraseol Generals, 1196 1792 Looker-on, No 2. The sharpest vinegar is made from the sweetest wines 1852 Ritz Gerald, Polonus, II (1903). "The sweet wine that makes the sharpest vinegar," says an old proverb 1805 A S Palmer, Note in his ed of Trench's Proverbs, 56. The true meaning is that even the best things may be corrupted and turned to evil, as the sweetest wine makes the sourest vinegar

Sweet heart and bag pudding 1659 Howell, 6 1670 Ray, 214

Sweet heart and honey-bird keeps no house 1678 Ray, 57 1732 Fuller, No 4297

Sweet in the mouth See Good in the mouth

Sweet meat will have sour sauce c 1400 Beryn, 29 (EETS), for "after sweet, the sour cometh, full oft, in many a place" c 1500 Colyn Blowbols, I 131, in Hazlitt, Early Pop Poetry, 198. Sharpe savce was ordained for sweete mete 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch viii 1620 T May, The Hear, III. Your sweet meat shall have sour sauce 1670 Cotton, Searlondes, IV 1725 Centlivre, Articke, II u 1769 Colman, Man and Wife, III ["may" for will] 1771 John son, Letters, 1 180 (Hill)

Swell like a toad, To 1546 Hey wood, Proverbs, Pt I ch xi. Strait when she sawe me she swelle lyke a tode 1672 Walker, Param. 26. She swells like a toad 1754 Berthelson, Eng. Danish Dict, s v "Toad"

Swift See Quick

Swift to hear See quot 17th cent in Relig Antiqua, 192 (1841). Be swift to here, and slow to speke, Late to wraithe, and loth to

Swim, verb 1 He can swim without bladders 1649 Howell, Pre-em Parl., 17 (O). My whole life (since I was left to myself to swim, as they say without bladders) 1732 Fuller, No 1821

2 He must needs swim that is held up by the chin. Before 1500 in Hill, Commonplace-Book, 129 (EETS). He
Swine

mai lightli swim, that is hold wp by

3. I taught you to swim, and now you'd drown me. Ibid., No. 2626.

1853: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xiv. [quoted as "the old saying"]').

4. Who swims on sin, shall sink in sorrow. 1853: Trench, Proverbs, 21 (1905).


3. The swine has run through it. 1879: W. Henderson, Folk-Lore of N. Counties, 34. It is unlucky for swine to cross the path in front of a wedding party. Hence the old adage, "The swine's run through it."

See also Hog; Pig; Sheep (18); and Sow, subs.

Sword. 1. He that strikes with the sword shall be stricken with the scabbard. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vii. 1585: Sir E. Dyer, Nothing, in Writings, 83 (Grosart). 1612: Cornucopia, 48 (Grosart). The proverbe still doth threate, Who strikes with sword, the scabbard shall him beat 1670: Ray, 147 [with "beaten" for "stricken"].

2. Sword in madman's hand. See Ill putting.


Sympathy without relief is like mustard without beef. 1914: R. L. Gales, Vanished Country Folk, 204. Cf. Pity.
Table robbs more than a thief. The
1640 Herbert, "Prudence" 1670
Ray, 25 1732 Fuller, No 4782, The
table is a great robber

Tace is Latin for a candle. A humorous hint to be silent 1676 Shadwell, *Virtuoso*, I, I took him up with my old repartee, Peace, said I, *Tace is Latin* for a candle 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial II 1757 Fielding, *Amelia*, bk 1 ch xii 1824 Scott, *Redgauntlet* ch xi. There are some odd stunts that cannot be ripped up again with entire safety to all concerned. *Tace is Latin* for a candle 1831 N & Q, 6th ser., iv 157, "Tace is the Latin for a cat," as I have heard in the north of England when a hint for silence was desirable. Cat, candle, or anything else would do, for *tace is*, of course, the important word.

*Tag, rag and bobtail*. The quotations show the earlier forms of the phrase 1553 Bade, *Vocacyon*, in *Harl Miscell*, vi 459 All the rable of the shippe, tag, tag, and rag 1584 B R, *Enterpe*, 122 (Lang), To enter taste tagge and ragge all that would come 1603 Harsnet, *Decl of Ereg Papish Impositions*, 50. For all were there tag, and ragge, cut and long-tayle 1639 Clarke, 236, Tag and rag, cut and long tayle every one that can eat an egge 1645 *Just Defence John Bastwick*, 16 (O). That rabble rout tag ragge and bobtaule 1655 A Brewer, *Love-sick King*, IV, I think there's some match at foot-bal towards, the colliers against the whole country cut, and long tail 1660 Pepys, *Diary*, 6 March [as in 1645] 1664 Motteux, *Rabelais*, bk iv ch xxxi. It will swallow us all, ships and men, shag, rag, and bobtail, like a dose of pills c 1740 Bramston, *Art of Politics*, 1 10 From end, Tag rag and bobtail 1762 Smollett *Sir L. Greaves*, ch xvii [as in 1740] 1821

Byron, *Blues*, ecl i 1 23, By the rag, tag, and bobtail, of those they call "Blues" 1907 Hackwood, *Old Eng Sports*, 256, The usual following of the Rag-Tag-and-Bobtail class

Tall, subs 1 His tail will catch the chin-cough Spoken of one that sits on the ground 1678 Ray, 82

2 Make not thy tail broader than thy wings 1659 Howell, *xi* (9) 1670 Ray, 147 1732 Fuller, No 3323

Tailer, subs 1 A tailor's shreds are worth the cutting 1670 Ray, 147

2 Like the tailor that sewed for nothing, and found thread himself 1732 Fuller, No 3327

3 Tailor and needle. See quot 1617 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 160, If you come on to me, you come on your sharpers, as tailor said when he showed his needle

4 Tailor-like Apparently a proverbial phrase 1601 Cornwallis, *Essayes*, Pt II, sig Dd6 (1610), What is his game but the marke of an idiot? what his knowledge, but tailor like and light?

5 Tailors and writers must mind the fashion 1732 Fuller, No 4301

6 The tailor cuts three sleeves for every woman's gown 1622 in Pepysan Garland, 32 (Rollins), For it is a common proverbe throughout all the townes, The tailor he must cut three sleeves, for every womans gowne 1632 in *Tbid*, 412, A tailor that will live in peace, cuts out of one gowne three sleeves

makes the man," we used to say—The tailor makes the manager, to-day.

8. The tailor that makes not a knot, loseth a stitch. 1732: Fuller, No. 4786.

See also Hundred; Miller (10); and Nine tailors.

Tainted sheep. See Sheep (10).

Take, verb. i. A man must take such as he finds, or such as he brings. c. 1386: Chaucer, C. Tales, A 4129 (Skeat), I have herd seyd, man sal taa of twa things, Slyk as he fyndes, or taa slyk as he brings. c. 1590: Greene, George a Greene, IV. iv., If this like you not, Take that you finde, or that you bring, for me.

2. He has taken his gears in = He is dead. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 67.

3. It takes all mack to make every mack. Ibid., 86, ... "Mack" = sort or kind.

4. I was taken by a morsel, says the fish. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

5. Take a doe. See Doe.

6. Take all and pay the baker. 1678: Ray, 91, 1732: Fuller, No. 4303.

7. Take all, pay all. 1600: Shakespeare, Merry Wives, II. ii. 1616: Jack Drum's Entert., I., Rule all, pay all, take all. 1737: Ray, 273, Take all and pay all.

8. Take a thorn. See Thorn (3).


1732: Fuller, No. 4305, Take away fuel, and you take away fire.

10. Take away the cause and the effect must cease. 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. lxvii., The cause being removed, the sin will be saved. 1710: Ward, Nuptial Dialogues, ii. 42, For 'tis a maxim that does seldom miss, Remove the cause and the effect will cease. 1734: in Walpole Ballads, 93 (Oxford, 1916).

11. Take care of the pence. See Penny (20).

12. Take, have, and keep are pleasant words. 1886: Hardy, Casterbridge, ch. xiv., [quoted as "the mediaeval saying"].

13. Take heed is a fair thing. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. viii.

1593: Harvey, Works, ii. 166 (Grosart). 1608: Armin, Nest of Ninnies, 29 (Sh. S.).

14. Take heed is a good reed [advice]. [c. 1380: Chaucer, Troylus, bk. ii. l. 343, Avysenem is good before the nede.] 1599: Porter, Two Angry Women, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, vii. 337. 1670: Ray, 102. 1732: Fuller, No. 635.

15. Take him in good turn and knock out his brains. 1639: Clarke, 150.

16. Take not counsel in the combat. 1642: D. Rogers, Matrim. Honour, 1799, As the proverbe saith, take not, etc.

17. Take time by the forelock. See Time (29).

18. Take your wife's first advice. See Wife (29).

19. To take a dagger and drown one self. 1678: Ray, 238.

20. To take a leaf out of another's book. 1886: Hardy, Casterbridge, ch. xvi., You should have taken a leaf out of his book, and have had your sports in a sheltered place like this.

21. To take as falleth in the sheaf. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. iv.

1562: Heywood, Epigrams, No. 217, I will take as falleth in the sheaf. 1659: Howell, 7, I will take it [as] faith in the sheaf where ever it fall.


23. To take a thorn. See Thorn (3).

24. To take a venem under the girdle = To be got with child. 1598: Chamberlain, Letters, 18 (Camden S.), Some say she hath taken a venem under the girdle and swells upon it.

25. To take counsel of one's pillow. 1573: Harvey, Letter-Book, 21 (Camden S.), You counsel me to take counsel of my pillow. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Conseil," Night gives advice; We say, take counsell of your pillow. 1676: Cotton, Walton's Angler, Pt. II. ch. ii., I will presently wait on you to your chamber, where, take counsel of your pillow; and to-morrow resolve me. 1751: Fielding, Amelia, bk. ix. ch. v.,
"I will consult my pillow upon it," said the doctor. "If Night is the mother of Time, I will consult my pillow upon it."

26 To take from the right hand and give to the left 1732 Fuller, No. 5241

27 To take one a button-hole (or peg, etc.) lower c 1550 Bacon, Catechism, etc., 561 (P.S.), This doctrine plucketh them down one staff lower than they were before 1592 Nashe, Works, ii 77 (Grosart). The hard lodging on the boards [will] take their flesh down a button-hole lower 1592 Shakespeare, L.L.L., V ii, Master, let me take you a button-hole lower 1633 Shirley, Triumph of Peace, in Works, vi 28c (Dyce). I'd see the tallest beefeater on you all knocking my wife down, and I'll bring a button-hole lower 1654 Gayton, Pleasant Notes Don Q., 234. Had not Dalplesse taken him a button lower 1670 Ray, 189. To take one a peg lower 1764 Mrs F. Sheridan, Duke, IV iv, I must take her down a peg or so 1829 Peacock, Misser of Elpham, ch xii I have just brought the abbot this pleasant intelligence, and, as I know it would take him down a cup or two

28 To take one's ease in one's inn 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch v. To let the world wag, and take mune ease in mune in 1597 Shakespeare, 1 Henry IV., III iv, Talstaff Shall I not take mune ease in mune inn but I shall have my pocket picked? 1620 Middleton, World Tost at Tennis, in Works, vii 185 (Bullen). These great rich men must take their ease ray their inn 1821 Byron, Letters, etc., v 481 (Prothero). The traveller can "take his ease in his inn."

29 To take one's hands off — To decline a bargain 1717 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 143

30 To take one up before he is down 1583 Melancke, Philotimus, sig li, Thou leastest well that takest me vp before I fall 1738 Swift, Polite Convers., Dial I, You take me up, before I'm down 1818 Scott, Heart of Midlothian., ch xvii, "Sir, under your favour," replied David, "ye take me up before I fall down." 1880 Courtney, W. Cornwall Words, x

(EDS), He took me up afore I were down

31 To take out of one pocket to put in the other 1855 Bohn, 544

32 To take pot 1669 New Help to Discourse, 252, He thereupon took pot, and so did die 1706 D'Urfe, Stories Moral and Comical, 57, But at his naming of the net, Venus had certainly took pot 1732 Fuller, No. 2325, He that takes pot at a feast, loses it all

Takeley Street See quotes 1880 E. Walford, in N. & Q., 6th ser., ii 307, "All on one side like Takeley Street" the village of Takeley, between Dunmow and Bishop's Stortford, has all the cottages on the one side of the road, and the square's park on the other 1896 N. & Q., 8th ser., x 475, A common local saying in Essex is "All on one side, like Takeley Street."

Tale, subs 1 A tale never loses in the telling 1633 Drayc, 177, A tale in the carrying is made more 1770 S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 177, A story never loses by carrying 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch vi

2 A tale of a tub 1538 Bale, Three Laus, Act II, Ye saye they folowe your lawe, And varye not a shawe, Whych is a tale of a tubbe 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch ix, A tale of a tub, your tale no truth awouth 1576 R. Peterson, tr Calatoe, 73 (1892), All thy's long babble were but a tale of a tubbe 1633 Jonson, Tale of a Tub [title] 1691 Merry Drollery, 225 (Lssworth), For I thinke I have told you a Tale of a Tub 1704 Swift, Tale of a Tub [title] 1710 Centlivre, Man's Bewitch'd I 1714 Ozel, Molierè, vi 125, All is idle talk, trifles, and tales of a tub 1855 Kingsley, West Hol, ch viii

3 A tale twice told is cabbage twice sold 1732 Fuller, No. 429, Cf No 5

4 Each tale is ended as it hath favour c 1450 Burgh (and Lydgate), Secrec., 51 (P.E.T.S.) [quoted as "a proverb"]

5 It ought to be a good tale that is twice told 1732 Fuller, No. 3047

Cf No 3

6 One tale good See One tale

7 Tell a tale to a mare See quotes
8. The tale runs as it pleases the teller.

9. To tell tales out of school.

Tale-bearer is worse than a thief, A.

Tale-bearers, Put no faith in.

Tale, talk, verb. 1. He that talks much of his happiness, summons grief. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 2. He that talks to himself talks to a fool. 1732: Fuller, No. 2328. 3. I am talking of hay, and you of horse-beans. Ibid., No. 2586.

4. Many talk like philosophers, and live like fools. Ibid., No. 3358.

5. Talk not too much of state affairs. 1659: Howell, 18.

6. Talk of camps, but stay at home. 1732: Fuller, No. 4319.


8. To talk a bird's (or dog's) leg off—and like phrases. 1868: N. & Q., 4th ser., ii. 488, In Lancashire a loquacious person, whether man or woman, is said to be able to "talk a horse's leg off." Ibid., 591 [also in Norfolk and Midlands]. 1869: Hazlitt, 353, That fellow would talk a horse to death. S. Devon. In the local vernacular: Thilk veller would tell a horse to death. 1893: Gower, Gloss. of Suryre Words, lii (E.D.S.), I never see sich a fellow to go on, he would talk his dog's hind leg off any day. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lances Sayings, 34, He'd talk th' leg off a brass pon [pan].

9. To talk like an apothecary. 1639: Clarke, 133, He prates like a poticary.


Talking comes by nature, Silence by understanding. 1875: Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 86.


Tall, adj. 1. As tall as a hop-pole. 1788: Colman, jr., Ways and Means, I. ii. Two fine young women . . . tall as hop-poles.

2. As tall as a may-pole. 1678: Ray, 289. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "May," He is grown so high, that a man dares not come near him by the length of a may-pole.

3. He is a tall man of his hands. 1485: Malory, Mort d'Arthur, bk. iv., ch. xvii. He is a passyng Goodman of his handes. 1591: Florio, Second Fruits, 117. Is he valiant, and a tale man of his hand? 1678: Ray, 82, A tall
man of his hands, He will not let a beast rest in's pocket

4 While the tall maid is stooping, the little one hath swept the house 1666
Torquato, Piazza Univ., 108, Whilst a tall Meg of Westminster is stooping, a short wrench sweeps the house 1869
Hazlitt, 468

Tamworth See Sutton
Tanfield fools See quot 1846-59
Denham Tracts, 168 (F L S), Tanfield fools, and Anfield hubbers Hungry Iceton with its empty cupboards Tanfield, Anfield and Iceton (properly Iveston) are villages and hamlets near the source of the river Derwent

Tangled skein of it to wind off, I have a 1732 Fuller, No 2603

Tanterna Bobus, who lived till he died, Like 1864 Cornish Proverbs," in N & Q, 3rd ser vi 5 1882 Jago, Gloss of Cornish Dialect, 288, Tanteramburgus, or Tantrum-bobus Term applied to a noisy, playful child "Oh! you tantra-bobus!" 1886 Elworthy, West Som Word-Book, 737 (EDS), Oh! I reckon he lived same s Tantramburgus—all the days of his life Cf Live (39)

Tantrum and Tantony pig See Anthony pig

Tapster is undone by chalk, The—ie by scoring on credit c 1630 in Rotb Ballads, i 71 (Hindley) 1639
Mayne, City Match, IV viii, You do offend o th' score, and sin in chalk

Tapsters and ostlers are not always the honestest men 1597 Distrouer of the Knights of the Poste, sig D4

Tarberr Hill, near Hastings 1804
A J C Hare, Sussex, 192, "Who knows what Tarberr would bear, Must plough it with a golden share," is a proverb

Tarleton—the Shakespearean jester 1813 Ray, 71, He answers with monosyllables, as Tarleton did one who out-eat him at an ordinary

Tarring See Heighton
Tarry-long brings little home 1732
Fuller, No 4320

Taste, subs See quot 1633
Draxe, 29, To him that hath lost his taste, sweet is sower 1670 Ray, 26 [as in 1633] 1732 Fuller, No 5182,

To him that has a bad taste, sweet is bitter

Taste, verb See quot 1855 Bohn 581, You want to taste the broth as soon as the meate is in

Tamworth See Nertown

Tamworth Dean—Where should I be born else? 1662 Fuller, Worthies in 91 (1840) 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Somerset"

Tavern bitch, The See quot 1608
Middleton, Trick to Catch Old One, IV v, Faith, the same man still the tavern bitch has bit him 1' th' head [he is drunk]

Tavern haunteth, That See quot c 1460 How the Good Wife, I 50, That taurerne hauntethe his thrife for saktithe

Tavern token, To swallow a := To be drunk 1596 Jonson, Ev Man in Humour, I iv, Drunk, sir? Perhaps he swallow'd a tavern token, or some such device 1604 Meet of Gallants, 17 (Percy S), Indeed he had swallowed doun many taurerne-tokens, and was infected much with the plague of drunkenness 1745 Franklin, Drinker's Diet, in Works, ii 26 (Bigelow), He's swallowed a tavern token

Teach, verb I He teacheth all who teacheth all 1659 Howell, 4 1732
Fuller, No 2035

2 Teaching of others teacheth the teacher Ibid, No 4323

3 Teach your father to get children 1659 Howell 9 (7) 1754 Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict s v "Father," To teach one's father to get children

4. Teach your grandmother to suck eggs—and perform other feats 1542
Udall, tr Erasmus' Apophth, 380 (1877) A swme to teach Minerva was a proverb for whiche we sate in Englishe, to teache our dame to spinnne 1611
Colgrave, s v "Apprendre," Wee say to teach his grandame to grope ducks 1659 Howell, 9 (7), Go teach your granham to grope a goose 1605 R Howard, Committee, IV, Pish, teach your granam to spinn 1670 Ray, 178, Teach your grandame to grops her ducks, to sup swme milk 1799
Cubber, Rual Fools, II, God, fools! teach
Tell

your granums: you are always full of your advice when there's no occasion for it. 1732: Fuller, No. 4321 [as in 1665]. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I., You mend it! go, teach your granum to suck eggs. 1749: Fielding, Tom Jones, bk. xii. ch. xiii., A child may sometimes teach his grandmother to suck eggs 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, i. 195. The proverb, "Gang and teach thy granny to sup sour milk out o' t' ass riddle," is often applied to a confident person, who would attempt to teach another, who has more knowledge than himself.

Teague—an Irishman. 1. Like Teague's cocks, that fought one another, though all were of the same side. 1732: Fuller, No. 3234.

2. You run like Teague, before your errand. Ibid., No. 5983.

Tears are near their eyes, Their 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in N. & Q., 3rd ser., vi. 494.


Tears. See also Nothing (8).

Tees, Escaped the, and was drowned in the Tyne. 1846–59: Denham Tracts, i. 313 (F.L.S.).

Teeth. See Tooth.

Tell. 1. He tells me my way and don't know it himself. 1732: Fuller, No. 2036.

2. He that can tell. See quot. 1921: Devonsh. Assoc Trans., liii. 162. The old proverbial saying: "He that can tell [talk] avore 'a can go 'Ull bring he's father ta sorrow an' woe."

3. He that tells a secret is another's servant. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Tell," Tell your secret to your servant, and you make him your master.

4. He that tells his wife news, is but newly married. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1670: Ray, 49. 1732: Fuller, No. 2330.

5. If you tell every step, you will make a long journey of it. Ibid., No. 2793.


8. Tell me news. 1603: Raleigh, in Criminal Trials, i. 408 (1832). All this while you tell me news, Mr. Attorney. 1639: Clarke, 303, Tell me what I know not. 1670: Ray, 187. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I., I know that already; tell me news.

9. Tell me with whom thou goest, And I'll tell thee what thou dost. 1586: Pettie, tr. Guazzo's Civil Convers., fo. 22. This common proverbe sheweth, Tell me with whom thou dost goe, and I shall know what thou dost. 1633: Draxe, 25. 1667: L'Estrange, Quevedo's Visions, 151 (1904), This minded me of the old saying, "Tell me thy company, and I'll tell thee thy manners." 1710: S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 36. 1789: G. Parker, Life's Painter, 137, "Tell me your company, and I will describe your manners," is an old saying.

10. Tell money after your own father. 1623: Draxe, 208. A man must tell golde after his owne father. 1639: Clarke, 90 1636: F. Osborne, Advice to Son, 26 (Parry) ["Count" for "Tell"]. 1709: Cibber, Rival Fools, V., Always tell money after your father, sir. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. viii., Count money after your own kin.


12. Tell truth and shame the devil. See Truth (3).

13. Tell you a tale and find you ears. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ix., He must both tell, etc. c. 1594: Bacon, Promus, No. 673. A man must tell you tales and find your [sic] ears. 1670: Ray, 195. 1738: Swift, Polite
Temperance

Convers, Dial I, What, miss! must I tell you a story, and find you ears?

14 Tell your cards See Cards (3)

15 To be able to tell ten 1613 B & F, Coxcomb, II: He cannot be so innocent a coxcomb, he can tell ten, sure!

16 Who tells a lie to save his credit, wipes his nose on his sleeve to save his napkin. 1659 Howell, i

17 You will tell another tale when you are tired. 1678 Ray, 348

See also One Tale, and Tale

Temperance is the best physic. 1855

Bohn, 495

Temple-brough See Winkabank

Ten See Hours, and Tell, verb (15)

Tenbury 1882 Mrs Chamberlain, W Worcs Words, 39 (E D S), Sell wheat and buy rye, Say the bells of Tenbury.

Ten commandments = the ten fingers. 1560 in Wright, Songs, etc, Philip and Mary, 202 (Roxb Cl). Or else her ten commandments She fastens on his face. 1594 First Part Contention, 16 (Sh S), Could I come nearer your dammit visage with my nayles, I'd set my ten commandments in your face. 1607 Dekker and Webster, Weste Hoe, V iii, Your harpy that set his ten commandments upon my back.

1814 Scott, Waverley, ch xxx, 1830 Marryat, King's Own, ch xi, Don't put your tongue into your cheek at me or I'll write the ten commandments on your face.

Tender as a chicken 1678 Ray, 289 1720 Gay, Poems, ii 280 (Underhill), Till you grow tender as a chick.

Tender as a parson's leman 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch x 1592 Greene, in Harl Miscell, v 375 (1746), That had a fayre wench to her daughter, as young and tender as a morrow masse priests leman. 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Mol" 1670 Ray, 208

Tender as Parnell, that broke her finger in a posset-curd 1676 Ray, 289 1690 New Dict Canterbury Crew, sig M1, Tender-parmel, a very nicely educated creature, apt to catch cold upon the least blast of wind.

1785 Grose, Class Dict Vulgar Tongue, s v "Tender P" ["drunk" for "curd"]

1847 Hallwell, Dict, s v "Tender" [as in 1785] 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 22

Ten good turns I do not understand this dark saying. 1578 Whetstone, Promes and Cass, sig D2, The proverbe saies, that tenne good turnes lye dead, And one yll deede, tenne tymes beyond pretence, By enmous tongues, report abrode doth spread.

Ten pretty See Twenty (4)

Tenterden steeple is the cause of Goodwin Sands 1528 More, Dialogue, in Works, p 278 col i (1557) [story of Tenterden steeple being the cause of the chocking up by sands of Sandwich harbour] 1550 Latimer, Sermons, 251 (PS) [Latimer tells the absurd story] 1568 in Loseley MSS, 211 (Kempe), Of many people it hath ben said, That Tenterden steeple Sandwich haven hath decayed 1644 Taylor (Water-Poet), Crop-Eare, C 18, in Works, 2nd coll (Spens S), Here is an excellent proove Weaker then that of Tenterden Steeple being the cause of Goodwinne Sands 1662 Fuller, Worthies, ii 125 (1840) 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Kent"

Testons See Oxford

Tewkesbury mustard See quoting 1598 Shakespeare, a Henry IV, II iv, His wit's as thick as Tewkesbury mustard 1634 Strange Metam of Man, sig Dro, If he [mustard] be of the right stamp, and a true Tewxbury man 1662 Fuller, Worthies, i 552 (1640), He looks as if he had lived on Tewkesbury mustard Before 1704 T Brown, Works, iv 236 (1760), When Tewksbury mustard shall wander abroad 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Gloucestershire" [as in 1598 and 1662] 1851 Gloucestershire Gloss, 14 [as in 1662]

Teynham, Kent See Bapchild, and Muston

Thatkeham, the last place God made 1884 "Sussex Proverbs," in N & Q, 6th ser, ix 402

Thames on fire, To set the There is no good ground for connecting 'Thames' in this phrase with "tense," a provincial name for a sieve c 1770
Thames

623

Thick


Thames. See also Cast (8).

Thank God that your father was born before you, You may. 1855: Bohn, 579.

Thank you for the next, for this I am sure of, I'll. 1678: Ray, 273.

Thatch, subs. See Thick as thack; and Wet (5)

Thatch, verb. 1. If a house had to be thatched with much, there would be more teachers than readers. 1762: Smollett, *Sir L. Greaves*, ch. xv., Thatch your house with t—, and you'll have more teachers than readers. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 76.

2. When I have thatched his house, he would throw me down. 1639: Clarke, 170. 1670: Ray, 148. 1732: Fuller, No. 5559, When I had thatch'd his house, he would have hurl'd me from the roof.


That may happen to many, Which doth happen to any. c. 1500: G. Harvey, *Marginalia*, 101 (1933).

That's for that. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.,* Dial. I., So much for that and butter for fish. 1880: Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 34, That's for that, as salt is for herring . . . and Nan for Nicholas.

Th' berrin's. See Burying.

There or thereabout, as Parson Smith says. 1678: Ray, 343 . . . Proverbial about Dunmow in Essex.

Thetch. See Vetch.

They say is half a lie. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 30, To have heard say is half a lye. 1710: S. Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 261. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. vi., Hearsay is half lies.


Thick as hail, As. 1205: Layamon, *Brut*, l. 12578, Arwen fluyen ouer wal: al abuten ouer al. swa picke wes heore weeræ: swulc hit hayel weren (Arrows flew over the wall all about over all: so thick was their flight, as if it were hail). 1566: Painter, *Pal. of Pleasure*, i. 338 (Jacobs). The number of shotte, which . . . were bestowed so thick as hayle, vpon euery part of the fort. 1659: *Crown Garland*, 69 (Percy S.), They discharg'd their shafts So thick as hail from sky. 1720: Gay, *Damon and Cymbid*, Men fall as thick as hail. 1819: Scott, *Ivanhoe*, ch. xxix., This heavy discharge, which continued as thick and sharp as hail. 1907: Hackwood, *Old Eng. Sports*, 111, They fell thick and sharp as hail.

Thick as hops, As. 1599: Porter, *Two Angry Women*, sc. xi., Looke, the water drops from you as fast as hops. 1651: Mabbe, *Celestina*, 171 (T.T.), Your presents from all parts . . . came upon me as thicke as hops. 1707:
Thick

Dunton, Athenian Sport 19. Fly all about as thick as hops 1733 Swift, On Poetry, I 400, The rest pursue as thick as hops

Thick as inkle-weavers, As "Thick," = close, intimate 1690 New Dict Canting Crew, sig C3. As great as two inkle-makers 1703 Ward, Writings, p 357 [as in 1690] 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I. Why, she and you were as great as two inkle-weavers 1788 Cowper Letter to Lady Heseketh, 6 May. When people are intimate, we say they are as great as two inkle-weavers. This saying is used in some parts of Cheshire and Lancashire 1908 N & Q, 10th ser, x 186, In my early days at Launceston and that is now fully seventy-five years ago [when woollen goods were made at L], the proverb "As thick as inkle-makers" was commonly applied to great cromes, because inkle-makers had to work very closely together

Thick as porridge, etc., As c 1480 Early Miscellanies, 87 (Warton Cl, 1855), Thyk as poppe 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, n 52, "As thick as porridge," a proverbial simile frequently applied to beer 1877 E. Leigh, Cheshire Gloss, 200, As thick as straw [hasty pudding] 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 24 [as in 1877]

Thick as thistle [thatch], As 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, n 198 1889 Peacock, Manley, etc., Gloss, 558 (E D S)

Thick as thieves, As Ibid., 558 1913 L P Jacks, All Men are Ghosts 213, But I never would have nothing to do with gypsies, though his Lordship was as thick as thieves with 'em

Thick as three in a bed, As 1820 Scott, Monastery, Introd Ep, You twa will be as thick as three in a bed an' ane ye forgather 1828, Carr, Craven Dialect, n 201, As thrang as three in a bed 1889 Peacock, Manley, etc., Gloss, 558 (E D S) Cf Thrunk

Thickness of a suspension between good and evil, There is not the 1732 Fuller, No 4933

Thief and Thieves i All are not thieves that dogs bark at 1633 D'Urfey, 48 1670 Rav, 56 1694 D'Urley, Quixote, Pt II Act IV sc ii 1885 Lanes Proverbs, 'in N & Q, 3rd ser, vm 494 1901 F E Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 10, They're not o thieves' at dogs barken at

2 A thief knows a thief, as a wolf knows a wolf 1633 D'Urfey, 108, One thief knoweth another 1732 Fuller, No 430

3 He that trusts a thief is a fool c 1534 Berners, Hron, 706 (E E T S), It is sayd in a comen proverbe that a man is taken for a foole that puttheth his trust in a thfe

4 Of all crafts See quot c 1320 in Reliq Antiqua, 1 115 (1842), "Of alle mester men mest me hongeth theves', Quoth Hendyng 1869 Hazlitt, 300, "Of all crafts, the theving craft is the worst for hanging," quoth Hendyng

5 Set a thief to catch a thief [c 1386 Chaucer, Physic Tale, 1 83, A thief of venous, that hath forlet his litterous nesse, and at his olde craft, Can kepe a forest best of any man (=An old poacher makes a good gamekeeper) ] 1665 R Howard, Committee, I, According to the old saying Set a thief to catch a thief 1702 Brown, Works n 244 (1760), Always set a knave to catch a knave 1725 Bailey, tr Erasmus' Collog, 457 1878 Jefferys, Gamekeeper at Home, ch ix, There is a saying that an old poacher makes the best gamekeeper, on the principle of setting a thief to catch a thief 1895 Pimer, Mrs Ebsmith, II

6 The thief is sorry he is to be hanged, but not that he is a thief 1732 Fuller, No 4788

7 Thieves and rogues have the best luck, if they do but scape hanging 1670 Ray, 118

8 Thieves are never rogues among themselves See Honour

9 Thieves' handsell ever unlucky 1687 Aubrey, Gentilisme, etc., 120 (F L S)
10. When it thunders the thief becomes honest. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1670: Ray, 26. 1732: Fuller, No. 5691. Whilst it thunders, the thief turns honest.

11. When thieves fall out honest men come by their own. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ix., . . . true men come to their goode. 1600: Day, Blind Beggar, IV. i., When false theeves fall out true men come to their own. 1671: Westm. Drollery, 51 (Ebsworth), True men might have their own, now knaves fall out. 1710: S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 327 ["knaves" for "thieves"]. 1850: Dickens, Chuzzlewit, ch. xlii., last par., Thanks to this quarrel, which confirms the old saying that when rogues fall out, honest people get what they want.

See also Ask (3); Call (1); Careless; Hundred tailors; Miller (8) and (10); One thief; Rope (2); Thick as thieves; Too many stairs; True (12); Two daughters; and War (6).

Think as a lath, As. 1744: Foundl. Hosp. for Wit, No. ii. p. 26 (1749), Our hope grows as thin as a lath. 1799: Dr. Burney, in D’Arblay, Diary, iv. 100 (1876), You used to be as thin as Dr. Lind . . . a mere lath. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, i. 279. 1862: Dialect of Leeds, 406, As lean as a lat (lath). 1909: F. E. Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 4, As thin as a lat.


Think and Things. 1. A thing there was, and done it was, and wise was he that did it, Let no man know who knows it not, nor do so no more that did it. 1659: Howell, 3. . . . Of one who mistook his neighbour’s wife for his own.

2. If things were to be done twice, all would be wise. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1670: Ray, 27. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Twice." 1875: Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 115.

3. There’s a thing in it. See Dish-clout.

4. There’s many a thing as belongs to everything. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 117.

5. Things done cannot be undone. c. 1460: Good Wyf wold a Plygremage, l. 119 (E.E.T.S.), When dede is doun, hit ys to lat. 1539: Taverner, Proverbs, fo. 35. The thyng that is done can not be vdone. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. x. c. 1594: Bacon, Promus, No. 951. 1649: in Halliwell, Books of Characters, 46 (1857), That which is done, cannot be undone. 1718: W. Taverner, Artful Wife, III., Your ladiship knows what’s done can’t be undone. Cf. Once done.

Think, verb. 1. He that thinks amiss concludes worse. 1651: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum, 2nd ed.

2. He that thinks too much of his virtues, bids others think of his vices. 1809: Hazlitt, 188.

3. He thinks himself as great as my Lord Berkeley. Glos. 1639: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 26 (1885).

4. He thinks not well that thinks not again. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Penser," He thinks not well that thinks of all at once; or thinks not more then once. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1736: Bailey, Dick., s.v. "Think," He thinks ill that thinks not twice.


6. They that think no ill are soonest beguiled. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. v.

7. They that think they know everything, know nothing. 1918: Devonsh. Assoc. Trans., i. 185. They wat theys think they knows every thing, knows nort.

8. Think and thank God. 1568: in Loseley MSS., 207 (Kempe).

9. Thinking is very far from knowing. 1855: Bohn, 328.
10 Think nothing mean that brings in an honest penny 1763 Murphy, Citizen, III
11 Think of a cuckold See Cuckold

(9)

12 Think of ease, but work on 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1670 Ray, 8
13 Think on the end before you begin Before 1300 Cursor Mundi, I 4379.
For qua [who] be-yes see any ping
ever-marke jink on the endinge c 1400
Bryn, 55 (EETS). Who take hede of
the beginnyng, what fal shal of
the ende, He leyth a bush to-lore
the gap ther fortune wold in ryde
c 1470 G Ashby, Poems, 39 (EETS).
In al your maters, er ye bygynne,
Thenke what ende wol be the conclusion
1556 Heywood Spider and Flea, cap
59, p 254 (Farmer). This sage saying,
the wase have said and say,—Have
an eye to the end, ere thou aught begin
1692 L'Estrange, Esof, 8r (3rd ed).
It is wisdom to consider the end of
things before we embarke, and to fore-
see consequences 1704 Swift, Tale
of a Tub § 1v., Thus human life is best
understood, by the wise man's rule, of
regarding the end
14 Think to-day and speak to-mor-
row 1855 Bohn, 528
15 Think well of all men 1659
Howell, 10
16 To think one's farthing, half-
penny, penny, good silver See Farthing; Halppenny, and Penny (26)
Third hear See ill-gotten goods
Third time is never like the rest,
The 1875 Cheales Proverb Folk-
lore, 133

Third time pays for all, The 1575
Higgins Mirr for Magis, Pt I "Q
Elsedru," st 23. Which I have prou'd,
therefore the sequel vewe, The third
payes home, this proverbe is so true
1599 Warning for Faire Women, II
1855 Gaskell, North and South, ch
vii., "Thus is the third stroke I've seen,
said she "Well, third time pays for all." 1922
 Punch, 20 Dec., p 594,
col 3. Mrs Ellison has already been
twice married The third time pays
for all, so they say

Thirty days hath September See

quotes 1572 Grafton, Chron., sg
Fiz v°. Thirty dayes hath November,
April, June and September February
hath xxviij alone, and all the rest have
xxvi 1577 Holmshed, Chron., 17
(as in 1572, with addition "But in the
leape you must adde one") 1606
Ret from Parnassus, III 1 37 (Arber),
S Rad How many dayes hath Septem-
ber? In April, June and November,
February hath 28 alone and all the rest
hath 30 and one 1615 A Hopton,
Concordancy of Yeares, 60, Thirty dayes
hath September, April, June, and
November The rest haue thirtie and
one, Saue February alone Which moneth
hath but eight and twenty meere, Saue
when it's bissextile, or leap-yeare
1664 Poor Robin Alman.; Thirty dayes
hath September, April, June, and
November All the rest thirty and one,
as I plainly remember, One ly February
hath but twenty and eight for its store,
Except when its leap-year, then it hath
one more c 1703 Young Man's
Companion, quoted in Denham, Pro-
verbs, 19 (Percy S), Thirty dayes hath
September, April, June, and November
February eight-and-twenty all alone,
And all the rest have thirty-and-one,
Unless that leap-year doth combine,
And give to February twenty-nine

This is that must neades be, Quoth
the good man, whann he made his wyl
Pune the baskit 1579 Marr of Wit
and Wisdom, sc in p 27 (Sh S)
Thistle and Thistles I A thistle is a
fat salad for an ass's mouth 1732
Fuller, No 435
2 Cut thistles See quotes 1882
Mrs Chamberlain, W Worcs Words, 38
(E D S), Cut thistles in May They grow
in a day Cut them in June That is too
soon Cut them in July, Then they will
die 1863 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore,
579 Cut 'em in June, They'll come
gain soon Cut 'em in July, They may
die Cut 'em in August Die they
must 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore,
156 [as in 1883]
See also St John

Thither as I would go I can go late,
Thither as I would not go I know not
the gate 1678 Ray, 296
Thorn


2. He that handles thorns shall prick his fingers. 1616: Breton, Works, ii. e 6 (Grosart). 1694: D’Urfey, Quijote, Pt. i. Act III. sc. ii. 1732: Fuller, No. 2128, He that handles thorns shall smart for it.

3. I’ll not pull the thorn out of your foot and put it into my own. 1659: Howell, Proverbs: Brit.-Eng., 24, I’er never thorn draw from others foot, and having pulld it in mine own put. 1678: Ray, 273. 1753: Richardson, Grandison, ii. 126 (1883), I should only have taken a thorn out of the foot of another, and put it into my own.

4. Most men have a thorn at their door. 1639: Clarke, 165, Where ever a man dwell he shall be sure to have a thorn-bush near his doore. 1670: Ray, 149 [as in 1639]. 1732: Fuller, No. 4369. c. 1800: J. Trusler, Proverbs in Verse, 94, Where’er a man dwells, there’s a thorn at his door. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. i, Wherever a man lives he is sure to have one thorn-bush near his door, and it is a mercy if there are not two.


6. Thorns make the greatest cracking. 1732: Fuller, No. 5031.


8. To sit or stand upon thorns = To be impatient. 1528: More, in Works, p. 234, col. i (1557), I long by my trouth, quod he, and euyn syt on thornes tyll I see that constitucion. 1567:Golding, Ovid, bk. iv. l. 385, She thought she stode on thornes until she went to him. 1633: Massinger, New Way, III. iii. She ... sitts on thornes till she be private with him. 1636: T. Heywood, Challenge for Beauty, III., I stand on thornes till I be in action. 1764: Mrs. F. Sheridan, Dupe, I. ii. The captain will be on thornes till he sees me. 1823: Scott, Q. Durward, ch. vii., Lord Crawford ... sat as it were on thornes at the royal board. 1886: Elworthy, W. Som. Word-Book, 751 (E.D.S.), She has been all upon thornes ever since. 1926: Phillpotts, Peacock House, 222, I was on thornes till us met again.

See also Candlemas, B; and Oak (3).

Thought, subs. 1. The thought hath good legs, and the quill a good tongue. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1670: Ray, 26. 1732: Fuller, No. 4790 ["wings" for "legs"].

2. Thought is free. c. 1390: Gower, Conf. Amantis, bk. v. l. 4485, I have herd seid that thought is fre. c. 1490: Parrotane, 440 (E.E.T.S.), Therfore this proverbe is seide full trulry: Thought to a man is ever fre. Before 1529: Skelton, Philip Sparrow, I 1201, Thought is franke and fre. 1605: Camden, Remains, 332 (1870), Thoughts are free from toll. 1638: Randolph, Muses Looking-Glass, III. iv., And yet some think (But thought is free) ... 1860: Reade, Cl. and Heath, ch. ili., "I say not that," ... "You do but think it." "Thought is free."

3. Your thoughts close and your countenance loose. 1651: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum, 2nd ed.

Thousand pounds and a bottle of hey, is all one at Doomsday. A. 1659: Howell, 4. 1670: Ray, 26. 1732: Fuller, No. 6398.

Thrasch in another mans barn, To. c. 1400: Rerum. Roll, l. 53, in Hazlitt, Early Pop. Poetry, i. 72, And whoo so lyst may thressyn in your berne.

Thread, subs. 1. A thread too fine spun will easily break. 1732: Fuller, No. 438.

2. The thread breaks where it is weakest. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1670: Ray, 28. 1732: Fuller, No. 5647.

