

DIALECT AND COLLOQUIALISMS IN
THE PRAIRIE BY JAMES FENIMORE COOPER

by

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PREFACE

My aim in presenting this thesis is to make some contribution, however small, to our knowledge of the 'American Language' by studying its use in a novel by one of America's most noted authors. The slips on which the words and examples were collected are to be sent to Professor W.A. Craigie of the University of Chicago for use in compiling the projected Historical Dictionary of American English and the (also projected) American Dialect Dictionary. The plans for both of these dictionaries have advanced far enough to insure their compilation and, although the actual printing may not begin for several years, their publication may be said to be assured.

I have attempted to choose one example for each use of every word or phrase worthy of notice, including not only dialect and colloquial words but also those which are archaic, rare, or obsolete;

for, just as new words may appear in dialect or colloquial uses long before they are accepted as literary, so, words which have been stigmatized as archaic or obsolete in good literature may long continue in use among certain classes of speakers and therefore, in a sense, become colloquial. Those which are rare are worthy of note no matter where they appear and those which are poetic and rhetorical also deserve notice when they appear in prose or come from the mouths of ignorant frontiersmen. Americanisms, frontier terms, and words from the languages of the American Indians are provincial as regards the English Language as a whole and therefore deserve a place in this study. A few miscellaneous words have crept in and claimed places for themselves. Most have been carefully compared with the definitions given in the New English Dictionary to determine their status in the language. The uses here given in many cases antedate or supplement those given in the dictionary. All words which seemed peculiarly American were looked for in three dictionaries of

Americanisms and if found in any of the three were included in this study.

I wish to thank Professor W.A. Craigie of the University of Chicago for suggesting The Prairie as worthy of exploration, and for the directions and encouragement which he has given me. To Professor R.D. O'Leary, who so generously permitted me to use his copy of The Prairie, printed in 1836, without which I might have been forced to give up this subject, I express my sincere thanks. And last, but far from least, I wish to express my gratitude to Doctor Josephine M. Burnham for suggesting the field in which I have worked and for guiding, directing, and criticizing my thesis as it has taken form.

George Herbert Sharp

Howard, Kansas.

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INTRODUCTION

The edition of The Prairie used as the basis of this study of dialect and colloquialisms, was that printed by Carey, Lea & Blanchard, Philadelphia, 1836, and all references are to it unless otherwise noted. Although the 1836 edition is "A New Edition" it probably varies little from the original for the publishers included in it a copy of the copyright issued in 1827 to H.C. Carey and I. Lea. Two other editions were used for purposes of comparison, one, published by Thomas Y. Crowell & Company, and the other, published by G.P. Putnam's Sons, but there is nothing to indicate the date of publication of either.

The Carey, Lea & Blanchard edition and that of Thomas Y. Crowell & Company were carefully compared, and all words and phrases which seemed pertinent to the subject were marked in the Crowell edition. When the time came to write the slips on which the words were to be recorded, marked words were looked up in

the older edition and copied from it, thus making for accuracy and lessening the wear on the more valuable books.

There are many discrepancies between the two editions, and it is impossible to say which follows the original more closely. Possibly both represent variations from the first edition. But it is probable that the Carey, Lea & Blanchard edition follows the original very closely for the publishers did not obtain a new copyright on it. The variations notable in the Crowell edition are such as seem likely to appear in a later, revised version, for most of them indicate changing language fashions or increased artistic perception on the part of the author or editor. The Putnam Mohawk edition agrees with the Crowell edition in most of its improvements, although it occasionally modernizes spelling, as in the case of hominy which appears in the early edition as homony,¹ in the Crowell edition as hommany,² and in the Mohawk edition as hominy.³ Whatever may be the explanation

¹ I, p. 30; ² Cr. p. 15; ³ M. p. 15.

of these existing variations, some of them may be worthy of our attention.

By far the most noticeable difference is in the use of modifying words, adjectives and adverbs, but nouns, pronouns, and verbs are occasionally changed. A few long phrases are changed to state the meaning more concretely. In one instance a complete sentence is added and in a number of cases grammatical constructions are improved. Some of the changes, such as the insertion of phrases and a few changes of spelling, are probably corrections of printers errors which escaped proof reading in the earlier edition and others are probably conscious efforts at improvement.

