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ENGLISH PROVERBS AND  
PROVERBIAL PHRASES,  
A HISTORICAL DICTIONARY



# ENGLISH PROVERBS AND PROVERBIAL PHRASES

A HISTORICAL DICTIONARY

BY

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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 *Prouerbes or Adagies out of Erasmus*, 1539; Heywood's *Proverbs*, 1546, and *Epigrams*, 1562; Florio's *First Fruites*, 1578, and *Second Frutes*, 1591; a number in Camden's *Remains*, 1605; Draxe's *Bibliotheca Scholastica Instructissima*, 1633; Clarke's *Paræmiologia Anglo-Latina*, 1639; George Herbert's *Jacula Prudentum*, 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 Hendyng*, 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 Horman's *Vulgar*, 1519, Palsgrave's *L'Éclaircissement de la langue Française*, 1530, Withals' *Little Dictionary for Children*, 1556, and Lewis's revisal of that work, 1586, Huloet's *Abcedarium*, 1552, Baret's *Alvearie*, 1580, Florio's *World of Wordes*, 1598, Cotgrave's *French-English Dictionary*, 1611, Torriano'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 AND EXPLANATIONS

## 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

l, line

(N) indicates that the quotation so marked is taken from Nares's *Glossary*

N & Q, *Notes and Queries*

N Sh S, New Shakspeare 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 *Alia* (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 Palsgrave's *L'Éclaircissement de la Langue Française*, Ed Paris 1852

1611 Cotgrave Cotgrave's *French-English Dictionary*, 1611

1633 Draxe Thomas Draxe's *Bibliotheca Scholastica Instructissima*, 1633

1639 Clarke John Clarke's *Paræmiologia Anglo-Latina*, 1639

1659 Howell James Howell's *Proverbs*, 1659

1670, 1678, etc Ray John Ray's *English Proverbs*, 1670 and subsequent editions. Reference is made to the later editions of Ray only when the saying treated does not occur in an earlier edition.

1732 Fuller Thomas Fuller's *Gnomologia*, 1732

1855 Bohn H G Bohn's *A Hand-Book of Proverbs* 1855

1869 Hazlitt W Carew Hazlitt's *English Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases*, 1869

# ENGLISH PROVERBS AND PROVERBIAL PHRASES

## A

A. 1. *A per se*=A paragon. 1475: Henryson, *Test. of Cress.*, l. 78, O fair Cresseid! the flour and A-per-se Of Troy and Grece. 1573: Harvey, *Letter-Book*, 104 (Camden S.), A verie A per se A, not her fellowe in Europe. 1631: Brathwait, *Whimzies*, 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-mylne. 1830: 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. 1917: 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, *Kynge 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 aboue the boord. 1640: Brome, *Antipodes*, III. i., Here's nothing but faire play, and all above boord. 1753: Richardson, *Grandison*, i. 185 (1883), All is fair, all is above-board: 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.

## A

## Aching

1. 3927, For princis ofte, of furious hastynesse, Wil cachche a quarel, causeles in sentence, Ageyn folk absent, thouth 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.

Abundance of things ingendereth disdainfulness. 1578: Florio, *First Fruits*, fo. 32, The plenty of things dooth ingender care. 1629: *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov. 9.

Accidents will happen. 1763: 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 teeth. *Who hath aching teeth hath ill tenants.* 1670: Ray, 26.

✓ 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 "Ake," To have an aking tooth at one, to be angry at, to have a mund 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*, I (E D S), Muster Moppett's man's got a terr'ble aching-tooth for our old sow

Acorns See Oak (5)

✓ Acquaintance of the great will I nought, For first or last dear it will be bought 15th cent in *Reliq Antiquæ*, I 205 (1841), Aqueyntanse of lordschip wyll y nought, For furste or laste dere hit will be bowght

Acres to keep a peewit, It would take an 1917 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 Eie span, Who was then the gentleman? c 1330 R Rolle in *Religious Pieces*, p 79 (E E T S 26), When Adam dalfe and Eve spane, So spire if thou may spede, Whare was thon the pride of man, That now merres his mede Before 1500 Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 131 (E E T S), Whan Adam delfid and Eve span, who was than a gentilman? 1592 Greene, *Quip*, in *Works*, XI 225 (Grosart), I will not forget the old wues logick, when Adam delud and Eue spanne who was then a gentleman? 1630 T Adams, *Works* 872 1732 Fuller, No 6421 Ray, 1670, p 210, 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 401, If the adder could hear and 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 should pass by me 1875 Parish, *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

Added 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 Ibid, No 763

✓ Adversity makes a man wise, though not rich 1633 Draxe, 6, In aduersitie men finde eies 1678 Ray, 92 1732 Fuller, No 764 See also Prosperity

Advice I 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 "Croire" 1670 Ray, I

5 We may give advice, but we cannot give conduct 1736 Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, I 451 (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 c 1582 G Harvey, *Marginalia* 192 (1913), He that is afraid of every starting grasse, may not walke in a meddow 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 then true reaporte of that he had in charge. 1580: Baret, *Alvearie*, V 92. And as our English prouerbe is, he is afraid of his owne shadowe. 1672: Walker, *Paræm.*, 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 satyryst can take up the old proverb 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. Robertson, *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, *Extravag.*, 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 *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 323 (1841), After droght commyth rayne. Before 1529: Skelton, *Magnyfycence*, l. 12, Howe after a drought there fallyth a showre of rayne.

After joy comes sorrow. 15th cent.: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 323 (1841), After plesur commethe payne. 1640: Mabbe, tr. *Exemplary Novels*, i. 59 (1900), For as it is in the proverb, after joy comes sorrow.

After meat, mustard. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 316 (1870). 1694: Motteux, *Rabelais*, bk. v. ch. xxvii. 1712: Motteux, *Don Quixote*, Pt. I. bk. iii. ch. viii., It is just like the proverb, After meat comes mustard. 1822: Scott, *Nigel*, ch. iii.

After pear. See Pear (1).

After wit. 1. *After wit comes ower late*. 1683: Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697). 1692: L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 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.

3. *After wit is not the best*. c. 1605: in Collier, *Roxb. Ballads*, 88 (1847).

After you is manners. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. II., Oh! madam; after you is good manners. 1789: O'Keeffe, *Czar 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*

for nought, except it be to catch blind horses  
 ur' S Devon 1869 Hazlitt, 355

Against the grain 1670 Ray, 178  
 1673 Dryden, *Amboyna*, 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 58,  
 But ayenst the heer it turneth 1580  
 Lyly, *Euphues*, 394 (Arber), I will goe  
 against the haire in all things, so I may  
 please thee in anye thing 1609 Shake-  
 speare, *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 Dict*, s v "Against"

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

Against the wool 1546 Heywood,  
*Proverbs*, Pt I ch xi, What, should  
 your face thus agayne the woll be  
 shorne For one fall? 1576. R  
 Peterson, *Galateo*, 25 (1892), For,  
 fromewarde [froward], signifieth as  
 muche as Shorne against the wooll  
 1693 Urquhart, *Rabelais*, bk iii 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* 1736 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 Harington,

*Metam of Ajax*, II (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 I,  
 Come, agree, agree, the law's costly

Agree like bells 1630 T Adams,  
*Works*, 192, They tune like bells, and  
 want but hanging 1683 Meriton,  
*Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697), They agree  
 like bells, they want neathing but hang-  
 ing 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 physick for a  
 king, An 1659 Howell, 20 1732  
 Fuller, No 6249 1846 Denham, *Pro-  
 verbs*, 34 (Percy S) 1904 *Co Folk-  
 Lore Northumberland*, 175 (F L S)

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

Air of a window *See Draught* (2)

Alciston *See Firlie 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 "Aul"

Alderman *See Paced*

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

Aldgate *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 Be-  
 fore 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 Etherege, *Man of Mode*,  
 I, You know the old proverb—ale and  
 history

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

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. 1530: Palsgrave, 422, They be nat all in bedde yet that shall have yvell 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. Prudentum*.

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. "Autruy." 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

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

All complain. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

• All covet all lose. 1297: Robert of Gloucester, 306 (1724) (O.), Wo so coueyteþ al, al leseþ ywys. 1523-5: Berners, *Froissart*, ch. cclix., It is an olde sayenge, He that all coveteth al leseth. 1591: Lodge, *Catharos*, 31 (Hunt. Cl.), The common prouerbe, Hee that coueteth all, often-times looseth much. 1664: J. Wilson, *The Cheats*, IV. i., 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 cry, fie on the fool. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 30.

• All doors open to courtesy. 1732: Fuller, No. 512.

All draw water. *See* Every man wishes water.

All fear is bondage. 1578: Florio, *First Fruits*, fo. 32, All fearfulnessse is folly. 1629: *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov. 35.

• All feet tread not in one shoe. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 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 footebal, fellowes 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 fyshe are not caught with flyes. 1598: Meres, *Palladis*, leaf 43. 1732: Fuller, No. 514.

• All flesh is not venison. 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Hours*, 519. 1670: Ray, 56. 1732: Fuller, No. 515. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 130.

All fool, or all philosopher. 1732: Fuller, No. 517.

All Fools' Day. *If it thunders on All Fools' Day, It brings good crops of corn and hay.* 1878: Dyer, *Eng. Folk-Lore*, 255. 1882: Mrs. Chamberlain, *W. Worcs. Words*, 37 (E.D.S.). 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 24.

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

All go we still, etc. c. 1430: Lydgate, *Minor Poems*, 150 (Percy S.), An old proverbe groundid on sapience, Alle goo we stille, the cok hath lowe 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 Wilts*, 105 (1847) 1822 Scott, in *Lockhart'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 (1)

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 xvi, Forest proverbs such as "All in a copse," that is, indistinct

All in the day's work. 1738 Swift, *Polite Conters*, 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, subs (1)

All is fish that comes to net c 1520 in *Ballads from MSS*, 1 95 (BS), Alle ys ffysse that commyth to the nett 1580 Tusser, *Husbandrie*, 87 (EDS), Alls 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 1769 Cumberland, *Brothers*, I, 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 awaits the dagger, with dudgeon haft?* 1583 Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig D3 When all is gone and notheinge lefte, farewell dagger with dudden haft 1659 Howell, *Letters*, 11 666 (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, *Phraseol 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 quodlibet esse bonum—Alanus de Insulis (ob 1294), *Parabolæ*, c iii] c 1220 *Hali Meidenhad*, 9 (EETS), Nis hit nower neh gold al pat ter schney c 1384 Chaucer, *H Fame*, bk 1 l 272, Hit is not al gold, that glareth c 1440 Lydgate, *Fall of Princes*, bk iv l 2944 (EETS), Al is not gold that shyneth briht 1583 Greene, *Mamillia*, in *Works*, 11 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 see all is not gold that glisters 1773 Garrick, *Prol 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 perul 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Perdu," All is not lost that in some danger is 1700 D Craufurd, *Courtship à-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 i th' purse 1732 Fuller, No 531 1758-67 Sterne, *Trist Shandy*, bk iii ch xxx, All is not gain that is got into the purse 1875 A B Cheales, *Proverb 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*, 11 30 (1885)

All is well that ends well c 1426 Audelay, *Poems*, 54 (Percy S), For al ys 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 Farleigh*, ch xlvii

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. Prudentum*.

All meat is not the same in every man's mouth. 1584: Lodge, *Alarum against Usurers*, 46 (Shakesp. Soc.), Who finding all things meate 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, If. 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 mouths must be fed. 1710: Ward, *Nuptial Dialogues*, ii. 360.

All my eye and Betty Martin. 1785: Grose, *Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue*, s.v. "B. M.," That's my eye betty martin, an answer to any one that attempts to impose or humbug. 1828: Carr, *Craven Dialect*, 1. 128. 1834-7: Southey, *Doctor*, ch. cxxv., Who was Betty Martin, and wherefore should she so often mentioned in connexion with my precious eye or yours? 1851: Planché, *Extravag.*, iv. 158 (1879), Only your eye and Miss Elizabeth Martin.

All of a dither. See quot. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 28, Aw of a

dither-a-wack loike a new-baked cust-hud. . . . = Trembling or shivering.

All of a heap. 1740: Richardson, *Pamela*, ii. 119 (1883), Mr. Longman, who had struck me of a heap. 1775: Sheridan, *Duenna*, II. ii. 1817: Scott, *Rob Roy*, ch. xxiv. 1842: Planché, *Extravag.*, ii. 167 (1879).

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 of a litter, quoth Lambert. 1709: O. Dykes, *Eng. Proverbs*, 43.

All of a spinning = all alike. Staffs. 1889: *Folk-Lore Journal*, vii. 294.

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

All one a hundred years hence. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Fiens," 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 our pomp the earth covers. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.* 285.

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, *Lancs Sayings*, 8, It ta'es o soarts o' folk for t' ma'e a wo'ld

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, 187

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 heave 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 Torriano, *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 iii 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) 1892 Heslop, *Northumb Words*, 2 (E D S), "Aall the world an' pairt o' Gyetside" [Gateshead], a common proverb, used jocularly

All the world goeth by fair speech Before 1500 Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 130 (E E 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 every-thing, a ginning hath it mede 1542 Boorde, *Dyetary*, 240 (E E T S), Yet euery thyng must haue a begyn-nyng 1631 Shurley, *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, *Troilus*, iii 615, As every thing hath ende c 1490 *Parionope*, l 11144 (E E T S), Ye wote wele of all thing moste be an ende 1530 Palsgrave, 527, Every thyng at the laste draweth to his ende 1593 Nashe, *Strange Neues*, in *Works*, II 212 (Grosart), Euery thing hath an end and a pudding hath two 1613 B & F, *Burning Pestle*, I ii, All things have end, And that we call a pudding hath his two 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I, 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 Gower, *Conf Amantis*, Prol, l 787, Bot in proverbe natheles Men sein, ful selden is that welthe Can soffre his oghne astat in helthe 1611 Cotgrave s v "Aise," We say, 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 *Servungmans Comfort*, in *Inedited Tracts*, 107 (Hazlitt, 1868) The clowne, the slouen, 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 1828 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 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I, 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,

No. 6372. 1853: Dickens, in *Letters*, i. 313 (1880,) All work and no play may make Peter a dull boy as well as Jack. 1919: J. A. Bridges, *Victorian Recollections*, 160, No doubt, he got sufficient amusement out of his clients to prevent Jack from becoming a dull boy.

All worse and no better, like Tom Norton's wife. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. xiii.

All's alike at the latter day; a bag of gold and wisp of hay. 1639: Clarke, 215.

All's lost both labour and cost. 1639: Clarke, 153.

All's out is good for prisoners but naught for the eyes. 1678: Ray, 186.

All's over. See Burying.

All's well that ends well, as the peacock said when he looked at his tail. 1910: *Devonsh. Assoc. Trans.*, xlii. 90.

Allan a Parson. See quot. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, i. 69 (F.L.S.), There never was an Allan a Parson. Spoken of the family of Allan of Blackwell . . . and the pedigree of the family fully bears out the saying.

Almond. See Parrot.

Almost and hard by save many a lie. 1639: Clarke, 106, Almost and wellnigh saves many a lie. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, i. 82 (1840), I approve the plain country by-word: . . . "Almost and very nigh, Have saved many a lie." 1732: Fuller, No. 6188.

Almost was never hanged. 1639: Clarke, 3. 1670: Ray, 56.

Alms. 1. *Alms never make poor*. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Alms," Giving alms never lessens the stock. 1855: Bohn, 309, Alms-giving never made any man poor, nor robbery rich, nor prosperity wise.

2. *Alms quencheth sin*. [Water will quench a flaming fire; and almsgiving will make atonement for sin.—*Eccles.* iii. 30.] 10th cent.: Ælfric, *Homilies*, ii. 106 (Thorpe), þæt seo ælmysse ure synna lig adwæsete. c. 1175: *Old Eng. Homilies*, 1st ser., 37 (Morris, E.E.T.S.), Al swa tha water acwencheth thet fur swa tha elmesse acwencheth tha sunne. 1303: Robert of Brunne, *Handl. Synne*, l. 7079, Almes fordoth alle wykkednes

And quenchyth synne and makyth hyt les.

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

Alsager. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 89, Like Auger [Alsager] wenchies—all alike.

Altar. *He that serves at the altar, ought to live by the altar*. 1732: Fuller, No. 2204.

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." 1917: 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. xlv., "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, *Derbichisms*, 138 (E D S), To be in the lane, when you should be in the field 1883 Burne, *Shropsh Folk-Lore*, 589, He's al'ays i' the lane when he ought to be i' the leasow [meadow] 1917 Budge, *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*, 11, 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 1886 Elworthy, *West Som Word-Book*, 24 (E D S), A very common saying is "Amen," etc

Amend 1 See quot 1552 B Gilpin, *Sermon before Edw VI*, 41 (1630), It is a proverbe lately sprung up, No mar amendeth himselfe 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*, 11 (Grosart), Some do amend when they cannot appaare

Amendment is repentance 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch vi, Let your amendment amende the matter 1732 Fuller, No 789

Among friends all things are common 1477 Rivers, *Dictes and Sayings*, 35 (1877), He loued aswele to do good to his frendes as to him self, saying the goodis of frendes ought to be comyn 1568 W Fulwood, *Enemie of Idleness*, 91 (1593), The benefites of

fortune are common amongst frendes 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 1670 Ray, 1 1732 Fuller, No 796

3 Anger edgeth valour 1639 Clarke, 178

4 Anger is a short madness [Ira furor brevis est—Horace, *Epist*, 1 11 62] Before 1225 *Ancren R*, 1 120, Wreththe is a wodschiþe 1477 Rivers, *Dictes and Sayings*, 23 (1877), He that can not refrayne his ire hath no power our his witte c 1568 Wager, *Longer thou livest*, sig Cz, Wrath and madnesse they say be all one c 1680 L'Estrange, *Seneca's Morals* "Of Anger," ch 1v, He was much in the right whoever 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 xviii, 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 1618 Breton, in *Inedited Tracts*, 190 (Hazlitt, 1868)

2 To angle with a silver (or golden) hook 1580 Churchyard, *Charge* 28 (Collier), Although you fish with golden hookes 1605 Breton, *Honor of Valour*, in *Works*, 1 (Grosart), To fish for honour with a siluer hooke 1652 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 prouerbe and an olde sawe . . . Mon moder of Wales. c. 1440: Anon., tr. Higden, ii. 39 (Rolls Ser.), Hit is wonte to be seide prouerbially . . . Anglesey is the moder of Wales. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, iii. 508 (1840). 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Anglesey."

Angry. 1. *Angry men make themselves beds of nettles.* 1748: Richardson, *Clarissa*, vii. 307 (1785).

2. *Angry men seldom want woe.* 1732: Fuller, No. 80r.

3. *He that cannot be angry.* See quotes. 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, Hee that cannot be angry is a foole, but hee that will not be angry is more foole.

4. *He that is angry is not at ease.* 1633: Draxe, 9. 1670: Ray, 1.

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 w'out amendes. 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, beshrew 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 quotes. 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. 80z.

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

Another's burden, None knows the weight of. 1670: Ray, 1. 1732: Fuller, No. 3655.

Ant. 1. *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 quotes. c. 1460: *Good Wyfe wold a pylgremage*, l. 16, And rene [run] thou not fro hous to house lyke a nantyny gryce [like a St. Anthony's pig]. 1593: *Passionate Morrice*, 75 (N. Sh. S.), She followed him at heeles like a tantinie pigge. 1606: Chapman, *Gent. Usher*, IV. ii., 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. I., . . . like a Tantiny pig. 1762: Bickerstaffe, *Love in a Village*, I. v., To see you dangling after me everywhere, like a tantony pig. 1836: Wilbraham, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 2nd ed., 112, To follow any one like a Tantony 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. xiii.] 1678: Ray, 71, That which one most forehets, soonest comes to pass.

Anvil. 1. *An iron anvil should have a hammer of feathers.* 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 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, *Phrascol Generalis*, 102, The great anvil doth not fear noise or stroaks 1732 Fuller, No 4395 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch vii, 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 Florio, *Second Frutes*, 101 1696 D'Urfe, *Quixote*, Pt III Act III sc ii 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 (1815), Here is a door open, i' 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, *Polonius*, 86 (1903)

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

Any tooth, good barber 1659 Howell, 12 1678 Ray, 91

Anything for a quiet life 1624 T Heywood, *Captives*, III iii, Anythings for a quiet lyfe 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I 1837 Dickens, *Pickwick*, ch xliii, But anythin' for a quiet life, as the man said wen he took the situation at the lighthouse 1841 Planche, *Extravag*, ii 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 weare badges of golde 1563 Googe *Eglogs*, etc, 40 (Arber), An ape wyll euer be an ape, though purple garments hyde 1683

White Kennett, tr Erasmus' *Praise of Folly*, 23 (8th 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 iii ["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*, 317 (1870) 1653 R Brome, *Damoiselle*, III ii 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I

5 *Ape and whip* See quots 1588 *Mar-Prelate's Epitome*, 7 (1843), Reader cannot chuse but have as great delight therein as a Jack an Apes hath in a whip 1639 in *Berkeley MSS*, iii 33 (1885), As proud as an ape of a whip, viz not proud at all 1659 Howell, 12, I love it as an ape loves a whipp 1703 Ward, *Writings*, ii 358, Which every wiseman 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, *Euphues*, 215 (Arber), I should resemble the ape, and kill it by culling it 1586 Whitney, *Emblems*, 188, With kindness, lo, 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 hugs 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 clymbes the more he

shows his ars. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1710: S. Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 218. 1860: Reade, *Cloister and Hearth*, ch. lii., Your speech betrays you. 'Tis not till the ape hath mounted the tree that she shows her tail so plain. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 20, Th' heegher a monkey climbs an' th' mooar he shows his tail.

12. *To lead apes in hell*. 1575: Gascoigne, *Posies*, in *Works*, i. 430 (Cunliffe), I am afrayde my marryage will bee marred, and I may go lead apes in hell. 1599: Shakespeare, *Much Ado*, II. i. 1658: Cowley, *Cutter of Coleman St.*, II. viii., 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 thump 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)

Apparel makes the man. 1591: Florio, *Second Frutes*, 115, Though manners makes, yet apparell shapes. 1602: Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, I. iii., For the apparel oft proclaims the man. 1617: Greene, *Works*, ix. 19 (Grosart), Thy estate may bee great, for the hood makes not the monke, nor the apparrell the man.

Appearances are deceitful. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 12, Appearance oft deceives. 1750: Smollett, *Gil Blas*, iii. 7, Egad, appearances are very

deceitful. 1880: Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 27. 1922: A. Bennett, *Prohack*, ch. xx. iii., I think there is a proverb to the effect that appearances are deceptive.

Apple and Apples. 1. *A rotten apple*. See quotes. 1340: *Ayenbite*, 205 (E.E.T.S.), A roted eppel among þe holen makeþ rotie þe yzounde yef he is longe ther among. 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 remenaunt."

2. *A wink-a-pip* [imperfect] *blow Brings apples enow*. 1882: Mrs. Chamberlain, *W. Worcs. Words*, 39 (E.D.S.).

3. *An apple a day keeps the doctor away*. 1913: E. M. Wright, *Rustic Speech*, etc., 238, Ait a happle 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. Bailey, 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 quotes. 1532: More, *Works*, 724 (1557), No more lyke then an apple to an oyster. 1565: Calfhill, *Answer to Martiall*, 99 (P.S.), Which have learned to make *quidlibet 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.

6. *Apples, eggs, and nuts, one may eat after sluts*. 1586: L. Evans, *Revised Withals Dict.*, sig. A7, Apples, egges and nuttes, a man may eate though they be dressed by a slute. c. 1640: in *Roxb. Ballads*, ii. 186 (B.S.), My wife is such a beastly slut, Unlesse it be an egge or a nut, I in the house dare nothing eat. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phrascol. Generalis*, 113. 1732: Fuller, No. 6250, An apple, an egg, and a nut, You may eat after a slut. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb*.

*Folk-Lore*, 84 [as in Fuller] 1913 *Folk-Lore*, xxiv 76 [Oxfordsh], You can eat apples and nuts, after any sluts

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

9 How we apples swim 1639 Clarke, 32 1678 Ray, 253 1852 FitzGerald, *Polonius*, 51 (1903)

10 If apples bloom in March, etc 1883 N & Q, 6th ser, vii 447, In East Sussex the rustics have the following rhyme anent the blooming If apples bloom 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, 6th ser, vii 496, In South Devon the people say If good apples you would have, The leaves must be in the grave, 1e the trees should be planted after the fall of the leaf

12 To give an apple where there's an orchard 1e coals to Newcastle 1821 Clare, *Rural Life*, 114 Old Fortune, like sly Farmer Dapple, Where there's an orchard, flings an apple 1854 Baker, *Northants Glossary* s v "Orchard," Giving an apple where there's an orchard 1883 Burne, *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 woon with a nut 1573 G Harvey, *Letter-Book*, 121 (Camden S), Woone 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 winne him againe 1732 Fuller, No 2201, 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 [*ἀλγν την α βμασαν επεισινδω*—Lucian, *Pseudol*, 32 Plaustrum perculit—Plautus, *Epid*, 592] 1854 E A Andrews, *Latin-Eng Lex*, s v "Plaustrum," I have upset my apple cart! I am done for! 1880 Courtney, W Cornwall Words, 18 (E D S), In Cornwall "Down with your dresser," 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 1926 *Church Times*, 8 Jan, p 46, col 4, Should he attempt to do anything which in their opinion might upset the ecclesiastical apple-cart

Appleby See quot 1690 *New Dict Canting Crew*, sig G7, "Who has any lands in Appleby?" a question askt the man at whose door the glass stands long

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 Worcs Words, 37 (E D S)

2 A dry April Not the farmer's will April wet Is what he would get 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 22

3 A flood in April, a flood in May, And a flood to take away the hay 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 162

4 A raggy [frosty] April an' a groo [cold, raw] May, Gars eydent [prudent] farmers ettle out their hay 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 cling 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 1639 Clarke, 307 1744 Claridge, in Mills' *Essay on Weather*, 101 (1773) 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 22

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.

11. *April comes in with his hack and his bill, And sets a flower on every hill.* 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 41 (Percy S.). 1879: Henderson, *Folk-Lore of N. Counties*, 95 (F.L.S.).

12. *April rains for men [corn], May for beasts [grass].* 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 24.

13. *April showers bring May flowers.* c. 1560: in Wright, *Songs, etc.*, *Philip and Mary*, 213 (Roxb. Cl.), When Aprill sylver 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 (1885), [Of an unconstant man] Hee's like an Aprill 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.

20. *Moist April, clear June.* 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 24.

21. *On the third day of April come in the cuckoo and the nightingale.* 1732: Fuller, No. 6136. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 41 (Percy S.).

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.

24. *Thunderstorm in April is the end of hoar-frost.* 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 24.

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

26. *When April blows his horn [thunder], It's good for hay and corn.* 1670: Ray, 41. 1744: Claridge, in Mills' *Essay on Weather*, 100 (1773). 1882: N. & Q., 6th ser., v. 327.

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, 226, 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.

Archer 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.

Arm. 1. *Don't stretch thy arm farther than thy sleeve will reach.* 1541: Coverdale, *Christ. State Matrimony*, sig. I3, Stretch out thine arme no farther then thy sleue wyll retche. 1549: Latimer, *Seven Sermons*, 51 (Arber). 1683: Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697). 1817: Scott, *Rob Roy*, ch. xxii., "Nick," said he, "never put out your arm farther than ye can draw it easily back again." 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 9, Never put thi arm cawt furr nor thi sleeve'll cover.

2. *He's arm i' link wi' him.* 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 69, . . . Very familiar.

Armour is light at table 1640  
Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

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

Around thee, witch c 1605 Shake-  
speare, *Lear*, III iv 1606 Shake-  
speare, *Macbeth*, I iii 1670 Ray,  
*Coll of Eng Words*, s v "Rynt ye," By  
your leave, stand handsomely, as Rynt  
you witch, quoth Besse 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, *Glos-  
sary*, s v 'Aroint' 1917 Bridge,  
*Cheshire Proverbs*, 106 [In both Toone  
and Bridge with the "Bessie Locket"  
addition]

Arrow i 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  
hitteth the shoter 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 i Art hath no enemy but ignor-  
ance 1644 Taylor (Water-Poet), "To  
John Booker" 5, in *Works*, 2nd coll  
(Spens S, 1873)

2 Art improves nature 1587 Under-  
downe, *Heliodorus*, bk iii p 94 (TT),  
Arte can breake nature 1732 Fuller,  
No 814, Art helps nature, and ex-  
perience art 1827 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 {δ φλοῦς  
βραχὺς ἢ δὲ τέχνη μακρὴ — Hippocrates, Aph  
i Inde illa maximi medicorum exclamatio est, "vitam brevem esse, longam  
artem" — Seneca *De Brevi Vit*, c 1] c  
1380 Chaucer, *Parl of Foules*, l 1, The  
lyf so short, the craft so long to lerne  
1630 Brathwait, *Eng Gent*, etc, 74  
(1641), Art is long, life short, Experi-

ence deceiving 1710 S Palmer, *Moral  
Essays on Proverbs*, 380 1850 Dickens,  
*Chuzzlewit*, ch v 1912 Lucas, *London  
Lav*, ch xx, And then there's not  
time Life is short you know, Art  
can be too long

4 Art must be deluded by art 1583  
Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig Gr, It is a  
chiefe point of art to dissemble art  
1637 Breton, in *Works*, ii h 11 (Gro-  
sart), I haue heard schollers say, that  
it is art to concele art 1732 Fuller,  
No 815

Artful fellow See Devil (1)

Arthur, King i Arthur could not  
tame a woman's tongue 1659 Howell,  
*Proverbs Brit-Eng*, 23

2 Arthur was not but whilst he was  
1659 Howell, *Proverbs Brit-Eng*, 35,  
Arthur himself had but his time 1662  
Fuller, *Worthies*, iii 519 (1840), "Bu  
Arthur ond tra fu" That is, "Arthur  
was not, but whilst he was" 1790  
Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Cardigan-  
shire," spoken of a great family  
reduced to indigence

3 King Arthur did not violate the  
refuge of a woman 1662 Fuller,  
*Worthies*, iii 519 (1840), By the  
woman's refuge, many understand her  
tongue 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v  
"Cardiganshire"

Artist lives everywhere, An 1560  
Becon, *Catechism*, 355 (P S), According  
to this common proverb *Artem quævis  
terra alit*, that is to say, "A man having  
an occupation, shall be able to live  
wheresoever he become 1725 Bai-  
ley, tr Erasmus' *Colloq*, 238, But you  
know the old proverb, a Man of Art  
will live anywhere 1823 D'Israeli,  
*Cur of Lit*, 2nd ser, i 429 (1824),  
Nero replied to his censurers by  
the Greek proverb, "An artist lives  
every where"

Arundel See quot 1894 A J C  
Hare, *Sussex*, 221, A proverb says—  
Since William rose and Harold fell,  
There have been Earls of Arundel, And  
Earls old Arundel shall have While  
rivers flow and forests wave See also  
Chichester (1)

As ever water wet 1591 Harrington,  
*Orl Furioso*, bk xvi st 15, Vnchast

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. 1639: Clarke, 154.

As good do it at first, as at last. 1593: G. Harvey, *Pierces Superer.*, in *Works*, ii. 247 (Grosart). 1632: Jonson, *Magnetic 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 solem vyce I am saluted; But wealth away once woorne, Not one wyll say good morne. 16th cent.: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 207 (1841).

As much need on't, as he hath of the pip, or of a cough. 1670: Ray, 187.

As please the painter. c. 1594: Bacon, *Promus*, Nos. 159 and 1396. 1690: *New Dict. Canting Crew*, sig. 12, *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, so say we; 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. 6408. 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 cattel, 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*, 219.

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.

3. *Oak, smoke [summer hot]: Ash, squash [summer wet].* 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).

Ashford. *See* quots. 1735: Pegge, *Kentish Proverbs*, in E.D.S., No. 12, p. 67, Naughty Ashford, surly Wye, Poor Kennington hard by. 1899: J. W. Ebsworth, in *Roxb. Ballads*, viii. 640 (B.S.), Proud is Ashford, surly is Wye; Lousy Kennington stands hard by.

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.

2. *Wherever the wind lies on Ash Wednesday, it continues during the whole of Lent.* 1830: Forby, *Vocab. E. Anglia*, 414. 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. 1582: G. Harvey, *Marginalia*, 191 (1913), Craue

and haue 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

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 prouerbe, Aske the sons if the father be a theefe 1692 L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 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 if his ware be bad* 1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 73, Ask mine host whether he have good wine 1732 Fuller, No 819 1774 C Dibdin *The Quaker*, II iii, Ask the vintner 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 denial* 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*, iii 1200, Right as an aspen leaf she gan to quake 1449 J Metham, *Works*, 61 (EETS), Than euyng as an espys lef doth schake Ayens the wynd, ryght so than dyd he, Dyd quake for fere 1567 Golding, *Ovid*, iii 46, Stood trembling like an aspen leafe c 1591 Shakespeare, *Titus Andr*, II iv 1675 C Cotton, *Burl upon Burlesque*, 247 (1765), But like an aspen-leafe 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*, ch xxxu 1920 A A Milne, *Second Plays*, 186 (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 truff and peel* 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 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 15, An asse, though loaded with gold, eats but nettles and thistles 1732 Fuller, No 585

3 *An ass is the gravest beast, the owl the gravest bird* 1732 Fuller, No 586 1886 Swainson *Folk-Lore of British Birds*, 125 (F L S)

4 *An ass laden with gold* See quotes 1620 Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt II ch xxxv, The usual proverbs are "An ass laden with gold will go lightly uphill"

1630 T Adams, *Works*, 863, Philip was wont to say, that an asse laden with golde would enter the gates of any cite 1631 Mabbe, *Celestina*, 72 (T T), There is not any place so high, whereunto an asse laden with gold will not get up 1645 Howell, *Letters*, bk 1 § ii 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, *Q Durward*, 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 1880 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 Colville, tr Boethius, 18 (1897), Art thou no more apt to vnderstand 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?

13. *Every ass loves to hear himself bray.* 1732: Fuller, No. 1404.

14. *Every ass thinks himself worthy to stand with the king's horses.* 1639: Clarke, 254. 1670: Ray, 58. 1732: Fuller, No. 1405.

15. *Hark! I hear the asses bray; We shall have some rain to-day.* Rutland. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 127.

16. *He that makes himself an ass, must not take it ill if men ride him.* 1732: Fuller, No. 2232. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. iv., We may make ourselves asses, and then everybody will ride us.

17. *It is good to hold the ass by the bridle, and a scoffing foole by his wits end.* 1647: *Countrysm. New Commonwealth*, 32. 1651: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, 2nd ed. [the first half of the saying only].

18. *Jest with an ass, and he will flap you in the face with his tail.* 1855: Bohn, 436.

19. *Never went out an ass and came home horse.* 1732: Fuller, No. 2668, If an ass goes a travelling, he'll not come home an horse. 1852: FitzGerald, *Polonius*, 48 (1903).

20. *Put not an embroidered crupper on an ass.* 1732: Fuller, No. 3984.

21. *The ass brays when he pleases.* Ibid., No. 4399.

22. *The ass that brays most eats least.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Asne." 1670: Ray, 3. 1732: Fuller, No. 822.

23. *'Tis a sorry ass that will not bear his own burden.* 1659: Howell, 4.

24. *'Tis time to cock your hay and corn, When the old donkey blows his horn.* 1836: *Farmer's Mag.*, vol. iv. pt 1, p. 447. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 127.

25. *To a rude ass a rude keeper.* 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 475.

26. *What good can it do an ass to be called a lion?* 1732: Fuller, No. 5490.

27. *What, would you have an ass chop logic?* Ibid., No. 5527.

28. *When an ass climbeth a ladder, you may find wisdom in women.* Ibid., No. 5546.

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

30. *Who drives an ass, and leads a whore, hath pain and sorrow evermore.* 1639: Clarke, 259. 1670: Ray, 52. 1687: *Poor Robin Almanac*, July. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Ass."

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 asse's head doth lose both time and sope. 1732: Fuller, No. 5193, To lather an asse's head, is but spoiling of soap.

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

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. Prudentum*.

Atheist is got one point beyond the devil, An. 1732: Fuller, No. 593. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 124.

Attorney. See Bawds; and Lawyer. Auger. See Alsager.

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. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 32.

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

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 mists* Ibid, 32

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

Autumn 1 *Clear autumn, windy winter, Warm autumn, long winter* 1893 Inwards, 8

2 *Of fair things the autumn is fair* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

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

Autumnal agues are long or mortal 1640 Herbert, *Jac 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 hie hilles," The first eschue is remedy alone

Aw makes Dun draw 1639 Clarke, 93 1670 Ray, 58 1881 Evans, *Leics Words, etc*, 95 (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, *Magnyfycence*, 1 1342, Nowe then goo we hens, 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 ioye ynough 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, *Phrasel Generalis*, 971, To pack up his awls, Colligere vasa 1694 Motteux, *Rabelais*, Prol to bk iv, The enemy, who were already packing up their awls 1762 Bickerstaffe, *Love in a Village*, II in, So pack up your alls, and be trudging away 1849 F T Dinsdale, *Feesdale Gloss*, 5, To pack up his awls, is spoken of a person departing in haste 1881 Evans, *Leics 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

Ax near, sell dear 1881 N & O, 6th ser, iii 326 [A Lincolnshire J P] well versed in rural matters, repeated a short time ago in my hearing this proverb 'Ax 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 helve See Throw (7)

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

Axle-tree *A pretty fellow to make an axle-tree for an oven* Cheshire 1670 Ray, 162 1732 Fuller, No 362 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 5

Axwell Park See quot 1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, 1 91 (F L S), From Axwell Park to Shotley, A squirrel could leap from tree to tree [Axwell Park is in the township of Wmlaton and parish of Ryton, Durham]

Ay be as merry as be can, For love ne're delights in a sorrowful man 1678 Ray, 55

Aylsham treat 1890 P H Emerson, *Wild Life*, 108 n, An Aylsham treat is treat yourself

## B

B. 1. *To know not B from a battledore.* 1565: J. Hall, *Hist. Expostulation*, 16 (Percy S.), He . . . kneve not a letter, or a b from a batledore. 1593: Harvey, *Works*, ii. 208 (Grosart), The learnedest of them could not say . . . B to a battledore. 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., 1861), I know not . . . a b from a bole foot. 1800: 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 lewd 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*, 138 (Arber), The maydes chylde is euer best taughte. 1637: Breton, in *Works*, ii. h 18 (Grosart), For bachelors wiues, 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. 1, 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, *Lincs Words*, 17, He stuck up for me back-and-edge. 1899: Dickinson, *Cumberland Gloss.*, 10. Cf. Fall, verb (1).

Back door robs the house, The. 1732: Fuller, No. 4402. 1854: J. W. Warter, *Last of the Old Squires*, 53. See also Fair, adj. (9); 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.

Back with that leg. 1678: Ray, 65.

Backare! quoth Mortimer to his sow. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi. c. 1550: Udall, *Roister Doister*, I. ii. 1594: Shakespeare, *Tam. of Shrew*, II. i., Let us, that are poor petitioners, speak too: Baccare! you are marvellous forward. 1659: Howell, 20.

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. Prudentum*. 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:

*Folk-Lore Journal*, vii 294, As bad as Swath Hooime [Hulme], who was two hours getting his shirt on, and then he didna do it right

Bad bargain 1685 Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 66, It's an ill made bargain, where beath parties rue 1732 Fuller, No 2839, It is a bad bargain, where both are losers

Bad broom [slovenly servant] leaves a dirty room, A 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, I

Bad bush See Bush (I)

Bad cause that none dare speak in, It is a 1639 Clarke, 199 1670 Ray, 4 1732 Fuller, No 2840

Bad choice where the whole stock is bad, There's but 1732 Fuller, No 4889

Bad cloth that will take no colour, It is a 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs* Pt II ch ix 1592 Lyly, *Gallathea*, IV 1 1670 Ray, 71 1732 Fuller, No 2841

Bad cook See Ill cook

Bad custom A bad custom is like a good cake, better broken than kept 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Gasteau" 1670 Ray, 76 1732 Fuller, No 832, Bad customs are better broke than kept up

Bad day I A bad day has a good night 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 43

2 It is never a bad day that hath a good night 1639 in *Berkeley MSS*, iii 32 (1885), Hee never hath a bad day that hath a good night 1670 Ray, 6

Bad excuse (or shift) is better than none, A c 1550 Udall, *Roister Doister*, V ii 1579 Gosson, *Sch of Abuse*, 42 (Arber) 1599 Porter, *Two Angry Women*, in *Old Plays* vii 360 (Hazlitt), A bad shift is better than none at all 1692 L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 112 (3rd ed), And at the worst, a bad shift is better than none 1732 Fuller, No 4

Bad for a worse, To change a 1678 Bunyan, *Pilgr Progress*, Pt I p 56 (1849), Thou hast done in this according to the proverb, changed a Bad for a Worse

Bad for the rider See Worse (4)

Bad guides may soon mislead 1639 Clarke, I

Bad is a bad servant, but worse being without him 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Brit-Eng*, 3

Bad is the best 1564 Bullein, *Dialogue*, 77 (EETS) 1579 Spenser, *Sheph Calendar*, Sept, I 117, 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 ii 1753 Richardson, *Grandison*, iii 110 (1883), Bad is my best 1852 Planche, *Extravag*, iv 228 (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 Ill 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*, I 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 words make a woman worse. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 8.

Bad workman. See Ill workman.

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

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

Bag [meal] and pump [water] don't pay like bag and milk. 1877: E. Leigh, *Cheshire Gloss.*, II. 1886: R. Holland, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 447 (E.D.S.). 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 29.

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 Brandl's *Quellen*, 599, This tinklerly trade, wee give it the bagge. 1592: Greene, *Quip*, in *Works*, xi. 263 (Grosart), Lighte witted vpon euery 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 belly be full.* 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 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 az much without book, az 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 brew (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 brew as she has baked. 1775: Garrick, *May-Day*, sc. ii., As they bake they shall brew, 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 brewed—eaten as he'd baked." 1909: De Morgan, *Never can Happen Again*, ch. v., "As they bake, so they will brew," philosophized Mr. Challis to himself.

Baker. 1. *Be not a baker if your head be of butter.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 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 quots. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. ii., We be new kneet, And so late met, that I feare 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: *Servingman's Comfort*, in *Inedited Tracts*, 166 (Hazlitt), 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 fysh-mongers wyfe may feede of a cunger, but a servingmans wyfe may starue for hunger.

Balance distinguisheth not between gold and lead, *The.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 2.

Bald. 1. *A bald head is soon shaven.*

c 1450 in *Reliq Antiquæ*, 1 75 (1841),  
A bare berd wyl sone be shave 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 xv, 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 Bibbesworth*, in  
Wright's *Early Vocab*, 1 165, A balled  
coote 1412-20 Lydgate, *Troy-Book*,  
bk 11 1 4673 He was ballid as a cote  
1566 Adlington, tr Apuleius, bk v,  
Older than my father, more bald than  
a coot 1604 Breton, in *Works*, 11 k 13  
(Grosart), And left her [head] as bare  
as a balde coote c 1770 Hall-  
Stevenson, in *Works*, 1 238 (1795), As  
bare as a coot 1881 Evans, *Leics*  
*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 thinke none balde, till they see his  
braynes 1670 Ray, 163 1732 Ful-  
ler, 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 baulks 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 loq] "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 x1, Thou hast stricken the ball vnder  
the lyne 1634 S Rowley, *Noble*  
*Soldier*, II 11, She has been stricke  
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 1 *As thin as Banbury*  
*cheese* 1562 Heywood, *Epigr*, 6th  
hundred, No 24, I neuer saw Banbery  
cheese thicke enough 1575 G Har-  
vey, *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 Condn of the Clergy in Ossory*, 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  
paring"

2 *Banbury ale, a half-yard pot*  
1658 *Wit Restor'd*, 159 c 1660 in  
*Roxb Ballads*, 11 130 (B S), Banbury-  
ale, a two-yard pot

3 *Banbury zeal, cheese and cakes*  
1596 Harington, *Anat of Metam Ajax*,  
liiijb, O that I were at Oxenford to eate  
some Banberie cakes 1662 Fuller  
*Worthies*, 11 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 malignants 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 Bapchild; If you'd live long, Go to Tenham or Tong.

Bar light law, 'Tis sure to blaw. 1891: R. P. Chope, *Hartland Dialect*, 20 (E.D.S.).

Barber and Barbers. 1. *Barbers are correctors of capital crimes.* 1659: Howell, 11.

2. *Barbers learn to shave by shaving fools.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Fol," By shaving a foole one learns to shave. 1654: Whitlock, *Zootomia*, 46, The fools beard teacheth the young barber his trade. 1792: Wolcot, *Works*, ii. 446 (1795), 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.* 1579: Gosson, *Apol. of Schoole of Abuse*, 66 (Arber), Venus . . . that made her self as common as a barbar'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. 1, 3, p. 688 (1836), 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, *Jac. 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.*, 10th 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: *Man-kind*, l. 475, Yt [his purse] ys as clene as a byrdes arse. 1528: Sir T. More, in *Works*, p. 238, col. 1 (1557), And some-

tyme as bare as a byrdes arse. 1661: Stevenson, *Twelve Moneths*, 35, Bare as birds britch. 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' *Apoph.*, 236 (1877), 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, *Nigel*, 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 *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 85 (1841), I wolde I were as bare as the beschope of Chester. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 9.

Bare foot is better than none, A. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Nud." 1694: D'Urfey, *Quixote*, Pt. I. Act I. sc. i., 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 walls make giddy housewives. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 319 (1870). 1670: Ray, 59. 1723: Defoe, *Col. Jack*, ch. x., But, as we say, bare walls make giddy hussies. 1732: Fuller, No. 839, Bare walls make gadding housewives.

Bare words are no good bargain. 1639: Clarke, 85. 1669: *Politeuphuia*, 183, Bare words are no lawful bargain.

Bare words buy no barley 1732 Fuller, No 838

Barefoot and Barefooted See Thorn

Bargain 1 A bargain is a bargain 1560 Wilson, *Rhetorique*, 34 (1909), Resting vpon this point, that a bargain is a bargain, and must stand without all exception 1592 Lyly, *Mother Bombe*, III iii 1692 L'Es-trange, *Æsop*, 328 (3rd ed) 1721 C Cibber, *Refusal*, III 1860 Reade, *Cloister and Hearth* ch xxxvi, However '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 Douglas, quoted in *N & Q*, 10th ser, ii 23, There is a proverb that says, the bargain 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 1 To bark against the moon 1401 in T Wright, *Political Poems*, ii 53 (Rolls Ser, 1861), But thou, as blynde Bayarde, berkest at the mone 1530 Palsgrave, 443, This dogge barketh agaynste the moone 1629 Davenant, *Albion*, V, Thou bark'st against the moon! 1655 Heywood and Rowley, *Fortune by Land and Sea*, I 1, We should in that but bark against the moon 1736 Bailey, *Dict*, s v "Bark," To bark at the moon

2 To bark false 1639 Clarke, 2, He never barks false

Bark, subs His (or her) bark is worse than his (or her) bite [Canis timidus vehementius latrat quam mordet—Quintus Curtius, *De rebus gestis Alexandri Magni*, vii 14] 1655 Fuller, *Church History*, bk viii § 11 (22), Because politickly presumed to bark the more that he might bite the less 1860 Reade, *Cloister and Hearth*, ch lxxvi, 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 89

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

quotation 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch ii, But it were a folly for mee, To put my hande betweene the barke and the tree 1580 Tusser, *Husbandrie*, 22 (E D S) 1642 D Rogers, *Naaman*, sig Ccx, Being so audacious as to go betweene barke and tree, breeding suspicions betweene man and wife 1714 Ozell, *Molière*, iii 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*, s v "Bark," A well adjusted bargain, where neither party has the advantage Suffolk 1866 J G Nall, *Great Yarmouth*, 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 1 Barley makes the heape, but wheat the cheape Glos 1639 Berkeley MSS, iii 32 (1885)

2 Sow barley in dree 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 1 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



*Letters*, 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' Barney 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.

2. *Barney Cassel the last place that God made.* 1846-59: Denham Tracts, i. 83 (F.L.S.). c. 1860: Longstaffe, *Richmondshire*, 132.

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.

Barnwell ague, A=Venereal disease. 1678: Ray, 88. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Cambridgeshire."

Barometer. 1. *First rise after low Foretells stronger blow.* 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 123.

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-Shaksp. Drama*, i. 591 (1903), Lyke lorde, lyke chaplayne; neyther barrell 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 barrain places giue a good edge to industry.

Barsen'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: Brookes, *Works*, vi. 51 (1867) (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 Lentel 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

wrong, A An ironical saying—see 1860 quot 1678 Ray, 74, A basket Justice, a jyll Justice, a good forenoon Justice He'll do Justice right or wrong 1732 Fuller No 8 1860 Wynter, *Cursos Civiliz*, 493 (O), The basket-justices were so called because they allowed themselves to be bought over by presents of game

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, *Phrascol Generalis*, 213 1732 Fuller, No 845

Bath, The beggars of 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, iii 92 (1840) 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Somerset"

Bathing See May, F (26)

Bats in the belfry = Of unsound mind 1926 Phillpotts, *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, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Surrey" 1847 Halliwell, *Dict*, s v "Simples" 1925 J G Taylor, *Our Lady of Batesey*, 93, [Simples, or medicinal herbs, were cultivated at B] Hence was derived the now forgotten proverb, addressed to one not overburdened with wits, "You must go to Battersea to get your simples cut!" Cf Cut, verb (10)

Battle, Sussex. See quot 1894 A J C Hare, *Sussex*, 103, The capture in 1377 of John de Carleoes, 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 neighbours 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, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Yorkshire" 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*, l 886, in *Allit Poems*, 64 (E E T S), Thay blustered as blynde as bayard watz euer c 1386 Chaucer, *Canon's Yeoman's Tale*, l 860, Ye been as bolde as is Bayard the blinde 1412-20 Lydgate, *Troy-Book*, bk ii l 4731, But ben as bolde as Baiard is, the blynde c 1475 Caxton, *Hist of Troy*, Prol, And began boldly to run forth as blind Bayard 1575 *Appius, etc*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, iv 118, As bold as blind bayard, as wise as a woodcock 1681 W Robertson, *Phrascol 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 Audelay, *Poems*, 15 (Percy S)

3 Bayard of ten toes 1597 *Discoverie of Knights of the Poste*, sig A3, As I trauelled upon my well approued hacney (old Bayard of ten toes) [travelled afoot] 1616 Breton, *Good and Badde*, 35 (O), The walke of the wofull and his Horse, Bayard of ten-toes 1866 Brogden, *Lincs 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*, l 3183 (E E T S), fful trewe is that byword, "a man to seruesabill, Ledith off 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 Brayton-bargh  
Be as be may is no banning c 1475 *Mankind* sc ii st 86, Be as be may, I xall do a-nother 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch i 1592 Lyly, *Mother Bombe*, II ii, Well, bee as bee may is no banning 1670 Ray, 59

Be as you would seem to be. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, Be what thou wouldst 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 prouerbe, Be it better, or be it worse, Please you the man that beares the purse. 1642: D. Rogers, *Matrim. Honour*, 85, And as the proverb saith, Be it better or worse, we must be ruled by him that beares 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.

Beads about the neck and the devil in the heart. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Span.-Eng.*, 15, Beads about his neck, and the devil in his body. 1732: Fuller, No. 944.

Bean and Beans. 1. *A bean in liberty is better than a comfit in prison.* 1670: Ray, 15. 1732: Fuller, No. 9.

2. *A good year of kidney beans, a good year of hops.* 1882: Mrs. Chamberlain, *W. Worcs. Words*, 38 (E.D.S.).

3. *Every bean hath its black.* 1639: Clarke, 211. 1709: O. Dykes, *Eng. Proverbs*, 103. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Bean." 1817: Scott, *Rob Roy*, ch. xxxviii., Ye hae had your ain time o't, Mr. Syddall; but ilka 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 moonkis 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 wyll eate the been. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. v. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), *Sc. of Folly*, 45, in *Works*, ii. (Grosart), Euer the bigger eateth the beane.

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, *Laurie Todd*, II. i. 42 (1849) (O.), Few men who better knew how many blue beans it takes to make five. 1889: *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 Leicestershire.

Bear and Bears, subs. 1. *Are you there with your bears?* 1592: Lyly, *Mother Bombe*, II. iii. 1642: Howell, *Forreine Trauell*, 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

been a bear it would have bit you  
1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I

4 Like a bear with a sore head See  
Cross, adj (1)

5 One thing thinketh the bear, but  
another thinketh his leader c 1374  
Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk iv, l 1453

6 The bear wants a tail and cannot be  
a lion 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, iii 271  
(1840) 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v  
"Warwickshire"

7 To go like a bear to the stake  
c 1430 Lydgate, *Churl and Bird*, st 19,  
To goo at large but as a bere at a stake  
To passe his boundes but yf he leue  
take 1591 Florio, *Second Frutes*, 89,  
I am as loath to goe to it, as a beare is  
to goe to the stake 1642 D Rogers,  
*Naaman*, sig D5, If he goes, yet it is as  
a beare to the stake 1722 Defoe,  
*Moll Flanders in Works*, iii 42 (Bohn),  
It was easy to see I should go to church  
like a bear to the stake 1823 Scott,  
*Q Durward*, ch xxi, Pavillon and his  
lieutenant faced their fate like  
bears bound to a stake

8 To sell the bear's skin See Sell

9 You dare as well take a bear by the  
tooth 1601 Dent, *Pathw Heauen*, 62  
(O), To take the beare by the  
tooth 1639 Clarke, 209 1690 *New  
Dict Canting Crew*, sig B4, As good  
take a bear by the tooth, [spoken] of a  
bold desperate undertaking 1732  
Fuller, No 5895

See also Cross, adj (1), Dancing bear,  
Guts, Iron nails, King (8), Like a young  
bear, and Mastiff (3)

Bear-garden, To talk. 1678 Ray, 66,  
He speaks Bear-garden 1698 Collier,  
*Short View*, 232, This is brave Bear-  
Garden language! 1707 Ward, *London  
Terræfilus*, No III p 29, He's as  
great a master of ill language as ever  
was bred at a Bear-Garden 1732  
Fuller, No 2033, He talks in the Bear-  
Garden tongue

Bear-pie He that hath eaten a bear-  
pie, will always smell of the garden, 1e  
the Bear-garden 1659 Howell, 18  
1670 Ray, 216

Bear, verb 1 Bear wealth, poverty  
will bear itself 1853 Trench, *Proverbs*,  
84 (1905)

2 Bear with evil and expect good  
1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1670  
Ray, 8 1732 Fuller, No 945

3 Bear with me and I'll bear with thee  
1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II  
ch viii 1639 Clarke, 63

4 He bears misery best that hides it  
most c 1590 G Harvey, *Marginalia*,  
95 (1913), He beareth his misery best  
that hydeth it most 1732 Fuller,  
No 1810

5 I bear him on my back 1639  
Clarke, 303, I bore him all the while on  
my back 1670 Ray, 164

6 To bear the bell c 1374 Chaucer,  
*Troilus*, bk iii l 198, And lat see which  
of yow shal bere the belle To speke of  
love a-right! 1468 *Coventry Mysteries*,  
161 (Sh S), Of bewte and of boldnes  
I bere evermore the belle Before  
1529 Skelton, in *Works*, l 127 (Dyce),  
Of all prowde knauys thow beryst the  
belle 1575 Gascoigne, *Glasse of Govt*,  
III vi, So vices brag, but vertue beares  
the bell 1633 Herbert, *Temple  
' Church Porch*, st xxxii, In clothes,  
cheap handsomenesse doth bear the bell  
1713 Gay, *Wife of Bath*, IV 1,  
Appearance, Sir, bears away the bell,  
almost in everything 1812 Combe,  
*Syntax Picturesque Tour*, can xix,  
That e'en her merchants bore the bell  
In eating and in drinking well 1912  
Lucas, *London Lav*, ch iii, But for  
human features the capuchin  
bears away the bell

See also Born

Beard 1 The beard will (or will not)  
pay for the shaving 1830 Forby,  
*Vocab E Anglia*, 431, The beard will  
pay for the shaving 1879 G F  
Jackson, *Shropsh Word-Book*, 28, "The  
beard won't pay for the shaving" is a  
proverbial saying analogous to the  
French—*Le jeu ne vaut pas la chandelle*  
1883 Burne, *Shropsh Folk-Lore*, 590  
[will not pay] 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire  
Proverbs*, III [will not pay]

2 'Tis not the beard that makes the  
philosopher 1732 Fuller, No 5102

Beast 1 Better a beast sold than  
bought 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Brit-  
Eng*, 16

2 The beast that goes always never

wants blows. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

Beast of many heads. See Many-headed beast.

Beat. 1. *Beat a bush and start a thief*. 1622: Drayton, *Polyol.*, xxiii., Where if you beat a bush, 'tis odds you start a thief. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, i. 194 (1840). 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Bucks."

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 Fruits*, fo. 29, Who cannot beat the horse, let him beat the saddle. 1629: *Book of Meery 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 goe 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. Amantis*, ii. 2355, And takth the bridd to his beyete, Wher othre men the buisshes bete. 1472: *Paston Letters*, iii. 44 (Gairdner, 1900), Webettethebusschysse and have the losse and the diswor-schuppe and ether men have the byrds. 1580: G. Harvey, in *Works*, i. 93 (Grosart), I beate the bushe, the birdes to them doe flye. 1606: *Ret. 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.*, xviii. 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 Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, whose prowess [c. 1350] became proverbial, "as bold as Beauchamp."

Beaulieu 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. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 2. 1732: Fuller, No. 948.

3. *Beauty is but a blossom*. 1633: Draxe, 15. 1670: Ray, 2. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 223. 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-deepe. 1730: Lillo, *Silvia*, I. ix., She was the handsomest woman in all our parish. But beauty is but skin deep, as the saying is. 1829: 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: Draxe, 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.

12 *Beauty without bounty avails nought* 1580 Lyly, *Euphues*, 295 (Arber), *Beautie without riches, goeth a begging* 1869 Hazlitt, s v

Beccles for a puritan, Bungey for the poor, Halesworth for a drunkard, and Bliborough for a whore 1670 Ray, 253 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Suffolk" ["Bilborough" for "Bliborough"]

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 Dieugarde 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 berniers [threshers] and supper-time for carriers Old Cumberland proverb 1895 T Ellwood, *Lake-land, etc Gloss*, 6 (E D S)

Beddingham When Beddingham hills wear a cap, Ripe and Chalvington gets a drap 1884 "Sussex Proverbs," in N & Q, 6th ser, ix 342

Bede's chair See quot 1846-59 Denham Tracts, 1 67 (F L S), *Has a Chip of Bede's chair in her pouch* 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 1 *Bedford malt-horses* 1622 Drayton, *Polyol*, xxiii, Of malt-horse, Bedfordshire long since the blazon wan 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*, 1 167 (1840)

1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Bedfordshire" 1874 Smiles, *Lives of Engineers*, 1 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, 1 391

Bedfordshire=Bed 1608 Middleton, *Mad World*, II v You come rather out of Bedfordshire, we cannot lie quiet in our beds for you 1670 Cotton, *Scarronides*, bk iv, Each one departs to Bedfordshire, And pillows all securely snort on 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial III 1818 Scott, *Heart of Midl*, ch xxx, Jeanie heard the highwayman say, to her no small relief, "She's as fast [asleep] as if she were in Bedfordshire" 1841 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 613, I hear the Dustman drawing near To take you into Bedfordshire, It's time you went to bed See also Cheshire (6)

Bedlam broke loose c 1635 Davenant, *News from Plymouth*, IV n, What's here? Kent Street, Or bedlam broke loose? 1864 "Cornish Proverbs," in N & Q, 3rd ser, vi 494, Bedlam broke loose What a clapperhouse!

Bedminster See Sold

Bedpost and Bedstaff See Twinkling

Bedworth beggars 1678 Ray, 317 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Leicestershire"

Bee and Bees 1 *A bee was never caught in a shower* 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 146

2 *A dead bee will make no honey* 1578 Florio, *First Frutes*, fo 25, A dead bee wil make no hony 1651 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*, 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 Glos

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 mare's 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. 1894: 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 hir mouth, hath a sting in hir tayle. 1732: Fuller, No. 959.

6. *Bees will not swarm Before a near storm.* 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 146.

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

8. *He's like the master bee that leads forth the swarm.* Glos. 1639: in *Berkeley MSS.*, iii. 28 (1885).

9. *His head is full of bees=cares, fancies, or, he is restless.* 1546: Hey-

wood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xii., Their hartes full heauy, their heades be full of bees. 1575: Churchyard, *Chippes*, 55 (Collier), About he flees, As though his hed wear full of bees 1614: Jonson, *Bart. Fair*, I., He will whistle 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 bailie'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.* 1878: 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. *To bumble 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 wyttes, for I tell you plaine, I have a hive of humble bees swarmyng in my braine. 1648: Herrick, *Mad Maid's Song*, Ah! woe is mee, woe, woe is me, Alack and well-a-day! For pittie, 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. xcvi., 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: Draxe, 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

16 *Where bees are there is honey*  
1633 Draxe, 77 1670 Ray, 60  
1732 Fuller, No 5636

17 *Where the bee sucks honey, the spider sucks poison* 1633 Draxe, 123  
1732 Fuller, No 5661 1853 Trench, *Proverbs*, 114 (1905)

See also Better feed, Brisk, Busy, February (9) Honey (9), Quick, St Matthew (2), Sheep (5), and Swine (2)

Beech in summer and oak in winter 1884 H Friend, *Flowers and Fl Lore*, 220, "Beech in summer and Oak in winter" [for felling] has now become a common saying

Beelzebub's Bower See quots 1362 Langland, *Plowman*, A, ii 100, A bastard i-boren of Belsabubbes kunne 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch iv, But ye be a baby of Belsabubs bowre Beer 1 Beer a bumble, 'twill kill you afore 'twill make ye tumble 1869 Hazlitt, 82

2 *What's better than the beer that's made of malt?* 1659 Howell, 14

3 See quot 1913 *Devonshire Assoc Trans*, xlv 90, Yu can't 'ave better beer'n wat's putt in the barrow (barrel)

See also Ale, Cider, Cloth (2), and July (3)

Beetle See Blind, adj (12), and Deaf (1)

Beg 1 Beg from beggars and you'll never be rich 1736 Bailey, *Dict*, s v "Beg"

2 *To be begged for a fool* 1591 Florio, *Second Frutes*, 187, Euen the vulgar would begge him for a foole that thinks a bungling-stainers dawbung better than the polisht Helen of Zeuxes 1592 Lyly, *Mother Bombe*, I 1, He needs not, sir, Ile beg him for a fool 1649 in *Somers Tracts*, vii 88 (1811), If there should be a king again, I shall, perhaps, be begg'd for a fool 1653 Middleton and Rowley, *Spanish Gipsy*, II 11, You are my guardian, best beg me for a fool now 1707 *Spanish Baud*, III 11, If he continues so a week longer, his friends will beg him for a fool. 1736 Hervey, *Mem*, ii 143 (O), Moyle either deserved to be begged for a fool, or hanged for a knave

3 *To beg at the wrong door* 1546

Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch ix, Then of trouth ye beg at a wrong mans dur 1596 Jonson, *Ev Man in his Humour*, II vii, He claps his dish at the wrong man's door 1659 Howell, 5

4 *To beg like a cripple at a cross* 1812 Brady, *Clavis Cal*, i 334 We have yet in common usage the old saying of "He begs like a cripple at a cross" 1855 Robinson, *Whitby Gloss*, 40, "He begged like a cripple at a cross," very urgently 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 125

Beggar and Beggars 1 *A beggar pays a benefit with a louse* 1678 Ray, 98 1732 Fuller, No 10

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

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

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

5 *Beggars cannot be choosers* 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch x, Beggars should be no choosers 1616 B & F, *Scornful Lady*, V 11, Beggars must be no choosers 1635 Glapthorne, *Hollander*, I, Beggars are no chusers my friend Before 1726 Vanbrugh, *Journey to London*, III, My lord, says I, beggars must not be choosers 1819 Scott, *Familiar Letters*, ii 62 (1894), But beggars must not be chusers 1889 R L S, *Ballantrae*, ch 11, For all this we were to pay at a high rate, but beggars cannot be choosers 1920 Barbellion, *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.

7. *Better to die a beggar than live a beggar.* 1670: Ray, 2. 1732: Fuller, No. 888.

8. *It is better to be a beggar than a fool.* 1813: 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. 1670: Ray, 60, [with the addition] and when they come there, they'll not put in their legs.

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

12. *One beggar is woe that another by the door should go.* 1539: Taverner, *Erasm. Prov.*, 9 (1552) (O.), One begger byddeth wo that another by the dore 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].

13. *Puling, like a beggar at Halloween.* c. 1590: Shakespeare, *Two Gent.*, II. i.

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 humili, cum surgit in altum.—Claudian, xviii. 181.] (a) 1576: Pettie, *Petite Pallace*, ii. 100 (Gollancz, 1908). 1599: Greene, *Orpharion*, in *Works*, xii. 36 (Grosart), Set a begger on horsebacke, and they say he will neuer light. 1620: Rowlands, *Night Raven*, 30 (Hunt. Cl.). (b) 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 330 (1870), Set a begger 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 Pepysian Garland*, 241 (Rollins, 1922), There is

an old prouerbe, 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.), Beggars mounted run their horse to death.

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

16. *Sue a beggar and catch a louse.* 1594: R. Wilson, *Coblers Proph.*, l. 836 (Malone S.), I intreat yee be not ouer nice, What thinke ye as the prouerb goes that beggers haue no lice? 1654: Gayton, *Pleasant Notes Don Q.*, 83, Sue a begger and get a louse. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 229. 1721: Bailey, *Eng. Dict.*, s.v. "Louse." 1819: Scott, *Bride of L.*, ch. ii., I guess it is some law phrase—but sue a beggar, and—your honour knows what follows.

17. *The beggar is never out of his way.* 1630: T. Adams, *Works*, 120, Vagrant rogues . . . are neuer out of their way. 1650: Fuller, *Pisgah-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.

18. *The beggar may sing before the thief.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xii., The begger maie syng before the theefe. 1670: Ray, 2. 1732: Fuller, No. 964. 1829: Scott, in Lockhart's *Life*, vii. 173, The last prerogative of beggary, which entitled him to laugh at the risk of robbery.

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, Euen as well as the begger knowth his bag. 1579: Gosson, *Apol. of Schoole of Abuse*, 74 (Arber), Such as he knew as well as the begger his dishe. 1638: T. Heywood, *Wise W. of Hogsdon*, II. i. 1779: Mrs. Cowley, *Who's the Dupe*, 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:

Porter, *Two Angry Women*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, vii 335. They have danc'd a galliard at beggars'-bush for it 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, ii 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 notoriously 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, 1

4 *He begins to die that quits his desires* 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Abandonner," He truly begins to dye that quits his chiefe 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 vii, It is yll commyng To thend of a shot [feast], and begynnyng of a fray] c 1590 *Plaine Percevall*, Dedication, I would it had bin Percevals hap, to haue com to the beginning of a friendly feast, or to the latter ending of so dangerous a fraye 1597 Shakespeare, 1 *Henry IV*, IV ii 1636 Massinger, *Bashful Lover*, III, Our grandsires said, Haste to the beginning of a feast but to the end of a fray 1672 Marvell, *Rehearsal Transpr*, Pt I, in *Works*, iii 119 (Grosart)

2 *It is better coming to the end of a feast than to the beginning of a fray* c 1594 Bacon, *Promus*, No 977 1670 Ray, 90 1769 Colman, *Man and Wife*, III ii, I arrived just at the conclusion of the ceremony, but the latter end of a feast is better than the beginning of a fray, they say 1821 Scott,

*Kenilworth*, ch xii 1855 Robinson, *Whitby Gloss*, 54. "It is better to come at the far end of a feast than at the fore end of a fray," better late at a feast than early at a fight

Behappen! [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 Proverbs, in N & Q, 3rd ser, vi 495

Believe 1 *Believe not all you hear* 1205 Layamon, *Brut*, 8015, Ful so[t]h seide the seg pe peos saye talda Yif þu ileuest æhne mon, Selde þu sælt wel don (Very truth said the man who told this saw If thou believest each man, seldom shalt thou do well) Before 1562 Lord Vaux, *Poems*, 37 (Grosart), Beleve not eueryspeache 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 chieflly wishe of all, They soone beleue 1591 Harrington, *Orl Furioso*, bk 1 st 56, It is a proverbe used long ago, We soone beleue the thing we would have so 1696 *Cornish Comedy*, Act II, p 16, What we desire we easily believe 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 neuer sound well* 1732 Fuller, No 6358

2 *Bells call others to church, but go not themselves* 1557 North, *Diall of Princes*, fo 138 v<sup>o</sup>, For men y<sup>t</sup> reade much, and worke litle, are as belles, the which do sound to cal others, and they themselues 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

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*, 10. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 71.

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

7. *To curse with bell, book and candle.* Before 1300: *Cursor Mundi*, l. 17110 (E.E.T.S.), Curced in kirc þan sal þai be wid candil, boke, and bell. c. 1394: in Wright, *Political Poems*, i. 341 (Rolls Ser., 1859), Thou shalt be cursed with booke and bell. 1485: Malory, *Morte d'Arthur*, bk. xxi. ch. i, I shall curse you wyth book and belle and candell. 1593: Nashe, *Strange Newes*, in *Works*, ii. 185 (Grosart), The blind vicar would needs . . . curse me with bel, book and candle. 1610: Rowlands, *Martin Mark-all*, 6 (Hunt. Cl.). 1715: Centlivre, *Gotham Election*, sc. vi. 1840: Barham, *Ing. Legends*: "Jackdaw of Rheims." 1920: Barbellion, *Last Diary*, 138, The *Saturday Review* I cursed with bell, book, and candle.

8. *When the bell begins to toll, Lord have mercy on the soul.* 1813: Brand, *Pop. Antiq.*, 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).

Bellesdon. *In and out like Bellesdon I wot.* 1678: Ray, 317. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Leicestershire." 1881: Evans, *Leics. Words, etc.*, 300 (E.D.S.), "In and out, like Billesdon I wote" . . . Billesdon being, or having been, noted for the crookedness of its main thoroughfare.

Bell-grave. *The same again, quoth Mark of Bell-grave.* 1644: J. Taylor (Water-Poet), in *Works*, 2nd coll., 22 (Spens. S.). 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Leicestershire." 1818: Scott, *Heart of Midl.*, ch. xxix.

Belly. 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 Fruites*, fo. 29, He that is fed beleueeth not the fasting. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Pance," He that hath gorged himselfe thinkes 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. 11 and 16.

5. *My belly cries cupboard.* 1678: Ray, 237, His belly cries cupboard 1694: *Terence made English*, 88, My belly chym'd cupboard above half an hour ago. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. II. 1826: Scott, *Woodstock*, ch. xx., Whose belly sings cupboard too? 1855: Kingsley, *West. Ho!*, ch. iii., So now away home. My inside cries cupboard. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 24, Mi bally's cryin' cubbort. Cf. No. 15.

6. *My belly thinks my throat cut.* 1540: Palsgrave, *Acolastus*, sig. H2, I am so soore 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, *Lancs 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 bely hath no cares. c. 1560: Becon, in

*Catechism, etc*, 601 (P S) 1609 Dekker, *Guls Horne-Booke*, in *Works*, II 245 (Grosart) 1721 Bailey, *Eng Dict*, s v "Belly" 1853 Trench, *Proverbs*, 29 (1905), 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 bel is fwl, the bonis wold haue rest 1553 *Respublica*, III iv 1669 *Politeuphuia*, 182 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial II

14 *When the belly is full the mund 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 (8), and Rule (3)

Bellyfull is a bellyfull, A 1666 Tormano, *Piazza Univ*, 321 1694 Motteux, *Rabelais*, bk v ch xxiii 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial II 1823 Scott, *St Ronan's*, 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* Cowhithe

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 (quoeth I) is a punchpeny 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 twygge 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*, vii 696 (B S), A twig will bend when it is young and weak 1732 Fuller, No 971 1841 Hood, *Miss Kilmansegg*, As the twig is bent, the tree's inclined

2 *When you bend the elbow, the mouth opens* Kentish saying 1882 *N & Q*, 6th ser, v 266

Benefits please like flowers while they are fresh 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

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 earliest Quaker meeting-houses in England

Bent of one's bow, The 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch xi, I, hauyng the bent of your vnclcs bow 1579 Lyly, *Euphues*, 75 (Arber), Do you therefore thinke me easely entised 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, vii 67 [said to have been heard in Warwickshire within the last ten years]

Berwick 1 *From Berwick to Dover*, later with addition, *three hundred miles over* c 1300 R Brunne, tr Langtoft's *Chron*, 305 (Hearne), 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 Douer and Berwicke 1642 D Rogers, *Naa-man*, sig Hh3, Though you should

runne from Barwicke 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, *Paræm.*, 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 besyde 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. 1. *Best among them.* See Fox-cubs.

2. *Best by yourself like Lowd's tup* [ram]. 1886: R. Holland, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 447 (E.D.S.), Best by hissel like Lowndes's tup. Said of a disagreeable, quarrelsome fellow. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 29.

3. *Best cart.* See Cart (2).

4. *Best friends.* See Friend (7).

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

6. *In the deepest water is the best fishing.* 1633: Draxe, 66. 1670: Ray, 9. Cf. No. 14.

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

8. *Living at the best end of the pig-trough.* 1856: E. Hinchliffe, *Barthomley*, 135, The Shropshire farmers, more accustomed to the delicacies of beef and beer, charge ours, in Cheshire, with "living at the best end of the pig

trough." 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 93.

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

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

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.

14. *The best fish swim near the bottom* 1639: Clarke, 212. 1670: Ray, 90. 1732: Fuller, No. 4412, The best fish swim deep 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Fish." Cf. No. 6.

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

16. *The best ground is the dirtiest.* c. 1393: Langland, *Plowman*, C, xiii. 224, On fat lond and ful of donge foulest wedes groweth. 1598: Shakespeare, 2 *Henry IV.*, IV. iv., Most subject is the fattest soil to weeds. 1633: Donne, *Poems*, i. 81 (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).

17. *The best horse needs breaking.* 1639: Clarke, 100. 1670: Ray, 105, The best horse needs breaking, and the aptest child needs teaching. 1732: Fuller, No. 6441 [as in 1670]. 1868: *Quart. Review*, cxxv. 253, The best horse needs breaching, And the aptest child needs teaching.

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, wheresoeuer ye dwell. 1655: Gurnall, *Christian in Armour*, Verse 11, ch. iii., p. 41 (1679), He that sells cheapest shall have most customers, though at last best will be best cheap. 1785-95: Wolcot, *Lousiad*,

can v, "Best is best cheap"—you very wisely cry

20 *The best is best to speak to* 1683 Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697)

21 *The best mirror is an old friend* 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Miroir," An old friend an excellent looking-glasse 1670 Ray, 10 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 xiii, a bad bargain 1923 J S

Fletcher, *The Diamonds*, ch xxviii, Resolved to make the best of an unendianably bad job

30 *To put the best (a) foot, (b) leg, foremost* (a) c 1591 Shakespeare, *Titus Andr*, II iii, 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 1886 R L S, *Kidnapped* ch xviii, 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*, l 825 (Brandl's *Quellen*, 99), Com behynd and folow me Set out the better leg I warne the 1633 Jonson *Tale of a Tub*, II 1, Cheer up, the better leg afore 1742 Fielding, *Andrews* bk 1 ch xi Lovers do not march like horse-guards they put the best leg foremost 1838 Dickens, *Tuist*, 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 Fredvile a squire 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 xlv, 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

than die at the gallows. 1694: 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: *Ancren Riwele*, 360, Betere is finker offe pen he eke euer. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phrascol. 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. "Amasseur," A warie keeper is better than a carefull getter. 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 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. Ill 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, *Egloges*, 9 (Spens. S.), Then better is small fire one easily 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 inconuenience to preuent a mischiefe. 1593: G. Harvey, in *Works*, i. 284 (Grosart), So in many priuate cases, better an inconuenience then a mischiefe. 1642: D. Rogers, *Matrim. Honour*, 117, Better admit a mischiefe then an inconvenience. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phrascol. 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 (1).

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 dallying shilling. 1894: Northall, *Folk Phrases of Four Counties*, 11 (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, *Promus*, No. 494. 1678: Ray, 40.

Better bad than 'bout [without]. 1826: Wilbraham, *Cheshire Gloss.*, s.v. Said by a woman urged to quit a bad husband. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 29.

Better be a fool than a knave. 1616: *Rich Cabinet*, fo. 44, Yet better to bee a foole then a knaue. 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 acompayned 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

company 1732 Fuller, No 872 Cf  
Better alone, *supra*

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

Better be envied 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 "Envyed"

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 iii

Better be ill spoken of by one before  
all, than by all before one 1659  
Howell, *Proverbs*, 'To Philologists'  
1670 Ray, 14

Better be out of the world See Out  
of the world

Better be over-manned than over-  
tooled 1886 Elworthy, *West Som  
Word-Book*, 547 (E D S), A common  
saying is,—"Tis better to be"  
i e 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  
Prudentum*

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'Israeli, *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'Israeli, *Cur  
of Lit*, 2nd ser, 1 447 (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 trouble-  
some 1659 Howell, 5 1670 Ray,

153 1732 Fuller, No 880 Cf Un-  
mannerliness

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, *Troilus*, 1 257, The yerde  
[twig, 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), Beter bowe  
than brest 1530 Palsgrave, 660,  
Better plye than breake 1560 Wil-  
son, *Rhetorique*, 189 (1909) 1611  
Davies (of Hereford), *Sc 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 bread than is made of  
wheate 1592 Lyly, *Mother Bombe*,  
I iii 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Frou-  
ment," Would you have better bread  
then's made of wheat 1712 Motteux,  
*Quixote*, Pt I bk i 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 1633 Draxe, 18  
1732 Fuller, No 884

Better children weep than old men  
1541 Coverdale, *Christ State Matri-  
mony*, sig I8, Better it is that children  
wepe then old men c 1594 Bacon,  
*Promus*, No 481 1650 Fuller, *Pisgah  
Sight*, bk iii ch iv § 1

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

Better direct well than work hard  
Ibid, No 889

Better do it than wish it done 1546  
Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch v,  
Better it be doone than wishe it had



been doone. 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 Riwele*, p. 340 (Morton), Better is er þen to lete (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: Scott, *Rob Roy*, ch. xviii., Better sune as syne.

Better end of the staff. 1567: Pickering, *Horestes*, l. 168 (Brandl, *Quellen*, 499), By godes ge, iche had not the best end of the staffe. 1667: L'Estrange, *Quevedo's Visions*, 38 (1904), The devil of money has the better end of the staff. 1753: Richardson, *Grandison*, i. 360 (1883), 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 eye out than always ache. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. viii. 1597: Bacon, *Coulers of good and euill*, 10. 1670: Ray, 86.

Better fed than taught. 1530: Palsgrave, 557, He is better fostred [nourished] than taught. 1548: Hall, *Chron.*, 15 (1809), These monasticall persones . . . better fed then taught. 1636: Taylor (Water-Poet), *Travels*, 19, in *Works*, 3rd coll. (Spens. S.). 1820: Scott, *Monastery*, ch. i.

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 prouerbe true: Better fill a mans belly then his eye. 1670: Ray, 96.

Better give a shilling than lend . . . 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Ital.-Eng.*, 14, Better give a penny then lend twenty.

1732: Fuller, No. 895, Better give a shilling than lend and lose half a crown. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 101, Give a shilling sooner than lend half a crown.

Better give than take. 1493: *Dives and Pauper*, fo. 2 (1536), It is . . . more blyssful to giue 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 about than fall into the ditch. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Span.-Eng.*, 5. 1670: Ray, 1. 1732: Fuller, No. 897, Better go back than lose your self.

Better go to bed supperless. See Supperless.

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

Better have it than hear of it. 1639: Clarke, 256, Better to have than to heare 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 ploughs going, 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, *Brut*, ii. 297 (Madden), Hit wes yare i-queðen: þat betere is liste þene ufel strenþe (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.*, 122 (Arber).

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

Better keep now than seek anon. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 16.

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 knave 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 wel trust as knowne 1592 Chettle, *Kind-Hearts Dream*, 10 (Percy S), Better knowne than loud 1670 Ray, 183 1732 Fuller, No 909 1817 Scott, *Rob Roy*, 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 late than never [κρείττον ἐστὶν ἀρσασθαι ὅψι τὰ δέοντα πράττειν ἢ μηδέν ποτε] —Dionysius of Halicarnassus ix 9] c 1386 Chaucer *Canon's Yeoman's Tale*, l 857, For bet than never is late c 1420 Lydgate, *Assembly of Gods*, st 172, p 36 (EETS) He seyde vyce to forsake ys bettyr late than neuer 1579 Gosson, *Sch of Abuse*, 41 (Arber) 1667 Pepys, *Diary*, 17 March I have been much ashamed of our not visiting her sooner but better now than never 1669 *Politeuphonia* 183, Better late thrive than never 1767 Murphy, *Sch for Guardians*, I iv 1790 M P Andrews, [farce] *Better Late than Never* [title] 1868 Robertson, *Play*, IV

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

Better lose a jest than a friend 1593 G Harvey, in *Works*, ii 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, *Handf 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, *Æsop*, 121 (3rd ed) 1821

Scott, *Kenslworth*, 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 home 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 spilled 1670 Ray, 51 1735 Pegge, *Kentisms*, in E D S, No 12, p 48 1887 Parish and Shaw, *Dict Kent Dialect* 157 (E D S), Spilled Spoilt 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 prouerb is fulfilled, better one house troubled then two 1924 *Folk-Lore*, xxxv 358 [Suffolk], Better one house spoilt 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 xxxvii 1694 D Urfe, *Quixote* Pt I Act IV sc 1

Better ride safe, etc See quot 1821 Scott, *Kenslworth*, ch viii, "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*, ii 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 (1697). 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 best 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 husbände and huswife, 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: Spurgeon, *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. Prudentum*.

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 spaare. 1560: Wilson, *Rhetorique*, 189 (1909), It were better sometimes wastefully to spende, then warely to keepe. 1732: Fuller, No. 926.

Better suffer ill than do ill. 1639: Clarke, 15, Better to suffer wrong than doe wrong. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 164.

Better the day, better the deed. 1607:

Middleton, *Mich. Term*, III. i. 1612: Rowlands, *Knave 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, *Drood*, ch. x., Ask Mr. Landless to dinner on Christmas Eve (the better the day the better the deed).

Better the feet slip than the tongue. 1586: Pettie, tr. Guazzo's *Civil Convers.*, fo. 55, It is better to slip with the foote, then with the tongue. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Glisser." 1670: Ray, 26. 1732: Fuller, No. 932. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 88. Cf. Slip of the foot.

Better the harm I know than that I know not. 1586: D. Rowland, tr. *Lazarillo*, 73 (1924), Remembring the olde proverbe: Better is the evill 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 happie 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 sayth) to haue bene ydle then euyl occupied. 1601: Lyly, *Love's Metam*, I. ii., Yet better idle then ill employed. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 252, Better be idle then not well employed. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' *Colloquies*, 210, Thence comes the proverb, It is better to be idle, than to be doing, but to no purpose.

Better to be stung by a nettle, than prickt 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 Frutes*, 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 ["knit"] 1732 Fuller, No 2917 ["knot"]

Better to leave than to maintain folly c 1477 Caxton, *Jason*, 116 (E E T S), For as it is said communly, hit is better to leue folie thenne to mayntene folie

Better to live in low degree than high disdain 1589 L Wright, *Display of Dulie* 17, It is a true saying better to live in lowe degree then high disdaine 1647 *Countrysm 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*, II (Grosart) 1633 Draxe 172

Better to wear out than to rust out 1770 G Whitefield, in Southey, *Wesley*, II 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 þan vnbusum [unbuxom=disobedient] c 1460 *How the Goode Wyfe*, I 203, For a chyld vn-borne wer better Than be vn-taught, thus seys the letter c 1555 in Wright, *Songs*, etc., *Reign of Philip and Mary*, 6 (Roxb Cl), Unborne ys better than untought 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 unfed than untaught 1557 Seager, *Sch of Vertue*, in *Babees Book*, etc., 348 (E E T S), The common prouerbe remember ye oughte, "Better vnfedde then vn-taughte" 1580 Lyly, *Euphues*, 420 (Arber), I haue beene better taught then fedde

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 Midl*, ch xxxi 1874 Hardy, *Madding Crowd*, ch xxii 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 workmon—wo'se husbant

Between promising and performing a man may marry his daughter 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Donner," *Entre 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, *Philotinus*, sig Cc2, My spirite was betwxt 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 anuill 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 twelve and two. *See* Hours.

Between you and me and the post (or bed - post, door - post, etc.). 1838: Dickens, in *Letters*, i. 11 (1880), Between you and me and the general post. 1839: Dickens, *Nickleby*, ch. x., Between you and me and the post, sir, it will be a very nice portrait. 1843: Planché, *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, *Worthies*, 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 (1).

Beware of breed, i.e. ill breed. Cheshire. 1670: Ray, 65. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 31.

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 Frutes*, 99, To womens forepartes doo not aspire, From a mules hinder parte retire, And shun all partes of monke or frire. 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 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.

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

Bible-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 untruths 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: Baret, *Alvearie*, T 270, Such as . . . looke as though they had eaten bulbeefe. 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. Lancs*, s.v. "Bull-beef."

Big in the mouth. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 32, Big i' th' maith [given to boasting].

Bilberry. *See* Blue (2).

Bilbrough. *See* Beccles.

Bill after helve. Apparently equivalent to "Helve after hatchet." 1670: Ray, 164.

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. 1. *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 Muirhead, *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 215

Billingshurst See Rudgwick

Billy has found a pin 1694 Ld 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 [*τὸν παρὸν αἶματι ἐν τῇ χειρὶ ἂν δυοῖν*,—Theocritus, xi 75] Before 1500 in Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 128 (E E T S). A birde in hond is better than thre in the wode c 1530 J Heywood *Witty and Witsless*, 213 (Farmer). Better one bird in hand than ten in the wood c 1550 *Parl of Byrdes*, l 196, in Hazlitt, *Early Pop Poetry*, iii 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 chaunting 1583 Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig F3. I had a little bird, that brought me newes of it 1598 Shakespeare, 2 *Henry IV*, V v 1652 Shurley, *Cardinal*, I 1. Take heed, the Cardinal holds Intelligence with every bird i' 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" 1919 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 Cotgrave, s v "Nid." Such bird, such nest 1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 296

5 Birds are entangled by their feet, and men by their tongues 1732 Fuller, No 981

6 Birds of a feather flock (or fly) together [*ὡς αἰεὶ τὰς ἀοῖαν ἀγῆι βίδς ὡς τὰς ἀοῖαν*—Homer, *Od*, xvii 218 Pares *vetere proverbio cum paribus facillime congregantur*—Cicero, *Sen*, iii 7] 1578 Whetstone, *Promos and Cassandra*, sig C1. Byrds of a fether, best flye together 1607 Rowlands, *Diog Lanthorne*, 43 (Hunt C1). Birds of a feather and a kinde, 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 iii. 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*, xi

8 He hath brought up a bird to pick out his own eyes 1639 Clarke, 157 1672 Walker, *Parcem*, 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 goat for an owl 1678 Ray, 101 1732 Fuller, No 2458

10 If every bird take back its own feathers, you'll be naked 1633 Draxe, 18. If every birde had his owne, he

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 locked ne take by chaf. 1640: R. Brome, *Sparagus Garden*, IV. xi., Teach 'hem to licke 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.*, 10. 1732: Fuller, No. 12.

16. *The bird that can sing and won't sing, must be made to sing.* 1678: Ray, 343. 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 in 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: Draxe, 2.

See also Addled 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.

Birkenhead. See Blacon Point.

Birmingham. See Sutton.

Birstal for ringers, Heckmondwike for singers, Dewsbury for peddlers, Cleckheaton for sheddlers [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. lxxiii 1732: Fuller, No. 983.

Bishop. 1. *The bishop hath blessed it* 1528: Tyndale, *Obed. of Chryst. Man*, 166, When a thyng spreadeth not well we borowe speach and say "the byshope hath blessed it," because that nothyng spreadeth well that they medyll withall.

2. *The bishop has put his foot in it* 1528: Ibid., 166, If the podech be burned to, or the meate over rosted, we say, "the byshope has put his fote in the potte," or "the byshope hath played the coke," because the byshopes 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.L.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*, 81  
(3rd ed), Some againe that doe feed  
them, but alas! it is as the proverbe  
saith, with a bit and a knocke 1672  
Walker, *Paræm*, 10, You feed me like  
an ape, with a bit and a knock 1738  
Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I, 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 "Ne er  
give a bit And a buffet wi' '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*, iii 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 Glos To bite  
the ear was a caress see *Romeo and*  
*Juliet*, II iv 1639 in *Berkeley MSS*,  
iii 32 (1885)

2 He that bites on every weed, must  
needs light on poison 1639 Clarke,  
211. 1669 *Politeuphuia*, 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  
teeth 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,  
This biteth the mare by the thumb, as  
they sey 1611 Davies (of Hereford),  
*Sc of Folly*, 43, in *Works*, ii (Grosart),  
Thus bitt 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 [*ἡ βέρβη τὴν λόρρα* —Lucian, *Dial Mort*,  
viii] 1693 D'Urfe, *Richmond Heiress*,  
Epil, Once in an age the biter

should be bit 1710 Ward, *Nuptial*  
*Dialogues*, ii 179, I think she merits  
equal praise That has the wit to bite  
the biter 1880 Spurgeon, *Plough-*  
*man's Pictures*, 16, Biters deserve to  
be bitten

Biting and scratching See Cat (14)

Bitter 1 Bitter as gall c 1305 in  
Wright's *Pol Songs John to Edw II*,  
193 (Camden S), Ther hi habbeth  
dronke bittre then the galle 1468  
Cov *Mysteries*, 233 (Sh S), My mowthe  
is byttyr 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 ii,  
101 Bitter as gall 1716 Ward, *Female*  
*Policy*, 30 1892 Heslop, *Northumb*  
*Words*, 311, As bitter as gaa [gall]

2 Bitter as soot c 1305 in Wright's  
*Pol Songs John to Edw II*, 195  
(Camden S), Hit falleth the Kyng of  
Fraunce bittrore then the sote c 1374  
Chaucer, *Troilus*, iii 1194, To whom  
this tale sucre be or soot [i e sweet or  
bitter] 1758-67 Sterne, *Trist Shandy*,  
Vol IV ch xiii (1788), And now thy  
mouth is as bitter, I dare say, as  
soot 1857-72 Buckland, *Curios of*  
*Nat Hist*, iii 29, They are as bitter  
as soot, if you eats 'em raw

3 Bitter pills may have wholesome  
effects [c 1374 Chaucer, *Troilus*,  
iii 1215, And for to han gladnesse, Men  
drinken often peyne and greet dis-  
tresse] 1732 Fuller, No 985

4 He who hath bitter in his mouth,  
spits not all sweet 1640 Herbert, *Jac*  
*Prudentum* 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 1 A bittern makes no good  
hawk 1611 Davies (of Hereford), *Sc*  
*of Folly*, 42 in *Works*, ii (Grosart)

2 To roar like a bittern 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.: *Harl. 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.

2. *A black shoe makes a merry heart.* 1659: Howell, 18. 1670: Ray, 216.

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

4. *Although I am black, I am not the devil.* 1595: Peele, *Old Wives Tale*, sig. D3.

5. *Black as a coal.* c. 1000: *Sax. Leechd.*, ii. 332 (O.), And swa sweart swa col. c. 1260: *King Horn* (Camb.), l. 590 (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 hors. 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 coal. 1860: Reade, *Cloister and Hearth*, ch. liv., Else our hearts were black as coal.

6. *Black as a crow (or crake).* c. 1320: *Horn Childe*, l. 1049, in Hall's *King Horn* (1901), Blac as ani crowe. 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 cawse 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, think her as black as a crow. 1828: Carr, *Craven Dialect*, i. 91, Crake, a crow, as black as a crake. 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.*, 295 (Hearne), His stede was blak as rauē. 1663: Killigrew, *Thomaso*, Pt. II. Act I.

sc. ii., It keeps him as black as a raven. 1720: Gay, *Trivia*, bk. ii. l. 198, Black as the . . . glossy raven's back.

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 Portyngale*, 17 (E.E.T.S.), Ys fyttē [his feet] blac ase slon. 1567: Golding, *Ovid*, bk. ii. l. 315, His wares as blacke 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: Gylforde, *Pylgrymage*, 53 (Camden S.), It is comenly derke as hell. 1590: Spenser, *F. Q.*, I. viii. 355, But all a deepe 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, *Egloges*, 30 (Spens. S.), At euery 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. Wilts.*, 21 (1847), Which . . . became immediately as black as inke. 1721: D'Urfey, *Two Queens of Brentford*, IV., Whose sordid soul, as black as ink. . . . 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. 987, 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*.

13. *Black as soot.* 1678: Ray, 281.

14 *Black as the devil* c 1580 Spelman, *Dialogue*, 42 (Roxb Cl), His face was as black as a devill in a playe  
1670 Ray, 203 1754 Berthelson, *Eng-Danish Dict*, s v As

15 *Black as the devil's nutting-bag*  
1866 Gilpin, *Songs* (Cumberland), 393 (W), Her smock s leyke auld Nick's nuttin' bag 1879 Henderson, *Folk-Lore N Counties* 96, A proverb is current there [Sussex], As black as the devil's nutting-bag" 1899 *N & Q*, 9th ser, iv 478 [saying common in N Lincs] 1900 *N & Q*, 9th ser v 38 and 197 [saying common in Berks, Somerset and Suffolk]

16 *Black as thunder* 1839 Planche, *Extravag*, ii 56 (1879), He looks as black as thunder 1922 Weyman, *Ovington's Bank*, ch iii He's in his room and as black as thunder

17 *Black fleet of Norway* See Boston's Bay, and England (11)

18 *Black hen* See Hen (1)

19 *Black Jack rides a good horse* = Zinc ore gives good promise for copper 1865 Hunt, *Pop Romances W of Eng* 194 (1896) 1902 Wright, *Eng Dial Dict*, iii 239

20 *Black lad Monday* = Monday in Easter-week 1846 Denham, *Proverbs*, 32 (Percy S)

21 *Black man* See Red hair

22 *Black men are pearls in ladies' eyes*, or, *A black man is a jewel*, etc 1599 Chapman, *Hum Day's Mirth*, sc viii, Oh, sir, black is a pearl in a woman's eye c 1623 B & F, *Love's Cure*, III iv, The fairest ladies like the blackest men 1623 Shakespeare, *Two Gent*, V ii 1670 Ray, 51 1732 Fuller, No 16

23 *No one can say black is my (or his, or your) eye (or nail)* 1402 Hoccleve, in *Minor Poems*, 76 (EETS), That when thow twynnest fro hir companye, another cometh and blered ys thyn yel 1412 Hoccleve *Regement*, st 404, l 2823 (EETS), No man seith onēs that blak is his eye 1583 Stubbes, *Anat of Abuses*, 88 (N Sh S), And yet maie no man saie blacke is their eye 1625 Jonson, *Staple of News*, I ii, He can commit whom

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*, iii 145 (1815), I defy any body to say black's my nail 1771 Smollett, *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), Noabody niver so much as said black's my naail to me [said anything evil], when I liv'd at Burringham

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 crows foote is on her eye, and the black 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 ii 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 *Pozzi 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

colour, and above salt no savour. 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 33. 1629: *Booke of Meery Riddles*, Prov. 120. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Ital.-Eng.*, 7.

2. *Black will take no other hue.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. ix. 1593: Peele, *Edward I.*, sc. viii. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 262. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Black."

3. *In black and white.* c. 1440: Lydgate, *Fall of Princes*, bk. i. l. 465, Hauyng no colours but onli whit and blak, To the tragedies which that I shal write. 1596: Jonson, *Ev. Man in his Humour*, IV. iii., I have it here in black and white [pulls out the warrant]. 1658: Cowley, *Cutter of Coleman Street*, l. v., I saw it from a good hand beyond sea, under black and white. 1678: Bunyan, *Pilgr. Progress*, Author's Apology. 1740: North, *Examen*, 404, A wicked paragraph it is, as ever was put in black and white. 1823: Scott, *St. Roman's*, ch. xxiii. 1886: Hardy, *Casterbridge*, ch. ix.

**Blackamoor.** *To wash (or make) the blackamoor white.* [Laterem 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 Ethiop white. 1604: Dekker, *Honest Whore*, Pt. II. Act I. sc. i., This is the blackamoor that by washing was turned white. 1673: Wycherley, *Gent. Danc.-Master*, IV. i., You wash the blackamoor white, in endeavouring to make a Spaniard 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: Planché, *Extravag.*, iv. 280 (1879), If any one could wash a blackamoor white It would be Mrs. Beecher Stowe.

**Blackberries,** *Plentiful as.* 1596: Shakespeare, 1 *Henry IV.*, II. iv., If reasons were as plentie as black-berries. 1690: *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, *Hants 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 [yellow] as a paigle [cowslip or marigold].** [1530: Palsgrave, s.v., Blake, wan of colour.] 1678: Ray, 355. 1683: Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83 (1697). 1834: Toone, *Glossary*, s.v. "Paigle." 1866: Mrs. Lynn Linton, *Lizzie Lorton*, ii. 217, As blake as marygowds. 1884: H. Friend, *Flowers and Fl. Lore*, 210.

**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 Ale (3)  
Blest is the bride See Happy

Blind, adj 1 A blind man cannot  
(or should not) judge colours c 1374  
Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk ii l 21, A blind  
man can nat iuggen wel in hewis 1412  
Hoccleve, *Regement*, 36 (E E T S), The  
blynde man of colours al wrong  
deemeth 1530 Palsgrave, 511, A  
blynde man can nat deme no coulours  
1637 Breton, in *Works*, ii h 44 (Gro-  
sart) 1759 Warburton, in *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 I,  
A blind man would be glad to see that  
1894 Northall, *Folk Phrases of Four  
Counties* (E D 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 coxcombs  
have 1742 Fielding, *Andrews*, 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 340

6 As one blind man said to another,  
let's behold ourselves 1612 Shelton,  
*Quixote*, Pt I bk iv ch xxiii 1694  
D'Urfey, *Quixote*, Pt I Act V sc 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 themin,  
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 blinde man may hit a crow  
1732 Fuller, No 1393 1830 Forby,  
*Vocab E Anglia*, 428, Hitty-mussy, 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 Prudentum*

11 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  
Yorks*, 16

12 Blind as a beetle 1549 Latimer,  
*Seven Sermons*, 90 (Arber), In this  
wysdome he is as blynd as a beatel  
1647 in *Polit Ballads*, 47 (Percy S),  
Jack Maynard is a loyall 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! 1860 Reade, *Cloister and  
Hearth*, ch 1 1881 Evans, *Leics  
Words*, 102 (E D S), "As blind as a  
beetle" is a very common simile, the  
cockchafer being the beetle referred to  
1892 Heslop, *Northumb Words*, 60  
(E D 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 *Ploverman*, 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.

14. *Blind as a mole*. 1584: B. R., *Euterpe*, 68 (Lang), In the water as blinde as a moale. 1658: Willsford, *Natures Secrets*, 2, When they are as blind as moles. 1785: Wolcot, in *Works*, i. 84 (1795). 1823: Scott, *Peeveril*, ch. xxxii.

15. *Blind George*. See quotes. 1633: Jonson, *Tale of a Tub*, II. i., That I would fain zee, quoth the blind George of Holloway. 1678: Ray, 268, That would I fain see, said blind George of Hollowee. Cf. Nos. 3 and 18.

16. *Blind harpers*. See Have among you.

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

18. *Blind Hugh*. See quotes. 1533: J. Heywood, *Pardoner and Friar*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, i. 232 (1874), Marry that I would see, quod blind Hew. 1639: in *Berkeley MSS.*, iii. 30 (1885), I w'ud I c'ud see't, ka' blind Hugh. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I., Would I could see it, quoth blind Hugh. Cf. Nos. 3 and 15.

19. *Blind man's holiday*. 1599: Nashe, *Lenten Stuffe*, in *Works*, v. 263 (Grosart), What will not blinde Cupid doe in the night which is his blindmans holiday? 1690: *New Dict. Canting Crew*, sig. B6, Blind-man's-holiday, when it is too dark to see to work. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. III. 1828: Carr, *Craven Dialect*, i. 38. 1891: Q.-Couch, *Noughts and Crosses*, 109, Day was breakin'—a sort of blind man's holiday.

20. *Blind whelps*. See Hasty bitch.

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 tymes are most blind in their owne cause. 1683: Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 85 (1697), Men are blind in their awn cause.

24. *None are so blind as those that will not see*. 1547: Borde, *Brev. of Helthe*, bk. ii. fo. vi v<sup>o</sup>, Who is blynder than he y<sup>t</sup> 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.

25. *The blind man's wife needs no painting*. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Span.-Eng.*, 4. 1670: Ray, 3. 1732: Fuller, No. 992.

26. *To a blind horse a nod is as good as a wink*. 1802: in Dor. Wordsworth's *Journal*, i. 129 (Knight), A wink's as good as a nod with some folks. 1822: Scott, *Nigel*, ch. xxv., Let me hear from you to-morrow. Good night, good night—a nod is as good as a wink. 1842: Barham, *Ing. Legends*, 2nd ser.: "Old Woman Clothed in Grey." 1894: Northall, *Folk Phrases of Four Counties*, 6 (E.D.S.). 1926: Phillpotts, *Peacock House*, 147, So a nod's as good as a wink, Joe.

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

*Blind, subs.* 1. *The blind eat many a fly*. c. 1430: Lydgate, *Ballade*, in Skeat's *Chaucer*, vii. 295, The blind et many a fly. Before 1529: Skelton, in *Works*, i. 213 (Dyce), But, as the man sayes, The blynde eteth many a flye. 1609: Rowlands, *Whole Crew of Kind*

*Gossips* 19 (Hunt Cl) 1671 Head and Kirkman, *English Rogue*, 11 88 1732 Fuller, No 4428 1881 Evans, *Leics Words*, 300 (E D S), Blind 1' th' eye Eats many a fly

2 *When the blind leads the blind, both fall into the ditch* [Luke vi 39] c 1450 in *Reliq Antiquæ*, 11 238 (1843). For now the bysmon [blind] ledys the blynde 1583 Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig Yr, 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 xiii

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 Convers*, 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 iii l 2071, For naturelly 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, *Middlemarch*, ch xxxii

2 *Blood without groats is nothing* 1665 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 had but groats 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 groats is nothing,' meaning that family without fortune is of no consequence 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, 1 200 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*, 1] 1630 T Adams, *Works*, 205, So the blood of martyrs seedes the church Before 1680 Butler, *Remains*, 1 135 (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 tu aquam a pumice nunc postulas, Qui ipsus sitiit—Plautus, *Pers*, I 1 42] 1599 J Weever, *Epigrammes*, 17 (1911), For who'le wrest water from a flintie stone? 1666 Torniato, *Piazza Univ*, 161, There's no getting of blood 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

Blossom *That which doth blossom in the spring, will bring forth fruit in the autumn* 1633 Draxe, 13 1670 Ray, 3 1732 Fuller, No 3544, No autumn-fruit without spring-blossoms

Blot 1 *A blot is no blot till it be hit* A "blot" in backgammon is an exposed piece which is liable to capture 1664 J Wilson, *The Cheats*, V in, 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 xliii 1820 Scott, *Fam Letters*, 11 97 (1894), But then a blot is not a blot till hit

2 *Cleaning a blot with blotted fingers maketh a greater blur* 1732 Fuller, No 1112

Blow, verb 1 *Blow down, 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*

*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.

7. *He can't neither blow nor strike.* A blacksmith's description of a useless person. 1926: *Devonsh. Assoc. Trans.*, lvii. 152.

8. *He that blows in the dust fills his eyes with it.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentium*. 1694: D'Urfey, *Quixote*, Pt. I. Act IV. sc. i., 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 medita-cyons. 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, ll. 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*, 11, 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.* [Simul flare sorbereque haud factu facilest.—Plautus, *Most.*, 791.] 1577: Grange, *Golden Aphroditis*, sig. D2, Out of one mouthe commeth bothe hotte and colde. 1619: H. Hutton, *Follies Anat.*, 12 (Percy S.), Which, Gnato like, doth blowe both hot and cold. 1692: L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 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).

11. *To blow one's own trumpet* 1799: T. Knight, *Turnpike Gate*, I. i., in *Inchbald, Farces*, iii. 72 (1815), Or I should not blush so often as I do, by blowing the trumpet of my own praise. 1844: Planché, *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.

Bloxham for length, Adderbury for strength, but King's Sutton for beauty. Warwickshire church spires. 1878: *N. & Q.*, 5th ser., ix. 175.

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 wimberr* (bilberry). 1600: Shakespeare, *Merry Wives*, V. v., There pinch the maids as blue as bilberry. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 1, As blue as a wimberr. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 10.

3. *Blue veins in the nose.* 1865: Hunt, *Pop. Romances W. of Eng.*, 431 (1896), The old lady of the house had just told her that the chuld 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 mone is belewe, 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 diuell out of his wits 1880 Braddon, *Barbara*, iii 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 Wives Tale*, sig Dii, Three blue beanes 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 blew beans in a blew bladder, And thrice three rounds in a long ladder 1687 Aubrey, *Gentilisme* 12 (F L S) [as in 1595] 1715 Prior, *Alma*, can 1 l 29, They say That, putting all his words together, 'Tis three blue beans in one blue bladder 1823 Moor, *Suffolk Words*, 23, [as in 1595]—thrice repeated is as old a frolicsome sort of Suffolk shibboleth as I can recollect, and is still frequently heard

Blunt wedge will do it, where sometimes a sharp ax will not, A 1732 Fuller, No 19

Blurt, master constable 1602 Middleton *Blurt, Master Constable* [title] 1659 Howell, 14, Blurt, Mr Constable spoken in denision 1855 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 (Arber), You shall see we will make him to blush like a blacke dogge, when he is graveled c 1590 *Plaine Percevall*, 13 (1860), He is given to blush no more then my black dog c 1591 Shakespeare, *Titus Andr*, V 1 1694 Motteux, *Rabelais*, bk v ch xxviii 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I [with "blue" for "black"]

Blushing is a sign of grace 1595 *A Quest of Enqurie*, 4 (Grosart), Margaret blushing (for she hath a little grace yet left her) 1605 R T, *Sch of Slovenrie*, 96, When guiltie 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 neuer durst say so much as boh to a mouse 1664 *Wits Recr*, Epigr 749, You see, I can cry Bo unto a goose 1748 Smollett, *Rod Random*, ch liv 1885 Pinero, *Magistrate*, 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 'holme' bush means an old holly See also Feed (3)

Boaster and a liar are all one (or cousins), A c 1374 Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk iii l 309, Avantour [a boaster] and a lyere, al is on 1683 Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697), A vaunter and a lyar is baith yay thing 1732 Fuller, No 21, A boaster and a lyar are cousin-germans 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch viii, You will soon find out that a boaster and a liar are first cousins

Boat *Ill goes the boat without oars* 1578 Florio, *First Fruites*, fo 28 1629 *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov 64 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Fr-Eng*, 3 See also Oar, and Same boat

Bocking See Brantree

Bode *Boad a bagg, and bearn*, 1 c An ill hap fallies where it is feared Glos 1639 in *Berkeley MSS*, iii 32 (1885)

Bodkin, To ride 1638 Ford, *Fancies*, IV 1 (O), Where but two lie in a bed you must be—bodkin, bitch-baby—must ye? 1816 Scott, *Antiquary*, ch xvii Between the two massive figures was stuck, by way of bodkin the slim form of Mary McIntyre 1849 Mrs Trollope *Lottery of Marriage*,



ch. xiii., Her position as bodkin between her father and mother.

**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, 10, 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. Vagaries*, in *Hum. Works*, 141 (Hotten, 1869), Brisk as a flea.

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

**Bolas.** *Cold and chilly, like Bolas.* 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 592.

**Bold.** 1. *Be not too bold with your betters.* 1659: Howell, 3. 1855: Bohn, 324, Be bold but not too bold.

2. *Bold as a lion.* Before 1225: *Ancren R.*, 274, Vor pi beop euer agean him herdi ase leun ine treowe bileaue. 14th cent.: *Guy of Warwick*, l. 9587 (E.E.T.S.), As stowte as a lyon. c. 1430: Lydgate, *Minor Poems*, 198 (Percy S.), Force of juvenus, hardy as lioun. 1597: Shakespeare, 1 *Henry IV.*, III. i., Valiant as a lion. 1694: *Terence made English*, 84, I cowhearted? I'm as bold as a lion. 1710: Ward, *Eng. Reform.*, 136 (1716). 1819: Scott, *Bride of L.*, ch. xi. 1893: R. L. S., *Catriona*, ch. xxx.

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

4. *Bold as brass.* 1789: G. Parker, *Life's Painter*, 162, He died . . . as bold as brass. 1849: Lytton, *Caxtons*, Pt. I. ch. iv., Master Sisty . . . as bold as brass. 1922: Weyman, *Ovington's Bank*, ch. xvii.

5. *Bold as Hector.* 1684: *Great Frost*, 20 (Percy S.), Some bold as Hector.

**Boldness in business** is the first, second and third thing. 1732: Fuller, No. 1006.

**Boldness is blind.** *Ibid.*, No. 1005.

**Bolney.** *Merry Bolney, rich Twineham, Proud Cowfold, and silly Shermanbury.* 1884: "Sussex Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 6th ser., ix. 403.

**Bolsover.** See quot. c. 1791: Pegge, *Derbicisms*, 136 (E.D.S.), Bowser [Bolsover] for bacco-pipes; Tre[el]ton for trenchers; Laughton for a pretty lass, Whiston for wenches.

**Bolt.** 1. *A bolt from the blue.* [Homer, *Od.*, v. 102. Horace, *Carm.*, I. xxxiv. Virgil, *Georg.*, i. 487-8.] 1898: H. James, in *Letters*, i. 285 (1920), Such an inspiration was your charming note—out of the blue!—of a couple of days ago. 1901: W. James, in *Letters*, ii. 142 (1920), In general I don't see how an epigram, being a pure bolt from the blue, with no introduction or cue, ever gets itself writ.

2. *A bolt lost is not a bow broken.* 1821: Scott, *Kenilworth*, ch. xvi.

3. *This bolt never came out of your quiver.* 1683: Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697), This bolt com never out of your bag. 1732: Fuller, No. 4334.

4. *To make a bolt or a shaft* = To take the risk. 1600: Shakespeare, *Merry Wives*, III. iv. 1608: Middleton, *Trick to Catch, etc.*, II. i. 1694: *Terence made English*, 12, Since my life's at stake, I'm resolved to make a bolt or a shaft on't. 1732: Fuller, No. 5201.

See also Fool (24).

**Bone.** 1. *A bone to pick* (or bite) on. 1565: Calfhill, *Ans. to Martiall*, 277 (P.S.), Only therefore will I add this, which may be a bone for you to pick on. 1583: Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig. C1, I cast the[e] a bone to bite on. 1612:

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*, iii 31 (1885), meaning, Difficult and hard things are not altogether to be rejected or things 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, alleging that he had a bone in his throte and could not speake 1666 Torriano, *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, *Cheshire Gloss*, 25, When a person has a shooting pain in the arm or leg, it is common to say, "I've a bone i' th' arm or leg" 1920 E F Benson, *Our Family Affairs*, 15, Panting and bright-eyed she would stop and say, 'Eh, 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

Boot after bale=Help or relief after woe or distress Before 1300 *Cursor M*, l 21621 (EETS), pate wip beting was bote of bale For seknes sere to mac pain hale c 1320 in *Reliq Antiquæ*, i 113 (1841), When the bale is hest [highest], Thenne is the bote nest, quoth Hendyng c 1380 *Gamelyn*, l 631, in *Skeat's Chaucer*, iv 660, After bale cometh boote thurgh grace of God almight c 1400 *Beryn*, l 3956 (EETS), So "aftir bale comyth bote" c 1450 *Boke of Nurture*, in

*Babees Book*, 119 (EETS), "When bale is hext [highest] than bote is next [nighest]" good sone, lerne welle this 1567 Golding, *Ovid*, bk xiv l 557, When that bale is highest growne, then boote must next ensue 1607 *Chester Plays*, 431 (EETS), After bale boot thar bringes 1875 A B Cheales, *Proverb Folk-Lore*, 125, But how often When bale is hext, 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=Deaf 1578 Whetstone, *Promos and Cassandra*, sig B3 Were you borne in a myll, curtole? 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 hang, will ne'er be drown'd 1732 Fielding, *Cov Garden Tragedy*, I iii, If born to swing, I never shall be drown'd 1850 Smedley, *Frank Fairleigh*, 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 4141

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,"

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

**Borough-men, Bread for.** 1639: Clarke, 113, Burrough men merry, more bread than drink. 1678: Ray, 317. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Leicestershire."

**Borrow.** 1. *Borrow or flatter.* See *Contented* (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.

3. *He that goes a-borrowing goes a-sorrowing.* 1539: Taverner, *Proverbs*, 46 (O.). 1580: Tusser, *Husbandrie*, 31 (E.D.S.), Who goeth a borrowing, goeth a sorrowing. 1669: *Politeuphuia*, 184. 1714: Ozell, *Molière*, iv. 19. 1736: Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, i. 448 (Bigelow). 1836: Marryat, *Easy*, ch. viii.

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.** 1. *A borrowed loan.* See *Loan*.

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

3. *Borrowed things will home.* 1400: in *Twenty-six Poems*, 2 (E.E.T.S.), And borwed thyng mot home ful nede. c. 1460: *Prov. of Good Counsel*, in E.E.T.S., Extra Ser., No. 8, p. 68, For borowurd thyng wyll home agayne. c. 1550: *Parl. of Byrdes*, l. 224, in Hazlitt, *Early Pop. Poetry*, iii. 179, Borrowed ware wyll home agayne.

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

**Boscattle Fair (or Market).** See *quots.* 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., v. 276, Backwards and forwards like Boscattle Fair. All play and no play, like Boscattle 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. 3571. 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 flit.** 1618: W. Lawson, *New Orchard and Garden*, 9 (1676), Tenants who have taken up this proverb, *Botch and sit, Build and flit.* 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 ougt. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. x., He brought the bottome of the bag cleane out.

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

**Bought.** 1. *Bought wit.* 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*, l 70, Bounden he is  
 that gifte takithe

Bound must obey, The 1205 Laya-  
 mon, *Brut*, 1051, Ah heo mot nede  
 beien, þe mon þe ibunden biþ (But he  
 needs must bow, the man that is  
 bounden) c 1390 Gower, *Conf*  
*Amantis*, u 540 For who is bounden,  
 he mot bowe c 1410 *Towneley Plays*  
 118 (E E T S), Wo is hym that is bun,  
 ffor he must abyde c 1520 in Hazlitt,  
*Early Pop Poetry*, iv 92 (1866), The  
 bounde must euer obaye 1615 T  
 Heywood, *Foure Prentises*, I, Bound  
 must obey 1653 R Brome, *Mad*  
*Couple*, II 1732 Fuller, No 4972  
 They that are bound must obey

Bounty being free itself, thinks all  
 others so 1855 Bohn, 332

Bourd It is a good bourd to drink of a  
 gourd c 1400 *Towneley Plays*, xii  
 p 115 (E E T S), It an is old by-woorde,  
 It is a good bowrde, for to drynk of  
 a gowrde,—It holdys a mett potell  
 [Bourd=jest]

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 1873 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 Sate*  
*Matrimony*, sig II, The bowe will  
 breake yf it be to sore bent c 1577,  
 Northbrooke, *Against Dicing*, etc., 44  
 (Sh S), Euen as too much bending  
 breketh a bow 1669 Dudley North,  
*Obs and Adv Econom*, 123 A bow  
 that stands alwayes bent looseth its  
 strength in the end 1732 Fuller,  
 No 1013, Bows too long bent, grow  
 weake 1741 *Tom King's or The*  
*Paphian Grove*, 10, The bow, 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, *Worthies*, u  
 344 (1840) 1753 in *Stukeley Memoirs*,  
 1 404 (Surtees S), Interest is such a pre-  
 vailing 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  
 Muirhead, *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 Bowden 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 x [title],  
 Which sheweth that he who plays at  
 bowls will sometimes meet with rubbers  
 1824 Scott, *Redgauntlet*, ch xv 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,  
*Randigal 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 Cot-  
 grave, s v "Enfant," Or, (as we say)

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.

Brabbling curs. See Brawling curs.

Brackley breed, better to hang than feed. 1636: in *Somers Tracts*, vii. 212 (1811), Heer's the full summe of the reckoning and a pottle over; though we be Leicestershire fed, yet we be not Brackley bred, I assure you. 1670: Ray, 246. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Northamptonshire." 1851: Sternberg, *Dialect, etc., of Northants*, 191.

Bradshaw's windmill, What have I to do with? i.e. What have I to do with another man's business? 1678: Ray, 317. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Leicestershire." 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. ii.

Brag, *subs.* 1. *Brag's a good dog but dares not bite*. 1685: Meriton, *Yorkshire 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 Expect.*, ch. xviii. 1924: *Devonsh. Assoc. Trans.*, lv. 112.

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

4. *Brag's a good dog if he be well set on*. 1670: Ray, 65. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Brag."

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.

2. *To brag of many goodmorrrows*. 1670: Ray, 178.

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, *Paræm.*, 11.

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

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

5. *His brains crow*. 1678: Ray, 230.

6. *His brains will work without barm*. Yorks. 1670: 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. Prudentum* 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 pure, 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-Prelate'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 curre is never without torne eares 1694 D'Urfe, *Quixote*, Pt I Act IV sc 1, Come, come, sir, babbling curs never want sore ears 1709 R Kingston *Apoph Curiosa*, 9, Barking currs commonly go with bitten ears 1732 Fuller, No 6231 1865 Lances Proverbs," in *N & Q*, 3rd ser, viii 494

Bray *The Vicar of Bray will be Vicar of Bray still* 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, 1 113 (1840) 1707 Dunton, *Athenian Sport*, 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 bream, Were all in thy belly 't would never be leam* (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 faw 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 Torriano, *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 Torriano, *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 E Anglia*, 429 1872 J Glyde, jr, *Norfolk Garland*, 148

10 *It's no use my leaving off eating bread, because you were choked with a crust* 1883 Burne, *Shropsh Folk-Lore*, 589

11 *They that have no other meal, 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* 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch vii 1564 Bullein, *Dialogue*, 112 (E E T S), He knoweth vpon whiche side his breade is buttered well enough, I warrante you 1638 Ford, *Lady's Trial*, II 1 1721 C Cibber, *Refusal*, I, Does his Grace think I don't know which side my bread's butter'd on? 1822 Scott, *Nigel*, ch xxiii 1914 H A Vachell, *Quinney's*, bk ii ch xvi (ii), 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 pagin, 186, In this the proverb is approued plaine, What bread men breake is broke to them againe

14 *Who hath no more bread than need, must not keep a dog* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentium*

15 *You show bread in one hand, and*

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.

Break, verb. 1. *A man shall as soon break his neck as his fast there.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1670: Ray, 165. 1732: Fuller, No. 3770.

2. *A man that breaks his word, bids others be false to him* 1548: Hall, *Chron.*, 184 (1809), But (as the common prouerbe saith) he whiche is a promise breaker, escapeth not alway free. 1732: Fuller, No. 311.

3. *Break coals; cut candle; set brand an end, Neither good housewifery nor good housewife's friend.* 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 242. 1732: Fuller, No. 6424.

4. *Break the legs of an evil custom.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Span.-Eng.*, 8, Cut off the leg of an ill custome. 1855: Bohn, 333.

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 Newes, in Works*, ii. 281 (Grosart), For calling me calfe, it breakes 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 noa 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. Penillesse*, in *Works*, ii. 5 (Grosart), He that hath once broke the ice of impudence, neede not care how deepe he wade in discredite. 1631: Shirley, *Love Tricks*, III. i., When I had but broke the ice of my affection, 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 overture. 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 cool 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 whiche cleuid by the  
 bone myght not out of the flesshe  
 1485 Malory, *Morte d'Arthur*, bk ix  
 ch 39, Sir launcelot smyled and said  
 hard hit is to take oute of the flesshe  
 that is bred in the bone 1546 Hey-  
 wood, *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 Terence made  
*English*, 5 1713 Gay, *Wife of Bath*,  
 III ii 1842 Barham, *Ing Legends*,  
 2nd ser 'Lay of St Aloysius'

Bredon Hill When Bredon Hill puts  
 on its hat, Ye men of the vale, beware of  
 that Worcs 1882 Mrs Chamber-  
 lain *W Worcs Words*, 39 (E D S)  
 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 101

Breech makes buttons, His (or My) =  
 To be in great fear c 1550 *Jacke  
 Jugeler*, 46 (Grosart, 1873), His arse  
 maketh buttens now c 1618 B & F  
*Bonduca*, 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*, i, 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 mayster of the hows  
 weryth no brych 1592 Greene, *Quip*,  
 in *Works*, xi 219 (Grosart), I saw a  
 great many of women vsing high wordes  
 to their husbandes some struing for  
 the breeches 1596 Harington,

*Metam of Ajax*, 63 (1814), I am sure  
 his wife wore the breeches 1653 R  
 Brome, *City Wit, 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 petticoat  
 1927 *Observer*, 27 March, p 15, 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

Brecks off a Highlander, To take the  
 [Vis nudo vestimenta detrahare?—  
 Plautus, *Asin*, I i 79] 1546 Hey-  
 wood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch ix, There is  
 nothing more vain Than to beg a  
 breeche of a bare arst man 1580  
 Baret, *Ahearie B*, 150, To pull a  
 breeche from a bare arst man 1630  
 Taylor (Water-Poet), in *Works*, 2nd  
 pagin, 37, To seek a breech from  
 breechlesse men 'twere vain 1817  
 Scott, *Rob Roy*, ch xxvii, It's ill  
 taking the brecks off a Hielandman

Breeze in one's breech, To have a  
 Breeze=gadfly c 1630 B & F,  
*Monsieur Thomas*, IV vi, What, is the  
 breeze in your breech? 1678 Ray,  
 232

Brent Hill See quot 1893 in  
*N & Q*, 8th ser, iii 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 quot 1790 Grose,  
*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 1802  
 Lamb, *John Woodvil*, III, Brevity is  
 the soul of drinking, as of wit 1851  
 Borrow, *Lavengro*, i 311

Brew, verb 1 As one brews so bake  
 c 1560 T Ingelend, *Disob Child*, in  
 Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, ii 294 (1874), But  
 as he had brewed, that so he should  
 bake c 1626 in *Pepysian Garland*,



241 (Rollins, 1922), For some that are fond, as they brew let them bake. 1670: Cotton, *Scarronides*, bk. iv. 1766: Garrick and Colman, *Clandest. Marriage*, I. i. 1847: Planché, *Extravag.*, iii. 187 (1879). 1922: Weyman, *Ovington's Bank*, ch. xxiii., No, you may go, my lad. As you ha' brewed you may bake!

2. *As one brews so drink.* c. 1264: in Ritson, *Songs and Ballads*, 11 (Hazlitt), Let him habbe ase he brew, bale to dryng. Before 1300: *Cursor M.*, l. 2848, Suche as pai brew such haue pai dronkyn. c. 1390: Gower, *Conf. Amantis*, bk. iii. l. 1626, And who so wicked ale breweth Ful ofte he mot [must] the wersê drinke. c. 1425: *Castle of Perseu.*, sc. viii. st. 271, in *Macro Plays*, 171 (E.E.T.S.), As he hath browyn, lete hym drynke. 1596: Jonson, *Ev. Man in his Humour*, II. i., Well, as he brews, so shall he drink. 1605: Chapman, etc., *Eastw. Hoe*, IV. i. 1762: Smollett, *Sir L. Greaves*, ch. x. 1849: Brontë, *Shirley*, ch. xxi. 1883: R. L. S., *Treasure I.*, ch. xxx.

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.

**Brewer's horse.** *One whom the brewer's horse hath bit* = A drunkard. 1597: Shakespeare, 1 *Henry IV.*, III. iii., [Falstaff *log.*] I am a peppercorn, a brewer's horse. 1635: T. Heywood, *Philocothonista*, 45, One whom brewer's horse hath bit. 1847: Halliwell, *Dict.*, s.v. "Brewer's horse." 1907: Hackwood, *Inns, Ales, etc.*, 167. 1917: *Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs*, 100.

**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).

**Bribe, subs.** 1. *A bribe I know is a juggling knave.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 33.

2. *A bribe will enter without knocking.* 1619: B. Rich, *Irish Hubbub*, 9 (margin), Honesty stands at the gate and knocks, and bribery enters in. 1633: Draxe, 18, A bribe entreth euery where

without knocking. 1670: Ray, 65. 1732: Fuller, No. 1019.

**Bribe, verb.** *Neither bribe nor lose thy right.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

**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*.

4. *To make a bridge of one's nose.* 1678: Ray, 231. 1690: *New Dict. Canting Crew*, sig. H8, You make a bridge of his nose, when you pass your next neighbour in drinking, or one is preferr'd over another's head. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. II., Pray, my lord, don't make a bridge of my nose. 1828: Carr, *Craven Dialect*, ii 12, "To mak a brigg o' yans nose," to pass by him in drinking. 1847: Halliwell, *Dict.*, s.v. "Nose."

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, Ouurez 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 enemy will flie, 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.

**Bridgnorth Election.** *All on one side like.* 1841: Hartshorne, *Salopia Ant.*, 336. 1861: in *N. & Q.*, 2nd ser., xi. 219, In 1835 I heard a boy say "all on one side, like Bridgnorth election," in the town of Stone, in Staffordshire. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 592 [full explanation of saying]. 1920: A. G. Bradley, *Book of Severn*, 195.

**Bridle.** 1. *A bridle 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 l 929 And as who seith, upon the bridel Ichewe 1552 Latimer, *Works*, ii 57 (P S), Though it goeth hard with us, though we must bite on the bridle 1605 Chapman, etc., *Eastw Hoe*, IV 11, They are like to bite o' the bridle [i.e. to fast] 1642 D Rogers, *Matrim Honour*, 300, 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, *Derbisms* 91 (E D S), "To bite on the bridle," to suffer or fare hard 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, i 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*, i 453 (1840) 1716 Browne Willis *Notitia Parl*, quoted in N & Q 9th ser, iii 365 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Dorset"

Bright 1 *Bright as the sun on a summer's day* c 1440 Lydgate, *Lyf of our Lady*, sig Fz (Caxton), That shone as bright as ony somers day 1846 Denham, *Proverbs*, 51 (Percy S)

2 *He is only bright that shines by himself* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Brighton See quot 1884 "Sussex Proverbs," in N & Q, 6th ser, iv 342, When the Island's [Wight] seen above the line Brighthelmstone 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, *Andrews*, bk iii ch 11, Joseph immediately prevailed with parson Adams, who was as brisk as a bee, to stop c 1770 Hall-Stevenson, *Works*, i 23 (1795), Away skipp'd the urchin, as brisk as a bee 1901 F E Taylor, *Lanes Sayings*, i

Brisk as bottled ale 1720 Gay, *Poems*, ii 278 (Underhill), And merry as a grig is grown, And brisk as bottled ale 1745 *Agreeable Companion*, 351, Brisk as bottled beer

Bristol 1 *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 *Antid against Melanch*, 156 (Ebsworth), Merrily now let's sing carouse, and tiple, Here's Bristow 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 accompanied by a rich brewage 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 l 854, Brotel as glas c 1550 Becon, in *Catechism etc*, 437 (P S), It is more brittle than glass 1639 Fuller, *Holy War*, bk ii ch xii, Her fortune being as brittle as her glasses 1927 J B Priestley, *Open House* "Midsummer Day's Dream," All this beauty is as brittle as glass

Broad 1 *A broad hat does not always cover a venerable head* 1732 Fuller, No 26

2 *As broad as narrow like Paddy's plank*—"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*, i 110 (1759)

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.

**Brock**=A badger. 1. *To stink like a brock*. 1892: Heslop, *Northumb. Words*, 101 (E.D.S.).

2. *To sweat like a brock*. 1788: in *Reprinted Gloss.*, 23 (E.D.S., No. 1), He sweats like a brock [E. Yorks]. 1892: Heslop, *Northumb. Words*, 101 (E.D.S.).

**Brockley Hill**. See quot. 1724: Stukeley, *Itin. Cur.*, III, They have a proverb here, no heart can think nor tongue can tell, what lys 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.

**Broken**, *part. adj.* 1. *A broken apothecary, a new doctor*. 1659: Howell, 13. 1670: Ray, 2.

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.

4. *A broken leg is not healed by a silk stocking*. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 122.

5. *A broken sack will hold no corn* 1629: *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov. 114, A broken bag can hold no meale. 1633: Draxe, 15. 1670: Ray, 65. 1732: Fuller, No. 1022.

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 refuse, 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've 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 broaken 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: Cibber, *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. D4. 1639: 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 Corresp.*, 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, *Derbicisms*, 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 Lancs].

Broth 1 See quot 1913 *Devonsh Assoc Trans*, xlv 286, "When they'm wit (white), they'm fit. When they'm boild, they'm 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 theresn 1577 Stan-hurst, *Descrip of Ireland*, fo 4, Setteth hymselfe forth to the gaper, by making more of the broth then y<sup>e</sup> flesh is worth 1639 in *Berkeley MSS*, iii 32 (1885)

3 Owd [old] broth s a jell sooner warmt up tan new made 1917 *Bridge Cheshire Proverbs*, 103 Cf Old pottage

Brother had rather see the sister rich than make her so, The 1611 *Cotgrave*, s v "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 weather, which often occurs at Fair time Durham 1909 *Folk Lore* xx 75

Brown as a berry c 1386 *Chaucer*, *Prolog*, l 207, His palfrey was as brown as is a berye 1640 *Tatham*, *Lore Crowns the End*, in *Dram Works*, 20 (1879), Thy nose is as brown as a berry 1777 *Sheridan*, *Sch for Scandal*, III iii 1843 *Dickens*, *Letters*, iii 54 (1882) 1874 *R L S*, *Letters*, i 173 (*Tusitala* 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 persisted for centuries after the inexplicable "brown" had been introduced (a) In a study, simply c 1300 *Robert of Brunne*, tr *Langtoft's Chron*, 58 (*Hearne*), Whan Edward perceyued, his herte was in studie c 1386 *Chaucer*, *Knight's Tale*, l 672, Into a studie he fil sodeynly 1485 *Malory*, *Morte d'Arthur*, bk 1 ch 20, The kyng sat in a study 1576 *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*, ii 34 (*Hill*), Dr *Johnson*, who was still in

a profound study 1875 *Parish*, *Sussex Dict*, 116, He seems all in a stud as he walks along (b) In a brown study c 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*), Halfe in a browne study at this strange salutation 1646 *Quarles*, *Shep Oracles*, egl xi, In a browne studie? Speechlesse? 1778 *Burney*, *Evelina*, Lett xxxiii, He stood some time quite in a brown study, a-thinking what he should do 1841 *Dickens*, *Barn Rudge*, ch lxxii, 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 Houres*, 485

Brush at his back See *Wear* (2)

Brush, He has bought a = has run away 1813 *Ray*, 56

Buck of the first head, He's like a = brisk pert, forward 1678 *Ray*, 67 1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, ii 109 (*F L S*)

Buckets in a well, Like c 1386 *Chaucer*, *Knight's Tale*, l 675, Now in the croppes, now down in the breres Now up, now down, as boket in a welle 1596 *Shakespeare*, *Rich II*, IV i c 1620 in *Roxb Ballads*, i 76 (*Hurdley*), In Bath a wanton wife did dwell, She had two buckets to a well c 1705 in *Bagford Ballads*, ii 835 (*B S*), Then be not like buckets, one up, t'other down 1743 *T Sheridan*, in *Garrick Corresp*, i 15 (1831), I don't know whether the old simile 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 1 See quot 1631 *Mabbe*, *Celestina*, 71 (*T T*), His mother and I were nayle and flesh, buckle and thong

2. *He'll bring buckle and thong together.* 1678: Ray, 232. 1732: Fuller, No. 2422.

3. *To be held to it, buckle and thong.* 1658: Wit Restor'd, in *Mus. Deliciæ*, 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*, l. 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 *Gent. Mag.*, 297-300 (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, turne the buckle of your girdle behind you. c. 1663: Davenant, *Play-House to be Let*, V. 1738: Swift, *Pohle Convers.*, 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. xxv., If ye're angry, ye ken how to turn the buckle o' your belt behind you. 1917: *Devonsh. Assoc. Trans.*, xlix. 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.

**Bucknall, Staffs.** *Booked for Bucknall* = Going to be married. 1889: *Folk-Lore Journal*, vii. 294.

**Build.** 1. *He builds cages fit for oxen, to keep birds in.* 1678: Ray, 352. 1732: Fuller, No. 1815.

2. *He that builds on the people, builds on the dirt.* 1633: Draxe, 154. 1641: Jonson, *Timber*: "Principum Varia," Nor let the common proverb (of he that builds on the people, builds on the dirt)

discredit my opinion. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 212.

3. *Who-so that buildeth his house all of fallows, And pricketh 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 Prol.*, ll. 655-8. 1417: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 233 (1841) [with last line, "God sende hym the blisse of everlasting galos"]. 1486: *Boke of St. Albans*, sig. 14 [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 and marrying of children are great wasters.** 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Abandon," The building of houses and making of feasts, are unlimited wasters of a mans substance. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 3. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 43.

**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 then wee thought on. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 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 cuckolds who think it no scorn To wear the bull's feather, though made of a horn. 1707: Duntton, *Athen. Sport*, p. 118, col. 2, Pompey, Cæsar . . . 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 prouerbe, let him

take, etc 1569 Grafton, *Chron*, n 142 (1809)

6 *Like a bull in a china-shop* 1850 Smedley, *Frank Fairleigh*, ch xli, Stigmatising himself as an awkward dog and comparing himself to a bull in a china-shop 1899 H James, in *Letters*, 1 349 (1920), Floundering and romping through the arts, both literary and plastic, very much as a bull through a china-shop 1913 R E Francillon *Mid-Vict Memories*, 149

7 *No further than you can throw a bull by the tail* 1869 Hazlitt, 293

8 *To take the bull by the horns* 1816 Scott, *Old Mortality*, ch xxv 1849 Lytton, *Caxtons Pt II* ch 1 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch xi, I have often been told to be bold and take the bull by the horns

9 *You may play with a bull, till you get his horn in your eye*—Don't play with edged tools 1886 R Holland, *Cheshire Gloss*, 457 (E D S) 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 158

See also Lawless, No law, and Town bull

Bull, verb See 1659 quot 1612 *Cornucopiae*, 78 (Grosart), Yours is the cow, and you shall keepe the calfe 1659 Howell, *Proverbs 'To Philologers'* That [proverb] which began in Henrie the Fourth's time, He that bulls the cow must keep the calf c 1670 in *Roxb Ballads*, iii 368 (B S), Said they "The calf must with the cow" 1691 Southerne, *Sir Ant Love*, IV n, I had the reputation of it indeed [a bastard], and should have had the cow with the calf 1732 Fuller, No 5695, Who bulls the cow must keep the calf

Bullet has its billet, Every 1575 Gascoigne, *Fruites of Warre*, st 67, in *Works*, 1 154 (Cunliffe), Every bullet hath a lighting place 1757 Smollett, *Reprisal*, II viii, Every shot has its commission, d'ye see 1765 Wesley, *Journal*, 6 June, He never received one wound. So true is the odd saying of King William, that every bullet has its billet" 1826-44 Hood, *Comic Poems* "Waterloo Ballad" Its bullet every bullet has 1837 Dickens, *Pickwick*, ch xix

Bungay Go to Bungay, to get new bottomed 1830 Forby, *Vocab E Anglia*, 434 1872 J Glyde, jr, *Norfolk Garland*, 150 See also Beccles

Burford bait, A=Drink 1636 Taylor (Water-Poet), *Cat of Taverns*, 58, in *Works*, 4th coll (Spens S), Beware of a Burford bayt, for it may brew the staggers 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, iii 5 (1840), To take a Burford bait 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Oxfordshire"

Buried under the gallows See quots 1678 Ray, 221, He that kills himself with working must be buried under the gallows 1828 Carr *Craven Dialect* 1 174, 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 aneān th' galla's

Burn, verb 1 Burn not your house to fright away the mice 1732 Fuller, No 1624

2 He is burnt to the socket—is dying, is at his last gasp 1813 Ray, 57

3 He that burns his house warms himself for once 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

4 He that burns most shines most 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 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 warme them by the coles 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

6 They that burn you for a witch lose all their coals 1732 Fuller, No 4974 1840-59 *Verulam Tracts*, ii 84 (F L S)

7 To burn daylight 1587 Churchyard, *Worth of Wales*, 84 (Spens S), Tyme rouleth on, I doe but daylight burne 1592 Lyly, *Mother Bombe*, II 1, Wee burne time 1692 L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 298 (3rd ed), Talk does but burn daylight 1707 Cibber, *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,

I can set a house a fyre and ronne 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.

Burnt child dreads the fire, A. [Cui dolet, meminit.—Cicero, *Pro Mur.*, 42.] c. 1300: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 113 (1841), Brend child fur dredeth; Quoth Hendyng. c. 1400: *Rom. Rose*, l. 1820: Brent child of fyr hath muche drede. 1580: Lyly, *Euphues*, 319 (Arber), A burnt childe dreadeth the fire. 1616: Jonson, *Devil an Ass*, I. ii. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' *Colloq.*, 157. c. 1760: Foote, *Cozeners*, I. 1820: Scott, *Fam. Letters*, ii. 73 (1894).

Burroughs end of sheep, Some one=? 1678: Ray, 68.

Burst at the broadside, To. A drinking phrase. 1670: Ray, 217.

Burthen of one's own choice is not felt, A. 1855: Bohn, 282.

Burton. See Barton.

Burton-bream. See Brayton-bargh.

Bury the hatchet, To. See Hatchet.

Burying a wife. See quotes. 1847: Halliwell, *Dict.*, s.v. "Burying-a-wife," A feast given by an apprentice at the expiration of his articles. 1899: Dickinson, *Cumberland Gloss.*, 23, Berryin' t'ould wife. The treat given by an apprentice on obtaining his freedom.

Burying is gone by, The. See quotes. c. 1791: Pegge, *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. 1. *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.

2. *Bush natural.* See Hair (3).

3. *He thinks every bush a boggard.* 1678: Ray, 232.

Bushel. 1. *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.)

3. *You should eat a bushel of salt with a man before you trust him.* [Aristotle, *Ethics*, viii. 4. Multos modios salis simul edisse.—Cicero, *Lael.*, 19.] 1539: Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo. 30, Trust no man onles thou hast fyrst eaten a bushel of salte wyth hym. 1579: Lyly, *Euphues*, 48 (Arber), One should eate a bushel of salt with him whom he meaneth to make his friend. 1637: Shirley, *Hyde Park*, III. i., If you allow a bushel of salt to acquaintance . . . 1707: Duntton, *Athen. Sport*, 452. 1716: Ward, *Female Policy*, 83. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 95.

Business. 1. *Business is business.* 1857: Thackeray, *Virginians*, ch. i., Business is business, my dear young sir. 1876: Blackmore, *Cripps*, ch. iii. 1922: Weyman, *Ovington's Bank*, ch. xxvi.

2. *Business is the salt of life.* 1732: Fuller, No. 1026.

3. *Business makes a man as well as tries him.* 1855: Bohn, 334.

4. *He that thinks his business below him, will always be above his business.* 1732: Fuller, No. 2333.

Busy as a bee. c. 1386: Chaucer, *Merch. Tale*, Epil., l. 4, For ay as bisy as bees Ben they. 1580: Lyly, *Euphues*, 252 (Arber). 1655: Fuller, *Church Hist.*, bk. ix. § vii. (24). 1709: Cibber, *Rival Fools*, I. 1792: Wolcot, in *Works*, ii. 405 (1795). 1834-7: Southey, *Doctor*, ch. lxxix. 1901: Raymond, *Idler Out of Doors*, 35, The place is busy as a swarm of bees. Cf. Busy as bees in a basin.

Busy as a cat. See Cat (9).

Busy as a dog. See Dog (17).

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 Lasky 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 1 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 *Roxb Ballads*, iii 321 (BS), [Kit the butcher] Hee'd with his candell looke his knife, When hee had it in his mouth 1692 L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 340 (3rd ed) 1738 Swift *Polite Convers*, Dial I

4 The butcher looked for the candle, and 'twas in his hat 1639 Clarke, 75

Butler's grace = ? 1609 Melton, *Sixfold Politician*, 33, Fiddlers, 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 1 Butter is gold in the morning, silver at noon, and lead at night 1588 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 *Polite 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 Jon son, *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 ii, Mad as May butter 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I 1921 in *N & Q*, 12th ser, ix 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 1591 Greene, in *Works* x 22 (Grosart), Well, saith the setter, no butter will cleave on my bread 1656 Flecknoe, *Diurnal*, 38, No butter'd stick upon my bread 1727 Swift, *Works*, xiv 203 (Scott), But now I fear it will be said, No butter sticks upon his bread 1824 Scott, *Redgauntlet*, ch xv, 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, *Phrascol Generalis*, 1302 1732 Fuller, No 4980

8 To look as if butter would not melt in one's mouth 1530 Palsgrave, 620 He maketh as though butter wolde nat melte in his mouthe 1583 Stubbes, *Anat of Abuses*, 89 (N Sh S) 1641 Cowley, *Guardian*, III viii 1687 Sedley, *Bellamira*, IV, in *Works*, ii 163



(1778). 1714: Ozell, *Molière*, iv. 122. 1850: Dickens, *Chuzzlewit*, ch. iii. 1922: Weyman, *Ovington's Bank*, ch. ix.

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.

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: Draxe, 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. I. 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*, II. i. 175 (O.), He that byth dere 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. 1865: in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., viii. 494. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 42, Thoose 'at buy'n beef buy'n booons; Thoose 'at buy'n

lond buy'n stooans; Thoose 'at buy'n eggs buy'n shells; Thoose 'at buy'n good ale buy'n nout elze!

8. *He that refuseth to buy counsel cheap, shall buy repentance dear.* 1647: *Countrim. New Commonwealth*, 39. 1669: *Politeuphuia*, 98. c. 1670: *Sir Richard Whittington*, 5 (Villon S., 1885).

9. *It is good to buy wit with other men's money.* 1672: Walker, *Paræm.*, 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, 1 123, So you may buye golde too deare. 1692: L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 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: Draxe, 20. 1660: Fuller, *Mixt Contempl.*, 347 (1830), Merchandizing is a ticklish matter, seeing many buy and sell and live by the loss. 1732: Fuller, No. 1033.

13. *To buy dear is not bounty.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 4.

14. *Who always buys and sells, feels not what he spends.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Span.-Eng.*, 1. 1732: Fuller, No. 5693.

15. *Who buyeth dear and taketh up on credit, shall ever sell to his loss.* 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, 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, *Paræm.*, 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:

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, This  
1678 Ray, 67 1748 *Gent Mag*, 21

Buzzard See Blind, adj (13), Hawk  
(1), 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 Convers*, Dial I

By fits and starts (or girds) 1620  
Sanderson, *Serm ad Pop*, 1 145 (1681)  
(O), 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 jadish  
be 1732 Fuller, No 1039, By fits and  
girts, as an ague takes a goose 1748  
Richardson, *Clarissa*, iv 318 (1785),

by fits and starts 1825 Jen-  
nings, *Somersetsh 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 Fits, starts  
*Var dial*

By one and one spindles are made  
1578 Florio, *First Fruits*, fo 25  
1629 *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov 62

By the ears 1539 Taverner, *Garden  
of Wysdome*, ch iv, He set a yonge lyon  
and a very eger dogge together by the  
eares c 1580 Spelman, *Dialogue*, 74  
(Roxb Cl), One euyl tonge may sette  
a number of men to gether by the eares  
c 1630 *Dicke of Devonsh*, I iii, in  
Bullen, *Old Plays*, ii 21 1742 Field-  
ing, *Andrews* bk ii ch xi 1819  
Byron, *Letters, etc*, iv 295 (Prothero)

By the great See Work (4)

Bygones be bygones, Let [τὰ μέλα  
νὺν ἀφῶμεν — Epictetus, *Disc*, II xix  
34] 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II  
ch ix, Let all thinges past pas 1648  
Nethersole, *Parables*, 5 (O), 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

## C

Ca me, ca thee. See Ka me, ka thee.

Cackle, verb. 1. *I would not have your cackling for your eggs.* 1732: Fuller, No. 258.

2. *She can cackle like a cadowe* [jackdaw]. 1579: Marr. of Wit and Wisdom, sc. iii., p. 26 (Sh. S.), Ah, that drabe, she can cackle 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.

Cadbury castle. See quot. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Devonshire," If Cadburye-castle and Dolbury-hill dolven wer, All England might ploughe with a golden sheere.

Cæsar's wife must be above suspicion. [Tum Cæsar . . . respondit: Quia suam uxorem etiam suspicione vacare vellet. —Plutarch, *Julius Cæsar*, x. (4).] 1740: North, *Examen*, 59, A judge should be, like Cæsar's wife, neither false nor suspected. 1748: Richardson, *Clarissa*, iii. 85 (1785). 1895: Shaw, *Man of Destiny*, *Lady* [humbly] I beg your pardon. Cæsar'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. c. 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.* 1659: 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, *Obed. 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.

Calenick. *The Mayor of Calenick, who walked two miles to ride one.* 1891: Q.-Couch, *Noughts and Crosses*, 185. 1906: Ibid., *Mayor of Troy*, Prol.

Cales. See Knight.

Calf and Calves. 1. *A calf's head will feed a huntsman and his hounds.* 1678: Ray, 108. 1846-59: Denham Tracts, ii. 108 (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.

7. *That calf never heard church-bell.* 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 110, A calf born and killed between two Sundays.

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* 264 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 Like cow

Call 1 *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, *Magnyfycence*, l 2057, Yesterday wyll not be callyd agayne 1538 Latimer, *Works*, ii 398 (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*, 1e surah 1678 Ray, 269

Calm 1 *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 LXXXV 1639 Clarke, 313 [with "passenger" for "man"] 1670 Ray, 4 1732 Fuller, No 2808 In a calm every one can steer

Calmer husbands See Husband (4)

Calverley Mill See Billing Hill

Camberwell See quotes 1588 A Fraunce, *Lawiers Logike*, fo 27, All the maydes in Camberwell may daunce in an egge shell 1861 N & Q, 2nd ser, xi 449 [as in 1588+] For there are noe maydes in that well Cf Wanswell

Cambridge 1 *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 'boisten' for "Royston"] 1790 Grose *Prov Gloss*, s v "Cambridgeshire" [as in 1662] 1885 *Folk-Lore Journal*, iii 85, The proverb, 'A Royston horse and a Cambridge M A will give way to no one,' 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 'Cambridgeshire'

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 stilt-walking in the Fens Cambridgeshire Oaks = Willows 1785 Grose, *Class Dict Vulgar Tongue*, s v 1790 Grose—as before

Candle 1 *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 Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 307, His candle burns within the socket, Homo depon-tanus est 1736 Bailey, *Dict*, s v 'Candle'

4 *Not worth the candle* See Game

5 *To burn the candle at both ends* 1658 Flecknoe, *Enigm Characters*, 64 He consuming just like a candle on both ends, betwixt wine and women 1750 Smollett, *Gil Blas*, iii 116, The butler 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 candel 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. 16. 1828: Scott, *Fair Maid*, ch. xxix. 1871: G. Eliot, *Middlemarch*, 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: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 504, . . . find a flea. 1880: Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 19, They are like Pedley, 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, *Garl. of Laurell*, l. 1442, How men were wont for to discern By candelmas day, what wether shoulde 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 raie, Then frost and cold shall be much more, After the feast than was before. 1640: *Countrim. Counsellor*, in *Helpe to Discourse*, 224, When on the Purification sun hath shin'd, The greatest part of winter comes behind. 1646: Browne, *Pseudo. Epi.*, 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, 51, If 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.

C. CANDLEMAS DAY AND CANDLES. 1678: Ray, 344, On Candlemas day, throw candle and candlestick away. 1732: Fuller, No. 6152 [as in 1678]. 1855: *N. & Q.*, 1st ser., xi. 239 [as in 1678]. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 15 [as in 1678].

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 corne 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. Lincs. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 15 [as in 1732]. 1916: in *N. & Q.*, 12th ser., ii. 118, Rime . . . known in several North-Midland counties runs:—"If Candlemas Day comes blithe and gay, You may saddle your horse and

buy some hay. 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*, 31 (Percy S), On Candlemas-day a good goose will lay, But on Valentine's day, any goose will lay 1883 Burne, *Shropsh 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 all lay, 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 "hund" 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 2 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 [Rutland]

H CANDLEMAS DAY MISCELLANEOUS 1 A Candlemas crack 1877 F Ross, etc, *Holderness Gloss*, 37 (E D S), A Cannlemas-crack [storm] Lays monny 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 flax year Ibid, 16 5 See quot 1910 Devonsh Assoc Trans, xlii 81, "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-hallon-tide, and Bean (?)

Candlemas Eve Wind 1839 G C Lewis, *Herefs 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 (1746), For his grace at meat, what can I better compare it to, than a Canterbury rack, half-pace, gallop? 1759 Rider, *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, *Laurie Todd*, VI vii 280 (1849) (O), On horse-back, and off at a Canterbury trot

2 A Canterbury tale 1549 Latimer, *Seven Sermons*, 49 (Arber), We myghte as well spende that tyme in reading of prophane hystories, of cantorburye tales, or fit of Robyn Hode 1663 *Roxb Ballads*, vii 230 (BS), A sad relation, a strange Canterbury tale 1724 Defoe, *Roxana*, in *Works*, xiii 151 (Boston, 1903), That foolish young girl held us all in a Canterbury story, I thought she would never have done with it 1774 Colman, *Man of Business*, V ii 1785

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, *Nugæ Antiquæ*, ii. 87 (1804), A bishop of Winchester [said to have been W. Edington, *ob.* 1366] one day in pleasant talke, comparing his renews 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*, ii. 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. 1633: 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, *Molière*, 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: Howell, 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.

Capel rides a good horse. Cornwall. 1887: M. A. Courtney, *Folk-Lore Journal*, v. 187, "Capel rides a good horse." Capel is schorl, and indicates the presence of tin.

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.

3. *Who gives thee a capon, give him the leg and the wing.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 11.

See also Chickens (1).

Car and Pen, Pol and Tre, Would make the devil run away. Cornwall. 1887: M. A. Courtney, *Folk-Lore Journal*, v. 106.

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.* 1659: 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 than tell me what

thou hast wonne c 1594 Bacon, *Promus*, No 641 [as in 1546] 1633  
 Draxe, 116, Let him count his cardes  
 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 Shake-  
 speare, 1 *Henry VI*, III in 1678  
 Ray, 108 1732 Fuller, No 1060

Care killed a cat 1585-1618 *Shir-  
 burn Ballads*, 91 (1907), Let care kill a  
 catte, Wee'le laugh and be fatte 1599  
 Shakespeare *Much Ado*, V 1, What,  
 courage, man! What though care  
 killed a cat c 1630 in *Roxb Ballads*,  
 11 103 (Hindley) 1726 Swift, *Poems*,  
 in *Works*, xiv 542 (Scott), Then who  
 says care will kill a cat? 1816 Scott  
*Antiquary* ch xiv 1871 Planché  
*Extravag*, v 287 (1879)

Care never paid a pound of debt  
 c 1640 in *Roxb Ballads*, 1 416 (B S)

Care not would have it 1670  
 Ray, 67

Care Sunday, care away, Palm Sunday  
 and Easter-day! 1812 Brady, *Clavis*  
*Cal*, 1 242 1904 Co *Folk-Lore*  
*Northumb*, 175 (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 1700 quot  
 1622 W Burton, *Descrip of Leics*,  
 67-8 1650 Fuller, *Pisgah Sight*,  
 bk 11 ch 1x, It is observed in a  
 village at Charleton in Leicestershire  
 that the people therein are troubled  
 with wharling in their utterance 1700  
 J 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, un-  
 tunable, 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, mer-  
 chants or trade, and, Nearer God's  
 blessing than Carlisle Fair Both in  
 1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, 1 180, 181  
 (F L S)

Carpenter is known by his chips, A  
 1611 Coryat, *Crudities*, 1 407 (1905),  
 For, according to the old proverbe 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

Carrian kite will never make good  
 hawk, A 1567 Painter, *Pal of*  
*Pleasure*, iii 68 (Jacobs), It is impos-  
 sible of a kyte or cormerant to make  
 a good sparhawk 1605 Camden  
*Remains*, 316 (1870) 1669 *Politeu*  
*phua*, 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 weighs  
 not 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

3 To carry an M [for "Master"]  
 under one's girdle c 1550 Udall,  
*Roister Doister*, III in, Neare [never]  
 an M by your girdle? 1605 Chapman,  
*Eastw Hoe*, IV u, You might carry an  
 M under your girdle to Maister Deputis  
 worship 1640 Shirley, *Arcadia*, I u  
 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I  
 1816 Scott, *Old Mortality*, ch xxxiv,  
 Ye might hae had an M under your belt  
 for Mistress Wilson of Milnwood

4 To carry coals Before 1529  
 Skelton, in *Works*, u 34 (Dyce), Wyll  
 ye bere no coles? 1575 Churchyard,  
*Chippes*, 37 (Collier), He carryed coales  
 that could abide no geast 1581 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 coal



1631: Mabbe, *Celestina*, 127 (T.T.), He is chollericke, and I can carrie no coles. 1821: 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.

2. *The best cart may overthrow*. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Chartier." 1670: Ray, 67. 1732: Fuller, No. 4410.

3. *To keep cart on wheels*—To be in a state to carry on business, etc., as usual. 1639: Clarke, 242. 1662: Newcome, *Diary*, 56 (1849) (O.), I must walke closer with God or I cannot keep cart on wheels. 1828: Carr, *Craven Dialect*, ii. 251 [explained as above].

4. *To put the cart before the horse*. [ἡ ἀμαρτία τὸν θεόν.—Lucian, *Dial. Mort.*, vi. 2.] 1528: More, *Works*, p. 154, col. 1 (1557), Muche like as if we woulde go make the carte to drawe the horse. 1542: Udall, tr. Erasmus' *Apoph.*, 359 (1877), The tale . . . also setteth the carte 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., *Catrina*, ch. ix.

Case is altered, The; sometimes with the addition, quoth Plowden. (a) With the addition. 1603: Dekker, *Batch. Banq.*, in *Works*, i. 235 (Grosart), Then is their long warre come to an end, and the case (as Ployden sayth) cleane altered. c. 1620: in *Roxb. Ballads*, i. 77 (Hindley), Your case is altered in the law quoth Ployden. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*,

iii. 54 (1840). 1714: Ozell, *Molière*, vi. 8. 1809: Pegge, *Anonym.*, cent. ii. 8. 1841: Hartshorne, *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, *Redgauntlet*, 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. Prudentum*.

Cask savours of the first fill, The. [Quo semel est imbuta recens servabit odorem Testa diu.—Horace, *Epist.*, II. ii. 69.] c. 1230: in Wright's *Pol. Songs John to Edw. II.*, 31 (Camden S.) [the Horatian line borrowed]. 1509: Barclay, *Ship of Fools*, i. 47 (1874), But fyll an erthen pot first with yll lycoure And euer after it shall smell somewhat soure. c. 1577: Northbrooke, *Against Dicing, etc.*, 11 (Sh. S.), The vessel will conserve the tast Of lycour very long, With which it was first seasoned. Before 1615: B. & F., *Custom of Country*, I. i., With what the maiden vessel Is season'd first—you understand the proverb. 1655: Howell, *Letters*, bk. iv., No. 14, The cask savours still of the liquor it first took in. 1820: Colton, *Lacon*, Pt. II., No. 203, The new cask takes its odour from the first wine that it receives.

Cast of his office, To give one a. 1577: Grange, *Golden Aphroditis*, sig. N1, Here Boreas with his swelling cheekes shewed a caste of his office. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 79, The devil gives him a cast of his office. 1690: *New Dict. Canting Crew*, sig. H8, A cast of your office, or a touch of your employment. 1718: W. Taverner, *Artful Wife*, V. ii., My chaplain shall give you a cast of his office presently. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Cast."

Cast, verb. 1. *To be cast at cart's arse*.

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, Feare  
may force a man to cast beyonde the  
moone 1579 Lyly, *Euphues*, 78  
(Arber), Pardon me, Euphues, if in  
loue I cast beyond the moone 1607  
T Heywood, *Woman Killed with Kind-  
ness*, 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 spite of Don 1847 Halliwell,  
*Dict*, 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, *Curtain-drawer of the  
World*, 17 (Grosart) 1745 Franklin,  
*Drinker's Dict*, in *Works*, ii 22 (Big-  
elow), He's casting up his accounts  
c 1791 Pegge, *Derbicisms*, 93 (E D S)

7 To cast up old scores 1659  
Howell, 2 1670 Ray, 214 1732  
Fuller, No 6145

8 To cast water into (a) the sea,  
(b) the Thames (a) [His qui contentus  
non est, in mare fundat aquas—Ovid,  
*Tr*, V vi 44] 1509 Barclay, *Ship of  
Fools*, 1 166 (Jamieson), Or in the se  
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 charitie 1600 F Thynne, *Embl  
and Epigr*, 3 (E E T S), In vaine for  
mee to add water to the large sea  
of your rare learning 1654 Gayton,  
*Pleasant Notes Don Q*, 127, To doe 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 woke 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 Cly-  
mon, etc*, sc xiii, You have a castle of  
comfort brought in that you have me  
told c 1630 Dicke of *Devonsh*, I iii  
in Bullen, *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 parlie,  
and woemen that delight in courting,  
are willing to yeelde 1660 Howell  
*Parly of Beasts*, 66, The female and  
fortress which begins to parly is half-  
gain'd 1666 Tormano, *Piazza Unw*,  
93, A fortress that comes to parley, is  
neer a surrender Cf City

3 It is easy to keep a castle that was  
never assaulted [1591 Harington, *Orl  
Furioso*, 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*, l 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  
castellis in Spaygne as louers doo  
1567 G Fenton, *Bandello*, ii 249  
(T T), He began to sighe and build  
castels in Spaine 1685-6 Cotton,  
*Montaigne*, bk iii 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*,  
ii 657

5 To build castles in the air 1566  
Painter, *Pal of Pleasure*, 1 266 (Jacobs),  
Alerand was a building of castels  
in the ayre 1595 Sidney, *Apol for  
Poetrie*, 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*, 305.

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. l. 1629, With new reversioners 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. 1862: Borrow, *Wild Wales*, ch. vii., Even a cat, an animal known to have nine lives, cannot live without food.

3. *A cat may look at a king.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. v., A cat maie looke on a king, ye know. 1590: Greene, in *Works*, viii. 181 (Grosart). 1638: T. Heywood, *Wise Woman*, II. 1714: *A Cat may Look upon a King* [title], in *Somers Tracts*, xiii. 509. 1793: Wolcot, in *Works*, ii. 475 (1795). 1868: *Quart. Review*, cxxv. 231, "A cat may look at a king" is but a modern way of putting the Greek adage, "You're nothing sacred." 1893: R. L. S., *Catrina*, ch. i.

4. *A cat's walk: a little way and back.* Cornwall. 1869: Hazlitt, 5.

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, *Alphonsus*, III. i., By night all cats are grey. 1730: Lillo, *Silvia*, I. ix., For, in the night, Sure ev'ry cat is grey 1880: R. L. S. and Henley, *Deacon Brodie*, I. i. ix., The grimy cynical night that makes all cats grey.

7. *An old cat laps as much milk as a young.* 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 318 (1870). 1670: Ray, 68.

8. *An old cat sports not with her prey.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

9. *As busy as a cat in a tripe shop.* 1890: J. D. Robertson, *Gloucester Gloss.*, 186 (E.D.S.). 1894: Northall, *Folk Phrases of Four Counties*, 7 (E.D.S.).

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 catt licks mustard. 1754: Berthelsson, *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 dyeuel 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.

13. *Before the cat can lick her ear.* 1670: Ray, 168. 1732: Fuller, No. 960.

14 *By biting and scratching cats and dogs come together* 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch 1 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 320 (1870) 1670 Ray, 68 1732 Fuller, No 984, Biting and scratching gets the cat with kitten

15 *Cat will after kind* c 1275 *Prov of Alfred*, A 296 For ofte museth the kat after hire moder 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch vi, Cat after kynde good mouse hunt 1583 Greene *Mamillia*, in *Works*, ii 119 (Grosart), Shewing yt the cat wil to kinde 1601 Shal espeare, *As You Like It*, III ii, 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 Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697)

17 *Cats hide their claws* 1732 Fuller No 1072

18 *Good liquor will make a cat speak* 1585-1618 *Shurburn Ballads*, 93 (1907) Who is it but loues good liquor? Twill make a catte speake 1611 Shakespeare, *Tempest*, II ii, Open your mouth, here is that which will give language to you, cat 1661 *Antid against Melanch*, 126 (Ebsworth), Old liquor able to make a cat speak, and a wise man dumb 1720 *Vade Mecum for Malticorms*, Pt I, p 35, There is drink 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 borrows 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 quotes) 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 Frutes*, 41, Is the catt to blame, if mardes be fooles with shame? 1623 Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 243, What faulte makes the cat when the maidservant is full of folie and carelessness? 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* 1851 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 one, '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*, l 306, But drynke, styll drynke, And let the cat wynke 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch iv, Let the cat winke, 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, sling 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 pattens* Oxfordsh

1913: *Folk-Lore*, xxiv. 77, Slipping about like a cat in pattens. 1914: R. L. Gales, *Vanished Country Folk*, 193, "Like a cat in pattens" was said of an awkward person.

34. *Like a cat round hot milk.* 1855: Bohn, 442.

35. *Little by little as the cat ate the flickle.* Before 1500: in Hill, *Common-place-Book*, 130 (E.E.T.S.), A litill and a litill, the cat eth vp the bacon flicke 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. vii., Yet littell and littell the cat eateth the flickell. 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 [Kirkton-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 (1885), My catt is a good moushunt. An vsuall speach when wee husbands commend the diligence of our wives . . . hee that sometimes flattereth not his wife cannot alwaies please her.

38. *Never was cat or dog drowned that could see the shore.* c. 1594: Bacon, *Promus*, 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. viii. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), *Sc. of Folly*, 47, in *Works*, ii. (Grosart). 1792: Wolcot, in *Works*, ii. 318 (1795), May stun 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. Prudentum*.

42. *She paid en 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 kittenened*—Something has happened. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 596.

47. *The cat has kittenened in your mouth.* 1618: Field, *Amends for Ladies*, II. i, *Grace*. Your mother's cat has kittenened in your mouth, sure.

48. *The cat hath eaten her count.* 1678: Ray, 68.

49. *The cat in gloves catches no mice.* 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 30, A cat gloued catcheth no mice. 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 287, A mufeld cat is not meete to take mice. 1681: Rycaut, tr. *Gracian's Critick*, 122, The proverb says, the mousing cat preys not with mittens. 1736: Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, i. 444 (Bigelow). 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.

51. *The cat is hungry when a crust contents her.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Chat." 1670: Ray, 4.

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 hure cat whas berd he licket. Before 1529: Skelton, *Garl. of Laurell*, l. 1438, And wele wotith the cat whos berde she likkith. 1670: Ray, 68. 1732: Fuller, No. 4442.

54. *The cat sees not the mouse, ever.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 67. 1732: Fuller, No. 4443, The cat sees not every mouse.

55. *The cat, the rat, and Lovel the dog, Rule all England under the hog.* 1542: Fabyan, *Chron.*, fo. 468, The catte, the ratte, and louel our dogge, Ruleth all

Englande vnder a hogge The whyche was mente that Catysby, Ratclyffe, and the lorde Louell ruled the lande vnder the kynge [Richard III], whyche bare the whyte bore for his conysaunce 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 alway that y<sup>e</sup> cat winked when her eye was oute c 1550 *Jacke Jugeler*, 80 (Grosart), The prouerbe olde That the catte winkid when here eye was out 1670 Ray, 67, both her eyes 1738 Swift, *Polite 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, Trin 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 iii ll 693-5 c 1390 Gower, *Conf Amantis*, iv 1108, And as a cat wolde ete fishes Withoute wetinge of his cles [claws] 1583 Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig O1, The cat would like milke, but she will not wette her feete 1606 Shakespeare, *Macbeth*, I vii, Letting "I dare not" wait upon "I would," Like the poor cat i' the adage 1732 Fuller, No 6130, Fain would the cat fish eat, But she's loth her feet to wet 1928 *Sphere*, 7 Jan, p 36

58 *The liquorish cat gets many a rap* 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Chat," The lickorous 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 Cotgrave, s v "Chat" 1694 D Urfe, *Quixote*, Pt I Act V sc 11 1709 O Dykes, *Eng Proverbs*, 147-8

61 *There are more ways of killing*

*a cat than choking her with cream* 1855 Kingsley, *West Hol*, ch xv 1926 *Devonsh Assoc Trans*, lvi 152, There's more ways o' kiln' a cat'n chuckin' o' en wi' cream

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 Bibliog*, in 59 (1812), I am not blinde although I winke 1609 Rowlands, *Whole Crew of Kind Gossips*, 20 (Hunt Cl), The cat ofte winkes, and yet she is not blinde

64 *To agree like cat and dog* 1566 Drant, *Horace Satires*, 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 cattles 1629 in *Pepysian Garland*, 301 (Rollins, 1922), Like cat and dog they still agree'd, Each small offence did anger breed 1727 Gay, *Fables*, 1st ser, No 12, l 33 If they like cat and dog agree 1878 *Folk-Lore Record*, 1 13 You and your wife will lead a cat-and-dog life

65 *To bell the cat* 1377 Langland, *Plouman*, B, Prol, ll 165-81 [the fable of "belling the cat" related] 1388 in Wright, *Pol Poems*, 1 274, (Rolls Ser, 1859), The cattys nec to bylle [bell] Before 1529 Skelton, *Col Clout*, l 163, They are loth to hang the bell About the cattles necke, For drede to haue a checke 1623 Taylor (Water-Poet), in *Works*, pagin 2, p 28 (1630), Not one will aduenture to hang the bell about the cats necke 1712 Motteux, *Quixote*, 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 Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697), As numble as a cat on a haite back-stane 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: *Servingmans Comfort*, in *Inedited Tracts*, 161 (Hazlitt, 1868), Because his sonne shalbe sure to keep the catte from the tonges at home, when other his neighbours children shall trudge into Fraunce, Flaunders, 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. 1922: *Evening Standard*, 1 July, p. 5, col. 1, The man himself lets the embarrassed 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 suteltes 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., O, 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 cat is abroad the mise play. 1603: Dekker, *Batch. Bang.*, in *Works*, i. 169 (Grosart). 1732: Fuller, No. 5572, When the cat's gone, the mice grow sawcy. 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, *109*. 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 Convers*, Dial. II. 1894: Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 32 (E.D.S.), What's a cat but its skin? 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 11, Yo' conno ma'e mooar 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*, 138 (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 (1); 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, *Conf. Amantis*, bk. vii. l. 4422, Bot cacche who that cacche myghte. Before 1529: Skelton, *Magnyfycence*, l. 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. Ho!*, 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, *Feign'd Courtizans*, IV. ii., Ha—what the devil have I caught—a

Tartar? 1708 Cibber *Lady's Last Stake*, II 1, I'm sure catching a husband is catching a Tartar 1841 Dickens, *Barn Rudge*, ch lxxx, A poor good-natur'd mean-spirited creetur, as went out fishing for a wife one day, and caught a Tartar

4 To catch 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 1519 Horman, *Vulgaris*, fo 223, They be cater cosyns and almoste neuer 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*, 1 349 He was humble enough to desire my assistance on this occasion, though he and I were never cater-cousins 1866 Brogden, *Lincs Words*, 37, We had a chip [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

Cavil 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 leaves 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 *Assertion of Arthur*, 89 (E E T S), Whether with like eloquence, grace, and good successe I haue done this, let that by the iudgement 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 1865 "Lancs Proverbs," in *N & Q*, 3rd ser., viii 494

Chalk and Cheese 1 I talk of chalk and you of cheese 1631 Mabbe, *Celestina*, 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 Amantis*, ii 2346, And thus fulofte chalk for chese He changeth with ful litel cost c 1550 John Bon and Mast Person, in Hazlitt, *Early Pop Poetry*, iv 15 (1866), For thoughe I have no learning, yet I know chese from chalke 1586 Pettie, tr Guazzo's *Civil Convers*, 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" "Ay! I'm fairish, I can tell cheese fro' chalk" 1926 Phillpotts, *Marylebone Miser*, 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 Oxfordsh*, 243

Chalvington See Beddingham

Chamber of sickness See Sickness

Chance is a dicer 1732 Fuller No 1080

Chance the ducks, To 1894 Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 12 (E D 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

Chanctonbury See quot 1894

A J C Hare, *Sussex*, 161, The proverb "Old Mother Goring's got her cap on,



We shall soon have wet"—refers to Chanctonbury.

Change, *subs.* 1. *Change is no robbery.* See Fair, *adj.* (19).

2. *Change of fortune is the lot of life.* 1855: Bohn, 336.

3. *Change of pasture makes fat calves.* 1546: Heywood, Pt. II. ch. iv. 1575: Gascoigne, *Glasse of Govt.*, IV. iii. 1696: D'Urfey, *Quixote*, Pt. III. Act IV. sc. i. 1732: Fuller, No. 1081. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 6 (Percy S.).

4. *Change of weather is the discourse of fools.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Span.-Eng.*, 2. 1670: Ray, 28. 1732: Fuller, No. 1082. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 3 (Percy S.).

5. *Change of women makes bald knaves.* 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 320 (1870). 1685: Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 50, But change of women macks lean knaves Ise flaid.

6. *Change of work is as good as touch-pipe* [short interval of rest], A. Cornwall. 1895: Jos. Thomas, *Randigal Rhymes*, 59.

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).

3. *To change the name and not the letter, Is a change for the worse, and not for the better.* 1862: Chambers, *Book of Days*, i. 723. 1878: Dyer, *Eng. Folk-Lore*, 200. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 41, Iv yo' choange yore name beawt choangin' th' letter, youe choange for th' wo'se i'stid o' for th' better.

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."

Changeable as a weather-cock. 1548: Hall, *Chron.*, 38 (1809), Which be more variable then the wethercocke. 1615: R. Tofte, tr. *Blazon of Icalousy*, 81, Since thou as weather-cocke dost change.

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. 1855: 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. c. 1400: *Seven Sages*, 88 (Percy S.), "Sire," scho said, "this char hys heved." 1593: Peele, *Edward I.*, sc. vi., Why, so, this chare 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, Smoky. 1735: Pegge, *Kent. Proverbs*, in E.D.S., No. 12, 69.

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: *Politeuphuia*, 243. 1732: Fuller, No. 1084, Charity and Pride have different aims, yet both feed the poor.

Charity begins at home. [ἀρετὴ ἢ γένν ἀνάμα. — Theocritus, xvi. 18. Proximus sum egomet mihi.—Terence, *Andr.*, IV. i. 12.] c. 1380: Wiclif, in *Eng. Works*, 76 (E.E.T.S.), Whanne charite schuld bigyne at hem-self. 1509: Barclay, *Ship of Fools*, i. 277 (1874), For perfyte loue and also charite Begynneth with hym selfe for

to be charitable 1572 T Wilson, *Disc upon Usury*, 235 (1925), Charity beginneth first at it selfe 1641 R Brome, *Joviall Crew*, II, Good sister Meriel, Charity begins at home 1763 Murphy, *Citizen*, I ii 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 Pallace*, 1 32 (Gollancz), Do not some men say that women always live chastely enough, so that they live charily enough? 1612 *Cornucopia*, 25 (Grosart) 1630 *Tinker of Turvey* 36 (Halliwell), I learned this old saying in Latin, *Caule, si non caste* Live charily, if not chastely

2 *She is chaste who was never asked the question* 1695 Congreve, *Love for Love*, III iii

Chastiseth one, amendeth many, He that 1633 Draxe, 32 1670 Ray, 4 1732 Fuller, No 2065

Chatting 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 Tormano, *Piazza Univ*, 277, The English say, It is as cheap sitting as standing, my masters 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I 1776 O'Keefe, *Tony Lumpkin in Town*, I iii 1854 Surtees, *Handley Cross*, ch lxiv 1901 F 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* 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*, 1 223 (Hearne), Vmwhile cheke bi cheke c 1534 Berners, *Huon*, ch lv, p 189 (E E T S), Rydyng cheke by cheke by kynge yuoryn 1599 *Sir Clyomon*, etc, sig Fz, She went euen cheke by ioule With our head 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, *Viss of Judg*, st 20 1851 FitzGerald, *Euphranor*, 68 (1855), Victor and vanquisht having to settle 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, 136 1655 Fuller, *Church Hist*, bk vi § v (ii 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 [said 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 ii, Cheese digesteth all things except itselfe 1630 T Adams, *Works*, 170, As cheese to digest all the rest, yet it selfe neuer digested 1678 Ray, 40 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial II, They say, cheese digests everything but itself 1846-59 Denham Tracts, ii 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'Urfev,

*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 choak 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. 6477.

6. *You can't hang soft cheese on a hook.* 1852: FitzGerald, *Polonius*, 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.

Cherry and Cherries. 1. *A cherry year A merry year.* 1678: Ray, 52. 1732: Fuller, No. 6139. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 5.

2. *Eat not cherries with the great.* c. 1530, *Dialogues of Creatures*, xx., As it is sayde in a commune prouerbe. I counsell not seruautis to ete churyes with ther bettyrs. Fer they wyl haue the rype and leue them the harde. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Manger," Mean men are not to eat cherries . . . with great lords; least the stones of the best flie faster at their eyes then . . . the worst into their mouths. 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 potentates."

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 Boose. See quotes. c. 1791: Pegge, *Derbicisms*, 90 (E.D.S.), When a man weds a second wife, older and perhaps not so handsome as the first, they say, "he has put Browney into Cherry's boose" [stall]. 1836: Wilbraham, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 2nd ed., 20, Any person who is got into a comfortable situation is said to be "put into Cherry's boose." 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.

2. *Cheshire bred, beef down to th' heels.* Said of any very stout person. 1886: R. Holland, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 447 (E.D.S.). 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 36.

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.* 1608: in Harington, *Nugæ Antiquæ*, ii. 276 (1804), He was translated to Chester, the chiefe city of that shire, that some call chiefe of men. 1612: Drayton, *Polyol.*, xi. l. 8, For which, our proverb calls her, Cheshire chief of men. 1644: Taylor (Water-Poet), *Crop-eare Curried*, 10, in *Works*, 2nd coll. (Spens. S.), The Cheshire men . . . tendred 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.

5. *Cheshire for choice of lads.* 1895: C. F. Lawrence, *Hist. Middlewich*, 50, "Cheshire for choice of lads." Old Cheshire proverb.

6. *Cheshire for men, Berkshire for dogs, Bedfordshire for naked flesh, And Lincolnshire for bogs.* c. 1809, in

N & Q, 9th ser, xi 266 1917  
Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 37

7 In *Cheshire* (see quots)  
1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v  
"Cheshire," In Cheshire there are  
Lees as plenty as fleas, and as many  
Davenport as dogs-tails 1917 Bridge,  
*Cheshire Proverbs*, 18, As many Leighs  
as fleas, Massies as asses, Crewes as  
crows, and Davenports as dogs' tails

8 *Neither in Cheshire nor Chawbent*  
= Neither in Kent nor Christendom  
Chawbent is a town in Lancashire  
1678 Ray, 301 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire*  
*Proverbs*, 96

9 *To grin like a Cheshire cat* 1792  
Wolcot, in *Works*, ii 424 (1795), Yet, if  
successful, thou wilt be ador'd—Lo,  
like a Cheshire cat our Court will grin!  
1806 A Ferguson, in Scott's *Fam*  
*Letters*, i 66 (1894) Ever since the  
Polts have grinned at me like so many  
Cheshire cats 1855 Thackeray *New-*  
*comes*, ch xxiv 1917 Bridge *Cheshire*  
*Proverbs*, 135

Chester 1 *The sweet Rood of Chester*  
1575 Gascoigne, *Glasse of Govt*, They  
are as much a kynne to the Markgrave  
as Robyn Fletcher and the Sweet Roode  
of Chester 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire*  
*Proverbs*, 120

2 *There is more than one yew-bow in*  
*Chester* 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, iii  
537 (1840) 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*,  
s v "Flintshire" 1917 Bridge, 118

3 *To kill the Mayor of Chester*, on  
*Cewn Cerwyn* 1917 Bridge, 138

4 *Up before the dogs of Chester*  
1917 *Ibid*, 46 [N Wales saying]

See also Bare as the Bishop, Easter  
(4), and West Chester

Chesterfield steeple, All on one side,  
like Derby 1889 *Folk-Lore Journal*,  
vii 293

Chestnuts *To take the chestnuts out*  
*of the fire with the cat's paw* The story  
of the ape using the whelp's foot to get  
chestnuts out of the fire, is told in 1586  
G Whitney, *Emblems*, 58 1664 J  
Wilson, *The Cheats*, V iv, Some few  
that make use of us, as the  
monkey did of the cat's paw, to scrape  
the nuts out of the fire 1753  
Richardson, *Grandison*, iii 31 (1883),

He makes her become herself the  
cat's paw to help him to the ready  
roasted chesnuts 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 (19)

Chevin See quot 1678 Ray, 52,  
Said the chevin to the trout, My head's  
worth all thy bouk

Cheviot See quot 1846-59 *Den-*  
*ham Tracts*, i 317 (F L S), When  
Cheeyut [Cheviot] ye see put on his  
cap, Of rain yelle have a wee bit drap  
[Variants are given]

Chew the cud, To 1382 Wiclif,  
*Hosea*, vii 14 (O), Thei chewiden cud  
vpon whete, and wyne, and departiden  
fro me 1596 Spenser, *F Q*, bk v  
can vi st 19, Chawing the cud of  
griefe and inward paine c 1617  
B & F, *Queen of Corinth*, IV 1,  
Revenge is now the cud That I do  
chew 1665 R Howard, *Surprisal*, I,  
How he mumbles to himself! sure he  
does chew the cud of some set speech  
1774 in *Garrick Corresp*, ii 33 (1832),  
People are for ever chewing the cud, and  
ruminating on the unsuccessful passages  
of their lives 1827 Southey, *Letter*  
*to C Bowles*, 10 July, Upon this plain  
statement he is now chewing the cud

Chichester 1 *A Chichester lobster*,  
*a Selsey cockle*, *an Arundel mullet*, *a*  
*Pulborough eel*, *an Amberley trout*, *a Rye*  
*herring*, *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 Shelsey 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*, xiii 233

Chickens 1 *Chickens feed capons*  
1678 Ray, 111

2 *The chickens are the country's, but*  
*the city eats them* 1640 Herbert, *Jac*  
*Prudentum* 1670 Ray, 4 1732  
Fuller, No 4447

3. *To reckon one's chickens before they are hatched.* [ἀεὶ γεωργὸς εἰς νέματα πλοῦσιος.—Philemon, 4 (Mein., 29).] 1577: *Misogonus*, IV. i., My chickings are not hatcht; I nil to counte of him as yet. 1583: Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig. G2, Why doe we reckon our chickens before they be hatcht. 1674: J. Howard, *Eng. Mounsieur*, III. iii., Take heed we don't reckon our chicken before they are hatcht. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' *Colloq.*, 39, You are a little too hasty; you reckon your chickens before they are hatch'd. 1829: Scott, *Journal*, 20 May, But we must not reckon our chickens before they are hatched, 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.* 1639: Clarke, 161 [with "man" for "child"]. 1659. Howell, 11 (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 cheel that can tell [talk] avore he can go [walk], 'll sure t' ha nort but zorrow and wo.

3. *A child's birds and a boy's wife are well used.* c. 1430: Lydgate, *Churl and Bird*, st. 52, A childes birde and a knaues wyff Haue ofte sithe grete sorrwe and meschaunce. Before 1529: Skelton, *Garl. of Laurell*, l. 1452, But who may haue a more vngracious lyfe Than a chylde's birde and a knaues wyfe? 1678: Ray, 351. 1732: Fuller, No. 37.

4. "*Child my dear,*" says Mrs. Chapman. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., vi. 6.

5. *Child's pig and daddy's bacon.* 1678: Ray, III, Childs pig, but fathers bacon. 1732: Fuller, No. 1101, Child's pig, but father's hog. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 589, Child's pig, and daddy's bacon = nominal ownership.

6. *Even a child may beat a man that's bound.* 1732: Fuller, No. 1387.

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*, l. 7240, Gyue thy chylde when he wyl kraue, And thy whelp whyl hyt wyl haue,—than mayst thou make you a stounde A foule chylde and a feyre 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.

8. *He that wipes the child's nose, kisseth the mother's cheek.* 1640: Herbert, Jac. *Prudentum*. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Span.-Eng.*, 18.

9. *Let not a child sleep upon bones, i.e. the nurse's lap.* Somerset 1678: Ray, 351.

10. *The child hath a red tongue like its father.* 1678: Ray, 234.

11. *The child says nothing but what it heard by the fire.* 1640: Herbert, Jac. *Prudentum*. 1732: Fuller, No. 4449.

12. *The child that's born must be kept.* 1605: R. F., Sch. of Slovenrie, 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.

14. *To a child all weather is cold.* 1640: Herbert, Jac. *Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 4.