3. Thread is spun. 1681: in Roxb. Ballads, v. 45, Give them what they
Thread-bare

deserve, their thread is spun 1819
Scott, Ithanoe, ch xxiv, Fare-thee-well, I say, My thread is spun out—thy task is yet to begin

Thread-bare coat is armour-proof against highwaymen, A 1732 Fuller, No 437

Threatened folkes live long. c 1555
in Collomann, Ballads, etc., 69 (Koxb Cl) It is a true proverb the threatened man lyues long. 1599 Porter, Two Angry Women, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, viii 357 1630 Taylor (Water-Poet), Works, 2nd pagin., 152 1734 Fielding, Don Quix in England, II vi 1839 Scott, Leg of Montrose, ch x 1870 Dickens, Drod ch xiv. "The proverb says that threatened men live long;" he tells her lightly

 Threatens many that is injurious to one, He c 1590 G Harvey, Marginalia, 101 (1913) He threateneth many, That hurtith any. 1732 Fuller, No 2372

Threats without power are like powder without ball 1736 Bailey, Diet, s v
Three are too many to keep a secret, and too few to be merry. 1732 Fuller, No 5037

Three bites See Two bites
Three days See Fish, subs 1
Three dear years will raise a baker's daughter to a portion. 1678 Ray, 86
Three flasts and cuckoo 1927
Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 123 A farmer who at the return of the cuckoo can keep three flasts at work cannot be otherwise than prosperous

Three great evils come out of the North, a cold wind, a cunning knave, and shrinking cloth 1614 Jonson, Bart Fair, IV iii. Do my northern cloth shrinks i the wetting ha? 1659 Howell, 1, Three ills come from the North, a cold wind, a shrinking cloth, and a dissembling man. 1670 Ray, 29 [as in 1659] 1683 Menton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697) 1846-59 Denham Tracts, 11 75 (F LS) Cf Cold weather

Three-half-pence and twopence — a canter 1886 Elworthy, West Som Word Book, 212 (E D S) Three half-pence and two-pence a slow

Three helping one another bear the burden of six. 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

Three hungry meals See Two hungry meals

Three may keep counsel if two be away 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch v 1692 L'Estrange, Aesop, 399 (3rd ed.) ['"when" for "if"] c 1736 Franklin, in Works, 1 455 (Bigelow) Three may keep a secret, if two of them are dead

Three merry men. The burden of an old ballad 1595 Peele, Old Wise Fate, sc 1, Let us rehearse the old proverb "Three merry men, and three merry men, And three merry men be we, In the wood, and thou on the ground, And Jack sleeps in the tree. 1613 B & F, Knight of Burning Pestle, II viii, Mer [sings] I am three merry men and three merry men! c 1630 B & F, Bloody Brother, III xi, Chorus Three merry boys, and three merry boys, And three merry boys are we

Threepenny planet, To be born under a See quotes 1607 Dekker, Knight's Conjuring, 32 (Percy S). All such rich mens darlings are either chrestened by some left-handed priest, or els born under a threepenny planet 1692 L'Estrange, Aesop, 416 (3rd ed.), I'll make good the old saying to you, That he that's born under a three-penny planet, shall never be worth a great 1694 Dryden, Love Triumphant, I 1. And yet his good fortune, and my rascally, threepenny planet, make me suspicious without reason 1738 Swift, Polite Conters, Dial I, Egad, I was born under a threepenny planet, never to be worth a great 1883 Burne Shropsh Folk-Lore, 589 [as in 1738] 1894 Northall Folk Phrases, 15 (E D S). He was born under a three penny planet, i.e. is avaricious, a curmudgeon 1901 F E Taylor,
Three removes

Lanes Sayings, 7 [as in 1692, very slightly varied].

Three removes are as bad as a fire. 1736: Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i. 445 (Bigelow). 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. “Flit,” Two fittings are as bad as one fire. 1881: Evans, Leics. Words, 237 (E.D.S.). “Thray shifts are as bad as a foire,” is the Leicestershire form of the common proverb. 1925: Punch, 11 Nov., p. 505, col. 3.

Three sisters, Tho. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, iii. 548 (1849), “The three sisters,” being a common by-word to express the three rivers of Wye, Severn, Rhiddiall, arising all three in this county [Montgomery].

Three skips of a louse = no value. 1633: Jonson, Tale of a Tub, II. i., I care not I, sir, not three skips of a louse.

Before 1674: in Roxb. Ballads, viii. 426 (B.S.), And temper it with three leaps of a louse. 1700: Swift, in Works, xiv. 57 (Scott), ’Tis not that I value the money three skips of a louse. 1769: Murphy, in Garrick Corresp., i. 340 (1831), I’d cudgel him back, breast and belly for three skips of a louse!

Three slips for a tester—three counterfeit twopenny coins for a sixpence = to give the slip. 1627: F. Grove, A Quip for a Scornful Lasse, or, Three Slip for a Tester [title of ballad]. 1655: Faithful Post, 7–14 Sept, He wanted agility of body to give them three slips for a tester. 1678: Ray, 82, Two slips for a tester. c. 1685: Roxb. Ballads, vi. 233 (B.S.), The Forlorn Lover; Declaring how a Lass gave her Love Three slips for a Tester [title of ballad], and married another a week before Easter.

Three straws on a staff would make a baby cry and laugh. 1869: Hazlitt, 403.

Three tailors. See Nine tailors.

Three things a man may be deceived, In. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. “Three,” In three things a man may be easily deceiv’d, viz. In a man, till known, A tree till down, and the day till done.

Three things are not to be credited. 1616: B. Rich, Ladies Looking Glasse,
Three things

Evil Maryage, 196, in Hazlitt, Early Pop Poetry, iv 78, And Salamon sayeth there be thynges thre, Shrewe wyne, rayne, and smokes blake. Make husbands ofte theys houses to forsake 1576 Gascoigne, Works, ii 227 (Cunliffe). There are three thynge that sufere not a man to abyde in his owne house Smoke, rayne, and an evil wyfe 1590 Greene, Works, vi 249, Foure thynge drues a man from hys house Too much smoke 2 A dropping roote 3 A fylthie ayre 4 And a brawling woman 1597 Shakespeare Henry IV, III 1, 0, he is as tedious As a tired horse, a ruling wife Worse than a smoky house 1619 Help to Discourse 84 (1640), A smoke, a storme, and a contentious wife, Three is are found that ture a husbands life To which, a fourth is by the proverbe sed When children cry for hunger, wanting bread 1666 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch vii, Poverty is hard, but debt is horrible a man might as well have a smoky house and a scolding wife, which are said to be the two worst evils of our life

Three things that are not to be lent See Lend (5)

Three things that never comes to no good, There be—Christmas pigs, Michaelmas fowls, and parsons daughters Mon 1882 N & Q, 6th ser, vi 246

Three things there be full hard to be known 1417 in Relig Antiquae, 1 233 (1841), There been three thinges full harde to be knownen which waye they will drawe The first is of a birde sitting upon a bough The second is of a vessell in the see And the thurde is the waye of a young man 1486 Bake of St Albans, sig f 4, Ther be my thynges full harde for to knowe, Wyche waye that they will drawe The first is the wayes of a yong man The second the cours of a vessayll in the see The thredle of an edder or a serpent sprant The my of a fowle sittyng on any thyng

Three things there be which never decay whiles the world lasteth, to bake, to brewe, and to powle or shere, saye the people, or common proverbe 1586 I. Evans, Withals Dict Revised, sig E4

Three to one See Two to one

Three ways—the universitie, the sea, the court, There are 1612 Shelton, Quixote, Pt I bk iv ch vii, There is an old proverbe and it is thus, 'The Church, the Sea, or the Court' 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

Three women See Woman (35)

Three words, At (or In) See quotes 1633 Draxe, 10, At three words, he is at the top of the house [ie he is greatly excited] 1659 Howell, 15, In three words she is at the roof of the house

Thresher take his flayl, Let the See quotes 1626 Breton, Fantasticks, 10 (Grosart) It is now November, and according to the old proverbe, Let the thresher take his flayle, And the ship no more sayle 1661 M Stevenson, Twelve Moneths, 51 [as in 1626] 1675 Poor Robin Alman Prognost, sig C7 [as in 1626] 1732 Fuller, No 6221, November, take flayle, Let ships no more sail

Thrift, subs 1 Theirs' thrift waxes thin, That spend more than they win c 1460 How the Good Wife, 1 100 ['His' for 'Their'] 1507 North Mothers Blessing, in Plasidas, etc, 167 (Roxh C)

2 Thrift and he are at a fray 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch vii, When thrift and you fell yirst at a fray, You played the man, for ye made thrifren away 1670 Ray, 196

3 Thrift is good revenue 1659 Howell, Proverbs Fr - Eng., 15, Parsimony is the best revenue 1855 Bohn, 530

4 Thrift is the philosopher's stone 1732 Fuller, No 5040

5 Thy thrifte is thy friend's meath c 1460 How the Good Wife, 1 170, Thy thrifte is thy frendes myrthe

6 When thrifte is in the town, he is in the field—or vice versa 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch ix c 1594 Bacon, Promus, No 675 1670 Ray, 196

Thrive, verb 1 He that thinketh to thrive by hope, may happen to beg in

2. He that will thrive must ask leave of his wife. c. 1470: Songs and Carols, 87 (Percy S., No. 73), Fore he that cast hym for to thrive, He must ask of his wife leve. 1523: Fitzherbert, Husbandry, 93 (E.D.S.). There is an old common sayenge, that seldom doth the housbane thrive, withoute the leue of his wyfe. 1669: D. North, Obs. and Adv. Econom., 4. 1784: Franklin, Autobiog., in Works, i. 171 (Bigelow). 1875: Smiles, Thrift, 144.

3. He that will thrive must rise at five; He that hath thriven may lie till seven. c. 1590: G. Harvey, Marginalia, 52 (1913), [as above, plus] He that will never thriven may lie lye till aeneun. 1647: Countrym. New Commonwealth, 42 [as in 1590]. 1670: Ray, 148. 1732: Fuller, No. 6094. 1750: W. Ellis, Housewife’s Companion, vii., To rise at five is the way to thrive. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 578, Them as ‘o’n thrive Mun rise at five, Them as han thriven May lie till seven. 1913: E. M. Wright, Rustic Speech, etc., 173 [as in 1883].

4. He thrives well that God loves. c. 1460: How the Good Wife, i. 10, Wele thrype thet God loueth. Throng [Busy] as Throp’s wife, As. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, ii. 201, “As thrang as Throp wife, when she hang’d hersell in her garter,” a proverbial simile applied to those who are very busy in trifling things. 1849: F. T. Dinsdale, Teesdale Gloss., 134, There is a phrase, “As thrang as Throp’s wife ‘at hanged hersell i’ t’ dish-clout.” 1892: N. & Q., 8th ser., i. 12, I have heard the saying “I’m as throng as Throp’s wife,” in Yorkshire, and only a few days ago. 1900: N. & Q., 9th ser., v. 414, “As busy as Throp’s wife” —This is a saying current in the dales of North Derbyshire and West Yorkshire. Ibid., 527, In South Notts (where “throng” = busy is very common) there is a variant, “As busy as Beck’s wife.” Cf. Thrunk.

Through stitch, To go = To do a thing thoroughly. 1579: Gosson, Sch. of Abuse, 68 (Arber), Philippe of Macedon . . . was not able to go thorowe stitche. 1593: Nashe, Works, ii. 205 (Grosart), What reason haue I . . . but to go through stitch with you, as well as him? 1670: Cotton, Scarronides, bk. iv., Who means to conquer Italy, Must with his work go thorough stitches. 1712: Motteux, Quixote, Pt. I. bk. ii. ch. xi., If you must needs be knocking your noddle, to go through stitch with this ugly job 1785: Grose, Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue, s.v., To go thorough stitch, to stick at nothing. 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, ii. 169, “To go through stitch,” to accomplish a business completely.

Throw, verb. 1. Don’t throw. See quot. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 578, Don’t throw your property out through the door with a spade, while your husband is bringing it in through the window with a spoon.

2. He that is thrown would ever wrestle. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudents, 1732: Fuller, No. 2196.

3. He who will throw a stone at every dog. See quotes. c. 1555: in Colleman, Ballads, etc., 68 (Roxb. Cl.), Who flynges a stone at every dogge, which barketh in the strete, Shall never have a lust reuenge, nor have a pacient spretie. 1575: Gascoigne, Posies, in Works, i. 6 (Cunliffe), He who will throw a stone at everie dogge which barketh, had neede of a great satchell or pocket.

4. Not to have—this or that—to throw at a dog. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vii., To be unable to give a dog a loaf. 1600: Day, Blind Beggar, III., I have not a horse to cast at a dog, man, not I. 1600: Shakespeare, Merry Wives, I. iv., He shall not have a stone to throw at his dog. 1607: Heywood, Fair Maide, in Works, ii. 54 (1874), I am not furnish’d of a courting phrase, to throw at a dogge. 1738: Swift, Polite Converss., Dial. I., Here’s miss, has not a word to throw at a dog. 1765: Bickerstaff, Maid of the Mill, II. 1., She was struck all of a heap—she had not a word to throw to a dog. 1850: Dickens, Copperfield, ch. i., It is nothing to say that he hadn’t a word
to throw at a dog  He couldn’t have thrown a word at a mad dog 1884 R L S and Henley, Beau Austen, I i, She falls away, has not a word to throw at a dog, and is ridiculously pale.

5 Thrown stone or spoken word  See quotes 1633 Drake, 240, A word and a stone let goe, cannot be called backe 1732 Fuller, No 485 [as in 1633] 1875 Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 88 [as in 1633 but with “recalled” for “called backe”] 1924 J L Garvin, in Observer, 12 Oct p 12, col 3, Never more, says the old proverb, comes back the thrown stone or the spoken word.

6 To throw snot about  To weep 1678 Ray, 82

7 To throw the helve after the hatchet 1546 Heywood Proverbs Pt II ch ix, For here I sende thaxe after the helve awaine 1587 J Bridges Def of God in Ch of England 90, If the axe were gone, is this the remedy, to hurle the helve after it? 1685-6 Cotton Montaigne, bk iii ch ix, I abandon myself through despair and as the saying is, “throw the helve after the hatchet” 1712 Motteux, Quixote, Pt II ch x 1824 Scott, Journal, 26 April, At night I flung helve after hatchet, and spent the evening in reading the Doom of Detorgold to the girls 1921 Observer, 10 April, p 10, col 5 The worst of democracy, as Lord Bryce might admit, is the combination of power and ignorance. Passion is born from the imagination of the thing that is not, and the helve is flung after the hatchet.

8 To throw the house out of the windows  See House (16)

9 To throw the stone and hide the hand 1732 Fuller, No 5246

10 To throw water  See Cast (8)

Thrunk [Crowded] as Chiddle Wakes, no room areawt, As 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 24 [“areawt” = out of doors]

Thrunk as Eccles wakes, As 1901 F E Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 4

Thrunk (or Thrang) as three in a bed, As 1828 Carr, Crooten Dialect, n 201, Crowded, “as thrang as three in a bed” 1884 N & Q, 6th ser, v 227. In

Yorkshire the expression is “as thrang as three in a bed” 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 25 Cf Thick as three in a bed, and Throng

Thrush, avoiding the trap, fell into bird-lime, The 1732 Fuller, No 4792 Thrushes See Wish (3)

Thump See Finger (2), (8), and (11)

Thunder, subs 1 Early thunder, early spring 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 7

2 If it sinks  See quot 1874 N & Q, 5th ser, ii 184, If it sinks from the north, It will double its wrath, If it sinks from the south, It will open its mouth, If it sinks from the west, It will never at rest If it sinks from the east, It will leave us in peace (Kent) 1893 Inwards 118 [as in 1874]

3 The first thunder of the year awakes All the frogs and all the snakes  Ibid, 117

4 Thunder in spring Cold will bring  Ibid, 7

See also All Fools’ Day, April (24) and (26), December, Lightning, March (18), (36), and (48), May, F (13) and (25), November (8), Poppies, Shrovetide (2), Summer (5), and Winter (7) and (13)-(19)

Thunderbolt hath but its clap, The 1833 Draxe, 216 1870 Ray, 148 1732 Fuller, No 4793, The thunder hath but its clap.

Thursday 1 On Thursday at three Look out, and you’ll see What Friday will be S Devon 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 42

2 Thursday come, The week’s gone 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum, Thursday come and the week is gone 1666 Torrano, Piazza Univ, 103, The Thursday come, the week lost 1878 Dyer, Eng Folk-Lore, 241, Working people are wont to say — “Thursday come, The week’s gone”

Thynne See Horner

Tob A generic name for a girl, as Tom for a boy  He struck at Tob, but down fell Tom 1639 Clarke, i, [with adverbial] but struck downe Tom 1670 Ray, 166 1732 Fuller, No 106 [with “Tob” for Tom]

Tibberton See quot 1882, Mrs
Chamberlain, W. Wores. Words, 39 (E.D.S.), A stone church, a wooden steeple, A drunken parson, a wicked people, is a proverb at Tibberton.

Tib's eve, neither before nor after Christmas. One of the many euphemisms for "never." 1785: Grose, Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue, s.v. "Tib," He will pay you on St. Tibbs Eve (Irish). 1854: Baker, Northants Gloss., s.v. 1861: N. & Q., 2nd ser., xi. 269, St. Tib's Eve is used in Cornwall as equivalent to "the Greek Kalends." 1916: B. Duffy, The Counter-Charm, 8, If you were boiled in soap from this till Tib's Eve, you'd be just as sooty.

Tickhill, God help me. 1850: N. & Q., 1st ser., i. 247, Can any one tell why a Tickhill man, when asked where he comes from, says, "Tickhill, God help me"? 1888: S. O. Addy, Sheffield Gloss., 259 (E.D.S.), In speaking to a stranger . . . a Bawtry man will say of a Tickhill man, "Oh, he comes from Tickhill-God-help-him," as if nobody need wonder at a Tickhill man's actions.


Tid, Mid, Misera. See quotes. 1788: Gent. Mag., i. 188, We have in Northumberland the following couplet, which gives name to every Sunday in Lent, except the first: Tid, and Mid, and Misera, Carling, Palm, and Good-past-day. 1825: Hone, Ev. Day Book, i. 379, Tid, Mid, Misera, Carling, Palm, Paste Egg Day.

Tide, subs 1. The tide keeps its course. 1659: Howell, 10.


3. The tide tarries no man. c. 1440: Lydgate, Fall of Princes, bk. iii. l. 2801 (E.E.T.S.), The tid abit nat for no maner man. 15th cent.: in Reliq. Antiquae, i. 268 (1841), Farewele, my frendis, the tide abideth no man. c. 1550: Every-man, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, l. 105, For, wit thou well, the tide abideth no man. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. iii. 1591: Lyly, Endymion, IV. ii. 1611:


4. The tide will fetch away what the ebb brings. 1670: Ray, 26. 1732: Fuller, No. 4495, The ebb will fetch off what the tide brings in.

See also Rain, verb (3).

Tidings make either glad or sad. 1639: Clarke, 229. 1670: Ray, 148.

Tie a knot with the tongue. See Knot (2).

Tied by the tooth. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 124, Sheep and cattle will not break through fences or try to wander if the pasture of the field in which they are grazing is very good. They are "tied by the tooth."

Tie it well and let it go. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

Tight as a drum, As. 1720: Gay, Poems, ii. 279 (Underhill), No drum was ever tighter. 1857: Hughes, Tom Brown, Pt. I. ch. iv., Tom has eaten . . . till his little skin is as tight as a drum.

Tight boots, To sit in=To be ill at ease with your host. 1855: Bohn, 543.

Time, subs. i. As good have no time, as make no good use of it. 1732: Fuller, No. 686.

2. He that has most time has none to lose. Ibid., No. 2141.

3. He that hath time and looketh for a better time, loseth time. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 28, Who hath tymne and tarieth for time, loseth tyme 1605: Camden, Remains, 323 (1870) [with "better" omitted]. 1651: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium, 2nd ed., . . . [ending] time comes that he repents himself of time. 1732: Fuller, No. 2162. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. vii. [as in 1651].

4. He that hath time hath life 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 28, Who hath tymne hath life. 1596: Nashe, Works, iii. 70 (Grosart). 1629: Book of Meery Riddles, Prov. 14. 1736: Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i. 443 (Bigelow), Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of.

5. In time of prosperity. See Prosperity.

6. It is time to yoke when the cart comes to the cables [horses]. Cheshire. 1670:
7 Take time when time cometh, for
time will away Before 1529 Skelton,
Works, 1 137 (Dyce), Take time when
tyme is for tyme is ay mutable 1596
A Montgomery, Cherry and Slace, st 36,
Tak time in time, ere time be tint For
time will not remain 1670 Ray, 149
[as for 'cometh'] 1732 Fuller, No 4313 [as in 1670] 1846 Denham,
Proverbs 5 (Percy S) [as in 1670]
8 There is a time for all things 1399
Langland, Rike the Redcedes, M 278,
But all thinges hath tyme 1509
Bp Fisher, Eng Works, 174 (EETS),
Every thyng hath a tyme 1501
Shakespeare, Com of Errors, II n 1605
Chapman, All Fools, V 11, For as much,
Valenus, as everything has time 1732
Fuller, No 1466 Every thing hath its
time, and that time must be watch'd
1661 Peacock, Gryll Grange, ch vii.,
He held that there was a time for all
things 1926 Punch, 28 July, p 92,
col 2, Nay, nay, there be for all
things
9 There is a time to speak, and a time
to be silent 1485 Caxton, Charles the
Grete, 56 (EETS), Thou knowest the
comy proverbe that sayth that there
is a tyme of spekyng and tyme of byng
stye 1523-5 Berners, Frossart,
ch cccxviii., John Lyon, sayd, Ther
is tyme to be styll and tyme to speke
1633 Draxe 190 There is a tyme to
speake and a tyme to holde ones peace
10 There is a time to wink, as well as
to see 1732 Fuller, No 4885
11 Time and chance happen to all
men 1709 O Dykes, Eng Proverbs,
273 (2nd ed) [cited as "a common
saw"]
12 Time and chance reveal all secrets
1709 Manley, New Atlantis, n 230
(1736) Cf No 24
13 Time and patience will wear out
stone posts 1864 "Cornish Pro-
verbs, in N & Q, 3rd ser, vi 494,
stonen postes 1919 Devonsh Assoc
Trans., n 77, Time and patience wears
out most stone paustes
14 Time and straw make medlars

ripe 1578 Florio, First Fruits, fo
14, With time and with straw, medlers
are made ripe 1611 Cotgrave, s v
"Paille," In time and straw are medlers
mellowed 1712 Motteux, Quixote,
Pt I bk in ch vi 1732 Fuller, No
5047, Time and straw ripen medlars
15 Time and tide wait for no man
1386 Chaucer, C Tales, E 118
(Skeat), For thogh we sleepe or wake, or
rome, or ryde, Ay fleeth the tyme, it nil
no man abyde Before 1529 Skelton,
Works, 1 137 (Dyce), Byde for tyme
which, for tyme wyl no man byde
1596 Nashe, Works, ii 78 (Grosart),
Yet time and tide (that stanes for no
man) forbids vs 1630 Brathwait,
Eng Gent., 189 (1641) Whence we
commonly say, Time and tide stayeth
for no man 1736 Bailey, Dict., s v
'Time,' Time and tide will stay for no
man 1822 Scott, Nigel, ch xxv
1850 Dickens, Chuzzlewit, ch x Cl
16 Time cures all things 1539
Taverner, Proverbs, fo 38, Tyme taketh
away greuance 1698 Terence made
English, 140 (2nd ed) 1731 Lillo,
George Barnwell, V 11, Time and refection
cure all ills 1736 Bailey, Dict.,
sv 'Time,' Time and thought quells
the heaviest gref 1869 Hazlitt, 405,
Time and thinking tame the strongest
gref
17 Time fleeth away without delay
1639 Clarke, 308 1670 Ray, 149
1732 Fuller No 6090
18 Time is a file that wears and makes
no noise 1855 Bohn, 531
19 Time is money 1607-12 Bacon,
Essays "Despatch," For tyme is the
measure of businesse, as money is of
wares 1748 Franklin, in Works, ii
118 (Bigelow) 1851 Dickens, Barn
Rudge, ch xxiv 1875 Smiles, Thrift,
364 1993 Gissing, Henry Ryecroft
"Winter," xxiv, Time is money—says
the vulgarst saw known to any age or
people. Turn it round about, and you
get a precious truth—money is time
20 Time is the father of truth 1578
Florio, First Fruits, fo 32 1629
Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 47
21 Time is the rider that breaks youth
1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1670: Ray, 26. 1732: Fuller, No. 5052 [with "in" after "breaks"].
23. Time lost we cannot win. c 1440: Lydgate, Fall of Princes, bk ii. 1. 2811 (E.E.T.S.), Sumtyme departed, ageyn men may nat call. c. 1535: Pain of Evil Marriage, 17 (Percy S.), Tyne passed wyl not agayne returne. 1605: Camden, Remains, 334 (1870). 1659: Howell, ro.
25. Time stays not the fool's leisure. 1655: Bohn, 531.
27. Time trieth all things. 1553: Republica, Prol., Yet tyme trieth all.
29. To take time by the forelock. 1595: Spenser, Sonnets, No lxx., Tell her the joyful time wil not be staid, Unlesse she doe him by the forelock take. 1624: T. Heywood, Captives, III. ii., Loose not this advantage, But take tyme by the fore-topp. 1708: Ward, London Terrelifins, No. 5, p. 23, You have taken Time by the forelock. 1767: Brooke, Fool of Quality, ii. 252, O, then we may take good-man time by the forelock. 1883: R. L. S., Treasure I., ch. xii.
30. When time hath turned white sugar to white salt. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. ii.
See also Nature, time.
Timely blossom, timely fruit. 1639: Clarke, 171 ["beare" for "fruit"]. 1670: Ray, 149 ["ripe" for "fruit"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 5057.

Timely crooketh. See Soon crooketh. Tinidal. This is a dark saying. I cannot identify "Tinidal." 1583: Melanbekhe, Philotinus, sig. Aaz, It is a proverbe in Englane that the men of Tinidal borderers on ye English midle marches, haue likers, lemmons, and lyerbies.
Tinker and Tinkers, subs. 1. A tinker and a piper make bad music together. 1639: Clarke, 5.
2. A tinker's budget is full of necessary tools. Ibid, 72. 1670: Ray, 149.
3. The tinker stops one hole and makes two. 1576. Common Conditions in Brandl, Quellen, 599, Hoie tiffite toftie tinkers, good fellows thei bee, In stoppyng of one hole thei vse to make three. 1630: Tinker of Turvey, 10 (Halliwell), Roome for a joviall tinker, He stop one hole, and make three. 1692: L'Estrange, Æsop, 189 (3rd ed.), Till it comes at last to the tinker's work of stopping one hole, and making ten. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I. 1872: N. & Q., 4th ser., ix. 375, When I was young it was a proverb in East Cornwall that the tinkers "repaired one hole and made two."
4. Tinker's news. 1876: N. & Q., 5th ser., v. 168, In Gloucestershire, when any piece of information is mentioned that has been heard or told before, it is called "tinkers' news." 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 599, That's tinker's news; i.e. stale news.
See also Banbury tinkers; Cobbler (3); Merry as tinkers; Not worth (34); Rough as a tinker's budget; and Swear (2).
Tit for tat. [Par pari respondet.] —
Tithe

Plautus, True, u 47] 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch iv 1552 Hulcet, Abed, sig Bb6, Reque et as tick for tach 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Beau," A tit for a tat as good every wbit as was brought 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, 1 153 (1785). They are resolved to break my heart And they think you are resolved to break theirs So tit for tat, Miss 1898 Weyman, Shrewsbury, ch xvii 1922 Observer, 10 Dec, p 13, col 2, They want their tit for tat with Mr Bonar Law

Tithe and be rich 1651 Herbert, Jac Prudentum, 2nd ed

Tittle, tattle, give the goose more hay 1659 Howell, 11 1670 Ray 214 c 1860 Sedley, Grumbler, I 't Bubble babble", for Tittle tattle ] 1732 Fuller, No 5038

Toad, subs 2 The toad and a side-pocket See quotes Monkey and dog are variants for the toad 1785 Grose, Class Dct Vulgar Tongue, s v "Toad," As much need of it as a toad of a side-pocket, said of a person who desires anything for which he has no real occasion 1869 N & Q, 4th ser, iv 147. The old fellow said 'I no more wants that than a toad wants side pockets" 1880 N & Q, 6th ser, u 347 ['monkey" for 'toad"] Ibid, 377 ['dog"—Devonsh] 1881 N & Q, 6th ser, iv 76 ['dog'—E Riding, Yorks] Ibid ['toad"—S W England and Northantsj 1888 Q-Couch, Troy Town, ch x, A bull's got no more use for religion than a toad for side-pockets Cf Cow (8)

2 The toad under the harrow See quotes [c 1290 in Wright, Pol Songs John to Edw II, 166 (Camden S), Dixit bufo crati, maledicti tot dominati"] c 1380 Weich, Select Eng Works, u 280, Chrestene men may seye, as the poete seith in proverbe, the frogge seide to the harwe, cursid so many lordis 1570 Vade Mecum for Malt-worms, Pt I 33 There says, He lies like toad beneath a harrow 1732 Fuller, No 3354 Many masters, quoth the toad to the harrow, when every tine turn'd her over 1817 Scott, Rob Roy, ch xxvii, Only muttermg between his teeth, "Ower mony masters as the paddock said to the harrow, when every tooth gae her a tig" 1849 Dimsdale, Teesdale Gloss, 136, "To live like a toad under a harrow," is an expression denoting extreme personal wretchedness 1854 Baker, Northants Gloss, s v "Toad under a harrow" A common simile applied to any one in a state of mental or bodily disquietude or suffering 1918 Devonsh Assoc Trans, 1 279. The proverbial saying about a man in difficulties that he is "like a toad under a harrow'

See also Multra, and Swell

Toasted cheese hath no master 1678 Ray, 82 1971 Hackwood, Good Cheer, 304

Toast your bread See quot 1888 Lowsley, Berks Gloss, 30 (E D S), Two-ast yer bread An' rashier yer witch, An' as long as 'e lives Theob'oll never be rich

Tobacco See quotes 1678 Ray, 296, Tobacco hic. If a man be well it will make him sick [Also] Will make a man well if he be sick 1849 Halliwell, Pop Rhymes etc, 180, Tobacco hic, Will make you well If you be sick

To-day a man, to-morrow a cuckold 1669 New Help to Discourse, 310

To-day a man, to-morrow a mouse 1666 Tornano, Praza Univ, 59 1732 Fuller, No 5152

To-day a man, to-morrow none Before 1500 in Hill, Commonplace Book, 129 (E E T S), This day a man, to-morrow none 1560 T Wilson, Rheologie, 83 (1909) 1611 Cotgrave, s v 'Biere" 1633 Draxe, 131

To-day at cheer, to-morrow in her 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Chere," To day glad, to morrow dead 1623 Wodroophe, Shared Hous, 476 1880 Spurgeon, Ploughman's Pictures, 67. To-day at good cheer, to-morrow on the her

To-day gold, to-morrow dust s c 1500 in Antiq Repertory, iv 398 (1809). To day a man in gole, to morrow closyde in clay 1869 Hazlitt, 414
To-day is yesterday's pupil. 1732: Fuller, No. 5153.

To-day me, to-morrow thee—or vice versa. Before 1225: Ancren R., 278, And see . . . " Ille hodie, ego cras": "pet is, "He to day, icht to morwen." 1596: Spenser, F. Q., VI. i. 41, What haps to-day to me to-morrow may to you. 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. lxv., To-day for thee, to-morrow for me, 1681: Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 427. 1732: Fuller, No. 5154. 1855: Kingsley, West Hol., ch. ix., To-day to thee, to-morrow to me. Addio. 1906: Doyle, Sir Nigel, ch. xv., "It is the custom of the Narrow Seas," said they: "To-day for them; to-morrow for us."

To-day will not, to-morrow may, If. 1732: Fuller, No. 2725.

Toil of a pleasure, To make a. 1603: Breton, in Works, ii. 77 (Grosart), I do not looe so to make a toyle of a pleasure. Before 1658: Cleveland, in Works, 267 (1742), And make a toil of's pleasure.

Toil so far trash, what would you do for treasure, If you? 1639: Clarke, 194.


Toko for yam. See quot. 1823: John Bee, Slang Dict., Toco for yam.—Yams are food for negroes in the West Indies (resembling potatoes), and if, instead of receiving his proper ration of these, blackee gets a whip (toco) about his 'back,' why "he has caught toco" instead of yams. 1855: Planché, Extravag., v. 124 (1879), Shan't he get toco for yam as surely As I stand here! 1880: N. & Q., 6th ser., i. 455, This is a common expression among sailors in the navy; for instance, " He'll get toko for yam," i.e. "he'll get paid out," " he'll be punished."

Toll is more than the grist, The. 1886: Elworthy, West Som. Word-Book, 302 (E.D.S.), Formerly the miller always took his payment in a toll of the corn, and hence one of our most common proverbs: . . . the toll is more than the grist.

To-morrow

Tom All thumbs. See All thumbs.

Tom, Dick and Harry. 1566: Lindsay, Dial. between Exper. and a Courter, sig. A8 (Purfoot), Wherefore to colliers, carters and cokes To Jack and Tom my rimes shall be directed. 1604: James I., in Fuller, Church Hist., bk. x §1. (22), Then Jack, and Tom, and Will, and Dick shall meet and censure me and my Council. 1622: J. Taylor, Sir Greg. Nonsense, 16, in Hindley, Old Book-Coll. Miscell., ii., I neither care what Tom, or Jack, or Dick said. 1660: A. Brome, Poem: "Royalist's Answer," Though Dick, Tom, and Jack, Will serve you and your pack. 1885: M. Twain, in Letters, 251 (1920), His simple pleasure in the flowers and general ruck sent to him by Tom, Dick and Harry from everywhere. 1927: B. W. Matz, Inns and Tav. of "Pickwick," 242, He gathered his information from any Tom, Dick or Harry he came in contact with during his wanderings.

Tom Dooley. See quot. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 103, Owd Tom Dooley's note, booth barren and dreigh (said of a barren and dry cow).

Tom Drum. See Drum's entertain-

ment.

Tom Fool. See More know; and Red and yellow.

Tom Hodges. See John Toy.

Tom Long. See John Long.

Tom Norton. See All worse.

Tom of all trades. See Jack of all trades.

To-morrow come never. 1678: Ray, 343. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' Collog., 34. 1769: Colman, Man and Wife, III. 1825: Brockett, Gloss. N. Country Words, 150, Nivver, never, "To-mor-
row come nivver—when two Sundays meet together." 1830: Marryat, King's Own, ch. xxvi. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 141.

To-morrow is a new day. c. 1520: Calisto and Melibea, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, i. 86, Well, mother, to-morrow is a new day: I shall perform that I have you promised. 1592: Lyly, Mother Bombie, V. iii. c. 1620: B & F., Night-Walker, II. iii. 1685–6: Cotton, Montaigne, bk. ii. ch. iv., To-morrow's
To-morrow is untouched 1846

To-morrow morning I found a horse-shoe 1620 Shen, Quixote, Pt II ch xvi, That are as much to the purpose as "To-morrow I found a horse-shoe." 1732 Fuller, No 5208 1026 Times, 2 Nov., p 14, col 7. The eve of the election finds the Democrats saying, like the man in the proverb, "To-morrow I found a horse-shoe."

To-morrow See also Put (3)

Tom Progdr's job, A 1854 Baker, Northants Gloss, s v "Progdr," "A Tom Progdr's job", a clumsy piece of work is so called

Tom Tell-truth 1377 Langland, Plocman B iv 17, Tomm Trewe-tonge-telle-me-no-tales 1542 Udall, Er Asmas' Apoph, 202 (1877). (As ye would say in English) Thom trouth, or plain Sansburne 1550 Latumer, Sermons 289 (P.S), Master, we know that thou art Tom Truth, and thou tellest the very truth Thou art plain Tom Truth 1600 J Lane, Tom Tel-Troths Message [title] (N Sh, S) 1646 Quaries, Works, 1 93 (Grosart) 1681 Robertson, Phrased Generalis, 1666, So Tom tell-troth talks and reports 1709 O Dykes, Eng Proverbs, p xxxvi (2nd ed), Neither do I look upon such scraps, as, Latter Lammas Tom Tell-Troth. to be fit for my purpose 1826 Scott, Journal, 19 Feb Yet is he Tom Tell-truth, and totally unable to disguise his real feelings 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch xviii, Better be laughed at as Tom Tell-truth than be praised as Crafty Charlie

Tom Thumb, A tale of 1659

Howell, 14

Tong, Kent See Bapchild, and Muston

Tongue, sub 1 A good tongue is a good weapon 1732 Fuller, No 160
2 At one's tongue's end 1590 Tarlton's Neues out of Purg, 69 (Sh S), To blame those wives whose secrets lay at their tongues end 1652 Walungham, Arcana Aulica, 18 (1694), Upon whose tongues-end lay the disposal of his life 1751 Fielding, Amelia, bk xii ch vn Having always at her tongue's end that excellent proverb 1854 Baker, Northants Gloss, s v "I had it at my tongue's end," 1 e I was ready to speak, but on reflection held my tongue

3 Her tongue runs on patterns 1846

Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch v c 1550 Udall, Rosster Doster, I m., Yet your tongue can remne on patins as well as mine 1611 Davies (of Hereford) Se ofolly, 46, in Works, u (Grosart)

4. His tongue goes always of errands, but never speeds 1732 Fuller, No 2515

5 His tongue is as cloven as the devil's foot Ibid., No 2516

6. His tongue is no slander 1633

Draxe, 121 1670 Ray, 106 1736 Bailey, Dict. s v Tongue"

7 His tongue is well hung 1738

Swift, Polte Conver, Dial I, I warrant this rogue's tongue is well hung 1754

Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict., s v "Hung"

8 His tongue runs on wheels c 1450

Parlonope, 420 (E E T S), They have no joy to say the best, Suche mennys tonges gone euon on wheels 1738

Swift, Polte Conver, Dial I, Why, wench, I think thy tongue runs upon wheels this morning 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, u 213, "His tongue runs o' wheels", 1 e he talks fast

9 Let not thy tongue run away with thy brain 1732 Fuller, No 3790

10 That tongue doth lie that speaks in hast 1611 Davies (of Hereford) Se ofolly, 43, in Works, u (Grosart)

11 The tongue breaks bones, though itself has none c 1270 Prov of Alfred, in Old Eng Miscell 128 (Morris), For ofte tunge breketh bon theyh ho seolf nabbhe non Before 1384 Wich, Works, u 44 (Arnold), Tunge brekith boon, al if the tunge himsele have noon c 1470 G Ashby, Poems, 64 (E E T S)

The tonge breketh boon, than he bende 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch v, Tong breaketh bone, it selfe haungeth none 1670 Ray, 26 1732

Fuller, No 4795
The tongue is ever turning to the aching tooth. 1586: Young, tr. Guazzo's Civil Convers., fo. 222: The tongue rolls there where the teeth aketh. 1659: Howell, Proverbs: Ital.-Eng., 8, Where the tooth pains, the toung is commonly upon it. 1732: Fuller, No. 4796.

13. The tongue is not steel, yet it cuts. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. x., Her tong is no edge toole, but yet it will cut. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1732: Fuller, No. 4797 [with "sorely" after "cuts"]. 1853: Trench, Proverbs, 138 (1909).

14. The tongue is the rudder of our ship. 1732: Fuller, No. 4798.

15. The tongue of idle persons is never idle. Ibid., No. 4800.


17. The tongue walks where the teeth speed not. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

18. To keep one's tongue between one's teeth. 1672: Walker, Param., 18, I shall keep my tongue between my teeth. 1692: L'Estrange, Æsop, 271 (3rd ed.), That have the wit yet to keep their tongues betwixt their teeth. 1709: Cibber, Rival Fools, II., If he does not keep his tongue between his teeth, I'll give him a chuck o' the chin, shall chop him in two. 1784: New Foundl. Hosp. for Wit, i. 287. 1821: Scott, Kenilworth, ch. vii., Silence, good neighbours!... keep tongue betwixt teeth.


20. Your tongue is made of very loose leather. 1732: Fuller, No. 6062.

21. Your tongue runs before your wit. c. 1350: Pearl, i. 294, Thy wordes before thy wyte con fie. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. iv. c. 1597: Deloney, Gentle Craft, Pt. I. ch. i., Pardon me... if my tongue doe out-slip my wit. c. 1680: L'Estrange, Seneca's Epistles, i., He will no more speak fast, than he will run, for fear his tongue should go before his wit. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I. 1822: Scott, Nigel, ch. viii., Blisters on my tongue, "it runs too fast for my wit."

22. Your tongue runs nineteen to the dozen. 1654: Baker, Northants Gloss., s.v. "Nineteen," A common expression, when any one talks too fast. "Your tongue runs nineteen to the dozen, there is no getting in a word with you." 1901: Raymond, Idle Out of Doors, 123, Whilst she talked nineteen to the dozen.

See also Heart (12); and Long tongue.

Too big a gun. See quotas. 1732: Fuller, No. 1824, He carries too big a gun for me. 1912: S. Butler, Note-Books, 256, This gentleman had a decided manner and carried quite as many guns as the two barristers... who sat opposite to us.

Too big for one's fireplace—Beyond one's means 1893: Gower, Gloss. of Surrey Words, 16 (E.D.S.), I'm much obliged to you for letting me look at the farm; but I think that it's too big for my fireplace.

Too busy gets contempt, To be. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

Too far East is West. 1853: Trench, Proverbs, 93 (1905), This proverb, Extremes meet, or its parallel, Too far East is West, reaches very far into the heart of things.

Too free to be fat. 1670: Ray, 176. 1861: Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 641, Too free to be fat; Promus magis quam condus.

Too good is stark naught. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II.

Too hasty burnt his lips. 1623: Wodropehe, Spard Houres, 519.

Too hasty to be a parish clerk. 1633: Draxe, 10 ["priest" for "clerk"]. 1670: Ray, 180.

Too heavy or too hot. c. 1386: Chaucer, Friar's Tale, l. 138, I spare nat to taken, god it woot, But if it be to hevy or to hoot. 1542: Udall, tr. Erasmus' Apoph., 359 (1877), As being a taker and a bribing feole, and one for whom nothing was to hotte nor to heauie. 1607: The Puritan, I. i., Nothing was too hot, nor too dear for me. 1653: Urquhart, Rabelais, bk. i. ch. xxvii., They robbed both men and women, and took all they could catch;
nothing was either too hot or too heanne for them 1822 Scott, Nigel, ch v, 8. Such a sight, sweetheart, will make one loth to meddle with matters that art too hot or heavy for their handling. 1830 N & Q, 7th ser, x 446, "Nothing but what is too hot and too heavy." This sentence is a proverbial saying in North Notts, and its application is in respect of those who are not particular with regard to the manner in which they procure the means for carrying on their mode of living.

Too high for the stirrup, and not high enough for the saddle. Oxfordsh 1913 Folk-Lore, xxxiv 77

Too hot to hold 1639 Clarke, 178
1678 Ray, 346

Too late to grieve when the chance is past. It is 1605 Camden, Remains, 326 (1870) 1732 Fuller, No 5256.

Too late to spare when all is spent 1555 in Wright, Songs, etc., Philip and Mary, 30 (Roxb Cl). To late they spare, when all ye goone 1639 Clarke, 262 1721 Bailey, Dict. s.v. "Spare." 1853 Trench, Proverbs, 112 (1905).

1874 N & Q, 5th ser, i 205

Too late to spare when the bottom is bare 1590 Taverner, Proverbs, fo 32. It is to late sparing at the bottome 1590 G Harvey, Marginalia, 102 (1913) [as in 1539] 1670 Ray, 144 1732 Fuller, No 6345.

Too light winning makes the prize light 1585 Bohn, 545

Too low for a hawk, too high for a buzzard 1910 Max Beerbohm, Seven Men, 100, I had done for myself, so far as those people were concerned and now that I had sampled them, what cared I for others? "Too low for a hawk, too high for a buzzard." That homely old saying seemed to sum me up.

Too many cooks spoil the broth 1662 Gerber, Discourse of Building, 24, 1732 Fuller, No 4657. The more cooks the worse broth 1778 S Crisp, in D Arblay, Diary, i 84 (1876). In these cases generally the more cooks the worse broth 1804 J Austen Watson, 24 (Walkley, 1923) 1855 Kingsley, West Hol, ch xv 1921.