In the Carey, Lea & Blanchard edition a great many modifiers are used, some of them very loosely. The later edition shows a substitution of more apt words for some which are carelessly used, and a weeding out of many which only repeat or intensify the idea expressed by other words or which do not add greatly to the impression produced. The phrase, " free from the smallest

incumbrance,"¹ becomes "free from incumbrance"² in the Crowell edition. Sluggish, a favorite adjective of Cooper in describing the children of the squatter, is omitted in a number of phrases; for example, "recalled by the hint of his sluggish son,"³ is made to read, "recalled by the hint of his son."⁴ In this instance more of the meaning may be lost than in many other cases but, at the same time, repetition of a word is avoided. Frequently, when two or more adjectives were used to qualify the same noun, one has been taken out, as in, "settled in a proud and steady look,"⁵ which is made to read, "settled in a steady look,"⁶ But sometimes all adjectives are rejected as unnecessary. "Flitting across his grave and composed features,"⁷ may be more graphic than, "flitting across his features"⁸ but we have already been given to understand that Hard Heart was perfectly composed during this trying scene at the stake. Some few

1 p. 17 ; 2 Cr. p. 5 ; 3 p. 84 ; 4 Cr. p. 66;

5 Vol. II, p. 101; 6 Cr. p. 302 ; 7 Vol. II, p. 134;

8 Cr. p. 331.

adjectives are substituted for others. "Personal considerations,"¹ is changed to "party considerations,"² possibly to keep pace with the growth of opposing political parties. "Sparser and more humble population"³ is made to read "thinner and more humble population,"⁴ with perhaps, a loss in accuracy of statement.

Adverbs, which were very much used by Cooper, have been greatly reduced in number; a few examples may be worth noticing. "A soft toned, but fearfully alarmed female voice,"⁵ is pruned to, "a soft-toned, but alarmed female voice;" similarly, "another short but exceedingly grave and deliberative consultation",⁷ becomes, "another short but grave and deliberative consultation,"⁸ and even Cooper's beloved unequivocally is often sacrificed, as in, "the high distinction of a fusee unequivocally attested the importance of its proprietor"⁹ which is made to read, "the high distinction of a fusee attested the importance of its proprietor."¹⁰ With adverbs, as with adjectives, substitution is sometimes practiced.

1. I, p. 13; 2 Cr. p. 1; 3 I, p. 14; 4 Cr. p. 2;

5 I, p. 21; 6 Cr. p. 9; 7 I, p. 64; 8 I, p. 48;

9 II, p. 137; 10 Cr. p. 334.

"Admiration and ferocity were fearfully mingled,"¹
 which was the statement in the earlier version, is, perhaps,
 less elegant than "admiration and ferocity were strangely
 mingled,"² but it is a more definite characterization
 of the expression described.

In the clause, "the sagacity of the old man
 was not deceived in the character of his dangerous visit-
 ors,"³ visitors gives place to neighbors,⁴ as more
 precise. The change from fierce scorn to contempt⁵
 in the phrase, "with an air of fierce scorn,"⁶ alters
 the meaning somewhat, but is perhaps more in keeping with
 the character whose actions are thus described. Exclu-
 sion of the noun warrior⁷ from the clause, "one that
 better became the character of a brave warrior,"⁸ permits
 the adjective to become a substantive, a use in which it
 appears elsewhere in the book. Fixen,⁹ a dialectal
 noun, we find changed to fixin'¹⁰, contracted form of
 the colloquial word, fixings. Changing national life

1 II, p. 173; Cr.p. 370; 2 I, p. 52; Cr. p. 37;
 3 Cr. p.81; 4 I, p. 101; 5 Cr. p. 251; 6 II, p.46 ;
 7 I, p.30; 8 Cr. p. 413;
 9
 10

is indicated in the change from, "received into the bosom of the national confederacy,"¹ to, "received into the bosom of the national Union,"² and this change may indicate that some one other than Cooper has tampered with The Prairie, although the term Union seems to have come into popular use long before his death in 1851.

