

**OBSERVATIONS ON SOME OF THE
DIALECTS IN THE WEST OF ENGLAND,
PARTICULARLY SOMERSETSHIRE;
WITH A GLOSSARY OF WORDS NOW IN
USE THERE; AND POEMS AND OTHER
PIECES, EXEMPLIFYING THE DIALECT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649660100

Observations on Some of the Dialects in the West of England, Particularly Somersetshire; With a Glossary of Words Now in Use There; And Poems and Other Pieces, Exemplifying the Dialect by James Jennings

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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JAMES JENNINGS

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OBSERVATIONS
ON
SOME OF THE DIALECTS
IN
THE WEST OF ENGLAND,
PARTICULARLY
Somersetshire :
WITH
A GLOSSARY OF WORDS
NOW IN USE THERE ;
AND
POEMS AND OTHER PIECES,
EXEMPLIFYING THE DIALECT.

By JAMES JENNINGS,
HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE METROPOLITAN LITERARY
INSTITUTION, LONDON.

" Goo little Reed !
" Afoen tha rawk, an vor me plead :
" Thy wild newtes, mi-be, thà ool hire
" Zooner than zàter vrom a lyre.
" Zà that thy Maester's pleas'd ta blaw 'em,
" An haups in time thà'll come ta know 'em ;
" An nif saw be thà'll please ta hear,
" A'll gee zum moor another year."—*The Harvest.*

Printed for
BALDWIN, CRADOCK, AND JOY,
LONDON.

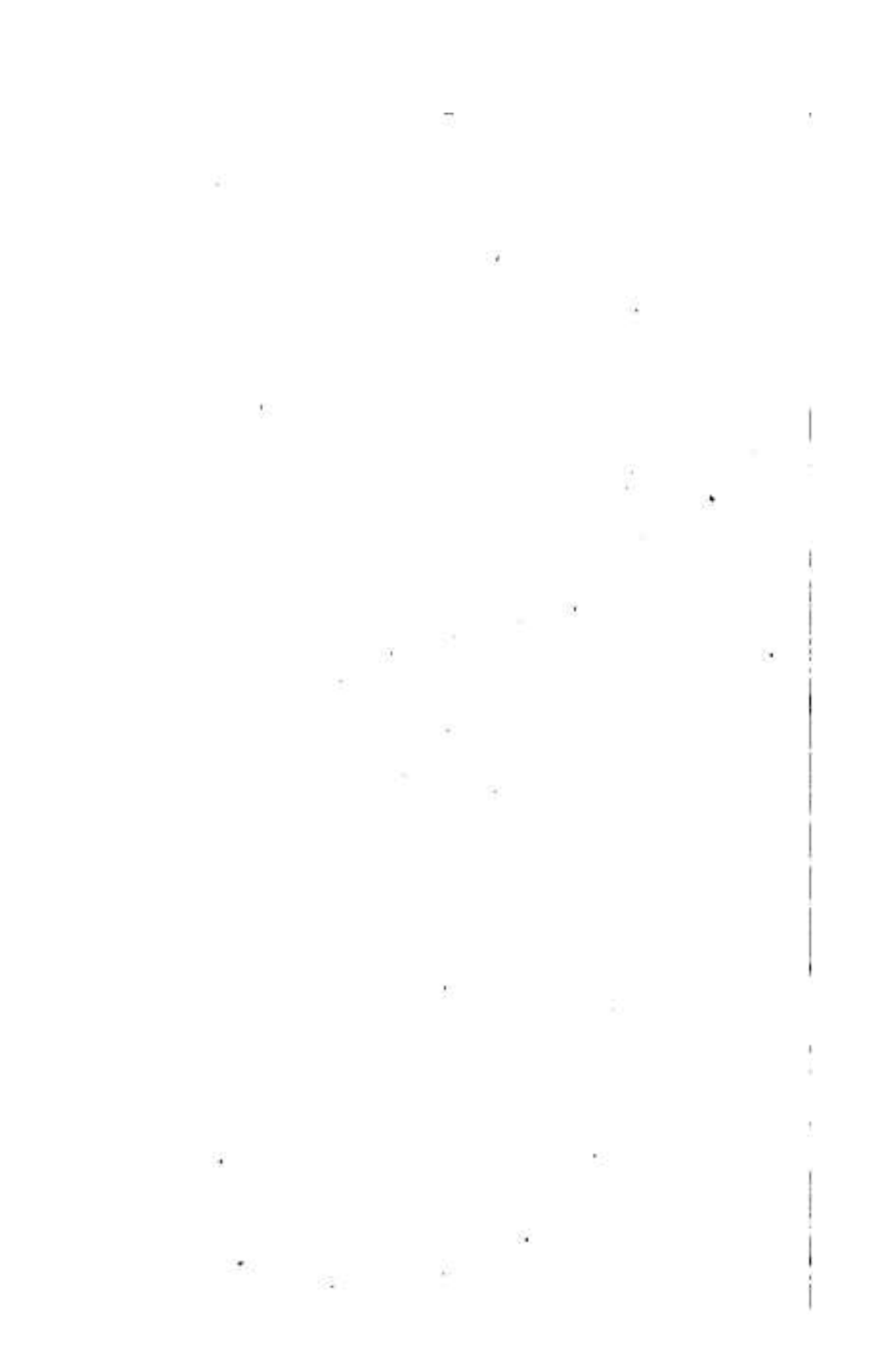
1825.