Observer, 15 May, p 13, col 5. Eleven clever gentlemen have made this jolly entertainment, and, contrary to custom, too many cooks have not spoiled the broth.

Too many stairs and back-doors makes thieves and whores 1662 Gerber, Discourse of Building, 14 [cited as "the old English proverb"]

Too much bed makes a dull head. Derby 1884 Folk-Lore Journal, i 279.

Too much breaks the bag. 1666 Tormano Piazza Unw, 244 ["sack" for "bag"] 1670 Ray, 26 1732 Fuller, No 5259.

Too much consulting confounds. Ibid., No 5241.

Too much cordial will destroy. Ibid., No 5263.


Too much diligence is hurtful. 1651 Hoby, Courier, 62 (T, T). It hath bene a proverb to emonge some most excellent pencters of old time, that To much diligence is hurtfull.

Too much liberty spoils all 1611 Cotgrave, s.v. "Bandon," Much liberty brings men to the gallowes 1681 Robertson, Phraseol. Generalis, 822 1694 Terence made English, 123. For too much liberty corrupts an angel.

"Too much money makes men mad, the proverbe plame doth show" c 1640 in Rollins, Cavalier and Puritan, 117 (1923).

Too much of a good thing 1601 Shakespeare, As You Like It, IV 1, Why then, can one desire too much of a good thing? 1611 Cotgrave, s.v. Manger, A man may take too much of a good thing 1809 Syd Smith, Works, i 175 (1867) (O.), This (to use a very colloquial phrase) is surely too much of a good thing.

Too much of nothing but of fools and asses 1639 Clarke, 73.

Too much of one thing is naught (or good for nothing) c 1386 Chaucer, C Tales, iv 645 (Skeat). That is to overdo, it wol nat preve Aright, as clerkes sayn, it is a wyse c 1450 Alice of Arstotle, in E.E.T.S., Ext. Ser., 8, p 66. For to moche of on thyng but

Too much praise is a burthen. 1660: Politephonia, 140. 1732: Fuller, No. 5266.

To much pudding will choke a dog. 1830: Colman, jr., in Hum. Works, 421 (Hotten). 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 141, Too much pudding would saie [satisfie] a dog.

Too much spoileth, too little is nothing. 1659: Howell, Proverbs: Ital.-Eng., 12, Too much spoiles, too little doth not satisfie. 1732: Fuller, No. 5268.

Too much taking heed is loss. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

Too old to learn his accident, He is now. 1659: Howell, xi (9).

Too proud as too slow, As well. 1594: Drayton, Idea, lix.

Too proud to ask is too good to receive, He that is. 1732: Fuller, No. 2194.

Too secure is not safe, He that is. Ibid., No. 2195.

Too soon, He’s up, That’s hanged ere noon. Ibid., No. 6279.

Too wise to be long old. 1502: Greene, Works, x. 238 (Grosart), The neighbours saw, I was too soone wise; to be long olde. 1594: Shakespeare, Rich. III., i., So wise, so young, they say, do never live long. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. i., I fear Lady Answerall can’t live long, she has so much wit. 1825: Scott, in Lockhart’s Life, vi. 134, I should be sorry

the saying were verified in him—"So wise, so young, they say do ne’er live long."

Tooth and Teeth, subs. 1. Tooth and nail = By all means possible. [Manibus pedibusque.—Terence, Andr., 161.] 1533: Udall, Flowers out of Terence, fo. 3, He doeth all thynges... with tothe and nayle, as moche as in him lyeth. 1565: Calthill, Answer to Martial, 228 (P.S.), Defended with tooth and nail. 1646: Wither, What Peace to the Wicked?, 2 (Spens. S.), Some, for themselves, with tooth, and naile. 1710: T. Ward, Eng. Reform., 27 (1716), Then fall with tooth and nail upon ‘em. 1766: Garrick, Neck or Nothing, II. i., She is not to be trusted... tooth and nail against us. 1850: Dickens, Copperfield, ch. xiii., I’ve got a motive... and I go at it tooth and nail.

2. Your teeth are longer than your beard. 1855: Bohn, 582.

Too too will in two. Cheshire 1670: Ray, 149. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 10, Too-too will i’ two (Friends who are too intimate are sure to quarrel). 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 141.

Top. As soon drive a top over a tiled house. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. v., I shall as soone trie him or take him this waiye, As dryye a top over a tydle house. 1659: Howell, 3, You may drive a toppe over a tyldle house as soon. 1678: Ray, 291, As good as ever drave top over til’d house.

Top-heavy, He is = He is drunk 1678: Ray, 87. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. 1825: Hone, Ev. Day Book, ii. 859, Being top-heavy with liquor.

Topmost branch is not the safest perch, The. 1875: Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 103.

Totnes, Devon. See quot. 1850: N. & Q., 1st ser., ii. 511, Here I sit, and here I rest, And this town shall be called Totness. [Said to have been spoken by Brutus of Troy, when he landed there!]

Tottenham, Middlesex. 1. Tottenham is turned French. 1536: Norfolk, to Cromwell, in Cal. Lett., etc., Henry VIII,
No 233, It is further written to me that a brat doth run that I should be in the Tower of London. When I shall deserve to be there Tottenhamham shall turn French 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch vi 1631 W Bedwell, Briefe Descrip of Tottenham, sig D3, Three proverbs commonly by the neighbours used and spoken of Tottenham. The first of those is Tottenham is turn'd French 1662 Fuller Worthies, ii 314 (1830) 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s.v "London"

2 When Tottenham Wood is all on fire Then Tottenham Street is bought but worse 1652 Bedwell, ut supra, sig D4 1662 Fuller, Worthies ii 314 (1830) 1790 Grose Prov Gloss, s.v 'London' 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore 51

3 You shall as easily remove Tottenham-wood 1631 Bedwell ut supra, sig D4 1790 Grose Prov Gloss s.v 'London

Touch, verb 1 I would not touch him with a pair of tongs 1639 Clarke 34, Not to be handled with a pair of tongues 1658 Wt Restor'd, 150 For without a payre of tongs no man will touch her 1732 Fuller, No 2649, I will not touch her with a pair of tongs 1854 Dickens, Hard Times, bk 1 ch iv, I was so ragged and dirty that you wouldn't have touched me with a pair of tongs 1876 Blackmore Creppis, ch vii, As if I would touch him with a pair of tongs, srl 1901 F E Taylor, Lanes Sayings, 33, Aw wouldn' touch him wi' a pair o' tungs

2 To touch to the quick 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch vi, Practyse in all, above all toucheth the quike 1567 Golding, Ovid, bk vi i 166, And that did touch Minerva to the quike 1602 Shakespeare, Hamlet, II ii, I'll tent him to the quike. Before 1658 Cleveland, Works, 131 (1742) There I confess I am touched to the quike 1742 Fielding, Andrews, bk 1 ch vii, The last appellation stung her to the quike 1823 Scott, St Roman's, ch xxix, But when you touch me to the quike you cannot expect me to endure without wincing 1855 Kingsley, West Hol, ch 1, Her last words had touched him to the quick

3 Touch and take 1591 Fline Second Frutes 1597, Touch and take, take and holde 1620 Two Merry Milkmaids, IV ii, I know what the proverbe saith, touch me and take me 1662 Davenant, Law against Lovers, IV, My grandam left me nothing at her death But a good old proverb, that's Touch and Take 1819 Scott, Bride of L, ch iv, Touch and try—the gold is good as ever was weighed

4 Touch pot, touch penny = No credit given 1654 Gayton, Pleasant Notes Don Q 83 1720 Swift, Elegy on Mr Demar, He touched the pence when others touched the pot 1772 Graves, Spirit Quixote, bk ii ch ii, We know the custom at such houses 'tis touch pot, touch penny—we only want money's worth for our money 1822 Scott, Nigel ch vii, When touch pot touch penny makes every man equal

5 Touch wood, it is sure to come good 1906 N Q 10th ser, vi 231

Touch-stone trieth gold, As, the so gold trieth the hearts of men 1598 Meres, Palladis, fo 204, As gold is tried by the touchstone, so nches do shew what is in a man 1669 Goldsmith, 130 1732 Fuller, No 736 [omitting "the hearts of"]

Tough as leather, As 1611 Cotgrave, s.v "Conas" 1678 Ray, 290, As tough as whiteleather 1843 Mrs Carlyle, Lett, 1 219 (1883) (O), The "cold fowl" was as tough as leather

Tow To have tow on one's distaff = To have business on hand, to have "eggs on the spit" e 1386 Chaucer, Miller's Tale, I 588, He hadde more toow on his distaf Than Gerveys knew 1412 Hoccleve, Regement, 45 (L E T S), Tow on my distaf haue I for to spynne, More, my fadir, than ye wot of yat 1533 Heywood, Pard and Friar, in Hazlitt, Old Plays, I 238, I have more toow on my distaff than I can well spin 1732 Fuller, No 4128 She hath other tow on her distaff 1818 Scott, Tam Letters, ii 4 (1834), I did not much write him con amore
... above all, I had too much flax on my distaff. 1906: Doyle, Sir Nigel, ch. xxvi., By my ten finger-bones! ... he found more on his distaff that time than he knew how to spin.

Tower of London. See Fool (22).

Towers build masons. 1639: Clarke, 8.

Town-bull is a bachelor, Then th~ i.e. as soon as such an one. 1678: Ray, 66.

Tracies. 1. The Tracies have always the wind in their faces. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, i. 552 (1840). 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. “Gloucestershire.” 1897: Norway, H. and B. in Devon, etc., 378, Who has not heard of the Tracies, with ever the wind and the rain in their faces. 1905: N. & Q., 10th ser., iv. 335.

2. See quot. 1906: Vincent, H. and B. in Berks, 121, “The Tracies, the Lacsy, and the Fettiplaces Own all the manors, the parks, and the chases,” says the old rhyme.

Trade, subs. 1. A handful of trade is worth a handful of gold. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v.

2. A trade is better than service. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.

3. He that changes his trade. See quot. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Panier,” He that meddles with another mans trade, milkes his cow in a pannier [basket]. 1710: S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 80, He that changes his trade makes soop in a basket.

4. He that hath a trade. See quot. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Mestier,” He that hath a good trade hath a goody revenue. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium, He that learns a trade, hath a purchase made. 1736: Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i. 444 (Bigelow), He that hath a trade, hath an estate. 1772: Franklin, in Works, iv. 538, The proverb says, “He who has a trade has an office of profit and honour.”

5. Trade is the mother of money. 1633: Draxe, 207. 1670: Ray, 27. 1732: Fuller, No. 5271.

See also Good trade; Man (28); and Two of a trade.

Trail a light harrow, To. 1828:

Carr, Craven Dialect, i. 213, “To trail a leet [light] harrow.” This expression alludes to the comforts of single blessedness. 1855: Robinson, Whitby Gloss, 79, He trails a light harrow, his hat covers his family.

Traitors. See quot. 1678: Ray, 82, Are there traitours at the table that the loaf is turn’d the wrong side upwards? See also Treason.

Traitors’ Bridge [Tower of London], A loyal heart may be landed under. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, ii. 347 (1840). 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. “London.”

Trap, To understand (or To be up to). 1679: Counterfeits, III. i., You’re deceiv’d in old Gomez, he understands trap. 1699: Farquhar, Love and a Bottle, III., We understand trap, sir, you must not catch old birds with chaff.

1700: Ward, London Spy, 148 (1924), The rest ... look’d as if they had understood trap this twenty years 1821: Scott, Pirate, ch. iv., His good lady (who understood trap as well as any woman in the Mearns) ... 1828: Carr, Craven Dialect, ii. 217, “To be up to trap,” to be cunning in business, to be sharp-witted in promoting self-interest. 1854: Baker, Northants Gloss., s.v. “Trap” [as in 1826]

• Trash and trumpery is the highway to beggary. 1678: Ray, 211. 1732: Fuller, No. 6091.

Travel makes a wise man better, but a fool worse. Ibid., No. 5272.

Travel, verb. 1. He that travels far knows much. 1639: Clarke, 276. 1670: Ray, 149. 1732: Fuller, No. 2335 [with “much” for “far”].

2. He travelled with Mandeville. Ibid., No. 2374.

3. He who travelleth not by sea, knows not what the fear of God is. 1623: Wodroope, Spared Hours, 230.

Traveller, subs. 1. A traveller may lie by authority. 1509: Barclay, Ship of Fools, ii. 68 (1874), There thre sortes be Of people lyuynge, which may themselfe defende In lesyne [lying], for they haue aucorthyte to lyre The first is pylgrymes that hath great wonders sene In strange countreys, suche may say what they wyll. c. 1598:
Deloney, Gentle Craft, Pt II ch vi.
Travellers have liberty to vitter
what lies they list 1630 Brathwait,
Eng Gent, etc., 77 (1641). Whence it
is said, that travellers, poets and liars,
are three words all of one signification
1683 Dryden and Lee, Duke of Guise,
IV iv. If he has been a traveller, he
certainly says true, for he may lie
by authority 1744–6 Mrs Haywood,
Yem Spectator, ii 283 (1771), There is
a kind of latitude, they say, given to
travellers to exceed the truth 1813
Byron in Letters, etc., ii 311 (Prothero).
I never have, and never should have,
alluded to it on my own authority, from
respect to the ancient proverb on
Travellers Of Old, A (b) (14), and
Painters
2 A traveller must have  See quotes
The details of equipment vary 1591
Florio, Second Frolus, 93, If you will be
a traveller have always the eyes
of a falcon, the ears of an ass,
the face of an ape, the mouth
of a hog, the shoulder of a camell,
the legs of a stag, and
see that you never want too bagges
very full, that is one of patience
and another of money 1594 Nashe,
Works, v 141 (Grosart), A traveller
must have the backe of an ass to bear
all, a tung like the tayle of a dog
to flatter all, the mouth of a hog to eate
what is set before hun, the eare of a
merchant to heare all and say nothing
1612 in Coryat, Crudities, I 44 n
(1605), Note reader that a traveller
must have the backe of an ass, the
mouth of a sow, the eye of a hawke,
a merchants eare, etc 1616 Rich
Cabinet, fo 147, Traveller must have
the head of a philosopher the
heart of a lynon the mouth of a
swine the eyes of a hawke
the backe of an ass the legs of a camell
and the vigilancy of a
coccke 1666 Torrano, Piazza Unu.
157 [a slightly varied copy of 1591]
1678 Ray, 296, To travall safely
through the world a must have a
falcons eye, an assses eares an apes face
a merchants words, a camells back
a dogs mouth, and a harts legs

3 Much spends the traveller more than
the abider 1640 Herbert, Jac Prud
Treadel Town—Maclesfied 1917
Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 146 No good
reason has ever been given why it is so
called
Tread on a worm  See Worm (3)
Tread on one's shoe awry, To = To be
guilty of a lapse from virtue c 1422
Hoccleve, Minor Poems, xxv 66 (0),
No woman But swich oon as
hath trode her shoe amys 1562 Hej
wood, Epigr, 6th hund, No 21, My
wife doth ever tread her shoe a wry
1590 Tarltons News, 75 (Sh S) A
faire wife, that could not treade
right, yet wrinch her shoe inward
as secret as she was false 1616
Sharpbam, Cupids Whirligig, IV, She
hath never trode her foot awry 1639
D'Urfey, Richmond Heiress, II 11, A
foolish female nice and shy, That never
yet trod showe awry 1720 Ward,
Nuptial Dialogues, i 141, But I def
Your servable spies to prove I've trod
awry
Treason, To love the, but hate the
traitor 1614 C Brooke, Rich Third,
109 (Grosart), They loue no traytors
that doe traytors vse 1683 Dryden
and Lee, Duke of Guise, III I, Hate
then the traitor, but yet love the
treason 1692 L'Estrange, Esoy, 172
(3rd ed.), We love the treason but
we hate the traytor 1712 Motteux.
Quintle, Pt I bk iv ch xii, Who
made good to them our Spanish pro-
verb, that the treason pleases, but
the traytors are odious
Treasur is tickle 1583 Melbancke.
Philotimis, sig E3
Tree and Trees, subs 1 A good tree
is a good shelter 1732 Fuller, No
182
2 As a tree falls so must it he
1549 Latumer, Seven Sermons, 118 (Arber)
Wheresoeuer the tree falleth there
it shall rest 1556 Heywood, Spider
and Flie, cap 88 p 380 (Farnier)
Where the tree falleth there lieth it,-
cleeks say so c 1630 in Redt
Ballads, i 143 (B S), And as he the
tree] falls, so doth blye 1820 Scott,
Monastery, ch viii, There lies the faded
Tree, and as it fell, so it lies. 1921: Hudson, Trav. in Little Things, ch. iii.
3. Large trees give more shade than fruit. 1855: Bohn, 439.
4. Set trees poor and they will grow rich, set them rich and they will grow poor. 1678: Ray, 350. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 3 (Percy S.).
6. There is no tree but bears some fruit. 1616: Breton, in Works, ii. 8 (Grosart). There is no tree but beareth fruit. 1670: Ray, 149.
9. The tree that grows slowly keeps itself for another. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.
10. Trees eat but once. Ibid. ii. When the tree is fallen, all go with their hatchet. 1586: Young, tr. Guazzo’s Civili Conversi, fo. 206, The tree is no sooner fallen downe to the grounde, but euerie one is ready to runne vppon it with his hatchette. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1732: Fuller, No. 4804, The tree is no sooner down, but every one runs for his hatchet. 1875: Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 154, When the tree is down every one runs with his hatchet.
Trellelton. See Bolsover.
Tregoney. See quot. 1906: Q.-Couch, Mayor of Troy, Prol., The Mayor of Tregoney, who could read print upside-down, but wasn’t above being spoken to.
Tre, Pol and Pen, By, You shall know the Cornish men. 1602: Carew, Survey of Cornwall, 149 (1811). 1662: Fuller, Worthies, i. 306 (1840). 1750: R. Heath, Acc. of Scilly, 338, By Tre, Pol, and Pen, Ross, Caer, and Lan, You know Cornish men. 1827: Scott, Kenilworth, ch. i. “may” for “shall.” 1864: “Cornish Proverbs,” in N. & Q., 3rd ser., v. 208 [as in 1750, but with “shall” before “know,” and “all” before “Cornish”]. 1928: Sphere, 7 Jan., 36, This, of course, is Cornwall . . . the country of “Tre, Pol, and Pen.”
Trick, subs. i. A trick to catch an old one. 1608: Middleton [title of play]. c. 1624: Davenport, King John, IV. iii., ’Twas well yet that the trick has catch’d this old one.
3. Trick for trick. 1659: Howell, 4, Trick for trick, and a stone in thy foot besides, quoth one pulling out a stone out of his mares hoof, when she bit him upon the back, and he her upon the buttock. 1670: Ray, 217 [as in 1650]. 1710: Ward, Nuttial Dialogues, ii. 51, Women . . . love to shew us trick for trick. 1730: Bailey, Dict., s.v. “Quid pro quo,” Quid pro quo . . . trick for trick, a Rowland for an Oliver.
Trig as a linnen. 1802: Heslop, Northumb. Words, 744 (E.D.S.), “Trig as a lennis (spruce as a linnen)”—Newcastle proverb.
Trim as a trencher c 1540 Bale, Kyne Johan, 98 (Camden S.), Trymme as a trencher, havyng his shoes of golde 1542 Udall, tr Erasmus' Apoph., 276 (1877), Filling vp as trimme as a trencher the space that stooode vode, with his own hand [In the Appendix, Mr R Roberts the editor and publisher of this reprint, says "A proverbial saying which may still be heard occasionally, in the country, although trenchers have almost entirely disappeared A new trencher, nealty turned out of sycamore wood, had a particularly clean and wholesome appearance."

Trimmingham See Gimmingham

Trim trimm, like master like man— with variants 1583 Melbancke, Philoten, sig D3, Trim trim, neither good for God nor man 1653 Middle- ton and Rowley, Span Gipsy, IV. 11, Trim, trim, hang master, hang man! 1681 Robertson, Phrasal Generalis, 1246 1714 Oezel, Molldre, 159 1762 Smollett, Sir L Greaves, ch xiii 1785 Grese, Class Diet Vulgar Tongue, s v Trang, Wing and Ivnhoe 1 See quotes 1820 Gent Mag, u 326, Trang, Wing and Ivnhoe, did go, For striking the Black Prince a blow N & Q., 3rd ser., v 176, The name of Ivnhoe was suggested [to Scott] as the story goes, by an old rhyme recording three names of the manors forfeited by the ancestor of the celebrated Hampden, for striking the Black Prince a blow with his racket, when they quarrelled at tennus "Trang, Wing and Ivnhoe, For striking of a blow, Hampden did forego, And glad he could escape so" [Unluckily for the legend these manors were never in the Hampden family]

2 Trang, Wing and Ivnhoe, Three dirty villages all in a row And never without a rogue or two Would you know the reason why? Leighton Buzzard is hard by 1852 N & Q., 1st ser., v 619

Tripe-broth is better than no porridge 1732 Fuller, No 5274

Tripe's good meat if it be well wph't 1678 Ray, 50

Trojan, Like a 1846 Planche, Extravag., m i. 143 (1879), Upon them forward I charge like Trojans I—go! 1855 Dickens, Holly Tree, Branch 2, He went on a lying like a Trojan about the pony 1883 R L S, Treasure I., cb xvii, he had lain like a Trojan behind his mattress in the gallery

Trot sure, trot dam See quot 1560 Wilson, Rhetorique, 119 (1909), Trot sure, and trot damme, how should the sole amble, that is, when both father and mother were nought, it is not like that the childe will prove good Cf Foal

Trouble, subs 1 Let your trouble tarry till its own day comes 1732 Fuller, No 3200 Cf No 2

2 Never trouble trouble till trouble troubles you Derby 1884 Folk-Lore Journal, u 280 1921 R L Gales, Old-World Essays, 243 [quoted as a West-Country saying] Cf No 1

3 To have one's trouble for one's pains See Labour

See also Seek (4)

Trott See quot 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 142, When trout refuse bait or fly, There ever is a storm a-mgh See also Chevin, and Sound

Troy was not took in a day 1732 Fuller, No 5278

True, adj 1 All be not true that speak fair c 1460 How the Good Wife, l 65

2 As true as a corronte 1632 D Lupton, London and Country "Country," No 12, They [news sheets] have used this trade so long, that now every one can say, its even as true as a currantoe, meaning that its all false

3 As true as a turtle c 1380 Chaucer, Part of Foulis, 1 355, The wedded turtel with her herte trewe c 1440 Hoccleve, Minor Poems, 141 (E ETS), As treewe as turtle that lak kith her feere [mate] c 1470 Songs and Carols, 88 (Percy S), That women be trewe as tyrrilly on tre 1590 Spenser, F Q., 111 xi 2, That was as trewe in love as turtle to her make 1670 Ray, 203, As true as a turtle to her mate 1720 Gay, Poems, u 280 (Underhill), Tho' seeming as the turtle kind, And like the gospel true

5. As true as steel. 1303: Brunne, Handl. Synne, I. 2338, And to the ded was as trew as steyl. c. 1385: Chaucer, Leg. Good Women, ix. l. 21, Pitouse, sadde, wyse, and trewe as steel. c. 1480: Digby Plays, 116 (E.E.T.S.), Now, as thou hast byn trew as styllle 1553: Googe, Pop. Kingdome, bk iv. l. 537, And sure with no dissembling heart, for true as steel they bee. 1676: Shadwell, Virtuoso, III. 1713: Gay, Wife of Bath, V. iii. 1824: Scott, Redgauntlet, ch. xvi., I am trusting as steel to owners, and always look after cargo. 1849: Bronté, Shirley, ch. ix. 1923: Lucas, Advice Ben, § xxxix. p. 208.

6. As true as the candle ate the cat—with variants. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 242, The English say, As true as that the candle ate the cat. 1700: Ward, London Spy, 230 (1924) [as in 1666, but with "plain" for "true"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 4357, That is as true as that the cat crew, and the cock rock'd the cradle.

7. As true as the dial to the sun. 1663: Butler, Hudibras, III. ii. 174, True as the dial to the sun Although it be not shined upon. 1742: Fielding, Andrews, bk. i. ch. xviii., She was as true to her husband as the dial to the sun.

8. As true as the Gospel. 1540: Palsgrave, Acostalustig, sig. Q3. That is as trew as the gospel. 1577: Micense, III. i. 1633: Draxe, 210. 1733: Richardson, Grandison, I. 30 (1883). 1628: Carr, Craven Dialect, i. 193, "It's as true as to gospel," a common asseveration 1872: Hardy, Greenwood Tree, Pt. I. ch ii., "That's as true as gospel of this member," said Renben. 1926: Phillpotts, Yellow Sands, III. Is it true what these old men be telling? Arthur. True as Gospel!


12. A true man and a thief think differently. c. 1386: Chaucer, Squire's Tale, I. 529, But sooth is seyd, gon sithen many a day, "A trew wight and a theef thenken nat oon."

13. He is a true friend. See quot. Before 1500: in Hill, Commonplace-Book, 131 (E.E.T.S.), He ys a trew friend, that loveth me for my love and not for my good [goods, wealth].


15. It must be true that all men say. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi, It must needs be true that every man sayth. 1570: A. Barclay, Mirror of Good Manners, 52 (Spens. S.), It nedes must be true which every man doth say. 1670: Ray, 56, That is true which all men say. 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, iv. 118 (1785), What every one says must be true. 1829: Scott, Geisterstein, ch. xxxv., How should that be false which all men say is true?

16. Many a true word is spoken in jest. c. 1386: Chaucer, Monk's Prol., I. 76, Ful ofte in game a sooth I have herd seye. c. 1695: in Roxb. Ballads, vii. 366 (B.S.), Many a true word hath been spoke in jest. 1738: Swift, Polite Conuers., Dial. I. 1892: Shaw,
Trugs

Widowers' Houses, I 1930 H. Lucy, Diary of a Journalist, 21
17 That's as true as I am his uncle
1678 Ray, 83
18 The truest tests sound worst in guilty ears 1670 Ray, 14
19 True blood may not lie c. 1489
Caxton, Sonnes of Aymon, 248 (EETS), But as men sayen "true
blood may not lye."
20 True blue will never stain
[c. 1630 in Roxb. Ballads, ii 257 (B. S),
That shows a good fellow true blew] c. 1660 in Ibid., iv 495 (B. S), You
know true blew will never stain 1727
Harl. MS quoted in Roxb. Ballads,
iv 495 (B. S), True blue was the colour
which never will stain 1732 Fuller
No 5279 1875 Cheales, Proverb Folk-
lore, 106
21 True lovers are shy, when people are
by c. 1760 Foote, Lame Lover, II
[quoted as 'the old proverb ']
22 True praise roots and spreads
1640 Herbert, Jac. Prudentium 1670
Ray, 21 ['takes root ' for "roots ']
1736 Bailey, Dict. [as in 1670]
Trugs 'th' Hole or by Brokken Cross,
Oather by 1917 Bridge, Cheshire
Proverbs, 99
Trumpeter's dead, Your 1729
Franklin, Busy-Body, No 1, in Works, i
329 (Bigelow), I am cautious of praising
myself, lest I should be told my trump-
eter's dead 1854 Baker, Northants
Gloss, s v 'Trumpeter,' Trumpeter
An egotist Sometimes it is said,
"your trumpeter's dead", i e no one
sounds your praises, so you are com-
pelled to extoll yourself
Trumps, To be put to one's 1559
Murr. Mag. Jack Cadde, xx (O) Ere he
took me, I put him to his trumps
1588 Mar-Priate's Epitome, 13 (1843); It
would put a man to his trumps,
to answer these things soundly 1615
B & F, Cupid's Revenge, IV i, What
is in't [in a petition] I know not, but
it has put him to his trumps 1730
And for shifts and excuses Sir William
he pumps, Ay, and Bobby the Screen
too was put to his trumps 1825
Scott, in Lockhart's Life, vi 7. The
great Roman general, Africola, was
strangely put to his trumps at the
Urbs Ortea

Trunch See Gtingham

Truro, Cornwall x Pride of Truro
1602 Carew, Survey of Cornwall, 220
(1811), Some of the idle disposed
Cornishmen mock their towns with by-
words, as "Pride of Truro"
1864 "Cornish Proverbs," in N & Q,
3rd ser., v 275, The Good Fellowship
of Padstow, Pride of Truro, Gallants
of Foy
2 See quot 1662 Fuller, Worthies,
1 306 (1840), "Tru-ru, Trusth-en,
Ombda genveth Try-ru", Which is to
say, "Truru consisteth of three streets,
and it shall in time be said, Here Tru
stood"

Trust, subs i In trust is treason
C 1450 Good Wyfe wol a Pygymmage,
1 76, Syt not with no man a-lone, for
oft in trust 3's tressoun c 1475 Man-
kind, se ii st 107 1575 Gascoigne,
Posies, in Works, i 404 (Cunliffe)
1628 Rous, Diary, 30 (Camden S), It
greatest trust is often greatest treason
1670 Ray, 149
2 This day there is no trust, but come
to-morrow. 1732 Fuller, No 4999
1855 Bohn, 412, I sell nothing on
trust till to-morrow
3 Trust is dead, all payment killed it
1666 Tornano, Piazza Univ., 184
1911 T. Edwards, Neighbourhood, 109,
(Public-house inscription) Poor Trust
is dead, bad pay killed him
4 Trust is the mother of deceit 1605
Camden, Remains, 332 (1870)
Trust, verb i Do not trust nor con-
tend, Nor lay wagers, nor lend, And
you'll have peace to your life's end
1732 Fuller, No 6351
2 He who trusteth not is not deceived
lbid., No 2406
3 He who trusts all things to chance,
makes a lottery of his life Ibid., No
2407
4 If you trust before you try, you may
repend before you die C 1560 in Huth,
Ancient Ballads, etc., 221 (1867), Who
trusts before he tries may smirn his
trust repent 1670 Ray, 149 1732
Fuller, No 6084
5. I'll trust him no farther than I can fling him. 1618: Harington, Epigrams, bk. ii. No. 74, That he might scant trust him so farre as throw him. 1670: Ray, 197. 1732: Fuller, No. 5286, Trust him no further than you can throw him. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lancs Sayings, 33, 'I'd trust him no fur, nor aw could throw a bull bi' t' tail. 1916: E. Duffy, The Counter-Charm, 14, I wouldn't trust her as far as I could throw her.

6. I'll trust him no farther than I can see him. 1594: True Trag. Rich. Third, 17 (Sh. S.), Ile trust neuer...a Duke in the world, further then I see him. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Croire," To trust no man further then he sees him. 1694: Terence made English, 91, I'll trust ye no farther than I can see ye. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xviii., You may trust some men as far as you can see them, but no further.


8. I will not trust him though he were my brother. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I, ch. xi. 1639: Clarke, 140. 1670: Fuller, No. 5292.

9. Trusting often makes fidelity. 1732: Fuller, No. 5292.

10. Trust me, but look to thyself. Ibid., No. 5288.

11. Trust none better than thyself. c. 1460: How the Good Wife, I. 125, Leue none better than thi selfe.

12. Trust not a new friend nor an old enemy. 1569: Grafton, Chron., ii. 84 (1809), None of vs I beleue is so vnwise...to trust a newe friend made of an olde foe. Before 1634: Chapman, Alphonsius, I. i., Trust not a reconciled friend, for good turns cannot blot out old grudges. 1875: Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 95. Cf. Reconciled friend.

13. You may trust him with untold gold. 1653: Draxe, 209, A man may, etc. 1670: Ray, 197. 1711: Spec-

tator, No. 202, His master...could trust him with untold gold. 1870: T. W Robertson, Birth, 1, I'd trust him with untold gold.

See also Try (2).

Truth, subs. I Fair fall truth and daylight. 1678: Ray, 211.


3. Tell the truth and shame the devil. 1552: Latimer, Sermons, 506 (P.S.), There is a common saying amongst us, "Say the truth and shame the devil."

1597: Shakespeare, I Henry IV., III. i. 1616: Jonson, Devil is an Ass, V. v., I will tell truth, And shame the fiend.

1670: Cotton, Scarrouides, bk. iv. 1710: Centlivre, Man's Bewitch'd, III. i. 1823: Scott, Peveril, ch. iv., Faith, neighbours, to say truth, and shame the devil, I do not like the sound of it above half. Cf. No. 22.


5. Truth fears no colours. 1732: Fuller, No. 5296.

6. Truth finds foes where it should find none. 1572: C. Wilson, Disc. upon Usury, i88 (1925), It is a common saying, Veritas odium parit, Truth purchaseth hatred. 1660: Howell, Party of Beasts, 51, Truth, as the proverb runs, begets hatred often times in the minds of those to whom it is spoken. 1670: Ray, 150, Truth finds foes where it makes none. 1732: Fuller, No. 5298.

7. Truth has a scratched face. 1875: Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 118.

8. Truth hath a good face but bad clothes. 1600: Bodenham, Belvedere, 14 (Spens. S.), Truth most delights, when shee goes meanest clad. 1639: Fuller, Holy War, bk. iii. ch xix., Truth hath always a good face, though often
but bad clothes 1670 Ray, 27
1694 D'Urfey, Quixote, Pt I Act I
sc II, Truth has a good face, tho' the
quof be torn 1732 Fuller, No 5929
{["ill" for "bad"]}
9 Truth hath always a sure bottom
1678 Ray, 211 ["fast" for "sure"]
1732 Fuller, No 5300
10 Truth is stranger than fiction
1823 Byron, Don Juan, can xiv st
101, For Truth is always strange—
Stranger than fiction c 1890 Gilt-
bert, Fogarty's Fairy, II
11 Truth is the daughter of Time
1736 Bailey Dict, s v "Truth"
12 Truth is truth to the end of
the reckoning c 1581 in Ballads from
MSS, ii 123 (B S), Truth will be truth,
in spite of all defeare 1595 Church-
yard Chantie, To Gen Readers, For
truth is truth, when all is saide and
done 1603 Shakespeare, Meas for
Meas, V 1
13 Truth lies at the bottom of a well
[Democritus quasi in puto quodam sic
alta, ut fundus sit nullus, veratem-
acee demersam — Lactantius, Inst.
ii 28] 1646 Browne, Pseudo Ep.,
bl 1 ch v, Truth, which wise men say,
doth lye in a well 1758-67 Sterne,
Shanty, iv, "Slawkenb Tale," Whilst
the unlearned were all busied in get-
ing down to the bottom of the well,
where Truth keeps her little court
1797 Colman, Jr, Nightg and Shippers,
76 (Hotten), And hence the proverb
rose, that truth lies in the bottom of a
well 1819 Byron, Don Juan, can u
st 84, You'd wish yourself where Truth
is—in a well 1852 M A Keltie, Re-
misc of Thought and Feeling, 3.
The thinker who dives below, and
looks for truth in the well wherein she
is said to reside
14 Truth lies on the surface of things
1824 Maginn, O'Doherty's Maxims 81
(1849), There is not a truer saying in
this world, than that truth lies on
the surface of things
15 Truth may be blamed but cannot
be shamed 1468 Coventry Mys, 367
(Sh S). Trewthe dyd nevyr his maystyr
shame 1542 Sch House of Women,
166 Whereby the truth is often blamed,
Yet in no wise truthe may be shamed
1567 Harman, Caneat, 28 (E L T S)
1655 Fuller, Church Hist, bl. iv 51
(56) 1732 Fuller, No 5307 1853
Trench, Proverbs, 19 (1905)
16 Truth needs no colours 1519
Horman, Vulgaria, fo 58, Trewthe
nedeth no pynedt or colored terms
1631 Mabbe, Celestina, 94 (T T), Be
cause truth needeth no colours
17 Truth needs not many words
1550 Parle of Byrdes, I 28, Whereas
many wordes the troueth goeth by
1732 Fuller, No 5309, Truth needs
not many words, but a false tale, a
large preamble
18 Truth never grows old Ibid, No
5310
19 Truths and roses have thorns about
them 1855 Bohn, 547
20 Truth's best ornament is naked
ness 1732 Fuller, No 5314
21 Truth seeks no corners 1564
Bullein, Dialogue, 81 (E L T S). Well
man, well truth seeketh no corners
1692 Chapman, May-Day, IV 11,
Why not? Truth seeks no corners
1732 Fuller, No 5311
22 Truth shameth the devil 1605
Camden, Remains, 334 (1870) 1732
Fuller, No 5306, Truth makes the devil
blush Cf No 3
23 Truth should not be re-
sealed [c 1580 Wich, Eng Works,
270 (E L T S), Sumtyme it harmeth
men to see the sothe out of couene-
tyme and euere it harmeth to lie, but
sumtyme it profiteth to be stille and
abide a coueneable tyme to speke]
c 1387 Usk, Test of Love, in Skeat's
Chaucer, vii 32, Al soother be not to
sayne c 1480 Early Miscell, 63
(Warton Cl, 1855), For soother may not
alle daye be sayd c 1550 Parle of
Byrdes I 36, All soothes be not for to
saye, It is better some be lefte by
reason Than truthe to be spoken out of
season c 1680 L'Estrange, Seneca's
Morals "Happy Life," ch vii, The
thing was true, but all truths are not
to be spoken at all times 1727 Gay,
Tables, 1st ser, No 18 1 24 1754
Berthelson Eng-Danish Dict, s v
"Truth" [as in 1680] 1827 Scott.
Try

Journal, 16 July, I will erase the passage. Truth should not be spoke at all times. 1636: T. Wright, Essays on Middle Ages, i. 140. So again, we say “Every truth is not to be told.”

24. Truths too fine spun are subtle fooleries. 1855: Bohn, 547.

25. Truth truth. See quot. c. 1475: Mankind, sc. iii. st. 123, The prowerbe seyth “the trewh tryth the sylfe.” Alas, I have much care.

26. Truth will prevail. c. 1400: Beryn, 63 (E.E.T.S.), For, after comyn seying, “evir atte ende The troth wull be previed, how so men evir trend” c. 1580: Fulwell, Ars Adulandi, sig E4. Truth in the ende shall preuayle 1619: Helpe to Discourse, 99 (1640), Truth is the strongest of all, which overcomes all things in the end. 1740: North, Examen, 170, According to the proverb, that, early or late, Truth will out.

27. Truth will sometimes break out, unlooked for. 1732: Fuller, No. 5314.

See also Follow (4).

Try, verb. 1. He tries all the keys in the bunch. 1633: Drake, 189. 1639: Clarke, 60.


4. Try your skill in gilt first, and then in gold. 1639: Clarke, 60. 1672: Walker, Paræm., 43.

Turn

Tub on its own bottom. See Every tub.

Tub to a whale, To throw a. 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, iii. 51 (1785), When a man talks to a woman upon such subjects, let her be ever so much in All, ’tis strange, if he cannot throw out a tub to the whale;—that is to say, if he cannot divert her from resenting one bold thing, by uttering two or three full as bold; but for which more favourable interpretations will lie. 1763: Mrs. Brooke, Lady J. Mandeville, 148 (1820), A wise writer . . . should throw in now and then an indiscretion in his conduct to play with, as seamen do a tub to the whale. 1912: Nation, 29 June, p. 465, col. 2 (O.), He throws a tub to the High Church whale.

Turn Dooley. See Tom Dooley.

Tune the old cow died of. See Cow (27).

Turk’s horse. See Grass (4).

Turkeys to market, He is driving, i.e. He cannot walk straight. 1869: Hazlitt, 165.

Turkeys. See also Hops.

Turn, verb. 1. He’ll turn rather than burn. 1639: Clarke, 222, Rather turne then burne. 1678: Ray, 346. 1732: Fuller, No. 2432. 1855: Kingsley, West. Ho, ch. vii., None that it [the Inquisition] catches . . . but must turn or burn.

2. It is hard to turn tuck upon a narrow bridge. 1732: Fuller, No. 2954.

3. To turn a narrow adpliant=To have a narrow escape. [1611:] Cotgrave, s.v. “Charron,” A good carter turnes in a narrow corner. 1616: Honest Lawyer, sig. E2, He is a cunning coach-man that can turne well in a narrow roome.] 1879: Jackson, Shropsh. Word-Book, 3, To “turn on a mighty narrow adpliant” is a proverbial saying expressive of a very narrow escape. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 145.

4. To turn one’s copy. See Copy (2).

5. To turn one’s tippet=To recant or change one’s opinions. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. i, So turned they their tippets by way of exchange. 1576: Pettie, Petite Pall., Pref. Lett., You marvel . . . that I should so soon
Turnips

652

Twinkling

Turnips like a dry bed but a wet head 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 147

Turnips, She has given him = She has jilted him 1845 Ford, Handbook

Sassa, 8 27 n (Q). This gourd forms a favourite metaphor she has re

fused him, it is the "giving cold turn

ups" of Suffolk. 1869 Hazlitt, 333. She has given him turnips Devonshire

Turnips are dry 1678 Ray, 83

Twelfth Day See quotes Ibid, 52.

At twelfth-day the days are lengthened a
cock strde 1867 N & Q, 3rd ser,

vm 476. On Twelfth Day, the day is

lengthened the stride of a fowl (Sur

rey) 1868 Ibid, 4th ser, 1 61. On

Twelfth Day the day is a cock-stride

longer (East Riding)

Twelve See Hours

Twenty 1 As good twenty as nine

teen 1670 Ray 150

2 I'll go twenty miles on your errand

first 1817 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 147

4 Twenty young See quot 1791

Florio, Second Frides, 101. And who is

not [young] at twenty, and knows not

at thirte, And hath not at forfeiture

in store, Will not be while he lues for to

know vainely strues, And shall never

haine ane more 1882 Mrs Chamber-

lain, W Wores Words, 39 (E.D.S.)

Twenty young, Thirty strong, Forty

wyt. Or never none

I find the following manuscript entry,

written in faded ink in an old-fashioned

hand, on p 232 of my copy of Ray's

Proverbs, 3rd ed, 1737 'Ten pretty,

twenty witty, thirty strong, if ever

Forty wise, fifty rich, sixty saint, or

never'

Twice boiled See Colewort

Twig See Bend (1)

Twomeham See Bolney

Twanking of a bed-post (originally

bed-staff), In the 1676 Shadwell,

Virtuoso, I 1, Gad! I'll do it instantly,

in the twanking of a bedstaff 1685

S Wesley, Maggots, 163. In bedstaffs

twanking I'll be gone 1700 Ward

London Spy, 264 (1924). She could shake

'em off in the twanking of a bed

staff 1834 Marryat, P Simple, ch

xxxvi. Won't I get you out of purga-

tory in the twanking of a bed post?
1847: Planché, _Extravag.,_ iii. 192 (1879), If any one grumbles I’ll scuttle his nob, In the twinking of a bed post!

_Twinking_ of an eye, In the. _c._ 1300: in _Vernon MS.,_ 286 (E.E.T.S.), For in a twyncklyng of an eigne from erthe to heuene thou maighe styghe. _c._ 1400: _Beryn, 94 (E.E.T.S.);_ In twyncklyng of an eye To make a short answer. 1549: Latimer, _Seven Sermons, 117_ (Arber), He maye in the twynckling of an eye, saue a man. 1611: _Bible, 1 Cor. xv. 52._ 1674: Jas. Howard, _Eng Mounsteur, IV._ iii. 1704: Defoe, _The Storm_, 195, The rest of his men . . . in the twinking of an eye were drownd’d. 1884: Gilbert, _Princess Ida, II, I’ll storm your walls, And level your halls, in the twinking of an eye._

_Twist a rope of sand._ See _Rope, subs._ (6).

