

**THE PEASANT SPEECH OF  
DEVON, AND  
OTHER MATTERS  
CONNECTED THEREWITH**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649186167

The peasant speech of Devon, and other matters connected therewith by Sarah Hewett

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

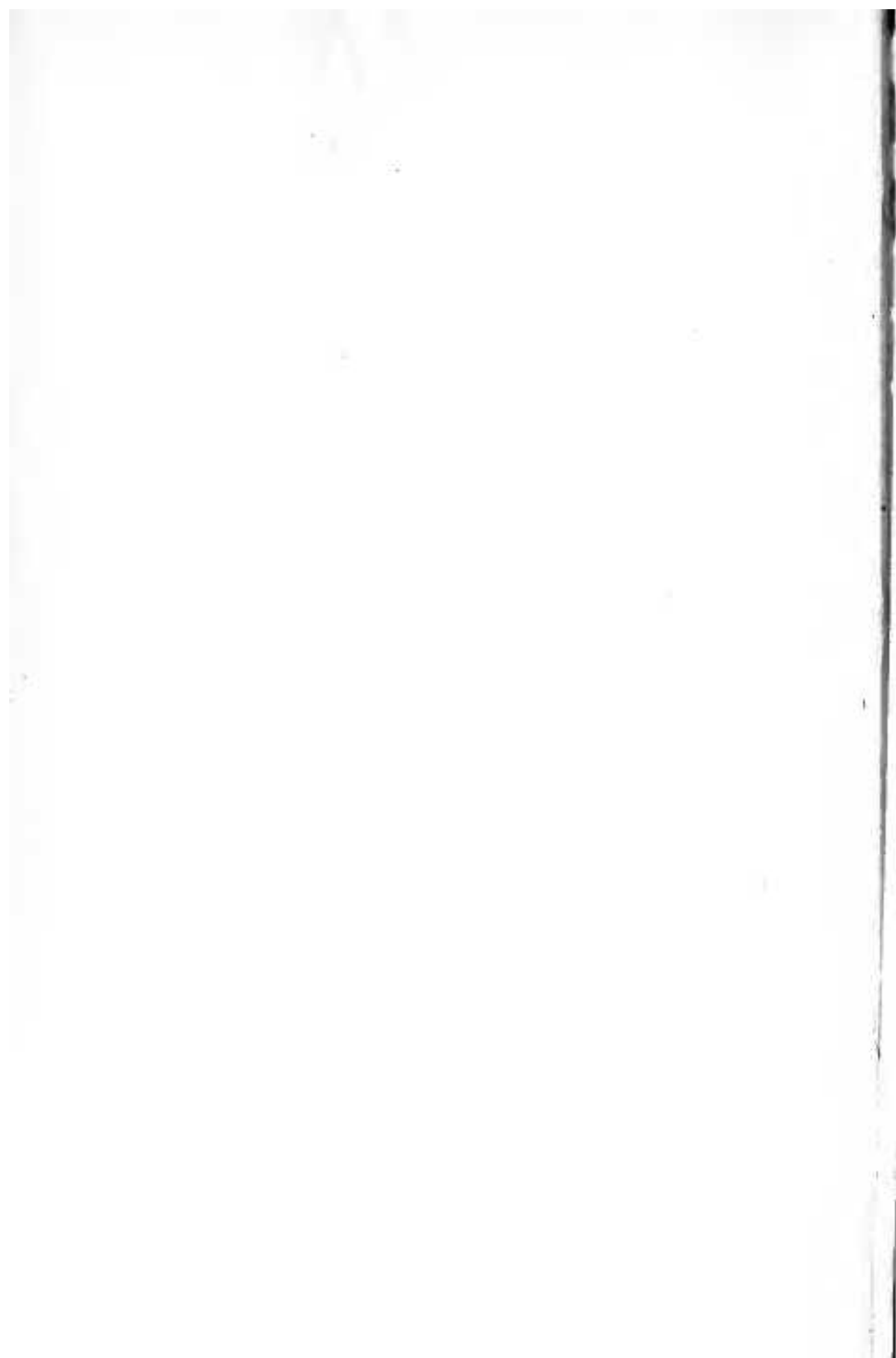
[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**SARAH HEWETT**

**THE PEASANT SPEECH OF  
DEVON, AND  
OTHER MATTERS  
CONNECTED THEREWITH**



THE PEASANT SPEECH OF DEVON.



THE PEASANT SPEECH

OF

D E V O N .

*AND OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED  
THERewith.*

BY

SARAH HEWETT.

*SECOND EDITION.*

LONDON:  
ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.

1892.

*[All rights reserved.]*

PE

1871

H6

1892



876725



## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

---

THE unexpected rapidity with which the first edition of my unpretending book was taken up has made it necessary to prepare a second for the press within some six months. Though much pressed for time, I have made a careful revision of the whole work, and many slight defects which had inevitably crept in have been removed. For those which still remain I ask the reader's indulgence.

The kindly welcome which 'The Peasant Speech of Devon' has received on all hands has been a source of deep pleasure to me. Her Majesty the Queen was graciously pleased to accept a copy for the Royal Library at Windsor: and from all ranks of society the book has met with gratifying evidence of sympathy. I have also to thank the press, both London and country, for many kind notices and appreciative criticisms; and if some of my reviewers' suggestions have not been adopted, it is not for want of careful consideration. Some, in themselves valuable, would have required an extension of the scale of my book, for which my time is, alas! utterly insufficient. To exhaustiveness it makes no pretensions. Its sole claim is as a faithful record of the homely Devonshire speech, and that as such it has been accepted by Devonians all the world over, cannot but fill a Devonshire woman with some pardonable pride. If it

leads those who have left their native county in search of success elsewhere, to think again of the home of their childhood, and to recall its racy accents to their ears, the leisure of many years will not have been spent in vain.

SARAH HEWITT.

TIVERTON.

*October, 1892.*

## PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

---

I HAVE spent a quarter of a century in collecting the words and sentences of which this work is composed. No attempt is made to claim the prerogative of using them in Devon alone, for it is certain that the people of East Cornwall and West Somerset speak the same '*heathenish jargon*'; but having moved about amongst the people in every corner of 'dear old Devon,' I record that which I have heard without desire to claim originality or exclusiveness.

There are many books written in the dialect in a more popular form, yet I venture to hope that this will find readers among Devonshire men and women throughout the world, and those who are interested in the study of dialect as a science.

The speech of the peasantry of Devon and the adjacent counties is undoubtedly the purest remains of the Anglo-Saxon tongue extant in England at the present time. Many words are almost as pure as when spoken by our Saxon ancestors. Compare for example :

DEVONIAN.		ANGLO-SAXON.
Dring	with	thringan
Bide	„	bidan
Wap	„	wæpan
Athurt	„	thweorh
Cussen	„	cursen, etc.