

**LAKELAND WORDS: A  
COLLECTION OF DIALECT  
WORDS AND PHRASES, AS USED  
IN CUMBERLAND AND  
WESTMORLAND**

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Lakeland Words: A Collection of Dialect Words and Phrases, as Used in Cumberland and Westmorland by B. Kirkby

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**B. KIRKBY**

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IN CUMBERLAND AND  
WESTMORLAND**



## LAKELAND WORDS.

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"The native phrase fresh gathered from the fells."



**B. KIRKBY**

LAKELAND WORDS.

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A COLLECTION OF  
**Dialect Words and Phrases,**

AS USED IN

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND,

WITH

ILLUSTRATIVE SENTENCES IN THE NORTH  
WESTMORLAND DIALECT.

BY B. KIRKBY.

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WITH PREFACE

BY

PROFESSOR JOSEPH WRIGHT, M.A., Ph.D.

OXFORD.

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1898.

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"Whate'er of good the old time had was living still."

*Whittier.*

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TO THE WANDERING SONS AND DAUGHTERS  
OF THE LAKE COUNTRY,  
AND WHO, WHEREVER THEY ARE,  
STILL HARBOUR A LOVE FOR THE SOUND OF  
"T' AULD TWANG,"  
THIS COLLECTION IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.

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"Be it a weakness, it deserves some praise,  
We love the play-place of our early days;  
The scene is touching, and the heart is stone  
That feels not at that sight, and feels at none;

This fond attachment to the well known place,  
Whence first we started into life's long race,  
Maintains its hold with such unfailing sway,  
We feel it even in age, and at our latest day."

*Comper.*

"In the power of saying rude truths, sometimes in the lion's mouth,  
no men surpass them."<sup>1</sup>

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"The more hearty and sturdy expression may indicate that the  
savageness of the Norsemen was not all gone."<sup>2</sup>

*Emerson : National Traits.*

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"That man speaks  
Is nature's prompting, whether thus or thus  
She leaves to you, as ye do most affect it."—*Dante.*

(Quoted from *Farrar's Chapters on Language.*)

## PREFACE.

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It is not necessary to speak many words in praise of such an excellent book as "Lakeland Words," it speaks for itself, and must appeal to any and every Englishman who loves his country and his native mother tongue.

It has often been said that the vocabulary of the ordinary rustic is but poor and scanty, and it is just such books as Mr. Kirkby's which show how entirely false this statement is. Mr. Kirkby, besides, is not a mere collector, come down from London with his carpet bag to spend a few weeks in the north to pick up material for "copy," but he has been born and bred in the country of which he writes, and he knows and understands the dialect as no one from outside could. I have had innumerable proofs of this from the vast amount of most valuable material he has contributed to the English Dialect Dictionary. There is a freshness and naturalness in his material which is not found in books written by people imperfectly acquainted with the people and the district.

In these days when the Board Schools teach the children "Standard English," and when locomotion is so easy that people readily migrate from one part of the country to another, dialects are rapidly decaying and losing their individuality, and it will soon be impossible to compile local glossaries. It is, therefore, not too much to say that Mr. Kirkby deserves the hearty commendation and thanks of every lover of English, for thus handing down to posterity such a faithful portrait of the language of the Lakeland district, in all its native freshness and richness.

JOSEPH WRIGHT.

OXFORD, JANUARY, 1899.