_Twittle, twattle, drink up your posset drink._ 1670: Ray, 253 . . . This proverb had its original in Cambridge, and is scarce known elsewhere. 1790: Grosz, _Prov. Gloss._, s.v. “Cambridgeshire.”

_Two anchors._ See _Good riding._

_Two and two together, To put._ 1855: Thackeray, _Newcomes,_ ch. xlix., Putting two and two together, as the saying is, it was not difficult for me to guess who the expected Marquis was. 1876: G. Eliot, _Felix Holt,_ ch. xi., You are men who can put two and two together. 1918: Orczy, _Man in Grey: “M. Vaillant,”_ 5, What that purpose was it became my business to learn. It was a case of putting the proverbial two and two together.

_Two anons and a by and by is an hour and a half._ 1605: Camden, _Remains,_ 334 (1870). 1670: Ray, 56. 1732: Fuller, _No. 532 ["are" for "is"].

_Two apples in my hand and the third in my mouth._ 1659: Howell, 10.

_Two are company._ See _Two is company._

_Two bad paymasters, There are._ 1773: _Foote, Nabob, II._ There are two bad paymasters; those who pay before, and those who never pay. 1821: Scott, _Pirate,_ ch. xxxix., There are two bad paymasters—he that pays too soon, and he that does not pay at all.

_Two bites of a cherry, To make._ 1694: Motteux, _Rabelais,_ bk. v. ch. xxviii., Nothing is to be got out of him but monosyllables; by Jingo, I believe he vou’d make three bits of a cherry. 1824: Maginn, _O’Doherty’s Maxims,_ 69 (1849), The old rule of “never to make two bites of a cherry” applies with peculiar emphasis to cherry brandy. 1860: Reade, _Cl. and Heath,_ ch. xli.

_Two blacks will never make a white._ 1822: Scott, in Lockhart’s _Life,_ v. 162, To try whether I cannot contradict the old proverb of “two blacks not making a white.” 1880: Spurgeon, _Ploughm. Pictures,_ 92.

_Two blows._ See _quotation._ 1883: _Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore,_ 589, It takes two blows to make a battle = one swallow does not make a summer (so used and explained).

_Two buckets._ See _Buckets._

_Two candles._ See _quotation._ 1883: _Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore,_ 275, “Two candles burning And never a wheel turning,” is a saying with which, though spinning wheels are no more, careful Staffordshire housewives still reprove “burning candle to waste.”

_Two cats._ See _Two women._

_Two cats in a gutter, They agree like._ 1546: Heywood, _Proverbs,_ Pt. ii. ch. i. 1589: L. Wright, _Display of Dutie,_ 24, Agreeing like . . . two cats in a gutter. 1659: Howell, 3.

_Two chimneys._ See _Chimney (1)._ Two complexities in one face. 1575: G. Fenton, _Golden Epistles,_ 292 (1582), A properti verye familiar with ye moste of them, to haue two colours to one meaning, and (as the saying is) to beare two complexions in one face.

_Two cunning knaves need no broker._ 1546: Heywood, _Proverbs,_ Pt. i. ch. xi. [“false” for “cunning”]. 1670: Ray, _i_._ 1732: Fuller, _No. 5322._

_Two daughters and a back door are three arrant thieves._ 1670: Ray, 51. 1732: Fuller, _No. 5323._

_Two determine._ See _Nought (3)._ Two dogs fight for a bone, and a third runs away with it. 1633: Draxe, 30, Two dogs strive for a bone, and the third strifes while they contend, taketh
it away 1692 L'Estrange, Esop, 4
(3rd ed) 1732 Fuller, No 5324
1880 Spurgeon, Ploughin Pictures, 85
Two dry sticks will kindle a green one
1678 Ray, 213 1732 Fuller, No 5325
Two ears See One tongue
Two eggs a penny See Egg (12)
Two eyes choose the least, Of [Nam quod aunt, minima de malis, id est ut
turpiter potus quam calamitum an est ullum minus malum turpitudine—
Cicero De Officinis, 3 29] e x374
Chaucer Troylus, bk ii 1470, Of
harmes two the lesse is so to chose c
1440 Gesta Rom, 10 (E E T S), The
knayt answerd, and seide, 'Sure hit is
writen, that of two evels the lesse evil
is to be chosyn' 1546 Heywood
Proverbs, Pt I ch v, Of two yls, choose
the least whyle chylte in lot
1581 Woodes, Conflict of Conscience,
IV, Howbeit of two evils the least must
be chosen 1694 Gibber, Love's
Last Shift, III 1730 Fielding,
Temple Beau IV v, Since it is the
lesser evil of the two, it is to be pref-
ered 1913 Galsworthy, Fugitive
II, Of two evils, if it be so—choose the
least

Two executors and an overseer make
three thieves. 15th cent in Rehg
Antique, 1 314 (1842)
Two eyes can see more than one c
1594 Bacon, Promis, No 916, Two
eyes are better than one 1605
Camden, Remains, 334 (1870) 1683
Robertson Phrasel Generals, 507,
Two eyes see better than one 1732
Fuller, No 5326 ['may "for" can']
Two faces in one hood, To bear = To
be double-faced c 1440 Ram Rose,
1 7368, And with so gret devocion They
maden her confession, That they had
ofte, for the nones Two hedes in one
hood at ones c 1440 Lydgate
Minor Poems, 69 (E E T S), God lovd
never two facys in oon hood Before
1529 Skelton, Magnificence 1720,
Two faces in a hode courtely I heare,
Water in the one hande, and fyre in
the other 1586 Deloney, Works 462
(1912) With false Iudas you can beare
two faces in one hodee 1668 Shad-

well, Sullen Lovers, IV 1, Tis indeed,
to be a Pharisee, and carry two faces in
a hood, as the saying is 1754 Berthel-
son, Eng-Danish Dict, s v "Face," To
carry two faces under a hood 1841
Dickens, Barn Rudge, ch vi, You are
a specious fellow, and carry two
faces under your hood, as well as the
best 1893 J Salisbury, S E Worces Gloss, 45 (E D S), Here's
vishing the mon may never get fat, as
earnes two cases under one hat
Two feet in one shoe Will never do
1875 Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 40
Two folk, To be = To be unfronds
1631 Mabbe, Celestina, 256 (T T), I
have nothing to say to him, as long
as I live, he and I shall be two 1738
Swift, Polite Convers, Dial I, Pray,
Miss, when did you see your old
acquaintance Mrs Cloudy? You and
she are two I hear 1788 O'Keefe,
The Toy, III 11, Mr Methelogin, you
and I are now two, so good day to you
1893 J Salisbury, S E Worces Gloss
45 (E D S), Now, Jack, you lazy rascal,
if thee doesn't get on o' thy work, thee
un I sh'll be two-folks 1917 Bridge,
Cheshire Proverbs, 127
Two fools in a house are too many
1580 Lyly, Euphues 283 (Arber), For
two fools in one bed are too many
1732 Fuller, No 5328, Two fools in a
house are too many by a couple
Two fools meet, the bargain goes off,
Where Ibid, No 5679
Two forenoons See quot 1923
Detones Assoc Trans, liv 136, "You
can't have two vorenoons in one day."
Meaning you cannot be young more
than once
Two friends have a common purse,
one sings and the other weeps, When
1555 Bohn, 562
Two friends with one gift, To make
1681 Robertson Phrasel General, 797 [with "favour" for "gift"]
1732 Fuller, No 5205
Two good days See Wife (5)
Two good men See quot 1880
Spurgeon, Ploughin Pictures, 154
Another saying, "There are only two
good men, one is dead, and the other
is not born"
Two good things are better than one. 1639: Clarke, 104. 1678: Ray, 212.

Two hands in a dish and one in a purse. 1605: Camden, Remains, 333 (1870). 1639: Clarke, 218. One hand in a purse and two in a dish. 1640: Nabbes, Unfort. Mother, I. iii., Two hands in a dish, The right Court Ordinary. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II.

Two heads are better than one. [Συν τε δυ' εγγυμένω.—Homer, II., x. 224.] 1530: Palsgrave, 594. Two wyttes be farre better than one. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. ix. 1558: W. Forrest, Grisell The Second, 51 (Roxb. Cl.). This olde sayinge, Twoe wyttis (or moe) to bee better then one. 1638: Taylor (Water Poet), Bull, Bearc, etc., 28, in Works, 3rd Coll. (Spens. S.).

1753: Foote, Taste, II. 1864: “Cornish Proverbs,” in N. & Q., 3rd ser., vi. 494. Two heads are better than one if only sheeps’ heads. 1893: S. Butler, in Memoir, by Jones, ii. 8 (1919). Two are better than one: I heard some one say this and replied: “Yes, but the man who said that did not know my sisters.” 1894: Northall, Folk Phrases, 32 (E.D.S.). Two heads are better than one, even if the one’s a sheep’s. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 147 [as in 1864].

Two hungry meals make the third a glutton. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1605: Camden, Remains, 333 (1870) [“three” for “two” and “fourth” for “third”]. 1655: Fuller, Church Hist., bk. vi. sect. ii. (v. 13). 1732: Fuller, No. 5329 [“good” for “hungry,” which makes nonsense of the saying].

Two in distress Make trouble less. 1675: Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 32. Two is company and three is none. 1871: N. & Q., 4th ser., viii. 506 [“are” for “is”]. 1897: E. Lyall, Wayfaring Men, ch. xxiv., “Two is company, three is trumpery,” as the proverb says. 1907: De Morgan, Alice-for-Short, ch. viii.

Two kings in one kingdom do not agree well together. 1586: B. Young, Guazzo, fo. 205.

Two knaves well met. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Chat,” A bon rat bon chat, Two knaves well met or matched. 1672: Walker, Parum., 54.

Two losses than one sorrow, Better. 1732: Fuller, No. 936.

Two masters. See No man.

Two may keep counsel if one be away. 1579: Lyly, Euphues, 67 (Arber). 1592: Shakespeare, Romeo, II. iv., Did you ne’er hear say, Two may keep counsel, putting one away? 1630: Brathwait, Engl. Gent., 158 (1641), One may kepe counsell, but two cannot. 1753: Richardson, Grandison, ii. 8 (1883). The proverb says, Two can keep a secret when one is away.

Two mouths. See Stop (4).

Two negatives make an affirmative. 1593: G. Harvey, Works, i. 293 (Grosart). But even those two negatives . . . would be conformable enough, to conclude an affirmative. 1647: Fuller, Good Thoughts in Worse Times, 173 (1830). 1769: Smollett, Adv. Atom, 20 (Cooke, 1795), In the English language two negatives amount to an affirmative.

Two of a trade can never agree. [καὶ καὶ κατατίθεται καὶ κατατίθεται καὶ κατατίθεται. —Hesiod, Op. 23.] 1630: Dekker, Honest Wh., Pt. 2, IV. i., It is a common rule, and ‘tis most true, Two of one trade ne’er love. 1752: Murphy, Gray’s Inn Journal, No. 2. Oct. 8. 1860: Reade, Cloist. and Hearth, ch. xxxvii.

Two parties to make a quarrel, It takes. 1732: Fuller, No. 4942. There must be two at least to a quarrel. 1838: Dickens, Twist, ch. xv., There must always be two parties to a quarrel, says the old adage. 1925: Times Lit. Supp., Nov. 5, p. 728, col. 2. It takes two to make a quarrel, the proverb says; it takes the world to make a peace.

Two pigeons. See Pigeon (4).

Two removes. See Three removes.

Two ride on one horse, one must sit behind. When. 1590: Shakespeare, Much Aiso, III. v., An two men ride of a horse, one must ride behind. 1639: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 32 (1885). 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 590, Peggy behind Marget = inferiors last: when
two ride one horse, one must ride behind 1927 Times, Feb 16, p 10, col 4

Two Sir Positive can scarce meet without a skirmish 1732 Fuller, No 5333

Two slips See Three slips

Two sorrows of one Make not 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch v c 1580 Spelman, Dialogue, 4 (Royb Cl),

As the oulde sange is yt is a meere fioolye to make two sorowes of one 1659 Howell 5

Two sparrow on one ear of corn make an ill agreement 1651 Herbert Jac Prudentium, 2nd ed 1732 Fuller, No 5334 Two sparrow upon an ear of wheat cannot agree

Two stomachs to eat and one to work, He has 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch 1, Fellows have two stomacas for eating and drinking, when they have no stomach for work 1882 N & Q, 6th ser, v 266 [Kentish saying], He's got the fever of lurk, Two hearts to eat, and neer a one to work 1889 Peacock, Manley, etc, Gloss, 598 (E D S),

He's two bellies fer eatin' an' noan fer wark

Two stools, Between c 1390 Gower, Conf Amantis, Prol, 1 336, Bot it is said and evere schal, Between two stoles lyth the fal 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch ii, While between two stoles my tayle go to ground 1593 Giffard, Dial on Witches, etc, 11 (Percy S), I perceive your danger is betweene two stoles 1667-8 Pepys, Diary, Jan 17, And so, between both, as every thing else of the greatest moment do do tall between, two stools 1791 R Jepson, Two Strings to your Bow, I ii, Well done, Lazarillo, between two stoles they say a certain part of a man comes to the ground 1864 Mrs H Wood, Trevlyn Hold, ch 11, While he keeps me silly-shallying over this one, I may lose them both There's an old proverb, you know, about two stoles 1907 De Morgan, Alice-for-Short, ch vii Charles saw that between the two stoles the young couple wouldn't fall to the ground, but would go to the altar.

Two strings to one's bow, To have [Meg'ent houie ayraens ouieiis autouj eze]

—Demonsthenes, Or, 56, 1295 (fin) Nam melius duo defendant retinacula navum—Prop, 11 22, 47 c 1477 Caxton, Jason, 57 (E E T S), I wil wil that euer man be aimerous and louse but that he hauie 11 strenges on his bowe 1578 Florio, First Fruits, fo 6, It is alwayes good for one to have two strings to his bowe 1666 Day, He of Gulfs II 11, A wise mans how goes with a two fold string 1672 Wycherley Love in a Wood, 1 1 c 1760 Foute, Author, I, I have, I think, at present two strings to my bow, if my comedy succeeds, it buys me a commission, if my mistress, my Laura, proves kind, I am settled for life 1814 Austen, Mansfield Park, ch vii 1859 Planche, Extravag, v 221 (1879) Cf Good riding

Two Sundays come together, When = never 1616 Haughton, Enigm for my Money, II 11, Art thou so mad as to turn French? Matt Yes, marry, when two Sundays come together 1682 Robertson, Phraseol Generals, 1189 1825 Brockett, Gloss N Country Words, 150, To-morrow come neuver—when two Sundays meet together 1854 Baker, Northants Gloss, s v "Sunday," When two Sundays meet 1881 Evans, Lexest Words, etc, 276 (E D S), To-morrow come never, when there's few Soondays in a wick

Two tailors See Nine tailors

Two things a man should never be angry at, what he can help, and what he cannot help 1732 Fuller, No 5335

Two things doth prolong thy life. A quiet heart, and a loving wife 1607 Deloney, Strange Histories, 70 (Percy S)

Two to one is odds at football 1567 Pickering, Horesles, 1 78, But two is to meyney, the proverbe douth tell 1616 Breton, Works 1 1 24 (Grosart), Two to one is odds 1654 Gayton, Pleas Notes Don Q, 220, Three to one is odds 1658 R Franck, North Memoirs 80 (1821), If two to one be odds at football— 1702 Brown in Works, u, 25 (1760) 1742 Fielding Andrews, bk iii ch vii, Who concluded that
Two

one at a time was sufficient, that two to one were odds. c. 1791: Pegge, Derbicisms, 138 (E.D.S.).

Two trades. See Man (28).

Two wants of one. To make. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., i., I don’t love to make two wants of one.

Two will. See Nought (3).

Two women in one house. See quotes. 1417: in Relig. Antiqure, i. 233 (1841), Two wymen in one howse, Two cattes and one mouce, Two dogges and one bone, Maye never accord in one.

1486: Boke of St. Albans, sig. F4 ["wyues" for "women"]). 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Accorder," Men say, Two cats and a mouse, two wives in one house, two dogs and a bone, never agree in one.

1670: Ray, 151 [as in 1611]. 1732: Fuller, No. 6095 [as in 1611]. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xxi. [as in 1611, but with last line—"Will not agree long."]

Two words to a bargain. 1598: Mucedorus, sig. B2, Tow words to a bargaine. Before 1625: Fletcher, Wild-Goose Chase, II. iii. 1696: Vanbrugh, Relapse, III. iii. 1734: Fielding, In- trig. Chambermaid, II. iii., There go two words though to that bargain. 1822: Scott, Nigel, ch. xxxi., There gang twa folk’s votes to the unmaking of a bargain, as to the making of ane.


Two wrongs will not make one right. 1875: Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 120.

Two year old balk. See quot. 1841: Hartshorne, Salopla Ant., 314, Hence as it [land which escapes the plough] lies fallow has arisen the proverb that "a two-year-old balk is as good as a ruck [heap] of muck."

Twyford, My name is: I know nothing of the matter. 1694: Motteux, Rabe- lais, bk. v. ch. xiii., Hasn’t the fellow told you he does not know a word of the business? his name’s Twyford. 1732: Fuller, No. 3502.

Tyburn. See Newgate and Suits hang, Tyburn tippet, A = A halter. 1549: Latimer, Seven Sermons, 63 (Arber), The byshop of Rome sent hym a cardinal’s hatte, he should haue had a Tiburne tippet, a halpeny halter.

c. 1570: in Collmann, Ballads, etc., 115 (Roxb. Cl.), A Tyborne typett a roope or a halter. 1821: Scott, Kenilworth, ch. iii., Any one whose neck is beyond the compass of a Tyburn tippet.

Tympa8, To have a two-legged = To be with child. 1570: Marr. of Wit and Wisdom, 15 (Sh. S.), I am afraid it is a timpany with two legges! c. 1685: in Roxb. Ballads, vii. 28 (B.S.), The doctor, be sure, is sent for to cure This two-legged tympa8. 1732: Fuller, No. 4127, She hath a tympany with two heels.

Tyne. See Tees.

Tyrant’s breath is another’s death, A. 1855: Bohn, 302.

Tyrants seem to kiss, ’Tis time to fear when. Ibid., 534.
Ugly as a witch 1846–59 Denham Tracts, ii 84 (F L S)
Ugly as sin 1821 Scott, Kenilworth, ch x. Though I am as ugly as sin 1891 R L S, Letters, iv 75 (Tusitala ed.), All my other women have been as ugly as sin 1901 F E Taylor, Lancs Sayings, 2, As few [ugly] as sin

Ugly as the devil 1726 Defoe, Hist of Devil, Pt II ch vii p 249 (4th ed.) [cited as "a proverb in his favour."

Ugly enough to wear a fool 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 147

Unbidden guest knows not where to sit, An 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch ix 1612 Webster White Devil in Works (Dyce) 19. An unbidden guest should travel as Dutch women go to church. Bear their stools with them 1732 Fuller, No 5395 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v "Unbidden," An unbidden guest must bring his stool with him

Unbought hide See Cut (xi)
Uncle Antony See quot 1909 C Lee, Our Little Town, 17. Idle juniors congenially occupied in "helping Uncle Antony to kill dead mice," as the phrase goes

Uncle Jan Knight, never in the right place, Like Corn 19th cent (Mr C Lee)

Uncover not the church to mend the quire = Rob not Peter to pay Paul 1570 A Barclay, Marr of Good Manners, 30 (Spens S), Uncover not the church, therewith to mend the quire

Under board, To play 1591 Florio, Second Fruits, 134, Thou haste long hands, and turnest underground 1642 Fuller, Holy State (Wise Statesman), The receivers of such pensions will take [boards on the council]

Under board, To play 1669 Donne Poems, 1 x02 (Grierson), And often under-boards spoke dialogues with our feet far from our words 1669 Dud North Obs and Adv Oeconom, 71, While the steward fear to be discovered, if he use any underboard play 1681 Robertson, Phraese of Generalis, 437. That you should not think I lay at catch, or play under board to deceive you

Under boske See quot c 1320 in Relig Antiquae, 1 113 (1841) "Under boske [the greenwood] shall men weder abide," Quoth Hendyng

Understanding and reason cannot conclude out of mood and figure 1659 Howell, 19
Understand's ill, answers ill, Who 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v "Under stand"

Under the blanket the black one is as good as the white 1732 Fuller, No 5396

Under the furze is hunger and cold, Under the broom is silver and gold 1678 Ray, 348 1879 N & Q, 5th ser, xii 447 1885 N & Q, 6th ser, vi 300 ['gorse' for 'furze']

Under the rose 1546 Dymocke to Vaughan in State Papers, Hen VIII ii 200 The sayde questiones were asked with lyesense, and that yt should remayn under the rose, that is to say, to remayn under the boure, and no more to be reheresyd 1639 Chapman and Shirley, Ball, II 21, Under the rose, if that will do you a pleasure, The lords do call me cousin but I am—— 1647 in Polit Ballads 49 (Percy S), Any thing may be spoke, if 't be under the rose 1714 Ozell, Molhiere vi 7, I must tell you (under the rose) that—— 1762 Bickerstaffe, Love in a Village II 11, We all love a pretty girl——under the rose 1862 Dickens in Letters, vi 178 (1886), I don't know what there was, but I have no doubt their principal complements were got under the rose 1915 Pinero, Big Drum, IV, I should puff you, under the rose—quietly pull the strings——

Under the weather 1891 R L S, Wrecker, ch iv, You must not fancy
I am sick, only over-driven and under the weather. 1926: Phillpotts, Peacock House, 222, I’ve marked you’ve been a good bit under the weather, and . . . I should like to help you.

Under water. See Snow (8).

Undone. 1. As good undone as do it too soon. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. v. 1659: Howell, 3.

2. Undone as you would undo an oyster. 1639: Clarke, 166, He’s undone like an oyster. 1672: Walker, Param., 34. 1681: Robertson, Phrasel. Generatis, Undone as you would undo an oyster; Ne salus quidem ipsa servare potest.

Unfinished work. Show not fools nor bairns. 1860: Reader, Cloater and Hearth, ch. iv. [cited as a “byword”].

Ungirt unblessed. c. 1477: Caxton, Book of Curtesye, 45 (E.E.T.S.), Vngyre, vnblyssed. seruyng atte table Ne semeth hym a servaunt nothing able. 1590: Spenser, F. Q., IV. v. 1646: Browne, Pseudo. Épi., bk. v. ch. xxiii., As we usually say, they are unblest until they put on their girdle. 1687: Aubrey, Gentilisme, etc., 43 (F.L.S.), It was accounted before ye civill warres a very undecent and dissolute thing for a man to goe without his girdle in so much that 'twas a proverb, ”Ungirt and unbless't.” (See Tibullus, Eleg., lib. i. ix. 41, and Pers., Sat., iii. (31.)

Unhardy is unsly. See Cowardly.

Unkissed unkind. 1584: Peele, Ar-raign of Paris, I. ii., And I will have a lover’s fee; they say, unkiss'd unkind. 1897: Violet Hunt, Unkist, Unkind [title].

Unknown, unkind. c. 1374: Chaucer, Troilus, bk. i. l. 809, Unknowe, unkist, and lost that is unsought. 1401: in Wright, Polit. Poems (Rolls S.), ii. 59 (1861), On old Englis it is said, unkiss'd is unknown. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1579: E. Kirke, Epist. Ded., to Spenser’s Shep. Cal., Who for that hee is vncoth (as sayde Chaucer) is vnkist, and vnknwone to most men, is regarded but of a fewe. 1670: Ray, 27. 1732: Fuller, No. 5403.

Unlikeliest places are often likelier than those that are likeliest, The. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 120.

Unlooked for often comes. 1875: Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 133.

Unlucky in love lucky at play. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. III., Well, miss, you’ll have a sad husband, you have such good luck at cards. 1868: T. W. Robertson, Play, III. ii., The old proverb is verified in our case, unlucky in love, lucky at play.

Unmannerliness is not so impolite as over-politeness. 1694: D’Urfey, Quixote, Pt. II. I. ii., He that has more manners than he ought, is more a fool than he thought. 1732: Fuller, No. 5404, Unmannerly a little is better than troublesome a great deal. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. “Unkind,” Better unkind than troublesome. 1831: Hone, Year-Book, col. 1417. Cf. Better be unmannerly.

Unminded, unmoaned. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. ix. 1670: Ray, 27. 1815: Scott, Mannering, ch. ix., But when folk’s missed, then they are moaned.

Untoward boy, or girl, may make a good man, or woman. An. 1548: Hall, Chron., 12 (1809), Experience teacheth, that . . . of a shrede boy, proneth a good man. 1592: Greene, Works, x. 239 (Grosart), My mother allowed of my vnhappy parts, alluring to this pro- phane and old proverbe, an vntoward gyrl makes a good woman. 1633: Draxe, 9, A shrewd boy maketh a good man. 1655: Fuller, Church Hist., bk. x., § iv. (52), Verified the proverb, that an untoward boy may make a good man. 1670: Ray, 111, An unhappy lad may make a good man.

Untravelled. See Home-keeping.

U.P. See quots. 1791: Gent. Mag., i. 327, ”U.P.K. spells May goslings,” is an expression used by boys at play as an insult to the losing party. 1813: Brand, Pop. Antiq., i. 219 (Ellis, 1805) [copies the foregoing quotation, with addition——], U.P.K. is “up pick,” that is, up with your pin or peg, the mark of the goal. 1854: Baker, Northants. Gloss., s.v. U.P. spells goslings! Not an uncommon exclama-
tion when any one has completed or attained an object 1831 Evans, Lecest Words, etc., 282 (E D S), U P spells goslings I have heard it not unfrequently, but always as applied to death ' How's Ted going on ' ? ' Eb, poor chap, I think it's UP spells goslings wi' him ' meaning, as I always understood ' it is all up with him, and the goslings will soon feed on his grave ' 

Uphill and against the heart, It goes — it is a hard task 1883 Burne, Shrof-shire Folk-Lore 589

Up horn, Down corn 1870 N & Q, 4th ser., v. 259 Another proverb in use about thirty years ago was — ' Up horn Down corn ' meaning that when the price of cattle was ' up ' that of corn was ' down ' 1886 N & Q, 7th ser., 1392, The proverb which is common among farmers is generally, ' Up corn Down horn, meaning when corn is dear beef is cheap

Uppingham trencher, An 1678 Ray, 333 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss s. v. ' Rutlandshire ' An Uppingham trencher This town was probably famous for the art of trencher-making Here, by a statute of Henry VIII the standard was appointed to be kept for the weights and measures of this county which might induce turners, and other makers of measures to settle here

Up the hill favour me, down the hill beware thee The horse log 1639 Clarke 22 1670 Ray 103 1732 Fuller, No 6275 Up-hill spare me Down-hill forbear me, Plain way, spare me not, Let me not drink when I am hot

Up the weather, To go — To prosper Cf Down (5) for the reverse 1628 Breton in Works 11 4 5 (Grosart) I fear the place you live in is more costly then profitable where, for one that goes vp the weather a number goe downe the winde

Up to one's gossip, To be — To be aware of a person's designs 1828 Carr, Craten Dialect, 1 193

Up to snuff 1811 Poole, Hamlet Trav., II 1 (O.), He knows well enough The game we're after Zooks he's up to snuff 1876 N & Q, 5th ser., v 336, When a man is very acute at a bargain, and ' knows a thing or two,' he is said to be ' up to snuff ' 1922 Weyman, Cowington's Bank, ch xxxvi Thank ye, but I am up to snuff If you ask me I think you're a silly set of fools

Up to the ears 1594 Barnfield, Affect Sheph, 8 (Percy S.), But leave us in love up to the ears

Up with it if it be but a devil of two years old 1639 Clarke, 202

Usage See Custom

Use is a great matter 1672 Walker, Paroem, 23

Use is all 1639 Clarke, 35

Use makes perfect See Practice

Use, verb 1 He that useth me better than he is wont, hath betrayed or will betray me 1578 Florio, First Frudes to 28, Who doth vnto me better then he is wont, he hath betrayd me, or ch wil betray me 1589 Puttenham Engl. Prose, 295 (Arber). He that speaks me fairer than his woont was too Hath done me harme, or meanes for to doo 1586 Pettie, Gazzo, to 36, Hee which maketh more of thee then he was wont, either hath cousened thee alreadie, or else goeth about to coss thee 1629 Book of Merry Riddles Prov 12 1732 Fuller, No 2180, He that is kinder than he was wont, hath a design upon thee

2 I will use you like a Jew 1619 W Hornby, Scourge of Drunkenness, sig A4 Ile use thee like a dogge a few, a slauie 1662 Fuller, Worthes 1 346 (1840), I will use you as bad as a Jew 1670 Ray, 209, To use one like a jew 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s. v. "London" [as in 1662]

3 The used key is always bright 1736 Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, 1 443 (Bigelow)

4 Use legs and hate legs c 1882 Harvey, Marginalia, 188 (1913) 1670 Ray, 153 1732 Fuller, No 5410

5 Use not to-day what to-morrow may want 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 5 (Percy S.)
6. Use your wit as a buckler, not a sword. 1855: Bohn, 549.
   Usual forms of civility oblige no man, The. Ibid., 517.
   Usurer is one that tormenteth men for their good conditions, An, viz. The conditions of their bonds. 1659: Howell, 18.

Usurers' purses and women's plackets are never satisfied. Ibid., 7. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. Usurer.
   Usury. See quot. 1593: Nashe, in Works, iv. 139 (Grosart), It is nowe growne a proverbe That there is no merchandize but vsury.
   Uter Pendragon. See Eden.
V

Vain-glory blossoms but never bears
1633 Draxe, 212, Vaine glory is a
flower that beareth no corn Fuller, No 5342
Vale discovereth the hill, The c
1594 Bacon Promus, No 145 [with
"best' after "vale"] 1605 Bacon,
Adv of Learning, II vii 71, A proverb
more arrogant than sound, ' that the
vale discovereth the hill
Valiant man's look is more than a
coward's sword, A 1640 Herbert
Jae Prudentium
Valley, He that stays in the, shall
never get over the hill 1633 Draxe,
1670 Ray, 152 1732 Fuller,
No 2314
Valour can do little without dis-
cretion 1670 Ray, 27 1732
Fuller, No 5343, Valour is brutish with-
out discretion Cf Discretion
Valour that parleys is near yielding
1640 Herbert, Jae Prudentium 1670
Ray, 27
Valour would fight, but discretion
would run away 1678 Ray, 214 1732
Fuller, No 5344 Cf Discretion
Value of money See Money (12)
Varnishing hides a crack. 1732
Fuller, No 5346
Vavasour family saying 1659
Howell, 21, A sheriff had he bin, and a
Contour Was no where such a Vava-
sour An old sad saw of that family
Vael 1 In a shoulder of vael there
are twenty and two good bits 1678
Ray, 83 This is a piece of country
vat They mean by it, There are
twenty (others say forty) bits in a
shoulder of vael and but two good ones
1738 Swift, Polite Convers Dial II
They say there are thirty, and two good
bits in a shoulder of vael
2 Vael will be cheap calves fall
1668 Ray, 83
Veen across the nose See quot
1923 Folk-Lore, vxxiv 330, If you
have a vein across your nose You'll
never live to wear your wedding clothes
(Oxfordsh)

Velvet true heart, He's a Cheshire
1678 Ray, 83 1652 "Cheshire
Proverbs," in N & Q., 1st ser., vi 386
1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 66,
He has a velvet true heart Cf
True (9)
Vengeance, though it comes with
leaden feet, strikes with iron hands
1748 Richardson, Clarissa, iv 120
(1785) Cf God comes
Venture it, I'll See quotas 1673
Ray, 83 I'll venture it, as Johnson did
his wife, and she did well 1732
Fuller, No 1367, En venture on, as
Johnson did on his wife
Venture little, hazard little 1590
Tarlton, Nerves out of Purg, To the
Readers Men that venture little,
hazard little Cf Nothing (30)
Venture not all in one bottom 1639
Clarke, 95 1672 Walker, Param,
53 1732 Fuller, No 5349 1831
Hone, Year-Book, col 1417, Venture
not all you have at once
Venture out of your depth till you can
swim, Never 1855 Bohn, 459
Ventures too far, loses all, He that
c 1534 Berners, Upon, 335 (EETS)
Some tyme it fortuneth that it is foy
to adventure to moche forward and to
late to repent ofter [afterwards] 1611
Cotgrave s v "S'adventure"
Venus smiles See Jove laughs
Vervain and dull See quotas 1578
Dodoens, Herbal, quoted in Aubrey's
Gentilisme (F.L.S.) Vervaine and dull
Hinder witches of their will 1588
Cogan, Haven of Health, ch vxxi p 41
(1621), One olde saying I have heard of
this herbe, That whosoever weareth
vervaine and dull, May be bold to sleepe
on euery hill 1635 Swan Spec
Mundii, 250 (as in 1588)
Vessel See Cask.
Vetch See quot 1884 H Friend
Flowers and Fl Lore, 220, Vetches are
a most hardy grain, according to the
comparison of an old saying—"A
Vetch will go through The bottom of
an old shoe"
Vicar of S. Fools, The. 1562: Heywood, *Epigr.*, 5th Hund., No. 19. Whens come all these? from the vicar of sainct fools. 1565: Calfhill, *Answ. to Martiall*, 237 (P.S.), Then a dolt with a dawkin might marry together; and the Vicar of Saint Fools be both minstrel and minister. 1589: Nashe, *Works*, i. 13 (Grosart), I must needs sende such idle wits to shift to the vicar of S. Fools, who in stead of a worser may be such a Gothamists ghostly father. 1659: Howell, i6.

The vicar of fools is his ghostly father. 1670: Ray, i76 [as in 1659].


2. Vice is often clothed in virtue's habit. Ibid., s.v. "Vice."

3. Vice makes virtue shine. 1732: Fuller, No. 5356.


5. Vices are learned without a master. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 312. 1732: Fuller, No. 5361.


See also No vice.


Vine poor, Make the, and it will make you rich, i.e. prune it. 1678: Ray, 350.


Viper in one's bosom, To nourish a. 1670: Ray, 196. 1732: Fuller, No. 5210.

Virtue. i. The virtue of a coward is suspicion. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.


3. Virtue and a trade are the best portion for children. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

4. Virtue has all things in (or below) it self. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Virtue."


"And its own reward!" he retorted.

6. Virtue is the only true nobility. 1670: Flecknoe, *Epigrans*, 50, Virtue is only true nobility. 1732: Fuller, No. 5382.


8. Virtue praised increaseth. 1560:
Becon, Catechism, 351 (P S) [quoted as "the common saying"]

9 Virtues all agree, but vices fight one another 1732 Fuller, No 5392

10 Virtue which parleys is near a surrender 1721 Bailey Dict, s v "Virtue"

Voice of the people, the voice of God,
The Before 804 Alcum, Opp, Ep cxvii t 1 p 191, Ed Froben, 1777,
Nec audienti sunt u qui volent dicere vox populi, vox Dei cum tumultuositas vulgi semper insaniae prouma est c 1390 Gower Conf Amanits, Prol., 1 124 And that I take to record Of every lond for his partie The comun vois, which ma noght lie 1412 Hoc cleve Regement, 104 (EETS). Thus my gode lorde wynneth your peples voice, ffor peples vois is goddes voy

men seyne 1575 Gascoigne, Poses, 143 (Cunliffe). Yet could I never any reason seele, To thinke Vox populi est Dei est 1646 Browne, Pseudo Epi, bk 1 ch 11, Though sometimes they are flattered with that aphorism, will hardly believe, The voice of the people to be the voice of God 1737 Pope Horace Epistles, II 1 89, The peoples voice is odd, It is, and it is not, the voice of God. 1820 Colton, Lacon Pt II No 266, The voice of the People is the voice of God, this axiom has manifold exceptions 1914 Shaw, Parents and Children, in Miscell. etc., lxii, When an experienced demagogue comes along and says "Sir you are the dictator the voice of the people is the voice of God——"
Wade's mill. *See* Ware.


Wager. *See* None but fools.

Wagging of a straw = a trifle. *c.* 1374: Chaucer, *Tr. and Cr.,* ii. 1745 (O.), In titerying and pursuyte and delayes The folk deuyne at wagginge of a stre. 1530: Palsgrave, 468, I can bring hym out of pacynce with the wagging of a straw. 1577: J. Grange, *Golden Aphroditis,* sig. I4. The wagging of a straw... hindreth the flight thereof. 1639: Clarke, 34, Angry at the wagging of a straw. 1678: Ray, 75, He'll laugh at the wagging of a straw. 1769: Smollett, *Adv. Alam,* 7 (Cooke, 1795). He will... at the turning of a straw take into his bosom the very person whom he has formerly defamed.

2. He that waits on another man's trencher, makes many a late dinner. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Escuelle," 'Tis long before he be served that waits for another man's leavings. 1670: Ray, 27. 1732: Fuller, No. 2339 ["little" for "late"].
3. Wait meals, *flee chars.* c. 1770: Pegge, *Derbicisms,* ii (E.D.S.), A chare or jobb of work... see... the prov, "Wait meals, flee chars," which I take to be the true reading and not jars.

Wakefield, Merry. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies,* iii. 399 (1840). 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.,* s.v. "Yorkish." 1878: *Folk-Lore Record,* i. 161, A similar idea is expressed in the old saying, "Merry Wakefield." [The "idea" alludes to the sixteenth-century Yorkshire song, with chorus—"Yorke, Yorke, for my monie: Of all the citties that ever I see, for mery pastime and companie, Except the cittie of London." There is probably also a connection with the famous Pindar of Wakefield.]

Waking dog. *See* quot. 1591: Lyly, *Endymion,* III. i., It is an old saying, madam, that a waking dog doth afar off bark at a sleeping lion.

Walberswick. *See* quot. 1830: Forby, *Vocab. E. Anglia,* 430. He is a Walberswick whisperer; you may hear him over to Southwold.

Wales. *See* Knight.

3. *We must walk before we run.* 1851: Borrow, *Lavengro,* ii. 15, Ambition is a very pretty thing; but, sir, we must walk before we run. 1878: Platt, *Business,* 124, We must learn and be strong enough to walk before we can run.

See also Good walking.


Wall, *subs.* 1. *Wall between.* *See Hedge (i).*

2. *Walls have ears.* 1591: Harington, *Orl. Furioso,* bk. xxii. st. 32, For posts have eares, and walls have eyes to see. c. 1600: *No-body and Somebody,* I. 177, There is a way: but walls have eares and eyes. 1633: Shirley, *Bird in a Cage,* I. i., Take heed what you say... walls have ears. 1672: Wycherley, *Love in a Wood,* III. iii. 1718: Dennis, *Works,* ii. 298. 1766: Garrick, *Neck or Nothing,* II. i. 1822:
Scott, Nigel, ch vi, It is not good to speak of such things stone walls have ears

Wallington See quotes 1846–59
Denham Tracts, i 236 (F L S), To teach one the way to Wallington Show me the way to Wallington 1890 Monthly Chron of N Country Lore etc, 421–2, Show me the way to Wallington (title of song)

Walnut-tree He who plants a walnut-tree expects not to eat of the fruit 1732 Fuller, No 2401
See also Woman (8)
Walsall See Sutton
Walsall clock, You're too fast, like 1869 Hazlitt 491

Walsham's call See Wise (6)

Wandsworth, the sink of Surrey 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Surrey," This reproach is in a great measure removed Formerly the town, which lies low, was one continued puddle

Wanswell See quot 1639 in Berkeley MSS i 29 (1885) All the maids in Wanswell may dance in an egg shell Gloe Of Camberwell
Want, subs i For want of a nail, etc [c 1390 Gover, Conf Amantis, bk v ] 4785, For sparring of a little cost full oft time a man hath lost The large coze for the hog [hood] 1630 f Adams, Works 714 The want of a nayle loeth the shoe, the losse of a shoe troubles the horse, the horse indanger- eth the rider, the rider breaking his rankle molesteth the company, so far as to hazard the whole army 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium, For want of a nayle the shoe is lost, for want of a shoe the horse is lost, for want of a horse the rider is lost 1736 Franklin Way to Wealth, in Works 1 446 (Bigelow) [as in 1640, with "was" for "is" plus, being over- taken and slain by the enemy, all for want of a little care about a horse-shoe nail 1875 Cheales Proverb Folk-Lore, 765 [as in 1736 but ending with 'enemy']

2 For want of company welcome trumpery 1678 Ray, 69 1690 New Dict Canting Crew, sig M4 [with good " before company"] 1738

Swift, Polite Convers, Dial III 1830
Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 427
3 Want goes by such an ones door
Somerset 1678 Ray, 347
4 Want is the whelstone of wit 1611
Tarlo's Jests, 36 (Sh S)
5 Want makes strife See Poverty breeds
6 Want of care admits despair 1855

Bohn, 551

7 Want of care does us more damage than want of knowledge 1736 Frank
Lin, Way to Wealth, in Works, i 445 (Bigelow)

8 Want of money, want of comfort 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v "Want"
Want, whd I will not want when I have, and when I haven t too Somerset 1678 Ray, 344 1732 Fuller, No 2050

2 To want a boiled ha'penny said of weak or silly persons 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 146

3 What she wants in up and down she hath in round about 1678 Ray, 346

4 You want the thing you have 1629

Book of Merry Riddles, Prov 130

Wanton look See quotes 71st cent in Reliq Anhique, ii 14 (1843), Luther look and twinkling, Titling and tickling, Open breast and singing, these maderout lesing Arn toknes of horlinge 1869 Hazlitt, 447, Wanton look and twinkling, Laughing and tickling, Open breast and singing, these without lying, Are tokens of whoming

War and Wars, subs i He that makes a good war makes a good peace 1666 Torrano, Piazza Univ ["who" for "he" and "obtaineth," for second 'makes'] 1670 Ray, 28 1732 Fuller, No 2230

2 He was saying his war prayers, e swearing S Devon 1869 Hazlitt, 194

3 War and physic are governed by the eye 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

4 War, hunting and love are as full of troubles as pleasures 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium, In war, hunting and love, men for one pleasure a thousand griefs prove 1670 Ray, 28 [with "law" for "love"] 1732 Fuller, No 5416, War, hunting, and love have
a thousand troubles for their pleasure. 1846–59: Denham Tracts, ii. 109 (F.L.S.) [with "law" for "love"].

5. War is death's feast. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Feste." Warre is the dead man holy-day. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1732: Fuller, No. 5417.

6. War makes thieves, and peace hangs them. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium. 1660: Howell, Parly of Beasts, i. 117. War makes the thief, and peace brings him to the gallows. 1732: Fuller, No. 5418.

7. War must be waged by waking men. 1639: Clarke, 318. 1670: Ray, 154. 1732: Fuller, No. 5419. War must not be waged by men asleep.

8. Wars are sweet to those that know them not. 1539: Taverner, Proverbs, fo. 49, Batell is a sweete thyng to them that never assayed it. 1560: E. More, Def. of Women, i. 239. As warre is counted pleasaut to them not tryeng the same. 1575: Gascoigne, Posies, 147 (Cunliffe), How sweet warre is to such as knowe it not. Before 1634: Chapman, Revenge for Honour, i. iii., War is sweet to those That never have experienced it. 1659: Howell, ii. 1816: Scott, Antiquary, ch. xxviii. It's a rough trade—war's sweet to them that never tried it. 1927: Sporting and Dramatic News, April 30, p. 261. The war correspondent in "The Desert Song," agrees with the proverb that war is sweet to those who haven't tried it.