TO

THA DWELLERS O' THA WEST.

THA Fruit o' longvul labour, years,
In theize veo leaves at last appears.
Ta YOU, tha DWELLERS o' tha WEST,
I'm pleas'd that thâ shood be address't :
Vor thaw I now in Lunnun dwell,
I mine ye still—I love ye well ;
An niver, niver sholl vorget
I vust drâw'd breath in *Zummerzet* ;
Amangst ye liv'd, an left ye sorry,
As you'll knaw when you hire my storry.
Theize little BOOK than take o' ME ;
'Tis âll I hâ jist now ta gee.
An when you rade o' *Tommy Gool*,
Or *Tommy Came*, or *Pal* at school,
Or *Mr. Guy*, or *Fanny Fear*,—
(I think you'll shod vor her a tear)
Tha Rookery, or *Mary's Crutch*,
Tha cap o' which I love ta touch,
You'll vine that I do not vorget
My naatal swile—dear *Zummerzet*.

JAS. JENNINGS.



P R E F A C E.

THE utility of works similar to the present is too generally admitted to require any apology for their publication. There is, notwithstanding, in their very nature, a dryness which requires relief: the Author trusts, therefore, that, in blending something of the imaginative with the details of philological precision, his work will not be found wholly destitute of that amusement which must necessarily make it more acceptable to the general reader.

The Glossary contains the fruit of years of unwearied attention to the subject; and the work, altogether, will, it is hoped, be of some utility in elucidating our older writers, in affording occasional helps to the etymology of the Anglo-Saxon portion of our language, and also in exhibiting a view of the present state of an important dialect of the Western provinces of England.

A late excursion through the West has, however, induced the Author to believe that some valuable information may yet remain to be gathered from our Anglo-Saxon dialect—more especially from that part of it still used by the common people and the yeo-

many. Under this impression, he respectfully solicits communications from those who feel an interest in this department of our literature; and should it be the good fortune of this little work to reach a second edition, he hopes that it may be, by such communications, materially improved.

To a *native* of the West of England this volume will be found, the Author believes and trusts, an agreeable and convenient *vade-mecum* of reference, and assist the reminiscence of well-known, although, perhaps, too often unnoted peculiarities and words, which are fast receding from the polish of elegance, and the refinement of literature.

In regard to the *Poetical Pieces*, it may be mentioned that most of them are founded on *West Country Stories*, the incidents in which actually occurred; they will not, therefore, on this account, be the less acceptable. If some of the subjects should be thought trifling, it will not, it is hoped, be forgotten that the primary object has been, to exemplify the Dialect, and that common subjects offered the most ready, and, indeed, the best means of effectuating such an object. Of such Poems as *Good Bye to the Cat; the Rookery; and Mary Ramsey's Crutch*, it may be observed, that had the Author felt less he might, perhaps, have written better.

Metropolitan Literary Institution, London,
March 25, 1825.

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☞ *The Author's anxiety to render his work as complete as possible, has prompted him to make the following ADDITIONS and CORRECTIONS: the reader is, therefore, respectfully requested to peruse these before he proceeds to the OBSERVATIONS, &c. They are placed before the work itself from an apprehension that, if added as a Supplement, they might not insure that notice which it is desirable they should obtain.*