

**POEMS OF RURAL LIFE
IN THE DORSET DIALECT.
FIRST COLLECTION**

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Poems of Rural Life in the Dorset Dialect. First Collection by William Barnes

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WILLIAM BARNES

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IN
The Dorset Dialect,

BY
WILLIAM BARNES.

"Vita rustica sine dubitatione proxima et quasi consanguinea sapientie."
Coleridge l. 1.

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THIRD EDITION.

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PREFACE

TO THE THIRD EDITION.

MY verses were first written for western English minds, but as I believe many of the wider world now do us Dorset men the honour of reading them, I have taken, for their sakes, a scheme of spelling which, while it affords the Dorset forms of the words to Dorset readers, may make them of more English look, and more legible to others.

An old writer,—I think it was Defoe,—who had travelled in the west, had wondered at the readiness with which he had heard a boy, whom he calls a “*dexterous dunce*,” take the English text of the Bible, and read it off in western speech, and I have lately heard a boy spell the

word *both* of the English form, and pronounce its Dorset shape. "B, o, t, h, Bwothe," cried he.

If this "dexterous duncehood" were universal, as it is not, my Dorset readers might well allow me to print all my verses in the English way of spelling.

I have made up my mind to print this edition without the Dissertation and Glossary. The sundry provincial forms of English are now becoming so far understood, that I hope my readers may not meet with many unintelligible lines, and I may hereafter make my Dissertation a fuller and more accurate monograph of Teutonic speech.

W. BARNES.

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