10. When war begins Hell opens. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "War."

Warshall, Cumberland. See quot. 1860: Whellan, Cumb. and Westm., 290 n. Up now ace, and down with the traye, Or Warshall's gone for ever and aye.

Ware and Wadesmill are worth all London. [1561: Queene Hester, 31 (Grosart), Nowe by wades myll, everye mans wyll Is wonderouslye well.] 1588: A. Fraunce, Lawters Logike, fo. 27.
Maxim for ablutions seems to have been, "hands often, feet seldom, head never!"

To wash out ink with ink, 1639.

Washington, To give (See quot 1846–59 Denham Tracts, 188 (FLS), I gave him [for her] Washington That is, did my work quickly and roughly. But as to whether it alludes to the village of that name in the bishopric [Durham] or the celebrated General Washington I dare not at present decide. The saving is very common in the north of England.

Wasp and wasps: "As angry as a wasp," cf. 1550 Alexander, 1738, "as wrath as wasp" Before 1529 Skelton, Elyn Running, 1738, But, Lorde, as she was testy as a wasp, c 1570 in Hazlitt, E Pop Poetry, iv 194, She is as curst, I dare well swere, And as angry y wis as ever was wasp, 1651 Davies of Hereford, Sc of Folly, 45, in Works, ii (Grosartt), "Phryne's as merry as a cricket" sometimes, But angry as a wasp, when she reads my times 1670, Ray, 203.

To wash the head, See Wet, verb (2). To wash the head without soap = To scold 1581 E Rich, Farewell, 261 (Sh S.), Thus olde hag, havynge had her head washed thus without sope [having been well scolded].

Washing days. See quotes 1865 Hunt, Pop Romances W of Eng., 430 (1896). They that wash Monday got all the week to dry, They that wash Tuesday are pretty near by, They that wash Wednesday make a good housewife, They that wash Thursday must wash for their life, They that wash Friday must wash in need They that wash Saturday are slates in deed 1888 N & Q., 7th ser., v 180. Monday have all the week to dry, Tuesday have let a day go by Wednesday are not so much to blame Thursday wash for very shame Friday wash in fearful need Saturday are filthy slats in deed 1910 Devonsh Assoc Trans., xli 90. Wash Friday, wash for need, Wash Saturday, slats indeed.

Wash your hands often, your feet seldom, and your head never! (1926 Inge Lay Thoughts 226, A hundred and fifty years ago the owner father, he shall be warned by his stepfather. Before 1500 in Hill, commonplace Book, 128 (EETS) Cf He that will not be ruled.

Wary. See Blind, adj (9). Wash, verb. I For washing his hands none sells his hands 1640 Herbert, Jace Prudentium.

2. He washes his sheep with scalding water. 1813, Ray, 75.

3. If you would live for ever you must wash the milk out of your liver—a toper's saying 1611 Cotgrave s.v "lait." Wash thy milke off thy liver (say we) 1670 Ray, 36 1732 Fuller, No. 6073.

4. I will wash my hands and wait upon you, 1678 Ray, 355.

5. To wash one's face in an ale-clout 1540 Heywood, Proverbs Pt I ch x, As sober as she seems, fewe daes come about her but she will oncece wasshe her face in an ale clout.

6. To wash the head, See Wet, verb.

Watch one's water, To. See Look, verb (26).

Water, subs. 1. As water in a smith's forge, that serves rather to quench than kindle. 1579: Lyly, Euphues, 61 (Arber). He that casteth water on the fire in the smith's forge, maketh it to flame fiercer. 1639: Clarke, 158.

2. As welcome as water in one's shoes = not welcome at all. 1659: Howell, xi. 1740: North, Lives of Norths, i. 195 (Bohn). They caress'd his lordship very much . . . and talked about a time to dine with him; all which, as they say, was "water in his shoes." 1880: Spurgeon, Ploughm. Pictures, 47. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lancs Sayings, 4. As welcome as wayter i' one's shoon.

3. As welcome as water into a ship. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 38r (Arber). Seeing my counsell is no more welcome vnto thee then water into a ship—1605: Camden, Remains, 317 (1870). 1670: Ray, 203. 1732: Fuller No. 749. As welcome as water in a leaking ship.


5. He seeks water in the sea. 1813: Ray, 75.

6. He wants all the water to run down his own gutter—said of a covetous person. 1923: Devonsh. Assoc. Trans., liv. 136.

7. There's some water. See quotes. 1913: E. M. Wright, Rustic Speech, etc., 174. There's aye some water where the stirk [heifer] drowns. 1914: N. & Q., 11th ser., x. 29, "There's some water where the stags drown:"—A friend of mine recently quoted this proverb with the meaning "There is no smoke without fire." She has been familiar with it since her early childhood, which was spent under South Yorkshire and Hampshire influences. [It looks as if "stag" were a perversion of "stirk."]

Kelly, Scottish Proverbs, 309, gives "There's aye some water whaur the stirkie (calf) drowns."

8. The water that comes from the same spring cannot be fresh and salt both. 1732: Fuller, No. 4817.

9. To beat water in a mortar. 1576: Lambarde, Peramb. of Kent., 142 (1620). The house of Yorke had hitherto but beaten water in a mortar, and lost al their former labour.

10. To carry water in a sieve. 1591: Harington, Orf. Furioso, bk. xxxii. st. 39. Whom your fair speeches might have made believe That water could be carrid in a seeve. 1623: New and Mervic Prognos, 11 (Halliwell). That none may take up water with a sive. 1681: Robertson, Phrascol. Generalis, 1037. It's to no more purpose than to carry water in a riddle. 1716: Ward, Female Policy, 23. Giving presents to a woman to secure her love, is as vain as endeavouring to fill a sieve with water. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Wash," To draw water in a sieve.

11. To put water in one's wine. 1597: Painter, Pal. of Pleasure, iii. 364 (Jacobs). Which if he doe after hee hath well mingled water in his wyne, hee may chauce to finde cause of repentance. 1599: Chamberlain, Letters, 39 (Camden S.). The cheife rebells . . . began to put water in there wine, and to proceed with more temper. c. 1663: Dayenant, Play-House to be let, V., Faith, in your wine I perhaps may put water. 1860: Ld. Acton, in Gasquet, Acton and Circle, 149 (1906). (O.) I am afraid you will think I have poured a good deal of water into your wine in "Tyrol" and "Syria."

12. Under water. See Snow (8).

13. Water afar off quencheth not fire. 1586: Young, Guazzo, fo. 191, Water a
farre of doth [not] quench fier that is nigh 1640 Herbert, J ac Prudentum 1666 Tornano, Piazza Univ. i ['a neighbouring' before 'fire']

14 Water, fire and soldiers quickly make room 1640 Herbert, J ac Prudentum 1659 Howell, 6 ['war' for 'soldiers'] 1736 Bailey, Dict. s v 'Water' [as in 1659]

15 Water into the sea See Cast (8)

16 Water into the Thames See Cast (8)

17 Water is a good servant See Fire (5)

18 Water is as dangerous as commodious 1669 Poltephna, 184

19 Water is a waster 1672 Walker Paraem. 27 1681 Robertson, Phrasal Generalis 1297

20 Water past the mill See Miller (12)

21 Water trotted is as good as oats 1640 Herbert J ac Prudentum

22 We never know the worth of water till the well is dry 1732 Fuller No 5457 1832 J J Blunt, Reform Eng. 140 (O) We know not, says the pro-verb, what the well is worth till it is dry 1883 Burne, S hropsh Folk-Lore 590. We never miss the water till the well runs dry

23 Where the water is shallow no vessel will ride 1639 Clarke, 245 1670 Ray, 154 1732 Fuller, No 5682

Water, verb. 1 To water a stake = To waste effort or labour 1681 Robertson, Phrasal Generalis, 511, Why do I thus water a dull and doltish post? 1732 Fuller, No 5897, You do but water a dead stake 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch 1, I am afraid I have been watering a dead stake

2 To water one's plants = To weep 1542 Udall, Erasm Apoph. 266 (O), When he read the chronicle of Alexander the great, he could not forbear to water his plantes [L. non tenet lachrymas] 1557 North, Diall of Princes fo 210: They think it their duty to water their plantes with tears 1560 T Wilson Rétorique 80 (1909), So long as my childe lued I fasted, and watered my plants for my young boye

1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, ii 48

Waverimg as the wind 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch 1, But waureryng as the wynde doeke out nette 1672 Walker, Paraem., 14, You are as unconstant as the wind, as waverimg as the weatherlock

Waverimg man is like a skein of silk, A 1736 Bailey, Dict. s v "Waverimg."

Waves See Head (4)

Way of all flesh, The [1611 Bible, Joshua, xx 14, And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth] 1611 T Heywood Golden Age, III If I go by land, and miscarry, then I go the way of all flesh 1631 Heywood, Fair Maid of West, Pt II Act IV, She by this is gone the way of all flesh 1754 Berthelson Eng-Danish Dict., s v 'Flesh' 1829 Peacock, Miss of Elphim ch vii, Uther Pendragon went the way of all flesh

1903 S Butler, Way of all Flesh [title]

Way to be gone is not to stay here, The 1678 Ray, 72

Way to be safe is never to be secure, The 1732 Fuller, No 4820

Way to bliss lies not on beds of down, The 1639 Clarke, 16

Way to live much is to begin to live well betimes, The 1732 Fuller, No 4821

Weakly, See Leominster

Weak, adj. 1 As weak as a wassail 1628 Carr, Craven Dialect, ii 241, "As wake as a wassail," is a very common phrase to denote excessive weakness

2 As weak as water c 1320 in Relig Antiquae, 1 122 (1841), Y wake as water in wore 1545 Ascham Toxoph., 28 (Arber) I found my good bowe ecle cast on the one side and as wake as water 1611 Bible, Ezekiel, vi 17, All hands shall be seeble, and all knees shall be weak as water 1631 Shirley, Lore Tricks, I 1754 Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict., s v 'Weak,' He is as weak as water 1831 Scott, Journal Oct 19 I am as weak as water 1886 R L S., Kud-
of all Congleton festivities, "May welfare and religion go hand in hand."

3. Whom weal pricks, sorrow comes after and ticks. 1605: Camden, Remains, 335 (1870).


2. Little avails wealth, where there is no health. 1659: Howell, 17.

3. Wealth is best known by want. 1732: Fuller, No. 5463.

4. Wealth is enemy to health. c. 1390: Gower, Conf. Amantis, ProL i. 30 (1857), But in proverbe netheles Men sain: ful selden is that welthe Can suffre is owne estate in helthe. 1586: Whetstone, Engl. Myrror, 14, The rich man's wealth is most enemy unto his health.

5. Wealth is like rhum, it falls on the weakest parts. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1670: Ray, 28.


See also Health; Money; and Riches.

Weapon and Weapons, subs. 1. All weapons of war cannot arm fear. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 32, All the weapons of London wyl not arme feare. 1629: Book of Meery Riddles, Prov. 15. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum, All the armes of England will not arme feare.

2. It is ill putting a weapon. See ill putting.


Wear, verb. 1. Ever since we wear
clothes, we know not one another 1640
Herbert, Jac Prudentium
2 He that wears black must hang a
brush at his back 1639 Clarke, 207
["They" for "He"] 1670 Ray, 63
1732 Fuller, No 5293
3 He wears a whole Lordship on his
back 1639 Clarke 262
4 Many who wear rapiers are afraid
of goose quills 1855 Bohn, 450
5 To wear the breeches See Breeches
6 To wear the willow 1578 Gor-
egons Gallery, 84 (Rollins), Which makes
men to weare the willow garland 1612
Field, Woman a Weathercock, I. There is
Lucida wears the willow garland for you
1673 Davenant, Siege V, I am con-
tent To wear the willow now 1725
in Farmer, Musa Pedestris, 46 Great
puty 'twas that one so preum Should ever
wear the willow 1825 Hone, Ev
Day Book 1 1080 The old saying, "She
is in her willows" is here illustrated,
it implies the mourning of a female for
her lost mate 1876 W Ebsworth
Prelude to Bagford Ballads (BS), Lovers
who willow wore 1907 De Morgan,
Alice-for-Short, ch vii Having given
up wearing the willow on her account
and consol'd himself with inferiority
7 Wear a horn and blow it not 1639
Clarke, 142 1670 Ray, 198
Weasel See quot 1840 Barham,
Ing Legends 'Gengulphus' "You
must, be pretty deep to catch weazels
asleep," Says the proverb that is,
"Take the Fair unawares"
Weather, subs 1 The weather will
fine See Rook
2 To talk of the weather, it's nothing
but folly, For when it rains on the hill,
the sun shines in the valley 1846
Denham Proverbs, 17 (Percy S)
3 You are so cunning, you know not
what weather 'ts, when it rains 1732
Fuller, No 5859
Weatherwise See quot 1735
Franklin, Poor Richard (1890), 50 (O),
Some are weather wise, some are other-
wise 1875 Cheales Proverb Folk-
Lore, 18, He who is weather-wise is not
otherwise 1893 Inwards, Weather
Lore, 1, Those that are weather wise are
rarely otherwise Cornwall

Weasel See Hundred tailors, and
Miller (10)
Webley See Leominster
Wed, verb He that weds before he's
wise shall die before he thrive 1546
Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch vii
1605 Camden, Remains, 335 (1870)
1685 Metton, Yorksh Ale, etc, 67,
But they that wed before they're wise,
it's said Will die before they thrive
1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on
Proverbs, 226
Wedding See Marriage
Wedding See quot 1888 Q-
Couch, Troy Town ch in, When 'tis
over, 'tis over, as Joan said by her
weddin'
Wedding and ill wintering tame both
man and beast c 1595 Shakespeare,
Taming of Shrew IV 1, Thou knowest,
winter tames man, woman and beast
1639 Clarke, 328 1670 Ray, 47
Cf Bad wintering
Wedding-ring wears, As your, your
cares will wear away 1678 Ray, 344
1732 Fuller, No 6246, As your wed-
ding ring wears You'll wear off your
cares 1831 Hone, Year Book, 78
1878 Dyer, Eng Folk-Lore, 192
Wedge where the beetle drives it,
There goes the 1678 Ray, 216
1732 Fuller, No 4869
Wedlock is a padlock 1678 Ray,
56 1732 Fuller No 6267 1875
Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 39, Wed-
lock is a padlock, and therefore is not
to be lightly entered upon
Wednesday See Sunday (2), (3),
and (4)
We dogs worried the hare 1678
Ray, 239 1732 Fuller, No 5443, We
hound's kill'd the hare quoth the lap-
dog 1846-59 Denham Tracts, 11 168
(FLS)
Weeds overgrow the corn, The c
1450 in Reliq Antique, 11 240 (1843).
Lest the weede growe over the whete
1485 Malory, Morte d'A, bk vi ch
8. It is shane that ever ye were made
knyghte to see suche a ladde to mate
suche a knyghte as the weede ouer grewe
the corne c 1554 Enterlude of
Youth, in Bang, Materialien, B 12, p 17, Lo Musters here you may see
Pap Herbert, Each Fuller, As D. the wept Fuller 1659 1610 1732 by Swainson, 1681 1659 1610 1659 sowing. measure. 1886). Welcome H. 1732 i. §vi., 1. Weigh May. He Fuller, 1654 Robertson, I Tuvil,]., snow not Scott, i. He Fuller, 1869 Ray, they come home by Weeping Cross, to repent. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. v., We must needs go to glory by the way of Weeping Cross.

Weigh, verb. 1. He that weighs the wind must have a steady hand. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 222 (Arber). Hee that weighs wind, must have a steadie hand to holde the ballaunce. 1732: Fuller, No. 2345.


3. Weigh not what thou givest, but what is given thee. 1659: Howell, 12 (10).


Weirling, The. See quot. 1868: N. & Q., 4th ser., i. 614 [as in 1856]. 1886: Swainson, Folk-Lore of British Birds, 114 (F.L.S.), In Norfolk there is a saying called "the Wilby warning," frequently quoted by labourers, to this effect:—"When the weirling shrieks at night, Sow the seed with the morning light, But 'ware when the cuckoo swells its throat, Harvest flies from the moon-call's note."


Welcome, adj. 1. As welcome as a storm. 1732: Fuller, No. 746.

2. As welcome as flowers in May. 1591: Florio, Second Fruites, 55, Welcome Male with his flowers. 1645: Howell, Letters, bk. i. §vi., No. 10, 'Twas as welcome to me as flowers in May. 1793: C. Macklin, Love à la Mode, i. i., You are as welcome as the flowers in May. 1817: Scott, Rob Roy, ch. viii. 1893: R. L. S., Ebb-Tide, ch. vi. 1911: N. & Q., 11th ser. iii. 392.

3. As welcome as snow in harvest. See Snow (2).
4 As welcome as the eighteen trumpeters 1614 R. Heyneke, quoted in N & Q, 2nd ser., VIII,484. You wryte how you recayved my letter and that you esteemed yt as wellcom as the 18 trumpytors
5 As welcome as water in one's shoes, and, as water into a ship. See Water (2) and (3)
6 He that is welcome fares well 1736 Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Welcome"
7 Welcome death, quoth the rat, when the trap fell 1659 Howell, 10, fell down 1670 Ray, 28 [as in 1659]
8 Welcome evil, if thou comest alone 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1732 Fuller, No 5471 ['mischief for evil']
   Well, subs. 1. If well and them cannot, then ill and them can Yorl sh
   1670 Ray, 155
2 Well's a fret 1853 N & Q 1st ser., VII, 297. It is a very common practice in Nottingham to say — Well's a fret, He that dies for love will not be hangd for debt
3 When the well is full it will run over 1736 Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Well"
   See also Truth (13), and Water (22) Well, adv. and adverb 1 He's well to live = He is drunk 1678 Ray, 87
2 He that is well sheltered is a fool if he stir out into the rain 1484 Caxton, "Esop., ii, 239 (Jacobs). He whiche in a place well sure is well a foile to go fro hit and to putte hym self in grete daunger and perylle 1589 Puttenham, "Eng Poete", 240 (Arber). It is said by maner of a proverbal speach that he who finds himselfe well shuld not wagge 1732 Fuller, No 2199
3 He that would be well needs not go from his own house 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium
4 If you would be well served, serve yourself. 1869 J. E. Austen-Leigh, Mem. of Jane Austen 35 [quoted as a homely proverb]
5 That is well spoken that is well taken 1639 Clarke, III, 1685 Menton, "Yorkshire Ale", etc., 39. It is well spoken that is well tane, I've heard 1732 Fuller, No 4364 190x F E

Taylor, Lancs Sayings, 9, That's well spoken 'at's well takken
6 That which is well done is twice done 1606 Day, "Ile of Gulls", V, For, saies my mother, a thinge once well done is twice done 1682 A Behn, False Count, III, 11 [as in 1606] 1732 Fuller, No 4381
7 They are well off that haven't a house to go to. This seems pelinously like nonsense 1846 Denham, Proverbs 4 (Percy S)
8 Well begun is half done [Dim dum facti qui coepit habet — Horace, Epist., I, ii, 40] c 1300 Prov of Hendyng st 2 (Berlin, 1878), God beginning maketh god endyng. c 1430 in Babees Book, etc., 48 (EE T S). And whanne a thing is well begonne, It maketh a good ende at the laste c 1490 Partanope, 438 (EE T S). Thng welk ende is welk begonne 1542 Udall, Erasm Apol., 17 (1877). Laertius ascribeth to hym [Socrates] this sayng also To hauw well begonne, is a thing halfe done. The sayng is halfe a verse of the Greke psote Hesiodus εφεξ ἡμιν θάνατον, Bogynynge is halfe of the whole 1607 Lingua, II. 11. He that [hath] once begun well, hath halfe done 1580 L'Estrange Select Coll of Erasmus, 208 1712 Morteux, "Quivrate, Pt II ch xl, A business well begun you know, is half ended 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 273. "Well begun is half done," is evidently their principle
9 Well fare nothing else a year 1639 Clarke, 244 1659 Howell, 12
10 Well guessed Kath, here s neither to lack nor to leave 1639 Clarke, 113
11 Well horse winter will come 1659 Howell, 13
12 Well is bestowed the meat he eats c 1300 Havelok, I, 907, p 33 (Skeat). Wel is set the mete thou 1etes 13 Well is that well does 1736 Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Well"
14 Well paid is well sold c 1630 in Rosh Ballads, 1 124 (B S)
15 Well rhythmed, tutor, brains and stairs 1639 Clarke, 70 ["trames" for 'brams'] 1670 Ray, 218
16 Well thresheth that well endureth
c. 1320: in Relig. Antiquae, i. 115 (1841), "Wel abit that we may tholye," Quoth Hendyng.

17. Well to work and make a fire, It doth care and skill require. 1670: Ray, 28. 1732: Fuller, No. 6246.


19. What is well done is done soon enough. 1545: Ascham, Toxoph., 114 (Arber), Thy wyse proverbe: Sone ynowh, if we ynowh. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 25. That thing is quickly done, that is done well. 1598: Meres, Palladis, fo. 259 [as in 1545]. 1605: Sylvester, Du Bartas, Week i. Day i. l. 489. 1633: Drake, 111, bis, Soone enough done, if we well done. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 82, That is done soon enough which is well done. 1730: T. Saldkeld, tr. Gracion Compl. Gent., 126. A thing is soon enough done, if well done, was one of the antient sage's maxims.

20. Where men are well used, they'll frequent there. 1659: Howell, 10. 1670: Ray, 27. 1732: Fuller, No. 5649, Where men are kindly used, they will resort.

Welland, River. See Nene. Wellington Fair. See quot. 1901: N. & Q., 9th ser., viii. 421, "Gone to Wellington Fair to blow their bellows."—This, in addition to several other curious old sayings, I have often during recent years heard from a lady born and bred in Northamptonshire (1830-51).


Welsh ambassador, The = The cuckoo. 1608: Middleton, Trick to Catch, IV. (N.), Thy sound is like the cuckoo, the Welsh ambassador. c. 1630: in Roxb. Ballads, i. 72 (B.S.), Three dozen of Welsh ambassadors bakt. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Embassador." 1878: Dyer, Eng. Folk-Lore, 61, In Wales the cuckoo often goes by the name of "the Welsh Ambassa-

dor," 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 121.

Welsh bait, Give your horse a = a rest, without any other refreshment. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, iii. 489 (1840). 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Wales."

Welsh blood is up, Her. 1631: Shirley, Love Tricks, V. iii., Jen... Her Welsh plood is up, look you. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, iii. 488 (1840) ["His" for "her"]. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Wales."

Welsh cousin, A. 1790: Grose, Ibid... A relation far removed; the Welsh making themselves cousins to most of the people of rank born in the country.


2. The Welshman keeps nothing till he has lost it. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, iii. 520 (1840), "Ni Cheitw Cymbro oni Gello." That is, "The Welshman keeps nothing until he hath lost it." The historical truth thereof is plain in the British Chronicles, that when the British recovered the lost castles from the English, they doubted their diligence and valour, keeping them more tenaciously than before. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Cardiganshire."

3. The Welshman's jackdaw. See Say (9).

See also February (2).

Welsh pedigree, As long as a. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, iii. 489 (1840). 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Wales." 1875: Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 53, As long as a Welsh pedigree... which Walter Scott in one of his couplets... which strikingly illustrates.

Wem, Salop. See quot. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 585, The women of Wem and a few musketeers, Beat Lord Capel and all his cavaliers.

Wembury. See quot. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 12, As crooked as Wembury (Wybunbury) steeple.

West Auckland. See quot. 1845-59: Denham Tracts, i. 60 (F.L.S.), By 'gres and 'gres, as the West Auckland lasses get their fortunes.

West Chester, To be sent to. 1851:
Westgate, Newcastle-on-Tyne 1655
A Brewer, Love-sick King II, Here did
Thornton enter in With hope, a half
penny, and a lambs-skin 1663 Killigrew
Parson's Wedding, II viii, I have
heard of Whittington and his cat, and
others, that have made fortunes by
strange means, but I scarce believe my
son would rise from Hop a halfpenny
and a lambs-skin 1846-59 Denham
Tracts, I 295 (FLS), At Westgate
came Thornton in, With hap [luck], a
halfpenny, and a lamb's skin [Six
other slightly varying versions are given
at this reference] Cf Hop and a half-
penny

Thornton was one of the Bailiffs of
Newcastle in 1397, later member of
Parliament, and the first Mayor He
became very wealthy

Westminster Who goes to West-
minster for a wife, to Paul's for a man,
or to Smithfield for a horse, may meet
with a whore, a knave and a jade 1503
Passionate Morrice, 83 (N Sh S). It is
more uncertain whether a Smith-
feilda horse will prove good or rash
1617 Fynes Moryson, Itinerary Pt 3,
p. 53. The Londoners pronounce wee
to him that buys a horse in Smythfield,
that takes a servant in Paul's Church,
that marries a wife out of Westminster
[noted for its stews] 1658 Flecknoe,
Enigm Characters 47. That old saying
of choosing a horse in Smithfield, and a
serving-man in Paul's 1790 Grose
Prov Gloss, s v "London

Westminster Hall See Suits hang

Westmoreland Jury See quot 1846-
59 Denham Tracts, I 223 (FLS)
Wise as the Westmoreland Jury, who
found a man guilty of manslaughter
who was tried for stealing a grindstone

Weston See Holbeach

Westridge wood See quot 1639
in Berkeley MSS iii 29 (1685), When
Westridge wood is motley, then it's
time to sow barley Glos

Westward for smelts 1603 West-
ward for Smelts, or the Waterman's Fare
of Mad, Merry Western Wenches, etc
[title] 1607 Dekker, etc., Westw
Hoe, II iii, But wenches, with what
pullies shall wee slide with some cleanly
excuse, out of our husbands suspicion,
being gone Westward for smelts all
night 1608 Great Frost, in Arber,
Garner, I 85 (1877), Say, have none
gone "westward for smelts," as our
proverbial phrase is?

West, adj 1 After a wet year a cold
one 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 4
2 As wet as a shag (cormorant)
1838 Holloway Provincialisms, 150.
"As wet as a shag, means very wet
1875 Parish, Sussex Dict, 102,
is a common expression taken from the
idea of a cormorant diversing frequently
under the water

3 As wet as drip 1828 Carr,
Craven Dialect, I 119, "As wet as drip"
is a common phrase, when a person's
clothes are so soaked with rain that it
falls off in drops

4 As wet as much 1714 Mande-
ville Fable of Bees, 219, With his
dcloaths as wet as dung with the rain
1833 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 595
1889 N & Q, 7th ser, vii 135, A
few years ago such a young woman
would have said "It's as wet as
muck" 1894 Raymond, Love and
Quiet Life, 215, Made him so wet as a
much

5 As wet as thatch 1889 Peacock,
Manley etc., Gloss, 604 (E D S), Weet
as thack, s e wet as thatch 1917
Bridge Cheshire Proverbs, 26

6 As wet as wring Ibid, 26
[wring" perhaps = coarse, rushy
glass]

7 A wet hand will hold a dead herring
1580 Lylv, Ephthes, 414
(Arber), A wette hande quoth Flaura
will holde a dead herring 1732
Fuller, No 453

8 Wet eel See Eel (4)
9. **With a wet finger** = easily, as easily as a wetted finger will turn a page. 1519: Horace, *Vulgaria*, fo. 195, I will help all this besines with a wete fynger. 1593: G. Harvey, *Works*, ii. 32 (Grosart), I hate brawles with my hart: and can turne-ouer a volume of wronges with a wet finger. 1607: Dekker, etc., *Weston. Hoe*, ii. 11, Ile becken, you shall see ile fetch her with a wet finger. 1721: Gibber, *Refusal*, I., Here’s five thousand for you, Mr. Granger, with a wet finger. 1824: Scott, *Roderick, the Shepherd*, ch. xv., He thinks to win them to his turn with a wet finger.

Wet, verb. 1. *To wet one’s whistle.* [πενθερίζω.—Petr., 34]. c. 1386: Chaucer, *Reeve’s Tale*, l. 235, So was her ioly whistle wel y-wet. c. 1410: *Townley Plays*, 119 (E.E.T.S.), Had she ones wet er ye whystyll she couth syng full clere. 1570: Googe, *Papist Kingdome*, 50 (1880), The meate they go, and all with wine their whistles wet. 1685: S. Wesley, *Maggots*, 64, Well may I My whistle wet, for sure the subject’s dry. 1886: Hardy, *Casterbridge*, ch. xxxvi., Come in and wet your whistle at my expense. 1926: Phillips, *Yellow Sands*, iii., He’ll want a drop to wet his whistle.

2. *To wet the head.* See quots. 1889: N. & Q., 7th ser., viii. 86, Farmer A., who was on his way from the house of Farmer B., where, said he, “We have washing the baby’s head” [i.e. drinking its health]. 1923: N. & Q., 12th ser., xii. 63, There is a centuries-old custom connected with the first shoeing of a young horse... known as “wetting its head.” Ibid., 152, The birth of a child frequently afforded an excuse for a drink, on the plea of “wetting its head.”

Wettenhall. See quot. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 51, Down Wettenhall long lane, the plowers fly backwards. Said in answer to persistent questions. Imparting information which is of no value.

Weybourne Hoop. See England (6).

Whale. See Herring (4); Sprat; and Tub to a whale.
Works, n. 60 (Dyce), Yet, when he take first his hat, He said he knew what was what 1542 Udall, tr Erasm Apoph, 239 (1877) 1638 Ford, Lady's Trial, II 1, I know what's what, I know upon which side my bread is butter d 1696 Vanbrugh Relapse, III 1711 Steele, 

**Specialist, No 132, This sly saint understands what's what as well as you or I, widow 1773 Goldsmith, She Stoops, V, I'm an old fellow, and know what's what as well as you that are younger 1837 Dickens, Pickwick, ch xxxvii That 'ere young lady knows not what, she does 1849 Lytton, Caxtons Pt iv, ch iii **

What the Cheque [Exchequer] takes not, the Church takes 1660 Howell, Party of Beasts, 18

What they want in meat, let them take out in drink 1593 Shakespeare 2 Hen IV V iii, What you want in meat we'll have in drink 1631 Heywood, Fair Maid of West, Pt I act ii [cited as "the old proverb"]

Wheat

Wheat I A good wheat year, a fine plum year 1887 N & Q, 7th ser, iv 485, This is a prevailing saying in North Notts 

2 Good wheat See quot 1860 R S Hawker, in Byles, Life, etc., 323 (1905), The Farmers have a proverb here [Morwenstow] that good wheat in March should cover a sitting hare

3 Sow wheat in dirt, and rye in dust 1732 Fuller, No 4235 1884 H Friend, Flowers and Fl Lore, 219 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 153

4 Sow your wheat all in a food, And it will grow up like a wood 1670 Poor Robert Alman, Sept

5 Wheat always lies best in wet sheets 1830 Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 417

6 Wheat or barley See quot 1886 Elworthy, West Som Word-Book, 667 (E D S), The old adage about a late season Watt [wheat] or barley 'll strut [sprout] in June, If they bant no higher an a spoon

7 Wheat will not have two prasses (summer and winter) 1678 Ray, 348 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 5 ( Percy S)

8 When wheat lies long in bed, it riseth with an heavy head Gloucester 1639 in Berkeley MSS, iii 28 (1889)

See also Bark-year, Barley, Bushel (t), Good elm, March (27), May (12), November (6), No wheat, and Tennyson

Wheelbarrow farmer, A 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 27, One who rents only an acre or two of land and is supposed to wheel his manure in barrow loads instead of carting it

Wheels within wheels [1611 Bible, Ezekiel, i 16, Their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel] 1642 D Rogers, Matrim: Honour, To Reader, Thus wheele of our conversation including many lesser wheeles in, and under it 1709 Mandeville, Virgin Unmask'd, Preface, And as a wheel within a wheel, pre fixing it to the Preface 1740 North, Lives of Norths, i 306 (Bohn), Wheels within wheels took place, the ministers turned formalisers, and the court mysterious 1837 Dickens, Pickwick, ch v, Veels within veels, a prison in a prison Ain't it, Sir? 1867 Dickens, Letters, n 304 (1880)

Wheelwright's dog is a carpenter's mate, A = A bad wheelwright makes a good carpenter 1830 Forby, Vocab E Anglia, 427 1872 J Glyde, Jr, Norfolk Garland, 148 ["uncle" for "mate"]

When I did well, I heard it never, When I did ill, I heard it ever 1732 Fuller, No 6414 1736 Bailey, Dist, s v "When"

When I lent I was a friend, When I asked I was unkind 16th cent in Relig Antiqua, 1 208 (1841)

When thou dost hear a toll or knell, Then think upon thy passing-bell 1659 Howell, 6 1670 Ray, 272

When Tom's pitcher's broken I shall have the shards, i.e Kindness after others have done with it, or refuse 1678, Ray, 351

Where a man lives well See Man
Where something is found, there look again. 1732: Fuller, No. 5658.

Whet is no let, A. Before 1628: J. Preston, Saint's Daily Exercise, 32 (1629), (O.), The whetting of the sithe, though there be a stop in the work for a time, yet, as our common saying is, "a whet is no let," and the doing of this is no impediment. 1670: Ray, 155. 1709: R. Kingston, A Phosph. Curiosa, So, Whetting is no letting. 1732: Fuller, No. 454. A whet is no let, said the mower.

Whetstone can't itself cut, yet it makes tools cut, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 455.

Whetstone, To deserve, or, to lie for the. [The tongue compared to a whetstone.—Pindar, Ol., vi. 140.] 1369: Liber Albus, iv. 601 (Rolls), (O.), Jugglement de Pillerie par 3i heures, ove un ague pier contour son col, pur mensonges contreves. c. 1400: Towneley Plays, 230 (E.E.T.S.), He lyes for the whetstone. Before 1500 in Hill, Common-place-Book, 110 (E.E.T.S), I saw an ege styng a pye; geve me drynke, my mouthe ys drye: Yet ys not long syth I made a lye; I will have the whetstone, and I may. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 238 (Arber), If I meet with one of Creete, I was ready to lye with him for the whetstone. 1625: in Harl. Miscell., iv. 87 (1745), Now that this is a lye well worthy of a whetstone, yourself (I hope) will acknowledge. 1732: Fuller, No. 5997, You shall have the whetstone. 1886: Elwode, West Som. Word-Book, 828 (E.D.S.), Whetstone. The liar's prize—still used thus, 1926: Star, Feb. 27, p. 5, col. 1, A country amuse ment of the day [18th century] was "lying for the whetstone."

Which way to London? See quotes. 1583: Melbancke, Philotimus, sig. 63. God geue you good eten, which is the way to Poclington, a pokeful of plumes. 1633: Drake, 4. Which way to London? a poke full of plumes. 1639: Clarke, 19 [as in 1633.] 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 100, As they say in English, How many miles to London, answer is made impertinently, a poke full of plums.

While men go after a leech— = After death the doctor. c. 1387: Usk, Test of Love, in Skeat's Chaucer, vii. 134. While men gon after a leche the body is buryed.

Whim-wham. See quot. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 28, A whimwham from Yockleton. A whim-wham to wund the sun up. [Answers by old folk to inquisitive young people who interrupt them.]


Whip for a fool, and a rod for a school, is always in good season. A. 1613: S. Rowley, When you See Me, sig. P1, A rod in scoole, a whip for a foole, is alwaies in season. 1670: Ray, 212.

Whip saith the tailor, whit saith the shears, Take a true tailor and cut off his ears. 1659: Howell, 15.

Whip the cat, To = To be drunk. c. 1600: in Robb. Ballads. ii. 382 (B.S.), But mault made hym the cat to whip. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Bertrand," To bee drunke . . . to whip the cat. 1807: Gent. Mag., lxxvii. 1192. 1883: Burne, Shropsh. Folk-Lore, 450 [lines formerly on an inn signboard at Albrighton, Salop.], The finest pastime that is under the sun Is whipping the cat at Albrighton.

Whispering. See quotes. 1678: Ray, 348, Where there is whispering there is lying. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I., There's no whispering, but there's lying. 1753: Richardson, Grandison, i. 196 (1883), Whisperings in conversations are censurable, to a proverb.

Whist, and catch a mouse. 1639: Clarke, 302. 1670: Ray, 199.

Whistle, subj. You'll make an end of your whistle though the cart overthrow. 1678: Ray, 276. 1732: Fuller, No. 6027 [with "for it " added].

See also Wet, verb (1).

Whistle, verb. You can't whistle and drink at the same time. 1586: Petite, Guazzo, fo. 137, It is a common saying, that one cannot drink and whistle altogether. 1659: Howell, Proverbs:
Whistling

1869 Hazlitt, 484

One cannot drink and whistle at once.

Whistling woman See quotes [1721.

Kelly, Sc Prov, 33. A crooning cow, a crowing hen, and a whistling maid boded never luck to a house.] 1850 N & Q, 1st ser., i 164. Hence the old proverb often quoted in this district [Northants.]. A whistling woman and a crowing hen, is neither fit for God nor men. Ibid., 226. A whistling woman and a crowing hen, will call the old gentleman out of his den. 1855 T & Q, couch, in N & Q, 1st ser., vii 37. An old proverb in use here [Cornwall] says: 'A whistling woman, and a crowing hen, are two of the unluckiest things under the sun.' 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 28, will fear the old lad out of his den.

Whiston, See Bolsover.

White, whist, I smell a bird's nest 1698 Ray, 276

White, adj x As white as a hound's tooth 1923 Devonsh. Assoc. Trans. liv. 137. Of a clean floor. 'Er's so white it's a hound's tooth.

2 As white as a lily c 1310 King Horn (Ox.) 1 r5 (Hall). What so any lily flour 1485 Caxton, Charles the Grete, 90 (E.ETS.), Hye chelys rounde, whyt as the flour de lys c 1560 T. Ingelend, Disobedient Child, 43 (Percy S.). Your clothes are washte cleane, As whyte as a lyly 1609 Ev. Woman in her Humour, i in Bullen, O. P. iv 319 Thy colour shall be doules as white as a lillie 1682. A Behn, City Harum, 11. The dearest louwest hypocrite white as lillies 1884. H. Friend, Flowers and Fl. Love, 230. 'As white as a lily' has long since passed into a proverb.

3 As white as a sheat c 1485 Caxton, Sonnes of Aymon, 419 (E.ETS.). He came pale as a white cloth for the grete wraththat he had c 1611 Shakespeare, Cymbeline, ii 11. Fresh lily. And whiter than the sheets 1751 Fielding, Amelia, bk vi, ch viii. He entered the room with a face as white as a sheet. 1834 Marryat P. Simple, ch iv. I turned round to look at the captain, he was as white as a sheet. 1872 Hardy, Greenwood Tree, Pt 1, ch viii. You must be wearied out you'll be as white as a sheet to-morrow.

1822 Weyman, Ovington's Bank, ch xxv. He was in the bank, white as a sheet.

4 As white as ivory (a) whale-bone.

(b) ivory (a) c 1307 in Lyric Poetry, 34 (Percy S., No 10), Hire teht [teeth] aren white ase bon of whal c 1380 Sir Ferumbras, 80 (E.ETS.), That swete thynges as whilt as wales bon 15th cent. Torrent of Portyngall, 29 (E.ETS.). Also whyt ase walles bone c 1450 in Relig. Antiqu. i 28 (1841). And sche be white as whale bones 1590 Spenser, F. Q. 111, 15. Whose face through feare as white as whale's bone 1592 Shakespeare, L. L. L., V n 1609 T. Ravenscroft, Deuteromelia, sig B4. His beard was all on a white a, as white as whale is bone 1855 Kingsley, West. Ho ch viii. The lady herself was of an excellent beauty, like a whale's tooth for whiteness.

(b) 1502 Warner, Alb. England, bk vii ch 36. Her bodie white as incore 1725 The Matchless Rogue, 83 His teeth were as white as ivory 1781 T. Francklin, Lucian's Works, ii 339 1836. Marryat, Midsh. Easy, ch v. He showed a row of teeth white as ivory 1822 A. Bennett, Prohack, ch xxxi (iii). The poor lady had gone as pale as ivory.

5 As white as milk c 1300 Brunne, tr Langtoft Chron., 334 (Hearne) In yncen white as milke c 1380 Sir Ferumbras, 124 (E.ETS.). As wyt ase melkys fom c 1386 Chaucer, ProL 1 338 c 1400 Rom. Rose, 1 1196 c 1450 Parkyns, 66 (E.ETS.). And therto whyte as ony mylk. 1555 S. Hawes, Past of Pleasure, 200 (Percy S.). Whyte as the milk, a goode garment c 1650 in Poems on Costume, 119 (Percy S.) 1669-96 Aubrey, Lives, i 212 (Clark). A long beard as white as milk 1748 Smollett, Rod. Random, ch viii. A countenance as pale as milk 1620 Byron, Don Juan, can v st 77. A slight chemise as white as milk 1850 Dickens, Copperfield, ch iii. The walls
were whitewashed as white as milk. 1883: A. Dobson, in Poet. Works, 167 (1923), Her neck is white as milk.
6. As white as nig. See Clean as nig.
7. As white as driven snow. c. 1300 in Vernon MS., 418 (E.E.T.S.), Als whit as any dryen swanw. 1579: Lyly, Euphues, 89 (Arber). The fish . . . is as white as the driven snow. 1610: Shakespeare, Winter Tale, IV. iv., Lawn as white as driven snow. 1622: Dryton, Polysil, xxiv., His head and beard as white as swan or driven snow. 1710: Ward, Nuptial Dialogues, i. 318, White as the driven snow or thistly down. 1742: Fielding, Andrews, bk. iv. ch. vii., His bosom, when a boy, was as white as driven snow. 1823: Byron, Don Juan, can. vi. st. 25. In sheets white as what boards call "driven snow."
10. A white loaf and a hard cheese never shames the master. 1650: Howell, II.
II. A white wall is a fool's paper. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 32. 1605: Camden, Remains, 319 (1870). 1662: Fuller, Worthies, ii. 191 (1849). Indeed the Italians have a proverb, "A wall is the fool's paper," whereon they scribble their fancies. [The Italian proverb is Muro bianco carta da matti.] 1732: Fuller, No. 5692, White walls are fools writing paper. 1868: Quarterly Review, cxxv. 241, A needful and effectual lesson to wall-scribblers lies in the saw "Mura bleanche, papier de fou" ("A white wall is the fool's writing-paper"). 12. He has made many a white hedge black [? with] stolen linen. 1639: Clarke, 191.
13. He is very good at a white-pot = custard or baked pudding. Gloucester, 1639: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 27 (1885).
14. The fight under the white snow, the sun discovers. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.
16. To mark with a white stone. [O diem latum, notandum mihi candidissimo calculo!]—Pliny, Ep. 6, ii. Cretâ an carbone notandi?—Horace, Sat. II. iii. 246.] 1540: Palsgrave, Acolastus, sig. K1, O festuyall daye . . . worthye to be marked with a stone as whyte as snowe. 1548: Hall, Chron., 8 (1809), This thing is worthy to be noted with a whitestone. 1632: Massinger, Emp. of East, Prol., And, with the whitest stone, To be mark'd in your fair censures. 1693: Dryden, Persius, Sat. ii. 1. 2, Let this auspicious morning be express With a white stone. 1748: Smollett, Rod. Random, ch. iii., He . . . told me that, in mentioning the white stone, he alluded to the dies fasti of the Romans, albo lapide notatis. 1814: Byron, in Letters, etc., iii. 57 (Prothero), I shall mark it with the "white stone" in my calendar. 1888: Marchant, Praise of Ale, 58r, A day to be marked for ever by Tom with a white stone.
17. White head and green tail. c. 1386: Chaucer, Reeve's Tale, Prol. 1. 24, For in our mil ther stiketh ever a nayl, To have an hoore head and a grene tayl, As hath a leek. c. 1590: Sir J. Davies,
in Poems u 32 (Grosart), Septuagesima lines, and is like garlick scene. For though his head be white, his blade is green 1598 Hall, Satires bk iv 5 iv, The maidens mocke, and call him wittered lekke. That with a greene tayle hath an hoary head 1651 Cartwright, Ordinary, III 1, Mine head is white, but 0 mine talle is green 1693 Urquhart Rabelais bk II ch xxvm 18* White silver draws black lines 1598 Meres, Palladis, fo 152, Silver although it be white yet it draweth black lines 1639 Clarke, 170 1670 Ray, 142

Whitneck  See Stoa

Whitsuntide 1 At Whitsun  See quot 1659 Howell, 20, At Wiston pake Monday, when people shear hogs, viz Never

2 Fine on Holy Thursday, wet on Whit Monday Fine on Whit Monday, wet on Holy Thursday Hunts 1888 N & Q 4th ser. I 551 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 41

3 If it rains on Pastor Sunday [second after Easter] it will rain every Sunday until Pentecost 1893 Inwards Weather Lore 41

4 If Whitsunday bring rain, we expect many a plague Ibid., 41

5 Rain at Pentecost forebodes evil, Ibid., 41

6 Whitsunday bright and clear Will bring a fertile year Ibid., 41

7 Whitsunday wet Christmas fat Ibid., 41

See also Christmas (10) and Easter (7) Whittington's College, He has studied at 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v London," He has That is, he has been confined in Newgate which was rebuilt A.D. 1423 according to the will of Sir Richard Whittington, by his executors

Whittelea mere has foaled 1865 W White, Eastern England, 1 255, Among the fenmen the phrase "Whittelea Mere has folded" (foaled) signified such a flood as drove fish plentifully from the mere into the dykes and rivers

Who are you for? I am for hum whom I get most by 1855 Bohn, 565

Who can help sickness, quoth the drunken wife, when she fell into the gutter? 1732 Fuller, No 5696

Who can hold that they have not in their hand? 1678 Ray, 155

Who had that he hath not, would do that he doth not 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch 11

Who hath none to still him, may weep out his eyes 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1670 Ray, 25

Who may hold that will away? 1546 Heywood, Proverbs Pt II ch vi 1564 Bullem, Dialogue 121 (E E T S) Lament no more, go wife, for who can keep that must needs aware 1614 Jonson, Bart Fair, I 1640 Mabbe, Exemplary Novels, 196, 1 (1600), Keep me not under lock and key, For who can hold what will away?