15. *When the child is christened you may have godfathers enough.* 1639: Clarke, 283, When the child is christ'ned, 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 (1); 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  
(F.L.S.), Children and chicken are  
always a - picking 1917 Bndge,  
*Cheshire Proverbs*, 52

2 *Children and fools have merry lives*  
1639 Clarke, 298 1681 W Robert-  
son, *Phraseol Generalis*, 330 c 1800  
Trusler, *Prov in Verse*, 41

3 *Children and fools speak the truth*  
1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch xi,  
Children and foolcs can not ly 1591  
Lyly, *Endymion*, IV 11, 'Tis an old said  
saw, "Children and fools speak true"  
c 1610 Rowlands, *More Knaues Yet?*,  
36 (Hunt Cl), Foolcs and babes tell  
true 1652 Tatham, *Scots Figgaries*,  
III, I am but a fool, 'tis confest,—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*, II 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 chil-  
dren and fools tell the truth"

4 *Children are certain cares, uncer-  
tain comforts* c 1460 *How the Good*  
*Wife*, I 145 Care he hathe that childryn  
schalle kepe 1641 Brathwaite, *Eng*  
*Gent*, etc, Suppl, p 27, Children reflect  
constant cares, but uncertaine comforts  
1707 Dunton, *Athen Sport*, 389, I shall  
not be in danger of the certain troubles,  
but uncertain comforts of children  
1732 Fuller, No 1095 1854 Surtees,  
*Handley Cross*, ch xxxiv

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 a'terwards a heart-ache S W  
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*, Intro  
Epist, As the nursery proverb goes—  
"The children in Holland take pleasure  
in making What the children in England

take pleasure in breaking" [i.e. toys]  
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 Chil-  
dren," in *Misalliance*, etc, p xxi, 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, 112 1732 Fuller,  
No 1099 [with "grown up" for "old"]

12 *Children to bed and the goose to*  
*the fire* 1670 Ray, 168 1675 W  
Churchill, *Dun Britannica*, 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 Torriano, *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 Torriano, *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 feedes them fatt  
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

19. See quot. 1913: *Folk-Lore*, xxiv. 76, When you've got one, you may run, When you've got two, you may goo, 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. lxxv. 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.* 1666: 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 tranter feelingly. "You'll be like chips in porridge, Leaf—neither good nor hurt."

Chippenham. See quot. c. 1685: Aubrey, *Nat. Hist. Wilts*, 58 (1847), *When Chipnam stood in Pewsham's wood, Before it was destroy'd, A cow might have gone for a groat a year— But now it is denied.*

Chittlehampton. See Bishop's Nympton.

Choice of a wife. See Wife (7).

Choke up—in various phrases. See quotes. 1605: R F., *Sch. of Slovenrie*, 6, *Say not, God blesse him, but choake vp, or some such matter, rather.* 1678: Ray, 343, *Choak 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 neuer 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 logicke with her maistres 1560 Awdeley, *Vocabondes*, 15 (E E T S), Choplogyke is he that when his mayster rebuketh him of hys fault he wyll geue hym xx wordes for one 1682 A Behn, *City Heiress*, I 1, Send him to chop logick in an University 1771 Smollett, *Clinker*, in *Works* vi 21 (1817), A man must not presume to use his reason, unless he has studied the categories, and can chop logic by mode and figure

Chopt hay, It goes down like 1678 Ray, 235

Chrisom child, To die like a 1599 Shakespeare, *Henry V*, II iii, A' made a finer end and went away an it had been any Chrismom child c 1620 A Cooke in Hunter's *New Ill of Shakesp*, ii 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 chrisom-child, quietly and without fear

Christ's Cross See quot 1593 *Tell Trothes N Yeares Gift*, 33 (N Sh S), Suppose the worst that can happen, imagine shee will neuer be good, building vpon the old sayinge *Shee that knowes where Christes crosse standes, will neuer forget where great A dwels*

Christen x 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 Urfe, *Quixote*, Pt II Act III sc ii, 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 "Cornish 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 contradict one another 1 A black Christmas makes a fat churchyard 1846 Denham, *Proverbs*, 62 (Percy S)

2 A dark Christmas makes a heavy wheatsheaf 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 467, [Surrey woman log] "They always say a dark Christmas makes a heavy wheatsheaf"

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 iii No 106, col 3 1830 Forby, *Vocab E Anglia*, 418 1879 Henderson, *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, 27 (Percy S) 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 39

8 After Christmas comes Lent 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Banquet," After feasting, 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 loafs, at Easter clean souls, at Whitsuntide new clothes 1659 Howell, 11 (9)

11 At Christmas meadows green, at Easter covered with frost 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 38 1912 R L Gales, *Studies in Arcady*, 2nd ser, 108 A green Christmas a white Easter

12 At old Christmas the days are



longer by a cock's stride. 1830: Forby, *Vocab. E. Anglia*, 418. Cf. No. 17; and New Year (2).

13. *Better have a new-laid egg at Christmas than a calf at Easter.* 1882: Mrs. Chamberlain, *W. Worcs. Words*, 38 (E.D.S.).

14. *Christmas comes but once a year.* 1580: Tusser, *Husb.*, 28 (E.D.S.), At Christmas play and make good cheere, for Christmas comes but once a yeere. 1652: Taylor (Water-Poet), *Christmas In and Out*, 16, in *Works*, 1st coll. (Spens. S.). 1834: Planché, *Extravag.*, i. 204 (1879). 1892: S. Hewett, *Peasant Speech of Devon*, 68, Cursemas com'th but wance a year.

15. *Christmas wet, empty granary and barrel.* 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 38.

16. *Coming—like Christmas.* 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I., Coming! ay, so is Christmas. c. 1760: Foote, *Maid of Bath*, I., Coming! ay, zo be Christmas 1839. Planché, *Extravag.*, ii. 60 (1879).

17. *From Christmas-tide to New's-tide, The days do get a cock's stride.* 1890: J. D. Robertson, *Gloucester Gloss.* (E.D.S.). Cf. No. 12; and New Year (2).

18. *He has more business than English ovens at Christmas.* c. 1594: Bacon, *Promus*, No. 912, He hath moe to doe than the ovens in Christmas. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Ital.-Eng.*, 1. 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 Crystmas 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 Crystemas day on Monday be, A grete wynter that yere have shall 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.

23. *Light Christmas; light wheatsheaf. Dark Christmas; heavy wheatsheaf.* 1855: N. & Q., 1st ser., xii. 490 [current in Kent, and firmly believed] 1872: *ibid.*, 4th ser., ix. 13, I have heard the following saying referred to the neighbourhood of Ledbury, Herefordshire: "A light Christmas, a light harvest."

24. *The twelve days of Christmas.* 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 62 (Percy S.).

25. *They keep Christmas all the year.* 1672: Walker, *Paræm.*, 25. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 783.

26. *They talk of Christmas so long that it comes.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Noel," So long is Christmas cryed that at length it comes. 1670: Ray, 26. 1846-59: Denham *Tracts*, ii. 92 (F.L.S.).

*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 Stretton, where they eaten more nor they gotten. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 583.

Church work goes on slowly. 1639: 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 (in 4),  
Church work is a cripple in going up  
[building], but rides post in coming  
down! [destroying a church] 1732  
Fuller, No 1106 1875 A B Cheales,  
*Proverb Folk-Lore*, 79

Churchman *Though you see a  
Churchman ill, yet continue in the  
church still* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Churchyard *A piece of a churchyard  
fits everybody* Ibid

Churl and Churls 1 *A churl's churl  
is often weebegone* c 1430 Lydgate,  
*Churl and Bird*, st 40, For hit was said  
of folkes yeres agoon A chorles chorle is  
ofte woo begoon

2 *A churl's feast is better than none  
at all* 1594 Lodge and Greene,  
*Looking Glass*, l 1191, We must feed  
vpon prouerbes now, as "A  
churles 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 gyue a chorle rule  
and there by he wylle not be suffysed

4 *Of churls may no good come*  
c 1489 Caxton, *Blanchardyn, etc*, 173  
(E E T S), Of churles, bothe man and  
wyff, can departe noo goode fruyte  
Ibid, 173 Men sayen that "of a kerle  
may nought come but poyson and  
fylth, that maketh the place to stynke  
where he haunted ynn"

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*, iii 267 (V Lean)  
Those bottled windy 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? *Ld 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 ii, Is it  
not one of your proverbs that circum-  
stances alter cases?

Citizen is at his business before he  
rise, The 1640 Herbert, *Jac Pru-  
dentum*

City which comes to parle is half won,  
The 1567 Painter, *Pal of Pleasure*,  
in 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 1596 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 vii  
1568 Jacob and Esau, II iii, in 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 wyll clawe thy toe 1619 H  
Hutton, *Follies Anat*, 31 (Percy S),  
Let coxcombs curry favour with a  
fee, Extoll their braines, with Claw me,  
I'll claw thee 1754 Berthelson, *Eng-  
Danish 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  
Cf *Eat* (38)

Clay and sand See *England* (12)

Clean as a clock 1669 H More,  
*Anid 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, i 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 as a penny. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 338. 1720: Gay, *Poems*, ii. 279 (Underhill), Clean as a penny drest. 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 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*, 11. 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. 1111.

Clean heels, light meals. This "refers to the superiority of clay land over sand land for yielding milk." 1886: R. Holland, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 447 (E.D.S.). 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 38.

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 clane mon 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.

Clear as a bell. 1670: Ray, 203. 1838: Dickens, *Twist*, ch. xxiii., Fresh, genuine port wine . . . clear as a bell; and no sediment!

Clear as crystal. Before 1300: *Cursor M.*, l. 376, The lift [sky] wit sternes [stars] grete and small wit water clere als cristale. c. 1350: *Alexander*, l. 2541, It was clerir than cristalle. c. 1430: Lydgate, *Minor Poems*, 343 (E.E.T.S.), Shewe out in chyldhode as ony crystall clere. 1584: R. Scot, *Witchcraft*, bk. xiii. ch. vi., A stone about the bignesse of a bean, as clear as the crystall. 1605: Sylvester, *Du Bartas*, 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.

Clear as the day. 1541: Coverdale, *Christ. State Matrimony*, sig. D8, Euydent 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, *Æsop*, Life, p. 28 (3rd ed.). 1740: North, *Examen*, 190, The plot was as clear as noon day. 1883: 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!

Clear as the sun. c. 1579: Harvey, *Letter-Book*, 66 (Camden S.), Is it not cleerer then the sonne 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, 11.

Clear. See also Innocent as a newborn babe.

Cleave. 1. He cleaves the clouds. 1813: Ray, 75.

2 *They cleave together like burs*  
 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II  
 ch v 1580 Churchyard, *Charge*, 30  
 (Collier), Ye cleave together so like  
 burres

Cleckheaton See Birstal

Clent See quot 1894 Northall,  
*Folk Phrases*, 24 (E D S), The people of  
 Clent are all Hills, Waldrons, or devils

Clerk makes the justice, The 1660  
 A Brome, *Poems* 'The Leveller,' 'Tis  
 we commons make the lords, and the  
 clerk makes the justice 1691 *Merry*  
*Drollery*, 37 (Ebsworth) [as in 1660]  
 1729 Defoe, *Compl Gent*, Pt I ch vi,  
 p 239 (1890) So makeing good the  
 old proverb that the clerk makes the  
 justice, while the master does just  
 nothing 1732 Fuller, No 3024, It is  
 the Justices clerk that makes the  
 Justice

Cleveland in the clay, Bring in two  
 soles and carry one away 1670 Ray,  
 257 1790 Grose *Prov Gloss*, s v  
 "Yorkshire" 1878 *Folk-Lore Record*,  
 1 168

Cleveland See Rosebery-Topping

Client twixt his attorney and coun-  
 sellor is like a goose twixt two foxes, A  
 1659 Howell, II (9)

Climb 1 *He that never climbed*  
*never fell* 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*,  
 Pt I ch xii c 1594 Bacon, *Promus*,  
 No 484 1762 Smollett, *Sir L Greaves*,  
 ch x, Crabshaw replied ' who  
 never climbed, never fell "

2 *Who climbs high his fall is great*  
 c 1430 Lydgate, *Minor Poems*, 120  
 (Percy S), Who clymybythe hyst most  
 dredfulle is his falle c 1460 *Wisdom*,  
 sc iii, in *Macro Plays*, 50 (E E T S),  
 Who clymyt hye hys fall gret ys 1513  
 Bradshaw, *St Werburge*, 40 (E E T S),  
 Who clymbed to hye often hath a fall  
 c 1580 Spelman, *Dialogue*, 96 (Roxb  
 Cl), The ould saynge (the higher thou  
 clymeste, and thy foote slyppe, the  
 greater is thy fall) 1631 Mabbe,  
*Celestina*, 221 (T T), It is an ancient  
 proverbe That the higher a man  
 climbes, the greater is his fall 1884  
 Gilbert, *Princess Ida*, II, Pray you  
 bear in mind Who highest soar fall  
 farthest

Cloak 1 *A cloak for the rain* = An  
 expedient for every turn of fortune  
 Before 1529 Skelton, *Magnyfycence*,  
 l 618, Ye, for your wyt is cloked for  
 the rayne 1548 Hall, *Chron*, 701  
 (1809), Whatsoever was sared by the  
 Recorder in his excuse was taken as  
 a cloke for the rain, and a dissimula-  
 tion or a mocke 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  
 Cf *Hypocrisy*

2 *Don't have thy cloak to make when*  
*it begins to rain* 1639 Clarke, 267,  
 Hee that provides not a cloak before  
 the raine, 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

Clock 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 nobbut three  
 generations between clog and clog  
 1871 N & Q, 4th ser, vii 472,

A Lancashire proverb, implying  
 that, however rich 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,  
 once boots" 1924 *Clogs to Clogs*  
 [title 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 mun be as  
 close as wax, d'ye see 1828 in  
*Brasenose Ale*, 24 (1878), Sleep seals  
 my eyes as close as wax 1891 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-*  
*panion*, 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 proverb thus, the cloth must still be shorne, Least it should hap to be consumde 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, *Jac. Prudentum*.

Clothe thee warm, eat little, drink enough, and thou shalt live. 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo 34, Cloathe warme, eate litle, drink wel, so shalt thou lyue. 1629: *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov. 129.

Clothes. *He is making clothes for fishes*. 1813: Ray, 75.

Clothmarket, In the=In bed. 1678: Ray, 235. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. 1.

Cloud and Clouds. 1. *A round-topped cloud, with flattened base, Carries rainfall in its face*. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 96.

2. *After clouds (or black clouds), clear weather*. c. 1400: *Beryn*, l. 3955 (E.E.T.S.), ffor “aftir mysty cloudis there comyth a cler sonne.” 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi., After cloudes blacke, we shall haue weather cleere. 1685: Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 72, After fowl weather followes 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.

4. *Clouds that the sun builds up, darken him*. 1732: Fuller, No. 1115. 1893: Inwards, 85.

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, Then winds around you soon will rush*. Ibid., 92.

12. *When clouds appear like rocks and towers, The earth's refreshed by frequent showers*. 1831, Hone, *Year-Book*, 300. 1893: Inwards, 96.

13. *When mountains and cliffs in the clouds appear, Some sudden and violent showers are near*. 1893: Inwards, 96.

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*, 341. 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.

Clover, To be in 1813 Ray, 57  
 Clown See quotes 1586 Pettie tr Guazzo's *Civil Convers*, fo 171, You know well the prouerbe—Claw a clown he will thee scratch, Scratch a clown he will thee claw 1623 Wodroephe *Spared Houres*, 520, Anyont a clowne, and hee will grip you, grip a clowne and hee will anyont you 1659 Howell *Proverbs Fr-Eng*, 9, Anoint a clown and he will prick you

Clowns are best in their own company, but gentlemen are best everywhere 1732 Fuller, No 1117

Clowns kill [each] other, and gentles cleave together 1623 Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 520

Clubs are trumps Gloss 1639 in *Berkeley MSS*, iii 29 (1885), Beware, Clubs are trumps or clubs will prove trumps

Clude To escape Clude and be drowned in Conway Two Welsh rivers 1662 Fuller, *Worthies* iii 527 (1840) 1790 Grose *Prov Gloss* sv "Caernarvonshire"

Clunton and Clunbury, Clungunford and Clun, are the (see quotes) 1883 Burne *Shropsh Folk-Lore*, 583, drunkenest (or dirtiest or quietest) places under the sun 1896 Housman, *Shropsh Lad*, 1, quietest places under the sun

Coaches won't run over him, The= He is in gaol 1813 Ray, 186

Coal-pit cale=First come, first served 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 38

Coals to Newcastle, To send [In silvam non ligna ferat insaniam ac si Magnas Græcorum malis implere ceteras—Horace, *Sat*, I x 34-5] 1583 Melville, *Autobiog*, 1 163 (Wodrow S), Salt to Dysart, or colles 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 *Thoresby Correspond*, 1 16 (1832), To send you our news from England, were to carry coals to Newcastle 1709 *Labour in Vain*, or, *Coals to Newcastle* [title of sermon advertised in *Daily Courant*, 6 Oct, 1709] 1874 R L S, *Letters*, 1 134 (Tusitala ed), It seems rather like

sending coals to Newcastle to write a lecture to a subsidised professor 1920 Galsworthy, *Tatterdemalion*, 9 However much she carried coals to Newcastle, or tobacco pouches to those who did not smoke Cf Owl (9)

Coals See Over the coals

Coarse See Rough as gorse

Coats change with countries 1659 Howell, 17

Cob=Mud See quot 1869 Hazlitt 142, Give cob a hat and pair of shoes, and he'll last for ever S Devon Provide a stone foundation and a slate coping for a cob [mud] wall—Shelly

Cobble They that cobble and clout shall have work when others go without 1670 Ray 72 1732 Fuller No 6454

Cobbler I 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 gentle craft" 1862 *Dialect of Leeds*, 270, A day to do nothing in

3 Cobblers and tinkers are the best ale-drinkers 1659 Howell, 17 1670 Ray, 5 1732 Fuller, No 6229 1886 Bickerdyke, *Curios of Ale and Beer*, 172, Cobblers and tinkers 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 judicaret—Pliny *Nat Hist*, xxxv 85] 1539 Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo 17, Let not the shoemaker go beyond his shoe 1613 Wither, *Abuses Stript, etc*, To Reader, You will be counted but saucy cobblers to goe beyond your lasts 1692 L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 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 iii, No 111, col 6

7 Without all [awl] the cobbler's nobody 1639 Clarke, 71

**Cobwebs.** *Where cobwebs are plenty, kisses are scarce.* 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., vi. 6. 1906: *Cornish N. & Q.*, 266.

**Cock.** 1. *A cock and bull tale.* 1608: Day, *Law Trickes*, IV. ii., What a tale of a cock and a bull he tolde my father. c. 1625: B. & F., *Chances*, II. iv., Thou talk'st of cocks and bulls. 1702: T. Brown, in *Works*, ii. 94 (1760), Things which some call a cock and a bull, and others the product of a lively imagination. 1762: Hall-Stevenson, *Crazy Tales*, 16, My Cousin's Tale of a Cock and a Bull [title]. 1823: Byron, *Don Juan*, can. vi. st. 80. 1858: O. W. Holmes, *Autocrat*, v.

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.

4. *Every cock is brave on his own dunghill.* [Gallum in suo sterquilinio plurimum posse.—Seneca, *Apocol.*, 7.] Before 1225: *Ancrer R.*, 140, Ase me seið "þet coc is kene on his owune mixenne." 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi. [with "proude" for "brave"]. 1580: Spenser, *Shep. Cal.*, Sept., l. 47, As cocke on his dunghill crowing cranck. 1692: Congreve, *Old Bachelor*, II. ii., For every cock will fight upon his own dunghill. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. xiii., Every cock may crow on his own dunghill. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 2, A cock fights best on his own bouk.

5. *If the cock goes crowing to bed, He's sure to rise with a watery head.* 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 18 (Percy S.). 1893: 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 in Warwickshire 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 moults before the hen, The winter will not wett your shoes seame. 1825: Hone, *Ev. 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).

8. *The cock crows but the hen goes.* 1659: Howell, 19. 1670: Ray, 5.

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, III. 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: Horman, *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 mery, daunce and sing, Set cocke a whope, and play care away. 1606: T. Heywood, *If you know not me*, Pt. II., These knaues 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

to Cocking Foxes brewings come back dropping

Cockles of the heart 1685 S Wesley, *Maggots*, 126, It terrifies the coales of my heart 1690 *Reason of Mr Bays changing his Religion*, Pt II, p 33, Now you rejoyce 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

Cockloft is unfurnished, His = Brainless 1646 Fuller *Andronicus*, § vi par 18, Often the cockloft is empty in those whom Nature hath built many stories high 1678 Ray, 235

Codnor's Pond See quot 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 Coxhall* 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, i 498 (1840) 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, sv Essex, "Jeering Cogshall"

See also Braintree

Coin Where coin is not common, commons must be scant 1546 Heywood *Proverbs*, Pt II ch 1 1633 Draxe, i 1670 Ray, 74

Colchester, The Weavers' Beef of = Sprats 1662 Fuller *Worthies*, i 498 (1840) 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, sv "Essex" 1865 W White *Eastern England*, i 145 She had never heard sprats described as "weavers beef," as they are (or were) at Colchester 1866 J G Nall, *Great Yarmouth, etc*, 683

Cold as a clock 1579 Lyly, *Euphues*, 106 (Arber), Though Curio bee as hot as a toast, yet Euphues is as colde as [a] clocke 1583 Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig H3 1592 T Lodge, *Euphues Shadow*, sig G2 As coole as a clock

Cold as a cucumber See Cool (2)

Cold as a key 1501 Douglas, *Pal Honor*, Pt I st 61, With quai and voce and hart cald as a key 1587 Turbervile, *Trag Tales, etc* 276 (1837), As colde as any kaye 1702 Farquhar, *Inconstant*, IV iii, Till they be as cold as a key

Cold as a stone c 1300 Brunne, tr Langtoft s *Chron*, 56 (Hearne), He felle dede doun colde as ony stone 1506 A Barclay, *Cast of Labour*, sig A6, My herte was colde as ony stone 1697 Dilke, *City Lady*, III iii, In the morning he may find him self as cold as a stone 1889 R L S, *Ballantrae*, ch xi

Cold as charity 1640 Shurley, *St Pat for Ireland*, III 1, Would I were a whale in the frozen sea! charity is not cold enough to relieve me 1675 *Poor Robin Alman*, Nov, Weather cold as charity 1909 De Morgan, *Never can happen again*, ch lvi

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, *Abced*, sig Fr, Colde as yse 1672 Walker, *Param*, 23 1845 Jerrold, *Mrs Caudle*, 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

Cold as mutton Said of weather Glos 1911 *Folk-Lore*, xxii 239

Cold broth hot again, that loved I never, Old love renew'd 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. lx., 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. 1598: Meres, *Palladis*, fo. 321. 1647: A. Brewer, *Countrie Girle*, 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. 1659: 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 answer before he do his erraunde. 1560: Awdeley, *Vocabondes*, 15 (E.E.T.S.), Cole Prophet 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 cotta. 1580: Lyly, *Euphues*, 391 (Arber), Who left out nothing that before I put in, which I must omitte,

least I set before you, colewortes twice sodden. 1611: Coryat, *Coryats Crambe, or his Colwort twice 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, *Epigrams*, 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 quots. 1587: Harrison, *Descrip. of Eng.*, Pt. I. 168 (Furnivall), The Morisco gowns, the Barbarian sleeues, the mandilion worne to Collie weston ward. 1841: Harts-horne, *Salopia 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." 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 82, It's aw along o' Colly Wes(t)on. Cf. Cotton's neck.

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., [burlesque version] 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 stagers.'" 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 589.

3. *To have a colt's tooth.* c. 1386: Chaucer, *Reeve's Tale*, l. 34, And yet ik have alwey a coltes tooth. 1588: Greene, *Perimedes*, in *Works*, vii. 91

(Grosart), Hee hath beene a wag, but nowe age hath pluckt out all his coltes teeth c 1620 B & F, *Elder Brother*, II iii If he should love her now, As he hath a colt's tooth yet 1674 Head and Kirkman, *Eng Rogue*, iii 7, I myself have been good in my time and still have a colt's tooth in my head 1770 Colman, *Portrait*, Pt II, in *Dram Works*, iv 215 (1777), Tho' not in the bloom of my youth Yet still I have left a colt's tooth 1841 J T Hewlett *Parish Clerk*, i 81 (O) They not shedding their colt's teeth yet

4 When you ride a young colt see your saddle be well girt 1659 Howell, 6 1670 Ray 5 1736 Bailey, *Dict*, s v Colt'

See also Horse (21) Ragged as a colt, and Ragged colt

Comb one's head with a stool, To 1594 Shakespeare *Tam of Shrew*, I i Doubt not her care should be To comb your noddle with a three-legg'd stool 1671 *Westm Drollery*, 38 (Ebsworth), She flew in my face, and call d me fool, And comb'd my head with a three-legg'd stool 1785 *Grose Class Dict of Vulgar Tongue*, s v "Comb," She combed his head with a joint stool, she threw a stool at him 1886 Elworthy, *West Som Word-Book*, 150 (E D S), It is very usual now to say of a termagant wife who beats her husband she will comb out his head with a three-legged stool 1901 F E Taylor *Lancs Sayings*, 17, Hoo'll comb thi yed wi a three-leg't stoo'

Come I As good comes behind as goes before 1683 Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697)

2 Come and welcome, go by and no quarrel 1670 Ray 169 1738 Swift, *Polite Coners*, Dial II, Faith, colonel, come and welcome and stay away, and heartily welcome

3 Come, but come stooping, i e well loaded 1813 Ray, 93

4 Come day, go day 1633 Draxe 98 Come day, goe day, the day is long enough 1854 Baker *Northants Gloss*, s v Day, "Come day, go day" An expression applied to an improvident person 'It's come day go day,

with him" 1876 Robinson, *Whitby Gloss*, s v (E D S) 1893 J Salisbury, *SE Worcs Gloss*, 77 (E D S), It is said of a careless person, 'It's all Come day, go day, God send Sunday with him' (or "her") 1921 N & Q, 12th ser, viii 36, A Leicester-shire 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 diuell he that scapes best Let him take all

6 Come every one heave a pound Somerset 1678 Ray, 355

7 Come in if you're fat 1738 Swift, *Polite Coners*, Dial I Who's there? come in, if you be fat

8 Come Sunday, come se night= Next Sunday but one 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 c 1630 in *Pepysian Garland*, 368 (Rollins, 1922), We needs must drinke come wind come wether

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 Draxe, 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 uncalt, unservd

suld sit. 1732 : Fuller, No. 1123, Come uncall'd; sit unserv'd.

16. *If they come, they come not; and if they come not, they come.* 1662 : Fuller, *Worthies*, ii. 543 (1840). 1790 : Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Northumberland." 1846-59 : *Denham Tracts*, i. 243 (F.L.S.).

17. *If thou wilt come with me, bring with thee.* 1578 : Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 33, *If thou wilt go with me bryng 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 comes by kind, it costs 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.*

19. *To come bluely off.* 1678 : Ray, 230.

20. *To come to fetch fire.* c. 1380 : Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk. v. l. 484, *Be we comen hider To fecchē fyr, and rennen hoom ayeyn?* 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."

Comforter's head never aches, The. 1640 : Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670 : Ray, 5. 1732 : Fuller, No. 4454.

Coming events cast their shadows before. 1802 : Campbell, *Lochiel's Warning* (O.).

Command of custom is great, The. 1640 : Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

Command, verb. 1. *Command your man, and do it yourself.* 1666 : Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 60 [plus "As the English say"]. 1692 : L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 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

3. *He commands enough that obeys a wise man.* 1640 : Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670 : Ray, 5. 1732 : Fuller, No. 1827.

4. *He that commandeth well shall be obeyed well.* 1732 : Fuller, No. 2068

Commend. 1. *Commend not your wife, wine, nor house.* Ibid., No. 1126.

2. *Commend or amend.* c. 1449 : R. Pecock, *Repressor*, Pt. I. ch. ix. p. 48 (Rolls Ser.), *And bi the oolde wijs prouerbe, A man schulde blame or commend as he fyndeth.* 1868 : W. C. Hazlitt, in *N. & Q.*, 4th ser., i. 201, *Mr. Corney ought to bear in mind the old maxim, "Commend or amend."*

3. *Who commends himself.* See Neighbour (2).

Commit. *He that commits a fault thinks every one speaks of it.* 1640 : Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

Common, adj. 1. *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, *Plowman*, A, iii. 127, [She is] as comuyn as the cart-wei to knaues and to alle. 1493 : *Dives and Pauper*, fo. 1 (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*

4. *Common as Coleman-hedge.* 1639 : Clarke, 191. 1670 : Ray, 202.

5. *Common as Get out.* Corn. 1869 : Hazlitt, 60.

6. *Common as Ratcliff Highway* 1667 : L'Estrange, *Quevedo's Visions*, 80 (1904).

7. *Common fame is a common liar.* 1606 : B. Rich, *Faultes*, fo. 46, *But Report is a liar.* 1710 : Ward, *Nuptial Dialogues*, i. 214, *Since common Fame is but a common lyar.* 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 prouerbe truly say, by fame's affect, God's iudgement lightly doth a truth detect 1694 D'Urley, *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 haue bene common Iacke to all that hole flocke 1611 Davies (of Hereford), *Sc of Folly*, 45, in *Works*, II (Grosart), Some Iackes are common to all that will play

Companion 1 *A man knows his companion in a long journey and a little inn* 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 1 l 708, Men seyn, 'to wrecche is consolacioun To have an-other felawe in his payne' c 1390 Gower, *Conf Amantis* bk II l 261 1579 Lyly, *Euphues*, 96 (Arber), In misery Euphues it is great comfort to haue 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 wond'rous consolation'

Company 1 *Company makes cuck-olds* 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 See Nothing (14)

Comparisons are odious c 1440 Lydgate, in *Pol, Relig, and Love Poems*, 22 (E E T S), Odyous of olde been comparisons 1583 Greene, *Mamullia*, in *Works*, II 52 (Grosart), I will not make comparisons, because they be odious 1607 T Heywood, *Woman Killed with Kindness*, I II 1712 Fielding, *Andrews*, bk 1 ch XVI, But comparisons are odious, another man may write as well as he 1872 H James, *Letters*, I 32 (1920) Nuremberg 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, *Jac Prudentum* 1670 Ray, 23

Complimenting is lying 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I, I have heard say that complimenting is lying

Compliments fly when gentlefolk meet 1894 R L S, *St Ives*, ch xxviii 1894 Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 12 (E D S), [ironical version] Compliments pass when beggars meet

Conceal See Hide nothing

Conceited as a churchwarden 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, II

Conceited [ingenious] goods are quickly spent 1678 Ray, 116

Coney-catching 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*, III 345 (1873), I haue confest and shal be hangd 1672 Marvell *Rehearsal Transpr*, Pt I, in *Works*, III 55 (Grosart), After so simple a confession as he hath made, must he now be hangd too to make good the proverb? 1710 S Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 199, That unlucky

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 Q.*, 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. Wills*, 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.

2. *A clear conscience is a sure card*. 1581: Lyly, *Euphues*, 207 (Arber). 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 3. 1732: Fuller, No. 41.

3. *A clear conscience laughs at false accusations*. 1580: Lyly, *Euphues*, 256 (Arber), A cleere conscience needeth no excuse, nor feareth any accusation. 1669: *Politeuphuia*, 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 (1759), 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: *Servingsmans Comfort*, in *Inedited Tracts*, 99 (Hazlitt), The guyltie 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.

9. *An evil conscience breaks many a man's neck*. 1678: Ray, 116. 1732: Fuller, No. 602.

10. *Conscience is a cut-throat*. 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 chiuerell 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 1638  
Randolph, *Works*, ii 633 (Hazlitt). And  
since large conscience (as the proverb  
shows) In the same sense with bad  
one goes

14 *Whos conscience is combred and  
stondith noll clene, Of another mans  
dedis the wursse woll he deme* 15th cent  
in *Reliq Antiquæ*, i 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 Armin, *Foole vpon Foole*,  
40 (Grosart). The cobbler puts off his  
considering cap 1618 B & F,  
*Loyal Subject*, II 1, And now I'll put  
on my considering cap 1738 Swift,  
*Polite Convers*, Dial I, Guess who it  
was that told me, come, put on your  
considering cap 1861 Dickens, *Great  
Expect*, ch xxxvii 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, *Ev Man out of  
Humour*, I, 50g 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., viii 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 Chærilus, c AC 440  
(p 169, ed Næake, Lips, 1817)  
—*πίττην κοιλᾶναι λίθου ἰσθμὸς ἐνδεχέσθην*  
Gutta cavat lapidem—Ovid, *Epp ex  
Ponto*, IV x 5] Before 1225, *Ancren  
R*, 220 (Morton), Lutte dropen purleð  
pene uhnt þet ofte ualleð þeron  
c 1387 Usk, *Test of Love*, in Skeat's  
*Chaucer*, vii 135, So ofte falleth the  
lethy water on the harde rocke, til it  
have thorow persed it c 1477 Cax-  
ton, *Jason*, 26 (E E T S), How well the  
stone is myned and holowed by con-  
tynuell droppying of water 1581  
Lyly, *Euphues*, 127 (Arber), The lyttle  
droppes of rayne pearceth hard marble  
1591 Spenser, *Sonnets*, 18 1631

Mabbe, *Celestina*, 150 (TT), Often  
dropping makes stones hollow 1736  
Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*,  
1 444 (Bigelow) 1852 Dickens, *Bleak  
House*, ch 1

Consult your pillow See Take (25)

Contemplates *He that contemplates  
hath a day without night* 1640 Herbert,  
*Jac Prudentum* 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-  
riano, *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 1732  
Fuller, No 1154

5 Content is worth a crown 1630  
Brathwaite, *Eng Gent*, 203 (1641)

6 Content lodges oftener 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  
Wodroephe, *Spared Hours*, 480

Contented 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 lue content I see  
1611 Cotgrave, s v "Contenter," We  
say, a contented minde is a great  
treasure, or, is worth all 1681 W  
Robertson *Phraseol Generalis*, 381  
1725 Bailey, tr Erasmus *Colloq*, 576

2 He may well be contented who needs  
neither borrow nor flatter 1477 Rivers,  
*Dictes and Sayings*, 69 (1877), Some  
axed him of howe moche goode[s] a man  
ought to be content, and he answered  
to haue so moche as he neded nat to  
flatre nor borowe 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 is the greatest wealth. 1633: Draxe, 31, Contentment is a great riches. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, 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 olde 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* Ill cook; and Too many.

Cook-ruffian, able to scald 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.

Cool. 1. *A cool mouth and warm feet live long.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Pied," A coole mouth, and a dry foot preserve a man long time alive. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1672: R. Codrington, *Proverbs*, 4.

2. *Cool 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.

3. *Cool enough to shave a Jew.* 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., vi. 495.

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 carde 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. 1568: Wager, *Longer thou livest*, sig. C2, It is but a coppie of his countenance. 1673: Dryden, *Assignment*, 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 knyghtes and squyers turned theyr copies on both partes. 1553: *Respublica*, II. ii., We must now chaunge our coppie. 1584: Lodge, *Alarum against Venus*, 39 (Sh. S), Whereupon, altering his coppie . . . the king concluded thus . . . 1606: A. Craig, *Amorose Songes*, 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

up a brewhouse 1706 *George-a-Greene*, in Thoms, *Early Prose Rom*, n 18 (1828). He began to alter his phrases, and changed the copy of his countenance

Cormorant See Wet (2)

Corn 1 *Corn and horn go together* 1678 Ray, 116 1846 Denham, *Proverbs*, 2 (Percy S) 1893 Inwards *Weather Lore*, 5

2 *Corn in good years is hay, in ill years straw is corn* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1670 Ray, 5 1732 Fuller, No 1162

3 *Corn is cleansed with the wind and the soul with chastening* 1670 Ray, 5

4 *Corn is not to be gathered in the blade but the ear* 1580 Lyly, *Euphues*, 360 (Arber) [with budde for "blade"] 1732 Fuller, No 1163

5 *Much corn lies under the straw that is not seen* 1639 Clarke, 145 1670 Ray, 73 1732 Fuller, No 3480, Much corn lies in the chaff unseen

6 *The corn hides itself in the snow as an old man in furs* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

7 *When the corn is in the shock, Then the fish are on the rock* Old Cornish rhyme 1865 Hunt, *Pop Romances W of England*, 428 (1896)

See also Candelmas, D, Cuckoo (3), (7), (16), and (22), Famine, Fog (3), Good seed, July (1) and (8) June (4), March (3), (11), and (21), May, A (2) and (3), E (1) and (5) and F (12), Nut (1), Old, E (23), Up horn, Weeds, and Wind, A (b) (1)

Cornish gentlemen are cousins, All 1602 Carew *Surv of Cornwall*, 179 (1811) [cited as "the proverb"] 1724 Defoe, *Tour*, Lett III 102 1880 Courtney, *W Cornwall Words*, 14 (E D S)

Cornish hug, A 1638 Nabbes, *Tott Court*, III m, You are so taken with your Cornish prentice hearing him talke the other day of the huggle 1705 in *Harl Miscell*, n 338 (1744). His St Maw's Muse has given the French troops a Cornish hug, and flung them all upon their backs 1796 Wolcot, *Works*, n 131 (1796), Give, to black blasphemy, a

Cornish hug 1818 *Gent Mag*, 1 310, Cornwall is celebrated for athletic exercises, particularly wrestling A "Cornish hug" has been long proverbial 1907 Hackwood, *Old Eng Sports*, 189, To give a Cornish hug is a proverbial expression

Corns 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 208 1887 M A Courtney, in *Folk-Lore Journal*, v 219

2 *In Cornwall are the best gentlemen* 1851 Borrow *Lavengro*, ch 1 n 1864 "Cornish Proverbs," in *N & Q*, 3rd ser vi 6

3 *There are more saints in Cornwall than in heaven* Ibid, 3rd ser, v 275 1880 Courtney, *W Cornwall Words*, xiv (E D S) 1927 J M Bulloch, 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*, m 128 (Jacobs), They seemed to be jealous over their wyues But eyther of them without shipping, sought to send other into Cornouale 1591 Florio, *Second Frutes*, 143, 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] 1847 Halliwell, *Dict*, s v, A woman who cuckolds 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 Gives a good year 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 41 Corrat as Crocker's mare 1879 *Folk-Lore Record*, 203 1882 Jago,



*Gloss. of Cornish Dialect*, 144, Corrat. Pert, impudent, sharp in rejoinder. "As corrat as Crocker's mare." East Cornwall Proverb. 1888: Q.-Couch, *Troy Town*, ch. v. Cf. Coy.

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 less esteemed.

Cotherston cheeses will cover a multitude of sins, and Cotherston, where they christen calves, hopple lops [fleas], and kneeband spiders. Both—1863: N. & Q., 3rd ser., iii. 233.

Cotswold. 1. A Cotswold lion=A sheep. c. 1440: Satirical rhymes on Siege of Calais, in *Archæologia*, xxxiii. 130, Com rennyng on him fersly as lyons of Cotteswold. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi., She is as fierce as a lyon of Cotsolde. 1600: Sir John Oldcastle, l. 700 (Malone S.), You old stale ruffin, you lion of Cotswold. 1785: Grose, *Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue*, s.v., Cotswould 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].

Cotton's neck. 1841: Hartshorne, *Salopia Ant.*, 375, "All awry like Cotton's neck." A simile applied to any thing that is warped or twisted. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 592. Cf. Colly Weston.

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. Prudentum*.

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.

7. Good counsel does no harm. 1633: Draxe, 33. 1639: Clarke, 67.

8. Good counsel is lacking when most needed. c. 1386: Chaucer, *Tale of Melibeus*, § 13, "I see wel," quod this wyse man, "that the commune proverbe is sooth; that 'good conseil wanteth whan it is most nede.'"

9. Good counsel never comes amiss. 1732: Fuller, No. 1708.

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 counseylour. 1639: Clarke, 21.

12. The counsel thou wouldst have another keep, first keep thyself. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 334 (1870).

Counsel, verb. He that will not be counselled, cannot be helped. 1639:

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 counterfett 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 sit 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 11 [with "fustian  
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"]

County See Hundred

Couple are newly married See quot  
1670 Ray, 53 When a couple are  
newly married, the first moneth is  
honey-moon or smick smack, the  
second is, hither and thither the third  
is, thwack thwack 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, 340

Courage ought to have eyes as well  
as arms 1732 Fuller, No 1188

Courageous foe is better than a  
cowardly friend, A Ibid, No 56

Course 1 *If that course be fair  
again and again quoth Bunny to his bear*  
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 1, 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 owne  
fortunes 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*  
1732 Fuller, No 825

2 *Court holy water* = Flattery 1519  
Horman, *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 flattring  
wordes 1614 B Rich, *Honestie of  
This Age*, 52 (Percy S), Shee may bee  
rewarded with some court holy water  
wordes 1692 L'Estrange, *Aesop* 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  
Dict 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 vi, I was neyther of court  
nor of counsaile made 1670 Ray,  
170

Courtesy 1 *A courtesy much en-  
treated 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  
knauerie, as true as that olde adage,  
Much curtesie, much subtiltie 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

yonge courtiers be beggers in their age. 1579: Lyly, *Euphues*, 185 (Arber), Certes it is an olde saying that who so liueth in the court, shall dye in the strawe. 1613: *Vncasing of Machiavils Instr. to his Sonne*, 7, And than do proue the prouerbe 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.

2. *Cousin germans quite removed*. 1678: Ray, 69. 1732: Fuller, No. 1193.

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 ague, The=Venereal disease. 1678: Ray, 88. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Westminster."

Covent Garden is the best garden. 1790: Ibid.

Coventry blue, He is true. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, iii. 272 (1840). 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Warwickshire."

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'Arbly, *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. 1620: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt II ch. v.

Covet. *He that covets all* See All covet.

Covetous, *adj.* 1. *A covetous man does nothing well till he dies*. 1539: Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo. 51, A couetous man doth noman good but whan he dyeth. 1572: T. Wilson, *Disc upon Usury*, 230 (1925). 1732: Fuller, No. 51.

2. *A covetous man is good to none, but worst to himself* 1614: Lodge, tr. Seneca, 443, The couetous man is good to no man, and worst to himselfe. 1669. *Politeuphuia*, 287. 1732: Fuller, No. 53.

3. *A covetous man is like a dog in a wheel that roasts meat for others*. 1659: Howell, 10 (8). 1670: Ray, 5. 1732: Fuller, No. 52.

4. *A covetous man makes a halfpenny of a farthing, and a liberal man makes sixpence of it*. 1855: Bohn, 284.

5. *Covetous men live like drudges to die wretches*. 1732: Fuller, No. 1171.

6. *The covetous spends more than the liberal*. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

Covetousness. 1. *Covetousness, as well as prodigality, brings a man to a morsel of bread*. 1732: Fuller, No. 1173.

2. *Covetousness breaks the sack*. c. 1594: Bacon, *Promus*, No. 616. 1612: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt. I. bk. iii. ch. vi. 1710: S. Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 34, Covetousness breaks the Jack. Antiquity appears in the face of this proverb; for without doubt 'tis the old black leathern Jack that was in use in the time of our forefathers, that is here designed. [This explanation may well be doubted. Why should "Jack" have become uniformly "sack"?] 1712: Motteux, *Quixote*, Pt. I. bk. iii. ch. vi. 1821: Scott, *Kenilworth*, ch. iv., Be not over-greedy, Anthony. Covetousness bursts the sack

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 iii 475 (Rolls Ser), Covetise is the moder of pouerte 1533 in *Ballads from MSS* 1 202 (B S), Be ware of covetyse The rote of all ill vice 1589 L Wright, *Display of Dutie*, 10, Couetousnesse is the roote of all euill the ground of all vice c 1670 Sir Rich Whittington, 26 (Villon S), It is an old and true saying, Couetousness is the mother of ruine 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 vice appropriated as it may seem to old men, according to this old saying *Cum omnia vitia senescunt sola avaritia juvenescit* "When all vices wax old, covetousness alone waxeth young" c 1570 in Collmann, *Ballads, etc*, 130 (Roxb Cl) 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Peche" When all sunnes else be old is avarice young 1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 17

Cow I A collier's cow and an alewife's sow are always well fed 1678 Ray, 119

2 A cow will not clem [starve], if there are three blades of pink grass in the field 1877 E Leigh, *Cheshire Gloss*, 155 ["an old saying"] 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 2

3 A lowing cow soon forgets her calf c 1330 in Wrights *Pol Songs*, 332 (Camden S, 6), Hit nis noht al for the calf that kow louweth Ac hit is for the grene gras that in the medewe grouweth 1882 Mrs Chamberlain, *W Worcs 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 proverb in the West Country is "A belving 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 Redeless*, iii 262, As be-cometh a kow to hoppe in a cage! 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch 1, As comely as is

a cowe in a cage 1577 J Grange, *Golden Aphroditis*, sig FI, As seemely as a cowe 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 stuck 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 1509 Barclay, *Ship of Fools*, 1 182 (1874), To a wyld cowe god doth short hornys sende 1588 Greene, *Pandosto*, in *Works*, iv 247 (Grosart), A curst cow hath oftentimes short hornes, and a willing minde but a weake arme 1599 Shakespeare, *Much Ado*, II 1 1721 Centlivre, *Artifice*, III 1 1793 Grose, *Oho*, 281 (2nd ed), Having thus shown the futility 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 cart-saddle [Bovii clitellas imponere—ap Cicero, *Att*, V xv 3] 1530 Palsgrave, 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 Devon 1882 *Folk-Lore Record*, v 159

13 His cow has calved 1596 Jonson, *Ev Man in his Humour*, IV 11, How now! whose cow has calv'd? 1678 Ray, 70 1828 Scott, *Fair Maid*, ch xxii, How now—what's the matter? whose cow has calved?

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 coow 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. "Queue" [with "asse" for "cow"]. 1694: D'Urfey, *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 (Oxfordsh.).

19. *Look to the cow and the sow, and the wheat-mow, and [all] will be well enow.* Somerset. 1678: Ray, 347. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 19 (Percy S.).

20. *Many a good cow hath an evil calf.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. x. 1580: Baret, *Alvearie*, 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 countrey-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 heeles. 1659: Howell, 14, Like a curst cow that gives a paille of milk, 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. Prudentum*.

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 nezo-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 cowes tailes downwards. 1710: Ward, *Nuptial Dialogues*, 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.

31. *To look on one as a cow on a bastard calf.* Somerset. 1678: Ray, 353. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 594, To look like a cow at a bastard calf = to look coldly, suspiciously at one.

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 git 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 nutmeg?* 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*, II 666 (Jacobs), In this case it is better to buy a quart of milk by the penny than keep a cow c 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 5697 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 Slender

Coward and Cowards I *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 d Arthur*, bk xviii ch 24, Euer wylle a coward shewe no mercy 1591 Harington *Orl Furioso*, bk xxxvi, 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, l 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 *Polimanteta*, sig N1, Alleading 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

Cowardly is unlucky c 1386 Chaucer, *Reeve's Tale*, l 290, 'Unhardy is unseely,' thus men sayth

Cowfold See Bolney

Cowhithe See quot 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 quot 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 Cox's pig* War 1920 N & Q, 12th ser, vii 67

Coy as a croker's mare 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch 1 1670 Ray, 202 Cf Corrat

Crab See Cow (18), and Devil (122)

Crab of the wood See quot 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 crabbed wedge, A 1611 Davies (of Hereford), *Sc of Folly*, 24, in *Works*, II (Grosart)

Crabs *The greatest crabs are not always the best meate* 1546 Heywood *Proverbs*, Pt I ch xi 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Bœuf" 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 quot 1891 S O Addy, *Sheffield Gloss Supp*, 14 (E D S), There is a proverb which

says that "Crack was a good dog, but he got hung for barking." It is intended to show that a swaggerer comes to a bad end.

**Cradle over thy head, Cast not thy.** 1678: Ray, 347.

**Cradle straws are scarce out of his breech.** 1678: Ray, 346. 1683: Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697), *Credle streays are scarce out of his breech.*

**Craft.** 1. *All the craft is in the catching.* 1631: Mabbe, *Celestina*, 163 (T.T.). Before 1680: Butler, *Remains*, ii. 279 (1759). For all the craft is not in the catching (as the proverb says) but the better half at least is being caught.

2. *Craft against craft makes no living.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

3. *Craft bringeth nothing home.* 1633: Draxe, 35. 1670: Ray, 6. 1732: Fuller, No. 1199.

4. *Craft is found in clouted shoes.* c. 1600: in *Roxb. Ballads*, ii. 574 (B.S.), *Craft lies under clowted shoone.* 1618: Harington, *Epigrams*, bk. i No. 11, *I heare some say, and some believe it too, That craft is found ev'n in the clouted shoo.*

5. *Craft must have clothes, but truth loves to go naked.* 1732: Fuller, No. 1200.

6. *He that hath not craft, let him shut up shop.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

7. *There's craft in daubing.* c. 1454: in *Paston Letters*, i. 269 (1900), *For her moder . . . seyth to her that ther is gode crafte in dawbyng.* c. 1520: *Hickscorner*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, i. 159, *For ye know well, there is craft in daubing: I can look in a man's face and pick his purse.* 1670: Ray, 75. 1732: Fuller, No. 4892. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 22, *Ther's cunnin' i' dobin' beside layin' it on.*

**Crafthole.** See quot. 1602: Carew, *Surv. of Cornwall*, 256-7 (1811), *In this parish [Shevioc] standeth Crafthole . . . a poor village . . . somewhat infamous, not upon any present desert, but through an inveterate by-word, viz. that it is peopled with twelve dwellings and thirteen cuckolds.* Cf. *Strand-on-the-Green*.

**Crafty.** 1. *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). 1596: Jonson, *Ev. Man in Humour*, III. ii. 1639. Breton, in *Works*, ii. 11 (Grosart). 1659: Howell, 5 [with "cunning" for "crafty"].

3. *To a crafty man, a crafty and a half.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

**Crane's dirt.** See quots 1530: Palsgrave, 719, *You sayd treuthe, you can well skylle of cranes dyrte, your father was a poultier.* 1592: Lyly, *Mother Bombie*, II. iii., *You are well seene in crane's dirt, your father was a poultier.*

**Crave in hope, and have in hap,** "oft hast thou heard it." 1583: Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig. Ff2.

**Crawley.** Beds. 1. *As crooked as Crawley brook.* 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, i 167 (1840). 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Beds." 1878: N. & Q., 5th ser., ix. 345. *As crooked as Crawley.*

2. *Crawley! God help us* 1878: *Ibid.*, 345.

**Crawley, Sussex.** *It always rains on Crawley Fair day.* 1884: "Sussex Proverbs," in N. & Q., 6th ser., ix. 342.

**Crazy ship.** *To a crazy ship all winds are contrary.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 6. 1732: Fuller, No. 5126.

**Creaking cart goes long,** A. 1900: N. & Q., 9th ser., vi. 298, *A creaking cart goes long on the wheels* [quoted as a common proverb].

**Creaking gate (or door) hangs long,** A. 1776: T. Cogan, *John Bunce, Junior*, i. 239, *But they say a creaking gate goes the longest upon its hinges; that's my comfort.* 1854: Baker, *Northants Gloss*, s.v. "Gate," "A creaking gate hangs longest on the hinges." Used figuratively of an invalid, who outlives an apparently healthier person 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 7, *A creakin' dur 'll hong a good while on it' hinges.* 1913: *Folk-Lore*, xxiv. 76, Oxfordsh. *A creaking door hangs long on its hinges.*

**Cream of the jest, That's the.** 1678:

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 haue lost his credence, he is halfe vndon 1590 Greene, in *Works* viii 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 Prudentum* 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 ' Kirton '" [Crediton]

3 *When Kirton, etc* 1876 *N & Q*, 5th ser, vi 364, When Ex'ter was a furzy down Kirton was a mayor-town 1892 S Hewett, *Peasant Speech of Devon*, 145 When Kirton wuz a borough town, Ex'ter wuz a vuzzy-down

Creditors have better memories than debtors 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Span-Eng*, 8 1736 Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, 1 450 (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 gainful accomplishment 1710 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 learne to halt 1647 *Countrym New Commonwealth*, 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

Crooked as a cammock [a bent piece of wood, a cambrel] Before 1529 Skelton, in *Works*, 1 117 (Dyce), Your longe lothy legges, Crockyd as a camoke 1592 Lyly, *Mother Bombe*, I iii, They study twentie 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 crookit as a dog's elbow 1889 Peacock, *Manley, etc, Gloss*, 146 (E D S) 1926 *Tailler*, 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 *Wit Restor'd*, 102, [Ironical] Straight as a rams horne is thy nose 1820 Colton, *Lacon*, 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



Crooked logs make straight fires. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Busche." 1694: D'Urfey, *Quixote*, Pt. I. Act I. sc. ii., Crooked logs make good fires. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 132.

Crooked stick will have a crooked shadow, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 61.

Crooked without, crabbed 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 cross as nine highways. 1855: Bohn, 316.

3. As cross as two sticks. 1831: Scott, *Journal*, 2 Nov., Wind as cross as two sticks. 1854: Baker, *Northants Gloss.*, s.v. "Cross," . . . A common comparison for an irritable person. 1855: Thackeray, *Newcomes*, ch. xxxiii., She scolded her maid and was as cross 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 Grose's *Antiq. Repertory*, ii. 406 (1808), Item paie a Roi mesmes pour Iewer a Cros et pil . . . les Deniers xij.] c. 1390: Gower, *Conf. Amantis*, ii. 390, Whos tunge neither pyl ne crouche Mai hyre. 1552: Huloet, *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. i., Cross or pile who shall go. 1707: Ward, *London Terrafilius*, No. IV., p. 18, He is ready to toss up cross or pile. c. 1770: Pegge, *Derbicisms*, 15 (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: Draxe, 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 blesse him with. 1579: *Marr. of Wit and Wisdom*, sc. iii, p. 31 (Sh. S.), I have neuer a crose to blesse 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: Draxe, 97, The crosse in his breast and the deuill 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. 1546: 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

brame and a thousande crotchets  
1611 Cotgrave, s v "Moucheron,"  
*Azour des mouchérons en teste* To  
have many crotchets in the head  
1660 Howell *Parly of Beasts*, 49 When  
a crochet hath got once into his  
noddle 1690 *New Dict Canting Crew*, sig D3 Crochets in the crown,  
whimsies, maggots 1807 Crabbe,  
*Par Reg* iii 930 (O) And gloomy  
crotchets fill d his wandering head

Crouse as a lop [flea] (or a louse)  
1670 Ray, 203 Crouse as a new  
washen louse 1825 Brockett *Gloss*  
*N Country Words* 51 [as in 1670]  
1855 Robinson *Whitby Gloss*, 40, As  
crouse 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 crouse (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 Crew*,  
sig D4

2 *Crows are never the whiter for*  
*washing themselves* 1678 Ray, 121  
1732 Fuller, No 1210

3 *Crows do not pick out crows' eyes*  
1578 Florio, *First Frutes* fo 29, One  
crow wil neuer put out an other crows  
eyes 1629 *Book of Meery Riddles*,  
Prov 93 1732 Fuller No 3744  
1815. Scott, *Mannering*, ch xl, Na,  
na! hawks shouldna 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 Edwardes, *Neigh-*  
*bourhood*, 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 2960

6 *'Tis long of your eyes the crows*  
*might have helped it when you were young*  
1678 Ray, 345

7 *The crow bewails the sheep, and then*  
*eats it* 1640 Herbert *Jac Prudentum*  
1670 Ray, 6 Carrion 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 thinkis  
hir awin byrdis quhite 1580 H  
Gifford, *Posie*, 32 (Grosart), Not unlike  
the crow, who alwaies thinkes her owne  
byrdes fayrest 1639 Massinger, *Un-*  
*nat Combat* III ii, I like the  
foolish crow Believe 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 crow is  
the whitest ever seen

9 *To have a crow to pluck* (or *pull*)  
*with one* c 1410 Towneley Plays, 18  
(E E T S), Na na, abide, we haue a  
crow to pull 1546 Heywood, *Pro-*  
*verbs*, Pt II ch v We haue a crow to  
pul 1592 Lyly, *Mother Bombe*, II i,  
If I thought thou meanest so thou  
shouldst have a crow to pull 1665  
J Wilson, *Projectors*, V, I've a crow to  
pluck w'ye 1754 Berthelson, *Eng-*  
*Danish Dict*, s v "Crow" 1841  
Dickens, *Barn Rudge*, ch xiii, Tell  
him that whenever he comes here  
I have a crow to pluck with him  
1865 *N & Q*, 3rd ser, vii 104, 'I've  
a crow to pluck 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 impor-  
tant 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, Plucke up a good heart woman,  
let no man say thou gauest the  
crow a pudding because loue would  
let thee lue no longer 1599 Shake-  
speare, *Henry V*, II i, 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  
pudden [is dead]

11 *To say the crow is white* 1528

More, *Works*, p. 207, col. 1 (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. 1649: in *Somers Tracts*, vi. 52 (1811), If they say the crow is white, so must the souldier.

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. 1880: 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 is not company, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 62.

Crowland. See quotes. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, ii. 268 (1840), All the carts that come to Crowland 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 Crowland 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 you more credit 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: *Havelok*, l. 1847 (E.E.T.S.), Fro the crowne til the to. 1468: *Coventry Myst.*, 241 (Sh. S.), firo the sool of the ffoot to the huest ascion. 1547: Borde, *Brev. of Helthe*, fo. vi., Which may be frō the crowne of the heede to 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].

Crow-trodden, 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, Fits, etc.*, 116 (1614), Tast your pottage before you crumbin your bread. c. 1630: B. & F., *Monsieur Thomas*, IV. iv.

Crumbs. See Pick up.

Crusty. See quotes. 1592: Lyly, *Mother Bombe*, II. iii., You need not bee crustie, you are not so hard backt [baked]. 1678: Ray, 237 [as in 1592]. *Ibid.*, 352, She is as crousty 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 kry you mercy, I kyllled your cussheyn. 1592: Lyly, *Mother Bombe*, IV. ii.

3. *I cry you mercy, I took you for a joint stool.* *Ibid.*, IV. ii. 1608: Shakespeare, *Lear*, III. vi., *Fool*. Cry you mercy, I took you for a joint-stool. 1670: Ray, 186.

4. *To cry notch.* See Notch.

5. *To cry out before one is hurt.* 1548: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, 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, *Dombey*, ch xxv, 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, *Æsop*, etc., ii 270 (Jacobs), The thyrd [doctrine] is that thow take no sorowe of the thyngne lost whiche may not be recouered 1681 Yarranton, *Englands Improvement*, Pt II, p 107, Sir, there is no crying for shed milk that which is past cannot be recall'd 1741 *True Anti-Pamela*, 131, Well, my dear, said I, it is need less crying after 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 xxviii, 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 whore* 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 *Cornucopiæ*, 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 *Westw for Smelts*, 40 (Percy S), Which made her to beleeeve that the proverbe 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 hell 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 so* 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 xiii, Growling within himself, that thenceforward he should let every cuckold wear his own horns

8 *The cuckold is the last that knows of it* 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 332 (1870) 1693 Dryden, *Juvenal*, Sat x l 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, Q When a person is joynting a piece of meat, if he finds it difficult to joynt, he is bid 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].

11. *Who is a cuckold and conceals it, carries coals in his bosom.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Span-Eng.*, 14. 1670: Ray, 6. 1732: Fuller, No. 2332, *He that thinks himself a cuckold, carries live coals in his heart.*

See also *Company* (I); 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.*

2. *As scabbed as a cuckoo.* 1659: Howell, 5. 1670: Ray, 207. 1797: *Gent. Mag.*, Pt. I., p. 456, "*As scabbed as a cuckoo*" is a common saying in the North of England. 1828: Carr, *Craven Dialect*, ii. 99. 1866: *Science Gossip*, ii. 184, "*As scabbed as a cuckoo*" is a common saying in Yorkshire.

3. *Bad for the barley, and good for the corn, When the cuckoo comes to an empty thorn.* 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 221. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 136.

4. *Comes in mid March, Sings in mid April, Stuts in mid May, And in mid June flies away.* North country. 1797: *Gent. Mag.*, Pt. I., p. 456.

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*" — Staffs]. 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.

6. *Hoarse as a cuckoo.* 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 15.

7. *If the cuckoo sings when the hedge is brown, Sell thy horse and buy thy corn.* Welsh [You will not be able to afford horse corn]. *If the cuckoo sings when the hedge is green, Keep thy horse and sell thy 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 altereth 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].

12. *In March The cuckoo starts. In April 'A tune his bill. In May 'A sing all day. In June 'A change his tune. In July Away 'a fly. In August Away's must. In September you'll ollers remember. In October 'A'll never get over.* East Anglia. 1869: N. & Q., 4th ser., iii. 94.

13. *March he sits upon his perch; April he soundeth his bell; May he sings both night and day; June he altereth 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.* Glos.

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 gauns away of Midsummer month, When the corn begins to fill* 1846 Denham, *Proverbs*, 38 (Percy S) 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 20 [with "Lammas-tide" for "Midsummer month"]

17 *The cuckoo goes to Beaulieu Fair to buy him a petticoat* 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*, l 321, All beit that few men doo him hear, The cucko singeth all the yeer

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*, ii 50 1924 *Folk-Lore*, xxv 358

21 *Turn your money when you hear the cuckoo, and you'll never be without it during the year* 1879 *Folk-Lore Record*, ii 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*, i 669 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 6

23 *When the cuckoo has pecked up the dirt*=Spring 1830 Forby, *Vocab E Angla*, 430 I will come when the cuckoo, etc 1893 J Salisbury *SE 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 purrs 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, alwaies 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, Nightingale, 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 Kent 1849 Halliwell, *Pop Rhymes*, etc, 193

Cucumbers 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 Gainford, 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*

*Mag.*, 211, One saying we have in the Northern parts . . . as *cunning* as *Crowder* . . . and a crowder is a fidler. 1841: Hartshorne, *Salopia Ant.*, 381. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 594.

*Cunning*. See *Fox* (4).

*Cunning* is no burden. 1539: Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo. 22, *Cunnyng* (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 pate is a mile in the gait*. 1694: Motteux, *Rabelais*, bk. iv. ch. lxx. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. II. c. 1791: Pegge, *Derbicisms*, 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 merye man, with cup 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 lip*. [Saepe audiui inter os atque offam multa intervenire posse.—M. Cato, in Gellius, xiii. 17.] 1539: Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo. 15, Many thynges fall betwene the cuppe and the mouth. 1576: Lambarde, *Peramb. of Kent*, 422 (1826), Even as many things happen (according to the proverbe) betweene the cup and the lippe. 1633: Jonson, *Tale of a Tub*, III. iv., Many things fall between the cup and lip. 1712: Arbuthnot, *Law a Bolt. Pit*, Pt. III. App. ch. iii., Many things happen between 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-married gentleman. 1788: O'Keeffe, *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. Antiquæ*, 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*. 1. *I have cur'd her from laying [sic] in the hedge, quoth the goodman when he had wed his daughter*. 1678: Ray, 56. 1732: Fuller, No. 2604.

2. *What can't be cured must be endured*. 1377: Langland, *Plowman*, B, x. 439, For gant OPORTET vyent en place yl ny ad que PATI. c. 1460: *How the Goode Wyfe*, Thyng that may be tyde is for to dowre, my lere childe. 1579: Spenser, *Shep. Cal.*, Sept., ll. 150-2, Better it were, a little to faigne, And clenly 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 1220.

*Curlew*. See *quots*. 1866: *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-

shire [Variant at same reference.] Be it lean, or be it fat, It bears tenpence on its back 1886 Swainson, *Folk-Lore of Brit Birds*, 201 (F L S), Be she white or be she black, The curlew has tenpence on her back (Lincolnshire)

Curses come home to roost c 1275 *Prov of Alfred*, A 84, Eueryches monnes dom to his owere dure churreth (Every man's judgment returns to his own door) c 1386 Chaucer, *Parson's Tale*, 41, And ofte tyme swich cursinge wrongfully retorneth agayn to him that curseth, as a brid that retorneth agayn to his owene nest 1816 Scott, *Old Mortality*, ch xli 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"] 1670 Ray, 76 1732 Fuller, No 65 [with "should" for "must"]

Curtain lectures [Semper habet lites alternaque jurgia lectus In quo nupta jacet minimum dormitur 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 curtaine-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) y are best beat out my braines With cushions now, to make the prowerbe true

Custom is second nature c 1390 Gower, *Conf Amantis*, bk vi l 664, For in phisique this I finde, Usage is the seconde kinde 1422 J Yonge, *Tr of Gout of Prynces*, 238 (E E T S), For as ypocras sayth 'costome is the seconde nature or kynde' 1558 Bullem, *Gout of Health*, fo 98, Custome is like vnto another nature 1607 Marston, *What You Will*, III 1712 Addison, *Spectator* No 447 1774 C Dibdin, *Quaker*, II iii 1817 Scott, *Rob Roy*, ch x, Habit has become a second nature 1864 Mrs H Wood, *Trevlyn Hold*, ch xiv, Habit and use, as we read, are second nature

Custom makes all things easy c 1598 Deloney, *Gentle Craft*, Pt II ch vi, Labour by custome becommeth easie c 1680 L'Estrange, *Seneca Epistles*, x, There is nothing so hard, but custom 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 Commonwealth*, 29, Custome (though never so ancient) without truth, is but an old error 1732 Fuller, No 1226

Cut, verb 1 Cut and come again 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial II, I vow, 'tis a noble sirlorn, Neverout Ay, here's cut and come again 1772 Garrick, *Irish Widow*, I 1, Give me a slice of a good English surlorn, 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 tail See Tag, rag, etc

3 Cut down an oak See Oak (1) and (4)

4 Cut loaf See Shive

5 Cut not the bough See quot 1528 Tyndale, *Obed of Christian Men* 304 (P S), 'Cut not the bough that thou standest upon' whose literal sense is, "Oppress not the commons"

6 Cut off the head and tail and throw the rest away 1678 Ray, 346 1732 Fuller, No 1227

7 Cut or give me the bill 1732 Fuller, No 1228



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 (Camden S.), The witts 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. L2, 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. Antiquæ*, i. 114 (1841), "Of un-both hude men kerveth brod thong," Quoth Hendyng. 1484: Caxton, *Esopé*, ii. 220 (Jacobs), Ne also it is not honeste to make large thonges of other mennes leder. 1595: *Maroccus Extaticus*, 8 (Percy S.), To cut such large thonges of another mans lether. 1667: L'Es-trange, *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 wherewith 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 Turvey*, 31 (Halliwell), By this, the prior perceived that the scull [scullion] had cut a shive [slice] on his loaf. 1670: Ray, 162.

13. *To cut off one's nose to spite one's face*. [Stultum est vicinum velle ulcisci incendio.—Publ. Syr., 611. Henri iv conquit 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).] 1889: 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 haue her. 1594: Nashe, *Unfort. 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 cloath. 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 ieopardie and my combe was clerely cut. 1584: R. Scot, *Witchcraft*, bk. viii. ch. iii., Since the preaching thereof their combes are cut, and few that are wise regard them. 1642: D. Rogers, *Matrim. Honour*, 45, God cuts their combe, fils 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 prouerbe) cute your thong after or accordynge vnto your ledder.

17. *To cut the grass (or ground) from under the feet*. 1567: Fenton, *Bandello*, 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, *Pettie Pallace*, 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 I, 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 11, The grass is cut under  
 my feet if she ever hears a word of it

1891 Gilbert, *Rosenc and Guildenstern*,  
 Tabl II, Thus will you cut the ground  
 from 'neath his feet

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

## D

Dacre was slain in North Acre, The Lord—at the Battle of Towton, 1461. 1849: Halliwell, *Pop. Rhymes, etc.*, 200. 1868: *Quart. Review*, cxxv. 518, In Saxton churchyard, where is also the tomb of "The Lord of Dacres Slain in the North Acres," according to the local rhyme.

Daft as a yat [gate] 'at swings beath ways, As. 1899: Dickinson, *Cumberland Gloss.*, 372.

Daggers drawn, To be at. 1540: Palsgrave, *Acolastus*, sig. F1, We neuer mete togyther, but we be at daggers drawynge. 1618: Harington, *Epigrams*, bk. i. No. 91, From spightfull words they fell to daggers drawing. 1694: *Terence 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.

Daimport's dog. See quotes. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 595, He talks as Dutch [speaks as unintelligibly] as Darnford's dog. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 144, To talk as Dutch as Daimport's dog.

Dainties. *Who dainties love shall beggars prove.* 1580: Tusser, *Husb.*, 72 (E.D.S.), *Who dainties loue, a begger shall proue.* 1736: Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, i. 447 (Bigelow). 1783: Mrs. Cowley, *More Ways than One*, II. iv., You know the proverb—those that are dainty . . .

Dainty makes dearth. 1590: Spenser, *F.Q.*, I. ii. 248, So dainty they say maketh derth.

Dainty thing would have a dainty dish, The. 1672: Walker, *Paræm.*, 29

[with "bit" for "dish"]. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 418.

Daisies. See Spring (8).

Daisy year. See quot. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 7, A daisy year's awlus a lazy year (A farmer's saying).

Dally not with money or women. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1669: *New Help to Discourse*, 310.

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.

Dance, verb. 1. *He dances well to whom fortune pipes.* 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 25, He daunseth wel, vnto whom fortune pipeth. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 323 (1870). 1670: Ray, 77. 1732: Fuller, No. 1832 [with "merrily" for "well"].

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. 2639.

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 pipes* c 1480 *Early Miscellanies*, 25 (Warton Cl, 1855), I wylle dance whylle the world wylle pype 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch xi, Whan fooles pype, by auctontee he maie daunce 1593 Giffard, *Dial on Witches, etc.*, 65 (Percy S.) Ignorant people, which are ready to belevee all that he telleth, and to dance after his pipe 1642 D Rogers, *Matrim Honour*, 357, If they moove must not all inferior ones dance after their pipe?

7 *To dance attendance on one* Before 1529 Skelton, *Why come ye not*, ll 625-6, And syr ye must daunce attendance And take pacient suffer-aunce 1594 Shakespeare, *Rich III*, III vii, Welcome my lord I dance attendance here 1645 Howell, *Letters*, bk 1 § iii No xii, Going one morning to speak with the Duke, and having danc d attendance a long time 1742 Fielding, *Andreus*, bk ii ch xvi, 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 l 189, Bounce, cries the port-hole, out they fly, And make the world dance Barnaby 1727 in *Roxb Ballads*, viii 270 (BS), 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*, cxxvii, I go so bare dawnsyng naked in a net 1587 Greene, in *Works*, vi 181 (Grosart), 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 undetected] 1670 Ray, 6 1821 Scott, *Kenilworth*, ch iv, Thou canst not dance in a net, and they not see thee

10 *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, etc.) 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 Som Word-Book*, 374 (E D S), He has got more antics than a dancing bear This is one of the commonest of sayings, 1894 Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 8 (E D S), As full of megrims as a dancing bear

*Dancing days are done*, His (or My) 1658 Flecknoe, *Enigm Characters*, 60, His dancing dayes 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 4966 [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 prevented 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 "stalke" for "stock"] 1732 Fuller, No 1231

4 *Danger is next neighbour to security* Ibid, No 1233

5 *Dangers are overcome by dangers* 1651 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*, 2nd ed Danger itself the best remedy fo danger 1732 Fuller, No 1232

6 *He that fears danger in tim*

seldom feels it. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Asseur," He that feares, 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 yonger 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*, 1, 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. xlviii., 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: Fitzgerald, *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 lai he thar so blac so pych. 1485: Caxton, *Charles the Grete*, 165 (E.E.T.S.), He is as blacke as pytche boylled. 1598: R. Tofte, *Alba*, 39 (Grosart), And darke as pitch shall shew the glistering 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.

Darkest hour is before the dawn, The. 1650: Fuller, *Pisgah Sight*, bk. ii. ch. xi., It is always darkest just before the day dawneth. 1889: R. L. S., *Letters*, iii. 245 (Tusitala ed.), It is always darkest before dawn. 1912: Lucas, *London Lav.*, ch. xvi., I'll pull this round safe enough. Things look blackest before the dawn, don't you know.

Darlington. 1. *Darnton, where the wind once blew a dog's tongue out.* 1846-59: Denham Tracts, i. 80 (F.L.S.).

2. *Dirty Darlington.* 1658: R. Franck, *North. Memoirs*, 264 (1821), One course directs us to dirty Darlington. 1846-59: Denham Tracts, i. 80, Dirty Darnton or Darnton-in-the-dirt.

3. *To take Darnton Trod, or May take Darnton Trod.* Ibid., i. 78.

Darnell for dim sight. 1597: Gerarde, *Herbal*, Darnell hurteth the eyes and maketh them dim . . . and hereupon it seemeth that the old proverbe 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 Daimport's dog.

Darnton. See Darlington.

Dart, River. See quotes. 1850: N. & Q., 1st ser., ii. 511, River of Dart, oh, river of Dart, Every year thou claim'st a heart. 1897: Norway, *H. and B. in Devon, etc.*, 85 [as in 1850]. 1908: *Folk-Lore*, xix. 171, "The river Dart every year claims its heart" is a South of England saying. Cf. Don, River.

Dartford. See Sutton.

Dasnell dawcock sits among the doctors, The. 1634: Withals, *Dict.*, 558, The dosnell dawcock comes dropping in among the doctors [given as translation of *Graculus inter musas, anser strepit inter olores*]. 1659: Howell, 15 [as in 1634]. 1670: Ray, 217.

Daughter. 1. *Daughters and dead 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*, i 291 (1840) 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Cheshire" 1825 Hone, *Ev Day Book*, i 430 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 151

Dava, As ancient as the floods of 1880 Courtney, *W Cornwall Words*, xiii (E D S)

Davenham steeple the centre of Cheshire within three barley-corns 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 49

Davenport See Cheshire (7)

Davie Debet=Debt personified, or a bailiff 1575 Gascoigne, *Posies*, in *Works*, i 65 (Cunliffe). Till Davie Debet in thy parler stand 1583 Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig Q3. Davie debte stooode watching with a mace at the doore

Dawes Cross 1579 Marr of Wit and Wisdom, 28 (Sh S). Hold heare! thou shalt not lease all, thy purse shall not come home weeping for lose, and as for the, thou shalt be commust to Dawes crosse 1583 Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig Y1. You may sooner be doctors at Dawes crosse 1596 Nashe, *Haue with you*, in *Works*, iii 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, *Acolastus*, sig Vr. At the Grekish calendes 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, iii 30 (1885). When the daies begin to lengthen the cold begins to strengthen 1646 Browne, *Pseudo Epi*, bk iv ch xiii. We observe the cold to augment, when the daies begun to increase 1732 Fuller, No 6140 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, ii See also New Year

4 As the days begin to shorten, The heat begins to scorch 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 l 578. Bot hou so that the dai be long, The derke nyht comth ate laste 1555 Hawes, *Past of Pleasure*, 207 (Percy S). For though the day be never so longe, At last the belles ringeth to evensonge 1563 Foxe, *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, 77 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 1670 Ray, 6

9 The day is short and the work is long c 1400 Beryn, l 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, 77

12 To come a day after the fair 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch viii. A daie after the fayre comth this remors 1596 Nashe, *Haue with you*, in *Works*, iii 205 (Grosart). A day after the faire when he is hangd Haruey 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, *Trevlyn Hold*, ch xxxiv. They must make good speed, unless they would be "a day too late for the fair" 1910 H James, *Letters*, ii 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 daie at this little hole c 1598 Deloney, *Gentle Craft*, Pt II ch ii. I perceiue you can spie day at a little hole 1691 J Wilson, *Belphegor*, IV ii. 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.

Dead, *adj.* 1. *A dead wife's the best goods in a man's house.* 1678: Ray, 58. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I., A dead wife under the table is the best goods in a man's house.

2. *A dead woman will have four to carry her forth.* 1678: Ray, 354.

3. *As dead as a door-nail (or door-tree).* c. 1350: Will. *Palerne*, 29 (E.E.T.S.), I am ded as dore-nail. 1596: Nashe, *Haue with you, in Works*, iii. 182 (Grosart), Wee'l strike it as dead as a doore-naile. 1598: Shakespeare, 2 *Henry IV.*, V. iii. 1700: Farquhar, *Constant Couple*, IV. ii., I can't tell whether he be dead in law: but he's dead as a door-nail. 1801: Lamb, *Letters*, i. 223 (1908), "The Albion" is dead—dead as nail in door. 1843: Dickens, *Carol*, Stave 1. 1907: De Morgan, *Alice-for-Short*, ch. xii., She may be as dead as a door-nail.

4. *As dead as a herring.* 1600: Shakespeare, *Merry Wives*, II. iii., By gar, de herring is no dead so as I vill kill him. 1638: Nabbes, *Tott. Court*, I. v., Is shee quite dead? Dead as a herring, sir. 1748: Smollett, *Rod. Random*, ch. iv., Ay, ay, I'll warrant him as dead as a herring. 1834: Marryat, *P. Simple*, ch. xxix. 1880: R. L. S. and Henley, *Deacon Brodie*, IV. vii. iv., Stabbed to the heart and dead as a herring!

5. *As dead as a nit.* 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 594. 1887: Parish and Shaw, *Dict. Kent. Dialect*, 108 (E.D.S.), "Dead as a nit" is a common expression. 1890: P. H. Emerson, *Wild Life*, 13 n., *Dead as nits*, a common Norfolk expression. 1923: *Folk-Lore*, xxxiv. 329 (Oxfordsh.).

6. *As dead as Chelsea.* 1823: Egan's *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 Hearth*, 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), Whiche 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 bec.* See Bee (2).

11. *Dead dog.* See Dog (25).

12. *Dead folks are past fooling.* 1732: Fuller, No. 1238.

13. *Dead men bite not (or do no harm).* 1548: Hall, *Chron.*, 128 (1809), A prouerbe, whiche saith, a dead man doth no harme. 1596: Harington, *Mclam. of Ajax*, 64 (1814), I care not, seeing thou art dead, *Mortui non mordent*. 1613: B. & F., *Coxcomb*, II. ii., Knock out her brains! And then she'll never bite. 1732: Fuller, No. 1239, Dead folks can't bite. 1816: Scott, *Old Mortality*, ch. xxxiv., Take him [dead man] away now, then, you gaping idiot, and see that he does not bite you, to put an old proverb to shame. 1883: R. L. S., *Treasure I.*, ch. xi., "Dead men don't bite," says he.

14 *Dead men tell no tales* 1664  
 J Wilson, *Andron Commenius*, I iv,  
 'Twere best To knock them i' th' head  
 The dead can tell no tales 1681  
 Dryden, *Span Friar*, IV 1 1795  
 Mrs Cowley, *The Town*, I ii, The dead  
 do tell no tales' 1860 Reade, *Cl and*  
*Hearth*, 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, 123, A dead mouse feels no cold  
 1732 Fuller, No 1241  
 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*, l 6302, For the  
 dede hath few frendys c 1320 in  
*Reliq Antiqua*, i 116 (1841), "Frendles  
 ys the dede". Quoth Hendyng 1611  
 Cotgrave, s v "Ami," The dead have  
 no friends, the sick but faint ones  
 Before 1701 Sedley, *Ballad*, in *Works*,  
 i 92 (1778), Justice has bid 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 soone as a farthyng of  
 him 1605 Chapman, etc., *Eastw*  
*Hoe*, IV ii 1611 Cotgrave, s v  
 "Pet." 1681 W Robertson, *Phraseol*  
*Generals*, 471  
 24 *To wait for dead men's shoes*  
 1530 Palsgrave, 644, Thou lookest  
 after deed mens shoes 1597 Hall,  
*Satires*, bk ii sat v, Or if thee list  
 not waite for dead mens shoon  
 1631 Mabbe, *Celestina*, 24 (TT), He  
 that lookes after dead-mens shooes,  
 may chance to goe barefoote 1714  
 Ozell, *Molière*, iii 194 1757 Murphy,

*Upholsterer*, I ii, You have very good  
 pretensions, but then its waiting for  
 dead men's shoes 1912 Lucas, *Lon-*  
*don Lav*, ch iv, "It's ill waiting for  
 dead men's shoes," Naomi quoted

25 *To work for a dead horse* 1659  
 in *Harl 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 lxxi, It shall never be 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 Elworthy, *West*  
*Som Word-Book*, 186 (E D S), Work  
 done in redemption of debt is called  
 working out the dead horse

26 *When I am dead make me a*  
*caudle* 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*  
*Meery 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 Parish and Shaw,  
*Dict of Kent Dialect*, ii (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 c 49 (Grosart), Hee is as  
 deafe as a doore

3 *As deaf as a door-nail* 1572 T  
 Wilson, *Disc upon Usury*, 224 (1925),  
 The userer is as deafe as a doore nayle  
 1589 L Wright, *Display of Dutie*, 10  
 1633 Draxe, 38 1837 Mrs Palmer,  
*Devonsh Dialect*, 42, As deave [deaf] as  
 a door-nail 1901 F E Taylor, *Lancs*  
*Sayings*, 25, He's as decof as a dur nail

4 *As deaf as a haddock* 1882 Jago,  
*Gloss of Cornish Dialect*, 151, There is



a term also, "defe 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: Churchyard, *Chippes*, 136 (Collier), I thereat seemde dumme and deaffe 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 deafe as an adder. 1618: Minshull, *Essayes*, etc., 37 (1821). 1702: T. Brown, in *Works*, ii. 246 (1760), I would rather chuse to be as 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 seaven year cracking deaf nuts.] (a) *No deaf nuts.* See quotes. 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 look as if he lived upon deef 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 deafe or so blynde, as is hee That wilfully will nother 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: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. ii. 1905: 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 feare 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, *Waverley*, ch. xxxvi., Ye are deaf as adders upon that side of the head.

*Deal*, Kent. 1. *Deal, Dover and Harwich*, The devil gave with his daughter in marriage; And by a codicil to his will, He added Helvoet and the Brill. 1785: Grose, *Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue*, s.v. "Devil's Daughter's Portion."

2. *Deal savages, Canterbury parrots, Dover sharps, and Sandwich carrots.* 1735: Pegge, *Kent. Proverbs*, in E.D.S., No. 12, p. 69.

See also *Dover* (1).

*Deals in the world, needs four sieves*, He that. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentium*.

*Deansgate*, As long as. Manchester. 1869: Hazlitt, 66.

*Dear*. 1. *As dear as cinnamon.* Derby. 1889: *Folk-Lore Journal*, vii. 291.

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 *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 110 (1841), "Luef child lore byhoveth"; Quoth Hendyng. 1377: Langland, *Plowman*, B, v. 38, That the leuere childe the more lore bihoueth. c. 1460: *Good Wyfe wold a Pylgremage*, l. 11, That lothe chylde lore be-howytt, and leve chylde moche more.

6. *It's a dear collop that is cut out of*

one's own flesh 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch x, For I have heard saie, it is a deere colup That is cut out of thowne fleshe 1639 Clarke, 240, It's a deare collop that's taken out of the flesh

Dearth always begins See England (1)  
Dearth's foreseen come not 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Death 1 Death dealeth doubtfully 1669 *Polyeuphuia*, 183

2 Death devours lambs as well as sheep 1620 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, *Cupid and Death*, in *Works*, vi 357 (Dyce), Death quits all scores 1685-6 Cotton, *Montaigne*, bk 1 ch vii, 'Tis a saying, "That death discharges us of all our obligations" 1714 Ozell, *Molière*, iii 87, But Death settles all things 1815 Scott, *Mannerer*, ch xxiii, The Laird's dead—awee!, death pays a' scores 1860 Reade, *Cl and Hearth*, ch xcu, Death squares all accounts Cf Die (3)

6 Death when it comes will have no denial 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Appel," Death admits no appeale 1681 W Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 432

7 Death's day is Doomsday 1579 Lyly, *Euphuus*, 181 (Arber), Euery ones deathes daye is his doomes daye 1732 Fuller, No 1255

8 Men fear death as children do to go in the dark 1659 Howell, 10 (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 1880 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 [1289 in *Lanercost Chron* 131 (Maitland Cl), Quo dicto, debitum naturæ statim exsolvit et in Christo quievit] 1494 Fabyan, *Chron*, II xli 28 (O), Fynally he payde the dette of nature 1563 Becon, *Reliques of Rome*, fo 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 331 (Hill), Mrs Williams, from mere inanition, has at length paid the great debt to nature 1845 Planché, *Extravag*, iii 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* 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch xii, Debtors can hardly help being liars

Deceit 1 Deceit, weeping, spinning, God hath gve to women kindly, while they may live 1869 Hazlitt, 109,

This is a paraphrase of the old leonine verse—Fallere, flere, 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 Scilly*, 443 Upon the silver mugs in the town of Liskerd it is written, *Qui fallit in poculis, fallit in omnibus*, there is no deceit in a bumper

Deceive 1 If a man deceive me once, shame on him, but if he deceive me twice, shame on me 1736 Bailey, *Dict*, s v

2 To deceive a deceiver is no deceit c 1580 Fulwell, *Ars Adulandi*, sig G3

1631: Mabbe, *Celestina*, 264 (T.T.), For he that deceives the deceiver, you know what I meane. 1669: *Politeuphuia*, 293. 1732: Fuller, No. 1261, Deceiving of a deceiver is no knavery.

Deceiver. See Guiler.

December. 1. *December cold with snow, good for rye*; 2. *December's frost and January's flood Never boded 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*, l. 110, A dede wele 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 Fruites*, 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. 1894: Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 12 (E.D.S.), Deeds are Johns, and words Nans. *Woces*. A local version of the proverb—"Deeds are males, but words females."

Deeds not words. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. v., Deede without words shall driue him to the wall. Before 1681: J. Lacy, *Sawny the Scot*, II.

Dee-mills. *If thou hadst the rent of Dee mills, thou wouldst spend it*. Cheshire. 1670: Ray, 171. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Cheshire." 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 77.

Deem [Judge] not my deeds. See quot. 15th cent.: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 205 (1841), Deme noth my dedis, thogh 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 deme toform thou knowest. 15th cent.: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, 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 dowl till the trowth be tred owt. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. v., Deeme the best, till time hath tryde the trowth out. 1591: Florio, *Second Fruites*, 105, Judge nothing till the end be seene.

Deep as the North. 1869: Fitzgerald, *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, *Ev. 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 Convers.*, Dial. I., Stir it up with the spoon, miss; for the deeper the sweeter.

Deep in the mud. See quot. 1914: 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 verif'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*, l. 1352, Dwelling [delay] haueth ofte scathe [injury] wrouht. c. 1384: Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk. iii. l. 853, That peril is with dreeching in y-drawe. 1457: *Paston Lett.*, i. 414 (Gairdner, 1900), Taryeng drawyth parell. 1579: Lyly, *Euphues*, 65 (Arber), Delayes breede daungers. 1655: Shirley, *Gent. of Venice*, V. i.,

Shall we go presently? delays are dangerous 1691 Southerne, *Sir Antony Love*, V iv 1725 Bailey, tr Erasmus' *Colloq*, 200, Why not to day rather than to morrow, if delays are dangerous 1888 R L S, *Black Arrow*, bk 1 ch 1, Delay, they say, begetteth peril

Deliberating is not delaying 1732 Fuller, No 1266

Demand *When the demand is a jest, the answer is a scoff* 1639 Clarke, 86 1732 Fuller, No 5575

Denshire See Devonshire

Denton See Heighton

Denying a fault doubles it 1669 *Politeuphura*, 163, Demals make little faults great 1732 Fuller No 1267

Dependence is a poor trade *Ibid*, No 1268

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

Derby ale and London beer 1614 Cooke, *Greene's Tu Quoque*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, xi 234, I have sent my daughter this morning as far as Pimlico to fetch a draught of Derby ale 1659 Howell, 14 1670 Ray, 258 1703 Ward, *Writings*, ii 122, Two or three gallons of Derby ale had one day set my wits a wooll-gathering

Derby's bands 1576 Gascoigne, *Steel Glas*, 71 (Arber), To binde such babes in father Derbies bands 1592 Greene, *Quip*, in *Works*, xi 244 (Grosart), They tie the poore soule in such Darbies bands 1602 Carew, *Surv of Cornwall*, 49 (1811) For which the poor wretch is bound in Darby's bonds to deliver him two hundred weight of tin at the next coinage

Derbyshire born and Derbyshire bred, Strong i' th' arm and weak i' th' head 1852 N & Q, 1st ser, v 573 1884 *Folk-Lore Journal*, ii 279 [with 'thick' instead of 'weak']

Derbyshire for lead, Devonshire for tin, Wiltshire for hunting plains, And Middlesex for tin 1669 *New Help to Discourse*, 113, Darbyshire for wooll and lead c 1809 quoted in N & Q, 9th ser, xi 266

Desert and reward seldom keep company 1611 Davies (of Hereford), *Sc of Folly*, 42, in *Works*, ii (Grosart), Desert and reward be euer farre od 1670 Ray, 7 1748 Richardson, *Clarissa*, iv 120 (1785), Desert and reward, I can assure her, seldom keep company together

Deserve See First deserve

Deserved a cushion, He has That is, he hath gotten a boy 1678 Ray, 69

Deserves no pity that chooseth to do amiss twice, He 1637 T Heywood, *Dialogues etc*, in Bang's *Materialien*, B 3, p 218 [cited as a proverb]

Desire hath no rest c 1582 G Harvey, *Marginalia*, 201 (1913), Desier sufficient no delay 1621 Burton, *Melanch*, I ii 3, 11, A true saying it is, desire hath no rest

Desires are nourished by delays 1633 Drave, 41 1670 Ray, 7

Desires but little, has no need of much, He that 1614 Lodge, tr Seneca, 443, He that coueteth little, hath not need of much 1732 Fuller, No 2077

Despair gives courage to a coward *Ibid*, No 1272

Desperate diseases must have desperate cures 1539 Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo 4, Stronge disease requyareth a stronge medicine 1602 Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, IV iii 1670 Shadwell, *Humourists*, IV, Well a desperate disease must have a desperate cure 1748 Richardson, *Clarissa*, vii 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 1 *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*, lxxxii 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. xxi., *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 deuyll fro holy water.* 1576: Lambarde, *Peramb. of Kent*, 301 (1826), *You remember the olde proverbe, how well the divell loveth 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 deucl mendyd his damys legg (as it is in the prouerbe): whan he shuld haue set it right, he bracke it quyte in pecys!*

9. *Away goes the devil when he finds*

*the door shut against him.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Ital.-Eng.*, 4, *The devil turns his back at a gate shut up.* 1855: Bohn, 323.

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, aiunt.—Horace, *Sat.*, II. ii. 64.] 1637: quoted in *N. & Q.*, 7th ser., i. 453, *Betwixt the devil and the deepe sea.* 1672: Walker, *Paræm.*, 11, *I am in a twittering case; betwixt the devil and the deep 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 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 deucl go with the doune the lane.* 1619: Chapman, *Two Wise Men*, VII. iii., *Her.* By that meanes thou wilt accompanie him to hell. *Sim.* Downe the lane to the divell.

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), *Giue them their due though they were diuels.* 1597: Shakespeare, 1 *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, *Andrews*, 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, *Squire's Tale*, l 594, 'Therfor bihoveth him a ful long spoone That shal ete with a feend,' thus herde I seye 16th cent in *Reliq Antiquæ*, i 208 (1841), He hath need of a long spoone that eateth with the devill 1626 Overbury, *Characters* "A Jesuit," A Jesuit is a larger spoon for a traytor 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 xxix

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 purchas'd 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 2331

21 If the devil be a vicar, thou shalt be his clerk 1670 Ray, 171 1738 *Gent 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 Repertory*, ii 395 (1808), Buying and selling the devil has long been a proverbial expression 1820 Colton *Lacon*, Pt II No 167 n, 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 belie the devil 1548 Hall, *Chron*, 363 (1809), It wer synne to lye on the deuill 1607 Dekker, *Knights Coniuring*, 21 (Percy S), 'Tis sinne to belye the duell 1712 Motteux, *Quixote*, Pt I bk iii 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*, iii 222 (1744), There is an old saying, There can be no holy procession where the diuel carryes the crosse 1694 D'Urfeys, *Quixote*, Pt I Act IV sc 1 [(b)] 1732 Fuller, No 2902 [(b)]

28 More like the devil than St Lawrence 1678 Ray, 256

29 Much about a pitch Quoth the devil to the witch 1846-59 Denham *Tracts* ii 81 (F L S)

30 Never go to the devil with a dish-cloth in your hand 1738 *Gent 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, *Lamentacyon*, 89 (E E T S), Yf it be so that God, through the kyng, hath caste out the deuell out of this realme, and yet both he and we soppe of the broth in which the deuell was soden 1660 T Hall, *Funebria Floræ*, 12, Wee must not so much as tast of the devils broth, lest at last hee bring us to eat of his beef 1696 D'Urfeys, *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, *Philosophy v Art*, III 1 part 2, Hast courage but for half a sin? As good To eat the devil as the broth he's boild in 1865 "Lancs Proverbs," in *N & Q*, 3rd ser, viii 494 1901 F E Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 13, Aw'd as hef eyt the divvle as sup th' broth 'at he's boilt 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 lys the dewyll dede by the gate 1670 Ray, 79 [ditch] 1758-67 Sterne, *Trist Shandy*, vol viii ch xxviii, 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

35. *Strike Dawkin! the devil is in the hemp.* 1678: Ray, 70. 1889: *Folk-Lore Journal*, vii. 293. Derby saying. Strike, Dakeyne! the devil's i' th' hemp.

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.*, 13, 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' *Colloq.*, 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?

37. *The devil always tips at the biggest ruck* [heap]. 1886: R. Holland, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 454 (E.D.S.). 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 113.

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."

39. *The devil and Dr. Faustus.* 1726: 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 divil an' Docthor Foster.

40. *The devil and his dam(e).* c. 1440: York Plays, 300 (L. T. Smith), What the deuyl and his dame schall y now doo? 1550: R. Crowley, *Works*, 49 (E.E.T.S.), But they saye that ye purchase the deuill, his dame, and all. c. 1615: *Times Whistle*, 97 (E.E.T.S.). Me thought as both their heades together came, I saw the deuill 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.

41. *The devil and John of Cumber.* 1659: Howell, 20.

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 malster.* 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 malster"—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, *Kenilworth*, 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 divel may not find me, they say he dares not peep under a maids coat.

47. *The devil gets up to the belfry by the vicar's skirts.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Span.-Eng.*, 20. 1732: Fuller, No. 4476.

48. *The devil goes a nutting on Holy-rod Day.* 1689: *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 Becon, *Catechism*, 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 (Grosart). And where God hath a church, the devill hath a chappell 1701 Defoe, *True Born Eng*, Pt I ll 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 u, in Bullen, *Old Plays* u 160, They say the divell has

52 *The devil hath cast a bone to set strife* 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch u c 1594 Bacon, *Promus*, No 654 1633 Draxe, 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 deuyll He is the moste dyligent preacher of al others, he is neuer out of his dioces 1732 Fuller, No 4479 1910 N & Q, 11th ser, 1 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 *Respublica*, I iii, The devyll ys a knave 1571 in *Ballads*, 85 (Percy S, No 1) 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 devils an ass, sir 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*, 1 231 (1883), The devil's at home, is a phrase, and our modern ladies live as if they

thought so 1810 Crabbe, *Borough*, xiv 56, A foolish proverb says, "The devils at home"

57 *The devil is dead* c 1470 *Mankind*, in Manly's *Spec of Pre-Shakesp Drama*, 1 337, Qwyst, pesse! The deull ys dede! Before 1529 Skelton, *Col Clout*, 1 36, The deuyll, they say, is dede, The deuell is dede 1661 Davenport, *City Nightcap*, III, He thinks the devil's dead too 1671 *Westm Drollery* 109 (Ebsworth), The night is our own, for the devil is dead 1860 Reade, *Cl and Hearth*, ch li, Courage, brave wife, the divell 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 *Polimanteia*, sig Br, Satan desiring in this to bee Gods ape 1639 Fuller, *Holy War*, bk iv ch xxi, As the devil is God's ape 1666 Torriano, *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 iv, You were not worse then the devil els, for they say hee helps his seruants 1660 A Brome, *Poems 'New Montebank'*, The devil's ever kind to his own 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, 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 iii, The devil is a good fellow, if one can him please c 1600 *Grim the Collier*, II 1677 *Poor Robin Alman*, Dec, The devil's good when he is pleased 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial II 1813 Byron, *Letters*, etc, u 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, Dice are known as the Devil's Bones

63 *The devil is not always at one door* 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Diable" 1694



D'Urfey, *Quixote*, Pt. I. Act IV. sc. i. 1732: Fuller, No. 4482.

64. *The devil is not so black as he is painted.* 1596: Lodge, *Marg. of America*, 57 (Hunt. Cl.), Wel . . . diuels are not so blacke as they be painted. 1642: Howell, *Forreine 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.

65. *The devil is seldom outshot in his own bow.* 1642: D. Rogers, *Matrim. Honour*, 42.

66. *The devil laughs when one thief robs another.* 1819: Scott, *Ivanhoe*, ch. xxi., The fiend laughs, they say, when one thief robs another.

67. *The devil lies brooding in the miser's chest.* 1732: Fuller, No. 4484. 1904: J. C. Wall, *Devils*, 127.

68. *The devil loves all colliers.* 1583: Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig. Li.

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.

71. *The devil makes his Christmas pies of clerks' fingers and lawyers' tongues.* 1591: Florio, *Second Frutes*, 179, Of three things the deuill makes his messe, Of lawyers tongues, of scriueners fingers, you the third may gesse. 1630: T. Adams, *Works*, 145, An euill tongue is meate for the deuill, according to the Italian prouerbe: the deuill makes his Christmasse pie of lewd tongues. 1659: Howell, II (9).

72. *The devil may dance in his pocket* —because it contains no cross (coin).

1411: Hoccleve, *Reg. of Princes*, 25 (E.E.T.S.), The feende men seyn may hoppen in a pouche Whan that no croys there-inne may a-pere. c. 1470: *Mankind*, l. 474, The deuill may daunce in my purse for ony peny. 1567: Drant, *Horace*, I. iii., The deuille may daunce in crosslesse 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 diuel upon Dun rides to and frow.

74. *The devil owed a cake and paid a loaf.* 1690: *New Dict. Canting Crew*, sig. C3, The devil ow'd her a cake, and has pai'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 owed 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*, l. 245, The deuill, gossip, ought me a shame. 1679: D'Urfey, *Squire Oldsapp*, 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*, l. 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 daie. Let the deuill paie the malt manne.

77. *The devil rebukes sin.* 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 60, The devil

corrects sin 1682 A Behn, *Round-heads*, V ii, How the devil rebukes sin ' 1754 Berthelson, *Eng-Danish Dict*, s v "Devil" 1822 Scott, *Nigel*, ch xxxii, "I am afraid," said George Heriot, 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 1 *Henry IV*, II iv, Heigh, heigh! the devil rides upon a fiddlestick what's the matter? c 1620 B & F, *Hum Lieut* 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 Sedgely 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 heap"] 1670 Ray, 80

81 *The devil sometimes speaks the truth* 1635 Glapthorne *Lady Mother*, I iii, 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*, i 155, After Michaelmas the d—l casts his club over them [blackberries] 1900 Hudson, *Nature in Downland*, ch xii, 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*, l 709, Hens wyth yowur stuff! fast we were gone I be-schrew the last xall come to hys home!] c 1618 B & F, *Bonduca*, 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 tempts some, but an idle man tempts the devil* 1709 R Kingston *Apoph Cursiosa*, 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 Cheales, *Proverb Folk-Lore*, 110

85 *The devil to pay* c 1400 in *Reliq Antiquæ*, i 257 (1841), Beit 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 Richard son, *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, xi 331, Lupus languebat monachus tunc esse volebat, Sed cum convaleuit lupus ut ante fuit] 1586 L Evans, *Withals Dict Revised*, sig K8, The duell was sicke and crasie, Good woulde the monke bee that was lasie 1692 L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 104 (3rd ed) 1757 Garrick, *Gamesters*, III ad fin 1875 Smiles, *Thrift*, 314 [with "saunt" for "monk"] 1875 R L S, *Letters*,

i. 210 (Tusitala ed.), The story shall be called, I think, *When the Devil was well*, in allusion to the old proverb.

87. *The devil will not come into Cornwall for fear of being put into a pie.* 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Cornwall." 1891: *N. & Q.*, 7th ser., xii 216.

88. *The devil will take his own.* 1846: T. Wright, *Essays on Middle Ages*, i. 146, We say, "The devil will take his own."

89. *The devil wipes his tail with the poor man's pride.* 1659: Howell, 12 (10). 1670: Ray, 21.

90. *The devil would have been a weaver but for the Temples.* 1678: Ray, 91.

91. *The devil's behind the glass.* 1855: Bohn, 502. 1904: J. C. Wall, *Devils*, 128.

92. *The devil's children have the devil's luck.* 1678: Ray, 126, The devils child the devils luck. 1776: T. Cogan, *John Buncke, Junior*, i. 240, I wish the devil's children devil's luck, that's all. 1865: "Lancs Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., viii. 494. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 9, The divvle's childer awlus han the divvle's luck.

93. *The devil's guts*=The surveyor's chain. 1678: Ray, 72.

94. *The devil's martyr.* 1639: Fuller, *Holy War*, bk. ii. ch. xxix, The unhappy Dutch proverb, "He that bringeth himself into needless dangers, dieth the devil's martyr." 1670: Ray, 18 [as in 1748]. 1748: Richardson, *Clarissa*, iv. 121 (1785), Then that other fine saying, He who perishes in needless danger, is the Devil's martyr.

95. *The devil's meal is half bran.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Diable," Halfe 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: Bodenhams, *Belvedere*, 128 (Spens. S.), The devils mouth is team'd a misers purse. 1669: *Politeuphuia*, 288, A covetous mans purse is called the divels mouth.

97. *The devil's run over Jock Wabster*—an allusion to one whose affairs are

said to be going back in the world. N. of England. 1876: *N. & Q.*, 5th ser., vi. 64.

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*, l. 106 (Malone S.), Ile looke in thy purse by and by: And if thou haue any money in it, Wele drinke the diuell dry, diuell 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 priuy place, for all lay in the diuell's mouth.

103. *To patter the devil's Paternoster.* c. 1386: Chaucer, *Parson's Tale*, 506-7, They . . . grucche and murmure 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. l. 984, Began to mumble with hir selfe the divels Paternoster. 1641: Jonson, *Sad Shepherd*, II. ii., What devil's

pater noster mumbles she? 1847 Halliwell, *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 xxiv, That would be a serving, as they say, the devil for God's sake

105 To play the devil in the bulmong 1670 Ray, 171

106 To play the devil in the horologe 1519 Horman, *Vulgaria*, fo 231, Some for a tryfull play the deuyll in the orlege c 1550 Udall, *Roister Doister*, III iii, C C 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 meere—meere forgeries, 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 1303 Brunne, *Handlyng Synne*, II 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, meete 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 1, 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 1800 Trusler, *Prov in Verse*, 85 1889 Peacock, *Manley, etc*, Gloss, 167 (E D S), What's gotten o' th' divil's back goes oot under his belly 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 150

III When it rains and the sun shines at the same time the devil is beating his wife 1666 Tornano, *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 mingled 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 hog, you shall eat bacon 1670 Ray, 217 1732 Fuller, No 5578

113 When the devil is blind=Never 1659 Howell, 12 c 1670 in *Bagford Ballads*, i 7 (B S), They'l pay me again when the devil is blind 1709 Ward, *Works*, iv, Verse 35, They pay for when the devil's blind 1815 Scott, *Mannerling*, ch xxii, Ay, Tib, that will be when the devil's blind,—and his een's no sair yet 1847 Halliwell, *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 5580 [as in 1678, but with "widow" for "wife"] 1853 Trench, *Proverbs*, 72 (1905), When the devil is dead, he never wants a chief mourner

115 When the devil prays, he has a booty in his eye 1732 Fuller, No 5576

116 When the devil preaches, the world's near an end 1667 L'Estrange, *Quevedo's Visions*, 21 (1904)

117 When the devil quotes Latin, the priests go to prayers 1863 N & Q, 3rd ser, iii 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 had, where the devil got the friar

119 Where none else will, the devil must bear the cross 1579 Lyly,

*Euphues*, 53 (Arber). 1732: Fuller, No. 5652.

120. *You can't stand between the oak an' the rain* [rind], *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, *Dich. 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, *Derbicisms*, 16 (E.D.S.), Denchering, *sb.* Devonshiring; it being a practice brought from Devonshire. 'Tis when they pare off the sword [sward] 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 Den-shiring 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,

*tho' it lie on a dunghill*. 1732: Fuller, No. 74.

2. A fine diamond may be ill set. *Ibid.*, No. 97.

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, *Polite 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 curst as [also "as fause as," "as contrary as," "as cruckit 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 quot. 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 "Sucklethumbkin's Story," And there is all come to see a man 'die in his shoes' 1 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 *Polite 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 minds

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 betwene staryng and starke blynde The wise man at all tymes to folow can fynde 1593 G Harvey, in *Works*, ii 235 (Grosart), Hee mought haue spied a difference betwene staring, and starke-blinde

4 *There is difference between staring and stark mad* 1633 Draxe, 44 1681 W Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 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 talke of your birth, when I knowe there is no difference of bloods in a basen 1732 Fuller, No 4907

7 *There is some difference between Peter and Peter* 1612 Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt I bk iv ch xx 1631 Mabbe, *Celestina*, 130 (TT), 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 graue with their teeth 1655 Fuller, *Church Hist*, bk iv § iii (42), Who by intemperance in his diet, in some sort, digged his grave with his own teeth 1709 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 town* 1670 Ray, 257 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Yorkshire" 1878 *Folk-Lore Record*, i 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)

["good luck"]. 1875: 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).

Dilly-dally brings night as soon as Hurry-scurry. 1882: Mrs. Chamberlain, *W. Worcs. Words*, 39 (E.D.S.).

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. 1815: D'Arblay, *Diary*, iv. 344 (1876), Or else the whole party . . . must have made interest to dine with Duke Humphrey. 1850: 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 Bristow*, sig. C1, 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. 1546: 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. 2107.

3. *That dirt made this dust*. Ibid., No. 4337.

4. *Throw dirt enough and some will stick*. 1660: T. Hall, *Funebria Floræ*, 38, Lye lustily, some filth will stick. 1795: Ward, *Hudibras 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. 1857: 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. 1678: Ray, 80.

Dirty. 1. *Dirty grate makes dinner late*. Derby. 1884: *Folk-Lore Journal*, ii. 279.

2. *Dirty hands make clean money*. 1869: Hazlitt, 110.

3. *Dirty troughs will serve dirty sows*. 1732: Fuller, No. 1292.

4. *Don't throw away dirty water till you have got clean*. 1710: 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 sayng that more is worth a good retrayte than a folisshe abydinge. 1597: 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, Sche was as deyne as water in a dich 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 *Healtis 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 Prudentum*

Dish and Dishes 1 *All her dishes are  
chafing dishes* 1562 Heywood, *Epigr*,  
6th Hund No 38, Wyfe all thy disshes  
be chaffyng disshes plast, For thou  
chafest at sight of euery dishe thou  
hast 1639 Clarke, 34, All his meat  
is in chafing 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 Coll 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  
drunk 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, in *Norfolk Arch  
Papers*, II 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*

Diurnal-maker is the sub-amner to  
an historian, A 1659 Howell, 2

Diversity of humors breedeth tumors  
*Ibid*, 17 1670 Ray, 7 1732 Fuller,  
No 6230

Divide *See quot* 1551 T Wilson,  
*Rule of Reason*, sig D8, It is an old  
saying he y<sup>t</sup> doth well diuide, 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 dizzie as a goose 1670 Ray, 204  
1745 Franklin, *Drinker's Dict*, in  
*Works*, II 24 (Bigelow), He s as dizzy  
as a gooze 1774 Burgoyne, *Maid of  
the Oaks*, IV II, 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 II, Giddy as a  
goose

Do and Doing 1 *By doing nothing  
we learn to do ill* 1567 Fenton, *Ban-  
dello*, II 63 (T T), Plato, who affirmeth  
that in doyngue nothyng men lerne to  
do evill 1669 *Politeuphuia*, 307  
1732 Fuller, No 1038

2 *Do and undo, the day is long enough*  
1639 Clarke, 156 1672 Walker,  
*Paræm*, 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, *Pro-  
verbs*, Pt II ch v, It is as folke dooe,  
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 1881  
Evans, *Leics Words, etc*, 300 (E D S),  
"Do as I say an' not as I do" says  
the paa'son A iar 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 dooth 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. 1303.

5. *Do as you're bidden and you'll never bear blame.* 1678: Ray, 101.

6. *Do evil and look for the like.* 1569: Grafton, *Chron.*, i. 482 (1809), So the common prouerbe was verified, as you have done, so shall you feelee. 1633: Draxe, 179, Doe euill and euill will come of it. 1732: Fuller, No. 1305.

7. *Do good and then do it again.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 12, Do it good, or do it again. 1855: Bohn, 269.

8. *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.

9. *Do it by degrees.* See Cat (35).

10. *Do it well that thou may'st not do it twice.* 1732: Fuller, No. 1308.

11. *Do-little good, do-little evil, etc.* See Come (4).

12. *Do man for thyself, etc.* See quot. 15th cent.: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 314 (1841), Do mon for thiselffe, Wyl thou art alyve; For he that dose after thu dethe, God let him never thryve. Quod Tucket.

13. *Do not all you can; spend not all you have; believe not all you hear; and tell not all you know.* 1855: Bohn, 344.

14. *Do nothing hastily but catching of fleas.* 1678: Ray, 151, Nothing must be done hastily but killing of fleas. 1732: Fuller, No. 1309. c. 1791: Pegge, *Derbicisms*, 136 (E.D.S.), Do nothing rashly, but kill fleas. 1881: Mrs. Parker, *Oxfordsh. Words: Suppl.*, 87 (E.D.S.), "You shouldn do nothun in a 'urrry but ketch flaes [fleas]." A saying.

15. *Do the likeliest and hope the best.* 1732: Fuller, No. 1310.

16. *Do well and have well.* 1362: 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 begynnyng, 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.

17. *Do what thou oughtest and come what can come.* 1659: Howell, 6. 1670: Ray, 7.

18. *Doing is better than saying.* 1633: Draxe, 41.

19. *He does well, but none knows but himself.* 1639: Clarke, 145.

20. *He doeth much that doeth a thing well.* 1732: Fuller, No. 1839.

21. *He may do much ill ere he can do much worse.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1594: Bacon, *Promus*, No. 956. 1639: Clarke, 150.

22. *He that does not love a woman.* See Hate (1).

23. *He that does you an ill turn.* See Ill turn (2).

24. *He that doth amiss may do well.* 1629: *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov. 76.

25. *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 "fouls" for "hurteth"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 2086.

26. *He that doth ill hateth the light.* 1629: *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov. 77.

27. *He that doth most at once doth least.* 1855: Bohn, 385.

28. *He that doth nothing doth ever amiss.* 1629: *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov. 75. 1865: "Lancs *Proverbs*," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., viii. 494, Those who are doing nothing are doing ill. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 10, Thoose 'at are doin' nowt are doin' ill.

29. *He that doth well wearieth not himself.* 1633: Draxe, 32. 1732: Fuller, No. 2090.

30. *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.

31. *He that hath done ill once will do it again.* 1855: Bohn, 400.

32. *He that hath done so much hurt that he can do no more may sit down*

and rest him 1633 Draxe, 43 1639 Clarke, 150

33 He that would do no ill must do all good, or sit still 1855 Bohn, 396

34 I do what I can, quoth the fellow when he thresht 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 cannest do conveniently thy selfe commytte it not to another 1611 Cotgrave, s v Faire" 1670 Ray, 1 1710 S Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 152, For what you can do your self don't depend on another 1831 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 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

37 That may be done in an hour, which we may repent all our life after 1658 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 e'en do as they may, as the saying is 1732 Fuller, No 4988

39 We'll do as they do at (see quotes) 1678 Ray, 80, We'll do as they do at Quern, What we do not do to-day, we must do i' th' 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*, 11 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 appears by day c 1390 Gower, *Conf Amantis*, bk v l 4599, Thung don upon the derke nyht Is after knowe on daies liht 1666 Tormiano, *Piazza 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.

42 What we do willingly is easy 1630 T Adams, *Works*, 422 1831 Hone, *Year-Book*, col 1612, Nothing is troublesome that we do willingly

43 Who would do ill, ne'er wants occasion 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Dock to a daisy, As like as a 1639 Clarke, 96, An odious comparison! a dock to a dazie 1670 Ray, 204, As like as a dock to a daisie That is very unlike

Dock See In dock

Doctor Diet, etc See quotes 1558 Bullein, *Gout of Health*, fo 51, The first was called doctor diet, the seconde doctor quiet, the thirde doctor meryman 1596 Harington, *Metam of Ajax*, 99 (1814), Doctor Diet, Doctor Quiet, and Doctor Merryman 1660 Howell, *Parly of Beasts*, 23, After these two, Doctor Diet and Doctor Quiet, Doctor Merriman is requisit 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 1410 Towneley *Plays*, 173 (E E T S), ffy, dotty-pols, with your bookys! 1550 Latimer, *Sermons*, 245 (P S), They, like dodi-poles laughed their godly father to scorn 1600 *The Wisedome of Dr Dodypoll* [title], in Bullen, *Old Plays*, vol iii 1639 Clarke, 137, Doctor Dodipoll is more honoured then a good divine 1881 Evans, *Leics Words*, etc, 139 (E D S), Doddipole, a simpleton, noodle 1889 Peacock, *Manley*, etc, Gloss, 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 iii, Who shall decide when Doctors disagree? 1813 *Gent Mag*, Pt I, p 627, I shall stand protected 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 c 1676 in *Roxb Ballads*, vii 558 (B S),

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 (1).

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 bremely as he [a "curre"] baies he bitis never the faster. 1387: Trevisa, tr. Higden, iii. 427 (Rolls Ser.), Hit is þe manere of þe feblest houndes for to berke most. 1581: T. Howell, *Devises*, 30 (1906), Those dogs byte least, that greatest barkings keepe. 1669: *Politeuphuia*, 198, A dog that barketh much will bite but little. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Barking," Barking dogs seldom bite.

3. *A dog in a doublet.* 1577: J. Grange, *Golden Aphroditis*, sig. F1, As seemely as . . . a dogge in a dublet. 1600: Dekker, *Shoem. Hol.*, III. i., My maister will be as proud as a dogge in a dublet, al in beaten damaske and velvet. 1639: in *Berkeley MSS.*, iii. 33 (1885), As proud as a dog in a doublett, i.e. very proud. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Dog," A meer dog in a doublet. 1894: Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 6 (E.D.S.), A mere dog in a doublet=A mean pitiful creature. Cf. No. 62.

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.

7. *A dog's life; hunger and ease.* 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 276, The English say, Hunger and ease is a dogs life. 1670: Ray, 172.

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 doggs snowt are alwayes cold. 1670: Ray, 51. 1870: "C. Bede," in *N. & Q.*, 4th ser., vi. 495, [Old Hunts cottager *loq.*] 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).]

9. *A good dog deserves a good bone.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Bon." 1633: Jonson, *Tale of a Tub*, II. i., A good dog Deserves, sir, a good bone. 1732: Fuller, No. 144. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 35.

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 byte him, though he would not. 1670: Ray, 7 [with "cause" for "provoke"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 298.

11. *A still dog bites sore.* c. 1270: *Prov. of Alfred, in Old Eng. Miscell.*, 137 (Morris, E.E.T.S.), þe bicche bitit ille þan he berke still. 1593: *Tell-Trothes N. Yeares Gift*, 15 (N. Sh. S.), A stille dogge bites sore, but the barking cur feares [frightens] more. 1638: D. Tuvill, *Vade Mecum*, 130 (3rd ed.), The slowest barker is the surest biter. 1906: A. C. Doyle, *Sir Nigel*, ch. xiv., "Good!" said he. "It is the mute hound which bites the hardest."

12. *A toiling dog comes halting home.* 1732: Fuller, No. 441.

13. *All the dogs follow the salt bitch.* 1639: Clarke, 13. 1670: Ray, 80.

14. *An old dog barks not in vain.* 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 28. 1651: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, 2nd ed. 1732: Fuller, No. 3711, Old dogs bark not for nothing.

15. *An old dog bites sore.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. vi., It is saide of olde: an olde dog byteth sore. 1605: Breton, in *Works*, ii. l 15 (Grosart). 1716: Ward, *Female Policy*,

46, 'Tis a certain truth that an old dog and bite sore

16 *An old dog will learn no new tricks* 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 326 (1870), It is hard to teach an old dog tricks 1694 D Urfe, *Quixote*, Pt I Act II sc 1 1758-67 Sterne, *Trist Shandy*, vol III ch xxxiv, It is a singular blessing, that nature has formed the mind of man with the same happy backwardness and remittency against conviction, which is observed in old dogs,—'of not learning new tricks' 1823 Scott, *Peveril*, Introd, 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 duff [dough]' is a proverbial saying heard in some parts of Shropshire 1894 Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 19 (E D S), Like dogs in dough, i.e. unable to make headway 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, II, As busy (as thrunk) as a dog in dough

18 *As courteous as a dog in a kitchen* Ironical 1377 Langland, *Plowman*, B, v 261, "I am holden," quod he, "as hende as hounde is in kychyne"

19 *As the old dog barks, so the young one* c 1470 G Ashby, *Poems*, 32 (E E T S), After the oolde dogge the yonge whelp barks

20 *As vain as a dog with two tails* 1889 J Nicholson, *Folk Speech E Yorks*, 17

21 *At every dog's bark seem not to awake* 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch v c 1594 Bacon, *Promus*, No 662, At every dogges bark to awake 1633 Draxe, 48, Wake not at every dogges barke

22 *At open doors, dogs come in* 1820 Scott, *Monastery* ch xxxiii

23 *Better have a dog saun 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 Florio, *First Frutes*, fo 33 1629 Book of Meery 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* [parcit Cognatus maculis similibus 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 (1795), 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 1875 A B Cheales, *Proverb Folk-Lore*, 140, Dogs bark as they are bred, and fawn as they are fed

29 *Dogs bark before they bite* 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch vii, A dog will barke er 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 fierceness* 1631 Mabbe, *Celestina*, Epist Ded, Like dogges that barke by custome 1647 Wharton, *Merlini Anglici*, Pref, It is a common proverb, "Dogs bark more for custome than fiercenesse"

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 bark d at him 1650 Fuller, *Pisgah Sight*, bk III ch IV § 1, In his peaceable country, where no dog durst bark against him

32 *Dogs begin in jest and end in earnest* 1855 Bohn, 345

33 *Dogs gnaw bones because they cannot swallow them* 1670 Ray, 7

34 *Dogs run away with whole shoulders* 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

36. *Dogs that put up many hares kill none.* 1732: Fuller, No. 1319. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, ii. 108 (F.L.S.).

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 taile, 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. 528 (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.* 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 36, Every dog is a lion at home. 1732: Fuller, No. 1414, Every dog is stout at his own door. 1865: "Lancs Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., viii. 494. 1869: 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 Rediv.*, 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 Hearth*, 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, *Helton-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, *Mannerling*, 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 crab tree will never love verjuice. 1670: Ray, 81. 1692: L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 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 wyll kyll his neyghbours 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.

49. *He who lies down with dogs will rise with fleas.* 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 29, Who sleepeth with dogges, shal rise with fleas. 1612: Webster, *White Devil*, V. i. 1791: Wolcot, *Works*, ii. 232 (1795). 1853: Trench, *Proverbs*, 82 (1905).

50. *I am not every body's dog that whistles.* 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 whisling. 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.

53. *If the old dog bark, he gives counsel.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 19. 1732: Fuller, No. 2709.

54. *If you would wish the dog to follow you, feed him.* 1855: Bohn, 422.

55 *Into the mouth of a bad dog, often falls a good bone* 1639 Clarke, 45  
1670 Ray, 82 1732 Fuller, No 2832

56 *It is a good dog that can catch anything* 1678 Ray, 70 1732 Fuller, No 2854

57 *It is a hard winter when dogs eat dogs* 1732 Fuller No 2894

58 *It is a poor dog that does not know "come out"* 1830 Forby, *Vocab E Anglia*, 428

59 *It is a poor dog that is not worth whistling for* 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch xi A poore dogge that is not worth whystlyng 1605 Camden *Remains* 318 (1870) 1670 Ray, 81 [with "ill for "poor"] 1738 Swift *Polite Convers*, Dial I c 1770 Murphy, in *Garrick Corresp*, ii 335 (1832), If they are determined to think me a dog not worth whistling for 1881 Evans, *Leics Words*, 139 (E D S), "It's a surry doog as een't woo th a whistle," used by an old man, who, though infirm would have helped a neighbour in getting in his corn if he had been applied to The saying is very common

60 *It is hard to make an old dog stoop* 1523 Fitzherbert, *Husbandry*, 45 (E D S), The dogge must lerne it, whan he is a whelp, or els it wyl not be for it is harde to make an olde dogge to stoupe 1611 Davies (of Hereford), *Sc of Folly*, 47, in *Works*, ii (Grosart), Its hard to make an olde dogge lye low 1725 Bailey, tr Erasmus' *Colloq*, 75, It is a hard matter to mend the manners of an old sinner An old dog won't be easily brought to wear a collar

61 *It's an ill dog that deserves not a crust* 1639 Clarke, 91 [with "bad" for "ill"] 1670 Ray, 81 1732 Fuller, No 2899

62 *It would make a dog doff his doublet* Cheshire 1678 Ray, 239 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 86 Cf No 3

63 *It would make a dog forget his dinner* c 1630 B & F, *Love's Pilgrimage*, II ii

64 *Let every dog carry his own tail* 1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 36, Every

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*, ii 445 (Dyce), Ye come among vs plenty By coples in a peire, As sprites in the haire Or dogges in the ffayre 1840 Barham, *Ing Legends* "Jackdaw of Rheims" That little jackdaw kept hopping about, Here and there Like a dog in a fair 1893 G L Gower, *Gloss Surrey Words*, vii (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*, vii 73 (1811), But I durst undertake to pose him with a riddle, 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* [καθάπερ τῆς ἐν τῇ φάτῃ κυνᾶ μῆτε αὐτῇ ἐσθίεισαν τῶν κριθῶν μῆτε τῶ ἱππῶ περιώρετι ἐντρέπονται — Lucian, *Timon*] c 1390 Gower, *Conf Amantis*, bk ii l 84 Thogh it be noght the houndes kinde To ete chaf, yit wol he werne An oxe which comth to the berne, Therof to taken eny fode 1484 Caxton *Esopie* [Caxton has the fable of the Dog, but does not give the proverb or phrase "dog in a manger" in any form] 1546 *Supplication of Poore Commons*, 65 (E E T S), They are lyke to a curre dogge lying in a cocke 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 replied 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 lxxii, 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.

69. *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 meal.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentium*. 1670: Ray, 82.

75. *The dog that fetches will carry.* 1830: Forby, *Vocab. E. Anglia*, 429. 1872: J. Glyde, jr., *Norfolk Garland*, 148.

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.

77. *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, *Phraseol. 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.* 1561: Hoby, *Courtier*, 191 (T.T.), As dogges, after they have bine once scalded with hott water, are aferd of the colde. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Chien," The scalded 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 pittypull'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. 1762: Smollett, *Sir L. Greaves*, ch. xii. [title]. 1836: Marryat, *Easy*, ch. v.

83. *To beat the dog before the lion.* c. 1386: Chaucer, *Squire's Tale*, l. 491, And for to maken oother 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 fellowes 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 bag.* 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, 4278 (Skeat), They walwe [wallow, roll about, struggle] as doon two piggēs 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. L1, Some of the company departed with a dogge in their sleeve.

87. *To scorn a thing as a dog scorns tripe.* 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, *Mixt Contempl.*, 269 (1830), He sleepeth not, but only shutteth his eyes in dogsleep. 1669-96: Aubrey, *Lives*, ii. 46 (Clark), He was wont to sleep much in the house [of Commons] (at least dog-sleepe). 1773: in *Garrick Corresp.*, i. 571 (1831), Mr. Willmot . . . fell asleep. Dr. B— thought it dog sleep. 1820: Colton, *Lacon*, Pt. II. No. 122 n., A Greek quotation . . .

roused our slumbering professor, from a kind of dog sleep, in a snug corner of the vehicle

90 *What I keep a dog and bark myself* 1583 Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig Q2, It is smal reason you should kepe 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 Cotgrave, 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 stink?* 1732 Fuller, No 5581

93 *When the whelp plays the old dog grins* Before 1500 Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 132 (E E T S), Whan the whelp gameth, the old dogge grenneth

94 *While the dog (or hound) gnaweth a bone he loveth no company* c 1210 in T Wright, *Essays on Middle Ages*, 1 149 (1846), Wil the hund gnagh bon, i-fere neld he non 1586 L Evans, *Revised Withals Dict*, sig C3, Whiles a dog gnawes a bone, he hateth his fellowe, whom otherwise he loues

95 See quot 1417 in *Reliq Antiquae*, 1 233 (1841), Who that maketh in Christmas a dogge to his larder, And in Marche a sowe to his gardynere, And in Maye a fole of a wise mannes counsell, He shall never have good larder, faire gardeyn, nor wele kepte counsell. 1486 *Boke of St Albans*, 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 494

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 (64) Covetous (3), Crack, Curst cur, Eat (29), Fight (2) and (3), Fit 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, Stuck, 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 c 1540 tr Polydore Vergil's *Eng Hist*, 284 (Camden S, No 36) (O), I will heere in the way of murthe, declare a prettie dog tricke or gibe as concerninge this mayden 1667 Flecknoe, *Tomaso the Wand*, 11 (1925), By which dog-trick of his he made every one an enemy to him 1690 *New Dict Canting Crew*, sig D7, He play'd me a dog-trick, he did basely and dirtily by me

Dole *Ye deal this dole 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*, 1 2, The shelving shining river Don Each year a daughter or a son, is an old saw often too fatally verified in modern experience Cf Dart, River

Doncaster cuts = Horses Before 1529 Skelton, *Magnyfycence*, 1 296, In fayth, I set not by the worlde two Dauncaster cuttys

Donkey See Aback o' behind, and Ass

Door 1 *Make not the door wider than the house* 1639 Clarke, 11

2 *Who will make a door of gold, must knock a nail every day* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Dorsetshire dorsers 1662 Fuller,



*Worthies*, i. 453 (1840). 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Dorset."

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 dottrells*. 1639: Clarke, 220.

Doublet. See Put (1).

Doubt, do nowt, When in. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 155.

Doubts. *He that casteth all doubts shall never be resolved*. 1732: Fuller, No. 2063.

Dove's flood. *In April (or spring) Dove's flood Is worth a king's good [ransom]*. 1610: P. Holland, tr. Camden's *Britannia*, 587. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, iii. 127 (1840). c. 1791: Pegge, *Derbichisms*, 137 (E.D.S.). 1812: Brady, *Clavis Cal.*, i. 69. 1852: N. & Q., 1st ser., vi. 184.

Dover. 1. *A Dover shark and a Deal savage*. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Kent."

2. *A Jack of Dover*=A sole. c. 1386: Chaucer, *Cook's Prolog.*, l. 23, For many a pastee hastow laten blood, And many a lakke of Dover hastow sold. 1604: *Jacke of Dover* [title] (Percy S.). 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Kent."

3. *As sure as there's a dog in Dover*. 1735: Pegge, *Kent. Proverbs*, in E.D.S., No. 12, p. 69.

4. *Dover, a den of thieves*. 1735: *Ibid.*, 70. 1766: Smollett, *Travels*, in *Works*, viii. 4 (1872).

5. *From Dover to Dunbar*; and 6. *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. 70.

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 (1840). 1700: T. Brown, in *Works*, iii. 66 (1760), 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.

Down, adv. 1. *Down came Tit, and away tumbled she arsy-varsy*. 1813: Ray, 274.

2. *Down the hill goes merrily*. 1639: Clarke, 260.

3. *Going down the brewe* [short, steep declivity]=Failing in health. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 61.

4. *He that's down, down with him*. 1678: Ray, 129. 1732: Fuller, No. 2282 [plus "cries the world"]. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 154, He that is down, down with him, is an expression of some of the basest feelings of human nature.

5. *To go down the wind*=To be unfortunate. Cf. Up the weather. 1604: Breton, in *Works*, ii. k 8 (Grosart), My purse grew so bare . . . two or three yeares brought me so doune the winde . . . 1663: Pepys, *Diary*, 25 Jan., I perceive he goes down the wind in honour as well as everything else, every day. c. 1680: L'Estrange, *Seneca's Morals: Happy Life*, ch. xviii., When a man goes down the wind, no body comes near him. 1754: Berthelsson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Down." 1827: Scott, *Journal*, 25 April, It is certain the old Tory party is down the wind. 1865: J. Sleigh, *Derbysh. Gloss.*, Down in the wind, bankrupt.

Down, subs. *There's no down without eyes, no hedge without ears*. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in N. & Q., 3rd ser., vi. 494.

Draff is good enough for swine. c. 1535: *Gentleness and Nobility*, sig. C1, Thou sayst trew drafe is good inough for swyne. 1591: Harington, *Orl. Furioso*, bk. xx. st. 83, Tis fit (quoth he) that swine should feed on draffe. 1683: Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697). 1732: Fuller, No. 1324.

Draff was his errand, but drink he would have 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch xi, That draffe is your errand, but drinke ye wolde 1619 Chapman, *Two Wise Men*, VII 1 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 *Misogonus*, III ii, It will make yow plucke in your hornes, an yow were near [never] so wilde 1642 D Rogers, *Naaman*, sig Si, Let them cause you to be ashamed, or to shrinke in your hornes ever the more 1672 Walker, *Paræm*, 15, To pull in his horns, make a retreat 1776 in *Garrick Corresp*, ii 140 (1832) Give me your assurance not, and I will draw in my horns with great pleasure 1817 Scott, *Rob Roy*, ch xxvii, 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, *Phraseol Generalis*, 1196

Drayton See Hodnet

Dream of a dry summer See Summer (8)

Dream, To See quots 1639 Clarke, 236, After a dreame of weddings comes a corse 1670 Ray, 83 [as in 1639] 1883 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, l 108, ffor comynly 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, O, 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 xi 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-tipster got his information

Drift is as bad as unthrift 1659 Howell, 6 1678 Ray, 71

Drink, subs 1 *Drink in wit out* [In proverbium cessit sapientiam vino obumbrari — Pliny, XXIII 1 23] c 1390 Gower, *Conf Amantis*, bk vi l 555, For wher that wyn doth wit aweie, Wisdom hath lost the rihte weie 1560 Becon, *Catechism*, 375 (PS), 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 true, "much drinking, little thinking" 1854 J W Warter, *Last of Old Squires*, 53, When the drink goes in, then the wit goes out

2 *Drink and drought come not always together* 1732 Fuller, No 1329

3 *Drink washes off the damb, and discovers the man* Ibid, No 1330

4 *Of all the meat in the world, drink 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* 1710 S Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 236 1732 Fuller, No 5016

2. *Drink as much after an egg as after an ox.* 1608: Harington, *Sch. of Salerne*, sig. A7, Remember . . . For euery egge you eate you drink as oft. 1659: Howell, 13. 1670: Ray, 36. 1738: 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, 1. 1670: Ray, 39. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 14 (Percy S.).

4. *Drink less and go home by daylight.* c. 1320: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 116 (1841), "Drynk eft lasse, and go by lyhte hom"; Quoth Hendyng.

5. *Drink off your drink, and steal no lambs.* 1659: Howell, 20. 1670: Ray, 216.

6. *Drink only with the duck*=Drink water only. 1377: Langland, *Plowman*, B, v. 75, Drynke but myd [with] the doke and dyne but ones.

7. *Drink the devil.* See Devil (100).

8. *Drink wine 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. 1655: T. Muffett, *Heallh's Improvement*, 5. 1699: in *Harl. Miscell.*, ii. 49 (1744) [with "claret" 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 Braggs 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: Palsgrave, 721. 1551: T. Wilson, *Rule of Reason*, sig. H8, He that drynkes wel, slepes wel. 1609: Lithgow, *Rare Adventures*, 69 (1906), He that eateth 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.

16. *To drink like a funnel.* 1813: Ray, 191.

17. *When thou dost drink, beware the toast, for therein lies the danger most.* Glos. 1639: in *Berkeley MSS.*, iii. 31 (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.* 1. *Drive the nail that will go.* 1655: Fuller, *Church Hist.*, bk. ii. § iv. (12), Thus he drave 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*, 1 443 (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)

Drought never bred dearth in England 1533 Heywood, *Play of Weather*, 1 634, And it is sayd syns afore we were borne That drought doth neuer make derth of corne 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*, Drought never brought dearth 1732 Fuller, No 1338 1825 Hone, *Ev Day Book* 1 669 1875 Parish, *Sussex Dict*, 38, Drythe never yet bred dēarth 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 52

Drown not thyself to save a drowning man 1732 Fuller, No 1340

Drown the miller, To 1889 J Nicholson, *Folk Speech E Yorks*, 5, If, in making dough, the good wife should put too much water, she has "dhroondid minler" (drowned the miller) 1899 Dickinson, *Cumb Gloss*, 105, One whose liquor has been diluted too much, will say that the miller has been drowned Cf Miller (14)

Drowning men catch at straws 1614 C Brooke, *Rich the Third*, 105 (Grosart), And now like to a man (ready to drowne) Catch at a helplesse thing c 1640 in *Harl Miscell*, iv 153 (1745), Sinking she will take hold of reeds c 1680 L'Estrange *Seneca's Epistles*, xviii, 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 Hearth*, ch xciii 1875 R L S, *Letters*, 1 229 (Tusitala 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, *Philotinus*, sig Dr, Hee had scarce Jacke Drummes enterteynement 1592 Greene, *Groats worth*, in *Works*, xii 129 (Grosart), And so giuing him Jacke Drums entertainment, shut him out of doores 1634 C Butler, *Feminine Monarchie*, 64, They gently give them Tom Drums entertainment c 1685 in *Roxb Ballads*, viii 869 (B S), Thy entertainment shall be like Jack Drums 1834-7 Southey, *Doctor*, ch cxxv, 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 iii, Be drunk as a beggar, he helps you home 1670 Ray, 204 1745 Franklin, *Drinker's Dict*, in *Works*, ii 23 (Bigelow) 1909 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 fiddler 1884 R L S and Henley, *Adm Guinea*, II vi, I'm as drunk as a Plymouth fiddler, Pew

Drunk as a fiddler's bitch 1362 Langland, *Plowman*, A, v 197, Thenne gon he for to go lyk a gleo-mannes bicche, Sum tyme asyde and sum tyme arere 1830 Forby, *Vocab E Anglia*, 27 1894 Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 8 (E D S) 1901 F E Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 2

Drunk as a fish 1704 Congreve, *Way of World*, IV ix, 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*, viii 184 (1811), Yet the proverb goes, "As drunk as a lord" 1670 Cotton, *Scarronsides*, bk iv 1731 Coffey, *Devil to Pay*, I ii 1872 Hardy, *Greenwood Tree*, Pt I ch 1, Time enough to get as drunk as lords!

Drunk as a mouse c 1307 in *Lyric Poetry*, III (Percy S), When that he

is dronke ase a dreynt mous. c. 1386: Chaucer, *Wife of Bath's Prolog.*, l. 246, Thou comest hoom as dronken as a mous. c. 1470: *Songs and Carols*, 90 (Percy S.). Before 1529: Skelton, *Col. Clout*, l. 803, Dronken as a mouse, At the ale house. c. 1580: Tom Tyler, l. 300, p. 9 (Malone S.). 1889: Peacock, *Manley, etc.*, *Gloss.*, 182 (E.D.S.), Drunk as . . . mice.

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 rat. 1542: Boorde, *Introduction*, 147 (E.E.T.S.), Although I wyll be dronken other whyles as a rat. 1583: Stubbes, *Anat. of Abuses*, 113 (N. Sh. S.), Till they were bothe as dronke as rattes. 1691: *Merry Drollery*, 28 (Ebsworth). 1880: Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 41.

Drunk as a swine (or hog, pig, sow). c. 1440: Lydgate, *Fall of Princes*, bk. iii. l. 2369, Thei lai and slepte lik as dronke swyn. c. 1500: in Hazlitt, *Early Pop. Poetry*, i. 100 (1864), To be as dronke 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. 1909: Hackwood, *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 an owl. 1883: R. L. S., *Treasure I.*, ch. xxiv., "Clumsy fellows," said I; "they must still be drunk as owls." 1886: Elworthy, *West Som. Word-Book*, 549 (E.D.S.), Com. simile is "Drunk's a owl." Why the solemn bird should be taken as the ideal drunkard I know not.

Drunk as Chloe. 1906: Q.-Couch, *Mayor of Troy*, ch. ix.

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: Marryat, *P. Simple*, ch. iii. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs 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 Baltic. 1823: Scott, *Peveril*, ch. xxvii., Fill him as drunk as the Baltic sea. 1824: Scott, *Redgauntlet*, ch. xiv. 1899: *N. & Q.*, 9th ser., iv. 336, The phrase is still in use among the seafaring population of the East of Scotland in its homely form of "as fou's the Baltic."

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 dronkken as the deucl. 1709: Ward, *Account of Clubs*, 272 (1756), Madam Bibbington, in a chair, as drunk as the devil. 1864: T. W. Robertson,

*David Garrick*, II, He's as d-d-drunk as the very de-de-devil!

Drunk is as great as a king, He that is 1672 *Westm Drollery*, Pt II 77 (Ebsworth) 1696 D'Urfey, *Quixote*, Pt III Act III sc ii

Drunk. See also Ever drunk

Drunkard As the drunkard goes, is knowne by his nose 1623 Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 491

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 quot 1596 *Knack to Know an Honest Man* l 657 (Malone S), The prouerbe is true that I tell to you, 'Tis better to be dronken and drowsie Than hunger starued and lousie

Drunken days have all their to-morrows, "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 him safe conveyd 1604 *Meeting of Gallants*, 26 (Percy S), But there is an ould prouerbe, and now confirmed true, a drucken man neuer takes harme 1605 Chapman, etc, *Eastw Hoe*, III ii 1714 Gay, *Shep Week*, Sat, l 127, The power that guards the drunk his sleep attends 1894 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, *Essayes*, Pt II sig Dd8 (1610) [with 'mistie' for "cloudy"] 1732 Fuller, No 81

Drunkenness reveals what soberness conceals [Quid non ebrietas designat? Operta recludit—Horace, *Epist*, l v 16] c 1386 Chaucer, *C Tales*, B 776 (Skeat), Ther dronkenesse regneth in any route, Ther is no conseil hid, withouten doute 1539 Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo 30, The thyng that lyeth in a sobre mans hart is in the tongue of the dronkarde 1579 Lyly, *Euphues*,

146 (Arber), It is an old prouerbe, Whatsoeuer is in the heart of the sober man, is in the mouth of the drunkarde 1681 W Robertson, *Phraseol Gener alis*, 508 1732 Fuller, No 6117

Dry 1 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 Wilts*, 33 (1847), 'Tis a saying in the West, that a dry yeare does never cause a dearth 1893 Inwards *Weather Lore*, 4

3 As dry as a bone c 1555 in Wright, *Songs, etc*, *Philip and Mary*, 14 (Roxb Cl), Also the congars, as dry as a bone 1678 Ray, 283 1834 Marryat, *P Simple*, ch i, Here, Peter, take mine, it's as dry as a bone 1886 Elworthy, *West Som Word-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 i 1725 Bailey, tr Erasmus' *Colloq*, 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 xxxi, "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 *Dialect of Leeds*, 405 1889 Peacock, *Manley, etc*, Gloss, 182 (E D S), I'm as dry as a fish, do gie us a drink o aale

6 As dry as a kex 1553 *Respublica*, V x. (E E T S), An ye bydde mee, chill [I will] squeeze hym as drie as a kyxe 1566 Drant, *Horace Satires*, sig A4, Whose hippes as drye as any kykkes 1684 L'Estrange, *Observer*, ii No 118, The Covenant squeeze'd as dry as a kex 1725 Bailey, tr Erasmus' *Colloq*, 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 kecks 1887 Hardy, *Woodlanders*, ch xlviii, My throat s as dry as a kex 1891 Hardy, *Tess*, ch xvii

7 As dry as dust 1669 *New Help*

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.

8. *Be it dry or be it wet, The weather'll always pay its debt.* 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 18.

9 *Dry bread at home is better than roast meat abroad.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 13.

10. *Dry over head happy.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 4, A house dry over head is happy. 1855: Bohn, 267.

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, *Phraseol. 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.

2. *Ducks fare well in the Thames.* 1670: Ray, 83. 1735: Pegge, *Kent. Proverbs*, in E.D.S., No. 12, p. 78.

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.

5. *Like a duck in thunder.* 1823: Scott, *Pevenil*, ch. xi., Till she had . . . closed her eyes like a dying fowl—turned them up like a duck in a thunderstorm. 1863: Kingsley, *Water Babies*, ch. v. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 72, He winks and thinks like a duck i' thunner.

6. *Like water off a duck's back.* 1824: Maginn, *O'Doherty's Maxims*, 128 (1849), The thing passed off like water

from a duck's back. 1916: B. Duffy, *The Old Lady*, 12, To let his attentions run off me like water off a duck's back.

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: *Nomenclator*, 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.*, 11th 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.

Dudleston. See quot. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 583, The longer you live the more you see, Dudleston Chapel-bell hung on a tree.

Dudman and Ramhead meet, When. 1602: Carew, *Surv. of Cornwall*, 330 (1811), Amongst sundry proverbs, allotting an impossible time of performance, the Cornishmen have this one, "When Ram Head and Dudman meet." 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, i. 307 (1840). 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Cornwall."

1821 Scott, *Kensilworth*, 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 greet"

Dufton See quot 1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, 1 165 (F 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 holding 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 Dine

Dulcarnon, At=At one's wits' end  
c 1374 Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk iii ll 930-3, "I am, til god me better minde sende At dulcarnon, right at my wittes ende" Quod Pandarus, "ye, nece, wol ye here? Dulcarnon called is 'fleminge of wrecches'"  
c 1584 Stanhurst, *Descrip of Ireland*, 28, These seahe soules were (as all dulcarnanes for the most part are) more to be terrified from infidelitie than allured to Christianitie 1736

Bailey, *Dict*, s v, To be at Dulcarnon, 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 Dulcarnon"

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, *Phraseol Generalis*, 510

Dumb as a door 1362 Langland, *Ploverman*, A, xi 94, As doumbe as a dore c 1440 *York Plays*, 322 (L T

Smith), Bot domme as a dore gon he dwell

Dumb as a fish See Mute

Dumb man gets no land, The c 1390 Gower, *Conf Amantis*, bk vi l 447, For selden get a domb man lond Tak that proverbe, and understond That wordes ben of vertu grete 1406 Hoccleve, in *Minor Poems*, 38 (E E T S), The prouerbe 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 heers nae lan'"—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 Wedding*, II vi, I'll make him jostle like the miller's mare [q v] and stand like the dun cow, till thou may'st milk him

Dun is in the mire c 1386 Chaucer, *Manciple's Prolog*, l 5, Ther gan our hoste for to iape and pleye, And seyde, "sirs, what! Dun is in the myre!" 1412 Hoccleve, *Regement*, 86 (E E T S), Be his day kept, he rekketh nat a bene, But elles siker, "don is in the myre" Before 1529 Skelton, in *Works*, 1 418 (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 mire 1694 Motteux, *Rabelais*, bk iv ch lxiii, We were all out of sorts, moping, drooping as dull as Dun in the mire 1905 *N & Q*, 10th ser, iii 11, An old proverb "Dun's in the mire" "Dun" is evidently the name of a horse, 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, vi 283] 1607 Dekker and Webster, *Westw Hoe*, II iii, I see I'm borne still to draw Dun out oth mire for you that wise beast will I be 1663 Butler, *Hudibras*, III iii 110, Who has dragged your dunship out o' th' mire



Dun's the mouse=Keep still. 1592: Shakespeare, *Romeo*, I. iv., Tut, dun's the mouse. 1609: *Ev. Woman in her Humor*, IV. i., in Bullen, *Old Plays*, iv. 352, I will see and say little, what I say duns the mouse, and welcome my bullies. c. 1630: in *Roxb. Ballads*, i. 69 (Hindley), I'll say no more but duns the mouse.

Dunder [Thunder] clo gally [affright] the beans, The. Somerset. 1678: Ray, 347.

Dunghill gentleman. See Gentleman (2).

Dunmow. 1. *Dunmow bacon, Doncaster daggers*. 1659: Howell, 21. 1670: Ray, 258. 1878: *Folk-Lore Record*, i. 172, We hear as a local [Yorks] proverb of "Dunmow bacon and Doncaster daggers."

2. *They may claim the flitch at Dunmow*. 1362: Langland, *Plowman*, A, x. 188, Though thei don hem to Donmowe but the deuel helpe To folewen aftur the flucchen fecche thei hit neuere. c. 1386: Chaucer, *Wife of Bath's Prol.*, l. 217, The bacoun was nat fet for hem, I trowe, That som men han in Essex at Dunmowe. c. 1580: Tom Tyler, l. 760, p. 21 (Malone S.), But you may now go for bacon to Dunmo. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, i. 498 (1840), 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.

3. *Who fetcheth a wife from Dunmow, Carrith home two sides of a sow*. 1659: Howell, 21.

Dunstable. As plain as Dunstable highway, or Plain (or Downright) Dunstable. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. v., As plaine as dunstable by waie. c. 1560: in Huth, *Ancient Ballads, etc.*, 1 (1867), As playne . . . as Donstable waye. 1599: Breton, in *Works*, ii. c. 48 (Grosart), Alas! to use glosing speeches gives suspicion of little good meaning . . . plaine Dunstable

is the high way, and yet there are many holes in it. 1658: Dekker, *Witch of Edmonton*, I. ii., What must it be, Master Frank? or son Frank? I am plain Dunstable. 1718: Dennis, *Works*, ii. 344, Look you, my Lord, I am downright, I am dunstable, Gadsbud, and must speak the truth. 1754: Richardson, *Clarissa*, i. 217 (1785), That's the plain Dunstable of the matter, Miss! 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Beds," As plain as Dunstable road. Downright Dunstable. 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.

Durham. 1. *As peppery as Durham mustard*. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, i. 39 (F.L.S.).

2. *Durham folks are troubled with afterwit*. 1909: *Folk-Lore*, xx. 73.

3. *He's a Durham man: he's knocker kneed*. 1823: Grose, *Class. Dict.*, ed. Egan, s.v. "Durham man," Durham man. Knocker kneed, he grinds mustard with his knees: Durham is famous for its mustard. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, i. 48 (F.L.S.).

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. 39 (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*

MSS, iii 26 (1885), Hee'l proove, I thinke, a man of Durseley 1662 Fuller, *Worthies* i 551 (1840) 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Gloucester" 1851 *Gloucestershire Gloss*, 14

Dust in a man's eyes, To cast [Tenebras offudisse indicibus — Quintil, II xvii 21] 1581 Pettie tr Guazzo's *Civil Convers*, i 276 (1586) (O), They doe nothing else but raise a dust to doe out their owne eies 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, *Zootomia*, 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 l 531 (EETS), But it may falle a dwery [dwarf] in his riht Toutraie a geaunt, for al his grete myht 1732 Fuller, No 85

Dwells far from neighbours See Neighbour (2)

Dying is as natural as living 1732 Fuller, No 1348

## E

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: *Politeuphuia*, 185, Eagles flie alone, and they are but sheep that always flock together.

2. *The eagle does not catch flies.* 1573: G. Harvey, *Letter-Book*, 50 (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.* 1909: 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 praesentire sermones de se?—Pliny, *Hist. Nat.*, xxviii. 2.] c. 1374: Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk. ii. l. 1022, And we shal speke of thee som-what, I trowe, When thou art goon, to do thyne eres 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 ears? 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 (1).

3. *Early sow, early mow.* 1639: Clarke, 233. 1670: Ray, 84. 1732: Fuller, No. 1350.

4. *Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy and wealthy and wise.* 1523: Fitzherbert, *Husbandry*, 101 (E.D.S.), At grammer-scole 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, *Frier 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 near. 1732: Fuller, No. 1351. 1881: Evans, *Leics. Words, etc.*, 200 (E.D.S.), Never-the-near, or Never-the-nigh, *adv.* none the nearer; no forwarder.

6. *Early wed, early dead.* 1895: *N. & Q.*, 8th ser., viii. 516, The old English proverb which says, Early wed, early dead.

7. *The early bird catches the worm.* 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 333 (1870). 1670: Ray, 84. 1732: Fuller, No. 5118. 1883: R. L. S., *Treasure I.*, ch. xxx., And it's the early bird, as the saying goes, that gets the rations.

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 borroweth of the late* 1659 Howell, 17, The rath sower never borroweth 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 thunkes nothings 1593 Peele, *Eduard I*, sc xxiv, An old said 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

Ease 1 *Ease and success are fellows* c 1300 *Havelok the Dane*, l 1338 (Skeat), Lith and selthe felawes are

2 *He is at ease who has enough* c 1460 *Wisdom* sc iv st 70, Farewell, cousyens! I know not yow, I am at eas, hade I now 1493 *Dives and Pauper*, fo 1 (1536), It is an olde prouerbe, He is wel at ease that hath inough and can say ho

3 *He may not have all his ease that shall thrie* c 1460 *How the Good Wife*, l 130

4 *He that is at ease seeks dainties* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Easier said than done See Said

Easier to fall (or descend) than rise (or ascend), It is 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 326 (1870), It is easier to descend than to ascend 1633 Draxe, 54, A man may sooner fall then rise 1684 Bunyan, *Pilgr Progr*, Pt II, p 239 (1849), Then said Mercy, But the proverb 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 Govt in Church of Eng*, 518, We may quicklier pull downe with one hande, than wee can easilie builde againe 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 easyar hyt ys to spy u 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 *Reliq Antiquæ*, 1 3 (1841), He that wyll in Eschepe ete a goose so fat, With harpe, pype, and song, He must slepe in Newgate on a mat, Be the nyght never so long

East Grinstead See quot 1894 A J C Hare, *Sussex*, 10, 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 xiii, East and West, Home is best 1920 Lucas, *Verena in the Midst*, ch xiii, 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* 1846-59 Denham Tracts, ii 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*, 1 378

4 *At Easter the wind is at Chester* 1611 in Coryat, *Crudities*, 1 93 (1905), And as about the time of Easter,\* [\* (Note) Prov At Easter the winde is at Chester Because it is good for Ireland ] I enrich the towne and trade of shipping, The winde which evermore is shipping, 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

6. *Easter so longed for is gone in a day.* 1659: Howell, 20.

7. *If the sun shines on Easter Day, it shines on Whit Sunday.* 1640: *Countryman's Coms.*, in *Helpe to Discourse*, 224, If the sunne shine on Easter day, it shines on Whit Sondag 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.

9. *Late Easter long, cold spring.* Sussex. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 40.

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.

12. *When Easter falls in our Lady's lap, Then let England beware of a rap.* 1648: in Rollins, *Cavalier and Puritan*, 216 (1923), When Easter-day sitteth in Lady-dayes lap, The proverbe bids England beware of a clap. 1659: Howell, 16, When Christ falleth in our Ladies lapp, Then lett England look for a clapp. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 36 (Percy S.). 1904: Co. *Folk-Lore: Northumb.*, 176 (F.L.S.). 1921: *Sphere*, 2 April, p. 2, Only the very superstitious had their Easter holiday a little dimmed by the ominous falling together of Lady Day and Good Friday [sic in 1921], for as the old rhyme runs—When our Lord falls into our Lady's lap, England shall meet with great mishap.

13. *When rain falls on Easter Day, We get no grass and little hay.* 1851: Sternberg, *Dialect, etc., of Northants*, 189, Rain on Easter-day, Plenty of grass, but little good hay. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 41, A good deal of rain upon Easter Day Gives a good crop of grass, but little good hay. Hertfordshire. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 163.

14. *You keep Easter, when I keep Lent.* 1732: Fuller, No. 5927.

See also Christmas (5), (10), (11).

\* G

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, As aisy as fawin 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 eas'ly stay as kiss your hand. 1754: 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 Piccraft 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 dain 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 quot 1615 Brathwait, *Strappado*, 222 (1878), (Its easie saies the Proverb) 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 variant] 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 Pain" 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 iii [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 (1)

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 13] c 1410 tr of *Secreta Secret*, 67 (EETS), And ypocraas answerde, "flair sone, I will eate so that y leue, and noght lyf that y ete" c 1577 Northbrooke, *Dicing*, etc, 40 (Sh S), Thou lyuest not to eate, butte eat as thou mayest lyue 1671 Shadwell, *Miser*, III ii, People should eat to live, not live to eat, as the proverb says 1733 Fielding, *Miser*, III iii 1911 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 prouerbe, *Eate 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 reproved her favourite when he took too much

14 *He could eat me without salt (or with garlic)* 1596 Harington, *Metam of Ajax*, 3 (1814) The poor sheep still, for an old grudge would eat him without 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 garlick That is, he hates me mortally 1693 D Urfe, *Richmond Heiress*, V iv, Now could I eat that satirical devil without salt for my breakfast 1748 Richardson, *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 irons* 1732 Fuller, No 1842

16 *He has eat up the pot, and asks for the pipkin* Ibid, 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*, iii 32, (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 cliv, 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 ripe* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

23 *He that eats till he is sick must fast till he is well* 1732 Fuller, No 2094

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 yf ye wolde the swetnes haue of the kynnell, Be content to byte vpon the harde shell. 1577: J. Grange, *Golden Aphroditis*, sig. I3, I see the prouerbe is true, *who wil 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 kernell, 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, *Lancs 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 . . . eating gold, as the old saying is, can make thee happy, thou shalt be so. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I. 1845: Jerrold, *Mrs. Caudle*, xxi., 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.* 1605: 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: *Folk-Lore*, xxxiv. 328. 1925: *N. & Q.*, cxlviii. 134 [with last eight words omitted].

31. *To eat a stake.* See quotes. 1530: Palsgrave, 461, Haste thou eaten a stake, I shall make the[c] bowe. 1667: L'Estrange, *Quevedo's Visions*, 140 (1904), He sat stiff and upright, as if he had swallowed a stake. 1732: Fuller, No. 1901, He hath swallow'd a stake; he cannot bow.

32. *To eat bullbeef.* 1583: Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig. Y2, Thou hast eaten bulbeefe, and braggest highlie.

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 1587: Underdowne, *Heliodorus*, bk. i., p. 23 (T.T.), And there lived eating (as the proverbe 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 Aikone . . . eating his heart out and getting no further.

34. *To eat one's words.* 1577: Stanishurst, *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 gracyus and ryche befear, I were eten outt 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. 1509: Barclay, *Ship of Fools*, ii. 93 (1874), They wast and ete theyr mayster out of hous Deuourynge his good, tyll 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?

36. *To eat sauce.* Before 1529: Skelton, *Magnysfycence*, l. 1421, What, wyll ye waste wynde, and prate thus in vayne? Ye haue eten sauce, I trowe, at the Taylers Hall. Before 1529: Skelton, *Bowge of Courte*, l. 72.

37. *To eat the cheese in the trap.* 1813: Ray, 186.

38. *To eat the pudding and the bag.* 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*, 11, 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, *Leics Words*, 209 (E D S), Here as elsewhere, "way mut all ate a peck-o'-dut afore way doy" is very commonly current, and almost equally common is the rider, "but non on us wants it all at woonst" 1922 *Observer*, 10 Dec, p 11, 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 eate your cake and haue 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*, 11 130 (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 Foundl Hosp for Wit*, 1 287, Jove would not sooner eat his nails, Than break with us, to humour 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 (1870), Eaten bread is forgot 1670 Ray, 84 1732 Fuller, No 1358 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch xiv, Eaten bread is forgotten, and the hand that gave it is despised 1913 E M Wright, *Rustic Speech*, etc, 110, Etten cake's soon forgotten is a proverbial saying [*cake* (Yorks) = bread]

Eating and drinking See quotes 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Mangeant," Eating and drinking will take away anymans stomach 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial II, Well, this eating and drinking takes away a body's stomach 1785 Grose, *Class Dict Vulgar Tongue*, s v "Damper," Eating and drinking being, as the proverb wisely observes, apt to take away the appetite

Eating and scratching See quotes 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 quotes 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*, 1 207 (1846-59) (F L S), Let sly Pendragon do all he



can, Old Eden will run where first he ran. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Westmoreland," Let Uter Pendragon do what he can, The river Eden will run as it ran.

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 geue 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 iesting with edge toles. 1652: Tatham, *Scots Figgaries*, 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.

Eel and Eels. 1. See quot. 1879: G. F. Jackson, *Shropsh. Word-Book*, 16, "Eels are in season when oats are in aw [ear]." Proverbial saying heard about Aston Botterell.

2. *He is as much out of his element as an eel in a sand-bag.* 1732: Fuller, No. 1912.

3. *He that will catch eels must disturb the flood.* 1607: *Lingua*, I. i.

4. *To have an eel by the tail.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. x., Her promise of freendship 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. 1696: 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.

5. *You cannot hide an eel in a sack.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 8. 1732: Fuller, No. 5875.

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 yolks apiece, I warrant you.* 1732: Fuller, No. 573.

2. *An egg and to bed.* 1639: Clarke, 113. 1670: Ray, 36. 1732: Fuller, No. 594.

3. *An egg of an hour, etc.* See quotes. 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 253-4, An eg of one houre 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 twentie 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.

5. *As full as an egg is of meat.* c. 1565: Still, *Gammer Gurton*, V. ii., An egge is not so ful of meate, as she is ful of lyes. 1592: Shakespeare, *Romeo*, III. i. 1641: Cowley, *Guardian*, I. i., The Colonel's as full of waggery as an egge's full of meat. 1696: Vanbrugh, *Relapse*, III. 1758-67: Sterne, *Trist. Shandy*, vol. vii. ch. xxxvii., My remarks through France, which were as full of wit as an egg is full of meat. 1854: Doran, *Table Traits*, 190, An egg is proverbially "full of meat."

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, *Caius 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 1031

8 From the eggs to the apples [Ab ovo Usque ad mala citaret, Io Bacche! —Horace *Sat*, I iii 6] 1639 Clarke, 3, From th' egges to th' apples 1655 I Muffett, *Health's Improvement*, 295, The most nourishing meat is first to be eaten that ancient proverb ratifieth *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 egge nor bird 1670 Ray, 173, Neither good egg nor bird 1784 O Keeffe, *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 persones coming in with their five egges, how that Sylla had geuen ouer his office of Dictature, as he shuld do he answered that Sylla was not bokishe, nor halfe a good clerke, and therefore gaue 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 egges and foure be rotten 1683 Merton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7

(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, What! and you must come in with your two eggs a penny and three of them rotten 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch xvi, When there's five eggs a penny, four of them are rotten

13 To have both the egg and the hen 1578 Florio *First Frutes*, fo 33, There be many that wyl haue both the egge and the hen 1629 *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov 118, In the world there be men That will haue the egge and the henne

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 1614 Jonson, *Bart Fair*, I, I have both eggs on the spit, and iron in the fire 1670 Cotton, *Scarronides*, 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 1827 Scott, *Journal*, 18 May, I have other eggs on the spit

15 To take eggs for money 1610 Shakespeare *Wint Tale*, I ii, Leon Mine honest friend, Will you take eggs for money? Mam No, my lord, I'll fight 1666 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 Canting 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 egge, and lost againe with shell. 1633: Draxe, 75.

See also Addled 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 bed-fellow, My. 1659: Howell, 12.

Elbow-grease gives the best polish. 1672: Marvell, *Rehearsal Transpr.*, 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. E1, It will cost nothing but a little elbow-grease. 1830: Forby, *Vocab. E. Anglia*, 431, Elbow grease gives the best polish. 1872: J. Glyde, jr., *Norfolk Garland*, 149.

Elbow-grease, It smells of. 1639: Clarke, 92. 1670: Ray, 173.

Eldon Hole wants filling. Derby. 1670: Ray, 173 [with "needs" for "wants"]. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Derbyshire." 1889: *Folk-Lore Journal*, vii. 292 [Derby sayings], Eldon Hole wants filling up.

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).

Eldern stake. See quot. 1842: Akerman, *Wilts Gloss.*, 19, They have a rhyme in Wiltshire on the formation of a "stake and ether hedge"—"An eldern 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 quotes. 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.

Empty, adj. 1. *An empty belly hears no body*. 1732: Fuller, No. 596. 1880: Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 52, An empty belly makes no compliments.

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.

3. *An empty purse and a new house make a man wise, but too late*. 1813: Ray, 20.

4. *An empty purse causes a full heart*. 1734: Fielding, *Don Quix. in England*, I. vi.

5. *An empty purse fills the face with wrinkles*. 1633: Draxe, 161. 1670: Ray, 22. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Purse."

6. *An empty purse frights away friends*. 1732: Fuller, No. 597.

7. *An empty purse is the devil*. 1882: N. & Q., 6th ser., vi. 17.

8. *Better an empty house than an ill tenant*. 1732: Fuller, No. 870.

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 iii, 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*  
 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Chambre," Empty  
 chambers make women play the wan-  
 tons 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

12 *Empty hands* See Hawk (11)

13 *Empty vessels make the most sound*  
 1579 Lyly, *Euphues*, 45 (Arber). The  
 empty vessel giveth a greater sound  
 then the full barrell 1612 *Cornu-*  
*copiæ*, 90 (Grosart), An empty vessel  
 gives a mighty sound 1754 Berthel-  
 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  
 "folks" for "men's"]

15 *The empty leech sucks sore* 1672  
 Walker, *Paræm*, 36 1681 W Robert-  
 son, *Phraseol Generalis*, 528

End, subs 1 *In the end things will*  
*mend* 1659 Howell, 9 1670 Ray,  
 8 1736 Bailey, *Dict*, s v "End"

2 *Next the ende of sorowe, anon*  
*entireth joy* c 1387 Usk, *Test of*  
*Love*, in Skeat's *Chaucer*, vii 82

3 *The end crowns all (or the work)*  
 c 1390 Gower, *Conf Amantis*, bk vi  
 l 2383, An ende proveth euery thing  
 1478 Rivers tr C de Pisa's *Moral*  
*Proverbs*, Thende dooth shewe euery  
 werk as hit is 1578 Florio, *First*  
*Fruites*, fo 29, The end maketh al  
 1592 Shakespeare, 2 *Henry VI*, V ii,  
*O Clif La fin couronne les œuvres*  
 1658 R Brome, *Weeding of Covent*  
*Garden*, III 1, Was ever good patnot  
 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 Fruites*, 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*  
 1611 Davies (of Hereford), *Sc of*  
*Folly*, 50, in *Works*, ii (Grosart)  
 1633 Draxe, 117, The end of his good  
 is the beginning of his woe

6 *The end trieth all* 1639 Clarke,  
 117 1669 *Politeuphonia*, 183

*Endure*, verb 1 *He that endures is*  
*not overcome* 1640 Herbert, *Jac*  
*Prudentum* 1670 Ray, 8

2 *He that can quietly endure over-*  
*cometh* c 1393 Langland, *Plowman*,  
 C, xvi 138, Quoth Peers the Plowman  
*patientes uincunt* 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 Fruites*, 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 enemy*  
*may chance to give good counsel* 1732  
 Fuller, No 600

2 *An enemy's mouth seldom says well*  
 1481 Caxton, *Reynard*, I iii, p 7  
 (Arber), Sir Isegrim that is euyl sayd  
 it is a comyn prouerbe An enemyes  
 mouth saith seeld wel

3 *He is no one's enemy but his own*  
 1600 Cornwallis, *Essayes*, sig E7  
 (1610), It smarte not halfe so ill as the  
 phrase, *Euery bodies friend but his owne*  
 1664 in *Musarum Deliciæ*, etc., ii 237  
 (Hotten, 1874), How ere he fail'd in s  
 hfe, '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'

*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.

England. 1. *A famine in England begins at the horse-manger.* 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 329 (1870), No dearth but breeds in the horse-manger. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, i. 117 (1840). 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "England." 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 7.

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. 1591: 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."

6. *He that England will win must with Ireland begin.* 1567: Diego Ortiz, quoted in Froude, *Hist. of Eng.*, x. 480, There is an English proverb in use among them which says—He who would England win, In Ireland must begin. 1592: Warner, *Alb. Eng.*, ch. liv. st. 4, It is a saying auncient (not Autenticall, I win) That who-so England will subdew, With Ireland must begin. 1617: Fynes Moryson, *Itin.*, Pt. II., p. 3. 1658: Howell, *Lexicon Tetraglotton*, App., p. 2, Get Ireland to-day and England may be thine to-morrow. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "England." 1868, *N. & Q.*, 4th ser., i. 437, A speaker on the Irish Church question lately quoted as an old proverb:—"He that would England win, Must with Ireland first begin."

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 thrifless.* 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, i. 119 (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 quotes. 1636: R. James, *Iter Lancast.* (Chetham S.), When all England is aloft, Then happy they whose dwellings in God's Crofte; And where thinke you this crofte 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 Christs croft; And where should this Christs croft be, But betwixt Ribble and Mersie.

10. *When hemp is spun England is done.*

1625 Bacon, *Essays* "Prophecies," The truall prophecie, which I heard, when I was a childe, and Queene Elizabeth was in the flower of her yeares, *When hempe is sponne*, *England's done* 1662, Fuller, *Worthies*, 1 114 (1840) 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "England" 1812 Brady, *Clavis Cal*, 11 31

11 *When the black fleet of Norway, etc* See quotes These sayings are very obscure I cannot suggest an interpretation c 1500 in *Thos of Erceuldoune*, App, 11 59 (E E T S), Then the blake flett of Norwaye is commyn and gone, And drenchid in the flode truly, Mekelle ware hath bene beforene, but after shall none be [Also] Ibid, 61, Thomas of Asheldon sayeth the egle of the trewe brute shall see all inglond in peas and rest both spirituall and temporall and euey estate of in thaire 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 vnderstand *There shall be scene upon a day, Betweene the Baugh, and the May, The Blache Fleet of Norway When that is come and gone, England build Houses of Lime and Stone For after Warres shall you haue 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]

12 *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 Barlas*, Week I Day 11 231, 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 *Reliq Antiqua*, 1 326 (1841), He sayd that Englysshemen ar callyd the grettyste fedours in the worlde 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, 1 118 (1840) 1790 Grose, *Prov Antiq*, s v "England"

English poke-pudding, The Ibid, s v "England"

Englishman 1 *A right Englishman* See quotes 1639 Clarke, 78, 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 countrimen haue doone from the other side of the sea and are therefore become a by-word vnto the worlde to bee called Deuils incarnate 1630 T Adams *Works*, 12 1645 Howell, *Letters*, bk 1 § 111 No 11, There is an ill-favour'd saying, That an Englishman Italianate is a devil incarnate 1823 D'Israeli, *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 1846-59 Denham *Tracts*, 1 302 (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 gangs till he gets it

See also Scottish 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 [εὐρύ τὰ γὰρ ἀρκούντ' ἰκανὰ τοῖσι σὺνποσίῃσι —Euri- pides, *Phæn*. 554] c 1420 Lydgate,

*Assembly of Gods*, 59 (E.E.T.S.), As good ys ynowgh as a gret feste. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. xi. 1590: Greene, *Franc. Fortune*, in *Works*, viii. 168 (Grosart), Die not indebted to thy bellie, but enough is a feast. 1605: Chapman, etc., *Eastw. Hoe*, III. ii. 1696: Vanbrugh, *Relapse*, V., O, enough's as good as a feast. 1732: Fielding, *Cov. Garden Tragedy*, II. vi., A little dish oft furnishes enough: And sure enough is equal to a feast. 1826: Lamb, *Pop. Fallacies*, vi. 1855: Kingsley, *West. Ho!*, ch. xxv. 1922: Weyman, *Ovington's Bank*, ch. xix.

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 quotes. 1639: Clarke, 38, Hee'l have enough one day, when his mouth is full of moulds. 1670: Ray, 173 [as in 1639]. 1732: Fuller, No. 2428, He'll ne'er have enough, till his mouth is full of mould. 1903: Wright, *Eng. Dial. Dict.*, s.v. "Mould," Thou'l niver be satisfied til thoo gets thi mooth ful a moud. Yorksh.

Enough who is contented with a little, He hath. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 52.

Envious heart fretteth itself, An. c. 1460: *How the Good Wyfe*, l. 109, Enuyos hert hym-selue fretys. 1597: *North. Mothers Blessing*, in *Plasidas*, etc., 167 (Roxb. Cl.), For an enuious hert Procures mickle smert.

Envious man is a squint-eyed fool, An. 1732: Fuller, No. 601.

Envious man shall never want woe, The. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 333 (1870).

Envious man waxes lean with the fatness of his neighbour, An. 1855: Bohn, 311.

Envy never dies. 1523-5: Berners, *Froissart*, ch. 428, There is a comune proverbe, the whiche is true, and that is, howe envy never dyeth.

Envy never enriched any man. 1633: Draxe, 52, A man shall never bee enriched by enuie. 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, *Margin-alia*, 103 (1913), Enuy shootith at other; but hittith and woundith herself. 1669: *Politeuphuia*, 25. 1732: Fuller, No. 1381.

Epsom. See Sutton.

Erith. See quot. 1588: A. Fraunce, *Lawiers Logike*, fo. 27, The mayre of Earith is the best mayre next to the mayre of London.

Error is always in haste. 1732: Fuller, No. 1382.

Errs and mends. See quotes. 1620: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt. II. ch. xxviii., Who errs and mends, to God himself commends. 1732: Fuller, No. 2037, He that after sinning mends, recom-mends 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 scouring. 1639: Clarke, 80, He scap'd a scouring. 1753: Richardson, *Grandison*, i. 318 (1883), 'Fore God, Sir Hargrave, some-body 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. Prudentum*, 2nd ed.

Eschewing. See Avoidance.

Essex calves. 1573: G. Harvey, *Letter-Book*, 135 (Camden S.), Foes mustbe frende, quoth an Essex kalf. 1599: Buttes, *Dyets Dry Dinner*, sig. II, Essex calves the prouerb praiseth. 1605: Chapman, etc., *Eastw. Hoe*, II. iv., These women, sir, are like Essex calves. 1677: A. Behn, *Rover*, Pt. I. II. i., Tho' this Essex calf believe them persons of quality. 1704: T. Baker, *An Act at Oxford*, V., Thou art an Essex calf. 1869: Hazlitt, 216, If a man beats a bush in Essex, out jumps a calf.

Essex lions = Calves. 1630: Taylor (Water-Poet), *Wit and Mirth*, 79, Essex calves, called lions. 1672: *Poor Robin*

*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 miles, Norfolk wiles, many men beguiles—with variants 15th cent in *Reliq 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, Haue caught my toe 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 321 (1870), Essex stiles, Kentish miles, Norfolk wiles, many men beguiles 1622 Drayton *Polyol*, xxiii, 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 Prudentum*

Este bueth owne brondes = Pleasant is one's own fireside c 1320 in *Reliq Antiquae*, 1 III (1841)

Even reckoning makes long friends 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch iv, Euen recknyng maketh longe freendis 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*, 416, Evening gray, 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 "orts" 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 L Evans, *Withals Dict Revised*, sig N7 The euening red, the morning gray, Foreshewes a cleare and summers day 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Matin," The evening red and morning gray 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 gray 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 to morning 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Parole," The evening chat is not like the mornings tattle 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

6 The evening crowns the day 1605 Chapman, *All Fools*, II, Well, th' evening crowns the day 1633 Ford, *'Tis Pity, etc*, II vi ad fin, Welcome sweet night! the evening crowns the day 1692 L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 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 Prudentum*, [with addition] and the morning a frost

Evenwood, Co Durham See quotes 1846-59 Denham Tracts, 1 84 (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*, 51 (P S) (O), "A drunken man is always dry," according to the proverb 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 321



(1870). 1681: W. Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 508. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Drunk."

Ever lack evil name. c. 1460: *How the Good Wife*, l. 45.

Ever out cometh evil spun web. c. 1320: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 115 (1841), "Ever out cometh evel spounne web"; Quoth Hendyng.

Ever spare and ever bare. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. v. 1670: Ray, 144. 1732: Fuller, No. 6168.

Ever the higher. See quot. 15th cent.: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 92 (1841), Ever the hieie that thou art, Ever the lower be thy hert.

Every art, In, it is good to have a master. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

Every ass. See Ass (13) and (14).

Every bean. See Bean (3).

Every beginning is difficult. 1537: R. Whitford, *Werke for Housholders*, sig. A8, Euery begynnyng is harde and of greate diffyculte. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 219.

Every bird is known by its feathers. 1616: Breton, in *Works*, ii. c 5 (Grosart). 1732: Fuller, No. 1407.

Every bird likes its own nest. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Nid." 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, The bird loves her nest. 1732: Fuller, No. 1408, Every bird likes its own nest best. 1846: 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. c 6 (Grosart). 1683: Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697). 1732: Fuller, No. 1409.

Every body loves his own likeness. 1730: T. Saldkeld, tr. Gracian's *Compl. Gentleman*, 79.

Everybody's business is nobody's business. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Ouvrage," 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, *Everybody'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. E1. 1598: Meres, *Palladis*, fo. 159. 1633: Draxe, 24. 1672: Walker, *Paræm.*, 36, No convenience without its inconveniency. 1748: Richardson, *Clarissa*, ii. 110 (1785), *There's no inconvenience 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 conveniency without an ill conveniency, and so I don't do it.

Every country dogs bite, In. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 36.

Every country the sun rises in the morning, In. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 25.

Every couple is not a pair. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. 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 (1905), 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. Prudentum*. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 73, There's no to morrow but brings its bread with it.

Every day cometh night. 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 33.

Every day in the week a shower of rain, and on Sunday twain. 1659: Howell, II, . . . a proverb in many shires of England. 1670: Ray, 257.

Every day is holiday with sluggards. 1542: Udall, tr. Erasmus' *Apoph.*, 174 (1877), To this matter he wrested the prouerbe, in whiche it is saied: That with the slouthfull and idle lubbers that loue not to do any werke, euery day is holidaye. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), *Sc. of Folly*, Epigr. 142, in

*Works*, II (Grosart), "With sluggards eu'ry day is holy day" And so it is with some that seldome sleepes

Every day is not Sunday 1611  
Cotgrave, s v "Feste, Feasts last not alwayes every day is not Sunday (say we) 1666 Torriano, *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 Torriano, *Piazza Univ* 317 1853 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 Meery 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 fool See Fool (36) and (37)

Every fox. See Fox (8)

Every gap hath its bush 1678 Ray, 354

Every gracious man is also a grateful man. 1875 A B Cheales, *Proverb Folk-Lore*, 94

Every grain hath its bran 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  
*Countrym New Commonwealth*, 19 1670 Ray, 91 1732 Fuller, No 5645

Every hill See Hill (6)

Every hog has own apple 1748

Smollett, *Rod Random*, ch xli, It was soon spent, because I let them have share and share while it lasted Howsomever, I should have remembered the old saying, *Every hog has own apple*

Every horse See Horse (28)

Every ill man hath his ill day 1640  
Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1710 S  
Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 123  
Every ill man will have an ill time

Every Jack See Jack has his Jill

Every knave has a fool in his sleeve 1710 S Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 55

Every light hath its shadow 1669  
*Politeuphuia*, 262

Every light is not the sun 1659  
Howell, 13 1670 Ray, 15

Every little helps 1701 O'Keeffe, *Wild Oats*, V III, 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 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch XIX, Every little helps, as the sow said when she snapped at a gnat

Every man a knave till found honest 1720 C Shadwell, *Irish Hospitality*, I, Besides my maxim is, I think every man a knave, 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, 10 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 eare at command. 1681: 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 1181 (Skeat), At the kinges court, my brother, Ech man for himself. 1478: *Paston Lett.*, iii. 228 (Gairdner, 1900), The wyche ye shall understand more when I come, for ther is eury man for hym self. 1550: R. Crowley, *Works*, 11 (E.E.T.S.), Where euerye man is for him selfe, And no manne for all. 1615: Brathwait, *Strappado*, 206 (1878), Th' old prouerbe's in request, *each man for one*. 1729: Gay, *Polly*, II. iii., 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, Euary one for him selfe and the diuel for al. (c) 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. ix., Euary 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. 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: Berthelson, *Eng-Danish Dict.*, 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 Folly*, 42, in *Works*, ii. (Grosart), Euary 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 abest, 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. Sport*, 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

his own fortune," and we have very few much older

Every man Jack. 1841 Dickens, *Barn Rudge*, ch xxxix, "Every one of 'em," replied Dennis "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*, u e 5 (Grosart), Euery 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* 1 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 prouerbe euerie man may not weare a fourde hood

Every man mend one, all shall be mended, If 1562 Heywood, *Three Hund Epigr*, No 1 1579 Lyly, *Euphues*, 142 (Arber), Let vs endeaour euery one to amend one, and we shall all soone be amended 1604 Tenlo, *Friar Bakon s Proph*, 27 (Percy S), Let every man mend one And I will not be out 1740 Richardson, *Pamela*, u 4 (1883), At least, it will be answering the good lesson I learned at school, *Every one mend one* 1793 D'Arblay, *Diary*, etc., iii 477 (1876) "Let every one mend one" as Will Chup says [*Will Chup 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 beare his owne burthen. 1855 Kingsley, *Westw Hol*, ch xxvi, It was Heavens 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 Cheales, *Proverb Folk-Lore*, 131

Every man to his trade (or craft, or business) 1539 Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo 33. Let euerye man exercise hym selfe in the facultie that he knoweth 1597 Shakespeare, *Henry IV*, II ii, *Fal* every man to his business 1682 A Behn, *False Count*, I ii, 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, *Kemilworth*, ch xi, Every man to his craft, says the proverb, the parson to the prayer-book, and the groom to his curry-comb 1895 Shaw, *Man of Destiny*, *Giuseppe* Every man to his trade, excellency

Every man will shoot at the enemy, but few will gather the shafts 1678 Ray, 202 [with "go to fetch" for "gather"] 1732 Fuller, No 1436

Every man wishes water to his own mill 1578 Florio, *First Fruits*, fo 14, Euery man draweth water to hym selfe 1593 G Harvey, in *Works*, u 181 (Grosart), Euery miller is ready to conuey the water to his owne mill 1670 Ray, 121, Every miller draws water to his own mill 1740 North, *Lives of Norths*, i 133 (Bohn), The serjeants would have no water go by their mill 1823 Scott, *Pevenil*, ch xxi, I hears on nought, except this Plot, as they call it, that they are pursuing the Papishers about, but it brings water to my mill, as the saying is

Every man's nose will not make a shoeing-horn [c 1520 Stanbridge, *Vulgaria*, sig B5, His nose is lyke a shoynge horne] 1659 Howell, 4, Every one cannot have a nose like a shoeing-horn 1670 Ray, 125 1732 Fuller, No 1434

Every may be hath a may not be 1678 Ray, 174 1932 Fuller, No 1437

Every mile is two in winter 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Every miller See Every man wishes

Every mother's son. [c 1310 in Wright's *Pol Songs*, 312 (Camden S 6), Sur le sollempnement escomege e maldie Trestuz le fiz de mere.. (Upon it he solemnly excommunicates and curses

—every son of a mother . . .] c. 1350: *Alexander*, l. 2098, For mekely ilka modir sonn. 1485: Malory, *Morte d'Arthur*, bk. ii. ch. 10, And there were slayn monymodors sones. 1560: T. Wilson, *Rhetorique*, 72 (1909), Die we must euery mothers sonne of vs. 1595: Shakespeare, *Mids. N. Dream*, I. ii., That would hang us, every mother's son. 1694: *Terence made English*, 260, Ay ev'ry mothers son of 'em. 1710: T. Ward, *Eng. Reform.*, 27 (1716), Convict them every mother's son. 1814: Scott, *Fam. Letters*, i. 334 (1894), Fire was maintained at the mouth of the cavern, until every man and mother's son were suffocated. 1883: R. L. S., *Treasure I.*, ch. xxix., That's about where we are, every mother's son of us. Cf. Every man Jack.

Every new thing has a silver tail. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., vi. 495.

Every one after his fashion. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi. c. 1594: Bacon, *Promus*, No. 955, Every man after his fashen. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 321 (1870). 1659: Howell, 8.

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 fastens where there is gain. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 109.

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. 1630: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*,

4, 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., Euery man as he loueth Quoth the good man whan 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 kissed her cow. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 591, Every one to his liking, as the old woman said when she kissed her cow. (b) 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Chascun," Every one as hee likes.

1656 Middleton, *Old Law*, II ii,  
Every one to their liking 1714  
Ozell, *Molière*, II 110, Every one to  
his mind 1759 Sterne, *Trist Shandy*,  
bk 1 ch vii, 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, *Dyets Dry  
Dinner*, Our common proverb accord-  
eth, speaking somewhat homely Every  
pease wil haue a fease, but euerie beane  
fifteene 1608 Armin, *Nest of Ninnies*,  
51 (Sh S), It was in Lent, when pease  
pottage bare great sway, and euerie  
pease must have his case 1670 Ray,  
214, Every pease hath its veaze, and  
a bean fifteen

Every peddler thinks well of his pack  
1611 Cotgrave, s v "Pamier" 1631  
Mabbe, *Celestina*, 161 (TT), Every  
pedler 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 Mabbe, *Celestina*, 149 (TT),  
There is no pleasure without sorrow

Every plummet is not for every sound  
1732 Fuller, No 1455

Every pot has two handles 1650  
Taylor, *Holy Living*, ch ii § 6, There  
is nothing but hath a double handle,  
or at least we have two hands to  
apprehend it 1827 Hone, *Ev Day  
Book* II 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 woorde "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 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 53 [with  
"balance" for "scale"] 1732 Ful-  
ler, No 1458

Every shoe fits not every foot 1616  
B Rich, *Ladies Looking Glasse*, 21, As  
euery shooe is not fit for euery foote  
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 iii,  
Everything has beginning

Every thing hath an ear, and a pitcher  
has two 1639 Clarke, 237

Every thing hath his seed 1633  
Draxe, 12

Every thing hath its time 1509  
Barclay, *Ship of Fooles*, II 46 (1874),  
For euery thyng God hath a tyme  
puruayde 1578 *Gorgeous Gallery*, 47  
(Rollins), Eche thing must haue a time  
1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 283  
1732 Fuller, No 1466, Every thing  
hath its time, and that time must be  
watch'd 1875 A B Cheales, *Pro-  
verb 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  
Harrington, *Nugæ Antiquæ*, 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 'tis taken

Every thing is good in its season  
1633 Draxe, 184 1670 Ray, 23  
1732 Fuller, No 1467 1851 Borrow,  
*Lavengro*, III 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 Prudentum*

Every thing is the worse for wearing  
Before 1529 Skelton, *Magnysfycence*,

l. 456, All thyng is worse whan it is worne. 1560: T. Wilson, *Rhetorique*, 151 (1909), Your witte is good enough, if you keepe it still and vse it not, for euery thing, as you knowe, is the worse for the wearing. 1694: Southerne, *Fatal Marriage*, III. ii. 1754: Berthelsson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Worse."

