

**HEREFORDSHIRE WORDS &
PHRASES, COLLOQUIAL AND
ARCHAIC, ABOUT 1300 IN
NUMBER, CURRENT IN THE
COUNTY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649018833

Herefordshire Words & Phrases, Colloquial and Archaic, about 1300 in Number, Current in the County by Francis T. Havergal

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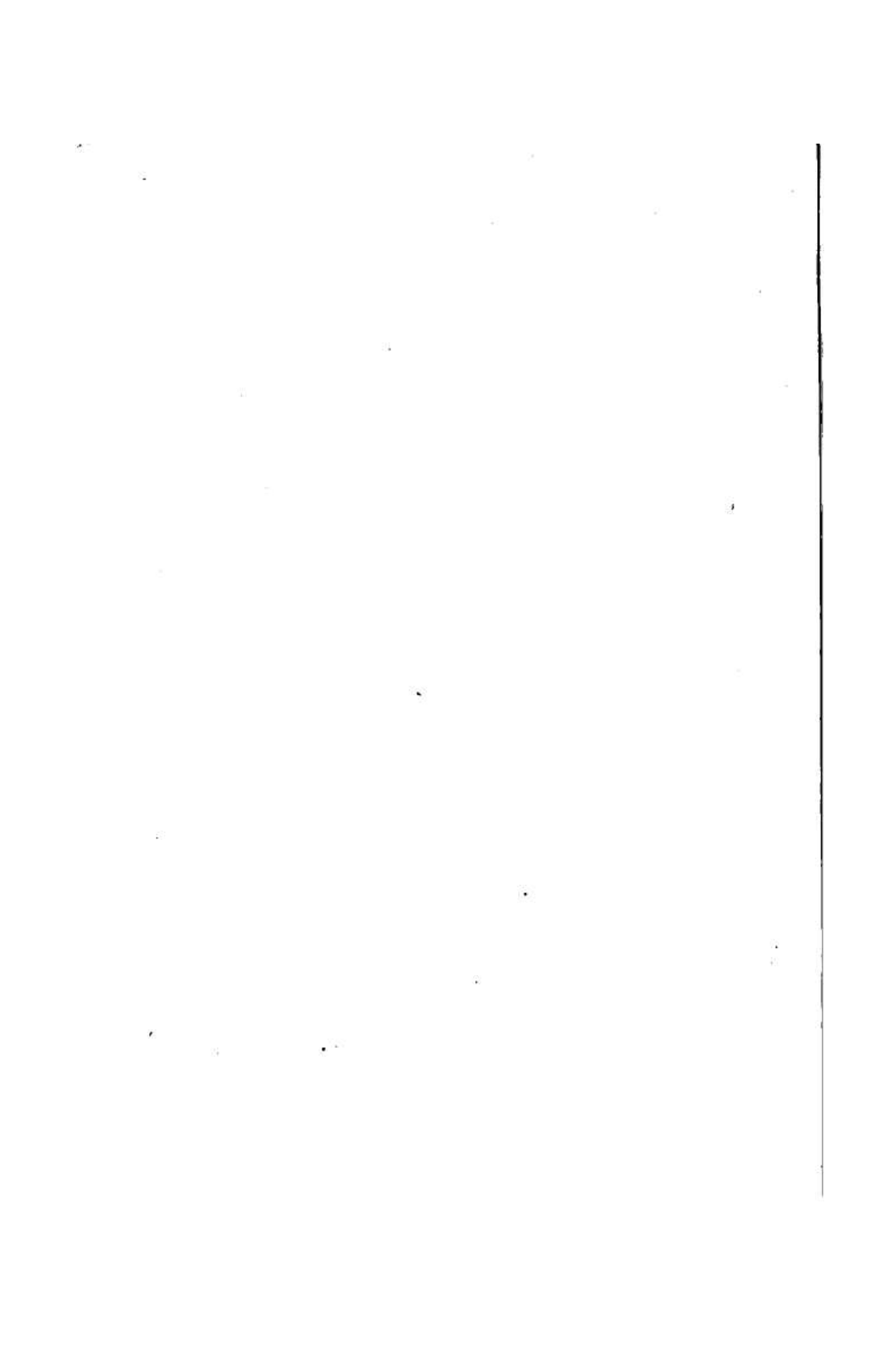
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FRANCIS T. HAVERGAL