Who shall keep the keepers? 1567 in Plasidas etc., 132 (Roxb Cl) In vayne dothe the husbande set kepers over her, for who shall kepe those kepers 1732 Fuller, No 5718

Whole as a fish Before 1300 Cursor Mutti, I 875, As any fishe thou madest me fare [fair] c 1350 Alexander, I 2575 As fast was he fische hale c 1400 Mirks Festval, 265 (E E T S), And anon the leper [leprosy] fel from hym and he was hole as a fysche 1486 Boke of St Albans, sig A4, She shall be boole as a fyshe c 1580 Tom Tyler, 19 (1662) (Malone S), This chaffing hath made me as whole as a fish 1647 A Brewe, Country Girle, sig L2, His flesh as whole as a fish 1707 Dunton, Athenian Sport 304, Fishes exceed all creatures in point of health, even to a proverb Cf Sound as a roach, and, as a trout

Whole skin, It is good sleeping in a 1543 Becon, in Early Works 334 (P S), c 1570 Meres Tales of Skelton, xu in Skelton's Works, 1 lxv (Dyce), No, sayde the cobler, I am not a ferarde, it is good to sleep in a whole skime c 1620 Day Peregr Scholastica, 70 (Bullen) As you think it good sleepenge in a whole skin 1664 Etheredge, Comical Rerenge, IV 1 I heard, poor lady, she wept, and charged you to sleep in a whole skin 1749 Fielding,
Wholesomest 683 Widow

Tom Jones, bk. xii, ch. iii., If loving to sleep in a whole skin makes a man a coward—. 1819: Scott, Bride of L., ch. V.


Wholesomest way to get a good stomach is to walk on thy own ground, The. 1659: Howell, 18.

Whore in a fine dress is like a clean entry to a dirty house, A. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. See also Once a whore; and Young (10).

Whores affect not you but your money. 1670: Ray, 28. 1732: Fuller, No. 5726.

Whores and thieves go by the clock. 1678: Ray, 68.

Whoring and bawdry do often end in beggary. 1670: Ray, 28.

Whosoever is good, thou wilt be his man. 1670: Ray, 183. 1732: Fuller, No. 5734 ["shalt" for "wilt"].

Whoso in youth. See quot. 16th cent. in Babes Book 332 (Furnivall), Who so in youthe no vertu visith In age alle honour him refuseth.

Whoso will no evil do. See Evil (7).


Wicked, adj. 1. A wicked man is his own hell. 1732: Fuller, No. 460.

2. A wicked man’s gift hath a touch of his master. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

3. A wicked woman. See Woman (4).

4. It is a wicked thing to make a dearth one’s garner. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1670: Ray, 6. 1732: Fuller, No. 2890.

5. ‘Tis a wicked world, and we make part of it. Ibid., No. 5063.

Wickedness with beauty is the devil’s hook baited. Ibid., No. 5739.

Widecombe folks are picking their geese, Faster, faster, faster. Devon. Said when snow is falling. 1850: N. & Q., 1st ser., ii. 512.

Wide at the bow-hand. i.e. the left hand = Wide of the mark. 1592: Shakespeare, L. L. L., IV. i., Wide o’ the bow-hand! ’tis faith, your hand is out. 1654: Webster, Appius, III. iv., First serv., I take thee to be an honest good fellow. Clown, Wide of the bow-hand still: Corbulo is no such man.


Wide will wear but narrow will tear. 1678: Ray, 217. 1732: Fuller, No. 6097. 1753: Trench, Proverbs, 19 (1905), Wide will wear, but tight will tear.

Widow and Widows. 1. A good coming in is all in all with a widow. 1659: Howell, 7.

2. A good occasion for courtship is when the widow returns from the funeral. 1855: Bohn, 288. Cf. No. 9.


4. He that will wed a widow must come day and night. c. 1597: Deloney, Lacke of Newb., ch. xi., He that will woo a widow, must take time by the forelocke. 1639: Clarke, 27.

5. He who marries a widow will often have a dead man’s head thrown in his dish. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. vii., For I never meete the[e] at fleshe nor at fishe, But I haue sure a
Although all women kindle be nought, yet two good days hath she. Her marriage day, and day of death, when all she leaveth to thee. 1608 Middle-

ton, Fam of Love, i 1745 Agree-
able Companion, 44. In every marriage two things are allow'd, A wife in wedding-sheets, and in a shroud. How can a marriage-state then be accurst, Since the last day's as happy as the first? 1869 Spurgeon, John Plough man, ch xvtn, That very wicked [saying], "Every man has two good days with his wife—the day he marries her and the day he buries her."

6 Better a portion in a wife than with a wife 1732 Fuller, No 868

7 Choosing a wife various sayings See quotes 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch ii, The best or worst thing to man for this life is good or ill choosing his good or ill wife 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum, In choosing a wife and buying a sword, we ought not to trust another 1659 Howell, Proverbs Span.-Eng. 2, Who will have a handsome wife, let him choose her upon Saturday, and not upon Sunday, viz when she is in her fine cloaths 1732 Fuller, No 462, A wife is not to be chosen by the eye only. Ibid, No 1107, Chuse a wife rather by your ear than your eye 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 2 (Percy S), Chuse a wife on a Saturday rather than a Sunday, 1672 J Glyde Jr, Norfolk Garland, 150, Choose a wife on Saturday instead of Sunday.

8 He that hath a wife and children must not sit with his fingers in his mouth 1732 Fuller, No 2158

9 He that hath a wife and children wants not business 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1670 Ray, 29 1732 Fuller, No 2157 1880 Spurgeon, Plougham Pictures, 72. Depend on it, he who has a wife and bairns will never be short of care to carry.

10 He that hath a wife hath strife 1559 Bercher, Nobility of Women, 127 (Royb Cl), Thear is another common proverbe Who hathe no controversy hathe no wyffle 1671 Colgrave, s v " Noise," He that a wife hath, strife hath.
11. He that hath no wife, beateth her oft. 1629: Book of Merry Riddles, Prov. 79.

12. He that lets his wife go to every feast, and his horse drink at every water, shall neither have good wife nor good horse. 1591: Florio, Second Fruits, 41. Who lets his wife go to every feast, and lets his horse drink at every puddle, shall have of his horse, a starke ladiash beast. And of his best wife, a twang with a huddle. 1623: Wodropehe, Spared House, 243 [a variant of 1591]. 1670: Ray, 28.

13. He that loses his wife and six pence (or a farthing) has lost a tester (=6d.) (or a farthing). 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Femme," He that loses his wife and six pence hath some losse by the money. 1678: Ray, 58. He that loses his wife and a farthing hath a great loss of his farthing. 1694: D'Urfey, Quixote, Pt. I, Act I, sc. ii. [sixpence]. 1693: Farquhar, Love and a Bottle, ii. i. Who throws away a tester and a mistress, loses sixpence. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I. [sixpence]. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xvii. [as in 1678].

14. He that marries a wife is happy for a month, but he that gets a fat benefice lives merrily all his life. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus, Collog., 27.

15. He that would an old wife wed, Must eat an apple before he goes to bed [Reverse]. 1588: Cogan, Haven of Health, 88 (1612). Apples ... are thought to quench the flame of Venus, according to that old English saying, He that will not a wife wed, must eate a cold apple when he goeth to bed, though some turne it to a contrarie purpose. 1670: Ray, 48.

16. My wife cries five loaves a penny: i.e. she is in travail. 1678: Ray, 71.

17. Next to no wife a good wife is best. 1642: Fuller, Holy State "Marriage," A bachelor was saying, Next, etc. 1659: Howell, Letters, ii. 666 (Jacobs). Next to a single life, a married life is best. 1732: Fuller, No. 3539.


19. Subjects and wives. See quot. Before 1704: Brown, Works, iv. 178 (1700), It justifies the old saying, that subjects and wives, when they revolt from their lawful sovereigns, seldom choose for a better.

20. Take your wife's first advice. 1669: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 51, Take a woman's first counsel. 1787: Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 159, Take your wife's first advice, and not her second, is a matrimonial maxim that is worth remembering.

21. The cunning wife makes her husband her aprou. 1670: Ray, 29.


24. The wife should be blind and the husband deaf. 1539: Taverner, Garden of Wysdom, Pt. II. fo. 4, Wedded persons may thus passe over theyr lyues quietly ... yf the husbande become deafe, and the wyle bylynde, 1637: T. Heywood, Dialogues, etc., in Bang, Materialien, B. 3, p. 227, Then marriage may be said to be past in all quietnesse, when the wife is blind, and the husband deaf. 1710: S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 338, The husband must not see, and the wife must be blind. Cf. Husband (1).

25. The wife that expects to have a good name, Is always at home, as if she were lame: And the maid that is honest, her chiefest delight Is still to be doing from morning to night. 1813: Ray, 49.

26. Wife a mouse, Quiet house; Wife a cat, Dreadful that. 1772: Garrick, Irish Widow, I. iii. [quoted as "the old saying"].


28. Wife and children are hostages given to fortune. 1732: Fuller, No. 5742.

29. Wife and sword. See Lend (5).

30. Wives and wind are necessary
2 As wild as a hawk 1820 Scott, Abbot, ch viii., Thou lookest wild as a goss-hawk 1878 Jefferies, Gamekeeper at Home, ch vi., Though "wild as a hawk" is a proverbial phrase, yet hawks are bold enough to enter gardens

3 A wild-goose chase [An passim sequens coritos testaque lutoque—Persius, in 6r.] 1592 Shakespeare, Romeo, II iv., Nay, if thy witty run the wild-goose chase, I have done 1606 Chapman, Mons d’Olive, I. Let our wits run the wild goose chase over Court and country 1621 B & F, Pilgrim, V 1. His anger leads him a thousand wild-goose chases 1772 Graves, Spirit Quixote, bk x ch vi., Fool enough to ramble about the country upon such a wild-goose chase 1868 Dickens, Uncom Trav., viii., My mind now began to misgrieve me that the disappointed coachmaker had sent me on a wild goose errand 1891 R. L. S., Wrecker, ch vi.

4 A wild goose never lays a lame egg 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman ch i

5 He looks like a wild cat out of a bush 1732 Fuller, No 1973

6 The wild duck See quot 1906 E. Peacock in N & Q., 10th ser., v 407, There'll be rain or something worse When the wild duck swims in the pottery car [Doncaster]

7 To sow wild oats [1542 Becon, in Early Works, 204 (P S), That they may satisfy the foolish desires of certain light brains and wild oats, which are altogether given to new fangelness] 1577 Mabogonus, II iii. He hath not yet sown all his wild oats 1600 Nashe, Works, vi 152 (Grosart), Youth ne’re aspires to vertues perfect growth, Till his wild oates be sowne 1687 Sedley, Bellamira, III. A certain young captain asked me, if I would never have sown my wild oats 1748 Richardson Clarissa, iv 240 (1753), You are upon the borders of wedlock, as I may say, and all your wild oates will be sown 1836 Marryat, Easy, ch viii He would have turned out a shining character as soon as he had sown his wild oats 1895 Piner, Benefit of Doubt, I., I’m seven-and—
twenty; I'm an old woman; I've sown my wild oats now.


9. **Wildest colts make the best horses.** 1732: Fuller, No. 463. A wild colt may become a sober horse. 1829: Cobbett, Adv. to Young Men, Lett. 1. These vices of youth are varnished over by the saying, that there must be time for "sowing the wild oats," and that "wildest colts make the best horses."

Wiles often do what force can't. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Wile."

Wilful as a pig, As. 1678: Ray, 291. As wilful as a pig, he'll neither lead nor drive. 1732. Fuller, No. 750 [as in 1678]. 1850: Spurgeon, Ploughm. Pictures, 37.

Wilful man had need be very wise, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 465. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Wilful." A wilful man should be very wise.

Wilful man must have his way, A. 1816: Scott, Antiquary, ch. vi. 1907: De Morgan, Alice-for-Short, ch. xxxvii.


Wilful waste makes woeful want. Ibid., No. 5755 "["brings" for "makes"];"] 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Waste."

Wilful will to it. 1829: Scott, Geyerstein, ch. xvi., That is as much to say, wilful will to it. 1875: Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 103. If wilful will to water, wilful must be drowned.

Will, subs. 1. He may make a will upon his nail, for anything he has to give. 1732: Fuller, No. 1986.

2. **To take the will for the deed.** c. 1460: Wisdom, sc. i. st. 28, Wyll, for dede of yts take; Therfor the wyll must weell be dysposysde. 1593: Nashe, Christs Teares, Epist. Ded., Christ accepteth the will for the deede. 1694: Motteux, Rabelais, bk. iv. ch. xlix., We'll take the good-will for the deede, and thank you as much as if we had. 1726: Defoe, Hist. of Devil, Pt. II. ch.

iv., To take, as we vulgarly express it, the will for the deed. 1804: Byron, Letters, etc., i. 47 (Prothero), I dare say he would assist me if he could, so I take the will for the deed. 1852: Dickens, Bleak House, ch. xv.

3. **Where there's a will there's a way.** 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum, To him that will, ways are not wanting. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Will" [as in 1640]. 1849: Lytton, Caxtons, Pt. XVIII. ch. v., Meanwhile I fall back on my favourite proverb—"Where there's a will there's a way," 1911: Shaw, Fanny's First Play, Pref., Please do not suppose . . . that I do not know how difficult it is . . . But when there's a will there's a way.

4. **Where the will is ready, the feet are light.** 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum, ["your" for "the"]; 1670: Ray, 29. 1754: Berthelson, Eng.-Danish Dict., s.v. "Will." Cf. Willing mind.

5. Will buyah and money payeth. 1578: Florio, First Fruits, fo. 34. Wyl maketh the market but money maketh payment. 1629: Book of Meery Riddles, Prov. 133.

6. **Will is the cause of woe.** 1639: Clarke, 253. 1670: Ray, 155. 1732: Fuller, No. 5757.

7. **Will will have will though will woe win.** 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1605: Camden, Remains, 336 (1870). 1670: Ray, 29. 1732: Fuller, No. 5758 [with "its" after "have"].

8. **With will one can do anything.** 1859: Smiles, Self-Help, 7 (1869), Almost to justifie, the proverb that "with Will one can do anything."

See also Wit (10) and (19).

Will, verb. 1. He that will not be saved, needs no preacher. 1670: Ray, 21. 1732: Fuller, No. 2351 ["sermon" for "preacher"].

2. **That one will not another will.** 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. iii., Sens that that one will not on other will. 1654: Gayton, Pleasant Notes Don Q., 75. If one won't another will. 1709: O. Dykes, Eng. Proverbs, 2nd ed., Title-page. If one will not, another will; or, why was the market
made? 1771 in Garrick Corresp., i 410 (1831), Well, if one won't, another will, they say
3 They that will not be counselled cannot be helped 1736 Franklin, Way to Wealth in Works, i 451 (Bigelow)
4 Will he will he c 1220 Hal Meidenhead, 31 (E.E.T.S.) Pat wullen ha wullen ha Before 1300 Cursor Mundi, i 23729 Null we, will we, we sal mete 15th cent., Guy of Warwick i 7109 (E.E.T.S.), Gon ich mot, wille ye so nille 1485 Malory, Morte d'A bl for ch viii, Ye shall overcome hem all whether they wille or nulle 1595 Munday John a Kent, 18 (Sh S) Will I, or null I, all is one to him 1602 Shakespeare, Hamlet V 1, Will he null he goes 1607 B S F Woman-Hater, III 1v Will she, null she, she shall come running into my house 1740 North, Examen, 67, To which he was peremptorily bound Will he, null he, that must be 1572 Hardy, Greenwood Tree Pt 1 ch viii, Band played six eight time, six eight chaws I, willy-nilly 1909 De Morgan, Never can Happen Again ch xxxviii Even my boy is away, and what adds to the cruelty of the position is that, will I null I, I have to feel glad of his absence
See also He that will not
Willing horse See Horse (20) and
(65)
Willing mind makes a light foot, A 1629 Massinger, Picture, V iii, A willing mind makes a hard journey easy 1732 Fuller, No 467 Cf Will, subs (4)
Willingly See Good a will
Willing, subs 1 A willow will buy a horse before an oak will pay for a saddle 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 33 (Percy S.)
1865 W White Eastern England i 280 1903 Raymond Idler out of Doors, 127, There is a saying that a willow will buy a horse whilst any other tree is paying for the halter
2 Willows are weak, yet they bind other wood 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 1732 Fuller, No 5761 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 156
Wiltshire See Derbyshire
Wiltshire moon-rakers 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s.v "Wilt" 1863 Wise, New Forest, ch xv n., The expression of "Hampshire and Wiltshire moon-rakers" had its origin in the Wiltshire peasants fishing up the contraband goods at night
Wily as a fox, As 1639 Clarke, 285 1670 Ray, 208
Win, verb 1 He's won with a feather and lost with a straw 1732 Fuller, No 2476
2 To win and wear 1576 Petrie, Pet Palace i 19 (Gollancz), You would confess, that by force of love I had won you, and were worthy to wear you
1607 T Heywood, Taire Maide, in Works, ii 54 (1874), Court her, win her, weare her wed her 1632 S Marmon, Holl Leaguer, V iv, There she comes I win her, and wear her 1825 Planche, Extravag., i 31 (1879), You shall take your chance with the rest Win me and wear me 1844 Thackeray, Barry Lyndon, ch xi, Now is your time. I win her and wear her before the month is over
3 To win one's spurs c 1425 Lydgate, Assembly of Gods, 980 (O.), These vln knights made vyce that day, To winne they're spores they sedge they wold asay 1523-25 Berriers, Transart, ch 130, Say to them that they suffice him this day to winne his spores 1580 Churchyard, Charge, 30 (Collier), Perhaps, in winnyng of the spures, You maie the horse and saddle lose 1642 D Rogers, Naaman, sig G3, I doe not accuse you as if ye sought to winne the spures by your parts 1659 Smiles, Self-Help, 220 (1869), Lord Mansfield won his spurs by perseverance, knowledge, and ability, diligently cultivated
4 To win the horse or lose the saddle 1546 Heywood, Proverbs Pt II ch iv, Recover the horse or leese the saddle too 1575 Gascoigne, Possetes, 169 (Cunliffe), It was my full entent, To lose the saddle or the horse to winne c 1631 in Pepysian Garland, 383 (Rollins), That either now ile win the horse Or else the saddle lose 1700 Ward, London Spy, 398 (1924), In order to which he resolves to win the horse, or lose the saddle 1754 Berthelson,
Winchester

Eng. - Danish Diet., s.v. "Horse." 1527: Halliwell, Diet., s.v. "Mare," To win the mare or lose the halter, to play double or quits. 1513: Folk-Lore, xxiv. 277: I'll win the horse or lose the saddle. (Oxfordshire.)

5. Win at first and lose at last. 1678: Ray, 349.


8. Win whoso may. See quot. C. 1386: Chaucer, Wife of Bath's Pro., I. 414, Winne who-so may for al is for to selle.

Winchester. See Canterbury (3).


A. (a) 1. After wind come rain. 1548: Hall, Chron., 22 (1809), As the old prouerbe saith, after winde commeth rain. 1569: Grafton, Chron., 1. 484 (1908).

2. As wroth as the wind. C. 1350: in Relig. Antiquae, ii. 95 (1843), Thanne the kyng wax wrothe as wynde. 1377: Langland, Plowman, B. iii. 338, Also wroth as the wynde wax Mede [the Lady Meed] in a while. C. 1400: Rich. the Rededes, iii. 153, Thei wille be wroth as the wynde. 1468: Coventry Mysteries, 8 (Sh. S.), As wroth as wynde Is kyng Herowndes.


4. Blow the wind never so fast, It will fall at last. 1732: Fuller, No. 6306. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. v. "I' lower" for "fall ".

5. High winds blow on high hills. [Saepius ventis agitatur ingens Petrus et celsus graviores casu Decidunt turres.—Horace, Carm. II. x.] Before 1225: Aner. Ritwel, 178 (Morton), Vor euer so heul is more and herre, so pe wind is more enon. C. 1310: in Wright, Pol. Songs, John to Ed. II., 207 (Cameron S.), Summa petit livor, perflant altissima venti. 1484: Caxton, tr. Charteris's Curial, 5 (E.E.T.S.), The grete wyndes that blowe in lywe cortes. 1578: Gorgeous Gallery, 10 (Rollins), As highest seates wee see be subject to most winde. 1639: Clarke, 23, Huge winds blow on high hills. 1670: Ray, 107 [as in 1639]. 1732: Fuller, No. 2592.

6. If the wind do blow aloft, then of wars shall we hear oft. 1855: Bohn, 418.


8. Look not, like the Dutchman, to leeward for fine weather. Ibid., 69.


10. The wind keeps not always in one quarter. 1670: Ray, 1156. 1732: Fuller, No. 4831.

11. The winds of the daytime wrestle and fight Longer and stronger than those of the night. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 69.

12. When the wind backs and the weather glass falls, Then be on your guard against gales and squalls. Ibid., 71.

13. When the wind comes before the rain, You may hoist your topsails up again; But when the rain comes before the winds, You may reef when it begins. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 20 (Percy S.).

14. When the wind is still, the shower
15 Where the wind is on Martinmas eve there it will prevail through the winter 1803 Inwards Weather Lore, 83. If the wind is south-west at Martinmas, it keeps there till after Christmas. 1892 Gibbs Cotswold Village ch viii, 388 (1909) Last night was Hollandtide (Nov ix) eve, and where the wind is at Hollandtide there it will stick best part of the winter 1903 N & Q, 9th ser, ix, 338. One of our local sayings [Northants] is “Where the wind,” etc.

16 Wind and weather do thy worst 1678 Ray, 277. 1732 Fuller, No 5743. Wind and weather do your utmost

17 Winds at night are always bright But winds in the morning, sailors take warning 1893 Inwards Weather Lore 70

18 Winds that change against the sun Are always sure to backward run [and] When the wind veers against the sun, Trust it not, for back 'twill run. 1880 Spurgeon, Ploughm Pictures, 97

(b) I All this wind shakes no corn 1546 Heywood, Proverbs Pt I ch xii 1587 Turbervile Trag Tales, etc., 261 (1837). But al for nought, his wunde did shake no corne 1604 Wit of a Woman, sc viii (Malone S) 1670 Ray, 199

2 As the wind blows you must set your sail 1732 Fuller, No 738 1846 Denham, Proverbs 3 (Percy S)

3 Is the wind at that door? c 1490 Parrotuhe, 444 (EETS). “What I!” seith Gaudyn, stoneth the wynde in that doore? 1566 Gascogne, Supposes, III, 1. Is it even so? is the wind in that doore? c 1600 Deolley, Thos of Reading ch 3. What husband (quoth she) is the winde at that doore? 1641 Tatham, Distracted State, 1 1737 Ray, 267. Is the wind in that corner? 1817 Scott Rob Roy, ch vii, “Whew! sits the wind in that quarter?” inquired the Justice

4 Let this wind o'er-blow 1546

5 The wind in a man's face makes him wise 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium ("one's" for "a man's") 1770 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 190

6 To know which way the wind blows c 1380 Tale of Gamelyn, l 703, in Skeat's Chaucer iv 662, To telle him tydings how the wind was went 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch xix, 1 know, And knew, which waite the winde blew, and will blow 1694 D Urely, Quivote, Pt I III, 11. Why then I know where the wind sits 1766 Garrick, Night or Nothing, I, 11, I always listen to reason Mr Stockwell Stock Well, and which way does the wind set now? 1886 R L S, Kidnapped, ch xix, “Oho! I says the stranger,” is how that the wind sets? And he laid his hand quickly on his pistols 1906 Doyle, Sir Nigel, ch xi. My questions must have shown him whence the wind blew


B East Wind 1 A dry east wind raises the spring 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 80

2 An easterly wind raises foals 1886 R. Holland, Cheshire Gloss, 436 (E D S).

3 An east wind is a lazy wind—because it is thin, and will go through you before it will go round you 1886 R. Holland, Cheshire Gloss, 436 (E D S).

1922 N & Q, 12th ser, x 412, I have
often heard a cold piercing wind described as a "lazy wind"—it is too lazy to go round, so it goes through one.

4. A right easterly wind is very unkind. 1655: Bolin, 299.


6. If it rains when the wind is in the east, It will rain for twenty-four hours at least. c. 1655: Aubrey, Nat. Hist. Wilts, 16 (1647). A Wiltshire proverb . . . If the rain comes out of east, 'Twill rain twice twenty-four hours at the least. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 79 [as in 1685, but omitting "twice"]). 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 163.

7. If the wind is in the east on Easter day. See quoted. 1881: Evans, Leicest. Words, etc., 169 (E.D.S.). A common Leicestershire saying is: If the wind's i' the East of Easter-day, Yo'll ha' plenty o' grass, but little good hee [hay].


See also D (1) and F (6) and (9).


3. Fishermen in anger froth When the wind is in the north; For fish bite the best When the wind is in the west. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 77.

4. The north wind doth blow, And we shall have snow. Ibid., 78.


6. When the wind's in the north, You mustn't go forth. Ibid., 77.

See also F (6) and (9).

D. South wind. 1. An out [southerly] wind and a fog Bring an east wind home snug. 1674: W. Pengelly, in N. & Q., 5th ser., ii. 184. I often heard the following weather-rhymes in Cornwall in my boyhood:—"An out, etc.—"


3. A southerly wind with showers of rain Will bring the wind from west again. Ibid., 82.

4. When the wind is in the south, It blows the bait into the fish's mouth. 1653: Walton, Angler, Pt. I. ch. v., One observes that "When the wind is south, It blows your bait into a fish's mouth." 1732: Fuller, No. 6226. 1825: Hone, Ev. Day Book, I. 670. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 82.


See also F (5), (6), and (9).

E. West wind. 1. A western wind carrieth water in his hand. 1893: Inwards, 83.

2. The west wind is a gentleman, and goes to bed—i.e. drops in the evening. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 2 (Percy S.). A west wind and an honest man go to bed together. 1893: Inwards, 83. Cf. F (1).

3. The wind blows not always west. 1732: Fuller, No. 4829.

4. When the wind is in the west The weather is at the best. [1606: Chapman, Gent. Usher, II. i., The wind must blow at west still or she'll be angry.] 1732: Fuller, No. 6223. 1893: Inwards, 83 [I' always " for "at the J]. 1913: E. M. Wright, Rustic Speech, etc., 316. The wind in the west Suitis every one best (Lancs.). Cf. F (11).


See also C (3), D (3); and F (6) and (9).

F. Various combinations of direction.
An honest man and a north-west wind generally go to sleep together 1893 Inwards, 79 Cf E (2)

2 A north-east wind in May, Makes the shottor-men a prey 1735 Pegge, Kent Proverbs, in EDS No 1270,

Shotter men are the mackerel fishers, and a North-east wind is reckoned at Dover a good wind for them [Mackerel fishers' nets are called shot-nets] 1898 Parish and Shaw, Dict Kentish Dialect, 148 (EDS)

A nor'-wester is not long in debt to a sou wester 1893 Inwards 78

Do business with men when the wind is in the north-west Yorkshire Ibid, 78

If the wind is north-east three days without rain, Eight days will pass before south wind again Ibid, 78

North and south the sign o' drought East and west the sign of blast 1836 Denham Proverbs 17 (Percy S) [in reverse order] 1893 Inwards 77

North-west wind brings a short storm a north-east wind brings a long storm Ibid, 79

The sou-west Is the rain's nest 1914 R P Chope, Harland Dialect, 20 (EDS) Cf E (5)

The west wind always brings wet weather, The east wind wet and cold together, The south wind surely brings us rain, The north wind blows it back again 1838 Mrs Bray, Trad of Devon, 15 1892 S Hewett, Peasant Speech of Devon, 29

Three sou-westers then one heavy rain 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore 83

When the wind is in the north-west The weather is at its best c 1685 Aubrey, Nat Hist Wills, 16 (1847) 1893 Inwards, 79 Cf E (4)

Wind See also Blow, verb (1) and (5), Candlemas H (6), Candlemas Eve, Cloud (3) and (11), Every wind, Fire (12), Fish, subs (2), Fog (1), God tempers, God will, Good wind, Ill wind, March (4), (9), (13) and (37), (39), Martinmas (3) and (4), Moon (7), (12) and (27), October (2) and (5), Rain, subs (3) (11) and (29), Sandbach, Straw (2), and Sun (3), (15) and (16)

Windmill I To have windmills in one's head "Windmills" = empty projects, or crotchets 1612 Shelton, Quixote, Pt I bk 1 ch viii. For they were none other than windmills, nor could any think otherwise, unless he had also windmills in his brains 1690 New Dict Canting Crew, sig M 1737 Ray, 216 1869 Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch xv. Poor soul, like a good many others he has windmills in his head

You can't drive a windmill with a pair of bellows 1690 Herbert, Jac Prudentum, You cannot make a windmill go with a pair of bellows 1670 Ray, 29 1732 Fuller, No 5880

Your windmill is dundled into a nut-crack 1678 Ray, 277 1732 Fuller, No 6064

Window I A window wench, and a troller in streete, is never good to have a house to keepe 1623 Wodrophe, Spared Hours 484

To come in at the window said of a bastard 1551 Crowley, Pleas and Payne, 350 (O). Youre were gladde to take them in, Bycause you knewe that they dyd knowe That you came in by the wyndowe 1605 Chapman, All Fools, III, Though he came in at the window he sets the gates of your honour open, I can tell you on 1668 Middleton, Family of Love, IV 11 Woe worth the time that ever I gave suck to a child that came in at the window 1664 Cotton Scarronides, bk 1, Although he had her not bye's wife, But by a fish-wench he was kind to, And so she came in at the window

Wine, subs 1 He cries wine and sells vinegar 1659 Howell, Proverbs Span-Eng, 3 1732 Fuller, No 1831

He that drinks not wine after salad is in danger to be sick 1666 Torriano, Praza Univ, 308 [slightly varied] 1670 Ray, 39

Of wine the middle, of oil the top, and of honey the bottom is best 1659 Howell, Proverbs Ital-Eng, 15, Wine in the middle, oyle above, and honie beneath 1678 Ray, 41

The wine is the master's, the good-
Wine 693

Wink

Wine is the drawer's. 1639: Clarke, 204.
1670: Ray, 29. 1732: Fuller, No. 5747. Wine is the vintner's; but the
goodness of it, the drawer's.
5. When the wine is run out, you'd
stop the leak. Ibid., No. 5611.
6. When wine sinks, words swim.
Ibid., No. 5622. 1736: Bailey, Diet.,
s.v. "Wine."
7. Where wine is not common, com-
mons must be sent. 1605: Camden,
Remains, 335 (1870). 1659: Howell,
to.
8. Wine and wealth change wise men's
manners. 1586: L. Evans, Revised
Withals Diet., sig. B7. 1639: Clarke,
33.
9. Wine and wenches empty mens
purses. 1586: L. Evans, Revised
Withals Diet., sig. O2. Women and wine
doe make a man, A doting foole all that
they can. 1639: Clarke, 28. 1670:
Ray, 52.
10. Wine by the savour. See quotas
1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 29.
Wine by the savour and bread by the
heate. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Vin,"
Let wine good savour, cloth fresh colour,
have. 1629: Book of Meery Riddles,
Prov. 199, Wine by the savour, bread
by the colour. 1666: Torriano, Piazza
Univ., 186, Bread by the colour and
wine by the taste.
11. Wine counsels seldom prosper.
1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.
12. Wine ever pays for his lodging.
Ibid.
13. Wine hath drowned more men
than the sea. 1669: Politeophilia, 299.
1732: Fuller, No. 5744.
14. Wine in the bottle quencheth not
thirst. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Pruden-
tum. 1732: Fuller, No. 5745 ["hogs-
head" for "bottle"].
15. Wine in truth out. 1611: Cot-
grave, s.v. "Mentir," Wine telleth truth
and should not be belied. 1659: T.
Pecke, Parnassi Puerp., 5, Grant but
the adage true, that truths in wine.
1839: Dickens, Nickleby, ch. xxvii.
1897: Norway, H. & B. in Devon, etc.,
52, The old proverb "In wine there is
truth" might with equal propriety be
applied to brandy.

16. Wine in, wit out. See Drink,
subs. (i).
17. Wine is a turn-coat, first a friend,
then an enemy. 1640: Herbert, Jac.
Prudentum. 1734: Fielding, Don Q. in
England, I. vi., Physic makes you first
sick, and then well; wine first makes
you well, and then sick.
18. Wine is a whetstone to wit. 1736:
Bailey, Diet., s.v. "Whetstone."
19. Wine makes all sorts of creatures
at table. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Pruden-
tum.
20. Wine makes old wives wenches.
1639: Clarke, 192.
21. Wine neither keeps secrets nor ful-
fils promises. 1620: Shelton, Quixote,
Pt. II. ch. xiii. 1732: Fuller, No. 5748.
22. Wine that costs nothing is digested
before it be drunk. 1640: Herbert, Jac.
Prudentum. 1670: Ray, 29. 1732:
Fuller, No. 5750.
23. Wine washeth off the daub. Ibid.,
No. 5752.
24. Wine wears no breeches. 1659:
Howell, 7. 1670: Ray, 29. 1736:
Bailey, Diet., s.v. "Breeches." [1781:
Cowper, Convers., I. 263, When wine has
giv'n indecent language birth.]
25. Wine, wood, women and water.
Herefordshire. 1869: Hazlitt, 476.
26. Ye prase the wine before ye taste
of the grape. 1546: Heywood, Pro-
verbs, Pt. I. ch. x.
27. You cannot know wine by the
barrel. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Pruden-
tum. 1732: Fuller, No. 5884 ["cask"
for "barrel"]. 1869: Spurgeon, John
Ploughman, ch. iii., Though you can-
not know wine by the barrel, a good
appearance is a letter of recommenda-
tion even to a ploughman.
See also Commend (i); Drink, verb
(8); Gaming; Good wind; Good wine;
Milk (4); Old C.; Play, women;
and Woman (43), (56) and (65).
Wing. See Tring.
Wink, verb. 1. All are not blind that
wink. c. 1570: in Huth, Ancient
Ballads, etc., 375 (1867). All winkers are
not blind. 1584: Robinson, Handf.
Pleas. Delights, 45 (Arber). Although I
wince I am not blind. 1615: J.
Andrews, Anat of Baseness, 32 (Grosart), Tell me, dost thinke that all are blinde that are content to wanke? 2 He that winketh with the one eye and looketh with the other, I will not trust him though he were my brother. 1530 Palsgrave, 782 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch vi 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Borgner" To winke with one eye, and looke with another. 1659 Howell 8 1732 Fuller, No 6458

3 She can winkle on the eare and worry the lamb 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch

4 Wink at small faults 1639 Clarke 108 1670 Ray 156 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v "Wink." Wink at small faults unless you can cast the first stone.

5 You may winkle and choose 1639 Clarke 14, Winke and chuse 1737 Ray, 216 Winkabank and Temple-brough, Will buy all England through and through. 1678 Ray, 340 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v 'Yorkshire' 1878 Folk-Lore Record 1 166

Winkle, He's a 1846-59 Denham Tracts, i 72 (F L S), He's a Winkle This sayling may be illustrated by the parallel sayling of Cumberland, He's a Bewcastler — i.e. a bad one.

Winter, subs 1 After a rainy winter follows a fruitful spring 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore 9

2 A good winter brings a good summer 1833 Drave, 12 1670 Ray, 29

3 A green winter makes a fat churchyard 1670 Ray, 42 1732 Fuller, No 205 1825 Home, Ev Day Book, 1 670 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 8

4 An early winter, a surly winter 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 6x (Percy S) 1893 Inwards 9

5 An early winter is surely winter Ibid, 9

6 A winter fog will freeze a dog Ibid, 9

7 Four things See quot 1636 Breton in Works, vi f 7 (Grosart), Four things ill for the earth a winter's thunder, a summer's frost, a long drought, and a sudden flood.

8 He that passeth a winter's day, escapes an enemy 1670 Ray, 156

9 When winter begins early it ends early 1893 Inwards 9

10 Winter finds out what summer lays up c 1460 Good Wyfe wold a Pylgrenage, 1 155 (F E T S), Wyntur thet some getth c 1645, MS Proverbs in N & Q, vol 154, p 27, That which summer getts, winter eateth. 1678 Ray 218, Winter is summers heir Ibid, 219, Winter finds out what summer lays up 1732 Fuller, No 5753 Winter draws out what summer laid in 1893 Inwards 8

11 Winter never dies in a ditch Ibid 8

12 Winter never rots in the sky 1639 in Berkeley MSS, iii 33 (1855), Winter never dies in her dams belly. 1655 Gurnall, Christ in Armour, verse 12, ch i p 61 (1679), May be no cloud to be seen that portends a storm, but know (as you use to say) Winter does not rot in the clouds, you shall have it at last. 1846 Denham Proverbs, 23 (Percy S) 1904 Co Folk-Lore N'umberland, 174 (F L S)

13 Winter's thunder and summer's flood, Never boded Englishman good 1732 Fuller, No 6479 1893 Inwards Weather Lore, 9

14 Winter's thunder is a rich man's death and a poor man's wonder 1882 Mrs Chamberlan, W Wore Words 38 (E D S)

15 Winter's thunder is summer's wonder 1605 Camden, Remains, 336 (1670) ['makes' for 'wa'], 1611 Cotgrave s v 'Toner' 1658 Willsford, Natures Secrets, 113 According to the old adage, Winters thunder is the Sommers wonder 1731 Coffey, Devil to Pay, i v 1846 Denham, Proverbs, 2 (Percy S) 1926 Observer, Jan 30, p 17, col 3, The old Welsh saying [why Welsh?] —Winter's thunder Brings Summer wonder And a great man's fall.

16 Winter thunder, Poor man's death, rich man's hunger 1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 9
17. Winter thunder bodes summer hunger. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 3 (Percy S.).

18. Winter thunder, Rich man's food and poor man's hunger. 1859: N. & Q., 2nd ser., vii. 450. 1893: Inwards, 9 . . . [i.e. it is good for fruit and bad for corn.]

19. Winter thunder, To old folks death, to young folks plunder. Ibid., 117.

20. Winter-time for shoeing, Peaseo-time for wooling. 1841: Brand, Pop. Antig., ii. 100 (Bohn) [quoted as “an old proverb in a MS.”] Devon Glossary. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 64 (Percy S.).


See also August (3) and (6); Autumn (1); Candlemas, A and B.; Christmas (19) and (20); Frosty; Leaves (2); November (2) and (5); September (4); Spring (6); Summer (6) and (7); Wedding; and Woodcock.

Wipe, verb. 1 He that wipes the child's nose. See Child (8).

2. To wipe a person's nose = To deprive or to cheat. 1577: Holinshed, Chroi., ii. p. 323, col. 2 (O.). Hee deuised a shifte howe to wyte the byshoppes nose of some of his golde. c. 1597: Deloney, Gentle Craft, ch. xiv., O John (said Haunce) I have wiped your nose, and Nicks too, you must weare the willow garland. 1630: Chapman and Shirley, Ball, III. ii., Poor gentleman, how is he beguil'd! Lam. your nose is wiped [aside]. 1673: Dryden, Amb- beyne, II. I., There's . . . the Dutchman with my mistress; my nose is wiped to-day. 1709: Cibber, Rival Fools, I., I durst lay my life thow wipest this foolish knight's nose of his mistress at last. 1737: Ray, 268, I wip'd his nose on't.

3. To wipe one's nose on one's own sleeve. 1436: Libell of Engl. Policye, l. 453, p. 40 (Pauli). And thus, they woldeen, if we wil beleve Wipen our nose with our own sleeve. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ix., I may . . . make you wype your nose vpon your sleeue. 1577: Stanhurst, Deser. of Ireland, fo. 8, For any recompense he is like to hane at mine handes, he may wype his nose in his sleeue. 1659: Howell, Proverbs: French-Eng., 22, He wiped his nose with his own sleeve, viz. he cousened him neatly.

Wire-drawer under his work, To sit like a. Yorkshire. 1670: Ray, 277.

Wisborough Green. See Rudgwick.


2. He hath wisdom at will that brags not of his skill. 1623: Wodroephe, Sparred Houres, 514.

3. He hath wisdom at will that with angry heart can hold his tongue still. c. 1400: Proverbs of Good Counsel, in E.E.T.S., Ext. Ser., 8, p. 69. He hath wasdome at his wyll that can with angry harte be stytle. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi.

4. 'Tis wisdom sometimes to seem a fool. 1732: Fuller, No. 5125.