Every thing new is fine. 1639: Clarke, 228, Every thing's pretty, when 'tis new. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 171, A new, every thing is handsome. Every thing would live. 1670: Ray, 116. 1732: Fuller, No. 1469.

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 Sheep (3).

Every tub must stand on its own bottom. 1564: Bullein, *Dialogue*, 65 (E.E.T.S.), Let euerie fatte [vat] stande vpon his owne bottome. 1678: Bunyan, *Pilgr. Progr.*, Pt. I. p. 35 (1849), Sloth said, *Yet a little more sleep; and Presumption said, Every tub must stand upon his own 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 own 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 tub stond on it' own bothum.

Every where is no where, He that is. 1586: Pettie, tr. Guazzo's *Civil Convers.*, fo. 63, The prouerbe, That he is not any where, who is euerie where. 1669: *Politeuphuia*, 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. 1869: 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*, adj. 1. *An evil lesson is soon learned.* 1670: Ray, 8, That which is evil is soon learn't.

2. *An evil suspicion has a worse condition.* 1886: R. Holland, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 444 (E.D.S.). 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 8.

3. *Evil beginning hath evil end.* c. 1400: *Mirk's Festial*, 120 (E.E.T.S.), For hyt ys oft sene, all euell bygynnyng hathe a foule endyng. c. 1440: Lydgate, *Fall of Princes*, bk. viii. l. 2241, Ther gynnyng cursid hadde a wengable fyn.

4. *Evil crow.* See Like crow.

5. *Evil doers.* See Ill doers.

6. *Evil guise.* See Sluggards guise.

7. *Evil name is evil fame.* c. 1430: in *Babees Book*, etc., 39 (E.E.T.S.), For he that cacchith 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 evill manners are corrected, so by evill words are good ones corrupted. 1749: Fielding, *Tom Jones*, bk. xii. ch. iii., Evil communication corrupts good manners. 1821: Scott, *Pirate*, ch. xxx., Gude forgie me for swearing—but evil communication corrupteth good manners.

11. *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*, l. 753, Soth hit is, in al thyng, Of eoel lif comuth eoel 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 perdidisti

hit is ryght that it be euil loste that is euil wonne 1541 *Coverdale, Christ State Matrimony*, sig I2, Euyll geten, worse kept 1579 *Marr of Wit and Wisdom*, sc iii p 28 (Sh S), Euell gotten worse spent 1670 Ray, 8, Evil gotten evil spent 1754 *Berthelson, Eng-Danish Dict*, s v "Evil," Evil got evil spent

Evil, subs I Evil is soon belied 1732 Fuller No 1474

2 Evil to him that evil thinks (or seeks) c 1386 *Chaucer Prioress's Tale* l 180, Yvel shal have, that yvel wol deserve 1484 *Caxton, Esope*, ii 207 (Jacobs) Now the euyl which men wysshe to other cometh to hym whiche wyssheth hit 1666 *Torriano, Piazza Univ*, 200, To who thinks evil, evil befalls him 1712 *Motteux, Quixote*, Pt I bk iii ch vi, Good betide us all, and evil to him that evil seeks

3 He that evil does never good weens c 1386 *Chaucer, C Tales*, A 4320 (Skeat), Hum thar nat wenē wel that yvel doth

4 He that helpeth the evil hurteth the good c 1615 *Time's Whistle*, 45 (EETS), For true's the saying "He harmes the good that doth the evil spare" 1669 *Politeuphonia*, 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*, ii 649

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 quotes 1537 *R Whitford Werke for Housholders*, sig D7, The olde prouerbe sayth, who so wyll none euyl do, shulde do nothyng that longeth therto 1639 *Clarke*, 202, He that would no evils 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 Festial*, 216

(EETS), Then saythe Seynt Austeyn that an ensampull yn doying ys mor commendabull then ys techyng other prechyng 1570 *Ascham, Scholemaster*, 61 (Mayor), One example is more valuable 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, in N & Q*, 4th ser, 1 201, The copy-book says that "Example is better than Precept"

2 He is in 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, 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*, in *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*, 1 204 (Prothero), You will recollect that "exceptions only prove the Rule" 1883 *Trollope Autobiography*, ch xii, But the exceptions are not more than enough to prove the rule 1909 *W H Helm, Jane Austen*, 169, 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 Frutes* to 30, Experience sometymes 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



1579: Lyly, *Euphues*, 123 (Arber), It is commonly said . . . that experience is the mistresse of fooles. 1618: Breton, in *Inedited Tracts*, 187 (Hazlitt). 1692: L'Estrange, *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 al 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 à-la-Mode*, I. ii.

Experience keeps a dear school, but fools will learn in no other. 1736: Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, i. 451 (Bigelow). 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 115.

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. 1. *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. Antiquæ*, i, 110 (1841), "Betere is eye sor, then 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 Glovers 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*, III, 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, *Lanes 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*.

8 Neither my eye nor my elbow  
1894 Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 20  
(E D S), Neither, i.e. neither one  
thing nor the other 1907 T Rat-  
cliffe, in *N & Q*, 10th 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 servant's 1640 Her-  
bert, *Jac Prudentum* 1670 Ray, 17  
1732 Fuller, No 3749 Cf Nos 13  
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  
Prudentum* 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  
pearle of the face 1732 Fuller, No  
4506

13 The eye of a master will do more  
work than both his hands 1736 Frank-  
lin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, 1 445  
(Bigelow) 1843 Carlyle *Past and  
Present*, bk ii ch x, But continual  
vigilance, rigorous 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 Prudentum*

16 The eyes have one language every-  
where Ibid

17 The master's eye fals the horse  
(ἐρωτᾷς τί μάλιστα ἔκρον πιαίνει, ὁ τοῦ  
δεσπότου ὀφθαλμός, ἐφη—Aristotle, *Æcum*,  
I vi 4] 1537 R Whitford, *Werke for  
Housholders*, sig F5, The eye of the  
mayster[ maketh] a fatte horse 1552  
Latimer, *Sermons*, 395 (P S) 1579  
Lyly, *Euphues*, 144 (Arber), That notable  
saying of the horse-keeper—nothing did

so fatte the horse as the eye of the king  
1631 Brathwait, *Whimzies*, 69 (1859).  
The proverbe 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 estima-  
tion 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  
Prudentum*

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, *Paire  
of Spy-Knaues*, 7 (Hunt Cl), For what  
the eye ne're sees, the heart ne're rues  
1653 R. Brome, *City Wit*, III iii  
1712 Motteux, *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  
mund, and Seldom seen

20 You may put it in the eye and see  
none the worse 1530 Palsgrave, 478,  
I mave put my wynnyn in myn eye  
1545 Ascham, *Toxoph*, 151 (Arber),  
So that shoter whiche putteth no  
difference, but shooteth in all lyke, in  
rough weather and fayre, shall alwayes  
put his wynnynnes 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 Convers*, 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 Prudentum*, 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 Bunce, 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."

## F

**Face** 1 *A face of brass* 1578 Whetstone, *Promos and Cassandra*, Pt II III 1, Well, I wyll set a face of brasse 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*, 59 (1903), Face to face truth comes out apace

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 Greaves*, 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 testifie what you be inwardly c 1615 *Times Whistle*, 23 (E E T S), That olde saying is vntrue, "the face Is index of the heart" 1645 Howell, *Letters*, bk 1 § iii No xv, 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 mund 1864 Mrs H Wood, *Treilyn 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 pinch** See **Pinch**.

**Fails, He who never, will never grow**

**rich** 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch xii [cited "as the proverb is"]

**Fain 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 l 6573, Bot as men sein, wher herte is failed, Ther schal no castell ben assailed] c 1570 in *Black Letter Ballads*, etc, 16 (Lilly, 1867), Faint harts faire ladies neuer win 1580 Lyly, *Euphues*, 364 (Arber), Faint heart neither winneth castell nor lady 1664 Cotton, *Scarronides*, bk 1, Faint heart, you know, ne'er wins fair lady 1702 Vanbrugh, *False Friend*, III c 1750 Foote, *Knights*, II 1846 Planché, *Extravag*, iii 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 Prudentum*, 2nd ed

3 *A fair face cannot have a crabbed heart* 1593 *Passionate Morrice*, 92 (N Sh S), Building vpon the prouerbe, A faire face, etc

4 *A fair face is half a portion* 1633 Draxe, 15, Shee that is faire hath halfe her portion 1732 Fuller, No 89

5 *A fair face may be a foul bargain* 1590 Greene, in *Works*, viii 36 (Grosart), Such as marie but to a faire face, tie themselves oft to a foule bargain 1732 Fuller, No 87, A fair face and a foul 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, *Cream 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.

7. *A fair pawn never shamed his master.* 1639: Clarke, 109. 1670: Ray, 130.

8. *A fair shop and little gain.* 1629: *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov. 69.

9 *A fair wife, a wide house, and a back-door, Will quickly make a rich man poor.* c. 1460: *Prov. of Good Counsel*, in E.E.T.S., Ext. Ser., No. 8, p. 69, A nyse wyfe, and a backe dore, Makyth oftyn tymes a ryche man pore. 1647: *Cuntrym. New Commonwealth*, 43.

10. *A fair wife and a frontier castle breed quarrels.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

11. *A fair wife.* See Horse (34).

12. *A fair woman and a slasht gown find always some nail in the way.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Ital.-Eng.*, 10. 1670: Ray, 9.

13. *A fair woman with foul conditions is like a sumptuous sepulchre full of rotten bones.* 1647: *Cuntrym. New Commonwealth*, 11 [with "painted" for "sumptuous"]. 1669: *Politeuphuia*, 31.

14. *A fair woman without virtue is like palled wine.* 1855: Bohn, 285.

15. *As fair as Lady Done.* Cheshire. 1670: Ray, 208. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Cheshire." 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 12, As fair as Lady Done, or, There's Lady Done for you. The wife of Sir John Done (d. 1629) of Utkinton.

16. *Expect not fair weather in winter on one night's ice.* 1670: Ray, 28.

17. *Fair and fur off.* Wide of the mark. 1690: *New Dict. Canting Crew*, sig. E3.

18. *Fair and foolish.* See quotes. 1600: W. Vaughan, *Directions for Health*, Faire and foolish, little and loud, Long and lazic, blacke and proud; Fat and merry, leane and sad, Pale and peevish, red and bad. 1615: R. Tofte, *Blazon of Icalousie*, 34 [as in 1600 but with "lusty" for "lazic"]

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 lazy; little and loud. Cf. Long and lazy.

19. *Fair exchange is no robbery.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. iv., Chaunge be no robbry. 1628: J. Clavell, *Recantation*, 13, Then chop your horses most familiarly, Exchange you tell them is no roberie. 1771: Smollett, *Clinker*, in *Works*, vi. 339 (1817), "No mistake at all," cried the baronet; "a fair exchange is no robbery." 1852: Planché, *Extravag.*, iv. 253 (1879), The proverb of "Exchange no robbery!" 1922: Weyman, *Ovington's Bank*, ch. xvii., Exchange is no robbery and I ain't afeard.

20. *Fair feathers.* See Fine (12).

21. *Fair gainings make fair spendings.* 1629: *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov. 99.

22. *Fair in the cradle and foul in the saddle.* 1639: Clarke, 83. 1670: Ray, 87. 1709: R. Kingston, *Apoph. Curiosa*, 50, The proverb says, Fair, etc. 1732: Fuller, No. 6119. Cf. Foul in the cradle.

23. *Faire is the weather where cup and cover doe hold together*, i.e. where husband and wife agree. Glos. 1639: *Berkeley MSS.*, iii. 32 (1885).

24. *Fair pair of heels.* See Show.

25. *Fair play is a jewel.* 1824: Scott, *Redgauntlet*, ch. xxi., No, no, friend—fair play's a jewel—time about, if you please. 1832: Planché, *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!

26. *Fair play is good play.* 1827: Hone, *Ev. Day Book*, ii. 1008, A wooden ball . . . covered with a plate of silver, which . . . has commonly a motto—"Fair play is good play." 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., vi. 495.

27 *Fair water makes all clean* 1639  
Clarke, 66

28 *Fair without but foul within*  
1633 Draxe, 10 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 Fruits*, fo 25, *Fayre*  
words and yl deedes deceive both wise  
and fooles 1633 Draxe, 46, *Faire*  
words and foul deedes deceive many  
1710 S Palmer, *Moral Essays on Pro-*  
*verbs*, 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* l 43,  
Ne *fayre* wordis brake neuer bone  
1611 Davies (of Hereford), *Sc of*  
*Folly*, 42 in *Works*, ii (Grosart),  
*Faire* wordes breake 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* [αλλ' οὐ λόγων λάρ,  
φασί, η ἀγορὴ δειράι—Herodas, vii 49]  
1639 Clarke, 12 1680 L'Estrange,  
*Select Coll of Erasmus*, 131, *Co* Your  
charity upon earth will be rewarded  
in heaven *Pan* Those words butter  
no parsnips 1714 Ozell, *Molière*, iv  
222, *Meer* praise butters no turnips  
1763 Murphy, *Citizen*, I ii, *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, *Euphues*, 476 (Arber), *Fayre*  
words fatte few 1732 Fuller, No  
1491

35 *Fair words foul deeds* 1581 T  
Howell, *Devises*, 16 (1906)

36 *Fair words hurt not the tongue*  
1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch ix,  
It hurteth not the tounge to geue *fayre*  
wurdis 1605 Chapman, etc, *Eastre*

*Hoe*, IV 1, O, madam, "Faire words  
never hurt the tongue" 1640 Her-  
bert, *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* *fain*  
c 1480 *Early Miscell*, 25 (Warton Cl,  
1855), *Fayre* promese ofte makyth  
foolhis *fayne* c 1530 *Everyman*, in  
Hazlitt *Old Plays*, i 117 Lo, *fair* words  
maketh fools *fain* c 1600 Deloney,  
*Thos of Reading*, ch 14, Hold thy peace,  
*faire* words make fooles *faine* 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 *fain*

38 *Fair words make me look to my*  
*purse* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

39 *Fair words slake wrath* 1421  
in *Twenty-six Poems*, 83 (EETS,  
No 124), For *fayre* speche doth  
wratthe breke c 1460 *How the*  
*Goode Wyfe*, l 30, *Fayre* wordes wratthe  
slakthe 1597 *North Mothers Bless-*  
*ing*, in *Plasidas*, 164 (Roxb Cl), *Faire*  
words slaken yre 1630 Brathwait,  
*Eng Gent*, 236 (1641), As *soft* words  
pacifie wrath

40 *Fair words will not make the pot*  
*boul* 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 2818

44 *It's a pity fair weather should do*  
*any harm* 1633 Draxe, 45 1665  
R Howard, *Commutee*, I, 'Tis a thou-  
sand 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 fighting*  
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. Prudentum*. 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.

Fair, adv. 1. *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."

4. *Fair fall nothing once a year.* Glos. 1639: in *Berkeley MSS.*, iii. 30 (1885). 1678: Ray, 182. Cf. Well (9).

Fair, subs. 1. *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.

3. *Men speak of the fair as things went with them there.* 1631: Mabbe, *Celestina*, 84 (T.T.), And as you find your penniworths, so you speake 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: Gamelyn, 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 heer; Bye when ye list, it lasteth ouer yeer. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. ii. 1618: Harington, *Epigrams*, bk. i.

No. 72, Her fayre lasts all the yeare. 1633: Draxe, 120.

Fairer the hostess, the fouler the reckoning, The. Before 1635: Corbet, *Poems*, in Chalmers, v. 579, A handsome hostesse makes the reckoning deare. 1696: D'Urfey, *Quixote*, Pt. III. Act IV. sc. i. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Hostess."

Fairer the 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 withered, The. 1591: Florio, *Second Frutes*, 105, The fairest and the sweetest rose In time must fade and beauty lose. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 333 (1870) [with "in the end" for "at last"]. c. 1630: *Roxb. Ballads*, i. 296 (B.S.), The fairest flower will wither. 1670: Ray, 138. 1732: Fuller, No. 4515. Cf. Finest flower.

Fairest silk is soonest stained, The. 1633: Draxe, 63, The fairest silke will soonest be soiled. 1670: Ray, 88. 1732: Fuller, No. 4516. Cf. Finest lawn.

Fairlight Down. See quot. 1884: "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. 1. *Fall back fall edge* = Whatever may happen. In many English dialects "back and edge" = thoroughly, entirely—see Wright, *Eng. Dial. Dict.*, s.v. "Back." 1553: *Respublica*, V. v., Fall backe, fall edge, I am ons at a pointe . . . tadventure a joyncte. 1618: Minshull, *Essayes*, etc., 68 (1821), Yet fall back, fall edge, thus trauerse 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,

*Craven 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 *He falls low that cannot rise again* 1685 Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 72

5 *He that falls into the dirt, the longer he lies the dirtier he is* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1732 Fuller, No 2096

6 *He that falls to-day may be up again to-morrow* 1620 Shelton *Quixote*, Pt II ch lxx 1732 Fuller, No 2097

7 *He that is fallen cannot help him that is down* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

8 *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, The [Amantium iræ amoris integratio est—Terence *Andr*, III iii 23] 1576 *Parad of Dainty Devices*, No 42 The falling out of faithfull friends is the renewing of loue c 1610 in *Roxb Ballads*, 1 21 (BS), Though falling out of faithfull friends renewing be of loue 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 quot 1891 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*, 1 439

2 *A false knave* See *Crafty*

3 *A false report rides post* 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Brit-Erg*, 14

4 *A false tongue will hardly speak truth* 1633 Draxe, 11

5 *As false as a fox* 1886 R Holland, *Cheshire Gloss*, 445 (E D S) As fause as a fox

6 *As false as a Scot* 1670 Ray, 204 1825 Scott, *Talisman*, ch xv,

It is enough of folly to have intrusted your banner to a Scot—said I not they were ever fair and false?

7 *As false as fair* 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 trouth, as fals as God is trew 1633 Draxe, 61

9 *As false as hell* 1680 D'Urfeys, *Virtuous Wife*, IV iii, Ye are false as hell 1720 Gay, *Poems*, ii 280 (Underhill), But false as hell, she, like the wind, Changed 1872 Trollope, *Golden Lion*, ch xi, His passion told him every hour that she was as false as hell

10 *As false as the devil* 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch v, The deuill is no falsar then is hee 1639 Clarke 139

11 *In a false quarrel there is no true valour* 1855 Bohn, 423

Falsehood in fellowship, There is c 1470 G Ashby, *Poems*, 26 (E E T S), Be wele ware of falsehood in felawship Before 1529 Skelton, *Magnysfycence*, 1 723, Falshode in felowshyp 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 (1694), That there might be (as the adage hath it) falsity in friendship 1732 Fuller, No 4894

Falsehood in packing, There is 1574 R Scot, *Hoppe Garden*, 49 There is, according to the prouerbe, much falsehood in packing

Fame is a magnifying glass 1732 Fuller No 1495

Fame is but the breath of the people 1611 in Coryat, *Crudities*, 1 60 (1905), Fame is but winde 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, 353



Fame to infamy is a beaten road,  
From. 1732: Fuller, No. 1628.

Fame (River). See Yoke.

Familiarity breeds contempt. [Assiduus in oculis hominum, quae res minus verendos magnos homines ipsa satietate 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-greet homlinesse engendreth displeysinge," so fareth it by to greet humylitee or mekenesse. 1593: G. Harvey, in *Works*, i. 293 (Grosart), Truth begetteth hatred; Vertue Enuy, Familiaritie cōtempt. 1600: Shakespeare, *Merry Wives*, I. i., I hope upon familiarity will grow more contempt. 1689: 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.

Famine in England. See England (1).

Famine in the stall [bad hay crop], After a, comes a famine in the hall [bad corn crop]. 1678: Ray, 353. 1825: Hone, *Ev. Day Book*, i. 1669. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 7.

Fan, *verb.* He fans with a feather. 1813: Ray, 75.

Fancy is a fool. 1633: Draxe, 6. 1639: Clarke, 28.

Fancy may bolt bran and think it flour. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. iv., Fancy may boulte bran and make ye take it floure. 1670: Ray, 88. 1732: Fuller, No. 1499.

Fancy may kill or cure. 1732: Fuller, No. 1500.

Fancy surpasses beauty. 1678: Ray, 136, Fancy passes beauty. 1732: Fuller, No. 1501.

Far-fetched and dear bought is good for ladies. Before 1500: in Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 132 (E.E.T.S.), A thyngge ferre fett is good for ladyes.

1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi., Dere bought and far fet Are deinties for ladies. 1583: Stubbes, *Anat. of Abuses*, 33 (N. Sh. S.), But "farre fetched and deare boughte" is good for ladyes, they say. 1608: Day, *Law Trickes*, IV. i., Fare fech'd and deere bought, is good for you know who. 1696: Vanbrugh, *Relapse*, IV. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I. 1886: Elworthy, *West Som. Word-Book*, 799 (E.D.S.), The very common alliterative proverb—far-fetched, dearly bought. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 56.

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 (19); Out of sight; and Seldom seen.

Far from his good is nigh his harm, A man. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. ix. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Plat," 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*, 11 (3rd ed.).

Far from thy kin. See quot. 1417: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 233 (1841), Far from thy kyn cast the, Wreth not thy neighbor next the, In a good corne contrey rest the, And sit downe, Robyn, and rest the.

Far goeth the pilgrim as the post, As. c. 1594: Bacon, *Promus*, No. 508.

Far shooting never killed bird. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

Fare, *verb.* 1. *Better fare hard with good men, than feast it with bad.* 1732: Fuller, No. 893.

2. See quot. c. 1645: MS. *Proverbs*, in *N. & Q.*, vol. 154, p. 27, He feares [fares] like a commissioner for fish and flesh.

3 *I never fared worse than when I wished for my supper.* 1639: Clarke, 114. 1670: Ray, 157. 1732: Fuller, No. 2622.

Farewell and be hanged. 1575: G. Harvey, *Letter-Book*, 95 (Camden S),

Farewell and be hanged, goodman cove  
1634 S Rowley, *Noble Soldier*, IV ii,  
Fa? why, farewell and be hang'd 1668  
Davenant, *Ruials*, III 1707 Duntton,  
*Athen Sport*, 108, To say, Farewell, be  
hang'd, that's twice goodbwy 1732  
Fuller, No 1504, Farewel and be  
hang'd, friends must part

Farewell fieldfare! This and the  
three following sayings all seem to have  
much the same half-contemptuous im-  
port as Farewell and be hang'd'  
c 1374 Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk iii l 861,  
The harm is doon, and fare-wel felde-  
fare! c 1400 *Rom Rose* l 5510, Go,  
farewel feldefare! 1825 Jennings  
*Somersetsh Words*, 37, This ex-  
pression 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 Mel-  
bancke *Philotinus*, sig T4, Farewell  
fortie 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 fortie pence, Jack Noble  
is dead

Farewell frost! 1564 Bullein *Dia-  
logue*, 72 (E E T S), Farewell Frost!  
[said here sardonically] 1592 Lyly,  
*Mother Bombie*, II iii, And so farewell  
frost, my fortune naught me cost  
1631 *Faire Em*, III 1637, T Hey-  
wood, *Royal King*, III 1670 Ray,  
174, Farewel frost nothing got nor  
nothing lost 1732 Fuller, No 6156  
[as in 1670]

Farewell, gentle Geoffrey! 1546  
Heywood *Proverbs*, Pt I ch xi

Farewell my good days! they will be  
soon gone Ibid., Pt II ch ii

Farmer's care that makes the field  
bear, 'Tis he 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"

Farther See also Further

Farthest way See Longest way

Farthing good silver, To think one's  
1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch x,  
She thinkth her farthyng good syluer  
c 1594 Bacon, *Promus*, No 636 1659  
Howell, 4, She thinks her farthing as  
good silver as anothers Cf Halfpenny,  
and Penny (26)

Farthing is good that makes the penny  
bud, The 1623 Wodroephe, *Spared*  
*Houres*, 477

Fashion's sake See Dog (42)

Fast and loose is no possession 1639  
Clarke, 159

Fast and loose See also Play

Fast [asleep] as a church 1708 tr  
Aleman's *Guzman*, i 284, I went  
to see if he slept still, and found both  
him and my mistress as fast as a church  
1788 Colman, jr, *Ways and Means*,  
III iii, All's snug The baronet's as  
fast as a church 1845 Jerrold, *Mrs*  
*Caudle*, xxvii, No sooner in bed than  
you're fast as a church 1883 Burne,  
*Shropsh Folk-Lore*, 594 Cf Sleep,  
verb (6)

Fast as a thief See Safe as a thief

Fast as hops See Thick as hops

Fast bind fast find 1484 Caxton,  
*Esope*, V iv (Jacobs) For who  
that wel byndeth well can he  
vnbynd c 1540 Bale, *Kynge Johan*,  
in Manly, *Spec of Pre-Shakesp Drama*,  
i 592, As the saynge is, he fyndeth that  
surely bynde 1622 B & F, *Span*  
*Curate*, II ii 1768 Bickerstaffe *Pad-  
lock*, I iii, "Fast bind, safe find," is  
an excellent proverb I'll e'en lock  
her up with the rest 1824 Scott,  
*Redgauntlet*, ch xiii

Fast, verb 1 He fasts enough that  
has a bad meal 1611 Cotgrave, s v  
"Assez," He that feeds barely fasts  
sufficiently 1732 Fuller, No 1844

2 He fasts enough whose wife scolds  
all dinner-time Ibid., No 1845

3 If I were to fast for my life, I would  
eat a good breakfast in the morning  
1678 Ray, 67

4 Is there no mean but fast or feast?  
1732 Fuller, No 3113

Fasting belly may never be merry, A  
Before 1500 in Hill, *Commonplace-  
Book*, 131 (E E T S)

Fat as a fool 1579 Lyly, *Euphues*,

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! ay, 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, *Greenwood 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 cheeks 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 housekeeper (or kitchen) makes lean executors (or will), A. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Testament," A fat kitchin a leane will. Ibid., s.v. "Cuisine," Great house-keepers leave poor executors. 1670: Ray, 9, A fat house-keeper makes lean executors. 1732:

Fuller, No. 1505 [as in 1670] 1736: Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, i. 446 (Bigelow), A fat kitchin makes a lean will. 1880: Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 11 [as in 1736].

Fat is in the fire, The. c. 1374: Chaucer, *Troilus*, 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 gossips, 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. Prudentum*.

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 proverbe is as true as common. That a fat bellie doth not engender a subtil witte. 1592: Shakespeare, *L. L. L.*, I. i., Fat paunches have lean pates. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phrascol. 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. li., 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*

to his trial 1620 Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt II ch xlii, For according to the proverb, "He that hath the judge to his father, etc." and I am governor, which is more than judge 1712 Motteux, *Quixote*, Pt II ch xlii 1732 Fuller, No 2400

3 His father will never be dead while he is alive 1672 Walker, *Paræm*, 50

4 Our fathers who were wondrous wise, Did wash their throats before their eyes 1613 Wither, *Abuses Stript*, etc., bk ii Sat 1 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 306 (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, *Paræm*, 30 1681 W Robertson, *Phrascol Generalis*, 587

Fault and Faults 1 A fault is sooner found than mended c 1580 Fulwell, *Arts Adulandis*, sig H4

2 A fault once denied (or excused) is twice committed c 1590 G Harvey, *Marginalia* 100 (1913) [with "excused"] 1669 Politeuphuia, 166 ["excused"] 1732 Fuller, No 93 ["denied"] 1875 A B Cheales, *Proverb Folk-Lore*, 165 [as in 1732]

3 Fault confessed See Confessing

4 Faults are thick where love is thin 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Brit-Eng*, 2 1670 Ray, 16, Where love fails, we espy all faults 1732 Fuller, No 5676, Where there is no love, all are faults 1869 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? (quoth an other) In good faith he is naught 1633 Draxe, 43 [with "starke" before "naught"] 1732 Fuller, No 6054, Your main 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 Florio, *First Fruits*, 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 fou [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*, iii 246

2 Fear causeth a man to cast beyond the moon 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch iv, Feare may force a man to cast beyonde the moone 1633 Draxe 63

3 Fear gives (or lends) wings 1580 Sidney, *Arcadia*, bk ii p 195 (1893), They all cried, "O! see how fear gives him wings" 1590 Spenser, *F Q*, III vii 26, Therto fear gave her wings 1666 Torriano, *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 Ibid, No 1513

7 Fear keeps the garden better than the gardener 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

8 Fear, the beadle of the law 1651 Ibid 2nd ed

9 Fears are divided in the midst 1640 Ibid

10. 'Twas fear that first put on arms. 1732: Fuller, No. 5317.

Fear, verb. 1. *He that feareth every bush must never go a-birding.* 1580: Lyly, *Euphues*, 354 (Arber). 1732: Fuller, No. 2098.

2. *He that fears death lives not.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 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: Draxe, 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 neuer feare colours. 1601: Yarrington, *Two Trag. in One*, I. iv., I'll 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 and a belly-ful, Little difference between a. 1659: Howell, 13. 1670: Ray, 215. 1732: Fuller, No. 3253.

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, *Fable of Bees*, 197, Men . . . then put feathers in their caps . . . talk of publick-spiritedness. 1754: Berthclson, *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-

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. Prudentum*.

5. *The feather makes not the bird.* 1572: G. Fenton, *Monophylo*, sig. T4, Seing (with the olde prouerbe) as the feather makes not the byrde.

Feather one's nest, To. 1553: *Res-publica*, I. i., And nowe ys the tyme come . . . to make vp my mouth, and to feather my neste. 1590: Greene, in *Works*, viii. 138 (Grosart), She sees thou hast fethred 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. lxiv., He feathered his nest with the spoils of the Loyalists. 1915: Pinero, *Big Drum*, II. p. 98.

February. 1. *A February spring is not worth a pin.* Corn. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 13.

2. *A Welshman had rather see his dam on her bier than see a fair Februer.* 1678: Ray, 44. 1744: Claridge, in Mills, *Essay on Weather*, 100 (1773). 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 31 (Percy S.). 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 164.

3. *All the months in the year curse a fair Februer.* 1670: Ray, 40. 1732: Fuller, No. 6151. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 13.

4. *Double-faced February*, *Ibid.*, 13.

5. *February fill-dyke.* 1557: Tusser, *Hund. Points*, in *British Bibliog.*, iii. 20 (1812), And feuerell fill dyke, doth good with his snowe. 1577: Tusser, *Husb.*, ch. 34, Feb, fill the dike with what ye like. 1630: Taylor (Water-Poet), *Workes*, 2nd pagin., 257, If foulefac'd February keepe true touch . . . By night, by day, by little and by much, It fills the ditch, with either blacke or white. 1799: *Genl. Mag.*, Pt. I.

p 203, February fill dike Either black or white 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 13, February fill the dyke Weather either black or white Ibid, 14 February fill dyke, March lick 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 *Genevra'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, if 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 Prudentum* 1732 Fuller, No 1516 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 Lore*, 13

10 February's rain fills the barn 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Pluye," February rain is the husbandmans game 1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 86

11 Februeer doth cut and shear 1633 Jonson, *Tale of a Tub*, I 1, Old bishop Valentine, You have brought us nipping weather—Februeer doth cut and shear 1678 Ray, 44 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 13 [with 'both' for 'doth']

12 If February calends be summerly gay, Twill be winterly weather in the calends of May 1882 Mrs Chamberlain, *W Worcs 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 M Wright, *Rustic Speech*, etc, 317

15 In February if thou hearest thunder, Thou wilt see a summer's wonder 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 14

16 Reckon right, and February hath one and thirty days 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 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 stove in March 1905 N & Q, 10th 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, l 15, Tresour he hathe that pouere fedithe

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 C12 (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 bore feed in the old frank

4 To feed like a farmer 1655 Fuller, *Church Hist*, bk vi § 11 (v 13), On which the abbot fed as the farmer of his grange c 1680 in *Roxb Ballads*, vii 278 (BS), 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, 138 1725 *Matchless Rogue*, 56, Tho' seeing is believing and feeling has no fellow 1732 Fuller, No 1518

Feet 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 taught his scholar, A 1639 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, *Funebria Floræ*, 10, Inasmuch that 'tis a common saying, That 'tis no festival unless there bee some fightings.

Fetters. See Love, verb (13).

Fever lurden=Laziness. See quotes. c. 1500: in Hazlitt, *Early Pop. Poetry*, i. 93 (O.), I trow he was infecte certeyn With the faitour, or the fever lordeyn. 1568: W. Fulwood, *Enem. of Idleness*, 132 (1593), You have the palsey or eke the fever lurden. 1606: B. Rich, *Faultes 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 woordis 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, *Lacon*, 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, *Derbichisms*, 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).

Fiddle for shives [slices of bread] among old wives, Go. 1639: Clarke, 68 [with "good" for "old"]. 1670: Ray, 175. 1877: E. Leigh, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 184. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 61.

Fiddler and Fiddlers. 1. Fiddler's fare. 1608: *Dumb Knight*, III., in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, x. 169, You have had more than fidler's fare, for you have meat, money, and cloth. 1660: Howell, *Parly of Brasts*, 128, He was dismissed fidler-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 flies come to feasts uncalled 1683 Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697)

3 Fiddlers' money = Small change 1785 Grose, *Class Dict Vulgar Tongue*, s.v., Fiddlers' money all six pences 1877 N & Q, 5th ser vii 138, In Oxfordshire threepenny and fourpenny pieces are called "fiddler's money" 1889 Peacock, *Manley, etc*, Gloss, 203 (E D S), Fiddlers' money Groat, threepenny pieces, pennies [The expression is common in many parts of the country]

4 Fiddlers' pay See quots 1597 1st part *Return from Parnassus*, I 1 (O), He gave me fidler's wages, and dismiste me 1690 *New Dict Canting Crew*, sig E4, Fidlers-pay, Thanks and wine

5 In a fiddler's house See quots 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*, In the house of a fiddler, all fiddle 1732 Fuller, No 2809, In a fidler'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*, lvi 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 erys, felde has sight c 1386 Chaucer, *Knight's Tale*, l 664 Feeld hath eyen, and the wode hath eres 1564 Bullein, *Dialogue*, 13 (E E T S), The fiede haue eyes and the wood haue eares Therefore we must comen closehe and beware of blabbes 1611 Cotgrave, s.v. "Bois" 1670 Ray, 95 1732 Fuller, No 1532, Fields have eyes, and

hedges ears 1924 I was told by a Wiltshire woman that a very common 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-ing superfluity [1531 C B Bouelles, *Proverb Vulg*, fo 36, La cinquesme roue au chariot, ne fait qu'empescher] 1631 Dekker, *Match me in London*, I ad fin, Thou tvest but wings to a swift gray hounds heele, And add st to a running charriot a fift whecle 1644 Taylor (Water-Poet) *Crop eare Curried*, 32 in *Works*, 2nd coll (Spens S) As much pertinent as the fift 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 anie bones of xx xl c pound at once to hazard at a bait [bear-baiting], with "fight dog feight beare (say they), the deuill 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'll turn my master loose to her 1687 A Behn *Lucky Chance*, III ii, Why, let 'em fight dog, fight bear, mun, I'll to bed 1716 E Ward, *St Paul's Church*, 21, But cry halloo, fight dog fight bear 1821 Scott, *Kenilworth*, ch xvii 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 pratty gude 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 Chaeroneam proelio magno Atheniensis vicit. Tum Demosthenes orator ex eo proelio salutem fuga quaesivit quumque id ei, quod fugerat, probrose objiceretur; versu illo notissimo elusit, ἀνὴρ ὁ φεύγων, inquit, καὶ πάλιν μαχίσεται.—Aulus Gellius, *Noct. Att.*, xvii. 21.] c. 1320: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. III. (1841), "Wel fytht, that wel flyth"; Quoth Hendyng. c. 1350: *Owl and Nightingale*, l. 174, "Wel fi3t that wel fi3t," seith the wise. c. 1440: *Gesta Rom.*, 374 (E.E.T.S.), It is an olde sawe, he feghtith wele that fleith faste. 1542: Udall, tr. Erasmus' *Apoph.*, 372 (1877), That same man, that renneith awaie, Maie again fight, an other daie. 1663: 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 on a New Plan*, ii. 147, For he who fights and runs away May live to fight another day. 1849: Planché, *Extravag.*, iii. 334 (1879).

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. 1639: Clarke, 314. 1670: Ray, 175.

Fill what you will and drink what you fill. 1678: Ray, 88. 1732: Fuller, No. 6180.

Find, verb. 1. *Take heed you find not what you do not seek.* 1596: Harington, *Melam. of Ajax*, 122 (1814), Yet he would feel, to seek that he would not find, for fear 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 seeke 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.

*Fine*, adj. 1. *A fine new nothing.* 1678: Ray, 342.

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.

5. *As fine as a new scraped carrot.* 1886: R. Holland, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 445 (E.D.S.). 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 13.

6. *As fine as Filliloo.* 1917: *Ibid.*, 13, . . . The word [Filliloo] 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 fivence, 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 fi'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, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 8 [with "windows" for "doors"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 1538.

12. *Fine feathers make fine birds.* 1611: Davies (of Hereford), *Sc. of Folly*, 46, in *Works*, ii. (Grosart). The faire feathers still make the faire fowles. 1678: Bunyan, *Pilgr. Progr.*, Pt. I. p. 35 (1849), Strange! He's another man, upon my word; They be fine feathers, that make a fine bird. c. 1760: Foote,

*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 ill finely wrapt* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Finest flower will soonest fade, The c 1570 in Huth *Ancient Ballads*, etc., 374 (1867) Cf *Fairest rose*

Finest lawn soonest stains, The 1556 Withals, *Dict*, sig A2, The finest colours will soonest be staigned 1600 Bodenham, *Belvedere*, 44 (Spens S), The purest lawne is apt for every staine 1670 Ray, 90 1875 A B Cheales, *Proverb Folk-Lore*, 164, The finest silks are soonest stained Cf *Fairest silk*

Finest shoe often hurts the foot, The 1639 Clarke, 82, The finest shooe fits not every foot 1670 Ray, 90 Cf *Fairest looking*

*Finger and Fingers* 1 *At one's fingers' ends* 1561 Hoby, *Courtier*, 42 (TT), Ye are so good a courtier that you have at your fingers endes that belongeth thereto 1596 *Knack to know Honest Man*, l 625 (Malone S), A begger hath five of the seven liberal sciences at his fingers ends c 1630 *Dicke of Devonsh*, III 1, Who is more expert in any quality than he that hath it at his fingers ends 1748 Richardson, *Clarissa*, viii 57 (1785), An hundred more wise adages, which I have always at my fingers end? 1852 M A Keltie, *Reminisc 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 all at one's 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 fynger is a thumbe c 1594 Bacon, *Promus*, No 660, Ech finger is thumb 1642 D Rogers, *Matrim Honour*, 141, Though each finger were a thumbe 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, *Lincs 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 cf 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 Harington, *Metam of Ajax*, 65 (1814) (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, *Dict*, s v "Finger"

7 *If I am a fool, put you your finger in my mouth* 1694 D'Ursey, *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) (W), My hands all vingers-an-thums [Devon]

9 *The finger next the thumb* 1579 Lyly, *Euphues* 68 (Arber), I will be the finger next thy thombe Cf No 12

10 *To have a finger in the pie* 1553 *Respublica*, I iii, And first speake for me, bring me in credyte that my hande be in the pye 1613 Shakespeare, *Henry VIII*, I 1, The devil speed him! no man's pie is freed From his ambitious finger 1694 Southerne, *Fatal Marriage*, I ii, By your good will you would have a finger in every bodies

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: Reade, *Cl. and Hearth*, ch. lvi., Their law thrusteth its nose into every platter, and its finger into every pie. 1909: Lucas, *Wand. 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 fyre. 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.

12. *You two are finger and thumb.* 1659: Howell, 13. 1670: Ray, 215. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Thumb," They are finger and thumb. Cf. No. 9. See also Better a finger.

Finglesham Church. See quot. 1735: Pegge, *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 encounters the saying is us'd.

Fire. 1. *A fire of straw.* See quotes. 1578: Florio, *First Fruits*, fo. 28, Who makes a fire of straw, hath much smoke and nought els. 1629: *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov. 71, A fire of straw yeelds naught but smoake. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 97 [as in 1578]. 1732: Fuller, No. 2236, He that maketh a fire of straw, hath much smoke and 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 untoward combination has suggested several sayings. See quotes. c. 1386: Chaucer, *C. Tales*, D 89 (Skeat), For peril is bothe fyr and tow t'assemble. c. 1460: *Good Wyse wold a Pylgr.*, l. 79 (E.E.T.S.), Feyre and towe I-leyde to-gedore, kyndoll hit woll, be resson. 1530: Palsgrave, 417, Adde fyre to towe and you shal sone have a flame. 1578: Florio, *First Fruits*, fo. 30,

Fire and flaxe agree not. 1633: Draxe, 141, There is no quenching of fire with towe. 1637: B. & F, *Elder Brother*, I. ii., For he is fire and flax. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 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 flax—well, let it pass."

4. *Fire and pride cannot be hid.* c. 1375: Barbour, *Bruce*, bk. iv. l. 119, For men sais [oft], that fire, na pryd, But discouryng, 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 seruauant, but it is a cruell maister. 1630: T. Adams, *Works*, 178, We say of water, it is a good seruauant, though an ill master. 1659: Howell, 5 [with "ill" for "bad"]. 1692: L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 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 Convers.*, Dial. II. 1841: Dickens, *Barn. Rudge*, ch. liii., Fire, the saying goes, is a good servant but a bad master.

6. *Fire drives out fire.* 1592: Shakespeare, *Romeo*, I. ii., Tut, man, one fire burns out another's burning. 1629: Quarles, in *Works*, iii. 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, fier in the other. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 314, He

carries fire in one hand, and water in the other 1732 Fuller No 5886

8 *Fire is as hurtful as healthful* 1669 *Politephnia*, 184

9 *Fire is love and water sorrow* 1590 Greene in *Works*, viii 51 (Grosart) If th' old saw did not borrow, Fier is loue, and water sorrow

10 *Fire of chats* See *Love* (31)

11 *Fire, quoth the fox when he p— on the ice* 1639 Clarke 5 1670 Ray, 93 1732 Fuller No 1542

12 *If the fire blows* See quot 1839 G C Lewis, *Herefs Words*, 122 The following are old sayings current If the fire blows (ie makes a flaring 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 hotter* c 1380 Chaucer, *Leg of Good Women*, l 735. Wry [Cover] the gleed [glowing coal], and hotter is the fyr 1566 L Wager, *Mary Magdalene* sig C2. The more closely that you kepe fyre, no doubt The more feruent it is when it breaketh out c 1591 Shakespeare, *Two Gent*, I ii Fire that's closest kept burns most of all

16 *The fire in the flint 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 Willsford, *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*, lxxi (1), 12 (O). We leordun ðorh 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 *Bagford Ballads*, 1 291 (BS). 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 *Heir at Law*, I ii 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)

*Fire Hill* See quot 1884 "Sussex Proverbs" in A & Q 6th ser, ix 341. When Furl Hill and Long Man has a cap, We at A'ston [Alciston] gets a drap

*First and last frosts are the worst*, The 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

*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, *Prol for Dumfries Theatre* The first blow is ever half the battle

*First born, first fed* 1633 Draxe, 142 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Tr-Eng*, 4

*First breath is the beginning of death*, The 1732 Fuller, No 4524

*First come first served* c 1386 Chaucer, *Wife of Bath's Prol*, l 389 Who-so that first to mille comth, first grint c 1475 *Paston Lett*, iii 133 (Gardner, 1900) For who comyth fyrst to the mylle fyrst must grynd 1593 Pass Morrice, 91 (N Sh S). The drift whereof is, that first commers should be first served 1614 Jonson, *Bart Faw*, III, Pardon me sir, first come first serv'd c 1663 Davenant, *Play-House 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*, 1 24 (1879)

*First creep then go* c 1400 Towneley *Plays*, 103 (E E 1 S), flyrst must vs crepe and sythen go 1540 Palsgrave, *Acolastus*, sig b3. They shoulde soner be able perfytely to go, then they coulde afore tymes be able to creepe 1606 *Wily Beguiled*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, ix 266 1622 Hornby, *Horn-*

*book*, sig. B3, And as the prouerbe old doth teach vs, so We first must creepe, before we well can goe. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, iii. 210 (1840), We did first creep, then run, then fly into preferment. 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 creep before they gang. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, II, Yo' mun creep 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. Prudentum*. 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 gardener, 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 halfe 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 thynk wel on this prouerb trewe . . . That the first yere wedlokk is called pleye, The second drede, and the third yere deye.

Fish, subs. I. Fish and company stink in three days. 1580: Lyly, *Euphues*, 307 (Arber), Fishe and gesse [guests] in three dayes 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 proverb 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: Gooze, *Eglogs*, 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 mendeth it. 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 29, Fish marreth the water, and flesh doth dresse it. 1629: *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov. 104. 1678: Ray, 41, 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: *Westw. 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, so 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 claret. 1787: O'Keefe, *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: Wodroephe, *Spared Hours*, 508.

10 *Here is fish for catching, etc* See quot 1723 in Bliss, *Reliquiæ 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 fear he hath other fish to fry 1670 Ray, 176 1710 Swift, *Journal to Stella*, 3 Nov, Which I shall not answer to-night 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 xv, 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 ill 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, ita sine monasterio monachus—Attributed to a Pope Eugenius, but it is adapted from the Greek It occurs in Sozomen *Ecccl Hist*, bk I c 13, and still earlier, in a *Life of St Anthony* (c 85) attributed to St Athanasius, and not later than AD 373 Skeat, *Early Eng Proverbs*, 89] c 1380 Wiclif, *Gospel Sermons*, cxxxi, in *Works*, II 15 (Arnold), And how thei weren out of ther cloistre as fishis withouten water c 1386 Chaucer, *Prolog*, l 180, Ne that a monk whan he is cloysterles Is likned til a fish that is waterles 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 Widow*, III 1 1724 Defoe, *Roxana* in *Works*, III 37 (Boston, 1903) I was like a fish out of water 1860 Reade, *Cl and Hearth*, 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 quot 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 be caught that nibbles at every bait* 1732 Fuller, No 4342

18 *The fish adores the bait* 1640 Herbert *Jac Prudentum* 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 mo sterres, god wot, than a paire!] 1822 Scott, *Nigel*, ch xxxv 1881 Gilbert, *Patience*, I, There's fish in the sea, no doubt of it, As good as ever came out of it 1904 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 sea!

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 seene) thought she should both heare the *parle* and view the person of this young embassadour, and therefore found fish on her fingers, that she might stave still in the chamber of presence 1590 Lodge, *Rosalynde*, 122 (Hunt Cl), Ganymede 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 Conters*, Dial II 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, I 151, "I will not make fish o' yan 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, verb. 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, *Charitie*, 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. Prudentium*.

3. *Still he fishes that catches one.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Pescher," And yet he fishes who catcheth one. 1670: Ray, 91. 1732: Fuller, No. 4262.

4. *To fish before the net* c. 1400: Towneley Plays, 104 (E.E.T.S.), Ye fysh before the nett. 1460: Lydgate, *Order of Fools*, l. 131 (E.E.T.S., E.S. 8, p. 83), And he ys a fole afore the nette that fysshes. 1596: Harington, *Melam. of Ajax*, 20 (1814), 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 alwayes desyre your vnquietnesse, whereby they may the better fishe in the water when it is troubled. 1591: Harington, *Orl. Furioso*, bk. xli., Notes, Thinking it (as the prouerb 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. See quot. 1868: *N & Q*, 4th ser., ii. 94, Never a fisherman need there be, If fishes could hear as well as see (West Kent).

Fisherman's walk, A: three steps and overboard. 1867: Smyth, *Sailor's Word-Book*, s.v.

Fisher's folly. See Kirbie's castle.

Fishing, verb. subs. 1. *No fishing like fishing in the sea.* 1575: Churchyard, *Chippes*, 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 quotes. 1528: More, *Works*, 224 (1557), It were as soone done to weue a newe web of clothe as to soue up euery hole in a net. 19th cent.: Newlyn, W. Corn., saying, Like a fishing-net—the more you mend it, the more holes there are in it (Mr. C. Lee).

Fit as a fan for a forehorse. 1619: Chapman, *Two Wise Men*, IV. iii.

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 Pleas'd*, IV. iii. 1883: R. L. S., *Treasure I.*, ch. xxx., Looking fit and taut as a fiddle. 1922: Lucas, *Genevra's Money*, 86, He hasn't been really sober for years and he's as fit as a fiddle.

Fit as a pudding. 1600: Dekker, *Shoem. Hol.*, IV. v., Tis a very brave shooe, and as fit as a pudding.

Fit as a pudding for (a) a dog's mouth; (b) a friar's mouth. (a) 1592: Lyly, *Mother Bombe*, II. i., But looke where Prisius' boy comes, as fit as a pudding for a dogges mouth. (b) 1578: Whetstone, *Promos and Cassandra*, sig. D3, Your answere then in sooth, Fyts me as iumpe as a pudding a friars mouth. 1593: Peele, *Edward I.*, 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  
G Gates, *Defence of Mil Profession*, 37,  
The prouerbe (no lesse wise then it is  
olde) is also profitable, as it is moste  
true, He that is fitte for the chappell,  
is meete for the field

Fitting *He that is suffered to do  
more than is fitting, will do more than  
is lawful* 1670 Ray 9

Five score See Six score

Flanders mare See quotes 1717 in  
*Six N Count Diaries*, 82 (Surtees S),  
Uncle told me now we are to see yon  
damsel of Mr Collingwood's She's like  
a Flanders mare 1732 Fuller, No  
3229, Like Flanders mares, fairest  
afar off

Flanders reckoning, A 1606 T Hey-  
wood, *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  
wagges 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 foxe taylor 1565 Calhull, *Answ  
to Martall*, 292 (P S), Break God's  
[works], and they either look through  
their fingers, or else give a flap with  
a fox-tail for a little money 1581  
B Rich, *Farewell*, 4 (Sh S), And  
when a souldier hath thus served in  
many a bloudie broile a flappe with a  
foxe taile shall bee his beste reward  
1640 King and Poore North Man,  
1 368, in Hazlitt, *Early Pop Poetry*,  
iv 307, Where they with brave claret  
and brave old canary, they with a foxe  
tale him soundly did pay 1762  
Smollett *Sir L Greaves*, 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*, ii 218, I owe Jeffrey a flap with  
a fox-tail on account of his review of  
Marmion 1847 Halliwell, *Dict*, s v  
"Fox-tail" Fox-tail Anciently one  
of the badges of a fool Hence per-  
haps 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  
Udall, tr Erasmus' *Apoph*, 250 (1877),  
His nose as flat as a cake, bruised or  
beaten to his face 1580 Baret,  
*Ahearie*, F 649, A nose as flat as a  
cake 1631 Mabbe, *Celestina* 200  
(T T), My caske strangely bruised,  
beaten as flat as a cake 1758-67,  
Sterne, *Trist Shandy*, vol iii ch xxvii,  
He has crushed his nose as flat as a  
pancake to his face 1786 R Twining,  
in *Twining Fam Papers*, 139 (1887),  
The Gâtinois is extremely fertile,  
but as flat as a pancake 1830  
Marryat, *King's Own*, ch xvii, Under  
which it had lain, jammed as flat as a  
pancake

Flat as a dab 1869 FitzGerald, *Sea  
Words and Phrases*, 3

Flat as a flawn, i.e. a custard 1678  
Ray 355 1775 Watson, *Hist of  
Halifax*, quoted in Hunter's *Hallamsh  
Gloss*, 145, As flat as a flawn (custard),  
is a proverb 1887 *Brighthouse News*,  
23 July (W), As flat as a flawn

Flat as a flounder c 1625 B & F,  
*Women Pleased*, II iv 1671 E  
Howard, *Six Days Adventure*, I, Who  
lay as flat as flounders Before 1704  
T Brown, *Works*, 1 313, and ii 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 [flounder] c 1800 *Irishman  
in London*, I ii, in Inchbald, *Farces*,  
ii 95 (1815)

Flat as ditchwater 1772 in Garrick  
*Corresp*, 1 465 (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 iii 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 (CDS),  
"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, *Jac. 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.* 1678: Ray, 139. 1799: Wolcott, in *Works*, v. 196 (1801), Porteus, there is a proverb thou should'st read, "When flatt'ers meet, the Devil goes to dinner."

Flattering as a spaniel. 1639: Clarke, 285. 1670: Ray, 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 groweth.* 1639: Clarke, 304. See also *Candlemas*, H (4); Fire (3); and God will send thee flax.

Play a flint (or stone). See *Skin a flint*.

Flea and Fleas. 1. *A flea in one's ear.* [Comment Panurge auoyt la pulce en l'oreille.—Rabelais, *Pantagruel*, bk. iii. ch. vii., part of title.] c. 1430: *Pilgr. Lyf. Manhode*, II. xxxix. 91 (1869) (O.), and manye oother grete wundres . . . whiche ben fleen in myne eres. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi., He standth now as he had a flea in his care. 1602: Middleton, *Blurt, Master Const.*, II. ii., I will send him hence with a flea in's ear. 1656: *Musarum Deliciæ*, i. 65 (Hotten, 1874), Some, telling how they vexed another, say I sent him with a flea in's care away. 1709: Cibber, *Rival Fools*, III., So, he's gone with this flea in his ear to my uncle, I suppose. 1871: G. Eliot, *Middlemarch*, ch. lvi., The best way would be to . . . send 'em away with a flea in their ear, when they came spying and measuring. 1922: Weyman, *Orington's Bank*, ch. ix., On

which he dismissed her with a flea in her ear.

2. *When eager bites the thirsty flea, Clouds and rain you sure shall see* 1639: Clarke, 263, We shall have raine, the fleas bite. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 148.

3. *When fleas do very many grow, Then 'twill surely rain or snow.* 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 148.

See also Do (14); and Dog (49).

Flea-bitten horse never tires, A. 1577: Googe, *Heresbach's Husb.*, ii. 116b (1586) (O.), The fleabitten horse prooveth alwaies 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.

Fleece and fell, To have both. 1639: Clarke, 39, Will you have both fleece and fell. 1642: D. Rogers, *Naaman*, sig. Dd2, Thy servant is for thee to use, not tire or teare out: Thou must not take both fleece and flesh too.

Fleet, The. *He may whet his knife on the threshold of the Fleet.* 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, ii. 348 (1840). 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "London," Said of persons who are not in debt [and therefore not in danger of arrest].

Flesh never stands so high but a dog will venture his legs. 1678: Ray, 139. 1732: Fuller, No. 1553.

Flesh nor fish nor good red herring, Neither. 1528: *Rede Me and be not Wrothe*, I. iii. b, Wone that is nether flesshe nor fissue. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. x., She is nother fyshe, nor fleshe, nor good red hearyng. 1599: Nashe, *Lenten Stuffe*, in *Works*, v. 302 (Grosart). 1630: Taylor (Water-Poet), *Workes*, pagin. 1, 34. Before 1704: T. Brown, *Works*, iii. 240 (1760), They . . . marry their wives, before they know whether they are fish, flesh, or good red herring. 1711: Addison, *Spectator*, No. 165. 1824: Scott, *Ret-gauntlet*, ch. xii., I never thought twice about it, Mr. Fairford; it was neither fish, nor flesh, nor salt herring of mine. 1921: *Times*, 7 Oct., p. 8, col. 4, Its

compromise with sentiment and the proprieties leaves it neither fish, flesh, nor good red herring

Flies upon horses and money with women hide a many faults 1917  
Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs* 57

Fletching See quot 1884 "Sussex Proverbs, in *N & Q* 6th ser, ix 342, The people of Fletching Live by snapping and ketching

Flies See Fly

Flitting 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 flowe, an ebbe folweth ay 1626  
Scoggins *Jests*, 158 (1864) There was never so great a flood, but there may be as lowe an ebbe 1670 Ray 91  
1754 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 Prol*, 835, Lo gode men, a flye and eek a frere Wol falle in every dish and eek matere

2 A fly hath its spleen 1580 Lyly, *Euphues*, 316 (Arber), Low trees haue their tops the flye his splene 1590 Lodge, *Rosalynde*, 70 (Hunt Cl), I tell thee, flies haue their spleene 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 317 (1870) 1646 Browne, *Pseudo Epi*, bk iii ch iii, So is it proverbially said *Formica sua bilis 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 Frutes*, fo 25, Vnto the leane horses, alwayes resort the flies 1631 Mabbe, *Celestina*, 214 (T T), Flies bite none but leane and feeble oxen 1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 43, Flies do rest upon lean horses

6 Flies will tickle lions being dead 1610  
Marston, *Histrion-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  
Ibid, 75

9 Into a shut mouth flies fly not 1640  
Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1869  
Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch vi, No flies will go down your throat if you keep your mouth shut

10 Like a fly in a tar-box (or glue-pot) 1659  
Howell, 19, He capers like a fie in a tar-box 1670 Ray, 216 [as in 1659] 1886 Elworthy, *West Som Word-Book*, 437 (E D S), Like a fly in a glue-pot Corn[mon] expression, to express nervous excitement

11 More flies are taken with a drop of honey than a tun of vinegar 1732  
Fuller, No 3454 1821 Combe, *Syntax in Search of Wife*, can xxxiv 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 1830  
Forby, *Vocab E Anglia*, 433, You will catch more flies with a spoonful of honey, than with a gallon of vinegar 1865 "Lancs Proverbs," in *N & Q*, 3rd ser, viii 494, There's more flies caught with honey than aleger

12 One cannot catch a fly when he will 1659  
Howell, 11

13 The fly on the wheel 1586  
Pettie, tr Guazzo's *Civil Convers*, fo 71, The flye, which sitting vpon a cart that was driuen on the waye, sayde he had rayased a very great dust 1612 Bacon, *Essays* "Vain-glory," It was pretily deuised of

*Æsop, The flie sate upon the axletree of the chariot wheele, and said, What a dust doe I raise!* 1651: Gurnall, *Christian in Armour*, 299 (1679), Yet these are no more than the flie on the wheel. 1732: Fuller, No. 5476, What a dust have I rais'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. 3, 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, 13.

2. *Fly brass, thy father's a tinker.* *Ibid.*, 12.

3. *Fly the pleasure that bites tomorrow.* 1591: Florio, *Second Frutes*, 99, Flie that present ioye, Which in time will breede annoy. 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 277, Flee all present pleasure that gives the future payne. 1629: *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov. 29, Fly that pleasure which paineth afterward. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1710: S. Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 347.

4. *He has flown high and let in a 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 fain fly, but wanted feathers.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 614, He would flie, but he wants feathers. 1732: Fuller, No. 2415.

6. *To fly at all game.* 1670: Ray,

176. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, ii. 108 (F.L.S.).

Fly-catcher. See quot. 1886: 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).

Flying without wings, No. 1633: Draxe, 124. 1670: Ray, 91. 1732: Fuller, No. 3569.

Foal. *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 molter trot how should the daughter amble?* 1670: Ray, 91. 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 frende Parmeno of those that be dissembling frendes, for I wil 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 helpes not. 1600: Bodenharn, *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. Pengelly, in *N. & Q.*, 5th ser., ii. 184, 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.

2. *A fog cannot be dispelled with a fan.* 1846: *Denham, Proverbs*, 1 (Percy S.).

3. *A fog from the sea, Brings honey to the bee; A fog from the hills Brings corn to the mills.* *Pembrokesh.* 1889: *N. & Q.*, 7th ser., viii. 204.

4. *Fog on the hill, water to the mill; Fog in the hollow, fine day to follow.* *Oxfordsh.* 1928: *Spectator*, 3 Nov., p. 640, col. 2.

See also March (15), (26), (28), (43).

Folkestone. See quotes. 1735: *Prose, Kent. Proverbs*, in *E.D.S.*, No. 12, p. 71.

Folkstone Washerwomen These are the white clouds which commonly bring rain 1887 Parish and Shaw, *Dict Kent Dialect*, 57 (E D S), Folkestone Girls, the name given to heavy rain clouds Also Folkestone Lasses and Folkestone Washerwomen

Follow, verb 1 Follow love and it will flee Flee love and it will follow thee 1581 T Howell *Devises* 64 (1906), Flee it [love], and it will flee thee, Follow it, and it will follow thee 1678 Ray 55 1732 Fuller, No 6258 1875 A B Cheales *Proverb Folk-Lore* 29

2 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 Prudentum*, 2nd ed, Follow not truth too near the heels lest it dash out thy teeth 1681 W Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 619, He that follows truth too near the heels, shall have dust thrown in his face 1820 Colton, *Lacon*, 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, l 978 in *Allit Poems*, 67 (Morris, E E T S), Loth and tho luly-whit has kfly, two de3ter, Ay fol3ed here face [followed their face] before her bothe 33en c 1520 Stanbridge, *Vulgaria*, sig C2, Ryght forthe on thy nose Recta via incede 1637 Heywood, *Royal King*, I, Follow thy nose, and thou wilt be there presently 1742 Fielding *Andrews*, bk II ch II, The fellow bade him follow his nose and be d—n'd 1917 D Grayson *Great Possessions*, ch III, One has only to step out into the open country and follow his nose

6 You may follow him long e're a shilling drop from him 1732 Fuller, No 5944

Folly 1 Folly grows without watering 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1854 J W Warter, *Last of the Old Squires*, ch v p 53

2 Folly is never long pleased with it self 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 Urfe, *Quixote*, Pt II Act II sc II

6 Folly without faults is as reddish [radish] without salt 1608 Armin, *Nest of Ninnies*, 40 (Sh S)

7 If folly were grief, 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, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch v, Folke show much folly, when things should be sped, To ren to the foote that maie go to the hed 1633 Draxe, 72

9 Many for folly themselves fordo c 1460 *How the Good Wife*, l 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, *Whitby Gloss*, 13, He's as fond as a bezom very foolish indeed 1889 Peacock, *Manley, etc*, Gloss, 44 (E D S), "He's as fond as a beasom" 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*, I 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 Tusser, *Husb*, 19 (E D S), A foole and his monie be soone at debate c 1640 in *Roxb Ballads*, III 550 (B S) 1763 Murphy, *Citizen* I II 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, *Lacon*, Pt. I. No. 352 [quotes Young].

4. *A fool believes everything.* 1625: in *Harl. Miscell.*, iv. 130 (1745), Florimundus justified the proverb, A fool believeth every thing.

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.

7. *A fool is fulsome.* 1659: Howell, 10. 1670: Ray, 10. 1686: in *Roxb. Ballads*, viii. 604 (B.S.), Prating like a fool is fulsome.

8. *A fool knows more in his own house than a wise man in another's.* 1620: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt. II. ch. xliii. 1694: 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 foole beholdith but onely the begynnyng of his workys, but a wiseman takyth hede to the ende.

10. *A fool loseth his estate before he finds his folly.* [c. 1489: Caxton, *Sonnes of Aymon*, 485 (E.E.T.S.), For a fole never byleveth tyll 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 Ploughman*, ch. xix. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 100.

12. *A fool may sometimes give a wise man counsel* — with variants. [Πολλὰ αὖ γὰρ καὶ μωρὸς ἀνὴρ μέλα καλπίον εἶπεν.—Aulus Gellius, ii. 6.] c. 1374: Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk. i. l. 630, A fool may eek a wys man ofte gyde. c. 1450: *Partonope*, l. 7982, p. 321 (E.E.T.S.), Yet an old proverbe sayd ys all day: Of a foole a wyse man may Take wytt. 1581: Stafiord, *Exam. of Complaints*, 11 (N. Sh. S.), Yet fooles (as the prouerbe is) sometimes speake to the purpose.

1678: Ray, 140, A fool may put somewhat in a wise bodies head. 1693: Urquhart, *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 Midl.*, ch. xlv., And if a fule may gie a wise man a counsel . . . 1926: Phillpotts, *Marylebone Miser*, ch. i., Listen to everybody, for the biggest fool may come out with a bit of sense when you least expect it.

13. *A fool may throw a stone into a well, which a hundred wise men cannot pull out.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1854: J. W. Warter, *Last of Old Squires*, 53.

14. *A fool on a bridge soundeth like a drum.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Pont," A foole on a bridge is a drumme in a river. 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 485.

15. *A fool or a physician.* An association or alternative in various proverbial forms. See quotes. [Sed gravescente valetudine nihil e libidinibus ommittebat, in patientia firmitudinem simulans solitusque eludere medicorum artes atque eos, qui post tricesimum ætatis annus ad internoscenda corpori suo utilia vel noxia alieni consilii indigerunt.—Tacitus, *Annals*, VI. xlv.] 1607: B. Barnes, *Devils 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 physitian. 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: Dunton, *Athen. Sport*, p. 13, col. 1, 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'Keefie, *World in a Village*, III. i. [as in 1732].

16 *A fool thinketh himself wise* 1557 North, *Diall of Princes*, fo 9r v<sup>o</sup>. He may be called a foole that auunceth him selfe to be wise 1601 Shakespeare, *As You Like It* V 1, I do now remember a saying. The fool doth 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 *Handl Synne* l 2970. By foly wurdys mow men a foyle kenne 1412-20 Lydgate, *Troy Book*, bk 11 7022. For be his tonge a fole is ofte knowe 1570 Barclay, *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 Torriano, *Piazza Univ.* 69. A fool may ask more than seven wise men can answer 1670 Ray, 91. A fool may ask more questions in an hour, then a wise man can answer in seven years 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial II 1821 Scott, *Pirate*, ch xviii. He knows a fool may ask more questions than a wise man cares to answer 1901 F E Taylor, *Larcs Sayings*, 7. A foo' con ax moor questions i five minits nor a wise mon con answer i' a month

20 *A fool will laugh when he is drowning* 1577 Misogonus, I 11. A foole in laughter puttethe all his pleasure 1616 Breton in *Works* 11 c 6 (Grosart). A foole is euer laughing 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Brit-Eng*, 2 21 *A fool will not be foiled* 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 (EETS) [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 Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, vii 359 [with "leave" for "part with"] 1630 T Adams, *Works*, 774. The foole will not gve his bable for the Kings Exchequer 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, 11 342 (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 *A fool's bell is soon rung* c 1400 Rom Rose, l 5266 And fooles can not holde hir tunge, A fooles belle is sone runge

24 *A fool's bolt is soon shot* c 1270 *Prov of Alfred*, in O E Miscell, 128 (Morris). And sottes bolt is sone i-schohte c 1320 in *Reliq Antiqua*, 1 111 (1841). "Sottes bolt is sone shote", Quoth Hendyng c 1460 *Good Wyse wold a Pylger*, l 95. A follis bolt ys son i-schot 1583 Greene, in *Works*, 11 79 (Grosart) 1600 Shakespeare, *Henry V*, III vi 1667 Lord Bristol, *Elvira*, V. How soon a fool's bolt's shot without distinction 1748 Smollett, *Rod Random*, ch liii, "Zounds, I have done," said he "Your bolt 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 bolt is soonest shot" 1847 Planché, *Ex-travag*, 111 198 (1879)

25 *A fool's bolt may sometimes hit the white* 1732 Fuller, No 107

26 *A fool's handsel is lucky* 1614 Jonson, *Bart Fair*, II. Bring him a sixpenny bottle of ale they say, a fool's handsel is lucky 1668 Dryden, *Sir Martin Mar-all*, V 111. A fool's plot may be as lucky as a fool's handsel

27 *A fool's heart is in his tongue* 1566 Drant, *Horace Satires*, Sat 2. That silly foole His harte is euer in his tounge 1622 P Hannay, *Poet Works*, 184 (Hunt Cl). The wise man's tongue is euer in his heart. The fool's heart's in his tongue 1641 Quarles, *Enchyridion* Cent III cap lv 1669 *Poiteuphura*, 37. The heart

of a fool is in his mouth. Cf. Wise, *adj.* (50).

28. *A fool's paper.* See White (11).

29. *A fool's paradise.* 1462: *Paston Lett.*, ii. 109 (Gairdner, 1900), But I wold not be in a folis paradyce. 1549: *Mathew's Bible*, 2 Kings, ch. iv., Dyd I desyre a sonne of my Lorde? Dyd I not say that thou shouldest not brynge me in a foles paradyse. 1604: Webster and Marston, *Malcontent*, 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 fubdoodled 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. cxiii, A means of pleasing himself and beguiling tedious hours with romances and fairy tales and fools' paradises.

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 fooles, 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

tinks." 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I., *Miss. Peace!* I think I hear the church-clock. *Neverout.* Why, you know, as the fool thinks . . . 1831: Hone, *Year-Book*, 455, As the bell tinks, so the fool thinks; As the fool thinks, so the bell tinks.

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 foole in a morter saith the wise man, and thou shalt not make him leaue 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. Ho!*, 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 foole is a fiddle to the companie.

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 founmarts* [polecats]. See quot. 1898: N. & Q., 9th ser., ii. 88, "Fools and founmarts 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, *Philotinus*, sig. T3.

41. *Fools and madmen speak the truth.* 1621: Burton, *Melancholy*, 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 shod the goose 1732 Fuller, No 1567 1880 Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 141

43 *Fools are known by their babbling* 1477 Rivers, *Dictes and Sayings*, 57 (1877), A man may knowe a fole by his moche clatering 1597 H Lok, *Ecclesiastes*, 98 Fooles if they once begin, can neuer end 1641 Jonson, *Timber* "Homeri Ulysses" For too much talking is ever the indice of a fool 1647 *Countrim New Commonwealth*, 10, Fooles are known by their babblings

44 *Fools are of all sizes* 1901 F E Taylor *Lancs Sayings*, 9, Ther's foo s ov o sizes

45 *Fools are pleased with their own blunders* 1732 Fuller No 1570

46 *Fools are weatherwise* 1887 M A Courtney, *Folk-Lore Journal*, v 192, Here [Cornwall] it is well known that 'fools are weatherwise,' and that "those that are weatherwise 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 "inhabit" 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 Prudentum*

50 *Fools grow without watering*, 1732 Fuller, No 1574 1853 Trench, *Proverbs*, 73 (1905)

51 *Fools have fortune* c 1568 Wager, *Longer thou Lwest*, sig E2, They say that fooles are fortunate 1639 Glapthorne *Wit in a Constable*, III, The old proverbe of fooles have fortune 1720 *Vade Mecum for Malt-uorms* Pt II p 22, Dick fulfills the proverb which says, Fools have fortune c 1760 Garrick *Lying Valet*, 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 ete ye 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, 356

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 Florio, *First Fruits*, fo 30, Fooles make the banquets, and wise men enjoy them 1683 Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697) 1736 Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, i 447 (Bigelow) 1823 D'Israeli, *Cur of Lit*, 2nd ser, i 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 Horman, *Vulgaria*, fo 67, He is a foole that can nat holde hym selfe content whan he is well at ease 1794 Wolcot, in *Works*, ii 528 (1795), Fools never know when they are well 1822 Scott, *Nigel*, ch xxi, 'Tis 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 stools for wise men to stumble at* 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 322 (1870) 1613 S Rowley, *When You See Me*, sig F3 Yee know what the old prouerbe saies, When fooles set stocks and wise men breake their shinnes 1670 Ray, 91 1754 Berthelson, *Eng-Danish Dict*, s 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.

63. *Fools tie knots and wise men loose them.* 1639: Clarke, 88. 1670: Ray, 10. 1732: Fuller, No. 1583.

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 Foules*, l. 574, But sooth is seyde, "a fool can noght be stille." 1670: Ray, 91. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I., Why, madam, fools will be meddling. 1822: Scott, *Nigel*, ch. xxiii., Beasts and fools will be meddling, my lord.

66. *Fools' paradises 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, *Troilus*, bk. i. l. 217, But alday fayleth thing that foolen wenden [imagined]. c. 1387: Usk, *Test. of Love*, ii. 8, 122, Thus alday fayleth thinges that foolen wende. c. 1534: Berners, *Huon*, 502 (E.E.T.S.), It is a comune sayng that many thingis lackethe of folysshe thoughtis.

68. *Give a fool a candle to tind [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. 1350: *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.), Sot is pat is oper mannes freond more pan his owe. c. 1374: Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk. v. l. 98, I have herd seyde, eek tymes twyes twelve, "He is a fool that wol for-yete himselfe." 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Fol," Hee 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 feaul that is not mallancholy yance a day. 1732: Fuller, No. 2434.

73. *He is a fool that makes a wedge of his fist.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Coing" 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: Bohn, 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 foolen are bables wore, of wood we should have but small store. 1670: Ray, 10, If all fools ware bables fewel 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 "moche abydeyth behynde that a fole thynketh."

86. *No one is a fool always, every one*

sometimes 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1694 D'Urfev *Quixote*, 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 1654 Gayton, *Pleasant Notes Don Q*, 140 1769 Brooke *Fool of Quality*, iv 228 1821 Byron, *The Blues*, Ecl 1 l 57 1860 Reade, *Cl and Hearth* ch lxxiv, 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 foole, that farre is sente some wisdom to attaine, Returns an ideot, as he wente, and brings the foole againe 1604 *Pasquils Jest*s, 38 (1864), You may all depart like fooles as you came 1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 147, Who sends a fool expects the same back again 1732 Fuller, No 4096 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, 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 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 197 1880 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 Fruits*, fo 29 [with 'count' for 'esteem'] 1586 Pettie, tr Guazzo's *Civil Convers*, fo 40 1659 Howell,

1 [with "hold" 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 foole 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 1878 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 11, There is no foole to the olde foole, folke say 1592 Lyly, *Mother Bombe*, IV 11 1616 Breton, in *Works*, 11 e 6 (Grosart) 1712 Gay, *Mohocks*, sc 11, Oh Peter, Peter! an old fool of all fools is the worst 1856 Planché, *Extravag*, v 157 (1879), In love there's no fool, madam, like an old fool 1922 Weyman, *Ovington's Bank*, ch viii

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' If fooles went not to markets bad wares would not be sold 1696 D'Urfev, *Quixote*, 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

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 pittie quickly ouerthrowes, 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. Prudentum*.

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 neuer come.

2. *The foot on the cradle, the hand on the distaff.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs*: *Span-Eng.*, 2, [plus] a sign of a good housewife. 1670: Ray, 14 [as in 1659]. 1732: Fuller, No. 4541.

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 shal not 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 cares. 1732: Fuller, No. 1593.

For my part. See Kiln (1).

Forbearance is no acquittance. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. iv., Sufferaunce is no quittance. 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 33, Forbearance is no payment. 1605: T. Heywood, *If You Know Not Me*, in *Works*, i. 332 (1874). 1670: Ray, 92. 1732: Fuller, No. 1587.

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, *Helmont'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 choicce.

Ford. 1. *Never praise a ford till you get over.* 1633: Draxe, 51, It is not good praysing of a foord, vntill a man be ouer. 1670: Ray, 92 [as in 1633]. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Ford."

2. *To take the ford as one finds it.* 1575: Gascoigne, *Posies*, 6 (Cunliffe), 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.

*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 "Vorehand-pay and never-pays the wist [worst] of all pay" 1894 Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 13 (E D S), Forehanded pay is the worst pay as is Cf Pay (4)

Forehead and the eye, In the, the lecture of the mind doth lie 1633 Draxe, 60 [heart is read" for last three words] 1670 Ray, 92 1754 Berthelson *Eng-Danish Dict*, s v Lecture Cf Face (4)

Foreheet [Predetermine] nothing but building churches and louping over them, I'll 1678 Ray, 355 1683 Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697) [with "Fore-sheet" for Foreheet"] 1691 Ray, *Words not Generally Used*, 43 (E D S)

Fore-horse by the head See quotes 1875 Parish, *Sussex Dict*, 45 'He has got the fore horse 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

Fore-warned fore-armed, or in some early examples, half-armed [Egon' ut cavere nequeam, cui praedicatur?—Plautus, *Pseudol*, I v 101] Before 1500 in Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 132 (E E T S), He that is warned vs half armed c 1569 in Collmann *Ballads and Broad-sides*, 194 (Roxb Cl), But they that warned are in tyme, Halfe armed are gainst daungerous crume 1587 Greene, in *Works*, iv 154 (Grosart), By his fore-warning, thou hadst bene fore-armed 1620 Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt II ch xvii, He that is warned is half armed 1673 Wycherley, *Gent Danc-Mas'ter*, V 1 1712 *Spectator*, No 395 1834 Marryat, *P Simple*, ch liv, I now knew the ground which I stood upon, and forewarned was being forearmed Cf Once warned

Forget, verb 1 To forget a wrong is the best revenge 1639 Clarke, 324 1670 Ray, 92 c 1800 Trusler, *Prov in Verse*, 101, To forget an injury is the best revenge Cf Forgive (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 *Angren R*, 124 (O), Al þæt hurt and al þæt sore were uorðiten and forgiuen uor gledenesse 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch iii, All our great fraie Is forgeuen and forgotten betwene vs quight c 1605 Shakespeare, *Lear*, IV vii, Pray you now, forget and forgive 1696 Southorne, *Oroonoko*, V ii, Endeavour to forget, sir, and forgive 1792 Holcroft, *Road to Ruin*, V iii, We ought all to forget and forgive 1823 Scott, *Peccol*, ch xxv, Years had taught Deborah to forget and forgive 1921 22 June, King George V, *Speech at Belfast*, opening Ulster Parl, 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 we are 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 1417 1853 Trench, *Proverbs*, 13 (1905) The noblest vengeance is to forgive here is the godlike proverb Cf Forget (1)

Fork. I ask you for a fork and you bring me a rake 1732 Fuller, No 2587 See also Rake

Forkle-end See quot "Forkle-end" is not in Wright's *Eng Dialect Dict* 1869 Hazlitt, 201, He's standing on his forkle-end S Devon 1e he's well and on his legs, able to get about—Shelly

Forms keep fools at a distance c 1750 Foote, *Englishman returned from Paris*, II, They say forms keep fools at a distance

Fort. See Castle (2).

Fortunate boor needs but be born, A. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 26.

Fortunate man may be any where, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 114.

Fortune and love. See quot. Before 1704: T. Brown, in *Works*, iii. 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, If. See quot. 1670: Ray, 212, If fortune favour I may have her, for I go about her; If fortune fail you may kiss her tail, and go without her.

Fortune favours fools. 1563: Googe, *Eglogs, etc.*, 74 (Arber), But Fortune favours fooles as old men saye. 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, l. 119, 'Tis a gross error, held in schools, That Fortune always favours fools. Cf. Fool (51); and God sends fortune.

Fortune favours the bold. [Fortes fortuna adjuvat.—Terence, *Phorm.*, I. iv. 26. Audentes fortuna juvat.—Virgil, *Æn.*, x. 284. Audentes deus ipse juvat.—Ovid, *Mel.*, x. 586.] c. 1385: Chaucer, *Leg. Good Women*, V., Lucretia, l. 94, "Hap helpeth hardy man alday," quod he. c. 1390: Gower, *Conf. Amantis*, bk. vii. l. 4992, And seith "Fortune unto the bolde Is favorable forto helpe." 1481: Caxton, *Reynard*, 66 (Arber), Who that is hardy the auenture helpeth him. 1594: Drayton, *Ideas*, lix., Fortune assists the boldest, I reply. 1674: Head and Kirkman, *Eng. Rogue*, iii. 142, Fortune helps the bold. 1731: Swift, *Strephon and Chloe*, l. 148, Who had been often told That fortune still assists the bold. 1840: Barham, *Ing. Legends*, 1st ser.: "Grey Dolphin," Fortune . . . delights to favour the bold.

Fortune helps him that is willing to help himself. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Aider."

Fortune is variant. See quotes. c. 1420: Lydgate, *Assembly of Gods*, st. 46, p. 10 (E.E.T.S.), Varyaunt she [Fortune] was; ay in short space Hyr whele was redy to turne without let. c. 1490: *Partonope*, l. 4389 (E.E.T.S.), Lo, thus ffortune can turne hur dyse Nowe vp, nowe doune; here whele ys vnstabelle. 1509: Barclay, *Ship of Fools*, i. 126 (1874), Fortune euer hath an incertayne 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 dothe put into our handes 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, *Dict.*, s.v. "Fortune," When fortune knocks be sure to open the door.

Fortune to one is mother, to another is stepmother. 1651: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentium*, 2nd ed.

Forty save one. See quotes. 1841: Hartshorne, *Salopia Ant.*, 520 [with long explanatory legend, pp. 520-2], Forty sa [save] one like Obitch's [?] Holbeach's] cowt. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 593, Forty save one, like Rhoden's colt . . . sometimes "like Obitch's colt," but not, I think, correctly. "Obitch's" colt was a spectre.

Foul in the cradle and fair in the saddle. 1695: Camden, *Remains*, 322 (1870), Foul in the cradle proveth fair in the saddle. 1659: Howell, 8. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Foul." 1889: *Folk-Lore Journal*, vii. 292, [Derby sayings] Fou' i' th'

cradle, fair i' th' saddle Cf Fair in the cradle

Foul water is thrown down the sink 1683 White Kennett, tr Erasmus' *Praise of Folly*, 142 (8th ed.), I will take the proverb for a satisfactory reply, namely, *Foul 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

Foul water will quench fire as well as fair 1546 Heywood *Proverbs* Pt I ch v 1592 Lyly, *Mother Bombie*, III iv, Yet I hope foule water will quench hot fire as soone as faire 1616 *Jack Drum*, I, in Simpson, *Sch of Shakesp* ii 144 Foule water quencheth fire well enough 1670 Ray, 154. Foul 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 farthings 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 1809 Pegge, *Anonymana*, cent ix 45 Four things it is said, are most to be desired a good neighbour, a window to every man's heart, that mens tongues and hearts should go together, and an house upon wheels

Four-pence for that advice, If I had given, I had bought it a groat too dear 1732 Fuller, No 2685

Four-pence to a groat See Near as Fowey, The gallants of Corn 1602. Carew, *Surv of Cornwall*, 315 (1811). The merit of which exploit afterwards entitled them Gallants of Foy 1790 Grose, *Protr Gloss*, s v "Cornwall," The gallants of Foy 1864 "Cornish Proverbs, in N & Q, 3rd ser, v 275 Gallants of Foy 1904 *Morning Post*, 11 April, quoted in N & Q, 10th ser, i 505. It was

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, Thenne was I as fayn as foul on feir morwen c 1386 Chaucer, *Canon's Yeoman's Tale* l 789, This sotted preest, who was gladder than he? Was never brid gladder agayn the day c 1430 Lydgate, *Minor Poems*, 111 (Percy S), Sir John was as glad of thys as ever was fowle of daye 1598 *Servynge Comfort*, in *Inedited 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 1670 Ray, 127 1732 Fuller, No 644, An old fox needs not be taught tricks Cf Nos 3 and 19

3 An old fox understands a trap 1539 Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo 27, An olde foxe is not taken in a snare 1540. Palsgrave, *Acolastus*, sig Q3 [as in 1539] 1732 Fuller, No 645. 1880 Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 116, An old fox is shy of a trap Cf Nos 2 and 19

4 As cunning as a klyket [fox] 1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, ii 107 (F L S)

5 As lang 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*, 199, All foxes 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 Cotgrave, s v 'Moine' 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

8 Every fox must pay his own skin

to the flayer. 1639: Clarke, 215. 1670: Ray, 93. 1710: S. Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 123. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, ii. 107 (F.L.S.).

9. *Fie upon hens* [query, misprint for "hens"] (*quoth the fox*) because he could not reach them. 1678: Ray, 142.

10. *Foxes dig not their own holes*. 1732: Fuller, No. 1608. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, ii. 107 (F.L.S.).

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 sleepeeth, nothing falleth into his mouth. 1670: Ray, 10. 1736: Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, i. 443 (Bigelow), The sleeping fox catches no poultry.

12. *Foxes are all tail and women all tongue*. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. vi. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 58.

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 foxe or a fearne brake. 1639: in *Berkeley MSS.*, iii. 33 (1885), Beware the fox in a fearne 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, *Jac. Prudentum*.

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.

19. *Old foxes want no tutors*. 1732: Fuller, No. 3712. 1792: Wolcot, in *Works*, ii. 318 (1795). Cf. Nos 2 and 3.

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 prouerbe 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*. 1619: 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.).

25. *The fox may grow grey but never good*. 1631: Mabbe, *Celestina*, 207 (T.T.), Though the fox change his haire, yet he never changeth his nature. 1671: E. Howard, *Six Days Adv.*, III. p. 41, The fox is gray before he's good. 1732: Fuller, No. 4545. [1892: Wilde, *Lady W.'s Fan*, I., Men become old, but they never become good.]

26. *The fox praiseth the meat out of the crow's mouth*. 1732: Fuller, No. 4546.

27. *The fox preys furthest from his hole*. 1639: Clarke, 127, A crafty fox never preyeth neare his den. 1642: Fuller, *Holy State*: "Constant Virgin," This they do . . . to divert suspicion, that they may prey the furthest from their holes. 1670: Ray, 92. 1732: Fuller, No. 1610 [in the plural]. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, ii. 107 (F.L.S.), Foxes prey furthest from their earths.

28 *The fox that having lost his tail* See quot 1658 Flecknoe, *Enigm Characters*, 78, Like the fox, who having lost his own taile, would needs perswade all others out of theirs 1779 Boswell, *Letters*, II 299 (Tinker), 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, *Ovington'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 1580 Spelman, *Dialogue*, 109 (Roxb Cl), The fox fareth beste when he is moste careste [cursed] 1594 Greene, *Friar Bacon*, etc, sc vi 1660 Tatham, *The Rump*, II, The fox fares best when he is curst 1712 Motteux *Quixote*, Pt II ch I 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 Lambarde, *Peramb of Kent*, 362 (1826), For as the proverbe is the taile is ynough to bewray the foxe 1633 Draxe, 72

31 *Though the fox run, the chicken hath wings* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1670 Ray, 4 1732 Fuller, No 5008

32 *To be in a fox's sleep* 1672 Walker, *Param*, 25 1681 W Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 639, To be in a foxes sleep, Somnum mentiri 1796 O'Keefe, *The Doldrum*, II 1, He sleeps aye like a fox 1875 N & Q, 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 1709]

34 *What is the fox but his case?* 1637 A Warwick, *Spare Minutes*, 84 (1829), Methinks the proverbe sutes those sutes [gallants in brave attire], *what is the fox but his case?* Cf No 37

35 *When the fox preaches, beware the geese* c 1410 Towneley Plays, 12 (E E T S), How I let furth youre geyse, the fox will preche 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch vii 1609 Rowlands *Whole Crew*, etc, 14 (Hunt Cl), Take in your geese, the fox begins to preach 1692 L Estrange *Æsop*, 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 haue no more of the foxe but the skyn 1659 Howell, 4 Cf No 34

See also False (5), Fire (11), Flap, Grapes, Lion (7), Quietness, Ram, Reynard, and Wily

Fox-cubs See quot 1678 Ray, 228 There's ne'er a best among them, as the fellow said by the fox-cubs

Foxes brewings See Cocking

France 1 *France is a meadow that cuts thrice a year* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

2 *If that you will France win, Then with Scotland first begin* 1548 Hall, *Chron*, 55 (1809), The old auncient proverbe whiche saith he that will Fraunce wyne, muste with Scotlande firste beginne 1599 Shakespeare, *Henry V*, I 11

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 ayre

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 iii, 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. 586r.

Free of her lips free of her hips. 1576: Pettie, *Petite Pall.*, ii. 32 (Gollancz), They are as loose of their lips and as free of their flesh as may be. 1678: Ray, 62. 1732: Fuller, No. 626g.

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, *Alvearie*, 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 guift, as a lewe of his eye. 1670: Ray, 205, As free as a blindman is of his eye.

Freedom. See quot. c. 1430: Lydgate, *Minor Poems*, 183 (Percy S.), I remembre a proverbe said of olde, Who lesethe his fredam, in faith! he loseth all.

Freer than a gift, What is? 1583: Fulke, *Defence*, xv. 403 (O.), A gift that is freely giuen . . . 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'Arblay, *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.

Frenchmen. See quot. 1303: Brunne, *Handl. Synne*, l. 4154, A forbyseyn ys toldé pys, Seyde on Frenshe men and on Englys, "That Frenche men synne yn lecherye, And Englys men yn enuye."

Frenzy, heresy, and jealousy. See quotes. Before 1529: Skelton, *Reply-cacion*, l. 406, For be ye wele assured

That frensy nor ielousy Nor heresy wyll neuer dye. 1562: Bullein, *Bulw. of Defence*: "Soreness and Chir.," fo. 75, The old proverb is, that heresy, fransie, and jealousy be so bred by the bone that they will neuer out of the fleshe. 1591: Harington, *Orl. Furioso*, bk. xxxi., Notes, Our old English proverb: From heresie, phrenesie, and lealousie, good Lord deliver me. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 95, Frensie, jealousy and heresie are never to be cur'd any way.

Fresh as a daisy. 1815: E. S. Barrett, *Heroine*, iii. 155 (O.), As fresh as a daisy. 1845: Dickens, *Cricket*, Chirp 2, She presently came bouncing back—the saying is, as fresh as any daisy; I say fresher. 1925: I. and C. I. Gordon, *Two Vagabonds in Languedoc*, 41, Here he comes swinging in from his fifteen kilometres fresh as a daisy.

Fresh as a rose. 1412-20: Lydgate, *Troy Book*, bk. v. l. 2897, With swete nes freshe as any rose. 1468: *Coventry Mys.*, 154 (Sh. S.), Fayr and fresche, as rose on thorn. 1590: Spenser, *F. Q.*, bk. ii. can. ix. st. 36, That was right faire and fresh as morning rose. 1615: in *Roxb. Ballads*, vi. 166 (B.S.), Cheeks as fresh as rose in June. 1700: T. Brown, etc., tr. Scarron, ii. 182 (1892), The duke . . . found her as gay and fresh as a rose upon the stalk. 1906: J. M. Rigg, tr. *Decameron*, i. 122, A brother, twenty-five years of age, fair and fresh as a rose.

Fresh as an eel. c. 1410: Towneley *Plays*, 127 (E.E.T.S.), As fresh as an eyll.

Fresh as flowers in May. c. 1440: Lydgate, *Lyf of our Lady*, sig. G2 (Caxton), Fayrer than floure in maye. 1566: L. Wager, *Mary Magdalene*, sig. B1, Freshe and flourishyng as the floures in May. 1592: Warner, *Alb. England*, ch. xxxi. st. 4, As peart as bird, as strait as boulte, as freshe as flowers in May. 1631: Heywood, *Fair Maid of West*, Pt. II. Act I., You shall meete some of them sometimes as fresh as flowers in May. 1714: Gay, *Shep. Week*, Prol., l. 55, But Lansdown fresh as flower of May. 1868: A. Dobson, in *Poet. Works*, 6 (1923), The artless,

ageless things you say Are fresh as May's own flowers

Fresh as paint 1850 Smedley, *Frank Fairlegh*, ch vi, You are looking as fresh as paint, getting round again, wind and limb, eh? 1859 Sala, *Twice Round Clock*, 8 p.m. 1912 Pinero "Mind the Paint" Girl, III p 146, I feel as fresh as paint

Fresh fish See Fish (1)

Fret like gummed taffety, To 1605 R F, *Sch of Slovenrie*, The Epistle, The translator vowes to conclude that either Signior Malevola his sute of gumme is fretted out at elbowes, or 1732 Fuller, No 1846, He frets like gum'd taffety 1738 Swift, *Polite Conters*, Dial II, You have made him fret like gum taffety

Friar and Friars 1 Friar's mouth See Fit as a pudding

2 Friars observant spare their own and eat other men's 1578 Florio, *First Frintes*, fo 30, Observant friers spare theyr owne, and eate that which is other mens 1629 *Book of Meery 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 Mery Talys*, No lxx p 120 (Oosterley, 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, *Paræm*, 10 See also Devil (118) and Fly, subs (1)

Friday 1 A Friday look (or face) 1592 Greene, in *Works*, xii 120 (Grosart), The foxe made a Friday face, counterfeiting sorrow 1667 L'Estrange, *Quevedo's Visions*, 152

(1904), I look what a Friday-face that fellow makes! 1846 Denham, *Proverbs*, 6 (Percy S), Has a Friday look (sulky, 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, *Characters* "Milkmaid," Only a Fridaies dreame is all her superstition that she conceales for feare of anger 1831 Hone, *Year-Book*, 252, It is a common saying and popular belief, that, Friday night's dreams, etc 1879 Henderson, *Folk-Lore N Counties*, 101 1883 Burne, *Shropsh Folk-Lore*, 261 1884 *Folk-Lore Journal*, ii 279 [with "Sunday" for "Saturday"—Derby]

3 A Friday's feast 1639 Davenport, *New Trick*, etc, III 1, I'de 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 friday's breakfast got, few of such feasts will pull their courage down

4 A Friday's flit will not long sit 1868 Atkinson, *Cleveland Gloss* [with "never" for "not long"] 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 107 [Lancs] 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, viii 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 Ibid., 42, As the Friday so the Sunday

7 Friday is the best or the worst day of the week c 1386 Chaucer, *Knight's Tale*, l 676, Right as the Friday, soothly

for to telle, Now it shyneth, now it reyneth faste. 16th cent.: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, 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 a day as'll have his trick The fairest or foulest day o' the wik.* 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, 294. 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*, 243

12. *Friday's noon is Sunday's doom.* Corn. 1887: M. A. Courtney, in *Folk-Lore Journal*, v. 191.

13. *Fridays in the week are never aleck* [alike]. c. 1386: Chaucer, *Knight's Tale*, l. 681, Selde is the Fryday at the wyke i-like. 1850: *N. & Q.*, 1st ser., i. 303, The following meteorological proverb is frequently repeated in Devonshire, to denote the variability of the weather on Fridays:—Fridays in the week Are never aleck. 1874: W. Pengelly, in *N. & Q.*, 5th ser., ii. 184. [Corn.] Friday and the week are seldom aleck. 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 sutch 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-vitæ*], I had kicked up my heels. c. 1663: Davenant, *Play-House to be Let*, V., And Cæsar, you shall find—a friend in corner. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phraseol. 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.

3. *A friend in court is better than a penny in purse.* c. 1400: Rom. Rose, ll 5541-2, For freend in court ay better is Than peny in purs, certis. 1509: Barclay, *Ship of Fools*, i. 70 (1874). 1580: Lyly, *Euphues*, 476 (Arber). 1641: Peacham, *Worth of Penny*, in Arber, *Garner*, vi. 256 (1883). 1738: *Gent. Mag.*, 475, A friend at court is worth a penny in the purse. 1848: Dickens, *Dombey*, ch. xxxviii., I shouldn't wonder—friends at court you know . . . Cf. Penny (6).

4. *A friend in need is a friend indeed.* c. 1270: *Prov. of Alfred*, in Kemble, *Salomon and Sal.*, 247 (Ælfrie S.), A sug fere pe his help in mod (A safe fere [companion] is he that helps at need). 1484: Caxton, *Æsope*, ii. 251 (Jacobs), The very and trewe frend is fond in the xtreme nede. 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. xxii. [heading].

5. *A friend in the market is better than money in the chest.* 1732: Fuller, No. 119.

6. *A friend is never known till a man*

have need 1303 Brunne, *Handl Synne*, l 2251, At nede shul men proue here frendys c 1470 G Ashby, *Poems*, 67 (EETS), A freende is known in necessite 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch vi 1683 Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697), A friend is not knawn 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*, 11 177 (Jacobs), As the common prouerbe and wise sayinge reporteth, that the vertue is no lesse to conserue frendship gotten, than the wisdom 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 nothing in the world that's harder found, Nor sooner lost 1732 Fuller, No 1612

8 A friend to all is a friend to none [ $\phi$  φίλος οὐδεὶς φίλος — Diogenes Laertius, V 1 Attributed to Aristotle] 1623 Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 475, All men's friend, no man's friend 1666 Tormano, *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 Cf Many friends

9 A friend's frown See quots 1570 A Barclay, *Mirr of Good Manners*, 21 (Spens S), For much better it is, To bide a frendes anger then a foes kisse 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Brit-Eng*, 3, 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 us fair 1639 Clarke, 128 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 ds like thy books, few but choice 1659 Howell, 10 (8)

14 Friends are like fiddle-strings, they must not be screw ed too tight 1855 Bohn, 358

15 Friends sail flyers 1548 Hall, *Chron*, 361 (1809), Frendes fayle fliers 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 322 (1870) 1639 Clarke, 25

16 Friends may meet but mountains never 1530 Palsgrave, 635, Hylles do never mete, but acquayntaunce dothe often 1653 Wither, *Dark Lantern*, 29, Friends possibly may meet (our proverb sayes) But mountains never 1754 Berthelson, *Eng-Danish Dict*, s v "Friend," Friends may meet but mountains never greet

17 Friends must part c 1620 in *Roxb Ballads*, 1 253 (BS), For friends, you know, must part 1727 Gay, *Fables*, 1st ser, No 50, But dearest friends, alas! must part 1821 Scott, *Kenilworth*, ch vi, The best friends must part

18 Friends through fortune become enemies through mishap c 1386 Chaucer, *Monk's Tale*, l 254, For what man that hath frendes thurgh fortune, Mishap wol make hem enemys, I gesse This proverbe 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 doth the[e] good c 1640 in *Roxb Ballads*, 11 288 (BS), But he is my friend, That helps me i' th' end 1732 Fuller, No 1926, He is my friend that succoureth me, not he that pitieth 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 "thy self"]. 1670: Ray, 10.

27. *No man has a worse friend than he brings with him from home*=himself. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 335 (1870), Where shall a man have a worse friend than he brings from home? 1670: Ray, 94 [as in 1605]. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, 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).

28. *One friend watcheth for another*. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Ami," One friend ever watches, or cares for another. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 8.

29. *Save a man from his friends, and leave him to struggle with his enemies*. 1869: Hazlitt, 328.

30. *The friend that faints is a foe*. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), *Sc. of Folly*, 46, in *Works*, ii. (Grosart).

31. *When a friend asks there is no to-morrow*. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1710: S. Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 367.

32. *Wherever you see your friend trust yourself*. 1639: Clarke, 26. 1670: Ray, 94.

33. *Who hath too many friends, eats too much salt*. 1659: Howell, 10 (8). Cf. Bushel (3).

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 (8); 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. I. *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.

3. *Friendship that flames goes out in a flash*. Ibid., No. 1623. Cf. Sudden friendship.

4. *While the pot boils friendship blooms*. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 95.

Fright a bird is not the way to catch her, To. 1633: 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. I. *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 well 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. I. *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.).

4. *Frost and fraud both end in foul*. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 322 (1870), Frost and fraud have always foul ends. 1657: Gurnall, *Christ. in Armour*, Pt. II. V. 14, ch. xvii. p. 66 (1679), So true is that proverb, that frost and fraud have dirty ends. 1709: R. Kingston, *Apoph. Curiosa*, 80 [as in 1657]. 1853: Trench, *Proverbs*, 21 (1905). 1904: Co. *Folk-Lore: Northumb.*, 172 (F.L.S.). 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 60.

5. *Hear-frost and gipsies never stay*

nine days in a place 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 114

6 If hoar-frost come on mornings twain, The third day surely will have rain Ibid., 114

7 The frost hurts not weeds 1732 Fuller No 4550

8 Three white frosts bring rain 1881 C W Empson, in *Folk-Lore Record*, iv 131 1893 Inwards *Weather Lore*, 114, Three white frosts and then a storm 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 163 Three yarry [hoary] frosts are sure to end in rain

See also Hail (1), and March (43) and (44)

Frosty nights and hot sunny days Set the corn fields all in a blaze 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore* 43

Frosty winter, A See quot 1846 Denham, *Proverbs*, 68 (Percy S), A frosty winter, and a dusty March, And a rain about Aperill And another about the Lammas time, When the corn begins to fill, Is worth a plough of gold, And all her pins theretill 1893 Inwards *Weather Lore*, 42

Frugality is an income 1542 Udall, tr Erasmus' *Apoph* 44 (1877), According to the proverbe good husbandrie, and sparyng in an hous, is a great penic rent of yerely reuenues 1681 W Robertson *Phraseol Generalis*, 650, Frugality and good husbandry makes things go far is great incomes 1725 Bailey, tr Erasmus' *Colloq*, 491, Frugality is a handsome income 1875 A B Cheales, *Proverb Folk-Lore*, 102, Economy is a good income

Fruit 1 Fruit is gold in the morning, etc See quotes 1904 N & Q 10th ser, i 251, About fifty years ago a farmer in the county of Durham said in my hearing, "The late Bishop Barrington used to say, Fruit is gold in the morning, silver in the afternoon, and lead at night" 1922 *Punch* 20 Sept, p 279, col 3 The old adage tells us that fruit is gold in the morning, silver at noon and lead at night'

2 Fruit out of season, sorrow out of reason 1884 H Friend *Flowers and Fl Lore*, 207, "Fruit reason," 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 graze, 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 ἐς αὐτὸ, φαεῖ, τὸ πῦρ ἐκ τοῦ καυνοῦ βιάζομενος —Lucian, *Necyom*, 4 Pervenimus igitur de calcaria (quod dici solet) in carbonariam —Tertullian, *De Carne Christi*, vi] 1528 More, *Works*, p 179 col 2 (1557), Lepe they lyke a flounder out of a frying-panne into the fyre 1591 Harrington, *Orl Furioso*, bk xiii st 28, But I was sav'd, as is the flounder, when He leapeth from the dish into the fire 1621 Burton, *Melancholy*, I iv 1 286 (1836), Though, many times, as Æsops fishes, they leap from the frying pan into the fire itself 1671 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 Virginia's 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 [οὐ γὰρ χρὴ πῦρ ἐπὶ πῦρ ἐκτελεῖν —Plato, *Legg*, 666A Velut materiam igni praebeantes —Livy, xxi 10] c 1380 Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk ii 1 1332 Through more wode or col, the more fyr 1592 Warner, *Alb England*, ch lxx st 27 All adding fewel to the fire 1632 Massinger, *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 iv, 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 tick. *Ibid.*, 284. 1854: Baker, *Northants Gloss.*, s.v. "Tick," "As full as a tick": a state of repletion. 1886: Elworthy, *West Som. Word-Book*, 272 (E.D.S.), . . . Said of any animal, whether man or beast, which has eaten its fill. 1889: J. Nicholson, *Folk-Speech E. Yorks*, 19, . . . A tick is a sheep-louse, which has always a full bloated appearance.

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. Prudentum*. 1732: Fuller, No. 1634, Full guts neither run away, nor fight well.

Full bowls make empty brains. 1632: T. Heywood, *Iron Age*, Pt. I. Act I.

Full cup must be carried steadily, A. c. 1300: *Prov. of Hending*, st. 16 (ed. Berlin, 1878), When the coppe is follest, 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 East, the shorter West. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 1 (Percy S.). Cf. Longer East.

Further off the better looked upon, The. *Glos.* 1911: *Folk-Lore*, xxii. 239.

Further than the wall we cannot go. 1528: More, *Works*, p. 187, col. 1 (1557), I am in this matter euen at the harde walle, and se not how to go further. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. v. [with "he" for "we"]. 1659: Howell, 5.

Further you go, the further behind, The. 1477: Rivers, *Dicles and Sayings*, 144 (1877), He that goth owte of his weye, the more he goth, the ferther 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.

## G

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 1 He gaineth enough whom fortune loseth 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Gaigner," Assez gaigne qui malheur perd He gets enough that misses an ill turn 1629 Book of Meery Riddles 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 1 No gains without pains 1577 J Grange, *Golden Aphroditis*, sig Mx, Who will the fruyte that haruest yeeldes must take the payne 1589 L Wright, *Display of Dutie*, 4. No gain without pain 1670 Ray, 129, Without pains, no gains 1736 Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, 1 443 (Bigelow) 1775 O'Hara, *Two Misers*, II 1853 Trench, *Proverbs*, 106 (1905), They consequently accept the law of labour, *No pains, no gains*

2 Who heeds not gain, must expect loss 1864 "Cornish Proverbs," in N & Q 3rd ser, vi 494

Gainsborough See quot 1865 W White, *East England*, II 41, Poor Gainsborough, 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 Wiclif, *Works*, III 231 (Arnold), As a horse unrubbed, that haves a sore back, wynses when he is oght touched or rubbed on his rugge c 1483 *Quatuor Sermones*, 27 (Roxb Cl), A gallyd horse that is touchyd on the sore wynseth and wryeth 1566 L Wager, *Mary Magdalene*, Prol, 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 gauled 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*, II 32, Like a gall'd jade he winces

See also Scabbed horse

Gallows groans for you, The 1577 *Misogonus*, I IV, The gallows grones for this wage as rust rope ripe 1585 *Nomenclator*, 525, One for whom y<sup>e</sup> gallows grones 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Pendard," A rake-hell, crack-rope, gallow-clapper, one for whom the gallows longeth 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, 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

Galtey's cat See quot 1925 *Devon and Corn N & Q*, XII 206, His race is his rim, like Galtey'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, *Autobiog*, 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*



1732 : Fuller, No. 826, At the end of the game you'll see who's the winner.

Gamesters and race-horses never last long. 1640 : Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

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, Maie fortune to fast and famishe for honger. 1732 : Fuller, No. 6459. 1869 : Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. vii., He that gapes till he be fed, will gape till he be dead.

2. *No gaping against an oven.* 1577-87, Holinshed, *Chron.*, ii. 389 (1807), The legat blushed, and said . . . "A man ought not to chide with a foole, nor gape ouer an ouen." 1623 : Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 485, To gape against an ouen. 1670 : Ray, 96. 1732 : Fuller, No. 3575.

3. *You gape for gudgeons.* 1659 : Howell, 15.

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*, 431. 1872 : J. Glyde, jr., *Norfolk Garland*, 149.

Gaping 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.

Garlic. 1. *Garlic makes a man wink, drink, and stink.* 1594 : Nashe, *Unfort. Trav.*, in *Works*, v. 71 (Grosart). 1608 : Harington, *Sch. of Salerne*, sig A8. [1754 : Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Wink," Onions make a man stink and wink.]

2. See quot. 1609 : J. Melton, *Sixfold Politician*, 35, (according to the prouerbe) : the smel of Garlicke takes away the stink of dunghills.

See also Eat (14); and White (17).

Garrick, As deep as. 1880 : Courtney, *W. Cornwall Words*, xiii. (E.D.S.). 1889 : Peacock, *Manley, etc.*, Gloss., 162 (E.D.S.). 1907 : *N. & Q.*, 10th ser., viii. 251, 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, *Kenilworth*, 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 beggery. 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 faukon—gentil of nature . . .] Before 1529 : Skelton, *Garl. of Laurell*, Gentyll as faucoun. 1579 : *Marr. of Wit and Wisdom*, sc. ii. p. 14 (Sh. S.), You shall find him as gentell as a faulcon.

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 *Pepysian Garland*, 447 (1922), The gentle craft doth beare good will to all kind hearted tradesmen still. 1713 : Ward, *Hist. Grand Rebellion*, iii. 464, When young, of Crispin's gentle craft by trade. 1834-7 : Southey, *Doctor*, ch. liii., St. Crispin is 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

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, *Garl of Laurell*, l 1436

Gentle housewife mars the household, A 1611 Cotgrave, s v *Femme*, 'The over gentle houswife marres her household 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Gentle is that gentle does 1854 J W Warter, *Last of Old Squires*, 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 Harrington, *Orl 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 *ironice* 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 vse to term them 1606 *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 iii

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 daintie to haue them come thither" c 1577 Northbrooke, *Against Dicing*, etc, 22 (Sh S)

9 *He was meant for a gentleman but was spoiled in making* 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I, I think she was cut out for a gentlewoman, but she was spoiled in the making 1830 Forby, *Vocab E Anglia* 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 'tis 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 Extat*, 10 (Percy S), You shall find in an old tracte printed by Winkin de Woorde, this olde sayde sawe *Whats a gentleman but his pleasure?* 1670 Ray, 96 1732 Fuller, No 5506

13 *Who would be a gentleman, let him storm a town.* 1670 Ray, II

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 Burghley, in Peck, *Desid Curiosa*, 47 (1779), For a man can buy nothing in the market with gentility 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, III 441 (1840) [quoted as "the plain proverb"] 1670 Ray, 96

Geordy Potter See quot 1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, I 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

Gerards Bailiff See quot 1678 Ray, 355, Here is Gerards Bailiff, work or you must die with cold *Somerset*

Germain's lips See quotes 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch II, Iust (quothe she), As Iermans lips 1579

Gosson, *Sch. of Abuse*, 27 (Arber), He . . . shall see them agree like dogges and cattes, and meete as iump as Germans lippes. 1596: Harington, *Ajax*: "Apology," 41 (1814), Just as Jermin's lips. 1659: Howell, 3, As just as Jermans lipps; spoken in derision. 1869: *N. & Q.*, 4th ser., iii. 468, [Referring to the Gosson extract, a correspondent says:] Is not this an allusion to the proverb respecting "German's lips, which came not together by nine mile"? [I have not met with this proverb.]

German's wit is in his fingers, *The*. 1605: Sylvester, *Du Bartas*, Week II. Day ii. Pt. 3, l. 616, The Northern-man, whose wit in's fingers settles. 1611: Coryat, *Crudities*, ii. 81 (1905), In so much that they say, the Germanes have their wit at their fingers ends. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Ital-Eng.*, 17, The Germanes have their wits at their fingers ends, viz. good artificers.

Germoe. See Breage.

Get, verb. 1. *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. 1869: Hazlitt, 416.

7. *What he gets, he gets out of the fire.* 1678: Ray, 246.

Ghosts never appear on Christmas Eve. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 63 (Percy S.).

Giant loves the dwarf, *The*. 1869: 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.

Giff-gaff was a good fellow. 1549: Latimer, *Seven Sermons*, 84 (Arber). 1598: *Servicem. Comfort*, in *Inedited*

*Tracts*, 130 (Hazlitt), The giffe gaffe promise he repentes. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 322 (1870), Give gave is a good fellow. 1670: Ray, 96, Giff gaff was a good man, but he is soon weary. 1824: Scott, *Redgauntlet*, ch. xiii, I have pledged my word for your safety, and you must give me yours to be private in the matter—giff-gaff, you know. 1868: Atkinson, *Cleveland Gloss.*, 217, Giff-gaff, sb. The interchange of familiar or unstudied conversation on cursory topics. 1913: E. M. Wright, *Rustic Speech, etc.*, 121, Giff-gaff . . . mutual obligation, reciprocity, used especially in the proverbial saying: giff-gaff makes good friends.

Gift and Gifts. 1. *A gift long waited for is sold not given.* 1732: Fuller, No. 130.

2. *Gifts break a rock.* 1640: Mabbe, *Exemplary Novels*, ii. 169 (1900), Gifts will break through stone walls. 1732: Fuller, No. 1649.

3. *Gifts enter without knocking.* 1633: Draxe, 19. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, Gifts enter everywhere without a wimble.

4. *Gifts from enemies are dangerous.* 1732: Fuller, No. 1650.

5. *Gifts make beggars bold.* 1669: *Politeuphnia*, 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.

8. *Look not a gift horse in the mouth.* [Equi donati dentes non inspiciuntur.—Hier., *Ep. ad Ephes.*, Proem (quoted "ut vulgare proverbium est").] c. 1520, Stanbridge, *Vulgaria*, sig. C4, A gyuen hors may not be loked in the tethe. 1539: Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo. 49, A gyuen horse (we saye) maye not be loked in the mouth. 1674: Head and Kirkman, *Eng. Rogue*, iii. 158, I am resolved to ride this way [facing the horse's tail], to make good the proverb, that I may not look a gift horse in the mouth. 1712: Motteux, *Quixote*, Pt. II. ch. lxii. 1826: Lamb, *Pop. Fallacies*, xi. 1871: G. Eliot, *Middlemarch*, ch.

xiv, 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 E Anglia*, 432, It will take the gilding off the gingerbread 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 Jenkinson quickly removed the gilt from our gingerbread

Gilt spurs do not make the knight 1572 J Bossewell, *Workes of Armorie*, fo 90, Chaucer saveth that habite maketh no mōcke, ne wearing of gylte spurres maketh no knyghte

Gimunningham, Trummingham, Knapton and Trunch, North Repps and South Repps are all of a bunch 1670 Ray, 245 1790 Grose *Prov Gloss*, s v "Norfolk" 1865 W White, *East England*, 1 188

Gip See quotes 1659 Howell, 4, Gip quoth Gilbert when his mare f— 1678 Ray, 85, Gip with an ill rubbing, quoth Badger when his mare kicked This is a ridiculous expression, used to people that are pertish and froward Gipsies See Frost (5)

Girdle will not gird me, That 1732 Fuller, No 4343

Give 1 *A given bite is soon put out of sight* 1855 Robinson, *Whitby Gloss*, 71

2 *Give a clown your finger, and he will take your hand* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1670 Ray, 5 [with 'whole' before 'hand']

3 *Gne a loaf and beg a shive* [slice] 1678 Ray 247 1879 G F Jackson, *Shropsh Word-Book*, 376, 'Er wuz too good natured, 'er gid the loaf an' 'as to beg the shive

4 *Gne advice* See Advice

5 *Gne and be blessed* 1548 Hall, *Chron*, 16 (1809), Wherof the prouerbe began, geue and be blessed, take awaie and bee accursed

6 *Gne 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 Halliwell, *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 Florio, *First Fruites*, fo 30, Geuyng is dead and restoring is yl at ease 1670 Ray, 11 [with "now a days" after 'dead'] 1732 Fuller, No 1661, deadly sick 1880 Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 154, 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 Prudentum* 1732 Fuller, No 6114 1880 Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 7

9 *Giving to God is no loss* 1875 A B Cheales, *Proverb Folk-Lore*, 126

10 *He can give little to his servant that licks his knife* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

11 *He gives twice that gives quickly* [Duplex fit bonitas, simul accessit celentitas — Pub Syr, 141] c 1385 Chaucer, *Leg Good Women*, Prol, 1 441, For who-so yeveth a yift, or doth a grace, Do hit by tyme, his thank is wel the more 1539 Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo 25, He gyueth twyse y<sup>t</sup> gyueth quykely 1560 T Wilson, *Rhetorique*, 119 (1909), He gueth twice that gueth sone and cherefully 1631 F Lenton, *Characters*, sig H2 (1663), He that gives timely gives twice 1712 Motteux, *Quixote*, Pt I bk iv ch vii 1846 Wright, *Essays on Middle Ages*, 1 146

12 *He that gives his goods before he be dead* See quotes 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*, He that gives all before he dies provides to suffer 1683 Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697), He that gives all his geir to his bairns may tack a mell and knock out his harnes [brains] 1710 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 is

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 *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 112 (1841), "That me lutel geveth, he my lyf ys on"; Quoth Hendyng. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

14. *He who gives to another bestows on himself.* 1681: Rycaut, tr. Gracian'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.

16. *They that give are ever welcome.* Quoted as "a sayenge." c. 1534: Berners, *Huon*, 235 (E.E.T.S.).

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 weare the devills gold-ring (say we in a triviall 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 gowd ring!

18. *To give always, there is never no end.* [Largitio fundum non habet.—Cicero, *Off.*, II. xv. 55.] 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 475.

19. *To give and keep there is need of wit.* 1620: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt. II. ch. lviii. [as in 1732]. 1670: Ray, II. 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 brain crave.

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 gaue as good as he brought. 1676: Etherege, *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*, l. 721, A well drawn man ys he and a well taught That wyll not gyue hys hed for nought. 1596: Nashe, *Haue with You*, in *Works*, iii. 106 (Grosart), The time was when he would not haue giuen his head for the washing. 1602: Chettle, *Hoffman*, III. ii. 1615: B. & F., *Cupid'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. 1847: 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 girdle* = To submit. c. 1350: Alexander, l. 181, Bot gefe thaim up the girdill. 1655: Howell, *Letters*, bk. iv. No. xix., The other [French] proverb is, *Il a quitté 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. 14 [cited as "the common prouerbe"].

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, meanes to give me nothing. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

26. *You give me roast and beat me with the spit.* 1560: T. Wilson, *Rhetorique*, 131 (1909), 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 *Musarum Deliciae*, 1 280 (Hotten) 1716 E Ward, *Female Policy*, 53, She will give thee roast-meat, but beat thee with the spit 1855 Robinson *Whitby Gloss*, 165, Never invite a friend to a roast and then beat him with the spit 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 quotes 1640 Herbert *Jac Prudentum*, Whose house is of glass must not throw stones at another 1720 C Shadwell, *Sham Prince* I ii, Ay cousen, no body should throw stones, whose house is made of glass 1793 Grose, *Olio*, 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! 1892 Shaw, *Widowers' Houses*, II, People who live in glass houses have no right to throw stones 1909 De Morgan *Never can happen Again*, 1 159, 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 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1670 Ray, II

Glasses and lasses are brittle, ware 1666 Torriano, *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 glenying er the cart haue caried 1633 Draxe, 175, Hee goeth a gleaning before that the cart haue 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

Glow-worm lights her lamp, When the, the air is always damp 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 145

Glue did not hold, The, "1e 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*, II

3 *Non sighth so sore as the gloton that mai no more* Before 1500 Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 129 (E E T S)

4 *Who hastens a glutton chokes him* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Gluttony kills more than the sword c 1535 *Dialogues of Creatures*, ccxxviii (1816), Many moo people be glotonye is slayne, Then in batell or in fight, or with other peyne 1580 Lyly, *Euphues*, 275 (Arber), More perish by a surfet then the sword c 1625 B & F, *Women Pleased*, I ii, Surfets destroy more than the sword 1669 *Poli-teuphuia*, 302, By gluttony more die then perish by the sword 1736 Bailey, *Dict*, s v "Surfeit," Surfets 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 especially in the country, the master may say *Gow* (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, 102. 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.

4. *Go in God's name, so you ride no witches.* 1678: Ray, 247. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, II. 83 (F.L.S.).

5. *Go it cripples, crutches are cheap.* 1869: 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 to go to the Divil and shake myself. Cf. *Shake your ears*.

9. *He goes not out of his way that goes to a good inn.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Fourvoyer." 1670: Ray, 14. 1732: Fuller, No. 1851. 1909: Hackwood, *Inns, Ales, etc.*, 189.

10. *He goes (or runs) far that never turns.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. ix., He runneth far that never turneth again. 1577: *Misogonus*, I. i., He goeth farr that neverournes agayne, as folke say. 1606: T. Heywood, *If You Know Not Me*, Pt. II., in *Dram. Works*, I. 329 (1874), But he goes far that neuer turns. 1633: in *Pepysian Garland*, 420 (1922), He runs farre that ne'r returneth, is a prouerbe still in vse.

1732: Fuller, No. 2012, He runneth far indeed that never returneth.

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 Fruites*, fo 29 [with "returneth" for "comes"]. 1629: *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov. 90.

14. *He that goes barefoot.* See *Thorn (I)*.

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. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 672.

16. *He that goes to bed sober.* See *Often drunk*.

17. *He that goes to bed thirsty riseth healthy.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 36. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Bed."

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 Convers.*, fo. 12, All beastes so soone as they are deliuered 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)*.

21. *To go as if dead lice dropped off you.* 1672: Walker, *Param.*, 20. 1678: Ray, 75. 1893: J. Salisbury, *S.E. Worcs. Gloss.*, 36 (E.D.S.), Look at 'im, 'e creeps along as ef dyud lice wus a drappin' off 'im.

22. *To go round land* = To die. 1888: Q.-Couch, *Troy Town*, ch. xi., He went round land at las', and was foun' 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: Marryat, *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 goe to heaven on beds of down 1681 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 shortly shalt to Heaven in a string We'll all be glad, Great Tom, to see thee hang'd 1679 in *Roxb Ballads*, iv 141 (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 I Cogan, *John Buncke*, 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*, iii 215 (Jacobs), Accordynge to the prouerbe He that goeth to bed supperlesse, lyeth in his bed restlesse 1670 Ray, 37 1906 J M Rigg, tr *Decameron*, 1 201, 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 woorke in haste as nine men helde ye 1672 Walker, *Paræm*, 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 optumast — Plautus, *Trin*, 63] 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch iv, You might haue gone further and haue faren wurs 1632 Shirley, *Love in a Maze*, II ii, I may go farther, and fare worse 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial II 1834-7 Southey, *Doctor*, ch viii p 1, 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 s a-thinkin o' gettin wed . an' he med go further an'

fare wuss, fur she's a swate purty cratur

Goat and Goats 1 An old goat is 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 sold at every fair Ibid, No 1667

4 The goat must browse where she is tied 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Chevre" 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1714 Ozell, *Molière*, iii 207 1852 Fitz-Gerald, *Polonius*, 66 (1903)

5 You have no goats, and yet you sell kids 1732 Fuller, No 5922

God above gets all men's love, Not 1639 Clarke, 147 1670 Ray, 97 1732 Fuller, No 6105

God Almighty by the toe (or foot), To have 1548 Hall, *Chron*, 462 (1809), The duches thinkyng to haue gotten God by the foote, when she had the deuell by the tayle 1591 Harington, *Orl Furioso*, bk xlv, Notes, For if they may match their daughters so as they may say, my lord my sonne, they thinke they haue God almightie by the toe (as the prouerbe 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 c 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 hath he leaden feete whiche are as slow to ouertake 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 complains not, but does what is fitting. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

God defend me from my friends, I'll keep myself from my enemies. 1477: Rivers, *Dictes and Sayings*, 127 (1877). There was one that praied god to kepe him from the daunger of his frendis. 1594: A. Copley, *Wits, Fits, etc.*, 50 (1614), A fained friend God shield me from his danger, For well I'le saue my selfe from foe and stranger. 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'll keep myself from the rough. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 2. 1732: Fuller, No. 1668.

God deliver me from a man of one book. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Ital.-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 serves, 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: Heywood, *Spider and Flic*, 4 (1908), God hath done his part: she hath a good face. 1567: Harman, *Caveat*, 48 (E.E.T.S.), But as the prouerbe is "God hath done his part." 1605: Chapman, etc., *Eastw. Hoc*, IV. ii., (God hath done his part

in thee), but thou haste made too much, and beene to proud of that face.

God hath few friends, the devil hath many. c. 1610: Drayton, *Mooncalf*, 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, *Ploughman'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. Prudentum*. 1660: Howell, *Parly of Beasts*, 77, Though God heals, yet the physitian 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. 1659: Howell, 16. 1670: Ray, 22. 1732: Fuller, No. 1675.

God helps them that help themselves. [σὺν Ἀθηνᾷ καὶ χεῖρα κρείττει—Zenobius, v. 93.] 1580: Baret, *Alvearie*, I. 136, God doth helpe those in their affaires, which are industrious. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Ourdi," 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 wile 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 comune prouerbe sayde, whome that god wyll ayde no man can hurte. c. 1555: in Wright, *Songs, etc.*, *Philip and Mary*, 161 (Roxb. Cl.), Whom Gode

wolde have holpen he shall never waunte

God in thy calling, Serve, it is better than praying 1659 Howell 9 (7)

God is a good man 1526 *Hund Mery Talys* No 85, p 140 (Oesterley) There came one which sayde y<sup>t</sup> 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* 11 502 (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 was done well and lawfully 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 lues, but lues well, remembring alwayes the old adage, that God is the rewarder of aduerbes, not of nownes 1860 Motley, *United Netherlands*, 1 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 almyry

God is no butcher 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* 11 g 12 (Grosart), God is where he was he hath called me home, follow me to him 1678 Ray, 147

God kills, That which, is better than that killed by man 1869 Hazlitt 354

God knows well which are the best pilgrims 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Pelernn," God knowes who's 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 xliii 1732 Fuller, No 5724

God made, What, he never mars 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Brit-Eng*, 24

God make you an honest 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 1926 *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 neuere was lyf but lyfode were shapen c 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 1829 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, *Obs and Adv Econom*, 25, Our lawyers have this saying, that God onely makes heirs

God or a painter, He is either a, for he makes faces 1592 Shakespeare, *L L L*, V 11 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 rich men go to dinner 1639 Clarke, 37 1670 Ray, 129

God send you joy, for sorrow will come fast enough. 1633: Draxe, 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*, 66 (1905), Many languages have this proverb: *God gives the cold according to the cloth.*

God sends corn and the devil mars the sack. 1633: Draxe, 4 [with "asketh" for "sends"]. 1670: Ray, 97.

God sends fortune to fools. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. vi. c. 1594: Bacon, *Promis*, No. 493. 1601: Shakespeare, *As You Like It*, II. vii., Call me not fool till heaven hath sent me fortune. 1659: Howell, 8. Cf. Fool (51); and Fortune favours fools.

God sends good luck and God sends bad. 1639: Clarke, 165.

God sends meat and the devil sends cooks. 1542: Boorde, *Dyetary*, 260 (E.E.T.S.), It is a common prouerbe, "God may sende a man good meate, but the deuyll may sende an euyl coke to dysttrue it." c. 1600: Deloney, in *Works*, 221 (1912), God sends meate, and the diuell sends cookies. 1674: Head and Kirkman, *Eng. Rogue*, iii. 271. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. II. 1822: Scott, *Nigel*, ch. xxvii. 1904: J. C. Wall, *Devils*, 127, "God sends meat, but the devil sends cooks," is an old adage which Giraldus Cambrensis, in his caustic criticisms on the greed of the monastic Orders, thus revised—"God sent the abbeys, but the devil sent the kitchens and the cellars."

"God speed you well," quo' clerk of Hope. 1889: *Folk-Lore Journal*, vii. 292.

God stays long but strikes at last. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 19. 1878: J. Platt, *Morality*, 34. Cf. God comes with leaden feet.

God strikes not with both hands. [1600: Bodenham, *Belvedere*, 1 (Spens.

S.), God with his finger strikes, and not his arme.] 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, God strikes not with both hands, for to the sea He made havens, and to rivers fords. 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, *Prémices*, 47, Ces termes, Dieu mesure le froid à la brebis tondue, sont les propres termes du proverbe.] 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, 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 Infalible Hair Producer. Even so is the wind tempered to shorn lambs.

God than gold, Better. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 16.

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 Festial*, 86 (E.E.T.S.), Ye haue 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, *Promis*, 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*, cxxv. 248, Our old and beautiful adage, "The grace of God is gear enough."

God white [requite] you. 1653: Walton, *Angler*, Pt. I. ch. iv., Marry, God requite you, Sir, and we'll eat it cheerfully. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 61.

God will send thee flax, Get thy spindle

and thy distaff ready, and 1670 Ray,  
11

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 at all  
windes it will raine 1681 W Robert-  
son, *Phraseol Generalis*, 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 Shelton *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 iv

God's mill grinds slow but sure  
[*ὁ θεὸς ἀλέουσι μύλοι, ἀλέουσι δὲ λεπτά* —  
*Proverbia e Cod Coisl*, No 396,  
in Gaisford, *Paræm Græc* 164  
(1836)] 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*  
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 Charitable (2), Danger  
(7), Devil (50), (59), and (104), Gift (7),  
Give (9) and (24), Gloucestershire, Good  
spender, In time, Man (54), (56), (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 (6), Sure as God, and  
True (4)

Godalming 1 Godalmin cats, and  
2 Godalmin 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 has it  
that "If the sun shines before noon on  
Godalming fair-day [13 Feb], the winter  
isn't half over"

Godamercy, horse! An almost mean-  
ingless proverbial exclamation 1546  
Heywood, *Proverbs* Pt II ch vii, God  
haue mercy, hors 1579 Marr of *Wis*  
*and Wisdom*, sc iii, 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 Deliciae*, ii  
232 (Hotten), A taylor is a thief, a  
sergeant is worse, Who here lyes dead,  
god-a-mercy horse 1681 in *Harl*  
*Miscell*, ii 100 (1744), God-a-mercy  
horse, this rogue Will was tugging up  
stream 1710 *Brit Apollo*, iii  
No 118, 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 Folly*, 47, in *Works*, ii (Grosart)

Gods love die young, Whom the  
[*Quem Di diligunt Adolescens moritur* —  
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*,  
v 125 (Tusitala ed), I was meant to  
die young, and the gods do not love me  
1923 Lucas, *Advisory Ben*, § x 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 1 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 prouerbe saith, There is no earthly  
gate, but an asse laden with gold can  
enter 1670 Ray, 97 1736 Bailey,  
*Dict*, 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 muck 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*  
*Plasies*, 14 (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, *Jac. Prudentum*.

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"].

12. *When gold speaks you may e'en hold your tongue.* 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 179, *Where gold speaks, every tongue is silent.* 1670: Ray, 12, *You may speak with your gold and make other tongues dumb.* 1732: Fuller, No. 5555. Cf. No 3, *supra*; and Money (38).

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.

2. *A golden shield is of great defence.* *Ibid.*, No. 133.

3. *Golden dreams make men awake hungry.* 1678: Ray, 129. 1732: Fuller, No. 1695.

4. *Golden hook.* See *Angle* (2).

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.]

7. *The golden mean.* Before 1225: *Aucres R.*, 336, *ye middel weie of mesure is euer guldene.* 1596: Gosson, *Pleasant Quips*, 14 (Percy S.), *The golden meane is free from trips.* 1611: Coryat,

*Crudities*, ii. 150 (1905), *To keepe the golden meane in the levell of their thoughts.* 1687: Norris of Bemerton, *Poems*, 94 (Grosart). 1754: *World*, No. 95, *The golden mean, or middle track of life.* 1826: Scott, in *Lockhart's Life*, vi. 341, *They . . . are too desirous to make a show, to preserve the golden mean*

8. *We must not look for a golden life in an iron age.* 1633: Draxe, 242, *A man must not . . . yron 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, *Jac. Prudentum*.

*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 *Roxb. Ballads*, ii. 588 (B.S.), *Were't not for this barley broth (Which is meat, drinke, 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, *Mannerling*, 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 begen a newe counte 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  
 Pintero, *Lady Bourliful* I p 45 I've sold my business and I've cleared out of Baverstoke for good and all

Good and evil are chiefly in the imagination 1732 Fuller, No 1699

Good and quickly seldom meet 1640  
 Herbert *Jac Prudentum* 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 him to see the trees fall 1672 Marvell, *Rehearsal Transpr* Pt I in *Works* in 41 (Grosart) It was grown almost as good as a play 1845  
 Dickens *Cricket* Chirp 2, John had such a lively interest in all the parcels 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. 1660 in *Roxb Ballads* ii 131 (BS) 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 ere trode on Gods earth 1678 Ray, 285, As good as ever the ground went upon c 1890 Gilbert, *Foggerty's Fairy*, II, I know you're as good a girl as ever stepped

Good as ever twanged, As 1577  
 Misogonus, II ii, I must nedes loue thee, 1 faithe thart as good as ere twangde 1667 L Estrange, *Quevedo's Visions*, 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 1721 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, *Cripps*, ch xxxvii, 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 ii, 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 Prudentum* 1732 Fuller, No 1701, Good bargains are pick-pockets

Good bargain, On a, think twice 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1710 S Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 29 Cf Great bargain

Good be good, Though, yet better is better (or better carries it) 1639 Clarke, 105 1655 Fuller, *Church Hist*, bk xi § iii, 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 groat, 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 woorth a grote 1633 Draxe 190 [in the section on 'Silence']

Good bearing. *See* quot. c. 1460: *How the Good Wife*, l. 20, In thi gode berynge begynnythe thy worschipe.

Good beef that costs nothing, It is. 1732: Fuller, No. 2935.

Good beginning makes a good ending, A. [Non possum togam praetextam sperare, cum exordium pullum videam—Quint., V. x. 71.] c. 1320: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 109 (1841), "God biginning maketh god endyng," quoth Hendyng 1477: Rivers, *Dices and Sayings*, in *Brit. Bibliog.*, iv. 239 (1814), And sayd the lokyng vpon the begynnyng of the werke yf it be goode yeueth hope to the endyng. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. x., Of a good begynnyng comth a good end. 1637: Breton, in *Works*, ii. h 22 (Grosart), A good beginning, with a better proceeding, promiset a blessed ending. 1710. S. Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, i. 1825: Hone, *Ev. Day Book*, i., 1 Jan. 1854: J. W. Warter, *Last of Old Squires*, 48 [a variant], There was regularly the full service and a good plain sermon, and parson and squire both held to the old saw—Good onset bodes good end! Cf. Well (8).

Good blood, You come of, and so does a black pudding. 1855: Bohn, 576.

Good blood. *See* Blood (2).

Good bourd [jest] to drink of a gourd, It is a. c. 1410: Towneley Plays, 115 (E.E.T.S.), It is an old by-words, It is a good bowrde for to drynk of a gowrde.

Good broth may be made in an old pot. 1666: Torriano, *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 candle-holder proves a good gamester, A. 1659: Howell, 13. 1670: Ray, 4.

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. Prudentum*. 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* quots. c. 1477: Caxton, *Book of Curteseye*, 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, 69 [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 ylered. c. 1386: Chaucer, *Prioress's Tale*, l. 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* quots. 1639: Clarke, 291, Good company is a good coach. 1768: Goldsmith, *Vicar*, ch. xviii, "Good company upon the road," says the proverb, "is the shortest cut." 1853: Trench, *Proverbs*, 28 (1905), Our own proverb, *Good company on a journey is worth a coach*, has come down to us from the ancient world (Comes facundus in viâ pro vehiculo est).

Good conscience. *See* Conscience.

Good contriver is better than a big eater, A. 1906: *Cornish N. & Q.*, 267 [with "little" for "big"]. 1909: *Folk-Lore*, xx. 73 (Durham).

Good cook. *See* Ill 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: Draxe, 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 ii

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 Eatynge Deserveth good Drynkyng"

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 ix 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 Convers*, 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*, iii 575 (1811), A good face needes no painting, and a good cause no abetting 1732 Fuller, No 148

Good face on a thing, To set a 1387 Trevisa, tr Higden, vii 25 (Rolls Ser), And made good face to be eorie and semblant 1412-20 Lydgate, *Troy Book*, bk ii l 4366, And wher thou hast most mater to compleyne, Make ther good face and glad in port the [c] feine c 1540 Bale, *Kynge Johan*, l 1991, Though it be a foule lye set upon it a good face 1580 H Gifford, *Poete*, 44 (Grosart), But—as the

fashione of the worlde is now a dayes—set a good face on a bad matter 1621 Brathwait, *Natures Embassie*, 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 1, 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 Prudentum*

Good fire and clean grate, Just as good as half your meat 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 Crew*, 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 olde prouerbe, 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 I ch xi, He maie his parte on good fridaie cate, And faste 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 ne'er broke his fast

2 Rain on Good Friday See quotes 1882 Mrs Chamberlain, *W Worcs Words*, 37 (E D S), If it rain 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 (E D S), Rain 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] Rain 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 goose don't bite. 1592: Shakespeare, *Romeo*, II. iv., Nay, good goose bite not. 1599: Porter, *Two Angry Women*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, vii. 359. Good goose, bite not. 1678: Ray, 72 1732: Fuller, No. 1712.

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, 198. 1670: Ray, 13. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 57 (Percy S.).

Good harvests make men prodigal, bad ones provident. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Année." 1670: Ray, 13. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Harvest." 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 54 (Percy S.). 1904: *Co. Folk-Lore: Northumb.*, 178 (F.L.S.).

Good health. See quot. 1855: Bohn, 400, He who hath good health is young; and he is rich who owes nothing.

Good heed hath good hap. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phrascol. Generalis*, 719. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Heed," Take good heed will surely speed.

Good hope is better than a bad possession, A. 1620: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt. II. ch. lxx. 1732: Fuller, No. 154.

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 soone 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=Bc thrifty. See quot. 1813: Ray, 13, Be a good hus-

band, and you will soon get a penny to spend, a penny to lend, and a penny for a friend.

Good husband makes a good wife, A. 1621: Burton, *Melancholy*, III. iii. 4, 1, p. 648 (1836), For as the old saying is, a good husband makes a good wife. 1702: Farquhar, *Inconstant*, II, i., A good husband makes a good wife at any time. 1753: *World*, No. 21. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. xvii. Cf. Good Jack; and Good wife.

Good husbandry is good divinity. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 2 (Percy S.). 1904: *Co. Folk-Lore: Northumb.*, 173 (F.L.S.).

Good husbandry. See also Frugality.

Good ill that comes alone, 'Tis a. 1620: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt. II. ch. lv. 1732: Fuller, No. 5059.

Good in the mouth and bad in the maw [stomach]. 1669: *Politeuphuia*, 172, What is sweet in the mouth is bitter in the stomach. 1732: Fuller, No. 5511. 1855: Kingsley, *West. Ho!*, 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 Jack makes a good Jill, A. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 317 (1870). 1670: Ray, 108. 1828: Carr, *Craven Dialect*, i. 250. Cf. Good husband.

Good Jill may mend the bad Jack, A. 1669: Brathwait, *Hist. of Moderation*, 15, 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 judgment that relieth not wholly on his own, He hath a. 1710: S. Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 330. 1732: Fuller, No. 1882.

Good kail is half a meal. 1670: Ray, 36. 1732: Fuller, No. 6252. [In both "keal" for "kail".]

Good kin that none do amiss in, 'Tis a  
1639 Clarke, 160

Good knife See quot 1678 Ray,  
255, It's a good knife, it will cut butter  
when 'tis melted A good knife, it was  
made five miles beyond Cutwell 1732  
Fuller, No 2857, It is a good knife,  
'twas made at Dull-edge

Good land See Best (16)

Good language that all understand  
not, That's not 1640 Herbert *Jac*  
*Prudentum* 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 1269, He also says, that "a good  
lather is half the shave," is a very old  
remark among the trade [barbers]

Good laws See quot 1659 Howell,  
*Proverbs Fr-Eng*, 9 Good laws come  
from lewd lives 1855 Bohn, 364, Good  
laws often proceed from bad manners

Good life See quot 1629 *Book of*  
*Meery 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 liquor See Cat (18)

Good looks are good cheap 1639  
Clarke 34

Good luck comes by cuffing 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  
ill luck at cards 1887 *M A Court-*  
*ney, 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  
1 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 she ape 1605 Camden, *Remains*,  
316 (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  
whan 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 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

B = The master of the house 1 The  
goodman's the last that knows what's  
amiss at home 1670 Ray, 52 1732  
Fuller, No 4558 Cf Cuckold (8)

2 When the good man is abroad,  
the good woman's table is soon spread  
1678 Ray, 61 [with "from home"  
for "abroad," and "wives' for  
"woman'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, 185 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 163

Good master See quot c 1530  
Rhodes, *Boke of Nurture*, 108  
(EETS), He that hath a good  
mayster and cannot keepe him, He  
that hath a good servaunt and not  
content with hym, He that hath such  
condicions that no man loueth hym,  
May well knowe other, but few men  
wyll knowe him 1578 Florio, *First*  
*Fruites*, fo 105

Good masters make good servants  
1888 *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), Accompanye the[e] with good people, and thou shalt be on of them. 1560: T. Wilson, *Rhetorique*, 5 (1909), According to the prouerbe, by companying with the wise, a man shall learne wisdom. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1748: Richardson, *Clarissa*, iv. 242 (1785).

Good mind, good find. 1853: Trench, *Proverbs*, 19 (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 bettir than riches. 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: Berthelson, *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, He that brings, knocks boldly. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Hardiment." 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Span.-Eng.*, 18. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 213.

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 pawn never shames the master, A. 1631: Brathwait, *Whimzies*, 104 (1859). 1639: Glapthorne, *Wit in a Constable*, V. 1659: Howell, 11.

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'Urfev, *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 Machabree*, l. 424, Good leche 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: Woodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 477. Good reasons said, and euill vnderstood, are

rozes strawen to hogges, and not so good

Good recorder sets all in order, A 1659 Howell, 11 1670 Ray, 22 1732 Fuller, No 6245

Good reputation is a fair estate, A 1732 Fuller, No 172

Good riding at two anchors [ἀγαθὰ δὲ πλεον, ἐν χειμερίᾳ νικτὶ θοῆς ἐκ ναὸς ἀπεσκιμθῆναι, δὲ ἀγχιρᾷ — Pindar, *Olymp*, Ode VI 170] 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch 18, Good riding at two anchors, men have told For if the tone fail the tother may hold 1579 Lyly, *Euphues*, 116 (Arber), Have 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 comfortably 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 schoolmaster, Every 1732 Fuller, No 1417

Good seed, Of, proceedeth good corn c 1568 Wager, *Longer thou Livest*, sig A2

Good servant must come, A See quotes 1645 Howell, *Letters*, bk 1 § v No xiii, 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 "Servir," Good service, of itself, demands reward 1732 Fuller, No 176

Good service is a great enchantment 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

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 quotes 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 Florio, *First Fruits*, fo 28 [with "proue it against a wal" for "try it"] 1629 *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov 74

Good spender, To a, God is the treasurer 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 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 Anglia*, 431 1872 J Glyde, jr, *Norfolk Garland*, 149

Good stomach is the best sauce, A Cf Hunger

Good surgeon See Surgeon

Good swimmers are oftenest drowned 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Nageur," Good swimmers at the length feed haddocks 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*, 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

Fuller, No. 178, A good tale ill told is a bad one.

Good tale is none the worse for being twice told, A. 1816: Scott, *Old Mortality*, ch. vii.

Good that causeth so many good deeds, Needs must it be. c. 1387: Usk, *Test. of Love*, in Skeat's *Chaucer*, vii. 79, Nedes mot it be good that causeth so many good dedes.

Good that does me good, That's my. 1639: Clarke, 109, That's good that doth us good. 1678: 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. 1602: Carew, *Surv. of Cornwall*, 219 (1811), 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, 12 [with "snatch't" for "caught"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 181.

Good things I do not love. See quot. 1678: Ray, 148, Some good things I do not love, a good long mile, good small beer, and a good old woman. Cf. Good small beer.

Good, though long stayed for, is good. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 3.

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 quotes. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, ii. 227 (1840), Indeed our English proverb, "It is good to be near a-kin to land," holdeth in private patrimonies, 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 harmes. 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 quotes. 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 tree brings forth good fruit, A. c. 1534: Berners, *Huon*, 12 (E.E.T.S.), Always I haue harde say that a good impe [tree] bryngethe forth good freute. 1586: Pettie, tr. Guazzo's *Civil Convers.*, fo. 127, It is seldome scene that a good tree bringeth foorth ill fruites. Cf. Such tree.

Good tune played on an old fiddle, There's many a. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 117.

Good turns, One never loseth 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. iii., 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 quotes. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Marchand," Good chaffier 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, *Phraseol Generalis*, 677,  
 Good ware will off 1754 Berthelson,  
*Eng-Danish Dict*, 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  
 home, A 1894 Northall, *Folk Phrases*,  
 6 (E D S)

Good wife and good name hath no  
 make [mate] in goods nor fame, A  
 1623 Wodroephe *Spared Houres*, 478

Good wife and health Is a man'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 Coners*, Dial I

Good wife spares, 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  
 thresh't in his cloak 1602-3 Mannings-  
 ham, *Diary*, 131 (Camden S), 'I will  
 doe myne endeavor,' quoth he that  
 thrasht in his cloke 1670 Ray 178  
 1732 Fuller, No 2634

Good wind See quot 1592 Lyly,  
*Mother Bombe*, 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 childe, that it was a good  
 wind that blew a man to the wine

Good wine needs no bush 1539  
 Taverner, *Proverbs* fo 42, Wyne that is  
 saleable and good nedeth no bushe or  
 garland of vyve to be hanged before  
 1575 Gascoigne, *Glasse of Govt*, I 1  
 The good wyne needeth none iuve

garland 1608 Day, *Law Trickes*, IV 1  
 1638 Brathwaite, *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, 1 e agree 1620  
 Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt II ch xxxvii,  
 I have heard you say "Good wits  
 will soon meet" 1664 in *Musarum  
 Deliciae*, ii 85 (Hotten), Like will to  
 like Good wits will jump (quoth he)  
 1710 Centlivre *Man's Beardsch'd*, IV  
 ii 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 c 1615 R C, *Times Whistle*,  
 111 (E E T S) 1736 Bailey, *Dict*,  
 s v "Word"

Good words and ill deeds deceive wise  
 and fools 1611 Davies (of Hereford),  
*Sc of Folly*, 46, in *Works*, ii (Grosart)

Good words anoint us, and ill do  
 unjoint us 1578 Florio, *First Frutes*,  
 fo 31, Good woordes annoynt a man,  
 the y1 woordes kyl a man 1611  
 Davies (of Hereford), *Sc 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'Estrange, *Aesop*, 249 (3rd ed),  
 A good word, they say, costs no more  
 than a bad 1732 Fuller, No 1735

Good words cost nought 1599  
 Porter, *Two Angry Women*, in Hazlitt,  
*Old Plays*, vii 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 *Hit of a Woman*, sc 1  
 l 20 (Malone S) [cited as "an olde  
 saying"]

Good words quench more than a

bucket of water. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 158, Good words cool more then cold water.

Good words without deeds are rushes and reeds. 1659: Howell, 17. 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.

Goodly. 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, Greatnesse and goodnesse goe not alwey 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).

Goodwin Sands. To set up shop on = To be shipwrecked. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. ix., And so set vp shop vpon Goodwins sands. 1670: Ray, 215, Let him set up shop on Goodwins Sands. 1735: Pegge, *Kent. Proverbs*, in E.D.S., No. 12, p. 72 [as in 1670]. See also Tenterden steeple.

Goodyer's pig, Like, never well but when he is doing mischief. Cheshire. 1670: Ray, 209. 1852: "Cheshire Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 1st ser., vi. 386. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 89.

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 graze 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 graze upon't. 1639: Clarke, 36. 1670: Ray, 178.

2. *A goose go barefoot.* See Woman (3).

3. *A goose is a silly bird.* See quotes.

1872: *N. & Q.*, 4th ser., ix. 104, That "a goose is a very silly bird, too much for one but not enough for two," is scarcely a local saying. I have heard it in several widely separated parts of England. 1880: Poole, *Archaic, etc., Words of Staffs*, 25, The presumed foundation for this proverb is, that a Walsall man, when asked if he and his wife were going to have a goose for their Christmas dinner, replied "No"; for said he, "the goose was a silly bird—too much for one to eat, and not enough for two." 1894: Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 31 (E.D.S.), Too much for one, and not enough for two, like the Walsall man's goose.

4. *All his geese are swans.* Before 1529: Skelton, *Magnyfyce*, l. 302, In faythe, els had I gone to longe to scole, But yf I coulede knowe a gose from a swanne. 1615: J. Andrews, *Anat. of Baseness*, 30 (Grosart), That by this art, can make a goose a swanne. 1621: Burton, *Melancholy*, Dem. to Reader, 40 (1836), All their geese are swans. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus's *Colloq.*, 445, For every man's own geese are swans. 1864: Newman, *Apologia*, 68, He was particularly loyal to his friends, and, to use the common phrase, "all his geese were swans."

5. *As deep drinketh the goose as the gander.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. vii. 1580: Lyly, *Euphues*, 275 (Arber). 1659: Howell, *Letters*, ii. 666 (Jacobs), The goose will drink as deep as the gander. 1732: Fuller, No. 671. 1880: Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 136, When the goose drinks as deep as the gander, pots are soon empty, and the cupboard is bare.

6. *As great as a goose's egg.* c. 1394: *Piers P. Crede*, l. 225.

7. *As is the gander so is the goose.* 1732: Fuller, No. 700.

8. *As open as a goose's eye.* c. 1500: Medwall, *Nature*, Pt. II. l. 130 (Brandl, *Quellen*, 120), Nay all ys open that they do there As open as a gose eye

9. *Geese with geese and women with women.* 1732: Fuller, No. 1645.

10. *Give the goose more hay.* See Tittle-tattle.

11 *Go flay the geese* 1683 Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale* 83-7 (1697)

12 *Gone is the goose that the great egg did lay* 1732 Fuller, No 1696

13 *Goose, gander, and gosling are three sounds, but one thing* 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Span-Eng*, 20 1670 Ray, 98

14 *Goslings lead the geese 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 Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig Ee2, I hope thou shalt eat of the goose that shall tread on her graue 1670 Ray 178, He hopes to eat of the goose shall graze on your grave

17 *He that turneth the goose should have the neck* Before 1500 Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 131 (E E T S)

18 *I have a goose to pluck with you* 1659 Howell, 2 Cf Crow (9)

19 *If you eat goose on Michaelmas Day you will never want money all the year round* 1708 Brit *Apollo*, 1 No 74, The custom'd proverb That who eats goose on Michael's-day, Shan't money lack, his debts to pay 1825 Hone *Ev Day Book*, 1 1339 [cited as "a popular saying"] 1830 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 (F L S)

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* 1591 Lyly, *Endymion*, V 11 Cf No 36

24 *Sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander* [Idem *Accio quod Titio ius esto* —Varro, ap Aul Gell, *Noct Att*, III xvi 13] 1671 Head and Kirkman, *Eng Rogue*, 1120 I could not justly complain, seeing what was sause for a goose was sause for a gander 1710

Swift, *Journal to Stella*, 24 Jan 1785-95 Wolcot, *Lousiad*, can v 1823 Byron, *Don Juan*, can xiv st 83 1853 Planché, *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*, pagin 1, 105 (1630), For the old proverbe I must here apply, Good meate men may picke from a gooses eye 1678 Ray, 148

28 *To as much purpose as the geese slurr* [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 Wiclif, in *Eng Works*, 82 (E E T S), For thei sillen a faat goos for ltel or nought, but the garlek costith many shillyngis

31 *To kill the goose that laid the golden eggs* 1484 Caxton, *Esopé*, 11 245 (Jacobs) [story told in a fable of Avian] 1855 Gaskell, *North and South*, ch xvii, And now they come to us, and say we're to take less And we won't They li have killed the goose that laid 'em the golden eggs, I reckon 1922 Weyman, *Ovington's Bank*, ch vi, 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 saway* 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



See also Bo; 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. 1868: *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.

Goshawk beats not at a bunting, A. 1639: Clarke, 69. 1670: Ray, 98 1732: Fuller, No. 185. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, ii. 108 (F.L.S.), A goss-hawk strikes not at a bunting.

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 vobis folium recitare Sibyllae.—Juvenal, viii. 126.] Before 1250: *Owl and Nightingale*, 1268 (O.), For-thi seide Alfred swithe wel And his worde was goddspel. c. 1374: Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk. v. l. 1265, Every word was gospel that ye seyde! c. 1400: *Rom. Rose*, l. 7609, Al is not gospel, out of doute, That men seyn in the towne aboute. 1593: Nashe, in *Works*, iv. 142 (Grosart), His creditors (thinking all is Gospell he speaks . . .). 1691: *Merry Drollery*, 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. Ingleside*, 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.

Gossiping and lying go together. 1732: Fuller, No. 1741.

Gossips are frogs—they drink and talk. 1640: Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 12.

Gotham—in various sayings. See quotes c. 1400: *Towneley 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: *Hund. Mery Talys*, No. xxiv., "Of the iii wyse men of gotam" [title], p. 45 (Oesterley). 1597: Hall, *Satires*, bk. ii. sat. v., Saint Fooles of Gotam mought thy parish be. 1639: Taylor (Water-Poet), *Summ. Trav.*, 16, in *Works*, 1st coll. (Spens. S.), I saw the ancient towne 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 renoun'd family of the wise-men of Gotam. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish 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.] 1863: Kingsley, *Water Babies*, ch. viii., 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, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 28 [with "hers" for the first "his"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 4560 [as in 1670].

Grace groweth after governance, "Is an old said saw in each place." 1566: Becon, in *Early Works*, 395 (P.S.).

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 ship-  
wreck 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  
'beauty'] 1670 Ray, 98 [as in  
1639] 1732 Fuller, No 6292

Graft 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 1855 Bohn,  
441

Gram by gram the hen fills her belly  
1653 Middleton and Rowley, *Span  
Gipsy*, II 1, Gram pecked up after  
gram makes pullen fat 1732 Fuller,  
No 1744

Gram of prudence is worth a pound of  
craft, A Ibid, No 187

Graith and grout See quot 1917  
Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 78, If you've  
grraith [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 Collier,  
*Roxb Ballads*, 29 (1847), The hostler,  
to maintaine himselfe with money in s  
purse Approves the proverbe true and  
sayes gramercy horse 1631 Brath-  
wait, *Whimzies*, 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*, sc x, Gloucester,  
an old said saying—He that grants all  
is ask'd, Is much harder than Hercules  
task'd

Grantham gruel, nine gnts and a  
gallon of water 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*,  
II 269 (1840) Before 1674 in *Roxb  
Ballads* VIII 427 (BS), Some gruel of  
Grantham, boy! d for the nonce 1790

Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Lincs" 1818  
Scott, *Heart of Midl*, ch XXIX, [Newark  
man loq] Thou wilt get naething at  
night save Grantham gruel, nine gnts  
and a gallon of water 1869 Spurgeon,  
*John Ploughman*, ch XVI

Grantham steeple stand awry, 'Tis  
height makes 1596 Lodge, *Wits  
Miserie* 14 (Hunt Cl), His beard is  
cut like the spier of Grantham steeple,  
1604 Middleton, *Works*, VIII 21 (Bul-  
len) Wrestling them quite awry, like  
Grantham steeple Before 1659 Clevel-  
land, *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 Adulandi*, sig E3, I see  
full well the fox will cate no grapes  
because he cannot reache them 1630  
T Adams, *Works*, 69 The foxe dis-  
praiseth the grapes he cannot reach  
1691 *Wit for Money*, 4, And like the  
fox, to try the grapes are sowre 1721  
Cibber, *Refusal*, IV, Poor Tom! What  
are the grapes sour my dear! 1760  
Murphy, *Way to Keep Him*, I, You  
would be glad to have me but sour  
grapes, my dear 1876 Blackmore,  
*Cripps*, 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  
sot The numeth to him-seoluen Mare  
thonne he mayen walden (For the man is  
a great fool who taketh upon himself  
more than he can manage) c 1386  
Chaucer *Melibeus*, § 24 For the pro-  
verbe seith 'he that to muche em-  
braceth, distreyneth litel' 1578  
Florio, *First Frutes*, fo 6, Who  
imbraceth much, litte closeth 1653  
Urquhart, *Rabelais*, bk I ch XLVI, It  
is too great an undertaking and  
(as the proverb is), He that gripes 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 Bawd*, IV. iii., I have not been idle—I have not let grass grow under my feet. 1864: Mrs. H. Wood, *Trevelyn Hold*, ch. xlv., 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*, 1, Her disapproval of the pastoral process known as letting the grass grow under your feet was intense.

6. *While the grass grows the steed starves.* c. 1440: Capgrave, *Life of St. Kath.*, ii. 253 (O.), The gray hors, whyl his gras growyth, May sterue for hunger, þus seyth þe prouerbe. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1593: *Pass. Morrice*, 89 (N. Sh. S.). 1602: Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, III. ii., Ay, sir, but "while the grass grows,"—the proverb is something musty. 1621: Burton, *Melancholy*, II. iii. 3, p. 404 (1836). c. 1760: Foote, *Commissary*, III., And while the grass grows—you

know the proverb . . . 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. xv.

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. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 151. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 159

See also Cut (17).

Grateful man. See quotes. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, 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 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: De Morgan, *Alice-for-Short*, ch. viii., "What a funny little tot it is!" he cried. "As grave as a judge!"

Grave as an old gate-post. 1678: Ray, 280. 1732: Fuller, No. 692.

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. 4563.

3. *The grave's good rest.* 1632: Rowley, *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 them 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.

Grays Inn for walks, Lincoln's Inn for a wall, The Inner Temple for a garden, and the Middle for a hall. 1659: Howell, 21. 1670: Ray, 258. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "London."

Graze on the plain, To=To be turned out of doors. 1869: Hazlitt, 418.

Grease, To fry in one's own. [Quasi

quom caletur cochleae in occulto latent,  
Suo sibi suco vivont, ros si non cadit,  
Item parasi rebus prolatis latent In  
occulto, miseri vicitant suco suo Dum  
run rurant homines quos liguriant —  
Plautus, *Capt*, 1 80-4] c 1386  
Chaucer, *Wife of Bath's Prolog*, 1 487.  
But certainly, I made folk swich chere,  
That in his owene grece I made him  
frye For angre c 1400 Lydgate  
*Temple of Glas* 14 (EETS), Thus  
is he fryed in his owene gres, To-rent  
and torn with his owene rage 1540  
Palsgrave, *Acolastus*, sig T3, He lyeth  
and fryeth in his owne grease for anger  
Before 1577 Gascoigne, *Works*, 1 474  
(Hazlitt), The sisters being thus on all  
sides reiected began to melt in  
their owne grease 1681 in *Roxb  
Ballads* vi 2 (BS), And he like abbey-  
lubbers stew'd in their own greases  
1898 Weyman, *Shrewsbury*, ch xxiv,  
If they impeach me, I return to Loo,  
and they may stew 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 Ibid, No 2753

4 To grease in the fist = To bribe  
1387 Trevisa, tr Higden, vii 7 (Rolls  
Ser), Elsinus groped here hondes,  
and gat slyliche a maundmente of þe  
kyng, and was i-put in at Caunterbury  
1569 E Fenton *Wonders of Nature*,  
135, Anointing their clarkes in the  
hand with double fee 1576 Wapull,  
*Tide tarrieth no Man*, sig Cr, Where-  
fore he will largely grease me in the  
hand 1606 *Ret from Parnassus*, Pt II  
II 11, Ought his gowty fists then first  
with gold to be greased? 1681 W  
Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 281,  
You must grease him in the fist with  
a new fee for a bribe 1789 in  
Farmer, *Musa Pedestris*, 72, Cease  
greasing their fist and they'll soon  
cease their jaw 1881 Evans *Leics  
Words*, 159 (EDS), A farmer said to  
me in reference to a douceur which  
his landlord's agent appeared to expect,  
"but this ere giff-gaff grease i'  
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 badger 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 Ibid, No 4564

Great as the devil and Doctor Faustus  
See Devil (39)

Great bargain, At a, pause 1736  
Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, 1  
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 barkers 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, *Spytel House*, 1 978, Grete  
boost and small roost 1591 Haring-  
ton, *Orl Furioso*, bk xxv st 66, As if  
there were great boast and little roost  
c 1660 in *Roxb Ballads*, 11 409 (Hind-  
ley) 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 brag-  
gers commonly be least fyghters 1732  
Fuller, No 1753 Cf Greatest talkers

Great businesses turn on a little pin  
1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* Cf  
Great engines

Great ceremony 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 civitas, magna solitudo* 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 Meriton,

*Yorkshire 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 engines turn on small pivots. 1855: Bohn, 366. Cf. Great businesses.

Great fish eateth the little, The. 1575: Churchyard, *Chippes*, 145 (Collier), The whales, you see, eates 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 then honest men.

Great harvest. See Harvest (7).

Great head and little wit. 1562: Heywood, *Epigr.*, 6th Hund., No. 56, Thy head is great . . . and without wit within. 1633: Draxe, 17. 1670: Ray, 101. 1732: Fuller, No. 196. 1813: Brand, *Pop. Antiq.*, iii. 176 (Bohn).

Great head and small necke is the beginning of a gecke [fool]. 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 518.

Great honours are great burdens. 1670: Flecknoc, *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, *Dict.*, 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.*, xlv. 90, If yu'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. "Faiseur," 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. 1869: 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 stirring in the North when old wives ride scout, There's. 1678: Ray, 341. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, ii. 75 (F.L.S.).

Great strokes make not sweet music  
1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1670  
Ray, 12, The greatest strokes make not  
the best musick

Great talkers are great liars 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 Melbancke *Philotinus*,  
sig A3

Great tree hath a great fall, A c 1380  
Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk ii ll 1380-6  
Whan that the sturdy ool On which  
men hakken ofte, for the nones,  
Receyved hath the happy falling strook  
The grete sweigh doth it come al at  
ones As doon these rokkes or these  
mine-stones For swifter cours com th  
thing that is of wighte, Whan it de-  
scendeth, than don thunges lighte  
1732 Fuller No 204

Great trees keep under the little ones  
Ibid, No 1769

Great way to the bottom of the sea,  
'Tis a 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, *Sir M Mar-all*, IV 1,  
He has forgot it, sir, good wits you  
know have bad memories 1720  
Swift, in *Works*, ix 191 (Scott, 1883),  
A common-place book is what a  
provident poet cannot subsist without,  
for this proverbial reason, that 'great  
wits have short memones" 1763  
Murphy, *Citizen*, II, George do  
you remember what you read Miss?  
Maria Not so well as I could wish  
Wits have short memories

Great wits jump 1691 *Hit for*  
*Money* 14, 'Tis much like it, I must  
confess but wits jump 1758-67  
Sterne, *Trist Standy* vol iii ch ix,  
Great wits jump—for the moment

Dr Slop cast his eyes upon his bag  
the very same thought occurred 1826-  
44 Hood *Comic Poems* "To Gri-  
maldi," Ah, where thy legs—that witty  
pair! For "great wits jump"—and so  
did they! 1884 N & Q, 6th ser, x  
216, 'Les beaux esprits rencontent'  
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  
Cf Good wits

Great would have none great, The,  
and the little all little 1640 Herbert,  
*Jac Prudentum*

Greater state, the more wisdom, The  
Before 1500 in Hill, *Commonplace-  
Book*, 130 (E E T S), The grettir state,  
the more wisdom

Greater the right, The, the greater the  
wrong 1569 Grafton, *Chron*, ii 228  
(1809), According to the adage, the ex-  
tremite of iustice is extreme iniustice  
1639 Clarke 182, Extremity of law is  
extremity of wrong 1680 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, summa injuria"

Greater the sinner, The, the greater  
the saint 1856 E Hinchcliffe, *Bar-  
thomley*, 29 How well is the old proverb  
illustrated The greater the sinner,  
the greater the saint 1913 *Folk-Lore*  
xxiv 76 (Olson)

Greatest barkers bite not sorest, The  
1587 Greene, in *Works*, iv 152 (Gro-  
sart), Orlanio thought the greatest  
barkers were not alwayes the sorest  
biters 1639 Clarke, 153 1670 Ray,  
59 1732 Fuller, No 4567, The  
greatest barkers are not the greatest  
biters

Greatest boosters are not the boldest  
men, The 1509 Barclay *Ship of*  
*Fools*, i 198 (1874), For greatestest  
crakers ar nat ay boldest men 1570  
Barclay, *Mirror of Good Manners*, 76  
(Spens S), The greatest crakers are  
not the boldest men

Greatest burdens are not the gainfullest, The. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Acquests." 1670: Ray, 4.

Greatest calf. See Calf (8).

Greatest clerks are not the wisest men, The. c. 1386: Chaucer, *Reeve's Tale*, l. 134, "The gretteste clerkes been noght the wysest men," As whylom to the wolf thus spak the mare. 1476: *Paston Letters*, iii. 153 (Gairdner, 1900), Wherffor, late men deme what they wylle, grettest clerkys are nott alweye wysest men. 1580: Lyly, *Euphues*, 237 (Arber). 1633: Jonson, *Tale of a Tub*, I. ii. 1732: Fuller, No. 4570. 1821: Scott, *Kenilworth*, ch. xxxi., 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, *Jac. Prudentum*.

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 fustie proverbe, these great talkers are never good doers. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phrascol. Generalis*, 1203. 1692: L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 360 (3rd ed.), The boldest talkers are not always the greatest doers. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng. - Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Talk." Cf. Great braggers.

Greatest vessel hath but its measure, The. 1732: Fuller, No. 4580.

Greatest wealth is contentment with a little, The. 1659: Howell, 6. 1670: Ray, 28. 1732: Fuller, No. 4581.

Greedy as a dog. 1639: Clarke, 285. 1670: Ray, 205. 1714: Mandeville, *Fable of Bees*, 187, Dogs, tho' become domestick animals, are ravenous to a proverb.

Greedy is the godless. c. 1320: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. III (1841), "Gredy is the godles"; Quoth Hending.

Greek Kalends, At the = Never. [In literis cum aliquos nunquam soluturos significare vult Ad Kalendas Graecas soluturos ait. — Suetonius, *Ost.*, 87.] 1540: Palsgrave, *Accolastus*, sig. Vi, At

the Grekish calendes . . . or a daye after domesday. 1595: Lodge, *Fig for Momus*, Epist. vii., Yea, when the Grecian Calends come (quoth I). 1653: Urquhart, *Rabelais*, bk. 1. ch. xx, The judgment or decree shall be given out and pronounced at the next Greek Calends, that is, never. 1740: North, *Examen*, 477, It must be dated *ad Græcas 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, *Cæsar*, 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.).

2. *A green wound is soon healed*. 1639: Clarke, 283. 1670: Ray, 31. 1732: Fuller, No. 206.

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 leeke. 1595: Shakespeare, *Mids. N. Dream*, V. 1., 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.

6. *As green as grass*. 1387: Trevisa, tr. Higden, i. 123 (Rolls Ser.), þe þridde [third] þre monþes grene as gras. c. 1420: Lydgate, *Assem. of Gods*, st. 48, p. 11 (E.E.T.S.), Grene as any grese in the somertyde. 1593: G. Harvey,

in *Works*, i 271 (Grosart), As greene as the greenest grasse c 1660 in *Rorb Ballads*, ii 444 (BS), 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 whan it is wel kyndeled 1586 G Whitney, *Emblems* 173, Greenest wood, though kindlinge longe yet whottest most it burnes 1670 Ray 30 1732 Fuller, No 1774

8 *King Green* See quot 1887 Parish and Shaw, *Dict Kent Dialect*, 155 (E D S), The use of green meat as a purge gives rise to this old East 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 straunger c 1594 Bacon *Promus*, 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 strewn 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 *Res-publica*, III iv Ye can see no grene cheese but your teethe wyll watier 1670 Ray, 198

*Grenvile family* See quot 1897 Norway, *H and B in Devon*, etc, 183, "Never a Grenvile 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 lves till shes grey as a badger all over 1786 Wolcot, in *Works*, i 140 (1795) 1823 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 (E D S), "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* Ibid, 149 ['Gray'] 1853 Trench, *Proverbs*, 70 (1905) ['Gray']

*Grey mare is the better horse*, The 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch iv c 1570 Marr of *Wis 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*, iii 249 (1824), My sister and brother (I place them so, becaus I thinke the gray meare is the best horse) 1723 Steele, *Conscious Lovers*, I 1 c 1740 Fielding, *Eurydice* 1849 Macaulay, *Hist Eng*, i ch iii 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 v, The propreteis 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 lyke a terne Chyned like a berne 1611 Markham *Country Contentments*, 39 (1675), An old rime left by your fore fathers, from which you shall understand the true shapes of a perfect grey-hound and this it 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 Deut.*, 755 (O.). There is no lykelihooode that those thinges will bring gryst to the mill. 1661: Gurnal, *Christian in Armour*, Pt. III. v. 18, ch. xxi. 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, *Middlemarch*, 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.

Grizzling 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 prouerbe: A grunting horse and a groning wife neuer deceiue their maister. 1670: Ray, 51, A grunting horse . . . seldom fail their master. 1732: Fuller, No. 207 [as in 1670, minus "their master"].

Groat is ill saved that shames the master, The. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 332 (1870). 1670: Ray, 23. 1732: Fuller, No. 4345. 1853: Trench, *Proverbs*, 103 (1905).

Groats. 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' Grewby Pule."

2. See quotes. 1678: Ray, 317, Then I'll thatch Groby pool with pancakes. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Leicestershire" [as in 1678]. 1818: Scott, *Heart of Midl.*, ch. xxix., [Newark man *loq.*] Why, when [there's no bad company on the road] . . . I'll thatch Groby pool wi' pancakes. 1843: Carlyle, *Past and Present*, bk. iii. ch. i., Think of that. "Groby Pool is thatched with pancakes,"—as Jeanie Deans's Innkeeper defied it to be!

Gropes in the dark, He that, finds that he would not. 1659: Howell, 13. 1670: Ray, 12. 1732: Fuller, No. 2124.

Groundsel, The = Sill or threshold. See quotes. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentium*, The groundsel speaks not, save what it heard at the hinges. 1670: Ray, 12 ["grounsel," and "of" for "at"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 4583, The groundsel speaketh but what it heard of the hinges.

Ground-sweat cures all disorders, A. c. 1816: 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 grows 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.

Guildford. 1. *Guildford bulls*. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Surrey." [A Godalming retort in answer to the taunts against the Godalming folk of cats and rabbits. See Godalming.]

2. *Poor Guildford, proud people, three churches, no steeple*. 1886: Hissey, *On the Box Seat*, 42.

Guiler is beguiled, The. 1377: Langland, *Plowman*, B, xviii. 337, The olde lawe graunteth, That gylours be bigiled. c. 1386: Chaucer, *Recite's Tale*, l. 401, A gylour shal himself bigyled be.

c 1390 Gower *Conf Amantis*, bk vi  
 l 1381 1484 Caxton *Æsop*, ii 50  
 (Jacobs), As men saye it is meryte to  
 begyle the begylers And therefore  
 he that begyleth other is oftyme  
 begyled hym self 1598 Bernard,  
*Terence in English*, III (1607), *Frus-*  
*tratur ipse sibi*, he deceiues himsele  
 he playeth wile beguile himsele  
 1606 *Wily Beguiled* in Hazlitt, *Old*  
*Plays*, ix

Guilt is always jealous 1732 Fuller,  
 No 1779

Guilty Gilbert See quot 1608  
 Armin *Nest of Vinnies*, 39 (Sh S),  
 By her cheeks you might find guilty  
 Gilbert where he had hid the brush

Gull comes against the rain, The  
 1633 Draxe 189, The gull commeth  
 not, but against a tempest 1670 Ray,  
 98

Gup quean, gup 'Gup' probably  
 = Go up 1525 *Wydw Edyth Mery*  
*Gestys*, 36 (1864), Than her lemman  
 cast her vp, Go where she wold gup  
 quean gup 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*,  
 Pt II ch iv, Walke drab, walke  
 Nay (quoth she), walke knaue walke  
 1573 G Harvey, *Letter-Book*, 118 (Cam-  
 den S) Marry gupp, hore, gupp, all  
 the day longe Cf Hop, whore

Guts in his brains, He has 1663  
 Butler, *Hudibras*, Pt I can in l 1091,  
 Hard matter for a man to do That has

but any guts in's brains 1697 T Dilke,  
*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*, i 47, "You have no guts in  
 your brains", you are completely  
 ignorant, you are quite destitute of  
 skill or cunning 1889 *Longman's*  
*Mag* April 619 (W), Maurice has good  
 guts i' 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*, i 198  
 (1795) George thinks us scarcely fit  
 (tis very clear) To carry guts, my  
 brethren, 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 draignes from the four  
 corners of the citty, goes in muddy  
 taplash downe Gutter-lane 1662 Ful-  
 ler, *Worthies*, ii 348 (1840) 1721  
 Bailey, *Eng Dict* s v, All goes down  
 Guttur Lane 1880 Spurgeon, *Plough-*  
*man's Pictures*, 40

## H

**Hab or nab.** 1542: Udall, tr. Erasmus' *Apoph.*, 209 (1877), To be put to the plounge of making or marring, and of habbe or nhabbe to wynne all, or to lese all. 1595: *Pedlars 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 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.

**Hackney mistress, hackney maid.** 1639: Clarke, 217. 1670: Ray, 99. 1732: Fuller, No. 1780. Cf. Like mistress like maid.

**Had I fish, is good without mustard.** 1639: Clarke, 114. 1670: Ray, 99.

**Had I wist, Beware of.** c. 1400: *Beryn*, l. 2348 (E.E.T.S.), But nowe it is to late to speke of had-I-wist! c. 1460: *Good Wyfe wold a Pylgr.*, l. 120, When dede is down, hit ys to lat; be ware of hady-wyst. Before 1529: Skelton, *Magnyfycence*, l. 213, Hem, syr, yet beware of Had I wystel 1587: Greene, in *Works*, iv. 110 (Grosart), But alas, had I wist now comes too late. 1651: Taylor (Water-Poet), *Epigr.*, 11, in *Works*, 2nd coll. (Spens. S.), Beware of, had I wist, before thou wed. 1732: Fuller, No. 976. 1825: Brockett, *Gloss. N. Country Words*, 2, Addiwissen, had I known it. An expression nearly obsolete, though still retained by some old persons. 1868: Atkinson, *Cleveland Gloss.*, 577, Had I wist. Had I known. 1892: Heslop, *Northumb. Words*, 7 (E.D.S.), Addiwissen . . . that is, "Had I but known."

**Had what he hath not.** See quot. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II.

ch. ix., Ye, (quoth she), who had that he hath not, woulde Doo that he dooth not, as olde men haue tolde 1611: 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: Stanihurst, *Descrip. of Ireland*, fo. 10, I had been like to haue brought haddocke to paddocke.

**Haddock.** See Deaf (4); and May, E (9).

**Haft on an old blade, Fresh.** See quot. 1877: E. Leigh, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 96, "Dunna waste a fresh haft on an oud blade," Don't throw good money after bad. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 51 [as in 1877].

**Hail, subs. 1. Hail brings frost in the tail.** 1639: Clarke, 197. 1670: Ray, 42. 1825: Hone, *Ev. Day Book*, i. 670. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 115.

2. *He skips like hail on a pack-saddle.* 1732: Fuller, No. 2022.

**Hail fellow well met.** 1519. Horman, *l'ulgaria*, 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: *Dicke 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 (1785), Who, being no proud woman, is hail fellow, well met, as the saying is, with all her aunt's servants. 1838: 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 receiver is as bad as the thief.** 1825: Jennings, *Somersetsh. Words*, 43,

Hence the very common expression, The heeler is as bad as the stealer 1879 *Folk-Lore Record*, II 203, The healer is as bad as the stealer [Corn] 1883 Burne, *Shropsh Folk-Lore* 588, The heler is as bad as the heaver 1886 Elworthy, *West Som Word-Book* 335 (E D S), Heler 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 1 *A hair of the dog that bit you* 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch xi I pray the leat me and my felow haue A heare of the dog that bote vs last night—And bitten were we both to the brame aright 1614 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*, III 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 fev rish 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 li

2 *His hair grows through his hood*—He is on the road to ruin c 1450 in *Reliq Antiquæ*, II 67 (1843), He that lovyth welle to fare, Ever to spend and never spare, But he have the more good, His here wol grow throw his hood Before 1529 Skelton, *Bourge of Courte*, I 350, [of Riot] His here was growen thorowoute his hat c 1600 Deloney, *Thos of Reading*, ch v, Out you dirty heeles, you will make your husbands haire grow through his hood I doubt 1694 Motteux, *Rabelais*, bk iv ch lii, In so much that Snip was condemn d to make good the stuffs to all his customers and to this day poor Cabbidge s hair 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 prouerbe, bush naturall, 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, I 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 carle bald* 1639 Clarke, 10 1670 Ray, 134

Hake See Lose (16)

Haldon, Devon See quots 1838 Holloway, *Provincialisms*, 147, In Devonshire they say, 'When Haledown has a hat, Let Kenton beware of a skatt [shower of rain]' 1850 N & Q, 1st ser, II 511, When Haldon hath a hat, Kenton may beware a skat 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 101 [as in 1838]

Halesworth See Beccles

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 foole who counts not halfe a loafe better then no bread 1681 A Behn, *Rover* Pt II II II, You know the proverb of the half loaf, Ariadne 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 1670 Ray, 84 1732 Fuller, No 901 1855 Robinson *Whitby 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., *Euterpe*, 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.

Half an hour is soon lost at dinner. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. II.

Half an hour past three quarters, and ready to strike again. 1639: Clarke, 72.

Half an hour's hanging hinders five miles' riding. 1678: Ray, 150.

Half-baked. See quot. 1864: "Cornish 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 Ill name.

Half is better than the whole, The. [*πλέον ἢ μισὺν πάντος*.—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 iust, if the halfe shall iudge the whole (quoth I). 1550: Latimer, *Sermons*, 277 (P.S.), There is a proverb which I read many years ago, *Dimidium plus toto*: "The half sometimes more than the whole." 1726: tr. Gracian's *Hero*, 4, That seemingly strange paradox of the wise man of Mitilene, 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 showth what the hole meaneth. 1633: Draxe, 79.

Half the truth is often a whole lie. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb*. *Folk-Lore*, 166.

Half the world knows not how the other half lives. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. c. 1750: *Low 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 (1870). 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 halfe peny good siluer 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 thinke 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).

Halgaver Court. See quotes. 1602: Carew, *Surv. of Cornwall*, 296 (1811), Hence is sprung the proverb, when we see one slovenly apparelled, to say "He shall be presented in Halgaver Court." 1662: Fuller, *Worthies* (Cornwall), i. 307 (1840), He is to be summoned before the Mayor of Halgaver. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Cornwall" [as in 1662]. 1821: Scott, *Kenilworth*, ch. iv., Depart—vanish—or we'll have you summoned before the Mayor of Halgaver. 1880: Courtney, *W. Cornwall Words*, xiii. (E.D.S.), To be presented in Halgaver 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 brude, 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, botter, and cheese, Is gooid Halifax and gooid Friese.*

3 *Halifax Law* See quots 1586  
Leicester, in Motley, *United Neth*, 1  
444 (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 demerits  
as men say they doe at Halifax 1708  
*Halifax and its Gibbet-Law placed in a  
True Light* [title] 1922 in *V & Q*,  
12th ser., xi 102, This was the cele-  
brated Halifax Gibbet Law, which gave  
rise to the well-known proverb—  
From Hell Hull, and Halifax, Good  
Lord deliver us [q v s v "Hell"]

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*, i 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 l 1457, It is  
ful hard to halten unespyed Bifore a  
crepul, 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 Urqu-  
hart *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 179 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, *Quixote* Pt I bk iii 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  
hang'd 1814 Scott, *Waterley*, ch  
lxxi, "There were many good folk

at Derby, and its 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-hull

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*,  
xxiii, As Hampshire, long for her, hath  
had the term of Hogs 1720 *Vade  
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  
pink of courtesie 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,  
*Polite Coners*, Dial I, Whoe'er writ  
it, writes a hand like a foot

2 *Don't put or stretch thy hand* See  
Arm (1)

3 *From hand to mouth* 1605 Syl-  
vester, *Du Bartas*, Week II Day 1  
Pt 4, l 122 Living from hand to  
mouth soon satisf'd 1631 Brath-  
wait, *Whimries*, 143 (1859), All the  
meanes of his gettings is but from  
hand to mouth 1712 Arbuthnot,  
*John Bull*, Pt II ch iii, He has a  
numerous family, and lives from hand  
to mouth 1790 Cowper *Letter to  
Newton*, 5 Feb 1869 Spurgeon, *John  
Ploughman*, ch xn, 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 faght hand

ovyr hedd. 1530: Palsgrave, 836, Hande 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 pell mell 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 Chariot*, II., Nor endure to see you run hand over head into all the snares she lays for you. 1823: D'Israeli, *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'Israeli 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.] 1863: 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.

5. *The hand that gives gathers.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 34.

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. li., 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. 1883: R. L. S., *Treasure I.*, ch. xxxiv., I'm on your side now, hand and glove. 1922: Weyman, *Orington's Bank*, ch. xxxvi., He ought to know. Wasn't he hand in glove with them?

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 halfpenny, 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. Prudentum*. 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. 1670: 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., *Lancs 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.* 1678: Ray, 73

2. *A handsome woman.* See quot. 1650: Bulwer, *Anthropomet.*, 228, 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: Munday, *Sundry Examples*, 78 (Sh. S.), But as the auncient adage is, goodly is he that goodly dooth. 1600: 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, *Pep.*

*Fallacies*, v 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 quots 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 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

Handsomest 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 Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 48 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 quots c 1630 *Hang Pinching* [title of ballad], in *Roxb Ballads*, iii (BS) 1666 Torriano *Piazza Univ* 276 As one would say, Hang pinching let s be mery 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial II, Come, hang saving, bring us up a half-p'orth of cheese

5 *Hang yourself for a pastime* 1678 Ray, 73

6 *He may go hang himself in his own garters* 1597 Shakespeare, *1 Henry IV*, II ii, Go hang thyself in thine own heir apparent garters! 1678 Ray, 246

7 *He was hanged that left his drink behind* c 1640 in *Roxb Ballads*, i 416 (BS), He was hang d that left his drinke behinde 1672 *Westm Drollery*, Pt II 86 (Ebsworth), Yet he was bang d, may some say hang d That

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 E 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 wylh* 1639 Clarke, 155

12 *Let him hang by the heels* Somerset Said of a man that dies in debt 1678 Ray, 353

13 *To hang in the bell-ropes* c 1750 in *N & Q*, 3rd ser, xii 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, xii 139 This is a common phrase in Cumberland at the present day A couple are said to be 'hingin' i' 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* (E D S), From the time the banns of a couple are completed asking in church, to the time they marry, they are said to hing i th' 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 leades 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: *Introd.* 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, Hap 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 happeth 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, *Phrascol. 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 1681].

