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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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BRITISH DIALECT WEATHER TERMS

The rural dialects of Great Britain are extremely rich in expressions relating to weather. Fully a thousand of them that are not found in ordinary English dictionaries, besides hundreds that are, may be gleaned from the six bulky volumes of Dr. Wright's English Dialect Dictionary.

When the air is so cold that it will not allow any one to stand idle, this is expressed in Norfolk by the apt statement that "there's a good steward about". When the day looks bright and pleasant, but there is a chill nip in the air, they say in Wiltshire that is a "sly day". Cold and foggy weather is called "hunch-weather" in some districts, because it makes people hunch up their shoulders. Cold weather with a piercing wind is "peel-a-bone weather".

A raging, blustering wind goes "wuthering" across a bleak moor; whence the name of Mr. Heathcliff's Yorkshire dwelling in Emily Bronte's "Wuthering Heights". When the sky shows streaks of windy looking cloud and the weather seems doubtful the Wiltshire expression is that it looks "skeowy". An unusually bright morning in Cumberland is "too glisky to last". When a fine drizzle of rain falls people in northern England say that "it hadders and roaks".

On a calm, hot day, when the air near the surface of the ground is seen to quiver in the sunlight, the Yorkshireman tells you that the "summer-colt rides", or the "summer-goose flackers".

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