5. Well goes the case when wisdom converses. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. “Wisdom.”

6. What is not wisdom, is danger. 1878: J. Platt. Morality, 34.


8. Wisdom is a good purchase, though we pay dear for it. 1732: Fuller, No. 5766.

9. Wisdom is wealth to a poor man. 1669: Politenepheia, 45. 1732: Fuller, No. 5764, Wisdom in a poor man is a diamond set in lead.


1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xxiv., Wisdom walks often in patched shoes.

Wise, adj. and subs. 1. As wise as a
Wise

696

Wise

drake 1560 Impac Pouertie, in Bang. Matenhen,. B 33, p 27

2 As wise as a goose (or, gender) 1528 More, Works, p 179, col 2
(1557). And all as wise as wilde geese 1533 in Ballads from MSS, t, 230
(B S). As wise as a gender c 1580 Tom Tyler, t 840, p 23 (1661) (Malone
S) (as in 1533) c 1675 R C, Times Whistle, 60 (E E T S). Till they have
made themselves as wise as geese 1883 Burne, Shropsh Folk-Lore, 595.
As wise as a sucking gully [gosing]

3 As wise as an ape 1530 Palsgrave 592 She hath so insensed him
with folly that he is almoste as wyse as
an ape c 1566 Wager, Longer thou Luest sig C3. To make him shortly as
wise as an ape 1577 th cent in Hazlitt
Ined Poet Miscell sig X (1870), And
sometimes it makes them as wise as an
ape

4 As wise as a wisp (or wood-cock) 1533 Heywood, Play of Love 1 319
(Brandl, Quellen 170), I shall prove you
playne as wyse as a woodcocke c 1560 T
Inge lend Disobedient Child, 31 (Percy S),
As wyse as a woodcock, without any wytte
1670 Ray, 203
1677 Poor Robin’s Visions, 65. A tool
to make woodcocks merry 1720
Stukeley, Memoirs, 1 135 (Surtees S)
Lincolnshire proverbs and sayings As
wise as a wisp

5 As wise as Tom a thrum Before 1529 Skelton, Colin Clout, I 284
6 As wise as Wallham’s calf Ibid, 1 811,
As wyse as Walltoms calfe c 1570 in Bl Lett Ballads etc (Lilly)
226, (1867). For Walthams calves to
Tiburne needes must go To sucke a bull
and meete a butchers axe 1640 J
Taylor (Water Poet), Diff Worships, 20
in Works 1st Coll (Spens S) And each
of them as wise as Walthams calf
1667 L’Estrange, Quotedo 256 (1904),
A senseless puppy to come back to me
with a story of Waltham’s calf that went
nine miles to suck a bull 1732
Fuller, No 751 [as in 1607]

7 A wise child is father’s bliss c 1270 Prov of Alfred in Kemble,
Salomon and Sal 233 (Elfric S)

8 A wise head makes a still tongue

1732 Fuller, No 469, A wise head hath
a close mouth to it 1865 “Lancs
Proverbs,” in N & Q, 3rd ser, viii
494

9 A wise man begins in the end a
fool ends in the beginning 1732 Fuller,
No 471

10 A wise man changes his mind. a
fool never will 1631 Mabbie Celestina
104 (T T), A wise man altreth his pur-
pose but a fool persevereth in his
folly 1711 Steele, Spectator, No 78

11 A wise man is a great wonder
1732 Fuller, No 472

12 A wise man knows his own 1855
Bohn 303

13 A wise man never wants a weapon
1736 Bailey, Dict, s v “Weapon”

14 A wise man ought not to be
ashamed to change his purpose
1578 Flono First Fruits, fo 32 1629
Book of Merry Riddles, Prov 43
alter for “change”] 1640 Her-
bert Jac Prudentium, A wise man needs
not blush for changing his purpose

15 A wise man’s thought his walk within
him, but a fool’s without him 1732
Fuller, No 478

16 A wise man turns chance into good
fortune Ibid, No 475

17 A wise man will make more
opportunities than he finds Ibid, No
479

18 A wise man will make tools of
what comes to hand Ibid No 476

19 A wise woman See Woman (5)

20 He is not a wise man that cannot
play the fool 1586 Pettie, Guazzo, fo
74 To play the fool well it behoueth
a man first to bee wise 1687 Poor
Robin Alman. July, Sometimes the fool
to play, Is wisdom great they say
1732 Fuller, No 1929 [with the
addition “upon occasion”]

21 He is not wise that is not wise for
himself [Qui uese sibi sapient prodesse
non quia nequiquam sapit — Enn ap
Cic Fam., 7, 6 2.] 1478 Rivers, tr
C de Pisa’s Moral Proverbs, Grete
folye is in him that taketh heed Upon
other and not to his owen neede 1576
Pettie, Pet Pallace, u 23 (Gollancz),
Their wisdom is nothing worth which
are not wise for themselves 1594
Lodge and Greene, Look. Glass, l. 723. 1615: Stephens, Essays, etc., bk. i., No. 18, Wise enough to keepe his owne. 1681: Robertson, Phrasol. Generalis, 297, That wise man is little worth, who is not wise in his own business. 1732: Fuller, No. 1954. He is wise that hath wit enough for his own affairs. 1781: T. Francklin, Lucian’s Works, ii. 132, After the poet’s excellent observation, “I hate (says he), the wise man, who is not wise for himself.” 1880: Spurgeon, Plough. Pictures, 46 [as in 1732].

22. He is wise enough that can keep himself warm. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. ii., Ye are wise enough (quoth he) if ye keepe ye warme. 1579: Marr. of Wit and Wisdom, 16 (Sh. S.), Thou art a merry fellowe and wise, And if thou kepe thy selfe warme. 1607: The Puritan, III. vi., Which confirms the old boldam’s saying, He’s wisest, that keeps himself warmest. 1670: Ray, 28. 1820: Scott, Abbot, ch. xviii., “The child hath wit enough to keep himself warm,” said Adam.

23. He is wise that follows the wise. 1852: Fitzgerald, Polonius, 132 (1903).

24. He is wise that is honest. 1639: Clarke, 127. 1670: Ray, 13.


26. He is wise that knows when he is well enough. 1732: Fuller, No. 2473.

27. He seemeth wise with whom all things thrive. Ibid., No. 2016.

28. He was wise that first gave reward. c. 1300: Havelok, l. 1635, He was ful wis that first yaf mede. c. 1350: Sir Tretren, l. 626, He was ful wise, I say, That first yave yift in land. c. 1390: Gower, Conf. Anamites, bk. v. l. 4719, For thus men seyn, in every mede, He was wys that first mede made mede.

29. If the wise erred not, it would go hard with fools. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum.

30. If wise men play the fool, they do it with a vengeance. 1855: Bohn, 419.

31. It is a wise child that knows its own father. [Ω δέ πάντα τοὺς ἵππους αὑτῶν ἀνέχετο.—Homer, Od., i. 216.] 1589: Greene, Works, vi. 92 (Grosart), For wise are the children in these dayes that know their owne fathers. 1606: Day, Ille of Gulls, II. i., I am not so wise a child as you take me for; I never knewe my father. 1633: Rowley, Match at Midnight, I., None but wise children know their own fathers. 1673: Wyckerley, Gent. Dauc. Master, I. i., The children of this age must be wise children indeed if they know their fathers. 1752: Goldsmith, Cock Lane Ghost, in Works, ii. 472 (Gibbs). 1774: Burgoyne, Maid of Oaks, I. i. 1872: Scott, Peveril, ch. xxxiii. 1925: Sphere, June 6, p. 294, col. i.

32. It is a wise father that knows his own child. 1595: Shakespeare, M. of Venice, II. ii. 1636: B. Rich, Faultes, fo. 28. 1640: Shirley, Opportunity, I. i.


34. Some are wise. See Some.

35. That is a wise delay which makes the road safe. 1659: Howell, Proverbs: Span.-Eng. 3. That delay is good which makes the way the safer. 1855: Bohn, 495.


37. The wise hand doth not all that the foolish mouth speaks. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1670: Ray, 12.

38. The wise man, even when he holds his tongue, says more than the fool when he speaks. 1732: Fuller, No. 4834.

39. The wise man is deceived but once, the fool twice. 1736: Bailey, Dict. s.v. “Wise.”

40. The wise man must carry the fool upon his shoulders. 1623: Wodroephe, Sparéd Hours, 489.
41 The wise man's tongue See Fool (27)
42 They are wise in other men's matters, and fools in their own 1672 Walker, Parum. 31
43 To be wise after the event [cf. 0, b
de vB. X (v. n) —Homer. II, 17, 32]
Atque illi modo cautis a sapientis prompti post eventum aeg magnificque erant —Tacitus, Agric xxviii. Eventus, stultorum iste magister est —Itovi
xxiii 39] 1609 Jonson, Silent Woman II u. Away, thou strange justifier of thyself, to be wiser than thou wert, by the event 1875 Jowett, Plato, V 53 (2nd ed.) (O) There is no merit in learning wisdom after the event 1926 Sphere Jan 21 p 93, col 1, Nor is it a case of being wise after the event
44 To be wise behind the hand 1820 Scott, in Lockhart's Life, v 42. The next night being, like true Scotsmen wise behind the hand the bailies had a sufficient force and put down every attempt to not 1892 Heslop. Numberland Words, 9 (E D S), "A man your hand" to have someone to look after your interest in your absence
45 Who is wise in the day, can be no fool in the night 1659 Howell, Proverbs Ital.-Eng. 6
46 Wise fear beget care 1732 Fuller, No 6355
47 Wise man if thou art See quot
15th cent in Relig Antiquae, i 314 (1842), Wyse mon if thou art, of the god Take part or thou hence wynde, For if thou leve thi part in thi securtes [executor's] ward, Thi part non part at last end
48 Wise men are caught in wiles c 1250 Layamon, Brut 15182, Ac part
nis no man so wise hat me ne man be-
swike [There is no man so wise that men may not deceive] 1670 Ray, 156 1732 Fuller, No 5782, Wise men may chance to be caught
49 Wise men care not for what they cannot have 1670 Ray, 29 1732 Fuller, No 5775
50 Wise men have their mouths in their hearts, fools have their hearts in their mouths 1477. Rivers, Dictes and Sayings, 140 (1877). The tongue of a

discrete man is in his herte and the herte of a foole is in his tongue 1574 E. Hellowes, Guevara's Epis. 183. The wise man hath his tongue in his hart, and he that is a foole and furious, hath his heart in his tongue 1630 Brathwaite, Engl. Gent. etc 47 (1641). These are those fools, which carry their hearts in their mouthes, and farre from those wise men, which carry their mouthes in their hearts. Cf Fool (27)
51 Wise men in the world are like timber-trees in a hedge, here and there one 1732 Fuller No 5778 1860 Spurgeon John Ploughman, ch n
52 Wise men learn by others' faults, fools by their own (c 1380 Chaucer, Troylus, bk. ii 1 329. For wyse ben by foles harm chastysed 1591 Florio. Second Fruits, 103. A hoppy man and wise 15 he By others harms can warned be 1669 Politephona, 44. By others faults wise men correct their own offences 1758 Franklin, Poor Richard, in Arber's Garner, v 583 (1829). Wise men, as Poor Dick says, learn by others' harms
53 Wise men make proverbs and fools repeat them 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs. Pref vii 1823 D'Israeli, Cur of Lit., and ser I 449 (1824) c 1860 R S Hawker, in Byles, Life, etc., 82 (1903)
54 Wise men propose and fools determine 1692 L'Estrange, Æsop, 114 (3rd ed.) [quoted as 'the old say-
55 Wise men silent fools talk 1659 Clarke, s
56 Wise men See also Fool, passim, and Gotham
57 Wise words and great seldom agree 1059 Howell Proverbs Brit.-Eng. 6
58 Wise young See Too soon wise
59 You may be a wise man though you can't make a watch 1670 Ray, 29 1732 Fuller No 5939 and yet not know how to make a watch
Wiseleye walketh that doth safely go. He 1609 Bodenham, Belvedere. 49 (Spens S)
Wish and Wishes, subs 1 If wishes were butter-cakes beggars might bite 1678 Ray, 219
2. If wishes were horses beggars would ride. 1736: Bailey, Dict. s.v. "Wish."
5. The wish is father to the thought [Libenter homines id quod volunt creidunt.—Cesar, De Bello G., ii. 18.] 1598: Shakespeare, 2 Hen. IV. IV. v. Thy wish was father, Harry, to that thought. 1908: W. Johnson, Folk-Memory, 229.
6. When a thing is done wishes are too late. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Wish."
7. Wishes never can fill a sack. 1855: Bohn, 570.

Wishers and woudlers are never good householders. c. 1520: Stanbridge, Vulgaria, sig. C6, Wyssers and wolders ben small house holders. 1590: Greene, Works, viii. 64 (Grosart). 1616: Breton, in Works, ii. e 8 (Grosart). 1641: in Harl. Miscell., i. 483. (1744) Any of those places would suffice you, or myself, but alas! Wishers and Woudlers, you know how the proverb runs. 1732: Fuller, No. 6154.

Wishers want will. c. 1550: Parl. of Byrdes, i. 91, in Hazlitt, Early Pop. Poetry, iii. 171, The hawkie sayd, wyssers want wyll, Whether they speake loud or styll.

2. Bought wit is dear. 1575: Gascoigne, Posies in Works, i. 66 (Cunliffe).
3. He hath no more wit in his head than thou in both thy shoulders. 1670: Ray, 217.
4. He had some wit but a fool hath the guidance of it. 1602-3: Manningham, Diary, 171 (Camden S.). He hath a good wit but it is carried by a foole. 1732: Fuller, No. 1899.
5. It is wit to pick a lock and steal a horse, but it is wisdom to let them alone. 1659: Howell, 3. 1670: Ray, 30. 1732: Fuller, No. 3031.
6. The wit of a woman is a great matter. 1599: Breton in Works, ii. c. 59 (Grosart) [cited as "the common proverbe"].
7. The wit of you and the wool of a blue dog, would make a very good medley. 1659: Howell, 11. The wit of you and the wool of an old dogg, will make a piece of linsay-woolsie. 1732: Fuller, No. 4836.
8. To be at one's wits' end. c. 1420: Lydgate, Assurn. of Gods, st. 238, p. 49 (E.E.T.S.). When they were drewyn to her wythes ende. c. 1565: Still, Gam. Garton, IV, ii., And Dame Chat at her wyts ende I have almost set her. 1796: Pettic, Pet. Pallace, i. 172 (Golancz), Who . . . were at their wits' end what medicine to apply. 1694: D'Urfey, Quixote, Pt. II. Act II. sc. ii., Now is Sancho at his wits-end to know, whether he may believe his eyes and ears or no. 1764: Mrs. F. Sheridan, Dupe, II. iv., I am quite at my wits' end to unriddle it. 1883: R. L. S., Treas. Ist., ch. xix., They were at their wits' end what to do. 1923: Lucas, Adv. Ben., § xvii. p. 95. Can you tell me what to do? I'm at my wits' end.
9. To have wit at will. c. 1470: Songs and Carols, 37 (Percy S., No. 73). If thou have wysdom at thi wyll. c. 1602: Chapman, May-Day, IV. iii., Win her and wear her; thou hast wit at will. 1738: Swift, Polite Couvers., Dial. I., She's very handsome, and has wit at will. 1772: Graves, Spirit. Quixote, bk. ix. ch. vi., My son says, my lady has wit at will, and will hold discourse with any lord or bishop. 1821: Scott, Pirate, ch. xiv., . . . said Tim, who had wit at will. 1881: A. R. Ellis, Introd. to Evelina, i., The living French writer who has the most wit at will.
10. Wit and will strive for the victory. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Wit."
11. Wit and wisdom are good warison [possession]. c. 1320: in Relig. Antiquae i. 109. (1841), "Wyt ant wysdom is god waryesoun," Quoth Henthung. 1594: Churchyard, Mirror of Man, Wisdome is great wealth.
12. Wit bought is better than taught. 1670: Ray, 157, Wit once bought is worth twice taught. 1875: Cheales,
Proverb Folk-Lore, 115 Cf Ounce of wit

13 Wit goes not all by the hair c 1592 Sir Thos More, 59 (Sh S.), Why, man, he may be without a beard till he come to marry for wit goes not all by the hayre

14 Wit is folly unless a wise man hath the keeping of it 1813 Ray, 174

15 Wit is never good till it be bought c 1500 Medwall Nature, Pt II 1 1729, Wytses nothing worth till ye be dere bought 1540 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt I ch viii 1579 Lylly, Enphuses, 34 (Arber), It hath bene an olde sayde save that wit is the better if it be the deerer bought 1630 Randolph, Conected Peddler in Works, 1 39 (1875) 1653 R Brome, City Wit, I 1 1678 A Behn, Sir P Fancy, II 1, 'Twas a saying of my grandmother's that bought wit was best 1709 T Baker, Fine Lady's Airs IV 11, My grandmother says bought wit's best 1732 Fuller, No 1011, Bought wit is best, but may cost too much 1901 F E Taylor, Lances Sayings, 11, Wytses nowt till its dear bowt 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 156, Wits ner owt [ought] Tim dear bowt [Till dear bought]

16 Wits are most uily See quot 16th cent in Relg Antiquel, ii 195, (1843), Wittes are moste wyllly where women ha wyttys And curtilly comethe uppon them by fittes

17 Wits have short memories See Great wits

18 Wit, whither wilt thou? 1601 Shakespeare, A Y Like lt IV 1, A man that had a wife with such a wit, he might say, 'Wit, whither wit?' 1659 Howell, 3

19 Wit will walk where will is best 1583 Melbancke Philitus, sig Y2

20 Wit without learning is like a tree without fruit 1647 Countryman New Commonwealth, 15

21 Wit without wisdom See quotes c 1270 Prov of Alfred, in Kemble Salomon and Saturnus, 229 (Elinme S.), Wid widutin wisdom is welе ful unwed [wit without wisdom is but little worth] 1732 Fuller, No 5791, Wit without wisdom cuts other men's meat and its own fingers

22 You have wit enough to drown ships in 1678 Ray, 277

23 You may truss up all his wit in an egg-shell Ibid, 84 1732 Fuller, No 5957

See also Ounce of wit

Witch See Burn (6), Devil (101), Go (4), and Rowan-tree

Witch-wife See quot 1846-59 Denham Tracts 11 81 (F L S), A witch-wife—an evil, Is three halfpence worse than the devill

With a mischief 1533 Heywood, John Tis and Sir John I 481, Now go chafe the wax, with a myschyle 1541 Sch House of Women I 278 And now God gave the shame at last, Commest drunken home with a mischief 1623 Massinger, Duke of Milan, II 1, Pleased, with a mischief 1681 Robertson, Phraseol Generalis, 760, Be gone with a mischief

With a vengeance 1533 Heywood, John Tis and Sir John, I 425, And go with a vengeance 1593 Peele, Edw II, sc ii, He gone quickly, or my pikesstaff and I will set thee away with a vengeance 1679 Dryden, Troilus, II 1, Nothing, do you call it? This is nothing, with a vengeance 1702 Cibber, Love makes a Man I, Yes, sir, he has lost with a vengeance 1778 Burney, Evelina Lett xxiv, They'd need to be goddesses with a vengeance for they're mortal dear to look at 1814 Byron, Letters, etc ii 124 (Prothero), I got in a passion with an ink-bottle, which I flung out of the window one night with a vengeance 1822 Weymann, Overton's Bank, ch xi, They had cooked their goose with a vengeance—no more golden eggs for them!

With a wanion—a proverbial expletive phrase, similar to 'With a mischief, vengeance and witness' c 1568 Wager, Longer thou Livest, sig G2, Get the[e] hence thee with a wanie 1606 T Heywood, If you know not me Pt II, in Dram Works, 1 284 (1874), There's your ten pounds, tell it out with a wanion and take it for your pains c 1627 in Pepysian Garland
(Rollins), 272. Pray let them both packe with a winion. 1673: Vinegr and Mustard, 9, in Hindley, Old Book Coll. Misc., iii., I'll warrant you with a winion. 1823: Scott, Feronel, ch. vi., Who calls himself a parson, and whom I hope to fetch down from his perch presently, with a winion to him!

With a witness. 1703: Ward, Writings, ii. 273. And the Gown often errs with a witness. 1753: Richardson, Grandaison, i. 225 (1883), Carried he should have said; I was carried with a witness!

Witham pike. See quotes. 1611: Markham, Country Contentions, 65 (1675), The ancient proverb is, Ancome eele, and Witham pike. In all England is none sike [such]. 1662: Fuller, Worthies, ii. 262 (1840), To return to our English pikes, wherein this county [Lincs.] is eminent, especially in that river which runneth by Lincoln, whence grew this proverb, "Witham pike England hath none like." 1874: Smiles, Lives of Engineers, i. 13 [as in 1662].

Without danger we cannot get beyond danger. 1640: Herbert, Jan. Prudentium.

Wits. See Good wits and Great wits.

Wive and thrive both in a year, It's hard to. c. 1410: Towneley Plays, 103 (E.E.T.S.), It is sayde full ryfe, "a man may not wyfe and also thryfde, And all in a yere." 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1580: Tusser, Husbandrie, 153 (E.D.S.), It is too much we daillie heare, To wive and thrive both in a yere. 1670: Ray, 48. 1738: Swift, Polite Cowters., Dial. I., You can't expect to wive and thrive in the same year. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 5 (Percy S.).

Wiving and thriving, a man should take counsel of all the world, In. 1678: Ray, 354.

Wizard Stream, The = The River Dee. 197: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 121.

Woe, subs. 1. There is no woe to want. 1605: Camden, Remains, 332 (1870). 1732: Fuller, No. 4926.

2. See quot. 1509: Barclay, Ship of Fools, i. 284 (1874). For we lynde in

an olde sayde save Wo is hym that to his maker is vnkynde.

3. Woe to the house where there is no chiding. 1640: Herbert, Jan. Prudentium. 1732: Fuller, No. 5801.

Wogan. See quot. 1659: Howell, 21. It shall be done when the king cometh to Wogan, a little village, viz. an impossibility. 1790: Grose, Prov. Gloss., s.v. "Worcestershire" [as in 1659].


2. A wolf in sheep's clothing. c. 1460: Wisdom, sc. iii. st. 61. They flatter and lye as they were woode [mad]; Their ys a wolffe in a lombys skyn. 1509: Barclay, Ship of Fools, ii. 7 (1874). She is perchaunce A wolle or gotte within a jammys skyn. 1584: Greene, Works, iii. 11 (Grosart). These two... had... vnder their sheepes skinnes, hidden the bloudie nature of a wolf. 1657: Gurnall, Christ, in Armour, Pt. II. v. 14, ch. xvii. p. 67 (1679). The hypocrite is the wolf clad in the sheeps skin. 1751: Fielding, Amelia, bk. ix. ch. ix., There is the meekness of the clergymen. There spoke the wolf in sheeps clothing. 1876: Blackmore, Gribbs, ch. xliv., Whose bosom friend is a Jesuit, a fierce wolf in sheeps clothing. 1926: Phillpotts, Yellow Sands, III., A wolf in sheeps clothing—that's what she was.

3. By little and little the wolf eateth the sheep. 1633: Drake, 13.

4. By little and little the wolf eats up the goose. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Manger."

5. For the least choice the wolfe tooke the sheepe. 1623: Wodroopehe, Shred Hones, 500.

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Wolf

[Spens S] ["world" for "winter"]

1696 D Urfev, Quixote, Pt III Act V

sc 1 1710 S Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 327

7 It is hard to have wolf full and wether whole 1374 Chaucer, Troylus, bk iv l 373

8 The death of a young wolf doth never come too soon 1651 Herbert, Jac Prudentum, 2nd ed

9 The death of the wolf is the health of the sheep 1578 Florio First Fruites, fo 31 1666 Torriano, Piazza Univ, 132

10 The wolf eats counted sheep [Tantum curamus frigores quantum numerum (ovum) lupus—Virgil, Enniid, 7, 51] 1611 Cotgrave s v "Loup." The wolf eats counted (and uncounted) sheep 1708 tr Aleman's Guzman 1 435 Your Emuenence knows the proverb relating to counted sheep

11 The wolf eats off of the sheep that have been warned 1652 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 2nd ed

12 The wolf knows what the ill beast thinks 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

13 The wolf must die in his own skin 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Loup." 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum

14 To cry wolf— To give a false alarm 1740 North, Examen, 315. They say the false cry of the wolf made the neighbours not regard the cry when the wolf was come in earnest 1814 Planche, Extravag, 11 288 (1879), Why, you cried "Wolf!" till, like the shepherd youth, You're not behaved when you do speak the truth

15 To have a wolf by the ears [Lupum auribus tenere—Terence, Phorm., 3, 2 21] 1576 Lambarde, Peramb of Kent 418 (1826), They had but a wolf by the eares, whom they could neither well hold, nor might safely let goe 1642 Quarles, Works, i 58 (Grosart), A Prince that enternerates Auxiliaries, holds a wolf by the eares 1691 J Wilson, Belphogor, II in., If ever man had a wolf by the eays I have one now 1740 North, Lives of Norths, 1 211 (Bohn), He found that it was like a wolf by the ears, he could neither hold it nor let it go

16 To keep the wolf from the door 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, Pt II ch vii c 1597 Deloney, Gentle Craft Pt I ch v, That we may live out of debt and danger, and drue the woulf from the door c 1630 in Roxb Ballads, 1 167 (Hindley), Though home be but homely, and never so poor, Yet let us keepe, wolly, the wolfe from the door Before 1704 Brown, Works, ii 242 (1760), I shall be very well satisfied if I can keep the wolf from the door, as the saying is t 1860 Reade, Clos and Heathch ch ili, And so the brave girl and the brave soldier worked with a will, and kept the wolf from the door 1921 Sidney Colvin, Memories, et <8, Fortunately he had from the first had friends and backers whose apprecaation saved him from any serious danger of the wolf at the door

17 To set the wolf to keep the sheep [Ovem lupo committere—Terence, Enn. 5, 1, 16] 1639 Clarke, 95, You have given the wolf the weather to keep 1694 Terence made English, 89, Oh you jade, you set the wolf to keep the sheep 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v "Wolf." To give the wolf the weather to keep

18 Who hath a wolf for his mate, needs a dog for his man 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1670 Ray, 30

19 Who keeps company with the wolf will learn to howl 1591 Florio, Second Fruites, 57, Who is bread among wolves, will learene to howle 1623 Wodroephe, Spared Horses, 274, Hee who hanites with wolves doth learene to howle 1670 Ray, 30 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, iv 119 (1785), Tho' you have kept company with a wolf you have not learnt to howl of him 1871 Smiles, Character, 66, 'Live with wolves,' says the Spanish proverb "and you will learn to howl"

20 Who speaks of the wolf hee seeth his talle 1623 Wodroephe, Spared Horses, 500

21 Wolves lose their teeth but not their memory 1633 Draxe, 237 1670 Ray, 30 1732 Fuller, No
Wolf's

5802, Wolves may lose their teeth, but not their nature. 1576: Pettie, Pet. Pallace, ii. 8r (Gollancz). 1651: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum, 2nd ed., A wolf will never make war against another wolf. See also Dog (1) and (52); Hunger. Fetcheth; Hungry as a wolf; Law (3); Man (52) and (57); and Sheep. Passim. Wolf's mouth. See Dark.

Wolstonbury, Sussex. See quot. 1893: Inwards, Weather Lore, 99. When Wolstonbury has a cap, Hurstpierpoint will have a drap.

Woman and Women. 1. A dishonest woman cannot be kept in, and an honest one will not. 1732: Fuller, No. 76.

2. A good woman is worth, if she were sold, the fairest crown that's made of purest gold. 1623: Wodroope, Spared Howes, 484. 1880: Spurgeon, Ploughin', Pictures, 88 [omitting "purest"].

3. As great a pity to see a woman weep as to see a goose go barefoot. 1326: Hund. Mery Talyss, No. x. p. 20 (Oesterley). By this tale ye may se that the olde proverbe ys trew that yt is as greet pytte to se a woman wepe as a go to go barefote. 1621: Burton, Melanch., III. II. iii. 4, 548 (1836). As much pitty is to be taken of a woman weeping, as of a goose going bare-footed. 1716: Ward, Female Policy, 44. 1850: Sir H. Taylor, Virgin Widow, I. iii. ["gosling" for "goose"].

4. A wicked woman and an evil is three halfe prowess worse than the devil. 1639: Clarke, 118. 1670: Ray, 50. 1732: Fuller, No. 6406. 1875: Cheales, Proverb, Folk-Lore, 4. That coarse old saying A wicked woman and an evil is some nine parts worse than the devil.

5. A wise woman is twice a fool. 1680: L'Estrange, Select Coll. out of Erasmus, 220. I have often heard that One wise woman is two fools. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasm. Coll., 256.


7. A woman and a glass are ever in danger. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum. 1669: New Help to Discourse, 310.

8. A woman, a spaniel, and a walnut-tree, The more you beat them the better they be. [Nux, asinus, mulier, similis sunt lege ligati: Haece tril recta faciunt, si verberra cessent, 16th cent.: Cognatus, Adagia, in Gryrmaus, Adagia, p. 484, col. r (1629) (N. & Q., 10th ser., ix. 298.)] 1586: Pettie, Gnazzo, fo. 139. A woman, an ass, and a walnut-tree. Bring the more fruitre, the more beaten they bee. 1589: L. Wright, Display of Dutie, 24. It is sayde that an asse, a walnut-tree, and a woman asketh much beating before they be good. 1596: Nashe, Works, iii. 110 (Grosart). A nut, a woman, and an asse are like. These three doo nothing right, except you strike. 1608: Yorksh. Tragedy, sc. i. For you must note, that any woman bears the more when she is beaten. 1672: Webster, White Devil, V. 1., Do you think that she is like a walnut-tree? Must she be cudgelled ere she bear good fruit? 1692: L'Estrange, Aesop, 284 (3rd ed.). 'Tis natural forasses, women, and walnut-trees to mend upon beating. 1732: Fuller, No. 6404. 1878: Dyer, Engl. Folk-Lore, 30 ["whip" for "beat"].

9. A woman can do more than the devil. 1559: Bercher, Nobility of Women, 140 (Roxb. C.) [cited as "a common proverbe"].

10. A woman hath nine lives like a cat. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, Pt. II. ch. iv. 1611: Davies of Hereford, Sc. of Folly, 49, in Works, ii. (Grosart). Some wises (some say) haue nine lyes like a cat. 1738: Swift, Polite Conuers., Dial. I. They say, a woman has as many lives as a cat.

11. A woman is an angel at leu, a saint at fifteen, a devil at forty, and a witch at fourscore. 1620: Swetnam the Woman Hater (Grosart).

12. A woman is a weather-cock. 1633: Draxe, 238. Women are (oft times) weather-cocks. 1636: W. Sampson,
A woman is to be from her house three times when she is christened, married and buried. 1732 Fuller, No 480

A woman need but look upon her apron-string to find an excuse. 1620 Westward for Smelts, 17 (Percy S). Excuses are never further off women than their apron strings. 1672 Lacy Dumb Lady I. They say when a woman means mischief, if she but look upon her apron-strings the devil will help her presently. 1738 Swift, Polite Convers., Dial III

A woman's counsel. See quote. 1659 Shelfon Quixote, Pt II ch vii. Woman's advice is but slender, yet he, that refuseth it is a madman. 1639 Clarke 22, A woman's counsel is sometimes good. 1659 Howell 6, A woman's advice is best at a dead lift. 1875 Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 5. A woman's advice is a poor thing, but he is a fool who does not take it. Cf No 60

A woman's heart and her tongue are not relatives. 1590 Greene, Works, vm 99 (Grosart) 1669 Politenphina, 31

A woman's 'nay.' See quote. 1590 Shakespeare, Pass Pilgrim, xix. Have you not heard it said full oft, A woman's nay doth stand for nought? 1611 Davies of Hereford Sc of Folly 40, in Works, ii (Grosart), A woman's nay's a double yea (they say). 1686 Loyal Garland 31 (Percy S). A woman's nay is no denial

A woman's reason—because it is so. 1591 Shakespeare, Two Gent., I ii, I have no other but a woman's reason, I think him so because I think him so 1601 Lely, Lover's Metam., IV 1, Women's reasons; they would not because they would not 1634 Massinger, Very Woman I 1. Shall I lose The privilege of my sex which is my will, To yield a reason like a man? 1766 Farquhar Recruiting Officer, IV ii, c 1750 Foote, Englishm in

A woman's strength is in her tongue. 1560 Becon, Catechism, 345 (PS). They shame not to answer, "A woman hath none other weapon but her tongue." 1659 Howell, Proverbs Brit. Eng., 29 1875 Cheales, Proverbial Folk-Lore, 5. A woman's tongue is her sword, and she does not let it rust

A woman's tongue is the last thing about her that dies. 1612 Chapman, Widow's Tears, IV ii. When a man dies the last thing that moves is his heart in a woman's tongue. 1738 Swift, Polite Convers., Dial III

A woman's work is never done. c 1655 in Roxb. Ballads, in 302 (BS) 1670 Ray, 50, A woman's work is never at an end. 1732 Fuller, No 58 10 in the plural] 1825 Hone, Ev Day Book, I 1375 [as in 1732] 1928 Evening Standard, Jan 3, p 3, col. 2, "The old adage that woman's work is never done should not be tolerated," she said

A woman that is wilful. See quote. 16th cent. in Relig Antiqua, 11 195 (1843), A woman that ye wilfull ys a plague off the worse. As good live in hell, as with a yttee that is curste

A woman that loves to be at the window, is like a bunch of grapes on the high way. 1666 Torriano Piazza Univ., 74. A woman at a window as grapes on the high way 1689 Hazlitt, 39

A woman that paints puts up a ball that she is to be let 1700 Ward, London Spy, 420 (1924), For she that paints will doubtless be a whore. 1732 Fuller No 481

A woman that spinnes in vice, hath her smooche full of lice. 1623 Wodroopehe, Spared Hours 484

Choose not a woman nor linnen by candlelight. 1578 Florio, First Fruites, to 32. Neither a woman nor linnen chase thou by a candle. 1629

27. He hath a woman’s tongue. 1630: T. Adams, Works, 150. The proverbe came not for nothing, when we say of a brawling man, he... hath a woman’s tongue in his head.

28. If a woman were as little as she is good, A peascod would make her a gown and a hood. 1591: florio, Second Fruits, 175 [in the plural]. 1619: Help to Discourse, 55 (1640). 1732: Fuller, No. 6446. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xvii. [“peashell” for “peascod”].

29. Let no woman’s painting Breed thy heart’s painting, 1670: Ray, 20 [“stomachs” for “hearts”]. 1732: Fuller, No. 6243.

30. Many women many words. c. 1425: Castle of Perseverance, sc. vi. st. 230, [Where] Ther wyommen are, are many wordys. 1542: Sch. House of Women, 1. 482. And where be women, are many woords. c. 1600: Deloney, Thos. of Reading, ch. 12, The old proverbe... Many women many words. 1670: Ray, 214.

31. One tongue is enough for a woman. 1678: Ray, 59. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. II.

32. She is a woman and therefore may be woosed, she is a woman and therefore may be won. c. 1591: Shakespeare, Titus, Andr., II. i. 1620: Ford, Letter of Life, 59 (Sh. S.), Women were in their creation ordained to be woosed, and to be won. 1823: Scott, Q. Durward, ch. xix., Every woman may be won.

33. Tell a woman she’s a beauty, and the devil will tell her so ten times. 1710: S. Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 192, Tell a woman she’s handsome but once, and the devil will tell her so fifty times. 1732: Fuller, No. 4326.

34. The more women look in their glass, the less they look to their house. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentum, 1670: Ray, 50 [in the plural]. 1732: Fuller, No. 4669. The more women look into their glass, the less they look into their hearts.

35. Three women and a goose make a market. 1586: Pettie, Guazzo, fo. 115. Do you not know the proverbe, that three women make a market? 1607: Rowlands, Diog. Lanthornc, 45 (Hunt. Cl). Three women make a market, for they have sufficient voice. 1665: J. Wilson, Projectors, III. If two women and a goose make a market, I see no reason why three may not make a council. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. III., Miss, did you never hear, that three women and a goose are enough to make a market? 1865: W. White, Eastern England, i. 262.

36. Where there are women and geese, there wants no noise. 1659: Howell, Proverbs: Ital.-Eng., 16. 1678: Ray, 64. 1732: Fuller, No. 5684, Where women are and geese, there wants no gagging.

37. Woman’s instinct is often truer than man’s reasoning. 1875: Cheales, Proverbial Folk-Lore, ii.

38. Women and dogs set men together by the ears. 1541: Sch. House of Women, I. 690. The proverbe olde accordeth right: Women and dogges cause much strife. 1666: Torriano, Piazza Univ., 52, Many women and dogs cause contention. 1670: Ray, 50. 1829: Cobbett, Adv. to Young Men, Lett. iv., Soldiers have leisure, too, to play with children, as well as with “women and dogs,” for which the proverb has made them famous.


41. Women and music should never be dated. 1773: Goldsmith, She Stoops, III.

42. Women and their wills are dangerous ills. 1613: S. Rowley, When you see me, sig. L3.

43. Women and wine, game and deceit, Make the wealth small and the wants
great 1591 Flono, Second Frites, 73.
Women, wine, and dice will bring a man to
lice 1732 Fuller, No 6416 1736
Franklin, Way to Wealth, in Works, 1 446 (Bigelow)
44 Women are born in Wiltshire, 
Brought up in Cumberland Lead their 
lives in Bedfordshire, Bring their hus-
bands to Buckingham And die in Shrews-
bury 1638 Wit Restor d, 69
45 Women are necessary evils 1583 
Melbancke Philotinus, sig T2, As all 
women bee euills, yet necessarie euills 
1591 Flono, Second Frites, 173, 
Women are indeed necessarie but 
euills 1639 Clarke 118 Cl Wile 
(30)
46 Women are saints in church See 
quotes 1542 Sch House of Women, I 
658, As holy as saints in church they be, 
And in street as angels they were, At 
home, for all their hypocrisy, A devilish 
life they led all the yeer 1559 
Bercher Nobility of Women, 127 (Roxb 
Cl ), A woman is a fury and an hurtful 
Spyrite in the house, an angel in the 
churche, an ape in the bed, a mule 
vnbrided in the fielde and a gote in the 
garden 1560 E More, Defence of 
Women 1 474 At home lyke dyuelles 
they be abrode lyke jugelles pure 
1589 Puttenham, Engl Poesie, 209 
(Arber), We limit the comely parts of a 
woman to consist in foure points, that 
is to be a shrew in the kitchin, a saint 
in the church, an angell at the bord, 
and an ape in the bed, as the Chronicle 
reportes by Mistress Shore paramour to 
King Edward the fourth 1602 
Middleton, Blurt Master Const, I 111, 
According to that wise saying of 
you, [women] be saints in the church, 
angels in the street, devils in the kitchin, 
and apes in your bed 1669 Spurgeon, 
John Ploughman ch xiv, God save us 
all from vives who are angels in the 
streets, saints in the church, and devils 
at home
47 Women are ships and must be 
manned c 1630 in Roxb Ballads, i 
55 (B S )
48 Women be forgetfull, children be 
unkind See quotes c 1470 Songs 
and Carols, 34 (Percy S) Wyves be 
releues, children be onkynd Exec-
utors be covetys and hold that the 
fynd Before 1500 in Hill, Common-
place-Book, 138 (E E T S ), Do sum 
good, man, by thy lyfe, Whilest thou 
hast thy mynde, Thy children will 
for-gete the sone, Thy wyffe will be 
unkynd, Thy executors be covytes, 
And take all that they fynde, Yff thou 
wilt not, while thou may, They will 
byrng the behynde 1603 Stow, 
Survey of London 116, I wish men to 
make their owne hands their executors 
and their eyes their overseers, not for-
getting the olde proverbe Women be 
forgetfull, children be unkynde, Execu-
 tors be covetous, and take what they 
finde If any body ask where the deads 
goods became, they answer So God mee 
helpse and holydome Hee dyed a poor 
man 1660 T Heywood, If you 
know not me, pt II [as in 1603 
to "they finde"], 1632 Rowley, 
Woman never vexed, V [as in 1603, very 
slightly varied]
49 Women commend a modest man, 
but like him not 1732 Fuller, No 
5805
50 Women conceal all that they know 
not 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium 
and 1670 Ray, 50 [both in the singular 
number] 1732 Fuller, No 5806
51 Women have no souls 1566 L 
Wager, Mary Magdalene, sig E4, 
Women have no soules, this sayning is 
not newe c 1610 Marston, Insal 
Countess, V, And lastly, may the 
opinion of philosophers Prove true, that 
women have no soules! Before 1680 
Butler, Remains, 1 246 (1759), The souls 
of women are so small, That some 
believe th'habe none at all 1708 
Brit Apollo Supp Paper 12 col 8, I 
have often heard say, that the female 
sex have no soul, I suppose it to he a 
proverbal sayning
52 Women have two faults See 
quotes 1606 B Rich, Faultes, fo 23, 
Amongst women (some will say) there 
is but two faults, and those are, they can 
neither doe nor say well 1716 Ward, 
Female Policy, 72, Tis said of women 
that they have two faults, that is, they 
can neither say well, nor yet do well
Women

1875: Cheales, Proverb. Folk-Lore, 13. Men have many faults, poor women have only two, There’s nothing right they say, and nothing right they do!


54. Women in state affairs are like monkeys in glass shops. 1659: Howell, 12.


56. Women, money and wine, have their good and their pine. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Argent,” Money, wine, and women, have good and bad things in them. 1623: Wodroephe, Spared Houtes, 484.

57. Women must have the last word. 1542: Sch. House of Women, I. 76. Yet will the woman have the last word. 1555: Fuller, Church Hist. bk. ix. § iii. (7), Whilst women strive for the last word. 1764: Mrs. F. Sheridan, Dupe, Epil., A prating female will have the last word. 1926: Phillpotts, Yellow Sands, III., She was like the rest of your sex, ma’am—she went her own way, and had the last word.

58. Women must have their wills. 1542: Borde, Brev. of Helthe, fo. 96. Let her [the wife] have her owne wyll for that she wyll have who so euer say nay. 1602–3: Manningham, Diary, 92 (Camden S.), Women, because they cannot have their wills when they dye, they will have their wills while they live. 1616: Haughton, English. for my Money, V. iii., Women will have their will. 1664: J. Wilson, Cheats, V. v. [as in 1616]. 1733: Gay, Song in Achilles, Since woman will have both her word and her way. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. xvi., But then the proverb says, a wife ought to have her will during life, because she cannot make one when she dies.


60. Women’s advice is cold advice, e. 1270: Prov. of Alfred, in Old Eng. Miseell., 122 (E.E.T.S.), Cold red is quene [woman’s] red [advice], e. 1380: Chaucer, C. Tales, B. 4446 (Skeat), Wommennes counsells ben ful ofte colde. [Skeat says “colde” = baneful, fatal.] Cf. No. 15.


62. Women’s tongues wag like lambs’ tails. c. 1597: Deloney, Tale of Newberie, ch. vii., Considering that women’s tongues are like lambs’ tails, which seldom stand still. 1612: Cornmepike, 7 (Grosart), As women tongues be like to yong lambs tailes. 1865: “Lancs. Proverbs,” in N. & Q., 3rd ser., viii. 494 [in the singular number].