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 Wines 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. 359 (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: Mabbe, *Celestina*, 54 (T.T.), Even as merry as the day is long. 1772: Graves, *Spirit. Quixote*, bk. xi. ch. viii., 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. 1889: 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, *Generals & 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 Iatimer *Third Sermon* 97 (Arber) cited as 'the old sayinge' 1590 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 ix [cited as 'the City proverb'] 1708 tr Aleman's *Guzman*, i 405 1827 Hone, *Table-Book*, 430

Happy man happy dole 1546 Heywood *Proverbs* Pt I ch iii 1660 Tatham, *The Rump*, I, A short life and a merry life I cry Happy man be his dole 1671 Crowne, *Juliana* I i, Here s five thousand crowns bid for his head, Happy man be his dole that catches him 1796 White, *Falstaff's Letters* Preface, A man renown d among his cotemporaries, famous through succeeding centuries, happy be his dole 1840 Barham, *Ing Legends* "Leech of Folkestone," par i, 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 1594 Bacon, *Promus*, No 970 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 319 (1870) 1736 Bailey, *Dict*, s v "Better"

Happy that knoweth not himself happy, He is not 1539 Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo 51 1586 Pettie, tr Guazzo's *Civil Coners*, fo 58 1732 Fuller, No 1918 He is happy that knoweth not himself to be otherwise

Happy the wooing See Wooing Harborne See quot 1804 Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 16 (E D S), Hungry Harborne, poor and proud *Staffs*

Harborough Field i A goose will eat all the grass that grows in Harborough Field 1622 W Burton, *Descrip of Leics*, 128 1895 Billson, *Co Folk-Lore Leics* 151 (F L S)

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 makth a good endyng 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 317 (1870) 1659 Howell, 7

2 A hard thing it is See quot 15th cent in *Reliq Antiquæ*, i 205 (1841), A harde thyng hit is, y-wys, To deme a thyng that unknownen is

3 As hard as a flint (or stone) c 1440 Lydgate, *I all of Princes*, bk iii l 63 (E E T S), But, hard as ston, Pierides and Meduse c 1489 Caxton, *Sonnes of Aymon*, 347 (E E T S), 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 mightie cragge, as hard as flint or steele 1675 *Poor Robin Alman* May, A heart as hard as flint 1720 Gay, *Poems*, ii 278 (Underhill), Hard is her heart as flint or stone 1789 Boswell, *Letters*, ii 364 (Tinker), I should have 2 heart as hard as a stone were I to remain here 1823 Scott, *St Ronan's* ch xii, 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 toad=tod=fox 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 14

5 As hard as brazill 1867 Waugh, *Owd Bl*, 85, "Aw m as hard as brazill," said Tip 1879 Jackson, *Shropsh Word Book*, 48, 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 brazill

6 As hard as horn (or bone) c 1420 Lydgate, *Assem of Gods*, st 89, p 19 (E E T S), 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 stomackes. 1670: Ray, 100. 1732: Fuller, No. 1796.

9. *Hard winter*. See Dog (57); and Wolf (6).

10. *Hard with hard never made good wall*. 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 29. 1655: Fuller, *Church Hist.*, bk. ii. § ii. (69), "Hard with hard," saith the proverb, "makes no wall." 1732: Fuller, No. 1797, Hard with hard makes not the stone wall.

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*.

14. *It is hard to carry a full cup without spilling*. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 117.

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, 111. 1732: Fuller, No. 2907.

17. *It is hard to please all*. c. 1430: Lydgate, *Minor Poems*, 60 (Percy S.), To please al folk it is ful hard. 1519: Horman, *Vulgaria*, fo. 93. It is harde to content all menyys myndis.

18. *It is hard to sail over the sea in an*

*egg-shell*. 1639: Clarke, 5. 1670: Ray, 139. 1732: Fuller, No. 2906. 1880: Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 20.

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, *Paræm.*, 8 [with "a wind" for "one breath"]. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 1190. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Sup," 'Tis hard to sup and blow at the same time. Cf. Whistle.

21. *Set hard heart against hard hap*. 1639: Clarke, 15. 1670: Ray, 100. 1732: Fuller, No. 4108.

22. *The hard gives no more than he that hath nothing*. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum* [with omission of "no"]. 1670: Ray, 12.

*Hard-fought field where none escapes*, It is a. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi., A hard foughten feeld where no man skaph vnkylde. 1670: Ray, 59, It's a hard battel where none escapes. 1732: Fuller, No. 2861.

*Hard-hearted as a Scot of Scotland*, As. 1678: Ray, 285.

*Hardly attained*, Things, are long retained. 1639: Clarke, 101. 1670: Ray, 12. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Hardly."

*Hardwick Hall, More window than wall*. Derby. 1884: *Folk-Lore Journal*, ii. 279.

*Hare and Hares*. 1. *Hare is melancholy meat*. 1558: Bullein, *Gort. of Health*, fo. 90, The fleshe of hares be hoote and drye, ingenderers of melancholye. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 133, A hare being a melancholy meat. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. II., They say [hare] 'tis melancholy meat. Cf. No. 3.

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 ouer him. 1593: Nashe, in *Works*, ii. 198 (Grosart), Strike a man when he is dead? So hares may pull dead lions by the beards. 1566: Shakespeare, *King John*, II. i., You are the

hare of whom the proverb goes, Whose valour plucks dead lions by the beard 1639 Clarke, 216

3 *He hath deuoured a hare* 1600 W Vaughan, *Directions for Health*, 17. Hare maketh a man to look amiably, according to the prouerb He hath deuoured a hare But it is vnwholesome for lazie and melancholick men Cf No 1

4 *He that hunts two hares loses both* 1578 Florio *First Fruites* fo 28, Who hunteth two hares, loseth the one and leaueth the other 1630 T Adams, *Works*, 232, The hound that follows two hares will catch neither 1640 Shirley *Opportunity*, III in 1732 Fuller, No 2782, If you run after two hares, you will catch neither 1880 Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 24, We shall be like the man who hunted many hares at once and caught none

5 *If a man wants a hare for his breakfast (or dinner) he must hunt overnight* 1605 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] 1846-59 *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 Pecke, *Parnassus Puerp*, 143, He can't discern a hare from a brake-bush 1670 Ray, 179, It's either a hare or a brake-bush ἡλεος ἢ κρη Aut navis aut galerus Something if you knew what

7 *Little dogs start the hare but great ones catch it* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1670 Ray, 16 1732 Fuller, No 3254 1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, II 105 (F L S)

8 *The hare starts when a man least expects it* c 1384 Chaucer, *H Fame*, bk II 1 173, That been betid, no man wot why, But as a blind man stert an hare 1712 Motteux, *Quixote*, Pt II ch xxx, But, where we least think, there starts the hare 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch x, 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*, II 30 (Dyce) [as in 1500] 1594 Kyd, *Span Tragedy* sig G3 (1618), There goes the hare away 1670 Ray, 100, Where we least think, there goeth the hare away 1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, II 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 scuse* 1576 Pettie, *Pettie Pall*, II 157 (Gollancz), We ourselves have a common saying amongst us, that women are never without an excuse 1592 Greene, in *Works*, x 217 (Grosart) ['woman'] 1659 Howell, 12, Take a hare without a muse, and a knave without an excuse, and hang them up 1732 Fuller, No 6081, 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 Redeless*, 1 58 Men myzitten as well haue huntid an hare with a tabre 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch ix 1579 Lyly, *Euphues*, 44 (Arber), You shal assoone catch a hare with a taber 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Lievre" Hares are not to be caught by drumming 1642 D Rogers, *Naaman*, sig S5 [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' thumpin on a drum Cf No 12

12 *To fright the hare is not the way to catch her* 1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, II 108 (F L S) Cf No 11

13 *To know both hare and hare-gate* 1882 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 (18)

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.

16. *To set the hare's head against the goose giblets.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. iv. 1607: Dekker, etc., *Westw. Hoe*, V. 1618: Field, *Amends for Ladies*, I. 1670: Ray, 179. 1732: Fuller, No. 4109.

See also Blind, *adj.* (7); Cow (32); Dog (36), (77), and (78); Kiss, *verb* (13); Run (18); and We dogs.

Harlow Hill. See Heddon.

Harm watch harm catch. 1481: Caxton, *Reynard*, 50 (Arber), Yf he wil seche harm he shal fynde harme. 1614: Jonson, *Bart. Fair*, V. iii. 1721: Bailey, *Eng. Dict.*, s.v. 1826-44: Hood, *Comic Poems*: "Hints to Paul Pry," Harm-watching, harm thou still dost catch—That rule should save thee many a sore.

Harms the good, He. See Evil, *subs.* (4).

Harp and harrow, To agree like. 1559: Becon, *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 (10), 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 eadem.—Horace, *Ars Poetica*, 356.] c. 1513: More, *Works*, p. 49, col. 2 (1557), He should harp no more vpon 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, Hee 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.

Harry's children of Leigh, never an one like another. Cheshire. 1670: Ray, 217. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 63.

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.

Harvest. 1. *A fine harvest a wet hopping.* Kent. 1887: Parish and Shaw, *Dict. Kent. Dialect*, 78 (E.D.S.).

2. *Harvest comes not every day, tho' it come every year.* 1732: Fuller, No. 1799.

3. *Harvest ears, thick of hearing.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. ix., You had on your harvest ears, thicke of hearyng. c. 1594: Bacon, *Promus*, No. 674, Harvest ears. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phrascol. Generalis*, 715, You hearken not at all; you have on your harvest ears. 1854: Baker, *Norhants Gloss.*, s.v., You've got your harvest ears 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, *Clavis 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 xii Ye haue Made a long haruest for a little corne 1587 Greene, in *Works* v 208 (Grosart) I will not make a long haruest for a small crop 1604 Breton, in *Works*, u k 12 (Grosart), Yee two haue made a long haruest of a little corne, and haue spent a great deale of money about a little matter 1681 W Robertson *Phraseol 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* 8, 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 ii

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 ii 1583 Greene, in *Works*, u 28 (Grosart) 1663 Butler, *Hudibras*, Pt I can iii l, 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, vi 495 Haste makes waste, and waste makes a rich man poor

4 *Haste often rues* c 1280 *Prov of Hendyng* l 256, Ofte rap reweth c 1386 Chaucer *Melibeus*, § 11, The commune proverbe seith thus "he that sone demeth, sone shall repente" 1477 Rivers *Dictes, etc*, 62 (1877), Hastynesse engendreth repentaunce c 1580 Spelman, *Dialogue*, 2 (Roxb Cl) Things dunne in haste bringeth spedye repentance

5 *Haste trips up its own heels* 1732 Fuller, No 1801 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch xiv

6 *Make no more haste when you come down than when you went up* 1604 *Pasquils Jests*, 42 (1864), Take heed that you never get faster downe then you go up 1678 Ray, 151, as the man said to him on the tree top 1692 L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 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 Juggeler, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, ii 120, I fear hanging, whereunto no man is hasty 1599 Porter, *Two Angry Women*, in *Ibid*, vii 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, *Troilus*, bk i l 956 c 1386 Chaucer, *Melibeus*, § 13 c 1430 Lydgate, *Minor Poems*, 121 (Percy S)

Hastings, He is none of the See quotes 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs* Pt I ch xi, Ye make such tastings As approue you to be none of the hastings 1577 *Misogonus*, I iv, Youl come when yow list, sir yow are none of y<sup>e</sup> hastlings 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

and slack, go about business with no agility. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, III4, 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] 1556: R. Robinson, tr. More's *Utopia*, 2nd ed., To Reader, 19 (Arber), But as the latin prouerbe sayeth: The hastye bitche bringeth furth blind whelpes 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. Cl.). 1642: D. Rogers, *Matrim. Honour*, 234, They perceive their haste to have brought foorth blind whelpes. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 705.

Hasty climbers have sudden falls. c. 1480: *Digby Plays*, 154 (E.E.T.S.), Who clymyth high, his flalle grett is. 1592: Greene, in *Works*, xii 158 (Grosart), Hee foreseath not that such as clime hastily fall sodainely. 1616: Breton, in *Works*, ii. c 9 (Grosart) 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, 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 (or Angry) man never wants woe, The. c. 1374: Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk. iv. l. 1568, For hasty man ne wanteth never care. 1449: Metham, *Works*, 36 (E.E.T.S.), Trwe that prouerbe than preyud so, That ouer-hasty man wantyd neuer woo. 1587: Greene, in *Works*, iv. 77 (Grosart). 1605: Chapman, etc., *Eastw. Hoe*, V. i., "The hastic person never wants woe." they say. 1712: *Spectator*, No. 438, You are of an impatient spirit, and an impatient spirit is never without woe. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 106. Cf. Choleric (3).

Hasty meeting, a hasty parting, A. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Woo."

Hasty people will never make good midwives. 1659: Howell, 3 1670: Ray, 101.

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. Prudentum*.

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, doth 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 sou.* 1667: 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, 382, The people are poor at Hatherleigh moor, and so they have been, for ever and ever.

Hatred is blind as well as love 1732  
Fuller, No 1805

Hatred with friends is succour to foes  
1578 Florio, *First Fruites*, fo 33,  
Hatred among friendes is succour vnto  
strangers 1633 Draxe 30

Have a little See quot 1917  
Bridge *Cheshire Proverbs*, 64, 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 haue all  
leseth alle Ouer couetous was neuer  
good 1629 *Book of Meery Riddles*,  
Prov 87 Cf All covet

Have among you blind harpers! 1546  
Heywood *Proverbs*, Pt II ch vii 1593  
G Harvey, *Works*, ii 123 (Grosart),  
But now there is no remedie, haue  
amongest 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 wisht to be as little seen as  
he saw others 1785 Grose, *Class*,  
*Dict Vulgar Tongue*, sv 'Harp',  
Have among you, my blind harpers,  
an expression used in throwing or  
shooting at random among a crowd

Have at it, and have it 1852 Fitz-  
Gerald, *Polonius*, 123 (1903)

Have in a string, To 1580 Lyly,  
*Euphues* 319 (Arber), Thou hast not  
loue in a string affection is not thy  
slawe 1631 Shurley, *Love Tricks* I,  
They have their conscience in a string,  
and can stifle it at their pleasure 1693  
Dryden, *Juvenal*, Sat III l 72 Since  
such as they have fortune in a string  
1748 Richardson *Clarissa*, v 33  
(1785), Led us both on—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 had hur streight  
in the wynde 1587 Churchyard,  
*Worth of Wales*, 26 (Spens S) That  
hardly we shall haue them in the winde,  
To smell them forth 1670 Ray, 199

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*,  
sv "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 pike [poke] out hawks'  
e'en* 1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, ii 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*, ii 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, here say—  
To reclaim pat has tint his pray

7 *She hath one point of a good hawk,  
she is hardy* 1546 Heywood, *Pro-  
verbs*, Pt II ch iv

8 *The gentle hawk half mans herself*,  
1611 Cotgrave, sv "Debonnaire",  
1670 Ray, 13 [omitting "half"]  
1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, ii 107  
(F L S) [as in 1670]

9 *To know a hawk from a handsaw*  
1602 Shakespeare *Hamlet*, II ii,  
When the wind is southerly I know a  
hawk from a handsaw 1703 Cent-  
livre, *Stolen Heiress*, III iv, He knows  
not a hawk from a handsaw 1912  
R L Gales, *Studies in Arcady*, 2nd  
ser, 241, 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. *Unmanned hawks forsake the lure.* 1577: J. Grange, *Golden Aphroditis*, sig. G3 [cited as a "prouerbe"].

11. *With empty hands men may no hawks lure.* Before 1180: John of Salisbury, *Polycraticus*, lib. v. cap. x., Veteri celebratur proverbio: Quia vacuae manus temeraria petitio est. c. 1386: Chaucer, *Wife of Bath's Prol.*, l. 415, With empty hand men may none hawkes lure. c. 1430: Lydgate, in *Pol., Relig., and Love Poems*, 25 (E.E.T.S.). 1575: Gascoigne, *Posies*, 65 (Cunliffe), For haggard hawkes mislike an emptie hand. 1612: Webster, *White Devil*, III. ii., With empty fist no man doth falcons lure. 1717: Pope, *Wife of Bath*, 172, With empty hands no tassels you can lure. 1829: Scott, *Geierstein*, ch. xxv., Men lure no hawks with empty hands.

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 *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 296 (1841), Termes of hawkynge . . . The first is holde fast when abatith. 1579: Lyly, *Euphues*, 93 (Arber), If thou haddest learned the first point of hauking, thou wouldst haue learned to haue held 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.

Hay. 1. *A good hay year a bad fog year.* "Fog" = the aftermath. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 49 (Percy S.). 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 5.

2. *He has hay on his horn.* [Foenum

habet in cornu.—Horace, *Sat.*, I. iv. 34.] 1648: Herrick, *Hesp.*, No 444, He's sharp as thorn And fretful, 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., Whan the sunne shynth make hay. 1625: Dekker, *Works*, iv. 308 (Grosart), He, drawing out one handfull of gold, and another of siluer, cryed . . . I haue made hay whilst my sunne shined. 1702: T. Brown, *Works*, ii. 63 (1760). 1860: Reade, *Cl. and Hearth*, ch. lxiii., 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); Famine; Hanged hay; and May, A (2) and (3), E (1), (5), and (6), and F (2) and (5).

He claws 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 should not shall feel what he would not. c. 1386: Chaucer, *C. Tales*, iv. 125 (Skeat), And therfore this prouerbe is seyde ful sooth, "Him thar nat wene wel that yvel dooth" [He must not expect good that does evil]. 1591: Florio, *Second Frules*, 97, Who dooth what he ought not, Shall finde what he thought not. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 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: Woodroephe, *Spared Hours*, 278, Who hath but four and spendeth seauen, Needeth 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 1869 Spurgeon,  
*John Ploughman* ch xix

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  
1605 Camden, *Remains* 324 (1870)  
[first line only] 1670 Ray, 212

He that in youth See quot 15th  
cent in *Reliq Antiqua*, i 92 (1841).  
He that in youthe no vertu usit, In  
age alle honure hym refust

He that is in is half way over 1694  
D Urfev *Quixote* Pt I Act IV sc 1

He that is thought to rise betime  
See Name (1)

He that speaks See quot 1683  
Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697).  
He that speaks the things he sud not,  
hears the things he wad not

He that will no evil do, must do nothing  
that belongs thereto 1546 Heywood,  
*Proverbs* Pt II ch v 1660 T Hall,  
*Funebria Floræ*, 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*, l 1593  
(E E T S), For often ichaue herd it  
say, and y me self it sigge may, "Who  
that nil 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 [Corrigant  
se, qui tales sunt, dum vivunt, ne  
postea velint et non possint—St  
Augustine, *Opera*, xxxviii 1095 (Migne)  
Cf Isaiah lv 6] 10th cent A-S  
*Homily* quoted in Skeat, *Early  
Eng Proverbs*, vi þe læs, gif he nu  
nelle þa hwile þe he mæge, eft þonne  
he late wille, þæt he ne mæge [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 viii c xvi, Nam et  
proverbio dici solet, quia qui non vult  
cum potest, non utique poterit cum

volet Before 1225 *Ancren R*, 296,  
hwo ne deþ hwon he mei he ne schal  
nout hwon he wolde 1303 Brunne,  
*Handl Synne*, l 4799, He pat wyl nat  
whan he may, He shal nat when he wyl,  
1422 J Yonge, tr *Gouernance of  
Pryneces*, 161 (E E T S), That is to say,  
"Who so will not when he may, he  
shal not when he wille" 1546 Hey-  
wood *Proverbs*, Pt I ch iii c 1590  
Greene, *Alphonsus*, V iii, No, damsel,  
he that will not when he may, When he  
desires, shall surly purchase nay.  
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 haue kept, may not be  
perysched

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'll ne'er get a  
pennyworth, that is afraid to ask a  
price

He's a fond chapman See Day (12)

Head 1 *An head that's white to  
maids brings no delight* Glos 1639.  
in *Berkeley MSS*, iii 30 (1885)

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.  
Prudentum* 1732 Fuller, No 2155  
1854 J W Warton, *Last of Old Squires*,  
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. Prudentum*, 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, *Epsom 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*, iii. 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 alwaies, 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, *Bandello*, ii. 146 (T.T.), At last, being past the misterye of his traunce, he repaired to his house with his head full of proclamacions. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Moucheron," *Avoir des mouchérons en teste*. To be humorous, moodie, giddie-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 haue 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, *Geierstein*, ch. xxv., I am a man little inclined to put my head under my wife's girdle.

14. *When the head acheth 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 heed 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. iii.

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 heed'll nivver saav 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 wits 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.

Heady is ruled by a fool, He that is. 1732: Fuller, No. 2178.

Heady man and a fool, may wear the same cap, A. *Ibid.*, No. 212.

Healed as hurt, One is not so soon. 1670: Ray, 12.

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 1812 Scott, *Fam Letters*, 1 255 (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 jewell 1672 Walker, *Paræm*, 45 [as in 1639] 1732 Fuller, No 2477

Health is not valued till sickness comes 1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 119 In sickness health is known 1732 Fuller No 2478

Health without money is half an ague 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 ix, Than were ye deafe, ye could not here on that syde 1632 Jonson, *Magnetic Lady*, I, He will not hear of it Rut Not of that ear 1681 W Robertson *Phraseol 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

3 He that hears much and speaks not at all, shall be welcome both in bower and hall 1586 G Whitney, *Emblems*, 191, Heare much, but little speake 1670 Ray, 102 1694 D'Urfe, *Quixote*, Pt I Act III sc ii 1732 Fuller, No 6461

4 He who hears one side only, hears nothing 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch xiii, A man should here all partis, er he judge any 1750 Smollett, *Gil Blas*, iv 105

5 Hear all, see all See quotes 1578 Flono, *First Fruits*, fo 10, Who heares, sees and holds his peace may alway live in peace 1623 Wodroephe, *Spared*

*Houres*, 276, Heare all, see all, and hold thee still If peace desirest with thy will 1925 Yorkshire "motto" in *N & Q*, vol 149, p 411, Hear all, see all, say now't, tak' all, keep all, gie now't, and if tha ever does ow't for now't do it for thyssen" [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*, 11, quoted in *N & Q*, 2nd ser, viii 17, The country proverb is Hear as hogs in harvest When they are gotten into good shack, 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 shack 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 doozen of yonkers that have hearts of oake at fourescore yeares 1672 Walker, *Paræm*, 24, He was heart of oak, he wore like iron 1694 Terence made English, 125, Marry, I think, you're heart of oak 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 (8)

5 Hearts may agree though heads differ 1732 Fuller, No 2480

6 His heart is in his hose (or, later, boots) c 1410 Towneley Plays, 113 (EETS), A, thy hart is in thy hose! Before 1529 Skelton, in *Works*, ii 35 (Dyce), Their hertes be in theyr hose 1616 Breton, *Works*, ii 79 (Grosart), Hanging doune his head as if his heart were in his hose 1694 Motteux, *Rabelais*, bk v ch xxxvi If I be not half dead with fear, my heart s sunk down into my hose 1767 in Garrick

*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, *Domesticities*, 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.—Petr., 62.] 1548: Udall, tr. Erasmus' *Par. Luke*, xxiii. 199 (O.), Hauyng their herte at their verai mouth for feare. 1618: B. Holyday, *Technogamia*, V. v., My heart's almost at my mouth with feare. 1694: 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 churlish part, That she sets at her heel. 1659: Howell, 13, I will not sett at my heart what I should sett 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 colors the face. 1629: *Book of Meery 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 cowardes, 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 grease unto them. 1593: *Tell-Trothes New-yeares Gift*, 23 (N. Sh. S.), She . . . tooke harte at grasse, and woulde needes trie a newe conclusion. 1630: *Tinker of Turvey*, 58 (Halliwell), Rowland, at this

taking heart of grasse, stept to her. 1687: A. Behn, *Emp. of the Moon*, II. 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 e'en 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 clinck. 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. F4, Weele waite on you with all our hearts. Clo. And with a peece of my liuer to [too]. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I., With all my heart, and a piece of my liver.

Heart 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: Bratton,

*Court and Country*, 5 (Grosart), If there may be a similitude of heaven upon earth See also Hell (6) and (8)

Heavy as lead c 1300 Brunne, *Langloft's Chron.*, 252 (Hearne), And wex heuy als lede c 1320 in *Reliq Antiquæ*, 1 121 (1841), Myn herte is hevy so led 1414 T Brampton, *Seven Penit Psalms*, 13 (Percy S.), My synnes ben hevy as hevy leed 1592 Shakespeare, *Romeo III* v., Unwieldy, slow, heavy and pale as lead 1694 Dryden, *Love Triumphant*, I 1 Try his wnt senor you'll find it as heavy as lead 1714 Mandeville *Fable of Bees* 54, He is heavy as lead, the head is hung down 1850 Dickens *Copperfield* ch vii 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 oftetime the heart is light 1595 *Pedlar's Prophecy*, l 1591 (Malone S.), An heaume purse maketh a mans heart light 1630 Jonson, *New Inn*, I 1 1670 Ray, 114 1754 Berthelson, *Eng-Danish Dict.*, s v 'Light'

Heckmondwike See Birstal

Hector's Cloak, To take = To deceive a friend who confides in one's fidelity 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, ii 542 (1840) 1709 Grose *Prov Gloss* s v Northumberland 1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, 1 242 (F L S)

Heddon See quot 1892 Heslop, *Northumb Words* 33 (E D S), East Heddon, West Heddon, Heddon on the Waall, Harlow Hill, an' Horsley, an' Wylam bangs them aall Old saying

Hedge and Hedges 1 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 *Proverb Folk-Lore*, 93 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 3

2 Hedge abides that fields divides 1130 A-S *Chron.* in Skeat, *Early Eng Proverbs*, vi, Man seð to biworde hæge sitted þa aceres dæleth

3 Hedges have eyes (or ears) 1650 Fuller, *Pisgah Sight*, bk iii ch 1 § 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 oter 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch v 1564 Bullein *Dialogue*, 65 (E E T S), Where the hedge is lowest that commonlie is sonest cast to ground 1610 Rowlands, *Martin Mark-all* 14 (Hunt Cl), You will verifie the old saying where the ditch is lowest, there men goe over thicke and three-fold 1685 Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 62, Where th' hedge is law, its eath [easy] gitting 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 quots 1623 Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 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 1895 Jos Thomas, *Randigal Rhymes*, 62, Cornwall Scrumpled up like a hedgehog

Heeler See Hailer

Heighton, Denton and Tarring All begins with A 1861 Lower, in *Sussex Arch Coll.*, xiii 210

Heler See Hailer

Hell 1 *From Hell, Hull, and Halifax*, Good Lord deliver us 1594 A Copley, *Wits, Fits, etc.*, 112 (1614), It is proverbiell in our countre, From Hull, Hell, and Halifax, Good Lord deliver vs 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*, iii 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 [Lincs] 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, *Derbicisms*, 137 (E.D.S.).

4. *Hell is broken loose.* 1577: *Misogonus*, II. v., I thinke, hell breake louse, when thou gatst 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 was 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. Hellowes, *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: *Politeuphuia*, 320. 1732: Fuller, No. 2489.

7. *There is no redemption from hell.* 1468: *Coventry Mys.*, 240 (Sh. S.), Quia in inferno nulla est redemptio! 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 (1840). 1799: Grose, *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 ween 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 lue in hell, Can ne'er conceive what 'tis in heauen to dwell. 1670: Ray, 102, They that be in hell, think there's no better heaven.

See also Harrow.

Hellingly, Sussex. See quot. 1861: Lower, in *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, xiii. 210, Herrinly, Chiddnly and Hoädly, Three lies and all true.

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 upon Foole*, 36 (Grosart). c. 1630: in *Roxb. Ballads*, i. 305 (B.S.), He passeth some with house and lands; when that decays, he cries "Helpe, hands!" 1670: Ray, 99. 1736: Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, i. 444 (Bigelow).

Help to salt. See Salt (1).

Help yourself. See quotes. c. 1460: *How the Goode Wife*, in Hazlitt, *Early Pop. Poetry*, i. 191, Thi thrifte 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 Meery Riddles*, Prov. 16.

Helsby (Hill) wears a hood, As long as, The weather's never very good. 1886: R. Holland, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 445

(E D S) 1917 *Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs*, 161

Helve after hatchet See *Throw* (7)

Hemp See *England* (10)

Hen 1 *A black hen will lay a white egg* 1633 Draxe, 50 *A blacke hen may bring forth white egges* 1670 Ray, 63 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I, Oh! the wonderful works of nature That a black hen should have a white egg<sup>1</sup>

2 *Busy as a hen with one chick* 1632 Shirley, *Witty Fair One*, II 11, It has been a proverb, as busy as a hen with one chicken 1659 Howell, 6, with ten chickens 1732 Fuller, No 669 1857 Hughes, *Tom Broun*, Pt II ch 11, In short as East remarked, cackled after him like a hen with one chick 1888 Lowsley, *Berks Gloss*, 30 (E D S), As proud as a hen w<sup>th</sup> one chick 1923 *Folk-Lore*, xxxiv 329 (Oxfordsh)

3 *He has swopped his hen for a hooter [owl]*—A bad exchange 1917 *Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs*, 67

4 *He puts a hat on a hen* 1813 Ray, 75

5 *He that comes of a hen must scrape* 1591 Florio, *Second Frutes*, 179 What is hatch by a hen, will scrape like a hen 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Grater," He thats borne of a henne loves to be scraping 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1852 FitzGerald, *Polonius*, 102 (1903) 1880 Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures* III, That which is born of a hen will be sure to scratch in the dust

6 *If the hen does not prate she will not lay* 1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 100, The hen that cakels is she that hath laid 1732 Fuller, No 2799, If you would have a hen lay, you must bear with her cackling 1830 Forby, *Vocab E Anglia*, 427 [Scolding wives make the best housewives] 1872 J Glyde, jr, *Norfolk Garland*, 148 Cf No 10

7 *It is a sad house where the hen crows louder than the cock* 1578 Florio, *First Frutes* fo 33, They are sory houses, where the henns crowe, and the cock holdes his peace 1633 Ford, *'Tis Pity, etc*, IV 111, Then I

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*, 1, 'Tis better to have an egg to-day, then a hen to-morrow 1732 Fuller, No 2916

9 *It is no good hen that cackles in your house, and lays in another's* Ibid, No 2987

10 *It is not the hen that cackles most which lays most eggs* 1865 "Lancs Proverbs," in *N & Q*, 3rd ser, viii 494 1901 F E Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 8, It's no' th' hen 'at cackles th' mocest 'at lays th' mocest 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 xii, I'll warrant we'll never see him sell his hen on a rainy day 1846 Denham, *Proverbs*, 3 (Percy S) 1872 J Glyde, jr, *Norfolk Garland*, 151

13 *The hen discovers her nest by cackling* Before 1225 *Angren R*, 66, The hen hwon heo haueth ileid, ne con buten kakelen And hwat bigit heo perof? Kumeð þe coue [chough] anon-right and reueð hire hire eiren 1694 D'Urfeý, *Quixote*, Pt II Act IV sc 11

14 *The hen lays as well upon one egg as many* 1620 Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt II ch vii 1694 D'Urfeý, *Quixote*, Pt I Act IV sc 1

See also *Cock* (3), (6), and (8), *Drink* (10), *Fat as a hen*, *Grain*, *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 *Britannia*, 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 1864].

Hen-pen. See quot. 1825: Jennings, *Somersetsh. Words*, xiv. [as in 1838]. 1838: Holloway, *Provincialisms*, 50, Boys use these words at the game [ducks and drakes] in Somersetshire:—Hen-pen, Duck and mallard, Amen.

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. ἐπισοφός. [This Greek reference is a University joke.]

Herb John. See quotes. Two contradictory sayings. 1614: T. Adams, *Devil's Banquet*, 307 (O.), Balme, with the destitution of Gods blessing, doth as much good as a branch of hearb-John in our pottage. 1633: Draxe, 30, He is Iohn herbe in the pottage, that will doe neither good nor harme. 1659: Howell, 13, Without Herb-John, no good pottage. 1679: *Hist. Jetzer*, 33 (O.), The Bishop of Lausanne, being a flegmatick and heavy piece, moved slowly, and was herb John in the whole proceeding.

Hercules against two. [See Plato, *Eulhyd.*, 297B; *Phædo*, 89c.] 1539: Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo. 17, Not Hercules against two, that is to say. 1576: Gascoigne, in *Works*, ii. 540 (Cunliffe), But two to one, can be no equall lott For why? the latten proverbe saith you wott, . . . *Ne Hercules enim contra duos*. 1630: T. Adams, *Works*, 372, But *ne Hercules contra duos*, two is odds though against Hercules 1647:

A. Brewer, *Countrie Girle*, sig. G3. 1693: Urquhart, *Rabclais*, bk iii. ch. xii., And two in fight against Hercules are too strong.

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.

Hereafter comes not yet. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. vii., Though hereafter come not yit. 1577: J. Grange, *Golden Aphroditis*, sig. D4, Here after commeth not yet. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), *Sc. of Folly*, 43, in *Works*, ii. (Grosart).

Heresy. See Frenzy; and Hops (1).

Hero to his valet, No man is a. [*ὁ ἥρω* Ἀρτίγονος ὁ γέγων Ἑρμοδότου τίνος ἐν ποιήμασιν αὐτὸν ἥλιον παῖδα καὶ θεὸν ἀναγορεύοντος οὐ τοιαῦτά μοι, εἶπεν, ὁ λαοσαυρόφρος εἰνόειδεν.—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."

Herring. 1. Every herring must hang by its own gills. 1639: Clarke, 20. 1670: Ray, 102. 1694: D'Urfey, *Quixote*, Pt. I. Act III. sc. ii. 1817: Scott, *Rob Roy*, ch. xxvi., Na, na! let every herring hang by its ain head. 1865: "Lanes Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., viii. 494 [with "should" for "must"]. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lanes Sayings*, 7, Every yerrin' should hong bi it' own gills.

2. Gentleman Jack Herring. See quot. 1599: Nashe, *Lenten Stuffle*, in *Works*, v. 302 (Grosart), He . . . raised this proverbe of him, Gentleman Iacke Herring that puttles his breeches on his head for want of wearing.

3. Of all the fish in the sea, herring is the king. 1659: Howell, 21.

4. Set a herring to catch a whale. 1869: Hazlitt, 331. Cf. Sprats.

5 *The herring-man hates the fisherman* [1633 Ames, *Against Cerem*, Preface, 28 (O), Its a hard world when heerring 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, *Worthies*, 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 61, For want of a third in our mess, we were fain To use Hertfordshire kindness, *Here's to you again* 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, 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 Duck, Be oather*—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 (Hearne), Sorow pan is his pyne, pat he wis ouer his heued, pe chip falles in his ine c 1310 in Wright, *Pol Songs*, 323 (Camden S), It falles in his eghe That hackes ovre heghe c 1390 Gower, *Conf Amantis*, bk 1 l 1918 Fulofte he heweth up so hihe, That chippes fallen in his yhe 1546 Heywood,

*Proverbs*, Pt II ch vii, Hewe not to hye lest the chips fall in thine eye 1589 Peele, in *Works*, II 270 (Bullen), Thou art too crank, and crowddest 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 L S), (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 avont Hell (4) Every one for their ain hand, like the pipers o' Hexham (5) Hexham, where they knee-band lops [fleas], 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 malediction] (2) 1892-4 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, snick up, stand up, straight up, One drop two drops—good for the hiccup [There are variants]

Hide can find, They that c 1400 *Seven Sages*, 68 (Percy S), He may wel fynde that hyde hym selven 1671 *Westm Drollery*, 21 (Ebsworth), But now I m lost, and here am crost, '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 feels [hides slyly] 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, *Metam. 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; Lest thou wrong 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 horsen loues hir 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. 13, 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. 1907: 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), Wordes breake no bones, so we cared the lesse for hir scolding. 1683: Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697), Foul words break neay banes. 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. 189 (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 streight 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. Canting 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.

Higham on the Hill, Stoke in the Vale, Wykin for buttermilk, Hinckley for ale. 1795-1811: Nichols, *Hist. of Leics.*, iv. 677. 1849: Halliwell, *Pop. Rhymes and Nursery Tales*, 197.

Higher standing the lower fall, The. 1633: Draxe, 7, The higher that I climbe, 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.

Highest flood has the lowest ebb, The  
c 1555 in Wright, *Songs, etc., Philip  
and Mary* 59 (Roxb Cl), *Thoughe* that  
the flude be great, the ebb as lowe doth  
rone 1598 J Dickenson, *Greene in  
Concept*, 32 (Grosart) 1658 Franck,  
*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 Braintree

Highgate 1 *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  
Tracts*, xiii 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 1812 Byron, *Childe Harold*,  
can 1 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 o'er-neet* 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire  
Proverbs*, 3, Hill=Bed (covering) Fill  
=A meal O'er-neet=A place to pass  
the night in The whole=A night's  
lodging

2 *Do on hill as you would do in hall*  
1570 A Barclay, *Mirror of Good  
Manners*, 25, Lue thou vpon hill as  
thou would lue 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 it [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 anenst 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 Melbanche, *Philotinus*, sig U2,  
Euerie hill hath his dale 1633 Draxe,  
5 Cf No 5

Hinckley See Higham

Hinckley field See quots 1678 Ray,  
317, The last man that he kil'd keeps  
hogs in Hinckley field Spoken of a  
coward that never durst fight 1790  
Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v 'Leicester-  
shire 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

Hires the horse must ride before, He  
that 1639 Clarke, 99 1670 Ray,  
106 1875 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 fieldes at all  
aduentures hittie missie 1566 Choyce  
*Drollery*, 21 (Ebsworth), But hit or  
misse I will declare The speeches at  
London and elsewhere 1678 Ray, 73,  
Hit or misse for a cow-beel 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 vii st 33, Renown's all hit  
or miss 1872 J Glyde, jr, *Norfolk  
Garland*, 148, 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, *Acolastus*, sig B4,  
Haue men hytte the[e] vpon the  
thombes? 1560 T Wilson *Rhetorique*,  
3 (1909) Phanorinus did hit a  
young man over the thumbs very hand-  
somely, for vsing ouer old, and ouer

straunge wordes. 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, 181.

Ho (or whooping), Out of all=Out of all bounds. c. 1374: Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk. ii. l. 1034 (1083) (O.), þan gan he telle his wo, But þat was endlees withouten ho. 1577: *Misogonus*, II. iii., Though you thinke 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. Ho!*, ch. xxiii., Wonderful, 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: *Politeuphuia*, 130. 1732: Fuller, No. 2165.

Hoar-frost. See Frost.

Hoarse. See Crow (4); and Cuckoo (6).

Hoathly. See Hellingly.

Hobbledehoy. 1540: Palsgrave, *Acolastus*, sig. D4, Theyr hobledehoeye tyme, the yeares 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, *Derbicisms*, 105 (E.D.S.), A hobblety-hoy, neither man nor boy. 1879: Jackson, *Shropsh. Word-Book*, 209, 'Yo' dunna think I'd tak' up ooth a 'obbety-'oy like that fur a sweet'art! 1894: W. Raymond, *Love and Quiet Life*, 103, No rascally Upton hobbledehoy, half man and half boy.

Hobson's choice=No choice at all. 1649: in *Somers Tracts*, vii. 87 (1811), I had Hobson's choice, either be a Hobson or nothing. 1660: Bradshaw's *Ultimum Vale*, quoted in N. & 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].

Hockin's duck, Neither mate nor fella, like. Mid-Corn. 1888: Q.-Couch, *Troy Town*, ch. xxiv. 1925: *Devon and Corn. N. & Q.*, xiii. 206.

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 Terraefilius*, 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*, 440, "Hog in armour" . . . a favourite epithet applied to rifle volunteers by costermongers, street fishmongers and such like.

6. *Lose not a hog*. See Sheep (18).

7. *The hog is got into the honey-pot*. 1678: Ray, 354, The hogs to the honey pots. 1732: Fuller, No. 4598.

8. *The hog never looks up to him that threshes down the acorns*. Ibid., No. 4599.

9. *To make a hog or a dog of a thing*. 1670: Ray, 217. 1712: Motteux,

*Quixote*, Pt II ch xxii, 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, Draff, 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 quot 1869 Hazlitt 196, 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 Piggs' c 1554 *Enterlude of Youth*, in Bang's *Malerhien*, B 12, p 19, I shall laye the on the eare were thou borne in trumpington and brought vp at Hogges 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 iii, This fellow was pome at hogs Norton, where pigges play on the organ 1670 Ray, 249, You were born at Hogs Norton 1670 Cotton, *Scarronides*, bk iv, And pillows all securely 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?* 1729 Fielding, *Author's Farce*, III, Though his voice be only fit to warble at Hog's Norton, where the pigs would accompany it with organs 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial II 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 quot 1869 Hazlitt, 206, Holbeach pots, Whaplode pans Houlton organs, Weston tingsangs 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

Holborn-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, *Philotinus*, sig Fr, As to haue is good happ, so to hould fast is a great vertue 1605 Camden *Remains*, 324 (1870) 1659 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 iv, 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 Prudentum*

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 Easter, *Almondbury Gloss*, 73 (EDS), He is as hollow as a

kex," said of a deceitful man. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 15.

Hollow as a shoe when the foot's out, As. Said of a deceitful person. 1886: R. Holland, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 445 (E.D.S.). 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 17.

Holly. See quot. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 6 (Percy S.), He never lies but when the hollin's green.

Holmby, It shines like. 1854: Baker, *Northants Gloss.*, s.v. "Holmby."

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."]

Holmsdale, The Vale of, Never won nor never shall. Surrey. 1576: Lambarde, *Peramb. of Kent*, 469 (1826). 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, iii. 204 (1840). 1724: Defoe, *Tour*, Lett. II. 104 ["conquered" for "won"]. 1902: G. Thompson, *Picturesque Surrey*, 271. 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. 117 (Grosart) [cited as a "prouerbe"].

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). 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. iv., Home is homely, though it be poore in syght. 1591: Harington, *Orl. Furioso*, bk. xxxix. st. 61, For home though homely twere, yet is it sweet. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 324 (1870), Home is homely. Before 1680: Butler, *Remains*, ii. 285 (1759), Though home be homely, it is more delightful than finer things abroad. 1712: Arbuthnot, *Law a Bolt*, Pt. III. ch. iv., The little I have is free, and I can call it my own! "Hame's hame, be it never so hamely!" 1776: Colman, *Spleen*, I. 1826: Lamb, *Pop. Fallacies*, xii. 1848: Dickens, *Dombey*, ch. xxxv., The saying is, that home is home, be it never so homely.

Home-keeping youths have ever homely wits. c. 1591: Shakespeare, *Two Gent.*, I. i. 1822: Scott, *Fam. Letters*, ii. 134 (1894), I hold by the true saying "untravell'd youths have ever homely wits." 1830: Marryat, *King's Own*, ch. xxxvii.

Homer sometimes nods. [Quandoque bonus dormitat Homerus.—Horace, *Ars Poet.*, 359.] 1530: Palsgrave, 897, And ther where they shall se the good Homer have ben aslepe to be wyllyng by good maner to wake him, in correctyng 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. 609.

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, *Emblemes*, bk 1 No 4, The vulgar proverb's crost He hardly can Be a good bowler and an honest man 1670 Ray, 181

4 *An honest man's word is as good as his bond* 1670 Ray 103 1730 Lillo, *Silvia*, I ix And every honest man is as good as his word

5 *An honest plain man, without plets* 1546 Heywood *Proverbs*, Pt II ch v Be plaine without plets 1659 Howell, 15

6 *An honest shilling is better than a knarish sovereign* Surrey 1875 A B Cheales *Proverb Folk-Lore*, 100

7 *An honest woman dwells at the sign of an honest countenance* 1615 in *Hart Miscell*, II 147 (1744) [cited as "the common saying"]

8 *As honest a man as any in the cards when the kings are out* 1639 Clarke, 286 1678 Ray, 291 1732 Fuller, No 697

9 *As honest a man as ever broke bread* 1599 Porter, *Two Angry Women*, sc xi, You are as good a man as ere broke bread 1600 Shakespeare, *Much Ado*, III v 1696 J Harris, *City Bride*, IV II 1793 O'Keefie, *World in a Village*, I 1, As good natur'd a man as ever broke bread

10 *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 neats leather 1670 Ray, 181 1754 Berthelson *Eng-Danish Dict*, s v "Shoe" 1889 J Nicholson, *Folk Speech E Yorks* 19 As good as ivver stepped upo shoe leather 1901 F E Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 33 He were as bonny a lad as ever step t shoe-leather

11 *As honest a man as the sun ever shone on* 1789 G Parker, *Life s Painter*, 26

12 *As honest a woman as ever burnt mall* 1589 *Pap with a Hatchet*, 23 (1844)

13 *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'Urfe, *Quixote*,

Pt III Act III sc II, A pure proverb, that says, Honest men marry quickly, but wise men not at all

14 *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

15 *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

16 *The honestest man the worse luck* 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Mescheour" 1670 Ray, 117

Honesty 1 *A man never surfeits of too much honesty* 1639 Clarke, 213, Too much honesty did never man harm 1670 Ray, 13

2 *Honesty is a fine jewel, but much out of fashion* 1732 Fuller, No 2533

3 *Honesty is ill to thrive by* 1639 Clarke, 30

4 *Honesty is plain, but no good fellow* 1594 *Knack to Know a Knave*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, vi 509

5 *Honesty is the best policy* 1599 Sandys, *Europa Spec*, 102 (1632) (O), Our grosse conceits, who think honesty the best policie 1622 P Hannay, *Poet Works*, 166 (Hunt Cl), Honestie 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 Rogue*, II 92 1788 Colman, jr., *Ways and Means*, I II, My policy was chosen from the proverb, Random, I thought honesty the best 1850 Dickens, *Copperfield*, ch iv

6 *Honesty may be dear bought, but can never be a dear pennyworth* 1732 Fuller, No 2535 1736 Bailey, *Dict*, s v

7 *If honesty cannot knavery should not* 1732 Fuller, No 2680

Honey 1 *A honey tongue, a heart of gall* 1583 Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig D3, With honye in her mouth, and a sting in her tayle c 1590 in *Roxb Ballads*, II 5 (BS) 1670 Ray, 104 1732 Fuller, No 610

2 *Being anointed with honey lne sweetly* 1725 Bailey, tr Erasmus' *Colloq*, 571 [cited as "the old saying"]



3. *Cover yourself with honey and the flies will eat you.* 1620: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt. II. ch. xlix. 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: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 503.

5. *He that handles honey shall feel it cling to his fingers.* 1481: Caxton, *Reynard*, 64 (Arber), How shold ony man handle hony, but yf he lycked his fynghres. 1631: Mabbe, *Celestina*, 158 (T.T.). 1707: *Spanish Bawd*, IV. i.

6. *He that hath no honey in his pot, let him have it in his mouth.* 1633: Draxe, 161, He that hath no honie in his pot, hath none in his mouth. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Fr.-Eng.*, 3. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Honey."

7. *Honey is dear bought if licked off thorns.* c. 1175: *Old Eng. Homilies*, i. 185 (Morris), Nis nan blisse sothes in an thing thet is utewith, 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 *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 114 (1841), "Dere is boht the hony that is licked of the thorne"; Quoth Hendyng. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Acheter," 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. 1869: 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.

9. *Honey is sweet, but the bee stings.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 13. 1732: Fuller, No. 2538.

10. *Honey is too good for a bear.* *Ibid*, No. 2539.

11. *Lick honey with your little finger.* 1586: Pettie, tr. Guazzo's *Civil Convers.*, fo. 118, That olde saying, that we must tast honie but with our fingers end. 1670: Ray, 13. 1672: Walker, *Paræm*, 58.

12. *No honey without gall.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Nul." 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 313.

13. *The best honey.* See quot. 1924: *Devonsh. Assoc. Trans.*, lv. 111, "The best honey idd'n got by squeezein'." 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.

Honour and Honours. 1. *Honour and ease are seldom bedfellows.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, Honour and profit lie not in one sack. 1670: Ray, 13. 1732: Fuller, No. 2540.

2. *Honour bought, temporal simony.* 1659: Howell, 9 (7).

3. *Honour is but ancient riches.* Before 1598: Ld. Burghley, in Peck, *Desid. Curiosa*, 48 (1779), For gentility is nothing else but antient riches. 1618: Breton, *Court and Country*, in *Inedited 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. "Signeurie," Honour without profit is like a six-penny rent to one that hath nothing else to live on. 1631: Mabbe,

*Celestina*, 140 (T T) 1659 Howell,  
*Proverbs Span-Eng*, 19

7 *Honours change manners* [Honores mutant mores — Polydore Vergil, *Adagia*, Prov ccii p 89 (Basel, 1541)]  
c 1430 Lydgate, in Skeat's *Chaucer*, vii 297, Ther beth four thinges that maketh a man a fool, Honour first putteth him in outrage [extravagant self-importance] 1552 Latimer *Sermons*, 437 (P S), So they verifly that saying *Honores mutant mores* "Honours change manners" 1590 Greene, in *Works*, vii 294 (Grosart), Honours chaungeth manners 1616 Haughton, *Englishm for my Money*, IV 1 [cited as "an old said saw"] 1711 *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, *Abbot*, ch xxii, How I have offended the Lord of Lindesay I know not, unless honours have changed manners

8 *Honours nourish arts* c 1570 F Thynn, *Pride and Lowliness*, 22 (Sh S), Sayeth not the proverbe, honors norishe artes?

9 *There is honour among thieves* [Cum igitur tanta vis iustitiae sit, ut ea etiam latronum opes firmet atque augeat — Cicero, *Off* II xi 39] 1712 Motteux, *Quixote* Pt II ch lx, The old proverb 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, *Redgauntlet*, ch x 1840 Dickens, *Curiosity Shop*, ch xlii, Honour among — among gentlemen, sir," returned the other, who seemed to have been very near giving an awkward termination to the sentence

10 *We cannot come to honour under coverlet* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

11 *Where honour ceaseth, there knowledge decreaseth* 1639 Clarke, 137 1681 W Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 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 sorow 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Hoo See Do (39)

Hoo, Kent See quot 1735 Pegge, *Kent Proverbs*, in E D S, No 12, p 73, He that rideth into the Hundred of Hoo Besides pilfering seamen, shall find dirt enow

Hood does not make the monk, The c 1387 Usk, *Test of Love*, in Skeat's *Chaucer*, vii 91, For habit maketh no monk c 1400 Rom Rose, l 6192, Habit ne maketh monk ne frere 1617 Greene in *Works*, ix 19 (Grosart), The hood makes not the monke, nor the apparrell the man 1673 Wycherley, *Gent Danc-Master*, IV 1 1754 *Connoisseur*, No 10, Mere regimentals no more create a soldier, than the cowl makes a monk 1820 Scott, *Abbot* ch xxvi, The cowl makes not the monk, neither the cord the friar

Hood for this fool, A c 1566 in Collmann, *Ball and Broad-sides*, 93 (Roxb Cl), A hood a hood, for such a foole 1570 in Huth, *Ancient Ballads, etc*, 128 (1867), And, as the proverbe doth show very playne, A hood for this foole, to kepe him from the rayne

Hood-hill [Cleveland, Yorks] has on his cap, When, Hamilton's sure to come down with a clap 1846-59 Denham *Tracts*, ii 14 (F L S) 1878 *Folk-Lore Record*, i 169

Hook or by crook, By c 1380 Wiclif in *Eng Works*, 250 (E E T S), Comynly thei schulle bie hem with pore mennes goodis with hook or with crook c 1390 Gower, *Conf Amantis*, bk v l 2872 So what with hepe [hook] and what with crok Thei make here maister 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 haue it eyther by hooke or crooke, by right or wrong, as they say 1694 Motteux, *Rabelais* bk v ch xiv, Well, by hook or by crook we must have something out of you 1761 K O'Hara, *Midas*, II ii 1860 Reade, *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: Draxe, 5. 1670: Ray, 104. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v.

Hool. See Hutton.

Hop, verb. 1. *Hop whore! 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 whoore, pipe theefe, hangman lead the dance.

2. *To hop against the hill.* See quotes. 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 (Golancz), 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 hill: Rowing against the streame, 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, Beere, Ale, etc.*, 27 (Hanford, 1915), Away hop of my thumbe . . . I am ashame'd 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. 1889: *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 liues of hope makes a thinne 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 proverbe) delayed hope afflicteth the heart. 1633: Draxe, 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. Prudentum*.

10. *Hope is worth any money.* 1732: Fuller, No. 2543.

11. *Hope of long life beguileth many a good wife.* c. 1320, in *Reliq. Antiquae*, i. 116 (1841), "Hope of long lyf Gyleth mony god wyf"; Quoth Hendyng.

12. *Hope often blinks at a fool.* c. 1300: *Havelok*, l. 307, Hope maketh fol man ofte blenkes.

13. *If hope were not heart would break.* Before 1225: *Ancren R.*, So, Ase me seith, gif hope nere, heorte to breke. c. 1340: Hampole, *Pricke of Con.*, l. 7266 (Morris), And men saye, warn hope ware it [the "hert"] suld brest. c. 1440: *Gesta Rom.*, 228 (E.E.T.S.), He made thes wordes to be wreten, "yf hope wer not, hert shulde breke." c. 1599: Harvey, *Marginalia*, 95 (1913), But for hope y<sup>e</sup> hart wold brust. 1655: A.

Brewer, *Love-sick King*, II, in Bang's *Materialien*, 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 deceiveth* 1578 Florio, *First Fruits*, fo 33 1629 *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov 126

Hope, verb 1 *He that hopes not for good, fears not evil* 1640 Herbert *Jac Prudentum* 1732 Fuller No 2166, He that hopes no good, fears no ill 1854 Surtees, *Handley Cross*, ch lxxii, 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 Govt of Church of Eng.* 74, I wishe the best, and therefore if I feare the worst I hope I am the easier to bee pardoned 1590 Spenser, *F Q*, IV vi 37, Its best to hope the best, though of the worst affrayd c 1680 L'Estrange, *Seneca's Morals* "Happy Life," ch x, I'll 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 1647 A Brewer, *Countrie Gyle*, sig G2 1712 Motteux, *Quixote*, Pt II ch lxxv 1732 Fuller, No 2545, Hope well and have well quoth Hickwell

Hopkins See quotes 1678 Ray, 290 As well come as Hopkin, that came to 131 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 *Dyets Dry Dinner*, sig G4, Heresie and beere came hopping into England both in a yeere 1643 Sir R Baker, *Chron*, 298 (1730), About his [Henry VIII's] fifteenth year it happen'd that diverse things were newly brought into England, whereupon this rhyme was made Turkeys, Carps, Hopps, Piccarel, and Beer, Came into England all in one year c 1685 Aubrey, *Nat Hist Wilts*, 62 (1847), Greeke, carps, turkey cocks, and beere, Came into England all in a yeare 1714 Ward, *Hudib 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 [baize], and beer, Came, etc 1809 Pegge, *Anonym*, Cent V 88 [as in 1643] 1826 Brady, *Varieties of Lit*, 264 [as in 1724] 1834-7 Southey, *Doctor*, inter-chap xvi 1886 Bickerdyke, *Curios of Ale and Beer* 67 [as in 1724] 1909 Hackwood, *Inns, Ales, etc*, 44

2 *Hops make or break* Referring to the speculative nature of the hop harvest 1869 Hazlitt, 208

3 *Plenty of lady-birds, plenty of hops* Ibid, 317

See also Bean (2), St James's Day, and Thick as hops

Hopton See Horner

Horestone See Padwell

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 t-aught, 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 Generalis*, 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 Prudentum* 1670 Ray, 104 1732 Fuller, No 5704 [with "forehead" for "head"]

5. *Horns and grey hairs do not come by years.* 1678: Ray, 156.

6. *Let the horns go with the hide.* 1855: Bohn, 441.

7. *Your horns hang in your eyes.* 1583: Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig. F2, Her mothers husband . . . could not see for hornes growing ouer his eyes. 1631: Lenton, *Characters*, No. 32 (N.), A cuckold is a harmelesse horned creature, but they [his horns] hang not in his eies, as your wittals doe. 1709: Ward, *Works*, iv. *Verse* 132, To improve your old horns till they hang in your light. 1732: Fuller, No. 6051. Cf. *Jealous*.

Horn Fair, All is fair at. 1813: Brand, *Pop. Antiq.*, 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 (1869).

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, 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.

3. *A good horse cannot be of a bad colour.* 1653: Walton, *Angler*, Pt. I. ch. v., It is observed by some that "there is no good horse of a bad colour." 1710: S. Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 297, A good horse is never of an ill colour. 1838: Hood, *Hood's Own*, 1st ser., 146 (1865). 1922: *N. & Q.*, 12th ser., xi. 169.

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.

6. *A hired horse tired never.* 1683: Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697).

7. *A horse foaled of an acorn* = the gallows. 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. lxxxii.

8. *A horse is neither better nor worse for his trapping.* 1732: Fuller, No. 217.

9. *A horse kiss.* 1678: Ray, 74, An horse-kiss. A rude kiss, able to beat one's teeth out. 1732: Fuller, No. 611 [as in 1678].

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, *Ploughman'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. Prudentum*. 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 waame.* 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 waam And a meear in naan." This Craven distich denotes that a horse should have a large paunch and a mare a small one.

16. *A hungry horse makes a clean manger.* 1659: Howell, 5. 1670: Ray, 107. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Hungry."

17. *A pair of good spurs to a borrowed horse is better than a peck of haver [oats].* 1683: Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697).

18. *A resty horse must have a sharp*

*spur* 1639 Clarke, 167 1670 Ray, 105  
 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 xi, Folke call on the horse that will cary alwey 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* Ibid No 636  
 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* ii 81 1845 Jerrold, *Mrs Caudle*, cxix, You re not as strong as a horse  
 25 *Behind before, 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 unarm'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 calcarea sponte currenti —Pliny, *Ep*, I viii 1] 1477 Paston Lett, iii 200 (Gardner), It shall never neede to prykk nor threite a free horse I shall do whatt I can 1633 Jonson, *Tale of a Tub*, III w, *Spur a free horse*, he'll 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 1875 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 Spurgeon *John Ploughman*, ch xiv

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, *Paræm*, 17  
 33 *He is ready to lend a horse who never had one c* 1320 in *Reliq Antiquæ*, 1 114 (1841) "He is fre of hors that ner nade non", Quoth Hendingy  
 34 *He that hath a white horse and a fair wife is never without trouble* 1586 Pettie, tr Guazzo's *Civil Convers*, 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 ielousie 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 Houres*, 480  
 36 *He that lets his horse drink at every lake, And his wife go to every wake, 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 Urfe, *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 into 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 Torriano, *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 nat sometye 1579 G Harvey, in *Works*, 1 23

(Grosart), A good horse that trippeth not once in a iourney. 1616: Breton, in *Works*, ii. e 6 (Grosart). 1709: O. Dykes, *Eng. Proverbs*, 19. 1869: 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 breake hys halter, to see so drunken a pageant. 1659: Howell, 10, 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: Maroccus *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. I. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 8, Live, hawse [horse], an' theawst ha' graiss.

49. *One white foot.* See quotes. 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 Ile give him to none. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 59, A horse with one white foot is suppos'd to be best. 1851: Fitzgerald, *Euphranor*, 84 (1855). 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"].

51. *Ride a horse and a mare on the shoulders, an ass and mule on the buttocks.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Ital.-Eng.*, 2 [with "towards" for each "on"]. 1678: Ray, 53.

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. i.

56. *The common horse is worst shod.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1670: Ray, 105.

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, *Jac. 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).

62. *The horse next the mill carries all the grist.* 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 334 (1870). 1670: Ray, 121. 1694: D'Urfey, *Quixote*, Pt. I. Act II. sc. i. 1732: Fuller, No. 4601.

63. *The horse that draus his halter is not quite escaped.* 1639: Clarke, 250.

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 (TT) 1696 D Urfe, *Quixote*, Pt III Act III sc ii, D'y'e 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*, Pt I ch vi, Folke call on the horse that will cary alwey

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 i' th' same stable 1670 Ray, 181 c 1710 Swift, in *Works*, xiv 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 Nidgett 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, *Olio*, 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), Whan the hors waloweth, som heris be loste 1602 Carew, *Surv of Cornwall*, 9 (1811), Where the horse walloweth, some hairs will still remain 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, 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, 98

73 *You may know the horse 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 drink* c 1175 *Old Eng Homilies*, 1st ser, p 9 (Morris), Hwa is thet mei thet hors wettren the him-self nule drinken? (Who is he that may water the horse and not drink himself?) 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs* Pt I ch vi, A man maie well bring a horse to the water, But he cannot make him drinke 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 heele 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, *Poverty*, 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*, *ad* (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 hill*, *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 G1, *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)  
*Horsham* See *Rudgwick*  
*Horsley* See *Heddon*



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. 612.

Hot as a toast. *c.* 1430 : *Two Cookery-Books*, 12 (O.), Seene forth alle hote as tostes. *c.* 1520 : in Skelton, *Works*, ii. 415 (Dyce), Chafyng lyke myne hoste, As hott 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, *Lancs 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 foryete my anger, though I wer as hote as fire. 1579 : Spenser, *Shep. Cal.*, March, l. 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 love is soon cold. 1537 : R. Whitford, *Werke for Housholders*, sig. D7, Hote loue is sone colde. 1587 : Greene, in *Works*, v. 210 (Grosart). 1620 : *Two Merry Milkmaids*, II. i., The old [adage]. Hot loue's soone cold. 1670 : Ray, 46. 1732 : Fuller, No. 2549.

1889 : *Folk-Lore Journal*, vii. 292 (Derbyshire).

Hot needle. *See* Put (11).

Hot porridge (or worts) will soak old crusts. 15th cent. : in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 82 (1841), This is to saye to your lewde undurstandyng, that hootte wortes erased crusstes makeyn sofft hard wortes. Before 1500 : in Hill, *Common-place-Book*, 132 (E.E.T.S.), Whote worts 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).

Hotspurs, You are none of the. 1732 : Fuller, No. 5855, You are none of the hastings, nor hotspurs. 1846-59 : *Denham Tracts*, i. 228 (F.L.S.), You're none of the hotspurs. Made use of when accusing a noisy braggadocio, be he soldier or civilian, of cowardice.

Houltan. *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* quots. 1891 : R. P. Chope, *Hartland Dialect*, 21 (E.D.S.), 'Twixt twelve an' two You'd zee '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 1891]

House I A house built by the way-side is either too high or too low 1666 Tormano *Piazza Univ*, 40 Who buildeth a house in the street, either it is too high or too low 1670 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*, cxxv 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*, l 120, Mykelle mote hym be-houethe to don that house schall holden

11 One's house one's castle 1602-3 Manningham, *Diary*, 21 (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 termed 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 ix Mrs MacStinger immediately demanded whether an Englishwoman's house was her castle or not

12 Set not your house on fire to be revenged of the moon 1732 Fuller,

No 4111 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 Bullein, *Bulwarke of Defence*, fo 28 Haue at all caste the house out at the window 1659 in *Pol Ballads*, 161 (Wright, Percy S), If we take them there any more, wee'll throw the house out of the window 1714 Ozell, *Moliere*, i 180, I'll have a virtuous wife, or I'll throw the house out o' th 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 o' windows" 1889 Peacock, *Manley, etc*, Gloss, 563 (E 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 Foote *Taste*, I [cited as "the old saying"] 1773 Garrick, *Prol to Goldsmith's She Stoops*, When ign'rance enters, folly is at hand Learning is better far than house and land 1805 Scott, *Fam Letters*, i 31 (1894), I am at pains with her education, because you know "learning is better than house or land" 1859 Planché, *Extravag*, v 206 (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

priest and pigeon thence expell. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 48, Who means to have a clean house, let him not keep pigeons. 1886: Swainson, *Folk-Lore of Brit. Birds*, 169 (F.L.S.).

See also Commend (1); and Eat (35).

Housekeeping is a privy thief. 1542: Udall, tr. Erasmus' *Apoph.*, 44 (1877), And (as our Englishe proverbe saith) Hous keypyng is a priuie theef. See also Marriage (5).

Housetop, to be at the = in anger. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. v., He is at three woordis vp in the house roufe. 1626: Scoggins *Jests*, 92 (1864), I defie thee, said Scogins wife (and was up in the house top). 1633: Draxe, 10, At three words he is at the top of the house. 1828: Carr, *Craven Dialect*, i. 236, To be at t' house-top, to be in a great rage. 1875: Parish, *Sussex Dialect*, 123, If you says anything to him, he's up-a-top-of-the-house drackly minut.

Housewifery is a great revenue, Good. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' *Colloq.*, 144. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. xvi., A thrifty housewife is better than a great income. Cf. Frugality.

How doth your whither go you? = your wife. 1678: Ray, 346.

Howick Hole, No good ever came out of. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, ii. 364 (F.L.S.).

Hulch and stulch, By = By hook or by crook. 1541: *Schoolhouse of Women*, By huch or by cruch. 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-bee in a cow-t—d thinks himself a king, An. 1659: Howell, i. 1670: Ray, 14.

Humble hearts have humble desires. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1854: J. W. Warton, *Last of Old Squires*, 53.

Humphrey Hamblly's ducks, as is said to look larger than they be. 1888: Q.-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 leeseth 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'-shire. (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.

Hundred tailors, A, a hundred millers, and a hundred weavers make three hundred thieves. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Span.-Eng.*, 11. 1672: R. Codrington, *Proverbs*, 4. 1732: Fuller, No. 615. Cf. Miller (10).

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 feele hunger perseth stone wall. c. 1580: Spelman, *Dialogue*, 121 (Roab Cl.), As the oulde saynge is, longer breketh stone walles. 1605: Chapman, etc., *East's. Hor.* V. i. 1651: Cartwright, *Ordinary*, II. i., Hunger may break stone walls, it ue'er hurts men. 1759: Colman, *Relliad*,

can 1, Hunger, they say, thro' stony walls will break 1821 W Combe, *Syntax in Search of Wife*, can xxxiv p 53, Hunger, by you know whom, 'tis said, Will break through walls to get its bread

Hunger droppeth out of his nose Before 1529 Skelton, *Magnyfycence*, l 2288, I gyue hym Crystys curse, With neuer a peny in his purse Ye, for *requiem eternam* groweth forth of his nose 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs* Pt I ch xi, Hunger droppeth euen 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 dropp out at your nose

Hunger fetcheth the wolf out of the woods 1567 Painter, *Pal of Pleasure*, iii 216 (Jacobs), I well perceiue that hunger forceth the woulf oute of hir denne 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Bois," Hunger drives woolves 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" 1884 Cudworth, *Dialect Sketches*, 15 (W), Hunger, they say, is a sharp thorn, an' begow it's true

Hunger is the best sauce [Optimum cibi condimentum fames, situs potus — Cicero *De Finibus*, lib 2 Cf Horace, *Sat* II ii 38] c 1375 Barbour, *Bruce*, iii 540 That soucht nan othir salso thartill Bot appetyt, that oft men takys [That sought for no other

sauce thereto except appetite, such as often seizes men) 1542 Udall, tr Erasmus' *Apoph*, 2 (1877), Socrates said, the best sauce in the world for meates, is to bee houngrie 1639 Massinger, *Unnat Combat*, III 1, Nor do you Find fault with the sauce, keen hunger being the best 1709 O Dykes, *Eng Proverbs*, 11, Hunger is sawce for an emperor 1827 Hone, *Table-Book*, 139, That "a sharp stomach is the best sauce," is a saying as true as it is common

Hunger makes dinners, pastime suppers 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

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

Hungry as a church-mouse 1670 Ray, 205 1901 F E Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 3

Hungry as a dog 1862 *Dialect of Leeds*, 405

Hungry as a hawk 1652 Taylor (Water-Poet), *Works*, 1st coll, *Christmas In and Out* (Spens S), I and my men were as hungry as hawks 1681 W Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 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

Hungry 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, *Treilyn Hold*, ch xix, I am as hungry as a hunter Get me something to eat

Hungry 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"

Hungry as a kite c 1555 in Wright, *Songs*, etc, *Philip and Mary*, 17 (Roxb Cl) When Lent cummys to the towene as hongré as a glede [etc] 1855

Robinson, *Whitby Gloss.*, 71, "As hungry as a glead," ravenous.

Hungry as a wolf. 1540: Palsgrave, *Acolastus*, sig. Lr, I am more hungry than any wolfe is. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Allouvi," As hungry as a wolfe. 1858: Lytton, *What Will He Do?* I. iii., I have the hunger of a wolf.

Hungry as the grave. 1880: Courtney, *W. Counry Words*, 29 (E.D.S.).

Hungry bellies. See Belly.

Hungry dogs will eat dirty puddings. [Jejunus raro stomachus vulgaria temnit.—Horace, *Sat.*, II. ii. 38.] 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. v. 1553: *Respublica*, III. vi, Suche hongrye dogges will slabbe vp sluttishe puddinges. 1600: Dekker, *Old Fortunatus*, II. ii., A hungry dog eats dirty puddings. 1721: Bailey, *Eng. Dict.*, s.v. "Hungry." 1830: Colman, jr., in *Hum. Works*, 421 (Hotten). 1893: J. Salisbury, *S.E. Worcs. Gloss.*, 55 (E.D.S.), A 'ongry dog'll yut dirty puddin'.—*Proverb*. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 7, A hungry dog's fain o' dirty puddin'. Cf. Scornful dogs.

Hungry flies bite sore. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. ix. 1670: Ray, 107. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v.

Hungry, If thou be, I am angry, let us go fight. 1678: Ray, 65.

Hungry man is an angry man, A. 1659: Howell, 13. 1670: Ray, 14. 1880: Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 52. 1911: Hackwood, *Good Cheer*, 345. A hungry man is an angry man, and an empty stomach has no conscience.

Hungry man smells meat afar off, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 224.

Hungry men think the cook lazy. *Ibid.*, No. 2574.

Hunt's dog, that will neither go to church nor stay at home, Like. 1678: Ray, 291. 1708: *Brit. Apollo*, i. No. 105, col. 3. 1785: Grose, *Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue*, s.v. [a Shropshire story told]. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 593. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 90. 1920: in *N. & Q.*, 12th ser., vii. 67 [the correspondent says he had heard the saying in Warwickshire within the last ten years]. Cf. Wood's dog.

Hunter's moon, The. 1710: *Brit.*

*Apollo*, iii. No. 70, p. 2, col. 1 (O.), The country people call this the Hunters-Moon. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 58 (Percy S.), An October moon is called the "hunter's moon." 1855: Kingsley, *West. Ho!*, ch. v., The broad, bright hunter's moon. 1873: in *N. & Q.*, 4th ser., xi. 45, The Hunter's Moon in October, and the Harvest Moon in September, are not called so simply because hunting begins and harvest is being got in in these months.

Hunters that blow the horn, All are not. 1586: L. Evans, *Withals Dict. Revised*, sig. E6, Euery 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. 1865: W. White, *East. England*, ii. 95, Huntingdonshire . . . where, in the words of the proverb, "they have churches for mile-stones."

Hurstpierpoint. See Wolstonbury.

Hurts another hurts himself, He that. 1578: Florio, *First Fruits*, fo. 29. 1629: *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov. 84.

Husband and Husbands 1 *A husband must be deaf, and the wife blind, to have quietness* 1666 Tormano Piazza Univ, 144 Cf Wife (24)

2 *A husband oftentimes 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 vii 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 drinketh 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*, 11 5 (1809), The olde auncient adage which sayeth, that the husbandman ought first to taste off the newe grown fruite

Husk, By the, you may guess at the nut 1732 Fuller, No 1044

Hustings (or Hoistings), You are all for the 1662 Fuller *Worthies*, 11 349 (1840) 1670 Ray, 244

Hutton See quot 1869 Hazlitt, 210, Hutton an' Huyton, Ditton an' Hoo [Hool in Cheshire] 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 11 c 1580 Spelman, *Dialogue*, 56 (Roxb Cl). [speaking of hypocrites] Such a cloke use they for the rayne

Hypocrisy is a sort of homage that vice pays to virtue 1732 Fuller, No 2580

## I

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 *Reliq. Antiquæ*, 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'll tent [prevent] thee, quoth Wood, If I can't rule my daughter, I'll rule my good. Cheshire. 1670: Ray, 52. 1877: E. Leigh, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 208. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 78.

I'm very wheamow [nimble], said the old woman, when she stept into the milk-bowl. 1670: Ray, 217. 1877: E. Leigh, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 225 [with "bittlen" for "milk-bowl"]. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 79 [with "middle of the bittlin" for "milk-bowl"].

Ice. 1. *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"].

4. *Trust not one night's ice.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 114.

*See also Martinmas* (2); *November* (3); and *St. Matthias* (3).

Idle, *adj.* 1. *An idle head is a box for the wind.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

2. *An idle person is the devil's cushion (or playfellow).* 1630: T. Adams, *Works*,

197, The idle man is the devils cushion, whereupon he sits and takes his ease. 1660: Howell, *Parly of Beasts*, 134, To avoid idleness, which is the devills couch. 1732: Fuller, No. 620 ["playfellow"]. 1859: Smiles, *Self-Help*, 273 (1869), A lazy man [is] the devil's bolster.

3. *An idle youth a needy age.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Jeunesse." 1651: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, 2nd ed.

4. *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.*

5. *Be not idle and you shall not be long-ing.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

6. *He is idle that might be better employed.* 1732: Fuller, No. 1919.

7. *Idle brains are the devil's workshop.* 1678: Ray, 161, An idle brain is the devils shop. 1732: Fuller, No. 3053 ["workhouses"]. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 110. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 7, An idle mon's yed's the divvle's smithy.

8. *Idle folks have the least leisure.* 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. i.

9. *Idle folks lack no excuses.* 1639: Clarke, 234. 1670: Ray, 109.

10. *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.*

11. *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 laziness, 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. 3060.

Idleness is the key of beggary (or mother of poverty). 1616: *Rich Cabinet*, fo. 73, Idleness is the mother of poverty. 1670: Ray, 14, Idleness is the key of beggary. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. [as in 1670].

1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch 1 [as in 1670]

Idleness is the parent of all vice c 1440 Lydgate, *Fall of Princes*, bk ii l 2249 (EETS), Mooder off vices, callid idlennesse c 1483 *Quatuor Sermones*, 35 (Roxb Cl), Fle ydelnesse for it is the key of all vyces c 1568 W Wager, *Longer thou Livest* sig C2, Idleness the parent of all vice 1630 Brathwait, *Eng Gent*, etc., 61 (1641), Idlennesse being the mother of all vices 1851 Borrow, *Lancengro*, i 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 (PS), Idleness, which is the well-spring and root of all vice 1598 *Servimgmans Comfort*, in *Inedited Tracts*, 158 (Hazlitt), Idlennesse is the roote of all mischiefe 1760 Foote, *Minor*, I 1850 Dickens, *Copperfield* ch x

Idleness makes the wit rust (or turns the edge of wit) 1600 Bodenham, *Belvedere*, 131 (Spens S), Idleness is the canker 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 361, Idleness makes the wit rust

Idleness, Of, comes no goodness 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Gueule" 1678 Ray, 161 1732 Fuller, No 3698, 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 S Cornwall, 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*, 1 87 (Jacobs), Alwayes 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 frends for to atchieue Which thou thyselfe canst doe, thy selfe for to relieue 1692 L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 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 "Ingoldsby 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

Ifs and Ands c 1513 More, *Works*, p 54, col 2 (1557), What quod the protectour thou seruest me I wene with iffs and with andes 1589 Nashe, *Introd to Greene's Menaphon*, 10 (Arber), Sufficeth them to bodge vp a blanke verse with ifs and ands c 1624 Davenport, *King John*, I ii, Well, well, with ifs and ands Mad men leave rocks and leap into the sands 1681 W Robertson, *Phrascol Generalis*, 90, Without Ifs and Ands, 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 (EDS), 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 Minister of Labour to tinker at it"

Ignorance is a voluntary misfortune 1669 *Politeuphonia*, 63

Ignorance is the mother of devotion 1559 Bp Jewell, *Works*, iii pt ii, 1202 (PS), Ignorantia enim, inquit, mater est verae pietatis, quam ille appellavit devotionem 1573 *New Custom*, I 1 1593 G Harvey, *Works*, ii 138



(Grosart), Ignorance . . . was wont to be termed the moother of deuotion. 1621: Burton, *Melancholy*, III. iv. 1, 2, p. 678 (1836). 1668: Dryden, *Secret Love*, I. ii., Your ignorance is the mother of your deuotion to me. 1700: T. Brown, *Works*, iii. 67-8 (1760).

Ignorance is the mother of impudence. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 116, Ignorance the mother of presumption and of errors. Before 1680: Butler, *Remains*, ii. 213 (1759), Impudence is the bastard of ignorance 1732: Fuller, No. 3067. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. ii., His ignorance is the mother of his impudence, and the nurse of his obstinacy.

Ignorance. See also Knowledge.

Ignorant hath an eagle's wings and an owl's eyes, The. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

Ilchester. See quotes. 1670: Ray, 342, All Ilchester is gaol, say prisoners there. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Somerset." All Ilchester is gaol.

Ill agreement is better than a good judgment, An. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 1, A sorry agreement is better than a good sute in law. Cf. Better a lean peace.

Ill air where we gain nothing, It is an. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 1. 1732: Fuller, No. 2895.

Ill bird lays an ill egg, An. 1586: Pettie, tr. Guazzo's *Civil Convers.*, fo. 127, An ill byrde layeth an ill egge. 1617: *Arraignment of Lewd, etc., Women*, 44. 1716: Ward, *Female Policy*, 93 [cited as "the old proverb"].

Ill bird that fouls its own nest, It is an. c. 1250: *Owl and Nightingale*, 99, Dahet habbe that ilkē best that fuleth his owē 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 seyde ys in englyssh: men seyn "that brid or foule ys dyshonest, what that he be and holden ful chirlyssh, that vseth to defoule his oone neste." 1509: Barclay, *Ship of Fools*, i. 173 (1874), It is a lewde byrde that fyleth his owne nest. 1583: Greene, in *Works*, ii. 31 (Grosart), It is

a fowle bird defiles the own nest. 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 comes in by ells and goes out by inches. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 138, Evil cometh by cartloads, and goes away by ounces, cometh on horseback and goes away on foot.

Ill cook that can't lick his own fingers, He's an. c. 1520: Stanbridge, *Vulgaria*, sig. C4, He is an euyl coke y<sup>t</sup> can not lycke his owne lypes. 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 doers are ill deemers. [Tuo ex ingenio mores alienos probas.—Plautus, *Truc.*, ii. 47.] 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I., They say ill doers are ill deemers. 1828: Scott, *Fair Maid*, ch. xvii., Put me not to quote the old saw, that evil doers are evil dreaders. 1853: Trench, *Proverbs*, 115 (1905).

Ill done must be done twice, A work. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 3.

Ill egging makes ill begging. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 325 (1870). 1670: Ray, 84, Illegging makes ill begging. Evil persons by enticing and flattery, draw on others to be as bad as themselves.

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, II. 1

Ill gotten goods (a) thrive not, (b) thrive not to the third heir (a) 1519 Horman, *Vulgaria*, fo 77, Euyll gotten ryches wyll neuer proue longe 1591 Spenser, *Moth Hubb Tale*, l 1149, Ill might it prosper, that ill gotten was c 1630 in *Roxb Ballads*, l 184 (Hindley), Ill gotten goods never doe thrive 1732 Fuller, No 3070, Ill gotten goods seldom prosper 1826 Lamb, *Pop Fallacies*, II 1842 Barham *Ing Legends* 2nd ser "Babes in Wood" (b) 1303 Brunne, *Handl Synne*, l 9436, Here mayst thou se euyll-wunne thyng Wyth eyre shal neuer make gode endyng Ibid, l 9479, For thys men se, and sey alday, "The threde eyre selleth alle away" c 1430 in *Twenty-six Poems*, 149 (E E T S), Men seyen "good geten vntrewly, The 11<sup>th</sup> eyre browke hit ne may" 1493 *Dives et Pauper*, It is a common prouerbe Of euyll gotten goods the thyrd heyre vnneth hath 10y 1593 Nashe in *Works*, iv 146 (Grosart), 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 doth enioy his portion 1708 tr Aleman 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 dispend — Plautus *Poen*, IV 1 22] 1539 Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo 24, Euyll gotten good go euyll away 1564 Builein, *Dialogue*, 72 (E E T S), For euill gotten goodes are euill spent, saied our curate vpon Sondare 1603 Breton, in *Works*, u 1 11 (Grosart) 1680 L'Estrange, *Select Colloq of Erasmus* 55 It is but reasonable that what's Ill got should be Worse spent 1763 Murphy, *Citizen*, I u, The moment young master comes to possession, "Ill 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

Ill husband 1 He is an ill husband that is not missed 1633 Draxe, 2

2 She that has an ill husband shewes it in her dress 1732 Fuller, No 4139

Ill language, There were no, if it were not ill taken 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1699 Farquhar, *Love and a Bottle* IV 11, For as nothing's ill 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 something 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*, vii 613 (B S), The proverbe sayes, "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*, I, When ill fortune lies asleep, let none awake her 1869 Hazlitt, 458

Ill man lie 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 1666 Tormiano, *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 vi 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 xviii, 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 (2) 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. Hel-  
lowes, *Guevara's Epistles*, 91, Euill  
newes neuer 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.  
xxxviii., 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. xxxii.,  
I had mumbled but a lame mass an  
thou hadst broken my jaw, for the  
piper 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 putting a naked sword in a mad-  
man's hand, It is. 1546: Heywood,  
*Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. viii. 1670: Ray,  
147. 1672: Walker, *Param.*, 48. 1736:  
Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Sword," Don't put  
a sword into a madman's hands

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 clouting, 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. l. 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: *Brighthouse News*,  
23 July (W.).

Ill shaving against the wool, It's.  
1670: Ray, 141.

Ill song who has ne'er a tongue, He  
makes an. 1855: Bohn, 379.

Ill sowers make ill harvest. 1732:  
Fuller, No. 3078.

Ill spun web. *See* quotes. c. 1300:  
*Prov. of Hending*, st. 35 (Berlin, 1878),  
Euer out cometh euel sponne web.  
c. 1410: *Towneley Plays*, 21 (E.E.T.S.),  
Ill spon weft ay comes foule out.  
c. 1460: *Wyse Man taught hys Sone*, l. 7  
(E.E.T.S.), For 3erne that is euylle  
spone 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 standeth longest, An. 1659:  
Howell, 3. 1670: Ray, 14.

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 talking between a full man and a  
fasting, It is. 1823: Scott, *Q. Durward*,  
ch. x. 1828: Scott, *Fair Maid*, ch. xx.  
1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-  
Lore*, 107.

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), *Crop-  
eare 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. 1659:  
Howell, *Proverbs*, *Fr.-Eng.*, 8, Bad  
ware is never too cheap.

Ill weather comes unsent for. 1583:  
Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig. F3, Though

I come like ill weather, vsent for  
1846 Denham, *Proverbs*, 3 (Percy S).  
Ill weather and sorrow come unsent  
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 *Proverb Lore*, 12,  
Euyll 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 1733  
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*, Prol, For euill  
will neuer said well, they do say 1599  
Shakespeare, *Henry V*, III vii 1660  
Fuller, *Mixt Contempl*, 300 (1830)  
1732 Fuller, No 308r

Ill wind that blows nobody good, It's  
an c 1540 J Heywood *Song against*  
*Idleness* 1580 Tusser, *Husbandrie*, 29  
(E D S) c 1640 *Capt Underwist*, II,  
in Bullen, *Old Plays*, II 347 1692  
Congreve, *Old Bachelor*, II 1 1769  
Smollett, *Adv of Atom*, 113 (Cooke,  
1795) 1837 Dickens, *Pickwick*, ch  
xxxii 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 himselfe  
with) good tooles 1696 D Urfe, *Quixote*,  
Pt III Act I sc 1, 'Tis an ill  
workman that quarrels with his own  
tools 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*,  
Dial II, They say an ill workman never  
had good tools 1818 Byron, *Don*  
*Juan*, can 1 st 201 Good workmen  
never quarrel with their tools 1859  
Smiles, *Self-Help*, 124 (1869), It is  
proverbial that the bad workman never  
yet had a good tool

Ill wound is cured, not an ill name,  
An 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Ill youth See also Untoward.

Image of rye-dough See quot 1687  
Aubrey, *Gentilisme, etc*, 107 (F L S).  
We have a saying, She looks (or He  
stands) like an image of rye-dough  
Mdm 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, *Lacon*, 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, *Troilus*, bk II l 1238, For-  
why men seyth, impressiounes lighte  
Ful lightly been ay redy to the flighte "

Impudence to show himself a fool,  
He hath 1732 Fuller, No 1888

Impudence See also Ignorance

In a quandary 1577 *Misogonus*, III  
1, Thou makest me in a greater quan-  
dary 1577 J Grange, *Golden Aphro-  
ditis* 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, *Andrews*, bk II ch iv, "Poof  
woman!" says Mrs Slipslop, "what a  
terrible quandary she must be in!"  
1816 Scott, *Old Mortality*, ch viii  
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,  
*Troilus*, bk IV l 461, But canstow  
pleyen raket, to and fro Nettle in, dokke  
out, now this, now that, Pandare?  
1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch 1,  
Waueryng as the wynde, in docke out  
nettle 1586 L Evans, *Withals Did*  
*Revised*, sig Ez, 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  
mischiefe 1703 Ward, *Writings*, II  
193 [cited as an "old saying"] Cf  
the reverse, s v God's name

In the nick; now usually In the nick of time. 1577: *Misogonus*, II. iv., That came ith nicke. 1577: Stanihurst, *Descrip. of Ireland*, fo. 1, He was so crost in the nycke of thys determination. 1603: Chamberlain, *Letters*, 173 (Camden S.), Mr. Gent comming in the nicke. c. 1620: *Barnavelt*, V. iii, in Bullen, *Old Plays*, ii. 307, The Prince strikes iust i' th' nick. 1740: North, *Examen*, 255, Why not before or after, but just in the nick of one judge being absent. 1821: Scott, *Pirate*, ch. xi., The fortunate arrival of Mordaunt, in the very nick of time. 1866: G. Eliot, *Felix Holt*, ch. vii, Our lucky youngster is come in the nick of time.

In time comes he whom God sends. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 51 [with "she." for "he"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 2831.

Ince, Go to=Go to Jericho. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 63.

Inch. 1. *An inch in a miss is as good as an ell*. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 318 (1870). 1670: Ray, 109. 1732: Fuller, No. 635, An inch in missing is as bad as an ell. Cf. A miss is as good as a mile, s.v. "Miss"—a less intelligible saying.

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.

4. *Give an inch you'll take an ell*. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. ix., When I gaue you an ynche ye tooke an ell. 1599: Porter, *Two Angry Women*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, vii. 357. 1630: Taylor (Water-Poet), *Works*, 2nd pagin., 168, Giue a knaue an inch, hee'l take an ell. 1660: Tatham, *The Rump*, IV. 1720: C. Shadwell, *Sham Prince*, Epil., If they encourage him, he thinks if's well, For, give him but an inch, he'll take an ell. 1822: Scott, *Nigel*, ch. xxvii. 1865: Dickens, *Mutual Friend*, bk. iii. ch. xiv., Give him an inch, and he'll take an ell. Let him alone this time, and what'll he do with our property next?

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 felawes 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 Houres*, 490.

Ingratitude is the daughter of pride. 1620: Shelton, *Quixote*, 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 thyng and is there noo more ynke lefte in thy penne, or nothyng yet left the? *Pant.* Nothyng 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 Fruits*, 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, *Maids of More-clacke*, 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 1888 R L S, *Black Arrow* Prol, I am as innocent as the babe unchristened

Insult to injury, To add [Injuriae qui addideris contumeliam—Phaedrus, V III 5] 1748 E Moore, *The Foundling* V II, This is adding insult to injuries 1831 Peacock *Crotchet Castle*, ch II, To offer me a sandwich when I am looking for a supper is to add insult to injury 1837 Dickens, *Pickwick* ch xxxv

Interest will not lie 1709 R Kingston, *Apoph. Curiosa* 80, 'Tis a common proverb, that interest will not lie

Inward sore puts out the physician's eye, An 1587 Greene in *Works*, III 114 (Grosart)

Ipswich See quot 1790 Grose, *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 xvi, Forest proverbs such as "An iron windfall," for anything unfairly taken

Irons in the fire, To have other (or many) Before 1549 Sir W Paget, *Lett to Somerset* (PRO St Pap Dom Edw VI, III No 4) (O), Put no more so many yrons in the fyre at ones 1576 Lambarde, *Peramb of Kent*, 336 (1826), To the ende that the King should have at once many yrons (as the saying is) in the fire to attend upon c 1590 G Harvey, *Marginalia*

94 (1913), On[e] iron in y<sup>e</sup> fyre at once 1612 Chapman, *Widow's Tears*, II 1, But you know, brother, I have other irons on th' 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 c 1750 Foote, *Englishmen in Paris*, I, Leave her to my management, and consider we have more irons in the fire than one 1849 Lytton, *Carltons*, 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 Gualpin, *Skialetheia*, 24 (Grosart), Thou fear'st I am in loue with thee (my deare), I prethy feare not, *It comes with a feare* 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 Prudentum* 1669 *New Help to Discourse*, 56, The Italian is wise before hand, The German wise in the action, And the French after it is done

Itch and ease can no man please 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch IV c 1594 Bacon, *Promus*, No 486 1670 Ray, 14 1732 Fuller, No 6237

Itch is worse than a smart, An—but the first quotation says the reverse 1530 Palsgrave, 594, It is better to ytche than to smarte 1670 Ray, 14 1732 Fuller, No 3114, Itch is more intolerable than smart

Itch, He that will not bear the, must endure the smart 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch x, And he, Whom in itching no scratchyng will forbere, He must beare the smartyng that shall folow there 1678 Ray, 162 1732 Fuller, No 2349

Iveston (Iceton) See Tanfield Ivinghoe See Tring

## J

Jack-a-lent, A. See 1827 quot. c. 1560: in Wright, *Songs, etc., Philip and Mary*, 191 (Roxb. Cl.), Then Jacke-a-lent comes justlynge in, With the hedpeece 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 Jacke of Lent is turned out of doores. 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-an-apes. 1. *Can Jack an apes be merry when his clog is at his heels?* 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 321 (1870). 1670: Ray, 71. 1732: Fuller, No. 1052.

2. *There is more ado with one Jack an apes than all the bears.* 1633: Draxe, 69. 1694: D'Urfey, *Quixote*, Pt. II. Act I. sc. ii. 1732: Fuller, No. 3464.

Jack and Jill. See Bad Jack.

Jack at a pinch. See quotes. 1622: Mabbe, tr. Aleman's *Guzman*, i. 130 (O.), When there was neede of my service . . . I was seldome or neuer wanting; I was Iacke 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 but there's a Jill, Never a. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Demander," Like will to like; a Jacke lookes for a Gill. 1735: Pegge, *Kentisisms*, in E.D.S., No. 12, p. 51, According to the proverb, "never

a Jack but there's a Gill." 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I. 1912: R. L. Gales, *Studies in Arcady*, 2nd ser., 241, "For every Jack there's a Jill" was a thoroughly Elizabethan bit of English.

Jack Drum. See Drum's entertainment.

Jack has his Jill, Every, or Jack shall have Jill. Before 1529: Skelton, *Magnyfycence*, l. 290, What auayleth lordshyp, yourselfe for to kyll With care and with thought howe Iacke 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. 511 (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 lin-lan-loning.

Jack in a box. 1592: Chettle, *Kind-Hart's Dreame*, 45 (Percy S.), As cunningly . . . as euer poore cuckoe coulede commend his Iacke in a boxe. c. 1623: B. & F., *Love's Cure*, III. i., My Lord Vitelli's love, and maintenance, Deserves no other Jack i' th' box but he. 1690: *New Dict. Canting Crew*, sig. G2, Jack in a box, a sharper or cheat.

Jack in office. 1670: Ray, 214, To be Jack in an office. 1709: O. Dykes, *Eng. Proverbs*, 117, How uppish and sawcy soever such a Jack-in-an-Office may be . . . 1732: Fuller, No. 3050, Jack in an office is a great man. 1785-95: Wolcot, *Lousiad*, can. iv., Some folks are Jacks-in-office, fond of power. 1857: Dickens, *Dorrit*, bk. i. ch. ii., A type of Jack-in-office insolence and absurdity . . . a beadle.

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! 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, *Lett to Foxe*, 28 Dec., 233 (P S), Nam qui in tota vita prae posterissimus (ut ita dicam) fuit, omnium rerum humanarum et divinarum in versor, consentaneum est ut in scribendo etiam prae posterum sese ostentet, et, ut vulgo dici solet Joannem ad oppositum 1609 Dekker, in *Works*, iv 158 (Grosart), Who plaid y<sup>e</sup> iackes on both sides, and were indeede Neuters 1671 *Westm Drollery*, 89 (Ebsworth), She l play Jack a both sides in war, And cares not a pin for her foes 1729 Defoe, *Compl Gent*, Pt I ch 1 p 30 (1890), 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 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch xviii, 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 maie bid me walke c 1591 Shakespeare, 1 *Henry VI*, I 1 1598 *Servimgmans Comfort*, in *Inedited Tracts*, 166 (Hazlitt), In good credite with his maister at noone, and Jacke out of office before night 1735 Pegge, *Kentisms*, in E D S, No 12, p 51

Jack roast beef 1855 Bohn, 436

Jack Robinson, Before one can say

1778 Burney, *Evelina*, Lett lxxxi, "Will you?" returned he, "why, then, 'fore George, I'd do it as soon as say Jack Robinson" 1812 Miss Edgeworth, *Absentee*, ch ii, 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 iii, You've got him before you can say Jack Robinson! 1911 T Edwardes, *Neighbourhood*, 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 fat, and his wife she lov'd no lean And yet betwixt them both, they lick't 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 1721 Bailey, *Eng Dict*, s v "Gentleman"

Jack would be a gentleman Before 1529 Skelton, *Works*, i 15 (Dyce), Lo Jack wold be a jentylyman! 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch xi, Iacke would be a gentleman, if he coulde speake frenche 1599 Breton, in *Works*, ii c 42 (Grosart), And nowe Jacke will bee gentleman, no longer a sheepheard 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.

Jackasses never can sing well, because they pitch their notes too high. Said of a foolish person. 1865: "Lancs Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., viii. 494. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 8.

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: *Misogonus*, 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 ile of the church [of Kendal] is the following inscription:—Here lyes 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.

Jade eats as much as a good horse, A. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1854: J. W. Warter, *Last of Old Squires*, 53.

Jailor's conscience and his fetters

[are] made both of one metal, A. 1659: Howell, 18.

January. 1. *A January haddock, A February bannock, And a March pint of ale* [are better than those of any other month]. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 25 (Percy S.).

2. *A January spring Is worth nae-thing*. Ibid., 25. 1913: E. M. Wright, *Rustic Speech, etc.*, 317.

3. *A summerish January, a winterish spring*. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 10.

4. *A warm January, a cold May*. 1878: Dyer, *Eng. Folk-Lore*, 247. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 11. Cf. No. 8.

5. *A wet January, a wet spring*, 1893: Ibid., 10.

6. *As bare as January*. 1609: Armin, *Maids of More-clacke*, sig A1, I will not say as poore as Iob, but as bare as Ianuary.

7. *If grain grows in January, there will be a year of great need*. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 10.

8. *If Janiveer's calends be summerly gay, 'Twill be winterly weather till the calends of May*. 1732: Fuller, No. 6483. 1879: Henderson, *Folk-Lore N. Counties*, 75. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 10. Cf. No. 4.

9. *If January calends fall on Thursday*. See quot. 1493: *Dives and Pauper*, 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. 6389. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 26 (Percy S.).

11. *If the grass grow in Janiveer, It grows the worse for't all the year*. 1670: Ray, 40. 1744: Claridge, in Mills, *Essay on Weather*, 100 (1773). 1830: Forby, *Vocab. E. Anglia*, 418, The grass that grows in Janiveer Grows no more all the year. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 10 [as in 1744]. 1912: R. L. Gales, *Studies in Arcady*, 2nd ser., 101.

12. *If the sun shine the 12th of January, there shall be store of wind*

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 rost in Janveer Nips the nose of the nascent year 1878 Dyer, *Eng Folk-Lore*, 247 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 11

16 Janveer freeze the pot by the fire 1557 Tusser, *Husbandrie*, in *Brit Bibliog*, in 20 (1812), As Janeuer fryse pot, bidth corne kepe hym lowe 1670 Ray, 40 1744 Clardge, in Mills, *Essay on Weather*, 100 (1773) 1879 Jackson, *Shropsh Word-Book*, 224 Janniwerry-freeze-the pot-by-the-fire, sb the month of January

17 January and May c 1400 Lydgate *Temple of Glas* 7 (E E T S), For it ne sit not vnto fresshe May Forto be coupled to colde Januari c 1580 Spelman, *Dialogue*, 94 (Roxb Cl), When I loked apon her husbond with his white hedde and horye berde I judged Januari and May to be copled together 1604 *Wit of a Woman*, sc vi (Malone S), Is not this a prettie world? January and May make a match? 1656 *Musarum Deliciae*, 1 103 (Hotten), Lustfull he was, at forty needs must wed, Old January will have May in bed 1717 Pope, *January and May* [title] 1855 Kingsley, *West Ho!*, ch vii, If they had never allowed that fresh and fair 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 have mercy! 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 10

21 March in Janveer, Janveer 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 Janveer 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 Janveer sows oats Gets gold and groats, Who sows in May Gets little that way 1732 Fuller, No 6149 1893 Inwards 11

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, 1 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 yur 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 jealouse man hath his horns in his eyes 1732 Fuller, No 226 Cf Horn (7)

Jealousy shuts one door and opens two 1710 S Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 370

Jealousy See also Frenzy  
Jemmy Rule's larks, Gone-like 1888 Q -Couch, *Troy Town*, ch viii

Jenny Kemp, who had an occasion for all things, Like 1864 "Cornish Proverbs," in *N & Q*, 3rd ser, vi 6

Jericho, Go to 1648 *Mercurius Aulicus*, 23-30 March, If the Upper House and the Lower House Were in a ship together, And all the base Committées, they were in another, And both the ships were botomlesse, And sayling on the mayne, Let them all goe to Jericho, And ne ere be seen againe 1694 *Terence made English*, 146, Ay,

let him be jogging to Jericho for me. 1778: Mrs Thrale, in *D'Arblay, Diary*, i. 31 (1876), They wish the poor children at Jericho when they accept it. 1849: 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. Prudentum*.

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 Iewes 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 live 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. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 24 [with "of law" added at end].

Jill. See quotes. 1678: Ray, 146, There's not so bad a Gill but there's as bad a Will. 1690: *New Dict. Canting Crew*, sig. F2, There's not so ord'nary 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 - Blunt 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), Iob 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. xv., O, this was a new theme for my Job's comforter. 1864: Mrs. H. Wood, *Trevelyn Hold*, ch. li., "You are a pretty Job's comforter," gasped Mr. Chattaway.

Jock Wabster. 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 Barley-corn's the strongest knight, Sir. 1670: Ray, 59.

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 folow  
hir will? To make me Iohn drawlache,  
or such a snekebill

John Drum See Drum's entertain-  
ment

John Gray's bird See quots c 1575  
Gascoigne, *Fruites of Warre*, cxxxv, The  
greene knight was amongst the rest  
Like John Greyes birde that ventured  
withe the best 1579 *Quarrell between  
Hall and Mallerie*, 6 in *Misc Ant  
Angl* (1816), Maister Robert Audeley  
perceiving them to cluster to-  
gether like John Grayes birde, ut  
dicitur, who always loved company

John Lively See Kelloe

John Long, the carrier 1546 Hey-  
wood, *Proverbs* Pt I ch xi, I will  
send it him by Iohn Longe the carrier  
1611 *Cotgrave*, s v "Attendre," To  
stay for John Long the Carrier, to  
tarry long for that which comes but  
slowly 1681 W Robertson, *Phraseol  
Generalis*, 839 Whether all things are  
carried by Tom Long the Carrier,  
Quo tardissime omnia perferuntur  
1785 *Grose Class Dict Vulgar Tongue*,  
s v "Tom Long," It is coming by Tom  
Long the carrier, said of anything that  
has been long expected c 1791 *Pegge,  
Derbisms* 129 (E D S), Tom Long,  
carrier, [said] of a person that loiters  
and is long in coming or returning  
1830 Scott, *Doom of Devorgoil*, II 1,  
A lmping sonnet Which he had  
fashion'd to my cousin's glory, And  
forwarded by blind Tom Long the  
carrier 1883 Burne *Shropsh Folk-  
Lore*, 597, To send by John the long  
carrier=by a roundabout route

John of Cumber See Devil (41)

John o' Groats See Land's End

John Platt See quot 1886 R  
Holland, *Cheshire Gloss* 456 (E D S),  
Very likely co [quoth] John Platt A  
common saying about Wilmslow 1917  
*Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs*, 148

John Toy See quots 1864 'Cornish  
Proverbs,' in N & Q, 3rd ser, vi 6,  
Like lucky John Toy 1880 Spurgeon  
*Ploughman's Pictures* 20, The luck that  
comes to them is like Johnny Toy's, who  
lost a shilling and found a two-penny  
loaf 1883 Burne *Shropsh Folk-Lore*,

598, O lucky Tom Hodges! lost five  
pund an' fund a pig's yok'!

Johnny Middleton's hints, Like Dur-  
ham 1909 *Folk-Lore*, xx 73

Johnny 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 Bellasyse  
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 Worcester-  
shire, 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 viii, She would send  
them a lot of tops, and balls, and  
marbles, and ninepins, and make them  
all as jolly as sandboys 1894 North-  
all, *Folk Phrases*, 9 (E D S)

Jone's ale is new 1594 *Jones Ale is  
Newe* [title of ballad] 1630 *Wine,  
Beere, Ale, etc*, 30 (Hanford, 1915) Tis  
growne to a prouerbe Iones ale's new

Jove laughs at lovers' lies [Perjuria  
ridet amantum Jupiter et ventos irrita  
ferre jubet—Tibullus, III vi 49 Cf  
Horace, *Carm*, II viii 13] 1567 *Lady  
Lucretia*, in *Plasidas, etc*, 143 (Roxb Cl),  
Jupiter rather laughethe then takethe  
angerlye the periuryng of louers  
1592 Shakespeare, *Romeo*, II ii, At  
lovers' perjuries, They say, Jove laughs  
1627 Massinger, *Great Duke of Florence*,  
II iii, For the queen of love, As they  
hold constantly, does never punish, But  
smile at lovers' perjuries 1700 Dry-  
den, *Pal and Arcite*, ii 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." 1922: 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, *Mirroure of Good Manners*, 75, Of a flattering foe to haue a Judas kisse. 1684: in *Roxb. Ballads*, vii 473 (B.S.), They'l giue to you a Judas kisse. 1708: *Brit. Apollo*, i. No. 116, col. 5, They once with Judas-kiss With artful smiles . . . 1838: Hood, *Hood's Own*, 1st ser., 323 (1865), Her lips were glued on his, in a close "Judas' kiss" 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 quotes c. 1450: *Partonope*, l. 9975 (E.E.T.S.), Full yor now hit ys a-goo I haue herd sey, and other moo, That who so yeveth hasty jugegyment Must be the fyrst 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.

July. 1. A shower in July, when the corn begins to fill, Is worth a plow of oxen, and all belongs there till. 1732: Fuller, No. 6468. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 30.

2. As July so the next January. Ibid., 30.

3. Bow-wow dandy fly, Brew no beer in July. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 54

(Percy S.). 1886: Bickerdyke, *Curios. of Ale and Beer*, 58 [cited as "the old saying"].

4. If it rains on July 10th, it will rain for seven weeks. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 31.

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 rye, 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.

8. No tempest, good July, Lest corn come off bluely. 1732: Fuller, No. 6208. 1825: Hone, *Ev. Day Book*, i. 670 [with "blue by" [mildew] for "bluely"]. 1893: Inwards, 30 [as in 1825, and also] No tempest, good July, Lest the corn look ruely.

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).

June. 1. A cold and wet June spoils the rest of the year. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 29.

2. A good leak in June Sets all in tune 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 50 (Percy S.). 1893: Inwards, 29, [as in 1846, with, in addition] A dripping June Brings all things in tune. 1920: *Times*, 21 June, p. 9, col. 2, "A dripping June puts all things in tune," runs the old adage.

3. A wet June makes a dry September. Corn 1893: Inwards, 29.

4. Calm weather in June Sets corn in

tune 1732 Fuller, No 6207 1893  
Inwards, 28

5 *If it rains on June 27th, it will rain  
seven weeks* Ibid, 30

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*,  
II 27 (1771), There is, I think, an old  
saying, that we "ought to be just be-  
fore we are generous" 1777 Sheridan,  
*Sch for Scandal*, IV 1 1850 Dickens,  
*Copperfield*, ch XIII

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

## K

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. lxxv. (Dyce), Yea, sayde the hostler, ka me, ka thee; yf she dooe hurte me, I wyll 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.

Kail [Broth] in a riven dish, He gat his. 1873: A. C. Gibson, *Folk Speech of Cumb.*, 184.

Kate Mullet. See quot. 1888: Q.-Couch, *Troy Town*, ch. xi., As knowing as Kate Mullet . . . they say she was hanged for a fool.

Keep, verb. 1. *He keepeth a fair castle that keepeth well his mouth* c. 1300: in *Vernon MS.*, 340 (E.E.T.S.).

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"].

5. *Keep a thing seven years.* See quotes. 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.

6. *Keep bad men company, and you'll soon be of their number.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, Keep not ill men company, lest you increase the number. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 96.

7. *Keep counsel thyself first.* 1639: Clarke, 67. 1670: Ray, 5. 1732: Fuller, No. 3117.

8. *Keep some till furthermore come.* 1670: Ray, 110. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Keep."

9. *Keep touch in small things.* 1732: Fuller, No. 3120.

10. *Keep your feet.* See Head (6).

11. *Keep your house and your house will keep you.* 1776: Colman, *Spleen*, I. [cited as "the old proverb"]. Cf. No. 13.

12. *Keep your mouth shut and your eyes open.* 1710: S. Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 143.

13. *Keep your shop and your shop will keep you.* 1605: Chapman, etc., *Eastw. Hoe*, I. i., I . . . garnished my shop . . . with good wholesome thrifite sentences; as "Touchstone, keep thy shoppe, and thy shoppe will keepe thee." 1642: D. Rogers, *Matrim. Honour*, 224. 1712: *Spectator*, No. 509. 1759: Goldsmith, *The Bee*, No. vii. 1905: Wells, *Kipps*, bk. iii. ch. iii. § 7, "Shop!" said Kipps. "That's right. Keep a shop and the shop'll keep you." Cf. No. 11.

14. *Keep your thanks to feed your chickens.* 1681: W. Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 784. 1709: O. Dykes, *Eng. Proverbs*, iii. 1732: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Thanks."

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 nick*—To make things meet c. 1791: Pegge, *Derbicisms*, 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.

Kelloe. See quot. 1849: Halliwell, *Pop. Rhymes and Nursery Tales*, 202,

John Lively, Vicar of Kelloe, Had seven daughters and never a fellow

Kelvedon See Braintree

Kenchester See Sutton-Well

Kendale fox, As craftie as a 1659 Howell, 20 1670 Ray, 254

Kennel of hounds See Pound of butter

Kennington See Ashford

Kenspeckle [Conspicuous] as a cock on a church broach [spire], As 1855 Robinson, *Whitby Gloss*, 95

Kent 1 *A man of Kent* 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, II 122 (1840) c 1750 C Smart, *Fables*, No II, 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 quotes 1579 Spenser, *Shep Cal*, Sept, I 168, Neuer was woofe seene, many nor some, Nor in all Kent, nor in Christendome 1592 Lyly, *Mother Bombye*, III iv, I care not I can live in Christendome as well as in Kent 1599 Nashe, in *Works*, v 221 (Grosart), How William the Conquerour hauing heard the proverbe of Kent and Christendome, thought he had woone a countrey as goode as all Christendome when he was enfeofed of Kent 1651 Randolph, *Hey for Honesty*, I 1, All the cudgels in Christendom, Kent, or New England, shall never make me quiet 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, II 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 quotes 1576 Lambarde, *Peramb of Kent*, 181 (1826), Very reasonable is their conceite, 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 affordeth 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, *Brut*, II 29555-86 also in Polydore Vergil, *Angl Hist*, lib xii 218 (ed Basel, 1546) There is a version in Lambarde, *Peramb of Kent*, 356-62 (1826) See also Matthew Paris, 785 790 1551 Bale, *Eng Volaryes*, 30, For castynge of fyshe tayles atthys Augustyne, Dorsett shyre men had tales euer after But Polydorus applyeth yt vnto Kentysh men at Stroude by Rochester, for cuttynge of Thomas Beckettes horses taylor 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 134 (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 stiles

Kentish yeoman See Knight of Cales

Kenton See Haldon

Kentshire, 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

Kernel See Eat (25)

Kerton See Crediton

Kettle See Pot (6)

Kettle of fish, A pretty! 1742 Fielding, *Andrews*, bk I ch xii,



"Here's a pretty kettle of fish," cries Mrs Tow-wouse, "you have brought upon us!" 1767: Brooke, *Fool 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), Youre key is mete for euey 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.

**Keys hang not at one man's girdle, All.** Before 1500: Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 129 (E.E.T.S.). 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1670: Ray, 110. 1732: Fuller, No. 553.

**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.* [πρὸς κέντρα μὴ λάττεις μὴ πτασας μογῆς. — Æschylus, *Agam.*, 1624. Aduersum stimulum calcas. — Terence, *Phorm.*, I. ii. 28.] 1382: Wiclif, *Acts*, ix. 5 (O.), It is hard to thee, for to kyke a3ens the pricke. 1539: Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo. 14, It is harde kyckynge against the gode. 1567: Pickering, *Horestes*, l. 977. c. 1594: Bacon, *Promus*, No. 962, Folly it is to spurn against the pricke. 1605: Camden,

*Remains*, 322 (1870) [as in 1594]. 1638: D. Tuvill, *Vade Mecum*, 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), Despondency . . . 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, *Craven Dialect*, i. 55, To kick the bucket, an unfeeling phrase for to die 1890: G. Allen, *Tents 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, *Worlde of Wordes*, s.v. "Dar de' calci a Rouaio," To be hang'd, to kicke the wind. 1813: Ray, 203.

**Kick, subs.** 1. *I'll give him a kick for a culp* = a Rowland for an Oliver. 1830: Forby, *Vocab. E. Anglia*, 427. 1872: J. Glyde, jr., *Norfolk Garland*, 148.

2. *The kick of the dam hurts not the colt.* 1732: Fuller, No. 4611.

**Kid.** *A piece of a kid is worth two of a cat.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. vii. 1670: Ray, 110. 1732: Fuller, No. 348.

**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 thieves 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 quot c 1645 MS Proverbs, in N & Q, vol 154, p 27, Hee often kills that thinks but to hurt that which is worth the restoringe

2 He that killeth a man when he is drunk shall be hanged when he is sober 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I 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 Hund 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, *Tam of Shrew*, IV 1, This is a way to kill a wife with kindness 1607 T Heywood, *A Woman Kilde with Kindnesse* [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*, III 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 [I am ego uno in saltu lepide apros capiam duos—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 *Polite 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 Torriono, *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 quot 1851 Sternberg, *Dialect, etc*, of Northants, 58, Kill's-a-fire A proverbial expression intimating 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 prouerbially, "Ill may the kil call the oven 'burnt taile'!" 1639 Clarke, 196 (with hearth" for "house") 1670 Ray, 110 1853 Trench, *Proverbs*, 63 (1905)

Kim-kam See quotes 1611 Cotgrave, s.v. "Anguille, To doe a thung cleane kamme, out of order, the wrong way 1609 Shakespeare, *Coriol*, III 1, Sic This is clean kam Bru Merely awry 1637 Clarke, 7, Kim kam arsie versie 1740 North, *Examen*, 151, The reason of all this chim-cham stuff is 1879 Jackson, *Shropsh Word-Book*, 235, Let's 'a none o' yore kim-kam ways

Kind [Soft] as a glove 1828 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 Ioseth nought at last, A. 1639: Clarke, 45.

Kind to-day, cross to-morrow. *Ibid*, 159.

Kind, *subs.* See Love; and Nature.

Kinder scout. See quot 1869: Hazlitt, 253, Kinder scout, the cowdest [coldest] place arcawt. *Derbyshire. Higson's MSS. Coll.*

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 then 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 asse crowned. c. 1535: *Dialogues of Creatures*, lv. (1816). 1868: Freeman, *Norman Conquest*, II. viii. 277 (O.), An unlettered king is a crowned ass.

3. A king's face should give grace. 1831: Croker, Note to *Boswell*, Johnson's letter of 20 June, 1777, The Royal prerogative of mercy, expressed by the old adage, "*The King's face gives grace*." 1853: Trench, *Proverbs*, 19 (1905).

4. A king's favour is no inheritance. 1678: Ray, 163. 1732: Fuller, No. 4618.

5. He clips 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 quot. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Oye," He that eats the king's goose doth void fethers an hundred yeares 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 choaked with his feathers.

8. Kings and bears often worry their keepers. 1738: *Gent Mag.*, 475.

9. Kings have long arms. 1539: Taverner, *Prov. out of Erasmus*, fo. 4, Kynges haue longe handes. 1581: Lyly, *Euphues*, 76 (Arber). 1669: *Politeuphuia*, 78, Kings have long arms, and rulers large reaches. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "King," Kings have long hands.

10. The king and his staff Be a man and a half. 1869: 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 exactions.

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-drawin'.

14. The King of England is the king of devils. c. 1645: Taylor (Water-Poet), *Generall Complaint*, 4, in *Works*, 4th coll. (Spens. S.). 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, i. 118 (1840). 1785-95: Wolcot, *Lousiad*, can. iii., A king of Englis be a king of defils.

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 1380 Chaucer, *Astrolabe Prol*, And preye god save the king that is lord of this langage 1560 T Wilson, *Rhetorique*, 162 (1909), If a man should charge them for counterfeiting the Kings English 1593 Nashe, *Works*, II 184 (Grosart), Still he must be abusing the Queenes English 1600 *Look About You*, sc ix, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, VII 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 Buffoon*, V iv, That is not shorthand, tis called clipping the King's English 1714 *Spectator*, No 616 1787 O Keefe, *The Farmer*, I III, My dear ma'am how do you clack away, King George's English hack away 1864 Alford, *The Queen's English* [title] 1886 R L S *Kidnapped*, ch x, 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* 1826 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, II 255 [cited as "this olde saynge"]

21 *The king's word must stand* 1509 Bp Fisher, *Eng Works* 230 (EETS), It is a comyn prouerbe Verbum regis stet oportet A kynges word must stande

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 yee 1653 Naunton, *Frag Regalia*, 182 (1694), The people hath it to this day in proverb, King Harry loved a man 1670 Ray, 100, King Harry lov'd a man, i.e. valiant men love such as are so, hate cowards 1825 Scott, *Talisman* 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 hull in King Harry's days* 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 Prudentum*

2 *In the kingdom of the blind, the one eyed is king* Before 1529 Skelton, in *Works*, II 43 (Dyce), But haue ye nat harde this, How an one eyed man is Well syghted when He is amonge blynde men? 1540 Palsgrave, *Acolastus*, Amongst xx blynde an one-eyed man may be a kyng 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1696 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*, II 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 greates wise manne well perceiued, when hee sayde *Veh regno cuius rex puer est*, Woe is that realme that hathe a chyld to theyr kyng 1596 Lodge, *Duel Coniured*, 80 (Hunt Cl) 1594 Shakespeare, *Rich III*, II III, 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, Kinsfolkes with kinsfolke, wo to hym that hath nothing. 1629: *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov. 19.

Kinsman. See also Servant (7).

Kinsman's ear will hear it, The. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs*: *Brit.-Eng.*, 4.

Kirbie's castle and Megse's glory, Spinola's pleasure, and Fisher's folly. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, ii. 343 (1840). 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "London."

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 kisseth 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), Kisse and be gode frende in luf and in a wille. 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.), Aliena . . . 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, *Peperil*, 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*. 1670: 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 fie, 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. Y1, When a mans hose be doune, it is easie to kisse him where he sat on Saturday. 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 doo kisse, If that the money be not paid.

13. To kiss the hare's foot. See quotes. 1598: *Servingmans Comfort*, in *Inedited*

*Tracts*, 112 (Hazlitt, 1868), Vpon payne to dyne with Duke Humfre, or kisse the Hares foote 1616 Browne, *Brit Past*, II 11, '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 1818 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* sv "Kiss," To kiss the hare's foot, to kiss the post, to be too late for any thing

14 To kiss the post Before 1529 Skelton, *Philip Sparrow*, l 716, Troylus also hath lost On her moch loue and cost, And now must kys the post 1595 Churchyard, *Charitie*, 10 (1816), But some that lost their blood in countries right May kisse the post 1623 *New and Merrie 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 *Ld Smart* Why, then, Sir John, you must kiss a parson's wife

Kissing, verb subs I After kissing comes more kindness 1484 Caxton, *La Tour-Landry*, ch xxxiii p 185 (EETS), The kyssynge is nyghe parente and cosynt vnto the fowle faytte or dede 1639 Clarke, 28 1661 Davenport, *City Nightcap*, l, She that will kiss, they say, will do worse

2 Kissing goes by favour 1605 Camden *Remains*, 327 (1870) 1649 Quarles, *Virgin Widow* I 1725 Bailey tr Erasmus *Colloq*, 239 1871 Planché, *Extravag*, v 300 (1879), And kissing more than ever now is found to go by favour

See also Furze

Kit after kind = A chip of the old block 1599 *Life of Sir T More*, in

Wordsworth, *Eccle Biog*, II 112 (1853) (O), She would now and then show herself to be her mother's daughter, kitt after kinde 1670 Ray, 183

Kit to watch your chickens, Never put the Corn 1869 Hazlitt, 290

Kitchen 1 By a kitchen fat and good makes the poor most neighbourhood 1623 Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 481

2 Kitchen physic is the best physic 1562 Bullein *Bulwarke of Defence*, According with kitchen physic, which kitchen, I assure you, is a good pte-cary's shop c 1670 Roxb *Ballads*, vii 238 (BS), 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 Draxe, 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)

Kitling 1 Did you ever know a killing bring a mouse to the old cat? 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 50,

Children are not always ready to support their aged parents

2 Wanton killings may make sober old cats 1732 Fuller, No 5415 Cf Untoward girl or boy

See also Kit, and Mouse (10)

Knack me that nut See Nut (2)

Knaption See Gimmingham

Knave and Knaves 1 A knave discovered is a great fool 1732 Fuller, No 232

2 A knave (or rogue) in grain 1540 Palsgrave *Acolastus*, sig S2, Whan knaues in graine mete 1593 Tell-Trothes *New-yeares Gift*, 18 (N Sh S), But these of the sixt kinde are knaues in graine 1640 *The Knave in Grain New Vampt* [title of comedy] 1728 Swift, in *Works*, xiv 241 (Scott), Among his crew of rogues in grain 1785 Grose, *Class Dict Vulgar Tongue* sv, Knave in grain, a knave of the first rate 1855 Bohn, 299, A rogue in grain is a rogue amain 1869 Spur-

geon, *John Ploughman*, ch. xviii., Like corndealers, they are rogues 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, *Jac. Prudentum*.

6. *Knaves and fools divide the world.* 1670: Ray, III. 1690: *New Dict. Canting Crew*, sig. G6, Knaves and fools are the composition of the whole world. 1732: Fuller, No. 2133.

7. *Knaves and whores go by the clock.* 1659: Howell, 19.

8. *Knaves imagine nothing can be done without knavery.* 1732: Fuller, No. 3135.

9. *One of the four and twenty politics of a knave is to stay long at his errand.* 1659: Howell, 2.

10. *There I caught a knave in a purse-net.* 1639: Clarke, 127. 1670: Ray, 216. 1732: Fuller, No. 4870.

11. *When a knave is in a plum-tree, he hath neither friend nor kin.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

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 taylors.*

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, *Dict.*, 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." 1840: Barham, *Ing. Legends*: "Leech of Folkestone." 1887: Parish and Shaw, *Dict. Kent. Dialect*, 193 (E.D.S.).

Knight or a knitter of caps, A. 1580: Lyly, *Euphues*, 285 (Arber), Determining either to be a knight as we saye, or a knitter of cappes.

Knights. See quot. 1606: B. Rich, *Faultes*, fo. 28, The prouerbe is olde, and it may be true, that as knights grow poor, ladies grow proud.

Knipe-scar. See quot. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, ii. 14 (F.L.S.), When Knipe-scar gets a hood, Sackworth may expect a flood. Westmoreland.

Knock at a deaf man's door, To (or at the wrong door). 1616: B. Rich, *Ladies Looking Glasse*, 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, þet zekþ þet uel ine þe aye oper þane knotte ine þe 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 thinke themselves no scholers, if they bee not able to finde out a knotte in euery rushe. 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 caviil 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 knit that knot with our tongues, that we shall neuer vndoe with our teeth. 1617:

Greene, *Works*, ix 76 (Grosart), A woman may knit a knot with her tongue, that shee cannot vntie with all her teeth 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I, He has tied a knot with his tongue, that he can never untie 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 untie 1913 E M Wright, *Rustic Speech*, etc., 272, To get married is to tie a knot w' the tongue, 'at yan cannot louze w' yan's teeth (Yorkshire and Northamptonshire)

3 *Where the knot is loose the string slippeth* 1639 Clarke, 248 1670 Ray, III 1732 Fuller No 5667

Knott Mill Fair, As throng [busy] as Manchester 1869 Hazlitt 74

Knotty timber See quots 1670 Ray, 15, A knotty piece of timber must have smooth wedges 1855 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 Pettie, tr Guazzo's *Civil Coners*, fo 55, It is likewise saide, That he knoweth ynough who knoweth nothing if he know how to holde his peace 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Sçavoir," He is cunning enough that can live and hold his peace 1629 *Book of Meery 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 xxviii, I know that you know an ace more than the devil in all you speak or think 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Span-Eng* 2

6 *He knows tin* Corn 1864 "Cornish Proverbs," in N & Q, 3rd ser, vi 495, One who seems to know tin [a cunning fellow] 1887 M A Courtney, *Folk-Lore Journal*, v 187,

'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 *Countrim New Commonwealth*, 26

8 *He that knoweth when he hath enough is no fool* 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch vii

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 *Politeuphuia*, 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 Prudentum* 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch ii, 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, *Paræm*, 13 1732 Fuller, No 2513 [with "porridge" for "dish"]

16 *I know no more than the man in the moon* 1805 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 l 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*.

19. *Know yourself and your neighbours will not mistake you.* 1899: Dickinson, *Cumb. Gloss.*, 184.

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: Mabbé, *Celestina*, 104 (T.T.), I know by your nose what porridge you love. 1732: 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, *Quevedo's Visions*, 112 (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: *Respublica*, IV. iv., Thou canst not see, thow wretch, canst thow, when thow art well? 1576: Wapull, *Tide tarrieth no Man*, Prol., Neyther of them know when they are well. 1692: 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. Ho'*, 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, 11 (9).

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, *Cosmogr. 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 wisdomes foe. 1654: Whitlock, *Zootomia*, 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 connyng ys flowur.] 1732: Fuller, No. 3139. Cf. Knowledge without practice.

Knowledge is no burden. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum* 1690: *New Dict. Canting Crew*, sig. G7.

Knowledge is power. [Nam et ipsa scientia potestas est.—Bacon, *De Heresibus*. A wise man is strong.—*Prov.* xxiv. 5.] 1620: Bacon, *Novum Organum*, I, Knowledge and human power are synonymous, since the ignorance of the cause frustrates the effect. 1822: Byron, *Letters and Journals*, vi. 11 (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 makes one laugh, but wealth makes one dance. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1690: *New Dict. Canting Crew*, sig. G7.

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*.

## L

Labour for one's pains, To have one's  
 1589 Nashe in *Greene's Works*, vi 13  
 (Grosart), They haue nought but  
 (to bring it to our English prouerbe)  
 their labour for their trauaile 1609  
 Shakespeare, *Troilus*, I 1, I have had  
 my labour for my travail 1675 Cotton,  
*Burl 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 xxxiii, I'm glad the villain got  
 nothing but his trouble for his pains  
 Labour in vain is loss of time 1639  
 Clarke, 61

Labour is light where love doth pay  
 1594 Drayton, *Ideas*, liv

Labour to be as you would be thought  
 c 1597 in Harrington, *Nugæ Antiquæ*,  
 i 210 (1804)

Labour See also Past labour

Labours and thrives, spins gold, He  
 that 1640 Herbert, *Jac 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 chip 1546 Heywood,  
*Proverbs*, Pt II ch ix 1605 Cam-  
 den, *Remains*, 335 (1870) 1670 Ray,  
 146 1732 Fuller, No 5731

Lad to wed a lady See quot 1513  
 Bradshaw, *St Werburge*, 43 (E E T S),  
 By a prouerbe auntyent "A lad [lout]  
 to wedde a lady is an inconuenient"

Ladder to bed, You'll go up the = be  
 hanged 1678 Ray, 256

Laden with iron, laden with fear  
 1631 Mabbe, *Celestina*, 204 (T T), It  
 is not saude in vaine, Laden with iron,  
 laden with feare 1666 Torriano,  
*Piazza Univ*, 88 ["loaded" for  
 "laden"]

Ladie Lift See quot Ladie Lift  
 Clump is a clump of trees on the  
 top of a hugh hull near Bredwardine,

Herefordshire 1881 C W Empson,  
 in *Folk-Lore Record*, iv 130, When Ladie  
 Lift Puts on her shift, She feares a  
 downright raine But when she doffs  
 it, you will finde The rain is o'er and  
 still the winde, And Phæbus shine  
 againe — *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*, 1 273 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 quot  
 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, 1 113 (1840),  
 "When our Lady falls in our Lord's lap,  
 Then let England beware a sad clap  
 (or mishap)" Alias "Then let the  
 clergyman look to his cap" I behold  
 this proverbial prophecy, or this pro-  
 phetical menace, to be not above six  
 score years old, and of Popish extrac-  
 tion since the Reformation 1790  
 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "England"  
 [as in 1662] 1812 Brady, *Clavis Cal*,  
 1 261 [as in 1662] Cf Easter

Lady Done See Fair (15)

Lady's heart and a beggar's purse,  
 Nothing agreeth worse than a 1546  
 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch x Cf  
 Lord (1)

Lag puts all in his bag 1666 Tor-  
 riano, *Piazza Univ*, 322, The English  
 say, Lagg puts all in his bagg

Lamb 1 A lamb in the house a lion  
 in the field c 1387 Usk, *Test of*  
*Love*, in Skeat's *Chaucer*, vii 24, Lyons  
 in the felde and lambes in chambre  
 1589 Puttenham, *Eng Poesie*, 299  
 (Arber), We say it is comely for a  
 man to be a lambe in the house, and

a lyon in the field. 1593: G. Harvey, *Works*, i. 277 (Grosart), A lion in the field, a lamme in the towne.

2. *A lamb is as dear to a poor man, as an ox to the rich.* [1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Povre," An egge's as much to a poor man as an oxe] 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, in 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.

Lambeth Doctor, A. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Surrey."

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 hir, 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, *Manley, etc.*, *Gloss.*, 98 (E.D.S.) [a "proverb"].

Lame as a dog, As. 1886: 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 haue 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. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 15.

Lame hares are ill to help. 1732: Fuller, No 3143.

Lame post brings the truest news, The. Ibid., No. 4620.

Lame returns sooner than his servant, The. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 40.

Lame tongue gets nothing, The. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 333 (1870). 1732: Fuller, No. 4619. 1830: Forby, *Vocab. E. Anglia*, 434.

Lame traveller should get out betimes, A. 1732: Fuller, No. 235.

Lammas, After, corn ripens as much by night as by day. 1678: Ray, 352. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 33.

Lammas-tide. See Cuckoo (16).

Lancashire fair women. 1622: Drayton, *Polyol.*, xxiii., Fair women doth belong to Lancashire again. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, ii. 191 (1840). 1710: *Brit. Apollo*, iii. No. 30, col. 4, Lancashire fair women is past into a proverb. 1790: Grose, *Prov Gloss.*, s.v. "Lancs."

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 Lancashire-man, nor . . . 1622: Drayton, *Polyol.*,

xxvii 68, Ye lusty lasses then, in Lancashire that dwell As ye the egg-pye love, and apple cherry-red 1655 T Muffett, *Healths Improvement*, 36, As our Welshmen esteem of cheese, Lancashire men of egg-pies 1711 Hearne, *Collections*, iii 156 (Oxford Hist S), He y<sup>t</sup> will fish for a Lancashire Lad At any time or tide Must bait his hook with a good egg py or an apple w<sup>th</sup> a red side 1911 Hackwood *Good Cheer*, 163 [as in 1711]

Land and Lands 1 *He that hath lands hath quarrels* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 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 gossepest at home to meete me at landis ende 1560 T Wilson, *Rhetorique*, 148 (1909) Some newe fellows when they thinke one a papist, they will call him streight a catholique, and bee euen 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 Johnnie Groats 1831 Peacock, *Crotchet Castle*, ch iv, Who forages for articles in all quarters, from John o' Groats 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 hisself 1906 Cornish N & Q, 265

Lapped See Wrapped

Lapwing cries most farthest from her nest, The 1584 Lyly *Campaspe*, II i, Wherein you resemble the lapwing, who crieth most where her nest is not c 1620 Massinger, *Old Law* IV ii, 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, 1 81 (F L S), Lartington for frogs, And Barney Castle for butchers' dogs, or, Lartington frogs, And Barney Castle butcher-dogs 1852 Longstaffe, *Richmondshire*, 133

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 iv, These are the last, but not the least 1782 in *Twining 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)

Last drop 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 Worcs 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 Courtier On his

last legs, I am sure 1678: Ray, 89, He goes on's last legs 1753: Richardson, *Grandison*, iv. 50 (1883), What would poor battered rakes and younger brothers do, when on their last legs, were it not for good-natured widows? 1827: Hone, *Ev. Day Book*, ii. 1013, The "regular drama" is on its last legs 1857: Trollope, *Barch Towers*, ch. i., The bishop was quite on his last legs.

Last makes fast. 1659: Howell, 6, Last makes fast, viz Shut the door. 1881: 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. 1884: "Sussex Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 6th ser., ix. 402.

Last straw breaks the camel's back, The. [Quemadmodum clepsydrum non extremum stillicidium exaurit, 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, *Dombey*, 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 suitor wins the maid, The. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Aimé" [with "wench" for "maid"]. 1670: Ray, 15. 1732: Fuller, No. 4624.

Last to the pot is soonest wroth, He that cometh. c. 1400: *Beryn*, l. 3366, p. 101 (E.E.T.S.), fful soth is that by-word, "to pot, who comyth last! He worst is servid"; and so it farith 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, *Pœnitentia sera raro vera*. 1639: Clarke, 255. 1732: Fuller, No. 3145.

Lathom 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 "Lathom and Knowsley" . . . Though separate possessions for above 150 years, the expression "Lathom and Knowsley" still survives.

Latter Lammas = never. 1553: *Res-publica*, III. v., Faith your Mars-ship will thrive att the latter Lammas. c. 1566: in Collmann, *Ballads*, etc., 92 (Roxb. Cl.). 1672: Walker, *Parœm.*, 52, At latter Lammas; at Nevermass. 1709: O. Dykes, *Eng. Proverbs*, xxxvi. 1754: *Gent. Mag.*, 416. 1885: W. L. Birkbeck, *Hist Sketch Distrib. of Land in Eng.*, Pt. I. ch. v., Hence "Latter Lammas," a later month than Lammas, became proverbial, as an equivalent to the Greek Calends.

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. xxxviii, 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!

4. *He laughs ill that laughs himself to death*. 1639: Clarke, 201. 1670: Ray, 15. 1732: Fuller, No. 1962.

5. *Laugh and grow fat*. 1596: 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.), Ile laugh and be fatte, for care kils a catte. 1765: Garrick, in *Garrick Correspond.*, i. 201 (1831), Laugh and be fat

all the world over 1823 Scott, *Peveril*, ch xxxiii, He seems to have reversed the old proverb of 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 lie down* Before 1529 Skelton, *Works*, ii 55 (Dyce), Now nothyng but pay, pay With, laugh and lay downe, Borowgh, cyte, and towne 1596 A Copley *Fig for Fortune*, 24 (Spens S), Tis faire lie downe and laugh 1641 R Brome *Joviall Crew*, III 1671 *Westm Drolery* 28 (Ebsworth), And when we have done These innocent sports, we'l laugh and lie down 1825 Jennings, *Somerset Words*, 52, Laugh-and-lie down A common game at cards

7 *Let them laugh that win* 1546 Heywood *Proverbs*, Pt I ch v He laughth that wynt 1599 *Sir Clyomon*, 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*, iii 132, If the proverb be true, *Let them laugh that win* 1767 Garrick, *Epil to Colman's Eng Merchant* 1844 Thackeray, *Barry Lyndon*, ch xiii, Let those laugh that win 1862 Borrow, *Wild Wales*, ch lxiv

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, *Confut of Tyndale*, cxlviii, He lawgheth but from the lypes forwarde 1611 Cotgrave, s v 'Rire' Rire à grosses dents From the teeth outwards, say we 1754 Berthelsson, *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 videlicet tecum ipse rides—Cicero, *De Fin*, II xxiii 76] 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch v 1567 Harman, *Caveat*, 46 (EETS), Hee laughed 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 laughing in his sleeve at me 1849 C Bronte, *Shirley*, ch viii, 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 "hugh 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 Ozell, *Mohère*, iv 36, If you provoke me, I'll make you laugh on the wrong side o' your mouth 1849 C Bronte, *Shirley*, ch xxx, I see, however, you laugh at 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 quot 1789 White, *Selborne* "Letters to Barrington," xv, 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 urinal 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 Forby, *Vocab E Anglia*, 430

3 *He that goes to law holds a wolf by the ears* 1621 Burton, *Melancholy*, Dem to Reader, 48 (1836), 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

goc 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 ther's not a half-peny 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, *Christs Teares*, 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, *Orl. 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, *Apoph.*, 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 groweth of sin and doth punish it.* 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 32. 1629: *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. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 15.

11. *The worst of law is that one suit breeds twenty.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 15.

See also Agree.

Lawless as a town-bull, As. 1678: Ray, 286. 1732: Fuller, No. 706. Cf. No law.

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 haue 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 buyes lawn 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 misconduct 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.

Lawyer and Lawyers. 1. *A good lawyer, an evil neighbour.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Advocat." 1670: Ray, 15. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Neighbour," A good lawyer is an ill neighbour. 1831: Hone, *Year-Book*, 125 [quoted as an old French saying].

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, *Lancs Sayings*, 15 [as in 1894].

5. *Few lawyers die well.* 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 321 (1870).

6. *He hath as many tricks as a lawyer.* 1672: Walker, *Paræm.*, 51.

7. *He who is his own lawyer, has a fool for his client.* 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 76.

8. *Kick an attorney downstairs and he'll stick to you for life.* "A Bar proverb." 1904: Lean, *Collectanea*, iv. 24.

9. *Lawyers and asses always die in*

their shoes 1867 Harland, etc., *Lancs Folk-Lore*, 20, The proverb that "lawyers shoes" is invariably quoted

10 Lawyers' gowns are lined with the wilfulness of their clients 1855 Bohn, 439

11 Lawyers' houses are built on the heads of fools 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1660 Howell, *Parly of Beasts*, 17, The lawyer replied this house [his own] is made of asses heads and fools skulls 1865 'Lancs Proverbs,' in *N & Q*, 3rd ser., viii 494 [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 1510 A Barclay, *Egloges* 47 (Spens S), Haue done nowe Faustus, lay here a straw 1562 Bullein, *Bulwarke of Defence*, fo 21, But here will I stoppe, and laie a strawe, and fall into my bias againe 1619 B Rich, *Irish Hubbub*, 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 Halliwell, *Books of Characters*, 96 (1857) Your former follies shall be laide in your dish 1681 W Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 806, To lay in ones dish Aliquid alieni, ut crimen, objicere 1740 North, *Lives of Norths*, 1 191 (Bohn), He found that, when they were pressed, they laid a fresh story in his dish 1816 Scott, *Old Mortality*, ch x, 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

1401 in Wright, *Pol Poems*, 11 43 (Rolls Ser., 1861), But, Jack, thougth the questions semen to thee wyse, yit lightly a lewid [unlearned] man maye leyen hem a water 1533 *Ballads from MSS*, 1 228 (B S), And care not though the matter were clerely layde a watter 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch iii, The triall therof we will lay a water Till we trie more 1592 Lyly, *Mydas*, IV iii, I see all his expeditions for warres are laid in water, for now when he should exccute, he begins to consult

Lay it on with a trowel, To 1601 Shakespeare, *As You Like It*, I ii, Well said that was laid on with a trowel 1693 Congreve, *Double Dealer*, III x, Paints, d ye say? Why, she lays it on with a trowel 1732 Fuller, No 5930, You lay on your butter as with a trowel 1784 *New Foundl Hosp for Wit*, iii 81, They also lay on praise with a trowel 1860 Reade, *Cl and Hearth*, ch 1, The old hand laying the court butter on his back with a trowel 1921 J C Squire, in *Observer*, 10 April, p 4, col 3, And Disraeli, actor in his own play, who laid the flattery on with a trowel

Lay on more wood, ashes give money [1611 Cotgrave, s v "Bois," All wood is worth logs] 1678 Ray, 65 1732 Fuller, No 3152, Lay on more wood the ashes will yield money

Lay things by, they may come to use *Ibid*, No 3154

Lay thy hand on thy heart and speak the truth 1659 Howell, 21

Layers for meddlers See quotes 1690 *New Dict Canting Crew*, sig G7, Lareover, said when the true name of the thing must (in decency) be concealed 1785 Grose, *Class Dict Vulgar Tongue*, s v 'Lareovers,' Lareovers for meddlers, an answer frequently given to children as a rebuke for their unpertinent curiosity 1854 Baker, *Northants Gloss*, s v "Lay-o'ers," Lay-o'ers-for-meddlers An expression used to repress childish or unpertinent curiosity A contraction of lay-overs, i e things laid over, covered up, or protected from meddlers 1879 Jackson, *Shropsh Word-Book*, 249, Lay-



o'ers-for-meddlers. 1902: *N. & Q.*, 9th ser., x. 475, Almost every county has its variation probably of this phrase. The most common form in which it survives, however, is "Layers for meddlers," and it is generally, though not exclusively so, addressed to over-inquisitive children.

Laziness is not worth a pin unless it is well followed. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., vi. 495.

Laziness travels so slowly that Poverty soon overtakes him. 1736: Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, i. 443 (Bigelow).

Lazy as Ludlam's dog, that leant his head against a wall to bark. The quotations show variations in the name of the dog's owner. 1670: Ray, 202. c. 1791: Pegge, *Derbicisms*, 135 (E.D.S.), . . . who laid himself down to bark. 1801: Wolcot, *Works*, v. 118 (1801), . . . that held his head against the wall to bark. 1850: *N. & Q.*, 1st ser., i. 382, As lazy as Ludlum's dog, as laid him down to bark. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 595, As lazy as Kittenhallet's dog; 'e laned 'is yed agen a wall to bark. 1886: Elworthy, *West Som. Word-Book*, 420 (E.D.S.), He's like lazy Lawrence's dog, that lied his head agin the wall to bark. 1886: R. Holland, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 445 (E.D.S.), As lazy as Larriman's dog. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 17 [as in 1886, Holland]. *Ibid.*, 91 [as in 1670, with very slight variation]. 1921: Hudson, *Trav. in Little Things*, ch. ix. 56, Until I knew Dandy I had always supposed that the story of Ludlam's dog was pure invention . . . but Dandy made me reconsider the subject; and eventually I came to believe that Ludlam's dog did exist once upon a time, centuries ago perhaps, and that if he had been the laziest dog in the world, Dandy was not far behind him in that respect. Cf. *Idle* (4).

Lazy folk take the most pains. 1734: Franklin, in *Works*, i. 416 (Bigelow). 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. i., It is not much ease that lazy people get by all their scheming, for they always take the most pains in the end.

Lazy groom never loves a grey horse, A. Yorks. 1922: *N. & Q.*, 12th ser., xi. 212.

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 10 August.] 1809: Pegge, *Anonymiana*, cent. viii. 19, *Laurence 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 lang Lawrence hes gitten 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).

Craven 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 ῥινός, φασίλ, ἔλκων. — Lucian, *Dial. Deorum*, vi. 3.] 1583: Golding, *Calvin on Deut.*, cxxi. 745 (O.), Men . . . suffer themselves to bee led by the noses like brute beasts. 1598: Florio, *World of Wordes*, s.v. "Mener," To leade 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

by the nose 1830 Marryat, *King's Own*, ch xxviii, Seven-eighths of the town are led by the nose by this or that periodical work

Leaden sword See quotes 1562 Heywood, *Three Hund Epigr*, No 71, Thou makst much of thy peynted sheathe 1568 W Fulwood, *Enemie of Idleness*, 244 (1593), Drawe not (as the prouerbe saith) a leaden sword out of a golden scabbard 1579 Lyly, *Euphues*, 69 (Arber), Heere you may see the paynted sheath with the leaden dagger, the faire wordes that make fooles faire 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Cousteau," A leaden sword in a golden sheath a foule heart in a faire body 1630 Brathwait, *Eng Gent*, etc, 47 (1641), The first sort generally, are so miserably enamoured 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, *Prolog*, l 287, As leene was his hors as is a rake c 1480 *Early Miscell*, 8 (Warton Cl), I waxe as leyne as anny rake 1567 Golding, *Ovid*, bk ii l 967, Hir bodie leane as any rake 1653 Urquhart, *Rabelais*, bk ii ch xiv, 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 shotten herring 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Fr-Eng*, 18 1754 Berthelson, *Eng-Danish Dict*, s v "Shotten," He looks like a shotten 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 *Politeuphuia*, 182

Lean liberty is better than fat slavery 1732 Fuller, No 3158

Lean not on a reed. c 1586 Deloney,

*Garl 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, *Prov 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*, i 238, All you that will take a leap in the dark, Think of the fate of Lawson and Clark [both executed] 1826 Disraeli *Vivian Grey*, bk ii 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 slut 1678 Ray, 256 [with "doth" for "can" and "shrew" for "slut"] 1732 Fuller, No 4121

6 To leap at a crust 1633 Draxe, 94, Hee will leape at a crust 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I, I believe, Colonel, Mr Neverout can leap at a crust better than you

7 To leap at a daisy=To be hanged 1553 *Respublica*, V ii, Some of vs erelong mare happe leape at a daisie 1592 Greene, *Black Book's Messenger*, To Reader, At last hee leapt at a daisie with a halter about his necke 1604 *Pasquils Jests*, 48 (1864), He sayd Haue at yon daisie that growes 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 whityng, (quoth she) 1597 Breton, in *Works*, ii b 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*

*Dict.*, 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 not and know not. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 26.

Learn to lick betimes, you know not whose tail you may go by. 1670: Ray, 117.

Learn to pray, He that will, let him go to sea. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Mer." 1640: Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*. 1732: Fuller, No. 2368.

Learn to say before you sing. 1639: Clarke, 116 1670: Ray, 139. 1732: Fuller, No. 3165.

Learn weeping and thou shalt laugh gaining. 1640: Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*.

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, *Orl. 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).

Learnt young is hard to lose, What is. c. 1275: *Prov. of Alfred*, A, 100-5, The mon the on his youhthe yeorne leorneth Wit and wisdom, and iwrten reden, He may beon on elde wenliche lortheu [good teacher]. c. 1320: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i 110 (1841), "Whose yong lerneth, olt he ne leseth"; Quoth Hendyng. c. 1400: *Beryn*, 938, For thing i-take in [youth, is] hard to put away.

Least boy always carries the biggest fiddle, The. 1670: Ray, 112. 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. Prudentum*.

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 leeast reawm, there's moast thrutchin' [crowding].

Least said soonest mended. 1776: T. Cogan, *John Buncke, Junior*, i. 237-8, But mum's the word; least said is soonest mended. 1818: Scott, *Heart of Midl.*, 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 knokt er ye came in; leaue is light. c. 1598: Deloney, *Gentle Craft*, Pt. II. ch. ii, Leaue 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 lee-land, and bid the devil split her 1659 Howell, 16 *Leave her on a ley, and lett the devil flitt 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 Halliwell, *Dict*, s v "Flitten" [as in 1659]

6 *Leave off with an appetite* 1558 Bullein, *Gort of Health*, fo 37, And so leue with an appetite 1588 Cogan, *Haven of Health* 167 (1612), The surest way in feeding is to leaue with an appetite, according to the old saying 1648 Herrick, *Hesp*, i 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 briers (or suds)* 1533 Udall, *Flowers out of Terence*, fo 18 Doest thou not se me brought in the briers through thy devise 1577 *Misogonus*, III 1, Leaue me not now ith breares, yow haue told me thus much of my sonne c 1590 G Harvey, *Marginalia*, 87 (1913), Lett not any necessary or expedient action lye in the suddes 1631 Mabbe, *Celestina*, 280 (TT) Out alas! Our solace is in the suds 1670 Ray, 166, To leave one in the briers (or suds) 1690 *New Dict Canting Crew*, sig B8, In the briers, in trouble 1753 Richardson, *Grandison*, i 86 (1883), How, madam!—Why, we are all in the suds, then! 1784–1815 *Annals of Agric*, xxxix 83, Very favourable weather must occur, or the farmer is in the suds

9 *To leave in the lurch* 1576 G Harvey, *Letter-Book*, 163 (Camden S), Lest he faul in his reckning and so leave himself in the lurch 1611

*Tarlton's Jest*s, 37 (Sh S), He 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*, ii 240, But here the Master in whom he trusted, happened to leave him in the lurch 1823 Scott, *Fam Letters*, ii 182 (1894), 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

10 *To leave no stone unturned* [πάτα κινῆσαι πέτρων — Eur, *Heracl*, 1002] c 1548 Latimer in *Works*, ii 427 (P S), I will leave no one stone unmoved to have both you and your brother saved 1560 Becon, *Catechism*, etc, 313 (P S) I would wish that according to the common proverb, every stone should be moved to win them unto the truth 1642 D Rogers, *Matrim Honour*, 163, Therefore roll each stone to find this grace 1709 Mandeville, *Virgin Unmask'd*, 144 (1724), I find, Aunt, you leave no stone unturned 1839 Dickens, *Nickleby*, ch lii, 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 Frutes*, fo 28 1623 Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 278, Who leaues y<sup>e</sup> 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 Gerniweg," said I, ' saying, '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 Moneths*, 48, They say if leaves now [October] hang on the tree, it portends a cold winter, or many

caterpillars. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 150.

3. *Leaves enough but few grapes* = Many words and few deeds. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Ital.-Eng.*, 1.

4. *When the leaves show their undersides, Be very sure that rain betides.* 1893: Inwards, *Weather 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 quotes [1558: Bullein, *Govt. of Health*, fo. 64, Leekes purgeth the bloud in march] c 1685: Aubrey, *Nat. Hist. Wilts* 51 (1847), Eate leekes in Lide [March], and ramsins [wild garlic] in May, And all the yeare after physitians may play. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 85, Eat leeks in March, Garlick in May, All the rest of the year The doctors may play. *Sussex*. 1913: E. M. Wright, *Rustic Speech, etc.*, 238 [as in 1685].

Lees. See Cheshire (7).

Left hand luck. 1540: Palsgrave, *Acolastus*, sig. X2, A lefte hande lucke, this is yll lucke.

Left or right Brings good at night. 1831: Hone, *Year-Book*, 252 1849: Halliwell, *Pop. Rhymes and Nursery Tales*, 183 [with "and" for "or"].

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 coverlet.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, Every one stretcheth his legs according to his coverlet. 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 *Jests*, 41 (Sh. S), The fellow . . . laid his legges on his neck, and got him gone. 1913: *Devonsh. Assoc. Trans.*,

xlv. 290, In phrase "lay legs to groun," 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 percieued 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 harmeth* Before 1500: Hill, *Common-place-Book*, 128 (E.E.T.S.), While the fote warmith, the sho harmith. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. ii. c. 1594: Bacon, *Promus*, No. 385. 1670: Ray, 113 1732: Fuller, No. 6309.

Leg-bail, To give. 1774: Fergusson, *Poems*, 234 (1807) (O.), They took leg-bail and ran awa 1784: O'Keeffe, *Positive Man*, II. ii., I'll give him leg-bail for my honesty (*runs off*). 1819: Scott, *Ivanhoe*, ch. xix, Shall we stand fast . . . or shall we e'en give him leg-bail? 1876: Blackmore, *Cripps*, ch. xlii., 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 *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 269 (1841), Leicesterschir, full of benys. 1622: Drayton, *Polyol*, xxiii, Bean belly Le'stershire, her attribute doth bear. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, ii 225 (1840), 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.

Leicestershire plover, A = A bag-pudding. 1678: Ray, 317. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Leicestershire."

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 iii, For loan oft loses both itself and friend 1666 Torriano *Piazza Univ*, 217, Who lends loseth double 1708 tr Aleman's *Guzman*, 1 240, How much money has been lent and borrowed on the score of friendship, and yet both money and friend have been lost at last 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch iv Very often he that his money lends loses both his gold and his friends

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*, 131 (EETS)

5 *Lend not horse, nor wife, nor sword* 1574 E Hellowes, *Guevara's 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 lende 1577 Kendall, *Flow of Epigr*, 284 (Spens S), Three things a man not lendeth rife, His horse, his fighting sword, his wife 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 332 (1870) [as in 1574] 1647 *Countrim New Commonwealt*, 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*, 11, Who desires a short Lent, let him make a debt to be paid at Easter 1736 Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, 1 450 (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 Weobley Ale are growne unto a common proverbe 1619 Jonson, *For the Honour of Wales*, 4th song, And what you say to ale of Webley 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, ii 70 (1840), Lemster bread and Weobley ale 1700 J Brome, *Travels*, 102, Hence it is grown proverbial among the inhabitants, for Lempster bread and Weobley 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, *Egloges*, iv, Cornewall hath tynne and lymster woole 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 wooll 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 Ibid, 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) c 1400 Towneley 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 in. 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, aiunt, ne agas.—Terence, *Phorm.*, II iii. 72.] c. 1386: 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 Univ.*, 127, Let a letter expect the messenger, not the messenger the letter. 1670: Ray, 15.

Lettuce. See Like lips.

Lewes, Proud, and poor Brighthelmstone. 1827: Horsfield, *Hist., etc., of Sussex*, ii. 34. 1894: A. J. C. Hare, *Sussex*, 99, "Proud Lewes and poor Brighthelmstone" is a proverb of the days when letters were addressed, "Brighthelmstone, near Lewes."

Lewisham, Long, lazy, lousy. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Kent."

Liar and Liars. 1. *A liar is not believed when he speaks truth.* 1477: Rivers, *Dictes, etc.*, 117 (1877), The reward of a lyar is that he be not beleuid of that he reherseth. 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 lyar, 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 lyes, 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 prouerbe is as true as briefe, A lyer's euer worser then a thiefe. 1639: Clarke, 150.

3. *Liar, liar, lick spit.* 1602: Chettle, *Hoffman*, V. i. p. 75 (1852), Liar, liar! —Lick-dish! 1843: Halliwell, *Nursery Rhymes*, 164, Liar, liar, lick spit, Turn about the candlestick. What's good for liar? Brimstone and fire.

4. *Liars should have good memories.* [Verumque est illud, quod vulgo dicitur, mendacem memorem esse oportere—Quintilian, *Instit. Oratoria*, 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 Martiall*, 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. 1., 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 steale. 1630: T. Adams, *Works*, 505. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' *Colloq.*, 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 [calf] 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].

1883 Burne, *Shropsh Folk-Lore*, 597, 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, 64, That's th' lad as licked the mundle [curried favour]

Lid worthy of the kettle, A A correspondent of N & Q (12th ser, 11 7) refers to the story of Crassus laughing at an ass eating thistles, instead of lettuces, finding that they matched his mouth (whence the saying *Similes habent labra lactucas* — see Like lips), and adds 'Jerome illustrates the story by another proverb, *Patellæ dignum operculum*, a lid to match the kettle' 1540 Palsgrave, *Acolastus*, sig M2, He shall gyue a lydde or couer worthy for the lyttell panne 1586 L Evans *Withals Dict Revised*, sig G7, Like pot, lyke pothd 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*, m 30 (1885), Lide pilles the hide meaninge that March punches the poare man's beast (Glouc)

Lidford See Lydford

Lie, subs 1 A lie begets a lie 1732 Fuller, No 262, A lye begets a lye, till they come to generations

2 A lie has no legs 1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 30, A lye hath no feet 1732 Fuller, No 263 A lye has no leg, but a scandal has wings 1853 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 latticed 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*, fo 31, Lyes haue short legges 1611 Davies (of Hereford), *Sc of Folly*, 43, in *Works*, 11 (Grosart), Lyes haue short wings 1666 Torriano, *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 1819 Scott, *Ivanhoe*, ch xliii, "That's a lie, and a loud one," said the Friar

10 That's a lie with a latchet 1678 Ray, 89 1732 Fuller, No 6157, [as in 1678, plus] All the dogs in the town cannot match it 1828 Carr *Craven Dialect*, 1 283, Lee-with-a-latchet A notorious lie 1849 Halliwell, *Pop Rhymes and Nursery Tales*, 182, "A lee with a latchet" as they say in the North, of a circumstantial self evident falsehood

11 That's a lie with a lid on 1880 Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 99 1901 F E Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 28, That's a lie wi a lid on—an' a brass hondle for t' lift it wi

12 Though a lie be well drest, it is ever overcome 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

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 titting 1c dyeing Ibid, 75

3 To lie as fast as a dog can lick a dish 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch vii, She will lie as fast as a dogge will lick a dishe 1670 Ray, 184

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 Motteux, *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 Somersetshire. 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. 1. *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. Prudentum*. 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 ground resting can not much lower fall. 1648: Wither, *Single St Quis*, 1 (Spens. S.), He that is prostrate on the floor, Lies there, whence he can fall no lower. 1732: Fuller, No. 2217.

4. *Lie not in the mire and say "God help me."* c. 1602: Chapman, *May-Day*, I., Do not lie in a ditch, and say "God help me!" 1710: S. Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 94, Don't lie still and cry God help you. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. vii., There's no good in lying down and crying "God help us!"

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.

6. *To lie by the wall*=To be dead c. 1430: Lydgate, *Minor Poems*, 230 (Percy S.), To day thawgh thou be stowt and gay, A-morow thou lyyest by the walle. 1823: Moor, *Suffolk Words*, 62, By the walls. An unburied corpse. "Poor John Smith! he lie by the walls." 1847: Halliwell, *Dict.*, s.v. "Laid," Laid. Killed, dead. *Suffolk*. The common phrase is, *laid*

by the wall. 1913: *Devonsh. Assoc. Trans.*, xlv. 290, Lied by the wall. The interval between death and burial is always expressed by this phrase. 1920: E. Gepp, *Essex Dialect Dict.*, 21, "To lay by the wall" is used of a corpse lying in a house awaiting burial. 7. *To lie in bed and forecast.* 1678: Ray, 75.

8. *To lie like a lapwing.* 1606: Sir Giles Goosecappe, I. i., As fearefull 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

Life. 1. *A life of leisure and a life of laziness are two things.* 1732: Fuller, No. 240. 1736: Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, i. 445 (Bigelow).

2 *Life is a shuttle.* 1855: Bohn, 442.

3. *Life is half spent before we know what it is.* 1600: Cornwallis, *Essayes*, sig. B3 (1610), We begin not to lue 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 lyf is ay swete. c. 1390: Gower, *Conf. Amantis*, v. 1861, Bot nou our feerfull prelat seith "The lif is swete." c. 1440: *York Plays*, 65 (L. T. Smith), A! dere fadir lyff is full swete. 1576: Pettie, *Pettie Pall.*, ii. 45 (Gollancz), Life is sweet to every one. 1664: Dryden, *Rival 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, *Lavengro*, i. 325, Life is sweet, brother.

5. *Life lies not in living but in liking.* 1639: Clarke, 322. 1670: Ray, 113. 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 Prudentum* 1670 Ray, 16, The life of man is a winters day and a winters way 1694 D Urfe, *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 ix 1633 Draxe, 160 [with "wanting" for "extinct"]

10 While there's life there's hope [Modo liceat vivere est spes —Terence, *Haut*, V ii 28 Ut aegrotō, dum anima est spes esse dicitur —Cicero, *Ad Att* IX v 3] 1539 Taverner, *Proverbs* to 36, The sycke person whyle he hath lyfe, hath hope 1671 Crowne, *Juliana*, V, Madam he breathes, and whilst there's life There's hope 1707 C Cibber, *Double Gallant*, V ii 1761 Murphy, *Old Maid*, II 1888 R L S *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, *Phraseol Generalis*, 825 1732 Fuller, No 1922 1869 Spurgeon, *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, *Ovid*, bk iv l 765, Now here, now there, as light as any feather 1629 Shirley, *Wedding*, II iii, Light as a feather, hanging will ne'er kill you 1778 Johnson, *Letters*, ii 73 (Hill), I hope he 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 kex

Light as leaf See Lind

Light as the Queen's groat 1639 Clarke, 159

Light beginning, a heavy ending, A 1593 G Harvey, *Works* p 196 (Grosart)

Light burden far heavy 1546 Heywood *Proverbs* Pt II ch ix, A sir light burdeme far heavy (quoth she)

1594 Drayton, *Ideas*, lix, (Saith he) Light burdens heavy, if far borne 1670 Ray, 114

Light cheap lither yield c 1320 in *Reliq Antiquæ*, i 114 (1841), "Lyht chep luthere yeldes", Quoth Hendyng c 1400 *Towneley Mys*, xiii 171 1670 Ray, 114 Cf Good cheap

Light come See Lightly

Light fare begets light dreams 1851 Borrow, *Lavengro*, ii 79 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 c 1685 Aubrey, *Nat Hist Wilts*, 95 (1847), Perhaps they did not consider the proverb, that "light gaines with quick returns make heavy purses" 1754 Berthelson, *Eng-Danish Dict*, s v 'Light'

Light hand makes a heavy wound, A 1602-3 Manningham, *Diary*, 52 (Camden S)

Light heart See quotes 1733 C Coffey, *Boarding-School*, sc 1, 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 is a conjunction he has little notion of

Light heeled mother makes a heavy heeled 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 loue is an affection great and vehement, and yet lasteth not long 1576 *Parad of Dainty Devices*, in *Brit Bibliog*, iii 63 (1812), Light love will chaunge

Light purse is a heavy curse, A. 1732 Fuller, No 6493

Light purse makes a heavy heart, A 1600 T Thynne *Embl and Epigr*, 59 (E E 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.

Light suppers make clean sheets. 1616: Breton, *Crossing of Proverbs*, 8 (Grosart). 1670: Ray, 36. 1732: Fuller, No. 3216. Cf. Light fare.

Lightening before death, A. 1588 Cogan, *Haven of Health*, 135 (1612), Whereof is growen a Latin prouerbe, *Cygneia cantio*, which among the common people is termed, a lightning before death. 1592: Shakespeare, *Romeo*, V. iii. 1641: R. Brome, *Joviall Crew*, V. 1748: Richardson, *Clarissa*, viii 65 (1785), Her late tranquillity and freedom from pain seemed but a *lightening*, as Mrs. Lovick and Mrs. Smith call it 1847: Halliwell, *Dict.*, s v., . . . a proverbial phrase, alluding to the resuscitation of the spirits which frequently occurs before dissolution. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 31, He'd a bit of a leetenin' like afore he dee'd.

Lightly come lightly go. c. 1374: Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk. ii. l. 1239, Forwhy men seyth, "impressiounes lighte Ful lightly been ay redy to the flighte." 1412-20: Lydgate, *Troy Book*, bk. ii. l. 4635, Lightly it cam and lightly went a-way. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II. ch. ix., Light come, light go. c. 1615: *Times Whistle*, 89 (E.E.T.S.). 1765: Garrick, *Sick Monkey*, ad fin., What lightly comes, as lightly goes, With all such pretty fellows. 1826: Lamb, *Pop. Fallacies*, II. 1860: Reade, *Cl. and Hearth*, ch. xxxvii. 1909: R. Nevill, *Light Come, Light Go* [title].

Lightly gained quickly lost. c. 1580: Fulwell, *Ars Adulandi*, sig. E2, Experience taught me that easely wonne was lightly loste. 1583: Greene, *Works*, ii. 25 (Grosart), He wil iudge that is lightly to bee gained, is as quickly lost. 1898: 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.

3. There's lightning lightly before thunder. 1633: Draxe, 226, Lightly before thunder, lightning. 1670: Ray, 114.

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.), Evyn lyke the myll hors, they be whyppeyd amayne. 1607: Dekker, etc., *Northw. Hoe*, I. iii., I that like a horse Ran blind-fold in a mill, all in one circle. 1654: Whitlock, *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, *Nickleby*, ch. lxiv., I am perpetually turning, like a demd old horse in a demnition mill

Like a house on fire=rapidly. 1857: 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 ribbon double-dyed, Never worn and never tried. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., v. 209.

Like a silver pin. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. xviii., They are like a silver pin, Fair without but foul within.

Like a threeha'penny chick in a wheaten arish [stubble]. 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, *Mil. 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*

*Notes Don Q* 23 Not eggs to eggs are liker 1738 Swift *Polite Coners*, Dial III c 1783 in *Roxb Ballads*, vii 94 (B S)

Like as two peas [*οἷον εἰς δύο σικυ* — Herodas, vi 60] 1580 Lyly, *Euphues*, 215 (Arber), Who wer as lyke as one pease is to an other c 1680 in *Roxb Ballads* vii 77 (B S), And will be as like her as one pea's like another 1725 Bailey, tr Erasmus' *Colloq*, 40 1846 Planché, *Extravag* iii 139 (1879), They are as like each other as two peas! 1884 R L S and Henley *Adm Guinea*, 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 Generalis*, 266 1732 Fuller, No 6184

Like carpenter See Such carpenter  
Like carver like cook 1673 *Vinegar and Mustard*, 23, in Hindley, *Old Book Coll Miscell*, iii

Like cow like calf 1573 Bullein, *Dialogue*, 21 (E E T S), Her sonne is like the mother as seemeth by one in the house, like cowe like calfe

Like crow like egg 1536 Latimer, *Sermons*, 42 (P 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, *Plowman*, B, ii 28, Qualis pater, talis filius 1509 Barclay, *Ship of Fools*, i 236 (1874), An olde prouerbe hath longe agone be sayde That oft the sone in maners lyke wyll 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, *Acolastus*, sig M2, Such a geste, such an hoste 1586 L Evans, *Withals Dict Revised*, sig H2, Lyke hoste, lyke guest c 1613 Rowlands, *Paire of Spy-Knaues*, 21 (Hunt Cl), Such oast, such ghest, the prouerbe sayes 1654 Gayton *Pleasant Notes Don Q*, 9, Like guest like landlord

Like it or lump it 1880 Courtney, *W Cornwall Words*, 36 (E D S), If you don't like it you must lump it 1901 F E Taylor, *Lanes Sayings*, 10, They can like it or lump it, as beggars done pot-bo'

Like John Gray's bird See John Gray

Like lips like lettuce [Sumilem habent labra lactucam (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, suche lettuce 1587 Greene *Works*, iii 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 1681 W Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 830 1732 Fuller, No 3231 1853 Trench, *Proverbs*, 21 (1905), In the proverb you will find it [alliteration] of continual recurrence

Thus Like lips, like lettuce  
Like lord like chaplain c 1540 Bale, *Kynge Johan*, 73 (Camden S) Lyke lorde, lyke chaplayne, neyther barrell better herynge

Like master like man [Plane qualis dominus talis et servus—Petr., 58] c 1390 Gower, *Conf Amantis*, iii 2421, Such capitein such retenue 1568 Fulwell, *Like will to Like*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, iii 330 Like master, like man 1584 Lyly, *Sapho and Phao*, II iii 1641 Marmion, *Antiquary*, IV 1750 Smollett, *Gil Blas*, iii 189, Scipio, on his side, (for it was like master, like man) I ept

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 mistress like maid. 1557: Tusser, *Husbandrie*, in *Brit. Bibliog.*, iii. 15 (1812), Such mistres suche mayde 1620: Rowlands, *Night Raven*, 17 (Hunt. Cl.), Like mistris like maide. 1699: Farquhar, *Love and a Bottle*, II. i. 1849: Planché, *Extravag.*, iv 19 (1879). Cf. Hackney mistress.

Like mother like daughter. 1509: Barclay, *Ship of Fools*, i 236 (1874), An olde prouerbe hath long agone be sayde That oft . . . the mayde Or doughter, vnto the mother wyll agre. 1611: Bible, Ezek. xvi. 44, Every one that useth proverbs shall use this proverb against thee, saying, As is the mother, so is her daughter. 1860: Reade, *Cl. and Hearth*, ch. xlvii.

Like priest like people. 1382: Wiclif, Bible, Hos. iv. 9, As the peple 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, *Lancs Sayings*, 5,

He's like th' Oirishmon'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 mowith. 1602: Breton, in *Works*, ii. g 8 (Grosart), The one as like an owle, the other as like an urchin, as if they had beene spitte out of the mouthes 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 Heiress*, III. iv. 1738: Swift, *Polite 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.), Spit A double or counterpart. "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 congregantur.—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 specify, "lyke wyll to lyke in eche company." 1509: Barclay, *Ship of Fools*, ii. 35 (1874), For it is a prouerbe, and an olde sayd sawe That in euery place lyke to lyke wyll drawe. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. iv. 1568: Fulwell, *Like will to Like* [title]. 1580: Baret, *Alvearie*, A 589, Lyke will to lyke, quoth the deuill to the colliar. 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, Like to like, and Nan for Nicholas 1679: A. Behn, *Feign'd Curtezans*, V. 1. [as in 1580]. 1732: Fuller, No. 3239 [as in 1670]; and No. 3240 [as in 1580].

1823 Scott, *Peveril*, ch xiv, How could I help it? like will to like—the boy would come—the girl would see him  
1922 Weyman, *Ovington's Bank*, ch xxxi, He's learned this at your d—d counter, sir! That's where it is It's like to like

Like wood like arrows 1633 Draxe, 113

Like word like deed c 1386 Chaucer *C Tales* A 741 (Skeat), Eek Plato seith, who-so that can him rede, The wordes mote be cosin to the dede

Like workman See *Workman* (1)

Likely lies in the mire when Unlikely gets over 1732 Fuller, No 3242

Likeness causeth liking 1639 Clarke 27 1732 Fuller, No 3243 Likeness begets love yet proud man hate one another

Likes not his business, Who See quot 1846 T Wright, *Essays on Middle Ages* 1 140, We have the saying Who likes not his business, his business likes not him "

Lilies are whitest in a blackmoor's hand 1732 Fuller, No 3244

Lill for loll See quot 1639 in *Berkeley MSS*, in 33 (1885), Lill for loll id est, one for another as good as hee brought (Glouc)

Lily See *White* (2)

Lim hay, To lick it up like 1670 Ray, 206 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Cheshire", 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 139 [Lymm is a village on the Mersey where the best hay is got]

Lime enriches the father and beggars the son 1846 Denham, *Proverbs*, 6 (Percy S), Lime makes a rich father and a poor son 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 92

Lincoln See *Devil* (5)

Lincoln, As loud as Tom of 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, in 267 (1840) 1790 Grose *Prov Gloss*, s v "Lincs "

Lincoln shall be hanged for London's sake c 1592 *Sir T More*, 21 (Malone S), This the olde proverbe now compeate dooth make that Lincolne should be hangd for Londons sake

Lincoln was, London is, and York shall be 1603 Dekker, *Wond Yeare*, in *Works*, 1 101 (Grosart) [cited as

'that worme-eaten prouerbe'] 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, in 413 (1840) 1700 J Brome, *Travels*, 148, Lincoln was, and London is, And York shall be, The fairest city of the three 1724 Stukeley, *Itin Cur*, 85 [as in 1700] 1725 Defoe, *Tour*, in 140 [as in 1603] 1865 W White *East England*, in 45 [as in 1700]

Lincolnshire See *Cheshire* (6)

Lincolnshire bagpipes 1590 *Three Lords, etc*, in Hazlitt *Old Plays*, vi 393, The sweet ballad of the Lincolnshire bagpipes 1598 Shakespeare, 1 *Henry IV*, I in, I am as melancholy as the drone of a Lincolnshire bagpipe 1622 Drayton, *Polyol*, xviii, And bells and bagpipes next, belong to Lincolnshire 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Lincs," Lincolnshire bagpipers

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 (E D S)

Lincoln's Inn See *Gray's Inn*

Lind [Linden or Lime-tree], As light as leaf on c 1320 in Ritson, *Songs and Ballads*, 56 (Hazlitt), And lef is lyht on lynde 1377 Langland, *Plowman*, B, 1 154, Was neuere leef vpon lynde lighter ther-after c 1386 Chaucer, *Clerk's Tale*, l 1155 1457 in *Reliq Antiqua*, in 70 (1843), Be ay of chere as lighte as lefe on lynde 1520 in *Ballads from MSS*, 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

Lingering love breeds mislike 1593 *Pass Morrice*, 87 (N Sh S)

Lion 1 A lion among sheep and a sheep among lions 1589 Puttenham, *Eng Poesie*, 299 (Arber), As the proverbe goeth a lyon, etc

2 A lion may be beholden to a mouse 1639 Fuller, *Holy War*, bk in ch viii, As the fable telleth us the mouse [may] befriend the lion 1732 Fuller, No 264, A lyon may come to be beholding to a mouse

3 A lion's skin is never cheap 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Lion," A lyons skinne

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. 1276. 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. Commenius*, 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.* 1696: *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 Otio Negotium*, 95, Be afear'd 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: Draxe, 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 countrey Francesco was no other but a meere nouice, and that so newly, that to vse the old prouerb, he had scarce seene the lions. 1595: *Maroccus Extaticus*, 8 (Percy S.), Indeed those be the young men that never sawe the lyons. 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. 416 (1893), Dametas, thinking it not good to awake a sleeping lion. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Esveiller," To awake the sleeping lyon (say we). 1693: Urquhart, *Rabelais*, bk. iii. ch. xiv., As when we say proverbially to incense hornets, to move a stinking puddle, and to awake a sleeping lyon.

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: *Countrim. New Commonwealth*, 22. 1732: Fuller, No. 522.

Lips hang in your light, Your. Before 1529: Skelton, *Magnyfyence*, l. 1061, Tussh, thy lyppes hange in thyne eye. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. iv. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), *Sc. of Folly*, 49, in *Works*, ii. (Grosart), Some lasses lips hang in their light.

1681 W Robertson, *Phraseol Gener-  
alis*, 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  
carries her purse in her bosom, and,  
according to the Northern proverb, is  
as liquorish at a penny as at a posset

Liquorish tongue, A, a lecherous tail  
c 1386 Chaucer *Wife of Bath's Prol*,  
l 466, A likerous mouth moste han a  
likerous tayl 1560 T Wilson, *Rhetori-  
que* 119 (1909), Likerish of tongue, light  
of taile 1670 Ray 16 1717 Pope,  
*Wife of Bath*, l 218, A liquorish mouth  
must have a lecherous tail 1732  
Fuller, No 3205

Liquorish tongue is the purse's canker,  
A 1678 Ray, 169

Lisping 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 fails 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  
listners seldom hear good of themselves  
1822 Scott, *Nigel*, ch xxxiii, They  
say that hearkeepers hear ill tales of  
themselves 1857 Borrow, *Rom Rye*,  
ch xi

Lith and selthe See Ease and success

Lithe as lass of Kent 1579 Spenser,  
*Shep Cal Feb*, His dewlap as lythe  
as lasse of Kent 1735 Pegge, *Kent  
Proverbs*, in EDS, No 12, p 61,  
Lythe as lass of Kent, 1e gentle,  
lithsom, etc

Lither See Lazy man's guise, and  
Long as he is lither

Lither look See Wanton look

Little and good fills the trencher  
1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1666  
Torniano, *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*, 1 130, We have in Eng-

land a proverb, " Little and little make  
mickle," which appears again under the  
shape, " By little and little the bird  
makes his nest "

Little and little, By, the poor whore  
sinks her barn 1678 Ray, 170

Little and often fills the purse 1666  
Torniano, *Piazza Univ*, 211 1685  
L'Estrange, *Observer*, in 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 Drave 115 For a little bird,  
a little nest 1732 Fuller, No 244

Little body doth often harbour a great  
soul, A 1611 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, l 846, in  
Hazlitt, *Early Pop Poetry*, iv 138

Little cannot be great unless he devour  
many, The 1640 Herbert, *Jac Pru-  
dentum* 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 sureti-  
ship ever before my eyes You all  
know the device of the horne where  
the young fellow slips in at the butts-  
end and comes squeezed out at the  
buckall"—1605 Jonson, etc, *Eastw  
Hoe*, I 1 See also 1624 B & F, *Wife  
for a Month*, III 111 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 Hot-  
ten, in *Hist of Signboards* 339 (1867),



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 FOOL, 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 thrown,  
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 Hee's squeez'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 England beyond Wales=Pembrokeshire. 1586: Camden, *Britannia*, 373. 1603: G. Owen, *Descrip. of Pembrokeshire*. 1670: Ray, 258. 1888: E. Laws, *Hist. of Little England beyond Wales* [title]. 1925: *Observer*, 31 May, p. 9, col. 4

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 quotes. [Cuius pluris erat unguis, quam tu totus es.—Petr., 57.] 1618: B. Holyday, *Technogamia*, I. iv., H'as more loue 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 goods little care. [c. 1300: *King Ahsaunder*, l. 7365, Beter is, lyte to have in ese Then muche to have[n] in malese.] 1633: Draxe, 161. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, Little wealth, little care. 1732: Fuller, No. 3256. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 101, Little wealth, little woe. Cf. Little cattle.

Little, He that hath, is the less dirty. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

Little house has a wide mouth, A. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 589

Little house well filled. See quotes. 16th cent.: in *N. & Q.*, 4th ser., iii. 10, A littile grounde well tilled, A litel house well filled, A litel wife well willed, Would make him live that weare halfe killed. c. 1582: G. Harvey, *Marginalia*, 200 (1913), A lyttle 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 quotes. 16th cent.: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 208 (1841), A little in the morning, nothing at noone, And a light supper doth make to live longe. 1619: *Helpe to 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  
 Ibid 1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 57  
 Little knocks Rive great blocks 1830  
 Forby, *Vocab E Anglia*, 430 1872  
 J Glyde, jr, *Norfolk Garland*, 148  
 Little knows the fat sow See Sow (10)  
 Little labour, much health, A 1640  
 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*  
 Little leak will sink a great ship, A  
 1642 Fuller, *Holy State* "Good Ser-  
 vant," 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 (as in 1736)  
 Little let [hindrance] lets an ill work-  
 man, A 1640 Herbert, *Jac Pru-  
 dentum*  
 Little London=Penrith 1846-59  
*Denham Tracts*, i 182 (F L S)  
 Little London beyond Wales=Beau-  
 maris 1670 Ray, 258  
 Little losses amaze, great tame 1640  
 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*  
 Little love and a little money, A  
 Before 1704 T Brown, in *Works*, 1  
 293 (1760) [cited as 'a good old  
 proverb']  
 Little love, little trust Before 1500  
 Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 47 (E E T S),  
 An old said sawe "Wher is lytill  
 love ther is lytill 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 1386 Chaucer, *Manciple's  
 Tale* 1 350, That litel jangling causeth  
 muchel rest 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*,  
 Pt II ch 11, reeste 1599 Porter  
*Two Angry Women*, in Hazlitt, *Old  
 Plays*, vii 337, rest 1669 *Poli-  
 teuphuia*, 166, much rest 1694  
 D Urley, *Quivole*, Pt I Act II sc ii,  
 case 1902 in *N & Q*, 9th ser  
 v 475, In chastising a child for undue  
 curiosity, with a view to impress the  
 young mind with the truth of the

proverb that "of little meddling comes  
 great ease"

Little minds like weak liquors are  
 soonest soured 1855 Bohn, 444

Little mischief too much 1659  
 Howell, *Proverbs Brit-Eng*, 31

Little money little law c 1550 *Parl  
 of Byrdes*, 1 146, in Hazlitt, *Early Pop  
 Poetry*, in 174, Than sayde the Cornysh  
 daw, Lytle money lytle 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,  
 s v "Petit," Of a little take a little, of  
 a mickle, mickle 1631 Mabbc, *Celes-  
 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  
 main, A 1732 Fuller, No 247

Little pitchers have wide ears 1546  
 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch v,  
 Auoyd your children small pitchers  
 haue wide eares 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 Dict*,  
 s v "Pitchfork" [with "great" for  
 "wide"] 1852 Dickens, *Bleak House*,  
 ch xxxvii, 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 vi  
 1606 J Day, *Ile of Gulls*, II iv, Nay,  
 tho 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, subs (3), (22)

Little said soon amended c 1555 in  
 Wright, *Songs, etc*, *Philp and Mary*,  
 31 (Roxb Cl), Therfor lyttell sayd ys  
 sowne amended 1577 J Grange,

*Golden Aphroditis*, sig. B1. 1603: Dekker, *Pat. Grissil*, III. 1664: in *Musarum Deliciae*, 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 saying is no sin, A. 1792: Wolcott, *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, *Handlyng Synne*, l. 12438, Thou seest stykkes that are smale, They brenne fyrst feyre. 1640: Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 16. 1732: Fuller, No. 3261.

Little stone may overturn a great wagon, A. c. 1375: Barbour, *Bruce*, bk xi. l. 24, A litell stane, as men sayis, May ger weltir 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 ouerthrowne. 1579: Lyly, *Euphues*, 81 (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 strokes Men fell great oaks.

Little thing, Of a, a little displeaseth. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

Little things are good. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 215, That which is good is ever little.

Little things are great to little men. 1827: Hone, *Table-Book*, 110.

Little things are pretty. 1539: Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo. 50, Vnto lyttle thynges 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: Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 81.

Little tit, all tail. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. x., Little titte all tayle, I haue heard er this. c. 1570: G. Harvey, *Marginalia*, 139.

Little wealth. See Little goods.

Little wimble will let in the great auger, The. 1732: Fuller, No. 4632.

Little wind kindles, much puts out the fire, A. 1586: B. Young, tr. Guazzo's *Civil Convers.*, fo. 193. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1732: Fuller, No. 253.

Little wit in the head makes much work for the feet. 1855: 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"].

Little with quiet. See quotes. 1611: Cotgrave, 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 giue and bequeath . . . to each of them an aduouson: To the former of small Witam: and to the other of little Brainford. 1595: *Pedlars Prophecy*, l. 481 (Malone S), At Little Wytham seuen 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

—I will be sworn she was not born at Witt-ham "

Little wood will heat a little oven, A 1732 Fuller, No 254 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman* ch v

Little worm will lie under a great stone, A 1666 Torriano *Piazza Univ*, 243, The English say A little worm, etc

Live, verb 1 A man may live upon little, but he cannot live upon nothing 1855 Bohn, 295

2 Better to live well than long Ibid, 330

3 He lives long that lives till all are weary of him 1732 Fuller, No 1966 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial II, I believe I shall live till all my friends are weary of me

4 He lives long that lives well 1560 T Wilson, *Rhetorique* 83 (1909), For they lived long enough, that have lived well enough 1642 Fuller, *Holy State* "Good Child," If he chance to die young, yet he lives long that lives well 1748 Richardson, *Clarissa*, iv 121 (1785), He that lives well, lives long

5 He lives unsafely that looks too near on things 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Esplucher" [with "to matters" for "on things"] 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

6 He that lives always at home sees nothing but the same 1618 Breton, in *Inedited Tracts*, 184 (Hazlitt, 1868) [quoted as a proverb]

7 He that lives ill, fear follows him 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 286, Who lives ill, fear attends him

8 He that lives in hope danceth without music 1591 Florio, *Second Frutes*, 149, He that dooth live in hope, dooth dance in narrowe scope 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1659 Howell *Proverbs Span-Eng*, 18

9 He that lives long suffers much 1620 Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt II ch xxxii 1732 Fuller, No 2220

10 He that lives most, dies most 1640 Herbert *Jac Prudentum*

11 He that lives not well one year, sorrowes seven after 1640 Ibid 1748 Richardson, *Clarissa*, iv 121 (1785), He

that lives ill one year, will sorrow for it seven

12 He that lives well is learned enough 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Vivre," He that lives well enough hath skill enough 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

13 He that lives well sees afar off 1640 Ibid 1748 Richardson, *Clarissa*, iv 121 (1785)

14 He that lives with the muses shall die in the straw 1732 Fuller, No 2223

15 He that liveth in Court dieth upon straw 1578 Florio, *First Frutes*, fo 29 1579 Lyly *Euphues*, 185 (Arber) 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 91 Cf Courtier young

16 He that liveth overcometh 1578 Florio, *First Frutes*, fo 33, Who lyueth vanquisheth 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 131

17 He that liveth wickedly, can hardly die honestly 1670 Ray, 16

18 He that will live in peace and rest, Must hear and see and speak the best c 1450 Prov of Good Counsel, l 52 (E E T S), Yf thou wylte leve in peas and reste, here, and see, and sey the beste 1591 Florio, *Second Frutes*, 101, If you wil stil live at ease, heare and see, and hold your pease 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 323 (1870) [with ' say' for "speak"] 1710 S Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 143, He that means to live at rest, Must hear and see, and say the best 1732 Fuller, No 6182

19 He would live even in a gravel-pit "Spoken of a wary, sparing, niggardly person" 1678 Ray 72 1732 Fuller, No 2417

20 I live, and lords do no more 1599 Porter, *Two Angry Women*, in Hazlitt *Old Plays*, vii 307, *I ran Well* how doth thy master? Nick Forsooth, live, and the best doth no better 1732 Fuller, No 2616

21 If you would live for ever See Wash (3)

22 If you would live well for a week, etc See 1809 quot 1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 151, Who intends to have a good month, let him to the bath, a good year, let him marry, a good week, let him kill a hog who will be happy

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 *Roal Ballads*, i 80 (Hindley), A man may live and learne. 1663: Killgrew, *Parson'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. Paine), One lives and learns. I find it takes 7 binderies four months to bind 325,000 books. 1922: Weyman, *Ovington's Bank*, ch. xix.

