

**"CUMMERLAND TALK;" BEING  
SHORT TALES AND RHYMES IN THE  
DIALECT OF THAT COUNTY:  
TOGETHER WITH A FEW  
MISCELLANEOUS PIECES IN VERSE**

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"Cummerland talk;" being short tales and rhymes in the dialect of that county: together with a few miscellaneous pieces in verse by John Richardson

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**JOHN RICHARDSON**

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"CUMMERLAND TALK."

Cummerland Talk;

BEING

SHORT TALES AND RHYMES IN THE  
DIALECT OF THAT COUNTY:

TOGETHER WITH

*A FEW MISCELLANEOUS PIECES IN VERSE.*

By JOHN RICHARDSON,  
OF SAINT JOHN'S.

LONDON: JOHN RUSSELL SMITH.  
CARLISLE: GEO. COWARD.

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### CUMMERLAND TALK.

Efter meüsen an' thinken for ivver sa lang,  
I thowt I wad mak a few Cumberland sangs ;  
An' I sed to mesel, befware writen a line,  
My sangs s'all be true if t' words urrent sa fine.

It issent by t' dress iv a thing yan can judge,  
For t' finest o' language is sometimes aw fudge ;  
An' Cumberland talk, 'at's as rough as git oot,  
Hes sense, aye, an' treuth 'at some fine talk's without.

Yan oft sees a chap wi' a good-leuken feace,  
Quite bonny eneuf to put in a glass kease ;  
Bit if ye just 'quiz him about this an' that,  
Ye'll finnd him as thin, barn, as t' lug iv a cat.

An' than theer some lasses sa 'licen indeed,  
'At t' young chaps aboot them ga wrang t' their heids ;  
Bit fine as they ur, when they're ficein aboot,  
They're worth varra laal bit to leuk at, I doot.

The'r fine refinet language I know laal about,  
 The'r sooth country accent wi' t' "H's" left out;  
 Fwok tell me 'at meanin' on't 's baddish to know,  
 'At "white" oft means "black," an' "aye" sometimes means  
 "no."

Bit Cumberland dialect issent that way,  
 Fwok say what they mean, an' they mean what they say  
 It's rayder auld-fashin't, an' broadish, an' aw,  
 Bit plain as a pike-staff, an' easy to know.

Noo, sometimes when t' treuth's nut sa sweet an' sa good  
 Fwok willent know t' meanin' when mebbly they mud;  
 They'll say it's daft hodder, ic's this, an' it's that,  
 Bit treuth 'ill be treuth, barn, na matter for that.



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## INTRODUCTION.

IN submitting these sketches to the public, the author begs to inform his readers that they will not find among them any descriptions of rude and riotous scenes, similar to those so graphically described by Anderson, Stagg, and some others of the Cumberland bards. Such gatherings as "T' Worton Weddin'," "T' Bridewain," and many more described by them, have long been things of the past; and the half-century which has passed away since they wrote, has brought a great and beneficial change in the manners and customs of the Cumberland rural population.

Indeed, the author himself can remember the time when any local gathering, such as a fair or merry-night, had taken place, the first question asked the next morning by one person of another