63. Women think Place a sweet fish. 1678: Ray, 59.


65. Women, wealth and wine have each two qualities, a good and a bad. 1736: Bailey, Diet., s.v. “Woman.”

66. Women, wind and fortune are given to change. 1639: Clarke, 159, A woman’s mind and winter-wind change oft. 1670: Ray, 50 [as in 1639]. 1736: Bailey, Diet., s.v. “Women.” Ibid., A woman’s mind is like the wind in a winter’s night.

See also All women ; Bad words ; Beware ; Black, adj. (3) and (22); Dally ; Dead (2); Discreet ; Eel (4); Every Woman; Fair, adj. (12)–(14); Flesh upon horses ; Fool (40) and (47); Gaming ; Goose (9); Handsome (2); Hate (1); Honest (7) and (12); House (13); Love (37); Luck (1); Man (29) and (58); Many men; Meat (2); Mischief (5); Old A(c), D(I); One hair; Ship (2); Silence; Silent (1); Swine (2); Two women; Weal (1);Whistling; Winter (21); and Wit (6).

Wonder is the daughter of ignorance. 1578: Florio, First Fruites, fo. 32. Maruaille is the daughter of ignorance. 1629: Book of Merry Riddles, Prov. 44. Marvell is, etc. 1677: Poor Robin’s
Wonders, 24 1681 Rycaut, tr
Gracian's Critick, 25. Though admiration
be the daughter of ignorance 1732
Fuller, No 5812

Wonders will never cease 1776 m
Garrick Correct 1174 (1832) 1844
Jerrold, Story of a Feather, ch xx
1926. Phillpotts, Marybone Miser, ch
vii

1 He that woo is a maid must
come seldom in her sight, But he that
woo a widow must woo her day and night
1639 Clarke, 27. He that will win a
maid must seldom come in her sight
1670 Ray 49 1732 Fuller, No
6403

2 He that would woo a maid See
1669 quot 1611 Barry, Ram-Alley, II
Do but dally not that's the
widow's phrase 1618 Field, Amends
for Ladies, IV 1, You have trusted to
that fond opinion. This is the way to
have a widowhood, By getting to her
bed 1669 N. Smith, Quakers Spiritual
Court, 13 He told me that I must
observe the old proverb that he
that would woo a maid, must fain, lye
and flatter, but he that woes a widow
must down with his britches and
at her 1670 Ray 49 [as in 1669]

3 To woo is a pleasure in a young
man a fault in an old I bid, 30 1732
Fuller, No 5244 ["phrenzy" for
"fault"][

See also Wooing

Wood 1 To be in a wood = To be
puzzled or bewildered c 1616 B
and F Mad Lover IV, Help the boy,
He's in a wood, poor child 1681
Robertson, Phrasel Generals, 369. He
is confused he has lost himself in a
wood 1786 D'Arblay, Diary II 246
(1876), I assured him I was quite in
a wood, and begged him to be more
expedit 1854 Baker, Northants Gloss,
s v "Wood," "All in a wood." In a
state of perplexity and bewilderment

2 To be unable to see the wood for
the trees = To be unable to take a general
or comprehensive view 1546 Hey-
wood Proverbs, Pt II ch 11, Ye can
not see the wood for trees 1581
Woodes Cons of Conscience, II vii,
Where I was in place long before you

came, But you could not see the wood
for the trees 1630 Randolph, Works,
1 14 (Hazlitt, 1875). We cannot see
wood for trees, nor scholars for gowns
1738 Swift, Polite Comers Dial I,
Tom, how is it that you can't see
the wood for trees 1876 Hudson,
Shepherd's Life, ch 11, There are many
more which may not be spoken of, since
we do not want to lose sight of the wood
on account of the trees

3 Wood half burnt is easily kindled
1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1670
Ray, 30 1732 Fuller, No 5812
["half-coal" for "half burnt"]

4 Woods have ears See Fields
See also Born (6)

Woodcock does not make a winter,
One 1659 Howell II 1664 I
Wilson Cheats I 11, One woodcock
makes no winter 1736 Bailey, Dict,
s v "Woodcock." 1846 Denham,
Proverbs, 31 (Percy S)

Wood-cock See quot 1927 R. L
Gales, Old-World Essays, 251. "When
Daniel's in the lion's den, Then the
woodcock comes again" That is of
course some time in October

Wood-cock See also Partridge (1),
Snipe, and Wise (4)

Wooden, adj 1 A wooden dagger in
a painted sheath 1639 Clarke, 6
2 A wooden leg is better than no leg
1732 Fuller, No 483

3 I'll not wear the wooden dagger
1670 Ray, 198

4 The wooden horse = The gallows
f 1550 in Hazlitt, E Pop Poetry,
in 26r, Your happe may be to wag
upon a wooden nagge 1654 Gayton,
Pleasant Notes Don Q. 119, Others
vale and couch it, when riding the
wooden horse 1680 D. Urfey, Vir-
tuous Wife, II 11, I'de ride the wooden
horse ere be troubled with her imper-
tince

5 To get a wooden suit = To be dead
and buried 1896 Folk-Lore, vii
377 (Staffs)

6 Wooden legs See Run (11)

Wood Fidley rain See quot 1863
Wise, New Forest, ch vii, The Forest
proverb of "Wood Fidley rain," that
is rain which lasts all the day
Wood-pecker. See quo. c. 1489: Caxton, Blanchehardyn., etc., 173 (E.E.T.S.), Men saye in a comyn langage, that "neuer noo wodewoll [wood-pecker] dyde brede a sperhawke."

Wood-pigeon. See quo. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 92. Like the Quest [wood-pigeon], always saying "do, do," but everybody knows it makes the worst nest \( i \) th' wood.

Wood's dog. See quo. 1732: Fuller, No. 3241, Like Wood's dog; he'll neither go to church nor stay at home. 1880: W. D. Parish, in N. & Q., 6th ser., ii. 160, "Why," said the old man [Selmeston, Sussex]. "it has been a say as long ago as I was a child, Contrairey as Wood's dog, that wouldn't go out nor yet stop at home." Cf. Hunt's dog.

Woosers and widows are never poor. c. 1550: Udall, R. Doister, i. ii. Cf. Widow (10).

Wool or warp of any business, To make. 1639: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 30 (1885). It'll make abb or warp of it (Gloucester). 1678: Ray, 278.

Wooing. 1. Happy is the wooing that is not long a-doing. 1576: Parad. of D. Devices, in Brit. Bibliog., iii. 71 (1812). Thris happie is that wooing, That is not long a doynge. 1606: Sir Giles Goosecappe, III. ii., ["Blest" for "Happy"]. 1621: Burton, Melancholy, III. ii. vi. 5, 615 (1836), Blessed is, etc. 1707: Centlivre, Plat. Lady, III. i. They zay 'tis very unlucky to be long a wooing. 1730: Fielding, Tom Thumb, ii. ix. 1842: Barham, Ing. Legends, 2nd ser., "Sir Rupert."

2. The wooing was a day after the wedding. 1732: Fuller, No. 4840.


2. There is no wool so white but a dyer can make it black. 1576: Pettie, Pet. Pallace, ii. 69 (Gollancz), I see there is no wool so coarse but it will take some colour. 1580: Lyly, Euphues, 330 (Arber), There is no wool so white but the diar can make blace. 1732: Fuller, No. 4927.

3. To come for wool and go home shorn. 1612: Shelton, Quixote, pt. i. bk. i. ch. vii., Considering how many there go to seek for wool that return again shorn themselves! 1694: D'Urfey, Quixote, pt. i. IV. i. Several come for wool that return shorn. 1710: Palmer, Moral Essays on Proverbs, 148, Many go to seek wool, and come home shorn. 1822: Scott, Nigel, ch. xxiii., But, lack-a-day! thou art one of those that come out for wool, and art sure to go home shorn.

4. You may keep wool till it's dirt, and flax till it's silk. 1732: Fuller, No. 5950.

5. You were better give the wool than the sheepe. 1670: Ray, 30. See also Warm (2).

Wool-gathering, His wits are. 1560: Wilson, Rhetorique, 107 (1899), As though our wittes and our senses were a woll gathering. 1580: Lyly, Euphues 415 (Arber), My witts were not al this while a woll-gathering. 1665: Pepys, Diary, Oct. 5, My mind is run a' wool-gathering. 1580: Lyly, Euphues 415 (Arber), My witts were not al this while a woll-gathering. 1841: Dickens, Barn. Rudge, ch. lv., He's so dead scared, he's wool-gathering, I think.

Woolly fleeces. See quo. 1555: L. Digges, Prognostication, sig. B2, If thyccl clowdes resembling flockes, or rather great heapes of wool, be gathered in many places, they shewe rayne, 1658: Willsford, Natures Secrets, 125. When the clouds seem piled upon heape like fleeces of wool, it presages wet weather, and neer at hand. 1831: Hone, Year-Book, 300, If woolly fleeces spread the heavenly way, No rain be sure, disturbs the summer's day [a flat contradiction to 1555 and 1658]. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 50 (Percy S.) [as in 1831].


Worcester. 1. See quo. 1882: Mrs. Chamberlain, W. Worc. Words, 39 (E.D.S.), "It shines like Worcester against Gloucester " is a very old saying. 2. Worcester, poor, proud and pretty. Ibid., 39, It is proverbial that the
Worcester ladies are “Poor, proud, and pretty” 1594 Northall, Folk Phrases, 33 (E.D.S.)

Word and Words 1 A word and a blow c 1568 Wager, Longer than Livest, sig D1 This is manhoodo to make thee bolde, Let there be but a worde and a blow 1592 Shakespeare Romeo, III 1. And but one word with one of us? Couple it with something, make it a word and a blow 1678 Bunyan Pilgr Progr, pt I 71 (1849) So soon as the man overtook me, he was but a word and a blow for down he knocked me, and laid me for dear 1720 C Shadwell, Irish Hosp, I, Come Ned, let’s to my sisters for my uncle is a country wit, a word and a blow 1768 Franklin, in Works, iv 158 (Bigelow), It is said of choleric people, that with them there is but a word and a blow 1866 R L S, Kidnapped, ch vi, All, as the saying goes, are at a word and a blow with their best friends.

2 A word and a stone See Throw (5)

3 A word before is worth two behind 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v “Word”

4 A word spoken is an arrow let fly 1509 Barclay, Ship of Fools, 1 108 (1874), A worde ones spokyn reached can nat be 1596 Lodge, Devl Concerned, 53 (Hunt Cl), Words are like arrows, which are easily shot out, but hardly got in again 1639 Clarke 51, A word spoke is past recalling 1733 Fuller, No 486

5 A word to the wise is enough [Dictum sapienti sat est — Plautus, Pers., 4, 7, 19] 1577 Rhodes, Boke of Nurture, in Babes Book, 88 (E.E.T.S). For few worde towys men is best c 1508 Jonson, Case is Altered, I 1, Fresto Go to, a word to the wise, away, fly, vanish, 1616 Haughton, Englishm for my Money, III 1. They say, a word to the wise is enough 1697 Vanbrugh, Esop, III 1711 Addison Spectator No 221 1768 Sterne, Sent Journey, 157 (1794) 1819 Scott, Bride of L, ch vi, But what sayeth the proverb, verbum sapienti—a word is more to him that hath wisdom than a sermon to a fool

6 Deliver your words not by number but by weight 1655 Bohn, 343

7 From words to deeds is a great space 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov

8 He that sells wares for words must live by the loss 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v ‘Wares”

9 His word is his bond Before 1400 Chaucer, Book of the Duchesse, 1 935, No lasse flattering in his worde, That purely, his simple recorde Was founde as trewe as any bonde 1630 Brathwait, Engl Geal, 148 (1641) For his word is his gage 1633 F. Lenten, Characters, sig G8 (1663), His word is as good as his bond 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, iv 239 (1785), You know that my word has always been looked upon as my bond 1812 Combe, Syntax Past Tour, can xx 1886 R L S, Kidnapped, ch iv, ‘I’m a queer man, and strange we’ strangers, but my word is my bond, and there’s the proof of it 1924 A Dobson, in Poet Works, 453 (1923), Fixed our word as our bond has been.

10 While the word is in your mouth it is your own, when ‘tis once spoken, ‘tis another’s 1646 A Brome, in Rob Ballads, VIII 39 (B S), Our words are our own, if we keep them within 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v “Word”

11 Words and feathers are lost by the wind 1650 Ray, 30

12 Words are but sands, it’s money buys lands 1659 Howell, 17 1732 Fuller, No 6166

13 Words are but words, c 1620

14 Words are wind 1825

Auct Randle, 122, hwa is word bute wind? c 1390 Gower, Conf Amants, bk III 1 2768, For word is wynd c 1450 Lydgate, Secrees, 39 (E.E.T.S), Word is but wynd leff word and tal, the deede 1509

Barclay, Ship of Fools, 1 207 (1874) 1587 Greene Works, III 102 (Grosart), 1660 Tatham Kump, V 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, vi 212 (1785), Words are wind, but deeds are munde 1823 Scott, Durward, ch vi, "Hard words, or kind ones," said the Zingaro.
“are but wind.” 1866: G. Eliot, Felix Holt, ch. xi.

15. Words are women. See Deeds.
16. Words cut more than swords—variously phrased. Before 1225: Aucr. Rivet, 74, Mo slea word ßene sword. 1594: Churchyard, Mirror of Man, sig. A4 (1816), Sharp words makes more wounds then surgeons can heale. 1621: Burton, Melancholy, I. II. iv. 4, 223 (1836), It is an old saying, a blow with a word strikes deeper than a blow with a sword. 1659: Howell, 13. 1732: Fuller, No. 575, An acute word cuts deeper than a sharp weapon. 1871: Smiles, Character, 170, There are words that strike even harder than blows.

17. Words have long tails; and have no tails, 1678: Ray, 221.
18. Words may pass but blows fall heavy. 1633: Drakeo, 103, Words are but winde but blowes are venkide. 1678: Ray, 354.

See also Deeds; Fair (29)-(40); Few words; Good words; High (6); and Soft words.

Work, verb. 1. He that will not work will want. 1633: Drakeo, 109, He that will not labour must not eat. 1639: Clarke, 163.
2. He that works after his own manner, his head aches not at the matter. 1640: Herbert, Jac. Prudentium.
4. To work by the great = To do piece-work. 1585: Nomenclator, 502, He that undertaketh to doe a peice of worke upon a prase, and (as they say) by great. 1626: Breton, Fantasticks, 13 (Grosart), The labourer by great will be walking toward his worke. 1662: Gerbier, Disc. of Building, 26, Let builders put their designs to master-workmen by the great. 1711: Spectator, No. 22, Adv. at end., Any person may agree by the great, and be kept in repair by the year. 1742: North, Lives of Norths, ii. 282 (Bohn), They . . . keep hirelings in garrets, at hard meat, to write and correct by the great. 1884: R. Lawson, Upton-on-Severn Words, 17 (E.D.S.), Work by the gret. Piece-work. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 146.
5. To work for a dead horse. See Dead (25).
6. To work for needfire. See quot. 1879: Henderson, Folk-Lore of N. Counties, 168, The North-country proverb, “to work as if working for needfire,” shows how prevalent this custom [of producing fire, through the smoke of which cattle were passed, by the friction of two pieces of wood] has been in the border counties as in Scotland.

7. Work to-day, for you know not how much you may be hindered to-morrow. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 3 (Percy S.). See also Workman.


Workman. 1. As is the workman so is the work. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. “Ouvrier,” Like workman like work. 1732: Fuller, No. 702.
2. It is working that makes a workman. Ibid., No. 3034.

See also Ill workman.

World. I. All the world and his wife.
1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. III., Pray, madam, who were the company? Lady Smart Why, there was all the world and his wife. 1766: Anstey, New Bath Guide, 130 (1767), How he welcomes at once all the world and his wife, and how civil to folk he ne'er saw in his life! 1816: Byron, Letters, etc., iii. 266 (Prothero), In the mean time, I am at war "with all the world and his wife." 1848: Dickens, Domby, ch. xviii. 1920: Sphere, April, 10, p. 36, col. i.
2. A world to see! = wonderful to see. c. 1475: Assembly of Ladies, l. 539. For yonge and olde, and every maner age, It was a world to looke on her visage. 1519: Four Elements, in Hazlitt, O. Plays, i. 35. It is a world to see her whirl, Dancing in a round.
3 Had you the world on your chessboard, you could not fit all to your mind

4 The world is a ladder for some to go up and some down 1659 Howell, Proverbs ItaL-Eng, i The world is like a ladder, one goeth up the other down 1732 Fuller, No 4841

5 The world is a tail and happy is he that gets hold on 1742 North, Lives of Norths ii 150 (Bohn) [quoted as "a proverb"]

6 The world is but a day's walk, for the sun goes about it in twenty four hours 1616 Rich Cabinet, fo 160

7 The world is full of fools 1627 in Harl Miscell, iu 193 (1744) 1642 Discovery of divers sorts of Asses, sig A4 [with addition "and asses"]

8 The world is his who enjoys it 1736 Bailey, Dict s v "World"

9 The world is his who knows how to wait for it 1875 Cheales, Proverbial Folk-Lore, 48

10 The world is too narrow for two fools a quarrelling 1732 Fuller, No 4841

11 The world is well amended with him 1633 Drake, 4 The world is somewhat amended for him 1672 Walker, Paræm, 26

12 The world runs on wheels 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, pt II ch vii 1592 Greene, Works, x 203, How is it sweete wench, goes the worlde on wheeles that you tred so daintily on your typtoes? 1614 B Rich, Honestie of this Age, 30 (Percy S), They were wont to say, the world did rump on wheeles 1673 Vinegar and Mustard, 9, in Hindley, Old Book Coll Misc, iu, Now you are come ashore, you think the world runs
on wheels, and that all the world is oatmeal

13 The world was never so dull, but if one will not, another will 1670 Ray, 158 1732 Fuller, No 6451

14 This is the world and the other is the country 1678 Ray, 84

15 This world is nothing except it tend to another 1670 Ray, 31

16 To have the world at will c 1535 Dialogues of Creatures, chv (1616), He that is prosperous and hath the world at wyl 1586 Pettie, Guazzo, fo 165, Men haung the world at will, as he hath, are nearer but merrie 1629 Book of Meery Riddles Prov 52, He that hath the world at will, seems wise 1680 L'Estrange, Tully's Offices, 82, Take a wise man, that has the world at will

17 To have the world in a string See Have in a string

Worm and Worms 1 He has a worm in his brain 1678 Ray, 278 1754 Berthelson Eng-Danish Dict, s v "Worm," He has got a worm in his head

2 To be or to make worms' meat c 1430 Lydgate, Daunce of Mashabree, l 649, That wormes food is fine [end] of our luyng c 1483 Quatuor Sermones, 28 (Royb Cl), After thyn ende thou shalt be but wormys mete 1592 Shakespeare, Romeo, III i, They have made worms' meat of me 1660 Cotgrave, s v "Estat," Every creature is wormes meat 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v "State," Every state is worms meat

3 Tread on a worm and it will turn 1546 Heywood, Proverbs, pt II ch viii, Tread a worme on the tayle, and it must turne agayne 1592 Greene, in Works, vii 143 (Grosart) 1638 Ford, Fancies, v 1, I am, my lord, a worm, pray, my lord, tread on me, I will not turn again 1710 S Palmer, Moral, Essays on Proverbs, 305 c 1800 J Trusler, Proverbs in Verse 105 1816 Scott, Old Mortality, ch xxvii 1922 Weyman, Oungton's Bank, ch ix, The worm will turn, and Thomas did turn

Worse, adj x A worse friend See Friend (27)
2. There is no worse pestilence than a familiar enemy. Chaucer, Merchant's Tale, l. 549. For in this world ny's worse pestilence Than homly foo, alday in thy presence. 1538: in Lisle Papers, xii. Art. 43. It hath been an old proverb that there is no worse pestilence than a familiar enemy.

3. The worse end of the staff. See Wrong (3).

4. The worse for the rider, the better for the bidder. 1639: Clarke, 18, III for the rider, good for th'abider. 1659: Howell, 18, A fatt soyl good for the bidder, bad for the rider. 1670: Ray, 43. Before 1680: Butler, Remains, ii. 284 (1739), His discourse is like the road-miles in the North, the filthier and dirtier the longer; and he delights to dwell the longer upon them to make good the old proverb that says—they are good for the dweller, but ill for the traveller. 1725: Pegge, Kent, Proverbs, in E.D.S., No. 12, p. 75, Bad for the rider, good for th'abider. 1865: W. White, Eastern England, ii. 35, The latter... still justify in a measure the proverbs—"Bon pays, mauvais chemin," and "The worse for the rider, the better for the bidder?" Cf. Best (16).

5. The worse luck now, the better another time. 1732: Fuller, No. 4847.

6. The worse the passage, the more welcome the port. Ibid., No. 4848.

7. Worse things happen at sea. 1869: Spurgeon, John Ploughman, ch. v.

8. Worse ware. See quot. 1762: Smollett, Sir L. Greaves, ch. xvi., Marry hap, worse ware may have a better chap [market], as the saying goes.


Worship, verb. They that worship God merely for fear, Would worship the devil too, if he appear. 1732: Fuller, No. 6414.

Worst, adj. adv. and subs. i. He that worst may still holds the candle. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, pt. II. ch. ii., Who that worst male shall holde the candell. 1576: Pettie, Pet. Pallace, ii. 54 (Gollancz), How unequally it is provided that those which worst may, are driven to hold the candle! 1639: in Berkeley MSS., iii. 32 (1885) ["must hold" for "still holds"]. 1670: Ray, 159. 1732: Fuller, No. 2361.

2. If the worst come to the worst. 1597: Discouerie of Knights of the Poste, sig. C3. 1620: Shelton, Quixote, Pt. II. ch. lxiii. 1637: Shirley, Example, ii. i. 1682: A. Behn, City Heiress, III. i. 1700: Congreve, Way of World, III. xviii. 1719: Defoe, C出示, 234 (1883). If the worse come to the worst. [This is a more reasonable form of the saying than the usual one.] 1866. R. L. S., Kidnapped, ch. i. 1900: Pinero, Gay Lord Quex, III.

3. The worst can fall but a denial. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, pt. 1. ch. xi. If the worst fell, we could hane but a naie. 1659: Howell, 14.

4. The worst dog that is. See Dog (81).


6. The worst piece. See All is well.


9. When things are at the worst they will mend. 1600: Sir John Oldcastle, l. 1899 (Malone S.), Patience good madame, things at worst will mend. 1691: Merry Drollerie, 56 (Ebsworth). 1748: Richardson, Clarissa, iii. 263 (1785). 1824: Scott, Redgauntlet, ch. xii. 1841: Dickens, Barn. Rudge, ch. xx., When things are at the worst they are sure to mend.

See also Provide.

Worth, adj. and subs. i. He is worth gold that carries ii. 1732: Fuller, No. 1956.

2. The worth of a thing is known by its want. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Cognue," The worth of things is knowne
when they be lost 1694 D'Urfey, Quixote, pt I V n 1748 Richardson, Clarissa, iv 238 (1785), Worth is best known by want! I know her's now e 1800 J Trusler, Proverbs in Verse, 24 Cf Water (22)

3 The worth of a thing is what it will bring 1663 Butler, Hudibras, II 1 465, For what is worth in any thing, But so much money as 'twill bring 1847 Halliwell, Dict, s v "Thing"

4 The worth of water See Water (22)

5 To be worth a plum = To be rich A 'plum' in this sense is usually supposed to be £100 000 1714 Mandeville, Fable of Bees, 83, If a miser who is almost a plum and spends but fifty pounds a year — 1754 Connoisseur No 19, I once saw a grave citizen, worth a plum, order a twopenny mess of broth 1789 G Parker, Life's Painter, 216, A London merchant worth a plumb 6 To be worth one's weight in gold c 1500 Medwall, Nature, I 936, Nay year worth thy weight of gold 1587 Turberville, Trag Tales, etc, 45 (1837), So faire a friend is worth her weight in gold 1698 Terence made English, 224 (2nd ed), I look upon thee at present to be worth thy weight in gold 1836 Marryat, Easy, ch xxxvi, I have [a servant] who is worth his weight in gold 1891 Hardy, Tess, ch vi 1936 Phillpotts, Peacock House, 40

What is worth doing, so is worth doing well 1875 Cheales, Proverb Folk-Lore, 138 1893 R L S, Ebb-Tide, ch viii 1915 Wells, Beadby, ch v § 8, "If a thing's worth doing at all," said the Professor "it's worth doing well"

See also Jew's eye

Wot, verb = to know 1 I wot well how the world wags 1639 Clarke, 97 1670 Ray, 158 [as in 1639, plus —] he is most lov'd that hath most bags 1732 Fuller, No 6452 [as in 1670] 1736 Bailey, Dict, s v "Wag" [as in 1670]

2 I wot what I wot, though I few words make 1546 Heywood Proverbs, pt II ch vii 1617 Davies of Hereford, Sc of Folly, 47, in Works II (Grosart), I wot what I wot

Wotton hill See quot 1639 in Berkeley MSS, ui 33 (1885), When Wotton hill doth weare a cap, Let Horton towne beware of that

Wotton under Weyer, Where God came never 1610 P Holland, tr Camden's Britannia, 587 1662 Fuller, Worthies, ui 127 (1849) 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss s v "Stars" [* comes "for" 'came']

Wranglers are never in the wrong 1633 Draxe, 243, A wrangler never wanteth words 1670 Ray, 31, Wranglers never want words 1732 Fuller, No 5333

Wrapped in mother's smock, To be = To be born lucky—probably connected with the popular idea of the luck attaching to a caul 1590 Greene, in Works, vii 1798, How should I be used, but as one that was wrapt in his mothers smock when hee was borne 1632 Randolph, Jealous Lovers, II 11, Did not I tell you, sir, that I was born With a caul upon my face? My mother wrapp'd me In her own smock. 1681 Davenport, City Nightcap, II 1707 Centlivre, Platonick Lady, IV 11, My hero I adov thou wert wrapp'd up in thy mother's—Faith thou wert 1785 Grose, Class Dict Vulgar Tongue, s v "Wraip up," He was wrapt up in the tall of his mother's smock, saying of any one remarkable for his success with the ladies 1813 Brand, Pop Arrôg, vii 115 (Bohn), The vulgar saying, "Oh, you are a lucky man, you were wrapped up in a part of your mother's smock"

Whath See Anger (4)

Wrekin, All friends round the Shropshire 1700 Congreve, Way of World, III xv, You could intreat to be remem ber'd then to your friends round the Wrekin 1706 Farquhar, Recruiting Officer, Dedn, To all friends round the Wrekin 1755 Connoisseur, No 119 1825 Lamb, in Letters, ii 680 (Lucas), Love and recollects to all the Wms Doras, Marys round your Wrekin 1871 N & Q, 4th ser, vn 9

Wren I To bleed a wren according
Wriggle

to its veins [which are very small] = cut your coat according to your cloth. c. 1430: in Babees Book, etc., 45 (E.E.T.S.), A man must spende as he may that hath but easy good, For after the wrenneth lath veynes, men must lete his blood.

2. Wrists may prey where eagles dare not perch. 1855: Bohn, 572.

See also Eagle (3); Robin, and Spider (4).

Wriggle about like a snig [eel] in a bottle, To. 1917: Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 146.


Write. I. He may even go wrte to his friends. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, pt. II. ch. iv., Ye male wrtye to your frendes that ye are in heith. 1670: Ray, 176, He may even go wrte to his friends. We say it of a man when all his hopes are gone.

2. Write down the advice of him who loves you, though you like it not at present. 1855: Bohn, 572.

3. Write with the learned, but speak with the vulgar. 1732: Fuller, No. 5837.

4. You may write on it. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lanes. Sayings, 23, Yo' may write on't (you may rest assured of it).

Wrong, adj. I. To be in the wrong box. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, pt. II. ch. ix., And therby in the wrong boxe to thryve ye weare. 1590: Greene, in Works, vii. 88 (Grosart), If . . . thou thinkest . . . thou arte (sweet servant) in a wrong box, and sittest far beside the cushion. Before 1658: Cleveland, Works, 347 (1742), Faith you were in the wrong box. 1700: Brown in Works, iii. 41 (1760), Some pert critic will tell me now, that I have lost my way in digressions. Under favour, this critic is in the wrong box, for digressions properly belong to my subject. 1838: Dickens, Twist, ch. xvii., I very much question . . . whether the Clerkinwell Sessions will not find themselves in the wrong box before they have done with me. 1849: Lytton, Caxtons, pt. II. ch. iv.

2. To come on the wrong side of the blanket = To be illegitimate. 1771: Smollett, Clinkert, in Works, vi. 381 (1817), My mother was an honest woman. I didn't come on the wrong side of the blanket. 1820: Scott, Monastery, ch. xxxvii., Who, men say, was akin to the Fierce on the wrong side of the blanket. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lanes. Sayings, 38, He were gotten o' th' wrank side o' th' blanket.

3. To have the wrong end of the stick. 1534: in Two Coventry C.C. Plays, 49 (E.E.T.S.), He schal be sure, asse God me saue, Eyuer the worse yend of the staff to haue. 1573: Harvey, Letter-Book, 5 (Camden S.), He was faint to put it up quickly bycause he knew he had the wors end of the staf. 1664: J. Wilson: Cheats, I. iv., If at any time you find you have the worst end of the staff, leave off your cause and fall upon the person of your adversary. 1740: North, Lives of Norths, i. 144 (Bohn), He that has the worse end of the staff is very apt to fling off from the point. 1901: F. E. Taylor, Lanes. Sayings, 22, Theaw's getten howd o' th' wrong eend o' th' stick.

4. To have the wrong sow by the ear. 1546: Heywood, Proverbs, pt. II. ch. ix., Ye tooke the wrong way to wood, and the wrong sow by theear. 1596: Jonson, Ev. Man in his Humour, II. i., When he is got into one o' your city ponds, the counters, he has the wrong sow by the ear, i' faith. 1664: Butler, Hudibras, II. ii. 580, You have a wrong sow by the ear. 1738: Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. I. 1798: T. Dibdin, Jew and Doctor, I. ii., If you come to apuse Miss Emily, I tell you, you have got de wrong sow in your ear. 1857: Hughes, Tom Brown, Pt. II. ch. ii.

5. To rise on the wrong side of the bed. 1653: R. Brome, Court-Begger, II. [Citwit complains that he has been robbed, and continues]—My watch is gone out of my pocket too o' th right side. Dai. You rose o' the wrong side to-day it seems. 1676: A. Behn, Town-Fop, V. i., Sure I rose the wrong way to-day. I have had such damn'd ill luck. 1824: Scott, Redgauntlet, ch. xx., Thou
Wrong

art angry this morning I think 1828 Carr, Craven Dialect, i 29, Thou's gotten out at wrang side o' th' bed, i.e. thou art peevish and ill-tempered 1921 Hutchinson, If Winter Comes, pt II ch iii (ii), As a matter of fact that's why I came back I got out of bed the wrong side this morning, didn't I? 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 27

Wyndy

Wrong, subs All wrong comes to wrack 1736 Bailey, Dict, s.v "Wrong"

Wryneck See quot 1879 Henderson, Folk-Lore of N Counties, 254, Corresponding with the Lancashire saying, "He caps Wryneck, and Wryneck caps the Dule," s.e. the Devil

Wybunbury See Wembury

Wye, Kent See Ashford

Wye, River See Severn

Wykin See Higham

Wylam See Heddon

Wyndham. See Horner

Wyndy as a w[h]isket [a kind of basket], As Said of a forgetful person


Year and Years. 1. A *good year* will not make him, and an *ill year* will not break him. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Year."
2. *As the year is, your pot must seethe.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum.*
5. *Tis yer’d*—spoken of a desperate debt. 1678: Ray, 344.
6. *Years and years.* *See quot. 1913:* E. M. Wright, *Rustic Speech, etc.*, 34. Years ago—years and years and donkey’s ears, as the saying is.
7. *Years know more than books.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum.*
8. *Year’s mind.* *See Month’s mind.*
2. *As yellow as a kite’s foot.* 1630: Davenant, *Just Italian*, 1, Yellow as foot of kite. 1863: Wise, *New Forest*, ch. xvi., Forest proverbs . . . such as "As yellow as a kite’s claw." 1880: Courtney, *W. Cornwall Words*, 32 (E.D.S). 20th cent. at Mawgan, W. Cornwall "Yellow as a kid’s foot" (Mr. C. Lee).
7. *As yellow as the golden noble.* 1678: Ray, 350.
8. *A yellow band and a green wit*—an allusion to the fashion for yellow starch. 1614: B. Rich, *Irish Hubbub*, 41 [cited as "a true proverb "]
9. *He wears yellow stockings = He is jealous.* 1607: Dekker, etc., *Northw. Hoe*, I., Jealous men are eyther knaues or coxcombs . . . you weare yellow hose without cause. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Yellow."

Yeoman. *See quot. 1732:* Fuller, No. 488, A yeoman upon his legs is higher than a prince upon his knees.
1736: Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, i. 448 (Bigelow). A ploughman on his legs is higher than a gentleman on his knees.
Yesterday will not be called again

See Call, verb (3)

Yew See quot 1908 W Johnson, 
Folk Memory, 354 The New Forest proverb is almost literally true, "A post of yew will outlast a post of iron"

Yoke, Irwell, Medlock, and Fame, when they meet with the Mersey, do lose their name 1869 Hazlitt, 482

These are the names of small streams, which flow into the larger one, and so lose their individuality

York. I As much as York excels soul
Sutton 1732 Fuller, No 715

2 I cannot be at York and London at the same time Ibid, No 2588

3 Three P s of York Pretty, Poor, Proud 1869 Hazlitt, 403

4 York has the highest rack, but
Durham has the deepest manger 1846-59 Denham Tracts, 1 42 (F L S) Cf Canterbury

5 York, you're wanted 1816 T Morton, The Slate II iv 1866 N & Q, 3rd ser, v 355, "York, you're wanted" This phrase is commonly used on board a man-of-war when something goes wrong by reason of the absence of "the right man" from the "right place"

See also Lincoln and Oxford

Yorkshire I A Yorkshire tike, or bite = A native of Yorkshire c 1600 Deloney, Thos of Reading, ch v, Do you think that any can beare the flirts and frumps, which that Northern tike gave me the last time he was in towne? 1659 Howell, 2r, Yorkshire tikes 1762 Smollett, Sir L Greaves, ch xxii, I've a poor Yorkshire tike my name is Tim Crabshaw 1817 Scott Rob Roy, ch iv, Thou kens I'm an outspoken Yorkshire tyke 1866 Brogden, Lines Words, 228, Who respond by calling the people beyond the Humber 'Yorkshire Bites' 1893 Crockett, Sluckt Munster, 268, The dialect of the "Tykes" of Yorkshire

2 A Yorkshire way-bit = longer than a mile 1639-46 in Rump Songs, pt 1 p 123 (1662), (Repr 1874). For 'tis (to speak in a familiar style), A Yorkshire wea-bit, longer then a mile

1640 Rous, Diary, 103 (Camden S), A Yorkshire way-bit, longer then a mile Before 1658 Cleveland, Works, 27 (1742) [as in 1640] 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Yorkshire"

3 He's Yorkshire too Ibid, s v "Yorkshire" Master's Yorkshire too 1796 Wolcot, Works, iv 102 (1796). But, hang the fellow, "he was Yorkshire too" 1803 Kenney, Raising the Wind, 1 I, Aye and you see I come fra—Yorkshire 1878 Folk-Lore Record, 1 174. The saying He's Yorkshire, which is equivalent to "he's a sharp fellow"

4 To come Yorkshire over one = To over-reach or cheat 1700 Speck to the Bath, ro (O). I ask'd what countryman my landlord was? Answer was made full North, and faith 'twas very evident, for he had put the Yorkshire most dammably upon us 1757 Lanes Dialect, quoted in Sternberg, Dialect, etc of Northants, 127, Yorkshire, to put Yorkshire to a man is to track or deceive him 1839 Dickens, Nickleby, ch xli, It's not exactly what we understand by "coming Yorkshire over us" in London

See also Bishop Bugg

Yorkshireman I A Yorkshireman's coat of arms a fly, a flea, a magpie, and a flutter of bacon 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Yorkshire" 1846-59 Denham Tracts, 1 119 (F L S) 1883 N & Q, 7th ser, vi 368, a flea, a fly, and a magpie

2 Give a Yorkshireman a halter, and he'll find a horse 1669 Hazlitt, 191

3 Shake a bridle over a Yorkshireman's grave, and he will arise and steal a horse 1790 Grose, Prov Gloss, s v "Yorkshire" 1922 N & Q, 12th ser, vi 499

You I Since you know all and I nothing, tell me what I dreamed last night 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentium

2 You and I draw both in the same yoke 1732 Fuller, No 5840

3 You are a fine fellow to fetch the devil a priest Ibid, No 5841

4 You are an honest man, and I am your uncle and that's two lies Ibid, No 5845
5. You are a sweet nut. 1583: Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig. X3. You are a sweete nut, the deuill cracke you. 1732: Fuller, No. 5844. You are a sweet nut, if you were well crackt.

6. You are not one of our paste. 1672: Walker, *Param.*.

7. You cannot tell [count], you are naught to keep sheep. 1607: Wilkins, *Mrs. of Enforced Marriage*, in Hazlitt, *O. Plays*, ix. 477. And if you cannot tell, beauty, I take the adage for my reply: You are naught to keep sheep. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 172. If you can't tell you are naught to keep sheep.


9. You to the cabbage, and I to the beef. 1732: Fuller, No. 6007.

Young, adj. and subs. 1. A man may be young in years, and yet old in hours. Ibid., No. 296.


3. A young maid married to an old man is like a new house thatched with old straw. 1659: Howell, ii (9).

4. A young man, a ruler. See quot. 15th cent.: in *Reliq. Antiquae*, i. 316 (1631), A young man, a ruler, recheles; A olde man a lechiowr, lowele; A pore man a waster, havelle; A riche man a thefe, nedele; A woman a rebawde, shameles. Thes V shalle never thrif blameles.

5. A young man negligent, an old man necessities. 1732: Fuller, No. 489.

6. A young man old makes the old man young. 1659: Howell, 9 (7).


9. A young trooper should have an old horse. Ibid., No. 493.


12. If the young man would, and the old man could, there would be nothing undone. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Would."

13. Make the young one squeak, and you'll catch the old one. 1732: Fuller, No. 3326.


16. The young are not always with their bow bent, i.e. under rule. 1678: Ray, 353.


Young

(E D S), It isn't often that the young birds feed the old 'uns,

19 Young birds See also Small birds 1605 Camden, Remains, 336 (1870) 1732 Fuller, No 6036

21 Young courtier See Courtier

22 Young doth it prick See Pricketh betimes

23 Young men may die old men must 1534 More, Works p 1139, col 2 (1557) For as we well know that a young man may dye soone so be we very sure that an olde man cannot hue long 1605 Camden, Remains 336 (1870) 1670 Ray, 126 1732 Fuller, No 6039 Cf No 14

24 Young men's knockes old men feel 1670 Ray, 38 1736 Bailey, Dict., s v 'Knock' 1748 Richardson Clarissa, iv 121 (1785),Nor is that unworthy of his notice Young men's frollicks old men feel. My devilish gout, God help me—

25 Young men think old men fools, but old men know the young men are 1577 J Grange Golden Aphroditis, sig O2 1605 Chapman, All Fools, v 1 1642 D Rogers, Matrim Honour, 88, Children will say that old folkes dote, and are fooles, but old ones know that children are so 1738 Swift, Polite Convers Dial I, You think us old fellows are fools, but we old fellows know young fellows are fools 1901 F E Taylor, Lanc Sayings, 11, Young folk, think'n at owd folk are foo's, but owd folk know'n at young tins are

26 Young prodigat in a coach will be old beggar bare-foot 1732 Fuller, No 6042

27 Young saint old devil 1493 Dives et Pauper, fo 34 (1536) It is a common proverbe young saynt olde deuyll 1552 Latmer, Sermons, 431 (P S) 1592 Greene in Works, x 239 (Grosart), Fie vpon such as say, young saints, olde devils it is no doubt a devilish and damnable saying 1677 A. Behn, Roner, pt I I 11, There's no sinner like a young saint 1725 Bailey, tr Erasm Coll., 44. There is an old saying a young saint and an old

devil 1846 T Wright, Essays on Middle Ages, 1 146, We say 'young hypocrite, old devi'

28 Young wenches make old wenches 1639 Clarke, 174 1670 Ray, 51 Younger brother 1 The younger brother hath the more wit 1616 Sharp ham Cypis's Whirligig III, 'The reason the younger brothers (according to the old wunis tales) alwayes prooned the wisest men 1678 Ray, 85

2 The younger brother the better gentleman 1642 Fuller Holy State 'Younger Brother,' Some account him the better gentleman of the two, because son to the more ancient gentleman 1738 Swift, Polite Convers, Dial 1

3 To make a younger brother of one 1597 Discoveries of Knights of the Postle, sig Cz, Drawer (quot he) thou must not thinke to make a younger brother of me 1678 Ray, 85, He has made a younger brother of him

Youth 'A lazy youth a lousy age 1736 Bailey, Dict., s v 'Youth'

2 If youth knew what age would crave, it would both get and save 1611 Cotgrave, s v 'Jeunesse,' If youth knew what to do, and age could do what it knows, no man would ever be poore 1670 Ray, 160 1732 Fuller, No 6085

3 What youth wones [as accustomed to] See quot 1393 Brunne, Handl Synne, 1 7674, 'Yu a prowerbe of olde englys Tellé men, and soe hyt y's,' 'bat yngge wones, ye age mones, ha to dedyst ones ha dedyst eftsones'

4 Youth and age will not agree 1659 Howell, 19 1683 Meriton, Yorkshire Ale, 83-7 (1697), Youth and Age will never agree

5 Youth and white paper take any impression 1579 Lyl, Euphues, 37 (Arber), The tender youth of a child is apt to receive any forme 1630 Brathwait Engt Gent, etc. 3 (1641), Youth being indeed the philosophers rasa tabula is apt to receive any good impression 1670 Ray, 31 1732 Fuller, No 6066 1820 Lamb, South Sea House, His mind was in its original state of white paper
6. Youth riotously led, breedeth a loathsome old age. 1588: Cogan, Haven of Health, Epis. Ded., That saying not so common as true: Youth, etc.

7. Youth will be served. 1579: Lyly, Euphues, 124 (Arber). We haue an olde (prouerbe), youth wil haue his course. 1633: S. Marmion, Fine Companion, I. vii., Troth, uncle, youth will have his swing. 1851: Borrow, Lavengro, iii. 291, Youth will be served, every dog has his day, and mine has been a fine one. 1896: Doyle, Rodney Stone, ch. x. 1921: A. Porterfield, "Youth will be served" [Story] in Harper’s Mag., Nov. 696.


3. Yule is come, and Yule is gone, And we have feasted well; So Jack must to his flail again, And Jenny to her wheel. 1846: Denham, Proverbs, 67 (Percy S.).


See also Bare as the birch; Christmas; Dark; Every day’s; Fool (78); Martinmas (1); and Year (3).

Z

Zeal without knowledge is fire without light. 1732: Fuller, No. 6069.

Zeal without knowledge is the sister of folly. 1611: Davies of Hereford, Sc. of Folly, 42 in Works, ii. (Grosart). 1633: Draxe, 246.

Zeal without prudence is frenzy. 1732: Fuller, No. 6070.