25. *Live and let live.* 1622: Malynes, *Anc. Law-Merch.*, 229 (O.), According to the Dutch prouerbe. . . Leuen ende laeten leuen, to live and to let others live. 1678: Ray, 170. 1692: L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 127 (3rd ed.), Live and let live is the rule of common justice. 1762: Smollett, *Sir L. Greaves*, ch. xvi., You knows, meester, one must live and let live, as the saying is. 1852: Dickens, *Bleak House*, ch. xliii. 1909: Lucas, *Wand. in Paris*, ch. xiv., Liberty is the very air of the Boulevards. Live and let live.

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.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

29. *One cannot live by selling ware for words.* 1639: Clarke, 156 [with "I" for "One"]. 1670: Ray, 154. 1732: Fuller, No. 3741 [with "goods" for "wares"].

30. *One must live long to learn much.* c. 1568: W. Wager, *The longer thou livest, the more fool thou art* [title]. 1633: Draxe, 58, The longer that one liueth, the more he knoweth. 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: Bodenharn, *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 must 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 Fruites*, fo. 34, Quicke with the quicke and dead with the dead. 1605: T. Heywood, *If You Know Not Me*, in *Dram. Works*, i. 243 (1874) [quoted as "the old prouerb"]. 1626: Overbury, *Characters*: "Sexton." 1694: Southerne, *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 despite of diet. 1889: Jefferies, *Hedgerow*, 65 (W.), The old country proverb, "Ah, well, we shall live till we die if the pigs 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 dunno worry us. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 149, We . . . die

if the pigs don't eat us Cf Tantera Bobus

40 *Who lives well dies well* 1506 Pynson, *Kal of Shepherds*, 169 (1892). He that leuyth well maye not dye amys 1537 R Whittford, *Werke for Housholders* sig G4. The moste sure way to dye well is well to lyue 1578 Florio, *First Fruites*, fo 28 1639 Clarke, 215. They die well that live well 1732 Fuller, No 1890 He hath liv d ill that knows not how to die well

Lively as a cricket See Merry

Lively as a maggot 1883 Burne, *Shropsh Folk-Lore*, 595

Living dog is better than a dead lion, A 1382 Wiclif, *Bible Eccles* ix 4 (O). Betere is a quye 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*, ii 437 (Hill) 1697 Vanbrugh, *Prov Wife*, V 1798 Wolcot, *Works*, v 252 (1801) 1855 Gaskell *North and South*, ch xlv1, '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 xii 1924 Philipotts, *Human Boy's Diary*, Term 3, 18 April, True, "admitted Briggs "Better be a live ass than a dead lion"

Lizard See Better to be

Lizard, 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 cakes 1896 Northall, *Warwicksh Word-Book* (E D S), Put in with the bread and pull d out with the cakes 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 70

2 *Set not your loaf in 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 traine of Christ would bee lesse

1789 Wolcot, *Works*, ii 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 Hendyng*, st 25 (Berlin, 1878). Selde cometh lone lahynde hom 1732 Fuller, No 6314

Lob's pound Described by A H Bullen as "the thralldom of the hen-pecked married man" also—a prison 1595 Peele, *Old Wives Tale*, sig E1. Lobb be your comfort, and cuckold bee your desteme 1612 *Cornucopia*, 64 (Grosart). Thus is the woodcocke fall'n into the gin, And in Lobs-pound intangled by a wile 1623 Massinger, *Duke of Milan*, III ii 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*, iv 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 Moor, *Suffolk Words*, 215. Lob's-pound The bridewell 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*, l 1557 (O). He hire bi luky myd keye and loke c 1390 Gower, *Conf Amantis*, bk v l 6621. Which under lock and under keie Hath al the Tresor c 1440 Lydgate, *Fall of Princes*, bk 1 l 4886. The brond reseruyng vnder loh and keie 1584 Robinson *Handf Pleas Delights*, 42 (Arber). Some are as sure as lock and key 1630 *Wine, Beere Ale, etc*, 27 (Hanford, 1915). Art not thou kept vnder locke and key, con finde to some corner of a cellar? 1693 Dryden, *Juvenal*, Sat vi l 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. L. S., *St. Ives*, ch. xii., The great thing is to have me under lock and key. 1925: *Bodleian Quart. Record*, iv. 192, 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!

Lock will hold against the power of gold, No. 1640: Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 12. 1732: Fuller, No 6236. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lorc*, 99

Lockington Wakes, Put up your pipes and go to. 1678: Ray, 317. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Leicestershire."

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 Brummagem 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. 11, The eighteenth-century "All . . . China orange."

London. 1. *A London jury; hang half and save half*. Said also of Kentish and Middlesex juries—see quots. 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.

3. *London lickpenny*. c. 1440: attrib to Lydgate, *London Lyckpeny* [title]. 1600: J. Day, *Blind Beggar*, II. ii., London lickpenny call ye it,—t'as lick'd me with a witness. 1641: in *Harl. Miscell.*, i. 484 (1744), Do as you please, but you will find the old proverb true, *London Lickpenny*. 1710-11: Swift, *Journal to Stella*, 15 Jan., It has cost me three guineas to-day, for a periwig . . . Well, London lickpenny; I find it true. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "London."

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 Specch, etc.*, 1, 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 neuer meete iumpe 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, horologer, who, to describe the disagreement of persons, proverbied 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*, 98 (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 Staffs 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 absent soon forgotten 1611 Cotgrave, s v 'Ami.' Long absence alters affection 1670 Ray, 55 1736 Bailey *Dict*, s v 'Absent' Cf Out of sight, and Seldom seen.

Long and lazy 1591 Florio, *Second Frutes*, 189. If long, she is lazy, if little, she is lowde, If fayre, she is slutish, 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*, 222 (Hearne) To say longly orschorte, alle [that] arms bare 1571 Edwards *Damon, etc*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, IV 47. Howsoever it be, this is the short and long 1589 Nashe, in *Works*, I 185 (Grosart). This is the short and the long and the somme of all 1599 Shakespeare *Henry V*, III II, the breff 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, *Phraseol Gener-*

*alis*, 837. The long and the short of a business, Summa rei 1748 Richardson, *Clarissa*, I 289 (1785). The short and the long was c 1760 Foote, *Lame 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 ix, The short and the long of it is 1850 Dickens *Chuzzlewit*, ch xxvii, The long and the short of it is 1886 R L S *Kidnapped*, ch xviii, The short and the long of it is

Long as he is lithier [lazy], If he were as, he might thatch a house without a ladder 1678 Ray, 257 1828 Carr *Craven Dialect*, I 294 1890 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 1589 Puttenham, *Eng Poetrie*, 184 (Arber). The craking Scotts as the Cronicle reportes at a certaine time made this bald rime vpon the English man Long beards hartlesse, Painted hoodes witlesse Gay coates gracelesse, Make all England thriflesse 1602-3 Manningham, *Diary*, 116 (Camden S) 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 211 (1870). As in the time of King Edward the thurd "Long beards"

Long-Compton See quot 1719 R Gale in *Stukeley Mem*, in 155 (Surtees S). The country tradition joynng them together in a rhyme they all have—If Long Compton thou can'st see, Then King of England thou shalt be 1743 Stukeley, *Abury*, 83 [as in 1719] 1849 Halliwell *Pop Rhymes and Nursery Tales*, 193 [as in 1719]

Long-Crown See quot 1847 Halliwell *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 rids work 1611 Cotgrave, s v 'Grand,'



Not long dayes, but strong hearts, dispatch a worke. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

Long day that never pay, They take a. 1678: Ray, 188.

Longer east, the shorter west, The. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xiii. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 333 (1870). 1670: Ray, 84. 1732: Fuller, No. 6108, The longer east, the longer [sic] west. 1899: Dickinson, *Cumb Gloss.*, 192, Longer east shorter west. A deficiency in one part is compensated by abundance in another.

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, *Emblemes*, 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 foretold Long last. Short notice Soon past. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 26.

Long harvest. See Harvest (7).

Long home = the grave. 1303: Brunne, *Handlyng Synne*, l. 9195, And thy traueyle shalt thou sone ende, For to thy long home sone shalt thou wende. c. 1400: *Mirk's Festial*, 295 (E.E.T.S.), Ther is also a mete-yorde leyde be hym [the corpse] instede of a staf, in tokenyng that he goth to hys long home. 1598: *Servimgmans Comfort*, in *Inedited Tracts*, 128 (Hazlitt), Yet would I, at my owne charges, haue seene him honestly brought foorth to his long

home (as the saying is). 1611: *Bible*, Eccles. xii. 5. Before 1681: J. Lacy, *Sauny the Scot*, V. 1762: Smollett, *Sir L. Greaves*, ch. iv., A fever, which, in a few days, brought Sir Everhard to his long home. 1843: Dickens, *Chuzzlewit*, ch. xxv., Playing at berryins 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. Prudentum*.

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: Lytton, *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: *Politeuphuia*, 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 desyred at the last it comyth. 1605: Armin, *Foole vpon Foole*, 11 (Grosart), Though long looke for comes at last. 1658: in *Musarum Delinca*, 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).

Longstanders. 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. Prudentum*. 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 bairn 1670 Ray, 49

Look, subs *Looks breed love* 1639 Clarke, 28

Look, verb 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 *Quart Review* cxxv 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 shepherd stode as though hee had neither wonne nor lost 1594 Greene, *Frier Bacon*, sc viii 1678 Ray, 257 1738 Swift, *Pohle Convers*, Dial I, 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*, 1 e thin and meagre 1620 B & F, *Philaster*, I 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 lookes not, that still looks not, to himselfe 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

7 *He looks one way and rows another* 1583 Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig Pr, And so imitate the waterman, which looketh one waye, and roweth another 1636 Dekker, *Wond of a Kingdom*, V 11, She has but us d you As watermen use their fares, for she look'd one way And row'd another 1694 D Urfe, *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 Tyn-dale, *Obed of Chryst Man*, 304 (PS), "Look ere thou leap", whose literal sense is, "Do nothing suddenly, or without advisement" 1567 Painter, *Pal of Pleasure*, iii 53 (Jacobs), According to the common saying He that loketh not before he leapeth, may chaunce to stumble before he sleepeth 1621 Burton, *Melancholy*, II iii 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

10 *Look behind thee and consider what thou wast* 1659 Howell, 21

11 *Look high and fall low* 1670 Ray, 13, Look high and fall into a cowlurd 1732 Fuller, No 3272

12 *Look like a runner* See Devil (122)

13 *Look not too high lest a chip fall in your eye* 1584 Robinson, *Handf Pleas Delights*, 39 (Arber) 1696 D'Urfe, *Quixote* Pt III Act II sc 11 1732 Fuller, No 6316

14 *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)]

15 *Look to him, jailor, there s a frog in the stocks* 1678 Ray, 72 1732 Fuller, No 3274

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 1971

18 *To look both ways for Sunday* 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, 11 180 "He was born in the middle of the week and looked baath ways for Sunday"—a burlesque expression for a person who squints 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"

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.* c. 1591: Shakespeare, 1 *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 looke like a Jewe (whereby is meant sometimes a weather beaten wasp-faced fellow, sometimes a phreneticke and lunaticke person, sometimes one discontented).

22. *To look like a strained hair in a can.* 1670: Ray, 206. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 140.

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), Squyntyed 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, *Expos. St. 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 loke 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. [Aiunt homines plus in alieno negotio videre quam in suo.—Seneca, *Ep.*, cix. 16] 1597: Bacon, *Essays*: "Followers, etc.," To take aduise of friends is euer honorable: *For lookers on many times see more then gamesters.* 1640: R. Brome, *Sparagus Garden*, Epil., For we know lookers on more then the gamsters see. 1706: Vanbrugh, *Mistake*, I. i., A stander-by, sir, sees more than a gamester. 1850: Smedley, *Frank Fairlegh*, ch. xlvii. 1909: Pinero, *Mid-Channel*, I. p. 43.

Loon in a wash, A, Is as good as a shilling in a poor man's purse. 1886: Swainson, *Folk-Lore of Brit. Birds*, 215 (F.L.S.).

Loose in the haft=unreliable. c. 1325: in *Pol. Songs*, 339 (Camden) (O.), Unnethe is nu eny man that can eny craft That he nis a party los in the haft. c. 1555: in Wright, *Songs, etc.*, *Philip and Mary*, 68 (Roxb. Cl.), For, alas! she was nat sur in the hafte. 1888-90: Addy, *Sheffield Gloss.* (E.D.S.), He's a bit loose i' t' 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, profligate or wasteful disposition is called "a lohse 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 *cou* 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

*Works*, II 24 (Bigelow) He s loose in the hiltz [drunk] 1847 Halliwell, *Dict*, s v "Hiltz," She is loose in the hiltz, i e frail a common phrase

Loose stake may stand long, A 1639

Clarke, 44 Cf Low Stake

Lopp See Crouse

Lord 1 *A lord s heart and a beggar s purse agree not* c 1430 Lydgate *Minor Poems* 160 (Percy S), A lordis herte, a purs that peiseth lihte [are not commendable] c 1510 A Barclay *Egloges* 39 (Spens S) A lordes stomake and a beggers pouche Full ill accordeth 1592 G Harvey, *Works* I 207 (Grosart), The two vnmeete companions, a lordes heart and a beggers purse 1659 Howell, 5 A lords heart and a beggars purse Cf Lady's heart

2 *He is a lord for a year and a day etc* 1869 Hazlitt 164 He is a lord for a year and a day, and she is a lady for ever and aye This is said of the Lord Mayor of York and his spouse the latter, it is suggested never renounces at heart the fugitive dignity conferred on her husband for the year of his mayoralty Higson s *MSS Coll*, No 24

Lord Mayor 1 *Good manners to except my Lord Mayor* [1655 Fuller, *Church Hist*, bk III § vi (14), The richest and proudest (always good manners to except Cardinal Wolsey)] 1662 Fuller, *Worthies* II 346 (1840), Good manners to except my Lord Mayor of London 1670 Ray 242 1790 Grose *Proi Gloss* s v "London"

2 *I have dined as well as my Lord Mayor of London* 1580 Lyly, *Euphues*, 437 (Arber) Hauing halfe dynd they say as it were in a prouerbe, y<sup>at</sup> they are as well satisfied as the Lorde Maior of London whom they thinke to fare best, though he eate not most 1633 Rowley, *Match at Midnight*, I 1659 Gayton, *Art of Longevity* 12, Shall find a satisfaction in his fare As great as if h' had din'd with my Lord May'r 1738 Swift *Polite Convers*, Dial II 1807 Sir R Wilson *Journal in Life*, II viii 253 (1862) (O), I would not have exchanged meals with the Lord Mayor of London

3 *Like my Lord Mayor's fool, full of business, and nothing to do* 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I

4 *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, *Clavis Cal*, II 252, The Lord Mayor's Fool who likes everything that is good" is yet a common expression 1895 J R Robinson *Old Q*, 123 In drinking as in eating, March was a veritable Lord Mayor's fool, "the best of everything did for him"

Lose, verb 1 *A man loseth his time that comes early to a bad bargain* 1732 Fuller No 286

2 *A man may lose his goods for want of demanding them* 1633 Draxe 17 1670 Ray, 7

3 *He has lost his lease* = He has broken down 1917 Bridge *Cheshire Proverbs* 67 The lease is the crossing of the yarn 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

5 *He loseth his thanks who promisseth and delayeth* 1633 Draxe, 42 1681 W Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 844 1732 Fuller, No 1977

6 *He loseth many a good bit that stinneth with his betters* 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Brit-Eng*, 9

7 *He loseth nothing that loseth not God* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1732 Fuller No 1976 He loseth nothing that keepeth God for his friend

8 *He would rather lose his friend than his jest* Before 1598 Ld Burghley, in Peck, *Desid Curiosa*, 49 (1779) They would rather leese their friend then their jest 1630 Brathwait, *Eng Gent etc* 137 (1641), These many times

will not stick to lose their friend rather than their jest 1709 Cibber, *Rival Fools*, I [with dinner" for "friend"] 1744-6 Mrs Haywood, *Fem Spectator* bk 21, iv 135

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.* Ibid., 198.

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 (1869). 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'l not lose it for asking. 1665: R Howard, *Committee*, I., I see thou wouldst not lose anything for want of asking. 1670: Ray, 58.

15. *Lose with a nut.* See Apple (13).

16. *What we lose in hake, we shall have in herring.* Corn. 1602: Carew, *Surv. of Cornwall*, 105 (1811). 1639: Clarke, 17, What I lost i' th' salt fish I gained i' th' red herrings. 1750: R. Heath, *Account of Scilly*, 324. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., vi. 494.

17. *Who loseth his due getteth no thanks.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 8. 1732: Fuller, No. 5709.

Losers leave to speak, Give. 1533: More, in *Works*, 1018 (1557), Hit is an olde curtesye at the cardes perdy, to let the leser haue hys wordes. 1594: *First Part Content.*, 36 (Sh. S.), I can giue the loser leaue to speake. 1630: Taylor (Water-Poet), *Works*, 2nd pagin., 233. 1673: Wycherley, *Gent. Danc-Master*, V. i. 1769: Colman, *Man and Wife*, III., We must give losers leave 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, The. 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*, 1. 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 Deliciæ*, i. 31 (Hotten). Cf. Better a mouse.

2. *As sure as louse in bosom.* 1659. Howell, 5. 1670: Ray, 208. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 22.

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 Frutes*, 117, He was such a couetous miser, that he would haue fleade a louse to saue the skin of it. 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 285, He would haue flayed a louse for her skin, he was so couetous. 1916. B. Duffy, *The Coiner*, 7, Thrifty! Man, she'd skin a flea 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 yif a lous couthe lepe I con hit not i-leue Heo 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 clothiers hath lesse harborowe then the lowce upon a thryd-bare clothe. 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 *Louse 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 ii, *All stratagems In love, and that*  
*the sharpest war, are lawful* 1687  
A Behn, *Emp of the Moon*, I iii,  
*Advantages are lawful in love and war*  
1710 Centlivre, *Man's Bewitch'd*, V i,  
*Stratagems ever were allow'd in love*  
and war 1850 Smedley, *Frank Fairleigh*,  
ch 1 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*  
*Festial*, 165 (EETS), *For love hath*  
*no lake* 1546 Heywood *Proverbs*, Pt  
I ch iv 1592 Lyly, *Mother Bombe*,  
I iii 1641 R Brome *Joviall Crew*,  
III, *Where love is there's no 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 hid*  
c 1300 *Cursor Mundi*, l 4276, *Luken*  
*luue at þe end wil kȳ* (Concealed love  
will show itself at last) 1590 Greene,  
in *Works*, vii 294 (Grosart), *There are*  
*four 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*

6 *Love and business teach eloquence*  
1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

7 *Love and knowledge live not together*  
1611 Cotgrave, s v "Aimer" 1658  
Flecknoe, *Enigm Characters*, 134 *He is*  
*bound by the proverb, 'Tis impossible*  
*to love and to be wise* 1666 Tor-  
riano, *Piazza Univ*, 7, *Knowledge and*  
*love, altogether cotten not*

8 *Love and lordship like no fellow-*  
*ship* [Non bene conveniunt nec in una  
sede morantur Maestas et Amor—  
Ovid, *Mét*, ii 846] c 1386 Chaucer,  
*Knight's Tale*, l 767, *Ful sooth is sey'd*  
*that love ne lordshipe Wol noght, his*  
*thankes, have no felaweshipe* c 1440  
Lydgate, *Fall of Princes*, bk vi l 2221,

*Vnto purpos was saide ful yore agon,*  
*How that loue nouthur hih lordshipp*

*Nowther of hem wolde haue no*  
*felashipe* 1587 Greene, in *Works*, vi  
251 (Grosart) *Ambition not suffring*  
*loue or lordship to brooke any fellow-*  
*ship* 1658 R Brome, *Love-sick Court*,  
I ii, *Love, and ambition* (I have heard  
men say) *admit no fellowship* 1681  
W Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 846  
1736 Bailey, *Dict*, s v "Love," *Love*  
and lordship never like fellowship

9 *Love and pease porridge will make*  
*their way* 1674 Head and Kirkman,  
*Eng Rogue*, iii 176, *You know the old*  
*proverb, that sad are the effects of love*  
*and pease porridge* 1738 Swilt, *Polite*  
*Convers*, Dial I, Ay, *they say love and*  
*pease 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*  
*firminess* 1670 Ray, 16

12 *Love comes in at the window and*  
*goes out at the door* 1605 Camden,  
*Remains*, 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*, iii 61 (Grosart)  
1611 Cotgrave, s v "Amour" 1667  
L'Estrange, *Quevedo's Visions*, 38  
(1904) 1732 Fuller, No 3286 [with  
"more" for "all"]

14 *Love is a sweet torment* 1633  
Draxe, 119

15 *Love is above King or Kaiser,*  
*lord or laes* 1583 Greene, in *Works*,  
ii 122 (Grosart)

16 *Love is blind* c 1386 Chaucer,  
*Merch Tale* l 354, *For love is blind*  
*al day, and may nat see* c 1490  
Partonope, l 10796, *In this case love*  
*is blynde* 1566 Painter, *Pal of*  
*Pleasure*, ii 43 (Jacobs) 1621 Burton,  
*Melancholy*, III ii 4 i, p 564 (1836).  
*Love is blind, as the saying is* 1733  
Gay, *Achilles*, III 1837 Dickens,  
*Pickwick*, ch xvii 1893 Gilbert,  
*Utopia*, I

17 *Love is full of busy fear* c 1374  
Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk iv l 1645, *For*

I am ever a-gast, for why men rede,  
That "love is thing ay ful of bisy drede." 1506: A. Barclay, *Cast. of Labour*, sig. Dz, This prouerbe that I the lere . . . Loue goth neuer without fere. 1595: Munday, *John a Kent*, 50 (Sh. S.), Looove is full of feare. 1654: Flecknoe, *Loves Dominion*, II. i., Love's a solicitous thing, and full of fears. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Love," Love is never without jealousy.

18. *Love is liberal*. 1639: Clarke, 28

19. *Love is not found in the market*. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

20. *Love is the loadstone of love*. 1732: Fuller, No. 3288. 1870: Hawker, *Footprints 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 euenest boughte. 1569: E. Fenton, *Wonders of Nature*, 66 v<sup>o</sup>, Al things . . . be priced at a certaine rate, except Loue, which can not be payed but wyth 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: J. S. Knowles, *Love-Chase*, I. ii., But love's the coin to market with for love. 1852: FitzGerald, *Polonius*, 122 (1903).

22. *Love is without law*. 1581: B. Rich, *Farewell*, 191 (Sh. S.). 1639: 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* [title]. 1898: W. J. Locke, *Idols*, ch. vi. 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 sheepcoate as a pallaice. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Amourettes" [with

"bides" for "lives"]. 1670: Ray, 16. 1732: Fuller, No. 3290, Love lives more in cottages than courts.

26. *Love locks no cupboards*. 1639: Clarke, 26.

27. *Love looks for love again*. 1570: Barclay, *Mirroure of Good Manners*, 74 (Spens. S.), Shewe thou loue to win loue in worde, heart and dede. 1591: Harrington, *Orl. Furioso*, bk. xxviii. st. 80, And sure love craveth love, like asketh like. 1639: Clarke, 27. 1751: Fielding, *Amelia*, bk. v. ch. ix., But the devil take me, if I think anything but love to be the object of love.

28. *Love makes a good eye squint*. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 16.

29. *Love makes a wit of the fool*. 1774: C. Dibdin, *Quaker*, I. viii., According unto the proverb, love maketh a wit of the fool.

30. *Love makes men orators*. 1583: Greene, in *Works*, ii. 57 (Grosart), It hath byn a saying more common then true, that loue makes al men orators. 1630: *Tinker of Turvey*, 63 (Halliwell) [cited as an "old said saw"].

31. *Love of lads and fire of chats [chips] is soon in and soon out*. c. 1460: *Good Wyfe wold a Pylgr.*, l. 83 (E.E.T.S.), A fyre of sponys [wood-shavings], and lowe of gromis, Full soun woll be att a nende. 1670: Ray, 46. Cf. *Lads' love*.

32. *Love rules his kingdom without a sword*. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 9. 1853: Trench, *Proverbs*, 130 (1905).

33. *Love sees no faults*. 1732: Fuller, No. 3297.

34. *Love will creep where it can not (or may not) go*. c. 1400: Towneley *Plays*, 135 (E.E.T.S.), I trow, kynde will crepe where it may not go. 1481: Caxton, *Reynard*, 70 (Arber), Blood must kreppe where it can not goo. c. 1530: *Everyman*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, i. 113 [with "Kind" for "Love"]. 1569: Grafton, *Chron.*, ii. 2 (1809) [with "Kinne" for "Love"]. 1602: Rowlands, *Merrie when Goss. meete*, 20 (Hunt. Cl.), They say loue creepeth where it cannot go. 1658: *Musarum Deliciæ*, i. 172 (Hotten) ["can not"].

1753 Richardson, *Grandison*, 1 403 (1883) ["can not"] 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 93 ["can not"]

35 *Love will find a way* c 1597 Deloncy, *Gentle Craft*, ch xv, Thus loue you see, can find a way To make both men and maids obey c 1600 in *Roxb Ballads*, 11 639 (BS) [with "out" after "find"] 1662 Fuller *Worthies* 11 227 (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 nanes mannes lufon c 1310 in Wright, *Pol Songs* 302 (Camden S), Pur amy ne pur dener Ray ne dait esparnier (For love nor for pence—A King ought not to spare) 1595 *Pedlars Proph*, 1 578 (Malone S), Neither for loue nor mony they will worke 1669 Shadwell, *Royal Shep*, Prol If it were to be had For love or money 1771 Smollett, *Clinker 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 *quots* 1578 Florio *First Frutes*, to 25, The loue of a whore and the wine of a bottle at night is good in the mornynge naught 1629 *Book of Meery Riddles* Prov 57, The love of a harlot and wine of a flagon, is good in the morning and nought in the evening 1666 Torriano, *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 tyme 1732 Fuller, No 6401 [as in 1678]

38 *The love of money and the love of learning rarely meet* 1651 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*, 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 & F, *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, *Quevedo's Visions*, III (1904) [quoted as "the old rhyme"] 1678 Ray, 50 1722 Defoe, *Moll Flanders*, in *Works*, III 35 (Bohn)

See also *One love*

*Love, verb* 1 *He loves bacon well that licks 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 braunches 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

5 *I love thee like pudding, if thou wert 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 countries admire, 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 noise of bells* See *Bell* (5)

9 *Love me little love me long* 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch 11 1580 Munday, *Sundry Examples*, 73 (Sh S) 1633 Marlowe, *Jew of Malta*, IV v 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* [Qui me amat, amat et canem meum—12th cent St Bernard, *Fest S Mich*, Ser 1 § 3] c 1480 *Early Miscell*, 62 (Warton CI), He that lovyythe me



lovlythe my hound. 1527: Tyndale, in *Treatises*, 84 (P.S.). We say also, He that loveth not my dog, loveth not me. 1583: Stubbes, *Anat. of Abuses*, 178 (N. Sh. S.). 1664: in *Musarium 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), Whatsoever be your common saying, that you must as well love to live as live to love.

12. *Love your neighbour yet pull not down your hedge.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1763: Murphy, *Citizen*, I. ii. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb Folk-Lore*, 93.

13. *No man loves his fetters, 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 fetters though they were all of gold? 1670: Ray, 89. 1732: Fuller, No. 1522, Fetters of gold are still fetters; and silken cords pinch.

14. *One cannot love and be wise.* 1631: Eng. *Gentlewoman*, 288 (1641).

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: Cotgrave, s.v. "Mourir" [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.

*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 lovey any lawe? c. 1450: *Parlonope*, l. 8710 (E.E.T.S.), Ther-for this ys a full old sawe: Who may gyfe to a louter lawe? 1581: B. Rich, *Farewell*, 131 (Sh. S.), What is he, I prairie you, that is able to prescribe 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. 1596: Churchyard, *Pleas. Disc. of Court*, etc., sig. B4 (Boswell, 1816), All one we liue . . . By loue as larks do liue by leekes. 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 313, They bee some that do liue of loue, Well yea, as larkes do of. leekes. 1670: Ray, 46. 1833: 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. 1732: Fuller, No. 259.

*Low stake standeth long.* The. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. iv., The lothe stake standeth longe. c. 1594: Bacon, *Promus*, No. 485. 1732: Fuller, No. 4637 [in the plural]. Cf. Loose stake.

*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:

Floro, *World of Wordes*, Cocagna, as we say Lubberland 1614 Jonson, *Bart Fair*, III ii, Will it run off o' the spit into our mouths, thunk you, as in Lubberland, and cry, *we, we?* 1813 Ray, 64, You'd do well in Lubberland, where they have half a crown a day for sleeping

**Luck** I Give a man luck and throw him in the sea 1576 *Parad of Dainty Devices*, No 27, She [Fortune] vseth neuer 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 proverbe is given me hap and cast me in the sea 1632 Rowley, *Woman never Vexed*, I [with woman "for man"] 1671 Head and Kirkman, *Eng Rogue* ii 202 1709 O Dykes, *Eng Proverbs*, 271 1837 Planché, *Extravag*, i 268 (1879), 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 Bullein, *Dialogue*, 101 (E E T S), If good lucke had been our good lord 1709 O Dykes, *Eng Proverbs*, 272 Luck is a lord, we say 1848 Planché, *Extravag*, iii 272 (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 *Pepys*, vii 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* ii 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 III luck.

Lucky men need no counsel 1855 Bohn, 447

Lucy light, the shortest day and the longest night [1633 Donne, *Poems*, i 254 (Grierson), Laies thee to sleepe

but a Saint Lucies 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!

Luddington See quot 1889 Peacock, *Manley, etc*, Gloss, 333 (E D S), Luddington poor people, With a stoan chech an' a wooden steeple

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, *Hartland Dialect*, 20 (E D S)

Lust See Pleasure (4)

Lust is as young as his limbs are old, His 1659 Howell, 10

Lydford Law See quot 1399 Langland, *Richard Redeless*, iii 145, Be the lawe of Lydford 1644 Browne, *Lydford Castle*, st 1, I oft have heard of Lydford 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 1714 Ozell, *Molière*, iv 215, Hang a man first, and try him afterwards, Lidford law you know! 1838 Mrs Bray, *Trad of Devon*, iii 12, The old saying of Lydford Law, to express an arbitrary procedure in judgment 1855 Kingsley, *West Hol*, ch xiv, And by Lydfor' law if they will, hang first and try after 1887 *Cornhill Mag*, Nov, 523, "Hang first and try afterwards" was the fundamental maxim of Lydford Law

Lying rides on Death's back. 1736 Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, i 449 (Bigelow) 1875 Smiles, *Thrif*, 242

Lymm from Warburton, To tear 1901 F E Taylor, *Folk-Speech of S Lancs*, s.v. "Lymb," Lymb-fro'-Warburton A term used to denote the division or pulling to pieces of anything 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 144, Lymm-cum-Warburton were two mediocrities of one parish on the Chester side of the Mersey

Lythe See Lithe

## M

M under one's girdle. See Carry (3).

Macclesfield. *To feed like a freeholder of Macclesfield, who hath neither corn nor hay at Michaelmas.* 1670: Ray, 208. 1790: Grose, *Prov Gloss.*, s.v. "Cheshire." 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 65 [with "Christmas" for "Michaelmas"]. See also Maxfield; and Treacle town.

Mackerel sky, A. See quot. [1669: Worlidge, *Syst. Agric.*, 295 (1681) (O.). In a fair day, if the sky seem to be daped 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*, l. 29, For thogh this Sommour wood [mad] were as an hare. c. 1450: *Partonope*, l. 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: Stanhurst, *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 wyndy [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.*, 9th ser., viii. 501, 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 seaun 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*, l. 1, '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  
Ibid, No 268

Maggot bites, When the = When the  
whim takes one 1683 L'Estrange,  
*Observer* 1 No 470, Prethee, where  
bites the magot to-day, Trimmer?  
1709 E Ward, *Works*, iv, *Verse*, 21  
So touchy when the maggot takes him  
1754 Berthelson, *Eng-Danish Dict*,  
s v 'Maggot,' I shall do it when the  
maggot bites

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'Urfey,  
*Tales Trag and Comical* 51, The mag-  
gots in the brain With novelty pos-  
sess'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 Mag-  
nificat = To find fault unreasonably,  
and presumptuously 1540 Pals-  
grave, *Acolastus*, sig B3, Thou  
whiche takest vpon thee to correct  
Magnificat 1583 Melbancke, *Philo-  
linus*, sig E1, That correcteth Magni-  
ficat before he can sing Te Deum  
1589 Nashe *Works* 1 152 (Grosart),  
They would correct Magnificat, not  
knowing *Quid significat* 1681 W  
Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 388, To  
correct the Magnificat, Nodum in scripo  
querere Ibid, 856, Lumen soli  
mutuare 1694 L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 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 quotes 1588 Bp Andrewes,  
*Serm at Spital*, 24 (1629) (O) The note  
is heere all out of place and so  
their note comes in like Magnificat at  
Matins 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Magni-

ficat," *Chanter Magnificat à matines*, To  
doe things disorderly, or use a thing un-  
seasonably 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 1576 G Harvey,  
*Letter-Book*, 163 (Camden S), Mai  
perhaps flit at a pie, as y<sup>e</sup> proverb is,  
but he is most likeli to catch a daw

2 Omens and sayings 1849 Dins-  
dale, *Teesdale Gloss*, 95, One s sorrow,  
Two s good luck, Three's a wedding,  
Four's death 1867 Harland, in  
*Lancs Folk-Lore*, 144, 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 speak-  
ing 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, *Shropsh 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'  
zorrow, zix, sign o' joy, Zebm, sign  
o' maid, an' eight sign o' boy 1892  
S Hewett, *Peasant Speech of Devon*, 26  
Wan is vur zorrow, Tū is vur mirth,  
Dree is vur a wedding, Vowr is vur  
death 1901 F E Taylor, *Lancs  
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, 481

Mahomet and the mountain 1625  
Bacon, *Essays* "Boldness," Mahomet  
cald 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 wil go to the hil* 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

and the mountain. 1874: R. L. S., *Letters*, i. 163 (Tusitala ed.).

Maid, Maids, and Maidens. 1. *A maid and a virgin is not all one.* 1639: Clarke, 152.

2. *A maid oft seen, and a gown oft worn, Are disesteem'd, and held in scorn.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Fille." 1670: Ray, 17. 1732: Fuller, No. 6395.

3. *A maid that giveth yieldeth.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Abandonner." 1670: Ray, 16. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Maid."

4. *A maid that laughs is half taken.* 1670: Ray, 16. 1732: Fuller, No. 269.

5. *A maid's knee.* See Dog (8).

6. *Every maid is undone.* 1678: Ray, 172.

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.

9. *Maidens should be mim [silent] till they're married.* 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 93.

10. *Maids' children.* See Bachelor (3).

11. *Maids say nay and take.* 1562: Heywood, *Three Hund. Epigr.*, No. 223, Say nay, and take it. 1594: Shakespeare, *Rich. III.*, III. vii., Play the maid's part, still answer nay, and take it. 1609: W. Rowley, *Search for Money*, 32 (Percy S.). 1694: Motteux, *Rabelais*, bk. v. ch. xxviii. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I.

12. *Maids should be seen and not heard.* c. 1400: *Mirk's Festial*, 230 (E.E.T.S.), For hyt ys an old Englysch sawe: "A mayde schuld be seen, but not herd." 1560: Becon, *Catechism, etc.*, 369 (P.S.) [as in 1400]. Before 1627: Middleton, *More Diss. besides Women*, III. i., Virgins should be seen more than they're heard. 1675: Cotton, *Burl. upon Burlesque*, 252 (1765). 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I. 1858: G. Eliot, *Clerical Life*: "Janet's Rep.," ch. viii., "Hush, Lizzie, little gells must be seen and not heard." 1907: De Morgan, *Alice-for-Short*, ch. ix., These [maxims] were the old-fashioned sort, such as—"Little girls should be seen not heard." Cf. Children (10).

13. *Maids want nothing but husbands.* 1678: Ray, 347, . . . Somerset. 1732: Fuller, No. 3309, [as in 1678, plus] and then they want every thing.

14. *The worst store [is] a maid unbested.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 15.

15. *There are never the fewer maids for her.* 1678: Ray, 258.

16. *This maid was born old.* Ibid., 77.

17. *When maidens 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 soeuer thou art chaunced at the buy. c. 1610: in *Roxb. Ballads*, i. 454 (B.S.), She had a care of the main-chance. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phraseol. 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. 1, 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. 1894: Northall, *Folk 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 there bedd, as themselves shall make it. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 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.

xxx1, 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 uell 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 cant tan  
the leather 1580 Lyly, *Euphues*, 224  
(Arber), You know that it is not for  
him that fashioneth the shoe, to make  
the graine 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  
1737 Ray, 96

7 Make a-do and have a-do 1678  
Ray, 70

8 Make haste and leave nothing to  
waste 1827 Hone, *Ev Day Book*, II  
927 [quoted as 'the old proverb']

9 Make hay See Hay (3)

10 Make me a diviner and I will make  
thee rich 1578 Florio, *First Frutes*,  
fo 30 1623 Wodroephe, *Spared  
Houres*, 172, Make me a guesser, and I  
shall make you rich of it 1629 *Book  
of Meery Riddles*, Prov III 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  
4388

13 They that make laws should not  
break them c. 1386 Chaucer, *Introd  
to Man of Law's Prol*, l. 434 For swich  
lawe as man yeveth another wight, He  
sholde him-selven usen it by right  
1598 *Servirgmans Comfort*, in *Inedited  
Tracts*, 154 (Hazlitt), It is a shame for  
the lawgiuer to break and violate his  
owne institutions 1669 *Politeuphuia*,  
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 x1 [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 1611 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, *Worthies* "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 *Trevlyn Hold*, ch xv, 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 Slovenrie*, 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 staggers, to avoide  
æquivocation, for when he is sober  
hee makes indentures [character of a  
lawyer's clerk] 1681 in *Rorb Bal-  
lads*, VI 3 (B S), Being so drunk that  
he cutteth indentures 1745 Frank-  
lin, *Drinker's Dict*, in *Works*, II 25  
(Bigelow), He makes indentures with  
his leggs

19 To make no bones about a thing  
1565 Shacklock, *Hatch of Heresies*, 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 gate his donges thus  
1633 T May, tr Barclay's *Mirr of  
Minds*, 196, Which [dinner] they  
make no bones many times to prolong  
till supper time 1740 North, *Ex-  
amen*, 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 orts 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 vp my mouthe, Not onely hir husbandes tauntynge tale auouthe, But therto deuise to cast in my teeth, Checks and chokyng oysters c 1570: T. Preston, *Combysses*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, iv. 175, According to the proverb old, My mouth I will up make. 1669: Shadwell, *Royal Shep.*, 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.].

22. *You make the better side the worse.* 1678: Ray, 355 . . . *Somerset*.

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.

Malice never spoke well. 1574: E. Hollowes, *Guevara's Epistles*, 492, Mallice findes manie fautes. 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 Higgleddy-piggleddy.

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 maut 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.

Maltman comes on Monday, The. 1659: Howell, 9.

Malvern Hill. 1. *All about Malvern Hill, A man may live as long as he will.* 1882: Mrs. Chamberlain, *W. Worcs. Words*, 39 (E.D.S.).

2. *Go dig at Mavern Hill.* Spoken of one whose wife "wears the breeches." 1659: Howell, 20. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Worcestershire."

Malvern measure, full and running over. 1894: 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.

4. *A man at five may be a fool at fifteen.* 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Five." 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 48.

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 about his power 1626 Scoggins *Jests*, 158 (1864), No man can aske more of a man than hee is able to doe 1670 Ray, 67 1814 Scott, in *Lockhart's Life*, iii 152 The islanders retort, that a man can do no more than he can 1901 F E Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 11 A body conno do mooar nor he con, con he ?

7 *A man cannot live by the air* 1633 Drave 180 A man cannot live by thankes 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'rt a man every inch of thee 1870 Carlyle, in Forster's *Dickens* iii 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 iii ch vi, A man is but a man though he have a nose on his head 1738 Swift *Polite Coners*, Dial. II

15 *A man is a man though he have but a hose 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 [c 1386 Chaucer, *Canon's Yeoman's Tale*,] 171, Ther I was wont to be right fresh and gay Of clothing and of other good array Now may I were an hose upon myn heed And wher my colour was bothe fresh and reed, Now is it wan and of a leden hewe] 1593 Nashe, in *Works*, ii 249 (Grosart)

1652 Tatham, *Scots Figgaries*, IV 1664 Cotton, *Scarronides*, bk 1 1709 O Dykes, *Eng Proverbs*, 255 (2nd ed), A man is a man still, if he hath 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 lxviii, You may know the man by the conversation he keeps 1672 Wycherley *Love in a Wood*, I 1, There is a proverb, Mrs Joyner, "You may know him by his company" 1748 Richardson, *Clarissa*, vi 362 (1785), Men are known by their companions 1829 Cobbett, *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 weal or woe, 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 E5] 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 bear till his back break* 1611 Cotgrave, s v 'Sommer,' *Tant travaille et tracasse l'homme, qu'en fin il se rompt, ou somme*, A man so long doth toile and swink, 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: Draxe, 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).

25. *A man may love his house well, though he ride not on the ridge.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. iv. 1560: T. Wilson, *Rhetorique*, 189 (1909). 1685: Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 52. He can love the house well that hes [has] Tibb in, And not be alwayes riding o' th' riggin. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. II., A man may love his house very well, without riding on the ridge. 1824: Scott, *Redgauntlet*, ch. xiii., Well, now, you see one may love the Kirk, and yet not ride on the rigging of it.

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.

29. *A man of straw is worth a woman of gold.* 1591: Florio, *Second Frutes*, 173 [with "more worth than" for "worth"]. 1647: Howell, *Letters*, bk. ii. No. iv. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. xvii., They say a man of straw is worth a woman of gold, but I cannot swallow it.

30. *A man of words and not of deeds, Is like a garden full of weeds.* 1659: Howell, 20. 1670: Ray, 211. 1706: Ward, *Hudibras Rediv.*, Pt. 5, can. vii. p. 9 [in the plural]. 1758: Franklin, in *Works*, iii. 36 (Bigelow). 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. xiv.

31. *A man or a mouse.* 1541: Sch. *House of Women*, l. 386, Fear not, she saith vnto her spouse, A man or a mouse whether be ye. 1590: *Tarltons Newes 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, *Launcs Sayings*, 13, Aw'd oather be a mon or a meawse 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 gevyt 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 wondrey of hym pat dop as noon oþer dop." c. 1440: Anon., tr. Higden, viii. 19 (Rolls Ser.), This proverbe: "A man that doothe a thynghe whiche noon other man usethe, causethe alle men to mervayle."

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. 316.

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, 11. 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 *Pettie Pall*, i 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, *Parnassi Puerp* 94 My countrey is where ever I am well 1732 Fuller No 5659, Wheresoever we live well that is our country

44 *A man's praise in his own mouth doth stink* c 1615 Times Whistle 37 (E E T S), Hast thou that aunient, true saide sawe forgot That a mans praise in his owne mouth doth stinke ?

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 Latimer, in *Works*, ii 399 (P S), The assize, where as men be friended, so (they say) things be ended c 1542 Brinklow *Complaynt* 25 (E E T S) 1600 Day, *Blind Beggar* III ii Remember this old law 'As men are friended, So either right or wrong their sutes are ended' 1681 W Robertson *Phrascol Generalis* 470, As a man is friended, so is his difference, or cause ended 1738 *Gent Mag*, 475

47 *As a man lives so shall he die, As a tree falls so shall it lie* 1678 Ray, 296

48 *Every man thinks he may live another year* [Nemo enim est tam senex, qui se annum 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 aged, that he perswadein not him selfe that he may lue a whole yeare 1669 *Politephua*, 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 Canting Crew*, sig F3 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 throwen under the foote ones [once] than every man gothe upon hym 1618 B Holyday, *Technogamia*, V iv, When a man s once downe, I perceue he shall be trod vpon 1681 W Robertson, *Phrascol Generalis*, 574 1754 Berthelson, *Eng-Danish Dict*, s v 'Fall'

52 *If men become sheep, the wolf will devour them* 1611 Davies (of Hereford), *Sc of Folly*, 42, in *Works*, ii (Grosart)

53 *It is meet that a man be at his own bridal* 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch vi 1633 Draxe, 230 [with "euery for "a"]

54 *Man doth what he can and God what He will* 1633 Draxe, 80 bis 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 Greke prouerbe to bee very trew, which is that a man to a man shall sometyme be as a God 1566 L Wager, *Mary Magd*, sig C3 1630 T Adams, *Works* 190 Before 1680 Butler, *Remains*, ii 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 iv 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*, 99 (Grosart), We are (by our owne censures) iudged wolues one to another 1620 Ford, *Lire 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 it* 1875 A B Cheales, *Proverb Folk-Lore*, 12 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, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 93

59. *Man proposes but God disposes.* [A man's heart deviseth his way; but the Lord directeth his steps.—*Prov.* xvi. 9. Sed sicut scriptum esse, Homo cogitat, Deus ordinat.—*Ord. Vitalis, Eccles. Hist.*, bk. iii. Nam homo proponit, sed Deus disponit.—A Kempis, *De Imit.*, lib. i. cap. xix.] 1377: Langland, *Plowman*, B, xi. 36, "Homo proponit," quod a poete and Plato he hyght, "And Deus disponit," quod he. 1509: Bp. Fisher, *Eng. Works*, 222 (E.E.T.S.), It is a comyn prouerbe . . . Man purpouseth and god dyspouseth. 1576: Pettie, *Petite Pall.*, ii. 44 (Gollancz) [as in 1509]. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1700: T. Brown, tr. Scarron, ii. 64 (1892). 1854: J. W. Warton, *Last of Old Squires*, 53.

60. *Man, remember thy end, And thou shalt never be shend.* 15th cent.: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 316 (1841).

61. *Man's best candle [is his] undersanding.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 14.

62. *Man's extremity.* See *Need* (6).

63. *Man's life is filed by his foe.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 19.

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.

66. *Men are never wise but returning from law.* 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 501.

67. *Men are not to be measured by inches.* 1732: Fuller, No. 3390.

68. *Men dream in courtship but in wedlock wake.* 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 38.

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 hylles 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, mountaines never. 1681: W. Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 760. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Men," Men meet but mountains never greet. 1823:

Scott, *Q. Durward*, ch. xxxi., Mountains, it is said, may meet, and why not mortal creatures . . . ?

71. *Men muse as they use.* 1583: Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig. G3, Use not, as you muse. 1639: Clarke, 64, You muse as you use. 1670: Ray, 123. 1685: Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 71, You meause wife as ye use. 1710: S. Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 39.

72. *Men of principle.* See quot. 1820: Colton, *Lacon*, 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, *Alphonsus*, 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, *Damoiselle*, 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 saufully 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 118 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 often fortunes 1670 Ray, 17

Manners make the man c 1460 in *Babees Book, etc*, 14 (E E T S), Nurtur and good maners maketh man 1513 Bradshaw, *St Werburge*, 131 (E E T S), Good maners and conynge maken a man 1602 Rowlands, *Merrie when Goss meete*, 44 (Hunt Cl), The prouerbe sayes 'tis manners that doth make 1659 Howell 16, Manners make a man, quoth William of Wickham 1694 D'Urfe, *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 make 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 γὰρ κεν καὶ μικρὸν ἐπὶ μικρῷ καταθεῖο καὶ θανά τοῦ ἔθους τάχα κεν μέγα καὶ τὸ γένος* — Hesiod *Works and Days* 359-60] Before 1225 *Ancren R*, 54, þus ofte, ase me seith of lutel wacces þ muchel 1303 Brunne,

*Handl Synne*, l 2366, For many smale makeþ a grete c 1386 Chaucer, *Parson's Tale*, § 21, Manye smale maken a greet 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch xi [as in 1386] 1593 G Harvey, *Works*, ii 311 (Grosart), Many a little, by little and little maketh a mickle 1616 *Jack Drum*, I, in Simpson, *Sch of Shakesp*, ii 137, Oh, sir, many a small make a great 1680 L'Estrange, *Select Colloq of Erasmus*, 19 1712 *Spectator*, 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 singeth *See* quots c 1300 *Prov of Alfred*, in *Reliq Antiquæ*, 1 178 (1841), Monymon singeth, that wif hom bryngeth, wiste he hwat he brouhte, wepen he myhte c 1320 in *Ibid*, 1 112, "Moni mon syngeth When he hom bringeth Is yonge wyf, Wyste wot he brohte, Wepen he mohte, Er 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 *Reliq Antiquæ*, 1 115 (1841), "Moni 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 thinks ill 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I

Many by wit purchase wealth, but none by wealth purchase wit 1647 *Countrys New Commonwealth*, 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 Muffett, *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 floud 1736 Bailey, *Dict*, 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].

Many friends no friend. 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 96. Cf. Friend (8).

Many frosts and many thowes, Make many rotten yowes [ewes]. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 62 (Percy S.) 1872: J. Glyde, jr., *Norfolk Garland*, 157.

Many hands make light work. 1401: in Wright, *Pol. Poems*, ii. 106 (Rolls Ser., 1861), Yit many hondis togider maken ligt werk. c. 1460: *How the Goode Wife*, in Hazlitt, *Early Pop. Poetry*, i. 188, Many handys make light werke, my leue childe. c. 1550: *Parl. of Byrdes*, l. 192, in *Ibid.*, iii. 177. 1634: G. Markham, *Art of Archerie*, 20. 1665: Head and Kirkman, *Eng. Rogue*, i. 164. 1732: Fuller, No. 3347. 1923: *Observer*, 11 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' *Colloq.*, 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 multitude. [Bellua multorum es caput.—Horace, *Epist.*, I. i.] 1542: Udall, tr. Erasmus' *Apoph.*, 122 (1877), The multitude of the grosse people, being a beaste of many heades. 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 multitude. 1664: J. Wilson, *Andron. Commenius*, III. ii., What is this giddy

multitude?—this beast Of many heads? 1734: Pope, *Imit. Horace, Epist.* I. i. l. 121, 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. xxi., 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 true 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. Lancs. 1865: *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., viii. 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, faile not to swallow a greet vessell. 1639: Clarke, 11. 1670: Ray, 118.

Many seames many beanes. Glos. 1639: in *Berkeley MSS.*, iii. 33 (1885).

Many slones [sloes] many groans. 1850: *N. & Q.*, 1st ser., ii. 511. 1884: H. Friend, *Flowers and Fl. Lore*, 207,

In Cornwall they have a proverb  
"Many slones, many groans"

Many speak much who cannot speak  
well 1633 Draxe, 11 1670 Ray, 17

Many strike on an anvil, When, they  
must strike by measure 1670 Ray, 17  
1732 Fuller, No 5561 [with 'observe  
order' for "strike by measure"]

Many strokes See Little strokes

Many things are lost for want of ask-  
ing 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Many things grow in the garden which  
were never sowed 1659 Howell *Pro-  
verbs 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 1694

D Urley *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, *Chron*, Dedn, I haue redde an  
olde prouerbe, whiche saithe, that in  
many woordes, a lye or twayne some  
mare 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 iii ch iv [with  
'bushel' for 'bucket'] 1732 Fuller,  
No 3365 [as in 1712]

Marazion to learn manners, You must  
go to 1864 "Cornish Proverbs," in  
*N & Q*, 3rd ser, v 275

Marazion See also Market-Jew

Marbles See quot 1880 Court-  
ney, *W Cornwall Words*, viii (E D S),  
Those that have marbles may play,  
but those that have none must look on

March, subs 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, *Clavis Cal*, 1 66 1893 In  
wards, *Weather Lore*, 18 [both "bushel"  
and "peck"]

2 A damp rotten March gives pain  
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 Pro-  
verbs*, 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  
1846 Denham, *Proverbs*, 31 (Percy S)  
1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 18 [with  
'and cold' after "dry"]

6 A dry March, uet April, and cool  
May, Fill barn, cellar, and bring much  
hay Ibid, 20

7 A fair March is worth a king's  
ransom c 1598 Jonson, *Case is*  
*Allered*, 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 (1676) [quoted  
as "an old saying among the best"  
farmers]

10 A March wisher (or whisker) Is  
never a good fisher 1732 Fuller, No  
6127 [whisker"] 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 uet 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 468 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.

23. *March birds are best.* 1678: Ray, 344. 1732: Fuller, No. 3368. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 31 (Percy S.). 1904: *Co Folk-Lore: Northumb.*, 176 (F.L.S.).

24. *March borrows.* See quotes. 1646: Browne, *Pseudo. Epi.*, 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: *Brit. 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, *plus*] March borrowed of April, April borrowed of May, Three days, they say; One rained, and one snow, 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 snaw 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 hackham 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.

26. *March comes in with an adder's head, and goes out with a peacock's tail.* 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 32 (Percy S.). 1921: R. L. Gales, *Old-World Essays*, 250.

27. *March dry, good rye; April wet, good wheat.* 1893: *Co. Folk-Lore: Suffolk*, 162 (F.L.S.).

28. *March dust on an apple-leaf brings all kinds of fruit to grief.* 1876: Bull, *Pomona Hereford.*, 50.

29. *March flowers Make no summer bowers.* 1893: Inwards, 18.

30. *March grass never did good.* 1678: Ray, 44. 1732: Fuller, No. 6475. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 31 (Percy S.). 1904: *Co. Folk-Lore: Northumb.*, 175 (F.L.S.).

31. *March grows never dows* [flourishes]. 1855: Robinson, *Whitby Gloss.*, 48, "March grows Never dows." March blossom, being premature, is often blighted.

32. *March many weathers.* 1678: Ray, 44. 1732: Fuller, No. 6475, March many-weather rain'd and blow'd. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 18. 1912: R. L. Gales, *Studies in Arcady*, 2nd ser., 104.

33. *March rain spoils more than clothes.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Span.-Eng.*, 21, March water is worse than a

stain in cloath 1882 Mrs Chamberlain, *W Worcs Words*, 37 (E D S)  
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 Inwards, 20

35 *March sun lets snow stand on a stone* Ibid, 18

36 *March thunder makes all the world wonder* 1895 Rye, *E Anglian Words*, 228 (E D S)

37 *March wind and May sun Makes clothes white and maids dun* 1670 Ray, 41 1744 Clardge, in *Mills Essay on Weather*, 100 (1773) 1882 *N & Q*, 6th ser vi 14 1893 Inwards 20

38 *March wind kindles the ether [adder] and blooms the whin* 1846 Denham *Proverbs*, 39 (Percy S)

39 *March winds and April showers Bring forth May flowers* 1886 Elworthy, *West Som Word-Book*, 461 (E D S) 1893 Inwards, 20

40 *March yeans the lammie 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 (E D S)

42 *On the first of March, The crows begin to search* 1846 Denham, *Proverbs*, 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*, 510 1830 Forby, *Vocab E Anglia*, 416 1879 *N & Q*, 5th ser, xi 327 "Fogs in March, frosties in May" is a common proverb in this part of Surrey [Limpfield] 1893 Inwards, 19 [as in 1732 plus] As many mistises in March, So many frostises in May—Wilts 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

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* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentium* 47 *Whatever March does not want, April brings along* 1893 Inwards, 23 48 *When it thunders in March, it brings sorrow* Ibid, 19

See also April (22), Borrowing days, Cuckoo (4), (12), (13), and (16), February (6), (8), and (18), Frosty winter, January (1), (14), and (21), Leeks, Nettles (3) September (2) and Wheat (2)

Mare 1 *A mare's shoe and a horse's shoe are both alike* 1732 Fuller, No 318

2 *If the mare have a bald [white] face, the filly will have a blaze* 1659 Howell, 2 1696 D'Urfeys, *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*, 111 (1892), Nor stare in a mans 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*, V 11 Why dost thou laugh? What mare's nest hast thou found? 1704 D'Urfeys, *Tales Trag and Comical*, 216 n, An old wile's saw He has found a mare's nest, and laughs at the eggs 1864 "Cornish Proverbs" in *N & Q*, 3rd ser, vi 494. They have found a wees nest [mare's nest], and are laughing over the eggs 1922 Weyman, *Ovington's Bank*, ch xxxii

7 *Whose mare is dead?* = What's the trouble? 1595 Maroccus *Extaticus* 5 (Percy S), Whose mare is dead, that you are thus melancholy? c 1598 Deloney, *Gentle Craft* Pt II ch iii 1598 Shakespeare 2 *Henry IV* II 1, How now! whose mare's dead? What's the matter? 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial, I



See also Horse (51) ; Man (78) ; Money (33) ; Ride ; Simper as a mare ; and Tale (7).

Margaret's flood [Devon] = heavy rain about St. Margaret's Day—20 July. 1850 : *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 meelee, But than she cast it downe again with hir 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 subtillest. 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.

2. *Forsake not the market for* [because of] *the toll.* 1605 : Camden, *Remains*, 322 (1870). 1670 : Ray, 119. 1736 : Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Toll."

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.

6. *You may know by the market folks how the market goes.* 1546 : Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi., Men know . . . How the market goth by the market men. c. 1594 : Bacon, *Promus*, No. 642. 1600 : Day, *Blind Beggar*, IV. iii.

1670 : Ray, 119. 1716 : Ward, *Female Policy*, 94. 1732 : Fuller, No. 5952.

Market - Jew = Marazion, Corn. *In your own light like the Mayor of Market-Jew.* 1859 : *N. & Q.*, 2nd ser., viii. 451. 1906 : Q.-Couch, *Mayor of Troy*, Prol. See also Marazion.

Mark Lane. See quot. 1591 : Greene, *Works*, x. 99 (Grosart), Perceued 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 quotes 1753 : *Gent. Mag.*, 120, We have an old saying [Lancs] : 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.*, 341 (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]. 1917 : 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 Fruites*, fo. 25, At mariages and burials friends and kinrede is knowen. 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 : Horman, *Vulgaria*, fo. 19, It is my destenye 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 ?

1784 *New Foundl Hosp for Wit*, v 106

4 *Marriage is a lottery* 1875 *Smiles, Thrift*, 252 The maxim is current, that 'marriage is a lottery'

5 *Marriage is honourable but house-keeping is a shrew* 1616 *Breton, Works*, ii c 8 (Grosart), Marriage is honourable 1670 *Ray*, 48 1780 *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* 1669 *Politeuphuia* 35 1732 *Fuller* No 3372

7 *Marriage with peace is this world's Paradise with strife, this life's Purgatory* 1669 *Politeuphuia*, 227

8 *Marriages are made in heaven* [A prudent wife is from the Lord—*Prov* xix 14] 1567 *Painter, Pal of Pleasure*, iii 24 (Jacobs), True it is that marriages be don in heaven and performed in earth 1663 *Killigrew, Parson's Wedding*, II vii, Were not those marriages made in heaven? 1738 *Swift, Polite Convers*, Dial I 1850 *Smedley Frank Fairleigh*, ch xlvii 1922 *Lucas, Geneva's Money* ch xi

9 *More belongs to marriage than four bare legs in a bed* 1546 *Heywood, Proverbs*, Pt I ch viii c 1630 in *Roxb Ballads*, i 166 (Hindley) 1738 *Swift, Polite Convers* Dial I 1822 *Scott, Nigel*, ch xxxvii, A sort of penny-wedding it will prove, where all men contribute to the young folks' maintenance, that they may not have just four bare legs in a bed together

See also *Age and wedlock*, *May*, F (14) and (15), *Wedding*, and *Wedlock*.

Married man must turn his staff into a stake, *The* 1640 *Herbert, Jac Prudentum* [with turns 'for 'must turn'] 1670 *Ray*, 17

Marrow to the patch = well suited 1917 *Bridge Cheshire Proverbs* 94

Marry, verb 1 *Before thou marry Make sure of an house wherein to tarry* 1666 *Tornano 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 mickle dirt* 1683 *Meriton, Yorkshire Ale* 83-7 (1697)

4 *He that marries late marries ill* 1589 *Nashe, Works*, i 17 (Grosart) Thys common prouerbe, he that marrieth late marrieth euill 1666 *Tornano, Piazza Univ*, 143, Who marries late marries amiss

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 *Countrim New Commonwealth*, 34 1669 *Politeuphuia*, 227

9 *It's good to marry late or never* 1670 *Ray*, 47

10 *Marry and thrive See Wive 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*, III 1

12 *Marry in haste, repent at leisure* 1566 *Painter Pal of Pleasure*, i 115 (Jacobs) leaste in making haste choise, leasure for repentaunce shuld folow 1592 *Grecne, Works*, xi 86 (Grosart), She was afraide to match in haste least shee might repent at leasure 1632 *Randolph, Jealous Lovers* V ii, Marry too soon, and you'll repent too late 1602 *Congreve, Old Batchelor*, V viii 1713 *Gay, Wife of Bath* I 1842 *Barham, Ing Legends*, 2nd ser "Aunt Fanny" They 'repent at leisure who marry at random'

13 *Marry your daughters belmes, lest they marry themselves* 1651 *Herbert Jac Prudentum* 2nd ed 1670 *Ray* 47 1732 *Fuller*, No 3373

14 *Marry your son when you will*.

your daughter when you can. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum* 1696: D'Urfey, *Quixote*, Pt. III. Act I. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Daughter." 1875: A. B. Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 48 [with "may" for "can"].

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.

16. *Who marries between the sickle and the scythe, Will never thrive*. 1678: Ray, 352. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 49 (Percy S.). 1872: J. Glyde, jr, *Norfolk Garland*, 16, *They that wive Between sickle and scythe Shall never thrive*. Cf. *Sickle* (1).

17. *Who marries does well, who marries not does better*. 1659: Howell, *Letters*, ii. 666 (Jacobs). 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 143.

18. *Who marrieth for love without money, hath merry nights and sorry days*. 1666: *Ibid.*, 10, *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*.

*Marry!* come up, my dirty cousin. 1678: Ray, 68. 1700: Ward, *London Spy*, 416 (1924). 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. II. 1847: Halliwell, *Dict.*, s.v., . . . a saying addressed to any one who affects excessive delicacy. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 94.

Marsham, Lincs. See *quots.* 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, ii. 269 (1840), *They held together as the men of Mar[s]ham when they lost their common*. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Lincs" [as in 1662]. 1818: Scott, *Heart of Midl.*, ch. xxix., [Newark man *loq.*] *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*. 1906: *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*. 1. *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—"Tween Martinmas and Yule, Water's wine in every pool."*

2. *When the ice before Martlemas bears a duck, Then look for a winter o' mure 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*.

*Mass and meat never hindered work*. 1817: Scott, *Rob Roy*, ch. xxix. 1823: Scott, *St. Ronan's*, ch. xiv. 1863: *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., iii. 258, *Mass and meat never marred work*. *Ibid.*, 439, *Mass and meat take up nobody's time*. Cf. *Meals and matins*; *Meat* (5); and *Prayers and provender*.

*Master, subs.* 1. *A master of straw eats 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* "Consiha," For he that was only taught by himself, had a fool to his master 1692 L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 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 — "Qui se sibi magistrum constituit, 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, *Paræm*, 10 1681 W Robertson, *Phrasæol Generalis*, 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 fall on the soil* 1537 R Whitford, *Werke for Housholders*, sig F5, The steppe of the husbunde [farmer] maketh a fatte donghyll 1659 Howell, 10 1666 Torriano, *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 *Archæologia*, 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 1581 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"

*Mastiff* 1 *A mastiff groweth the fiercer for being tied up* 1732 Fuller, No 320

2 *The mastiff never loveth the greyhound* 1576 Pettie, *Petite 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* 1696 D Urfe, *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 mund, 'Tis not* Ibid, No 5105

*Matter lieth a bleeding, His* 1562 Heywood, *Epigr*, No 209, Here lieth all and bleedeth 1633 Draxe, 198 [section on 'Ill success']

*Matty Tasker's jarlers, Like one o' owd 'Jarler'* = anything out of the common 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 91

*Mavern Hill* See Malvern Hill

*Maxfield measure, heap and thrutch* = very good measure 1670 Ray, 217, Macklesfield measure, heap and thrust Cheshire 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s.v. "Cheshire" 1877 E Leigh, *Cheshire Gloss*, 132 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 94, Maxfield measure, hēāp and thrutch, or, Maxfild mizzer, up-yeped and thrutched [pressed down]

*May, subs* A COLD MAY 1 *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 bad for hay* 1891 C Wordsworth, *Rutland Words*, 22 (E D S)

3 *A cold May is good for corn and hay* 1893 Inwards *Weather Lore*, 26

4 *A cold May is kind* 1882 Mrs Chamberlain, *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* Ibid, 26

7 *Cold May enriches no one* Ibid, 26

8. *For an east wind in May 'tis your duty to pray.* Ibid., 26.

B. DRY MAY. I. *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.

C. MISTY MAY. *Mist in May and heat in June, Make the harvest come right soon.* 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 47 (Percy S.). 1882: Mrs. Chamberlain, *W. Worcs. Words*, 37 (E.D.S.). 1893: Inwards, 27, [also] *A misty May and a hot June Bring cheap meal and harvest soon.*

D. WARM MAY. I. *A hot May makes a fat church-yard.* 1659: Howell, II. 1670: Ray, 42. 1825: Hone, *Ev. Day Book*, i. 669. 1869: N. & Q., 4th ser., iv. 174, *A hot May makes a fat church-hay [yard].* Cornwall. 1893: Inwards, 25.

2. *For a warm May the parsons pray.* 1893: Inwards, 25.

E. WET MAY. I. *A dropping May Fills the barns with corn and hay.* 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 162.

2. *A leaky May and a warm June, Bring on the harvest very soon.* 1878: Dyer, *Eng. Folk-Lore*, 256.

3. *A May flood never did good.* 1639: Clarke, 307. 1670: Ray, 41. 1744: Claridge, in Mills, *Essay on Weather*, 101 (1773). 1893: Inwards, 26.

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.

6. *A wet May brings plenty of hay.* 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 44 (Percy S.). *A wet May Will fill a byre full of hay.* 1889: Peacock, *Manley, etc.*, *Gloss.*, 345 (E.D.S.). *A weet May Brings plenty o' corn, An' plenty o' haay.* 1893: Inwards, 26, [as in 1846, plus] *A wet May makes a big load of hay.* West Shropshire. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 162.

7. *May damp and cool fills the barns and wine vats.* 1893: Inwards, 25.

8. *May rain kills lice.* 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 43 (Percy S.).

9. *The haddocks are good When dipped in May flood.* 1862: Chambers, *Book of Days*, i. 569 (1869). 1893: Inwards, 25.

10. *Water in May is bread all the year.* 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 135. 1878: Dyer, *Eng. Folk-Lore*, 256.

F. UNCLASSIFIED. I. *A red gay May.* See quot. 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 475, *A red gay May is best in any yeare; Februare full snow is to y<sup>e</sup> ground most deare; A whistling March (that makes the ploughman blithe); and moistie April that fits him for the sithe.*

2. *A snow-storm in May Is worth a waggon-load of hay.* 1893: Inwards, 27.

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.

6. *Blossoms in May Are not good some say.* 1893: Inwards, 25.

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. 6191, *May come early, come late, 'Twill make the cow to quake.* 1893: Inwards, 26.

8. *He who sows oats in May, Gets little that way.* 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 47 (Percy S.). 1893: Inwards, 27.

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."*

II. *In May an east-lying field is*

worth rain and oxen, in June, the oxen and the yoke 1893 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, *Shropsh 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 alluding 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 bairns die and decay 1872 J Glyde 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 saies 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, *Merch Tale*, l 449, That she, this mayden, which that May us lighte should wedded be vnto this Ianuarie 1606 Dekker, *Works*, II 71 (Grosart), You doe wrong to Time, enforcing May to embrace December c 1613 Rowlands, *Paire of Spy-Knaues*, 7 (Hunt Cl), Yonder goes cold December match'd with May 1634 Massinger, *Guardian*, I 1, I am in the May of my abilities, And you in your December 1891 R. Buchanan, *Coming Terror*, 267 (O), When asthmatic 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 Convers*, Dial I, Miss Maybe there is colonel Col Ay, but May bees don't fly now, miss

19 Maychets bad luck begets "Chets" =children in Cornwall, and, hence, kittens also 1690 Dryden, *Amphitryon*, III, Blear-ey'd, like a May kitten 1865 Hunt, *Pop Romances W of Eng* 430 (1896) 1878 Dyer, *Eng Folk-Lore*, 176 1879 Hender son, *Folk-Lore N Counties*, 115, A certain unlikeliness 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, *Vocav E Anglia*, 417 1893 *Co Folk-Lore Suffolk*, 163 (F L S)

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*, 177 (F L S)

22 Never cast a clout till May be out 1732 Fuller, No 6193 [with "Leave not off" for "Never cast"] 1886 El worthy, *West Som Word-Book*, 467 (E D S), If you would the doctor pay Leave your flannels off in May 1887 Parish and Shaw, *Dict Kent Dialect*, 99 (E D S) 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 26, Till May be out Leave not off a clout or, Change not a clout Till May be out 1906 N & Q, 10th ser., v 433, Never change a thing Till May comes in Never cast, etc Ibid, 474, 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

*Will sing a merry tune.* 1827: Hone, *Table-Book*, 315 [quoted as an "old saying . . . very prevalent in Skipton," Yorks]. 1893: Inwards, 27, [as in 1827, *plus*] They who bathe in July Will dance like a fly.

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.

28. *To wed in May is to wed poverty.* 1878: Dyer, *Eng. Folk-Lore*, 257. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 27.

29. *Twenty-ninth of May Royal-oak day (or oaken-apple day).* 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 48 (Percy S.).

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.* 1546: 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: Draxe, 1.

5. *You may if you list, but do if you dare.* 1678: Ray, 350.

Mayors. See Altringham; Calenick; East Looe; Falmouth; Halgaver; Hartlepool; Lord-Mayor; Market-Jew; Northampton; Over; Tregoney; and Wigan.

Mazed. See quots. 1895: J. Thomas, *Randigal Rhymes*, 61, Mazed as a curley [Corn.]. 1926: *Devonsh. Assoc Trans*, lvii. 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.

Meals and matins minish never. 1853: Trench, *Proverbs*, 21 (1905), Meal and matins minish no way. 1863: *N & Q.*, 3rd ser., iii. 209. Cf. Mass and meat; Meat (5); and Prayers and provender.

Mean as an higgler, As. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 18, Higgler = Huckerster or hawkster.

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: Draxe, 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, oft hath his will.* c. 1460: *How the Good Wife*, l. 55, That mesure louethe, and skille, ofte hathe his wille.

2. *Measure for measure.* 1595. *True Trag. Rich Duke of York*, 151 (Sh. S.), Measure for measure must be answered. 1603: Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure* [title]. 1834-7: Southey, *Doctor*, interch. xxi. [title].

3. *Measure is a merry mean.* c. 1380: Langland, *Dep. of Rich. II.*, 12 (Camden S.), Mesure is a meri mene. c. 1450: Russell, *Book of Nurture*, in *Babees Book*, 124 (E.E.T.S.). Before 1529: Skelton, *Magnyfycence*, l. 385. 1590: Greene, *Works*, ix. 209 (Grosart). 1670: Ray, 17.

4. *Measure is medicine.* 1362: Langland, *Plowman*, A, i. 33.

5. *Measure is treasure.* c. 1225: *Ancren R.*, 336 (Morton), The middel weie of mesure is euer guldene [golden]. c. 1420: Lydgate, *Minor Poems*, 82 (Percy S.), An olde proverbe—"mesour is tresoure." Before 1529: Skelton,

*Magnyfycence*, l 126 1639 Clarke  
206 1732 Fuller, No 6321

6 *There is a measure in all things*  
[c 1450 *Abce of Aristotill*, in E E T S,  
Ext Ser, 67 (1869), For a mesurable  
mene is best for vs alle] 1633 Drave,  
129

Measure, verb 1 *He measures a*  
*twig* 1813 Ray, 75

2 *He that measures not himself is mea-*  
*sured* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

3 *Measure thrice and cut once* 1591  
Florio *Second Frutes*, 97, Alwaies  
measure manie Before you cut anie  
1623 *Wodroephe Spared Houres*, 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* 1589 *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,  
*Pictura Loquentes*, sig F1, Her corne  
stands not long for the sellers sake, and  
she crosses the proverbe, for shee  
measures it out by anothers 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 Dia-*  
*lect*, 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, subs 1 *A man is not sure of*  
*his meat till it is in his mouth* 1684  
*Great Frost*, 14 (Percy S) [cited as an  
old proverb]

2 *If twasn't for meat and good drink*  
*the women might gnaw the sheets* 1698  
*Terence made English*, 96 (2nd ed)  
[quoted as the old saying]

3 *Look not on the meat but on the*  
*man* 1533 Heywood, *Play of Lore*,

l 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*, E1 (O)  
It ys meate and drinke to this childe  
to plaie 1573 G Harvey, *Letter-Book*,  
51 (Camden S), Whitch were sutch  
matter as would be meat and  
drink to M Proctor 1642 Fuller, *Pro*  
*fane State* "Hypocrite," Even fasting  
itself is meat and drink to him, whilst  
others behold it 1681 Robertson  
*Phraseol 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 Cf  
Mass and meat, Meals and mauns,  
and Prayers and provender

6 *Meat is much but manners is more*  
1639 Clarke, 93 1685 Meriton,  
*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, *Coriolanus*, I 1

9 *One man's meat is another man's*  
*poison* [Tantague in his rebus dis-  
tantia, differitasque est, Ut quod aliis  
cibus est, aliis fuit acre venenum—  
Lucretius, iv 638] 1546 Heywood  
*Proverbs*, Pt II ch ii, That one loueth  
not, an other doth 1630 Taylor (Water  
Poet), *W orks* 2nd pagin 254, And one  
mans meat, anothers poyson is 1709  
O Dykes, *Eng Proverbs*, iv (2nd ed.)



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 pago.—Plautus, *Rud.*, 425.] 1598: Shakespeare, *2 Henry IV.*, II. iv., I am meat for your master. 1616: Houghton, *Englishm 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, *Polite 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 practizes, that carrie 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.* 1. *He that will meddle with all things may go 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 shoo the ghos. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. iii., Who medleth in all thyng 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. 1730: Lillo, *Silvia*, III. v., They are ticklish things, and I don't much care to meddle or make with 'em. 1849: Brontë, *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 shoves. 1639: Clarke, 18, Meddle with what you have to doe. 1670: Ray, 186. 1681: Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 877, Meddle with your old shoes; Tuâ 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. 1669: *Politeuphuia*, 175.

Medlars are never good till rotten. 1599: J. Weever, *Epiqr.*, 19 (1911), Medlars are neuer ripe before that they be rotten. 1674: Head and Kirkman, *Eng. Rogue*, 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.), þe schrewe fond his macche þo. c. 1400: *Beryn*, 4 (E.E.T.S.), Lo! howe þe 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. Farnall, 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).

Meg of Westminster, As long as. 1582: *The Life and Pranks of Long Meg of Westminster* [title] 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, ii. 413 (1840). 1785: Grose, *Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue*, s.v. "Long Meg," A jeering name for a

very tall woman, from one famous in story, called Long Meg of Westminster.

Melancholy as a cat, As 1592 Lyly, *Midas*, V ii 1597 Shakespeare, 1 *Henry IV*, I ii, I am as melancholy as a gib cat 1599 Chapman *Hum Day's Mirth*, sc xi 1609 in Halliwell, *Books of Characters*, 115 (1857) 1694 D'Urfey, *Quirote* Pt II Act I sc 1, Yonder he lies, and as melancholy as a cat in a church-steeple, expecting my return 1720 Gay, *Poems*, ii 278, (Underhill), I melancholy as a cat, Am kept awake to weep 1785 Grose *Class Dict Vulgar Tongue*, s v 'Gib cat.' As melancholy as a gib cat as melancholy as a he-cat who has been catterwauling whence 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, 10

Melancholy as a sick monkey, As 1836 Marryat, *Easy*, ch xxi

Melancholy as a sick parrot, As 1682 A Behn, *False Count*, I ii

Melverley, Shropsh 1841 Harts-horne, *Salopian Ant*, 504, Its remoteness, perhaps, and the frequency of inundations to which it is subject, has occasioned the place to pass into a bye word, and its inhabitants to be called Melverly God helps [Also, after good crops] Melverly 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 irruptions of the Severn, and is therefore a place where ills and misfortunes 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 threasure of the minde 1642 Fuller, *Holy State* "Memory," Memory is the treasure-house of the mind

Memory of happiness makes misery woeful, The c 1440 Lydgate, *Fall of Princes*, bk 1 l 650, Nor nothing more may hertis disauaunce Than off old iore newe remembraunce 1669 *Politeuphuia*, 102, The consideration of pleasures past greatly augments the pain present 1732 Tuller, No 4650

Men See Man

Mend, verb 1 He may mend but not grow worse 1633 Draxe, 43 Some doe mend, when they cannot appeare 1659 Howell, 7

2 If you mend things on your back, you m sure to lack, i e to want 1919 *Devonsh Assoc Trans*, li 77

3 Let him mend his manners, 'twill be his own another day 1678 Ray, 76

4 Mend one See Every man mend one

5 Mend your clothes and you may hold out this year 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1854 J W Warter, *Last of Old Squires*, 53

6 To mend as sour ale mends in summer = To become worse 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs* Pt II ch ix. Than wolde ye mend as sowre ale mendth in summer 1564 Bullun, *Dialogue*, 77 (EETS) The worlde amendes like sower ale in sommer 1647 Wither, *Amygdala Brit*, 6 (Spens S), And, like sowre ale in summer, mend 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial III 1823 Moor, *Suffolk Words*, 377, "A mend like sour ale in summer"—that is, gets worse and worse

7 To mend as the fletcher does his bolt 1530 Palsgrave, 634, He mendeth as the fletcher dothe his bolte 1633 Draxe 242

Merchandize See quot 1593 Nashe, *Works*, iv 139 (Grosart), It is nowe growne a prouerbe That there is no merchandize but usury

Merchant 1 A merchant of ed skins = of refuse, or of nothing 1545 Ascham *Toroph*, 151 (Arber) He that wyll at all aduentures vse the seas knowinge no more what is to be done in a tempest than in a caulme, shall soone becomene a marchaunt of eele skinnes 1624 T Heywood, *Captives*,

IV. i., *Fisher*. . . who knowes but I  
In tyme may proove a noble marchant?  
*Clowne*. Yes, of eele skinnes. 1655.  
A. Brewer, *Love-sick King*, II, in Bang,  
*Materialien*, B. 18, p. 13, Then am I a  
merchant, not of eels-skins, but lamb-  
skins.

2. *A merchant that gains not loses*  
1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Gaigner," The  
marchant loses when he gaines not.  
1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*

3. *A merchant without either money*  
*or ware*. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*,  
Pt. II. ch. v. 1659: Howell, 7.

4. *He is not a merchant bare that hath*  
*money-worth or ware*. 1670: Ray, 17  
1732. 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.

7. *Merchant May's little summer*.  
= St. Martin's little summer. Corn.  
1869: Hazlitt, 280.

8. *To play the merchant* = To rob or  
cheat. 1593: Nashe, *Works*, iv. 240  
(Grosart), Is it not a common prouerbe  
amongst vs when any man hath cosend  
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 prouerbe among the people,  
Be thou sicke 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 mery  
and wise, they thinke and feelee. 1593:  
G. Harvey, *Works*, ii. 247 (Grosart), It is

good, they say, to be merry, and wise.  
1668: Davenant, *Man's the Master*,  
Prol., The proverb says, "Be merry  
and be wise." 1774: Colman, *Man of*  
*Business*, I. 1779: Johnson, in *Letters*,  
ii. 114 (Hill), Old Times have be-  
queathed us a precept, *to be merry 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: Shake-  
speare, 1 *Henry IV.*, II. iv. 1653:  
Urquhart, *Rabelais*, bk. i. ch. xxix.,  
And send them home as merry as  
crickets unto their own houses. 1787:  
O'Keefie, *The Farmer*, I. ii. 1834:  
Marryat, *Peter Simple*, ch. i. 1918:  
Walpole, *Green Mirror*, bk. i. ch. i.,  
Healthy, happy, . . . lively as crickets  
—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: Jon-  
son, 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 as merry as a Greek.

Merry as a grig. 1566: Drant,  
*Horace: Sat.*, I. iii., A merry grigge, a  
iocande frende. 1675: Cotton, *Burl. 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,  
*Shipm. Tale*, l. 209, And forth she gooth,

as iolif as a pye 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch iii 1590 *Tarltons Newes out of Purg* 68 (Sh S), Home went Lysetta, as merry as a pye 1600 Dekker, *Shoem Holiday*, V v. He be as merrie as a pie 1613 S Rowley, *When You See Me*, sig C3, Hele lafe and be as merry as a mag-pie c 1630 B & F, *Mons Thomas*, IV u, 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, *Drapier*, Lett IV, We should live together as merry and sociable as beggars

Merry as he that hath nought to lose, Who so? 1672 Walker, *Paræm*, 39

Merry as mice in malt 1639 Clarke, 185 1659 Howell, 3 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch xvi, Some families are as merry as mice in malt on very small wages

Merry as the maids c 1630 in *Roxb Ballads*, 1 448 (BS), For with joviall blades I'm as mery as the maids 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 tinkers 1659 Howell, 3

Merry at meat, It is good to be 1633 Draxe, 66 1670 Ray, 18

Merry be the first, and merry be the last, and merry be the first of August 1869 Hazlitt, 280

Merry but unlooked-for guest See quot 1819 Combe, *Syntax Consol Tour*, can xxix, 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 Moone*, IV, A merry companion is as good as a wagon 1616 Breton, in *Works*, II e 8 (Grosart), A merry companion is a wagon in the way 1666 Tormano, *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 drawght off mery-go-downe 1567 Golding, *Ovid*, bk v l 556, Out she brought hir by and by a draught of merrie go downe 1591 Lodge, *Cattaros*, 21 (Hunt Cl) c 1791 Pegge, *Derbicisms*, 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 Alisaunder*, l 1163 Swithe mury hit is in halle, When the burdes wawen 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*, 1 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 E T S), Lengor lueth a glad mon then a sori c 1550 Udall, *Roister Doister*, I 1, As long liveth the merry man (they say), As doth the sorry man and longer by a day 1599 Porter, *Two Angry Women*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, vii 308 1630 *Tinker of Turney-p* iv (Halliwell), Lives not a merry man longer than a sad? 1732 Fuller, No 711 ["heart" for "man"] 1861 Pea, cock, *Gryll Grange*, ch xxxii [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 1 l 1293, And May was come, the monyth of gladnes] 1577 J Grange, *Golden Aphroditis*, sig K4, It might be the merry moneth of May 1594 Barnfield, *Affect Sheph* 41 (Percy S) c 1610 in *Roxb Ballads* iii 42 (BS) c 1680 in *Ibid*, in 434 (BS) 1700 Dryden, *Pal and Arcite*, II 44,

Observance to the month of merry May. 1889: Gilbert, *Gondoliers*, I., All the year is merry May!

Merry nights make sorry days. Staffs. 1896: *Folk-Lore*, vii. 377.

Merry pin, On. c. 1386: Chaucer, *Merch. Tale*, l. 272, Your herte hangeth on a ioly pin. c. 1480: *Digby Plays*, 156 (E.E.T.S.), I wyll no more row a-geyn the flode, I wyll sett my soule on a mery 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: *Gent. 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 sedateness and 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*, l. 392, Al be not merye which that men seen daunce. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Aise," Every one is not merry that dances. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, All are not merry that dance lightly.

Merry to keep one's own, It is. c. 1460: *How the Good Wife*, l. 60, Mery is owne thinge 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 soe—as the proverbe is, tis merry when gentle folkes meete.

Merry when gossips meet, It is. 1616: Breton, in *Works*, ii c 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 mery it is whan knaues done mete. 1590: *Three Lords and Three Ladies*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, vi. 410. 1639: Clarke, 290.

Merry when maltmen meet, It is. c. 1630: in *Roxb. Ballads*, i. 59 (B.S.), 'Tis merry when kinde maltmen meet. 1631: Brathwait, *Whimzies*, 145 (1859).

Mersey. See Yoke.

Mettle is dangerous in a blind horse. 1670: Ray, 18, Metal is, etc. 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, steel to the very back. 1733: 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 moon.* 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 moon. 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].

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 "

1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 29

Midsummer moon See quotes 1596

Nashe *Works* iii 55 (Grosart), Ere hee bee come to the full Midsummer Moone and raging Calentura of his wretchednes 1601 Shakespeare, *Twelfth N*, III iv Why, this is very midsummer madness 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

1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 7

Midsummer See also St John

Might is (or overcometh) right [Plus potest, qui plus valet — Plautus, *Trucul*, IV iii 30] c 1311 in Wright, *Pol Songs John to Edw II*, 254 (Camden S) For might is riht 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch v, Might overcomth right 1591 Greene, *Works*, x 60 (Grosart), Might overcomes right 1638 D Tuwll, *Vade Mecum*, 182 (3rd ed) It is an old country proverbe, that Might overcomes 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 thrice-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, *Rich 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 Where be your tooles? Nic Within a mile of an oake, sir 1678 A Behn, *Sir Patient Fancy*, III 1, Sir Credulous, where's your mistress? *Sir Cred* Within a mile of an oak, dear madam, I'll warrant you 1696 D Urfe, *Quivrote*, Pt III Act V sc 1, Your worship can tell within a mile of an oak where he is 1738 Swift *Polite Convers*, Dial I

Milk, 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 lieth not in the dike, But all men know it good meate Inke is all blacke And hath an ill smacke No man will it drink nor eat 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch iv

4 Milk says to wine, "Welcome friend" 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

5 My milk See quot 1639 in Berkeley MSS, iii 31 (1885), My milke is in the cowes horne, now the zunne is 'ryv'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 quotes Before 1225 Ancren R, 88, Vrom mulne and from cheping, from smiße and from ancre huse, me tidinge bringeß 1611 Cotgrave, s v 'Moulin,' An oven and mill are nurseries of news 1659 Howell *Proverbs Fr-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 miller his hearing lack 1631 Mabbe, *Celestina*, 244 (TT), To what use serves the clapper in the mil, if the miller be deafe? 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1670 Ray, 121 1732 Fuller, No 6388

5 Mills and wives ever want 1586 Pettie, tr Guazzo's *Civil Convers*, fo 137, Wherevpon it is said that mils and

women euer want something. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 18.

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. lxxi., 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 (1870), 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

Miller. 1. *A miller is never dry*= never waits to be thirsty before drinking. 1894: Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 6 (E.D.S.).

2. *An honest miller hath a golden thumb*—with some variations. c 1386: Chaucer, *Prolog.*, l. 563, [The Miller] Wel koude he stelen corn and tollen thries, And yet he hadde a thombe of gold, pardee. c. 1520: *Cock Lorells Bote*, 3 (Percy S.), A myller dusty poll than dyde corne, A Ioly felowe with a golden thome. 1526: *Hund. Mery Tales*, No. xii. p. 22 (Oesterley), I haue hard say that euery trew mylner that tollythe trewlye hath a gyldeyn thombe. 1612: in *Pepysian Garland*, 32 (Rollins), The miller with his golden thumbe . . . he needs must steale a pecke. 1732: Fuller, No. 2531, Honest millers have golden thumbs. 1846: Jerrold, *Chron. of Clovernook*, 94, The miller—the prosperous fellow with the golden thumb.

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. xxxvii., "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.

6. *Like a miller's mare* = clumsily. 1606: *Choice Chance and Change*, 68 (Grosart), Can seeme as sober as a millers mare. c. 1620: B. & F., *Little Fr Lawyer*, IV. v., Nurse. . . I can jump yet or tread a measure. *Lam.* Like a miller's mare. 1663: Killigrew, *Parson's Wedding*, II. vi., I'll make him jostle like the miller's mare, and stand like the dun cow, till thou may'st milk him.

7. *Like the miller's filler.* See quot 1869: Hazlitt, 199, He's always behind hand, like the miller's filler. *Northampt.*

8. *Many a miller many a thief.* 1673: *Vinegar and Mustard*, 19, in Hindley, *Old Book-Coll. Miscell.*, iii.

9. *No bigger than a miller's thumb.* 1675: Cotton, *Burl. upon Burlesque*, 163 (1765). 1847: Halliwell, *Dict.*, s.v. "Miller's thumb," . . . a common simile.

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).

12. *The miller sees not all the water that goes by his mill.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. v., Muche water goeth by the myll That the miller knowth not of. 1583: Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig. Ee3, Muche water passeth besides the mill that the milner seeth not. 1616: *Rich Cabinet*, fo. 31 [as in 1546]. 1670: Ray, 121 [as in 1546]. 1825: Scott, *Betrothed*, ch. xxvii., Much water slides past the mill that Hob Miller never wots of.

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, *Dict Kent Dialect*, 101 (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 Dict*, 23, to overdo the water in a mixture

15 *Ye braide of the millers dogg, Ye lick your mouth or the poke be open* 1683 Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697)

See also *Drown the miller*

Mill-post to a pudding-prick, He hath thwitten [whittled] a 1528 More, in *Works*, p 236, col 2 (1557), Thys processe came to a wise purpose, here was a gret post wel thuyted to a pudding pricke 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Arbre," Wee say of one that hath squandered away great wealth hee hath, etc 1660 Howell, *Parly of Beasts*, 59 She will bring her poor husband quickly to thwitten 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, *Psalmes*, etc, My minde to me a kingdome is Such perfect joy therein I finde c 1598 Jonson *Case is Altered*, I 1 1618 Breton, in *Works*, II 119 (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 Meery Riddles*, Prov II

Mischief 1 *He that mischief hatch eth, mischief catcheth* 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 324 (1870) 1732 Fuller, No 6348

2 *Mischief comes by the pound and goes away by the ounce* 1578 Florio *First Frutes*, fo 29 The vii commeth by poundes and goeth away by ounces 1670 Ray, 121 [in the plural] 1732 Fuller, No 3417

3 *Mischief has swift wings* 1609 J Melton *Six-fold Politician*, 13, Mischiefe is well saide to haue swift winges

4 *Mischief is ever too bold* c 1604 in *Ballads from MSS*, II 47 (B S) [quoted as a familiar saying]

5 *There is no mischief done* See quotes 1577 *Misogonus*, II v, Thers no mischiefe, as they say commenly, but a preist at one end 1658 *Hil Restor'd*, 150, There is no mischiefe, 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 quot 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Despendre," That which the wretch [miser] doth spare the waster spends

Miserly father has a thriftless son, A 1612 W Parkes, *Curtaine-Drauer of the World*, 30 (Grosart) Confirme the proverbe, that it currant runne, A miser father finds a thriftlesse sonne

Misery acquaints a man with strange bed-fellows 1611 Shakespeare *Tempest*, II II 1837 Lockhart, *Life of Scott*, I 411, Literature, like misery, makes men acquainted with strange bed-fellows Cf *Poverty*

Misery enough to have once been happy, It is 1639 Clarke 166

Misery may be the mother when one beggar begs of another 1546



Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. x. 1633: Draxe, 14.

Misfortunes come on wings and depart on foot. 1855: Bohn, 452.

Misfortunes never come singly. c. 1300: *King Alisaunder*, l. 1281, Men tellen, in oldē mone [remembrance], The qued commth nowher alone. c. 1490: *Partonope*, l. 5542 (E.E.T.S.), For efter won euylle comythe mony mo. 1509: Barclay, *Ship of Fools*, ii. 251 (1874), For wyse men sayth . . . That one myshap fortuneth neuer alone. c. 1580: Spelman, *Dialogue*, 3 (Roxb. Cl.), A man cannot have one losse, but more will ffolowe. 1602: Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, IV. v., When sorrows come, they come not single spies, But in battalions. 1694: *Terence made English*, 30, My misfortunes come one upo' th' neck of another. 1711: Addison, *Spectator*, No. 7. 1743: Fielding, *Jon. Wild*, bk. i. ch. viii., One misfortune never comes alone. 1826: Lamb, *Pop. Fallacies*, xiii., Misfortunes seldom come alone. 1841: Dickens, *Barn. Rudge*, ch. xxxii. 1914: Lucas, *Landmarks*, 262.

Misfortunes tell us what fortune is. 1732: Fuller, No. 3420.

Misfortunes, when asleep, are not to be awakened. *Ibid*, No. 3422.

Misreckoning 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: Palsgrave, 638, If I mysse nat my marke, he is a busy felowe. 1639: Clarke, 1, To misse of his marke. 1690: *New Dict. Canting Crew*, sig. B1, 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 whan he weneth to syt, Yet may he mysse 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), Euery one yeelded 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, *Hartland Dialect*, 20 (E.D.S.), Mist vrom the say Bring'th vore a dry day; Mist vrom the 'ills, 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.

2. *The mistress of the mill May say and do what she will*. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., v. 208.

3. *The mistress's eye feeds the capon*. 1616: Breton, in *Works*, ii. e 8 (Grosart), The mistris 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*, 80, 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., iii. 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 brains,  
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, 163, It rains it pains it patters i' th' docks, Mobberley wenches are washin 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 i' th morning

5 *You may know a Mobberley man by his breeches* Ibid, 158

Mock no panyer-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, 186 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 (Brandl Quellen, 177), For who so that mocketh shall surely stur This olde prouerbe mockum moccabatur 1710 S Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 319 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I 1880 Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures* 15, The old saying is "Hanging's stretching, and mocking's catching"

Modest words See quot c 1645 MS Proverbs, in N & Q, vol cliv, 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 quotes 1883 Burne *Shropsh Folk Lore* 267 A mole on the neck You shall have money by

the peck 1923 *Folk-Lore*, xxxiv 156, Mole on the neck, trouble by the peck (Gloucester)

2 *Five 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

Molehill See Mountain (3)

Monday 1 *A stranger on Monday means a stranger all the week* Suffolk 1924 *Folk-Lore*, xxxv 358

2 *Monday sit never sit* 1641 Best, *Farming Book*, 135 (Surtees S), As for Monday they account it ominous, for they say, Munday flitte, Neaver sitte Cf 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 Munday was called Sundayes fellow 1637 in *Pepysian 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 agen 1890 J D Robertson, *Gloucester 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 quotes 1835 Mrs Bray, *Trad of Devon*, 11 288, 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 living, And a child that's born on

Christmas Day Is fair and wise, good and gay. 1877: *N. & Q.*, 5th ser., vii. 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, worthily 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.* [Omniis enim res, virtus, fama, decus, divina humanaque pulchris divitiis 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. 1692: 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, 13. 1763: Murphy, *Citizen*, I. ii.

4. *He that hath no money needeth no purse.* 1633: Draxe, 138. 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: Draxe, 24, When wee want mony, we want all. 1772: Cumberland, *Fash. Lover*, II. i., In England, he that wants money wants everything.

6. *He would get money in a desert.* 1813: Ray, 196.

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, *Essayes*, Pt. II. sig. P4 (1610), Like an vnthrifts money that burnes 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 wouldst keep money, save money; If thou wouldst 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: Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 101 [as in 1640].

13. *Money answers all things.* 1667: L'Estrange, *Quevedo's Visions*, 38 (1904). 1700: Ward, *London Spy*, 400 (1924).

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.

15 *Money governs the world* 1754  
Berthelson *Eng-Danish Dict*, s v  
"Money"

16 *Money has no smell* 1922 A  
Bennett, *Prohack*, ch iii (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  
neuer cometh out of season 1639  
Clarke, 220 [as in 1633] 1732 Fuller,  
No 3435

18 *Money is a good servant but a bad  
master* 1855 Bohn, 453

19 *Money is a great traveller in the  
world* 1616 Breton, in *Works* ii c 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* Glos 1639 in  
*Berkeley MSS*, iii 27 (1885)

22 *Money is oft lost for want of money*  
1633 Draxe, 69

23 *Money is round* See quotes  
1619 *Helpe to Discourse*, 120 (1640),  
Why is the forme of money round?  
Because it is to runne from every man  
1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 64,  
Moneys are round, and that makes  
them rowl away 1869 Spurgeon,  
*John Ploughman*, ch vii, 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 snew 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 ii  
No xxv 1670 Ray, 18 1723  
Defoe, *Col Jack* ch ii, 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*

till it's spread 1625 Bacon, *Essays*  
"Seditions, etc," Money is like muck,  
not good except it be spread 1659  
Howell, 19, Riches like muck which  
stinks in a heap, but spread abroad,  
maketh the earth fruitful 1670 Ray,  
22 [as in 1659] 1732 Fuller, No  
3444

29 *Money makes friends enemies*  
1616 Breton, *Crossing of Proverbs*, 6  
(Grosart) 1732 Fuller, No 3446  
Money makes not so many true friends  
as real enemies

30 *Money makes marriage* Ibid,  
No 3445

31 *Money makes mastery* 1602  
*Liberality and Prodig*, I v 1686  
*Loyal Garland*, 42 (Percy S), This  
masters money, though money master,  
all things Cf No 1

32 *Money makes the man* [Cf Pindar,  
*Isth Ode*, ii 15] 1542 Becon, in *Early  
Works*, 222 (P S) 1564 Bullein, *Dis-  
logue*, 102 (E E T S), That will make  
readie money, and money maketh a  
man c 1630 in *Pepysian Garland*,  
362 (Rollins), They say tis money makes  
a man 1681 Robertson, *Phrascol  
Generalis*, 892 1840 Lytton, *Money*,  
II i 1926 *Evening Standard*, 11 Dec,  
p 5, col 2

33 *Money makes the mare to go*  
1578 Florio, *First Frutes*, fo 30,  
Money maketh horses runne 1605  
Breton, in *Works*, ii 17 (Grosart), For  
money makes the olde mare  
trot, and the young tit amble 1691  
*Merry Drollery*, 117 (Ebsworth), The  
money makes the mare to go  
c 1760 Foote, *Author*, I 1857  
Kingsley, *Two Years Ago*, Introd, I m  
making the mare go here without  
the money too sometimes

34 *Money makes the merchant* 1468  
*Coventry Mys*, 268 (Sh S), In old  
termys I have herd seyde, That mony  
makyth schapman

35 *Money makes the old wife trot*  
1691 *Merry Drollery*, 117 (Ebsworth)  
1700 Ward, *London Spy*, 400 (1924)  
1732 Fuller, No 3433

36 *Money paid and arms broken*  
1620 Shelton, *Quivrote*, Pt II ch lxxi  
It shall never be said of me, Money

well paid, and the arms broken." 1631: Mabbe, *Celestina*, 67 (T.T.), How softly she goes! How one leg comes drawling after another! Now she has her money, her armes are broken. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 257, A servant paid, his arm broke.

37. *Money refused loseth its brightness.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

38. *Money talks.* 1586: Pettie, tr. Guazzo's *Civil Convers.*, fo. 88, It is sayd that . . . the tongue hath no force when golde speaketh. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 179, Man prates, but gold speaks 1915: P. G. Wodehouse, *Something Fresh*, ch. iii. (vi.), The whole story took on a different complexion for Joan. Money talks. 1925: A. Palmer, in *Sphere*, 19 Dec., p. 364, col. 3, "Money talks," I reminded myself, "So why not listen to it?"

39. *Money will do more than my lord's letter.* 1678: Ray, 177. 1732: Fuller, No. 3447.

40. *Money will make the pot boil.* 1692: L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 305 (3rd ed.), 'Tis that [Money] which makes the pot boyl (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 briefto 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, *Phræseol. 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).

Monkey. See *Melancholy*.

Monkey on the chimney, A = A mortgage or debt on a house. 1877: *N. & Q.*, 5th ser., viii. 289, A monkey on the house. 1887: T. Darlington, *S. Cheshire Folk Speech.*, 264 (E.D.S.). 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 4.

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 Govt*, 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 Gloss*, 136, "To have a month's mind" is to have a strong inclination to do something 1913 E 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 repeating 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 Anglia*, 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 Northumberland this couplet is said and believed in A Saturday's moon and a Sunday's prime Never brought good in any man's 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, 1830, etc]

4 An old moon in a mist Is worth gold in a kist [chest] But a new moon's

mist Will never lack thirst 1878 Dyer, *Eng Folk-Lore*, 41 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 65 Cf No 23

5 Auld moon mist Ne'er died of thirst Ibid, 65

6 Have a care, etc See quot 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, *Lauzers Logike*, fo 43, When the moone is red, shee betokeneth wind 1893 Inwards 64

8 If the moon show a silver shield Be not afraid to reap your field But if she rises haloed 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, II 31 (1885) A misty morne in th' old o' th' moone doth alwaies bring a faire post-noone An hilly proverbe about Simondsall (Glouc) 1678 Ray, 48 1831 Hone, *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 *Antiq Repertory*, I 73 (1807), Some of them sitting astride 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 quot 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, *Fuchie Moneths*,

44. 1819: Henderson, *Folk-Lore N. Counties*, 96. 1885: Harley, *Moon Lore*, 185.

14. *Sunday's moon*. See quots. 1851: Sternberg, *Dialect, etc., of Northants*, 110, Thus the proverb, "Sunday's moon floods 'for 'ts out." 1893: 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.

16. *The full moon eats clouds*. Nautical. And, *The moon grows fat on clouds*. Ibid., 64.

17. *The Michaelmas moon Rises nine nights alike soon* 1878: Dyer, *Eng. Folk-Lore*, 259.

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, Co. 1 (1573) (O.), They woulde make men beleue . . . that y<sup>e</sup> moone is made of grene chese. 1542: Udall, tr. Erasmus' *Apoph.*, 193 (1877), With this pleasaunt mery toye, he . . . made his frendes beleue the moone to be made of a grene chese. 1584: R. Scot, *Witchcraft*, bk. xv. ch. v. 1658: in *Musarum Deliciae*, etc., i. 199 (Hotten), The moon is made of nothing but green cheese. 1696: *Cornish Comedy*, IV. i. 1754: Berthelsson, *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. 1893: 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. 1895: Rye, *E. Anglia Words*, 143 (E.D.S.).

23. *The new moon's mist Is better than gold in a kist* [chest]. 1879: Henderson, *Folk-Lore N. Counties*, 115

[quoted as "A Yorkshire rhyme"]. Cf. No. 7.

24. *Two full moons in a moon . . . 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.

25. *When early seen, 'Tis seldom seen* 1872: J. Glyde, jr., *Norfolk Garland*, 157. 1893: *Co. Folk-Lore: Suffolk*, 163 (F.L.S.).

26. *When round the moon there is a burr* [halo], *The weather will be cold and rough*. 1631: Brathwait, *Whimzies*, 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*. 1867: 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. 5904. 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 fooster, like Mooney's goose

Moonshine in a can. 1639: Clarke, 154, The moone shine i' th' water-pot.

1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, "Moonshine in a can," to be run about 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 1468 *Paston Letters*, ii 326 (O), If Sir Thomas Howys were made byleve and put in hope of the moonshone in the water and I wot nat what 1530 Palsgrave 865 For moonshyne in the water, *pour une chose de riens* 1565 Shacklock *Hatch of Heresies*, quoted in *N & Q*, 2nd ser., v 411 1592 Shakespeare, *L L L*, V ii 1659 Howell, 15, He waits for moonshine in the water 1817 Scott *Rob Roy*, 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-maids

Mope-eyed by living so long a maid, You are 1678 Ray, 346

More acquaintance the more danger, The 1732 Fuller, No 4656

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 Frutes*, 53, You are not so bold as welcome 1633 Draxe, 17, He is more bolde than wise 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers* Dial I, You are more bold than welcome

More brass than pash=More money than brains 1877 E Leigh, *Cheshire Gloss*, 152 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 160

More clout than dinner=More show than substance 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, i 78 Cf More poke

More cost more worship 1591 Harington, *Orl Furioso*, Adv to Reader, At least (by the old proverbe) the more cost, the more worship 1615 Markham, *Eng House-wife*, 163

(1675), According to the old proverb (*Most cost, most worship*) 1670 Ray, 73 1821 Scott, *Pirate*, ch xi, The mair cost the mair honour

More cost than worship 1732 Fuller, No 3451 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial III, She was as fine as fi'pence, but, truly, I thought there was more cost than worship 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, i 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, The c 1534 Berners, *Huon*, 56 (E E T S) Where as lyeth grete paretles [perils] there heth 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 1710 S Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 85 1772 Garnick, *Irish Widow*, I iii

More die by food than famine 1588 Cogan, *Haven of Health*, 219 (1612). The Greeke poet Theognis most truly hath written, that surfeit hath destroyed mo than famin 1732 Fuller, No 3453 Cf Gluttony

More faults than hairs, and more wealth than faults, He hath Ibid., No 1892

More folks are wed than keep good houses 1685 Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale* 67

More fool than fiddler 1678 Ray, 245

More frightened than hurt—originally, More afraid 1530 Palsgrave, 558, He was sorer frayed than hurt 1579 Lyly, *Euphues*, 189 (Arber), Certainly thou art more afraide then hurte 1628 J Clavell, *Recantation*, 12, Thus more afraid than hurt you often are Before 1704 T Brown, *Works*, i 74 (1760), Thou art more afraid than hurt 1768 Sterne, *Sent Journey*, 34 (1794), All of us being ten times more frighten'd than hurt by the very



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 commonly (accordyng to our Englishe prouerbe) worst spede 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 Rediv.*, 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 Prudentum* 1875: Cheales, *Proverb. 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 knaue 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. "Escheour," 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.*, xlix. 68, The greater the rogue, the better the luck.

More knave, the worse company, The. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi.

More know Tom Fool than Tom Fool knows. 1723: Defoe, *Col. Jack*, ch. xvii. [quoted as "the old English

proverb"]. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Jack" [with "jack-pudding" for "Tom Fool"]. 1830: Forby, *Vocab. E. Anglia*, 431. 1922: A. B. Walkley, in *Times*, 15 Nov., p. 10, col. 2

More laws, the more offenders, The. 1732: Fuller, No. 4663.

More light a torch gives, the less while it lasts, The. 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 maydenhode that no man desireth.] 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi., [If] 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 malice than matter. Somerset. 1678: Ray, 352. 1732: Fuller, No. 3458.

More men threatened than struck, There are. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 26. 1732: Fuller, No. 4860.

More mischief, the better sport, The. 1750: Smollett, *Gal Blas*, i. 136. 1816: Scott, *Black Dwarf*, ch. xii.

More nice than wise. 1581: B. Rich, *Farewell*, 139 (Sh. S.), I warrant you, thei can make it more nice than wise. 1599: Buttes, *Dyets Dry Dinner*, Epist. Ded. 1670: Ray, 187. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Nice."

More noble that deserves than he that confers benefits, He is. 1732: Fuller, No. 1925.

More noble, the more humble, The. 1633: Draxe, 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 pigs and less parsons. Derby. 1889: *Folk-Lore Journal*, vii. 293.

More places than the parish church, There are. 1579: Gosson, *School of Abuse*, 37 (Arber), There are more houses then parishe churches. 1725:

Defoe, *Everybody's Business* 1760  
Colman, *Polly Honeycombe* sc 1v  
1864 ' Cornish 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 i 1661 in *Hart Miscell*, ii 503  
(1744), Come, sirs more sacks unto the  
mill, More taxes, more free-quarter  
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 the mill 1748  
Richardson, *Clarissa*, vii 310 (1785)  
1913 E M Wright, *Rustic Speech*,  
*etc*, 60 More sacks to the mill is a  
game played in Oxfordshire and Berk-  
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 C7 1690  
*New Dict Canting Crew*, sig K8  
1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial II

More spends the niggard than the  
liberal 1557 North, *Diall of Princes*  
fo 199 recto So sayth the common  
prouerbe y: the niggard spendeth  
asmuch as the liberall 1639 Clarke,  
39 1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 17,  
A covetous man out-spends a liberal  
man Cf No feast to a miser's

More squeak than wool 1740 North,  
*Lines of Norths*, i 220 (Bohn), And for  
matter of title, he thought there was  
more squeak than wool Cf Much cry

More stars than a pair c 1380  
Chaucer, *Parl of Foules*, l 595, There  
been mo sterres god wot, than a paire!

More store more stink S W Wilts  
1901 *Folk-Lore*, xii 82

More talk than trouble, There is  
1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

More than enough is too much  
1629 *Book of Meery 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 smo  
tooth comb con fot eawt (Lancashire)

More than we use is more than we  
want 1732 Fuller, No 3462

More the merrier, The, the fewer  
the better fare (a) *The full saying*  
1530 Palsgrave, 885, The mo the  
meryer, the fewer, the better fare  
1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch  
vii 1681 Robertson, *Phrasel General*  
*alis*, 598 ['cheer' for "fare"]  
1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial II  
['cheer'] 1769 Colman, *Man and  
Wife*, II ["cheer"] 1855 Kingsley,  
*West Hol*, ch v 1863 King-ley,  
*Water Babies*, ch vi 1917 Bridge  
*Cheshire Proverbs*, 95, More and merrier  
less and better fare, like Meg o' Wood's  
merry meal (b) *The first part only* 1553  
*Respublica*, III v, Come nere, on  
Goddess halfe, the mo knaves the merrier  
c 1570 *Marr of Wit and Science*, III ii,  
The more company the merrier 1629  
Ford, *Lover's Melancholy*, II ii 1696  
Vanbrugh, *Relapse*, IV 1727 Van  
brugh and Cibber, *Prov Husband*, II  
1772 Garrick, *Irish Widow*, I iii, The  
more the merrier I say—who's afraid?  
1841 Dickens *Barn Rudge*, ch lix,  
Who's afraid? Let 'em come, I say,  
let 'em come The more, the merrier  
1918 A A Milne *Make-Believe* Prol  
in *Second Plays*, 6 (1921) (c) *The second  
part only* 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 332  
(1870) 1704 Steele, *Lying Lover*, II  
ii, 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 1864

"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. 1880: Courtney, *W. Cornwall Words*, 28 (E.D.S.) ["She" for "He" and "her" for "his"].

More trouble than worship = More trouble than it is worth. 1854: Baker, *Northants Gloss.*, s.v. "Worship." Cf. More cost.

More ways to kill a dog. See Dog (82).

More ways to the wood than one, There are. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. ix. 1579: Gosson, *Sch of Abuse*, 37 (Arber), There are . . . more wayes to the woode then one, and more causes in nature then efficients. 1608: Middleton, *Family of Love*, III. iv. 1664: Falkland, *Marriage Night*, III., Destiny has many ways to the wood. 1732: Fuller, No. 4861.

More wit the less courage, The. *Ibid.*, No. 4668.

More witty than wise. 1714: *Spec-tator*, 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, *Mctam. 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 Convers.*, fo. 142, As the prouerbe is, That by the morning it may be gathered how all the day will proue after.] 1732: Fuller, No. 115.

2. *A gaudy morning bodes a wet afternoon.* 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 50.

3. *In the morning mountains, in the evening fountains.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 13 (Percy S.), The morn to the mountain, The evening to the fountain.

4. *Morning dreams are true.* [Post mediam noctem visus quum somnia vera.—Horace, *Sat.*, I. x. 33.] 1540: Palsgrave, *Acolastus*, sig. II, After mydnyght men saye, that dreames be true. 1584: R. Scot, *Witchcraft*, bk. x. ch. vii., In the morning . . . there happen more pleasant and certain dreames. 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., *Launcs 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 (1).

Moroah Downs, Like, hard and never ploughed. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., v. 275.

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*

*Building*, 3, Those who say, That a wise-man never ought to put his finger into mortar 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial II, You are come to a sad, dirty house but we have had our hands in mortar

Mort-stone, He may remove 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, i 399 (1840) 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss* s v "Devonshire"

Morvah Downs—ploughed, not harrowed, Like Corn 1895 Jos Thomas, *Randigal Rhymes*, 61 1906 *Cornish N & Q*, 264, Like Morvah Downs, harved and never ploughed

Morvah Fair See quot 1870 Bottrell, *Traditions of W Cornwall*, 42, The old saying of 'riding three on one horse, like going to Morvah 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*, 498, The prouerbe saith, that the most wilde are in least danger to be starke madde

Mote is a beam, Every 1615 R Tofte, *Blazon of Iealousie*, 29, Hee will then quickly take occasion to be angry with her and cuery mote (as the prouerbe 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 (8)  
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 prouerbe 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 iii, Only death comes by the mother's side, and that's the surest  
See also Ask (4), and Oven (1)

Mother-in-law and daughter-in-law are a tempest and hailstorm 1855 Boln, 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 1863 Wise, *New Forest*, ch xvi

Motions are not marriages 1678 Ray, 56

Mountain 1 *A mountain and a river are good neighbours* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

2 *The mountain was in labour and produced a mouse* [Parturiunt montes nascetur ridiculus mus—Horace, *Ans Poetica*, 139] c 1390 Gower, *Conf Amantis*, bk vii, ll 3553-75 [the story of the mountain and mouse] 1579 Gosson, *Sch of Abuse*, 21 (Arber), It is a pageant woorth the sight, to beholde how he labors with mountaines to bring foorth mise 1599 Greene, *Works*, xii 7 (Grosart) Then might you thinke I had sweld with the mountaines, and brought foorth a mouce 1624 Massinger, *Bondman*, IV iii, Cleo Why do you laugh? Leost To hear the labouring mountain of your praise Deliver'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 ve heard, Which but gave birth to a mouse so absurd

3 *To make a mountain of a mole hill* [ἐκείφαρρα ἐκ μίλλας ποικίλ — Lucian, *Musc Enc*, ad fin] 1560 Becon *Catechism*, 338 (PS), 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 smal low molhills 1653 R Brome, *City Wit*, 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 xxxvii 1909 De Morgan, *Never can happen Again*, ch xxxviii

See also Man (70), 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*

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. Prudentum*.

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 mowse that is bold to breede In cattis eeris. Before 1529: Skelton, *Why Come Ye Not?*, l. 753, Yet it is a wyly mouse That can bylde his dwellinge house Within the cattles eare Withouten drede or feare. 1579: Lyly, *Euphues*, 63 (Arber) ["wily"]. 1623: Webster, *Duchess of Malfi*, IV. ii., Thou sleepest worse than if a mouse should be forc'd to take up her lodging in a cat's ear. 1732: Fuller, No. 3040 ["wilely"]. 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. Prudentum*.

12. *The mouse goes abroad where the cat is not lord.* Before 1500: in Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 132 (E.E.T.S.).

13. *The mouse that has only one hole*

*is easily taken.* c. 1386: Chaucer, *Wife of Bath's Prolog.*, l. 572, I holde a mouses herte not worth a leek, That hath but oon hole for to sterte 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 meawse 'at's nob-but gotten one hole's soon takken.

See also Better a mouse; Cat, *passim*; Dead (15); 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 (dumplings), 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, *Peeveril*, Note P, 'Cutlar Mac-Culloch.'"

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 loope-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. Prudentum*. 1732: Fuller, No. 2130 ["should" for "must"].

5. *Mouth full of mould.* See Enough one day.

6 *Mouth in the heart* See Wise (50)

7 *Whoso hath but a mouth Will ne'er 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 6057

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 1599 Shakespeare *Much Ado etc* [title] 1692 L'Estrange *Æsop*, 24 (3rd ed), [Mountain in labour fable] Moral Much ado about nothing 1748 Richardson *Clarissa*, v 12 (1785) It were better for herself that she had not made so much ado about nothing 1863 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 bruit little fruit 1639 Fuller, *Holy War*, bk 11 ch xliix 1670 Ray, 66 1732 Fuller, No 6122

Much business much pardon 1750 Franklin, in *Works* 11 208 (Bigelow), Remember in my favor the old saying, They who have much business must have much pardon

Much coin much care [Crescentum sequitur cura pecuniam—Horace, *Carm*, III xvi] 1639 Clarke 98 1647 *Countrym New Commonwealth* 22 1732 Fuller, No 3478

Much corn. 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 hyghnes shal have theroff but as hadd the man that sherid is hogge, muche crye and littill wolle 1579 Gosson, *Sch of Abuse*, 28 (Arber), Or as one said at the shearing of hogs, great cry and little wool 1663 Butler, *Hudibras*, Pt I

can 1 1 852 Thou wilt at best but suck a bull, Or shear swine, all cry and no wool 1711 *Spectator*, No 251 1827 *Scott Journal*, 24 Feb, As to the collection, it was much cry and like woo', as the deil said when he shore the sow 1871 S Butler, in H F Jones's *Life*, 1 143 (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 1922 *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 *Dues et Pauper*, fo 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"] 1669 *Politeuphonia*, 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 1800 J Trusler, *Prov in Verse*, 22

Much meddling, Of, comes no sound sleeping Glos 1639 in *Berkeley MSS*, 11 30 (1885)

Much of a muchness 1727 Van brugh and Cibber, *Prov Husband*, 1, 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 xviii, 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 muchness, I reckon when you gets inside 'um, so to spake

Much power makes many enemies 1736 Bailey, *Dict*, s v "Much"

Much smoke little fire. *Glos.* 1639: in *Berkeley MSS.*, iii. 32 (1885).

Much spending. *See* quot 1541: Coverdale, *Christ. State Matrimony*, sig. I3, Mich spendinge and many gyftes make bar[e] celars and empty thystes.

Much wit as three folks, As—two fools and a madman. *Cheshire.* 1670: Ray, 209. 1732: Fuller, No 716. 1828: 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 petentibus desunt multa.—Horace, *Carm.*, III. xvi] *c.* 1350: *Alexander*, l. 4398, Bot ay mekill wald have mare 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 32, The more a 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, Mickel wad hev maar. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 9, Mitch would ha' mooar, an' mooar would have o [all].

Muck, *subs.* = manure. 1. *Where there's muck there's money*—with variants. 1678: Ray, 179, Muck and money go together. 1865: W. White, *Eastern England*, i. 127, "The more muck the more money," is an East Anglian proverb. 1866: J. G. Nall, *Gt. Yarmouth, etc.*, 605, Where there's muck, there's money. Norfolk Proverb. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 11, Wheer ther's muck—ther's luck. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 95, Muck's the mother of money.

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, goth 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 buckson = 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.

Mulberry leaf. *See* quotes. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: New Sayings*, 3, With time and art, the mulberry leaf grow to be sattin. 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, As dummel as a. Oxfordsh. 1923: *Folk-Lore*, xxxiv. 329.

Mule. *See also* Beware; Horse (51); and One mule.

Mulfra, Cornwall. *See* quot. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., v. 275, All of a motion, like a Mulfra toad on a hot showl [shovel]. Blown about like a Mulfra toad in a gale of wind.

Mum. *See* Silence.

Mumchance. *See* quotes. 1690: *New Dict. Canting Crew*, sig. H5, He looks like Mumchance that was hang'd for saying of nothing. 1694: *Terence made English*, 150, What an unreasonable thing 'tis to make me stand like mum-chance at such a time as this. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I. [as in 1690]. 1785: Grose, *Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue*, s.v. "Mum," You sit like mumchance who was hanged for saying nothing. 1881: Mrs. Parker, *Oxfordsh. Words: Suppl.*, 90 (E.D.S.), Mumchance, to sit quietly thinking. Cf. Mumphazard.

Mumphazard. *See* quot. 1670: Ray, 209, He stands like Mumphazard, who was hang'd for saying nothing. *Cheshire.* 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 71 [as in 1670]. Cf. Mumchance.

Murder will out. Before 1300. *Cursor Mundi*, l. 1084, For-pi men sais into

pis tyde, Is no man pat murthir may  
hide c 1386 Chaucer *Prioress's Tale*,  
l 124, Mordre wol out, certein it wol  
not faille c 1400 *Beryn*, l 2203  
(E E T S) per may no man hele murdir  
pat it woll out atte last c 1440  
Lydgate, *Fall of Princes*, bk iii  
l 2741 (E E T S) Before 1529 Skel-  
ton, *Bouge of Courte*, l 524, I drede  
mordre wolde come oute 1641 Mar-  
mion, *Antiquary V* 1676 Shadwell  
*Libertine*, II 1760 Murphy, *Way to*  
*Keep Him*, V 1780 Mrs Cowley, *Belle's*  
*Strat*, I iv, Like murder—Vanity will  
out 1840 Barham, *Ing Legends*, 1st  
ser 'Hand of Glory,' ad fin

Muse as they use See Man (71)  
Muses love the morning, The 1732  
Fuller No 4681

Music as a wheel-barrow, You make  
as good Ibid, No 5938

Music helps not the toothache 1640  
Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1670 Ray,  
18 1732 Fuller, No 3493

Musician has forgot his note, When a,  
he makes as though a crumb stuck in  
his throat 1639 Clarke, 108 1670  
Ray, 123 1732 Fuller, No 6471

Musk in a dog's kennel, Look not for  
1611 Cotgrave, s v "Chien" ["civet"  
for "musk"] 1640 Herbert, *Jac Pru-*  
*dentum* 1854 J W Warter, *Last of*  
*Old Squires*, 53 1894 Northall, *Folk*  
*Phrases*, 34 (E D S), You must not  
expect perfumes in a pigsty

Must be if we brew, This 1678 Ray,  
87 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial  
III, Well, thus it must be, if we sell ale

Must fly, If you, fly well 1640  
Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Must is a king's word c 1600  
Queen Elizabeth, in Lingard, *Hist of*  
*England*, vi 310, "Must she?" ex-  
claimed she, 'is must a word to be  
used to princes?' 1738 Swift, *Polite*  
*Convers*, Dial I Must? Why, colonel,  
must's for the King

Mustard is very uncivil because it  
takes one by the nose 1634 *Strange*  
*Melam of Man*, sig D8, Hee [mustard]  
is very snappish, for if you meddle with  
him, he will strait take you by the  
nose 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*,  
Dial II

Mustard See also After meat, Cat  
(11), Pity, Strong, and Tewkesbury  
Muston, Kent See quot 1576  
Lambarde, *Peramb of Kent*, 224 (1826)  
The common rythme of the countrie

He that will not live long, Let  
him 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 [καὶ πολλοὶ ἀφωρότεροι ἱσσοῖς  
τῶν ἰχθύων —Lucian, *The Dream, or The*  
*Cock*] c 1450 Burgh (and Lydgate),  
*Secrees*, st 330, p 73 (E E T S),  
Downbe as þe flysh 1620 J Melton,  
*Astrologaster*, 38, She shall be as mute as  
a fish 1693 Urquhart, *Rabelais*, bk  
iii ch xxiv, They are all of them be-  
come as dumb as so many fishes 1704  
Congreve, *Way of World*, IV ix, Thou  
art both as drunk and as mute as a fish  
1788 Wolcot, *Works*, i 477 (1795), The  
handsome bar-maids stare, as mute as  
fishes 1844 Thackeray, *Barry Lyn-*  
*don*, ch xvi 1915 Galsworthy, *But*  
*o' Love*, II ii, 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 Houres*, 514, Flesh  
of mutton is cheere of glutton 1666  
Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 42

Mutton's going, When the See quot  
1678 Ray, 350, When the shoulder of  
mutton is going 'tis good to take a  
slice 1732 Fuller, No 5598 [omitting  
"shoulder of"]

Mutton See also Sheep

Muxy See quotes 1633 Draxe, 54,  
He is gotten out of the myre and is  
fallen into the ruer 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 Escorial  
1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

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)



## N

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 lies 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. 19.] c. 1520: Stanbridge, *Vulgaria*, sig. B5, Thou hyttest the nayle on the head. c. 1580: Spelman, *Dialogue*, 115 (Roxb. Cl.), How saye you . . . to this discourse of this husbondman, I thinke he hath hitte the nayle 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 downe vpon the naile. 1692: L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 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 Munday, to be fortunat in his loue. 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*, III. 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 Epi.*, bk. v. ch. xxiii., 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 *Connoisseur*, 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 linger 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* (E D S) 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 sweet-heart, 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 (E D S) [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*, ii 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, l 4027. And ay is naked a nedill as natour tham schapis 1377 Langland, *Ploeman*, B, xii 162, Bothe naked as a nedle 1485 Malory *Morte d Arthur*, bk xi ch 1, She was naked as a nedel 1858 P J Bailey, *The Age*, 75, Nude as a needle

Naked as a robin 1883 Burne, *Shropsh Folk-Lore*, 595

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, l 454, For naked as a worm was she

Naked as my nail 1533 Heywood, *Play of Wether* l 922, Thou myghtest go as naked as my nayle 1600 Day, *Blind Beggar*, V, Yet would I had her as naked as my nayl 1629 Mas singer, *Renegado*, I 1 1681 Robert son, *Phraseol 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 lie abed till noon 1659 Howell ii (9), 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 (Scott), His name is up, he may in bed lie 1772 Graves, *Spirit 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 Drave, 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 Recevyd of William Greffeth for his lycense for the pryntinge of a ballett intituled *taken nappynge as Mosse toke his meare*, iii<sup>d</sup> 1597 *Discoverie of Knights of Poste*, sig C4, Fortune feeding them, as Mosse did his mare, through a hurdle, which made him take her so soone napping 1641 J Taylor, *Swarme of Seclarises*, etc [motto], The cobbler preaches and his audience are As wise as Mosse was, when he caught his mare 1658 *Wit Restored*, 304 (reprint) 1672 *Westminster Drollery*, 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 Dict Vulgar Tongue*, s v "Nap"

["morse" for "Moss"]. 1850: in *N. & Q.*, 1st ser., i. 320, There is also a song sung among the farmers of South Devon, of which the last line of each verse is "As Morse caught the mare." [There is a version of a song about Moss and his mare in Halliwell's *Nursery Rhymes* (Percy S., No. 17)] 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 127.

Natural to him as milk to a calf, As. 1678: Ray, 287.

Nature draws more than ten oxen. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum* ["teams" for "oxen"]. 1670: Ray, 18

Nature gives what no man can take away. Before 1500: in Hill, *Common-place-Book*, 129 (E.E.T.S.)

Nature is the true law. 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 32, Nature is the right law. 1629: *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov. 34.

Nature out of the door, Shut. See quot. 1692: L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 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 passes nurture. Cf. Nurture for a contrary statement. 1647: Stapylton, *Juvenal*, 189, Nature can do more then breeding can. 1732: Fuller, No. 3505, Nature is beyond all teaching. 1880: Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 70, Nature does sometimes overcome nurture.

Nature requires five. See Sleep, *subs.* (1).

Nature, time, and patience are the three great physicians. 1855: Bohn, 457.

Nature will have her course. c. 1400: *Beryn*, 105 (E.E.T.S.), ffor "kynde woll 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 never in danger. 1639: Clarke, 126. 1678: Ray, 180. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I. 1889: Peacock, *Manley, etc.*, Gloss., 373 (E.D.S.), "That that's noht's niver e' daanger," a proverb used when a worthless person is prosperous, or a worthless thing escapes destruction. 1889:

*Folk-Lore Journal*, vii. 293, Nowght's niver i' danger (Derbyshire saying).

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 groat, As. c. 1550: *Jacke Jugeler*, 75 (Grosart), And in eueri thing as just as iiii pens to a grot. 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 groat." 1894: Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 9 (E.D.S.).

Near burr. See Moon (26).

Near friend is better than a far-dwelling kinsman, A. 1669: *Politeu-phuia*, 184.

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, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. x. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Chair" ["petticoat"]. c. 1685: in *Roxb. Ballads*, viii. 869 (B.S.) ["petticoat"]. 1860: Reade, *Cl. and Hearth*, ch. xcvi. 1894: Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 25 (E.D.S.), The smock is nearer than the petticoat.

Near is my purse, but nearer is my soul. 1860: Reade, *Cl. and Hearth*, ch. lxxvi.

Near is my shirt, but nearer is my skin. [1539: Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo. 15, My cote is nerer me than my robe or gowne] c. 1570: in *Ballads* (Percy S., No. 1), 99, Neerer is my skin then shirte. 1593: G. Harvey, *Works*, ii. 311 (Grosart), That euery man was neerest to himselfe, and the skinne neerer then the shirt. 1685: Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 66 ["sarke" for "shirt"]. 1712: Arbuthnot, *Law a Bott Pit*, Pt. IV. ch. v., "My shirt," quoth he, "is near me, but my skin is nearer!" 1792: Wolcot, *Works*, ii.

313 (1795) 1883 A Easther, *Almond-bury Gloss*, 113 (E D S), A local saying here was Nar [Near] is mi sark, but narrer's mi skin" 1890 Caine, *Bondman*, II v (O)

Near love by craft maketh the far love loathed, The c 1386 Chaucer, *Miller's Tale*, l 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 iii l 1899, An old sawe is, "Who that is slyh In place where he mai be nyh, He makth 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 1614 Cook, *City Gallant*, in Hazlitt *Old Plays*, xi 207 1661 Davenport *City Nightcap*, I 1819 Scott, *Bride of L*, ch vi, The nearer the bane the sweeter, as your honours weel ken

Nearer the church the farther from God, The 1303 Brunne, *Handl Synne*, l 9243 The nere the cherche, the fyrther fro Gode Before 1500 in Hill *Commonplace - Book*, 130 (E E T S) 1579 Spenser, *Shep Cal*, July, l 104, To kirke the narre, to God more farre, has bene an old said saw 1611 Tournour, *Atheist's Tragedy*, I iv 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, ii 266 (1840) 1784 *New Foundl Hosp for Wit*, iv 160, The old proverb That the nearest the church are the farthest from God 1824 Scott, *Redgauntlet* ch xix, For the nearer the church—the proverb is somewhat musty

Nearer the kin the further in, The 1591 Harrington, *Orl Furioso*, bk xvi, Moral The nearer of kin, the sooner in 1615 R. Tofte, tr *Blazon of Jealousie*, 28 The nigher kinne the farther in 1639 Clarke, 26

Nearest to the well See quot 1639 in *Berkeley MSS*, iii 32 (1885), Neerest 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, ii 1857 *Blackie 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*, xliii 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 impreze Comely, not gaudy 1806 Lamb, *Letters*, i 354 (Lucas), A little thin flowery border round, neat not gaudy 1838 Ruskin, in *Archit 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 Sow, subs (4)  
Necessity and opportunity may make a coward valiant 1732 Fuller, No 3514 1783 Day, *Sandf and Merton*, 44 (1891), Necessity makes even cowards brave

Necessity has no law In the earlier examples it is always Need [Necessitas dat legem, non ipse accipit—Publ Syrus Ferns caret necessitas—Palladius, I vi 7 Legem non habet necessitas—St Augustine, *Solit animæ ad Deum*, c 2] 1377 Langland, *Plowman*, B, xx 10, Nede ne hath no lawe c 1390 Gower, *Conf Amantis*, bk iv l 1167, For as men sein, nede hath no lawe c 1450 *Partonope*, l 8268, But this ys a full olde sawe Nede had no maner of lawe 1493 *Dues et Pauper*, lo 123 (1536) [as in 1390] Before 1529 Skelton, *Colin Clout*, l 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, *Limberham*, III ii, 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 xxxiv, 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

Necessity is the mother of invention. 1519: Horman, *Vulgaria*, fo. 52, Nede taught hym wytte. 1587: Underdowne, *Heliodorus*, 201 (T.T.), Surely necessitie is the deviser of all manner of shiftes. 1602: Rowlands, *Greenes Ghost*, 32 (Hunt. Cl.), As necessitie is neuer without stratagems. 1672: Wycherley, *Love in a Wood*, III. iii., Necessity, mother of invention! 1703: Farquhar, *Twin-Rivals*, I. i., If necessity be the mother of invention, she was never more pregnant than with me. 1830: Scott, *Journal*, 11 July. 1860: C. Reade, *Cl. and Hearth*, ch. xxxiii.

Neck and crop. 1816: in Hone, *Ev. Day Book*, i. 461, Explain the terms milling—fibbing—cross buttock—neck and crop—bang up—and—prime. 1872: Hardy, *Greenwood Tree*, Pt. II. ch. ii., "Now 'tis to turn us out of the quire neck and crop," said the tranter. 1894: Caine, *Manxman*, ch. xxii.

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. 103, One myschiefe on an others necke. 1567: G. Fenton, *Bandello*, i. 232 (T.T.), Other straung mischiefes . . . 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 alus falls on th' neck of anuther," is a common saying when misfortunes follow each other quickly.

Neck or nothing. 1678: Ray, 347. 1708: Cibber, *Lady's Last Stake*, III., But to scamper, neck or nothing, after a mad galloping jade of a hind. 1766: Garrick, *Neck or Nothing* [title]. 1823: Byron, *Don Juan*, can. viii. st. 45. 1884: R. L. S. and Henley, *Adm. Guinea*, I. ii., By George, it's neck or nothing now. Stand by to back me up.

Need subs. 1. *Need and night make*

*the lame to trot*. Glos. 1639: in *Berkeley MSS.*, iii. 32 (1885).

2. *Need makes the naked man run*. 1639: Clarke, 225. 1670: Ray, 124. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Need."

3. *Need makes the naked quean spin*. 1670: Ray, 124. 1754: Berthelson, s.v. "Need."

4. *Need makes the old wife trot*. c. 1210: in Wright, *Essays on Middle Ages*, i. 149 (1846), Neode makath heald wifeorne Before 1500: in Hill, *Common-place-Book*, 128 (E.E.T.S.), Nede makith the old wiff to trotte. 1573: *New Custom*, III. i., For need (they say) maketh the old wife and man both to trudge. 1602: *Liberality and Prod.*, III. v. 1681: Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 911. 1712: *Spectator*, No. 509. 1816: Scott, *Old Mortality*, ch. viii., Just what gars the auld wives trot—neshessity.

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. xxi. 1853: Trench, *Proverbs*, 61 (1905), Our own proverb, *Man's extremity, God's opportunity*, or as we sometimes have it, *When need is highest, help is nighest*. Cf. Boot after bale.

See also Necessity.

Need, verb. 1. *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 craue the beggers bone. 1662: 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*

*Ploughman*, ch vii, 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 seke out one lyne in all hys workes wer to go looke a needle in a medow 1592 Greene, *Works*, xi 252 (Grosart), The poore man gropeth in the darke to find a needle in a bottle of hay 1608 Day *Law Trickes*, 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 iii ch x [with "bundle" for "bottle"] 1834 Marryat *P Simple*, ch xxii [bundle] 1886 R L S, *Kidnapped* ch xx 1913 R E Francillon, *Mid-Vict Memories*, I discovered what had hitherto been the proverbial needle in the pottle of hay

Needles and pins, needles and pins, When a man marries his trouble begins 1843 Halliwell, *Nursery Rhymes*, 122 1876 Blackmore, *Cripps*, ch lii 1880 N & Q, 6th ser., ii 205 [with "girl" for "man"]

Needs must go when the devil drives c 1420 Lydgate *Assem of Gods*, st 3 p 2 (EETS), For hit ys oft seyde by hem that yet lyues He must nedys go that the deuell dryues 1533 Heywood, *John Tyb, etc.*, 77 (Farmer, 1905), He must needs go that the devil driveth 1594 Kyd, *Span Trag.*, III vii, 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 Foote, *Orators* II 1822 Scott, *Angel*, Introd Epistle 1840 Barham, *Ing Legends* "St Odille," Needs must when a certain old gentleman drives

Needs must trot afoot, that tues 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" after "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 louyng neighbors 1599 Porter, *Two Angry Women*, sc xi, You dwell by ill neighbours Richard that makes yee praise your selfe 1631 Brathwait, *Fug Gentilexoman*, 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 "Fan"

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 Antiquæ*, i 316 (1841), He that hath a good neyghboure hath a good morowe, He that hath a schrewyd wyfe hath much sorowe, He that fast spendyth must nede borowe, But when he schal paye agen, then ys al the sorowe 1591 Florio, *Second Trutes*, 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 Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 521

7 Neighbour's fare See quots 1678 Ray, 180, Neighbour-quart is good quart, i e giffe gaffe [q v] is a good fellow c 1680 in *Roxb Ballads*, iii 419 (BS), Since neighbour's fare always is counted the best 1869 FitzGerald *Sea Words and Phrases* 8, I maynt make a fortune, but I look

for neighbour's fare nevertheless 1901 F. E. Taylor, *Lancs 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: Horman, *Vulgaria*, fo. 126, When my neybour's house is a fyre, I can nat be out of thought for myn owne. 1548: Hall, *Chron.*, 438 (1809), He remembred the prouerbe that sayth, when thy neybour's house is a fyre, thy staffe standeth nexte the doore 1593: *Pass. Morrice*, 75 (N. Sh S.), When our neybour's 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.

10. *You must ask your neighbour if you shall live in peace.* 1639: Clarke, 203. 1670: Ray, 125. 1732: Fuller, No. 5961. 1855: Bohn, 463, Nobody can live longer in peace than his neighbour pleases.

*See also All is well.*

Neither ashore 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, 266. 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 Satirycall 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'Es-trange, *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, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I., We were neither sugar nor salt, we were not afraid the rain would melt us 1880: Banks, *Wooers*, ii. 7 (W), Bless the bairn, shoo's noather sugar nor saut, schoo'l noan melt.

Nene and Welland, The Rivers. *See* quotes. 1596: Spenser, *F. Q.*, IV. xi. 35, And after him the fatal Welland went, That, if old sawes prove true, (which God forbid!) Shall drowne all Holland with his excrement. 1865: W. White, *Eastern England*, i. 273, Nene and Welland Shall drown 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 furzy 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 pricked by a rose* 1670 Ray, 25 1732 Fuller No 878

2 *He that handles a nettle tenderly is soonest stung* 1579 Lylv, *Euphuus* 65 (Arber), *Hee which toucheth the nettle tenderly, is soonest stoung* 1732 Fuller, No 212b

3 *Nettles in March* See quotes 1846 Denham *Proverbs*, 38 (Percy S), *If they would drink nettles in March, And eat mugwort in May, So many fine maidens Wouldnt t go to the clay* 1882 N & Q, 6th ser v 408 *If they wad drunk nettles in March, And eat muggins in May Sae mony braw maidens Wad not go to clay* 1913 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 1917 Bridge *Cheshire Proverbs*, 119

Never a whit, As good, as never the better 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch xi 1553 *Respublica* IV iii 1597 Bacon, *Coulers of Good and Evil*, 10 1639 Fuller, *Holy War*, bk iv ch viii 1670 Ray, 125 1709 R Kingston, *Apoph Curiosa*, 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 Draxe, 32, *Neuer wearie 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 whoam Wi out stick or stwun [stone]

Never good that munda their belly so much 1678 Ray, 347

Never is a long day c 1386 Chaucer, *Canon's Yeoman's Tale*, l 858 *Never to thyrve were to long a date* 1736 Bailey, *Dict*, s v 'Term,' *Never is a long term* 1839 Dickens, *Nickleby*, ch lx1, *Never, though never is a long day* 1841 Dickens, *Barn Rudge*, ch last 1886 Elworthy, *West Som Word-Book*, 508 (E D S), *Stap cheel ! never's a long day*

Never less alone than when alone 1586 Pettie, tr Guazzo s *Civil Convers*, fo 19, *Scipio sayd y<sup>t</sup> he was neuer lesse alone, then when he was alone* 1596 Lodge, *Diuel Coniured*, 9 (Hunt Cl), *A good man is neuer lesse alone then when alone (as Themistocles said)* 1669 *Politeuphuia*, 45, *A wise man is never, etc* 1680 L'Estrange, *Tully's Offices*, 141, *It was the saying of Scipio Affricanus the Elder that he was never less idle, or alone, then when he most appeared so to be* 1816 Scott, *Black Dwarf* ch iv

Never - mass, At = never 1639 Clarke, 229

Never quiet but when she is sleeping, She is 1631 Brathwait, *Whimzies*, 104 (1859)

Never quit certainty for hope 1855 Bohn, 459

Never sigh but send 1678 Ray, 81, *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 c 1320 in *Reliq Antiqua*, i 111 (1841), Quoth Hendyng

Never the nearer See Early (5)

Never too late to learn 1670 Ray, 112 ["old" for "late"] c 1680 L'Estrange *Seneca's Epistles*, xx, *It is never too late to learn what it is always necessary to know* 1726 Southerne, *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. [ἀκεσταί τοι φρένες ἐσθλῶν.—Homer, *Iliad*, xiii. 115.] 1590: Greene, *Neuer 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. L. 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 rievvers, or . . . thieves.

Never was bad woman fair. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

Never well, full nor fasting. 1639: Clarke, 34, Neither pleased full nor fasting. 1659: Howell, 2. 1670: Ray, 176. 1692: L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 265 (3rd ed.). 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial. II., You don't know your own mind; you are neither well, full nor fasting. 1896: *Folk-Lore*, vii. 377, He'll neither be satisfied, full nor fasting (Staffs).

New bread. See quot. 1888: Lowsley, *Berks Gloss.*, 30 (E.D.S.), New bread, new beer, an' gre-an 'ood, 'ull bring ruin to any man's house.

Newbridge Hollow. See Bowdon Wakes.

New brooms sweep clean. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. 1., The greene new brome sweepth cleane 1579: Lyly, *Euphues*, 88 (Arber), Ah well I wot that a new broome sweepth cleane. 1659: *Lady Alimony*, II. i. c. 1760: Foote, *Cozeners*, I., New acts, like new brooms, make a little bustle at first; but the dirt will return, never fear. 1815: Scott, *Mannerling*, ch. vi. 1905: E. G. Hayden, *Travels Round our Village*, 97, A noo broom swapes a clane; but when it's a scrub ther's a job.

Newcastle. 1. *Canny Newcastle*, 1790:

Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Northumberland." 1825: Brockett, *Gloss. N. Country Words*, 37, Canny, a genuine Newcastle word, applied to anything superior or of the best kind. . . . "Canny Newcassel," *par excellence*, is proverbial. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, 1. 309 (F.L.S.).

2. *Coals to Newcastle*. See Coals.

3. *He has the Newcastle bur in his throat* 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Northumberland." 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, i. 292 (F.L.S.).

4. *Newcastle grindstone*. See Scot (1).

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.).

7. *That is going round by Newcastle to get to Shields*. Ibid., ii 364.

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. "Aimé." 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. See quot. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, ii. 314 (1840), He that is [at] a low ebb at Newgate, may soon be afloat at Tyburn. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "London" [as in 1662].

Newgate Knocker. See quots. 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, *Chron.*, 233 (1809) c 1597 in Harington, *Nugæ Antiquæ*, 1 201 (1804). To such reprovers I answer, *new lords, new laws* 1605 Sylvester, *Du Barlas*, Week I Day 11 l 97 1659 R Brome, *Queen and Concubine*, II v 1712 Motteux *Quixote*, Pt II ch xliii 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 Draxe, 23, New meats prouoke the appetite 1670 Ray, 18 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 x 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 nates 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*, bk iv l 301, It is natural Men to delite in thing that is newe] 1611 Cotgrave s v 'Nouveau,' Every new thing looks faire 1651 Herbert *Jac Prudentum*, 2nd ed 1700 T Brown *Scarron*, 11 248 (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* 11 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 eve 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, 104

Next to no wife See Wife (17)

Next way, round about, is at the far door 1639 Clarke, 8

Nice as a ha'porth of silver spoons 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch ix, Sodenly waxen as nyse As it had bene a halporth of syluer spoones c 1550 *Jacke Jugeler*, 40 (Grosart), As denty and nice, as an halpeny worth of siluer spoons

Nice as a nun's hen 15th cent in *Reliq Antiquæ*, 1 248 (1841) Some [women] be nyse as a nanne hene 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch 1 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 'nanne' as 'nanny' but the other references give 'nun's' as also does Wilson in his *Rhetorique*, 1560, p 219 (1909)]

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 *Prot of Good Counsel*, l 33 (E E T S), For a nyse wyfe and a backe dore Makyth oftyn tymus a ryche man pore 1639 Clarke, 218 1732 Fuller, No 6268

Nichils in nine holes = Nothing at

all. Variants of "holes" are "pokes," "nooks," etc. 1584: 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 and froth. A proverbial expression for tapsters' tricks. 1600-12: Rowlands, *Four Knaves*, 48 (Percy S.), With cannes of beere . . . And those they say are fil'd with nick and froth. 1656: R. Fletcher, *Ex Olio Negotium*, 133, From the nick and froth of a penny pot-house. 1674: *Poor Robin Alman.*, August, What with nick and froth, by filling Cans half full for fear of spilling. 1690: *New Dict. Canting Crew*, sig. H7, Nick and froth built the Pye at Aldgate.

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: *Dives et Pauper*, fo. 8 (1536).

Night brings the crows home. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 9, Neet brings th' crows whoam.

Night is the mother of counsel. 1578: Florio, *First Frutes*, fo. 31, The nyght is the mother of thoughts. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Conseil," Night gives advice; we say, take counsell of your

pillow 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1707: Dunton, *Athenian Sport*, 527, Whence came the saying, *That the night gives counsels*? 1884: R. L. S. and Henley, *Adm. Guinea*, III. iv., The night brings counsel: to-morrow shall decide. 1925: Locke, *Great Pandolfo*, ch. ii., The night brings counsel. Cf. Take (25).

Night to run away with another man's wife, A fine. 1591: Florio, *Second Frutes*, 165, It were euen 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 cleer moonshine. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I., Oh! 'twas a delicate night to run, etc.

Nightingale and cuckoo sing both in one month, The. 1639: Clarke, 106. 1696: D'Urfey, *Quixote*, 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 an eel, As. c. 1620: B. & F., *Woman's Prize*, IV. i. 1675: *The Mistaken Husband*, I. iii., As nimble as an eele riggling in the mud. 1710: T. Ward, *Eng. Reform.*, 88 (1716), As glib and nimble As tail of eell. 1732: Fuller, No. 719, As nimble as an eel in a sand-bag. 1889: Peacock, *Manley*, etc., Gloss., 611 (E.D.S.), Wick [Quick] as an eel.

Nimble as ninepence, As. 1882: Mrs. Chamberlain, *W. Worcs. Words*, 13 (E.D.S.), 'E gamboled over the yat [gate] as nimble as ninepence.

Nimble ninepence is better than a slow shilling, A. 1851: *N. & Q.*, 1st ser., iv. 234 [cited as an "old proverb"]. 1886: Elworthy, *West Som. Word-Book*, 513 (E.D.S.) [with "dead" for "slow"]. 1913: E. M. Wright, *Rustic Speech*, etc., 173.

Nimble penny is worth a slow sixpence, A Glos 1911 *Folk-Lore* xxii 239

Nimblest footman is a false tale, The 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Brit-Eng*, 3

Nine crabs high, Ever since I was Yorks 1861 *N & Q*, 2nd ser, xii 309, That is, I suppose, since I was a mere child

Ninedays wonder, A [Romanis quoque ab eodem prodigio novendiale sacrum publice susceptum est, seu voce caelesti ex Albano monte mussa—nam id quoque traditur—seu aruspicum monitu—Livy, i 31] c 1374 Chaucer *Troilus*, bk iv l 588, A wonder last but nyne night never in tounne 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch 1 This wonder, (as wonders last,) lasted nine daies 1600 Kemp, *Nine Days Wonder* [title] 1621 Burton, *Melancholy*, II in 7, p 424 (1836), Be content, 'tis but a nine dayes wonder 1633 Massinger, *New Way, etc*, IV ii 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, xii, The volume is a curious relic of that nine days wonder 1926 Phillpotts, *Peacock House*, 221

Ninence to nothing, As like as 1670 Ray, 206

Ninence to nothing, To bring Before 1729 in Roxb *Ballads*, viii 812 (BS), A brace of as delicate jades As ever brought ninence to nothing 1883 Burne, *Shropsh Folk-Lore*, 596, To bring one's ninence 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 taylors go to the making vp of a man 1611 *Tarltons Jest*, 20 (Sh S) Two tailors goe to a man 1630 Taylor (Water-Poet), *Works*, 3rd pagin, 73, Some foolish knaue (I thinke) at first began The slander that three taylers are

one man 1639-61 *Rump Songs*, Pt I 159 (1662, repr 1874), Like to nine taylors, who if rightly spell d, Into one man are monosyllabel'd 1663 Butler, *Hudibras*, Pt I can ii l 22, Just like the manhood of nine taylors 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 1838 Carlyle, *Sartor*, bk iii ch xi, Does it not stand on record that the English Queen Elizabeth, receiving a deputation of Eighteen Taylors, addressed them with a 'Good morning, gentlemen both!'

Nineteen bits of a bilberry, He'll make 1678 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 briar in the bud 1732 Fuller, No 3543

Nippence, no pence, half a groat wanting twopence 1659 Howell, 12 1670 Ray, 215, Nipence nopence, etc Nits will be lice 1690 *New Dict Canting Crew*, sig H7 1823 D Israeli, *Cur of Lit*, 2nd ser, 1 431 (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 alchymy like to thrift 1736 Bailey, *Dict*, s v "Alchymy" 1928 *Times*, 11 May, p 17, col 3

No better than she should be 1604 *Pasquils Jest*, 35 (1864), A man whose wife was no better then she should be 1666 Torriano, *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 Smectymnus, *Vind Answ*, § 16 208 (O), King James of blessed memory said,

*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 as the race of Shenkin and line of Harry Tudor. An old Shropshire saying. 1871: *N. & Q.*, 4th ser., vii. 9.

Noble blood to market, and see what it will bring, Send your. 1732: Fuller, No. 4099

Noble housekeeper needs no doors, A. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum* [in the plural]. 1670: Ray, 7.

Noble plant suits not with a stubborn ground, A. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 21, 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 Tossopot, since he went hence, Hath increased a noble just unto ninepence. 1681: Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 922, A noble quickly brought to ninepence. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' *Colloq.*, 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." 1886: 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 chink, no drink. 1659: T. Pecke, *Parnassi Puerp.*, 64.

Nocke 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 haue the crowne of victorie, which hath not abidde the brunt of the battaile.] 1660: W. Penn, *No Cross No Crown* [title]. 1709: O. Dykes, *Eng. Proverbs*, 278 (2nd ed.). 1853: Trench, *Proverbs*, 21 (1905).

No cut to unkindness. 1659: Howell, 13. 1670: Ray, 27. 1732: Fuller, No. 3557.

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, *Lancs 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. 1633: 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. 1753: Richardson, *Grandison*, iii. 175 (1883), 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 lawyers 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 4910

No gold See No silver

No good accord where every man would be a lord, There is 1546 Heywood *Proverbs*, Pt II ch vi c 1594 Bacon, *Promus*, No 968 [“jack” for “man”] 1633 Draxe, 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 Prudentum* 1670 Ray, 2

No great loss but some small profit Ibid, 117

No harm, no force [matter] 1604 *Pasquils Jestis*, 21 (1864) Why then, no harme no force (quothe the fellow), and so went his wayes

No haste but good c 1534 Berners, *Huon* 320 (EETS), It is a saynge that an yll haste is not good 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch ix 1576 Wapull, *Tide tarrieth no Man*, sig F2, No haste but good, stay yet a while c 1640 in *Roxb Ballads*, u 104 (BS), No haste but good I hope there be

No heart See quotes 1578 Florio, *First Fruits*, fo 28, Who hath not a hart let hym haue legges 1629 *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov 78, He that hath no heart, hath legs 1732 Fuller, No 2146 He that has 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*, iii 101 (Grosart), No blisse without bale 1670 Ray, 109 1732 Fuller, No 6322

No knaves and fools, 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 1639 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 mice 1732 Fuller, No 3587

No law for a town's bull 1886 R Holland *Cheshire Gloss*, 454 (EDS) 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 119 Cf Lawless

No law for lying = A man may lie without danger of the law 1678 Ray, 172

No living man all things can [Non omnia possumus 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.), Styntyng the cause, the effect styntith eek; No longer forster, no longer lemman. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. ix., No longer foster, no longer lemman. 1639: Clarke, 12. 1681: Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 638. 1754: 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 prouerbe 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 tweie lordes to queme. c. 1477: Caxton, *Jason*, 57 (E.E.T.S.), For no man may wel serue two maistres for that one corumpeth 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 prouerbe 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 neuer 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 (1840), 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 proverb proves true *No miter 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.

1678 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 riddle

No more water than the ship drew,  
There was 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*  
Pt II ch viii c 1594 Bacon  
*Promus*, No 672 1659 Howell, 14

No more wit than a coot c 1540  
Bale *Kynge Johan*, I 1 176, Thou  
semyste by thy wordes to have no  
more wytt than a coote

None are so wise as those who know  
nothing 1875 Cheales, *Proverb Folk-  
Lore*, 103

None but fools lay wagers 1677  
*Poor Robin's Visions*, 16, Your actions  
verifie a proverb among you, none but  
fools lay wagers 1711 *Brit Apollo*,  
iii 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 overtakes  
him c 1205 Layamon, *Brut*, i 32  
(Madden), Nis nawer nan so wis mon  
That me ne mai bi-swiken c 1275  
Ibid, ii 211, Thar nis no man so wis  
That me ne mai bi-swike 1640 Her-  
bert, *Jac Prudentum* 1670 Ray, 29  
1732 Fuller, No 3654 [with "some-  
times" 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), *Sc of Folly*  
42, in *Works*, ii (Grosart)

None says his garner is full 1640  
Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

None so blind See Blind, *adj* (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, *Whimzies*,  
45 (1850), Hce seemes to verifie the  
proverbe *There is none so desperately  
old, but he hopes to live one yeare longer*  
1732 Fuller, No 3653 Cf Man (48)

No news is good news 1616 James  
I, in *Loseley MSS*, 403 (Kempe), No  
newis is bettir then evill newis 1632  
Lupton, *London and Country "Country"*,  
No 12, The best newes is when we heare  
no newes 1776 Colman, *Spleen*, I,  
No news is good news sometimes, as  
the proverb 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  
Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 249, No body  
is wise at all times 1714 Ozell,  
*Molière*, i 113 If none is wise at all  
times, yet the shortest errors are the  
best

No pains See Gain (1)

No penny, no pardon 1531 Tyndale,  
*Expos i John*, in *Works*, p 395, col 1  
(1573) (O), O Popishe forgiuenesse with  
whom it goeth after the comon prouerbe,  
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  
peny, no Paternoster" 1546 *Suppl*  
*of Poore Commons*, 87 (E E T S)  
c 1598 Deloney *Gentle Craft* Pt II  
ch vii 1651 Randolph, *Hey for Hon-  
esty*, I ii 1709 O Dykes, *Eng*  
*Proverbs* 200 (2nd ed.), Whence came  
this comical saying, *No peny, no Pater-  
noster*, but from pecuniary Indulgences?  
1754 Berthelson, *Eng-Danish Dict*,  
s v "Penny"

No pipe, no pudding Glos 1639  
in *Berkeley MSS*, iii 27 (1885)

No play without a fool in it. 1650  
*News from New Exchange* 14 'Tis an



old proverb, there can be no play without a foole in it.

No priest, no mass. 1732: Fuller, No. 3618.

No raillery is worse than that which is true. 1855: Bohn, 462.

No remedy but patience. 1633: Draxe, 151. 1670: Ray, 190. 1694: Cibber, *Love's Last Shift*, II. 1723: Defoe, *Col. Jack*, ch. xviii., I had no remedy but the old insignificant thing, called patience. 1824: Scott, *Redgauntlet*, ch. xv. Cf. Patience.

Norfolk capon, A = A red herring. 1785: Grose, *Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue*, s.v. 1836: in Farmer's *Musa Pedestris*, 121, A Norfolk capon is jolly grub. Cf. Yarmouth capon.

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 dumpling, thicke 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 Spryngyng in gardeyns, but ther be sum thorn. 1579: Lyly, *Euphues*, 33 (Arber), The sweetest rose hath his prickell. 1681: Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 1084, No rose without its prickle. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Rose." 1855: Kingsley, *West. Ho!*, ch. viii., True, the rose has its thorn.

North, The. See quot. c. 1670: Aubrey, *Wilts MS. Collect.*, quoted in Halliwell, *Dict.*, s.v. "North," The North for largeness, The East for health; The South for buildings, The West for wealth.

Northampton. 1. *He that must eat a buttered fagot, let him go to Northampton.* 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, ii. 501 (1840). 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v.

"Northants" ["would" for "must"]. 1851: Sternberg, *Dialect, etc.*, of *Northants*, 191.

2. *The mayor of Northampton opens oysters with his dagger.* 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, ii. 500 (1840). 1790: Grose, s.v. "Northants." 1851: Sternberg, 191. Cf. Oyster (1).

Northamptonshire for spires and squires. 1869: 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

Northerly wind and blubber Brings home the Greenland lubber. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 20 (Percy S.).

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 1869: Hazlitt, 464, When three daws are seen on St. Peter's vane together, then we are sure to have bad weather.

Nose. 1. *A nose of wax.* See quotes. 1533: in *Ballads from MSS.*, i. 206 (B.S.), The text to turne and glose, like a welshe manes hose, or lyk a waxen nose. 1596: Lodge, *Marg. of America*, 40 (Hunt. Cl.), Where-through iustice is made a nose of waxe warmed. 1609: J. Melton, *Six-fold Politician*, 77, They meete with no such noses of waxe as will be so iested 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, *Mannerings*, 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 Folly*, 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 xviii, The gentleman talks main-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 *eeek*, i.e. 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, *Euphuus Shadow*, sig H3, My nose loues no iesting 1659 Howell, 6 1678 Ray, 77

7 *If your nose itches, 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* Pt I ch v, I shall, to reuenge former hurtis, Hold their noses to grinstone 1653 Middleton and Rowley, *Span Gipsy*, IV iii, Hold his nose to the grin stone, my lord 1732 Fuller No 5187 1865 Dickens, *Mutual Friend*, bk iii 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*, iii 247 (1879), Your lovely eyes Out of joint have put her nose 1912 Lucas, *London Lav*, 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 Chartier's *Curial*, 19 (E E T S), Ne seruyse lyke to the kyng souerayn c 1580 G Harvey, *Marginalia*, 142 (1913), No fishing to y<sup>e</sup> sea nor service to a king 1618 Breton, *Court and Country*, in *Inedited Tracts*, 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 drosse 1633 Draxe, 62, No siluer without his drosse 1639 Clarke, 80 [as in 1633]

No sin to cheat the devil 1726 Defoe *Hist of Devil*, Pt II ch v, 304 (4th ed), The old Latin proverb, *Fallere fallentem non est fraus* 'tis no sin to cheat the devil

No song no supper 1613 B & F, *Burning Pestle*, II ii, Let thy father go snuck-up let him stay at home and sing for his supper, boy 1893 R L S, *Ebb-Tide*, ch vii, If you're not there by the time named, there will be no banquet, no song, no supper, Mr Whish!

No sooner up but head in the ambry, and nose in the cup 1639 Clarke, 136 1670 Ray, 198 1736 Bailey, *Dict*, s v "Aumbry" [ending with 'aumbry']

No sport, no pie c 1620 B & F, *Woman's Prize* I iii, 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 nochell. *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 gooid butterchauv. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 9, "Nowe, thank yo'" has lost monny 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 feare 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.

6. *Nothing but up and ride?* 1639: Clarke, 116, What? no more but up and ride. 1670: Ray, 198. 1732: Fuller, No. 5497.

7. *Nothing down, nothing up.* 1659: Howell, 3. 1670: Ray, 19. Cf. Nought (4).

8. *Nothing dries sooner than a tear* [Cito arescit lacrima, praesertim in alienis malis.—Cicero, *Part. Or.*, 17.] 1560: T. Wilson, *Rhetorique*, 134 (1909), For as Cicero doth say, nothing drieth soner then teares. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1681: Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 927, Nothing dries up sooner than tears. 1732: Fuller, No. 3661 ["woman's tears" after "a"].

9. *Nothing for nothing.* Before 1704: T. Brown, in *Works*, i. 131 (1760), Thou know'st the proverb, *nothing due for nought*. 1714: Ozell, *Molière*, 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, *Trevlyn Hold*, ch. xxii., I might have knowed a lawyer wouldn't give nothing for nothing.

10. *Nothing hath no savour.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. viii. 1559: Becon, in *Prayers, etc.*, 365 (P.S.), Nought hath no savour. 1659: Howell, *Letters*, ii. 666 (Jacobs). 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I., They say, Something has some savour, but nothing has no flavour.

11. *Nothing have, nothing crave.* 1670: Ray, 19. 1732: Fuller, No. 6242.

12. *Nothing is a man's truly, that he cometh not by duly.* Ibid., No. 6280.

13. *Nothing is easy to the unwilling.* Ibid., No. 3663.

14. *Nothing is good or ill but by comparison.* 1676: 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 grindlestone

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 wilyng harte is nought impossible 1631 Mabbe, *Celestina*, 183 (T T) ["minde" for "heart"] 1707 *Spanish Bawd* IV 11 [as in 1631]

17 *Nothing is lost in a good market* 1827 Hone, *Table-Book*, 8

18 *Nothing is more easily blotted out than a good turn* 1647 *Countrim New Commonweath*, 26 Nothing sooner waxeth old then a good turne or benefit 1732 Fuller No 3669

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 kindles sooner than fire* 1560 T Wilson, *Rhetorique*, 133 (1909) [cited as "a common saying"]

22 *Nothing like leather* 1692 L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 421 (3rd ed), Up starts a currier Gentlemen, says he, when y'ave said all that can be said, there's nothing in the world like leather 1855 Gaskell, *North and South*, ch x, "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 wit, yet nothing more fickle* 1732 Fuller, No 6472

25 *Nothing new* See quots 1850 Emerson, *Repr Men* "Montaigne," "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 sinnify [signify]"

26 *Nothing stake* See Nought (4)

27 *Nothing succeeds like success* 1882 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 Cot grave, s v "Peine," Nor bread, nor ought is gotten without paines 1732 Fuller, No 3677, Nothing to be got without pains, but poverty 1869

Spurgeon, *John Ploughman* ch vii [as in 1732, plus "and dirt"] Cf No 32

29 *Nothing turns sourer than milk* 1830 Forby, *Vocab E Anglia*, 428

30 *Nothing venture, nothing have* [Necesse est facere sumptum qui quænt lucrum—Plautus, *Asin*, I 11 65] c 1374 Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk 11 1 807, And seyde, he which that no-thing under-taketh, No-thing ne acheveth, be him looth or dere c 1390 Gower, *Conf Amantis*, bk 1v 1 2694, For he which dar nothing beginne, I not what thing he scholde achieve 1481 Caxton *Reynard*, 27 (Arber), He that wil wyinne he muste laboure and aventure 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch vi, Nought venter, nought haue 1580 Tusser, *Husb*, 44 (E D S) [as in 1546] 1624 T Heywood, *Captives*, IV 1, I see here that nought venters, nothinge gaynes 1674 Head and Kirkman, *Eng Rogue*, 11 142 1709 O Dykes, *Eng Proverbs*, 113 (2nd ed) 1791 Boswell, *Johnson*, 11 189 (Hill) 1840 Lytton Money, III vi

31 *Nothing will come of nothing* c 1374 Chaucer, *Boeth*, bk v pr 1, For this sentence is verray and sooth that 'nothing ne hath his beinge of naught' 1599 Breton, in *Works*, 11 c 23 (Grosart), Then of nothing growes nothing, but nothing c 1605 Shakespeare, *Lear*, I 1 1652 Flecknoe, *Miscell*, 73, Of nothing, nothing's made (they say) c 1750 Fielding, *Essay on Nothing*, Sect 1, There is nothing falsar 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 Midl.*, ch. i. ["can" for "will"]. 1846: Planché, *Extravag.*, iii. 117 (1879) [as in 1818].

32. *There is nothing done without trouble, only loosing the fire out.* 1883: Burne. *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 588. Cf. No. 28.

33. *There's nothing but is good for something.* 1639: Clarke, 72.

34. *Where nothing is, a little doth ease.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. x. 1639: Clarke, 10. 1694: D'Urfey, *Quixote*, Pt. I. Act II. sc. i., Where nothing is, a little goes a great way.

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.

36. *Where nothing is, the King must lose his right.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xii. 1594: *True Trag. Rich. Third*, 12-13 (Sh. S.), Where nothing is to be had, the King looseth his right they say. 1664: *Wits Recr.*, in *Mus. Deliciæ*, etc., ii. 54 (Hotten). 1709: O. Dykes, *Eng. Proverbs*, 127 (2nd ed.). 1817: Scott, *Rob Roy*, ch. ix.

37. *Who nothing save shall nothing have.* 1732: Fuller, No. 6338.

38. *Who practiseth nothing shall have nothing.* 1580: Tusser, *Husb.*, 48 (E.D.S.).

See also Naught; and Nought.

No time like the present. 1696: Mrs. Manley, *Lost Lover*, IV. i. 1828: Scott, *Fair Maid*, ch. ii. 1839: Dickens, *Nickleby*, ch. xxxvi.

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.

1612: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt. I. bk. iv. ch. iv. 1670: Ray, 117. 1732: Fuller, No. 2999 ["if it" for "that"]. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Lost."

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. 1622: 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 Hackwood, *Inns, Ales, etc.*, 99 (1909), I grant that fair Nottingham once bore the bell For our grand sires that tasted the sweets of good ale.

Nottingham, The little smith of, Who doeth the work that no man can. 1634: C. Butler, *Feminine Monarchie*, 17. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, ii. 570 (1840). 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Notts."

Not too fast for [fear of] falling. 1580: Baret, *Alvearie*, C 59, As we say, not too fast for breaking your shinnes. 1599: Porter, *Two Angry Women*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, vii. 301.

Not too high for the pie, nor too low for the crow. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. vii. 1577: *Misogonus*, II. ii. 1670: Ray, 189.

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) flea; (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) sloe; (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, *Whitby Gloss*,

ro, "It is not worth a band's end"—valueless

(2) 1297 R Glouc, 497 (O), Al nas wurth a bene c 1374 Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk iii l 1167, Swich arguments ne been not worth a bene c 1430 in *Twenty-six Poems*, 131 (EETS), I am nat worthe a bene Before 1529 Skelton, *Bouge of Courte*, l 95 1595 *Pedlars Prophecy*, l 1002 (Malone S), All is not worthe a beane 1620 Shelton, *Quixote* Pt II ch xlvii, An office that will not afford a man his victuals is not worth two beans 1823 Scott *Peveril* ch xiiii

(3) 14th cent *Guy of Warwick*, l 2216 (EETS), His scheld [shield] nas nought worth a botoun 1532 More *Confut of Tyndale*, Pref, sig Eer All hys welbeloued boke is not worth a boton 1590 Nashe, *Almond for a Parrot*, 37 (1846), All is not worth a button, if it be too stale 1609 in Halliwell, *Books of Characters*, 119 (1857) 1776 T Cogan, *John Buncke, Junior*, l 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 *Chevelere Assigne*, l 329 (EETS), I charde not thy croyse [cross] the valwe of a cherye

(5) 1672 Walker, *Param*, 15

(6) 1886 Elworthy, *West Som Word-Book*, 146 (EDS), Cobler's curse The extreme of valuelessness

Why! he idn a-wo th a cobbler's cuss 1897 N & Q, 8th ser, v 452, Our every-day appraisal is "not wo th a cobbler's cuss" [Somerset]

(7) c 1350 *Pearl*, l 343, For anger gaynez the not a cresse [not a mute] c 1387 Usk, *Test of Love*, in Skeat's *Chaucer*, vii 73, Their might is not worth a cresse c 1390 Gower, *Conf Amantis*, bk iii l 588, And so to me nys worth a kesse c 1400 *Beryn*, l 971 (EETS), flor [ne] to body, ne to soule this vaylith 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, *Interpreter*, s v "Doutkin" (O), Hence probably we retain that phrase when we would undervalue a man, to say, *He is not worth a dot or doutkin* 1881 Duffield, *Don Quix*, III xxvii 206 (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, viii 165, All the gaine that thou shalt get by this bargain is not worth a farthing 1786 Wolcot, *Works*, l 118 (1795) 1824 Scott, *Redgauntlet*, Lett III 1876 C Loftus, *My Youth*, l 87, He was never "worth a farthing" afterwards, his heart and his spirit were broken

(11) [Non tressis agaso—Persius, v 76] 1528 More, *Works*, 241 (1557) 1596 Harrington, *Metam of Ajax*, 68 (1814), It had not been worth a fig, if they had not 1667 *Poor Robin Alman*, July, For what is out of date is not worth a fig 1750 Smollett, *Gil Blas*, iii 98, Although it was not worth a fig, it met with great success 1880 Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 56, 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 vertewis ar nocht worth ane fle c 1640 in *Roxb Ballads*, l 527 (BS), All your warrants are not worth a fle

(13) 1297 R Glouc, 428 (1724) (O), Wat was py strengþe worþ? ywys no3t worþ a flye c 1352 in Wright, *Pol Poems*, l 59 (Rolls Ser, 1859), And all thaire fare nocht wurth a flye c 1380 *Sir Ierumbras*, l 4930 (EETS) c 1386 Chaucer, *Franklin's Tale*, l 404 1412 Hoccleve, *Regement*, st 88, l 613, By that sette I nagent the worth of a flye 1489 Skelton, in *Works*, l 10 (Dyce), Of whos [life] they counted not a flye c 1550 in Heywood, *Spider and Fle*, 440 (Farmer) c 1640 in *Roxb Ballads*, u 160 (BS), Your speeches are not worth a fly 1744 Clardge, 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 gnat. c. 1565: Still, *Gammer Gurton*, V. ii., Al is not worth a gnat—thou canst swear 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 worthe a grote. 1587: Turberville, *Trag. Tales*, etc., 309 (1837), He that feares caluier shot, Can neuer . . . skirmish 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 haddocke.

(18) 1613: Wither, *Abuses Stript*, etc., Epigr. 10, To call you best, or the most faire, . . . Is now not commendations worth a haire. 1639: *Conceits, Clinches*, etc., No. 18, Give me a man's face: a boyes face is not worth a haire.

(19) c. 1280: *Castle of Love*, in *Vernon MS.*, 368 (E.E.T.S.), Ne wisdom nis not worth an hawe. c. 1300: in *Ibid.*, 336, Hit is not worth an hawe. 1412-20: Lydgate, *Troy Book*, bk. ii. l. 4043. 1468: *Coventry Mys.*, 190 (Sh. S.). 1583: Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig. G1, A whelpe that firste doth misse of his game, doth neuer after proue woorth an haw.

(20) c. 1386: Chaucer, *Wife of Bath's Tale*, l. 256, Swich arrogance is nat worth an hen. 1508: Dunbar, *Tua Mariit Wemen*, 269 (O.), That hurtis sow nought worth 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 wrth on heryng.

(22) c. 1350: *Alexander*, l. 4229, And your lare of a leke suld nevir the les worth. c. 1370: Chaucer, *Rom. of*

*Rose*, in *Works*, fo. 130 (1602), Such loue I preise not at a leke. c. 1400: *Sowdone 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, *Colin Clout*, l. 183. 1594: Greene, *Works*, xiv. 203 (Grosart) 1612: *Cornucopiæ*, 79 (Grosart), This opinion is not worth two leekes.

(23) c. 1380: *Sir Ferumbras*, 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 new pelfe now sold in shops, In value true not worth a louse. 1639-61: *Rump Songs*, Pt. II. l. 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 depreciatory saying is, "He idn a-wo'th a louse."

(24) Before 1225: *Ancren R.*, 400, And alle þeos þinges somed, aȝean mine bode, ne beoð nout wurð 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 fayre in feld Then was myne not worth a neld.

(25) c. 1300: *Havelok*, l. 1332 (E.E.T.S.), Nouth the worth of one nouthe [nut].

(26) c. 1393: Langland, *Plowman*, C, x. 345, Ich sette by pardon nat a peese. c. 1430: *Roland and Otuel*, 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 euery gadling nat wurth 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 pere c 1540 Bale,  
*Kynge Johan*, 38 (Camden S), And that  
 is not worth a rottyn wardon [pear]

(28) 1533 Heywood *Play of Wether*,  
 l 750, And all our other gere not worth  
 a pyn 1589 Greene, *Works*, vi 39  
 (Grosart), Cupide must be blinde  
 (or all were not worth a punne) 1685-  
 6 Cotton *Montaigne*, bk ii ch xvii,  
 I cannot carve at table worth a  
 pin 1782 Wolcot, *Works*, i 36 (1795)  
 1865 Planche, *Extravag*, v 243 (1879),  
 Your violin Not worth a pin

(29) 1542 Udall, tr Erasmus' *Apoph*,  
 187 (1877), He was for the respect of  
 his qualtees not to be esteemed worth  
 a blewe point or a good lous 1547  
 Borde, *Brev of Helthe*, fo lxxix v<sup>o</sup>,  
 All is nat worthe a blewe poynt 1570  
 Googe, *Popish Kingdome*, 14 v<sup>o</sup> (1880),  
 That now he is not worth a poynt, in  
 any kinde of place 1666 Torriano,  
*Piazza Univ*, 128 A head without  
 tongue is not worth a point 1672  
 Walker, *Paræm*, 59, Not worth a point

(30) 1823 Byron, *Don Juan*, can vii  
 st 4, Who knew this life was not worth  
 a potato

(31) 1362 Langland, *Plowman A*,  
 vi 17, Wisdam and wit nou is not worth  
 a russche c 1470 G Ashby, *Poems*,  
 39 (E E T S), Suche maner reule is nat  
 worthe two russches 1594 *Willobie's*  
*Avisa*, 76 (Grosart), Yet this is all not  
 worth a rush 1653 Walton, *Angler*,  
 Pt I ch iii If this chub that you ete  
 of had been kept till to-morrow, he had  
 not been worth a rush 1713 Arbuth-  
 not, *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), yis lues  
 blusse nis wurð a slo c 1300 *Havelok*,  
 l 849 Of me ne is me nouth a  
 slo c 1380 *Sir Ferumbras*, l 4338  
 (E E T S), Hit were noght worth a

slo 14th cent Guy of Warwick,  
 l 2936 (E E T S), Scheld no hauberk  
 nas him worth a slo

(33) c 1300 *Havelok*, l 315, He let  
 his oth al ouer-ga [entirely be dis-  
 regarded], Therof ne gaf he nouht a  
 stra [Thereof he gave not a straw]  
 c 1386 Chaucer, *Tale of Melibeus*,  
 § 34, And whan that they been accom-  
 plished, yet be they nat worth a stree  
 c 1470 G Ashby, *Poems*, 74 (E E T S),  
 His wyt is not worth a strawe Before  
 1529 Skelton, *Magnyfyccence*, l 1394,  
 Yet lyberte without rule is not worth  
 a strawe Before 1635 Corbet, *Poems*  
 20 (1807) The doctors of the civil law  
 Urg'd nere a reason worth a straw  
 1740 North, *Examen*, 439, Their co-  
 gency is not worth a straw 1863  
 Reade *Hard Cash*, ch i, When he has  
 got a headache, Hardie of Exeter is not  
 worth a straw in a boat

(34) 1894 Northall, *Folk Phrases*,  
 20 (E D S), Not worth a tinker's curse

(35) c 1489 Caxton, *Sonnes of*  
*Aymon*, 544 (E E T S), The sones of a  
 traytour whiche ben not worthe a roten  
 apple

(36) c 1430 *Roland and Otuel*,  
 l 222 (E E T S), That the lawes of  
 Cristyante ne are noghte worthe ane  
 aye [egg] c 1500 More, in *Works*  
 (1557), "Juvenile Poems," And all not  
 worth an egge 1659 Howell 14,  
 Tis not worth an egg-shel 1883  
 R L S, *Letters*, ii 260 (Tusitala ed),  
 Pouring words upon him by the hour  
 about some truck not worth an egg  
 that had befallen me

(37) c 1390 Gower, *Conf Amantis*,  
 iv 586, That all nys worth an yvy lef

(38) 1509 Barclay, *Ship of Fools*,  
 i 63 (1874), A yonge boy that is nat  
 worth an onyon 1556 Heywood, *Spider*  
*and Flie*, cap 23, p 103 (Farmer), Your  
 case in law is not worth an unon

(39) 1883 Burne, *Shropsh Folk-*  
*Lore*, 588, He's not worth hiring, who  
 talks of turing

(40) 1670 Ray, 192, Not worth  
 shooe-buckles

(41) 1672 Walker, *Paræm*, 26, Not  
 worth three halpence

Not worthy to carry books, to loose



the lachet of shoes, to wipe one's shoes, etc., etc. See quot. c. 1410: *Towneley Plays*, 196 (E.E.T.S.), I am not worthy for to lawse The leste thwong that longys to his shoyne. 1569: in Huth, *Ancient Ballads, etc.*, 21 (1867), For I with all that I can dooe, Vn-worthie . . . To undoo the lachet of her shooe. 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: Mabbe, *Celestina*, 147 (T.T.), She is not worthy to carry her shooes 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, *Paræm.*, 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 lachets of John's shoes. 1909: Hudson, *Afoot in England*, ch. xxiv., As a poet he was not worthy to unloose the buckles of their shoes. 1926: Phillpotts, *Yellow Sands*, I., You hold your tongue about Arthur. You ain't worthy to black Arthur's boots. See also Guts to a bear.

Nought. 1. *He that hath nought is nought set by.* Before 1500: in Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 132 (E.E.T.S.).

2. *He that hath nought shall have nought* c. 1550: *Parl. of Byrdes*, l. 221, in Hazlitt, *Early Pop. Poetry*, iii. 179.

3. *Nought can restrain consent of twain.* [Non caret effectu, quod voluere duo. — Ovid, *Amores*, II. iii. 16.] 1591: Harington, *Orl. Furioso*, bk. xxviii. Notes. c. 1596: Marlowe, *Ovid's Elegies*, bk. ii. el. 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.*

4. *Nought lay down nought take up.* c. 1374: Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk. iv. l. 1585, Men seyn . . . "who-so wol have leef, he leef mot lete" [He who will have what he wants must give up what he likes]. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. vi. 1577: *Misogonus*, II. iv, Nought stake, nought drawe. 1678: Ray, 206, Nothing stake nothing draw. Cf. Nothing (7).

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 flee the clog.* 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.* 1893: 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 10th 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 Vandosm 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*

year to come 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 36

No venom to that of the tongue 1659 Howell, 11

No vice goes alone 1732 Fuller, No 3637

No vice like avarice Ibid., No 6171

No weal without woe 1578 Florio, *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 Generalis*, 1312 1736 Bailey, *Dict.*, s v "Wheat"

Now I have got See quots 1732 Fuller, No 3691, Now I have got an ewe and a lamb every one cries, Welcome, Peter 1736 Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, 1 445 (Bigelow), Now I have a sheep and a cow, everybody bids me good morrow

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 Baud*, III n [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

Nurture passes nature [1579 Joubert, *Erreurs Populaires* I v 9 (Lean), Nournture passe nature] 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Nournture" Nurture

surpasseth nature 1633 Draxe, 50, Nurture is above nature 1754 Berthelson, *Eng-Danish Dict.*, s v "Nurture," Nurture goes beyond nature Cf Nature

Nut and Nuts 1 A good nut year, a good corn year 1846 Denham, *Proverbs*, 55 (Percy S) 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 5

2 Crack me that nut 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch vii, Knak me that nut 1564 Bullein, *Dialogue*, 62 (E E T S), Ha, ha, ha, how cracke 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 1121 [as in 1670] 1828 Scott, *Fair Maid*, ch xvi, While this prince of revellers 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 hopeful generation! sure, This was great nut year!] 1850 in *N & Q*, 1st ser., n 510, Many nuts Many pits A common saying hereabouts [locality not indicated], meaning that if hazel nuts, haws, hips etc., are plentiful, many deaths will occur 1884 H Friend, *Flowers and Fl Lore*, 207, still in use in Devon 1891 R P Chope, *Hartland Dialect*, 71 (E D S) Many nuts, Many pits, Many slones, Many groans

4 To be nuts to one 1589 Hay any Worke for Cooper, 33 (1845), Like you any of these nuts Iohn Canterbury? [The context shows that "nuts" is used in this No 4 sense] 1674 Head and Kirkman, *Eng Rogue*, iii 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 294 (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)

## O

Oak and Oaks. 1. *An oak is not felled at one stroke.* c. 1440: Lydgate, *Fall of Princes*, bk. i. l. 96, These ookis 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. iii., To seel her father's eyes up close as oak. 1763: Colman, *Deuce is in Him*, II., I am close as oak, an absolute free-mason for secresy. 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, *Polonius*, 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.*, xlix. 338, To creep between the oak and the rind. Cf. *Bark and tree*; and *Devil* (120).

8. *When the oak puts on his gosling grey, 'Tis time to sow barley, night and day.* 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 46 (Percy S.). 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 152. 1904: *Co. Folk-Lore: Northumb.*, 177 (F.L.S.).

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 vain. 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 echmans barge. 1597: G. Harvey, *Works*, iii. 33 (Grosart), Those . . . that will . . . have an oare (as we say) in euerie mans boate. 1630: 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!

Oath is better broken than kept, An unlawful. 1670: Ray, 126. 1672: Walker, *Paræm.*, 46.

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*, F (8); *St. David* (3); *Water* (21); and *Wild* (7).

Occasion is bald behind [Fronte capillata, post est occasio calva — Cato, *Disticha*, II 26] 1553 *Respublica*, III vi, The goddesse occasyon behinde hathe not one heare 1566 Painter, *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*, III 246 (Grosart) 1634 Massinger, *Guardian*, IV 1 1655 Heywood and Rowley, *Fortune by Land and Sea*, IV 1, Occasions head is bald behind

Occasion lost cannot be redeemed, An 1813 Ray 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* Ibid, 36

4 *Leaves in October* See quotes c 1630 B & F, *Bloody Brother*, II II, And he that will to bed go sober, Falls with the leaf, still in October 1652 in *Festive Songs* 60 (Percy S), Let him drink his small beer and be sober, Whilst we drink sack, and sung as if it were Spring, He shall drop like the leaves in October 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, VIII 505, It is an old saying that October always gives us twenty-one fine

days 1881 *Folk-Lore Record*, IV 128, October always has 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 Draxe, 55, In euill 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 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 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 2393, He who is the offender, is never the forgiver

Offer much, To See quotes 1631 Mabbe, *Celestina*, 116 (TT), It is a common saying, To offer much to him that asketh but a little, is a kinde of deniall 1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 176, To proffer much is a kind of denial

Offices may well be given, but not discretion 1578 Florio, *First Frutes*, fo 33 ["are" for "may well be"] 1629 *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov 116

Offspring 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 "Hallebrené," Off the hindges, cleane out of heart 1645 Howell, *Letters*, bk 1 § III No XXXI, All businesses here are off the hinges 1661 Webster and Rowley, *Cure for a Cuckold*, V 1, Bear with him, sir, he s strangely off o th' hinges 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, s v 'Hinges,' To be off t 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 quotes. 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 (1811), If debts . . . fling not all off the hooks. 1639: Davenport, *New Trick to cheat Devil*, I. ii., What, Roger, al amort, me thinkes th'art off o' th' hookes [crestfallen]. 1681: Robertson, *Phraseol. 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].