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BY

FRANCIS T. HAVERGAL, M.A.,

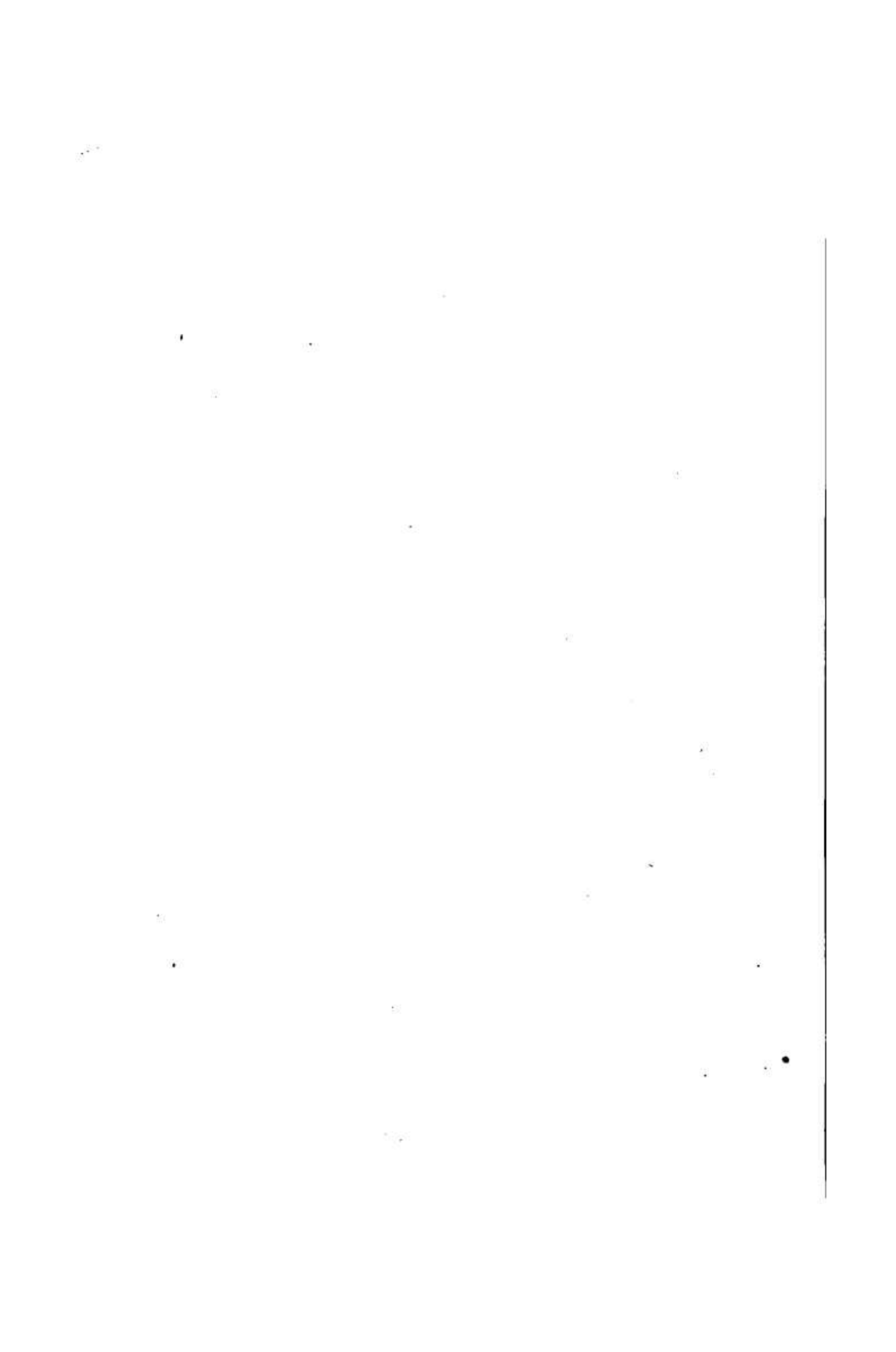
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Vicar of Apton Bishop.



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NOTE.

The following Glossary contains words which are current in the County of Hereford.

The compiler makes no attempt to say which of them are peculiar to Herefordshire. The mention of a parish or district indicates the locality whence information was obtained for these pages.

The following abbreviations are adopted :—

Heref.	The city of Hereford and vicinity.
W. or E. Her.	West or East Herefordshire.
E.	Eardisland.
G.V.	The Golden Valley.
L.	Ledbury and vicinity.
S.-on-Wye	Staunton-on-Wye.
U.B.	Upton Bishop.

INTRODUCTION.

FEW persons have better opportunities of becoming acquainted with the peculiarities of speech in a district than the Country Parson who visits his people. Few besides the clergy take the trouble to note down the quaint expressions used by old and young in the course of their pastoral visits. Curious words and phrases may be heard at our Infirmaries, County Courts, Savings Banks, Markets, Railway Stations, and Auctions; and at other places where rustics congregate. But in all these places a great change has been gradually coming on; old customs are dying out, and many old words and sayings are becoming obsolete. The Vicar of — truly and sadly remarks, "The old words are dying out and our modern education will destroy some pretty words as well as the irritating drawl of the county. Canna, shanna, munna, are only heard from the old, and boys no longer hesple one another. The bush is burnt on fewer hills year by year, and the incantation of 'old cider' I have not heard for forty years. And 'going a gooding' on St. Thomas' Day has almost come to an end." It has therefore been thought desirable to collect as far as possible all Words and Phrases peculiar to, or current in, the County of Hereford. Nothing has been done in this way since the production of a Glossary by the late Sir G. Cornwall Lewis, in 1839. Meanwhile our neighbours in Gloucester, Worcester, and Shropshire have produced excellent glossaries. The present collection is an attempt to supply, in a cheap popular form, what seems to be a local want. A learned friend thinks the attempt is too late by 40 years! But he admits "that there are still bits to be picked up." To pick up such bits has been my endeavour; for although some of the words may appear to be in general use, it is hoped that many of them may be found to be genuine Herefordshire productions. In 1886 a communication was sent to all the Clergy and Schoolmasters in the County of Hereford, and also to many of the Gentry, inviting co-operation. All the known collections of local words have been consulted or incorporated in these pages; and it has been my endeavour to indicate the parish or district where many of the words are used, or from which they were supplied for publication. It only remains for me to express my thanks to subscribers and helpers, with the hope that the perusal of this little work may afford them some pleasure and amusement during their leisure hours.

*Upton Bishop Vicarage,
January 25th, 1887.*