Offt 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 happeth evil for a good turne. c. 1489: Caxton, *Sonnes 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. 1. *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 youthe doon Venus encrese, As men in fyr wol casten oile or grece. c. 1560: Ingelend, *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 wine, 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.), Alisaundre gan to boste and make him self more worthy than his fader, and a greet 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 grueche or speke there agein, 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. 1. *An old child sucks hard.* 1602-3: Manningham, *Diary*, 12 (Camden S.), . . . i.e. children when they growe to age proue chargeable.

2. *An old thief desires a new halter.* 1639: Clarke, 299. 1670: Ray, 127.

3. *Old age is sickness enough of itself.* 1672: Walker, *Paræm.*, 33.

4. *Old and tough, young and tender.* 1678: Ray, 85.

5 *Old be or young die* Ibid, 182  
 6 *Old heads and young hands*  
 Somerset Ibid, 347

7 *Old heads on young shoulders*  
 1639 Clarke, 7. You set an old  
 mans head on a yong mans shoulders  
 c 1780 *First Floor*, II 1, 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 Lure*, 154

8 *Though old and wise, yet still advise*  
 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 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 Draxe, 145  
 ["faultie" for "evil," and good-  
 nesse" for 'good'] 1670 Ray, 20  
 1736 Bailey, *Dict*, s v "Youth"

(b) *Man 1 An old knave is no babe*  
 1528 More, *Works*, p 242, col 1  
 (1557), They shal for al that well fynde  
 in some of us yt an olde knaue is no  
 chylde 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'Israeli, *Cur of Lit*, 2nd ser  
 1 441 (1824), The state of our agri-  
 cultural people appears in such pro-  
 verbs as "An old man's end is to  
 keep sheep"!

5 *An old man's staff is the rapper*  
*at death's door* 1640 Herbert, *Jac*  
*Prudentum* ["of" for 'at'] 1670  
 Ray, 19 1732 Fuller, No 4690

6 *An old man who weds a buxom*  
*young maiden, biddeth fair to become a*  
*freeman of Buckingham* 1790 Grose,  
*Prov Gloss*, s v "Bucks"

7 *An old physician and a young*  
*lawyer* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Pruden-*  
*tum* 1670 Ray, 36 1732 Fuller,  
 No 652 1875 Cheales, *Proverb Folk-*  
*Lore*, 75, 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, *Jac Prudentum*

10 *Better be an old man's darling*  
*than a young man's warling* 1546  
 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch vii  
 1602 Breton, *Works*, II g 12 (Grosart)  
 ["worldling" for "warling"] 1611  
 Barry, *Ram-Alley*, II 1738 Swift,  
*Polite Convers*, Dial I 1842 Harr  
 Ainsworth, *Miser's Daughter*, bk iii 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 laudatoque proverbio,  
 quod monet, mature fieri senem, si diu  
 velis esse senex—P Vergil, *Adag Op*,  
 67 (1541)] 1539 Taverner, *Proverbs*  
 fo 10, Become an olde man betyme yf  
 thou wylt be an olde man longe 1583  
 Melbancke, *Philobius*, sig C1, He that  
 will be an old man long, must bee an  
 old man soone 1640 Herbert, *Jac*  
*Prudentum* 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, *Jac Prudentum* 1670 Ray,  
 19 1732 Fuller, No 2420

13 *Old man, when thou diest give me*  
*thy doublet* 1678 Ray, 77

14 *Old men and travellers may lie by*  
*authority* 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 330  
 (1870) 1681 Robertson, *Phrascol*  
*Generalis*, 947 1732 Fuller, No 3715  
 Cf Painters and Poets, and Traveller

15 *Old men are twice children* 1539  
 Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo 16, Olde folke

are twyse chyldren. 1549: Latimer, *Sec. Sermon*, 56 (Arber). 1588: Cogan, *Haven of Health*, 182 (1612). 1631: W. Saltonstall, *Pictura Loquentes*, sig. B9, Though the proverbe be, once a man and twice a child. 1632: Randolph, *Jealous Lovers*, III. vi. 1707: Dunton, *Athenian Sport*, 389, Old men are said to be a second time children. 1825: Hone, *Ev. Day Book*, i., 19 Jan. [as in 1631].

16. *Old men go to death; death comes to young men.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1732: Fuller, No. 3719.

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 prouerbe 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*.

(c) *Woman.* 1. *An old woman in a wooden ruff* [in an antique dress]. 1678: Ray, 77.

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).

6. *Old wife's fair.* Craven. The second day of the fair. 1869: Hazlitt, 303.

7. *Old wives' tales.* 1387: Trevisa, tr. Higden, iii. 265 (Rolls Ser.), And vseþ telynges as olde wifes dooþ. 1509: Barclay, *Ship of Fools*, i. 72 (1874), A fole he is for his moste felycyte Is to byleue the tales of an olde wyfe. 1580: Lyly, *Euphues*, 347 (Arber),

Thinking euery olde wiues tale to be a truth. 1604: Marlowe, *Faustus*, sc. v., Tush; these are trifles, and mere old wives' tales. 1614: Rowlands, *Fooles 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 Hearth*, ch. lxxiv., "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 (1919), He plucking his hatte about his eares, mumbling the olde wiues 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. E1, Gylle my olde mare must haue a newe crupper. 1670: Ray, 19, Old mares lust after new cruppers.

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, 169 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 Dutie*,

19-20, As olde wood is best to burne, old horse to ride, old bookes to reade, and old wine to drinke, so are old friends alwayes most trusty to vse 1594 A Copley, *Wits, Fits, etc.*, 4 (1614), Olde wood for fewell an olde horse for easie riding, wine of a yeare olde, olde frendes and olde bookes 1773 Goldsmith, *She Stoops*, I 1, I love everything that's old! old friends, old times, old manners old books, old wine 1816 Scott, *Antiquary*, ch vi, One who professes the maxim of King Alphonso of Castile—old wood to burn—old books to read—old wine to drink—and old friends to converse with Cf E (11)

D SIMILES 1 *An old ewe dressed lamb fashion* 1777 *Gent Mag*, xlvii 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*, 10th ser, xii 189

2 *As old as Adam* c 1579 G Harvey, *Letter-Book*, 82 (Camden S), Yower newe complaynte is nye as owlde as Adam and Eve 1662 in *Rowe Ballads*, iii 578 (BS), If I had as many lives I should be as old as Adam 1888 Lowsley, *Berks Gloss*, 38 (EDS), "As awld as Adam" is the common phrase to denote great age or antiquity

3 *As old as Aldgate* 1725 Defoe, *Tour*, ii 153, Aldgate was very ancient 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 Eggerton* 1709 in *Stukeley Memoirs*, ii 124 (Surtees S), 'Tis proverbial [Dorset] when they would express what has a long time been, to say, 'tis as old as Eggerton

7 *As old as Glastonbury tor* Somerset 1678 Ray, 344

8 *As old as my tongue* See quotes 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I, I am as old as my tongue, and a little

older than my teeth 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, ii 213, "As oud as my tongue and ouder ner my teeth," a saucy answer given to the question, "how oud isto?" 1862 *Dialect of Leeds*, 379 [as in 1828] 1889 J Nicholson, *Folk Speech E Yorks*, 16, As awd as mi tongue, an' a bit awdher then mi teeth

9 *As old as Pandon Gate* 1649 Grey, *Chorographia*, As old as Pandon 1776 Stukeley, *Itin Cur*, cent ii 65, It is an old proverb in this country [Northumberland], "As old as Pandon gate" 1847 Halliwell, *Dict*, s v "As old as Pantons-Gates," a very common proverb There is a gate called Pandon Gate at Newcastle on Tyne 1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, i 300 (F L S), As old as Pandon As old as Pandon Yatts The latter is used in the southern portions of the Bishopric [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 hulls* 1820 Scott, *Monastery*, ch ix 1850 Dickens, *Copperfield*, ch xv 1924 *Sphere*, 30 Aug, p 264, col 1, The capital city, Luxembourg old as the hulls

12 *As old as the itch* 1732 Fuller, No 722

13 *To come the old soldier* 1823 Scott, *St Roman s*, ch xviii, 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 captaine 1629 *Book of Meery 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 ii 1578 Lupton, *All for Money*, sig Ex, When I was a boye it was an olde saying That an olde sacke would lacke 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. Edwards, *Damon and Pythias*, 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.* 1670: Ray, 127. Cf. *Sheltering*.

8. *If the old year goes out like a lion, the new year will come in like a lamb.* 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 4.

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 prouerbe"]. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Chair," Young flesh and old fish (are daintiest). 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 39, Young flesh and old fish. 1717: Pope, *Jan. and May*, 102, There goes a saying, and 'twas shrewdly 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."

13. *Old lad.* See *Devil*.

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 accompts 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 sennne 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 penaunce. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Honte," Old sinne inflicts new shame. 1666: Torriano, *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 ieopardye. 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.

21. *Old tree.* See *Remove*.

22. *Old vessels must leak.* 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 163. 1732: Fuller, No. 3729.

23. *Out of old fields comes new corn.* c. 1390: Chaucer, *Parl. of Foules*, l. 22, For out of olde felde, as men seith, Cometh al this newe corn fro yeer to yere.

24. *The old withy-tree would have a new gate hung at it.* 1732: Fuller, No. 4691.

25. *To bring an old house over one's head* = To get into trouble. 1576: Gascoigne, in *Works*, ii. 548 (Cunliffe), My boye (q<sup>d</sup> he) who badd the be so bolde, As for to plucke an olde house on thy hedd? 1607: Dekker and Webster, *Westw. Hoe*, V., Well do so . . . and bring an old house ouer 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.

26 *To throw an old shoe after one—*  
for luck 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*,  
Pt I ch ix, Nowe for good lucke, cast  
an olde shoe after mee 1621 Brath-  
wait, *Natures Embassie*, 204 (1877),  
One should haue throwne an old shoo  
after thee 1665 R Howard, *Sur-  
prisal*, III vu, I shall need nothing  
now but an old shoe cast after me  
1754 Berthelson, *Eng-Danish Dict*,  
s v 'Shoe' 1842 Tennyson, *Will  
Waterproof* And, wheresoe'er thou  
move, good luck Shall fling her old  
shoe after

Older the more covetous, The 1655  
Fuller, *Church Hist*, bk iv § iii (42)  
1659 in *Hart Miscell*, iv 311 (1745)

Older the wiser, The 1639 Clarke,  
267 1683 White-Kennett, tr 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 tr Aleman's *Guzman*,  
ii 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  
shoes 1732 Fuller, No 4693, The  
older a fool is the worse he is

Oldham See quot 1869 Hazlitt  
233, In Oldham brewis 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  
Prudentum*

Oliver's Mount See quot 1878  
*Folk-Lore Record*, i 169, When Oliver'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 thus saying on Robes-  
pierre 1859 Gen P Thompson, *Audi  
Alt*, II 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 viii, "My  
dear Miss Flora, you cannot make an  
omelette without breaking eggs" said  
I 1922 Weyman, *Orington'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  
1838 Mrs Bray, *Traad of Devon*, iii  
239 [cited as "the old proverb"]

Once a knave and ever a knave 1659  
Howell, 6 1672 Walker, *Param*, 49,  
Once a knave 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, *Laquet Ridiculous*, bk  
ii epi 121 1659 Howell, 15 1663  
Killgrew, *Thomaso*, Pt I II iv 1670  
Ray, 155 1703 in *Hart Miscell*,  
v 432 (1745) 1754 *World*, No 57

Once a wood See Pilling Moss

Once a year a man may say, On  
his conscience 1640 Herbert, *Jac  
Prudentum*

Once an use and ever a custom  
1605 Camden, *Remains*, 330 (1870)  
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,  
*Asope*, ii 203 (Jacobs), And therefore 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 Prudentum*

Once done is never to be undone,  
What is 1601 Yarrington, *Tuo Trag in  
One*, I iii, in Bullen, *Old Plays*, iv 23,  
Whats done already cannot be undone  
1609 *Man in the Moore*, 41 (Percy S),  
That which is done cannot be un-  
done Before 1704 T Brown, *Works*,  
i 238 (1760) 1836 Marryat, *Easy*,  
ch xxxii, I felt much the same, but  
whats 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 Frutes*, fo. 33. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 26, Every ten years, one hath need of another. 1732: Fuller, No. 3732.

Once nought twice somewhat = A first offence counts for nothing. 1889: *Folk-Lore Journal*, vii. 295, Once nowt, twice summat.

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*.

Once warned twice armed. 1581: T. Howell, *Devises*, 15 (1906). Cf. Forewarned.

One and none is all one. 1670: Ray, 20. Cf. One is no number.

One and thirty, He is = He is drunk. 1678: Ray, 87.

One beats the bush. See Beat (5).

One beggar. See Beggar (11) and (12).

One body is no body. 1639: Clarke, 44. Cf. One is no number.

One bush. See quotes. 1583: Mel-bancke, *Philotinus*, sig. L4, One bushe, saith the prouerbe, can not harbour two Robin redbreasts. 1586: G. Whitney, *Emblems*, 55, One groaue maie not two redbreasts serue. Before 1634: Chapman, *Alphonsus*, I. i., Una arbusta non alit duos erithraeos.

One business begets another. 1528: More, *Works*, p. 105, col. 1 (1557), It is an olde said saw, that one busynes begetteth and bryngeth forth another.

One cannot, another can, What. 1630: Davenant, *Cruel Brother*, I.

One can't help many, but many can help one. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 99.

One cherry tree. See Cherry (4).

One child. See quot. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., v. 209, With one child you may walk, with two you may ride; When you

have three at home you must bide. Cf. Children (19).

One cloud is enough to eclipse all the sun. 1732: Fuller, No. 3743.

One coat, He that has, cannot lend it. *Ibid.*, No. 2135.

One day is sometimes better than a whole year. [c. 1290: in Wright, *Pol. Songs John to Edw. II.*, 176 (Camden S.), Saepe dat una dies quod totus denegat annus.] 1481: Caxton, *Reynard*, 66 (Arber), Oftymes one day is better than somtyme an hole yere. 1631: Mabbe, *Celestina*, 248 (T.T.), Of more worth is one day of a wise man then the whole life of a foole. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 4 (Percy S.).

One day of pleasure is worth two of sorrow. 1732: Fuller, No. 3746.

One day of respite. See quot. c. 1534: Berners, *Huon*, 128 (E.E.T.S.), It is a comen sayeng, one day of respite is worth c. yere [of endurance].

One devil. See Devil (31).

One dog, one bull=fair play. 1879: Jackson, *Shropsh. Word-Book*, 309. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 447, Only one dog was allowed to be "loosed" on the bull at a time; hence arose a proverbial saying, "One dog, one bull," i.e. fair play: now applied in the Collieries to any kind of fight or fray.

One door shuts, another opens, When. 1586: D. Rowland, tr. *Lazarillo*, 32 (1924), This proverbe was fulfild, when one doore is shut the other openeth. 1612: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt. I. bk. iii. ch. vii., Where one door is shut another is opened. 1710: S. Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 49. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. v., If one door should be shut, God will open another. 1921: R. L. Gales, *Old-World Essays*, 244.

One doth the scathe [harm], and another hath the scorn. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Faire." 1670: Ray, 20. 1732: Fuller, No. 6344, One doth harm, and another bears the blame.

One ear and out at the other, In at. [Nec quae dicentur superfluent aures.—Quintilian, II. v. 13.] c. 1374: Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk. iv. l. 434, But Troilus

Tok litel hede of al that ever he mente, Oon ere it herde, at the other out it wente c 1500 in Hazlitt, *Early Pop Poetry*, I 229 1552 Latimer, *Works*, II 87 (PS) c 1610 Harrington, *Briefe View of Church*, 145 (1653) 1640 *Ar't asleepe Husband*?, Frontispiece, But she might full as well her lecture smother, For ent'ring one eare, it goes out at t'other 1750 Smollett, *Gal Blas*, III 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 xxviii 1909 Hudson, *Afoot in England*, ch xxii

One enemy is too much 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 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 I 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 aimes at then another, because he hath a monstrous sight [This is a lame explanation of an absurd saying] 1678 Ray, 134, a ridiculous saying

One eye-witness is better than ten ear-witnesses [Pluris est oculatus testis unus quam auriti decem—Plautus, *Truc*, II vi 8] 1539 Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo 43 [with "of more value" for "better"] 1582 Robinson, tr *Assertion of K Arthur*, 39 (EETS), Of more force standes eye wnesse one, Than ten eare witnesses among 1681 Robertson, *Phrascol Generalis*, 567 1732 Fuller, No 3750 ["hearsays" 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 Prudentum*

One false knave accuseth another 1639 Clarke, 79

One father is more than a hundred schoolmasters 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

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 Prudentum* 1670 Ray, 10

One fool See Fool (87) and (88)

One foot in the grave [One foot in Charon's boat—Lucian, *Apol*, I] 1566 Painter, *Pal of Pleasure*, II 109 (Jacobs), To visite him, who hath one of his feet alreadie within the graue 1592 Warner, *Albion's Eng*, bk ix ch 47, Old dotting foole, one foote in graue 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 Marian*, ch xiii, 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 Prudentum*

One foot is better than two crutches Ibid

One gate See One Yate

One God, no more, but friends good store 1639 Clarke, 26 1670 Ray, 94 1732 Fuller, No 6104

One good forewit is worth two after-wits 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?*

17 (Hunt. Cl.) ["asketh"]. 1638: Randolph, *Amyntas*, V. vi. ["deserves"]. 1670: Cotton, *Scarronides*, bk. iv. ["requires"]. 1703: Farquhar, *Twin-Rivals*, V. iii. 1777: Murphy, *Know your own Mind*, I. 1818: Scott, *Heart of Midl.*, ch. xxx. 1894: R. L. S., *St. Ives*, ch. i. [the last four all have "deserves"]. Cf. One shrewd turn.

One good wife. See quotes. 1620: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt. II. ch. xxii. It was an opinion of I know not what sage man, that there was but one good woman in the world, and his advice was, that every man should think, that was married, that his wife was she 1707: Dunton, *Athenian Sport*, 333, 'Tis a saying, there is but one good wife in the world, and every man enjoys her. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I. They say, that every married man should believe there's but one good wife in the world, and that's his own. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. xvii. If there is only one good wife in England, I am the man who put the ring on her finger. Cf. One shrew; and One pretty child.

One grain fills not a sack, but helps his fellows. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Span-Eng.*, 17.

One grief drives out another; and sorrow expelleth sorrow. 1631: Mabbe, *Celestina*, 280 (T.T.).

One had as good be nibbled to death by ducks, or pecked to death by a hen. 1678: Ray, 240.

One hair of a woman draws more than a team of oxen. 1591: Florio, *Second Frutes*, 183, Ten teemes of oxen draw much lesse, Than doth one haire of Helens tresse. 1647: Howell, *Letters*, bk. ii. No. iv., One hair of a woman can draw more than a hundred pair of oxen. 1712: Pope, *Rape of Lock*, ii. 28, And beauty draws us with a single hair. 1732: Fuller, No 3757. 1928: *Bystander*, 28 March, p. 624, col. 1, One hair of a woman can draw more than a hundred pair of oxen. Cf. Beauty (2).

One hand claweth another. 1567: Jewel, *Defence of Apol.*, Pt. IV. 692 (P.S.), The proverb is common: "One

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 manus lavat.—Seneca, *Apoc.*, 9, fin.] 1578: Florio, *First Frutes*, fo. 34. 1580: Lyly, *Euphues*, 221 (Arber). 1607: Middleton, *Phœnix*, I. i, 'Tis through the world, this hand will rub the other. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 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. 1573: *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 l*, 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. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 329 (1870). 1606: in *Antiq. Repertory*, i. 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.*,

3rd ser, v 208 1880 Courtney, *IV Cornwall Words*, 24 (E D S)

One is no number 1539 Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo 17, One man no man 1586 G Whitney, *Emblems*, 66, The prouerbe saeth, one man is deemed none 1598 Marlowe, *Hero and L*, sest v, For one no number is 1621 Brathwait, *Natures Embassie*, 268 (1877), Number can ne're consist of lesse then two 1681 Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 953, One's as good as none 1823 Moor, *Suffolk Words*, 236, An old Norfolk and Suffolk saw may be given here—"One is none—tew is some—three is a sort—four is a mort [lot] 1843 Halliwell *Nursery Rhymes* 162, One s none, Two's some, etc Cf One and none, and One body

One is wise, two are happy, Where 1710 S Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs* 338

One kindness is the price of another 1645 Howell, *Letters*, bk 1 § 11 No 14, 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 subtiltie bringeth in an other 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 Florio, *First Fruits*, 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 *Countrim New Commonwealth*, 14

One mend-fault is worth twenty

spy-faults 1882 Mrs Chamberlain, *W Worcs Words*, 39 (E D S) 1901

F E Taylor, *Lances Sayings*, 9, One mend-fawt's wo th a score o' find-fawts

One month's cheer is better than a churl's whole life 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch vii 1633 Draxe, 129

One mouth doth nothing without another 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

One mule scrubs another [Mutuum muli scabant — Auson, *Idyll*, xi Praef monos] 1638 Randolph, *Muses' Looking-Glass*, III iv 1666 Torriano *Piazza Univ*, 15, Asses scratch one another 1738 Swift, *Polite Comers*, Dial III, It looked like two asses scrubbing one another

One nail drives out another Before 1225 *Ancren R*, 404 (Morton), Vor, al so as on neil driued ut þen oðerne

1387 Trevisa, tr Higden (*Rolls Ser*), vii 25, þanne þe kyng drof out on naylewyþ anoper 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*, ii 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 Prudentum*

One pair of legs is worth two pairs of hands c 1565 Still, *Gammer Gurton*, IV ii, If one pair of legs had not bene worth two paire of hands 1597 Harvey, *Works*, iii 52 (Grosart) 1600 *Weakest goeth to the Wall*, I ii ["running" before "legs," and "working"]

before "hands"]. 1611: Coryat, *Cru-dities*, i. 35 (1905). 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. xxv., 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 poyson doth another heale. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs*: *Brit.-Eng.*, 34, One poyson 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. Canting Crew*, sig. L2.

One shoulder of mutton drives down another. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Appetit" ["drawes" for "drives"]. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. II. 1811: J. Austen, *Sense and Sens.*, ch. xxx. 1840: Barham, *Ing. Legends*, Introd. to "Look at the Clock."

One shrew. See quots. 1528: More, in *Works*, p. 233, col. 1 (1557), He sayth plainly yt there is but one shrewde wyfe in the worlde; but he sayth in dede that eueri man weneth he hath her. 1588: Cogan, *Haven of Health*, 252 (1612), Howbeit (as I haue heard say) there is but one shrew in all the world, but eueri man thinketh he hath y<sup>t</sup> one. Cf. One good wife; and One pretty child.

One shrewd turn asks another. 1509: Barclay, *Ship of Fools*, ii. 38 (1874), One yll turne requyreth another be thou sure. 1591: Harington, *Orl. Furioso*, bk. viii. st. 45, For one ill turne alone is seldome done. 1602: Chamberlain, *Letters*, 126 (Camden S.), One shrewd turne seldome comes alone. 1732: Fuller, No. 3794. Cf. One good turn.

One slumber invites another. 1611:

Cotgrave, s.v. "Attraire" ["drawes on" for "invites"]. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum* ["finds" for "invites"]. 1670: Ray, 20.

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. Prudentum*. 1747: Franklin, in *Works*, ii. 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. [μηδὲ δίκην δικάσης πρὶν ἂν ἀμφοῖν μῦθον ἀκούσης —Cicero, *ad Att.*, vii. 18.] 1593: Greene, *Works*, ii. 222 (Grosart), Tush syr quoth the Marquesse, one tale is alwayes good vntil another is heard. 1617: Taylor (Water-Poet), *Works*, 3rd pagin., 83. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, ii. 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 thiefe. 1600: *Sir John Oldcastle*, l. 1382 (Malone S.), Just the prouerb, one thiefe robs another. 1681: Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, s.v. "Thief," One thief accuseth another.

One to-day is worth two to-morrows. 1641: Quarles, *Enchyridion*, Cent. IV., C. xcvi. 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*, cclvi. (1816), To eueri 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 eares and one tongue, because you shoulde heare more than you speake 1820 Colton, *Lacon*, 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 1581 B Rich, *Farewell*, 197 (Sh S), Like as we saie, one vice spiles a greate noubner of vertues 1736 Franklin *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, 1 44b (Bigelow), What maintains one vice would bring up two children

One wedding begets another c 1640 in *Roxb Ballads*, in 54 (BS), 'Tis said that one wedding produceth another 1713 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 1736 Bailey, *Dict*, s v "Better"

One yate [gate] for another, good fellow 1678 Ray, 263, They father the original of this upon a passage between one of the earls of Rutland and a country fellow The earl, 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 quot 1678 Ray, 63, One year of joy, another of comfort, and all the rest of content A marriage wish 1732 Fuller, No 3806 [after "content"—"make the married life happy"] 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch xvii [as in 1678]

One year's seed seven years' weed 1884 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 seeding makes seven years' weeding" 1917 Bridge *Cheshire Proverbs*, 100

Onion, It may serve with an An ironical saying 1659 Howell, 1 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), Garlic (1), and Spruce

On the hip, To have one c 1400 Beryn, 1 1781, p 55 (EETS), So within an houre or to, Beryn he had 1-caughte Somwhat oppon the hipp, that Beryn had the wers 1591 Harington, *Orl Furioso*, bk xlv1 st 117, In fine he doth apple one speciall drift, Which was to get the pagan on the hippe 1604 Shakespeare, *Othello*, II 1, I'll have our Michael Cassio on the hip 1681 Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 805, He has him on the hip, at an advantage in Law 1865 Planché, *Extravag*, v 262 (1879), Now, infidel, I have thee on the hip

Open door may tempt a saint, An 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Span-Erg*, 16, 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



the worlds master alwayes. 1647: Howell, *Letters*, bk. ii. No. xxxix., Opinion can do much, and indeed she is that great lady which rules the world. Before 1680: Butler, *Remains*, i. 241 (1759), Opinion governs all mankind.

Oppenshaw. *The constable of Oppenshaw sets beggars in stocks at Manchester*. 1678: Ray, 301. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Cheshire." 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 113

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 time.

Opportunity is whoredom's bawd. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 329 (1870).

Opportunity makes the thief. c 1220: *Hali Meidenhad*, 17 (E.E.T.S.), Man seið þat eise makeð þeof. 1387: Trevisa, tr. Higden, vii. 379 (Rolls Ser.), I see wel þat ese makeþ þe to synne. c. 1440: Anon., tr. Higden, vii. 379 (Rolls Ser.), Me thenke that oportunitie maketh a thefe. 1591: Florio, *Second Frutes*, 169, Opportunity makes a man committ larcenie. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Coffre." 1700: T. Brown, etc., *Scarron*, ii. 182 (1892), Yet do I know full well that opportunity makes a thief. 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. 1.

Orchard is his shambles, His. 1639: Clarke, 50.

Orts. See Make (20).

Ossing comes to bossing = Effort leads to success. 15th cent. MS., Digby, 52, lf. 28, quoted in *N. & Q.*, 10th ser., vii. 69, Ossyng comys to bossyng: Vulgus opinatur quod postmodum verificatur. 1691: Ray, *Words not Generally Used*, 58 (E.D.S.) [Cheshire]. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 101.

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 peoples 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*, 91. 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, *Paræm.*, 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 state requires a pound of gold, An. 1629: *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov. 26.

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 welny 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 richly 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

Outface with a card of ten, To See 1847 quot Before 1529 Skelton, *Bowge of Courte* l 315, Fyrste pycke a quarell, and fall oute with hym then, And soo outface hym with a carde of ten c 1542 Brinklow *Complaynt*, 45 (EETS), Eyther he shal haue fauor for his masters sake, or els bragge it out with a carde of x 1594 Shakespeare *Tam of Shrew*, II, Yet I have faced it with a card of ten 1633 *Dux Grammaticus* quoted in *N & Q* 5th ser viii 165, I set very little or nought by him that cannot face out his ware with a card of ten 1847 Halliwell, *Dict*, 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 Peacham, *Worth of Penny*, in Arber, *Garner*, vi 256 (1883) 1710 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 Palsgrave, *Accolastus*, sig H3, To leappe out of the halle into the kytchyn, or out of Chryst's blessinge in to a warme sonne 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch v 1579 Lyly *Euphues*, 196 (Arber), Therefore if thou wilt follow my advice than thou shalt come out of a warme sunne into Gods blessing 1593 G Harvey, in *Works*, ii 207 (Grosart), What reason hath Zeale to fly from Gods blessing into a warm sunne c 1605 Shakespeare, *Lear*, II ii [The editor of the "Temple" Shake-

spere 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, *Forreine Travell*, 37 (Arber) 1712 Motteux, *Quixote*, Pt I bk iii ch iv [Motteux takes the saying to mean 'out of the frying 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 prouerbe, oute of all daunger of gonneshotte 1672 Walker, *Paræm*, 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, EETS), For he that is ute bi-loken [shut out = absent] he is inne sone for-geeten c 1320 in *Reliq Antiqua*, i 114 (1841), "Fer from eye, fer from herte," Quoth Hendyng c 1386 Chaucer, *Miller's Tale*, l 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" 1546 Heywood *Proverbs*, Pt I ch iii c 1570 Marr of *Wit and Science*, V i 1697 Vanbrugh *Esop*, I i 1711 *Spectator*, No 77 1791 Boswell, *Letters*, ii 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 *Hart Miscell*, vii 199 (1746) [quoted as "the old saying"]

Out of the wood, Don't shout till you are [αὐτὸς μὴ γὰρ πρὶς τελευτήσαντος ἰσθῆς] —Sophocles, in Cicero, *ad Att*, iv 8 a i] 1792 Darblay, *Diary*, ii 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. xliii., 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.

Out of the world, as out of the fashion, As good. 1639: Clarke, 171. 1671: Head and Kirkman, *Eng. Rogue*, ii. 111, For out of the fashion, out of the world. 1694: Cibber, *Love's Last Shift*, II. 1752: Fielding, *Cov. Garden Journal*, No. 30. 1903: Ella F. Maitland, *Window in Chelsea*, 31, Better be out of the world than out of the fashion.

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 Daies 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: Planché, *Extravag.*, ii. 197 (1879), *Light (whispering)*. Outran 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 . . . outshoote 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. 1. 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 y<sup>t</sup> is defectyve or culpable hymself in a synne, he iugeth euery man to be in the same, or elles y<sup>r</sup> fader soughte neuer his sone in y<sup>e</sup> ouen: 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 ouen, where she would neuer have sought her, if she had not been there first her selfe: (a hackney prouerb 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 The Mayor of Over beats them all. See also Altringham.

Over head and ears. [Ire praecipitem 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, *Ambi-  
 tious Statesman* IV ii Must plunge his  
 soul O'er head and ears betimes in  
 wickedness 1681 Robertson, *Phraseol  
 Generalis* 434, He is in debt over head  
 and ears 1738 Swift, *Polite Con-  
 vers* Dial I, Over head and ears in  
 love with some lady 1831 Peacock,  
*Crotchet 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 some-  
 body 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 Sharpam, *Cupid's Whirligig*,  
 II, Ouer-shoes, ouer-bootes now  
 goe deeper euen 1726 L Welsted,  
*Dissemb 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*,  
 Lett XIII, Never mind the Court of  
 the Gentiles, man we will have you  
 into the Sanctuary at once over  
 shoes, over boots Cf Over head 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 Hue of the  
 Romish Church* wherein the Catho-  
 like Religion is substantially confirmed,  
 and the Heretikes finely fetch'd over the  
 coales [title] 1639 Fuller *Holy War*,  
 bk v ch ii, If they should say the  
 Templars were burned wrongfully, they  
 may be fetched over the coals them-  
 selves for charging his Holiness 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 xii, The cap-  
 tain had been hauling him over the  
 coals for not carrying on the duty  
 according to his satisfaction

Over the fire-stones S Devon 1c  
 to prison 1869 Hazlitt, 312

Over the shoulder, or Over the left  
 shoulder 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Es-  
 paule," 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  
 1681 Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*,  
 655, He gains over the left shoulder,  
 1c his gain is mischief c 1750 in  
 Peck, *Desid Curiosa* 233 (1779), The  
 face of Bacchus as I have been in-  
 formed, is very like a certain, *quondam*  
 dean for whom Verrio [the painter of  
 the Bacchus] they say, had a respect  
 over the left shoulder 1841 Harts-  
 horne, *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 quot 1846-59  
*Denham Tracts* i 86 (F L S), Ovington  
 Edge and Cockfield Tell Are the coldest  
 spots twixt Heaven and Hell Oving-  
 ton is a village near Greta Bridge, in  
 Yorkshire Cockfield is near Staindrop,  
 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 Shake-  
 speare, 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 paid that debt 1681 Robert-  
 son, *Phraseol Generalis*, 969

Owl and Owls 1 An owl is the king  
 of the night 1633 Draxe, 69 1639  
 Clarke, i

2. *He lives too close to the wood to be frightened by owls.* 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., vi. 494. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 589. 1886: 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.

3. *Like an owl in an ivy bush.* 1606: Day, *Ile of Gulls*, V., How say you, my lady? what oule sings out of that ivy bush? 1700: T. Brown, in *Works*, iii. 2 (1760), You know that man was made for business, and not to sit amusing himself like an owl in an ivy-bush. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial I. c. 1780: in *Poems on Costume*, 245 (Percy S.), When your hair's finely dress'd, I plainly do see, You look like an owl in an old ivy-tree. 1891: Q.-Couch, *Noughts and Crosses*, 76. 1900: *N. & Q.*, 9th ser., vi. 397, "Like an owl in an ivy bush" is a proverbial saying in North Lincolnshire.

4. *The owl flies.* See quot. 1683: White-Kennett, tr. Erasmus' *Praise of Folly*, 135 (8th ed.), There is also another favourable proverb, *The owl flies, an omen of success.*

5. *The owl is not accounted the wiser for living retiredly.* 1732: Fuller, No. 4697. 1886: Swainson, *Folk-Lore of Brit. Birds*, 125 (F.L.S.).

6. *The owl thinks all her young ones beauties.* c. 1580: U. Fulwell, *Ars Adulandi*, sig. D3, The oule thought her owne birdes fairest. 1732: Fuller, No. 4698. 1886: Swainson, *Folk-Lore of Brit. Birds*, 125 (F.L.S.).

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 goat for an owl.* c. 1685: in *Roxb. Ballads*, iv. 72 (B.S.).

9. *To bring owls to Athens*—"Coals to Newcastle." [*γλαῦκ' εἰς Ἀθήνας*.—Aristophanes, *Av.*, 301.] 1583: Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig. L3, Thy exhortation . . . is as if thou shouldst bring owles to Athens 1591: Harington, *Orl. Furioso*, bk. xl. st. 1, To beare pots (as they say) to Samos Ile. . . . Or

owls to Athens, crocodils to Nyle. 1600: F. Thynne, *Embl and Epigr.*, 3 (E.E.T.S.), Therefore in vaine for mee to bring owles to Athens, or add water to the large sea of your rare lerning. 1693: Hacket, *Life of Williams*, i. 217. 1704: *Gent. Instructed*, 545 (1732). 1732: Fuller, No. 5866.

10. *To walk by owl-light* = To fear arrest. 1659: Howell, 10. 1670: Ray, 214.

11. *When owls whoop much at night, expect a fair morrow.* 1886: Swainson, *Folk-Lore of Brit. Birds*, 123 (F.L.S.) [cited as a Sussex saying].

See also Ass (3); Drunk; Grave; and Poor (12).

Own is own. c. 1320: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 114 (1841), "Owen ys owen, and other mennes edneth," Quoth Hendyng. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. iv., For alwaie owne is owne, at the recknynges eend. 1602: Marston, *Antonios Revenge*, II. ii, Loose fortunes rags are lost; my owne's my owne. 1646: Quarles, *Works*, i. 72 (Grosart). 1659: Howell, 7.

Ox and Oxen. 1. *A lazy ox is little better for the goad.* 1732: Fuller, No. 236.

2. *A long ox and a short horse.* Ibid., No. 257.

3. *An old ox makes a straight furrow.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Span.-Eng.*, 9, The old ox makes the streightest furrow. 1732: Fuller, No. 650.

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 *oxe* (is bound) by the horne, 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.

6. *Seldom dieth the ox that weepeth for the cock.* Before 1500: in Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 133 (E.E.T.S.).

7. *Take heed of an ox before, of a horse behind, of a monk on all sides.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 20 ["asse" for "horse"]. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Ox" [as in 1670].

1875. Cheales, *Proverb Folk-Lore*, 77

8 *The ox is never wot till he to the harrow go* 1523 Fitzherbert *Husb*, 24 (E D S) [quoted as "an olde saying"]

9 *The ox when weariest treads surest* 1539 Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo 3, An olde beaten oxe fastenethe hys fote the stronger 1611 Cotgrave, s v 'Bœuf,' The weary oxe goes slowly 1650 Taylor, *Holy Living*, ch 11 § 6, The ox, when he is weary treads surest 1678 Ray, 186 1732 Fuller, No 4699

10 *To swallow an ox and be choked with the tail* 1659 Howell, 6 1670 Ray, 194 1732 Fuller No 5238

11 *Where shall the ox go but he must labour?* 1631 Mabbe, *Celestina*, 78 (T T), Which way shall the oxe goe, 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 (5), verb (7)

Oxford 1 *Oxford for learning, London for wit, Hull for women, and York for a tit* 1869 Hazlitt, 312

2 *Oxford knives, London wives* 1659 Howell 21 1670 Ray 257 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v 'Oxfordshire'

3 *Send verdingales* [farthingales] to Broad-gates, Oxford 1562 Heywood *Epigr*, 5th hund, No 55 Alas poore verdingales must he in the streete To house them, no doore the cūtee made meete Syns at our narrow doores they in can not win Send them to Oxforde, at Brodegates to get in 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, iii 7 (1840) 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Oxfordshire" 1834 W Toone, *Gloss*, s v "Farthingale," They [farthingales, c 1600] were so preposterously large, as to give rise to a proverb—"send fardingales to Broad-gates (in Oxford)," for the wearers could not enter an ordinary sized doorway 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 (1840), This proverb began about the end of the

reign of King Henry the Eighth, 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'Israeli, *Cur of Lit*, 2nd ser, 1 462 (1824)

5 *When Oxford scholars fall to fight* See quot 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, iii 8 (1840) Mark the chronicles aught 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 2001 Cf Northampton (2)

2 *Oysters are a cruel meat* See quotes 1611 Tarltons *Jests*, 6 (Sh S), They [oysters] are ungodly, because they are eaten without grace, uncharitable, because they leave nought but shells, and unprofitable, because they must swim in wine 1738 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 ungodly 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 Nr, The oyster is vnseasonable and vnwholesome in all moneths that haue not the letter R in their name 1600 W Vaughan, *Directions for Health*, 22, Oysters must not bee eaten in those monethes, which in pronouncing wante the letter R 1655 T Muffett, *Healths Improvement*, 46, Oysters in all months in whose name an R is found 1737 Ray, 273, Oysters are not good in a month that hath not an R in it 1868 *Quart Review*, cxxv 251, What epicure 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] 1883 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

P's and Q's, To mind one's. 1602: Dekker, *Satiro-mastix*, 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. 1801: 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 à vos pies et vos cues." 1842: Barham, *Ing. Legends*, 2nd ser.: "Lay of St. Aloys." 1885: Pinero, *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: Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig. I4, Vsing an aldermans pace before he can wel gange. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Abbé," Alderman's pace, a leasurely walking, slow gate. 1639: 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. Gurton*, 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 anguis 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 quotes. 1690: *New Dict Canting 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, *Shrewsbury*, 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, The Good Fellowship of. 1602: Carew, *Surv. of Cornwall*, 220 (1811), Some of the idle disposed Cornishmen nick their towns with bywords, as "The good fellowship of Padstow." 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., v. 275.

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, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I.

Pain is forgotten where gain follows. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 330 (1870). 1670: Ray, 129. 1732: Fuller, No 3836.

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 paine in  
getting, care in keeping, and griefe in  
losing riches 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*  
1763 Murphy, *Citizen*, I ii

Painted pictures are dead speakers  
1616 Breton, in *Works* ii e 5 (Grosart)  
1670 Ray, 131

Painted sheath See Leaden sword

Painters and Poets may lie by author-  
ity 1591 Harington *Apol of Poetrie*,  
par 3 According to that old verse  
Astronomers, painters, and poets may  
lie by authoritie 1618 Harington,  
*Epigrams*, bk ii No 88, Besides, we  
poets lie by good authoritie 1650  
R. Heath, *Epigrams* 35, Poets and  
painters by authoritie As wel as travel-  
lers we say may lie 1681 Robert-  
son, *Phrascol Generalis*, 1003 1736  
Bailey, *Dict*, s v 'Poets,' Poets and  
painters lie 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

Pauses its 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 l 88, Deed wex her  
hewe, and lyk as ash to sene c 1386  
Chaucer, *Knight's Tale*, l 506, His  
hewe salow, and pale as asshen colde  
c 1477 Caxton, *Jason*, 156 (E E T S),  
He after becam pale and dede as  
asshes c 1490 *Partonope* l 10166  
(E E T S) 1567 *Merry Tales*, etc  
No 48 p 64 (Hazlitt) 1607 *Con-  
cepts of Old Hobson*, 30 (Percy S) As  
pale as ashes for feare 1758-67  
Sterne, *Trist Shandy*, ii ch xix, See-  
ing her turn as pale as ashes at the  
very mention of it 1817 Byron,  
*Letters*, etc, iv 51 (Prothero) 1870  
Dickens *Druid*, ch x, 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 1813 Scott, *Rokeby*,  
V xxvii, He looks pale as clay 1893  
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 vii ch 1 1815  
Scott, *Mannerings*, 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! 1847 Halliwell, *Dict*,  
s v, a term of contempt

Pandon See Old, D (9)

Pantofles 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]  
1592 Lyly, *Mother Bombe*, I iii,  
They give us pap with a hatchet  
1719 D Urfe, *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 unkind manner

Paradise, He that will enter into,  
must have a good key 1640 Her-  
bert, *Jac Prudentum* 1670 Ray, 20  
1732 Fuller, No 2347 ["come with a  
right key"]

Pardon all but thyself 1611 Cot-  
grave, s v 'Pardonner' 1640 Her-  
bert, *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 paryng of hir nayles. c. 1598: Deloney, *Gentle Craft*, Pt. II. ch. i., Such penny fathers and pinch-fistes, 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 nailes. 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 almond, 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 Parot must haue 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 almond than he for a commodious drab. 1616: Houghton, *Englishm. 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 almond 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 devill 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 parsley-bed. 1640: R. Brome, *Antipodes*, I. iv., For I am past a child My selfe to thinke they are found in parsley beds. 1659: London *Chanticleers*, 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 parsley 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 yar 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 pinch on the  
1579 Lyly, *Euphues*, 87 (Arber).  
Lucilla perceiving the drift of the olde  
foxe hir father shaped him an  
aunsweare which pinched Philautus  
on the persons syde c 1580  
Fulwell, *Ars Adulandi*, sig HI, Pinch  
on the parsons side, my lorde the  
whorsons haue to much 1630 T  
Adams *Works*, 77, This is a common  
slander, when the couetous wretch  
pincheth on the priest's side 1690  
*New Dict Canting Crew* To pinch on  
the parson's side, or sharp him of his  
tithe 1737 Ray 268

Parsons are souls' wagoners 1640  
Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Parsons pay for the clerks 1812  
Combe, *Syntax Pict Tour*, can iv,  
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 pite 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  
thie [thigh] Twere the finest bird that  
ever did see

2 If you had not aimed at the par-  
tridge, you had not missed the snipe  
1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, ii 108  
(F L S)

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  
thorow the pikes of his infortunat  
dangers 1581 Pettie tr Guazzo's  
*Civil Coners*, Pref, Hauing alreadie

past the pikes in a dangerous con-  
flict, without wound of honour 1626  
Breton in *Works*, i e 6 (Grosart), To  
passe the pikes of Danger's deadly  
smart 1682 A Behn, *Roundheads*,  
V iv, With much ado I have  
pass'd the pikes, my house being sur-  
rounded 1690 *New Dict Canting*  
*Crew*, sig I5 1785 Cowper, *Lett 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 1880 Spurgeon, *Plough-*  
*man's Pictures*, 143 [as in 1732]

Past cure past care 1593 Greene,  
*Works*, ii 154 (Grosart), Remember the  
olde prouerbe past cure, past care  
without remedie, without remembrance.  
1592 Shakespeare, *L L L*, V ii  
c 1625 B & F, *Double Marriage*, I 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 swete 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 v  
Norfolk

Pastor Sunday See Whitsuntide (3)  
Patch and long sit, build and soon  
flit 1670 Ray, 21

Patch by patch See quotes 1639  
in *Berkeley MSS*, iii 33 (1885), Patch  
by patch is yeomanly but patch vpon

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 Pater-noster. 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 pater-noster-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 neuer come in my Creede. 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.

Path hath a puddle, Every. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1732: Fuller, No. 1453. 1817: Scott, *Rob Roy*, ch. xxxviii., But ilka bean has its black, and ilka path has its puddle. 1852: FitzGerald, *Polonius*, 153 (1903). 1854: Warter, *Last of Old Squires*, 53.

Patience. 1. *He preacheth patience that never knew pain.* 1855: Bohn, 381.

2. *He that hath no patience hath no-*

*thing.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Patience." 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 194.

3. *He that hath patience, hath fat thrushes for a farthing.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

4. *Let patience grow in your garden.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1633: Draxe, 152.

5. *Patience carries with it half a release.* 1642: D. Rogers, *Matrim. Honour*, 196.

6. *Patience conquers.* c. 1374: Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk. iv. l. 1584, Men seyn, "the suffraunt overcometh," pardee. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), *Sc. of Folly*, 46, in *Works*, ii. (Grosart), Who suffers orecomes. 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 miht 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 plasted with pacience. 1560: Wilson, *Rhetorique*, 206 (1909), Pacience is a remedie for euery 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, *Lancs Sayings*, 9, Payshunce is a plister for o maks o' sores.

10. *Patience is a virtue.* 1377: Langland, *Plowman*, B, xi. 370, Suffraunce is a souereygne vertue. c. 1386, Chaucer, *C. Tales*, F, 773 (Skeat): Patience is an heigh vertu, certéyn. 1599: Breton, in *Works*, ii. c 7 (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 iii, There is a point when patience ceases to be virtue 1821 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 sicke man 1761 Colman, *Jealous Wife*, IV 1 Cf No remedy

12 *Patience, money, and time, bring all things to pass* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*, Patience time and money accommodate all things 1732 Fuller, No 3858

13 *Patience perforce* See 1847 quot 1575 Gascoigne, *Patience Perforce* [title of poem] 1590 Spenser *F Q*, III x 3, But patience perforce, he must abide What future and his fate on him will lay 1659 Howell, II (9), Patience perforce is medicine for a mad horse 1694 Motteux, *Rabelais*, bk v ch 1, Patience per force is a remedy for a mad-dog 1702 Penn, *Fruits of Solitude*, Pt II No 188, According to the proverb, *Patience per force*, and thank you for nothing 1837 Southey, *Lett to Mrs Hughes*, 7 Dec, 'Patience perforce' was what I heard of every day in Portugal 1847 Halliwell Dict, s v "Perforce," *Patience perforce*, a phrase when some evil must be endured which cannot by any means be remedied

14 *Patience with poverty is all a poor man's remedy* 1639 Clarke, 15 1656 Flecknoe, *Diarium*, 6, Patience, virtue of the poor 1670 Ray, 130 1732 Fuller, No 6361 [omitting 'all']

See also Nature, Time, 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*, II He is a fool that makes his physician his heir 1732 Fuller, No 4368

Paull, a village on the Humber See quot 1878 *Folk-Lore Record*, 1 167, High Paull, and low Paull, and Paull Holme, There never was a fair maid married at Paull town

Paul's, Old as. 1662 in *Roxb Ballads*, III 577 (BS) I can call 'um pritty souls, though they be as old as Pouls

1667 L'Estrange, *Quevedo's Visions* 184 (1904), Let her be as old as Paul's 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I 1752 Fielding, *Cow Garden Journal* No 28, And told me that my secret was not only a lye, but as old as Paul's 1888 Lowsley, *Berks Gloss*, 124 (E D S), The expression as "awild as St Paul's" is used to denote great antiquity

Paul's steeple, Old as 1659 Howell, *Proverbs*, Dedn, Some of them may be said to be as old as Pauls 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 hugyer thing is done 1659 Howell, *Proverbs*, Dedn, A very ancient proverb viz Paul cant alwayes stand 1670 Ray, 130 1732 Fuller, No 3861

Paul's See also Westminster Pavcs 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* Ibid, No 2247

4 *He that payeth beforehand shall have his work ill done* 1591 Florio, *Second Fruits*, 39, He that paieth afore hand, hath neuer his worke well done 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Bras," Iames his workeman, 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 DII (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. 6352. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. xii. 1875: Smiles, *Thrift*, 89, Who pays what he owes enriches himself.

8. *Pay with the same dish you borrow.* 1639: Clarke, 14.

9. *To pay it with thinking.* See *Say*, verb (9).

10. *To pay one in his own coin.* 1589: Greene, *Works*, vii. 133 (Grosart), Glad that he had giuen hir a soppe of the same sauce, and paide 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, *Clarissa*, i. 71 (1785), They had best take care he did not pay them in their own coin. 1821: Byron, *Blues*, Ecl. i. l. 132, Or he'll pay you back in your own coin. 1851: Borrow, *Lavengro*, iii. 353, 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), *Taylor's 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. 1791: Pegge, *Derbicisms*, 115 (E.D.S.), "To pay the piper," to bear the expense. 1923: *Evening Standard*, 14 Feb., p. 5, 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 scotte. 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 paies 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.

Pea and Pease. 1. *Eat peas with the king, and cherries with the beggar.* 1732: Fuller, No. 1356.

2. *Sow peas and beans in the wane of the moon, Who soweth them sooner, he soweth too soon.* 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 42 (Percy S.).

3. *The smaller the peas.* See quotes. 15th cent.: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, ii. 40 (1843), Tho smallere pese tho mo to the pott; Tho fayrere woman tho more gyglott: 1541: *Sch. House of Women*, l. 558, in Hazlitt, *Early Pop. Poetry*, iv. 126, The smaller pease, the mo to the pot, The fairer woman the more gillot.

4. *To give a pea for a bean* = To give a present with an eye to future return. Staffs. 1896: *Folk-Lore*, vii. 377.

5. *Who hath many peas may put the more in the pot.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. v. 1670: Ray, 21.

See also *Candlemas*, B; *St. Benedict*; and *St. David* (1).

Peace. 1. *Peace and catch a mouse.* 1659: Howell, 11.

2. *Peace maketh plenty.* 15th cent.: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 315 (1841), Pees maketh plenté, Plenté maketh pride, Pride maketh plee, Plee maketh poverté, Povert maketh pees. And therefore, grace growth after gouernaunce. 1589: Puttenham, *Eng. Poesie*, 217 (Arber), Peace makes plentie, plentie makes pride, Pride breeds quarrell, and quarrell brings warre: Warre brings spoile, and spoile pouertie, Pouertie pacience, and pacience peace: So peace brings warre and warre brings peace. [Puttenham attributes the lines to "Thean de Mehune the French Poet."] 1619: B Rich, *Irish Hubbub*, 49, An old obseruation, Peace brings plenty, Plenty brings

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 iii

4 Where there is peace, God is 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Peach will have wine, and the fig water, The 1577 J Grange, *Golden Aphroditis*, sig Ei 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 is become a proverb at Court, to send a man's wife to the Devil's arse-a-Peake, when she vexes 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 poyson 1608 Harington, *Sch of Salerne*, sig B3 Peares wanting wine, are poyson from the tree 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Poire," After a (cold) pear wine, or the priest 1666 Torriano, *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 1886 N & Q, 7th ser, ii 506

3 A pear year, A dear year 1855 N & Q, 1st ser, xii 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 peares 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*, ii 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 Cf *Supernaculum*

Pearls before swine, To cast 1340 *Ayenbite*, 152 (E E T S), Huerof zayp ous god ine his spelle pet we ne prauwe nazt oure precieuse stones to uore pe zuyn 1401 in Wright, *Pol Poems*, ii 110 (Rolls Ser, 1861), And the precieuse perlis ye strowen to hogges c 1430 Lydgate, *Minor Poems*, 183 (Percy S), Men shuld not put perles whight, To fore rude swyne 1550 R Crowley, *Epigr*, in *Works*, 6 (E E T S), For before suche swyne no pearles maye be caste 1606 Dav, *Ile of Gulls*, III, To cast eloquence amongst a companie of stinctards is all one as if a man should scatter pearls amongst the hoggish animals ecliped swine 1848 Dickens, *Dombey*, ch xxiii 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 *Archæologia*, xxv 97 (O), The said George told hym that Mr More was in a pecke of trubles 1569 Grafton, *Chron*, i 235 (1809), You bring your selfe into such a pecke of troubles 1633 Draxe, 37 1785 O Keefe, *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. 1659: Howell, 17. 1732: Fuller, No 3176.

Pedlar's mare. See quot. 1541: Coverdale, *Christ. State Matrimony*, sig. G2, It is no vntrue prouerbe: She that taketh the pedlers mare must be fayne to haue the pedler himself also at the last.

Pedley, Go pipe at, there's a pescod feast. 1678: Ray, 78 ["Padley"] 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Cheshire." 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 62.

Pedley. See also Candle (7); God help the fool; I was by; and Rope (5).

Peep. I see a knave. 1639: Clarke, 181.

Peeps through a hole may see 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 haue done it with penne and inke, who (as the prouerbe goeth) neuer blusheth. Cf. Pens.

Penance. See quot. 1593: *Tell-Trothes N. Yeares Gift*, 10 (N. Sh. S.), The old saying is, that he which will no pennance doe, must shonne the cause that belongs thereto.

Pence. See Penny.

Pendle-Hill, As old as. 1659: Howell, 20. 1670: Ray, 235. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Lancs" 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 3.

Pendle, Ingleborough, and Penigent, Are the three highest hills between Scotland and Trent. 1586: Camden,

*Britannia*, 431, Ingleborrow, Pendle and Penigent are, etc. 1622: Drayton, *Polyol.*, xxviii., That Ingleborow hill, Pendle, and Penigent, Should named be the high'st betwixt our Tweed and Trent. 1683: Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697). 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 peneles 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 pennillesse-bench for his labour. 1604: Middleton, *Black Book*, in *Works*, viii. 27 (Bullen), Pierce should be called no more Pennyless, 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 proverb 'To sit on Penniless Bench' (=be very poor)."] 1651: Randolph, *Hey for Honesty*, IV. i., I now must pine and starve at Penniless 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 (quothe the good man) a peny 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 Haslerige 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 Flie*, 447 (Farmer), I tell thee plainly, without any boast, A halfpenny is as well saved as lost] 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*, A penny spared 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 ix

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 *Pepysian Garland*, 447 (Rollins), The gentle craft doth beare good will, to all kind hearted tradesmen still, That keepe the prouerbe to fullfill a penny to serue their need

11 *Better penny in silver than any brother* 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Brit-Eng*, 16

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, *Caul Guests*, V 1 (O), Well than, O'er shooes, o'er boots And in for a penny, in for a pound 1815 Scott, *Mannerings*, ch xlvii 1823 Byron, *Letters*, etc., vi 285 (Prothero) 1877 S Butler, in *Life* by Jones, 1 259 (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)

18 *Penny wise and pound foolish* 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 330 (1870) 1631 Dekker, *Penny-wise, pound foolish* [title] 1712 Addison, *Spectator* No 295 1864 Mrs H Wood, *Trevlyn Hold*, ch xli 1878 Platt, *Business*, 126

19 *Sometimes a penny well spent is better than a penny ill spared* 1672 Walker, *Paræm*, 32

20 *Take care of the pence and the pounds will take care of themselves* Before 1724 in *Chesterfield Lett*, 52 1750 (O) 1834-7 Southey, *Doctor*, ch ccvli 1859 Smiles, *Self-Help*, 305 (1869) 1924 *Observer*, 16 March, p 2, col 4 Cf No 27

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), for þere is a comyn byword yf þe it herd haviþ "Wele settiþ he his peny, þat the pound [therby] savþ" 1536 in *Liste*



*Papers*, xiv. art. 40, The old saying, "Well is spent," etc.

23. *The penny is well spent that saves a groat*. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 332 (1870). 1670: Ray, 130. 1732: Fuller, No. 4369.

24. *There is more honesty in a penny than in five pounds*. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 588. [Miss Burne says that this is an argument for lending a large sum.]

25. *There's no companion like the penny*. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Span.-Eng.*, 13. 1670: Ray, 21. 1732: Fuller, No. 4891.

26. *To think one's penny good silver*. 1580: G. Harvey, *Works*, i. 71 (Grosart), Euery one highly in his owne fauour, 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 peny shall neuer 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 ease is worth a penny, A. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 318 (1870). 1678: Ray, 130. 1732: Fuller, No. 344.

Pennyworth of mirth is worth a pound of sorrow, A. 1678: Ray, 176.

Pennyworth of poker is worth two of coals, A. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., vi. 495.

Penrith, Peerless. 1638: 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*, vii. (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 (1).

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. 381, 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, *Molière*, 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.

Percys' profit was the Lucys' loss, The. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, i. 228 (F.L.S.).

Perseverance kills the game. 1813: Ray, 149. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, ii. 108 (F.L.S.).

Persuasion of the fortunate sways the doubtful, The. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 10.

PERT and PEART:

(a) Peart as a maggot, As. Oxfordsh. 1913: *Folk-Lore*, xxiv. 77.

Peart as a robin, As [1592 Warner, *Albion's Eng*, ch xxxi st 4, As peart as bird] 1862 *Dialect of Leeds*, 405 1901 F E Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 3, As peart as a robin

Peart as a sparrow, As 1837 Mrs Palmer, *Devonsh Dialect*, 70, a common phrase for a lively little chit

Peart as a spoon, As 1882 Mrs Chamberlain, *W Words Words*, 22 (E D S) means unusually bright and cheerful

(b) Pert as a pearmonger, As 1564 Harding, quoted in Jewel, *Defence of the Apol*, 822 (P S), 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 Similes*, Pert as a pearmonger I'd be If Molly were but kind 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I 1855 N & Q 1st ser, xi 114, As peart 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

Petworth 1884 "Sussex Proverbs," in N & Q, 6th ser, x 370, Proud Petworth, poor people, High church, crooked steeple 1911 A S Cooke, *Off Beaten Track in Sussex*, 284, Poor Petworth proud people, etc

Physic, subs 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 *Phoenix*, ii 8 (1708) 'Tis an old proverb, Physician heal thyself 1543 Becon in *Early Works*, 385 (P S) 1579 Lyly, *Euphues*, 118

(Arber) 1638 D Tuvill, *Vade Mecum*, 152 (3rd ed), First therefore physitian, cure thine own ills 1692 L'Éstrange, *Æsop*, 205 (3rd ed) ["cure" for heal"] 1781 Francklin, *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 sunne doth alwayes behold your good successe, and the earth couers all your ignorances 1637 T Heywood *Dialogues*, etc, in Bang, *Materialien* B 3, 197, 'Tis said of all physitians What good comes by their physick, the sun sees But in their art, if they have bad successe, That the earth covers 1669 *Politeuphuia*, 175, Physicians are happy men, because the sun makes manifest what good success soever happeneth in their cures, and the earth burieth what fault soever they commit [As to the Greek original of this saying, by Nicocles, see N & Q, 8th ser, vi 246]

Physicians kill more than they cure 1703 E Ward, *Writings*, ii 328 ["an old maxim"]

Physicians See also Feastings, 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 1588 *Mar-Prelate's Epitome*, 3 (1843), There is a device to fynde a hole in the coat of some of you puritanes 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, *Lett 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 parsonne hathe pekyd a quarell to on Mastyr Recheforth 1519 *Horman Vulgaria*, fo 128, He begynneth to pyke or fyndeth a quarrel of my wordes c 1550 *Jacke Jugeler*, 83 (Grosart) Woll sone pike a quarrell, be it wrong or right 1579 Lyly, *Euphues*, 107

(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 hir merry sporting, and good nourishing, I began to gather vp my crumbes. 1645: Howell, *Letters*, bk. i. § ii No. 1, I . . . am recovering and picking up my crumbs 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-pit—"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 braven 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<sup>o</sup>, That is euyñ 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, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 1110, 'Tis a pig of your own sow, your own self sold it. 1860: Reade, *Cl and Hearth*, ch. xcvi., "Who more charitable than monks?" "Go to! They do but give the laity back a pig of their own sow."

4. *A pig of the worse pannier*. 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 panyer. 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.

6. *A red pig for an atchern* [acorn]. 1886: R. Holland, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 444 (E.D.S.) 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 5.

7. *As happy as a pig in muck*. 1828: Carr, *Craven Dialect*, ii. 43. 1889: Peacock, *Manley, etc. Gloss.*, 358 (E.D.S.), "As happy as pigs e' muck," means having one's fill of sensual pleasure.

8. *As Irish as pigs in Shudehill market*. Manchester. 1869: Hazlitt, 65.

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*. 1600: *Look About You*, sc. xiii., My fa-fa-father has brought his ho-ho-hogs to a fa-fa-fair m-m-market. c. 1613: Rowlands, *Paire of Spy-Knaues*, 9 (Hunt. Cl), As wise as Iohn of Gotehams calfe: or this fellow brought his hogges to a faire market. 1693: Urquhart, *Rabelais*, bk. iii. ch. xiv., I have fish'd fair 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 fute* 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 Dutie*, 10, A noysome hogg, that is neuer profitable till he dye 1630 T Adams, *Works*, 452, Like a two-leg'd hog neuer doth good, till he is dead 1732 Fuller, No 3226, Like an hog, he does no good till he dies Ibid., No 5851, You are like a hog, never good, while living 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect* ii 43, "He's like a pig he'll do no good alive," said of a covetous man, regardless of the happiness of others 1847 Halliwell, *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 ii 1105, Had lights when better eyes were blind, as pigs are said to see the wind 1703 E Ward, *Writings*, ii 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 1916 *N & Q*, 12th ser., ii 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*

*forward* 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 Cibber, *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 playes, etc 1670 Ray, 189 1685 S Wesley, *Maggots*, 22, Why should not other piggis on organs play, As well as they? 1732 Fuller, No 3875 Cf 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 loue not to bye the pyg in the poke 1583 Greene, *Works*, ii 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 Terence *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*, ii 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 Convers*, 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 droivin' th' pigs to th' market (He was snoring).

25. *What can you expect from a pig but a grunt?* 1827: Scott, *Journal*, 10 April ["sow" for "pig," and "grumph" for "grunt"]. 1916: B. Duffy, *Special Pleading*, 7.

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 poghe 1530: Palsgrave, 594, Whan the pygge is proferd it is good to apen the poke. c. 1580: Fulwell, *Ars Adulandi*, sig. G1, 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. Prudentium*, 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; Pearls; Pelton; Please (6); Sleep, verb (9); Snug; Sow; Stare; Subtle; Swine; and Wilful.

Pigeon and Pigeons. 1. *Full pigeons find cherries bitter.* 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 509.

2. *Pigeons are taken when crows fly at pleasure.* 1732: Fuller, No. 3873.

3. *Pigeons never do know woe But when they do a benting go.* 1609: T. Ravenscroft, *Deuteromelia*, sig. F3, The pigion is neuer woe, till abenting she goe. 1670: Ray, 44. 1732: Fuller, No. 6480. c. 1791: Pegge, *Derbiccisms*, 89 (E.D.S.), Pigeons never know such woe, As when they a-benting go. 1839: G. C. Lewis, *Herefs. Words*, 10. 1842: Akerman, *Wilts Gloss.*, 5.

4. *To catch two pigeons with one bean.* 1557: North, *Diall of Princes*, fo. 56, For the prouerbe sayeth, that with one

beane, a man maye take two pigeons. 1577: J. Grange, *Golden Aphroditis*, sig. E2, In hoping to take two pigeons with one beane you are decyued. 1602: Chamberlain, *Letters*, 124 (Camden S.), You deserve double thanckes, and serve two pigeons with one beane. 1678: Ray, 353.

5. *When the pigeons go a benting, Then the farmers lie lamenting.* 1830: Forby, *Vocab. E. Anglia*, 417. 1866: Brogden, *Lincs Prov. Words*, s.v. "Benting," When the dove goes a benting, The farmer is lamenting.

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).

2. *Heat and pilchards.* Corn. 1869: Hazlitt, 201.

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 þe Tapster made þe Pardonur pull Garlik al the longe ny3te, til it was nere end day.] Before 1529: Skelton, in *Works*, i. 122 (Dyce), Ye loste hyr fauyr quyt; Your pyllyd garleke hed Cowde hocupy there no stede. c. 1620: B. & F., *Hum. Lieut.*, II. ii., There got he a knock, and down goes pil-garlick. 1671: *Westm. Drollery*, 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, *Lame 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 gilding* 1633 Drave, 57, *If the apothecaries pilles had a good taste, they would neuer glde them ouer* 1732 Fuller, No 2711

2 *To give one a pill to swallow* = To tell one something unpleasant 1567 Painter, *Pal of Pleasure*, iii 52 (Jacobs), *The good lady swallowed down that pille without chewing* 1889 Peacock, *Manley, etc*, Gloss, 405 (E D S), *It'd be a sore pill for him at his tume of life*

Pillar to post, From Often From post to pillar c 1420 Lydgate, *Assembly of Gods*, 34 (E E T S) Thus from poost to pylour was he made to daunce c 1532 R Copland, *Spyttel Hous*, l 715, *And turmoyleth alway fro pyler to post* 1575 *Appius and Virg*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, iv 151, *Thus in hurly burly, from pillar to post*, Poor Hap-hazard daily was toss'd 1605 Chapman, *All Fools*, III 1, *from post to pillar* 1609 Dekker, in *Works*, iv 136 (Grosart), *from poste to piller* 1673 Marvell, in *Works*, iii 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 tossed 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 1846-59 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-pin See Lenson-hill

Pimlico See quotes c 1680 Aubrey, *Nat Hist Surrey*, v 221 *To walk in Pimlico* became proverbial for a man handsomely drest, as these walks [Pimlico-Path, near the Globe

Theatre] were frequented by none else 1863 N & Q, 3rd ser, iv 327, *There is a Devonshire proverb, "To keep it in Pimlico," that is, to keep a house in nice order*

Pumpnel *No heart can think, no tongue can tell, The virtues of the pim-pernel* 1849 Halliwell, *Pop Rhymes*, 179 1878 Dyer, *Eng Folk-Lore*, 26 1910 *Devonsh Assoc Trans*, xlii 90, *No heart can think nor tongue can tell The virtue there is in pimperl*

Pin and Pins, subs 1 *A pin a day is a groat a year* 1712 Addison, *Spectator*, No 295 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I 1792 Wolcot, *Works*, ii 313 (1795) 1829 Hunter, *Hallamsh Gloss* 21

2 *He that takes not up a pin, slights his wife* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 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 Coventry 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 chylde y<sup>t</sup> begneth to pike at a pynne or a poynte wyl after pyke a penny or a pounde* 1639 Clarke, 84, *He that begins to steale a pin will be hang'd for a pound 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 thi fellowship Set I not at a pyn* c 1555 in Wright, *Songs, etc*, *Philp and Mary*, 89 (Roxb Cl), *Of Goddes ferfull vengeance the[y] passyde note a pynne* 1576 Wapull, *Tide tarrieth no Man*, sig D3, *So that for her mother she cares not a pin* 1642 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*

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, *Shropsh. 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, *Shropsh. 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, *Ecl. 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.), Corageously at a pynche [he] shal renne vpon hem. 1540: Palsgrave, *Acolastus*, sig. Aa3, Do nowwe helpe me at a pynche. 1564: Bullein, *Dialogue*, 10 (E.E.T.S.), You are welcome . . . now helpe at a pinche, 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 fail 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, *Abced.*, sig. D3, Brynge somethynge to nothyng, as the vulgare speache is, to brynge pynnock to pannock.

Pint of wine to a vintner is but as a pippin to a coster-monger, A. 1659: Howell, 11.

Pipe in an ivy leaf, You may go = You may do any silly thing you like. c. 1370: Wiclif, *Eng. Works*, 372 (E.E.T.S.), The secular party may go pipe with an yuy lefe for eny lorde-schepis that the clerkis wille geue hem agen. c. 1386: Chaucer, *Knight's Tale*, l. 980, That oon of yow, al be him looth or leef, He moot go pypen in an ivy-leef. c. 1430: Lydgate, *Destr. 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 fluett. 1587: Turbervile, *Trag. Tales, etc.*, 309 (1837), Giue him an iuie leafe in stead of pipe to play, That dreads to bourd a gallant dame for feare she say him nay. 1626: *Scoggins Jest*, 109 (1864), Unless 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*,  
 1 61 (1894), The vulgar saying of "No  
 longer pipe, no longer dance," applies  
 to landlord and tenant, chieftain and  
 clan in short, to all the relations of  
 mankind 1874 N & Q, 5th ser,  
 1 205

Piping hot c 1386 Chaucer, *Mil-  
 lers Tale*, l 193, And wafres, pyping  
 hote out of the glede 1567 Golding,  
*Orid bk viii* l 850, Whote [Hot] meate  
 came pyping from the fyre 1595  
*Maroccus Extaticus*, iii (Percy S) A  
 peece of beefe puld piping hot out of  
 the furnace 1638 H Shirley, *Mart-  
 tyr'd Souldier*, V, I gave her a messe  
 of porridge piping-hot 1701 Cibber,  
*Love Makes a Man*, Prol, A ragou, pip-  
 ing hot from Paris 1766 Garrick,  
*Neck or Nothing*, I 1 1821 Byron,  
*Blues*, ecl 1 l 17, I am just piping hot  
 from a publisher's shop

Pipkin, She has cracked her 1681  
 in *Roxb Ballads*, v 67 (BS), For if  
 you should your pipkin crack, your  
 credit will away c 1685 in *Bagford  
 Ballads*, 1 467 (BS), Were not my  
 pipkin crackt before, I vow I would be  
 his wife 1707 *Spanish Bawd*, III n,  
 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 pillage 1855 Bohn, 474

Piss on a nettle, To = To be out of  
 temper 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*,  
 Pt II ch x 1579 *Marr of Wit and  
 Wisdom* sc iii p 30 (Sh S) 1681  
 Shadwell *Lances Witches*, I 1714  
 Ozell, *Molière*, iv 255 1828 Carr,  
*Craven Dialect* n 8 'Thou's p—d of  
 a nettle this mornin' ' said of a waspish,  
 ill-tempered person

Pissed his tallow, He has c 1450  
 M E *Med Book*, 232 (Heinrich), (O),  
 Take talow of an hert, suche as he  
 pyssep by twene two seynt mary dayes  
 1600 Shakespeare, *Merry Wives*, V v  
 1694 Motteux, *Rabelais*, bk v ch  
 xxviii, Do but see how down o the

mouth the curr looks he's nothing but  
 skin and bones, he has p—d his tallow  
 1737 Ray, 61, This is spoken of  
 bucks who grow lean after rutting time,  
 and may be applied to men

Pitch and pay = Pay ready money  
 15th cent in Hazlitt, *Early Pop Poetry*,  
 n 9, Yt ys fule hard bothe to pyche  
 and paye 1584 in *Roxb Ballads*, 1 6  
 (BS), And there was nether fault nor  
 fray, Nor any disorder any way, But  
 euery man did pitch and pay 1599  
 Shakespeare, *Henry V*, II iii, The word  
 is "Pitch and Pay" Trust none  
 1847 Halliwell, *Dict*, s v "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 enim tangit picem,  
 inquinatur ab ea—St Jerome, *Com-  
 ment in Esai*, vi 5] 1303 R  
 Brunne, *Handl Synne*, l 6578, Who so  
 handlyþ pyche welllyng hote, He shal  
 haue fylpe perof sumdeyl [in some de-  
 gree] c 1380 Wiclif, *Works*, 218  
 (Matthew, 1880), He that handlyth pic  
 schal be fouled thereof c 1440 Lyd-  
 gate, *Fall of Princes*, bk 1 l 4696, Who  
 touchth pic, bassay men may see, It  
 failth nat he shal defouled be 1579  
 Lyly, *Euphues*, III (Arber) 1609  
 Dekker, *Works*, iv 198 (Grosart)  
 1710 S Palmer, *Moral Essays on  
 Proverbs*, 249 1883 R L S, *Treasure  
 I*, ch x, "There," John would add,  
 "you cant touch pitch and not be  
 mucked" 1922 Weyman, *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 þet pot  
 to þe wetere þet hit comþ to-broke  
 hom 1412 Hoccleve, *Regement*, l  
 4432, The pot so longe to the watr  
 goth, That hoom it cometh at the laste  
 y-broke 1481 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*, n 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, *Rod. Random*, ch. lxiv. 1826: Scott, *Journal*, 1 Oct., They talk 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.

Pitiful surgeon spoileth a sore, A. 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 32, A pitifull physition maketh a scabed wound. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Medecin."

Pity cureth envy. 1732: Fuller, No. 3876.

Pity is but one remove from love. 1753: Richardson, *Grandison*, i. 34 (1883). [Nowadays the more usual form is, Pity is akin to love.]

Pity's a poor plaster. 1875: Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 122.

Pity without relief is like mustard without beef. Ibid., 122. 1913: *Devonsh. Assoc. Trans.*, xlv. 90, Pity without relief is like pudding without suet [or] like mustard without beef. Cf. Sympathy.

Pity, verb. He that pities another remembers himself. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1748: Richardson, *Clarissa*, iv. 121 (1785).

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 pack-saddle. 1553: T. Wilson, *Rhetorique*, 143 (1580) (O.), An honeste true dealyng seruant . . . plaine as a packe-saddle. 1613: Wither, *Abuses Stript, etc.*, To the Reader, As plaine (as they say) as a pack-saddle. 1670: Ray, 202. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Plain."

Plain as (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]. 1886: 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 Heresies*, fo. 1, They be as playne as a pyke staff. 1591: Greene, *Works*, x. 21 (Grosart), Plain as a pike-staf. 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. i, 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 a jewel. 1583: Melbancke, *Philotinus*, Epist. Ded., Plaine dealing is a iewel (though they that vse it commonly die beggers). 1587: J. Bridges, *Def. of Govt. in Ch. of England*, 124. 1608: Day, *Law Trickes*, II., *Adam*. . . thereby grew the prouerbe "plaine dealing is a jewell." *Lu*. But he that vseth it shall die a begger. 1630: T. Adams, *Works*, 133 [as in 1608]. 1691: *Merry Drollery*, 81 (Ebsworth) [as in 1608]. 1692: Congreve, *Old Bach.*, IV. xxii. 1732: Fuller, No. 3878, . . . ; but they that wear it, are out of fashion. 1775: Garrick, *Bon Ton*, II. ii.

Plain dealing is dead. 1616: B. Rich, *Ladies Looking Glasse*, 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

Plain of poverty and die a beggar  
 1678 Ray, 191

Planny See Schemey

Plants trees, He that, loves others be-  
 sides himself 1732 Fuller, No 2248

Plant thorns See Thorn (1)

Play, women and wine undo men  
 laughing 1659 Howell, 1 1670 Ray,  
 21 1732 Fuller, No 3884 1880  
 Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, II,  
 Play, women and wine are enough to  
 make a prince a pauper

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, *Whim-  
 zies*, 148 (1859) Before 1680 Butler,  
*Remains*, 1 253 (1759). The devil him-  
 self 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*, in 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 treacher-  
 ous part 1540 Palsgrave, *Acolastus*,  
 sig T4, Shall not I be boty or party  
 fellow with the? 1560 Awdeley,  
*Vacabondes*, 9 (E E T S), They wil  
 consent as though they wil play booty  
 against him 1692 L. Estrange, *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 1  
 ch 11, He had scornfully refused a  
 considerable bribe to play booty on such  
 an occasion 1817 Scott, *Rob Roy*,  
 ch vii, My uncle 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 xii, He had played  
 booty, and played the traitor

Play fast and loose, To 1557 *Tol-  
 tels Miscell.*, 157 (Arber), Of a new  
 married student that played fast or loose  
 1580 Lyly, *Euphues*, 326 (Arber),  
 Thus with the Ægyptian thou playest  
 fast or loose 1601 Yarrington, *Two  
 Trag in One*, III 11, in Bullen, *Old Plays*  
 iv 49, Thou dastard fast and  
 loose, Thou weathercocke of mutabilitie  
 1629 in *Pepysian Garland*, 320 (Rol-  
 lins), But she that wanton is and fond,  
 that fast and loose will play 1853  
 Dickens, *Letters*, iii 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, *Naa-  
 man*, sig Q6, They had as good sit for  
 nought as toyle for nought 1714  
 Mandeville, *Iable of Bees*, 218, 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 foras-  
 much as you play least in sight, That  
 Maister Derrick [the hangman] cannot  
 seize vpon you 1659 Howell, 10  
 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 wyl  
 never truste you after 1633 Draxe,  
 47, He play eth on both handes

Play one tune and dance another,  
 They 1639 Clarke, 18

Play racket, To c 1374 Chaucer,  
*Troilus*, bk iv l 432, Canstow playen  
 raket, to and fro, nettle in, dokke out?  
 c 1387 Usk, *Test of Love* in Skeat's  
*Chaucer*, vii 13 "Ye wete wel, lady,  
 eke," quod I, "that I have not played  
 raket, 'nettil in, docke out,' and with  
 the wethercocke waved"

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. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 324 (1870). 1670: Ray, 132.

Plays well that wins, He. 1562: Heywood, *Three Hund. Epigr.*, No. 230, He playth best that wins. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 132. 1732: Fuller, No. 2005.

Plays you as fair as if he picked your pocket, He. 1678: Ray, 79.

Play the devil for God's sake. See Devil (104).

Play the fool. See quotes. 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. l. 289, Yit durst Thersites bee So bold as rayle uppon 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 children and let the saints alone. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Ital.-Eng.*, 8, Jest with boyes, and leave the saints alone. 1710: S. Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 322.

Play with me and hurt me not, Jest with me and shame me not. 1582: Harvey, *Marginalia*, 188 (1913). 1589: Puttenham, *Eng. Poesie*, 261 (Arber) [quoted as "this common prouerbe," but with "Iape" for "Play," and "Bourde" for "Jest"]. 1591: Harrington, *Orl. Furioso*, bk. xii., Moral.

1630: Brathwait, *Eng. Gentleman*, 152 (1641). 1656: F. Osborne, *Advice to Son*, 34 (Parry), Play with me, but hurt me not.

Play with you for shoe-buckles, I'll not. 1639: Clarke, 195, We play not for shoee-buckles. 1678: Ray, 347.

Playden, Sussex. See quot. 1894: 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, *Æsop*, 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.

3. *He that would please all and himself too, undertakes what he cannot do*. 1659: Howell, 5. 1670: Ray, 132. 1732: Fuller, No. 6384, . . . what none could ever do.

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 picke 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*, ii 198 (1760), I'll  
have one of the wigs to carry into the  
country with me, and please the pigs  
1755 *Gent Mag*, 115. The expression  
I mean is *An't please the pigs*, in which

*pigs* is most assuredly a corruption  
of *Pix* [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 Planché, *Extravag*, iv 33 (1879),  
You'll have no end of money, please  
the pigs 1886 Elworthy, *West Som  
Word-Book*, 569 (E D S), *Pigs* Con-  
traction of *pixies*, in the common say-  
ing, *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, etc*, Gloss, 169  
(E D 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 xl, I'm as  
pleased as Punch, now I've thought of  
that 1901 F E Taylor, *Lancs Say-  
ings*, 3, As pleos't as Punch

*Pleasing ware is half sold* 1611  
Cotgrave, s v "Chose," Ware that doth  
please is halfe sold 1640 Herbert,  
*Jac Prudentum* 1670 Ray, 132  
1732 Fuller, No 5617, When ware is  
lk d, it is half sold

*Pleasure, subs* 1 *Consider not plea-  
sures 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 Peacham, *Worth  
of Penny*, in Arber, *Garner*, vi 261  
(1883), ['fly for first "flee," and "be  
nigh" for "follow thee"] 1736

Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, 1  
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 *Reliq  
Antiquæ*, i 110 (1841), "Let lust over-  
gon, eft 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  
Bach*, 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 Hey  
wood, *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, *Leics Words*, 202 (E D 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 Bilson said  
when the young masster gen 'im a  
chaarge o' rabbit-shot i' the leg"

*Plenty is no danty* c 1449 Pecock,  
*Repr*, 184 (O), Experience wole weel  
scheme that plente is no deinte 1546  
Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch iv  
1583 Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig Q2,  
I will not be dantie suche guests  
as I be plentie 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, *Natures Embassie*, 269 (1877), She prou'd this true: Much plentie made her poore. 1669: *Politeuphonia*, 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).

Plough, subs. 1. *He that by the plough would thrive, himself must either hold or drive.* 1678: Ray, 191. 1736: Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, i. 445 (Bigelow). 1860: A. de Morgan, in *N. & Q.*, 2nd ser., x. 390.

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.

3. *Never let the plough stand to catch a mouse.* 1678: Ray, 265. 1710: S. Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 5. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. i. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 50, 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 Reform.*, xxix. 9 (O.), That makis . . . the plewche befor the oxin go, the best the man to gyde. 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 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. 4866 ["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.* 1813: Ray, 75.

2. *He ploughs the air.* Ibid., 75.

3. *I might as well plough with dogs.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Charruë," The plough that a dog drawes is not worth the driving. 1795: *Gent. Mag.*, Pt. I, 299, I have seen a friendly dame, winding a ravelled skain of thread or yarn, exclaim with a curse, "This is as bad as ploughing with dogs." 1891: Addy, *Sheffield Gloss. Suppl.*, 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*, 1 (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 tenuique in pulvere sulcos Ducimus et litus sterili versamus aratro. —Juvenal, *Sat.*, vii. 48–9.] Before 1529: Skelton, *Speke, Parrot*, l. 342, To sowe corne in the see sande, ther wyll no crope growe. 1576: Pettie, *Pettie Pall.*, ii. 95 (Gollancz), So that I plough the barren rocks, and set my share into the shore of the sea. 1587: Turberville, *Trag. Tales, etc.*, 404 (1837), And fruitlesse cleane to sowe the barrain sand. 1647: Stapylton, *Juvenal*, 121, Yet still we plow the shoare and sow the sand. 1894: Mr. Asquith, *Speech*, 21 Nov., All our time, all our labour, and all our assiduity is as certain to be thrown away as if you were to plough

the sands of the seashore the moment that Bill reaches the Upper Chamber Cf *Sow*, verb (3)

8 *To plough with the ass and the ox* = To sort things ill 1813 Ray, 212

9 *You must plough with such oxen as you have* 1678 Ray, 191, A man must, etc 1732 Fuller, No 5968 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch 1, 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 cannot 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, 1 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 (1)

Plumbland Church 1860 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*, 11 278 (Underhill), Plump as a partridge was I known 1829 Scott, *Geisterstein*, ch xiii 1831 Peacock, *Crotchet Castle*, ch xiv

Plum-tree See quotes 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 shooe, the blacker the thumb 1670 Ray, 210, The higher the plum-tree, the riper the plum, The richer the cobbler, 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 Plumworth cloke 1631 F Lenton, *Characters*, sig F7 (1663) A Plimmouth cloake, otherwise call'd a battoone

1681 A Behn,  *Rover*, Pt II V iii 1855 Kingsley, *West Hol*, ch vii, "Thou wilt please to lay down that Plymouth cloak of thine," and he pointed to the cudgel

Plymouth was a furzy down, When, Plympton was a borough town 1850 *N & Q*, 1st ser, 11 511

Pocket a wrong, etc, To = To accept it without protest 1595 Munday, *John a Kent*, 28 (Sh S), I will not pocket this injurious wrong 1597 Shakespeare, 1 *Henry IV*, III iii, 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 Quixote*, bk vi ch xiii, I thought it best to pocket the insult, as well as the money 1826 Scott, *Woodstock*, ch xxiii, The bravest man sacrifices nothing by pocketing a little wrong which he cannot personally resent

Poets are born, but orators are made c 1581 Sidney, *Apologie*, 62 (Arber), Therefore is it an old prouerbe, *Orator fit, Poeta nascitur* 1600 Bodenham *Belvedere*, 55 (Spens S) 1669 *Poli teuphura*, 58

Poets See also Painters

Poison embitters much sweetness, A little c 1175 *Old Eng Homilies*, 1st ser, p 23 (Morris), A lutel ater bitteret muchel swete 1581 Lyly, *Euphues*, 39 (Arber), One droppe of poyson infecteth the whole tunne of wine

Poison is poison though it comes in a golden cup 1630 T Adams, *Works*, 705 1633 Draxe, 60, In golden pottes are hidden the most deadly poyson

Pole-cat, To stunk like a. 1639 Clarke, 293, He stinkes like a pole-cat 1670 Ray, 207 1700 Ward, *London Spy*, 44 (1924), Which made the crooked vermin out-stunk 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 (1913), A lytle pollicy prauaileth when a great deale of strength fayleth Before 1634 Chapman, *Alphonsus*, II iii, Policy

help'd above strength. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 133. 1754: Berthelsson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Policy."

Polperro. See quot. 1906: Q.-Couch, *Mayor of Troy*, ch. x., The proverb says that a Polperro jackass is surprised at nothing.

Pomeroy's cat, Hurried in mind, like. 1888: Q.-Couch, *Troy Town*, ch. xiii. 1908: *Eng. Ill. Mag.*, Jan., 355.

Pomfret, As sure as a louse in. 1638: Brathwait, *Barn. Journal*, Pt. III., A louse in Pomfrait is not surer, Than the poor through sloth securer. 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 fractious. 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 zaffty, 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. Prudentum*.

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.

4. *A poor man's table is soon spread.* 1633: Draxe, 136. 1670: Ray, 132. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. v.

5. *A poor man's tale.* See quot. 1639: in *Berkeley MSS.*, iii. 31 (1885), A poare mans tale may now be heard: vizt when none speakes 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 Enemies*, 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 Bunble, Junior*, ii. 146. 1803: Colman, jr., *John Bull*, II. iii. 1841: Dickens, *Barn. Rudge*, ch. lxxviii., I have come back, poorer than a church mouse. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 3, As poor as a church-meawse. 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. Simple*, 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 povere as Job. 1560: T. Wilson, *Rhetorique*, 207 (1909), Thou art as poore as Iob. 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, *Lancs Sayings*, 3.

12. *As poor as owls.* 1862: *Dialect of Leeds*, 405.

13. *Every poor man is a fool.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 3.

14. *He is not poor that hath little, but he that destreth much.* 1556: G. Colville,

tr Boethius, 34 (1897). He that fearyth that he shall lacke, and is not contented with that he hath, but soroweth for more, is not ryche, but poore 1637 A Warwick, *Spare Minutes*, 4 (1829). Nor her poore that hath but little, but hee that wants more 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 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, *Jac Prudentum*

20 Poor and pert See quotes 1887 T Darlington *S Cheshire Folk Speech* 289 (E D S). He's poor an' peeart [lively] like th' parson's pig 1913 E M Wright, *Rustic Speech*, etc, 11 [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 *Roxb Ballads*, 11 580 (B S) The saying old hath oft beene told, It plain doth verifie, "Poore and proud, still taylor-like" Cf Taylor (4)

23 Poor cook See Ill cook.

24 Poor folk fare the best 1639 Clarke, 205

25 Poor folks are glad of porridge c 1580 Fulwell, *Ars Adulandi*, sig G1. Poore men are pleasse with potage aye, till better vittales fall 1659 Howell, 4. Poor folks must be glad of pottage 1732 Fuller, No 3892

26 Poor in appetite See quot

1653 R Brome, *City Wit*, I 11, 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, *Jac Prudentum*, The reasons of the poor weigh not 1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 214. The poor mans 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, 11. Ther'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*, xiv 77

Poorly sit, richly warm *Glos* 1639 in *Berkeley MSS* in 30 (1885)

Pope, The 1 A pope's bull, a dead man's skull, and an old trull, are not all worth a pound of wool 1616 B Rich, *Ladies Looking Glasse*, 36 1647 *Countrym New Commonwealth* 42 ['crooked' for "old," and "fleece" for "pound"]



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 devill hath eleuen poynts 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 Bott. 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*, xxi. 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.

Postern door makes thief and whore, The. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 334 (1870). 1670: Ray, 132. 1732: Fuller, No. 6176. Cf. Back door.

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 pipkin.* Ibid., No. 2457.

3. *Neither pot broken nor water spilt* = 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. lxvii., 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 Courtiezans*, 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 daie see. 1591: Harington, *Orl. 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 Pilgarlick. 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. Gt.*, XVI. ii. VI. 151 (1872) (O.), A feeling that glory

is excellent, but will not make the national pot boil

9 *To make the pot with two ears* = 10 put the arms akimbo 1675 Cotton, *Burl upon Burlesque*, 236 (1765), See what a goodly port she bears, *Making the pot with the two ears*!

10 *When the pot boils over, it cooleth itself* 1732 Fuller, No 5602

See also Lid, Little pot, Pitcher, and Watched pot

Potatoes 1 *A dinner of potatoes and point* 1825 J Neal, *Bro Jonathan*, 1 75 (O) The potatoes and point of an Irish peasant 1864 Cornish Proverbs, in N & Q, 3rd ser, vi 495

2 See quot 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 23, Plant your 'taters when you will, They won't come up before April

See also Bean (5)

Pottage See quotes 1678 Ray, 70, With cost one may make pottage of a stool-foot 1732 Fuller No 5796, With cost, good pottage may be made out of a leg of a joint stool See also Broth

Potterne, Old Ross of 1659 Howell 21, He will live as long as old Russe of Pottorn, who lived till all the world was weary of him 1670 Ray, 215 ["Ross" for "Russe"]

Pound of butter among a kennel of hounds, What is a? 1670 Ray 66 1732 Fuller, No 5498 1880 Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 10, His fortune went like a pound of meat in a kennel of hounds

Pound of care will not pay an ounce of debt, A 1589 L Wright, *Display of Dutie*, 29 ["sorrow" for "care"] 1590 Greene, *Works*, viii 85 (Grosart) 1600 Dekker, *Shoem Holiday*, III v ["dram" for "ounce"] 1685 Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 57, A pund of care I not pay an ounce of debt 1732 Fuller, No 361

Pour water into a sieve, To 1639 Clarke, 155, You pour, etc 1670 Ray, 190 1732 Fuller, No 5979, You pour, etc 1875 Smiles, *Thrift*, 169, Putting money into her hands is like pouring water through a sieve

Poverty breeds strife Somerset 1678 Ray, 354 1732 Fuller, No

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 Brathwait, *Eng Gentlewoman*, 346 (1641), It hath beene an old maxime, 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, jr, *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 Fruits*, fo 32, There is no vertue, 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 Fruits*, 105 1616 *Rich Cabinet*, fo 114, Pouertie is no vice yet a wofull inconvenience 1666 Torriono, *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 Torriono, *Piazza Univ*, 214

Poverty is the mother of health 1377 Langland, *Plowman B*, xiv 298, Pouerte is moder of helthe 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1748 Richardson, *Clarissa*, ii 110 (1785)

Poverty makes strange bed-fellows 1849 Lytton, *Caxtons*, Pt IV ch iv,

I say that life, like poverty, has strange bed-fellows. 1863: Thackeray, *Round Papers*: "On Some Carp," par. 2, An illustration of that dismal proverb which tells us how poverty makes us acquainted with strange bed-fellows. Cf. Misery.

Poverty parteth fellowship. 1406: Hoccleve, in *Minor Poems*, 29 (E.E.T.S.), *Fy! Lak of coyn departith conpaignie*. c. 1470: G. Ashby, *Poems*, 29 (E.E.T.S.), *It hathe be, and yet is a comyn sawe, That Povertie departithe felaship*. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xii. c. 1650: in *Roxb. Ballads*, ii. 113 (Hindley). For friendship parts in poverty. 1732: Fuller, No. 3914, Poverty trieth friends.

Poverty very ill, He bears, who is ashamed of it. *Ibid.*, No. 1811.

Povey's foot. *See* *quots.* 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.

Power seldom grows old at Court. 1651: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, 2nd ed.

Power weakeneth the wicked. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 6.

Powis is the paradise of Wales. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, iii. 549 (1840). 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Montgomeryshire."

Practice [originally Use] makes perfect. 1340: *Ayenbite*, 178 (E.E.T.S.), *Uor wone makeþ maister*. c. 1530: *Detection . . . of Dice Play*, 25 (Percy S.), *For use maketh mastery*. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. ii., *Vse maketh maistry*. 1560: T. Wilson, *Rhetorique*, 5 (1909), *Eloquence was vsed, and through practise made perfect*. 1639: Breton, in *Works*, ii. p. 11 (Grosart), *Use makes perfection in many things*. 1766: Anstey, *New Bath Guide*, Lett. V., *For practice makes perfect, as often I've read*. 1798: Morton, *Speed the Plough*, II. ii. 1816: Scott, *Antiquary*, ch. xxxv., *Use makes perfect*. 1829: Scott, *Journal*, 27 Jan., *Use makes perfectness*. 1870: Dickens, *Drood*, ch. xxiii. 1920: P. B. M. Allan, *Book-Hunter at Home*, 96.

Practice toucheth the quick. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. vi.

Practise what you preach. [c. 1393: Langland, *Plowman*, C, v. 118, *Tyl that lerede men lyue as thei lere and techen*.] c. 1426: Audelay, *Poems*, 31 (Percy S.), *A prechur schuld lyve parfyttly, And do as he techys truly*. c. 1680: L'Estrange, *Seneca's Morals*: "Happy Life," ch. ii., *We must practise what we preach*. 1748: Richardson, *Clarissa*, v. 81 (1785), *I love . . . that the clergy should practise what they preach*. 1840: Dickens, *Curiosity Shop*, ch. xxxvii., *Divines do not always practise what they preach*.

PRaise, *subs.*:

Praise is but the shadow of virtue. Before 1680: Butler, *Remains*, ii. 118 (1759).

Praise makes good men better and bad men worse. 1659: T. Pecke, *Parnassi 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 a hill but keep on the plain. 1591: Florio, *Second Frutes*, 99, *Wonder at hills, keepe on the plaine*. 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Houtes*, 277, *Praise the mountaines, but loue the plaines*. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, *Praise a hill, but keep below*. 1659: Howell, *Letters*, ii. 666 (Jacobs), *Commend the hills, but keep thyself on the plains*.

Praise at parting, i.e. Praise not too soon, or Praise not till the entertainment is over. c. 1410: Towneley *Plays*, 108 (E.E.T.S.), *Now prays at the partyng*. c. 1440: *Gesta Rom.*, 39 (E.E.T.S.), *"Preyse at the parting," seide kny3t, "And bihold wele the ende"*. c. 1475: *Rauf Coilyear*, 5 (E.E.T.S.). c. 1580: Tom Tyler, l. 667, p. 19 (Malone S.), *It is an old saying, praise at the parting*. 1611: Shakespeare, *Tempest*, III. iii.

Praise day at night — similar in

meaning to the preceding saying c 1440  
 Lydgate, *Fall of Princes*, bk ix l 2024,  
 The faire day men do preise at eue  
 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 330 (1870),  
 Praise a fair day at night 1637  
 Shirley, *Example*, Epil [as in 1605]  
 1681 Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*,  
 324 [as in 1605] 1732 Fuller, No  
 3919, Praise not the day before night  
 1846 T Wright, *Essays on Middle  
 Ages*, 1 148, We say, "praise the day  
 when it is over"

Praise no man till he is dead 1887  
 R L S, *Hanging Judge*, III vi (iii)

Praise nor dispraise thyself, Neither,  
 thy actions serveth turn 1640 Herbert,  
*Jac Prudentum* 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, *Heir at Law*,  
 I 1, Well, praise the bridge that carried  
 you over 1817 Scott, in Lockhart'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 Frutes*, 99 Praise  
 the sea, on shore remaine 1640 Her-  
 bert, *Jac Prudentum* 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 *Politeuphuia*,  
 140, He that praiseth a man openly  
 will not stick to flatter him secretly  
 1732 Fuller, No 2250

Prate 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

Prate like a parrot, To 1639 Clarke,  
 133, He prates like a parrot 1678  
 Ray, 265 Cf Talk

Pray, verb 1 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 vii

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,  
 iii 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 (quothe 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 Ful-  
 ler, No 2251, 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 vx  
 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. 1. 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, Preadw Presson—poor people—Eight bells in a crack't steeple!

Prettiness dies first. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 21, Prettiness dies quickly. 1732: Fuller, No. 3930, Prettiness is short-liv'd.

Prettiness makes no pottage. 1678: Ray, 192. 1732: Fuller, No. 3931.

Pretty as paint, As. 1922: E. V. Lucas, *Genevra'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 quotes. c. 1590: *Plaine Percevall*, 19 (1860), He spide a Jacke an apes, in a gaie cote. . . . Good Lord what knacks are made for money, now adaies. 1594: A. Copley, *Wits, Fits, etc.*, 145 (1614), A cockney seeing a squirrell 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, Jesus! 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.

Prevention is better than cure. [Venienti occurrere morbo.—Persius, *Sat.*, iii. 64.] c. 1240: Bracton, *De Legibus*, bk. v. c. 10, § 14 (Rolls Ser., vi. 104), Cum melius et utilius sit in

tempore occurrere quam post causam vulneratam quaerere remedium. 1630: T. Adams, *Works*, 598, Prevention is so much better then healing. 1685: in *Somers Tracts*, ix. 225 (1811), The wisdom of prevention is better than the wisdom of remedy. 1850: Dickens, *Chuzzlewit*, ch. li. 1924: *Sphere*, 4 Oct., p. 2, col. 3, The old copy-book maxim of prevention being better than cure.

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 proue 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 breakfasted with Plenty, dined with Poverty, and supped with Infamy. 1736: Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, i. 449 (Bigelow).

Pride costs us more than hunger, thirst, and cold. 1831: Hone, *Year-Book*, col. 1612.

Pride feels no frost. 1650: Fuller, *Pisgah Sight*, bk. iv. ch. vi. § 7, Some may plead, pride never feels pain. 1670: Ray, 133, Pride feels no cold. 1732: Fuller, No. 3935.

Pride goes before, shame follows after. c. 1440: *Jacob's Well*, 70 (E.E.T.S.), For pride goth befor, and schame folwyth after. Before 1500: in Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 128 (E.E.T.S.). 1509: Barclay, *Ship of Fools*, ii. 164 (1874), Pryde goth before, but shame do it ensue. Before 1529: Skelton, in *Works*, i. 131 (Dyce). 1605: Chapman, etc., *Eastw. Hoe*, IV i., Nay, nay, eene let pride go afore; shame wil follow after, I warrant you. 1732: Fuller, No. 3936.

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 *Countrym 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*, 1 95, Ouere done pride makythe nakid syde

Pride may lurk under a thread-bare cloak 1732 Fuller, No 3947

Pride must abide 1855 Gaskell, *North and South*, ch xxx, I kept myself up with proverbs as long as I could, "Pride must abide"—and such wholesome pieces of pith! 1901 F E Taylor, *Lanes 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*, 11 161 (1874), The pryde in them at last sholde haue a fall Before 1529 Skelton, in *Works*, 1 131 (Dyce), I have red, and rede l xall, Inordinate pride wyll haue a falle 1593 G Harvey, *Works*, 11 61 (Grosart), Without more circumlocution, pryde hath a fall 1654 Gayton, *Pleasant Notes Don Q*, 8, You see pride will have a fall 1701 Cibber, *Love Makes a Man*, III 11, 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 olde prouerbe be verified in thee, that the priest forgets himselfe that euer he was a clerke 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, *Kynge Johan*, in Manly, *Spec Pre-Shakesp Drama*, 1 537 (1903), Clargy, marke yt well, I have more to yow to say Than, as the sayeng is, the prest dyd speke a Sondag 1595 *Pedlars Prophecy*, 1 398 (Malone S), True maid, fie for shame, why do ye sweare? I know more than the priest spake of a Sunday 1894 Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 20 (E D S), More than ever the parson preached about

4 *To the purpose, as priests praise God in the morning* 1623 Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 474

See also Bad priests, Beware, Devil (117), House (20), Such as the priest, Three things are unsatiable, and Woman (59)

Prince that is feared of many must of necessity fear many, The 1669 *Politeuphuia*, 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 favourites 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 hed broken now handy dandy. 1589: Puttenham, *Eng. Poesie*, 258 (Arber), As when we speake false English . . . euery poore scholler knowes the fault, and cals 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 1680: 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, *Autocrat*, 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.

Probabilities do not make one truth, A thousand. 1855: Bohn, 302.

Proclamations. See Head (12).

Procrastination is the thief of time. 1742: Young, *Night Thoughts*, i l. 393. 1850: Dickens, *Copperfield*, ch. xii.

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 profred servyse stinketh, as witnessen 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 proffer'd 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, *Fam. Letters*, i. 139 (1894), It is vulgarly said that proffered service is of an evil savour.

Promise and Promises, *subs.* 1. *All promises are either broken or kept.* 1590: Q. Elizabeth, in Dee, *Diary*, 37 (Camden S.), There was never promise made, but it was broken or kept. 1641: Taylor (Water-Poet), *Last Voyage*, 8, in *Works*, 2nd coll. (Spens S.). 1692: L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 333 (3rd ed.). 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I., Why, madam, you know, promises are either broken or kept.

2. *Promise is debt.* [c. 1310: in Wright, *Pol. Songs*, 312 (Camden S.), Promis est dette due, si fay ne seit oublie.] c. 1386: Chaucer, *Introd.* to *Man of Law's Prol.*, l. 41, Biheste is dette. 1412: Hoccleve, *Regement*, 64 (E.E.T.S.), Of a trewe man, be-heste is dette. c. 1477: Caxton, *Jason*, 183 (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 Deliciæ*, ii. 177 (Hotten), If it be true that promise is a debt.

3. *Promises and pie-crusts are made to be broken.* [1599: Shakespeare, *Henry V.*, II. iii., For oaths are straws, men's faiths are wafer cakes] 1706: Ward, *Hud. Rediv.*, Pt. 5, can. vii. p. 9, Fair promises avail but little, Like too rich pye-crust, they're so brittle. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I., Promises and pie-crust are made to be broken. 1773: in *Garrick Corresp.*, i. 583 (1831), [as in 1738]. 1828: Carr, *Craven Dialect*, ii. 59. 1860: Reade, *Cl. and Hearth*, ch. lxxxi., "Pshaw!" said Catherine, "promises are pie-crusts." 1920: Locke, *House of Baltazar*, ch.

xvi, What about your promise, Mr Baltazar? Pie-crust?

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* [Maria et montes polliceri—Sallust, C xiii 3] 1578 Florio, *First Frutes*, fo 29, *He promiseth seas and mountaines* 1629 *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov 105 1880 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 deceiveth 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 comfort a foole* 1670 Ray, 22 1732 Fuller, No 5215

*Promising is the eve of giving* 1578 Florio, *First Frutes*, fo 29, *The cue to geue is to promise* 1640 Herbert *Jac Prudentum* 1666 Torriano, *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 Alis-aunder*, l 4042, *Hit is y-writen, every thyng himself shewith in tastyn* 1635 Glapthorne, *Hollander*, III 1714 *Spectator*, No 567 1828 Scott, *Fair Maid*, ch vi, *The thun soft cakes were done liberal justice to in the mode which is best proof of cake as well as pudding* 1842 Barham, *Ing Legends*, 2nd ser "Black Mousquetaire," 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 honester) 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* [ἀρδρὴς καὶ οὐκ ἐπιδόσσοις, ἐκποδῶν φίλοι—Menander, *Sent*, 32] c 1500 in *Antiq Repertory*, iv 308 (1809), *In tyme of prosperite remember adversite* 1659 Howell, 20 1670 Ray, ii 1732 Fuller, No 6394 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch xiv

3 *Prosperity gets followers, but adversity distinguishes them* 1669 *Politeuphuia*, 176, *Prosperity getteth 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 1290 in Wright, *Pol Songs John to Edw II*, 159 (Camden S), *A priest proud ase a po* c 1410 *Towneley Plays*, 117 (E E T S), *Ther shall com a swane as prowde as a po* 1513 Bradshaw, *St Werburga*, 69 (E E T S), *Prowde as a pecocke* 1565 Shacklock, *Hatchet of Heresies*, quoted in N & Q, 2nd ser, v 411 1681 Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 1030 1753 Richardson, *Grandison* iv 152 (1883) 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch iii

*Proud as Lucifer* c 1394 in Wright, *Pol Poems*, i 315 (Rolls Ser, 1859), *They been as proud as Lucifarre* c 1450 *Partonope*, l 9740 (E E T S) *Be thow as prowde as Lucifere* 1649 Quarles, *Virgin Widow*, V c 1686 in *Roxb Ballads* vii 21 (B S) 1764 Mrs F Sheridan, *Dupe*, III vii 1822 Scott, *Nigel*, ch viii 1848 Dickens, *Dombey*, ch xxvi 1896 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?*

*Proud come behind as go before*, *As* c 1565 Still, *Gam Gurton*, V ii, *As proude corns behinde, they say, as any goes before!* 1605 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: *Politeuphuia*, 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 accordith nought. c. 1532: R. Copland, *Spyttel Hous*, l. 977. Lo, here one may see that there is none wors Than is a proude herte and a beggers purs. 1631: Brathwait, *Eng. Gentlewoman*, 272 (1641), Wee say there is no good congruity in a proud heart and a beggers 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 carrie his owne prouender. 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.

Prove thy friend ere thou have need. c. 1400: *Cato's Morals*, in *Cursor Mundi*, p. 1672 (E.E.T.S.), be scarske of pi louing til hit come to prouing of pi gode frende. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1670: Ray, 93.

Provender pricks him. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi., For whan 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 prouender doth pricke. 1613: 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, *Citt 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, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 588.

Prudence. See Ounce; and Zeal.

Prudent pauses forward business. 1732: Fuller, No. 3976.

Pry'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 nul*; All mens worke is no mans worke; or that which is done for many is acknowledged by none. *Qui sert commun nul ne le paye, et s'il defect 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. 1. *A pudding hath two ends.* 1598: T. Bastard, *Chrestoleros*, bk. iii. Ep. 12, A podding merits double praise, a podding hath two ends. 1659: Howell, 11, A pudding hath two ends, but a fool hath none.

2 *A pudding in the fire* See quot 1659 Howell, 13, Ther's a pudding in the fire, and my part lies thereinna

3 *If it won't pudding, it will froize*== 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 vex a dog to see a pudding creep* c 1630 in *Roxb Ballads*, 1 58 (B S) Would not a dog for anger swell to see a pudding creepe 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 geare comth euen in puddying time rightlie 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 u, We come in pudding-time, for here s the duke 1663 Butler *Hudibras*, Pt I can ii, l 865 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, 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 settling concerns of the greatest consequence, exactly at the critical minute, is expressed by being "just in pudding time" 1854 Baker, *Northants Gloss*, sv, "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, *Rolliad*, 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, ix 437, When the Mayor of Birmingham Alderman Baker, tried to unveil the statue of George Dawson at Birming ham in 1881, the mechanism did not work The Mayor tugged at the cord in vain In the strained silence 'as 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 employers 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 Prudentum* 1666 Torriano, *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 2492

Punch coal See Break (3)

Punctuality is the soul of business 1869 Hazlitt, 321 1878 Platt, *Business*, 95, Punctuality is the very hinge of business

Punishment is lame, but it comes 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1666 Torriano, *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

2 He hath left his purse in his other hose 1639 Clarke, 244 1670 Ray, 22 1732 Fuller, No 1889 ["breeches" for "hose"]

3 He is purse-sick and lacks a physician 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I, ch xi

4 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.

8. *Let your purse be your master.* 1639: Clarke, 129. 1670: Ray, 135. 1672: Walker, *Paræm.*, 47.

9. *The purse-strings are the most 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: Bullein, *Bulw. of Defence*, fo. 27, Can giue 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, *Melibeus*, § 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. I3, Whatsoeuer thou mayest do to nyght dyfferre 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 churle vpon a gentleman, drinke not beere after wine. 1637: Taylor (Water-Poet), *Drinke and Welcome*, 20, in *Works*, 2nd coll. (Spens. S.), And after to drinke beere, nor will nor can He lay a churle upon a gentleman. 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, *Musa Pedestris*, 160, With shovels they were put to bed. 1910: *Devonsh. Assoc. Trans.*, xlii. 68, She callously replied, "Oh, he's no gûde, 'tis taim he were put to bed wi' a shovel."

10. *To put two and two together.* See Two and two.

11. *You put it together with an hot needle and burnt thread.* 1678: Ray, 350.

## Q

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 Planché, *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 Edwardes, *Neighbourhood*, 213, Of course I must not quarrel with my bread-and-butter!

Quartan ague 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, *Heir at Law*, I 1, Tell em Queen Anne's dead my lady 1840 Barham *Ing Legends*, 1st ser "Look at the Clock," Mrs Winifred 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, *Quevedo'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

Quern See Do (39)

Quest See Wood-pigeon

Questioneth, He that nothing, nothing learneth 1732 Fuller, No 2241

Quey out of a quey, A, Will breed a byre full of kye "Quey" = 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, *Charitie*, 16 (1816), As quicke as bee, seekes honie euery where 1633 Draxe, 172

Quick as lightning c 1440 Lydgate, *Fall of Princes*, bk vi l 2114, His conquest was swift as wynd 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 11, I am rather petulant, flash, flash, flash, as quick as lightning 1787 D'Arblay, *Diary*, 11 427 (1876), I turned back, quick as lightning 1880 R L S and Henley, *Deacon Brodie*, I 111 1, I was as quick as lightning

Quick as thought Before 1225 *Ancren R*, 94 (O), Ase swifte ase is nu monnes pouht 1412-20 Lydgate, *Troy Book*, bk 1 l 1764, By sodeyn chawng, hasty as a thought 1468 *Coventry Mys*, 298 (Sh S), I am as whyt [quick] as thought 1594 *Zepharia*, 30 (Spens S), But now (old man) flye on, as swift as thought 1620 Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt II ch xlviii

1656: R. Fletcher, *Ex Otio Negotium*, 84. 1748: Richardson, *Clarissa*, vi. 13 (1785), Then, as quick as thought . . . 1894: Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 10 (E.D.S.). 1923: *Punch*, 10 Jan., p. 29, col. 1, As quick as thought I flung myself forward and snatched at the bridle.

Quick at meat, quick at work. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Bestes." Ibid., s.v. "Eschauffer," We say, good at meat, good at worke. 1650: Fuller, *Pisgah Sight*, bk. ii. ch. viii. 1710: E. Ward, *Nuptial Dialogues*, i. 307, Speedy at victuals, quick at work's an old proverbial saying. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. II. 1829: Cobbett, *Advice to Young Men*, Lett. III., "Quick at meals, quick at work," is a saying as old as the hills.

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 *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 110 (1841), "Sely chylid is sone y-lered"; Quoth Hendyng. 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 lomb. 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 as a 'tatur, As. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 26.

Quiet sleep feels no foul weather. 1732: Fuller, No. 3997.

Quiet sow, quiet mow. Devon. 1850: *N. & Q.*, 1st ser., ii. 512.

Quiet tongue makes a wise head, A. 1562: Heywood, *Epigr.*, 6th hund., No. 83, Hauyng a styll tounge he had a besy head. 1776: T. Cogan, *John Buncke, 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 bridle, quit tit. 1820: Scott, *Abbot*, ch. xvii., They are as sharp here north-away as in canny Yorkshire herself, and quit bridle, quit titt, as we say.

Quits his place well that leaves his friend there, He. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

Quoth the young cock. See Young (15).

## R

Rabbit for a rat, Who will change a?  
1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch vii

Rabbit, He's like 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 Wiclif in *Eng Works*, 435  
(Matthew, 1880), It is yuel to kepe a  
west hors in stable but it is worse  
to have a womman wip-ynne or wip-  
oute at racke and at manger 1590  
Greene, *Works*, ix 178 (Grosart), Mars  
himselpe hateth to be euer on Venus  
lappe, he scorneth to lye at rack and  
manger 1628 *Robin Goodfellow*, 10  
(Percy S), Leaped and curveted as  
numble as if he had beene in stable at  
rack and manger a full moneth 1640  
Shirley, *Love's Cruelly*, III ii, You  
think you are at rack and manger, when  
you divide beans with the horses, and  
help to foul the stable 1740 North,  
*Lives of Norths*, i 335 (Bohn), He took  
divers of them to rack and manger in  
his family 1843 Carlyle, *Past and  
Present*, bk ii ch i, Tearing out the  
bowels of St Edmundsbury Convent  
(its larders namely and cellars) in the  
most ruinous way, by living at rack  
and manger there 1889 Peacock,  
*Manley, etc*, Gloss, 426 (E D S), To  
live at rack and manger is to live  
plentifully, without stint

Rag on every bush See quot 1866  
in *N & Q*, 3rd ser, ix 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 Faerie*  
"Thus Puck seems but a dreaming dolt,  
Still walking like a ragged colt" 1894  
Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 10 (E D S)

Ragged as a cuckoo, As Oxfordsh  
1923 *Folk-Lore*, xxxiv 329

Ragged as a sheep, As 1862 *Dia-  
lect 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 (E E T S), Of a rwgged  
colte cwmeth a good hors 1546 Hey-  
wood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch vi, For of a  
ragged colte there comth a good horse  
1605 Chapman, etc, *Eastw Hoe*, V  
[with "prove" for 'make'] 1670  
Ray, 72 1754 Berthelson, *Eng-  
Danish Dict*, s v "Colt" 1786 Burns,  
*Dream*, xi (O), Aft a ragged cowte s  
been known To mak a noble aiver  
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, subs 1 A foot deep of rain  
Will kill hay and grain, But three feet  
of snow Will make them come mo' [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 viii (O), After the rayne  
cometh the fair weder 1597 C  
Middleton, *Chinon of England*, 26  
(E E T S), After showers at length  
would come a sunne 1678 Ray, 194,  
After rain comes fair weather 1869

Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. v., After rain comes clear shining. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 111, After rain comes sunshine.

3. *A little rain stills a great wind.* Before 1225: *Ancren R.*, 246, Eft, me seiþ, and soþ hit is, a muchel wind alip mid a lutel rein c. 1430: Lydgate, *Daunce of Machabree*, l. 448, And windes great gon down with litle rein. 1478: Rivers, tr. C. de Pisa's *Morale Prouerbes*, And litle reyne dooth a greet wynd abate. c. 1534: Berners, *Huon*, 39 (E.E.T.S.), It is sayd that a small rayne abatyth a grete wynd. 1653: Urquhart, *Rabelais*, bk. ii. ch. xi. 1732: Fuller, No. 410, A small rain may allay a great storm. Cf. No. 11.

4. *All the rain avore Midsummer Go'th into the farmer's puss; All the rain arterwards Is zo much the wuss.* 1891: R. P. Chope, *Hartland Dialect*, 20 (E.D.S.).

5. *A sunshiny shower Won't last half an hour.* 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 8 (Percy S.). 1872: J. Glyde, jr., *Norfolk Garland*, 155. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 111, A sunshiny shower Never lasts half an hour. Bedfordshire. Sunshiny rain Will soon go again. Devon. 1899: *N. & Q.*, 9th ser., iv. 165, There is the rime, Sunshine shower, Rain half an hour, which children used to sing-song if caught in a shower on a summer day coming from school.

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 faint.* 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.

8. *For a morning rain leave not your journey.* Before 1500: in Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 131 (E.E.T.S.), He is no good swayn that lettith his jorney for the rayn. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

9. *If rain begins at early morning light, 'Twill end ere day at noon is bright.* 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 109.

10. *If the rain comes out of the east,*

'Twill rain twice twenty-four hours at the least. c. 1685: Aubrey, *Nat. Hist. Wilts*, 16 (1847). 1830: 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.

12. *More rain, more rest.* 1864. "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., v. 208, More rain, more rest; more water will suit the ducks best. 1879: *N. & Q.*, 5th ser., xi. 18, Fifty years ago I read in a book of travels, More rain, more rest; Fine weather not the best, as a saying much used by sailors. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 41, Mooar rain—mooar rest: fine weather is no' awlus th' best. Cf. No. 23.

13. *No one so surely pays his debt As wet to dry and dry to wet.* Wilts. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 108.

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., viii. 512. 1888: Lowsley, *Berks Gloss.*, 30 (E.D.S.), Raain avoor zeven vine avoor '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.

16. *Rain from the south prevents the drought; But rain from the west is always best.* 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 109.

17. *Rain has such narrow shoulders it will get in anywhere.* 1877: E. Leigh, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 165. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 105.

18. *Rain long foretold, long last; Short notice soon past.* 1893: Inwards, 109

19. *Rain on the green grass, and 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 1687 Aubrey, *Gentilisme*, etc., 180 (F L S) 1899 in *N & Q*, 9th ser., iv 165 [with "for washing day" for "on Saturday"]

21 Rain, rain, go to Spain See quotes 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 4193 1846 Denham, *Proverbs*, 5 (Percy S) ['will lay' for 'lays']

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 raineth and the goose wrinketh, Little wots the gosling what the goose thinketh Before 1529 Skelton, in *Works*, i 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 1 Although it rain throw not away thy watering-pot 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

2 If it rains before church See quotes [16th cent in *Reliq Antiqua* ii 10 (1843), Du Dumanche au matin la pluie Bien souvent 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 quotes c 1685 Aubrey, *Nat Hist Wilts*, 16 (1847), A proverbial rithme observed as infallible by the inhabitants on the Severne side—If it raineth when it doth flow, Then yoke your ox, and goe to plough, But if it raineth when it doth ebb, Then unyoke your ox 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 Cc3, All the world is otemeale and my poke left at home] 1670 Ray, 191 1692 *Poor Robin Alman*, May, What is he better for his wish, When it rains porridge to want a dish 1732 Fuller, No 2687 1895 S O Jewett, *Life of Nancy*, 221, "When it rains porridge hold up your dish," said Mrs Flagg 1923 *Devonsh Assoc Trans*, liv 136, If it shud be raunin' 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 1860 Reade, *Cf and Hearth*, ch lvi 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 ix 48, The common people will say in the summer-time, it rains by planets 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, ii 48, "T rain faws i' planets" i 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; St. Swithin; St. Vitus; Smoke (2); Snail; Spring (7); Sun; Whitsuntide; and Wind, A (a) (1), (13) and (14); B (2), (5) and (6); D (3) and (5); E (1) and (5); 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 mornyng the raynebow appere, it signifieth moystore . . . If in the evening it spend it self, sayre 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. *Wilts.* 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"].

4. *If the rainbow comes at night, The rain is gone quite.* 1830: Forby, *Vocab. E. Anglia*, 417. 1893: Co. Folk-Lore: *Suffolk*, 163 (F.L.S.).

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*, 293.

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 Keepe 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, *Amphitryon*, I. ii. 1705: Centlivre, *Gamester*, III. i. 1744-6: Mrs. Haywood, *Fem. Spectator*, i. 113 (1771). 1860: Reade, *Cl. and Hearth*, ch. lii., 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 tending that with a forke in one yeare, which was not gathered together with a rake, in twentie c 1630 in *Roxb 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 *Roxb Ballads*, vii 520 (B S) What the old folks scrap'd together I spread it abroad with my fork 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'Urfey, *Richmond Heiress*, I Red and rank as a fox] 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, ii 69, He s as ram as a fox 1862 *Dialect of Leeds*, 406 1889 J Nicholson, *Folk Speech E Yorks* 20, As ram as an awd fox

Rame Head See Dudman

Ramsey the rich 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, ii 98 (1840) 1708 *Brit Apollo*, 1, 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 rappe and rende All that cometh in their fingrynge 1540 Palsgrave, *Acolastus*, sig Qz, All that he may gete or laye hande on or rappe and rende 1817 Scott, *Rob Roy* ch xxvi Every ane o' them will maintain as mony as he can rap and rend 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 al that ye may rape and renne 1607 R West, *Court of Conscience*, sig E4 When they haue got what they can rap and run 1742 North, *Lives of Norths*, ii 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 drink some cyder S Devon 1869 Hazlitt, 323

Rat and Rats 1 He'd starve the rats, and make the mice go upon scritchies [crutches] S Devon 1869 Hazlitt, 198

2 Rats fly from the falling house 1625 Bacon, *Essays* "Wisdom for Man's Self," It is the wisdom of rats, that will be sure to leaue 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 ii 1 939 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 *Dombey*, ch lix, It is a great house still but it is a ruin 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 Cotgrave, s v "Rat"

5 Too late repents the rat when caught by the cat 1591 Florio, *Second Frules* 165, Too late repents the ratt If once her taile be caught by the catt 1623 Wodroephe *Spared Houres*, 516

6 You can't get rats out of mice Devon 1882 *Folk-Lore Record*, v 159

See also Drunk as a rat; Fierce; Poor; Scot (1); Smell (3); and Welcome (7).

Rate thy commodities at home, but sell them abroad. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Priser." 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 218, Fix thy rates at home, and in the market sell.

Rather go to bed supperless. See Supperless.

Raven. Two sayings which = The pot calls the kettle black. 1. *The raven said to the rook*, "Stand away, black-coat." 1732: Fuller, No. 4729. 1886: Swainson, *Folk-Lore Brit. Birds*, 88 (F.L.S.).

2. *Thou art a bitter bird, said the raven to the starling*. 1678: Ray, 195. 1826: Brady, *Varieties of Lit.*, 38. 1886: Swainson, *ut supra*, 73.

See also Black, *adj.* (7); and Carcase.

Raw leather will stretch. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), *Sc. of Folly*, 46, in *Works*, ii. (Grosart). 1670: Ray, 136. 1732: Fuller, No. 4004.

Raw pullen, veal and fish make the churchyards fat. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Poulet," Raw veale, and chickens, make swelling churchyards. 1678: Ray, 41.

Read not before you learn to spell. 1639: Clarke, 4.

Read. See quot. 1882: Nodal and Milner, *Lancs Gloss.*, 225 (E.D.S.), A common Lancashire saying among old folks is "Aw con read [understand] that as ne'er wur printed."

Read, try, judge, and speak as you find, says old Suffolk. 1813: Ray, 71.

Ready money is a ready medicine. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Argent." 1651: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, 2nd ed.

Ready money will away. 1630: Taylor (Water-Poet), *Works*, 1st pagin., 72, For by long prooffe, the prouerbe true doth say, *That ready money euer will away*. 1670: Ray, 18.

Ready mouth for a ripe cherry, You have always a. 1732: Fuller, No. 5913.

Ready way to lose your friend is to lend him money, A. *Ibid.*, No. 378.

Reason, *subs.* 1. *Hearken to reason or she will be heard*. 1640: Herbert,

*Jac. Prudentum*. 1736: Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, i. 451 (Bigelow), If you will not hear reason, she will surely rap your knuckles.

2. *Reason governs the wise man, and cudgels the fool*. 1855: Bohn, 479.

3. *Reason lies between the spur and the bridle*. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*

4. *Reason rules all things*. 1633: Draxe, 175, Let reason rule all your actions. 1659: Howell, 9.

5. *Reasons are not like garments, the worse for the wearing*. 1599: Earl of Essex, quoted in *N. & Q.*, 10th ser., ii. 23.

6. *The reasons of the poor*. See Poor (30).

7. *There's reason in roasting of eggs*. 1659: Howell, 12. 1681: Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 1050. 1762: Bickerstaffe, *Love in a Village*, III. i. 1855: Planché, *Extravag.*, v. 145 (1879), But you'll observe he humbly hopes and begs, Some reason in this roasting of her eggs. c. 1880: A. Lang, *Poet. Works*, ii. 205 (1923), "There's wit in poaching eggs," the proverb says.

See also Rhyme.

Receiver is as bad as the thief, The. 1650: Fuller, *Pisgah Sight*, bk. ii. ch. iv. 1668: Sedley, *Mulberry Garden*, IV. 1734: Fielding, *Don Quix.* in *England*, II. xvi. 1830: Marryat, *King's Own*, ch. xi.

Receiver, No, no thief. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I., ch. xii., Where be no receiuers, there be no theeues. c. 1615: R. C., *Times Whistle*, 89 (E.E.T.S.), For every man this olde saide saw beleeves, "Were no receivers there would be no theeves." 1670: Ray, 136. 1732: Fuller, No. 3620. 1884: Jefferies, *Red Deer*, ch. v., As there are no receivers . . . there are no thieves.

(a) Reckon without one's host, To. Also in the form (b) He that reckons without his host must reckon twice. c. 1489: Caxton, *Blanchardyn, etc.*, 202 (E.E.T.S.), It ys sayd in comyn that "who soeuer rekeneth wythoute his hoste, he rekeneth twys for ones." 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. viii., Reckners without their host must

reken twyce 1579 Lyly, *Euphues*, 84 (Arber), He reckoneth without his hostesse 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 324 (1870) [as in (b)] 1669 *Politeuphuia*, 183 [as in (b)] 1709 O Dykes, *Eng Proverbs*, 262 (2nd ed) [as in (b)] 1766 Garrick and Colman, *Clandest Marriage*, III 1, Odsol! I had quite forgot We are reckoning without our host here 1846 Planché, *Extravag*, III 140 (1879), Ah, madam, there without 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., 1 219, An old saying is familiar to me—"Red and yellow, Tom Fool's colours" Doubtless the allusion is to the glowing parti-coloured dress of the Fool or Jester

Red as a cherry 1558 Bullein, *Govt 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, (Facs 1890), When a cup of good sacke Will make the cheeks red as a cherry 1720 Gay, *Eclogues* "Espousal," l 62, Red as the cherry from the Kentish tree 1849 Brontë, *Shirley*, ch xi, To-day you see them bouncing, buxom, red as cherries

Red as a ferret 1690 *New Dict Canting Crew*, sig E4 Eyes as red as a ferret 1862 *Dialect of Leeds*, 407

Red as a rose c 1260 *King Horn* (Camb), l 16 (Hall), Rose red was his colour Before 1300 *Cursor Mundi*, 571 (EETS), As rose red hit is in spring c 1374 Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk II l 1256, "Nay, nay," quod she, and wex as red as rose c 1477 Caxton, *Jason*, 156 (EETS), His blood began to chaunge and he woxe rede as a rose c 1565 in Huth, *Ancient Ballads, etc*, 208 (1867), With bloud I hard saye, as red as a rose c 1675 in *Roxb Ballads*, vi 244 (BS), She stept to him, as red as any rose 1798 Coleridge, *Anc Mariner*, Pt I, st 9, The bride Red as a rose is she 1818 Austen, *North Abbey*, ch x, My cheeks

would have been as red as your roses 1863 Kingsley, *Water Babies*, ch II

Red as a turkey-cock c 1630 B & F, *Faithful Friends*, III II, The very sight of his scarlet gown made me blush as red as a turkey-cock 1733 C Coffey, *Boarding-School*, sc II, 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, 15940 (O), þe oder is mulcwhit þe oder ræd also blod 1387 Trevisa, tr Higden, I 123 (Rolls Ser), þe secounde þre moupes reed as blood 1485 Malory, *Morte d'Arthur*, bk xvii ch iv, Hit was reed as blood 1594 *First Part Contention*, 22 (Sh S) 1894 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), l 520 (Hall), Red so any glede c 1489 Caxton, *Sonnes of Aymon*, 27 (EETS), He wexed for grete wrathe as redde as ony fyre in his face 1567 Golding, *Ovid*, bk I l 954, At thus reproch old Phaeton wax as red as any fire 1681 Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 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*, III 60 (Bohn)

Red as Martlesham lion=very red Suffolk 1892 *E Anglian Daily Times* (W)

Red at night and red in the morning Several sayings to like effect may be conveniently grouped under this heading Cf Evening 1551 T Wilson, *Rule of Reason*, sig M4, The skie was very red this mornynge, Ergo we are like to have rayne or [ere] nyght 1584 R Scot, *Witchcraft*, bk xi ch xv, The skie being red at evening, Foresheues a faire and clear morning; But if the morning riseth red, Of wind or raine we shall be sped Before 1627

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 Deliciæ*, 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: Hone, *Year-Book*, 300, If red the sun begins his race, Expect 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 Frutes*, fo. 30, If thou meete a red man, and a bearded woman, greet them three myle off[f]. 1591: Florio, *Second Frutes*, 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. Tofte, 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: *Helpe to Discourse*, 153 (1640) [as in the immediately preceding quotation]. 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 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. 1915, 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, Broyl 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 bribe, 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=he 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. xliii., There is a remedy for everything but death. 1640: Mabbe, tr. *Exemp. Novels*, i. 177 (1900). 1712: Motteux, *Quixote*, Pt. II. ch. xliii.

Remedy for everything, could men find it, There is a. 1651: Herbert, *Jac. 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 patriam  
durioribus remediis, quam pericula erat  
sanavit — Seneca, *De Beneficiis*, V xvi  
4] 1607 Bacon, *Essays* "Counsel,"  
The doctrine of Italie, and practice of  
Fraunce hath introduced Cabanell Coun-  
celles, a remedy worse than the disease  
1624 Massinger, *Bondman*, I 1, The  
cure Is worse than the disease 1697  
Vanbrugh, *Prov Wife*, 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 1 Pref, xv

Remove an old tree and it will die  
1570 A Barclay *Mirror of Good  
Manners*, 67 (Spens S), An olde tree  
transposed shall finde small aavantage  
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 Prudentum*

Repentance always comes behind  
1584 Robinson, *Handf Pleas Delights*,  
38 (Arber)

Repentance comes too late c 1440  
Lydgate *Fall of Princes*, bk iii l 915  
(E E T S), Harm doon, to late folweth  
repentance 1670 Ray, 22, Repent-  
ance comes too late, when all is con-  
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*, 286,  
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 mund, as  
breath is the life of the body 1730  
T Salkeld 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 i e teach  
not all thy skill, lest the scholar over  
reach or insult the master

Resolved mind hath no cares, The  
1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

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 Prudentum*

Rest a while See Sit (6)

Retreat, In a, the lame are foremost  
1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Revenge every wrong, Had I See  
quots Before 1500 in Hill, *Common-  
place-Book*, 140 (E E T S), He that will  
venge euery wreth, the longer he levith  
the lesse he hath 1575 Gascoigne,  
*Posies*, 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*,  
iii 32 (1885), Hee that wreakes himselfe  
at every wronge, Shall never singe the  
ritch 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-  
geance is sweete 1658 *Whole Duty  
of Man*, Sunday, 16, It is a devilish  
phrase in the mouth of men, That re-  
venge is sweet 1691 Southerne, *Sir  
Antony Love*, IV iii 1818 Byron,  
*Don Juan*, can 1 st 124 1864 Mrs  
H Wood, *Trevlyn Hold*, ch lviii, Re-  
venge may be very sweet, but

Reverend are ever before, The 1640  
Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Revers 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 vois que mes espé-  
rances vous attristent vous ne voulez  
pas d'une liberté qui coûtera beaucoup  
d'or et de sang Voulez-vous qu'on  
vous fasse des révolutions à l'eau

rose?"—Marmontel, *Mémoires d'un Père*, liv. xiv., in *Œuvres*, ii. 294 (1818-19), 1819: Byron, *Letters, etc.*, iv. 358 (Prothero), *Revolutions* are not to be made with rosewater.

Reynard is still Reynard, tho' he put on a cowl. 1732: Fuller, No. 4033.

Rhubarb and less diet, More. 1655: T. Muffett, *Healths Improvement*, 8, These addle proverbs, . . . 4. More rubarb and less diet.

Rhyme (and) (nor) (or) reason. [Nec quid nec quare.—Petr., 37. En toy na Ryme ne Raison.—French MS., before 1500, quoted by Skeat, *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., x. 236.] Before 1529: Skelton, *Works*, i. 123 (Dyce), Ys ryme yet owte of reson. 1568: *Jacob and Esau*, II. ii., Ye shall hear him chafe beyond all reason or rhyme. 1601: Shakespeare, *As You Like It*, III. ii., Neither rhyme nor reason can express how much. 1605: Jonson, *Volpone*, Prol., Here is rhyme, not empty of reason. 1714: Ozell, *Molière*, v. 134, This gentleman wou'd find neither rhyme nor reason in it. 1764: Murphy, *Three Weeks after Marriage*, II., There he owns it . . . and without rhyme or reason into the bargain. 1849: Lytton, *Caxtons*, Pt. IX. ch. iii., A pretty fellow you are . . . to leave me all the morning, without rhyme or reason! 1920: P. B. M. Allan, *Book-Hunter at Home*, 87, It does insist most emphatically that there should be a rhyme and a reason for reading any book at any time.

Rhyme, but it accordeth not, It may. Things may be brought together, like riming words, but they will not on that account agree.—Skeat: Note in his *Chaucer*, vii. c. 1387: Usk, *Test. of Love*, in Skeat's *Chaucer*, vii. 51, These thinges to-forn-sayd mowe wel, if men liste, ryme; trewly, they acorde nothing. c. 1430: Lydgate, *Minor Poems*, 56 (Percy S.), It may wele ryme, but it accordith nought. 1562: Heywood, *Three Hund. Epigr.*, No. 265, It may rhyme, but it accordeth not. 1633: Draxe, 45 [as in 1562].

Rhyme to death, as rats in Ireland, To. c. 1581: Sidney, *Apol.*, 72 (Arber), Nor to be rimed to death, as is sayd to be

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. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, 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 prouerbe, Duesque miserque, a rich man, and a miserable.

2. *A rich man's money hangs him oftentimes.* 1639: Clarke, 98.

3. *A rich rogue, two shirts and a rag.* 1678: Ray, 80. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I.

4. *Always you are to be rich next year.* 1732: Fuller, No. 787.

5. *As rich as a Jew* 1720: Gay, *Poems*, ii. 280 (Underhill), Great as an emp'rour should I be, And richer than a Jew. 1771: Cumberland, *West Indian*, II., She is as rich as a Jew. 1823: Scott, *Pevenil*, 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 shorn.] c. 1520: *Cock Lorells Bote*, 1 (Percy S.), The nexte that came was a coryar, And a cobeler, his brother, As ryche as a newe shorne shepe. 1595: Churchyard, *Charitie*, 2 (1816). 1637: Breton, in *Works*, ii. h 11 (Grosart). 1681: Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 1077. 1732: Fuller, No. 725

7 *As rich as Croesus* [Superare Crassum divitius—Cicero, *Att.*, 1 4 fin] 1577 Kendall, *Flow of Epigrams*, 57 (Spens S), *As riche as Cresus Affric* is 1696 T Dilke, *Lover's Luck*, II 1, And I get a patent for it, I shall be as rich as Croesus 1724 Defoe, *Roxana*, in *Works*, xiii 73 (Boston, 1903) 1850 Smedley, *Frank Fairleigh*, ch li

8 *He is rich enough that needeth neither to flatter nor borrow* 1669 *Pokiteuphusa*, 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*, vii 88, Is he nat riche that hath suffisaunce? c 1577 Northbrooke, *Dicing etc.*, 48 (Sh S), Seneca sayeth *Diues est, non qui magis habet, sed qui minus cupit* He is riche, not that hath much, but that coueteth least 1637 A Warwick, *Spare Minutes*, 4 (1829), 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'Estrange, *Æsop*, 337 (3rd ed), 'Tis a roguish 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 xliii

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 (BS), Rich people haue 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 Ibid, 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 *Reliq Antiquæ*, 1 208 (1841), Riches are gotten with labor, holden with feare, and lost with greife and excessive care 1732 Fuller, No 4043

Riches bring off harm, and ever fear 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch xii 1633 Draxe, 180, Riches bring care and feares

Riches come to him sleeping 1754 Berthelson, *Eng-Danish Dict.*, sv "Sleep"

Riches got by craft See quot 1589 L Wright, *Display of Dutie*, 3 Whereby the proverbe is verified, 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 decreaseth, When 1670 Ray, 22 1736 Bailey, *Dict.*, sv "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 mud-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 neuer sylle 1732 Fuller, No 2011, 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 helpmate.

Ride the heps, To. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., vi. 494, 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-dragons, and rides the wild-mare with the boys. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Asne," *Desferer l'asne*. To unshoe the asse; we say, to ride the wilde mare.

Ride who will, shod is the mare. 1541: *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 thedward as ryght as 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 *Reliq. Antiquæ*, ii. 19 (1843), 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 ryght as a rammes horne. Before 1529: Skelton, *Colin Clout*, l. 1201, They say many matters be born By the ryght of a rammes horne 1670: Ray, 207.

Right as a trivet. 1837: Dickens, *Pickwick*, ch. xvi. 1847: 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, Caxon, 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'Urfey, *Quixote*, Pt. III. Act III. sc. ii., And she as right as is my leg, Still gave him leave to touze 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, *Lancs Sayings*, 1, As reet as ninepence.

Right as rain. 1894: 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, *Phraseol. 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.

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 Housholders*, sig A6 The commune prouerbe is that ofte rekeninge holdeth longe felawshyppe 1732 Fuller, No 4053  
1760 Colman *Polly Honeycombe* sc ii c 1780 *The First Floor*, I iii, in Inchbald *Farces*, vi 235 (1815)

Right, Roger See Sow, subs (11)

Right side See quots 1670 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 Priam'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 Gurton*, II 1, Thou rose not on thy ryght syde, or else blest thee not wel 1607 Marston, *What You Will*, V 1665 J Wilson *Projectors* I Certain I rise with the right end upward to-day I have had such good luck! 1670 Ray, 191 He rose on his right side Cf Left side

Right wrongs no man 1853 Trench *Proverbs*, 8 (1905)

Ring Better no ring, than a ring of a rush 1732 Fuller, No 918

Ripe See Beddingham

Ripon rowels, As true steel as 1625 Jonson, *Staple of News*, I iii, There's an angel if my spurs Be not right Ripon 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, iii 398 (1840) 1683 Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697) 1790 Grose *Prov Gloss*, sv 'Yorks' 1807 Hogg, *Gilmanscleuch*, in *Mountain Bard* The rowels 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 rowels" 1918 N & Q, 12th ser, iv 104

Rip up old sores, To 1573 G Harvey, *Letter-Book*, 18 (Camden S), Sutch ripping up of ould matters 1652 Wal singham *Arcana Aulica*, 32 (1694), A hater of those that rip up old offences 1694 *Terence made English*, 236, What occasion had you to rip up th' old sore? 1712 Arbuthnot *John Bull*, Pt I ch ix Such a trial would rip up old sores 1773 Garrick, in *Garrick Corresp.*, i 518 (1831), I am very much hurt to hear that he has ripped up old sores 1827 Scott, in *Lockhart's Life*, vii 90, I am not clear that it is a healthful indulgence to be ripping up old sores

Rise, verb 1 As riseth my good so riseth my blood c 1560 Becon, in *Catechism etc.*, 599 (P S) [quoted as a "common proverb"]

2 He must rise betimes who will cosen the devil 1659 Howell, 10 (8)

3 He must rise 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 that shall enterprise This measure from thee, for to gleane, Right erly must he rise 1593 Peele *Edw I*, sc x, She riseth early, Joan, that beguileth thee of a Gloucester 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, i 426 (1840), They must rise early, yea not sleep at all who over-reach monks in matter of profit 1681 Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 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 *Cf and Hearth*, ch xxiv

6 He that riseth betimes hath something in his head 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

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.

10. *Rise early and you will see; wake and you will get wealth.* 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 5 (Percy S.).

11. *Rise with an appetite.* See *Leave* (6).

12. *To rise with the lark and go to bed with the lamb* c. 1555: in Wright, *Songs, etc.*, *Philip and Mary*, 38 (Roxb. Cl.), And wythe the larke yche day I ryes. 1580: Lyly, *Euphues*, 229 (Arber), Goe to bed with the lambe, and rise with the larke. 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 synonymous 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. "Saint," The danger past our vovues are soon forgotten. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum* ["past"]. 1853: Trench, *Proverbs*, 68 (1905), In English we say, [as in 1640].

Rivers need a spring. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

River will run as it did, A thousand years hence, the. 1732: Fuller, No. 436.

Riving Pike do wear a hood, If, Be sure that day will ne'er be good. 1670: Ray, 236. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Lancs" 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 101. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 161.

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 sakes to the myll. Or pescoddes they may shyll, 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.

3 *To cry roast meat.* 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 336 (1870), You cannot fare well but you must cry rost meat. 1616: B. & F., *Scornful Lady*, V. iv., Cannot you fare well, but you must cry roast meat? 1681: Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 1084 [as in 1605]. 1749: Fielding, *Tom Jones*, bk. iv. ch. v., They may imagine, that to trumpet

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 Lamb, *Christ's Hospital* 1822 Scott, *Nigel*, ch xxxvii 1894 Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 27 (E D S). To cry roast meat (1) 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 crucifigeret Paulum ut redimeret Petrum—12th cent Herbert of Bosham 287] Before 1384 Wiclif, *Works*, iii 174 (Arnold) How schulde God approve þat þou robbe Petur, and gif þis robber to Poule in þe name of Crist? c 1400 Lanfranc, *Cirurgie*, 331 (E E T S), For sum medicyne is for Peter that is not good for Poul, for the diuersité of complexioun c 1440 *Jacob's Well*, 138 (E E T S) þe abbot seyde, "To robbe Petyr, and geue it Powle, it were non almesse but gret 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 oppression 1661 Heylyn, *Hist of Reform*, 121 (1674), The lands of Westminster, so dilapidated by Bishop Thurlby 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 Bailey, *Dict*, s v "Spital"

Robbers See quot 1750 Smollett, *Gil Blas*, iv 12, We got in four days to Oviedo, 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, iii 29 (1885), Hee drew it as blith as a Robin reddocke [redbreast]

2 *He that hunts robin or wren, Will never prosper boy 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 Hone, *Ev Day Book*, 1 647, [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, *Lancs Folk-Lore*, 142, A Cock Robin and a Jenny Wren Are God Almighty's cock and hen, A Spink and a Sparrow Are the Devils 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. 1913: 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. 1. *Robin Goodfellow was a strange man.* 1639: Clarke, 69.

2. See quot. 1567: Harman, *Caveat*, 36 (E.E.T.S.), I verely 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.

3. *To laugh like Robin Goodfellow.* 1830: Forby, *Vocab. E. Anglia*, 431. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, ii. 85 (F.L.S.).

Robin Hood. 1. *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."

2. *As crooked as Robin Hood's bow.* Derby. 1889: *Folk-Lore Journal*, vii. 291.

3. *Come turn about, Robin Hood.* 1672: *Westm. Drollery*, Pt. II. 74 (Ebsworth).

4. *Good even, good Robin Hood!* Before 1529: Skelton, in *Works*, ii. 32 (Dyce).

5. *Many talk of Robin Hood that never shot in his bow.* c. 1374: Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk. ii. l. 861, They speken, but they bente never his bowe. 1401: in Wright, *Political Poems*, ii. 59 (Rolls Ser., 1861), Many men speken of Robyn Hood, and shotte nevere in his bowe. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. vi. 1631: Brathwait, *Whimzies*, 13 (1859). 1712: E. Ward, *Poet. Entertainer*, No. 2, p. 7, Yet of religion talks, as many do of Robin Hood, whose bow they never drew. 1913: E. M. Wright, *Rustic Speech, etc.*, 189, A Yorkshire proverb runs: Many speak of Robin Hood . . . i.e. many people talk of doing great things which they can never accomplish.

6. *Robin Hood's choice*—"either this or nothing." 1623: *Vox Graculi*, quoted in J. P. Collier, *Bibliogr. Cat.*, ii. 481.

7. *Robin Hood's miles* = more than ordinary length. 1559: W. Cunningham, *Cosmogr. Glasse*, 57, quoted in *N. & Q.*, 12th ser., x. 412.

8. *Robin Hood's pennyworths.* 1630: T. Adams, *Works*, 207, He makes the world beleue that he sels Robin-hoods peny-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 apply'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*,

B, v 402, But I can rymes of Robyn Hood 1542 Udall, tr Erasmus's *Apoph*, Pref, xxv (1877), Old wives foolishe tales of Robin Hood 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch ix 1600 Breton, in *Works*, i g 8 (Grosart), From louning idle tales of Robin Hood The blessed Lord of heau'n deliuer me 1681 Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 1258, Nifles and trifles, vain tales of Robin Hood 1732 Fuller, No 4316 [with "enough for" instead of 'among']

10 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

11 To overshoot Robin Hood 1869 Hazlitt, 425

See also May, I (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 E D S, No 12, p 74

Rock the cradle empty, If you, Then you shall have babies plenty Sussex 1879 Henderson, *Folk-Lore of N Counties* 19 1913 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 1 l 740, For it is seyð "man maketh ofte a yerde With which the maker is him-self y-beten In sondry maner" c 1489 Caxton, *Sonnes of Aymon*, 97 (E E T S), It is often sayd That men make often

a rodde for them selfe Before 1529 Skelton, in *Works*, i 186 (Dyce), For your owne taylor ye made a rod 1593 *Tell-Trothes N Yeares 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, *Polite Conuers*, Dial I, I am not the first man has carried a rod to whup himself

Rod in pickle, To have a 1553 *Respublica*, III v, But we have roddees in pyse for them everye chone 1606 Chapman, *Mons d'Olive*, I, My little parcel of wits, I have rods in piss for you 1690 A Behn *Widow Ranter*, III 1, Heres the young rogue that drew upon us too we have rods in piss for him, 1 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 quot 1880 E Walford, in *N & Q*, 6th ser, ii 307, A stupid fellow in Essex is generally said to come from the "Rodings" or else from the 'sheers'—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 enoo" and nought to spare 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 87

Rogue 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 grain 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 haue a Rowland for an Olyuer 1659 Howell *Letters*, ii 665 (Jacobs) She will alwayes 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 for 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 Witham, with barons and apparatus, gets a Roland for his Oliver! 1898: Weyman, *Shrewsbury*, 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 mossy the stone That oftyn ys tornnyd and winde. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi., The rolling stone neuer gatherth mosse. 1593: *Passionate Morrice*, 87 (N. Sh. S.). 1606: Marston, *The Faune*, I. ii., Thy head is alwaies working; it roles, and it roles, Dondolo, but it gathers no mosse. 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.*, lxxxiv, 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 fat.")

Rome. 1. *All roads lead to Rome*. c. 1380: Chaucer, *Astrolabe*, Prol., Right as diverse pathes leden diverse folk the righte way to Rome. 1860: Reade, *Cl. and Hearth*, 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.

2. *Rome was not built in a day*. [Non stilla una cavat marmor, neque protinus

uno est Condita Roma die—c. 1500: Palingenius (ps. for Pietro Angelo Manzolli), *Zodiacus Vitæ*, xii. 460 (ed. Tauchn.).] 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi., Rome was not built in one daie. 1593: G. Harvey, *Works*, ii. 133 (Grosart). 1658: R. Franck, *North. Memoirs*, 258 (1821). 1660: Tatham, *The Rump*, I. 1763: Murphy, *Citizen*, I. ii. 1822: Scott, *Nigel*, ch. xxi. 1849: Brontë, *Shirley*, ch. vi.

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 prouerb is) with a mortar 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.

4. *When at Rome, do as the Romans do*. [Aristo Punico ingenio inter Poenos usus.—Livy, xxxiv. 61. See also St. Augustine, Epistle xxxvi., to Casulanus.] Before 1500: in Hill, *Common-place-Book*, 130 (E.E.T.S.), Whan thou art at Rome, do after the dome; And whan thou art els wher, do as they do ther. 1586: Pettie, tr. Guazzo, *Civil Convers.*, fo. 26, According to the saying, when one is at Rome, to liue as they doe at Rome. 1676: Cotton, Walton's *Angler*, Pt. II. ch. vi., You know the proverb, "Those who go to Rome must do as they at Rome do." 1712: Motteux, *Quixote*, Pt. II. ch. liv. c. 1780: *The First Floor*, II. i., in Inchbald, *Farces*, vi. 251 (1815). 1842: Barham, *Ing. Legends*, 2nd ser.: "Auto-da-fé." 1910: Lucas, *Mr. Ingleside*, ch. xviii.

Romford, The ready way to = ? 1656: *Musarum Deliciæ*, 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

Romford, To ride to 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial II, Well, one may ride to Rumford upon this knife, it is so blunt 1785 Grose, *Class Dict Vulgar Tongue*, s v 'Rumford,' To ride to Rumford, to have one's backside new bottomed 1901 *N & Q*, 9th ser, viii 306, "You might ride to Romford on it" When a youngster I often heard my old grandmother make this remark *à 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 Fairlight Down

Roodee, As ronk [rank, rich] as th' 1877 E Leigh, *Cheshire Gloss*, 173 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 19 [The Roodee 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 stoop 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 iii p 27 (Sh S), I had rather haue your roome as your companie 1592 Greene, *Works*, xi 255 (Grosart), Let him depart out of this place, for his roome is better than his company 1615 Brathwait, *Strappado*, 66 (1878), Whose roome I loue more then 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 l 770

Rope, subs 1 A rope and butter, 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 shalbe as mete for him as a rope is for a thefe 1579 *Marr of Wit and Wisdom*, sc ii 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 seasonable as a rope for a thief is 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 haltered themselves in a *præmunire* 1652 Burroughs, *On Hosea*, iv 517, 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 mare Yorks 1670 Ray, 191 1732 Fuller, No 2627

6 Ropes of sand [*τὸ ἐκ τῆς ψάμμου σχοινίον* *πάλαμπος*—Aristides (ed Jebb, ii 309)] c 1594 Bacon, *Promus*, No 778, To knytt a rope of sand 1649 T Forde, *Lusus Fort*, 31, One shall sooner knit a rope of sand then unite their affections 1672 Corye, *Generous Enemies*, II 1, O woman, woman, thy vows are ropes of sand Before 1680 Butler, *Remains*, ii 206 (1759), A quibbler dances on a rope of sand 1712 in *Somers Tracts*, xiii 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, *Let 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 13 π]



7. *Throw the rope in after the bucket.* 1732: Fuller, No. 5042.

Roper's news, That's = no news. 1879: *Folk-Lore Record*, ii. 203 (Bodmin). 1880: Courtney, *W. Cornwall Words*, 47 (E.D.S.), That's Roper's news—hang the crier.

Rose proveth a thorn, The. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. x., I toke hir for a rose, but she breedth a burre. 1633: Draxe, 41. 1659: Howell, *Letters*, ii. 665 (Jacobs), She may prove a wolf in lambs skinn, instead of a rose you will have a burr. 1813: Ray, 155, For the rose the thorn is often plucked.

Rose. See also Fresh; and Red.

Rosebery Topping wears a cap, When, Let Cleveland then beware a clap. 1610: P. Holland, tr. Camden's *Brit.*, 721. 1700: J. Brome, *Travels*, 164. 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, i. 88 (F.L.S.) ["hat" for "cap," and "Morden-Carrs will suffer for that"]. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 101. 1922: *N & Q.*, 12th ser., xi. 25.

Rosemary. See quotes. 1884: H. Friend, *Flowers and Fl. Lore*, 217, The old saying 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. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Herefordshire." 1868: *Quart. Review*, cxxv. 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 briar, As. c. 1410:

Towneley Plays, 119 (E.E.T.S.), As rough as a brere.

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, 231, Rough as it runs, as the boy said when his ass kicked him.

Rough as a tinker's budget, As. 1659: Howell, 18. 1670: Ray, 207.

Rough net is not the best catcher of birds, The. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. ix. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Douceur." 1670: Ray, 125.

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: Jerome, *Three Men on Bummel*, 190 (O.), One must take a little rough with one's smooth.

Rouk-town. See quot. 1670: Ray, 52, A rouk-town's seldom a good housewife at home. This is a Yorkshire proverb. A rouk-town is a gossiping 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 rownd 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 quotes. 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 483, A round table yealds no debate. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Unv*, 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 Haud the  
witches a' in dread 1846-59 *Den-*  
*ham Tracts* 11 329 (F L S)

Row one way See Look (7)  
Royston horse See Cambridge  
Ruan Vean men See quot 1895  
Jos Thomas *Randigal Rhymes*, 61 Like  
Ruan Vean men—don't knaw and  
weant 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*, 1 365 (Dyce) Yet  
wrote he none ill, Sauynge he rubbid  
sum vpon the gall 1552 Latimer, in  
*Works*, 11 211 (P S), When a thief or  
a briber heareth this, it rubbeth him  
on the gall 1607 *Barley-Breake* 27  
(Grosart) Forbear to rub me on that  
sore 1710 T Ward, *Eng Reform*  
147 (1716) I like not rubbing an old  
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 *Kenilworth* ch xvi

Rudgwick, Sussex See quot 1884  
'Sussex Proverbs,' in *N & Q*, 6th ser,  
ix 401, Ridgick for riches, Green [Wis-  
borough Green] for poors Billingshurst  
for pretty gurls and Horsham for  
whores

Ruffians' Hall, He is only fit for  
[Merchant sees his apprentice dressed  
as a gallant and exclaims Hey day,  
Ruffians Hall! Sword pumps, here's  
a racket indeed!—1605 Chapman,  
etc., *Eastw Hoe*, I 1] 1662 Fuller  
*Worthies*, 11 347 (1840) 1790 Grose,  
*Prov Gloss*, s v London

Rugged as a foal, As 1917 Bridge,  
*Cheshire Proverbs* 19

Rugged colt See Ragged  
Rugged stone grows smooth from  
hand to hand, A 1640 Herbert,  
*Jac Prudentum* 1670 Ray, 23

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

D Israeli *Cur of Lit*, 2nd ser, 1 454  
(1824) [cited as "a Cornish proverb"]  
1853 Trench, *Proverbs*, 60 (1905)  
1864 "Cornish Proverbs," in *N & Q*,  
3rd ser, vi 494

3 Rule lust temper tongue, and bridle  
the belly 1813 Ray, 20

4 Rule youth well, for age will rule  
itself 1736 Bailey, *Dict s v 'Rule'*

5 Rule the roast c 1400 *Car-*  
*penter's Tools*, in Halliwell *Nuga*  
*Poetica* 17 Whatsoever ye brage our  
boste, My meyster yet shall reule the  
roste Before 1529 Skelton, *Colin*  
*Clout*, 1 1021, But at the playzure  
of one That ruleth the roste alone  
c 1540 Heywood, *Four PP* in Hazlitt  
*Old Plays*, 1 361 Nay if riches might  
rule the roost, Behold what cause I have  
to boast' 1593 Greene, *Works*, 11  
285 (Grosart), If then it be a woman's  
wish to haue her owne will, and as the  
common prouerbe saith, to rule the  
rost after her owne diet 1606 Chap-  
man, *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 1696 Vanbrugh, *Relapse*,  
II 1736 Fielding, *Pasquin*, II, They  
bear the name of power, we rule the  
roast 1857 Borrow, *Rom Rye*, ch  
xxviii, The son a puppy who now  
rules the roast over his father and  
mother

Rule without an exception, There is  
no 1620 Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt II  
ch xviii 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*,  
Dial I [with "general" before "rule"]  
1758-67 Sterne, *Trist Shandy*, ix  
ch xiii Cf Exceptions

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 Generalis*, 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. Prudentum*.

10. *Ill run that cannot go.* See Ill run.

11. *It runs in the blood like wooden legs.* I heard this saying from the mouth of an Ulsterman, in Surrey, in the sixties of the last century. 1917 : Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 81. 1924 : *Devonsh. Assoc. Trans.*, lv. 111, That rins in fam'lies, like timbern legs.

12. *Run tap run tapster.* 1678 : Ray, 86.

13. *To run as swift as a pudding would creep.* 1608 : Armin, *Nest of Ninnies*, 23 (Sh. S.), They puft 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 rounne at rouers, nor liue in ley mens houses. 1533 : Udall, *Flowers out of Terence*, fo. 191, 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 rovers. 1847 : Halliwell, *Dict.*, s.v. "Rovers," *Running at rovers*, having too much liberty.

15. *To run before one's mare to market.* 1709 : 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, *Paræm.*, 57.

17. *To run over shoes* = To get heavily

in debt. 1598 : *Servingman's Comfort*, in *Inedited 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. I. 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).

Running horse is an open sepulchre, A. 1578 : Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 28 ["grauē" for "sepulchre"]. 1611 : Cotgrave, s.v. "Sepulchre." 1666 : Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 43. 1732 : Fuller, No 376 ["race-horse" for "running horse"].

Rush for him that cares a straw for me, A. 1639 : Clarke, 72.

Rushes. See Green (9).

Rusty sword and empty purse plead performance of covenants, The. 1670 : Ray, 23.

Rutland raddleman. "Raddleman" = a dealer in raddle = red ochre. 1622 : Drayton, *Polyol*, xxiii, Little Rutlandshire is termed Raddleman. 1662 : Fuller, *Worthies*, iii. 38 (1840). 1790 : Grose, *Prov. Gloss*, s.v. "Rutlandshire."

Rye (grain). See December ; Good rye ; July (6) ; March (27) ; St. Peter (2) ; and Wheat (2).

Rye (town). See Chichester ; and Tenbury.

Rynt you witch. See Aroint.

## S

**Sack** 1 *A short sack hath a wide mouth* 1583 Melbancke, *Philotinus*, 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 *Devonsh Assoc Trans*, xliii 93, "If tish t in the sack, 'tis 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 prouerb"] 1612 W Parkes, *Curtaine-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 nought out of the sack, but what was there* 1586 L Evans, *Withals Dict Revised*, sig G1, "When the sack is opened, it is knowne what is therein contained" 1623 Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 489 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch 11, "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 *Knupe-scar*

**Sad** See quot 1550 Udall, *Roister Doister*, III iii, *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, *Westw Hoe*, V, "How say you wenches, haue I set the saddle on the right horse?" 1678 Dryden, *All for Love*, Pref, "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 11 ch x, "On all sides he laid about him like a man putting consequence on premiss, and every where the saddle on the right horse"

3 *To set beside the saddle* 1543 Becon, in *Early Works*, 368 (PS), "Yet by thus means have they obtained their purpose, and set the other beggarly fellow besides the saddle" 1630 T Adams, *Works*, 175, "Riot iustles and the wit is turned besides the saddle" 1636 Taylor (Water-Poet), *Travels*, 52, in *Works*, 3rd coll (Spens S), "Wines predominant and capitall, 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 I ch x 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 335 (1870) 1670 Ray, 139 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 saddleth to day, and goes to morrow" 1732 Fuller, No 5984

**Saddlewick**, or ? **Saddleworth** See quotes 1670 Ray, 209, "Like the

parson of Saddleworth, who could read in no book but his own. Cheshire. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Cheshire" [as in 1670, but "Saddlewick"]. 1878: *Folk-Lore Record*, i. 167, [as in 1790, *plus*] is referable to a Yorkshire town. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 91 [as in 1790].

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 as a thief in a mill, As. 1623: B. & F., *Maid in Mill*, II. i., The thief is as safe as in his mill. 1673: *Vinegar and Must.*, 20, in Hindley, *Old Book-Coll. Miscell.*, iii., You are as safe as so many thieves in a mill. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I. 1847: Halliwell, *Dict.*, s.v. "Thief," . . . very secure. Still in common use. 1889: J. Nicholson, *Folk Speech E. Yorks*, 18, As fast as a thief in a mill. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs. Sayings*, 2 [as in 1889].

Safe as Chelsea, As. Derby. 1889. *Folk-Lore Journal*, vii. 291.

Safe as the bank, As. 1862: Dickens, *Letters*, ii 183 (1880). 1923: J. S. Fletcher, *The Diamonds*, ch. xxviii., . . . safe as the Bank of England.

Safe bind, safe find. c. 1540: Bale, *Kynge Johan*, l. 1897, As the sayinge is, he fyndeth that surely bynde. 1580: Tusser, *Husbandrie*, 173 (E.D.S.). 1655: Fuller, *Church Hist.*, bk. iii. § v. (6), Sure bind, sure find. 1751: Fielding, *Amelia*, bk. xii. ch. vii. 1775: O'Hara, *Two Misers*, I. 1823: Scott,

*St. Ronan's*, ch. xxxvi. 1865: Dickens, *Mutual Friend*, bk. iii. ch. xiv.

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 quot. 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 quotes. 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 Moneths*, 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"].

Said than done, Sooner (or Easier). [Id dictu quam re, ut pleraque, facilius.—Livy, xxxi. 38.] c. 1534: Berners, *Huon*, 327 (E.E.T.S.), Ye may say your pleasure, but in the doynge is all the mater. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. v., That is . . . sooner said then doone. 1595: *True Trag. Rich. Duke of York*, 156 (Sh. S.), 'Tis better said then done, my gracious Lord. 1681: Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 471, 'Tis more difficult then you think for; Sooner said than done. 1766: Garrick, *Neck or Nothing*, I. i., That's easier said than done. 1850: Smedley, *Frank Fairlegh*, ch. li., Easier said than done, Lawless, unfortunately.

Sail and Sails, subs. 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 u, 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, verb 1 *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* 1630 Clarke 250 1670 Ray, 139 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 *Gen Mag* 474

4 *To sail with wind and tide* 1580 Sidney *Arcadia*, bk u 199 (1893), All men set their sails with the favourable wind, which blew on the fortune of this young prince 1591 Florio *Second Frutes*, 97 For wisdom sailes with winde 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, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 67, They are saints abroad, but ask their maids 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 church dore 1732 Fuller, No 4956

See also Young (27)

#### SAINTS AND SAINTS' DAYS

St Andrew, 30 Nov 1830 Forby, *Vocab E Anglia*, 418, 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 sithe in the meadow 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 29 See also Barnaby Bright

St Bartholomew, 24 Aug 1 *All the tears that St Swithun can cry, St Bartlemy's mantle wipes 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 Bartimy Day, You may throw your spectacles away* Mon 1905 *Folk-Lore*, xvi 67

4 *If the wind change* See quot 1669 *New Help to Discourse*, 284, If the winde 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 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 33, At St Bartholomew There comes cold dew

St Benedict, 21 March 1678 Ray, 52, S Benedick 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 Benedick, if you ain't sowed your beans you may keep 'em in the rick

St Catharine, Isle of Wight *When St Catharine wears a cap, Then all the Island wears a hat* c 1870 Smith, *Isle of Wight Words*, 61 (E D S)

St Catherine, 25 Nov *As at Catherine 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.

2. *First comes David, next comes Chad, And then comes Winnold* [3 March] as though he was mad. 1827: Hone, *Ev. Day Book*, ii. 284 [quoted as a "traditional West Norfolk proverbial distich"]. 1830: Forby, *Vocab. E. Anglia*, 418. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 21 ["Winneral" for "Winnold"].

3. *Upon St. David's day, put oats and barley in the clay.* 1678: Ray, 346. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 34 (Percy S.) See also St. Valentine (3).

St. Distaff, 7 Jan. *On St. Distaff's day, Neither work nor play.* 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 23 (Percy S.).

St. George, 23 April. *St. George cries "Goe!"* *St. Mark* [25 April] cries "*Hoe!*" 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 25. See also Always in his saddle.

St. Gervatius, 13 May. *Who shears his sheep before St. Gervatius' day loves more his wool than his sheep.* *Ibid.*, 28.

St. Giles. 1. *As lame as St. Giles Cripple-gate.* 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, ii. 349 (1840). 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "London." 1812: Brady, *Clavis Cal.*, ii. 134.

2. *St. Giles's breed; fat, ragged and saucy.* 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "London."

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. Hugh's bones = a shoemaker's tools 1600: Dekker, *Shoem. Holiday*, II. iii., Yonder's a brother of the gentle craft; if he bear not Saint Hugh's bones, I'll forfeit my bones. 1637: L. Price, in *Pepysian Garland*, 445 (Rollins), S. Hughes bones vp we take in hast, both pinsers, punching alle and last. 1700: Ward, *London Spy*, 139 (1924), So many jolly Crispins in a garret o'er St. Hugh's bones. 1825:

Hone, *Ev. Day Book*, i. 859. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 109.

St. Jacob, 20 July. *Clear on St. Jacob's Day, plenty of fruit.* 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 32.

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.

3. *Whoever eats oysters on St. James's day will never want money.* 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 51 (Percy S.). 1864: Chambers, *Book of Days*, ii. 122.

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 Luke, 18 Oct 1 *On St Luke's day The oxen had leave to play* 1732 Fuller, No 6220

2 *St Luke's Little Summer* 1878 Dyer, *Eng Folk-Lore*, 260 October the 30th, old St Luke's Day, often brings with it fine sunny weather, and consequently has received the name of "St Luke's Little Summer" 1889 Peacock, *Manley, etc*, Gloss, 455 (E D S), Saint Luke's Summer A few warm days coming together in October 1922 Weyman, *Ovington's Bank*, ch xxii

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, 11 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, 1 *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 Magdalene, 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 Magdalene 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 6211 1893 Inwards, 34

3 *St Matthew brings on the cold dew* 1732 Fuller, No 6212 1893 Inwards, 34

4 *Saint Matthew get candlestick new, Saint Matthe 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 "Matthe" is printed for "Matthias"] 1893 Inwards, 17

4 *St Matthe all the year goes by* 1678 Ray, 52 1893 Inwards, 17

5 *St Matthe sends sap into the tree* 1678 Ray, 50 1893 Inwards, 17

6 *St Matthe 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 sain* Ibid, 29

St Michael, 29 Sept 1 *A Michael mas rot comes ne'er in the pot* 1639 in *Berkeley MSS*, iii 31 (1885), Michaelmas rott comes short of the pott 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 Paul's Day, 25 Jan *If St Paul's be fine and clear, It doth betide a happy year* 14th cent Robert of Avesbury, *Hist.*, 266 (Hearne) Clara dies Pauli bona tempora denotat anni. Si nix vel pluvia, designat tempora



cara. Si fiant nebulæ, morientur bestia quæque. Si fiant venti, præliabunt 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 kingdome oft. 1725: Bourne, *Antiq. Vulgares*, 160 [a shorter version of 1658 quot.]. 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 quot.].

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.*

*Stephen, There's no fast upon his even.* 1659: Howell, 21. 1670: Ray, 146. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 66 (Percy S.). 1925: *Church Times*, 24 Dec., p. 755, col. 1, The old proverb is still remembered:—Blessed be, etc.

2. *If you bleed your nag on St. Stephen's-day, He'll work your wark for ever and ay!* 1528: More, *Works*, p. 194, col. 2 (1557), On saint Stephens day we must let al our horses bloud 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 Redivivus*, 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*, I., 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 calme, nor any rain then fell, Which faire day (as old sawes saith) doth portend, That heav'n to earth, will plenteous harvest send. 1716: Gay, *Trivia*, bk. i. l. 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.

2. *St. Swithin is christening the apples.* 1813: Brand, *Pop. Antiq.*, i. 342 (Ellis, 1895), There is an old saying that when it rains on St. Swithin's Day, it is the Saint christening the apples. 1825: Hone, *Ev. Day Book*, i. 960. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 31. 1912: R. L. Gales, *Studies in Arcady*, 2nd ser., 106.

See also St. Bartholomew.

St. Thomas, 21 Dec. 1. *St. Thomas gray, St. Thomas gray, the longest night,*

and the shortest day 1859 *N & Q*, 2nd ser, viii 242

2 *The day of St Thomas, the blessed divine, Is good for brewing, baking, and killing fat swine* 1846 Denham, *Proverbs*, 64 (Percy S)

St Valentine, 14 Feb 1 *On St Valentine all the birds of the air in couples do join* c 1380 Chaucer, *Parl of Foules*, l 309, For this was on seynt Valentynes day, When every foul cometh ther to chese his make 1477 *Paston Letters*, iii 169 (Gairdner) And, cosyn, uppon Fryday is Sent Volentynes Day and every brydde chesyth hym a make 1621 *B & F, Thierry and Theod*, III 1 When you hear the birds call for their mates Ask if it be Saint Valentine their coupling day c 1673 *Roxb Ballads*, vii 114 (BS), There is an old proverb, that "Birds of a feather Upon St Valentine's Day will meet all together" 1714 Gay, *Shep Week*, Thursday l 37, Last Valentine, the day when birds of kind Their paramours with mutual chirpings find 1828 Scott, *Fair Maid* ch ii, To-morrow is Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird chooses her mate 1830 Forby, *Vocab E Anglia*, 418

2 *On St Valentine's Day cast beans in clay, But on St Chad sow good and bad* 1639 in *Berkeley MSS*, iii 33 (1885) 1868 *N & Q*, 4th ser, i 361, [Huntingdonshire cottager log] On Saint Valentine's day, Beans should be in the clay 1913 E M Wright, *Rustic Speech*, etc, 290, In Rutland there is an old saying Valentine's Day, sow your beans in the clay

3 *On Valentine's day Will a good goose lay, If she be a good goose, her dame well to pay, She will lay tuo eggs before Valentine's day* 1678 Ray, 51 1732 Fuller, No 6488 1882 Mrs Chamberlain, *W Worcs Words*, 37 (EDS), By Valentine's day every good goose should lay, But by David and Chad both good and bad

4 *St Valentine set thy hopper [seed-basket] by mine* 1678 Ray, 52 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 17

5 *To St Valentine the spring is a neighbour* 1659 Howell, *Proverbs*

*Fr-Eng*, 21 1882 Mrs Chamberlain, *W Worcs Words*, 37 (EDS)

See also *Candlemas*, E, and March (22) St Vincent, 22 Jan See quot 1584 R Scot, *Witchcraft*, bk xi ch xv, Vincenti festo si sol radiet memor esto Remember on St Vincent's day, If that the sun his beames display 1876 *N & Q*, 5th ser, v 146, [as in 1584, plus] 'Tis a token, bright and clear, That you will have a prosperous year

St Vitus, 15 June 1 *If St Vitus's day be rainy weather It will rain for thirty days together* 1846 Denham, *Proverbs* 49 (Percy S) 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 29

2 *Oh! St Vitus, 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, 139 ['is' for 'may be'] 1732 Fuller, No 174

2 *He that sups upon salad goes not to bed fasting* Ibid, No 2322

See also *Wine* (2)

Salisbury Plain is seldom without a thief or twain 1659 Howell, 17 c 1685 Aubrey, *Nat Hist Wilts*, 69 (1847) ['never' for 'is seldom'] 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Wilts" 1908 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, Salmon and sermons have their seasons in Lent 1666 Torriano *Piazza Univ*, 246, A sammon and a sermon come much of a season 1670 Ray, 23 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 106

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

1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 278.

1910: N. & Q., 11th ser., ii. 198.

2. *Not worth* (or *Worth*) *one's salt*. [Non valet lotium suum.—Petr., 57.] 1830: Marryat, *King's Own*, ch. lii., The captain . . . is not worth his salt. 1883: R. L. S., *Treasure I.*, ch. xviii., 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 sauour, God no greater. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 70, Above salt there's no savour.

4. *Salt seasons all things*. 1591: Florio, *Second Frutes*, 53, Salt sauour-eth, and seasoneth all things. 1659: Howell, 9.

5. *To put salt on a bird's tail*. 1580: Lyly, *Euphues and England*, 327 (Arber), It is . . . a foolish bird that staieth the laying salt on hir taile. 1654: Gayton, *Pleasant Notes Don Q.*, 203, To catch regall birds, by laying salt upon their tailes. 1704: Swift, *Tale of a Tub*, § vii., 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 Expect.*, 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*, l. 401, A salve there is for euery 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-crease broth all the week and essence o' whip 'pon Sundays (North Cornwall).

*Same boat, To be in the*. [ταὐτ' ἐμοὶ ἑνὸν τριβείν.—Herodas, vi. 12.] c. 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, Well, 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. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Span.-Eng.*, 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*, 106.

*Sarum, Secundum usum*. 1589: *Pap 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 Wilts*, 95 (1847). The consistories 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

Saturday 1 *A fine Saturday, a fine Sunday, A fine Sunday, a fine week* 1893 Co Folk-Lore Suffolk, 163 (F L S)

2 *Saturday's flit 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 "Flit," "Saturday's flit 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 flittings, Light sittings Cf 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 Inwards, *Weather 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*, 18 (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 saveth his dinner will have the more for supper* 1639 Clarke, 241 1670 Ray, 79 1732 Fuller No 2288

2 *He would save the droppings of his nose* 1567 Painter, *Pal of Pleasure*, iii 299 (Jacobs), As vsurers do God knows, Who cannot spare the dropping of their nose 1602 J Cooke, *How a Man may choose Good Wife*, sig G3, It

is such an old snudge, he will not loose the dropping of his nose 1754 Berthelson, *Eng-Danish Dict*, s v "Droppings" 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, 1 119, "He wad save the vara droppings of his nose," spoken of a penurious person

3 *Save a thief from the gallows, and he'll cut your throat* c 1440 Lydgate, *Fall of Princes*, bk. vi l 3253. Who saueth a thief whan the rop is knet Aboute his nekke, as olde clerkis write, With sum fals toun the bribour wil hym quite 1484 Caxton, *Æsop*, ii 15 (Jacobs), For as men sayen comynly yf ye kepe a man fro the galhows he shalle neuer loue you after 1583 Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig X4. True is the prouerbe, saue a thief from the gallows, and he will be the firste shall doe thee a mischuefe 1622 Massinger, *Virgin Martyr*, II iii, She saved us from the gallows, and, only to keep one proverb from breaking his neck, we'll hang her Before 1704 T Brown, in *Works*, ii 290 (1760) 1771 Smollett, *Clinker*, in *Works*, vi 177 (1817) 1820 Scott, *Monastery*, ch x, 'Save a thief from the gallows,' said the Sacristan—"you know the rest of the proverb"

4 *Save at the spigot and let out at the bung-hole* 1670 Ray, 193 ["Spare" for "Save"] 1710 S Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 288 1754 Berthelson, *Eng-Danish Dict*, s v "Spare," To spare at the spigot and let it run out of the bung-hole 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch xvi [as in 1754] 1883 Burne, *Shropsh Folk-Lore*, 590 ["waste" for "let out"]

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 Heiress*, I 1, I go [to church] to save my bacon, as they say, once a month 1729 Fielding, *Author's*

*Farce*, 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. 1851: *Gloucester Gloss.*, 14.

Sawtre, by the way, Now a grange, that was an abbey. 1568: in *Loseley MSS.* 212 (Kempe).

Say, verb. 1. *Better say nothing than not to the purpose.* 1693: Penn, *Fruits of Solitude*, No. 132. 1732: Fuller, No. 921.

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: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 476.

4. *He says anything but his prayers, and them he whistles.* 1732: Fuller, No. 2014. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I., Miss will say anything but her prayers, and those she whistles.

5. *He who says what he likes shall hear what he does not like.* 1539: Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo. 2, He that speaketh what he woll, shall heare what he woll not. 1583: Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig. Y1, Since they say what they liste, they shall heare what they list not. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 319, Who says what he lists, hears what is against his will. 1732: Fuller, No. 6303, He that speaks the thing he should not, Shall hear the thing he would 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 yourself.* 1639: Clarke, 327.

9. *Say little but think the more.* c. 1430: Lydgate, *Minor Poems*, 155 (Percy S.), Take no quarelle, thynk mekyl and sey nought. c. 1490: *Partonope*, 84 (E.E.T.S.), He seyyth butte lytell, butte more thynckyth he. c. 1535: *Pain of Evil Marriage*, 22 (Percy S.), Therefore 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, hee 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 Welchmans 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 1678].

10. *Say nay.* See Maid (11).

11. *Say no ill of the year till it be past.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1732: Fuller, No. 4071. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 1 (Percy S.).

12. *Say nothing when you are dead,* i.e. be silent. 1678: 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. 50). 1639: Clarke, 194, Say well and do well, end with a letter, Say well is good, but do well is better. 1640: Brome, *Sparagus Garden*, IV. xi. 1732: Fuller, No. 6447 [as in 1639]. c. 1791: Pegge, *Derbicisms*, 137 (E.D.S.). 1852: FitzGerald, *Polonius*, 136 (1903) [as in 1639].

15. *Say well or be still.* c. 1480:

*Early Miscell*, 63 (Warton Cl, 1855), Ewyre say wyll, or hold the[e] styll Before 1529 Skelton, in *Works*, i 17 (Dyce), A prouerbe of old, say well or be styll

16 *Say you saw me not* c 1520 Stanbridge, *Vulgaris*, sig C2, Yf any man aske for me saye thou sawest me not 1672 Walker, *Parcem*, 19, Say you saw it not 1681 Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis* 1097

17 *To say his prayers backward* 1678 Ray, 265 1846-59 Denham *Tracts*, ii 84 (F L S), 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 Motteux, *Quixote*, Pt II ch xxxiv 1787 O'Keeffe, *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 hateth hors comb 1611 Davies (of Hereford), *Sc of Folly*, 50 in *Works*, ii (Grosart) 1732 Fuller, No 1639, Gall'd horses can't endure the comb 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch iii, 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 squire, A. 1540 Palsgrave, *Acolastus* sig M2, For suche a scalde squer as he is a scabbed horse 1562 Heywood *Three Hund Epigr*, No 161 1732 Fuller, No 385 [scabbed knight for "scald squire"] 1736 Bailey, *Dict*, s v "Squire [shabby]" for "scald" Cf Scald horse

Scabbed sheep See Sheep (10)

Scabby heads love not the comb 1623 Wodroephe, *Spared Hours* 516,

A scabbed head doth never loue the combe 1732 Fuller, No 4072 1801 Wolcot, in *Works*, v 369 (1801), But George disliketh 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 mams hede is sone brokyn 1598 Meres, *Palladis*, fo 302 1621 Burton, *Melancholy*, III ii 6, 2, p 589 (1836) 1683 Menton *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697), A scald head is seauin broken

Scald horse is good enough for a scabbed squire, A 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch xi c 1580 Fullwell, *Ars Adulandi*, sig F4, A ragged colte may serue a scabbed squire 1681 Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 1098 Cf Scabbed horse

Scald not your lips in another man's pottage 1598 *Servimgmans Comfort*, in *Ineduted Tracts*, 99 (Hazlitt), It is not good to scalde ones lypes in other mens pottage 1696 D'Urfe, *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, *St Ronan'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

Scarborough See Oliver's Mount

Scarborough warning, A = no warning at all 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch xi, Scarbrough warnyng I had (quoth he) c 1550-70 in Hindley, *Old Book-Coll Miscell*, i 40, This terme, Scarborow warnyng, grew (some say) By hasty hangyng, for rank robbery theare 1589 Puttenham, *Eng Poeste*, 199 (Arber) 1593 G Harvey, *Works*, ii 225 (Grosart), He meaneth not to come vpon me with a cowardly stratageme of Scarborough warning 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, iii 398 (1840) 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Yorkshire" 1824 Scott, *Redgaunlet*, ch xx, The true man for giving Scarborough warning, first knock you down, then bid you stand 1913 E M Wright,

*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.]

Scarce of horses. See Horse (66).

Scarce of news who told that his father was hanged, He was. 1732: Fuller, No. 2378. 1852: FitzGerald, *Polonius*, 40 (1903), He was scant o' news wha tauld his father was hanged

Scatter with one hand, gather with two. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs Brit.-Eng.*, 2.

Sceptre is one thing and a ladle another, A. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 23. 1732: Fuller, No. 386.

Schemey must louser, He that can't. 1869: Hazlitt, 482, Yeker that can't scheme must louser. S. *Devon and Cornwall*. 1879: *Folk-Lore Record*, ii 203 (Cornwall). 1913: *Devonsh. Assoc. Trans.*, xlv. 291, A common proverb in Devon is, "He that can't schemey must louser," 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*, I, A meer 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.*, II.

Scholar teacheth his master, The. 1639: Clarke, 4.

Schoolboys. See quot. 1678: Ray, 81, Schoolboys are the reasonabest 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, School-butter, a whipping.

Scilly, Always a feast or a fast in. 1750: R. Heath, *Acc. of Scilly*, 53, Verifying the proverb, *A feast or a famine in Scilly*. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., v. 275. 1887: M. A. Courtney, *Folk-Lore Journal*, v. 38.

Scilly ling is a dish for a king, A. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., v. 208. 1928: *Times*, 25 Sept., p. 10, col. 5.

Scoggin's a doctor, Among the common people. 1639: Clarke, 143. 1670: Ray, 140.

Scold, subs. *Who hath a scold hath sorrow to his sops*. 1659: Howell, 15. 1670: Ray, 23. 1732: Fuller, No. 5705. Cf. Sorrow.

Scold like a cutpurse, To. 1678: Ray, 288.

Scold like a wych-waller [salt-boiler], To. 1670: Ray, 208. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Cheshire." 1836: Wilbraham, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 91 (2nd ed.), . . . is a common adage. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 142.

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 shoe-maker's 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'd* 32 (1724), Dirty puddings for dirty dogs. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I.

1816 Scott, *Antiquary*, ch xliii, The messenger (one of those dogs who are not too scornful to eat dirty puddings)

1824 Scott, *Redgauntlet*, ch xii Cf Hungry dogs

Scorning is catching [c 1440 Lydgate, *Fall of Princes*, bk iii l 601 (E.E.T.S.) For it was said sithen goful yore, He that reioisith to scorn folk in veyn, When he wer lothest shal scorned been ageyn] 1670 Ray, 140 1732 Fuller, No 4081 1754 Berthelson *Eng-Danish Dict*, s v 'Scornfully' After scornning comes catching

Scot, subs 1 *A Scot a rat and a Newcastle grindstone travel all the world over* 1662 Fuller, *Worthies* ii 543 (1840), 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*, v 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*, 1 301 (F.L.S.)

2 *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' ['He' for "We"] 1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, 1 248 (F.L.S.), We will not lose a Scot That is anything, however inconsiderable, which we can possibly save or recover

See also Hard-hearted

Scotch ordinary, The=The house of office 1678 Ray, 81

Scottish mist will wet an Englishman to the skin, A 1589 *Pap with a Hatchet*, Dedn, We care not for a Scottish mist, though it wet to the skin 1639 Clarke ii ['may' for 'will'] 1641 in *Hart Miscell*, iii 228 (1744) 1681 Robertson *Phraseol Generalis*, 1100 [as in 1639] 1732 Fuller, No 388 [as in 1639] 1814 Scott, *Waterley*, ch xxv, To beware of Scotch mists 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—Scotch warming-pan is the hostesses brown daughter 1785 Grose, *Class Dict Vulgar Tongue*, s v 'Warming-pan' 1826 Brady, *Varieties of Lit* 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 dole, 'Tis brave 1639 Clarke, 39 1670 Ray, 136 1732 Fuller, No 5069

Scrape and save See quot 15th cent in *Reliq Antiquæ*, i 316 (1841), Kype [Scrape] 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'l scratch a begger one day 1670 Ray, 164 1732 Fuller, No 6035

Scratch a grey head, He will never 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial III, I think the countess is very sickly *Lady Smart* Yes, madam, she'll never scratch a gray head 1901 F E Taylor, *Lancs Sayings* 30, He'll never live for t scrat a grey yed

Scratches his head with one finger, He 1855 Bohn, 381

Scratching See Cat (14)

Scratch me and I'll scratch thee [Mutuum muli scabant—Auson, *Idyll*, xii, Praef Monos] 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Contrelouer, To scratch the back of one who hath already clawed his elbow 1694 D'Urfey, *Quixote*, Pt II, Act II sc ii, Scratch my back and I'll claw your elbow 1706 E Ward *Works*, iii 145, Scratch me says one, and I'll scratch thee Cf Claw (2) and Ka me

Scratch where it does not itch, To c 1510 A Barclay, *Egloges*, 30 (Spens S), I clawe oft where it doth not itche



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 feare) where he clawes it doth not ytch. 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 quot. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 17 (Percy S.), Where the scythe cuts, and the plough rives, No more fairies and bee-bikes [nests].

**Sea complains it wants water, The.** 1639: Clarke, 6. 1670: Ray, 192 1732: Fuller, No. 4740, The sea complains for want of water.

**Sea hath fish for every man, The.** 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 334 (1870).

**Sea refuses no river, The.** 1703: E. Ward, *Writings*, ii. 142, The old proverb, The sea and the gallows refuses none. 1732: Fuller, No. 4741.

**Sea, sail, Being on; being on land, settle.** 1640: Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 23.

**Sea.** See also Praise the sea.

**Sealed with butter.** 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. vii., Euery promise that thou therin dost vtter 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.** 1. See quot 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 blow makes the fray, The.** 1597: Bacon, *Colours of Good and Evil*, 10. 1642: D. Rogers, *Matrim. Honour*, 196. 1732: Fuller, No. 4742. 1875: Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 107.

**Second shaft, Shoot the, and perhaps thou mayest find again the first.** 1659: Howell, 19.

**Second thoughts are best.** [αι δευτεραι πωρ φροντιδες σοφωτεραι.—Euripides, *Hippol.*, 438. Posteriores enim cogitationes, ut aiunt, sapientiores solent esse.—Cicero, *Phil.*, xii. 5] 1586: Pettie, tr. Guazzo's *Civil Convers.*, fo. 23, The second thoughts are euer 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. Prudentum*. 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"].

**Secret, adj.** 1. *A secret foe gives a sudden blow.* 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Foe."

2. See quot. 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 quotes. 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, 1 86, (4) "A Sedgefield Chap" = The knave of clubs

Sedgly curse See Devil (79)

See, verb 1 I see much, but I say little, and do less 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch xi 1576 *Parad Dainty Devises*, in *Brit Bibliog*, iii 86 (1812), The best waie is in all worlds sent, Se all, saie 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 plaie falsehed in felowship, plaie 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, *Acolastus*, sig B3, Or wolde seeme to see farther in a myll stone, than excellent auctours haue done before vs 1575 Gascoigne, *Posies*, in *Works*, 1 II (Cunliffe), They woulde seeme to see verie farre in a myllstone 1690 Dryden, *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 Pit*, Pt IV ch v, He can see as far into a mill-stone as another! 1778 Burney, *Evelina*, Lett xxv 1911 T Edwardes, *Neighbourhood*, 36, I wur 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 Wee 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 Ital-Eng*, 2

Seeing is believing [Pluris est oculatus testis unus, quam auriti decem — Plautus, *Truc*, II vi] 1639 Clarke, 90 1706 Farquhar, *Recruiting Officer*, IV iii 1850 Smedley, *Frank Fairleigh* ch xxxi, "What an unbelieving Jew it is," said Archer, "hand

him the list, and let him read it himself Seeing is believing, they say" 1879 *N & Q*, 5th ser, xi 157, In this part of the country [Boston, Lincs] we say, "Seeing is believing, but feeling is the truth" 1901 F E Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 9, Seein's believin', bu' feelin' 's God's truth 1923 A Bennett, *Riceyman Steps*, Pt II ch iii

Seek, verb 1 As good seek nought as seek and find nought 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch xi

2 He that seeketh findeth Ibid, Pt I ch x 1578 Florio, *First Fruites* fo 34 1581 B Rich, *Farewell*, 128 (Sh S), As the proverbe is (he that sekesh shall finde) 1633 Draxe, 185

3 He that seeks to beguile is overtaken in his will 1578 Florio, *First Fruites*, fo 14, Who often seekes others to deceiue, doth rest oppressed and deceyued hym selfe 1869 Hazlitt, 186

4 He that seeks trouble never misses c 1460 in *Pol*, *Rel*, and *Love Poems*, 69 (E E T S), Who sechith sorwe, is by [his be] the receypte 1612 Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt I bk iii ch vi, I heard oft-times the curate preach that "He which seeks the danger persheth therein" 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentium* 1732 Fuller, No 2291

5 Seek till you find and you ll not lose your labour 1678 Ray, 200 1732 Fuller, No 4089

6 To seek for a thing one would not find 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch v, But whan she seemed to be fixed in mynde, Rather to seeke for that she was lothe to fynde 1591 Harington, *Orl Furioso*, bk xliii, Notes, It is no wisdome to search for that a man would not find 1659 Howell 7, I seek for a thing wife that I would not find

7 Who seeks what he should not, finds what he would not 1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 44

Seldom comes a loan laughing home c 1320 in *Reliq Antiquae*, i 113 (1841), 'Selde cometh lone lahynde home', Quoth Hendyng

Seldom comes the better Before 1272 *MS Temp Hen III*, in Douce *Ill of Shakesp*, 334 (1839), Seilde comed

se betere. 1519: Horman, *Vulgaria*, fo. 299, It is comynly sayd that selde cometh the better. 1594: Shakespeare, *Rich. III.*, II. iii. 1622: Taylor (Water-Poet), in *Works*, 2nd pagin, 14 (1630). 1740: North, *Examen*, 339, Change, 'tis true, but seldom comes a better. 1820: Scott, *Abbot*, ch. vi., And for Roland Graeme, though he may be a good riddance in the main, yet what says the very sooth proverb, "Seldom comes a better."

Seldom dieth the ox. See Ox (6).

Seldom mosseth the stone. See Rolling stone.

Seldom seen soon forgotten. 1377: in Wright, *Pol. Poems*, i. 216 (Rolls Ser., 1859), Selden seize [seen] and sone forgefe [refrain of song]. c. 1450: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 25 (1841), She sayth that she hath seen hit wreten, That seldyn seen is soon for-yeten. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1620: Middleton, *World Tost at Tennis*, Epil. 1670: Ray, 140. Cf. Eye (19); and Out of sight.

Seldom thinks is at ease, He that. c. 1460: *How the Good Wife*, l. 85, At ese he is that seldam thankithe.

Self do, self have. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. viii. 1593: *Tell-Trothes N. Yeares Gift*, 7 (N. Sh. S.). 1634: Ford, *Perkin Warbeck*, I ii., Self do, self have—no more words; win and wear her. 1674: Head and Kirkman, *Eng. Rogue*, iii. 4. 1748: Richardson, *Clarissa*, i. 222 (1785). 1875: Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 137.

Self first, then your next best friend. Oxfordsh. 1913: *Folk-Lore*, xxiv. 76.

Self-love is a mote in every man's eye. 1670: Ray, 141. 1732: Fuller, No. 4093.

Self-praise is no recommendation. 1612: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt. I. bk. iii. ch. ii., Which is such that if I do not praise it, it is because men say that proper praise stinks; but my squire will inform you what I am. 1852: Dickens, *Bleak House*, ch. lv. 1865: Dickens, *Mutual Friend*, bk. iv. ch. ii.

Self-preservation is the first law of nature. Before 1614: Donne, *Biadvaros*, sig. AA (1644) (O.), It is onely

upon this reason, that selfe-preservation is of Naturall Law. 1675: Marvel, *Hodge's Vision from Monument*, Self-preservation, nature's first great law. Before 1680: Butler, *Remains*, ii. 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 has been caught, To. 1580: Lyly, *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 Ale*, 83-7 (1697).

5. *Send not to market for trouble.* 1732: Fuller, No. 4098.

6 To send him for yard-wide pack-thread = To send on a fool's errand  
1813 Ray, 223

September 1 As on the 8th [September] so for the next four weeks  
1893 Inwards, Weather Lore, 34

2 As September so the coming March  
Ibid, 33

3 Fair on September 1, fair for the month Ibid, 34

4 If on September 19 there is a storm from the south, a mild winter may be expected Derby Ibid, 34

5 September, blow soft, Till the fruit's in the loft 1732 Fuller, No 6214  
1893 Inwards, 34

See also Cuckoo (8) and (12), July (10), and June (3)

Serjeant is the spawn of some decayed shop keeper, A 1626 Overbury Characters 'A Sargeant' 1659 Howell, 10

Serpent by the tail, He holds the  
1813 Ray, 75

Serpent See also Snake

Serpents engender in still waters  
1732 Fuller, No 4100

Servant and Servants 1 A servant and a cock should be kept but a year  
1732 Fuller, No 389

2 A servant is known in the absence of his master 1659 Howell, Proverbs Ital-Eng, 12 1732 Fuller No 390

3 A servant that is diligent See quotes 1590 Greene, Works, vii 311 (Grosart) Whereupon an olde Englishe disticke A servant that is diligent honest and good Must sing at his worke like a bird in the wood c 1597 Deloney, Gentle Craft, Pt I ch x, It is an old proverbe They proue servants kind and good That sing at their businesse like birds in the wood

4 Don't take a servant off a midden [dung-heap] 1917 Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs, 51

5 He that would be well served must know when to change his servants 1855 Bohn, 396

6 If you pay not a servant his wages, he will pay himself 1732 Fuller, No 2778

7 If you would have a good servant, take neither a kinsman nor a friend  
1659 Howell Proverbs Span-Eng, 1,

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 livery 1732 Fuller, No 4101

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 Florio, First Frutes, fo 28, Who hath not served can not commaund 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 81 Cf Servant (8)

3 He that serves everybody is paid by nobody 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Ab-bayer," He that serves a communalitie is controlled by every one, rewarded by none 1732 Fuller, No 2295

4 He that serves well need not be afraid to ask his wages 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum [omitting 'be afraid to'] 1670 Ray, 23 1732 Fuller, No 2296

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, Regiment, l 841 (EETS, Ext Ser, 72), Seruyse, I wot wel, is non heritage c 1450 Songs and Carols, 22 (Warton Cl, 1856) For seruyse is non crytage 1509 Barclay, Ship of Fools, l 106 (1874) Thus worldly seruyce is no sure herytage 1600 T Heywood 1 Edw IV, in Works, l 51 (1874), Service is no heritage 1640 Herbert, Jac Prudentum 1712 Centlivre, Perplex'd Lovers, I iii 1759 Townley, High Life below Stairs, l 1 1776 Mrs Cowley, Runaway, V 1

1830: Marryat, *King's Own*, ch. x.  
1841: Dickens, *Barn. Rudge*, ch. lxxx.,  
Though she was but a servant, and  
knewed that servitudes was no in-  
heritances.

Service without reward is punishment.

1604: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

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, *Æsop*,  
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 againe.  
1590: Lodge, *Rosalynde*, 50 (Hunt. Cl.),  
Aliena resolved there to set vp 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'E-  
strange, *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.  
lxxi., 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, *Mannerling*, ch.  
xix., Here, then, Mannerling 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 convitium faciunt*; Seven  
make a banquet, nine a riot. 1681:  
Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 598,  
Seven at a feast, nine at a fray. 1732:  
Fuller, No. 4113.

Seven years=any indefinite period.  
1362: Langland, *Plowman*, 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 zer then  
may be for thozt. 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 lyis,  
In faith, this seuen yeir! 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 Glasse*,  
l. 246, [Thou] shalt not be worth a horse  
of thine owne this seuen yeare. 1674:  
J. Howard, *Eng. Mounstieur*, 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 quotes. 1659: Howell, 21, Happy  
is the eye that dwelleth twixt Severn  
and the Wye. 1662: Fuller, *Worthnes*,  
ii. 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 Clec.

2 *Fix thy pale in Severn* [with intent to fence out his water], *Severn will be as before* 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, iii 549 (1840) 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Montgomeryshire"

3 *You may as soon stir up the Severn and swallow Mavern* [Malvern] 1659 Howell, 20 1670 Ray, 258 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Worcestershire"

Sexton has shaken his shoo [shovel] at him, The 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 120

Sexton is a fatal musician, The 1639 Clarke, 215

Shade your head and go east 1864 "Cornish Proverbs," in *N & Q*, 3rd ser, vi 495

Shadow, and lose the substance, Catch not at the 1855 Bohn, 335

Shaft or a bolt of it, To make a 1594 Nashe *Works*, iii 254 (Grosart), To make a shaft or a bolt of this drumbling subject of dreames 1644-55 Howell, *Letters*, I iii 24 (1726), The Prince is preparing for his journey, I shall to it again closely when he is gone, or make a shaft or a bolt of it 1823 D'Israeli, *Cur of Lit* 2nd ser, i 448 (1824), None but true toxophilites could have had such a proverb as "I will either make a shaft or a bolt of it" 1907 Hackwood, *Old Eng Sports*, 103, Hence the old English proverb, "I will either make a shaft or a bolt of it," signifying the determination that a thing shall not go unused

Shaftesbury and Glastonbury 1655 Fuller, *Church Hist*, bk vi § 11 (iv 14), The country people had a proverb, that "if the Abbot of Glastonbury might marry the Abbess of Shaftesbury, their heir would have more land than the King of England" 1894 Somerset and Dorset *N & Q*, iii 189, If the Abbot of Glaston could have married the Abbess of Shaston, the King of England would be the poorer man

Shake a Leicestershire man See Leicestershire

Shake a loose leg, To = To go "on the loose" 1869 Hazlitt, 430

Shake the kettle, and it'll sing Ibid, 332

Shake your ears, Go 1573 G Harvey, *Letter-Book*, 42 (Camden S), His Mastership may go shake his eares elsewhere 1601 Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*, II iii, 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 it 1764 Mrs F Sheridan, *Dupe*, I iii, March off and leave him to shake his ears

Shall be, shall be, That which c 1386 Chaucer, *Knight's Tale*, l 608, As, when a thing is shapen, it shall be c 1390 Gower, *Conf Amantis*, bk 1 l 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 steale, but a greater shame to bring again 1670 Ray, 141 1732 Fuller, No 2875

4 *Shame in a kindred cannot be avoyded* 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 330 (1870)

5 *Shame is as it is taken* 1534 More, *Works*, 1253 (1557) 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch ix

6 *Shame take him that shame thinketh* Ibid, Pt I ch ix 1596 Spenser, *F Q*, IV vi 61, "Shame be his meede," quoth he, "that meaneth shame" 1596 Harington, *Metam of Ajax*, 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 meal* 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Manger," He thats ashamed to eat is ashamed to live 1672 Walker, *Paræm*, 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 nay. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi. [with "Shameful" for first word]. 1670: Ray, 141. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng. - Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Shameless."

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. *Leonina societas*. 1821: Scott, *Pirate*, ch. xvii., They say, that a' man share and share equal-aquals in the creature's ulzie. 1914: Lucas, *Landmarks*, ch. xxxiv., That's the way, Sergison, in married life; share and share alike.

Sharp as a cobbler's elsin [awl]. 1855: Robinson, *Whitby Gloss.*, 52.

Sharp as a needle. Before 1000: *Souls Address*, 120 (O.), 3ifer hatte se wrym, þe þa eazlas beoð nædle searpran. 1552: Huloet, *Abced.*, sig. Eet, Sharpe lyke a nedle. 1566: Adlington, tr. Apuleius, bk. vii., Sharp thorns, as sharp as needles. 1607: T. Heywood, *Fair Maide*, in *Works*, ii. 25 (1874). Before 1700: quoted in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., xii. 341, With a stomach as sharp as a needle. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' *Colloq.*, 277. 1849: Lytton, *Caxtons*, Pt. XVII. ch. i. 1872: Hardy, *Greenwood Tree*, Pt. IV. ch. ii., Lawyer Green—a man as sharp as a needle.

Sharp as a razor. 1519: Horman, *Vulgaria*, fo. 277, My wodknyfe is as sharpe as a rasur. 1577: *Misogonus*, IV. i., Take my penknif then, ites as sharpe as a racer. 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 polish'd, But, as the proverb goes, 'tis

cruel sharp. 1907: De Morgan, *Alice-for-Short*, ch. viii.

Sharp as a thorn. 14th cent.: *Early Eng. Met. Rom.*, 15 (Camden S.), Als scharpe as a thorn. c. 1480: *Early Miscell.*, 33 (Warton Cl., 1855), And al here eyrns wer scharpe as any thornus. 1648: Herrick, *Hesperides*, No. 444, He's sharp as thorn. 1670: Ray, 207.

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!

Sharper the blast, The shorter 'twill last, The. 1875: Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 19.

Sharply chides is ready to pardon, He that. 1620: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt. II. ch. lxx. 1732: Fuller, No. 2298 [with "the most" before "ready"].

Sharply too! says Jack Chumley. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 591.

Sharp's the word. 1709: Cibber, *Rival Fools*, I., Sharp's the word! we'll have half ours too. 1720: *Vade 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., Thay farewell to your family, and tharp'th 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 paire of sheeres to goe betwene their natures. 1603: Shakespeare, *Meas. for Meas.*, I. ii. 1611: Middleton, *Roaring Girl*, III. iii., 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 pursivant of hell, for they both delight in sinne 1633 Rowley, *Match at Midnight*, II c 1791 Pegge *Derbisms*, 120 (E D S), "Only shears between them, both alike

She devils are hard to tame c 1550 in Hazlitt, *Pop Poetry*, III 240

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 Sion

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 more shepe, the dearer is the woll. The more shepe, the dearer is the motton. The more shepe the dearer is the beffe. The more shepe, the dearer is the corne. The more shepe, the skanter is the wht meate. The more shepe, the fewer egges for a peny. Before 1641 Best, *Farming Book* (Surtees S, No 33), For as the sayinge is, Sheepe that will live in winter, will live and thrive in summer, and sheepe that growe fleshy with foure teeth, will growe fatte with eight (p 3). The husbandman's sayinge is, that the losse of an ewe's lambe is as greate as the losse of a cowe's calfe (p 5). Hence ariseth the shepherdes phrase, that Whiles the grasse groweth, Ewe dryeth, lambe dyeth (p 5). The countrey proverbe is, The man that is aboute to clippe his sheepe, Must pray for two faire dayes and one faire weeke (p 20).]

1 A black sheep is a biting beast c 1550 *Six Ballads*, 4 (Percy S), The blacke shepe is a perylous beast. 1598 T Bastard *Chrestoleros*, bk iv Ep 20, Till now I thought the prouerbe did but rest, Which said a blacke sheepe was a biting beast

2 As good be hanged for a sheep as a lamb 1678 Ray, 350 ["old sheep"

and "young lamb"] 1748 Richardson, *Clarissa*, I 60 (1785), So in for the lamb, as the saying is in for the sheep 1841 Dickens, *Barn Rudge*, ch lvi, 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 Onions *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 Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 476, The yewe that doth bleate doth loose the most of her meate 1666 Torriono, *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*, I 71 (E E T S), He wyll lowys scheppis flesche, That wettyth his bred in woll Before 1500 in Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 131 (E E T S), He loveth well moton, that weteth his bred in woll 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch v [as in Hill, but with "sheeps flesh" for "moton"] 1696 D'Urfe *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 xlv, They liked mutton weel that licket where the yowe lay

5 He that hath sheep, etc See quotes 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 thryue 1634 C Butler, *Feminine Monarchie*, 139 The proverb Who so keepe wel sheepe and bee'n, Sleepe or wake, their thrift cooms in

6 He that makes himself a sheep shall be eaten by the wolf 1583 Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig Bb4, He that will needes be a sheepe, cannot greatly grudge to be bitten with a fox 1593 Harvey, *Works* II 38 (Grosart), It was



wont to be said by way of a prouerbe ; Hee that will be made a sheepe, shall find wolues inough. 1619: B. Rich, *Irish Hubbub*, 4, He that will make himselfe a sheepe, it is no matter though the wolues doe eat him. 1651: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, 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 wolues will eat you*. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. iv., He that makes himself a sheep, will find that the wolues 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.

10. *One scabbed sheep infects a whole flock*. Before 1500: Hill, *Common-place-Book*, 129 (E.E.T.S.), One skabbid shepe infectith all the folde. 1586: L. Evans, *Withals Dict. Revised*, sig. C1. 1593: Nashe, *Works*, iv. 159 (Grosart). 1630: Taylor (Water-Poet). *Works*, 3rd pagin., 59, One scabbed sheep's enough to spoyle a flocke. 1640: T. Rawlins, *Rebellion*, IV., One tainted sheep mars a whole flock. 1732: Fuller, No. 3792, One scabby sheep is enough to infect the whole flock. 1796: White, *Fal-staff's Letters*, 16, The tainted wether doth infect the whole flock. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 7 (Percy S.), . . . will mar the whole flock.

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.

13. *Shear your sheep in May, And shear them all away*. 1670: Ray, 41. 1732: Fuller, No. 6195. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 26.

14. *The dust raised by the sheep does not choke the wolf*. 1732: Fuller, No. 4491.

15. *The lone sheep's in danger of the wolf*. 1639: Clarke, 117. 1670: Ray, 53.

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 Aphroditis*, sig. D1, 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 Convers.*, Dial. I., I have often seen him cast a sheep's eye out of a calf's head at you. 1855: Kingsley, *West. Ho!*, 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 halfp'orth of tar. 1643: Wither, *Se Defendendo*, 5 (Spens. S.), Much like the saving of a half-peny 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.

20. *You may shear your sheep, When the elder blossoms peep*. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 153.

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, *passim*; 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,

*Prov Gloss*, s v "Yorkshire" 1878  
*Folk-Lore Record*, 1 165

She hath eaten a snake 1580 Lyly,  
*Euphues*, 368 (Arber). Therefore hath it  
 growen to a proverbe in Italy, when one  
 seeth a woman stricken in age to looke  
 amiable, he saith she hath eaten a  
 snake

Shelter against every storm, 'Tis good  
 to have a 1665 R Howard, *Com-  
 mittee*, I [called "a wise saying"]

Sheltering under an old hedge, It is  
 good 1674 *Learn to lye 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 Midl*, ch xlv1, It s  
 better sheltering under an auld 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 L S), We'll a'  
 gan together like the folks o' Shields  
 1892 Heslop *Northumb Words*, 2  
 (E D S), Aall together, like the folks o'  
 Shields

2 1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, 1 46  
 (F L S), Go to Shelds And fish for eels  
 [a Newcastle phrase]

Shields. See also Newcastle

Shilling to ninepence, To bring a  
 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch  
 v, To bryng a shyllyng to ix pens  
 quickly 1560 T Wilson, *Rhetorique*,  
 185 (1909), But yet, sir, your cunning  
 was such that you brought a shilling  
 to nune pence 1755 *Connoisseur*, No  
 91, The old saying was inverted, and  
 we lost eleven-pence out of a shilling

Shilling See also Penny (2)

Shin of beef See quot 1871 N  
 & Q, 4th ser vu 9, Useful as a shin of  
 beef, which has a big bone for the big  
 dog, a little bone for the little dog, and  
 a sinew 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 unlikelier ships have

com'd into harbour than this 1823  
 Scott, *St Roman's*, ch v, As broken a  
 ship's come to land

2 *A ship and a woman are ever re-  
 pairing*, (or *trimming*) 1602-3 Man  
 1640 ningham, *Diary*, 12 (Camden S). To  
 furnish a shipp requireth much trouble,  
 But to furnishe a woman the charges  
 are double 1619 *Helpe to Discourse*,  
 80 (1640), There are two things that  
 cannot bee too much trimmed and  
 what are they? A ship and a woman  
 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*,  
 repairing 1669 *New Help to Dis-  
 course*, 310, A ship and a woman always  
 trimming 1732 Fuller, No 394, A  
 ship, a mill, and a woman are always  
 repairing

3 *A ship under sail, a man in com-  
 plete 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  
 Ray, 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 vx, Her decks were as white as  
 snow everything on board "ship-  
 shape and Bristol fashion" 1914  
 N & Q, 11th ser, ix 446, When a sea-  
 man wished to speak well of his vessel,  
 he declared that with her things were  
 "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 E 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 Dict*, 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 designe is secrett, knowne to the designer onely, whoe saith if hee thought his shirt knew it hee would burne it. 1732: Fuller, No. 2695.

Shitten luck is good luck. An unsavoury saying very freely used in the 17th and 18th centuries. 1639-61: in *Rump Songs*, Pt. I. 137 (1662, repr. 1874). 1691: *Merry Drollery*, 261 (Ebsworth). 1709: Ward, *Acc. of Clubs*, 208 (1756). 1785: Grose, *Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue*, s.v. "Luck." 1894: Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 22 (E.D.S.).

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*, 11, A shoive off a cut loaf's never miss't.

Shive of my own loaf, A. 1670: Ray, 188.

Shoe and Shoes, subs. 1. *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 (Collier), My minde could never rest at hoem, My shoes wear maed of running leather suer. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Divague," Straying, ranging . . . wandring 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.

4. *Tip at the toe*. See quot. 1885: J. T. Varden, *E. Anglian Handbook*, 115, A Suffolk rhyme teaches us the significance of the "wear of shoes":—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*, l. 309, I wot best wher wringeth me my sho. 1541: Coverdale, *Christ. State Matrimony*, sig. B5, It maye easely be perceaued where the shoe wryngeth them. 1580: Lyly, *Euphues*, 413 (Arber), I see that others maye gesse where the shooe wringes, besides him that wearres it. 1609: Rowlands, *Whole Crew, etc.*, 4 (Hunt. Cl.), Ah little do you know where my shoo 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. 1869: 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. 1. *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.*, cxlvii. 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

thyng, ye moot shoo the goos Before 1529 Skelton, *Colin Clout*, l 198, What hath lay men to do The gray gose for to sho? 1583 Stubbes, *Anat of Abuses*, 117 (N Sh S) But if this [gold in the lawyer's palm] be wanting, than farewell clyent, he may go shoos the goose for any good successe he is like to haue of his matter 1604 Breton, in *Works*, u k 5 (Grosart), And though I be no great wise man, yet I can doe something else, then shoos the goose for my living 1801 Miss Edgeworth, *Lame Jervas*, ch 11, "The smith that will meddle with all things may go shoe 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 *Pepysian Garland*, 445 (Rollins), Shoemakers sonnes were princes borne c 1710 *Rorb Ballads*, vii 35 (BS)

Shoemaker's stocks, In the = in shoes too small for the feet 1678 Ray, 347

Shoemaker's wife, Who is worse shod than the? 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch xi 1560 T Wilson, *Rhetorique*, 119 (1909) 1593 *Pass Morrice*, 69 (N Sh S) Before 1680 Butler, *Remains*, u 165 (1759) No man goes worse shod than the shoemaker 1690 *New Dict Canting Crew*, sig L2 1772 Graves, *Spirit Quixote*, bk 11 ch 11 But, says he, the shoemaker's wife often goes in ragged shoes 1851 Borrow, *Lavengro*, 111 191, It is said that the household of the shoemaker invariably go worse shod than that of any other craft

Shoot, verb 1 He hath shot his fry

1611 Cotgrave, s v "Pouvoir," He hath shot his frie done the worst or most he can 1639 Clarke, 223 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, 1 168, "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, *Toroph*, 150 (Arber), Tel me somewhat, how I should shoote nere leste that prouerbe myght be sayd iustlye of me some-tyme, He shootes lyke a gentle man fayre and far of

5 He shoots wide of the mark 1562 Heywood, *Three Hund Epigr*, No 184, He shooteth wyde 1659 Howell, 7 1680 D'Urfeys, *Virtuous Wife*, I, You are merry sir, and shoot wide o' th' mark 1709 Mandeville, *Virgin Unmask'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 diem iaculans non aliquando collineat? —Cicero, *De Divin*, u 59] 1551 Robinson, 11 More's *Utopia*, 52 (Arber) 1732 Fuller, No 2276, 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 Underdoun, *Heliodorus*, bk 11 74 (TT), That which greeveth me most, is that (as the proverbe saith) shee useth mine owne fethers against mee 1710 S Palmer, *Moral Essays*

on *Proverbs*, 332, We are often shot with our own feathers.

10. *To shoot at a pigeon and kill a crow*. 1639: Clarke, 2. 1670: Ray, 189. 1787: 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: Planché, *Extravag.* iv. 104 (1879).

11. *To shoot at rovers*. See *Run* (14).

**Shorn-bug**. See *quot.* 1911: A. S. Cooke, *Off Beaten Track in Sussex*, 285, "To eat shorn-bug for dinner" is the Sussex way of expressing the extremity of poverty. "Shorn-bug" is a beetle.

**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 and sweet**. 1539: Taverner, *Erasm. Prov.*, 68 (1552) (O.), The Englysh prouerbe is thus pronounced. Short and swete. c. 1580: Lodge, *Defence of Plays, etc.*, 28 (Sh. S.), Shorte and sweete if I were judge. 1589: Puttenham, *Eng. Poesie*, 68 (Arber). 1593: Peele, *Edward I.*, sc. viii. 1637: Shirley, *Young Admiral*, IV. iii. 1778: H. Brooke, *Contending Brothers*, I. vii., A few words in full: multum in parvo, short and sweet! 1883: R. L. S., *Treasure I.*, ch. ix. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 6, Short an' sweet, like a donkey's gallop.

**Short boughs, long vintage**. 1640: Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*.

**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. 4921.

**Shortest answer is doing, The**. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

**Short harvests**. See *Harvest* (5).

**Short horse is soon curried, A**. Before 1500: in Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 128 (E.E.T.S.). 1571: R. Edwards, *Damon and Pithias*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, iv. 33. 1616: Breton, in *Works*, ii. c6 (Grosart). 1637: Heywood, *Royal King*, II, Here's a short horse soone curried 1732: Fuller, No. 395. 1820: Scott, *Abbot*, ch. xi., A short tale is soon told—and a short horse soon curried. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 589. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 4, A little horse is soon wispt, And a pretty girl is soon kist.

**Short life and a merry, A**. 1654: Gayton, *Pleasant Notes Don Q.*, 101, The indicted cry a merry life and a short. 1660: Tatham, *Rump*, I, A short life and a merry life, I cry. 1754: *Connoisseur*, No. 50, A short life and a merry one was their favourite maxim. 1855: Kingsley, *West. Ho!*, ch. xxxii.

**Short pleasure long lament**. 1468: *Coventry Mys.*, 32 (Sh. S.), Schort lyk- yng xal be longe bought. 1556: G. Colvile, tr. Boethius, 66 (1897), Or as a man woulde saye: for a lytle pleasure, longe payne. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Plaisir," For a short pleasure long remembrance. 1681: Robertson, *Phraeol Generalis*, 1001. 1732: Fuller, No. 4155, Short pleasures, long pains.

**Short prayer reaches Heaven, A**. c. 1460: *Good Wyfe wold a Pylgremage*, l. 167 (E.E.T.S.), A schort prayer wynnythe heyvyn. 1493: *Dives et Paufer*, fo. 74 (1536), It is a common prouerbe, that a short prayer thirleth [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 xii 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," 2

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 yor game  
1670 Ray, 142 1732 Fuller, No  
4157

Short visits make long friends Ox-  
fordsh 1923 *Folk-Lore*, xxxiv 329  
Shotley See Axwell Park

Shoulder of mutton for a sick horse, A  
1541 *Sch House of Women*, l 95. As  
holsome for a man is a woman's corse.  
As a shoulder of mutton for a sick  
horse 1596 Jonson, *Ev Man in  
Humour*, II 1, Counsel to him is as good  
as a shoulder, etc 1639 Clarke, 4,  
As fit for him as a shoulder, etc 1678  
Ray, 236 1732 Fuller, No 1179

Shoulder out, To put the=To be an-  
noyed, to take offence 1917 Bridge,  
*Cheshire Proverbs*, 142

Shouter of Gatley, A Ibid., 6, A  
shaouter 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 hir maide shewe a fayre  
paire of heeles 1577 J Grange, *Gold-  
den Aphroditis*, sig D3. The valyaunt  
souldioure hadde rather truste to the  
force of hys armes than in the  
felde a fayre payre of heeles to shew  
1630 T Adams, *Works*, 55. But for  
these shackles debt would often shew  
credit a light paire of heeles 1698  
*Terence made English*, 241 (2nd ed), I'd  
ha shewn him a fair pair of heels  
for 't 1737 Ray, 70 1819 Scott,  
*Itanhoe*, ch xl, 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  
Draxe, 70 1670 Ray, 199

Shrew and Shrews, subs 1 A shrew  
is better than a sheep 1580 Tusser,  
*Husb*, 157 (E D S), This prouerbe looke  
in mind ye keepe, As good a shrew is as  
a sheepe, For you to take to wive  
c 1600 *Grim the Collier*, II, 'Tis better  
to be a shrew, sir, than a sheep 1630  
Taylor (Water-Poet), *Works*, 3rd pagin,  
59 1659 *Lady Alimony*, V iii, 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 1880  
Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 89 A  
shrew is better than a slut Cf No 4

2 A shrew profitable may serve a man  
reasonable 1605 Camden, *Remains*,  
317 (1870) 1616 Breton, in *Works*,  
ii c 5 (Grosart) ["is good for" in-  
stead of "may serve"] 1732 Fuller,  
No 398

3 Every man can rule a shrew but  
he who has her 1546 Heywood, *Pro-  
verbs*, Pt II ch vi 1596 Harington,  
*Melam of Ajax*, 95 (1814) 1621  
Burton, *Melancholy*, II ii 6, i, p 364  
(1836) 1681 Robertson, *Phrasel  
Generalis*, 565 1732 Fuller, No 1444  
["tame" for "rule"] 1883 Burne,  
*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, *Glasse of Govt* III 1  
[quoted as "an olde saying"] Cf  
No 1

5 When all shrews have dined See  
quots 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I  
ch xiii, And when all shrews have  
dind, Chaunge 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 Ful-  
ler, *Worthies*, iii 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].

Shrewsbury clock, By. 1597: Shakespeare, *1 Henry IV.*, V. iv., We rose both at an instant, and fought a long hour by Shrewsbury clock. 1654: Gayton, *Pleasant Notes Don Q.*, 183, The Knight that fought by th' clock at Shrewsberry. 1681: *Poor Robin Alman.*, March, A great many people shall feed . . . three hours together by Shrewsbury Clock. 1783: Mrs. Cowley, *More Ways than One*, I. i., My master is as strict, and as nice, and exact, as Shrewsperry Clock. 1796: White, *Falstaff's Letters*, 17, Fifteen minutes, as thou say'st, by Shrewsbury clock. 1891: R. L. S., *Letters*, iv. 86 (Tusitala ed.), I remember, when I first saw this, laughing for an hour by Shrewsbury clock.

Shrink in the wetting, To. 1540: Palsgrave, *Acolastus*, sig. V4, Where is my golden chain become . . . it is shrunk in the wetyng. 1596: Lodge, *Diuel Coniured*, 4 (Hunt. Cl.), Those conceits are shrunk in the wetting. 1612: Chapman, *Widow's Tears*, II. iv., Then had I been here a fool . . . if for a lady's frown . . . 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. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 581.

Shropshire sharp-shins. 15th cent.: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 269 (1841), Schrop-schir, my schinnes ben scharpe. 1622: Drayton, *Polyol.*, xxiii., And Shropshire saith in her, That shins be ever sharp. 1710-12: Leland, *Itin.*, I am of Shropshire, my shinnes be sharpe. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 581, "Sharp-shins" is still applied in Shropshire, 1st to light heels, 2nd to sharp wits. 1913: E. M. Wright, *Rustic Speech.*, etc., 180,

Anciently the Salopian was proverbial for sharp shins.

Shrove-tide. 1. *Fit as a pancake for Shrove Tuesday*. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 27 (Percy S.).

2. *If it thunder upon Shrove Tuesday it foretellethe winde, store of fruit, and plenty*. 1669: *New Help to Discourse*, 283. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 40.

3. *Rejoice Shrove-tide to-day; for tomorrow 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 Hearth*, 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.

2. *As sick as a cushion*. 1678: Ray, 288. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I., Poor miss, she's sick as a cushion, she wants nothing but stuffing.

3. *As sick as a dog*. 1592: G. Harvey, *Works*, i. 161 (Grosart), Now sicke as a dog. 1599: Buttes, *Dyets Dry Dinner*, sig. O4. 1667: L'Estrange, *Quevedo's Visions*, 262 (1904). 1766: Garrick, *Neck or Nothing*, I. i., I am sick as a dog of being a valet. 1864: Mrs. H. Wood, *Trevlyn Hold*, ch. xx., Folks have never called him the Squire, though he's as sick as a dog for it.

4. *As sick as a horse*. 1685: Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 71, It macks me as seeke as a horse. 1758-67: Sterne, *Trist. Shandy*, vol. vii. ch. ii. 1854: Baker, *Northants Gloss.*, s.v. "Sick as a horse,"

A common vulgar simile, used when a person is exceedingly sick without vomiting 1901 F E Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 4, As sick as a hawse

5 *Eier sick of the slothful guise, Loath to bed and loath to rise* 1639 Clarke, 292 Cf Sluggard's guise

6 *He who was never sick, dies the first fit* 1732 Fuller, No 2409

7 *Sick of the fever lurden* See Fever lurden

8 *Sick o' th' idle crick, and the belly-wark i th' heel* 1678 Ray, 254

9 *Sick of the idles* 1639 Clarke, 144 1670 Ray, 182

10 *Sick of the Lombard fever* 1659 Howell II 1670 Ray, 215

11 *Sick of the mulligrubs* c 1620 B & F, *Monsieur Thomas*, II iii, Whose dog lies sick o the mulligrubs? 1634 S Rowley, *Noble Soldier*, IV ii, The divell lyes sicke of the mulligrubs 1670 Ray, 218, Sick of the mulligrubs with eating chop't hay 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I [as in 1670]

12 *Sick of the silver dropsy* 1633 Draxe, 33, He hath the silver dropsie 1639 Clarke, 40

13 *Sick of the simples* 1754 Berthelson *Eng-Danish Dict*, s v "Sick

14 *Sick of the sullens* 1580 Lyly, *Euphues*, 285 (Arber), She was solitary by walking with hir frowning cloth, as sick lately of the solens 1596 Lodge, *Wits Miserie*, 101 (Hunt Cl), Rather die sicke of the sullens then tell his grieve c 1620 B & F, *Woman's Prize*, IV iv, Is fallen sick o' th' sullens 1828 Scott, *Journal*, 9 March, I do not know anything which relieves the mind so much from the sullens as trifling discussion

*Sickle, subs* 1 *Between the sickle and the scythe, What is born will never thrive* Derby 1884 *Folk-Lore Journal*, ii 279 Cf Marry (16)

2 *The sickle and the scythe, that love I not to see, But the good ale-tankard, 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 seide to hym, "pou hast no leve to sette pyn hook in

oper men ripe" c 1440 Anon, tr Higden, in *Ibid*, viii 183, Hit is not lawefull 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, *Phraseol 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, *Zootomia*, 124, Sickness posteth to us, but crawleth from us 1869 Hazlitt, 336

Sickness is felt, but health not at all 1732 Fuller, No 4160

Sickness is the chapel of devotion, The chamber of 1633 Draxe, 190 1670 Ray, 24 1732 Fuller, No 4444 1803 *The Moralists's Medley*, 1

Sickness tells us what we are 1732 Fuller, No 4161

Side pockets See Toad

Sieve and riddle See quotes 1670 Ray, 207, As much sib d [akin] as sieve and riddar, that grew both in a wood together 1691 Ray, *Words not Generally Used*, 63 (E D S), No more sib d than, etc Prov Cheshire 1824 Scott, *Redgauntlet*, Lett xiii, While ye are aware sounds as like being akin to a peatship and a sheriffdom, 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 Draxe, 46 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch 1, Sift a sluggard grain by grain, and you'll find him all chaff

Sift night 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 Prudentum*

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 stille semeth as he graunted." 1412: Hoccleve, *Regement*, st. 442, l. 3093 (E.E.T.S.), And for he naght ne seith, he his assent zeueþ perto, by mannes Iugement. 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 golden. 1865: W. White, *Eastern England*, ii. 129. 1878: Gibbs, *Cotswold Village*, ch. iv., "Silence is golden" is the motto here whilst the viands are being discussed. 1909: A. Dobson, in *Poet. Works*, 403 (1923). Cf. Speech.

Silence is the best ornament of a woman. 1539: Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo. 50, Silence garnysheth a woman. 1645: Howell, *Letters*, bk. i. § iv. No ix. 1670: Ray, 24.

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 tonge." c. 1470: G. Ashby, *Poems*, 85 (E.E.T.S.), Grete wisdom is, litil to speke. 1540: Palsgrave, *Acolastus*, sig. B2, I dare not . . . saye mum is counseyle. 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 wisdom. 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 (1641), 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, II.

2. As silent as death. 1377: Langland, *Plowman*, B, x. 136, As doumbe 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*, 1 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 sows eare. 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*, 1 447 (Bigelow) [with "scarlet and velvets" after "satins"] 1912 *N & Q*, 11th ser., vi 255. In my childhood in Ulster I often heard the proverb, "Silks," etc

Silly as a lamb's dad [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 Angle (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 xviii, I expand, I open, I turn my silver lining outward like Milton's cloud 1885 Gilbert, *Mikado*, 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 albae — Juvenal, xiii 141] 1639 Clarke 39, He was borne with a penny in's mouth 1712 Motteux, *Quixote*, Pt II ch lxxiii, Every man was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth 1850 Dickens, *Chuzzlewit*, 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)

Sim steals See Horse (52)

Simondsall sauce See quot Simondsall is a Gloucestershire farm on high ground 1639 in *Berkeley MSS*, in 30 (1885), When a man eates little, to say hee 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 furmety kettle, She 1631 W Saltonstall, *Picturæ Loquentes*, 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 furmety-kettle 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I 1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, ii 92 (F L S), She simpers like a frummetty 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 Budge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 19

Sin and Sins, *subs* 1 *It is a sin to belie the devil* See Devil (25)

2 *It is a sin to steal a pin* 1875 Cheales, *Proverb 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 4179 ["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 xii [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 (T T), Me thinks a falte don in secret is halfe pardoned 1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 197, Sin conceal'd, half pardoned

Sin, *verb* See quot c 1386

Chaucer, *Melibeus*, § 29, The proverbe seith: that "for to do sinne is manish, but certes for to persevere longe in sinne is werk of the devel."

Sinews of war, The. [Pecuniae belli civilis nervi sunt.—Tacitus, II. xxiv. Nervi belli pecunia.—Cicero, *Phil.*, V. ii. 5.] c. 1550: *Disc. Common Weal Eng.*, 87 (1893) (O.), These coins and treasures be not with out cause called of wise men . . . The senowes of warre. 1581: Stafford, *Exam. of Complaints*, 67 (N. Sh. S.). 1594: Peele, *Battle of Alcazar*, I. ii., Madam, gold is the glue, sinews, and strength of war. 1623: Massinger, *Duke of Milan*, III. i., Money is the sinew of the war. 1653: Urquhart, *Rabelais*, bk. i. ch. xlvi., Coine is the sinews of warre. 1767: Murphy, *Sch. for Guardians*, II. iii., You have furnished me with the sinews of war. 1838: Carlyle, *Sartor*, bk. ii. ch. iii., Suppose your sinews of war quite broken; I mean your military chest insolvent.

Sing, verb. 1. *He may sing before thieves*. [Cantabit vacuus 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 riches on him by the weye, may boldely singe biforn theves, 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 affor the theeff doth synge. 1593: Peele, *Edw. I.*, sc. xii., 'Tis an old said saying . . . a man's purse-penniless may sing before a thief. 1659: T. Peake, *Parnassi Puerp.*, 21, Clients returning before theefs may sing; For back from London they can't money bring. 1707: Duntton, *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*.

1612: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt. I bk. iii. ch. viii., "Here it is quite contrary," quoth the slave, "for 'He that sings once, weeps all his life after.'" 1710: S. Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 197.

4. *He that sings on Friday, will weep on Sunday*. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 24.

5. *He that sings worst let him begin first*. c. 1410: Towneley Plays, 108 (E.E.T.S.), [Here "worst" is "best"], Who so can best syng Shall haue the begynnyng. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' *Collog.*, 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), Yt with their mouth thei sing, Though thei wepe in their hart. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Chanter."

7. *Sing before breakfast, cry before night*. 1530: Palsgrave, 776, You waxe mery this morning. God gyue grace you wepe nat or nyght. 1855: *N. & Q.*, 1st ser., xi. 416, If you sing before breakfast, you'll cry before night. 1859: *Ibid.*, 2nd ser., viii. 484 [Hants]. 1860: *Ibid.*, 2nd ser., ix. 51, . . . very common . . . in almost every part of Lincolnshire. 1898: *Ibid.*, 9th ser., ii. 436. 1899: *Ibid.*, 9th ser., iii. 173 [Northants].

8. *Thou singest like a bird called a swine*. 1678: Ray, 269. 1732: Fuller, No. 5230, To sing like, etc.

9. *To sing Lachrymæ* = To be sorry or mournful. c. 1610: in *Roxb. Ballads*, iii. 68 (B.S.), In the prison to stay, Where I sung Lachrima. 1674: *Poor Robin Alman.*, July, The lawyers shall sing Lachrymæ over Littletons grave.

10. *To sing Placebo* = To be flattering or servile. 1340: *Ayenbite*, 60 (O.), pe uerpe zenne is pet huanne hi alle zingep "Placebo," pet is to zigge: "mi lhord zayp zup, mi lhord dep wel." c. 1540: Bale, *Kynge Johan*, 30 (Camden S.), By the mas, me thynke they are syngyng 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,

*Works*, ii 50 (Grosart). That poets and good fellows may drinke, and souldiers sing Placebo 1618 Harrington, *Epigrams*, bk ii 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, *Phrasol Generalis*, 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 I ch vii 1594 Barnfield, *Affect Sheph* 40 (Percy S) 1692 L'Estrange *Æsop*, 390 (3rd ed), the old saying, No man sings a merrier note Then he that cannot change a groat 1732 Fuller, No 6449 ["the cobbler" for 'he']

14 *See quot* 1869 Hazlitt, 482, Yeow mussent sing a Sunday, becaze it is a sin, but yeow may sing a Monday, till Sunday cums agin *Suffolk*

Singers and ringers are little home bringers 1893 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 shalte sure sinke in thine own syn for vs 1659 Howell 15

Sink or swim, To c 1386 Chaucer, *Knigh't's Tale*, I 1539, She reccheth neuere wher I synke or flete [float] c 1450 in *Reliq Antiquæ*, i 76 (1841), Whedyr she ever flete, or synke c 1549 in Skelton, *Works* ii 438 (Dyce). But some shall go astraye, And lerne to swyme or sinke 1594 Nashe, *Dido*, IV iii, She cares not how we sinke or swimme c 1620 B & T, *Night-Walker*, III iii 1667 Pepys,

*Diary*, 4 April 1709 in *Harl Miscell*, i 206 (1744) 1748 Richardson, *Clarissa*, vi 211 (1785), She was determined to get out herself as fast as she could, let me sink or swim 1818 Scott, *Heart of Midl*, ch xxvi 1896 Doyle, *Rodney Stone*, ch vii, I sink or swim with my friends! A Whig I started, and a Whig I shall remain

Sion and Sheen *See quot* 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 dogs! 1670 Ray, 192 1732 Fuller, No 6496 Sirrah your dog, but sirrah not me, For I was born before you could see

Sit, verb 1 *Better sit idle than work for nothing* 1642 D Rogers, *Matrim Honour*, 225, Our proverbe saith, better sit for naught, then stir for naught 1683 Meriton *Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697), Better sit idle than work teaum [for nothing]

2 *Better sit still than rise up and fall* c 1410 Touneley *Plays*, 229 (E E T S) 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch v 1592 Warner, *Albion's England*, bk vii ch 37, And rather sit thou safely still, Then for a fall to rise 1618 Breton, in *Inedited Tracts*, 190 (Hazlitt), 1732 Fuller, No 4181, Sit still, rather than rise and fall down

3 *He sits not sure that sits too high* 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Assuré"

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 Frutes*, fo 28, Who sitteth wel thynketh yl 1629 *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov 10

6 *Sit a while and go a mile* 1530 Palsgrave, 436, Rest a while and rounne 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 prouerbe"]

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, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 24. 1732: Fuller, No. 4180, Sit firm in thy place, and none can hurt thee. 1853: Trench, *Proverbs*, 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, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. v., And also I shall, to reueng former hurtis Hold their noses to grinstone, and syt on theyr skurtis That erst sate on mine 1598: Bernard, *Terence*, 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, *Old Mortality*, ch. xliii., "D—n seize me, if I forgive him for it, though!" replied the other; "and I think I can sit in his skirts now." 1889: Peacock, *Manley, etc.*, *Gloss.*, 490 (E.D.S.), To sit on a person's skirts is to annoy, baffle, or impede him.

10. *To sit still and pill straws*. 1672: Walker, *Paræm.*, 21.

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 a gambling—dicing—phrase, "To set at six or seven." The *Oxford English Dictionary* says—"probably a fanciful alteration of *to set on cinque and sice*, these being the two highest numbers." c. 1340: *Avowynne of Arthur*, st. 65 (Camden S.), Alle in sundur hit brast in six or in seuyne. c. 1374: Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk. iv. l. 622, Lat not this wrecched wo thin herte gnawe, But manly set the world on sixe and sevene. c. 1400: *Towneley Plays*, 169 (E.E.T.S.), Bot be thay past me by by mahowne in heuen, I shall, and that in hy set all on sex and seuen. 1542: Udall, tr. Erasmus' *Apoph.*, 298 (1877), There is a prouerbe, *omnem iacere aliam*, to cast att dice, by whiche is signified, to set al on sixe and seuen, and at al auentures to ieoperd, assaiyng the wild chaunce of fortune, be it good,

be it bad. 1596: Shakespeare, *Rich. II.*, II. ii., All is uneven, And everything is left at six and seven. 1630: Taylor (Water-Poet), *Works*, 2nd pagin., 71, Nor carelessly set all at six and seuen. 1670: Cotton, *Scarronides*, bk. iv., But like a dame of wits bereaven, Let all things go at six and seven. 1710: Centlivre, *Man's Bewitch'd*, II. iv., Did he make any will? . . . No, Sir, he has left all sixes and sevens. 1768: Goldsmith, *Good-Natured Man*, I., Haven't I reason to be out of my senses, when I see things going at sixes and sevens? 1829: Cobbett, *Advice to Young Men*, Lett. III., Leaving books and papers all lying about at sixes and sevens. 1920: Locke, *House of Baltazar*, 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, *Proverbs: Ital.-Eng.*, 8 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 285, Six foot of earth shuts up every one.

Six o'clock with him, It's welly=He is failing in health 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 86.

Six of one and half a dozen of the other. 1852: Dickens, *Bleak House*, ch. xxiv., Mostly they come for skill—or idleness. Six of one, and half-a-dozen of the other. 1859: Sala, *Twice Round Clock*, 3 a.m. 1907: De Morgan, *Alice-for-Short*, ch. xvi.

Six score. See quotes. This is what is known as the "long hundred." 1647: in *Somers Tracts* v. 488 (1811), For in things without heads six score go to an hundred. 1849: F. T. Dinsdale, *Teesdale Gloss.*, 111, Five score's a hundred of men, money, and pins, Six score's a hundred of all other things. 1881: Evans, *Leics. Words*, 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, *Manley, etc.*, *Gloss.*, 330 (E.D.S.) [as in 1849]. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 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 [faggots]

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

Skeer [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, Criffel wots full well of that In the quotations 1610 to 1709 'Criffel' is given as 'Scruffell' and in 1790 as "Scuffel" 1610 P Holland, tr Camden's *Britannia*, 767 1655 Fuller *Church Hist*, bk xi § iii (9) 1709 O Dykes, *Eng Proverbs* (at end) 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Cumberland" 1818 Scott, *Heart of Midl*, ch xl 1899 Dickinson, *Cumberland Gloss* 54, When Criffel gets a cap, Skiddaw wots well of that

2 Skiddaw, Lamellin and Casticand Are the highest hills in all England 1610 P Holland, tr Camden's *Britannia*, 767 1659 Howell, 21 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Cumberland"

Skill and confidence are an unconquered army 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

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, *Cavalcade*, 35, That those who knew not the occasion Of such a noisy strange procession, Expected they should find anon The same to be a Skimmington 1825 Jennings, *Somerset Words*, 68 To ride Skimmer-ton, 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 riding, or something of the sort?

Skin a flint, To 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*, You cannot flay 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 flay a stone 1690 *New Dict Canting Crew*, sig E5, He'll flay a flint, of a meer scrab, or miser 1754 Berthel-son, *Eng-Danish Dict*, s v "Skin," He would skin a flint 1841 Hartshorne *Salopia Ant*, 567, A covetous person, one who, if it 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 [Spoil] a knife worth a grat [groat]" 1901 *Folk-Lore*, xii 82, [S W Wilts] A would skin a vlint vur a varden and spwile a tenpenny nayl in doin' 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 Still, *Gam Gurton*, V 11, I am as true, I would thou knew, as [the] skin between thy brows 1599 Shakespeare, *Much Ado*, III v, An old man, sir but, in faith, honest as the skin between his brows 1605 *London Prodigal*, V 1, 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 qui aiant Quid si coelum ruat?—Terence, *Haut*, IV iii 41] Before 1500 in Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 128 (EETS) And hewin [heaven] fall, we shall have mani larkis 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 11.

Should heaven fall—Aph Why then we should have larks 1709 R Kingston, *Apoph 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 *Misalliance etc*, xxx, Just as I do not admit that if the sky fell we should all catch larks

Slain 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. 1670: 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*, l. 25, A slaundrer that is reised is euelle to felle.

Slanderer. *The most dangerous of wild beasts is a slanderer; of tame ones a flatterer.* 1855: Bohn, 511.

Slapton, Where fools will happen. 1851: Sternberg, *Dialect, 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.—*Collectio 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, *Guazzo's Civil Convers.*, fo 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 slepe, and it is an old sayenge: He that slepeth, byteth no body. 1615: Stephens, *Essays, etc.*, bk. i. No. 21, Hee that drinkes well, sleepest well, and hee that sleepest 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 eueryone. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus's *Colloq.*, 487, You know the old proverb, *I don't sleep to all.*

5. *Sleep without supping, and wake without owing.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

6. *To sleep as sound as a church.* 1839: Dickens, *Nickleby*, ch. xxiii., 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.*, lvii. 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 otiose ut dormias.—Terence,

*Hant*, II m 101 } 1540 Palsgrave,  
*Acolastus*, sig C4 Than truly lyued I  
 lyke one that sleapeth on bothe his  
 eares Before 1663 Abp Bramhall,  
*Works*, III 518 (*Ang-Cath Lit*, 1842-4),  
 Let him set his heart at rest, I will  
 remove this scruple out of his mind,  
 that he may sleep securely upon both  
 ears 1754 Berthelson *Eng-Danish*  
*Dict*, s v Sleep'

12 To sleep without rocking 1631  
 Brathwait *Whimzies* 106 (1859) Hee  
 sleepees soundly without rocking 1738  
 Swift *Polite Convers*, Dial III, I'm  
 sure I shall sleep without rocking

Sleeping dogs lie, Let c 1374  
 Chaucer, *Troilus* bk III 1 764, It is  
 nought good a sleeping hound to wake  
 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs* Pt I ch x,  
 It is euyl wakyng of a sleepyng dog  
 1598 Shakespeare 2 *Henry IV*, I II,  
 Wake not a sleeping wolf 1605  
 Camden, *Remains*, 326 (1870) [as in  
 1546] 1850 Dickens, *Copperfield*, ch  
 xxxix, Let sleeping dogs lie—who  
 wants to rouse em? 1898 Wey-  
 man *Shrewsbury*, ch xxix 1922  
*Sphere* 5 Aug, 132 It is all very well  
 to let sleeping dogs lie, but in this case  
 the dogs are dogs of war

Sleeping enough in the grave, There  
 will be 1736 Franklin, *Way to*  
*Wealth*, in *Works* 1 443 (Bigelow)

Sleeping lion See Lion (13)

Sleepy master makes his servant  
 a lout, A [c 1290 in Wright  
*Pol Songs John to Edw II*, 165  
 (Camden S) *Mitis praelatus facit*  
*ignavos famulatus*] 1640 Herbert,  
*Jac Prudentum*

Sleeveless errand, A Mr Warwick  
 Bond in his edition of John Lyly,  
 quotes (III 503) from Lady Charlotte  
 Guest's translation of the *Mabinogion*  
 ("Dream of Mayen Wledig") "Now this  
 was the guise in which the messengers  
 journeyed one sleeve was on the cap  
 of each of them in front, as a sign that  
 they were messengers in order that  
 through what hostile land soever they  
 might pass, no harm might be done  
 them" Mr Bond adds 'Without  
 the sleeve they might never be able to  
 perform their errand' This seems to

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 mesureth  
 his goodnesse not by slevelesse wordes

15th cent in *Relig Antiquæ*, 1 83  
 (1841), Thynke not y schall telle  
 you a sleveles reson c 1440 *Jacob's*  
*Well* 181 (E E T S), Summe in schryfte  
 schal tarye the preest wyth sleveles  
 talys [idle talk] that no-thing longyth  
 to schryfte 1593 *Pass Morrice*, 65  
 (N Sh S), So vnmannerly to vse him  
 by sleveles excuses 1726 in Hone,  
*Ev Day Book*, II 782, Having, under a  
 sleeveless pretence, been deny'd a com-  
 bat 1821 Scott, *Fam Letters*, II 111  
 (1894), He had no honourable  
 mode of avoiding the sleeveless quarrel  
 fixed on him 1867 Waugh, *Tallin'*  
*Mathy*, 18, Single-step doancin', an'  
 sich like sleeveless wark as that

B 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I  
 ch vii, To make a sleveles  
 errande 1604 *Jacks of Dover*, 4  
 (Percy S), To whose house I went upon  
 a sleveles arrand 1670 Cotton,  
*Scarronides*, bk iv 1712 Motteux,  
*Quixote*, Pt II ch x 1828 Carr,  
*Craven Dialect*, II 290, As I've hed a  
 sleeveless errant

Slender in the middle as a cow in the  
 waist, As 1621 Burton, *Anatomy of*  
*Melancholy*, III II 3, I, vol III p 178  
 (Shilleto), She stoops, is lame as  
 slender in the middle as a Cow in the  
 waist 1670 Ray, 207 1732 Fuller,  
 No 727 1881 Evans *Leics Words*,  
 242 (E D S), "As slender," etc This  
 periphrasis to describe obesity  
 is still in use

Slight impressions See Impressions



Slip between cup and lip. *See* Cup (4).

Slip of the foot may be soon recovered, A; but that of the tongue perhaps never. 1732: Fuller, No. 403. Cf. Better the feet slip.

Slip one's neck out of the collar, To. 1583: Golding, *Calvin on Deut.*, cxxv. 772 (O.), Albeit we . . . would slippe our heades out of the coler seeking to shift off ye matter. 1633: Draxe, 189, He draweth his necke out of the collar. 1678: Ray, 350. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Slip." 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*, l. 1985, p. 72 (E.E.T.S.), Mi wit is also slipir as an eel. c 1420: Lydgate, *Assem. of Gods*, 31 (E.E.T.S.), Whyche made the grounde as slepyr as an yele. 1533: Heywood, *Play of Love*, l. 1414 (Brandl, *Quellen*, 204), And coryd [curried (of a horse)] tyll he be slyke as an ele. 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 slouth must breede a scab. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), *Sc. 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. 1669: *Politeuphuia*, 306.

Sloth is the key to poverty. 1669: *Politeuphuia*, 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, 111 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* quotes. 1639: in *Berkeley MSS.* iii, 32 (1885), Hee 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-guise, 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.

Slut and Sluts, *subs.* 1. *A slut never wants a clout, Whilst her aipernt* [apron] *holds out.* 1880: Courtney, *W. Cornwall Words*, 1 (E.D.S.).

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.*

1678 Ray, 81 1732 Fuller, No 3697

4 *Sluts are good enough to make a sloven's porridge* 1639 Clarke, 287 [in the singular] c 1685 in *Roxb Ballads*, viii 869 (BS) [as in 1639] 1732 Fuller No 4190

See also Apple (6)

Small birds must have meat 1600 Shakespeare, *Merry Wives*, I iii, 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 1 Before 1681 J Lacy, *Saunty 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 Sprat

Small heart hath small desires, A 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Small house has a wide throat, A 1865 "Lancs Proverbs," in *N & Q*, 3rd ser, viii 494 1901 F E Taylor, *Lancs 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 (TT), "Like as," sayth he, "small soares require slender medecins" 1732 Fuller, No 412

Small spark See Spark

Small stake makes cold play c 1597 in Harrington, *Nugae Antiquæ*, i 205 (1804), I know the saying 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

1696 D'Urley, *Quivote*, Pt III Act V sc 1 1732 Fuller, No 413 1753 Foote, *Taste*, I 1, A paltry affair, a poor ten guinea job, however, a small game—you know the proverb

Smart as a carrot 1780 in Farmer, *Musa Pedestris*, 56, I still was as smart as a carrot all day c 1791 Pegge, *Derbiscisms*, 135 (EDS) 1894 Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 11 (EDS), As smart as a carrot Said of one gaily dressed 1923 *Folk-Lore*, xxxiv 329 (Oxfordshire)

Smell, verb 1 *He smelleth best that doth of nothing smell* [Quoniam optimus odor in corpore est nullus Seneca, *Epist cvm*] 1598 Meres, *Palladis*, fo 32, As women do smell well, which smel of nothing 1607 *Lingua*, IV iii 1619 *Helpe to Discourse* 93 (1640) Since as the proverbe is, They smell best that smell of nothing 1669 *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 (BS), For yf they smell a ratt c 1598 Deloney, *Gentle Craft*, Pt II ch iii, What would you so faine be rid of my company?—If with Gull I smell a rat 1608 Middleton, *Family of Love*, IV 11, Master Gerardine, disguised and ashore! nay, then I smell a rat 1669 Dryden, *Wild Gallant*, IV 1, Oh, are you thereabouts, sir? then I smell a rat, i' faith 1714 Ozell *Molière*, i 102, All these signs betoken no good, I smell a rat 1872 Butler, *Erewhon*, ch xviii, 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 *ἀλλοτριῶν ὀσφρῶν* is attributed to Pytheas by Plutarch (*Vit Demosth.* c 8)] 1542 Udall tr Erasmus' *Apoph.* 379 (1877) The sayng of Pytheas is comen and much spoken of, that the oracions of Demosthenes smelled all of the candle, for that the same did in the night season wryte and recorde soche thinges as he had to saye to the

people in the daye time. 1608: in Harington, *Nugæ Antiquæ*, 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. Nr, This little volume of mine smelleth of the oyle and candle. 1646: Browne, *Pseudo. Epi.*, To Reader, A work of this nature . . . should smel 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 work that smells of oil.

6. *Well may he smell fire whose gown burns*. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 9.

Smell of gain is sweet, The. 1621: Brathwait, *Natures Embassie*, etc., 303 (1877), Smell of gaine makes Labour sweet. 1659: Gayton, *Art of Longevity*, 46.

Smile, verb. 1. *He smiles like a basket of chips*. Old Shropshire saying. Sometimes with the addition—"on a frosty morning." 1871: *N. & Q.*, 4th ser., vii. 9.

2. *He smiles like a brewer's horse*. 1659: Howell, 18.

3. See quot. 1702: Centlivre, *Beau's Duel*, Epil., 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 hawur smið smeoðeð a ful woc knif (Often does a

right skilful smith forge a full weak knife).

2. *The smith and his penny are both black*. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1657: Gurnall, *Christian in Armour*, Pt. II. v. 15, ch. v. p. 129 (1679). 1737: Ray, 71. 1875: J. W. Ebsworth, App. to *Merry Drollery*, 373, An old proverb says that the Smith and his penny are both black. So we need not expect that a Sowgelder's song will be cleanly. 1875: Smiles, *Thrift*, 164.

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. *Chaucer*. 1732: Fuller, No. 6427 [as in 1678].

Smoke, subs. 1. *Smoke follows the fairest*. 1639: in *Berkeley MSS.*, iii. 31 (1885), Smoke wit 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. xxiii., That smoak doth follow the fairest, is an usual saying with us

yet is it the continuation of a very ancient opinion, as Petras Victorius and Casaubon have observed from a passage in Athenæus, wherein a parasite thus describeth himself — "To every table first I come Whence Porridge I am call'd by some, Like smoke, unto the fair I fly" 1687 Aubrey, *Gentilisme, etc.*, 111 (F L S) That smoak 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 *Countrym New Commonwealt*, 42 1683 *Menton Yorkshire Ale*, 83-7 (1697), A reeking house and a scawding wife will mack yan weary of his life 1774 Colman, *Man of Business*, IV u, She would ring it in my ears as long as I live—a smoaky 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 i 53] c 1375 Barbour, *Bruce*, bk iv l 123 And thair may no man fire sa covir, [Bot] low or reek sall it discovir c 1440 Hoccleve, *Minor Poems*, 134 (E E T S) Wher no fyr maad is may no smoke aryse 1579 Lyly, *Euphues*, 153 (Arber), Ther can no great smoke arise, but there must be some fire, no great reporte without great suspicion 1649 Quarles, *Virgin Widow*, I, There's no smoake without some fire 1679 Shadwell *True Widow* V 1, 'Sdeath! there must be some fire under all this smoke 1757 Murphy, *Upholsterer*, II 1 1871 Planché, *Extravag*, 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 entending to auoide the smoke, falleth into the fyre 1639 Clarke, 250, Shunning the smoake he fell into the fire

6 *When the smoke goes west, Good weather is past, When the smoke goes east, Good weather comes neist* [next] 1846 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 i 318, Could file his tongue as smooth as glas 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 xxii, The bay 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, subs 1 *As quick as a snail crawling through tar* W Corn. 19th cent (Mr C Lee)

2 *Snailie, snailie, shoot out your horn, And tell us if it will be a bonnie day the morn* 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 144

3 *The house is blest Where snail do rest* W Corn 19th cent (Mr C Lee)

4 *The snail slides up the tower at last though the swallow mounteth it sooner* 1580 Lyly, *Euphues*, 419 (Arber), The slow snailie clymeth the tower at last, though the swift swallowe mount it 1583 Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig F12, Can the sluggish snayle with creeping pace euer reache the castles tower? 1732 Fuller, No 4757

5 *To go a snail's gallop* 1546 Hey wood *Proverbs*, Pt I ch ix, If I shall nedes this viage make. I will

thytherward hye me in haste lyke a snayle. 1670: Ray, 193, To drive snails; A snails gallop 1681: Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 672, Ye go a snails gallop. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' *Colloq.*, 32, I see what haste you make, you are never the forwarder, you go a snails gallop. 1803: Colman, jr., *John Bull*, III. i., 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, *Lincs 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.

Snake, subs. 1. If the snake could hear and the slow-worm could see, Neither man nor beast should e'er go free. Norfolk. 1856: N. & Q., 2nd ser., i. 401. 1871: N. & Q., 4th ser., vii. 547. Cf. Adder.

2. The head of a snake with garlic is good meat. 1568: in Loseley MSS., 213 (Kempfe).

3. There is a snake in the grass. [Latet anguis in herba.—Virgil, *Ecl.*, 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 poyson. 1593: G. Harvey, *Works*, ii. 294 (Grosart), Take heede 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: Ozell, *Molière*, iv. 254. 1777: in Garrick *Corresp.*, ii. 248 (1832), There are snakes in the grass, and you seem to foster them. 1926: Phillpotts, *Yellow Sands*, I., What cares he for your wishes—young snake in the grass!

See also Thunder (3).

Snapping so short makes you look so

u

lean. 1678: Ray, 345. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I., Snap short makes you look so lean, miss.

Sneck. See quot. c. 1770: Pegge, *Derbicisms*, 65 (E.D.S.), The sneck is the latch itself, and not the string. Hence the proverb: "to put a sneck 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 quots. 1867: Harland, etc., *Lancs 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 quots. 1678: Ray, 344, The snite needs not the woodcock bewtwe [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 weet. 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. *Monarques*, ii. 162 (T.T.), For this it is said, The yeare of snow, the yeare of fertilitie. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Pruden-*

tum, A snow year, a rich year 1659  
 Howell, *Proverbs Span-Eng*, 21, A  
 year of snow, a year of plenty 1732  
 Fuller, No 416 1825 Hone, *Ev Day*  
*Book*, 1 670 1893 Inwards, *Weather*  
*Lore*, 5, [also] Snow year, good year

2 As seasonable as snow in harvest  
 c 1568 Wager, *Longer thou Livest*, sig  
 F3, As snow in harvest is untimely  
 1595 *Pedlars Prophecy*, l 237 (Malone  
 S), As profitable as is snow in harvest  
 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 336 (1870)  
 ['summer' for 'harvest'] 1670  
 Ray, 202 [as in 1605] 1732 Fuller,  
 No 5869 You came as seasonably  
 as snow in summer 1854 Baker,  
*Northants Gloss* s.v., A provincial  
 sarcasm for want of kindness "He  
 looks as cold as snow in harvest  
 1894 Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 34  
 (E D S), You are come like snow  
 in harvest, i.e. unexpectedly 1913  
*Folk-Lore*, xxiv 77, As scarce as snow  
 in harvest (Oxfordshire)

3 He roasts snow in a furnace 1813  
 Ray, 75

4 If February gve much snow, A fine  
 summer it doth foreshow 1882 Mrs  
 Chamberlain, *W Worcs Words*, 37  
 (E D S), Much February snow A fine  
 summer doth show 1882 N & Q,  
 7th ser. v 297, [also] Snow in  
 February is the crown of the year

5 If there be neither snow nor rain,  
 Then will be dear all kinds of grain  
 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 4

6 Snow and geese c 1791 Pegge,  
*Derbichisms*, 138 (E D S), They are pull-  
 ing geese in Scotland, so here it snows  
 1855 Dickens, *Holly Tree*, Branch 1,  
 I don't know when the snow began to  
 set in, but I heard the guard  
 remark, 'That the old lady up in  
 the sky was picking her geese pretty  
 hard to-day' 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire*  
*Proverbs*, 121, They're plucking their  
 geese in Wales and sendin' their fithers  
 here [said in a snowstorm] See also  
 Widdicombe

7 Snow is white And lieth in the dike,  
 And every man lets it lie Pepper is  
 black, And hath a good smack, And every  
 man doth it buy Before 1500 in  
 Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 128 (E E T S),

Though peper be blak, it hath a good  
 smak c 1520 Stanbridge, *Vulgaria*,  
 sig C1 [as in Hill] 1546 Heywood,  
*Proverbs*, Pt II ch iv 1586 L  
 Evans, *Withals Dict Revised*, sig E4  
 [the full saying reversed—pepper com-  
 ing first and snow second] 1633  
 Draxe, 16, Pepper is blacke, and snow  
 is white 1659 Howell, 3 1681  
 Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 983  
 Pepper is black, yet it hath a good  
 smack Ibid, 1142, Snow is white, yet  
 it lyes on the dike

8 Under water, famine, under snow,  
 bread 1640 Herbert, *Jac Pruden-*  
*tum* 1865 W White *Eastern Eng*  
*land*, ii 32 1893 Inwards, *Weather*  
*Lore* 9 [dearth] for 'famine']

9 When snow falls in the mud, it re-  
 mains all winter Ibid, 116

10 When now in the ditch the snow  
 doth lie, 'Tis waiting for more by-and-by  
 Ibid, 116

11 When the snow falls dry, it means  
 to lie, But flakes light and soft bring  
 rain oft Ibid, 116

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 pound it,  
 you can have but water of it 1640  
 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1670 Ray,  
 24 1732 Fuller, No 5687 ["bake"  
 for "pound"]

See also April (14) and (22), Candle-  
 mas, D and G, Last racehorse, March  
 (35), May, F (2), Ram, subs (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  
 narvonshire"

Snuff in the nose, To take = To  
 take offence 1610 Rowlands, *Marlin*  
*Mark-all*, 34 (Hunt Cl.), And not by any  
 means to crosse them least they take  
 snuffe 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,  
*Molière* 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 Jubilee*, 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*, xxiv. 77 (Oxfordshire.)

Snug as a pig in pease-straw. 1639: Davenport, *New Trick, etc.*, III. i., He snores and sleepes as snug As any pigge in pease-straw. c. 1662: in *Bagford Ballads*, i. 198 (B S.), Like piggs in the pease-straw, intangld they lie.

Soap in a wash tub, They are like a ha'p'orth of. 1855: Bohn, 525.

Sober as a judge. 1694: *Terence 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. 1, A dignitary proverbially "sober as a judge."

Sober man, a soft answer, A. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 7.

Soberness. See Drunkenness.

So cunning. See Weather (3).

Soft and fair goes far. c. 1400: *Beryn*, 28 (E.E.T.S.), But feir and sofft with ese, homward they hir led. 1542: Udall, tr. *Erasmus' Apoph.*, 286 (1877), The prouerbe, *spede thee faire and softly*, is a lesson of counsaile. 1583: Greene, *Works*, ii. 28 (Grosart), Goe as the snaile faire and softly. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1668: Dryden, *Sir Martin Mar-all*, II. ii. 1714: Ozell, *Molière*, 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 Midl.*, ch. xlv., "Fair and softly gangs far," said Meiklehose.

Soft as butter. 1567: Golding, *Ovid*, bk. xiii. l. 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 mouthes

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 Percevall*, 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 sylk. c. 1386: Chaucer, *Squire's Tale*, l. 605, And strawe hir cage faire and softe as silk. c. 1430: Lydgate, *Minor Poems*, 188 (E.E.T.S.), Hir body, softe as selke. c. 1450: *Partonope*, 66 (E.E.T.S.), Her lees were as softe as sylk. Before 1529: Skelton, *Philip Sparrow*, l. 1119, And handes soft as sylke. 1555: S. Hawes, *Past. of Pleasure*, 63 (Percy S.), By her propre hande, soft as any sylke. 1605: Sylvester, *Du Bartas*, Week II. Day iii. Pt. 1, l. 162. 1782: Wolcot, *Lyric Odes*, Ode viii., 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 fire makes sweet malt. Before 1500: in Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 128 (E.E.T.S.), A softe fire makith swete malte. 1550: Udall, *Roister Doister*, i. iii. 1617: Greene, *Alcida*, in *Works*, ix. 66 (Grosart), The malt is euer sweetest, where the fire is softest. 1694: D'Urfey, *Quixote*, Pt. I. Act IV. ["Slow" for "Soft"]. 1785-95: Wolcot, *Lousiad*, can. ii., Soft fires, the proverb tells us, make sweet malt. 1823: Scott, *Q. Durdward*, ch. vii. ["Slow" for "Soft"].

Soft pace goes far. 1598: Meres, *Palladis*, fo. 259. 1669: *Politeuphuia*, 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: Turberville, *Trag. Tales*,

etc, 30 (1837), There stalkte he on, as  
softe as foote could tread 1601  
Shakespeare, *As You Like It*, III ii  
1681 Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*,  
II 45

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 Frutes*, fo 32  
[slightly varied] 1629 *Book of Meery  
Riddles* Prov i

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 Bed-  
munster

Soldiers in peace are like chimneys in  
summer 1594 A Copley *Wits, Fits  
etc* 34 (1614) Before 1598 Lord  
Burghley, in Peck's *Desid Curiosa*,  
48 (1779) 1611 *Tarltons Jests*, xi  
(Sh S) There was a nobleman that  
asked Tarlton what hee thought of  
souldiers in time of peace Marry,  
quoth he, they are like chimnies 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  
*Politeuphuia*, 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 Sluggard's guise

So long as you'll crowdy [fiddle] they'll  
dance E Corn 1880 T Q Couch,  
*E Cornuall Words*, 82 (E D S)

So many countries, so many customs  
(or laws) 10th cent in *A-Saxon  
Gnomic Verses*, i 17 (Grein) esen—fela  
bega, peoda and peawa [an equal num-  
ber both of countries and customs].

c 1320 in *Reliq Antiqua*, i 109 (1841),  
'Ase fele [many] thede [countries], ase  
fele thewes', Quoth Hending c  
1374 Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk ii st 6  
For thus men seyn eche cuntre hath his  
lawis Ibid, bk ii 1 28, In sondry  
londes, sondry ben usages Before  
1634 Chapman, *Alphonsus*, III 1, So  
many lands, so many fashions 1669  
*Politeuphuia*, 224 So many countreys,  
so many laws 1670 Ray, 73,  
customs 1732 Fuller, No 4196,  
customs

So many gipsies, so many smiths  
1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, ii 84 (F L S)

So many heads, so many wits, or  
So many men, so many minds [Quot  
homines, tot sententiae — Terence,  
*Phorm* II iv 14] c 1386 Chaucer  
*Squire's Tale* l 195, As many hedes, as  
many wittes ther been 1539 Taver-  
ner *Proverbs*, fo 13, So many men, so  
many wyttes 1546 Heywood, *Pro-  
verbs*, Pt I ch iii, So many heds so  
many wits 1575 Gascoigne, *Glaspe  
of Govt*, II ii, So many men, so many  
mindes 1592 Greene, *Works*, xi 44  
(Grosart) [as in 1546] 1610 Row  
lands, *Martin Mark-all*, 6 (Hunt Cl)  
[as in 1575] 1602 L'Estrange, *Æsop  
'Life'*, 18 [as in 1575] 1753 Richard-  
son, *Grandison*, iii 477 (1883), So many  
persons, so many minds 1859 Sala,  
*Twice Round Clock*, 3 p m, The proverb  
reads aright—as many men, so many  
minds

So many servants, so many foes  
1539 Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo 34, Loke  
how many bondmen we haue and so  
many enemyes we haue 1586 Pettie, tr  
Guazzo's *Civil Convers* fo 169, Accord-  
ing to the saying, We haue so manie  
enimies as we haue seruants 1666  
Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 257 1669  
Dudley North, *Obs and Adv Econom*  
40 ["enemies" for "foes"]

Some are very busy and yet do nothing  
1732 Fuller, No 4211

Some are wise and some are other-  
wise 1659 Howell, i 1738 Swift  
*Polite Conters*, Dial I 1746 Smol-  
lett *Rod Random*, ch vi

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 frogges 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 gapp 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.L.*, III. last line.

Somerset. See quot. 1622: Drayton, *Polyol.*, xxiii, Then Somerset says, Set the bandog on the bull.

Somerton ending, A. Somerset. 1678: Ray, 347. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Somerset."

Some save-alls do well in a house. 1678: Ray, 198, Some savers in a house do well. 1732: Fuller, No. 4217.

Something hath some savour. c. 1580: Fulwell, *Ars Adulandi*, sig. C2, Somewhat hath some saour. 1585: Sir E. Dyer, in *Writings*, 87 (Grosart) [as in 1580]. 1611: Davies (of Hereford), *Sc. of Folly*, 43, in *Works*, ii. (Grosart). 1656: *Musarum Deliciæ*, i. 31 (Hotten), Something, you know, will have some savour. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I., They say, something has some savour, but nothing has no flavour 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Savour."

Somewhat is better than nothing. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. x. c. 1594: Bacon, *Promus*, No. 953. 1620: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt. II. ch. 1, Something is better than nothing. 1659: Howell, 9.

So much is mine. See quotes. 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 32, So much is myne as I enioy, or els geue for Gods sake. 1629: *Book of Meery 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: Jonson, *New Inn*, I. i, Yet all, sir, are not sons of the white hen. 1764: *Poor Robin Alman.*, 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 him a 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, on 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 carcases on" c. 1460: *Good Wyfe wold a Pylgr.*, The tre crokothe son that good cambrel wyll 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 camoke wilbe  
1670 Ray, 75 1676 W Lawson,  
*New Orchard and Garden* 37, The com-  
mon homely proverb Soon crooks the  
tree That good camrel must be 1732  
Fuller, No 6118

Soon enough See Well (19)

Sooner named sooner come c 1550  
*Jacke Jugeler*, in Hazlitt *Old Plays*, II  
116, If I had sooner spoken, he would  
have sooner been here 1581 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 spared than got 1541 Cover-  
dale, *Christ State Matrim*, sig I3, A  
thinge is soner spared then gotten

Soon espied where the thorn pricketh,  
It is Before 1529 Skelton, in *Works*  
1 418 (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  
*Gesta Rom*, 364 (EETS)], The sone  
saide, "also sone deyeth the yong as  
the olde ] c 1520 *Calisto and*  
*Melibæa*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, I 78, As  
soon goeth to market the lamb, As the  
sheep's 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*,  
Pt II ch iv, As soone goth the yonge  
lamskyn to the market As tholde  
jewes 1599 Porter, *Two Angry*  
*Women*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, vii 302,  
Take heed, as soon goes the young  
sheep to the pot as the old 1631  
Mabbe, *Celestina*, 86 (TT), As soone  
(lady) dies 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 tup's

Soon gotten, soon spent 1546 Hey-  
wood *Proverbs*, Pt II ch vi 1605  
Camden, *Remains*, 331 (1870) 1732  
Fuller, No 4227 1849 Bronte,  
*Shirley*, ch xxvii, 'Unless I heard the  
whole repeated, I cannot continue it,'  
she said "Yet it was quickly learned"  
"Soon gained, soon gone moralized

the tutor 1880 Spurgeon, *Ploughman's*  
*Pictures*, 9, This was a case of  
"soon gotten, soon spent"

Soon hot soon cold c 1450 Burgh  
(and Lydgate), *Secrees*, 60 (EETS)  
1485 Malory, *Morte d'Arthur*, bk xviii  
ch xxv 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt  
I ch ii, Than perceue they well, hotte  
loue soone colde 1587 Greene,  
*Works*, iv 146 (Grosart) 1617  
Wither, *Fidelia*, I 4, Loue that's soon'st  
hot, is euer soonest cold 1732 Fuller,  
No 4228

Soon learnt soon forgotten c 1374  
Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk ii I 1238, For  
why men seyth, "impressions lighte"  
Ful lightly been ay redy to the flighte"  
1869 Hazlitt, 342

Soon ripe soon rotten c 1393  
Langland, *Plowman*, C, xii 223, And  
that that rather typeth roteth most  
saunest 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*,  
Pt I ch v 1566 Harman, *Caveat*,  
cap xxii 1604 *Jacke of Dover*, 23  
(Percy S) 1683 White-Kennett, tr  
Erasmus' *Praise of Folly*, I4 (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 (EDS)

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 pro-  
verb, 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 pro-  
verb '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 bound See True (II)

Sore be healed, Though the, yet a  
scar may remain 1732 Fuller, No  
5013

Sore eyes I *The light is naught for*  
*sore eyes* 1580 Lyly, *Euphues*, 394

(Arber), He that hath sore eyes must not behold the candle. 1663: Killigrew, *Parson's Wedding*, II. v., *Capt.* . . . I see you are merry: I'll leave you. I must go a little way to inquire about a business. *Wild.* H' has got a sore eye, I think. 1670: Ray, 114.

2. *The sight of you is good for sore eyes.* 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I. 1893: Raymond, *Gent. Upcott*, ch. iv., It's good for sore eyes to see you here.

Sorrow and an evil life maketh soon an old wife. 1639: Clarke, 279. 1670: Ray, 144. 1732: Fuller, No. 6366.

Sorrow at parting if at meeting there be laughter. c. 1410: Towneley Plays, 292 (E.E.T.S.), Thus sorrow is at parting at metyng if ther be laghter.

Sorrow comes unsent for. 1579: Spenser, *Shep. Cal.*, May, 159, Sorrow, ne neede be hastened on: For he will come without calling anon. 1670: Ray, 144. 1732: Fuller, No. 4230. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. v., Sorrows are visitors that come without invitation.

Sorrow ends not when it seemeth done. 1855: Bohn, 489.

Sorrow for a husband is like a pain in the elbow, sharp and short. 1732: Fuller, No. 4241.

Sorrow is asleep, wake it not, When. 1659: Howell, 16. 1732: Fuller, No. 5569. c. 1850: Song quoted, *N. & Q.*, 8th ser., xi. 417, When sorrow sleepeth wake it not.

Sorrow is dry. c. 1540: Bale, *Kynge Johan*, l. 2459, For heaunesse is drye. c. 1598: Deloney, *Gentle Craft*, Pt. II. ch. iii., Sorrow they say is dry, and I find it to be true. 1623: Webster, *Devil's Law-Case*, V. iv., 'Tis sorrow that is very dry. 1667: Dryden and Davenant, *Tempest*, II. i. 1714: Gay, *Shep. Week*, Friday, l. 152, Excessive sorrow is exceeding dry. 1768: Goldsmith, *Vicar*, ch. xvii., Deborah, my life, grief, you know, is dry. 1826: Scott, *Woodstock*, ch. vii. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 26, Sorrow will have ale.

Sorrow is good for nothing but sin. 1659: Howell, 4. 1732: Fuller, No. 4232.

Sorrow makes silence her best orator. 1600: Bodenham, *Belvedere*, 171 (Spens. S.).

Sorrow rode in my cart. 1830: Forby, *Vocab. E. Anglia*, 429.

Sorrow to one's sops, To have. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. viii., I had sorow to my sops ynough, 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 proverb 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, *Four 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 Sowlegrove; and have this proverbe of it: viz. Sowlegrove sil [seldom] lew. February is seldome warme. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 28 (Percy S.), "Soulgrove sil lew," 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, *Devils Charter*, sig. Kr. 1687: Sedley, *Bellamira*, III., I am as sound as a bell, fat, plump and juicy. 1720: Gay, *Poems*,

u 278 (Underhill), Hearts sound as any bell 1862 *Dialect of Leeds*, 406 1886 Elworthy *West Som Word-Book*, 695 (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 Worcs Words*, 1 (E D S), "As sound as an ackern" is a local proverb 1884-6 Holland, *Cheshire Gloss* (E D S) As sound as a atchern 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 20, As sound as an atchern

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 m 1697 Vanbrugh, *Prov Wife* V 1703 Centlivre, *Love's Contrivance*, I n c 1760 Foote, *Mayor of Garratt*, I 1, Tar-water and turpentine will make you as sound as a roach 1881 Evans, *Leics Words*, 250 (E D S) Sound as a roach, a common simile

Sound as a trout Before 1300 *Cursor Mundi*, l 11884, Bi pat pou com perof oute pou shal be hool as any troute Before 1529 Skelton, *Magnificence*, l 1643, I am forthwith as hole as a troute 1588 Cogan, *Haven of Health* 142 (1612) 1599 Buttes, *Dyets Dry Dinner*, sig Mi 1678 Ray, 289 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, n 219, 'As sound as a troot,' 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 1894 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 sowre apple-tree, i e 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 sowre as verjuice 1709 E Ward, *Works*, iv, Verse, 12, And live on small drink that's as sower as varges 1854 Baker, *Northants Gloss*, s v "Vargis," Verjuice, "As sour as vargis" 1886 Elworthy, *West Som Word-Book*, 798 (E D S), Can't drink this yer stuff, 'tis zo zour's varjus 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 20, As sour as vargis (or warjus)

Sour as vinegar See Sharp

Sour as wer [crab-apples] 1633 Draxe, 194, As soure 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 Gunningham

South wind See Wind

Southwold See Walberswick.

Sow (female swine) subs 1 A barren sow was never good to pigs 1855 Bohn, 281

2 A fat sow causeth her own bane 1659 Howell, 7 Cf 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, 287 1732 Fuller, No 717 ["an old sow" for "a sow"]

5 A sow doth sooner than a cow bring an ox to the plough Glos 1639 in *Berkeley MSS*, m 31 (1885)

6 A sow to a fiddle 1639 Clarke, 5 1670 Ray, 193 1672 Walker, *Parcem*, 53

7 As the sow fills the draff sours 1639 Clarke, 113 1685 Menton, *Yorkshire Ale*, 38, For as the sew [sow] doth fill the draffie doth soure

8 Every sow to her own trough 1678 Ray, 204 1712 Motteux, *Quivrol*, Pt II ch vix

9 It works like soap in a sow's tail—and like expressions 1592 Lyly,

*Mother Bombie*, IV. i., This cottons and workes like wax in a sowes eare. 1659: Howell, 14. 1670: Ray, 193. *Ibid.*, 216, It melts like butter in a sows tail.

10. *Little knoweth the fat sow what the lean doth mean.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. x. c. 1560: Becon, in *Catechism*, etc., 583 (P.S.), Little wot the full sow, that is in the sty, What the hungry sow aileth, that goeth by. 1670: Ray, 89. 1732: Fuller, No. 3257. 1852: FitzGerald, *Polonius*, xvii. (1903), As when we say "The fat sow knows not what the lean one thinks."

11. *Right, Roger, your sow is good mutton.* 1670: Ray, 191. 1732: Fuller, No. 4054. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., vi. 495, Right, Roger, right; your sow is very good mutton but better pork.

12. *Sow and saddle.* See quotes. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. i., As meete as a sow to beare a saddle. 1660: A. Brome, *Poems*: "New Ballad," But the title of knight, on the back of a knave, Is like a saddle upon a sow. 1671: A. Behn, *Amorous Prince*, IV. ii., These clothes become Thee, as a saddle does a sow. 1732: Fuller, No. 1972, He looks like a sow saddled. 1762: Smollett, *Sir L. Greaves*, ch. viii., Lord help his fool's head! it becomes him as a sow doth a cart-saddle. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 80, It becomes him as well as a sow does a cart-saddle.

13. *To come sailing in a sow's ear.* 1670: Ray, 192. 1732: Fuller, No. 5146.

14. *To grease the fat sow.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi., What should we (quoth I), grease the fat sow in thars. 1580: Baret, *Alvearie*, S 411, It is as well bestowed vpon him, as to grease a fatte sowe in the arse. 1639: Clarke, 10, To grease a fat sow i' th' taile. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 243, The more one is rich, the more one may be, usually one greaseth a fat sow in the nose. 1925: *Times*, 8 Dec., p. 8, col. 3, Mr. Lansbury said that this was only another instance of "greasing the fat sow." Not a single

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.* 1887: 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*, l. 84 (Gollancz), Swa eal manna bearn Sorgum sawað swa eft ripað Cennað to cwealme (All the children of men as they sow in sorrow, so afterwards they reap, they bring forth for death). c. 1250: *Owl and Nightingale*, 1037, That man schal erien an sowe Thar he weneth after sum god mowe. c. 1270: in *Old Eng. Miscell.*, 59 (Morris, E.E.T.S.), Hwenne alle men repen schule, that heo ear seowe. c. 1420: Lydgate, *Assem. of Gods*, 37 (E.E.T.S.), But suche as ye haue sowe Must ye nedes reepe. c. 1560: T. Ingelend, *Disob. Child*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, ii. 295, But my son . . . Shall reap in such wise as he did sow. 1609: Dekker, *Works*, iv. 219 (Grosart), I haue made the olde saying true, who sowes shall reape. 1664: Butler, *Hudibras*, Pt. II. can. ii. l. 504, As you sow, y'are like to reap. 1766: Garrick and Colman, *Clandest. Marriage*, l. 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. Prudentum*.

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 soueth virtue, shall reap fame* 1629 *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov 48

6 *He that sows iniquity shall reap sorrow* 1732 Fuller, No 2306

7 *He that sows in the highway tires his oxen, and loseth his corn* 1633 Draxe, 222 [“wearieth” for “tires,” and “labour” for “corn”] 1732 Fuller, No 2305

8 *He that sows thistles shall reap prickles* 1611 Cotgrave, s v “Char-don,” reaps thornes 1732 Fuller, No 2307

9 *He that sows trusts in God* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1670 Ray, 24, Who sows his corn in the field trusts in God

10 *One sows another reaps* 1709 Dykes, *Eng Proverbs*, Pref II (2nd ed)

11 *Sow dry and set wet* [1580 Tusser, *Husb*, 101 (E D S), Time faire, to sowe or to gather be bold, but set or remooue when the weather is cold] 1678 Ray, 49, This rule in gardening, never forget To sow dry, and to set wet 1846 Denham, *Proverbs*, II (Percy S) [“plant” for “set”] 1904 *Co Folk-Lore Northumb*, 173 (F L S) [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 Glyde, 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 xviii, Indiscriminate profusion is sowing the wind to reap the whirlwind 1895 Purcell, *Life of Manning*, II 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 28831, It was said, “Qua littul saus, pe lesse he mais” 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 *Maroccus Extaticus*, 8 (Percy S), In space grows grace 1670 Ray, 144 1732 Fuller, No 6167

Spade a spade, To call a [τὰ σῖκα σῖκα, τὴν σκάφην δὲ σκαφὴν βρομᾶω — Lucian *Hist Conscr*, 41] 1539 Taverner, *Garden of Wysdome*, sig C4, Whiche can call a spade a spade 1600 Kemp, *Nine Dares Wonder*, in Arber, *Garner*, vii 34 (1883), That he may being a plain man, call a spade a spade 1632 Jonson, *Magn Lady*, I *ad fin*, Faith we do call a spade a spade, in Cornwall 1668 Shadwell, *Sullen Lovers*, IV 1 1725 Bailey, tr Erasmus’ *Colloq*, 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 (8)

Spaniels that fawn when beaten, will never forsake their masters 1732 Fuller, No 4236

Span new See Spick and span

Spare at brim See Better spare

Spare not to spend, but spare to go thither 1659 Howell, II

Spare the rod and spoil the child [οὐκ ἀπαρτὶς ἀνθρώποις οὐ παίδευεται. — Me nander] c 1000 Ælfric, *Hom*, II 324 (O), Se ðe spareð his 3yrde, he hatað his cild 1377 Langland, *Plowman*, B, v 41, Who-so spareth the sprynge spulleth his children 1422 J Yonge, tr *Gouern of Prynces*, 161 (E E T S), Salamon sayth, Qui parat virge odit filium, “who sparthe the yarde he hatyth the chylde” 1577 *Misogonus*, II III, He that spareth the rode, hates the childe 1692 L’Estrange, *Æsop*, 264 (3rd ed) [as in

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 spoilt child.

Spare to speak and spare to speed. c. 1390: Gower, *Conf. Amantis*, bk. i. l. 1293, For specheles may noman spede. c. 1426: Audelay, *Poems*, 28 (Percy S.), Whosoever sparys fore to speke sparys for to spede. Before 1529: Skelton, *Bowge of Courte*, l. 91, Who spareth to speke, in fayth he spareth to spede. c. 1597: Deloney, *Gentle Craft*, ch. xv. 1609: W. Rowley, *Search for Money*, 24 (Percy S.). 1700: Congreve, *Way of World*, IV. iv. 1730: Lillo, *Silvia*, I ix. 1781: Macklin, *Man of the World*, V.

Spare well and spend well. 1541: Coverdale, *Christ. State Matrim.*, sig. I3, To spare that thou mayest haue to spend. c. 1600: in E.E.T.S., Ext. Ser., No. 8, p. 71, Spare in tyme, and spend in tyme. 1869: Hazlitt, 343.

Spare when you are young and spend when you are old. 1541: Coverdale, *Christ. State Matrim.*, sig. I3, Spare for thyne age. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Souper," Hee that spares when he's young may the better spend when he's old. 1869: Hazlitt, 343.

Spare. See also Spend.

Sparing is a rich purse. 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).

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 deuoureth al. c. 1470: G. Ashby, *Poems*, 61 (E.E.T.S.), For of a litle sparkle a grete fyre comyth. 1509: Barclay, *Ship of Fools*, i. 194 (1874), A small sparcle often tyme doth augment It selfe, and groweth to flames peryllous. 1607: Dekker, etc., *Northw. Hoe*, II., 'Tis a small sparke giues fire to a beautifull womans discredit. 1655: Fuller, *Church Hist.*, bk. iii. § ii. (60), What a

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. 280, A spark may raise an awful blaze *Derbysh.*

Sparrow-hawk of a buzzard, You can't make a. c. 1400: *Rom. Rose*, l. 4033, This haue I herd ofte in seying, That man [ne] may, for no daunting, Make a sperhauke of a bosarde.

Sparrow in hand is worth a pheasant that flieth by, A. 1612: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt. I. bk. iv. ch. iv., For "a sparrow in the fist is worth more than a flying bittour." 1732: Fuller, No. 420.

Sparrows fight for corn which is none of their own. *Ibid.*, No. 4242.

Sparrows. See also Pert; Robin; and Two sparrows.

Speak, verb. 1. *He cannot speak well that cannot hold his tongue.* 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 279, He can hardly speak, who cannot hold his peace. 1732: Fuller, No. 1820.

2. *He never speaks but his mouth opens.* 1639: Clarke, 133. 1670: Ray, 193, You never speak, etc. 1690: *New Dict. Canting Crew*, sig. H5.

3. *He speaks as if every word would lift a dish.* 1732: Fuller, No. 2024.

4. *He speaks one word nonsense, and two that have nothing in them.* *Ibid.*, No. 2025.

5. *He that speaks ill of his wife, dishonoureth himself.* *Ibid.*, No. 2309.

6. *He that speaks lavishly shall hear as knavishly.* 1670: Ray, 144. 1732: Fuller, No. 6367.

7. *He that speaks me fair and loves me not, I'll speak him fair and trust him not.* 1633: Draxe, 67. 1670: Ray, 24.

8. *He that speaks, sows, he that hears, reaps.* 1670: Ray, 24, He that speaks doth sow, he that holds his peace doth reap. 1694: D'Urfey, *Quixote*, Pt. I. Act IV. sc. i. [as in 1670, but with "may" for the second "doth"]. 1732: Fuller, No. 2310.

9. *He that speaks well fights well.* c. 1250: *Owl and Nightingale*, l. 1070, Wel fight that wel speath—seide Alvred.

10. *He that speaks without care, shall*

remember with sorrow 1732 Fuller, No 2311

11 Some that speak no ill of any, do no good to any Ibid, No 4219

12 Speak fair and think what you will 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 331 (1870) 1670 Ray, 144 1754 Berthelson, *Eng-Dan Dict*, s v "Speak"

13 Speak filly or be silent wisely 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Taure," Better no words than words unfitly placed 1639 Clarke II, Speak to th' purpose or hold your peace 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

14 Speak no ill of another, until thou thinkest of thy self 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 92

15 Speak of a man as you find him 1875 Cheales, *Proverb Folk-Lore*, 120

16 Speak well of the dead 1670 Ray, 78 1740 North, *Lives of Norths*, 1 149 (Bohn), It is fit to be silent, because we should not speak ill of the dead

17 Speak well of your friend, of your enemy say nothing 1875 Cheales, *Proverb Folk-Lore*, 88

18 Speak what you will, an ill man will turn it ill 1732 Fuller, No 6116

19 Speak when you are spoken to 1639 Clarke, 20 1732 Fuller, No 4244 [with the addition—"come when you are called"]

20 To speak as though he would creep into one's mouth 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch ix, Ye speake now as ye would creepe into my mouth 1670 Ray, 170 1754 Berthelson, *Eng-Danish Dict*, s v "Creep," He is ready to creep into his mouth Cf Creep up one's sleeve

21 To speak ill of others is the fifth clement 1578 Florio, *First Frutes*, fo 29 1654 Whitlock, *Zootomia*, 445

22 To speak like a mouse in a cheese [1631 Brathwait *Whimzies*, 70 (1859), He speakes like a frog in a well, or a cricket in a wall] 1659 Howell, 4, He speaks like a mouse in a cheese 1670 Ray, 186 1681 Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 1157, You speak, etc 1732 Fuller, No 5233

23 To speak like an oracle c 1676 South, *Serm*, 341 (1715) (O), He only

now-a-days speaks like an oracle, who speaks tricks and ambiguities 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial II, Colonel, you spoke like an oracle

24 Who so speaketh unwisely See quot 1493 *Dives et Pauper*, fo 75 (1536), It is a common prouerbe, that who so speakethe vnwisely and vaguely, or in an euylle maner, he spekeeth to moche

25 Who speaks not, errs not 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Parler" ["He that" for "Who"] 1623 Wodroephe, *Spared Houres* 507 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Eng-Fr* II

26 You speak in clusters, you were begot in nothing 1678 Ray, 346 1732 Fuller, No 6009

Spectacles are death's arquebuse 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Speech is silvern, silence golden Ibid, More have repented speech than silence 1924 *Punch*, 2 April, p 363 col 1, Recollect that maxim old, "Speech is silver, silence gold" Cf Silence

Speech is the index of the mind 1630 Brathwait, *Eng Gent*, etc 51 (1641) Ibid, 46, Democritus calls speech εἰσβολὴ τοῦ βίου, the image of life 1670 Ray, 24, Speech is the picture of the mind 1870 T W Robertson, *Nightingale*, I, Talk! Ha! Speech is the index and mirror of the soul

Speed is in the spurs, All the 1732 Fuller, No 556

Speed the plough! originally, God speed the plough! 1472 *Paston Letters*, iii 50 (Gardner), God sped the plowghe c 1500 *God Spede the Plough* [title] 1542 Boorde, *Introd*, ch xvii p 166 (EETS), Yf we do not wel, God spede the plow! 1604 Bodley, *Letter*, quoted *Bodl Quarterly Record*, iii 48, God speede your plough, I am glad your presse is a-foote and yow so foreward before 1661 in *Harl Miscell*, ii 503 (1744), God speed the plough, plague rooks and crows, And send us years more cheap 1669 Dryden, *Wild Gallant*, III 1, Speed the plough! If I can make no sport, I'll hinder none 1747 Garrick, *Miss in her Teens*, I 1, Well, speed the plough!



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. 1. *He that spendeth much* See quot. 15th cent.: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i 316 (1841), He that spendes myche and getythe nowghte, And owyth myche and hathe nowghte, And lokys in hys purse and fynde nowghte, He may be sory, thowe 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. Prudentum*.

3. *Know when to spend and when to spare, And you need not be busy; you'll ne'er 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 pouertee. 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*, l. 151 (E.E.T.S.), He that spendyth more then he gettythe, a beggaris lyfe he schall lede. 1647: *Countrim. New Commonwealth*, 35. 1732: Fuller, No. 5720. 1875: Smiles, *Thrifty*, 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, subs. 1. *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. Prudentum*, He that hath the spice may season as he list. 1670: Ray, 25. 1732: Fuller, No. 4740 ["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 hum clothes, al spannewe. c. 1374: Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk. iii. l. 1665, His tale ay was span-newe to, biginne Til that the night departed hem a-twinne. 1590: Nashe, *Almond for a Parrot*, 27 (1846), Hee offered her a spicke and spanne new Geneua 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. lviii., 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,

*Water Babies*, ch 1, Some spick and span new Gothic or Elizabethan thing 1886 Elworthy, *West Som Word-Book*, 696 (E D S), Hav'ee zeed our millerd's span new cart?

Spick nor crick, There's no S Devon = There is no flaw 1869 Hazlitt, 396

Spider, subs 1 *But for the robin and the wren A spider would overcome a man* c 1870 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, iii 262 1879 Henderson, *Folk-Lore of N Counties*, 312, He who would wish to thrive, Must let spiders run alive 1913 E. M. Wright, *Rustic Speech etc*, 219

3 *When spiders' web in air do fly, The spell will soon be very dry* 1893 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 Spiggot See Save (4)

Spin, verb 1 *A man cannot spin and reel at the same time* 1678 Ray, 205 1732 Fuller, No 2591, 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, *Parly 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* 1 1763 p 64 (E E T S), *Alasse!* this likerous dampnable error, In this londe hath so large a threde I-sponne, That wers peple is non vndir the sonne] 1562 Heywood, *Three Hund Epigr* No 228 She hath spun a fair thread 1595 *Lochrine* II iii (Malone S), O wife I have spunne

a faire thredde c 1625 B & F, *Chances*, III iv, You have spun your self a fair thread now 1691 J. Wilson, *Belphegor*, 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 Crackenthorp's, and then you are within a spit and a stride of Scotland, as the saying is 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, ii 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 Aphroditis*, sig H1, Spitte on your handes and take good holde 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I, I warrant, miss will spit in her hand, and hold fast

3 *To spit in the church* See quotes 1591 Florio, *Second Frutes*, 13 Who sometimes make it a matter of conscience to spitt in the church, and at another time will beray 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 sleet* 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 haue longe desired now I haue it maugre þyn teeth c. 1489. Caxton, *Sonnes of Aymon*, 109 (E.E.T.S.), Reynawde toke Alarde oute of his enemyes handes, mawgre theyr teeth. c. 1500 : More, *Juvenile Verses*, in *Works* (1557), Maugry thy teeth to lyue cause hym shall I. c. 1534 : Berners, *Huon*, 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 behoued to obey, and in despite of my teeth to do that which the Romane Emperour commaundeth. 1618 : B. Holyday, *Technogamia*, V. vi., I will stand here in spite of your teeth. 1678 : Otway, *Friendship in Fashion*, V. i., She, like a true wife, may, spite of his teeth, deceive him quite. 1732 : B. Mandeville, *Honour and War*, 130, The more I have perceiv'd and felt the truth of it in spite of my teeth. 1768 : Walpole, *Lett. 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 and's combe.

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 Clovernook*, 130, Whose keen logic would split hairs as a bill-hook would split logs.

Spoil 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*, l. 848 (Malone S.), Ile set a spoake in your cart. 1682 : A. Behn, *Roundheads*, V. ii., She speaks as

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 mackarel. 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 pagin, 152, The old prouerb neuer failed yet, Who spreads nets for his friends, snares his own feet

Spring (the season), subs 1 *A late spring Is a great bless-ing* 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* 1813 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 1862 Chambers, *Book of Days*, 1 312 (1869), Still we can now plant our "foot upon nine daisies," and not until that can be done do the old-fashioned country people believe that spring is really come 1878 Dyer, *Eng Folk-Lore*, 27, "It ain't spring until you can plant your foot upon twelve daisies," is a proverb still very prevalent 1881 *Glos N & Q*, 1 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 L S)

See also Blossom, Easter (9), January (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 lists well to eat let him come to Sprotborough 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 lxxv, 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 Convers*, Dial II 1854 Baker, *Northants Gloss*, s v "Spur," "A spur" A common invitation to a person on horseback to take a partung 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 1 See quot 1830 Forby, *Vocab E Anglia*, 420, From the general discouragement shewn to this sport [squirrel-hunting on Christmas Day] probably comes the common saying, 'Hunt squirrels, and make no noise'

2 *Within a squirrel's jump* *Glos* 1911 *Folk-Lore*, xxii 239

Stable door when the steed is stolen, To shut the [Ne post tempus praedae praesidium parem — Plautus, *Asin*, 294] c 1390 Gower, *Conf Amantis*, bk iv l 901, For whan the grete stiede Is stole, thanne he taketh hiede, And makth the stable dore fast 1484 Caxton, *Aesope*, ii 245 (Jacobs), It was not tyme to shette the stable whan the horses ben loste and gone 1509 Barclay, *Shyp of Fools*, i 76 (1874), Whan the stede is stolyn to shyte the stable dore Comys small pleasoure profyte or vauntage 1579 Lyly, *Euphues*, 37 (Arber), It is too late to shutte the stable doore when the steede is stolne 1628 J Clavell, *Recantation* 38 This like shutting vp the stable doore When as the horse was stolne out before 1705 Ward, *Hudibras Rediv*, Pt 1, can 1 p 10, And that's but almost like my host, Who stable shuts when steed is lost, 1725 Bailey.

tr. Erasmus' *Collog.*, 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.*, 184 (O.), His new lady holdeth him vp so narowe Vp by the bridil at the staves ende. 1565: Shacklock, *Hatchet of Heresies*, fo. 23, They so helde one an other at the staffes end. 1596: Lodge, *Wits Miserie*, 83 (Hunt. Cl.), The most chollericke and troublesome woman living vpon the earth, shee was alwaies at the staffes 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 condescension 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 worthie be cled In stafford blew [=blue from bruises from beating]; ffor thou art alway adred.] 1589: *Hay any Worke*, 10 (1845), That I threatned him 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 pagin., 156, If it were lawfull for me to examine thee at Staffords Law, I would make thee confesse the receipt 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 staulking-horse. 1714: E. Ward, *Cavalcade*, 3, And Faith . . . Was made a stalking-horse to gold. 1740: North, *Examen*, 151, 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.

Stamford, As mad as the baiting bull of. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, ii. 268 (1840). 1732: Fuller, No. 714 [with "baited" for "baiting"]. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Lincs." 1826: Brady, *Varieties of Lit.*, 15.

Stamps like an ewe upon yeanning, She. Somerset. 1678: Ray, 344.

Stand, verb. 1. *He stands not surely that never slips.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Mescheoir." 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. Cf. No. 2.

2. *He that stands sure.* See quot. 1412-20: Lydgate, *Troy Book*, bk. ii. l. 1849, The prouerbe that techeth commonly, "He that stant sure, enhast hym not to meve." Cf. No. 1.

3. *He won't stand keep.* "Said of a person spoilt by prosperity." 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 72.

4. *Stand on one side, John Ball, and let my wife see the bar [bear].* 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 590. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 44.

5. *To stand buff* = To stand firm. 1693: D'Urfey, *Richmond Heiress*, I., I have only hedg'd him into this business to stand buff with his purse upon occasion. 1708: Cibber, *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.

6. *To stand in one's own light.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. iv., How blindly ye stand in your owne light,

1635 in *Somers Tracts*, vii 188 (1811). If he either stand in his owne light through wilfulnesse 1738 Swift,

*Polite Convers*, Dial I, Mr Neverout, methinks you stand in your own light 1848 Dickens, *Dombey*, 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 stateli 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 Generalis*, 1031, He is grown very proud, he stands on his pantofles 1755 Walpole, *Letters*, iii 156 (1846) (O), I could not possibly to-day step out of my high historical pantoufles 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 ii 169, There is an old proverb common in Somersetshire, "Stanton Drew, a mile from Ponsford, another from Chue" 1849 Hallwell, *Pop Rhymes and Nursery Tales* 198 [as in 1776]

Stare, verb 1 See quot 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 143 To stare like a choked throstle To stare like a throttled earwig or cat

2 To stare like a stuck pig 1694 Motteux, *Rabelais*, bk v ch ix p 41 (O), Panurge star'd at him like a dead pig 1720 Gay, *Poems* ii 278 (Underhill), Like a stuck pig I gaping stare 1789 G Parker *Life's Painter*, 124, Who gape and stare, just like stuck pigs at each other 1895 Jos Thomas, *Randigal Rhymes* 61

Staring See Raven.

Stars are not seen by sunshine 1623 Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 503, The starres do not shine at mid-day 1732 Fuller, No 4258 1846 Denham, *Proverbs*, 5 (Percy S)

Stars begin to huddle, When the, The earth will soon become a puddle 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 65

Starve 'em See quot 1785 Grose, *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 cookes 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 compasse any thing 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* c 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 (1893), His horse taught him that "discreet stays make speedy journeys" 1651 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 2nd ed 1732 Fuller, No 4263, Stop a little, to make an end the sooner 1823 D'Israeli, *Cur of Lit*, 2nd ser, i 431 (1824), Sir Amias Pawlet, when he perceived too much hurry in any business, was accustomed to say, "Stay awhile, to make an end the sooner" 1859 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

Steal, verb. 1. *As good steal a horse as stand by and look on.* 1659: Howell, 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, 148. 1670: Ray, 1591. 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 steale a hors better Than some other may stande 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 stale a horse. 1921: A. Bennett, *Things that have Interested Me*, 315.

6. *To steal a goose and give the giblets in alms.* 1659: Howell, 1. 1721: Bailey, *Eng. Dict.*, s.v. "Steal," He steals a goose, and gives, etc. Cf. No. 9.

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, *Nugæ Antiquæ*, ii. 200 (1804). 1714: Walker, *Sufferings of Clergy*, Pt. II. 331, 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).

9. *To steal the hog and give the feet for alms.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 25. 1732: Fuller,

No. 2028, He steals a hog, etc. Cf. No. 6.

Steed. See Stable door.

Steel to the back. c. 1591: Shakespeare, *Titus Andr.*, IV. iii., We are . . . steele to the very backe. 1633: Draxe, 87. 1678: Ray, 346. Cf. Mettle.

Step after step the ladder is ascended. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Pas," Step after step goes farre. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 25. 1732: Fuller, No. 4260.

Stern chase is a long chase, A. 1836: Marryat, *Easy*, ch. xxix., This will be a long chase; a stern chase always is 1919: J. A. Bridges, *Victorian Recollections*, 140, English poetry has had a start of some centuries, and a stern chase is proverbially a long one.

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 beate a dog 1616: Breton, *Works*, ii. e 6 (Grosart) ["soone" for "quickly"]. 1664: 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! 1721: 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. 2595.

3. *Sticks and stones.* See quotes. 1897: *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*, 18 (Spens. S.), Together they cleave more fast then do

burres 1533 Heywood, *Play of Love*, l 601, I thought her owne tale lyke a bur Stack to her owne back 1570 Googe tr *Popish Kingd*, 20 (1880), But fast as burres to wooll they sticke 1654 Flecknoe, *Loves Dominion*, IV u, Still does this burr stick on me 1720 Gay, *Poems*, II 280 (Underhill), Let us like burs together stick 1821 Scott, *Pirate*, ch vii, He got rid of his travelling companions, who at first stuck as fast as burs 1854 Baker, *Northants Gloss*, s v "Burr," Hence the old adage, "Sticks like a burr to a beggar's rags" 1925 *Times 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, *Craven Dialect*, II 52, "As stiff as a poker," a proverbial simile generally applied to a haughty cockcomb "He's as stiff as an ad swallowed a poker"

Stiff as a stake c 1566 *Albion Knight*, in Malone S's *Collns*, I 236, As styffe as a stake Battayle to make 1697 T Dilke, *City Lady*, III m, 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 E M Wright, *Rustic Speech*, etc., 199, Once upon a time there was a miner called Barker, who was 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 ix 1566 Gascoigne, *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, *Quivrole*, Pt I bk III ch iv [as in 1670] See also Style

Still as a stone c 1300 *Havelok*, l 928 (E E T S), Hauelok sette him dun anon, Also stille als a ston c 1400 *Beryn*, l 653 (E E T S), But lay as styll as ony stone c 1490 *Partonope*, l 1282 (E E T S), But lyethe as styll as any stone c 1530 *Thos of Erceuldoune*, l 233 (Lansdowne, E E T S), Thomas stode styll as stone 1768 Brooke, *Fool of Quality*, III 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)

Still sow eats up all the draff, The 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch x c 1580 Tom Tyler, l 521, p 15 (Malone S) 1633 Jonson, *Tale of a Tub*, III v 1641 Cowley, *Guardian*, III viii 1673 Wycherley, *Gent Danc-Master*, I u, The silent sow (madam) does eat most grains 1714 Ozell, *Moliere*, IV 122 ["drinks" for "eats"] 1865 N & Q, 3rd ser, viii 7, We have another pithy proverb [in N Lancs], which expresses a good deal in little compass — "Th' quiet sow eats a' th' draff" 1920 J H Bloom, in N & Q, 12th ser, vii 507, A few Warwickshire Folk Sayings — A sly sow eats all the wash

Still waters run deep [Altissima quaeque flumina minimo sono labuntur — Q Curtius, *De Rebus Gestis Alex Magni*, vii 10] c 1400 *Calo's Morals*, in *Cursor Mundi* (E E T S), l 1672, Ther the flode is deppst the water standis stillist c 1430 Lydgate, *Minor Poems*, 186 (Percy S), Smothe waters ben ofte sithes depe 1584 Lyly, *Sapho and Phao*, II iv, Water runneth smoothest, where it is deepest 1618 Field, *Amends for Ladies*, III u, Deep'st waters stillest go 1648 Herrick, *Hesperides*, No 38, Deep waters noiseless are 1748 Richardson,



*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. Prudentum*.

Still waters turn no mills. 1907: F. K. Aglionby, *Life of Bp. E. H. Bickersteth*, 5.

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 *Guzman*, i. 278, He won't cry stinking fish, and tell you he has none that's good. 1801: Wolcott, *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.

Stir with a knife, Stir up strife. 1910: *Devonsh. Assoc. Trans.*, xlii. 90. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 77.

Stitch in time saves nine, A. [Principiis 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. 1895: Jos. Thomas, *Randigal Rhymes*, 61, Screech like a whitneck [stoat].

Stocking off a bare leg, It's hard to get a. Spoken of a bankrupt. 1886: R. Holland, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 451 (E.D.S.). 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 84.

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 Stockport. 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. Prudentum*.

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.

4. Who remove stones bruise their fingers 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 25. 1732: Fuller, No. 5715 [with "land-mark" before "stones"].

See also Still as a stone.

Stool in the sun. See quotes. 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 stool in the sun, if a knave goes an honest 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 meal* 1855 Bohn, 401

2 *Stop stich* See quot 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, II 169, "Stop stich while I put t'needle in," a proverbial expression when one wishes not to be in a hurry about anything

3 *To stop two gaps with one bush* 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch ix c 1594 Bacon, *Promus*, No 678 1639 Fuller, *Holy War*, bk v ch xxii, These Italians stopped two gaps with one bush 1681 Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 1174 1732 Fuller, No 5234

4 *To stop two mouths with one morsel* 1639 Clarke, 45 1670 Ray, 197 1681 Robertson, *Phraseol 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, Stopport law, etc Cf Lancashire law

Store is no sore 1471 Ripley, *Comp Alch XII* viii, in Ashm 186 (1652) (O), For wyse men done sey store 3s no sore 1553 *Respublica*, I 1, The worlde waxeth harde, and store (thei saie) is no sore 1632 Jonson *Magn Lady*, II 1646 Quarles, *Shep Oracles*, Egl II 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, xviii 409, "After sharpe shoures," quod Pees, "moste shene is the sonne" 1590 Greene, *Works*, viii 101 (Grosart), Euerie storme hath his calme 1618 Minshull, *Essayes*, etc, 18 (1821), After stormes calmes will arise 1630 Davenant, *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*, viii 57 (Grosart), Little thinking poore soules such a sharp storme shuld follow so quiet a calme 1597 H Lok, *Poems*, 208 (Grosart), And stormes insue the calme before that went 1633 Draxe, 23, After a calme commeth a storme 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 75

3 *The sharper the storm, the sooner it's over* Oxfordsh 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* [Eluctus excitare in simpulo—Cicero, *De Legibus*, III 16] 1678 Ormond, in *Hist MSS Comm*, Ormonde MSS, IV 292 (O), Our skirmish compared 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, *Polydoron* 44 carry the dirt out? 1732 Fuller, No 6284 [as in 1631]

Straight as a line 1412-20 Lydgate, *Troy Book*, bk II l 6739, The wey hem ladde To the paleis, streight as any lyne 1587 Churchyard, *Worth of Wales*, 17 (Spens S), Upnright as straight as line 1641 Evelyn, *Diary*, I 28 (Bray, 1883), The river, ten miles in length, straight as a line 1872 Hardy, *Greenwood Tree*, Pt II ch iii, 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]. 1882: *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 an arrow. 1592: Warner, *Alb. England*, ch. xxxi., st. 4, As peart as bird, as straite as boulte. 1682: A. Behn, *City Heiress*, II. i., A back as strait as an arrow. 1713: Ward, *Poet. Entertainer*, No. 5, p. 26, As strait as any arrow. 1817: Scott, *Rob Roy*, ch. xxv. 1841: Dickens, *Barn. Rudge*, ch. i. 1894: R. L. S., *St. Ives*, ch. xxix. 1924: A. Gissing, *Footpath-way in Glouc.*, 114.

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.

Strand on the Green, thirteen houses, fourteen cuckolds, and never a house between:—The father and son lay in one house. 1659: Howell, 21. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Middlesex." Cf. Crafthole.

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. lviii. [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. lvi., Such straws of speech show how blows the wind 1910: Lucas, *Ingleside*, ch. ii. 1922: Weyman, *Ovington's Bank*, ch. xiii.

3. *Who hath skirts of straw needs fear the fire.* 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 184, Who hath his tail of straw is afraid of fire. 1670: Ray, 25.

See also Candlemas, 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: Langeland, *Plowman*, B, xiv. 233, For whan he streyneth hym to streche the strawe 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.

Stretching and yawning leadeth to bed. 1659: Howell, 17. 1670: Ray, 216.

Stretton i' th' street [Rutland], where shrews meet. 1678: Ray, 333.

Strife. See Wife (10).

Strike, verb. 1. *He strikes with a straw.* 1813: Ray, 75.

2. *He that strikes with his tongue, must ward with his head.* 1640: Herbert, *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, *Troilus*, bk. ii. l. 1276, Pandare, which that stood hir faste by,

Felte iren hoot, and he bigan to smyte  
 1412-20 Lydgate, *Troy Book*, bk 11  
 1 6110, The iren hoot, tyme is for to  
 smyte c 1489 Caxton, *Sonnes of*  
*Aymon*, 136 (EETS), When the yron  
 is well hooted, hit werketh the better  
 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch 111,  
 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 11  
 c 1750 Foote, *Englishman 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, *Ovington's*  
*Bank*, ch xli

Strip it See quot 1678 Ray, 289,  
 Thou'lt strip it as Slack stript the cat,  
 when he pull'd her out of the churn

Strive against the stream, To [Diri-  
 gere brachia contra Torrentem —  
 Juvenal, iv 89] c 1270 *Prov of*  
*Alfred*, in Morris, *Old Eng Miscell*, 110  
 (EETS), Strong hit is to reowe a-  
 yeyn the see that floweth c 1311 in  
 Wright, *Pol Songs*, 254 (Camden S),  
 Whoso roweth agein the flod, Off sorwe  
 he shal drinke c 1390 Gower, *Conf*  
*Amantis*, bk iv 1 1780, Betre is to  
 wayte upon the tyde Than rowe ayein  
 the stremes stronge c 1480 *Digby*  
*Plays*, 156 (EETS), Ya, I wyll no  
 more row a-geyn the flode Before  
 1529 Skelton, in *Works*, 1 418 (Dyce),  
 He is not wyse ageyne the streme that  
 stryuth c 1590 Greene, *Alphonsus*,  
 I 1, 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 xiii 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 felling  
 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 Ibid, 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*, 11 277 (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"

Stubble in a fallow field, He seeks for  
 Glos 1639 in *Berkeley MSS*, 11 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 1 He that stumbles  
 and falls not, mends his pace 1611  
 Cotgrave, s v "Choper," He that  
 stumbles without falling, gets the more  
 forward 1640 Herbert, *Jac Pruden-*  
*tum* 1655 Fuller, *Church Hist*, bk viii  
 § 11 (32), He that stumbleth, 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 y<sup>e</sup> comen  
 prouerb is they stumble at a straw  
 and lepe ouer a blok 1585 Greene  
*Works*, v 90 (Grosart), Tush fond foole,  
 if thou stumble at a straw thou shalt  
 neuer leap ouer a blocke 1630 T  
 Adams, *Works*, 327, Doe they not  
 stumble at our straves, and leape ouer  
 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 oak. 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.* 1. *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 (19).

Subtle as a dead pig, As. 1672: Walker, *Paræm*, 16. 1681: Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 1185, He's as subtle as a dead pig; Non plus sapit, quam sus mætata

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 beginnyng, 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, such is the clerk. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 1, 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 carpenter, such chips. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. vii. 1568: Fulwell, *Like to Like*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, iii. 330. 1670: Ray, 115, Like carpenter like chips.

Such cup, such cover. 1532: More, *Confut. of Tyndale*, Pref., sig. Bb1, A very mete couer for such a cuppe. 1565: Shacklock, *Hatchet of Heresies*, sig. b6, As saythe the prouerb, 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, *Deuises*, 74 (1906), Such saintes, such seruice. 1651: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, 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: Wiclif, *Eng. Works*, 331 (E.E.T.S.), But who shuld preise this lawe therefore? sith yuel frute witenessith 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 auneynt 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. Commenius*, III. iii., Don't we know the tree By its fruit. 1732: Fuller, No. 4280 [as in 1611]. Cf. Tree (8).

Sudden not this out of my fingers' ends, I. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1670: Ray, 25. 1732: Fuller, No. 2625.

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. lii., 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. l. 1211, Sodeyn clymybyg 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.

1669 *Politeuphuia*, 103 Cf Sudden friendship

Suds, In the See Leave, verb (8)

Suffer See Patience (6)

Sufferance cometh ease, Of c 1386  
Chaucer, *Merch Tale*, l 871, Passe over  
is an ese, I sey na-more c 1390  
Gower, *Conf Amantis*, bk iii l 1672,  
For sufferance is the welle of Pes [Peace]  
1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch ix  
1598 Shakespeare, 2 *Hen IV* V iv  
1607 Marston *What You Will*, Prol,  
He give a proverbe,—Sufferance giveth  
ease 1678 Ray, 207 1736 Bailey,  
*Dict* s v

Sufferance See also Forbearance

Suffer and expect 1640 Herbert,  
*Jac Prudentum*

Sufferer overcomes See Patience (6)

Suffer the ill and look for the good  
1578 Florio, *First Fruits*, 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 wif vexed at her  
people for grumbling to eat Suffolk  
cheese 1662 *Fragm Aulica*, 60,  
He could be glad to have had a  
suffolke cheese and twelpeny loafe  
1691 Shadwell, *Scourers*, V 1, Who  
snores with fumes from Suffolk cheese  
and bacon 1706 Ward, *Works* iii  
114 Curse his thun beer, and rail at  
Suffolk cheese 1737 Pope, *Imit of*  
*Horace*, Sat vi bk ii, Cheese 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 grind-  
stones so hard that even rats and mice  
refuse it See also Hunger

Suffolk fair maids 1622 Drayton  
*Polyol*, xxiii, Fair Suffolk maids and  
milk 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, iii 161  
(1840) 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v  
"Suffolk."

Suffolk milk. 1622 Drayton, *Polyol*,  
xxiii *ut supra* 1790 Grose, s v  
"Suffolk."

Suffolk stiles = ditches 1662 Ful-  
ler, *Worthies*, iii 161 (1840) Cf Essex  
stiles

Suffolk whine, The 1790 Grose,  
*Prov Gloss*, s v "Suffolk"

Suit is best that best suits me, That  
1639 Clarke, 16 1670 Ray, 46  
[with "fits" for "suits"]

Suits hang half a year in West-  
munster 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*  
*Words 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 *Enemie of Idleness*, 217  
(1593), I thinke you dreame of a drie  
summer 1639 Clarke, 64 1670  
Ray, 172

See also One fair day, Swallow, and  
Winter, *passim*

Sun, subs 1 A morning sun See  
quotes 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 proverb 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 quot.].

2. *A red sun has water in his eye.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Span.-Eng.*, 22. 1893: Inwards, 48.

3. *He hath the sun on's face, and th' wind on's back.* 1639: Clarke, 42.

4. *If red the sun begins his race, Expect that rain will flow apace.* 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 11 (Percy S.). 1872: J. Glyde, jr., *Norfolk Garland*, 155.

5. *If the sun goes pale to bed, 'Twill rain to-morrow, it is said.* 1893: Inwards, 52.

6. *If the sun in red should set, The next day surely will be wet; If the sun should set in grey, The next will be a rainy day.* 1838: Mrs. Bray, *Trad. of Devon*, i. 6. 1865: Hunt, *Pop. Romances W. of Eng.*, 435 (1896). 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 51.

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.

9. *The sun is never the worse for shining on a dunghill.* 1303: Brunne, *Handlyng Synne*, l. 2299, The sunne hys feyrnes neuer he tynes thoghe hyt on the muk hepe shynes. c. 1386: Chaucer, *Parson's Tale*, 76, Holy writ may nat been defouled, na-more than the sunne that shyneth on the mixen. 1579: Lyly, *Euphues*, 43 (Arber), The sunne shineth vpon the dounghill, and is not corrupted. 1732: Fuller, No. 4776. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 5 (Percy S.).

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*, Prol. (1909), He that goeth in the sunne shall bee sunne burnt, although he thinke not of it. 1638: D. Tuwill, *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 tann'd.

12. *Though the sun shine leave not thy cloak at home.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1732: Fuller, No. 5014,

Tho' the sun shines take your cloak. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 1 (Percy S.) ["coat" for "cloak"].

13. *To set forth the sun with a candle.* 1551: Robinson, tr. More's *Utopia*, 27 (Arber), They neede not . . . of me to bee prayesd, vnlesse I woulde seeme to shew, and set-furth the brightnes of the sonne with a candell, as the prouerbe saieth. 1586: Whitney, *Emblems*, 107, Because it is in vaine, to set a candell in the sonne. c. 1594: Bacon, *Promus*, No. 688, To help the sunne with lantornes.

14. *When the sun is highest he casts the least shadow.* 1732: Fuller, No. 5607.

15. *When the sun sets bright and clear, An easterly wind you need not fear.* 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 20 (Percy S.). 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 51.

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).

*Sunday*. 1. *A wet Sunday, a wet week.* 1830: Forby, *Vocab. E. Anglia*, 416.

2. *If sunset on Sunday is cloudy, it will rain before Wednesday.* 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 43.

3. *Sunday clearing, 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 thieving, 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. *Romances* (5).

5. *Sunday shaven, Sunday shorn, Better had'st thou ne'er been born!* 1879:

Henderson, *Folk-Lore of N Counties*, 18 (F L S)

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* 1 67 (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 1 *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 gluttonous and disordinate youth, follows a needie and hungrie age 1732 Fuller, No 2030

2 *He sups who sleeps* 1860 Reade, *Ct and Hearth*, ch xxiv, It is ill sitting up wet and fasting, and the byword saith, "He sups who sleeps"

3 *Sup, Simon* See quotes 1607 *The Puritan*, III v, Sup, Simon, now I eat porridge for a month 1639 Clarke, 46, Sup Simon 'tis best i' th bottome [or] here's good broth 1670 Ray, 217, Sup Simon, the best is at the bottom 1738 Swift, *Polite Coners*, 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, vii 182, Hir servaunts sitte and soupe sorowe! 1738 Swift *Polite Coners*, Dial I,

I'll make you one day sup sorrow for this

5 *Who sups well sleeps well* 1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 44

Supernaculum, To drink = to the last drop See 1813 quot 1592 Nashe, *Works*, ii 78 (Grosart), He is no body that cannot drinke super naculum 1617 T Young, quoted in Brand *Pop Antiq*, ii 331 (Bohn), He is a man of no fashion that cannot drinke super-naculum 1675 *Mistaken Husband*, IV vi, Pledge the gentleman—super-naculum 1682 A Behn, *False Count*, IV 1, Your true bred woman of honour drinks all, *Supernaculum*, by Jove 1709 Ward, *Acc of Clubs*, 288 (1756), Here's your old health, To the best in Christendom, and off it went to a super-naculum drop 1813 Brand, *Pop Antiq*, 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 flincher 1823 Moor, *Suffolk Words*, 409, *Supernaculum* A word well known and occasionally heard in social circles in Suffolk something supercurious [This is a "supercurious" 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

Supperless *Better to go to bed supperless than to rise in debt* 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Span-Eng*, 6, 'Tis wholesomer 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, Liturgus brings him as sure as a club 1584 R Scot *Witchcraft* bk iv ch ix, Her prophesie fell out as sure as a club 1656 Flecknoe



*Diarium*, 45, Sure as a club 'twill happen t' ye.

Sure as a gun. 1622: B. & F., *Prophetess*, I. iii, You are right, master, Right as a gun. 1656: *Musarum Delicia*, 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 a juggler's box. 1650: R. Heath, *Epigrams*, 53, Whom Death hath made sure as his juglers box. 1670: Ray, 207.

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 Elizabeths time. 1732: Fuller, No 732 [as in 1662].

Sure as death. c. 1460: Wyse *Man taught hys Sone*, l. 93 (E.E.T.S.), For deth, my chyld, is, as y trow, The most ryght serteyn [thing] it is. 1484: Caxton, tr. Chartier's *Curial*, 19 (E.E.T.S.), Ne than the deth nothyng 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: Burgoyne, *Lord of Manor*, I. i. 1850: Dickens, *Copperfield*, ch. lii, 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*, 11 (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 as the devil is in London. 1752: Fielding, *Cov. Gard. Journal*, No. 33.

Sure bind. See Safe bind.

Surety. See Certainty.

Surety for another. See quotes. 1539: Taverner, *Proverbs*, 20, Be suretie for an other and harme is at hande. 1633: Draxe, 199, He that is surety for another must pay. 1651: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, 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 chirurgeon must, etc. c. 1671: in *Roxb. Ballads*, vii. 546 (B.S.), This maid with ingenuity had every surgeon's part, A ladie'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.

Surly as a cow's husband. 1886: R. Holland, *Cheshire Gloss.*, 446 (E.D.S.). 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 22.

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 for mutton See quotes The jingle varies with the county to which the "Sutton" belongs. The need for "mutton" to jingle with "Sutton" in all is obvious 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Surrey," Sutton for mutton Carshalton for beeves, Epsom for whores, and Ewel for thieves 1878 N & Q, 5th ser., ix 88 [another Surrey version, as in 1790, but with "jades" for Epsom] [A Kent version] Sutton for mutton, Kirby for beef, South Darne for gingerbread, Dartford for a thief Ibid., 175, [Warwick] Sutton for mutton, Tamworth for beeves, Brum-magem for blackguards Coleshill for thieves [Variants for the third line are, "Walsall for a pretty girl" and "Walsall for bandy legs", and for the fourth line, "Birmingham for a thief"] 1884 Walford, *Greater London*, ii 207. There is current in the district of West Kent and East Surrey a couplet which runs thus — "Sutton for mutton, Kirby for beef, Mitcham for lavender, and Dartford for a thief"

Sutton-Well and Kenchester are able to buy all London, were it to sell 1659 Howell, 20 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Herefordshire"

Sutton windmill See quot 1600 Heywood, *Edw IV*, Pt I, in *Dram 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 [αἶα χελιδὼν ἐπὶ οὐρανῷ — Aristotle, *Eth N* I vi 16] 1539 Taverner, *Proverbs*, io 25 It is not one swalowe that bryngeth in somer c 1597 Deloney, *Iacke of Newberie*, ch 1 Nay soft (said the widow) one swallow makes not a summer, nor one meeting a marriage 1634 C Butler, *Feminine Monarchie* 46 1784 New Foundl Hosp for Wit, ii 67 One

swallow does not make a spring 1850 Dickens, *Chuzzlewit*, ch xliii 1854 J W Warter, *Last of Old Squires*, 139 [as in 1784] 1920 *Sphere*, 10 April, 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 I He hath swallowed a spider = He has been bankrupt 1659 Howell, 6 1670 Ray, 194 1754 Berthelson, *Eng-Danish Dict*, s v "Swallow"

2 To swallow a gudgeon = To be gulled 1579 Lyly, *Euphues*, 68 (Arber), Take heede my Philautus, that thou thy self swallow not a gudgeon 1584 Lodge, *Alarum against Usurers* 44 (Sh S), Those gentlemen who have swallowed the gudgeon and have been intangled in the hooke 1607 Dekker and Webster, *Northw Hoe*, IV iv, If the gudgeon had been swallowed by one of you it had been vile 1732 Fuller, No 1902, He hath swallow d a gudgeon. 1847 Halliwell, *Dict*, s v "Gudgeon," To swallow a gudgeon i e to be caught or deceived, to be made a fool of

3 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 flebilis cantus, falso ut arbitror aliquot experimentis — Pliny, *Hist*, x 23] 1398 Trevisa, tr Glanvilles *De Propr Rer*, XII ii, And whan she [the swan] should dye and that a fether is pyght in the brayn, then she syngethe, as Ambrose sayth c 1430 Lydgate, *Minor Poems*, 157 (Percy S), The yelwe swan famous and aggreable, Ageyn his dethe melodyously syngyng 1577 Kendall, *Flow of Epigrams*, 61 (Spens S), The swanne doeth sweetely syng Before his death 1632 Massinger, *Emp of East*, V iii, Thus, like a dying swan, to a sad tune I sing my own dirge 1681 Otway, *Soldier's Fortune*, V v, I'll sing a song like a dying swan 1712 Pope, *Rape of Lock*, v 66, Thus on Mæander's flowery margin lies The expiring swan, and as he sings he dies 1819 Byron,

*Isles of Greece*, st. 16, There, swan-like, let me sing and die.

Swan. See also Goose.

Swarston-bridge, He's driving his hogs over. Derbysh. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Derbysh." 1889: *Folk-Lore Journal*, vii. 292, He's driving his hogs o'er Swarson's brig.

Swear, verb. 1. *He swears like a gentleman.* c. 1645: MS. Proverbs, in *N. & Q.*, vol. 154, p. 27.

2. *He swears like a tinker, trooper, etc.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Chartier," He swears like a carter (we say, like a tinker). 1727: *Devil to pay at St. James's*, 7, He swears like a trooper. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng. - Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Swear," He swears like a tinker.

3. *He that sweareth.* See quotes. c. 1530: Rhodes, *Book of Nurture*, 107 (E.E.T.S.), He that sweareth tyll no man trust him, He that lyeth tyll no man beleue him; He that boroweth till no man will lende 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 prouerbe saies, hee that will sweare will lie. 1650: R. Heath, *Epigrams*, 24. 1692: L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 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 Exchange*, 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 swearing; 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'lt 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 perjure 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 Cal.*, 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, *Lancs 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*, xxi. (1816), Who that desyryth the swete to assaye, He must taste byttyr, this is no naye. c. 1575: H. Goldingham, *Garden Plot*, 60 (Roxb. Cl.), Indeede he had not deserued thys swete before he had tasted some sowere. 1611: in Coryat, *Crudities*, i. 109 (1905),

For he no sweet hath merited (they say) That hath 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 (Gollancz), You live by the sweet of other men's sweat 1639 Clarke, 87 1681 Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 1196 1732 Fuller No 3632 [with some " before "sweet"] 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 hum uncorrupt 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 as hony in oure mouth c 1550 Udall, *Roister Doister*, ad fin, Custance is as sweete as honey 1595 Churchyard, *Praise of Poetrie*, 41 (1816), As sweete as homie sure 1612 Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt I bk iv ch v, All those things are as sweet as honey to me 1716 E Ward *Female Policy*, 51, Her words as sweet as honey 1844 Planché, *Extravag* ii 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 xiii

Sweet discourse makes short days and nights 1670 Ray, 7

Sweetest wine makes sharpest vinegar 1567 Painter, *Pal of Pleasure*, ii 323 (Jacobs), How mutch the sweter is the wyne, the sharper is the egred sawce thereof 1579 Lylly, *Euphues*, 39 (Arber), The sweetest wine tourneth to the sharpest vinegar 1647. Howell,

*Letters*, bk ii No xvi, This shews, that the sweetest wines may turn to the tartest vinegar 1681 Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 1196 1792 Looker-on, No 2, The sharpest vinegar is made from the sweetest wines 1852 Fitz Gerald, *Polonius*, ii (1903), "The sweet wine that makes the sharpest vinegar," says an old proverb 1905 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), flor "aftir swete, the soure comyth, ful offit, in many a plase" c 1500 Colyn Bloubols, l 131, in Hazlitt, *Early Pop Poetry*, i 98, Sharpe sawce was ordeigned for swete mete 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch viii 1620 T May, *The Heir*, III, Your sweet meat shall have sour sauce 1670 Cotton, *Scarsonides*, IV 1721 Centlivre, *Artifice*, II ii 1769 Colman, *Man and Wife*, III ["may" for will"] 1771 Johnson, *Letters*, i 180 (Hill)

Swell like a toad, To 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch xi, Streight as she sawe me she swelde lyke a tode 1672 Walker, *Paræm* 26, She swells like a toad 1754 Berthelson, *Eng-Danish Dict*, s v "Toad"

Swift See Quick

Swift to hear See quot 15th cent in *Reliq Antiquæ*, i 92 (1841) Beswyfte to here, and slow to speke, Late to wrathe, and lothe to

Swim, verb x *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

mai lightli swim, that is hold wp by the chin. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. v. c. 1594: Bacon, *Promus*, No. 473. 1626: *Scoggins Jest*, 119 (1864). 1732: Fuller, No. 6088.

3. *I taught you to swim, and now you'd drown me.* Ibid., No. 2626. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. xiv. [quoted as "the old saying"].

4. *Who swims on sin, shall sink in sorrow.* 1853: Trench, *Proverbs*, 21 (1905).

Swine, subs. 1. *A swine over fat is cause of his own bane* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. vii. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 318 (1870). 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 213, A hog over fat is the cause of its own death. 1732: Fuller, No. 428, A swine fatted hath eat its own bane. Cf. Sow, subs. (2).

2. *Swine, women and bees cannot be turned.* 1678: Ray, 212. 1732: Fuller, No. 4299. 1875: Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 6.

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: *Cornucopiæ*, 48 (Grosart), The prouerbe 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 III putting.

3. *Who draws his sword against his Prince, must throw away the scabbard.* 1659: Howell, 17. 1670: Ray, 21. 1732: Fuller, No 5698.

Sylvester said, As,—fair and softly. 1813: Ray, 232. Cf. Soft and fair.

Sympathy without relief Is like mustard without beef. 1914: R. L. Gales, *Vanished Country Folk*, 204. Cf. Pity.

## T

Table robs more than a thief, The 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 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 1751 Fielding, *Amelia*, bk 1 ch x 1824 Scott, *Redgauntlet* ch xii, There are some auld stories that cannot be ripped up again with entire safety to all concerned Tace is Latin for a candle 1881 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 Bale, *Vocacyon*, in *Harl Miscell*, vi 459 All the rable of the shippe, hag, tag, and rag 1584 B R, *Euterpe*, 122 (Lang), To entertayne tagge and ragge all that would come 1603 Harsnet, *Decl of Egreg Popish Impostures*, 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 bobtaile 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] 1694 Motteux, *Rabelais*, bk iv ch xxviii, 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 11 l 23, By the rag, tag, and bobtail, of those they call "Blues" 1907 Hackwood, *Old Eng Sports*, 276, The usual following of the Rag-Tag-and-Bobtail class

Tail, 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, 11 (9) 1670 Ray, 147 1732 Fuller, No 3323

Tailor, 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 3237

3 *Tailor and needle* See quot 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 160, If you come on to me, you come on your sharps, 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 gaine but the marke of an ideot? 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* 1612 in *Pepysian Garland*, 32 (Rollins), For it is a common prouerbe throughout all the towne, The taylor he must cut three sleeves, for euery womans gowne 1632 in *Ibid*, 412, A taylor that will lue in peace, cuts out of one gowne three sleeves

7 *The tailor makes the man* 1625 Jonson, *Staple of News*, I 1, And thence, sir, comes your proverb, *The tailor makes the man* c 1630 B & F, *Bloody Brother*, III 11, For though he [the tailor] makes the man, The cook yet makes the dishes 1853 Planché, *Extravag*, iv 318 (1879), The "tailor

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. 1. *A man must take such as he finds, or such as he brings.* c. 1386: Chaucer, *C. Tales*, A 4129 (Skeat), I have herd seyde, man sal taa of two thinges, Slyk as he fyndes, or taa slyk as he brings. c. 1590: Greene, *George a Grecne*, 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. Prudentum*.

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).

9. *Take away fuel, take away flame.* 1639: Clarke, 192. 1670: Ray, 95. 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 mediæval 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, *Troilus*, bk. ii. l. 343, Avysément is good before the nede.]

1599: Porter, *Two Angry Women*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, vii. 337. 1670: Ray, 102. 1732: Fuller, No. 6315.

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*, 199, 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 (20).

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] falth in the sheaf where ever it fall.

22. *To take a thing in snuff.* 1592: Shakespeare, *L. L. L.*, V. ii., You'll mar the light by taking it in snuff. 1681: Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 97, He took it in snuff, viz. in anger. Cf. Snuff.

23. *To take a thorn.* See Thorn (3).

24. *To take a venew under the girdle* = To be got with child. 1598: Chamberlain, *Letters*, 18 (Camden S.), Some say she hath taken a venew 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 mi 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 Cf *Night is the mother*

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 Becon, *Catechism*, etc, 561 (PS). This doctrine plucketh them down one staff lower than they were before 1592 Nashe, *Works*, i 77 (Grosart) The hard lodging on the boards [will] take their flesh downe 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 befeater on you all knocking my wife down, and I'll bring him a button-hole lower 1654 Gayton, *Pleasant Notes Don Q*, 234, Had not Daplusse taken him a button lower 1670 Ray, 189, To take one a peg lower 1764 Mrs F Sheridan, *Dupe*, IV iv, I must take her down a peg or so 1829 Peacock, *Misfor of Elphin*, ch xiii I have just brought the abbot this pleasant intelligence, and, as I knew 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 mine ease in mine in 1597 Shakespeare, 1 *Henry IV*, III iii, *Falstaff* Shall I not take mine ease in mine 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 i' 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 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 143

30 *To take one up before he is down* 1583 Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig L1, Thou louest me 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 Midl*, ch xviii, "Sir, under your favour," replied David, "ye take me up before I fall down" 1880 Courtney, *W Cornwall Words*, i

(E D S), 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 pet* 1669 *New Help to Discourse*, 252, He thereupon took pet, and so did die 1706 D'Urfe, *Stories Moral and Comical*, 57, But at his naming of the net, Venus had certainly took pet 1732 Fuller, No 2325, He that takes pet 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 squire'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 Drave, 177, A tale in the carrying is made more 1710 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 varyee 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 anouth 1576 R Peterson, tr *Galateo*, 73 (1892), All thys long babble were but a tale of a tubbe 1633 Jonson, *Tale of a Tub* [title] 1691 *Merry Drollery*, 225 (Lbsworth), For I think I have told you a Tale of a Tub 1704 Swift, *Tale of a Tub* [title] 1710 Centivre, *Man's Bewitch'd I* 1714 Ozell, *Molière*, iv 125, All is idle talk, trifles, and tales of a tub 1855 Kingsley, *West Hol*, ch vii

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), *Secrees*, 51 (E E T S) [quoted as "a proverb"]

5 *It ought to be a good tale that is twice told* 1732 Fuller, No 3041 Cf No 3

6 *One tale good* See One tale

7 *Tell a tale to a mare* See quotes



1567: Pickering, *Horestes*, l. 95 (Brandl, *Quellen*, 496), Tell a mare a tale, and shyell gerd out a fart. 1652: Tatham, *Scots Figgaries*, III. [as in 1567]. 1670: Ray, 26 [as in 1567]. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial I., Well, miss; tell a mare a tale . . . 1869: Hazlitt, 351, Tell a tale to a mare and she'll kick thee.

8. *The tale runs as it pleases the teller.* 1732: Fuller, No 4783.

9. *To tell tales out of school.* 1530: Tyndale, *Pract. of Prelates*, 249 (P.S.), So that what cometh once in may never out, for fear of telling tales out of school. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. x. 1638: Ford, *Fancies*, I. ii., Beware of the porter's lodge, for carrying tales out of the school. 1679: Shadwell, *True Widow*, IV. i., Fie, miss! fie! tell tales out of school? 1753: Richardson, *Grandison*, iii. 110 (1883), Don't tell tales out of school, Emily. 1805: Mary Lamb, in *Letters*, i. 315 (Lucas), Write us, my good girl, a long, gossiping letter . . . tell me any silly thing you can recollect . . . we will never tell tales out of school. 1854: Thackeray, *Newcomes*, ch. xii.

See also Tell, verb (6), (11), (13), and (17).

Tale-bearer is worse than a thief, A. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v.

Tale-bearers, Put no faith in. 1855: Bohn, 477.

Talk is but talk. 1620: *Two Mery Milkmaids*, II. ii., But talke's but talke, therefore I vse it not. 1639: Chapman and Shirley, *Ball*, V. i., You may hear talk; but give me the man that has measured 'em; talk's but talk . . . 1678: Ray, 177, Prate is but prate, its money buyes land. 1681: Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 1203 [as in 1678, but with "talk" for "prate"]. 1737: Ray, 270 [as in 1681]. Cf. Prate; and Words (13).

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.

7. *Talk of the Devil.* See Devil (36)

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 Surrey 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, *Lancs 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. 1670: Ray, 195. 1708: *Brit. Apollo*, i. Suppl. Paper 10, col. 6, Why is a man said, when he speaks at random, to talk like an apothecary? 1769: Smollett, *Adv. of Atom*, 65 (Cooke, 1795), Your grace talks like an apothecary.

Talking comes by nature, Silence by understanding. 1875: Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 86.

Talking pays no toll. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1732: Fuller, No. 4317. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. vi.

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, *Morte d'Arthur*, bk. iv., ch. xvii., He is a passyng goodman of his hands. 1591: Florio, *Second Frutes*, 117, Is he valiant, and a talle man of his hands? 1678: Ray, 82, A tall

man of's 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 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 108, Whilst a tall Meg of Westminster is stooping, a short wench sweeps the house 1869 Hazlitt, 468

Tamworth See Sutton

Tanfield fools See quot 1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, 1 68 (F L S), Tanfield fools, and Anfield lubberts Hungry Icton with its empty cupboard Tanfield, Anfield and Icton (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

Tantera Bobus, who lived till he died, Like 1864 *Cornish Proverbs*, in *N & Q*, 3rd ser vi 5 1882 Jago, *Gloss of Cornish Dialect*, 288, Tantrabobus, or Tantrum-bobus Term applied to a noisy, playful child "Oh! you tantra-bobus!" 1886 Elworthy, *West Som Word-Book*, 737 (E D S), Oh! I reckon he lived same s Tantara-bobus—all the days of his life Cf Live (39)

Tantivy and Tantony pig See Anthony pig

Tapster is undone by chalk, The—I e by scoring on credit c 1630 in *Roxb Ballads*, 1 71 (Hindley) 1639 Mayne, *City Match*, IV vii, You do offend o th' score, and sin in chalk

Tapsters and ostlers are not always the honestest men 1597 *Discoverie of the Knights of the Poste*, sig D4

Tarberry Hill, near Hastings 1894 A J C Hare, *Sussex*, 192, 'Who knows what Tarberry 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 quotes 1633 Draxe, 29, To him that hath lost his taste, sweet is sowre 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 meat is in

Taunton See Nertown

Taunton Dean—Where should I be born else? 1662 Fuller, *Worthies* iii 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 i' th' head [he is drunk]

Tavern haunteth, That See quot c 1460 *How the Good Wife*, l 50, That tauerne hauntethe his thrifte 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 doune many tauerne-tokens, and was infected much with the plague of drunkenness 1745 Franklin, *Drinker's Dict*, in *Works*, ii 26 (Bigelow), He's swallowed a tavern token

Teach, verb 1 *He teacheth ill 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 Berthel-son, *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 *Apoph*, 380 (1877) A swine to teache Minerua was a proverbe

for whiche we saie in Englishe, to teache our dame to spinne 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Apprendre," Wee say to teach his grandame to grope ducks 1659 Howell, 9 (7), Go teach your granham to grope a goose 1665 R Howard, *Committee*, IV, Pish, teach your grannam to spin 1670 Ray, 178, Teach your grandame to gropen her ducks, to sup sowre milk 1709 Cibber, *Rival Fools*, II, Go, fools! teach

your granums: you are always full of your advice when there's no occasion for 't. 1732: Fuller, No. 4321 [as in 1665]. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I., You mend it! go, teach your grannam 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 of the tankard. 1678: Ray, 82. 1690: *New Dict. Canting Crew*, sig. M1, . . . Drops of the good liquor that fall beside.

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. Prudentum*. 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. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 49. 1732: Fuller, No. 2330.

5. *If you tell every step, you will make a long journey of it.* Ibid., No. 2793.

6. *I tell you my tale and my tales man* [author]. 1690: *New Dict. Cant-*

*ing Crew*, sig. L8. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I.

7. *Tell me it snows.* 1639: Clarke, 8, Fiddle, faddle, tell me it snowes. 1681: Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 1142, Tell me it snows; Piscem natate doces. 1732: Fuller, No. 4327.

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 doest.* 1586: Pettie, tr. Guazzo's *Civil Convers.*, fo. 22, This common prouerbe sheweth, Tell me with whom thou doest goe, and I shall know what thou doest. 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.* 1633: Draxe, 208, A man must tell golde after his owne father. 1639: Clarke, 90 1656: 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.

11. *Tell-tale-tit, your tongue shall be slit, And all the dogs in the town shall have a little bit.* 1843: Halliwell, *Nurs. Rhymes*, 164. 1886: Elworthy, *West Som Word-Book*, 742 (E.D.S.). 1889: Peacock, *Manley, etc.*, Gloss., 555 (E.D.S.). 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 43.

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*

*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 1 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 tried 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 finger-nails c 1560 in Wright, *Songs, etc*, *Philip and Mary*, 202 (Roxb Cl), Or els her ten commandments She fastens on hys face 1594 *First Part Contention*, 16 (Sh S), Could I come neare your dantie visage with my nayles, Ide set my ten commandments in your face 1607 Dekker and Webster, *Westw Hoe*, V iii, Your harpy that set his ten commandments upon my back 1814 Scott, *Waverley*, ch xxx 1830 Marryat, *King's Own*, ch xl, 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*, viii 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 1678 Ray, 289 1690 *New Dict Canting Crew*, sig M1, Tender-parnel, 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 Halliwell, *Dict*, s v "Tender" [as in 1785] 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 22

Ten good turns I do not understand this dark saying 1578 Whetstone, *Promos and Cass*, sig D2, The prouerbe saies, that tenne good turnes lye dead, And one yll deede, tenne tymes beyonde pretence, By enuious 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 1 (1557) [story of Tenterden steeple being the cause of the choking up by sands of Sandwich harbour] 1550 Latimer, *Sermons*, 251 (P S) [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 prooffe Weaker then that of Tenterden Steeple being the cause of Goodwine Sands 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, II 125 (1840) 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Kent"

Testons See Oxford

Tewkesbury mustard See quotes 1598 Shakespeare, 2 *Henry IV*, II iv, His wit's as thick as Tewkesbury mustard 1634 *Strange Metam of Man*, sig D10, If he [mustard] be of the right stamp, and a true Tewksbury man 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, I 552 (1840), 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

Thakeham, 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 "temse," a provincial name for a sieve c 1770

Foot, *Trip to Calais*, III. iii., Matt Minnikin . . . won't set fire to the Thames, though he lives near the Bridge. 1788: Wolcot, *Works*, i. 509 (1795), Whose modest wisdom, therefore, never aims To find the longitude, or burn the Thames. 1818: J. Austen, *Persuasion*, ch. v., The Baronet will never set the Thames on fire, but there seems no harm in him. 1863: Kingsley, *Water Babies*, ch. viii. 1915: Pinero, *Big Drum*, III.

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 reachers.* 1762: Smollett, *Sir L. Greaves*, ch. xv., Thatch your house with t—, and you'll have more teachers than reachers. 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.

3. *Would you thatch your house with pancakes?* Ibid., No. 5829. Cf. Groby pool.

That may happen to many, Which doth happen to any. c. 1590: G. Harvey, *Marginalia*, 101 (1913).

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 herrings . . . and Nan for Nicholas.

Th' berrin's. See Burying.

There or thereabouts, 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 lie. 1710: S. Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 261. 1869:

Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. vi., Hearsay is half lies.

Thick and thin, Through. [Per omne fas ac nefas.—Livy, vi. 14.] c. 1386: Chaucer, *Reeve's Tale*, l. 146, And whan the hors was loos, he ginneth gon Toward the fen, ther wilde mares renne, Forth with wehee, thurgh thikke and thurgh thenne. c. 1490: *Partonope*, 15 (E.E.T.S.), Alle the day they spare noghte Hym to hvnte thorowe thyke and thynne. 1587: Turberville, *Trag. Tales, etc.*, 30 (1837), Retchellesse she ran through thick and thin. 1621: B. & F., *Pilgrim*, III. ii., He would run through thick and thin to reach me. 1758–67: Sterne, *Trist. Shandy*, vol. ii. ch. ix, Splashing and plunging like a devil thro' thick and thin. 1857: Borrow, *Rom. Rye*, ch. xxv. 1895: Pinero, *Benefit of Doubt*, II., He would stand by me through thick and thin.

Thick and threefold. 1552: Huloet, *Abced.*, sig. Iir, Thicke and thre folde. 1577: Kendall, *Flow. of Epigrams*, 103 (Spens. S.), Thicke and threefold frends will flocke. 1650: Fuller, *Pisgah Sight*, bk. ii. ch. ix., Disaster . . . which afterwards fell thick and threefold upon it.

Thick as hail, As. 1205: Layamon, *Brut*, l. 12578, Arwen fluyen ouer wal: al abuten ouer al. swa picke wes heore uæra: swulc hit hayel wæren (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 thicke 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 Cupid*, 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. 1631: Mabbe, *Celestina*, 171 (T.T.), Your presents from all parts . . . came upon me as thicke as hops. 1707:

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*, II 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 Hesketh*, 6 May, When people are intimate, we say they are as great as two inkle-weavers 1822 Scott *Nigel*, ch xxiii, We were as loving as inkle-weavers 1865 *N & Q*, 3rd ser, viii 130, "As thick as 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 pappe 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, II 51, "As thick as porridge," a proverbial simile frequently applied to beer 1877 E Leigh, *Cheshire Gloss*, 200, As thick as sturrow [hasty pudding] 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 24 [as in 1877]

Thick as thack [thatch], As 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, II 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*, Intro Ep, You twa will be as thuck as three in a bed an ance ye forgather 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, II 201, As thrang as three in a bed 1889 Peacock, *Manley, etc, Gloss*, 558 (E D S) Cf Thruik

Thickness of a sixpence 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 Draxe, 48 1670 Rav, 56 1694 D'Urfe, *Quixote*, Pt II Act IV sc II 1865

Lancs Proverbs, "in *N & Q*, 3rd ser, viii 494 1901 F E Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 10, They're not o thieves 'at dogs barken at

2 *A thief knows a thief, as a wolf knows a wolf* 1633 Draxe, 108, One thiefe knoweth another 1732 Fuller, No 430

3 *He that trusts a thief is a fool* c 1534 Berners, *Huon*, 706 (E E T S), It is sayd in a comen prouerbe that a man is taken for a foole that putteth his trust in a thefe

4 *Of all crafts See quot c 1320 in Reliq Antiqua*, I 115 (1841), "Of alle mester men mest me hongth thieves", Quoth Hendyng 1869 Hazlitt, 300, "Of all crafts, the thieving craft is the worst for hanging," quoth Hendyng

5 *Set a thief to catch a thief* [c 1386 Chaucer, *Physic Tale*, l 83, A theef of venisoun, that hath forlaft His likerous nesse, and al 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* II 244 (1760), Always set a knave to catch a knave 1725 Bailey, tr Erasmus' *Colloq*, 457 1878 Jefferies, *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 Pinero, *Mrs Ebbesmuth*, 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, II 8

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 thieves 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. xlix., 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).

Thin 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). 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 4, As thin as a lat.

Thin as a rasher of wind, As. Oxfordsh. 1923: *Folk-Lore*, xxxiv. 329.

Thin. See also Lean.

Thin meadow is soon mowed, A. 1659: Howell, 3. 1670: Ray, 26.

Thing 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 Wyfe wold a Pylgremage*, 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 vndone. 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 ladishup knows what's done can't be undone. Cf. Once done.

6. *Things present are judged by things past.* 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 30. 1629: *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov. 36.

7. *Things well fitted abide.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

8. *When things come to the worst.* See Worst (9).

Think, verb. 1. *He that thinks amuss concludes worse.* 1651: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, 2nd ed.

2. *He that thinks too much of his virtues, bids others think of his vices.* 1869: 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, *Dict.*, s.v. "Think," He thinks ill that thinks not twice.

5. *One may think that dares not speak.* 1633: Draxe, 21. 1670: Ray, 148. 1732: Fuller, No. 3783.

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.*, l. 185, They wat thinks they knows everything, knows nort.

8. *Think and thank God.* 1568: in Loseley MSS., 207 (Kempe).

9. *Thinking is very far from knowing.* 1855: Bohn, 528.

10 *Think nothing mean that brings in an honest penny* 1763 Murphy, *Citizen*, I 11

11 *Think of a cuckold* See Cuckold (9)

12 *Think of ease, but work on* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1670 Ray, 8

13 *Think on the end before you begin* Before 1300 *Cursor Mundi*, I 4379. For qua [who] be-gynne wil any þing euer-mare þink on the endinge c 1400 Beryn, 55 (EETS). Who take hede of the begynnyng, what fal shal of the ende, He leyth a bussh to-fore 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 Fle*, cap 59, p 254 (Farmer). This sage saying, the wise have said and say,—Have an eye to the end, ere thou aught begin 1692 L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 8r (3rd ed). It is wisdom to consider the end of things before we embarque, and to forecast consequences 1704 Swift, *Tale of a Tub* § vii, Thus human life is best understood, by the wise man's rule, of regarding the end

14 *Think to-day and speak to-morrow* 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, Halfpenny, and Penny (26)

Third heir 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 Elstride," st 23, Which I haue prou'd, therefore the sequel vewe, The third payes home, this prouerbe is so true 1599 *Warning for Faire Women*, II 1855 Gaskell, *North and South*, ch xvii, "This is th' third strike 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

quots 1572 Grafton, *Chron*, sig F12 v°, Thirty dayes hath Nouember, April, Iune and September February hath xxviij alone, and all the rest have xxxi 1577 Holinshed, *Chron*, 119 [as in 1572, with addition "But in the leape you must adde one"] 1601 *Ret from Parnassus*, III 1 37 (Arber). S Rad How many dayes hath Septem-ber? Im April, Iune and Nouember, February hath 28 alone and all the rest hath 30 and one 1615 A Hopton, *Concordancy of Yeares*, 60, Thirtie dayes hath September, April, Iune, and November The rest haue thurtie 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 days hath September, April, June, and November All the rest thirty and one, as I plainly remember, Onely February hath but twenty and eight for its store, Except when tis leap-year, then it hath one more c 1703 *Young Man's Companion*, quoted in Denham, *Pro verbs*, 19 (Percy S), Thirty days 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, whenn he made his wyle Pine the baskit 1579 *Marr of Wit and Wisdom*, sc iii p 27 (Sh S)

Thistle and Thistles 1 *A thistle is a fat salad for an ass's mouth* 1732 Fuller, No 435

2 *Cut thistles* See quots 1882 Mrs Chamberlain, *W Worcs Words*, 38 (EDS), 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 1883 Burne, *Shropsh Folk-Lore*, 579 Cut 'em in June, They'll come again 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 and Thorns. 1. *He that goes barefoot must not plant thorns.* 1611: Cotgrave, s v. "Pied." 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 2, Barefooted men need not tread on thorns. 1732: Fuller, No. 840, Barefoot must not go among thorns. *Ibid.*, No. 2289, He that scattereth thorns must not go barefoot. 1874: Waugh, in *Manchester Critic*, 14 March, Barefoot folk shouldn't walk upo' prickles. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 7 [as in 1874].

2. *He that handles thorns shall prick his fingers.* 1616: Breton, *Works*, ii. e 6 (Grosart). 1694: D'Urfey, *Quixote*, 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'll 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 thornebush neare his doore. 1670: Ray, 149 [as in 1639]. 1732: Fuller, No. 3469. 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 thornbush near his door, and it is a mercy if there are not two.

5. *The thorn comes forth with the point forwards.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 26.

6. *Thorns make the greatest crackling.* 1732: Fuller, No. 5031.

7. *Thorns whiten yet do nothing.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

8. *To sit or stand upon thorns = To be impatient.* 1528: More, in *Works*, p. 234, col. 1 (1557), I long by my trouth, quod he, and euen syt on thornes tyll I see that constitution. 1567: Golding, *Ovid*, bk. iv. l. 385, She thought she stodee on thornes untill she went to him. 1633: Massinger, *New*

*Way*, III. iii., She . . . sits 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 thorns till he sees me. 1823: Scott, *Q. Durward*, ch. vii., Lord Crawford . . . sat as it were on thorns at the royal board. 1886: Elworthy, *W. Som. Word-Book*, 751 (E D.S.), She has been all upon thorns ever since. 1926: Phillpotts, *Peacock House*, 222, I was on thorns 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 thoght is fre. c. 1490: *Partonope*, 440 (E E.T.S.), Therefore this proverbe is seide full truly: Thought to a man is euer fre. Before 1529: Skelton, *Philip Sparrow*, l. 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 Hearth*, ch. lii., "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 hay, is all one at Doomsday, A. 1659: Howell, 4. 1670: Ray, 26. 1732: Fuller, No. 6398.

Thrash in another man's barn, To. c. 1400: *Ragm. Roll*, l. 53, in Hazlitt, *Early Pop. Poetry*, i. 72, And whoo so lyst may thrassyn 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

deserve, their thread is spun 1819  
Scott, *Tianhoe*, 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 folks live long c 1555  
in Collmann, *Ballads, etc*, 69 (Roxb  
Cl) It is a true prouerbe the threatned  
man lyues long 1599 Porter, *Two  
Angry Women*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, vii  
357 1630 Taylor (Water-Poet), *Works*,  
2nd pagin, 152 1734 Fielding, *Don  
Quix in England*, II vi 1819 Scott,  
*Leg of Montrose*, ch x 1870 Dickens,  
*Drood* 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, *Margi-  
nalia*, 101 (1913) He threatenith many,  
That hurtith any 1732 Fuller, No  
2372

Threats without power are like powder  
without ball 1736 Bailey *Dict*, 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 flails and cuckoo 1917  
Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 123 A farmer  
who at the return of the cuckoo can  
keep three flails 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,  
*Barl Fair*, IV iii, Do my northern  
cloth shrink 1 the wetting ha? 1659  
Howell, 1, Three ills come from the  
North, a cold wind, a shrinking cloth,  
and a dissembling man 1670 Ray,  
19 [as in 1659] 1683 Meriton, *York-  
shire Ale*, 83-7 (1697) 1846-59 *Den-  
ham Tracts*, ii 75 (F L S) Cf Cold  
weather

Three-half-pence and twopence = a  
canter 1886 Elworthy, *West Som  
Word Book*, 212 (E D S) Dree half-  
pence and two-pence a slow

ambling canter 1896 Graham, *Red  
Scurr*, 35 (W), They can hear the  
"three-ha'-pence for tuppence" of a  
cantering horse

Three helping one another bear the  
burden of six 1640 Herbert, *Jac  
Prudentum*

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, *Æsop*,  
399 (3rd ed) ["when" for "if"]  
c 1736 Franklin, in *Works*, i 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 Wives  
Tale*, sc 1, Let us rehearse the old  
proverb "Three merry men, and  
three merry men, And three merry men  
be we, I 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 ii, *Chorus*  
Three merry boys, and three merry  
boys, And three merry boys are we

Threepence, If you make not much of,  
you'll never be worth a groat 1678  
Ray, 210 1732 Fuller, No 2771

Threepenny planet, To be born under  
a See quotes 1607 Dekker, *Knight's  
Conjuring*, 32 (Percy S), All such rich  
mens darlings are either christened by  
some left-handed priest, or els born  
vnder a threepenny planet 1692  
L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 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 groat*  
1694 Dryden, *Love Triumphant*, I 1,  
And yet his good fortune, and my  
rascally, threepenny planet, make me  
suspicious without reason 1738 Swift  
*Polite Coners*, Dial I, Egad, I  
was born under a threepenny planet,  
never to be worth a groat 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,

*Lancs 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 flittings 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, The. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, iii. 548 (1840), "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 lowse. 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 Slips 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*,

34, There are three things that are not to be credited, a woman when she weeps, a merchant when he sweares, nor a drunkard when he prayes.

Three things are nought worth, fayre face in a whore, Great strength in a porter, fine witt in the poore. 1591: Florio, *Second Frutes*, 191.

Three things are thrown away in a bowling green, namely, time, money and oaths. 1822: Scott, *Nigel*, ch. xii., Thus making good the saying, that three, etc.

Three things are to small purpose, if the fourth be away. c. 1597: Deloney, *Lacke of Newberie*, ch. i. [cited as "an old saying"].

Three things are unsatiable, priests, monckes, and the sea. c. 1560: in Wright, *Songs, etc.*, *Philip and Mary*, 208 (Roxb. Cl.).

Three things are untameable, Idiots, women and the salt sea. 1875: Cheales, *Proverb, Folk-Lore*, 8.

Three things cost dear: the caresses of a dog, the love of a mistress, and the invasion of a host. 1855: Bohn, 530.

Three things drive a man out of his house: smoke, rain, and a scolding wife. [Skeat, in a note on *P Plowman*, C, xx. 297, says: "Perhaps the original form of this commonly quoted proverb is this: 'tria sunt enim quæ non sinunt hominem in domo permanere, fumus, stillicidium, et mala uxor' (Innocens Papa, *de Contemptu Mundi*, i. 18). It is a mere compilation from *Proverbs* x. 26, xix. 13, and xxvii. 15.] 1377: Langland, *Plowman*, B, xvii. 315, Three thinges there ben that doth a man by strengthe Forto fleen his owne hous as holywryt sheweth, That one is a wikked wyf that wil nought be chastid; Her fiere fleeth fro hyr for fere of her tonge. And if his hous be vnhiiled, and reyne on his bedde, He seketh and seketh til he slepe drye. And whan smoke and smolder smyt in his syghte, It doth hym worse than his wyf or wete to slepe. c. 1386: Chaucer, *Melibeus*, § 15, Of whiche wommen, men seyn that "three thinges dryven a man out of his hous; that is to seyn, smoke, dropping of reyn, and wikked wyves." c. 1530:

*Evyll Maryage*, l 96, in Hazlitt, *Early Pop Poetry*, iv 78, And Salamon sayth there be thynges thre, Shrewde wyues, rayne, and smokes blake Make husbandes ofte theyr houses to forsake 1576 Gascoigne, *Works*, ii 227 (Cunliffe), There are three thynges that suffer not a man to abyde in his owne house Smooke, rayne, and an evil wyfe 1590 Greene, *Works*, vii 249, Foure thyngs drues a man from hys house 1 Too much smoke 2 A dropping roofo 3 A fylthie ayre 4 And a brawling woman 1597 Shakespeare *Henry IV*, III 1, O, he is as tedious As a tired horse, a railing wife Worse than a smoky house 1619 *Helpe to Discourse* 84 (1640), A smoke, a storme, and a contentious wife, Three ils are found that tire a husbands life To which, a fourth is by the proverb sed When children cry for hunger, wanting bread 1869 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 *Reliq Antiqua*, i 233 (1841), There been three thynges full harde to be known which waye they woll drawe The first is of a birde sitting upon a bough The second is of a vessell in the see And the thirde is the waye of a younge man 1486 *Boke of St Albans*, sig f4, Ther be iii thynges full harde for to know, Wyche way that thay will drawe The first is the wayes of a yong man The secunde the cours of a vessayll in the see The thridde of an edder or a serpent sprent The iii of a fowle sitting on any thyng

Three things there be which neuer decay whiles the world lasteth, to bake, to brewe, and to powle or sheare, saye

the people, or common prouerbe 1586 L Evans, *Withals Dict Revised*, sig E4

Three to one See Two to one

Three ways—the universities, the sea, the court, There are 1612 Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt I bk iv ch vii, There is an old proverb and it is this, 'The Church, the Sea, or the Court' 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

Three women See Woman (35)

Three words, At (or In) See quots 1633 Draxe, 10, At three words, he is at the top of the house [i e he is greatly excited] 1659 Howell, 15, In three words she is at the roof of the house

Thresher take his flail, Let the See quots 1626 Breton, *Fantasticks*, 10 (Grosart) It is now November, and according to the old prouerbe, 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 flail, Let ships no more sail

Thrift, subs 1 *Their thrift waxes thin, That spend more than they win* c 1460 *How the Good Wife*, l 100 [His" for "Their"] 1597 *North Mothers Blessing*, in *Plasidas*, etc, 167 (Roxb Cl)

2 *Thrift and he are at a fray* 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch vi, When thrift and you fell fyrst at a fray, You played the man, for ye made thrift ren 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 thrift is thy friend's mirth* c 1460 *How the Good Wife*, l 170, Thi thrifte is thi frendis myrthe

6 *When thrift 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 thrue by hope, may happen to beg in*

misery. 1647: *Countrim. New Commonwealth*, 23.

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 thryve, He must ask off hys wiffe leve. 1523: Fitzherbert, *Husbandry*, 93 (E.D.S.), There is an olde common sayenge, that seldom doth the housbande thryue, 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*, 102 (1913), [as above, *plus*] He that will neuer thryuen may lye till aleuen. 1647: *Countrim. 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 'oon 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*, l. 10, Wele thryueth that God loueth.

Throng [Busy] as Throp's wife, As. 1828: Carr, *Craven Dialect*, ii. 201, "As thrang as Throop 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 stitche with you, as well as him? 1670: Cotton, *Scarronides*, bk. iv., Who means to conquer Italy, Must with his work go thorough stitche. 1712: Motteux, *Quixote*, Pt. I. bk. iii. ch. xi., If you must needs be knocking your noddle, to go through stitche with this ugly job 1785: Grose, *Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue*, s.v., To go thorough stitche, to stick at nothing. 1828: Carr, *Craven Dialect*, ii. 169, "To go through stitche," to accomplish a business completely.

Throw, verb. 1. *Don't throw.* See quot. 1883: Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 589, 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. Prudentum*. 1732: Fuller, No. 2196.

3. *He who will throw a stone at every dog.* See quots. c. 1555: in Colli-mann, *Ballads, etc.*, 68 (Roxb. Cl.), Who flynges a stone at euery dogge, which barketh in the strete, Shall neuer haue a iust reunge, nor have a pacient sprete. 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. ii., 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 Convers.*, 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 Austin*, I 1, 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 Draxe, 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 awaie 1587 J Bridges *Def of Govt 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 ix 1829 Scott, *Journal*, 26 April, At night I flung helve after hatchet, and spent the evening in reading the *Doom of Detorgoil* 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, *Lancs Sayings*, 4

Thrunk (or Thrang) as three in a bed, As 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, n 201, Crowded, 'as thrang as three in a bed' 1884 N & Q, 6th ser, x 227, In

Yorkshire the expression is "as thrang as three i' 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)

Thumb 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, n 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 is 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 1633 Draxe, 216 1670 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 Torriano, *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

Tib A generic name for a girl, as Tom for a boy He struck at Tib, but down fell Tom 1639 Clarke, 1, [with alternative] but struck downe Tom 1670 Ray, 196 1732 Fuller, No 2029 [with 'Tim' for 'Tom']

Tibberton See quot 1882. Mrs

Chamberlain, *W. Worcs. 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-Charms*, 8, If you were boiled in soap from this till Tibb'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. Tickle my throat with a feather, and make a fool of my stomach. 1678: Ray, 210.

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-pas-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.

2. *The tide never goes out so far but it always comes in again*. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., vi. 494.

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. Antiquæ*, i. 268 (1841), Farewele, my frendis, the tide abideth no man. c. 1530: *Everyman*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, i. 105, For, wit thou well, the tide abideth no man. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. iii. 1591: Lyly, *Endymion*, IV. ii. 1611:

T. Ravenscroft, *Melismata*, sig. B4. Cf. Time (15).

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. Prudentum*.

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. 1. *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 tyme and tarieth for time, looseth tyme. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 323 (1870) [with "better" omitted]. 1651: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, 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 tyme 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 caples* [horses]. Cheshire. 1670:

Ray, 48 1852 *N & Q*, 1st ser, vi  
386 1917 *Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs*,  
84

7 *Take time when time cometh, for  
time will away* Before 1529 Skelton,  
*Works*, i 137 (Dyce), *Take tyme when  
tyme is for tyme is ay mutable* 1595  
A Montgomery, *Cherrie and Slae*, st 36,  
Tak time in time, ere time be tint For  
time will not remain 1670 Ray, 149  
['is 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, *Rich the Redeless*, iii  
278, But all thunge hath tyme 1509  
Bp Fisher, *Eng Works*, 174 (E E T S),  
Euery thyng hath a tyme 1591  
Shakespeare, *Com of Errors*, II ii 1605  
Chapman, *All Fools*, V ii, For as much,  
Valerius, as everything has time 1732  
Fuller, No 1466 Every thing hath its  
time, and that time must be watch d  
1861 Peacock, *Gryll Grange*, ch xiii,  
He held that there was a time for all  
things 1926 *Punch*, 28 July, p 92,  
col 2, Nay, nay, there be a time for all  
things

9 *There is a time to speak, and a time  
to be silent* 1485 Caxton, *Charles the  
Grete*, 56 (E E T S), Thou knowest the  
comyn prouerbe that sayth that there  
is a tyme of spekyng and tyme of beyng  
style 1523-5 Berners, *Froissart*,  
ch cccxviii, John Lyon sayd, Ther  
is tyme to be styll and tyme to speke  
1633 Draxe 190 There is a time to  
speake and a time 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*, ii 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*, li 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 iii ch vi 1732 Fuller, No  
5047, Time and straw ripen medlars

15 *Time and tide wait for no man*  
c 1386 Chaucer, *C Tales*, E 118  
(Skeat), For thogh we slepe or wake, or  
rome, or ryde, Ay fleeth the tyme, it nil  
no man abyde Before 1529 Skelton,  
*Works*, i 137 (Dyce), Byde for tyme  
who wyll, for tyme wyll no man byde  
1596 Nashe, *Works*, iii 78 (Grosart),  
Yet time and tide (that staes 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 xxvi  
1850 Dickens, *Chuzzlewit*, ch x Cf  
Tide (3)

16 *Time cures all things* 1539  
Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo 38, Tyme taketh  
away greuaunce 1698 *Terence made  
English*, 140 (2nd ed) 1731 Lillo,  
*George Barnwell*, V ii, Time and reflec-  
tion cure all ills 1736 Bailey, *Dict*,  
s v 'Time,' Time and thought quells  
the heaviest grief 1869 Hazlitt, 405,  
Time and thinking tame the strongest  
grief

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) 1841 Dickens, *Barn  
Rudge*, ch xxiii 1875 Smiles, *Thrifty*,  
364 1903 Gissing, *Henry Ryecroft*  
"Winter," xxiv, Time is money—says  
the vulgarest 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"].

22. *Time is tickle*. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. iii. 1659: Howell, 7.

23. *Time lost we cannot win*. c. 1440: Lydgate, *Fall of Princes*, bk. iii. l. 2811 (E.E.T.S.), Sumtyme departed, ageyn men may nat call. c. 1535: *Pain of Evil Marriage*, 17 (Percy S.), Tyme passed wyl not agayne retourne. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 334 (1870). 1659: Howell, 10.

24. *Time revealeth all things*. 1539: Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo. 37, Tyme discloseth all thynges. 1633: Draxe, 204. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Time," Time brings all things to light. Cf. No. 12.

25. *Time stays not the fool's leisure*. 1855: Bohn, 531.

26. *Time tries truth*. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. v., Let time try! Tyme tryeth trouth in euery doubt. 1580: Tusser, *Husbandrie*, 5 (E.D.S.), Time trieth the troth, in euerie thing.

27. *Time trieth all things*. 1553: *Respublica*, Prol., Yet tyme trieth all. 1599: Porter, *Two Angry Women*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, vii. 356, Time and truth tries all. 1607: Marston, *What You Will*, IV. 1633: Draxe, 204.

28. *Time undermines us*. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

29. *To take time by the forelock*. 1595: Spenser, *Sonnets*, No. lxx., Tell her the ioyous time wil not be staid, Unlesse she doe him by the forelock take. 1624: T. Heywood, *Captives*, III. iii., Loose not this advantadge, But take tyme by the fore-toppe. 1708: Ward, *London Terræfilius*, 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: Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig. Aa2, It is a prouerbe in Englande that the men of Tinidal borderers on y<sup>e</sup> 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 tiftie toftie tinkers, good fellowes thei bee, In stoppyng of one hole thei vse to make three. 1630: *Tinker of Turvey*, 10 (Halliwell), Rooome 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).

*Tint for tant*=*Tit for tat*. Hazlitt suggests derivation from French "*tant for tant*." The *Oxford Dictionary* suggests "*taunt for taunt*." 1620: T. Granger, *Div. Logike*, 124 (O.), Like for like, pin driuing out a pin, tint for taunt, etc. 1672: Walker, *Param.*, 29, Give him tint for tant. 1690: *New Dict. Canting Crew*, sig. M2, Tint for tant, hit for hit, and dash for dash. 1828: Carr, *Craven Dialect*, ii. 208, "Tint for tant," a requital similar to *tit for tat*.

*Tit for tat*. [Par pari respondet.—

Plautus, *Truc*, ii 47] 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch iv 1552 Huloot, *Abced*, sig Bb6, Requite as tick for tacke 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Beau," A tit for a tat as good every whit as was brought 1748 Richardson, *Clarissa*, i 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, ii 1670 Ray 214 c 1690 Sedley, *Grumbler*, I ["Bibble babble" for Tittle tattle] 1732 Fuller, No 5058

Toad, subs i *The toad and a side-pocket* See quotes Monkey and dog are variants for the toad 1785 Grose, *Class Dict 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, ii 347 ["monkey" for "toad"] Ibid, 377 ["dog"—Devonsh] 1881 *N & Q*, 6th ser, iii 76 ["dog"—E Rid-ing, Yorks] Ibid ["toad"—S W England and Northants] 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 dominatili"] c 1380 Wiclif, *Select Eng Works*, u 280, Christene men may seye, as the poete seith in proverbe, the frogge seide to the harwe, cursid be so many lordis 1720 *Vade Mecum for Mill-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 tyme turn'd her over 1817 Scott,

*Rob Roy*, ch xxvii, Only muttering between his teeth, "Ower mony maisters as the paddock said to the harrow, when every tooth gae her a tig" 1849 Dinsdale, *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*, i 279, The proverbial saying about a man in difficulties that he is "like a toad under a harrow"

See also Mulfra, and Swell

Toasted cheese hath no master 1678 Ray, 82 1911 Hackwood, *Good Cheer*, 304

Toast your bread See quot 1888 Lowsley, *Berks Gloss*, 30 (E D S), Two-ast yer bread An' rasher yer vltch, An' as long as 'e lives Thee'ooll 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 Tormano, *Piazza 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 dai a man, to-morow non 1560 T Wilson, *Rhetorique*, 83 (1909) 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Biere" 1633 Draxe, 131

To-day at cheer, to-morrow in bier 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Chere," To day glad, to morrow dead 1623 Wod-roephe, *Spared Houres*, 476 1880 Spurgeon, *Ploughman's Pictures*, 67, To-day at good cheer, to-morrow on the bier

To-day gold, to-morrow dust c 1500 in *Antiq Repertory*, iv 398 (1809), To day a man in golde, to morow cloyde 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 seie . . . "Ille hodie, ego cras"; pet is, "He to dai, ich 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. lxxv., To-day for thee, and to-morrow for me. 1681: Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 427. 1732: Fuller, No. 5154. 1855: Kingsley, *West. Ho!*, 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. j 7 (Grosart), I doo not loue so to make a toyle of a pleasure. Before 1658: Cleveland, in *Works*, 267 (1742), And make a toil of's pleasure.

Toil so for trash, what would you do for treasure, If you? 1639: Clarke, 194.

To it again, no body comes. 1639: Clarke, 303. 1670: Ray, 197. 1672: Walker, *Paræm.*, 53.

Toko for yam. See quotes. 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 herel 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.

Tom All thumbs. See All thumbs.

Tom, Dick and Harry. 1566: Lindsay, *Dial. between Exper. and a Courtier*, sig. A8 (Purfoot), Wherefore to colliers, carters and cokes To Iack and Tom my rime 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.*, iii., I neither care what Tom, or Jack, or Dick said. 1660: A. Brome, *Poems*: "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. 1921: 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 Tum Dooley's note, booath barren and dreigh (said of a barren and dry cow). Tom Drum. See Drum's entertainment.

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' *Colloq.*, 34. 1769: Colman, *Man and Wife*, III. 1825: Brockett, *Gloss. N. Country Words*, 150, Nivver, never, "To-morrow 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 Melibæa, 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 Bombe*, V. iii. c. 1620: B & F., *Night-Walker*, II. iii. 1685-6: Cotton, *Montaigne*, bk. ii. ch. iv., To-morrow's

a New Day [title of chapter] 1712  
Motteux, *Quixote*, Pt II ch lxviii  
1823 Scott, *St Ronan's*, ch xxxiii

To-morrow is untouched 1846  
Denham, *Proverbs*, I (Percy S)

To-morrow morning I found a horse-shoe 1620 Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt II ch xlii, "That are as much to the purpose as "To-morrow I found a horse-shoe" 1732 Fuller, No 5208 1926 *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 Prodger's job, A 1854 Baker, *Northants Gloss*, s v "Prodger," "A Tom Prodger's job", a clumsy piece of work is so called

Tom Tell-truth 1377 Langland, *Ploeman* B iv 17, Tomme Trewe-tonge-telle-me-no-tales 1542 Udall, tr Erasmus' *Apoph*, 202 (1877), (As ye would say in English) Thom trouth, or plain Sarisburie 1550 Latimer, *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 Quarles, *Works*, I 93 (Grosart) 1681 Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 1066, 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 Lammias 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, I4

Tong, Kent See Bapchild, and Muston

Tongue, subs I A good tongue is a good weapon 1732 Fuller, No 180

2 At one's tongue's end 1590 *Tarltons Neves out of Purg*, 69 (Sh S), To blame those wives whose secrets lay at their tongues end 1652 Walsingham,

*Arcana Aulica*, 18 (1694), Upon whose tongues-end lay the disposal of his life 1751 Fielding, *Amelia*, bk xii ch vii Having always at her tongue's end that excellent proverb 1854 Baker, *Northants Gloss*, s v "I had it at my tongue's end," i e I was ready to speak, but on reflection held my tongue

3 Her tongue runs on pattens 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch vii c 1550 Udall, *Roister Doister*, I iii, Yet your tongue can renne on patins as well as mine 1611 Davies (of Hereford) *Sc of Folly*, 46, in *Works*, II (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, 196 1736 Bailey, *Dict*, s v Tongue"

7 His tongue is well hung 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, 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 euer on whelis 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial I, Why, wench, I think thy tongue runs upon wheels this morning 1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, II 213, "His tongue runs o' wheels", i e he talks fast

9 Let not thy tongue run away with thy brains 1732 Fuller, No 3190

10 That tongue doth lye that speaks in hast 1611 Davies (of Hereford) *Sc of Folly*, 43, in *Works*, II (Grosart)

11. The tongue breaks bones, though itself has none c 1270 *Prov of Alfred*, in *Old Eng Miscell* 128 (Morns), For ofte tunge breketh bon theyh heo seolf nabbe non Before 1384 Wiclif, *Works*, II 44 (Arnold), Tunge breketh boon, al if the tunge himself have noon c 1470 G Ashby, *Poems*, 64 (E E T S), The tonge breketh boon, though he be tendre 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch v, Tounge breaketh bone, it selfe hauyng none 1670 Ray, 26 1732 Fuller, No 4795

12. *The tongue is ever turning to the aching tooth.* 1586: Young, tr. Guazzo's *Civil Convers.*, fo. 221, The tongue rolls there where the teeth aketh. 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Ital.-Eng.*, 8, Where the tooth pains, the tounge 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 (1905).

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.

16. *The tongue talks at the head's cost.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 26. 1732: Fuller, No. 4801.

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, *Paræm.*, 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.

19. *Tongue, whither wilt thou?* 1692: L'Estrange, *Æsop*: "Life," 11 (3rd ed.) [quoted as "the old proverb"].

20. *Your tongue is made of very loose leather.* 1732: Fuller, No. 6062.

21. *Your tongue runs before your wit.* c. 1350: *Pearl*, l. 294, Thy worde byfore thy wytte con fle. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. iv. c. 1597: Deloney, *Gentle Craft*, Pt. I. ch. i., Pardon me . . . if my tongue doe outslip 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.* 1854: 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, *Idler Out of Doors*, 123, Whilst she talked nineteen to the dozen.

See also Heart (12); and Long tongue.

Too big a gun. See quotes. 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. 1681: Robertson, *Phrascol. 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: Wodroephe, *Spared 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 feloe, and one for whom nothing was to hotte nor to heaue. 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 heavie for them 1822 Scott, *Nigel*, ch viii, Such a sight, sweetheart, will make one loth to meddle with matters that are too hot or heavy for their handling 1890 *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*, xiv 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 c 1555 in Wright, *Songs, etc*, *Philip and Mary*, 30 (Roxb Cl), To latte they spare, when all ys 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 1539 Taverner, *Proverbs*, fo 32, It is to late sparinge at the bottome c 1590 G Harvey, *Marginalia*, 102 (1913) [as in 1539] 1670 Ray, 144 1732 Fuller, No 6345

Too light winning makes the prize light 1855 Bohn, 545

Too low for a hawk, too high for a buzzard 1919 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 Gerbier, *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 c 1804 J Austen *Watsons*, 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 Gerbier, *Discourse of Building*, 14 [cited as "the old English proverb"]

Too much bed makes a dull head Derby 1884 *Folk-Lore Journal*, ii 279

Too much breaks the bag 1666 Torriano *Piazza Univ*, 244 ["sack" for "bag"] 1670 Ray, 26 1732 Fuller, No 5259

Too much consulting confounds Ibid, No 5261

Too much cordial will destroy Ibid, No 5263

Too much cunning undoes 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Brit-Eng*, 3

Too much diligence is hurtful 1561 Hoby, *Courtier*, 61 (TT), It hath bene a proverbe emonge some most excellent peincters of old time, that To muche diligence is hurtfull

Too much liberty spoils all 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Bandon," Much liberty brings men to the gallows 1681 Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 822 1694 Terence made English, 123, For too much liberty corrupts an angel

"Too much money makes men mad, the prouerb plaine 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 that is overdoon, it wol nat preve Anght, as clerkes seyn, it is a vyce c 1450 *Abce of Aristotill*, in EETS, Ext Ser, 8, p 66, For to moche of on thyng was

neuer holsome. c. 1500: in *Antiq. Repertory*, iv. 414 (1809), To muche ys nought of any maner of thyng. c. 1554: *Interlude of Youth*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, ii. 19, Over-much of one thing is nought. 1591: Harington, *Orl. Furioso*: "Allegory," 408 (1634), Our English prouerbe saith, Too much of one thing is good for nothing. 1634: C Butler, *Feminine Monarchie*, 170 [as in 1591]. 1681: Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 877 [as in 1591]. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasmus' *Colloq.*, 39 [as in 1591]. 1751: Fielding, *Amelia*, bk. xi. ch. iii. [as in 1591]. 1871: N. & Q., 4th ser., viii. 506, [Lancs] Too much of ought Is good for nought. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 10, To' mitch ov owt's good for nowt.

Too much praise is a burthen. 1669: *Politeuphuia*, 140. 1732: Fuller, No. 5266.

Too much pudding will choke a dog. 1830: Colman, jr., in *Hum. Works*, 421 (Hotten). 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 141, Too much pudding would sade [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 accidence, He is now. 1659: Howell, II (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 soon wise to be long old. 1592: Greene, *Works*, x. 238 (Grosart), The neighbours saw, I was too soone wise; to be long olde. 1594: Shakespeare, *Rich. III.*, 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: Calfhill, *Answer to Martiall*, 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. xlii., 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, *Lancs 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 waie, As dryve a top over a tyeld house. 1659: Howell, 3, You may drive a toppe over a tylde 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*,

11 No 233, It is further written to me that a brut doth run that I should be in the Tower of London When I shall deserve to be there Totynham shall turn French 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch vii 1631 W Bedwell, *Briefe Descrip of Tottenham*, sig D3, Three prouerbs commonly by the neighbours vsed and spoken of Tottenham The first of those is *Tottenham is turn'd French* 1662 Fuller *Worthies*, ii 314 (1840) 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "London"

2 When Tottenham Wood is all on fire Then Tottenham Street is nought but mire 1631 Bedwell, *ut supra*, sig D4 1662 Fuller, *Worthies* ii 314 (1840) 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 *Wit 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 *Cripps*, ch iii, As if I would touch him with a pair of tongs, sir! 1901 F E Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 33, Aw wouldno' touch him wi' a pair o' tungs

2 To touch to the quick 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch vi, Practyse in all, about all toucheth the quicke 1567 Golding, *Ovid*, bk vi l 162, And that did touch Minerva to the quicke 1602 Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, II ii, I'll tent him to the quick Before 1658 Cleveland, *Works*, 131 (1742) There I confess I am touched to the quick 1742 Fielding, *Andrews*, bk 1 ch xvii, The last appellation stung her to the quick 1823 Scott, *St Ronan's*, ch xxix, But when you touch me to the quick you cannot expect me to endure without wincing 1855 Kings-

ley, *West Ho'*, ch 1, Her last words had touched him to the quick

3 Touch and take 1591 Florio *Second Frutes* 197, Touch and take, take and holde 1620 *Two Merry Milkmaids*, IV ii, I know what the prouerbe saies, 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 ix, 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 iii 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 xvi, Since touch pot touch penny makes every man equal

5 Touch wood, it's 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 golde is tried by the touchstone, so riches do shew what is in a man 1669 *Politephnia*, 130 1732 Fuller, No 736 [omitting "the hearts of"]

Tough as leather, As 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Conas" 1678 Ray, 290, As tough as whit leather 1843 Mrs Carlyle, *Lett*, i 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" c 1386 Chaucer, *Muller's Tale*, l 588, He hadde more tow on his distaf Than Gerveys new 1412 Hoccleve, *Regement*, 45 (L E T S), Tow on my distaf haue I for to spynne, More, my fadir, than ye wot of yit 1533 Heywood, *Paradise and Friar*, in Hazlitt, *Old Plays*, l 238, I have more tow on my distaff than I can well spin 1732 Fuller, No 4128 She hath other tow on her distaff 1818 Scott, *Fam Letters*, ii 4 (1894), 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 the— 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 weird of the Tracys, 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 Tracys, the Lacys, 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. Prudentum*.

3. *He that changes his trade.* See quotes. 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*, 89, 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 goodly revenue. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, 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 1828]

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: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 230.

Traveller, subs. 1. *A traveller may lie by authority.* 1509: Barclay, *Ship of Fools*, ii. 68 (1874), There thre sortes be Of people lyuyng, whiche may themselfe defende In lesynge [lying], for they haue auctoryte to lye The first is pylgrymes that hath great wonders sene In strange countres, suche may say what they wyll. c. 1598:

Deloney, *Gentle Craft*, Pt II ch vi, Trauellers haue liberty to vitter what lies they list 1630 Brathwait, *Eng Gent*, etc., 77 (1641). Whence it is said, that travellers, poets and lyars, are three words al 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, *Fem Spectator*, iii 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 Cf Old, A (b) (14), and Painters

2 A traveller must have See quotes The details of equipment vary 1591 Florio, *Second Frides*, 93, If you will be a traoueller haue alwayes the eies of a faulcon the eares of an asse the face of an ape the mouth of a hog the shoulder of a camell the legges of a stag and see that you neuer want two bagges very full, that is one of pacience and another of money 1594 Nashe, *Works*, v 141 (Grosart), A traoueller must haue the backe of an asse 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 him, the eare of a merchant to heare all and say nothing 1611 in Coryat, *Crudities*, i 44 n (1905), Note reader that a traveller must have the backe of an asse, the mouth of a sow, the eye of a hawke, a merchants eare, etc 1616 *Rich Cabinet*, fo 147, Traueller must haue the head of a philosopher the heart of a lyon the mouth of a swine the eyes of a hawke the backe of an asse the legges of a camell and the vigilancy of a cocke 1666 Torriano, *Piazza Unu*, 157 [a slightly varied copy of 1591] 1678 Ray, 296, To travell safely through the world a must have a falcons eye, an asses eares an apes face a merchants words, a camellis back a hogs mouth, and a harts legs

3 Much spends the traveller more than the abider 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prud*  
Treacle Town=Macclesfield 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 one's shoe awry, To = To be guilty of a lapse from virtue c 1422 Hoccleve, *Minor Poems*, xxiv 66 (O), No womman But swich oon as hath trode hir shoo amis 1562 Heywood, *Epigr*, 6th hund, No 21, My wife doth euer tread hir shooe a wry 1590 *Tarltons Newes*, 75 (Sh S) A faire wife, that could not treade right, yet wrinct hir shoe inward as secret as she was false 1616 Sharpam, *Cupid's Whirligig*, IV, She hath neuer trode her foot awry 1639 D'Urfe, *Richmond Heiress*, II ii, A foolish female nice and shy, That never yet trod shooe awry 1710 Ward, *Nuptial Dialogues*, i 141, But I defy Your servile 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, *Æsop*, 172 (3rd ed.), We love the treason but we hate the traytor 1712 Motteux, *Quixote*, Pt I bk iv ch xii, Who made good to them our Spanish proverb, that the treason pleases, but the traitors are odious

Treasure is tickle 1583 Melbancke, *Philotinus*, 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 lie 1549 Latimer, *Seven Sermons*, i18 (Arber) Wheresoeuer the tree falleth there it shall rest 1556 Heywood, *Spider and Flie*, cap 88 p 380 (Farmer) Where the tree falleth there lieth it, — clerks say so c 1630 in *Roxb Ballads*, i 143 (BS), And as he [the tree] falls, so doth he lye 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.).

5. *The highest tree hath the greatest fall.* 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 333 (1870). 1670: Ray, 13. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Tree," The higher the tree the greater the fall.

6. *There is no tree but bears some fruit.* 1616: Breton, in *Works*, ii. e 8 (Grosart), There is no tree but beareth fruit. 1670: Ray, 149.

7. *The tree falls not at the first blow.* Before 1500: in Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 128 (E.E.T.S.), Hit is a febill tre that fallith at the first strok. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 48. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Tree" ["stroke" for "blow"].

8. *The tree is known by its fruit.* 1564: Bullein, *Dialogue*, 86 (E.E.T.S.), You shal know that fruitice by the tree. c. 1630: in *Roxb. Ballads*, i. 143 (B.S.). 1670: Ray, 11, A tree is known by the fruit, and not by the leaves. 1719: Prior, in Peck, *Desid. Curiosa*, 222 (1779). 1861: Peacock, *Gryll Grange*, ch. v., If you know the tree by its fruit . . . Cf. Such tree.

9. *The tree that grows slowly keeps itself for another.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

10. *Trees eat but once.* Ibid.

11. *When the tree is fallen, all go with their hatchet.* 1586: Young, tr. Guazzo's *Civil Convers.* fo. 206, The tree is no sooner fallen downe to the ground, but euerie one is readie to runne vpon 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.

Treelton. See Bolsover.

Tregeagle, He roars like. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., vi. 6. 1865: Hunt, *Pop. Romances*

*W. of Eng.*, 143 (1896), "Roaring or howling like Tregeagle," is a common expression amongst the vulgar in Cornwall. 1913: E. M. Wright, *Rustic Speech, etc.*, 196 [Mrs. Wright tells the legend at length].

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. 1821: 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. 1. *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.

2. *A trick worth two of that.* 1597: Shakespeare, 1 *Henry IV.*, II. i. 1619: Chapman, *Two Wise Men*, V. i. c. 1620: *Barnavelt*, IV. i., in Bullen, *Old Plays*, ii. 272, I know a trick worth ten o' that. 1772: Graves, *Spirit. Quixote*, bk. iii. ch. xv. 1879: R. L. S., *Story of a Lie*, ch. vi.

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 1659]. 1710: Ward, *Nuptial 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 linnet. 1892: Heslop, *Northumb. Words*, 744 (E.D.S.), "Trig as a lennard (spruce as a linnet)"—Newcastle proverb.

Trim as a trencher c 1540 Bale, *Kynge Johan*, 98 (Camden S), Trymme as a trencher, havynge his shoes of golde 1542 Udall, tr Erasmus' *Apoph*, 276 (1877), Filling vp as trimme as a trencher the space that stooode voide, 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, neatly turned out of sycamore wood, had a particularly clean and wholesome appearance"]

Trimmingham See Gimmingham

Trim tram, like master like man—with variants 1583 Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig D3, Trim tram, neither good for God nor man 1653 Middleton and Rowley, *Span Gypsy*, IV iii, Trim, tram, hang master, hang man! 1681 Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 1246 1714 Ozell, *Molière*, 1 159 1762 Smollett, *Sir L Greaves*, ch xiii 1785 Grose, *Class Dict Vulgar Tongue*, s v

Tring, Wing and Ivinghoe 1 See quots 1820 *Gent Mag*, ii 326, Tring, Wing and Ivinghoe, did go, For striking the Black Prince a blow N & Q, 3rd ser, v 176, The name of Ivanhoe 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 tennis "Tring, Wing and Ivanhoe, 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 Tring, Wing and Ivinghoe, 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 wip't 1678 Ray, 50

Trojan, Like a 1846 Planché, *Ex-travag*, iii 143 (1879), Upon them! forward! charge like Trojans!—go! 1855 Dickens, *Holly Tree*, Branch 2, He went on a lying like a Trojan about the pony 1883 R L S, *Treasure I*, ch xviii, He had lain like a Trojan behind his mattress in the gallery

Trot sire, trot dam See quot 1560 Wilson, *Rhetorique*, 119 (1909), Trot sire, 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 proue 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*, ii 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)

Trout See quot 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 142, When trout refuse bait or fly, There ever is a storm a-nigh 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 currant 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, *Parl of Foules*, l 355, The wedded turtel with hir herte trewe c 1440 Hoccleve, *Minor Poems*, 141 (EETS), As treewe as turtle that lak kith hir feere [mate] c 1470 *Songs and Carols*, 88 (Percy S), That women be trew as tyrtyll on tre 1590 Spenser, *F Q*, III xi 2, That was as trew in love as turtle to her make 1670 Ray, 203, As true as a turtle to her mate 1720 Gay, *Poems*, ii 280 (Underhill), Tho' seeming as the turtle kind, And like the gospel true

4. *As true as God is in heaven.* 1737: Ray, 226. 1869: FitzGerald, *Sea Words and Phrases*, 16, *As true as God's in heaven, here comes Lord Rochford.* 1923: *Folk-Lore*, xxxiv. 329 (Oxfordshire).

5. *As true as steel.* 1303: Brunne, *Handl. Synne*, l. 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 styll* 1553: Gooze, *Pop. Kingdome*, bk. iv. l. 537, *And sure with no dissembling heart, for true as steele they bee.* 1676: Shadwell, *Virtuoso*, III. 1713: Gay, *Wife of Bath*, V. iii. 1824: Scott, *Redgauntlet*, ch. xvi., *I am trusty as steel to owners, and always look after cargo.* 1849: Brontë, *Shirley*, ch. ix. 1923: Lucas, *Advisory Ben*, § xxxix. p. 208.

6. *As true as that 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. 4351, *That is as true 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, *Acolastus*, sig. Q3, *That is as trewe as the gospell.* 1577: *Misogonus*, III. i. 1633: Draxe, 210. 1753: Richardson, *Grandison*, i. 30 (1883). 1828: Carr, *Craven Dialect*, i. 193, *"It's as true as t' gospel,"* a common asseveration 1872: Hardy, *Greenwood Tree*, Pt. I. ch. ii., *"That's as true as gospel of this member,"* said Reuben. 1926: Phillpotts, *Yellow Sands*, III, *Is it true what these old men be telling?* *Arthur.* True as Gospel!

9. *As true as velvet.* 1608: *Merry Devil of Edm.*, IV. i., *Thou speakst as true as velvet.* Cf. *Velvet.*

10. *A true friend is known in a doubtful matter.* 1591: Lodge, *Catharos*, 13 (Hunt. Cl.) [quoted as "an olde prouerbe"].

11. *A true jest is no jest.* c. 1386: Chaucer, *Cook's Prol.*, l. 33, *But "sooth pley, quaad [evil] pley,"* as the Fleming seith. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. viii., *Sooth bourd is no bourd.* 1591: Harington, *Apol. of Poetrie*, par. 9 [as in 1546]. 1633: Draxe, 99 [as in 1546]. 1824: Scott, *Redgauntlet*, ch. xii., *The lady drew up, and the Provost said, half aside, "The sooth bourd is nae bourd"* 1825: Hone, *Ev. Day Book*, i. 506, *To talk now of "no joke like a true joke" is scarcely passable.*

12. *A true man and a thief think differently.* c. 1386: Chaucer, *Squire's Tale*, l. 529, *But sooth is seyde, gon sithen many a day, "A trew wight and a thief 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 frend, that loveth me for my love and not for my good [goods, wealth].*

14. *He that is true.* See quotes. c. 1300: *King Alisaunder*, l. 7367, *Who-so is of dede untrewwe Ofte hit schal him sore reowe.* c. 1390: Gower, *Conf. Amantis*, bk. vii. l. 1961, *The proverbe is, who that is trewe, Him schal his while nevere rewe.*

15. *It must be true that all men say.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi, *It must needes be true that euery man sayth.* 1570: A. Barclay, *Mirror of Good Manners*, 52 (Spens. S.), *It nedes muste be true which euery 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, *Geierstein*, ch. xxii., *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.*, l. 76, *Ful ofte in game a sooth I have herd seye.* c. 1665: in Roxb. *Ballads*, vii. 366 (B.S.), *Many a true word hath been spoke in jest.* 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I. 1892: Shaw,

*Widowers' Houses*, I 1920 H Lucy,  
*Diary of Journalist*, 21

17 *That's as true as I am his uncle*  
1678 Ray, 83

18 *The truest jests 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*, iii 257 (BS),  
That shewes a good fellow true blew]  
c 1660 in *Ibid*, iv 495 (BS), You  
know true blew will never stain 1727  
*Harl MS* quoted in *Roxb Ballads*,  
iv 495 (BS), 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 Prudentum* 1670  
Ray, 21 ['takes root' for 'roots']  
1736 Bailey, *Dict* [as in 1670]

Trugs 1' th' Hole or by Brokken Cross,  
Oather by 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire*  
*Proverbs*, 99

Trumpeter is dead, Your 1729  
Franklin, *Busy-Body*, No 1, in *Works*, 1  
329 (Bigelow), I am cautious of praising  
myself, lest I should be told my trum-  
peter'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 extol yourself

Trumps, To be put to one's 1559  
*Mirr Mag Jack Cade*, xx (O) Ere he  
took me, I put him to his trumps  
1588 *Mar-Prelate's Epitome*, 13 (1843),  
It would put a man to his trumps,  
to answer these things soundly 1615  
B & F, *Cupid's Revenge*, IV 1, What  
is in 't [in a petition] I know not, but  
it has put him to his trumps 1730  
in *Walpole Ballads*, 35 (Oxford, 1916)  
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, Agricola, was  
strangely put to his trumps at the  
*Urbs Orrea*

Trunch See Gunningham

Truro, Cornwall 1 *Pride of Truro*  
1602 Carew, *Survey of Cornwall*, 220  
(1811), Some of the idle disposed  
Cornishmen nick 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 30b (1840), "Tru-ru, Triveth-en,  
Ombdina geveth Try-ru" Which is to  
say, "Truru consisteth of three streets,  
and it shall in time be said, Here Tru ru  
stood"

Trust, subs 1 *In trust is treason*  
c 1460 *Good Wyse wold a Pylgremage*,  
l 76, Syt not with no man a-loune, for  
oft in trust ys tressoun c 1475 *Man-*  
*kind*, sc iii st 107 1575 Gascoigne,  
*Poesies*, in *Works*, 1 404 (Cunliffe)  
1628 Rous, *Diary*, 30 (Camden S), In  
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, ill payment killed it*  
1666 Tornano, *Piazza Univ*, 184  
1911 T Edwardes, *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 1 *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*  
*Ibid*, 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*  
*repent before you die* c 1560 in Huth,  
*Ancient Ballads*, etc, 221 (1867), Who  
trusts before he tries may soone 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, Aw'd trust him no furr nor aw could throw a bull bi t' tail. 1916: B. 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.

7. *In whom I trust most.* See quotes. c. 1450: Partonope, 110 (E.E.T.S.), Ther-fore men saith an olde sawe: He to whom a man do trest Euermore may dysceyve hym best. Before 1500: in Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 130 (E.E.T.S.), In whom I trust most, sounest me deseywith.

8. *I will not trust him though he were my brother.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1639: Clarke, 140.

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*, l. 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, *Alphonsus*, 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.* 1633: 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*, I., I'd trust him with untold gold.

See also Try (2).

Truth, subs. 1 *Fair fall truth and daylight.* 1678: Ray, 211.

2. *In too much dispute truth is lost* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Fr.-Eng.*, 1.

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, 1 *Henry IV.*, III. i. 1616: Jonson, *Devil is an Ass*, V. v., I will tell truth, And shame the fiend. 1670: Cotton, *Scarronides*, bk. iv. 1710: Centlivre, *Man's Bewitch'd*, III. i. 1823: Scott, *Peeveril*, ch. iv., Faith, neighbours, to say truth, and shame the devil, I do not like the sound of it above half. Cf. No. 22.

4. *Truth and sweet oil always come to the top.* 1620: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt. II. ch. x., Truth . . . tramples on the lie as oil doth upon water. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, Truth and oil are ever above. 1732: Fuller, No. 5295 [as in 1640]. 1865: "Lancs Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., viii. 494. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 10, Truth an' sweet-oil awlus cum'n to th' top.

5. *Truth fears no colours.* 1732: Fuller, No. 5296.

6. *Truth finds foes where it should find none.* 1572: T. Wilson, *Disc. upon Usury*, 188 (1925), It is a common saying, *Veritas odium parit*, Truth purchaseth hatred. 1660: Howell, *Parly 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'Urfe, *Quixote*, Pt I Act I  
sc 11, Truth has a good face, tho the  
quoif 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 Gil-  
bert, *Foggarty'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 wilbe truth,  
in spite of all defame 1595 Church-  
yard *Charitie*, 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 puteo quodam sic  
alta, ut fundus sit nullus, veritatem  
jacere demersam—Lactantius, *Inst*,  
III 28] 1646 Browne, *Pseudo Epi*,  
bk 1 ch v, Truth, which wise men say,  
doth lye in a well 1758-67 Sterne,  
*Shandy*, IV, "Slawkenb Tale," Whilst  
the unlearned were all busied in get-  
ting down to the bottom of the well,  
where TRUTH keeps her little court  
1797 Colman, jr, *Nightg and Slippers*,  
76 (Hotten), And hence the proverb  
rose, that truth Lies in the bottom of a  
well 1819 Byron, *Don Juan*, can 11  
st 84, You'd wish yourself where Truth  
is—in a well 1852 M A Keltie,  
*Reminisc of Thought and Feeling*, 3,  
The thinker who dives below, and  
looks for truth in the well where in 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*,  
I 6 Whereby the truthe is often blamed,

Yet in no wise truthe may be shamed  
1567 Harman, *Caveat*, 28 (E E T S)  
1655 Fuller, *Church Hist*, bk IV §1  
(56) 1732 Fuller, No 5307 1853  
Trench, *Proverbs*, 19 (1905)

16 Truth needs no colours 1519  
Horman, *Vulgaria*, fo 58, Trewthe  
nedeth no peynted or colored termes  
1631 Mabbe, *Celestina*, 94 (T T), Be  
cause truth needeth no colours

17 Truth needs not many words  
c 1550 *Parl of Byrdes*, l 28, Where is  
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 E T S), Well  
man, well truth seketh no corners  
c 1602 Chapman, *May-Day*, IV III,  
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 always be re-  
vealed [c 1380 Wiclif, *Eng Works*,  
270 (E E T S), Sumtyme it harmeth  
men to seie the sothe out of couenable  
tyme and euere it harmeth to be, but  
sumtyme it profitith to be stille and  
abide a couenable tyme to speke]  
c 1387 Usk, *Test of Love*, in Skeat's  
*Chaucer*, VII 32, Al sothes be nat to  
sayne c 1480 *Early Miscell*, 63  
(Warton Cl, 1855), For soothe may  
not alle day be sayd c 1550 *Parl of*  
*Byrdes* l 36, All soothes be not for to  
saye, It is better some be lefte by  
reason Than trouth 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,  
*Iables*, 1st ser, No 18 l 24 1754  
Berthelson *Eng-Danish Dict*, s v  
"Truth" [as in 1680] 1827 Scott,



*Journal*, 16 July, I will erase the passage. Truth should not be spoke at all times. 1846: 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 trieth*. See quot. c. 1475: *Mankind*, sc. iii. st. 123, The prowber seyth "the trewth tryth the sylfe." Alas, I have much care.

26. *Truth will prevail*. c. 1400: *Beryn*, 63 (E.E.T.S.), Ffor, aftir comyn saying, "evir atte ende The trowth will be previd, how so men evir trend" c. 1580: Fulwell, *Ars Adulandi*, sig E4, Trueth in the ende shall preuayle 1619: *Helpe to Discourse*, 98 (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: Draxe, 189. 1639: Clarke, 60.

2. *Try before you trust*. c. 1460: *Good Wyfe wold a Pylgremage*, l. 118 (E.E.T.S.), A-say [Assay] or euer thow trust. Before 1500: in Hill, *Common-place-Book*, 47 (E.E.T.S.), Geve trust to them that thow hast preved. 1587: Greene, *Works*, iv. 26 (Grosart), From hence forth trie ere thou trust. 1637: T. Heywood, *Dialogues, etc.*, in Bang, *Materialien*, B. 3, p. 212, Try ere you trust. 1639: Clarke, 31, Try and trust.

3. *Try your friend before you have need of him*. c. 1470: *Songs and Carols*, 28 (Percy S.), Man, beware and wyse in dede, Asay thi frend or thou hast nede. 1564: Bullein, *Dialogue*, 67 (E.E.T.S.), It is good trying of friends before need do require. c. 1600: in Roxb. *Ballads*, ii. 573 (B.S.), First trye thy friend before thou trust. 1659: Howell, 5.

4. *Try your skill in gilt first, and then in gold*. 1639: Clarke, 60. 1672: Walker, *Paræm.*, 43.

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 *Alt*, '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.

Tum 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 than 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 tack upon a narrow bridge*. 1732: Fuller, No. 2954;

3. *To turn a narrow adlant*=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 coachman that can turne well in a narrow roome.] 1879: Jackson, *Shropsh. Word-Book*, 3, To "turn on a mighty narrow adlant" 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 typets by way of exchange. 1576: Pettie, *Petite Pall.*, Pref. Lett., You marvel . . . that I should so soon

turn my tippet and recant 1608  
*Merry Devil of Edm*, III ii, The nun  
 will soone at night turne tippit 1659  
 Howell, 5, He hath turned his tippet  
 1826 Scott, *Woodstock*, ch xxix, A  
 high reward, and pardon for past acts  
 of malignancy, might tempt him once  
 more to turn his tippet

6 To turn over a new leaf 1548  
 Hall *Chron*, 180 (1809), When they  
 sawe thenglishmen at the weakest, they  
 turned the leafe and sang another song  
 1570 Ascham, *Scholemaster*, 155 (1743).  
 Except such men think themselves  
 wiser than Cicero for teaching of elo-  
 quence, they must be content to turn  
 a new leaf 1593 G Harvey *Works*  
 ii 328 (Grosart), As may schoole him  
 to turne-ouer a new leafe 1687  
 Sedley *Bellamira*, III, When we are  
 marry d I'll turn over a new leaf  
 1750 Smollett, *Gil Blas*, i 228, I  
 resolved to turn over a new leaf and  
 live honestly 1895 Pinerio, *Benefit*  
*of Doubt* I, This has been no end  
 of a shocker for me From to-day I  
 turn over the proverbial new leaf

7 To turn with the wind (or tide)  
 1591 Harrington, *Orl Furioso*, bk xxv  
 st 74, Rogero loves to take the surer  
 side, And turnes his sailes, as fortune  
 turnes her tide 1670 Ray, 197

8 Turn about is fair play 1891  
 R L S, *Wrecker*, ch xxiv

9 Turn-again-Lane See 1670 quot  
 1531 Tyndale, *Expos St John*, 140  
 (P S), It is become a turn-again lane  
 with them 1562 Heywood, *Epigr*,  
 5th hund, No 69 Find means to take  
 a house in Turn again-lane 1670  
 Ray, 243, He must take a house in  
 Turn again Lane This in old records  
 is called Wind-again Lane, and lieth  
 in the parish of St Sepulchres, going  
 down to Fleet dike, having no exit at  
 one end It is spoken of, and to, those  
 who take prodigal or other vicious and  
 destructive courses 1790 Grose, *Prov*  
*Gloss*, s v "London" [as in 1670]

10 Turn the buckle See Buckle of  
 belt

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*  
*Spain*, i 27 n (O), This gourd forms a  
 favourite metaphor she has re-  
 fused him, it is the "giving cold tur-  
 nips" of Suffolk 1869 Hazlitt, 333,  
 She has given him turnips *Devonshire*

Turnspits are dry 1678 Ray, 83

Twelfth Day See quot *Ibid*, 52,  
 At twelf-day the days are lengthened a  
 cock stride 1867 N & Q, 3rd ser,  
 xii 478, On Twelfth Day, the day is  
 lengthened the stride of a fowl (Sur-  
 rey) 1868 *Ibid*, 4th ser, i 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 *Ibid* 177

3 Twenty sovereigns are worth twenty  
 acres = A bird in the hand," etc  
 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 147

4 Twenty young See quot 1591  
 Florio, *Second Frutes*, 101, And who is  
 not [young] at twentieth, and knowes not  
 at thirtie, And hath not at fortie in  
 store, Will not be while he lues for to  
 know vainely struces, And shall neuer  
 haue ame more 1882 Mrs Chamber-  
 lain, *W Worcs Words*, 39 (E D S),  
 Twenty young, Thirty strong, Forty  
 wit, 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)

Twineham See Bolney

Twinkling of a bed-post (originally  
 bed-staff), In the 1676 Shadwell,  
*Virtuoso*, I 1, Gad! I'll do it instantly,  
 in the twinkling of a bedstaff 1685  
 S Wesley, *Maggots*, 163, In bedstaff's  
 twinkling I'll be gone 1700 Ward  
*London Spy*, 264 (1924), She could shake  
 'em off in the twinkling of a bed-  
 staff 1834 Marryat, *P Simple*, ch  
 xxxvi, Won't I get you out of purga-  
 tory in the twinkling of a bed post?

1847: Planché, *Extravag.*, iii. 192 (1879), If any one grumbles I'll scuttle his nob, In the twinkling of a bed post!

Twinkling of an eye, In the. c. 1300: in *Vernon MS.*, 286 (E.E.T.S.), Ffor in a twynclng of an eithe ffrom erthe to heuene thou maight styghe. c. 1400: *Beryn*, 94 (E.E.T.S.), In twynkelyng of an eye To make a short answer. 1549: Latimer, *Seven Sermons*, 117 (Arber), He maye in the twynkelng of an eye, saue a man. 1611: *Bible*, 1 Cor. xv. 52. 1674: Jas. Howard, *Eng Moun-sieur*, IV. iii. 1704: Defoe, *The Storm*, 195, The rest of his men . . . in the twinkling of an eye were drown'd. 1884: Gilbert, *Princess Ida*, II, I'll storm your walls, And level your halls, in the twinkling 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: Grose, *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. 5321 ["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 wou'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 Hearth*, 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 quot. 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 quot. 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 complexions in one face. 1575: G. Fenton, *Golden Epistles*, 292 (1582), A propertie verve 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, III. 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 strue for a bone, and the third whiles that they contend, taketh

it away 1692 L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 4  
(3rd ed) 1732 Fuller, No 5324  
1880 Spurgeon, *Ploughm 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 evils choose the least, Of [Nam  
quod auit, minima de malis, id est ut  
turpiter potius quam calamitose an  
est ullum maius malum turpitudine—  
Cicero *De Officiis*, 3 29] c 1374  
Chaucer *Troilus*, bk ii 1 470, Of  
harmes two the lesse is for to chese c  
1440 *Gesta Rom*, 10 (E E T S), The  
knyyt answerid, and seide, 'Sire hit is  
wreten, that of too evelis the lasse evill  
is to be chosyn" 1546 Heywood  
*Proverbs*, Pt I ch v, Of two yls, choose  
the least whyle choyse lyth in lot  
1581 Woodes, *Conflict of Conscience*,  
IV, Howbeit of two evils the least must  
be choosed 1694 Cibber, *Love's  
Last Shift*, III 1 1730 Fielding,  
*Temple Beau* IV v, Since it is the  
lesser evil of the two, it is to be pre-  
ferred 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 *Reliq  
Antiquæ*, 1 314 (1841)

Two eyes can see more than one c  
1594 Bacon, *Promus*, No 946, Two  
eyes are better than one 1605  
Camden, *Remains*, 334 (1870) 1681  
Robertson *Phraseol Generalis*, 567,  
Two eyes see better than one 1732  
Fuller, No 5326 ["may" for "can"]

Two faces in one hood, To be = To  
be double-faced c 1400 *Rom Rose*,  
1 7388, 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 lov'd  
neuer two facys in oon hood Before  
1529 Skelton, *Magnyfycence* 1 720,  
Two faces in a hode couertly I bere,  
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 hooode 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 xl, 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  
carries two faces under one hat

Two feet in one shoe Will never do  
1875 Cheales, *Proverb Folk-Lore*, 40

Two folk, To be = To be unfriends  
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'Keeffe,  
*The Toy*, III 11, Mr Metheglin, 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  
uf thee doosn'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 fooles 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  
*Devonsh Assoc Trans*, liv 136, "You  
can't 'ave two forenoons in one day"  
Meaning you cannot be young more  
than once

Two friends have a common purse,  
one sings and the other weeps, When  
1855 Bohn, 562

Two friends with one gift, To make  
1681 Robertson *Phraseol Generalis*  
797 [with "favour" for "gift"]  
1732 Fuller, No 5205

Two good days See Wife (5)

Two good men See quot 1880  
Spurgeon, *Ploughm 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. [Σύν τε δύο ἐργαζόμενα.—Homer, *Il.*, x. 224.] 1530 : Palsgrave, 594, Two wyttes be farre better than one. 1546 : Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. ix. 1558 : W. Forrest, *Grisill the Second*, 51 (Roxb. Cl.), This olde sayinge, Twoe wyttis (or moe) to bee better then one. 1638 : Taylor (Water Poet), *Bull, Beare, 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*, 331 (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. 1875 : 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.

\* Y

Two knaves well met. 1611 : Cotgrave, s.v. "Chat," *A bon rat bon chat*, Two knaves well met or matched. 1672 : Walker, *Paræm.*, 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 keepe 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 euen those two negatiues . . . would be conformable enough, to conclude an affirmatiue. 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 κεραμεὺς κεραμεὶ κοτέει καὶ τέκτονι τέκτων.—Hesiod, *Op.* 25.] 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. 1599 : Shakespeare, *Much Ado*, 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 Positives 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 (Roxb Cl), As the ould sainge is yt is a meere fiollye to make two sorowes of one 1659 Howell 5

Two sparrows on one ear of corn make an ill agreement 1651 Herbert *Jac Prudentum*, 2nd ed 1732 Fuller, No 5334 Two sparrows 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 stomachs 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 ne'er 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, I 336, Bot it is seid and evere schal, Between two stoiles lyth the fal 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch iii, While betweene two stooles my tayle go to grounde 1593 Giffard, *Dial on Witches, etc*, 11 (Percy S), I perceive your danger is betweene two stooles 1667-8 Pepys, *Diary*, Jan 17, And so, between both, as every thing else of the greatest moment do fall between two stools. 1791 R Jephson, *Two Strings to your Bow*, I iii, Well done, Lazarillo, between two stools they say a certain part of a man comes to the ground 1864 Mrs H Wood, *Trevlyn Hold*, ch lvi, While he keeps me shilly-shallying over this one, I may lose them both There's an old proverb, you know, about two stools 1907 De Morgan, *Alice-for-Short*, ch xvi Charles saw that between the two stools the young couple wouldn't fall to the ground, but would go to the altar.

Two strings to one's bow, To have [*Μηδ' ἐπὶ δυοῖν ἀρχόμεν ὀφείλῃ αὐτοὺς ἔχει* —Demosthenes, *Or*, 56, 1295 (*fin*)] Nam melius duo defendunt retinacula navim —Prop, ii 22, 41] c 1477 Caxton, *Jason*, 57 (E E T S), I wil wel that euery man be amerous and lone but that he haue ij strenges on his bowe 1578 Florio, *First Fruites*, fo 6, It is alwayes good for one to haue two stringes to his bowe 1606 Day, *Ile of Gulls* II ii, A wise mans bow goes with a two fold string 1672 Wycherley *Love in a Wood*, I i c 1760 Foote, *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 viii 1859 Planche, *Extravag*, v 221 (1879) Cf Good riding

Two Sundays come together, When = never 1616 Haughton, *Englin for my Money*, II ii, Art thou so mad as to turn French? Matt Yes, marry, when two Sundays come together 1681 Robertson, *Phraseol Generalis*, 1189 1825 Brockett, *Gloss N Country Words*, 150, To-morrow come niver—when two Sundays meet together 1854 Baker, *Northants Gloss*, sv "Sunday," When two Sundays meet 1881 Evans, *Leicest Words, etc*, 276 (E D S), To-morrow come never, when theers tew Soondays in a wik

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 both 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, *Horestes*, l 78, But two is to meyney, the prouerbe douth tell 1616 Breton, *Works* 1 t 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*, ii, 25 (1760) 1742 Fielding *Andrews*, bk iii ch vii, Who concluded that

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 *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 233 (1841), Two wyemen in one howse, Two cattles and one mowce, Two dogges and one bone, Maye never accorde 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, *Intrig. 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. 1860: Reade, *Clois. and Hearth*, ch. xxiv. Cf. More words.

Two wrongs will not make one right. 1875: Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 120.

Two year old balk. See quot. 1841: Hartshorne, *Salopia 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, *Rabelais*, 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, *Kennelworth*, ch. iii., Any one whose neck is beyond the compass of a Tyburn tippet.

Tympany, To have a two-legged = To be with child. 1579: *Marr. of Wit and Wisdom*, 15 (Sh. S.), I am afraid it is a tympany with two legges! c. 1685: in *Roxb. Ballads*, vii. 28 (B.S.), The doctor, be sure, is sent for to cure This two-legged tympany. 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.

## U

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 feaw [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 wean a foal 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 (11)

Uncle Antony See quot 1909 C Lee, *Our Little Town*, 17, Idle juniors congenically 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, *Mirr of Good Manners*, 30 (Spens S), Uncover not the church, therwith to mende the quire

Under board, To play 1591 Florio, *Second Fruits*, 134, Thou haste long hands, and vnest them vnderboord 1642 Fuller, *Holy State* (*Wise Statesman*), The receivers of such [pensions] will play under-board at the council-table 1669 Donne *Poems*, I 102 (Gnerson), And often under-boards Spok dialogues with our feet far from our words 1669 Dud North *Obs and Adt Oeconom*, 71, While the steward fear to be discovered, if he use

any underboard play 1681 Robert-son, *Phraseol Generalis*, 437, That you should not think I ly at catch, or play under board to deceive you

Under boske See quot c 1320 in *Reliq Antiquæ*, I 113 (1841) "Under boske [the greenwood] shal men weder abide," Quoth Hendyng

Understanding and reason cannot conclude out of mood and figure 1659 Howell, 19

Understands 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 bungo o' th' moon = to be in difficulties 1917 Bridge *Cheshire Proverbs*, 148

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., XI 309 ["gorse" for "furze"]

Under the rose 1546 Dymocke to Vaughan in *State Papers*, Hen VIII II 200 The sayde questyons were asked with lysence, and that yt shoulde remayn under the rosse, that is to say, to remayn under the bourde, and no more to be rehersyd 1639 Chapman and Shurley, *Ball*, II III, 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, *Molière* VI 7, I must tell you (under the rose) that— 1762 Bickerstaffe, *Love in a Village* II II, We all love a pretty girl—under the rose 1862 Dickens in *Letters*, II 178 (1880), I don't know what their pay 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, II *recker*, 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, *Paræm.*, 34. 1681: Robertson, *Phrascol. Generalis*, Undone as you would undo an oyster; Ne salus quidem ipsa servare potest.

Unfinished work, Show not fools nor bairns. 1860: Reader, *Cloister and Hearth*, ch. lv. [cited as a "byword"].

Ungirt unblest. c. 1477: Caxton, *Book of Curtesye*, 45 (E.E.T.S.), Vngyrte, vnblyssed. seruyng atte table Me semeth hym a seruant nothing able. 1590: Spenser, *F. Q.*, IV. v. 18. 1646: Browne, *Pseudo. Epi.*, bk. v. ch. xxii., 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 y<sup>e</sup> civill warres a very undecent and dissolute thing for a man to goe without his girdle in so much that 'twas a proverbe, "Ungirt and unblest't." (See Tibullus, *Eleg.*, lib. i. ix. 41, and Pers., *Sat.*, iii. (31).)

Unhardy is unsely. See Cowardly.

Unkissed unkind. 1584: Peele, *Arraign. of Paris*, I. ii., And I will have a lover's fee; they say, unkiss'd unkind. 1897: Violet Hunt, *Unkist, Unkind* [title].

Unknown, unkissed. 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, unkissid is unknowen. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1579: E. Kirke, *Epist. Ded.*, to Spenser's *Shep. Cal.*, Who for that hee is vncouth (as sayde Chaucer) is vnkist, and vnkowne 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 shreude boy, proueth a good man. 1592: Greene, *Works*, x. 239 (Grosart), My mother allowed of my vnhappy parts, alluding to this prophane and old prouerbe, an vntoward gyrle 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 quotes. 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, 1895) [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 1881 Evans, *Leicest Words, etc.*, 282 (E D S), UP spells goslings I have heard it not unfrequently, but always as applied to death 'How's Ted going on?' "Eh, 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, *Shropshire Folk-Lore* 589

Up horn, Down corn 1870 N & Q, 4th ser., vi 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., i 192, 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 loq 1639 Clarke 22 1670 Ray 103 1732 Fuller, No 6276 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 1618 Breton in *Works* ii u 5 (Grosart) I feare the place you lue 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, *Craien Dialect*, i 193

Up to snuff 1811 Poole, *Hamlet Trav*, II i (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, *Ovington'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 we him in love up to the eares

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 i He that useth me better than he is wont, hath betrayed or will be tray me 1578 Florio, *First Fruits* fo 28, Who doth vnto me better then he is woont, he hath betrayed me, or els wil betray me 1589 Puttenham *Engl Poesie*, 295 (Arber), He that speakes me fairer than his woont was too Hath done me harme, or meanes for to doo 1586 Pettie, *Guazzo*, fo 36, Hee which maketh more of thee then he was wont, either hath cousened thee alreadie, or else goeth about to cosen thee 1629 *Book of Meery 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 Drunkennes*, sig A4 Ile vse thee like a dogge a Iew, a slaue 1662 Fuller, *Worthies* ii 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*, i 443 (Bigelow)

4 Use legs and have legs c 1582 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 prouerbe 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  
floure that beareth no corne 1732  
Fuller, No 5342

Vale discovereth the hill, The c  
1594 Bacon *Promus*, No 145 [with  
"best" after "vale"] 1605 Bacon,  
*Adv of Learning*, II xxi 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  
*Jac Prudentum*

Valley, He that stays in the, shall  
never get over the hill 1633 Draxe,  
42 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, *Jac Prudentum* 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 said saw of that family

Veal 1 In a shoulder of veal there  
are twenty and two good bits 1678  
Ray, 83 This is a piece of country  
wit They mean by it, There are  
twenty (others say forty) bits in a  
shoulder of veal and but two good ones  
1738 Swift, *Polite Convers* Dial II  
They say there are thirty and two good  
bits in a shoulder of veal

2 Veal will be cheap calves fall  
1678 Ray, 83

Vein across the nose See quot  
1923 *Folk-Lore*, xxxiv 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 1852 "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 quotes 1678  
Ray, 83 I'll venture it, as Johnson did  
his wife, and she did well 1732  
Fuller, No 1367, Een 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, *Paræm*,  
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, *Huon*, 335 (E E T S)  
Some tyme it fortuneth that it is foly  
to aduerture to moche forward and to  
late to repent after [afterwards] 1611  
Cotgrave s v "S'adventurer"

Venus smiles See Jove laughs

Vervain and dill See quotes 1578  
Dodoens, *Herbal*, quoted in Aubrey's  
*Gentilisme* (F L S) Vervaine and dill  
Hinder witches of their will 1588  
Cogan, *Haven of Health*, ch xxii p 41  
(1612), One olde saying I haue heard of  
this herbe, That whosoever weareth  
vervaine and dill, May be bold to sleepe  
on euery hill 1635 Swan *Spec*  
*Mundi*, 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  
Thetch 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 saint foolcs. 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 needes sende such idle wits to shrift to the vicar of S. Fooles, who in steade of a worser may be such a Gothamists ghostly father. 1659 : Howell, 16, The vicar of fools is his ghostly father. 1670 : Ray, 176 [as in 1659].

Vice, *subs.* 1. *Vice corrects sin.* 1672 : Walker, *Parocm.*, 42. 1693 : Penn, *Fruits of Solitude*, No. 45, But the proverb is just, *Vice should not correct Sin.* 1736 : Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Vice."

2. *Vice is often clothed in virtue's habit.* Ibid., s.v. "Vice."

3. *Vice makes virtue shine.* 1732 : Fuller, No. 5356.

4. *Vice ruleth where gold reigneth.* 1669 : *Politeuphuia*, 271. 1732 : Fuller, No. 5359.

5. *Vices are learned without a master.* 1666 : Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 312. 1732 : Fuller, No. 5361.

6. *Where vice is vengeance follows.* 1639 : Clarke, 325. 1670 : Ray, 152. 1681 : Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 1269, Where vice goes before, vengeance follows after. 1732 : Fuller, No. 5681, Where villainy goes before, vengeance follows after.

See also No vice.

Vinegar. See quots. 1578 : Florio, *First Fruits*, fo. 30, Beware of vinegar and sweete wine, and of the anger of a peaceable man. 1640 : Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*, Take heed of the vinegar of sweet wine.

Vine poor, Make the, and it will make you rich, *i.e.* prune it. 1678 : Ray, 350.

Vintner fears false measure, The 1611 : Davies of Hereford, *Sc. of Folly*, 43, in *Works*, ii. (Grosart).

Viper in one's bosom, To nourish a. 1670 : Ray, 198. 1732 : Fuller, No. 5210.

Virtue. 1. *The virtue of a coward is*

*suspicion.* 1640 : Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

2. *To make a virtue of necessity.* [See Quinct., lib. 1, cap. 8.] Before 1259 : *Matt. Paris* (Record Series), i. 20, Vitam in tantam sanctitatem commutavit, faciendo de necessitate virtutem. c. 1374 : Chaucer, *Troylus*, bk. iv. l. 1586, Thus maketh vertue of necessitee By pacience. c. 1386 : Chaucer, *Knight's Tale*, l. 2184. 1412 : Hoccleve, *Regement*, 46 (E.E.T.S.), Make of necessite, reed I, vertu. 1584 : *Three Ladies of L.*, in Hazlitt, *O. Plays*, vi. 332, Thus am I driven to make a virtue of necessity. c. 1592 : Shakespeare, *Two Gent.*, IV. i. 1618 : J. Taylor (Water Poet), *Penniless Pilgrim*, I made a vertue of necessity, and went to breakefast in the Sunne. 1748 : Smollett, *Rod. Random*, ch. xxx., However, making a virtue of necessity, I put a good face on the matter. 1876 : Blackmore, *Cripps*, ch. xxxiv., He resolved to make a virtue of necessity, as the saying is.

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."

5. *Virtue is its own reward.* [Ut officii fructus sit ipsum officium.—Cicero, *Fin.*, ii. 72.] 1673 : Dryden, *Assignment*, III. 1., Virtue, sir, is its own reward : I expect none from you. 1696 : Vanbrugh, *Relapse*, V. 1703 : Farquhar, *Twin-Rivals*, I. ii. 1771 : Smollett, *Clinker*, in *Works*, vi. 158 (1817). 1827 : Scott, *Journal*, Sept. 24, This species of exertion is, like virtue, its own reward. 1850 : Dickens, *Chuzzlewit*, ch. xv. 1919 : Weyman, *Great House*, ch. xviii., "Sometimes," she ventured, "imprudence is a virtue." "And its own reward !" he retorted.

6. *Virtue is the only true nobility.* 1670 : Flecknoe, *Epigrams*, 50, Vertue is onely true nobility. 1732 : Fuller, No. 5382.

7. *Virtue never grows old.* 1640 : Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1736 : Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Virtue."

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 Alcuin, *Opp*, Ep cxxvii t 1 p 191, Ed Froben, 1777, Nec audiendi sunt n qui volent dicere vox populi, vox Dei cum tumultuositas vulgi semper insaniae proxima est c 1390 Gower *Conf Amantis*, Prol, l 124 And that I take to record Of every lond for his partie The comun vois, which mai noght lie 1412 Hoccleve *Regement*, 104 (E E T S), Thus my gode lorde wynneth your peples voice, ffor peples vois is goddes voys

men seyne 1575 Gascoigne, *Postes*, 143 (Cunliffe), Yet could I never any reason feele, To thinke *Vox populi vox Dei est* 1646 Browne, *Pseudo Epi*, bk 1 ch iii, 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 people's voice is odd, It is, and it is not, the voice of God 1820 Colton, *Latou 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 *Misalliance, etc*, lxxii, When an experienced demagogue comes along and says "Sir you are the dictator the voice of the people is the voice of God—"

## W

Wade's mill. *See* Ware.

Wading in an unknown water, No safe. 1630: T. Adams, *Works*, 748, It is not safe wading without a bottome. 1670: Ray, 153. 1732: Fuller, No. 3627. 1831: Hone, *Year-Book*, col. 1417, Wade not in unknown waters.

Wager. *See* None but fools.

Wagging of a straw = a trifle. c. 1374: Chaucer, *Tr. and Cr.*, ii. 1745 (O.), In titeryng and pursuyte and delays The folk deuyne at waggyng of a stre. 1530: Palsgrave, 468, I can bring hym out of pacyence with the waggyng of a strawe. 1577: J. Grange, *Golden Aphroditis*, sig. 14, The wagging of a strawe . . . 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. Atom*, 7 (Cooke, 1795), He will . . . at the turning of a straw take into his bosom the very person whom he has formerly defamed.

Wait, *verb.* 1. *A waiting appetite kindles many a spite.* 1875: Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 107.

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 mans leavings. 1670: Ray, 27. 1732: Fuller, No. 2339 ["little" for "late"].

3. *Wait meals, flee chargs.* c. 1770: Pegge, *Derbicisms*, 11 (E.D.S.), A chare or jobb of work . . . see . . . the proverb, "Wait meals, flee chargs," 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. "Yorksh." 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.

Walk, *verb.* 1. *Walk groundly; talk profoundly; drink roundly; sleep soundly.* 1869: Hazlitt, 446.

2. *Walk, knave! walk!* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. iv., Nay (quoth she) walke knaue walke. c. 1630: in *Roxb. Ballads*, i. 55 (B.S.), The parrat pratles "walke, knaues, walke." c. 1655: in *Ibid.*, vi. 211, "Walk, knaue!" is a parrot's note. c. 1685: in *Ibid.*, viii. 869, And this shall be my last reply Go walk up, out knave! What care I?

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.

Walking-staff hath caught warmth in your hand, The. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. x.

Wall, *subs.* 1. *Wall between.* *See* Hedge (1).

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*, l. 177, There is a way: but walls have earrs 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 quots 1846-59  
*Denham Tracts*, 1 236 (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

Waltham's calf See Wise (6)

Wandsworth, the sunk 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* iii 29 (1885) All the maids in Wanswell may dance in an egg shell Glos Cf Camberwell

Want, subs 1 For want of a nail, etc [c 1390 Gower, *Conf Amantis*, bk v l 4785, For sparange of a litel cost Ful oftē time a man hath lost The largē cotē for the hod [hood]] 1630 F Adams, *Works* 714 The want of a nayle looseth the shooe, the losse of a shoe troubles the horse, the horse indangereth the rider, the rider breaking his ranke molests the company, so far as to hazard the whole army 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*, For want of a nail 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 overtaken and slain by the enemy, all for want of a little care about a horse-shoe nail 1875 Cheales *Proverb Folk-Lore*, 165 [as in 1736 but ending with 'enemy']

2 For want of company welcome trumpet 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 *Tarlton'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 Franklin, *Way to Wealth*, in *Works*, 1 445 (Bigelow)

8 Want of money, want of comfort 1736 Bailey, *Dict*, s v "Want"

Want, verb 1 I will not want when I have, and when I haven't too Somerset 1678 Ray, 344 1732 Fuller, No 2050

2 I 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 Meery Riddles*, Prov 130

Wanton look See quots 13th cent in *Reliq Antiquæ*, ii 14 (1843), Lither look and twinkling, Titring and tikeling, Opin breast and singing, these rudoutin lesing Arin toknes of horelinge 1869 Hazlitt, 447, Wanton look and twinkling, Laughing and tickling, Open breast and singing, these without lying, Are tokens of whoring

War and Wars, subs 1 He that makes a good war makes a good peace 1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ* ["who" for "he" and "obtaineth" for second "makes"] 1670 Ray, 28 1732 Fuller, No 2230

2 He was saying his war prayers, i e swearing S Devon 1869 Hazlitt, 194

3 War and physic are governed by the eye 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

4 War, hunting and love are as full of troubles as pleasures 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*, 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 mans holy-day. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1732: Fuller, No. 5417.

6. *War makes thieves, and peace hangs them*. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1660: Howell, *Parly of Beasts*, 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 swete thyng to them that neuer assayed it. 1560: E. More, *Def. of Women*, l. 239, As warre is counted pleasaunt 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, 11. 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.

9. *Wars bring scars*. 1670: Ray, 154. 1732: Fuller, No. 6096. 1826: Scott, *Woodstock*, ch. xxvii., Myself am in some sort rheumatic—as war will leave its scars behind, sir.

10. *When war begins Hell opens*. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "War."

Wardhall, Cumberland. See quot. 1860: Whellan, *Cumbd. and Westm.*, 290 n., Up now ace, and down with the traye, Or Wardhall's gone for ever and aye.

Ware and Wadesmill are worth all London. [1561: *Queene Hester*, 31 (Grosart), Nowe by wades myll, euerye mans wyll Is wonderouslye well.] 1588: A. Fraunce, *Lawiers Logike*, fo. 27,

Ware and Wadesmill bee worth al London. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, ii. 39 (1840). 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Herts."

Wares are gone, shut up the shop-windows, When the. 1612: Webster, *White Devil*, 45 (Dyce), Now the wares are gone we may shut up shop. 1670: Ray, 153. 1732: Fuller, No. 5609.

Ware skins, quoth Grubber, when he flung the louse into the fire. 1678: Ray, 257. 1732: Fuller, No. 5420 [with "shins" for "skins" and "Grub" for "Grubber"].

Warm, *adj.* 1. *As warm as toast*. See Hot as a toast.

2. *As warm as wool*. 1639: Clarke, 286. 1658: R. Franck, *North. Memoirs*, 163 (1821), Her body was as warm as wool. 1692: L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 411 (3rd ed.), A vengeance on ye, says he, y'are as warm as wool.

3. *He that is warm thinks all so*. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1875: Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 132.

Warm, *verb.* 1. *He warms too near that burns*. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Brusler," Hee warmes himselfe too neer that burnes himselfe. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

2. *It is absurd to warm one in his armour*. Ibid.

Warn, *verb.* 1. *Be warned by others' harms*. [Feliciter sapit qui alieno periculo sapit.—Plautus, *Merc.*, IV. iv. 40.] 12th cent. in Wright, *Anglo-Latin Sat. Poets*, i. 145, Foelix quem faciunt, aliena pericula cautum. Before 1500: in Hill, *Commonplace Book*, 132 (E.E.T.S.), He is wysse, that can beware by an other manys harme. 1584: Greene, *Works*, iii. 183 (Grosart), It is good indeed . . . by other mens harmes to learne to beware. c. 1640: in Roxb. *Ballads*, i. 371 (B.S.), For happy is he whom other men's harmes Can make to beware. 1750: W. Ellis, *Housewife's Companion*, iii., Happy is he who by other mens harms learns to beware. 1842: Barham, *Ing. Legends*, 2nd ser., "Misadv. at Margate."

2. *He that is warned*. See Forewarned.

3. *He that will not be warned by his*

own 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 1 For washing his hands none sells his lands 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

2 He washes his sheep with scalding water 1813 Ray, 75

3 If you would live for ever you must wash the milk off your liver—a toper's saying 1611 Cotgrave s v "Laict" 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, 353

5 To wash one's face in an ale-clout 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs Pt I ch x*, As sober as she seemth, fewe daies come about But she will once wasshe hir face in an ale clout

6 To wash the head See Wet, verb (2)

7 To wash the head without soap = To scold 1581 B Rich, *Farewell*, 161 (Sh S), This olde hag, havynge had her head washed thus without sope [having been well scolded]—

8 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 sluts 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 sluts in deed 1910 *Devonsh Assoc Trans*, xlv 90, Wash Friday, wash for need, Wash Saturday, sluts indeed

9 Wash your hands often, your feet seldom, and your head never 1670 Ray, 38 1926 Inge *Lay Thoughts* 226, A hundred and fifty years ago the

maxim for ablutions seems to have been, "Hands often, feet seldom, head never!"

10 You wash out ink with ink 1639 Clarke, 197

Washington, To give See quot 1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, 1 92 (F L S), I gave him [or 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 saying is very common in the north of England

Wasp and Wasps 1 As angry as a wasp c 1350 Alexander, l 738, As wrath as waspe Before 1529 Skelton, *Elyn Rumming*, l 330, But, Lorde, as she was testy Angry as a waspy l c 1570 in Hazlitt, *E Pop Poetry*, iv 194, She is as curste, I dare well swere, And as angry y wis as eter was waspe 1611 Davies of Hereford, *Sc of Folly*, 45, in *Works*, ii (Grosart), "Phryne's as merry as a cricket" sometimes, But angry as a waspe, when she reads my rimes 1670 Ray, 203

2 As troublesome as a wasp in one's ear 1732 Fuller, No 740

3 She is as quiet as a wasp in one's nose 1659 Howell, 16 1670 Ray, 215 1732 Fuller, No 4130 ["ear" for "nose"]

4 To anger a wasp 1586 Pettie, *Guazzo*, fo 75, It is a perillous thing to mocke and scoffe at others, and, as the saying is, To anger a waspe 1659 Howell, *Proverbs Ital-Eng*, 8

5 Wasps haunt the honey-pot 1732 Fuller, No 5422 1871 Smiles, *Character*, 228, More wasps are caught by honey than by vinegar

Waste not want not 1576 *Par Dainty Dev*, in *Brit Bibliog*, iii 88 (1812), For want is next to waste 1732 Fuller, No 5423 Waste makes want 1872 Hardy, *Greenwood Tree*, Pt I ch viii, Taking it across for his own use, on the plea of waste not, want not 1882 J Platt, *Economy*, 22, "Waste not, want not," is a law of nature 1907 De Morgan, *Alce-for-Short*, ch ix Cf Wilful waste

Watched pot never boils, A. 1848: Gaskell, *M. Barton*, ch. xxxi., What's the use of watching? A watched pot never boils. 1875: Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 132. 1884: *Folk-Lore Journal*, ii. 279, Watch pot never boils. Derbysh. 1906: *Cornish N. & Q.*, 202.

Watch one's water, To. See Look, verb (26).

Water, subs. 1. As water in a smith's forge, that serves rather to kindle than quench. 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, II. 1740: North, *Lives of Norths*, i. 195 (Bohn), They caressed 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, *Launcs Sayings*, 4. As welcome as wayter i' one's shoon.

3. As welcome as water into a ship. 1580: Lyly, *Euphues*, 381 (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.

4. Don't pour water on a drowned mouse. 1639: Clarke, 9. 1670: Ray, 133. 1710: S. Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 69, . . . Don't add affliction to the afflicted, is the plain English of this proverb. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I., Take pity on poor miss; don't throw water on a drowned rat. 1880: Spurgeon, *Ploughm. Pictures*, 20, I would not be hard on a poor fellow, nor pour water on a drowned mouse.

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*, 423 (1826), The house of Yorke had hitherto but beaten water in a mortar, and lost all their former labour.

10. To carry water in a sieve. 1591: Harington, *Orl. Furioso*, bk. xxxii. st. 39, Whom your fair speeches might have made beleve That water could be carrid in a seeve. 1623: *New and Merrie 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. 1567: Painter, *Pal. of Pleasure*, iii. 364 (Jacobs), Which if he doe after hee hath well mingled water in his wyne, hee may chaunce to finde cause of repentance. 1599: Chamberlain, *Letters*, 39 (Camden S.), The cheife rebels . . . began to put water in their wine, and to proceed with more temper. c. 1663: Davenant, *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, *Jac Prudentum*  
1666 Tormiano, *Piazza Univ*, 1 ["a  
neighbouring" before "fire"]

14 *Water, fire and soldiers quickly  
make room* 1640 Herbert, *Jac  
Prudentum* 1659 Howell, 6 ["war"  
for "soldiers"] 1736 Bailev, *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 com-  
modious* 1669 *Politeuphura*, 184

19 *Water is a waster* 1672 Walker  
*Param*, 27 1681 Robertson,  
*Phraseol Generalis* 1297

20 *Water past the mill* See Miller  
(12)

21 *Water trotted is as good as oats*  
1640 Herbert *Jac Prudentum*

22 *We never know the worth of water  
till the well is dry* 1732 Fuller No  
5451 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, *Shropsh 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, *Phraseol 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 Alex-  
ander the greates, he could not forbear  
to water his plantes [L. *non tenuit  
lachrymas*] 1557 North, *Diall of  
Princes* fo 210: They thinke if they  
dutye to water their plantes with teares  
1560 T Wilson *Rhetorique* 80 (1909),  
So long as my childe lued I fasted, and

watered my plants for my yong boye  
1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, 11 48

Wavering as the wind 1546 Hey-  
wood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch 1, But  
waueryng as the wynde in docke out  
nettle 1672 Walker, *Param*, 14,  
You are as unconstant as the wind, as  
wavering as the weathercock

Wavering man is like a skein of silk,  
A 1736 Bailey, *Dict*, s v "Waver-  
ing"

Waxheads See Head (4)

Way of all flesh, The {1611 Bible,  
Joshua, xviii 14, And, behold, thus day  
I am going the way of all the earth  
Ibid, 1 Kings, 11 2 I go 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 Ber-  
thelson *Eng-Danish Dict*, s v  
'Flesh' 1829 Peacock, *Miss of  
Elphin* 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

Weably. See Leominster

Weak, adj 1 *As weak as a wassail*  
1828 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, 11 241, "As  
wake as a wassail," is a very common  
phrase to denote excessive weakness

2 *As weak as water* c 1320 in  
*Reliq Antiquæ*, 1 122 (1841), Y wake  
as water in wore 1545 Ascham  
*Toxoph*, 28 (Arber) I found my good  
bowe clene cast on the one side and as  
wake as water 1611 Bible, Ezekiel,  
vi 17, All hands shall be feeble, and  
all knees shall be weak as water 1631  
Shirley, *Lore Tricks*, I 1754 Ber-  
thelson, *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, Kid-

napped, ch. xx. 1900: Pinero, *Gay Lord Quex*, IV., Yesterday I was as firm as a rock; to-day I'm as weak as water again.

3. *The weaker hath the worse.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. x.

4. *The weakest goes to the wall.* 1534: in *Two Coventry C. C. Plays*, 47 (E.E.T.S.), You mynde nothyng myne age But the weykist gothe eyuer to the walle. 1592: Greene, *Works*, xi. 252 (Grosart), Howsoever the cause go the weakest is thrust to the wall. 1592: Shakespeare, *Romeo*, I. i. 1609: Rowlands, *Whole Crew*, II (Hunt. Cl.), I know the weakest must vnto the wall. 1689: Shadwell, *Bury Fair*, III. i. 1712: Motteux, *Quixote*, Pt. I. bk. iv. ch. 20. 1834: Marryat, *P. Simple*, ch. v. 1907: Gairdner, *Introd. to Paston Letters*, IV. ccxxxiv., In times of revolution and tumult the weak must go to the wall.

5. *The weak may stand the strong in stead.* 1577: Kendall, *Flow. of Epigrams*, 249 (Spens. S.), The prouerbe old doth say: The weake may stand the strong in sted.

6. *Weak food best fits weak stomachs.* c. 1430: Lydgate, *Minor Poems*, 165 (Percy S.), A proverbe sayde in ful old langage, That tendre browyce made with a marry-boon For fieble stomakes is holsum in potage. 1597: H. Lok, *Poems*, 302 (Grosart), Weake food best fits weake stomacks—as is sayd.

7. *Weak men had need be witty.* 1639: Clarke, 42. 1670: Ray, 154.

8. *Weak things united become strong.* 1732: Fuller, No. 5460.

Weal, subs. 1. *Weal and woman never pan.* See quotes. 1639: Clarke, 118, Weale and women never sam, but sorrow and they can. 1678: Ray, 355, Weal and women cannot pan, i.e. close together, But woe and women can. 1828: Carr, *Craven Dialect*, ii. 29, We frequently hear it in Craven, "women and weal can never agree." 1889: *Folk-Lore Journal*, vii. 293 [Derbyshire], Weal and woman never pan But woe and woman can.

2. *Weal and worship.* 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 148, The closing toast

of all Congleton festivities, "May welfare and religion go hand in hand."

3. *Whom weal pricks, sorrow comes after and licks.* 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 335 (1870).

Wealth, subs. 1. *In wealth beware of woe.* c. 1460: *Proverbs of Good Counsel*, in E.E.T.S., Ext. Ser. 8, p. 69, And ever in welth be ware of woo.

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 rheum, it falls on the weakest parts.* 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 28.

6. *Wealth is not his who hath it, but his who enjoys it.* 1659: Howell, *Prov. Ital.-Engl.*, 12. c. 1736: Franklin, in *Works*, i. 455 (Bigelow).

7. *Wealth makes wit waver.* 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v., "Wealth." 1823: Scott, *Q. Durward*, ch. xviii., Where much wealth had, according to the ancient proverb, made wit waver.

8. *Wealth makes worship.* 1639: Clarke, 99. 1670: Ray, 154. 1732: Fuller, No. 5464, Wealth wants not for worship.

9. *Where wealth, there friends.* 1855: Bohn, 564.

See also Health; Money; and Riches.

Weapon and Weapons, subs. 1. *All weapons of war cannot arm fear.* 1578: Florio, *First Fruits*, 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.

3. *Weapons bode peace.* Before 1500: in Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 128 (E.E.T.S.), Wepin makith pese divers times. 1869: Hazlitt, 449.

Wear, verb. 1. *Ever since we wear*

clothes, we know not one another 1640

Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

2 He that wears black must hang a brush at his back 1639 Clarke, 201  
["They" for "He"] 1670 Ray, 63  
1732 Fuller, No 6208

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 *Gorgeous Gallery*, 84 (Rollins), Which makes men to wear the willow garland 1612 Field, *Woman a Weathercock*, I, There s Lucida wears the willow garland for you 1673 Davenant, *Siege V*, I am content To wear the willow now 1725

in Farmer, *Musa Pedestris*, 46 Great pity 'twas that one so prim 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 J W Ebsworth *Prelude to Bagford Ballads* (B S), Lovers who willow wore 1907 De Morgan, *Alce-for-Short*, ch xii Having given up wearing the willow on her account and consoled 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 'tis, when it rains 1732 Fuller, No 5859

Weatherwise See quotes 1735 Franklin, *Poor Richard* (1890), 50 (O), Some are weather wise, some are otherwise 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

Weaver See Hundred tailors, and Müller (10)

Wepley See Leominster

Wed, verb He that weds before he's wise shall die before he thrive 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch viii 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 335 (1870) 1685 Meriton, *Yorksh Ale, etc*, 67, But they that wed before they're wise, it's said Will dee 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 'tes over, 'tes 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 6146, As your wedding 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 6261 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 hounds kill'd the hare quoth the lap-dog 1846-59 Denham *Tracts*, 11 108 (F L S)

Weeds overgrow the corn, The c 1450 in *Reliq Antiquæ*, 11 240 (1843), Let the wede growe over the whete 1485 Malory, *Morte d A*, bk vii ch 8, It is shame that euer ye were made knyghte to see suche a ladde to matche suche a knyghte as the wede ouer grewe the corne c 1554 *Enterlude of Youth*, in Bang, *Materialien*, B 12, p 17, Lo Maisters here you may see

beforene That the weede ouergroweth the corne. 1638: D. Tuvill, *Vade Mecum*, 95, (3rd Ed.). But alas! the tares have overgrowne the corne. 1721: Kelly, *Sc. Prov.*, 319 (O.). The weeds oergrow the corn, the bad are the most numerous.

Weeds want no sowing. 1732: Fuller, No. 5466.

Weeds. See also Ill weeds.

Week of Sundays, A = A considerable, but indefinite, period. 1876: Blackmore, *Cripps*, ch. xxxviii., I ain't a been in church now for more nor a week of Sundays. 1894: Raymond, *Love and Quiet Life*, 164.

Weening is not measure. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

Weep, verb. 1. I wept when I was born, and every day shows why. 1654: Whitlock, *Zootomna*, 31, When first brought forth, we cry; Each day brings forth its why. 1670: Ray, 28. 1732: Fuller, No. 2631.

2. To weep Irish = To feign sorrow. 1589: *Pap with a Hatchet*, 35 (1844), Ile make thee to . . . weep Irish. 1619: B. Rich, *Irish Hubbub*, 2, Stanhurst, in his History of Ireland [1586], maketh this report of his countreyemen; they follow the dead corpse to the ground with howling, and barbarous outcries, pitifull in appearance, whereof (as he supposeth) grew this proverb, "to weep Irish." 1650: Fuller, *Pisgah Sight*, II. xii. 15, Surely the Egyptians did not weep-Irish with feigned and mercenary tears. 1681: Robertson, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 1305.

Weeping Cross = repentance. 1564: Bullein, *Dialogue*, 78 (E.E.T.S.), In the ende thei go home . . . by weeping cross. 1610: Rowlands, *Martin Mark-all*, 29 (Hunt. Cl.), In the end they come home by weeping crosse, and crie *Peccauu*. 1615: Braithwait, *Strappado*, 53 (1878), Goe not along, let my aduise enforce, Least thou retorne (my boy) by weeping crosse. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Way," The way to Heaven is by Weeping Cross. 1785: Grose, *Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue*, s.v., To 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 weighes wind, must have a steadie hand to holde the ballaunce. 1732: Fuller, No. 2345.

2. Weigh justly and sell dearly. 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 33, Weigh iust and sel deere. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1732: Fuller, No. 546. Weigh right, and sell dear.

3. Weigh not what thou givest, but what is given thee. 1659: Howell, 12 (10).

Weight and measure take away strife. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 28. 1732: Fuller, No. 5468, Weight, measure, and tale take away strife.

Weirling, The. See quot. 1868: *N. & Q.*, 4th ser., i. 614 [as in 1886]. 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, subs. A hearty welcome is the best cheer. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Chere," A hearty welcome is worth halfe a feast. 1725: Bailey, tr. Erasm. *Collog.*, 429 [cited as "the old proverb"]. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Welcome." Welcome is the best dish upon the table.

Welcome, adj. 1. As welcome as a storm. 1732: Fuller, No. 746.

2. As welcome as flowers in May. 1591: Florio, *Second Frutes*, 55, Welcome Maie with his flowres. 1645: Howell, *Letters*, bk. i. § vi., No. lx., '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. 367.

3. As welcome as snow in harvest. See Snow (2).

4 *As uelcome as the eighteen trumpeters* 1614 R Heyncke, quoted in *N & Q*, 2nd ser., viii 484, You wryte how yow reacyved my lettar and that you esteemed yt as wellicoom as the 18 trumpytors

5 *As uelcome as water in one's shoes, and, as water into a ship* See *Water* (2) and (3)

6 *He that is uelcome 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] 1732 Fuller No 5469

8 *Welcome evil, if thou comest alone* 1640 Herbert *Jac Prudentum* 1732 Fuller No 5471 ['mischief' for 'evil']

Well, subs 1 *If well and them cannot, then ill and them can* Yorlsh 1670 Ray, 155

2 *Well's a fret* 1853 *N & Q* 1st ser., viii 197 It is a very common practice in Nottingham to say — 'Well's a fret, He that dies for love will not be hang d 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, *adj* 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, *Esoppe*, ii 239 (Jacobs), He whiche is in a place wel sure is wel a fole to go fro hit and to putte hym self in grete daunger and perylle 1589 Puttenham, *Eng Poesie*, 240 (Arber), It is said by maner of a prouerbiall speach that he who findes 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 Prudentum*

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 Meriton, *Yorkshire Ale, etc*, 39, It is well spoken that is well tane, I've heard 1732 Fuller, No 4364 1901 F E

Taylor, *Lancs Sayings*, 9, That's weel spoken 'at's weel takken

6 *That which is well done is twice done* 1606 Day, *Ile of Gulls*, V, For, saies my mother, a thinge once wel done is twice done 1682 A Behn, *False Count*, III ii [as in 1606] 1732 Fuller, No 4381

7 *They are well off that haven't a house to go to* This seems perilously like nonsense 1846 Denham, *Proverbs* 4 (Percy S)

8 *Well begun is half done* [Dimidium 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 (EETS), And whanne a thing is weel bigunne, It makith a good eende at the laste c 1490 *Partonope*, 438 (EETS), Thing wele ended is wele be-gonne 1542 Udall, *Erasm Apoph*, 17 (1877), Laertius ascribeth to hym [Socrates] this sayng also To haue well begonne, is a thing halfe doen The sayng is halfe a verse of the Greke poete Hesiodus ἀρχὴ τέμνει πρὸς τέλος, Begynnyng is halfe of the whole 1607 *Lingua*, II ii, He that [hath] once begun well, hath half done 1680 L Estrange *Select Coll of Erasm*, 208 1712 Motteux, *Quixote*, Pt II ch xli, 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 once 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 eat's* c 1300 *Havelok*, l 907, p 33 (Skeat), Wel is set the mete thu etes

13 *Well is that well does* 1736 Bailey, *Dict*, s v "Well"

14 *Well paid is well sold* c 1630 in *Roxb Ballads*, i 124 (BS)

15 *Well rhymed, tutor, brains and stairs* 1639 Clarke, 70 ["traines" for 'brains'] 1670 Ray, 218

16 *Well thriveth that well endureth*



c. 1320 : in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 115 (1841), "Wel abith that wel 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.

18. *Well well, is a word of malice.* Cheshire. 1670 : Ray, 154. 1917 : Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 149.

19. *What is well done is done soon enough.* 1545 : Ascham, *Toxoph.*, 114 (Arber), *Thys wyse prouerbe: Sone ynough, if wel ynough.* 1578 : Florio, *First Fvrites*, fo. 25, That thing is quickly done, that is done wel. 1598 : Meres, *Palladis*, fo. 259 [as in 1545]. 1605 : Sylvester, *Du Bartas*, Week i. Day i. l. 489. 1633 : Draxe, III, bis, Soone enough done, if well done. 1666 : Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 82, That is done soon enough which is well done. 1730 : T. Salkeld, tr. *Gracian 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.

Wellingborough Fair. See quot. 1901 : N. & Q., 9th ser., viii. 421, "Gone to Wellingborough 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).

Wellington round-heads. 1678 : Ray, 353. 1790 : Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Somerset," . . . A saying, formerly in use, at Taunton, to signify a violent fanatic.

Welsh ambassador, The = The cuckoo. 1608 : Middleton, *Trick to Catch*, IV. (N.), Thy sound is like the cuckoo, the Welch 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.

Welshman. 1. *The older the Welshman the more madman.* 1659 : Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Engl.*, 31.

2. *The Welshman keeps nothing till he has lost it.* 1662 : Fuller, *Worthies*, iii. 520 (1840), "Ni Cheitw Cymbro oni Gello." That is, "The Welchman 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 doubled 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 . . . strikingly illustrates.

Wern, Salop. See quot. 1883 : Burne, *Shropsh. Folk-Lore*, 585, The women of Wern 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. 1846–59 : Denham Tracts, i. 60 (F.L.S.), By 'grees and 'grees, as the West Auckland lasses get their fortunes.

West Chester, To be sent to. 1851 :

N & Q, 1st ser, iii 353, Passing through a village only six miles from London last week, I heard a mother saying to a child, "If you are not a good girl I will send you to West Chester" 1851 Ibid, 460, To be sent to *West Chester* [= Chester] (frequently so called in the beginning of the last century) was to be sent into banishment, i.e. into Ireland 1917 *Bridge, Cheshire Proverbs* 126

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 vii, 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 lamb's-skin* 1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, i 295 (F L S), 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 *Hap and a halfpenny*

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 Westminster 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* 1593 *Passionate Morrice*, 83 (N Sh S), It is more uncertaine whether a Smithfeelde horse will proue good or radish 1617 Fynes Moryson, *Itinerary* Pt 3, p 53, The Londoners pronounce woe to him that buyes a horse in Smythfield, that takes a servant in Pauls 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 Pauls 1790 *Grose Prov Gloss*, s v "London"

Westminster Hall See *Suits hang*

Westmoreland Jury See quot 1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, i 223 (F L S) 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 (1885), When Westridge wood is motley, then it's time to sow barley Glos

Westward for smelts 1603 *Westward for Smelts, or the Waterman's Fare of Mad, Merry Western Wenches, etc* [title] 1607 Dekker, etc, *Westward Hoe*, II iii, But wenches, with what pulles shall wee slide with some cleanly excuse, out of our husbandes suspection, 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?

Wet, 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 diving 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 muck* 1714 Mandeville *Fable of Bees*, 219, With his cloaths as wet as dung with the rain 1883 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 muck

5 *As wet as thatch* 1889 Peacock, *Manley etc, Gloss*, 604 (E D S), Wet as thack, i.e. wet as thatch 1917 *Bridge Cheshire Proverbs*, 26

6 *As wet as wring* Ibid, 26 [wring" perhaps = coarse, rushy grass]

7 *A wet hand will hold a dead her-ring* 1580 Lyly, *Euphues*, 414 (Arber), A wette hande quoth Flavia will holde a dead hearing 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: Horman, *Vulgaria*, fo. 195, I wyll helpe 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 wett finger. 1607: Dekker, etc., *Westw. Hoe*, II. ii., Ile becken, you shal see ile fetch her with a wet finger. 1721: Cibber, *Refusal*, I., Here's five thousand for you, Mr. Granger, with a wet finger. 1824: Scott, *Redgauntlet*, ch. xv., He thinks to win them to his turn with a wet finger.

**Wet**, verb. 1. *To wet one's whistle*. [τῆρε πνεύμονας.—Petr., 34]. c. 1386: Chaucer, *Reeve's Tale*, l. 235, So was her ioly whistle wel y-wet. c. 1410: *Towneley Plays*, 119 (E.E.T.S.), Had she oones wett hyr whystyll she couth syng full clere. 1570: Googe, *Popish 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: Phillpotts, *Yellow Sands*, iii., He'll want a drop to wet his whistle.

2. *To wet the head*. See quotes. 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 been 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 plovers 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.

**Whaplode**. See Holbeach.

**What again?** See quotes. 1639: Clarke, 303, "What again?" quoth Paul when his wife made him cuckold the second time. 1659: Howell, 11, "What again?" quoth Palmer.

**What d'ye lack?** The traditional cry of the London apprentice, which became a proverbial name for a shop-keeper. 1563: Newbery, *Dives Pragmaticus*, sig. A3, What lacke ye, sir what seke you, what wyll you bye? 1630: T. Adams, *Works*, 171, She sits upon the stall, and counts the passengers with a what lacke ye? 1641: *Stage-Players Complaint*, 3, in Hindley, *Old Book Coll. Miscell.*, iii., I'm persuaded that there's never a *What lack you, Sir*, in all the City, but is sensible of our calamity. 1685: S. Wesley, *Maggots*, 159, A shop i' th' Change, still damn'd to What d'ye lack!

**What greater crime than loss of time?** 1732: Fuller, No. 6324.

**What has been, may be**. Ibid., No. 5491.

**What is she, but what has she**, Not. 1621: Brathwait, *Natures Embassie*, 233 (1877), 'Tis true what th' prouerbe saith, We aske not what he is, but what he hath. 1732: Fuller, No. 3687. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I., It is not what is she, but has she now-a-days.

**What she wants in up and down**. See **Want**, verb (3).

**What's mine's mine own**. 1613: H. Parrot, *Laquei ridiculosi*, bk. i. Epi. 118. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 278, The English ever say, That which is mine is my own. 1732: Fuller, No. 5512, What's mine is my own: what's my brother's is his and mine. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. II., What's yours is mine, and what's mine is my own. 1830: Forby, *Vocab. E. Anglia*, 430, What's hers is mine; what's mine is my own, quoth the husband.

**What's what, To know**. c. 1400: *Ywayne and Gawin*, l. 432 (Ritson), For wa I wist noght what was what. c. 1440: Hoccleve, *Minor Poems*, 138 (E.E.T.S.), And elles woot I neuere what is what. Before 1529: Skelton,

*Works*, II, 60 (Dyce), Yet, when he took 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, *Spectator*, No 132, This sly saint understands what's what as well as you or I, widow 1773 Goldsmith, *The 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 wot's wot, she does 1849 Lytton, *Caxtons* Pt IV, ch III

What the Cheque [Exchequer] takes not, the Church takes 1660 Howell, *Parly of Beasts*, 18

What they want in meat, let them take out in drink 1598 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"]

Wheamow See 1

Wheat 1 *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 flood, And it will grow up like a wood* 1670 Poor Robert Alman, Sept

4 *Wheat always lies best in wet sheets* 1830 Forby, *Vocab E Anglia*, 417

5 *Wheat is not to be gathered in the blade, but in the ear* 1732 Fuller, No 5528

6 *Wheat or barley* See quot 1886 Elworthy, *West Som Word-Book*, 667 (E D S), The old adage about a late season Wait [wheat] or barley 'll strut [sprout] in June, Nif they baint no higher an a spoon

7 *Wheat will not have two praises* (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 (1885)

See also *Bark-year*, *Barley*, *Bushel* (1), *Good elm*, *March* (27), *May* (12), *November* (6), *No wheat*, and *Tenbury*

*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, 1 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, This 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*, 1 306 (Bohn), *Wheels within wheels* took place, the ministers turned formalisers, and the court mysterious 1837 Dickens, *Pickwick*, ch xl, Veels within veels, a prison in a prison Ain't it, Sir? 1867 Dickens, *Letters*, II 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, *Dict*, s v "When"

When I lent I was a friend, When I asked I was unkind 16th cent in *Reliq Antiqua*, 1 208 (1841)

When thou dost hear a toll or knell, Then think upon thy passing-bell 1659 Howell, 6 1670 Ray, 212

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* (43)

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, *Apoph. Curiosa*, 80, 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.] 1364 : *Liber Albus*, iv. 601 (Rolls), (O.), Jugement de Pillorie par iii heures, ove un ague pier entour soun col, pur mensonges controeves. c. 1400 : *Towneley Plays*, 230 (E.E.T.S.), He lyes for the whetstone. Before 1500 in Hill, *Commonplace-Book*, 110 (E.E.T.S.), I sawe an ege styng a pye ; geve me drynke, my mowth ys drye ; Yet ys not long syth I made a lye ; I will have the whetston, 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. 5991, You shall have the whetstone. 1886 : Elworthy, *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 amusement of the day [18th century] was "lying for the whetstone."

Which way to London? See quotes. 1583 : Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig. 63, God geue you good euen, which is the way to Poclinton, a pokeful of plummes. 1633 : Draxe, 4, Which way to London ? a poke full of plummes. 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 buried.

Whim-wham. See quot. 1917 : Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 28, A whim-wham from Yocketon. A whim-wham to wind the sun up. [Answers by old folk to inquisitive young people who interrupt them.]

Whip and whur [whirr] never made good fur. 1550 : Udall, *R. Doister*, I. iii, No haste but good, Madge Mumblecrust ; for whip and whur, The old proverb doth say, never made good fur.

Whip for a fool, and a rod for a school, is always in good season, A. 1613 : S. Rowley, *When you See Me*, sig. F1, 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 *Roxb. 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, subs. 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 : Pettie, *Guazzo*, fo. 137, It is a common saying, that one cannot drinke and whistle altogether. 1659 : Howell, *Proverbs*:

*Ital-Eng.*, 6, One cannot drink and whistle at once 1869 Hazlitt, 484

**Whistling woman** See *quots* [1721 Kelly, *Sc Prov*, 33, A crowing cow, a crowing hen, and a whistling maid boded never luck to a house] 1850 *N & Q*, 1st ser, II 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*

**Whist, whist**, I smell a bird's nest 1678 Ray 276

**White**, *adj* 1 *As white as a hound's tooth* 1923 *Devonsh Assoc Trans* liv 137, Of a clean floor 'Er's so white s a hound's tooth

2 *As white as a lily* c 1310 *King Horn* (Oxf) I 15 (Hall), Whit so any lili flour 1485 Caxton, *Charles the Grete*, 90 (EETS), Hyr chekys 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 lylly 1609 *Ev Woman in her Humour*, I in Bullen, *O P* iv 319 Thy colour shall be dowlas as white as a lillie 1682 A Behn, *City Heiress*, I 1, The dearest lovelest hypocrite white as lillies 1884 H Friend, *Flowers and Fl Love*, 210, 'As white as a lily' has long since passed into a proverb

3 *As white as a sheet* c 1489 Caxton, *Sonnes of Aymon*, 419 (EETS), He became pale as a white cloth for the grete wrathe that he had c 1611 Shakespeare, *Cymbeline*, II II, Fresh lily, And whiter than the sheets! 1751 Fielding, *Amelia*, bk vii ch viii, He entered the room with a face as white as a sheet 1834 Marryat *P Simple*, ch lviii, I turned round to look at the captain, he was as white as a sheet. 1872 Hardy, *Greenwood Tree*, Pt I,

ch viii, You must be wearied out you'll be as white as a sheet to-morrow 1922 Weyman, *Ovington's Bank*, ch xxxvi, 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 19), Hire teht [teeth] aren white ase bon of whal c 1380 *Sir Ferumbras*, 80 (EETS), That swete thyng as whit as wales bon 15th cent *Torrent of Portynall*, 29 (EETS), Ase whyt ase walles bone c 1450 in *Reliq Antiquæ* I 28 (1841), And sche be whyte as whales bone 1590 Spenser, *F Q* III 1 15, Whose face through feare as white as whale's bone 1592 Shakespeare, *L L L*, V II 1609 T Ravenscroft, *Deuteronomia*, sig B4 His beard was all on a white a, as white as whale is bone 1855 Kingsley *Westu Ho* ch vii, The lady herself was of an excellent beauty, like a whale's tooth for whiteness

(b) 1592 Warner, *Alb England*, bk vii ch 36, Her bodie white as moorie 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 1922 A Bennett, *Prohack*, ch xxi (iii), The poor lady had gone as pale as ivory

5 *As white as milk* c 1300 Brunne, tr Langtoft *Chron*, 334 (Hearne) In lynen white as milke c 1380 *Sir Ferumbras*, 124 (EETS), As wyt ase melkys fom c 1386 Chaucer, *Prolog* 1 358 c 1400 *Rom Rose*, I 1196 c 1450 *Partonope*, 66 (EETS), And therto whyte as ony mylk 1555 S Hawes, *Past of Pleasure*, 200 (Percy S), Whyte as the milke, a goodly garment c 1650 in *Poems on Costume*, 119 (Percy S) 1669-96 Aubrey, *Lives*, I 212 (Clark), A long beard as white as milke 1748 Smollett, *Rod Random*, ch viii, A countenance as pale as milk 1820 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 nip*. See *Clean as nip*.

7. *As white as driven snow*. c. 1300 in *Vernon MS.*, 418 (E.E.T.S.), Als whit as any dryuen snawe. 1579: Lyly, *Euphues*, 89 (Arber), The fish . . . is as white as the driuen snow. 1610: Shakespeare, *Wint. Tale*, IV. iv., Lawn as white as driven snow. 1622: Drayton, *Polyol.*, 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. vi., His bosom, when a boy, was as white as driven snow. 1823: Byron, *Don Juan*, can. vi. st. 25, In sheets white as what bards call "driven snow."

8. *As white as snow*. c. 1000: *Ags. Gosp.*, Matt. xvii. 2 (O.), Hys reaf waeron swa hwite swa snaw. c. 1280 in *Vernon MS.*, 373 (E.E.T.S.), The castel is whit schinyng So the snowgh. c. 1360: Mandeville, *Travels*, 139 (E.E.T.S.), And all ben white as snow. c. 1440: Lydgate, *Lyf of our Lady*, sig. F2 (Caxton), Was whyt in soth as snowe that falleth newe. 1598: Meres, *Palladis*, fo. 195, The hearbe Moly hath a flower as white as snow. 1681: Rycaut, tr. *Gracian's Critick*, 211, Pipes of alabaster as white as snow. 1729: Coffey, *Beggar's Wedding*, I. iii., Your head's white as snow. 1883: R. L. S., *Treas. Isl.*, ch. i., The next, bright doctor, with his powder as white as snow. 1901: Raymond, *Idler out of Doors*, 5, Orchards, white as snow in early June.

9. *As white as whale-bone*. See No. 4a.

10. *A white loaf and a hard cheese never shames the master*. 1659: Howell, II.

11. *A white wall is a fool's paper*. 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 32. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 319 (1870). 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, ii. 191 (1840), 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 "Muraille blanche, 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 filth under the white snow, the sun discovers*. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*.

15. *There's no getting white meal out of a coal-sack*. 1865: "Lancs. Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., viii. 494. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. x., You cannot get white flour out of a coal sack, nor perfection out of human nature. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs. Sayings*, 10, Ther's no gettin' white meeol eawt of a coal-seck.

16. *To mark with a white stone*. [O diem lætum, notandumque mihi candidissimo calculo!—Pliny, *Ep.* 6, 11. Cretâ an carbone notandi?—Horace, *Sat.* II. iii. 246.] 1540: Palsgrave, *Acolastus*, sig. KI, O festyuall daye . . . worthy 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. l. 2, Let this auspicious morning be exprest With a white stone. 1748: Smollett, *Rod. Random*, ch. lii., He . . . told me that, in mentioning the white stone, he alluded to the *dies fasti* of the Romans, *albo lapide notati*. 1814: Byron, in *Letters*, etc., iii. 57 (Prothero), I shall mark it with the "white stone" in my calendar. 1888: Marchant, *Praise of Ale*, 581, 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. l. 24, For in oure mil ther stiketh ever a nayl, To have an hoor heed and a grene tayl, As hath a leek. c. 1590: Sir J. Davies,

in *Poems* ii 32 (Grosart), Septimus hues, and is like garlick seene. For though his head be white, his blade is greene 1598 Hall, *Satires* bk iv s iv, The maidens mocke, and call him withered leeke, That with a greene tayle hath an hoary head 1651 Cartwright, *Ordinary*, III 1, Mine head is white, but O mine taile is green 1693 Urquhart *Rabelais* bk iii ch xxviii  
 18 *White silver draws black lines* 1598 Meres, *Palladis*, fo 151, Silver although it be white yet it draweth black lines 1639 Clarke, 170 1670 Ray, 142

Whitneck See Stoit

Whitsuntide 1 At Whitsun See quot 1659 Howell, 20, At Witson poke Munday, when peeple 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, 1 551 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 AD 1423 according to the Will of Sir Richard Whittington, by his executors

Whittlesea mere has foaled 1865 W White, *Eastern England*, 1 255, Among the fennmen the phrase "Whittlesea 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 him 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 ix

Who hath none to still him, may weep out his eyes 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* 1670 Ray, 25

Who may hold that will away? 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs* Pt II ch vi 1564 Bulkin, *Dialogue* 121 (EETS) Lament no more, good wife, for who can kepe that must needs awake 1614 Jonson, *Bart Fair*, I 1640 Mabbe, tr *Exemplary Novels*, 196, 1 (1900), 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 wayne dothe the husbände set keepers ouer her, for who shal kepe those keepers 1732 Fuller, No 5718

Whole as a fish Before 1300 *Cursor Mundi*, l 8175, As any fisshe thou makes me fere [fair] c 1350 *Alexander*, l 2575 As fast was he fyische hale c 1400 *Mirk's Festial*, 265 (EETS), And anon the lepur [leprosy] fel from hym and he was hole as a fyssche 1486 *Boke of St Albans*, sig A4, She shall be hoole as a fysh c 1580 *Tom Tyler*, 19 (1661) (Malone S), This chafing hath made me as whole as a fish 1647 A Brewer, *Countrie 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* 354 (PS), c 1570 *Merie Tales of Skelton*, xii in *Skelton's Works*, 1 lxx (Dyce), No, sayde the cobbler, I am not afearde, it is good to slepe in a whole skinne c 1620 *Day Peregr Scholastica*, 70 (Bullen) As you think it good sleepeinge in a whole skin 1664 *Etheredge, Comical Revenge*, IV 1 I heard, poor lady, she wept, and charged you to sleep in a whole skin 1749 Fielding,



*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 meat is at another man's cost, The. 1659: Howell, 19. 1670: Ray, 1.

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 king, thou wilt be his man. 1670: Ray, 183. 1732: Fuller, No. 5734 ["shalt" for "wilt"].

Whoso in youth. See quot. 16th cent. in *Babees Book* 332 (Furnivall), Who so in youthe no vertu vsith In age alle honour him refuseth.

Whoso will no evil do. See Evil (7).

Why for thy. See quot. 1678: Ray, 345, 'Twill not be why for thy. *Somerset*. Of a bad bargain or great loss for little profit.

Why hath its wherefore, Every. 1566: Gascoigne, *Supposes*, I. i., I have given you a wherefore for this why many times. c. 1590: Shakespeare, *Com. of Errors*, II. ii., For they say every why hath a wherefore. Before 1704: T. Brown, *Works*, i. 40. (1760). 1822: Scott, *Nigel*, ch. iii. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. xvii.

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.

Widdecombe 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! i' faith, your hand is out. 1604: Dekker, *Honest Wh.*, Pt. I. Act. I., Y'are wide o' th' bow-hand still, brother: my longings are not wanton, but wayward. 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 ears and a short tongue. 1633: Draxe, 190. 1670: Ray, 8. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Wide." Wide ears and a short tongue is best.

Wide quoth Bolton when his bolt flew backward. 1591: Florio, *Second Frutes*, To Reader. 1659: Howell, 20. 1678: Ray, 84, Wide quoth Wilson.

Wide will wear but narrow will tear. 1678: Ray, 217. 1732: Fuller, No. 6097. 1853: 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.

3. He that marries a widow and three children, marries four thieves. 1669: *New Help to Discourse*, 310 ["Two" and "three" for "three" and "four"]. 1670: Ray, 51. 1696: D'Urfe, *Quixote*, Pt. III. Act. I. 1716: Ward, *Female Policy*, 69. 1732: Fuller, No. 2237.

4. He that will wed a widow must come day and night. c. 1597: Deloney, *Lacke of Newb.*, ch. xi., He that will wooe 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 neuer meete the[e] at fleshe nor at fishe, But I haue sure a

deade mans head in my dishe 1605  
Marston, *Insat Countess*, I 1, As bold-  
faced women, when they wed another  
Banquet their husbands with their dead  
loves' heads 1659 Howell *Letters*,  
11 666 (Jacobs), You must also be wary  
how you marry a widow, for so  
you will be subject to hav a Deaths head  
putt often in your Dish 1736 Bailey,  
*Dict*, s.v. "Widow"

6 *It is as easy to marry a widow as to  
put a halter on a dead horse* 1883  
Burne, *Shropsh Folk-Lore* 588

7 *It's dangerous marrying a widow,  
because she hath cast her rider* 1659  
Howell, *Proverbs Lett of Advice* Be  
wary how you marry one that hath cast  
her rider I mean a widow 1678  
Ray 58

8 *Long a widow weds with shame*  
1659 Howell *Proverbs Brit-Engl*, 19

9 *Marry a widow before she leave  
mourning* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Pruden-*  
*tum* Cf No 2

10 *Widows are always rich* 1678  
Ray, 57 Cf Wooers

11 *Widows children turn out well*  
1897 Mrs Earle, *Pot-Pourri*  
(Daughters), There is an old saying that  
widows' children turn out well

See also Cross a stile, Woo (1) and  
(2), and Wooers

*Wife and Wives, subs* 1 *A fair wife  
without a fortune is a fine house without  
furniture* 1732 Fuller, No 91

2 *A man's best fortune or his worst is  
a wife* 1670 Ray, 28

3 *An obedient wife commands her  
husband* 1732 Fuller, No 640

4 *An unchaste wife* See quot 1623  
Wodroephe *Spared Houres*, 484, An  
unchast wife working mischief still, is  
oft compared to a foule dung hill

5 *A wife brings but two good days, her  
wedding day and death day* [ῥῖσκα γυναι-  
κόλογος ἐστὶν ἔτε δ' ἀγαθὰς δύο ὥρας Τῆν  
μία ἐν θανάτῳ τῇ, μία ἐν θανάτῳ —Gk  
*Anthol* xi 381] c 1560 T Ingelend  
*Disob Child*, 32 (Percy S), Who sayde  
with a wyfe are two dayes of pleasure,  
The first is the joye of the maryage day  
and nyght The seconde to be at the  
wyfes sepulture 1577 Kendall  
*Flow of Epigrams*, 143 (Spens S),

Although all women kinde be nought,  
yet two good dayes hath she Her  
marriage day, and day of death, when  
all she leaves to thee 1608 Middle-  
ton, *Fam of Love*, I 11 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 xvii, 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 quots 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*,  
Pt I ch 11, 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 chuse 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 1872 J Glyde Jr, *Nor-*  
*folk 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,  
*Ploughm 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  
(Roxb Cl), Thear is another common  
proverbe Who hathe no controversye  
hathe no wyffe 1611 Cotgrave, s.v.  
"Noise," He that a wife hath, strife  
hath

11. *He that hath no wife, beateth her oft.* 1629: *Book of Meery 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 Frutes*, 41, Who lets his wife go to euerie feaste, And lets his horse drinke at euerie puddle, Shall haue of his horse, a starke iadish beast And of his best wife, a twang with a huddle. 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 243 [a variant of 1591]. 1670: Ray, 28.

13. *He that loses his wife and sixpence (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]. 1699: 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. *Erasm. Colloq.*, 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.

18. *Refuse a wife with one fault, and take one with two.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs*. *Brit.-Eng.*, 13.

19. *Subjects and wives.* See quot.

Before 1704: Brown, *Works*, iv. 178 (1760), 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.* 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 51, Take a woman's first counsel. 1875: 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 apron.* 1670: Ray, 29.

22. *The death of wives and the life of sheep make men rich.* 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 164, The English say allusively, If wives fall, and sheep stand, one must grow rich perforce. 1678: Ray, 353.

23. *The wife is the key of the house.* 1633: Drake, 230. 1670: Ray, 29. 1732: Fuller, No. 4828.

24. *The wife should be blind and the husband deaf.* 1539: Taverner, *Garden of Wysdom*, Pt. II. fo. 4, Wedded persons may thus passe ouer theyr lyues quietly . . . yf the husbände become deafe, and the wyfe blynde. 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 deafe. 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"].

27. *Wife and children are bills of charges.* 1659: Howell, 5. 1670: Ray, 29.

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*

*evils* 1736 Basley, *Dict*, s v "Wife"  
Cf *Woman* (45)

31 *Wives must be had, be they good or bad* 1639 Clarke, 328 1670 Ray  
49 1754 Berthelson *Eng-Danish Dict* s v "Whether" 1875 Cheales, *Proverb Folk-Lore*, 32 [with addition] and so must husbands

32 *Wives must have their will* See *Woman* (58)

33 *Wives of clouds* 1542 Udall tr *Erasm Apoph*, 119 (1877). For which we saye in our Englishe prouerbe vñues of cloutes

See also All are good maids, Commend (1), Dead (1), Fair (9)-(11) and (49) Fast, *verb* (2), Good or ill hap, Good husband, Good wife, Great need, Horse (26) (34) and (36), House (3), Husband, Nice wife, No lack, Old A (c) (6)-(8), One good wife, Proud eye, Quartermaster, Shrewsbury, Smoke (2), Speak (5), Tell (4), This is that must needs be, Westminster, and Young (11)

Wigan, Lanes See quot 1897 *N & Q* 8th ser, vi 187 Can any one give the origin of a Lancashire saying, when friends touch glasses before drinking, and say, "Here's to the Mayor of Wigan, that is, our noble selves"?

Wight, The Isle of 1 *An Isle of Wight parson* 1838 Holloway, *Provincialisms*, 150, A shag [cormorant] from its colour and place of resort, is called an "Isle of Wight parson"

2 *The Isle of Wight hath no monks, lawyers, or foxes* 1607 Webster, etc. *Westw Ho*, III in, The Isle of Wight could not of long time neither endure foxes nor lawyers 1610 P Holland, tr Camden's *Britannia* 274 The inhabitants of this Isle [Wight] were wont merrily to make their boast, that their case was happier than all others, because they had neither hooded monks, nor cavilling lawyers, nor yet crafty foxes 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, ii 5 (1840) 1700 J Brome *Travels*, 251 [as in 1610] 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v 'Hants'

Wild, *adj* 1 *As wild as a buck* 1639 Clarke, 287 1670 Ray, 208

2 *As wild as a hawk* 1820 Scott, *Abbot*, ch xviii, 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* *sequeris corvos testaque lutoque*—Persius, iii 61] 1592 Shakespeare, *Romeo*, II iv, Nay, if thy wits 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 xvi, Fool enough to ramble about the country upon such a wild-goose chase 1868 Dickens, *Uncom Trav*, xvii, My mind now began to misgive 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 tame egg* 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman* ch 1

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 waur 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 fangleness] 1577 *Misogonus*, II iii He hath not yet sowne all his wilde otes 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 ask'd me, if I would never have sown my wild oats 1748 Richardson *Clarissa*, iv 240 (1785), You are upon the borders of wedlock, as I may say, and all your wild oats will be sown 1836 Marryat, *Easy*, ch xiii He would have turned out a shining character as soon as he had sown his wild oats 1895 Pinero, *Benefit of Doubt*, I, I'm seven-and-

twenty; I'm an old woman; I've sown my wild oats now.

8. *Wild and stout never wants a staff.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Engl.*, 36.

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]. 1880: 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 man never wants woe, A. 1685: Meriton, *Yorksh. Alc. etc.*, 49, But wilfull fowkes, duz never want weay [woe] its said. 1732: Fuller, No. 466. Cf. Hasty man.

Wilful waste makes woeful want. *Ibid.*, No. 5755 ["brings" for "makes"]. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Waste."

Wilful will to it. 1829: Scott, *Geierstein*, ch. xvi., That is as much as 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 oft ys take; Therfor the wyll must weell be dysposyde. 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 deed, 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 buyeth and money payeth.* 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, 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 justify, 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. iiii., 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.*, 1410 (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*, 1 451 (Bigelow)

4 *Will he nill he* c 1220 *Hali Meidenhad*, 31 (E E T S), pat wullen ha nullen ha Before 1300 *Cursor Mundi*, 1 23729 Nill we, will we, we sal mete 13th cent., *Guy of Warwick* 1 7109 (E E T S), Gon ich mot, wille y so nulle 1485 Malory, *Morte d A bk* 1 ch viii, Ye shal ouercome hem all whether they wille or nulle 1595 Munday *John a Kent*, 18 (Sh S) Will I, or nill I, all is one to him 1602 Shakespeare, *Hamlet* V 1, Will he nill he he goes 1607 B & F *Woman-Hater*, III iv Will she, nill she, she shall come running into my house 1740 North, *Examen*, 67, To which he was peremptorily bound Will he, nill he, that must be 1872 Hardy, *Greenwood Tree* Pt I 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 nill 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

Willow, 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* 1 280 1901 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 Prudentum* 1732 Fuller, No 5761 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 156

Wiltshire See Derbyshire

Wiltshire moon-rakers 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*, s v "Wilts" 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 Pettie, *Pet Pallace* 1 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, wear her wed her 1632 S Marmion, *Holl Leaguer*, V iv, There she comes! win her, and wear her 1825 Planche, *Extravag.*, 1 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! 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 xiii knyghtes made vyce that day, To wyinne theyre spores they seyde they wold asay 1523-25 Berners, *Trois-sart*, ch 130, Say to them that they suffre hym this day to wyinne his spures 1580 Churchyard, *Charge*, 30 (Collier), Perhaps, in winnyng of the spures, You made 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 1859 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 ix, Recover the hors or leese the saddle too 1575 Gascoigne, *Posies*, 169 (Cunliffe), It was my full entent, To loose 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,

Eng. - Danish Dict., s.v. "Horse." 1847: Halliwell, Dict., s.v. "Mare," To win the mare or lose the halter, to play double or quits. 1913: *Folk-Lore*, xxiv. 77, I'll win the horse or lose the saddle. (Oxfordshire.)

5. *Win at first and lose at last.* 1678: Ray, 349.

6. *Win gold and wear gold.* 1583: Melbancke, *Philotinus*, sig. C4, Thou hast woon goulde, now weare gould. 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 336 (1870). 1660: Tatham, *The Rump*, III., He that wins gold, let him wear gold, I cry. 1736: Bailey, Dict., s.v. "Win."

7. *Win purple and wear purple.* 1650: Fuller, *Pisgah Sight*, bk. iv. ch. vi., § 1, Earned with her industry (and good reason—win purple, and wear purple). 1853: Trench, *Proverbs*, 106 (1905).

8. *Win whoso may.* See quot. c. 1386: Chaucer, *Wife of Bath's Prol.*, l. 414, Winne who-so may for al is for to selle.

Winchester. See Canterbury (3).

Winchester goose, The = venereal disease. 1559: Becon, in *Prayers*, etc., 284 (P.S.), Making whole of a Winchester goose. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Poulain." A botch in the groine, a Winchester goose. 1730: Bailey, *Eng. Dict.*, s.v. "Goose." Winchester goose, a swelling in the thigh.

Wind. Classification. A. General: (a) *Literal*, (b) *Metaphorical*. B. East wind. C. North wind. D. South wind. E. West wind. F. Various combinations of direction.

A. (a) 1. *After wind comes rain.* 1548: Hall, *Chron.*, 22 (1809), As the old prouerbe saith, after winde commeth rain. 1569: Grafton, *Chron.*, i. 484 (1908).

2. *As wroth as the wind.* c. 1350: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, ii. 95 (1843), Thanne the kyng wax wrothe as wynde. 1377: Langland, *Plowman*, B. iii. 328, Also wroth as the wynde wex Mede [the Lady Meed] in a while. c. 1400: *Rich. the Redeles*, iii. 153, Thei woll be wroth as the wynde. 1468: *Coventry Mysteries*, 8 (Sh. S.), As wroth as wynde Is kyng Herownde.

3. *A veering wind, fair weather, A backing wind, foul weather.* 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 71.

4. *Blow the wind never so fast, It will fall at last.* 1732: Fuller, No. 6306. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. v. ["lower" for "fall"].

5. *High winds blow on high hills.* [Saepius ventis agitur ingens Pinus et celsæ graviore casu Decidunt turrets.—Horace, *Carm.* II. x.] Before 1225: *Ancr. Riwle*, 178 (Morton), Vor euer so þe hul is more and herre, so þe wind is more þeron. c. 1310: in Wright, *Pol. Songs*, *John to Ed. II.*, 207 (Camden S.), Summa petit livor, perflant altissima venti. 1484: Caxton, tr. *Chartier's Curial*, 5 (E.E.T.S.), The grete wyndes that blowe in hye courtes. 1578: *Gorgeous Gallery*, 10 (Rollins), As highest seates wee see be subiect to most winde. 1639: Clarke, 23, Huge winds blow on high hills. 1670: Ray, 107 [as in 1639]. 1732: Fuller, No. 2502.

6. *If the wind do blow aloft, then of wars shall we hear oft.* 1855: Bohn, 418.

7. *If wind follows sun's course, expect fair weather.* 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 71.

8. *Look not, like the Dutchman, to leeward for fine weather.* Ibid., 69.

9. *There's no weather ill when the wind is still.* 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 334 (1870). 1670: Ray, 42, No weather's ill If the wind be still. 1732: Fuller, No. 6493. 1825: Hone, *Ev. Day Book*, i. 670. 1893: Inwards, 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*

*falls soft* 1814 Scott, *Waverley*, ch xiv

15 *Where the wind is on Martinmas ere there it will prevail through the winter* 1893 Inwards *Weather Lore*, 83, If the wind south-west at Martinmas, It keeps there till after Christmas 1898 Gibbs *Cotswold Village* ch xvii 388 (1909) Last night were Hollandtide [Nov 11] eve, and where the wind is at Hollandtide there it will stick best part of the winter 1902 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* Ibid, 71

19 *You can't catch the wind in a net* 1880 Spurgeon, *Ploughm Pictures*, 97

(b) 1 *All this wind shakes no corn* 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs* Pt I ch xi 1587 *Turberville Trag Tales*, etc, 261 (1837), But al for nought, his winde 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 *Parlonope*, 444 (E E T S), "What!" seith Gaudyn, stonte the wynde in that doore?" 1566 Gascoigne, *Supposes*, III 1, Is it even so? is the winde in that doore? c 1600 Deloney, *Thos of Reading* ch 3, What husband (quoth she) is the winde at that doore? 1641 Tatham, *Distracted State*, I 1737 Ray, 267, Is the wind in that corner? 1817 Scott *Rob Roy*, ch viii, 'Whew! sits the wind in that quarter?" inquired the Justice

4 *Let this wind over-blow* 1546

Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch vi 1659 Howell, 7

5 *The wind in a man's face makes him wise* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum* ['one's' for "a man's"] 1710 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 tydinges how the wind was went 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt II ch ix, I know, And knew, which waie the winde blew, and will blow 1694 D Urfe, *Qui vote*, Pt I III 11, Why then I know where the wind sits 1766 Garrick, *Neck 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 ix, "Oho!" says the stranger, "is that how the wind sets? And he laid his hand quickly on his pistols 1906 Doyle, *Sir Nigel*, ch xii, My questions must have shown him whence the wind blew

7 *What wind blew you hither?* c 1374 Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk ii l 1104 "Now by your feyth, myn uncle" quod she, "dere, What maner windes gydeth yow now here?" c 1400 *Beryn*, 51 (E E T S), Benedicite! what manere wynd hath I-brought yewe here? c 1489 Caxton, *Sonnes of Aymon* 106 (E E T S), Lordes, what ye be, and what wynde dryveth you hyther 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch v 1657 Sir A Cokain, *Obstinate Lady*, II m, What wind brought you hither? 1713 Gay, *Wife of Bath*, I 1737 Dodsley, *Miller of Mansfield*, I vi 1861 Dickens, *Great Exp* ch xlv, "And what wind," said Miss Havisham, "blows you here, Pip?"

B East Wind 1 *A dry east wind raises the spring* Cornwall 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 80

2 *An easterly wind s rain Makes fools fain* Ibid, 80

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*, 446 (E D S), 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 7 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.* 1855: Bohn, 299.

5. *Easterly winds and rain, Bring cockles here from Spain.* 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 12 (Percy S.).

6. *If it rains when the wind is in the east, It will rain for twenty-four hours at least.* c. 1685: Aubrey, *Nat. Hist. Wills*, 16 (1847). 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 quot. 1881: Evans, *Leicest. Words*, etc., 169 (E.D.S.), A common Leicestershire saying is: If the wind's i' the East of Easter-dee, Yo'll ha' plenty o' grass, but little good hee [hay].

8. *When the wind is in the east, It's good for neither man nor beast.* 1600: R. Cawdray, *Treas. of Similies*, 750, The east wind is accounted neither good for man or beast. 1670: Ray, 41. 1732: Fuller, No. 6224. 1825: Hone, *Ev. Day Book*, i. 670. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 79. 1913: E. M. Wright, *Rustic Speech*, etc., 316.

See also D (1) and F (6) and (9).

C. North wind. 1. *A northern air Brings weather fair* [1611: Bible, Job xxxvii. 22. Fair weather cometh out of the north.] 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 77.

2. *A north wind is a broom for the Channel.* Cornwall. 1887: M. A. Courtney, *Folk-Lore Journal*, v. 191.

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.

5. *When the wind is in the north, The skilful fisher goes not forth.* 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 17 (Percy S.). 1893: Inwards, 77.

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.* 1874: W. Pengelly, in *N. & Q.*, 5th ser., ii. 184, I often heard the following weather-rhymes in Cornwall in my boyhood:—"An out, etc.—"

2. *A southerly wind and a cloudy sky, Proclaim a hunting morning.* 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 8 (Percy S.). 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 81.

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.

5. *When the wind is in the south, It's in the rain's mouth.* 1639: Clarke, 263. 1670: Ray, 42. 1732: Fuller, No. 6225. 1825: Hone, *Ev. Day Book*, i. 670. 1893: Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 82, When the wind's in the south, The rain's in its mouth.

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 ["always" for "at the"]. 1913: E. M. Wright, *Rustic Speech*, etc., 316, The wind in the west Suits every one best (Lancs.). Cf. F (11).

5. *Wind west Rain's nest.* Devon. 1893: Inwards, 83. Cf. F (8).

See also C (3), D (3); and F (6) and (9).

F. Various combinations of direction.

1 *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 shotter-men a prey* 1735 Pegge, *Kent Proverbs*, in EDS No 1270.

Shotver men are the mackerel fishers, and a North-east wind is reckon'd at Dover a good wind for them [Mackerel fishers' nets are called shot-nets] 1887 Parish and Shaw, *Dict Kentish Dialect*, 148 (E D S)

3 *A nor'-wester is not long in debt to a sou wester* 1893 Inwards 78

4 *Do business with men when the wind is in the north-west* Yorkshire Ibid, 78

5 *If the wind is north-east three days without rain, Eight days will pass before south wind again* Ibid, 78

6 *North and south the sign o' drouth East and west the sign of blast* 1846 Denham *Proverbs* 17 (Percy S) [in reverse order] 1893 Inwards, 77

7 *North-west wind brings a short storm a north-east wind brings a long storm* Ibid, 79

8 *The sou'-west Is the rain's nest* 1891 R P Chope, *Hartland Dialect*, 20 (E D S) Cf E (5)

9 *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*, 1 5 1892 S Hewett, *Peasant Speech of Devon*, 29

10 *Three south-westers then one heavy rain* 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore* 83

11 *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 1 *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 M7 1737 Ray, 216 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch xv, Poor soul, like a good many others he has windmills in his head

2 *You can't drive a windmill with a pair of bellows* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*, You cannot make a windmill go with a pair of bellows 1670 Ray, 29 1732 Fuller, No 5880

3 *Your windmill is dwindled into a nut-crack* 1678 Ray, 277 1732 Fuller, No 6064

Window 1 *A window wench, and a trotter in streele, is neuer good to haue a house to keepe* 1623 Wodroephe, *Spared Houres* 484

2 *To come in at the window* said of a bastard 1551 Crowley, *Pleas and Payne*, 350 (O), Youe were gladde to take them in, Bycause you knewe that they dyd knowe That youe 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 1608 Middleton, *Family of Love*, IV iii Woe worth the time that ever I gave suck to a child that came in at the window 1664 Cotton *Scarrionides*, bk 1, Although he had her not by'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 -Engl.* 3 1732 Fuller, No 1831

2 *He that drinks not wine after salad is in danger to be sick* 1666 Torriano, *Piazza Univ*, 308 [slightly varied] 1670 Ray, 39

3 *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 hony beneath 1678 Ray, 41

4 *The wine is the master's, the good-*

ness 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, Dict., s.v. "Wine."

7. *Where wine is not common, commons must be sent.* 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 335 (1870). 1659: Howell, 10.

8. *Wine and wealth change wise men's manners.* 1586: L. Evans, *Revised Withals Dict.*, sig. B7. 1639: Clarke, 33.

9. *Wine and wenches empty mens purses.* 1586: L. Evans, *Revised Withals Dict.*, 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 quotes 1578: Florio, *First Fruits*, fo. 29, *Wine by the sauour and bread by the heate.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Vin," *Let wine good savour, cloth fresh colour, have.* 1629: *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov. 109, *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: *Politeuphuia*, 299. 1732: Fuller, No. 5744.

14. *Wine in the bottle quencheth not thirst.* 1640: Herbert, Jac. *Prudentum*. 1732: Fuller, No. 5745 ["hogshead" for "bottle"].

15. *Wine in truth out.* 1611: Cotgrave, 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. (1).

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, Dict., s.v. "Whetstone."

19. *Wine makes all sorts of creatures at table.* 1640: Herbert, Jac. *Prudentum*.

20. *Wine makes old wives wenches.* 1639: Clarke, 192.

21. *Wine neither keeps secrets nor fulfils promises.* 1620: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt. II. ch. xlii. 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, Dict., s.v. "Breeches." [1781: Cowper, *Convers.*, l. 263, *When wine has giv'n indecent language birth.*]

25. *Wine, wood, women and water.* Herefordshire. 1869: Hazlitt, 476.

26. *Ye praise the wine before ye taste of the grape.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. x.

27. *You cannot know wine by the barrel.* 1640: Herbert, Jac. *Prudentum*. 1732: Fuller, No. 5884 ["cask" for "barrel"]. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. iii., *Though you cannot know wine by the barrel, a good appearance is a letter of recommendation even to a ploughman.*

See also *Commend* (1); *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 wincke I am not blind.* 1615: J.

Andrews, *Anat of Baseness*, 32 (Grosart), Tell me, dost thinke that all are blinde that are content to winke?

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 xi 1611 Cotgrave, s v "Borgner" To winke with one eye, and looke with another 1659 Howell 8 1732 Fuller, No 6458

3 *She can wink on the eae and worry the lamb* 1546 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch x

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 wink 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

Winlater, He's a 1846-59 *Denham Tracts*, 1 72 (T L S), He's a Winlater This saying may be illustrated by using the parallel saying 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* 1633 Draxe, 12 1670 Ray, 29

3 *A green winter makes a fat churchyard* 1670 Ray, 42 1732 Fuller, No 205 1825 Hone, *Ev Day Book*, 1 670 1893 Inwards, *Weather Lore*, 8

4 *An early winter, a surly winter* 1846 Denham, *Proverbs*, 61 (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 *W orks*, u f 7 (Grosart), Foure 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 Pylgremage*, l 155 (E E T S), Wynttur ettythe that somer gettyth c 1645, MS *Proverbs in N & Q*, vol 154, p 27, That which summer gets, winter eats 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 died in a ditch* Ibid 8

12 *Winter never rols in the sky* 1639 in *Berkeley MSS*, m 33 (1885), Winter never dies in her dams belly 1655 Gurnall, *Christ in Armour*, verse 12, ch 1 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 Chamberlain, *W Worc Words* 38 (E D S)

15 *Winter's thunder is summer's wonder* 1605 Camden, *Remains*, 336 (1870) ['makes' for 'is'] 1611 Cotgrave s v "Tonner" 1658 Willsford, *Natures Secrets*, 113 According to the old adigy, 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, Peascod-time for wooing.* 1841: Brand, *Pop. Antiq.*, ii. 100 (Bohn) [quoted as "an old proverb in a MS." Devon Glossary]. 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 64 (Percy S.).

21. *Winter-weather and women's thoughts change oft.* c. 1450: *Songs and Carols*, 23 (Warton Cl., 1856), Wynteris wether and wommanys thout, And lordis love, schaugit oft. 1590: Greene, in *Works*, vii. 293 (Grosart), Wherevnto alludeth our old English prouerbe. Wynters wether, and womens thoght, And gentlemens purposes chaungeth oft. 1670: Ray, 50. Cf. *Woman* (66).

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, *Chron.*, ii. p. 323, col. 2 (O.), Hee deused a shifte howe to wype 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. 1639: Chapman and Shirley, *Ball*, III. ii., Poor gentleman, how is he beguil'd! *Lam.* your nose is wiped [*aside*]. 1673: Dryden, *Ambolya*, II. i., There's . . . the Dutchman with my mistress; his 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. Polycye*, l. 453, p. 40 (Pauli), And thus, they wolden, if we wil beleve Wipen our nose with our owen sleve. 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. ix., I may . . . make you wype your nose vpon your sleeue. 1577: Stanihurst, *Descr. of Ireland*, fo. 8, For any recompence he is like to haue 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, 217.

Wisborough Green. See *Rudgwick*.

Wisdom. 1. *By wisdom peace, by peace plenty.* 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 320 (1870). 1670: Ray, 156.

2. *He hath wisdom at will that brags not of his skill.* 1623: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 514.

3. *He hath wisdom at will that with angry heart can hold his tongue still.* c. 1460: *Proverbs of Good Counsel*, in E.E.T.S., Ext. Ser., 8, p. 69, He hathe wysdom at hys wyll that can with angry harte be styлле. 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 counsels.* 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Wisdom."

6. *What is not wisdom, is danger.* 1878: J. Platt. *Morality*, 34.

7. *Wisdom goes beyond strength.* 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Wisdom."

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: *Politephnia*, 45. 1732: Fuller, No. 5764, Wisdom in a poor man is a diamond set in lead.

10. *Wisdom liketh not chance.* 1568: in *Loseley MSS.*, 210 (Kempe).

11. *Wisdom sometimes walks in clouted shoes.* 1732: Fuller, No. 5771. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. xxiv., Wisdom walks often in patched shoes.

Wise, adj. and subs. 1. *As wise as a*

drake 1560 *Impac Pouerte*, in *Bang, Materialien*, B 33, p 27

2 *As wise as a goose* (or, gander) 1528 *More, Works*, p 179, col 2 (1557). And all as wise as wilde geese 1533 in *Ballads from MSS*, 1, 230 (B S), *As wise as a gander* c 1580 *Tom Tyler*, l 840, p 23 (1661) (Malone S) [as in 1533] c 1615 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* [gosling]

3 *As wise as an ape* 1530 *Palsgrave* 591 She hath so insensed him with fole that he is almoste as wyse as an ape c 1568 *Wager, Longer thou Liest* sig C3, To make him shortly as wise as an ape 17th cent in *Hazlitt Ined Poet Miscell* sig X1 (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* l 319 (Brandl, *Quellen* 170), I shall proue you playne as wyse as a woodcocke c 1560 T *Ingelend Disobedient Child*, 31 (Percy S), *As wyse as a wodcocke*, without any wytte 1670 *Ray*, 203 1677 *Poor Robin's Visions*, 61, A fool 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*, l 284

6 *As wise as Waltham's calf* Ibid, l 811, *As wyse as Waltoms 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 Worshps*, 26 in *Works* 1st Coll (Spens S) And each of them as wise as Walthams calfe 1667 L'Estrange, *Quevedo* 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 1667]

7 *A wise child is father's bliss* c 1270 *Prov of Alfred* in *Kemble, Salomon and Sat* 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 *Mabbe Celestina* 104 (T T), A wise man alreth his purpose but a foole 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 *Florio First Frutes*, fo 32 1629 *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov 43 "alter for "change" 1640 *Herbert Jac Prudentum*, A wise man needs not blush for changing his purpose

15 *A wise man's thoughts 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 playe the foole well it behooueth 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 ipse sibi sapiens prodesset non qut nequiquam sapit—Enn ap Cic Fam, 7, 6 2] 1478 *Rivers, tr C de Pisas Moral Proverbs*, Grete fole is in him that taketh hede Upon other and not to his owen nede 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, *Phraseol. Generalis*, 291, 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, *Ploughm. 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 inough (quoth he) if ye keepe ye warme. 1579 : *Marr. of Wit and Wisdom*, 16 (Sh. S.), Thou art a mery fellowe and wise, And if thou kepe thy selfe warme. 1607 : *The Puritan*, III. vi., Which confirms the old beldam'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.

25. *He is wise that is ware in time.* 1303 : Brunne, *Handl. Synne*, l. 8085, Yu a prouerbe telle men þys "He wyys ys, þat ware ys." Before 1500 : in Hill, *Commonplace Book*, 101, He ys wyse that ys ware or he harm fele. 1736 : Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Wary."

26. *He is wise that knows when he is well enough.* 1732 : Fuller, No. 2475.

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 Tristrem*, l. 626, He was ful wise, I say, That first yave yift in land. c. 1390 : Gower, *Conf. Amantis*, bk. v. l. 4719, For thus men sein, in every nede, He was wys that ferst 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. 1875 : Cheales, *Proverb. Folk-Lore*, 49, When a wise man errs, he errs with a vengeance.

31. *It is a wise child that knows its own father.* [Οὐ γὰρ πῶ τις ἐὼν γόνου αὐτοῦ ἀνέγνω.—Homer, *Od.*, l. 216.] 1589 : Greene, *Works*, vi. 92 (Grosart), For wise are the children in these dayes that know their owne fathers. 1606 : Day, *He of Gulls*, II. i., I am not so wise a child as you take me for ; I neuer knewe my father. 1633 : Rowley, *Match at Midnight*, l., None but wise children know their own fathers. 1673 : Wycherley, *Gent. Danc. Master*, I. i., The children of this age must be wise children indeed if they know their fathers. 1762 : Goldsmith, *Cock Lane Ghost*, in *Works*, ii. 472 (Gibbs). 1774 : Burgoyne, *Maid of Oaks*, I. i. 1823 : Scott, *Peveril*, ch. xxxiii. 1925 : *Sphere*, June 6, p. 294, col. 1.

32. *It is a wise father that knows his own child.* 1595 : Shakespeare, *M. of Venice*, II. ii. 1606 : B. Rich, *Faultes*, fo. 28. 1640 : Shirley, *Opportunity*, I. i.

33. *Send a wise man on an errand, and say nothing to him.* c. 1386 : Chaucer, *Miller's Tale*, l. 412, Men seyn thus, "send the wyse, and seyn-no-thing." 1640 : Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670 : Ray, 157.

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.

36. *The wise and the fool have their fellows.* 1659 : Howell, *Proverbs: Brit.-Eng.*, 4.

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, *Spared Houres*, 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, *Paræm*, 31

43 *To be wise after the event* [εἰς ὅτι δὲ τὸ νῆπιον ἐργῶ —Homer, *Il*, 17, 32] *Atque illi modo cauti ac sapientes prompti post eventum ac magniloque erant* —Tacitus, *Agric* xxvii *Eventus, stultorum iste magister est* —Livy xii 39] 1609 Jonson, *Silent Woman* II ii, 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 1928 *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 riot 1892 Heslop *N'umberland Words*, 9 (E D S), "Ahmt yor 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 begets care* 1732 Fuller, No 6355

47 *Wise man if thou art* See quot 15th cent in *Reliq Antiquæ*, i 314 (1841), Wyse mon if thou art, of thi god Take part or thou hense wynde, For if thou leve thi part in thi secaturis [executor's] ward, Thi part non part at last end

48 *Wise men are caught in wiles* c 1250 Layamon, *Brut* 15182, Ac par nis no man so wis þat me ne mar bi-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 tonge of a

discrete man is in his herte and the herte of a foole is in his tonge 1574 E Hellowes, *Guevara's Epis*, 183, The wise man hath his tong in his hart, and he that is a foole and furious, hath his heart in his tongue 1630 Brathwait, *Engl Gent*, etc 47 (1641), These are those fooles, 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 1869 Spurgeon *John Ploughman*, ch 11

52 *Wise men learn by others' faults, fools by their own* c 1380 Chaucer, *Troilus*, bk iii l 329 For wyse ben by folks harm chastysed 1591 Florio *Second Fruits*, 103, A happie man and wise is he By others harmes can warned be 1669 *Politeuphuia*, 44, By others faults wise men correct their own offences 1758 Franklin, *Poor Richard*, in *Arber's Garner*, v 583 (1882), 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 viii 1823 D'Israeli, *Cur of Lit*, 2nd ser I 449 (1824) c 1860 R S Hawker, in *Byles, Life*, etc, 82 (1905)

54 *Wise men propose and fools determine* 1692 L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 114 (3rd ed) [quoted as 'the old saying']

55 *Wise men silent fools talk* 1639 Clarke, 5

56 *Wise men* See also Fool, *passim*, and Gotham

57 *Wise words and great seldom agree* 1659 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

Wisely walketh that doth safely go, He 1600 Bodenheim, *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."

3. *If wishes were thrushes beggars would eat birds.* 1605: Camden, *Remains*, 326 (1870). 1670: Ray, 157. 1732: Fuller, No. 2731.

4. *If wishes would bide, beggars would ride.* 1670: Ray, 157. 1694: D'Urfey, *Quixote*, Pt. I. Act V. sc. ii. 1732: Fuller, No. 6098.

5. *The wish is father to the thought* [Libenter homines id quod volunt credunt.—Caesar, *De Bello G.*, iii. 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 woulders are never good householders. c. 1520: Stanbridge, *Vulgaria*, sig. C6, Wysshers and wolders ben small house holders. 1590: Greene, *Works*, viii. 64 (Grosart). 1616: Breton, in *Works*, ii. 88 (Grosart). 1641: in *Harl. Miscell.*, i. 483, (1744) Any of those places would suffice you, or myself, but alas! *Wishers and Woulders*, you know how the proverb runs. 1732: Fuller, No. 6154.

Wishers want will. c. 1550: *Parl. of Byrdes*, l. 91, in Hazlitt, *Early Pop. Poetry*, iii. 171, The hawke sayd, wysshers want wyll, Whether they speake loude or styll.

Wit. 1. *Better wit than wealth.* 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Better."

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 hath 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 proverb"].

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, *Assem. of Gods*, st. 238, p. 49 (E.E.T.S.), When they were dreuyn to her wyttes ende. c. 1565: Still, *Gam. Gurton*, IV, ii., And Dame Chat at her wyttes ende I have almost set her. 1576: Pettie, *Pet. Pallace*, i. 172 (Gollancz), 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. Isl.*, 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 Convers.*, 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 *Reliq. Antiquæ* i. 109, (1841), "Wyt ant wysdom is god warysoun," Quoth Hendyng. 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 marriage for witt 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 1292, Wyt ys nothyng worth tyll yt be dere bought 1540 Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt I ch viii 1579 Lyly, *Euphues*, 34 (Arber), It hath bene an olde sayde sawe that wit is the better if it be the deerer bought 1630 Randolph, *Conceited Peddler in Works*, 1 39 (1875) 1653 R Brome, *City Wit*, I ii 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 ii, 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*, II, Wit's nowt till its dear bowt 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 156, Wit's ner owt [aught] Tin dear bowt [Till dear bought]

16 *Wits are most wily* See quot 16th cent in *Reliq Antiquæ*, ii 195, (1843), Wittes are moste wyilly where women have wyttes And curtully comethe uppon them by fittes

17 *Wits have short memories* See Great wits

18 *Wit, whither wilt thou?* 1601 Shakespeare, *A Y Like It* IV 1, A man that had a wife with such a wit, he might say, "Wit, whither wilt?" 1659 Howell, 3

19 *Wit will walk where will is bent* 1583 Melbanche *Philotinus*, sig Y2

20 *Wit without learning is like a tree without fruit* 1647 *Countrim New Commonwealth*, 15

21 *Wit without wisdom* See quots c 1270 *Prov of Alfred*, in Kemble *Salomon and Saturnus*, 229 (Ælfnc S), Wid widutin wisdom is wele ful unweid [wit without wisdom is but little wowed] 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* ii 81 (F L S), A witch-wife—an evil, Is three halfpence worse than the deevil

With a mischief 1533 Heywood, *John Tib and Sir John* I 481, Now go chafe the wax, with a myschyfe 1541 *Sch House of Women* I 278 And now God giue the shame at last, Commest drunken home with a mischeef 1623 Massinger, *Duke of Milan*, II 1, Pleased, with a mischief! 1681 Robertson, *Phrasedol Generalis*, 760, Be gone with a mischief

With a vengeance 1533 Heywood, *John Tib and Sir John*, I 425, And go with a vengeance 1593 Peele, *Edw I*, sc ii, Be gone quickly, or my pikestaff and I will set thee away with a vengeance 1679 Dryden, *Troilus*, II ii, Nothing, do you call it? Thus is nothing, with a vengeance 1701 Cibber, *Love makes a Man* I, Yes, sir, he has lost with a vengeance 1778 Burney, *Evelina* Lett xviii, They'd need to be goddesses with a vengeance for they're mortal dear to look at 1814 Byron, *Letters, etc* iii 124 (Prothero), I got in a passion with an ink-bottle, which I flung out of the window one night with a vengeance 1922 Weyman, *Orington's Bank*, ch xl, They had cooked their goose with a vengeance—no more golden eggs for them!

With a wamon—a proverbial expletive phrase, similar to 'With a mischief, vengeance and witness' c 1568 Wager, *Longer thou Livest*, sig G2, Get the[e] hence theefe with a wamon 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 wamon and take it for your pains c 1627 in *Pepysian Garland*

(Rollins), 272, Pray let them both pack with a winion. 1673: *Vinegar and Mustard*, 9, in Hindley, *Old Book Coll. Misc.*, iii., I'll warrant you with a wannion. 1823: Scott, *Peveril*, ch. vi., Who calls himself a parson, and whom I hope to fetch down from his perch presently, with a wannion to him!

With a witness. 1703: Ward, *Writings*, ii. 273, And the Gown often errs with a witness. 1753: Richardson, *Grandison*, i. 225 (1883), Carried he should have said; I was carried with a witness!

Witham pike. See quotes. 1611: Markham, *Country Contentments*, 65 (1675), The ancient proverb is, Ancome cele, 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, *Jac. Prudentum*.

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 thryfe, And all in a yere." 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. I. ch. xi. 1580: Tusser, *Husbandrie*, 153 (E.D.S.), It is too much we dailie heare, To wive and thrive both in a yere. 1670: Ray, 48. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, 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. 1917: 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 fynde in

an olde sayde sawe Wo is hym that to his maker is vnkynde.

3. Woe to the house where there is no chiding. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 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].

Wolf and Wolves. 1. A growing youth has a wolf in his belly. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Ieune," A youth in growing hath a wolfe in his guts. c. 1625: B. & F., *Women Pleased*, I. ii., This ravening fellow has a wolf in's belly. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Dog," To have a dog in ones belly. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 3.

2. A wolf in sheep's clothing. c. 1460: Wisdom, sc. iii. st. 61, They flatter and lye as they were woode [mad]; Ther ys a wolffe in a lombys skyn. 1509: Barclay, *Ship of Fools*, ii. 7 (1874), She is perchaunce A wolfe or gote within a lammys skyn. 1584: Greene, *Works*, iii. 11 (Grosart), These two . . . had . . . vnder their sheepes skinnnes, hidden the bloudie nature of a wolfe. 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 clergyman. There spoke the wolf in sheep's clothing. 1876: Blackmore, *Cripps*, ch. xlv., Whose bosom friend is a Jesuit, a fierce wolf in sheep's clothing. 1926: Phillpotts, *Yellow Sands*, III., A wolf in sheep's clothing—that's what she was.

3. By little and little the wolf eateth the sheep. 1633: Draxe, 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: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 500.

6. It is a hard winter when one wolf eats another. 1579. Lyly, *Euphues*, 78 (Arber). 1643: Taylor (Water Poet), *Lett. to London*, 8, in *Works*, 5th Coll.

(Spens S) ["world" for "winter"]  
1696 D Urley, *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, *Troilus*,  
bk iv l 1373

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 Frutes*,  
fo 31 1666 Tormano, *Piazza Univ*,  
132

10 The wolf eats counted sheep  
[*Tantum curamus frigora quantum*  
*numerus (ovium) lupus*—Virgil,  
*Aeneid*, 7, 51] 1611 Cotgrave s v  
"Loup" The wolfe eats counted (and  
uncounted) sheepe 1708 tr *Ale-*  
*man s Guzman* 1 435 Your Eminence  
knows the proverb relating to counted  
sheep

11 The wolf eats oft of the sheep that  
have been warned 1651 Herbert,  
*Jac Prudentum* 2nd ed

12 The wolf knows what the ill beast  
thinks 1640 Herbert, *Jac Pruden-*  
*tum*

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 1844  
Planche, *Extravag*, ii 288 (1879), Why,  
you're cried "Wolf!" till, like the  
shepherd youth, You're not believed  
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 wolfe by the eares, whom they  
could neither well hold, nor might safely  
let goe 1642 Quarles, *Works*, i 53  
(Grosart), A Prince that enter-  
taines Auxiliaries, holds a wolfe by the  
eares 1691 J Wilson, *Belphegor*, II  
iii, If ever man had a wolf by the ears  
I have one now 1740 North, *Lives of*  
*Norths*, i 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 x, That we may lue out of  
debt and danger, and drue the wolff  
from the doore c 1630 in *Roxb*  
*Ballads*, i 167 (Hindley), Though home  
be but homely, and never so poore,  
Yet let us keepe, warily, the wolfe from  
the doore Before 1704 Brown,  
*Works*, iii 242 (1760), I shall be very  
well satisfied if I can keep the wolf from  
the door, as the saying is 1860  
Reade, *Clois and Hearth* ch iii, And  
so the brave girl and the brave soldier  
worked with a will, and kept the wolf  
from the door 1921 Sidney Colvin,  
*Memories, etc*, 48, Fortunately he had  
from the first had friends and backers  
whose appreciation 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,  
*Eun*, 5, i, 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 Frutes*, 57, Who is bread among  
wolves, will learne to houle 1623  
Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 274, Hee  
who hantes with wolues doth learne  
to houle 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 speakes of the wolfe hee seeth  
his tale 1623 Wodroephe, *Spared*  
*Houres*, 500

21 Wolves lose their teeth but not  
their memory 1633 Draxe, 237  
1670 Ray, 30 1732 Fuller, No

5802, Wolves may lose their teeth, but not their nature.

22. *Wolves never prey upon wolves.* 1576: Pettie, *Pet. Pallace*, ii. 81 (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 Wolsonbury 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: Wodroephe, *Spared Houres*, 484. 1880: Spurgeon, *Ploughm. Pictures*, 88 [omitting "purest"].

3. *As great a pity to see a woman weep as to see a goose go barefoot.* 1526: *Hund. Mery Talys*, No. x. p. 20 (Oesterley), By thys tale ye may se that the olde prouerbe ys trew that yt is as gret pyte to se a woman wepe as a gosse to go barefote. 1621: Burton, *Melanch.*, III. II. iii. 4, 548 (1836), As much pittty 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 halffence 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.

6. *A woman and a cherry are painted for their own harm.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Span.-Eng.*, 18, A woman

and a cherry paint themselves for their hurt. 1855: Bohn, 304.

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, simili sunt lege ligati: Haec tria nil recta faciunt, si verbera cessent. 16th cent.: Cognatus, *Adagia*, in Grynæus, *Adagia*, p. 484, col. 1 (1629) (*N. & Q.*, 10th ser., ix. 298).] 1586: Pettie, *Guazzo*, fo. 139, A woman, an asse, and a walnut-tree, Bring the more fruite, 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. 1612: Webster, *White Devil*, V. i., Do you think that she is like a walnut-tree? Must she be cudgelled ere she bear good fruit? 1692: L'Estrange, *Æsop*, 284 (3rd ed.), 'Tis natural for asses, 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 wiues (some say) haue nine liues like a cat. 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. I., They say, a woman has as many lives as a cat.

11. *A woman is an angel at ten, 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,

*Vow Breaker*, I iv, in Bang, *Materialien*, B 42, p 22, Faith vncle, i me a woman, and they say, a woman is a wether-cocke

13 *A woman is to be from her house three times when she is christened, married and buried* 1732 Fuller, No 480

14 *A woman need but look upon her apron-string to find an excuse* 1620 *Westward for Smells*, 17 (Percy S), Excuses are never further off women than their apron strings 1672 J 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

15 *A woman's counsel* See quotes 1620 Shelton *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 counsell is sometime 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

16 *A woman's heart and her tongue are not relatives* 1590 Greene, *Works*, viii 90 (Grosart) 1669 Politeuphuia, 31

17 *A woman's "nay"* See quotes c 1590 Shakespeare, *Pass Pilgrim*, xiv, 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

18 *A woman's reason—because it is so* c 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 Lyly, *Love's Metam*, IV i, Women's reasons; they would not because they would not 1634 Massinger, *Very Woman* I i Shall I lose The privilege of my sex which is my will, To yield a reason like a man? 1706 Farquhar *Recruiting Officer*, IV iii, c 1750 Foote, *Englishman in*

*Paris Prol*, To contradict you, I know, is high treason, For the will of a wife is always her reason 1920 Hudson, *Dead Man's Plack*, Preamble, 9, If any one were to ask me why I dislike him I should probably have to answer like a woman Because I do

19 *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 - Engl*, 29 1875 Cheales, *Proverbial Folk-Lore*, 8 A woman's tongue is her sword, and she does not let it rust

20 *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 her tongue 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers*, Dial III

21 *A woman's work is never done* c 1655 in *Roxb Ballads*, iii 302 (BS) 1670 Ray, 50, A woman's work is never at an end 1732 Fuller, No 5810 [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

22 *A woman that is wilful* See quot 16th cent in *Reliq Antiquæ*, ii 195 (1843), A woman thatt ys wyfull ys a plage off the worste, As good live in hell, as withe a wytte that is curste

23 *A woman that loves to be at the window, is like a bunch of grapes on the highway* 1666 Torriano *Piazza Univ*, 74, A woman at a window as grapes on the high way 1869 Hazlitt, 39

24 *A woman that paints puts up a bill 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

25 *A woman that spinnes in vice, hath her smocke full of lice* 1623 Wodroephe, *Spared Houres* 484

26 *Choose not a woman nor linen by candlelight* 1578 Florio, *First Fruits*, fo 32, Neither a woman nor lynnne chuse thou by a candle 1629

*Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov. 18. 1678 : Ray, 64, Neither women nor linen by candle-light. 1928 : Bystander, Oct. 17, p. 138, col. 1. Cf. No. 40.

27. *He hath a woman's tongue*. 1630 : T. Adams, *Works*, 150, The prouerbe came not for nothing, when we say of a brawling man, he . . . hath a womans 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 Frutes*, 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 fainting*. 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 wymmen arn, are many wordys. 1542 : *Sch. House of Women*, l. 482, And where be women, are many words. c. 1600 : Deloney, *Thos. of Reading*, ch. 12, The old prouerbe . . . 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 wooed, she is a woman and therefore may be won*. c. 1591 : Shakespeare, *Titus, Andr.*, II. i. 1620 : Ford, *Line of Life*, 59 (Sh. S.), Women were in their creation ordained to be wooed, 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, Doe you not know the prouerbe, that three women make a market? 1607 : Rowlands, *Diog. Lanthorne*, 45 (Hunt. Cl.), Three women make a market, for they haue sufficient voyce. 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 gaggling.

37. *Woman's instinct is often truer than man's reasoning*. 1875 : Cheales, *Proverbial Folk-Lore*, 11.

38. *Women and dogs set men together by the ears*. 1541 : *Sch. House of Women*, l. 690, The prouerb 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.

39. *Women and hens by too much gadding are lost*. 1611 : Cotgrave, s.v. "Poule," Women and hennies, that gad overmuch, are quickly lost. 1666 : Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 10.

40. *Women and linen look best by candlelight*. 1738 : Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. III. ["shew" for "look"]. 1913 : *Folk-Lore*, xxiv. 76 (Oxfordshire). Cf. No. 26.

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 Florio, *Second Frutes*, 73, Women, wine, and dice will bring a man to lince 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 lices in Bedfordshire, Bring their husbands to Buckingham And die in Shrewsbury 1658 Wit Restor d, 99

45 Women are necessary evils 1583 Melbancke *Philotinus*, sig T2, As all women bee euills, yet necessarie euills 1591 Florio, *Second Frutes*, 173, Women are indeed necessarie but euills 1639 Clarke 118 Cf Wife (30)

46 Women are saints in church See quotes 1542 Sch House of Women, 1 658, As holy as saints in church they be, And in street as angels they were, At home, for all their hypocrisie, A deuillish life they lede all the yeer 1559 Bercher *Nobility of Women*, 127 (Roxb Cl), A woman is a fury and an hurtfull Spyrite in the house, an angell in the church, an ape in the bedd, a mule vnbrideled in the ffelde and a gote in the garden 1560 E More, *Defence of Women* I 474 At home lyke dyuelles they be abrode lyke aungelles pure 1589 Puttenham, *Engl Poesie*, 299 (Arber), We limit the comely parts of a woman to consist in foure points, that is to be a shrewe in the kitchin, a saint in the church, an angell at the bourd, and an ape in the bed, as the Chronicle reportes by Mistriss Shore paramour to king Edward the fourth 1602 Middleton, *Blurt Master-Const*, III iii, According to that wise saying of you, [women] be saints in the church, angels in the street, devils in the kitchen, and apes in your bed 1869 Spurgeon, *John Ploughman* ch xiii, God save us all from wyes 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*, 1 55 (B S)

48 Women be forgetful, children be unkind See quotes c 1470 *Songs and Carols*, 34 (Percy S) Wyves be

releles, chyldren be onkynd Executurs be covetys and hold that they fynd Before 1500 in Hill, *Common-place-Book*, 138 (E E T S), Do sum good, man, by thy lyffe, Whiles thou hast thy mynde, Thy children will for-gete the sone, Thy wyffe will be unkynd, Thy executours be covytes, And take all that they fynde, Yff thou wilt not, while thou may, They will bryng the behynde 1603 Stow, *Survey of London* 116, I wish men to make their owne hands their executours and their eyes their ouerseers, not forgetting the olde prouerbe Women be forgetfull, children be unkinde, Executours be covetous, and take what they finde If any body aske where the deads goods became, they answer So God mee helpe and holydome Hee dyed a poore man 1606 T Heywood, *If you know not me*, pt II [as in 1603 to "they finde"] 1632 Rowley, *Woman neuer 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 Prudentum* and 1670 Ray, 50 [both in the singular number] 1732 Fuller, No 5806

51 Women have no soules 1566 L Wager, *Mary Magdalene*, sig E4, Women have no soules, this sayng is not newe c 1610 Marston, *Insat 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'have 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 be a proverbial saying

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



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!

53. *Women in mischief are wiser than men.* 1647: *Countrym. New Commonwealth*, 11.

54. *Women in state affairs are like monkeys in glass shops.* 1659: Howell, 12.

55. *Women laugh when they can and weep when they will.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Femme." A woman laughs, etc. 1640: Herbert, *Jac. Prudentum*. 1670: Ray, 50. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.* s.v. "Laugh."

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 Houres*, 484.

57. *Women must have the last word.* 1542: *Sch. House of Women*, l. 76, Yet wil the woman haue the last woord. 1655: 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.* 1547: Borde, *Brev. of Helthe*, fo. 96, Let her [the wife] haue her owne wyl for that she wyll haue 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, *Englishm. 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.

59. *Women, priests and poultry never have enough.* 1659: Howell, *Proverbs: Ital.-Engl.*, 7. 1670: Ray, 30. 1732: Fuller, No. 5809.

60. *Women's advice is cold advice.* c. 1270: *Prov. of Alfred*, in *Old Eng. Miscell.*, 122 (E.E.T.S.), Cold red is quene [woman's] red [advice]. c. 1386: Chaucer, *C. Tales*, B. 4446 (Skeat), Wommennés counseils ben ful oftē colde. [Skeat says "colde" = baneful, fatal.] Cf. No. 15.

61. *Women's jars breed men's wars.* 1642: Fuller, *Holy State (Wise Statesman)*. 1853: Trench, *Proverbs*. 19 (1905).

62. *Women's tongues wag like lambs' tails.* c. 1597: Deloney, *Iacke of Newberie*, ch. vii., Considering that womens tongues are like lambs tayles, which seldome stand still. 1612: *Cornucopia*, 7 (Grosart), As womens tongues be like to yong lambs tailles. 1865: "Lancs. Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., viii. 494 [in the singular number].

63. *Women think Place a sweet fish.* 1678: Ray, 59.

64. *Women want the best first, and the best always.* 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 157.

65. *Women, wealth and wine have each two qualities, a good and a bad.* 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, 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, *Dict.*, 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(1); 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, Maruaile is the daughter of ignorance. 1629: *Book of Meery Riddles*, Prov. 44, Marvell is, etc. 1677: *Poor Robin's*

*Visions*, 24 1681 Rycaut, tr  
*Gracian's Critick*, 25, Though admiration  
 be the daughter of ignorance 1732  
 Fuller, No 5811

Wonders will never cease 1776 in  
*Garrick Corresp* II 174 (1832) 1844  
 Jerrold, *Story of a Feather*, ch xx  
 1926 Phillpotts, *Marylebone Miser*, ch  
 vii

Woo 1 *He that woos a maid must  
 come seldom in her sight, But he that  
 woos 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 woos 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* Ibid, 30 1732  
 Fuller, No 5254 ["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, *Phrases of 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  
 explicit 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 iv, Ye can  
 not see the wood for trees 1581  
 Woodes *Conf of Conscience*, II iii,  
 Whi I was in place long before you

came, But you could not see the wood  
 for the trees 1630 Randolph, *Works*,  
 I 14 (Hazlitt, 1875), We cannot see  
 wood for trees, nor scholars for gowns  
 1738 Swift, *Polite Convers* Dial I,  
 Tom, how is it that you can't see  
 the wood for trees? 1910 Hudson,  
*Shepherd's Life*, ch II, 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 J  
 Wilson *Cheats* I II, One woodcock  
 makes no winter 1736 Bailey, *Dict*,  
 s v "Woodcock" 1846 Denham,  
*Proverbs*, 31 (Percy S)

Wood-cock See quot 1921 R L  
 Gales, *Old-World Essays*, 251, "When  
 Daniels in the lions 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  
 c 1550 in Hazlitt, *E Pop Poetry*,  
 III 261, Your happe may be to wagge  
 upon a woden nagge 1654 Gayton,  
*Pleasant Notes Don Q*, 119, Others  
 vaile and couch it, when riding the  
 wooden horse 1680 D Urfe, *Vir-  
 tuous Wife*, II 1, I'de ride the wooden  
 horse ere be troubled with her unpertine-  
 ence

5 *To get a wooden sunt* = 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* quot. c. 1489: Caxton, *Blanchardyn., 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* quot. 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* quotes. 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. 166, "Why," said the old man [Selmeaton, Sussex], "it has been a say as long ago as I was a child, Contrairy 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).

Woof or warp of any business, To make. 1639: in *Berkley MSS.*, iii. 30 (1885), He make abb or warp of it (Gloucest.). 1678: Ray, 278.

Wooring. 1. *Happy is the wooring that is not long a-doing.* 1576: *Parad. of D. Devices*, in *Brit. Bibliog.*, iii. 71 (1812), Thrise happie is that woying, That is not long a doying. 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 wooring. 1730: Fielding, *Tom Thumb*, II. ix. 1842: Barham, *Ing. Legends*, 2nd ser., "Sir Rupert."

2. *The wooring was a day after the wedding.* 1732: Fuller, No. 4840.

Wool. 1. *He seeks wool on an ass.* 1813: Ray, 75.

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 blacke. 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 sheep.* 1670: Ray, 30.

*See also* Warm (2).

Wool-gathering, His wits are. 1560: Wilson, *Rhetorique*, 107 (1909), As though our wittes and our senses were a woll gathering. 1580: Lyly, *Euphues* 415 (Arber), My witts were not al this while a wol-gathering. 1665: Pepys, *Diary*, Oct. 5, My mind is run a' wool-gathering and my business neglected. 1748: Richardson, *Clarissa*, viii. 220 (1785), That my wits may not be sent a wool-gathering. 1841: Dickens, *Barn. Rudge*, ch. lv., He's so dead scared, he's wool-gathering, I think.

Woolly fleeces. *See* quotes. 1555: L. Digges, *Prognostication*, sig. B2, If thyck clowdes reseemlyng flockes, or rather great heapes of woll, be gathered in many places, they shewe rayne, 1658: Willsford, *Natures Secrets*, 125. When the clouds seem piled upon heaps 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].

Wool-seller knows a wool-buyer, A. 1670: Ray, 159. 1732: Fuller, No. 484.

Worcester. 1. *See* quot. 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" 1894 Northall, *Folk Phrases*, 33 (E D S)

Word and Words 1 *A word and a blow* c 1568 Wager, *Longer thou Livest*, sig D1 This is manhood 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 dead 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 1886 R L S, *Kidnapped*, ch vii, All, as the saying goes, were 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 reuoked can nat be 1596 Lodge, *Diuel Conuited*, 83 (Hunt Cl), Words are like to arrows, which are easily shot out, but hardly got in again 1639 Clarke 51, A word spoke is past recalling 1732 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 *Babees Book*, 88 (E E T S), For few wordes to wyse men is best c 1598 Jonson, *Case is Altered*, I 1, Presto 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 vii, 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* 1855 Bohn, 343

7 *From words to deeds is a great space* 1629 Book of Meery Riddles, Prov 94

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*, l 935, Ne lasse flatering in hur worde, That purely, hir simple recorde Was founde as trewe as any bonde 1630 Brathwait, *Engl Gent*, 148 (1641) For his word is his gage 1631 F Lenton, *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 Pict Tour*, can xix 1886 R L S, *Kidnapped*, ch iv, I'm a queer man, and strange wi' strangers, but my word is my bond, and there's the proof of it 1914 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 *Roxb Ballads*, VIII cix (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* 1670 Ray, 30

12 *Words are but sands, it's money buys lands* 1659 Howell, II 1732 Fuller, No 6166

13 *Words are but words, c* 1620 B and F, *Little Fr Lawyer*, I 1

14 *Words are wind* Before 1225 *Ancr Riwle*, 122, hwat is word bute wind? c 1390 Gower, *Conf Amantis*, bk iii l 2768, For word is wynd c 1450 Lydgate, *Secrees*, 39 (E E T S), Woord is but wynd left woord and tak the dede 1509 Barclay, *Ship of Fools*, 1 207 (1874) 1587 Greene *Works*, iii 102 (Grosart) 1660 Tatham *Rump*, V 1748 Richardson, *Clarissa*, vi 212 (1785), Words are wind, but deeds are mund 1823 Scott, *Durward*, ch xix, "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: *Ancr. Riwle*, 74, Mo sleað word þene sweord. 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 harden than blows.

17. *Words have long tails; and have no tails.* 1678: Ray, 221.

18. *Words may pass but blows fall heavy.* 1633: Draxe, 103, Words are but winde but blowes are vnkinde. 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: Draxe, 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. Prudentum*.

3. *Those that cannot work.* See quot. 1864: "Cornish Proverbs," in *N. & Q.*, 3rd ser., vi. 494, Those that cannot work must planny, and those that cannot planny must lowster [hard manual labour]. Cf. Schemey.

4. *To work by the great* = To do piece-work. 1585: *Nomenclator*, 502, He that vndertaketh to doe a peece of worke vpon a prise, 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 need-fire," 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.

*Work, subs.* *If anything stay let work stay.* 1678: Ray, 278. 1732: Fuller, No. 2671. Cf. Meat.

*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.

3. *What is a workman without his tools?* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, Pt. II. ch. ix. 1559: Becon, in *Prayers, etc.*, 260 (P.S.). 1670: Ray, 30. 1732: Fuller, No. 5494.

See also Ill workman.

*World.* 1. *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, *Dombey*, ch. xvii. 1920: *Sphere*, April, 10, p. 36, col. 1.

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 loke on her visage. 1519: *Four Elements*, in Hazlitt, *O. Plays*, i. 35, It is a world to see her whirl, Dancing in a round.

1530 Palsgrave, It is a worlde to se him lowte and knele 1589 Nashe, *Works*, i 149 (Grosart), It is a world to see this world 1626 Breton, *Works*, i e 8 (Grosart) Oh what a world it is to see what wiles A silly foole will finde to gather wealth 1881 Evans, *Leicest Words, etc.*, 292 (E D S), It's a woold to see that theer hittle un order the big uns to the roight about! A's as marsterful as marsterful!

3 *Had you the world on your chess-board, you could not fit all to your mind* 1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

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 t* 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.*, iii 198 (1744) 1642 *Discovery of divers sortes 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 4844

11 *The world is well amended with him* 1633 Draxe, 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 tread so dauntly on your typtoes? 1614 B Rich, *Honestie of this Age*, 30 (Percy S), They were wont to say, the world did runne on wheeles 1673 *Vinegar and Mustard*, 9, in Hindley, *Old Book Coll Misc*, iii, 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*, cliv (1816), He that is prosperows and hath the world at wyl 1586 Pettie, *Guazzo*, fo 165, Men hauing the world at will, as he hath, are neuer but merrie 1629 *Book of Meery Riddles* Prov 52, He that hath the world at will, seemes 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* i *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 Machabree*, l 640, That wormes food is fine [end] of our liuyng c 1483 *Quatuor Sermones*, 28 (Roxb Cl), After thyn ende thou shalt be but wormys mete 1592 Shakespeare, *Romeo*, III 1, They have made worms' meat of me 1611 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 iv, Tread a woorme on the tayle, and it must turne agayne 1592 Greene, in *Works*, xii 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, *Ovington's Bank*, ch ix, The worm will turn, and Thomas did turn

*Worse, adj* i *A worse friend* See *Friend* (27)

2. *There is no worse pestilence than a familiar enemy.* c. 1386: Chaucer, *Merchant's Tale*, l. 549, For in this world nys worse pestilence Than homly foo, alday in thy presence. 1538: in *Lisle Papers*, xii. Art. 43, It hath been an old proverbe that there is no worse pestilence than a famylar enemy.

3. *The worse end of the staff.* See *Wrong* (3).

4. *The worse for the rider, the better for the bider.* 1639: Clarke, 18, Ill for the rider, good for th'abider. 1659: Howell, 18, A fatt soyl good for the bider, bad for the rider. 1670: Ray, 43. Before 1680: Butler, *Remains*, ii. 284 (1759), 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. 1735: 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 bider?" 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, subs. *More for worship than for pride.* c. 1460: *How the good Wife*, l. 90.

Worship, verb. *They that worship God merely for fear, Would worship the devil too, if he appear.* 1732: Fuller, No. 6419.

Worst, adj. adv. and subs. 1. *He that worst may still holds the candle.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, pt. II. ch. ii., Who that woorst maie 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: *Discourie of Knights of the Poste*, sig. C3. 1620: Shelton, *Quixote*, Pt. II. ch. lxxiii. 1637: Shirley, *Example*, II. i. 1682: A. Behn, *City Heiress*, III. 1. 1700: Congreve, *Way of World*, III. xviii. 1719: Defoe, *Crusoe*, 234 (1883), If the worse come to the worst. [This is a more reasonable form of the saying than the usual one.] 1886. R. L. S., *Kidnapped*, ch. 1. 1900: Pinero, *Gay Lord Quex*, III.

3. *The worst can fall is but a denial.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, pt. I. ch. xi. If the woorst fell, we could haue but a naie. 1659: Howell, 14.

4. *The worst dog that is.* See *Dog* (81).

5. *The worst is behind.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, pt. II. ch. ii. 1659: Howell, 6.

6. *The worst piece.* See *All is well*.

7. *The worst spoke in a cart breaks first.* 1678: Ray, 205. 1732: Fuller, No. 4851.

8. *The worst wheel of a cart creaks most.* 1586: Pettie, *Guazzo*, fo. 106, The brokenest wheele of the chariot maketh alwaies the greatest noise. 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Crier." 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 240. 1869: Spurgeon, *John Ploughman*, ch. ii.

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 Drollery*, 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. 1. *He is worth gold that carries it.* 1732: Fuller, No. 1956.

2. *The worth of a thing is known by its want.* 1611: Cotgrave, s.v. "Cogneau," The worth of things is knowne

when they be lost 1694 D'Urfeſy, *Quixote*, pt I V ii 1748 Richardson, *Clarissa*, iv 238 (1785). Worth is beſt known by want! I know her's now c 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 i 465. For what is worth in any thing. But ſo much money as 'twill bring 1847 Hallwell, *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 meaſ of broth 1789 G Parker, *Life's Painter*, 216. A London merchant worth a plum

6 *To be worth one's weight in gold* c 1500 Medwall, *Nature*, l 936, Nay ye ar worth thy weyght of gold 1587 Turbervile, *Trag Tales, etc*, 45 (1837). So faire a frend 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 1926 Philippotts, *Peacock Houſe*, 40

7 *Whatever is worth doing, is worth doing well* 1875 Cheales, *Proverb Folk-Lore*, 138 1893 R L S, *Ebb-Tide*, ch viii 1915 Wells, *Bealby*, 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 I *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 *Pro-*

*verbs*, pt II ch vii 1611 Davies of Hereford, *Sc of Folly*, 47, in *Works* ii (Grosart), I wott what I wott

Wotton hill See quot 1639 in *Berkley MSS*, iii 33 (1885). When Wotton hill doth weare a cap, Let Horton towne beware of that

Wotton under Wever, Where God came never 1610 P Holland, tr Camden's *Britannia*, 587 1662 Fuller, *Worthies*, iii 127 (1840) 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss* s v "Staffs" ["comes" for "came"]

Wranglers are never in the wrong 1633 Draxe, 243. A wrangler neuer wanteth words 1670 Ray, 31. Wranglers never want words 1732 Fuller, No 5833

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*, viii 198, How ſhould I be uſed, but as one that was wrapt in his mothers ſmock when hee was borne 1632 Randolph, *Jealous Lovers*, II ii, 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 1661 Davenport, *City Nightcap*, II 1707 Centlivre, *Platonic Lady*, IV ii, My hero! adod thou wert wrapt up in thy mother's—Faith thou wert 1785 Grose, *Class Dict Vulgar Tongue*, s v "Wrapt up," He was wrapt up in the tail of his mother's ſmock, ſaying of any one remarkable for his ſucceſs with the ladies 1813 Brand, *Pop Arch*, iii 118 (Bohn), The vulgar ſaying, "Oh, you are a lucky man, you were wrapped up in a part of your mother's ſmock"

Wrath See Anger (4)

Wrekin, All friends round the Shropſhire 1700 Congreve, *Way of World*, III xv, You could intreat to be remembere'd then to your friends round the Rekin 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, Maries round your Wrekin 1871 N & Q, 4th ſer, vii 9

Wren I *To bleed a wren according*



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 aftir the wrenne hath veynes, men must lete hir blood.

2. *Wrens may prey where eagles dare not perch.* 1855: Bohn, 572.

See also Eagle (3); Robin; and Spider (1).

Wriggle about like a snig [eel] in a bottle, To. 1917: Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 146.

Wrinkled purses make wrinkled faces. 1732: Fuller, No. 5836. 1880: Spurgeon, *Ploughm. Pictures*, 138.

Write. 1. *He may even go write to his friends.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, pt. II. ch. iv., Ye maie wryte to your freendes that ye are in helth. 1670: Ray, 176, He may even go write 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, *Lancs. Sayings*, 23, Yo' may write on't (you may rest assured of it).

Wrong, *adj.* 1. *To be in the wrong box.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, pt. II. ch. ix., And therby in the wrong boxe to thryue ye weare. 1590: Greene, in *Works*, viii. 88 (Grosart), If . . . thou thinkest . . . thou arte (sweet seruant) 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 critick will tell me now, that I have lost my way in digressions. Under favour, this critick 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, *Clinker*, 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 Piercie on the wrong side of the blanket. 1901: F. E. Taylor, *Lancs. 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, *Lancs. Sayings*, 22, Theaw's gotten howd o' th' wrung 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 theare. 1596: Jonson, *Ev. Man in his Humour*, II. i., When he is got into one o' your city pounds, 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 seemes. 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

art angry this morning      hast risen  
 from thy wrong side, I think 1828  
 Carr, *Craven Dialect*, 1 29, Thou's gotten  
 out at wrang side o' th' bed, & e thou  
 art peevish and ill-tempered 1921  
 Hutchinson, *If Winter Comes*, pt II  
 ch iii (u), As a matter of fact that's  
 why I came back I got out of bed the  
 wrong side this morning, didn't I ?

6 *Ye lean to the wrong shore* 1546  
 Heywood, *Proverbs*, pt II ch ii

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 Wry-  
 neck caps the Dule," & 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 bas-  
 ket], As Said of a forgetful person  
 1917 Bridge, *Cheshire Proverbs*, 27

## Y

Yarmouth capon, A = A herring. 1662: Fuller, *Worthies*, ii. 447 (1840). 1785: Grose, *Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue*, s.v. 1886: J. G. Nall, *Gt. Yarmouth*, etc., 579. In England a herring is popularly known as a Yarmouth capon. Cf. Norfolk capon.

Yarmouth steeple. See quot. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v., "Norfolk," You cannot spell Yarmouth-steeple right.

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*.

3. *The year doth nothing else but open and shut.* Ibid.

4. *The year lasts longer than Yule.* 1846-59: *Denham Tracts*, ii. 92 (F.L.S.).

5. *Tis year'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.

Yellow, *adj.* 1. *As yellow as a guinea.* 1852: Planché, *Extravag.*, iv. 226 (1879). The Japanese have rich complexions, ninny! Their sovereign is as yellow as a guinea. 1901: Raymond, *Idler Out of Doors*, 3, The white of his eye turns up yellow as a guinea.

2. *As yellow as a kite's foot.* 1630: Davenant, *Just Italian*, I, 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).

3. *As yellow as a marigold.* 1653: Walton, *Angler*, pt. I. ch. v., The belly of it looked, some part of it, as yellow as a marigold. 1917: Bridge,

*Cheshire Proverbs*, 27, As yellow as a meadow-bout [Marsh marigold].

4. *As yellow as a paigle* [cowslip]. 1735: Pegge, *Kenticisms*, in E.D.S., No. 12, p. 40, As yellow as a pege. c. 1791: Pegge, *Derbicisms*, 114 (E.D.S.), Yellow as a peagle. 1854: Baker, *Northants. Gloss.*, s.v. "Paigle." Paigle. The cowslip. Now seldom used except in the comparison, as "yellow as a paigle." 1887: Parish and Shaw, *Dict. Kent. Dialect*, 115 (E.D.S.) [as in 1735]. Cf. Blake.

5. *As yellow as gold.* 1552: Huloet, *Abced.*, sig. Nn1, Yellow as golde. 1566: L. Wager, *Mary Magdalene*, sig. C3. 1594: *First Part Contention*, 22 (Sh. S.). 1631: Mabbe, *Celestina*, 98 (T.T.), Shall make thy haire as yellow as gold. 1820: Scott, *Monastery*, ch. viii., Not her butter, as yellow as gold—

6. *As yellow as the golden noble.* 1678: Ray, 350.

7. *A yellow band and a green wit*—an allusion to the fashion for yellow starch. 1619: B. Rich, *Irish Hubbub*, 41 [cited as "a true proverb"].

8. *He wears yellow stockings* = He is jealous. 1607: Dekker, etc., *Northw. Hoe*, I., Iealous men are eyther knaues or coxcombes . . . you weare yellow hose without cause. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Yellow."

9. *Yellow-belly* = a fennan. 1790: Grose, *Prov. Gloss.*, s.v. "Lincs." 1866: Brogden, *Lincs. Words*, 227, . . . said to be derived from the eels with which the fen ditches abound. 1889: Peacock, *Manley*, etc., *Gloss.*, 620 (E.D.S.), He's a real yalla' belly, you maay tell it by his tung.

Yeoman. See quotes. 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 Farnie,  
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. 1 As much as York excels foul  
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 1 A Yorkshire tike, or  
bite = A native of Yorkshire c 1600  
Deloney, *Thos of Reading*, ch v, Do  
you thinke that any can beare the  
flirts and frumps, which that Northerne  
tike gaue me the last time he was in  
towne? 1659 Howell, 21, Yorkshire  
tikes 1762 Smollett, *Sir L Greaves*,  
ch xxii, I'se a poor Yorkshire tyke  
my name is Tim Crabshaw  
1817 Scott *Rob Roy*, ch iv, Thou  
kens I'm an outspoken Yorkshire tyke  
1866 Brogden, *Lincs Words*, 228,  
Who respond by calling the people  
beyond the Humber 'Yorkshire Bites'  
1893 Crockett, *Sickist Minister*, 268,  
The dialect of the "Tykes" of York-  
shire

2 A Yorkshire way-bit = longer than  
a mile 1639-46 in *Rump Songs*,  
pt I 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 York-  
shire too" 1803 Kenney, *Raising  
the Wind*, I 1, Aye and you see I come  
fra—Yorkshire 1878 *Folk-Lore  
Record*, 1 174. The saying He's York-  
shire, which is equivalent to "he's a  
sharp fellow"

4 To come Yorkshire over one = To  
over-reach or cheat 1700 *Step to the  
Bath*, 10 (O). I ask'd what country-  
man my landlord was? Answer was  
made full North, and faith 'twas very  
evident, for he had put the Yorkshire  
most damnably upon us 1757  
*Lancs Dialect*, quoted in Sternberg,  
*Dialect, etc of Northants*, 127, Yorshar,  
to put Yorkshire to a man is to trick  
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 Brigg

Yorkshireman 1 A Yorkshireman's  
coat of arms a fly, a flea, a magpie, and  
a fitch of bacon 1790 Grose, *Prov  
Gloss*, s v "Yorkshire" 1846-59  
Denham Tracts, 1 119 (F L S) 1888  
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 1869 Hazlitt, 141

3 Shake a bridle over a Yorkshire-  
man's grave, and he will arise and steal  
a horse 1790 Grose, *Prov Gloss*,  
s v "Yorkshire" 1922 N & Q, 12th  
ser, v 499

You 1 Since you know all and I  
nothing, tell me what I dreamed last night  
1640 Herbert, *Jac Prudentum*

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. N3, You are a swete 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.*, 21.

7. *You cannot tell [count], you are naught to keep sheep.* 1607: Wilkins, *Mis. 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 nought to keep sheep.

8. *You see your dinner.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, pt. I. ch. xi., Ye see your fare (sayd she). 1738: Swift, *Polite Convers.*, Dial. II., Lady Answerall, pray eat, you see your dinner.

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.

2. *A young barber and an old physician.* 1578: Florio, *First Fruites*, fo. 32. c. 1594: Bacon, *Promus*, No. 581. 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 21.

3. *A young maid married to an old man is like a new house thatched with old straw.* 1659: Howell, 11 (9).

4. *A young man, a ruler.* See quot. 15th cent.: in *Reliq. Antiquæ*, i. 316 (1841), A yong man, a reowler, recheles; A olde man a lechowr, loweles; A pore man a waster, haveles; A riche man a thefe, nedeles; A womman a rebawde, shameles. Thes V shalle never thrif blameles.

5. *A young man negligent, an old man necessitous.* 1732: Fuller, No. 489.

6. *A young man old makes the old man young.* 1659: Howell, 9 (7).

7. *A young prodigal, an old mumper [beggar].* 1732: Fuller, No. 490.

8. *A young serving-man, an old beggar.* 1598: *Servingmans Comfort*, in *Inedited Tracts* (Hazlitt), 117. 1659: R. Brome, *English Moor*, III. iii. I am too old to seek out a new master. I will not beg, because Ile crosse the proverb

That runs upon old serving creatures. 1706: *George-a-Green*, in Thoms, *Early Prose Rom.*, ii., 9 (1828), An old serving-man made a young beggar. 1732: Fuller, No. 492.

9. *A young trooper should have an old horse.* Ibid., No. 493.

10. *A young whore an old saint.* 1670: Ray, 155. 1754: Berthelson, *Eng.-Danish Dict.*, s.v. "Young."

11. *A young wife and a harvest goose.* See quot. c. 1400: in *Reliquæ Antiquæ*, ii. 113 (1843), A yong wyf and an arvyst gos, Moche gagil with bothe: A man that [hath] ham [= them] yn his clos [possession], Reste schal he wrothe.

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.

14. *Of young men die many, Of old men scape not any.* 1666: Torriano, *Piazza Univ.*, 105, Of young people, many dye, of the old none escapes. 1670: Ray, 127: 1732: Fuller, No. 6379. Cf. No. 23.

15. *Quoth the young cock, I'll neither meddle nor make.* 1678: Ray, 68. 1710: S. Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 254. 1913: E. M. Wright, *Rustic Speech, etc.*, 123 [quoted as "the old Berkshire proverb"].

16. *The young are not always with their bow bent, i.e. under rule.* 1678: Ray, 353.

17. *The young cock crows as he heard the old one.* 1509: Barclay, *Ship of Fools*, i. 235 (1874), The yonge cok lerneth to crowe hye of the olde. 1589: Puttenham, *Engl. Poesie*, 199 (Arber), As the olde cocke crowes so doeth the chick. 1615: Brathwait, *Strappado*, 176 (1878), Since as the old cocke crowes, the young cock learns. 1710: S. Palmer, *Moral Essays on Proverbs*, 300. 1821: Scott, *Pirate*, ch. xviii [as in 1615]. 1910: R. L. Gales, *Studies in Arcady*, 335.

18. *Young birds.* See quot. 1893: Gower, *Gloss. of Surrey Words*, 2

(E D S), It ain't often that the young birds feed the old 'uns

19 *Young birds* See also *Small birds*

20 *Young cocks love no coops* 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 wot that a young man may dye soone so be we

very sure that an olde man cannot live long 1605 Camden, *Remains* 336

(1870) 1670 Ray, 126 1732

Fuller, No 6039 Cf No 14

24 *Young men's knocks 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

frolicks 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

folke dote, and are foolcs, 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, *Lanes*

*Sayings*, 11, Young folk think'n 'at owd folk are foo's, but owd folk know'n at

young uns are

26 *Young prodigal 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 prouerbe yonge saynt olde deuyl 1552 Latimer, *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 demulish and damnable saying 1677

A. Behn, *Roter*, 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 devil'

28 *Young wenches make old wrenches* 1639 Clarke, 174 1670 Ray, 51

Younger brother 1 *The younger brother hath the more wit* 1616 Sharp-

ham *Cupid's Whirligig* III, The reason the younger brothers (according to the

old wiuces tales) alwayes prooued 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 I

3 *To make a younger brother of one* 1597 *Discouerie of Knights of the Poste*,

sig C2, Drawer (quoth he) thou must not thinke to make a younger brother

of me 1678 Ray, 85, He has made a younger brother of him

Youth 1 *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 Cot-

grave, s v "Ieunesse," If youth knew what to do, and age could do what it

knowes, no man would ever be poore. 1670 Ray, 160 1732 Fuller, No

6085

3 *What youth wones* [is accustomed to] See quot 1303 Brunne, *Handl*

*Synne*, l 7674, Yu a prouerbe of olde englys Tellē men, and soþe hyt ys, "þat

yougte wones, yu agē moncs, þat þou dedyst ones þou dedyst eftsoncs"

4 *Youth and age will not agree* 1659 Howell, 19 1683 Meriton, *Yorksh*

*Ale*, 83-7 (1697), Youth and Age will never agree

5 *Youth and white paper take any impression* 1579 Lyly, *Euphues*, 37

(Arber), The tender youth of a child is apt to receive any forme 1630

Brathwait *Engl Gent*, etc, 3 (1641), Youth being indeed the philosophers

rasa tabula is apt to receive any good impressure 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.

**Yule.** 1. *A Yule feast may be quit at Pasche* [Easter]. 1846: Denham. *Proverbs*, 63 (Percy S.).

2. *It is easy to cry Yule at other men's cost.* 1546: Heywood, *Proverbs*, pt. I. ch. xi. 1736: Bailey, *Dict.*, s.v. "Yule." 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 62 (Percy S.) ["good" for "easy"].

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.).

4. *Yule is good on Yule even.* 1639: Clarke, 307. 1670: Ray, 44. 1846-59: Denham *Tracts*, ii. 92 (F.L.S.).

5. *Yule, Yule! a pack of new cards and a Christmas fule.* 1846: Denham, *Proverbs*, 62 (Percy S.). 1904: Co. Folk-Lore. N'umberland, 179 (F.L.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.