Pronouns also suffer changes. In some instances the familiar, second person singular, was inserted in the place of the more formal second person plural, "You have done murder"³ becoming, "thou hast done murder,"⁴ in Ishmael's arraignment of his brother-in-law. The awkward intensive in, "it carries itself nothing but the most minute particles of lead,"⁵ is certainly a stumbling-block to the reader and is unnecessary to the thought, as is shown by the corrected clause, "it carries nothing but the most minute particles of lead,"⁶ Addition of the intensive adds force and point to the statement, "as there is in any family that was ever raised in Kentuck itself."⁷

1 I, p. 15; 2 Cr. p. 3; 3 II, p. 242; 4 Cr. p. 427;

5 I, p. 94; 6 Cr. p. 75. 7 Cr. p. 41.

Most of the changes among the verbs have been made to better or modernize the grammar. " She had already sunk back in her seat,"¹ is changed in tense and made more applicable to the situation in, "she sank back into her seat,"². A change in tense is also found in the elimination of had in, " In the mean time, the Indian had betrayed no evidence of uneasiness."³ In " many a diplomatist of the most polished court of Europe might have strove in vain to imitate,"⁴ the rare p.p. strove gives place to the more modern striven.⁵

Of the variations of phrases and clauses, probably the most interesting are the change from, "beings of more humanized temperaments are known to love to look upon the interest of scarcely less appalling spectacles,"⁶ to the concrete illustration, " the luxurious Roman dame witnessed the struggles and the agony of the gladiator,"⁷ and the insertion of a complete sentence, " Age and weakness has brought me to feel such weakness at times,"⁸ into the middle of a paragraph.

1 I, p.22; 2 Cr. p. 9; 3 II, p.4; 4 II, p. 266;
 5 Cr. p. 450; 6 II, p. 132; 7 Cr. l. 321; 8 Cr. p. 23;

Many phrases, most of them prepositional, have been taken out. A few are, "the bosom of,"¹ "to the injunction,"² "in the stillness of the place,"³ "fearlessly,"³ "as though secretly."⁴ Others might be given but perhaps these are sufficient to indicate the type of changes. One phrase, an addition, seems to have been left out of the earlier edition through a typographical error, for the sentence, "I wish you therefore to take the skins, and to offer them to some of the trappers you will not fail to meet below, and to send the same into the Pawnee village in my name,"⁵ is obviously incomplete, while that with the phrase added fully expresses the trappers request: "I wish you therefore to take the skins, and to offer them to some of the trappers you will not fail to meet below, in exchange for a few traps, and to send the same into the Pawnee village in my name,"⁶

Articles, of course, are added or taken out with the substantives. Though is the only particle worthy of

¹ Cr. p. 7; ² Cr. p. 12; ³ II, p. 63; Cr. p. 226;

⁴ II, p. 164; Cr. p. 357; ⁵ II, p. 258; ⁶ Cr. p. 442.

attention here. It is changed to if in almost all contexts in the Crowell edition.

It is impossible to say whether the changes noted in the foregoing paragraphs are the work of Cooper, and such knowledge would be of little use for this study, but probably they are in part the work of Cooper himself and in part that of editors who have succeeded him.

#

In this novel there are eight characters, or groups of characters, who represent different districts of what is now the United States. The trapper has spent most of his life in western New York, or as he calls it, York. Ishmael and his children and dependents, with the possible exception of Ellen, come from Tennessee, while Paul Hover comes from nearby Kentucky. Dr. Battius is a well-educated man from the East but nothing is given to indicate his place of residence. Middleton, who has just spent many months in Louisiana, has lived most of

his life in an unnamed Northern district. Inez, his wife, of Spanish ancestry, comes from a French parish in Louisiana. The home state of the drunkard is not named but was probably southern. The Indians, who do not speak English, roam the vast plains of the West.

When the book is first read, these people seem to use dialects which are peculiar to the districts from which they come. But a closer examination reveals the fact that the dialects are merely "character-distinguishing" and "vocational." That is, a certain type of grammatical error, a peculiar pronunciation, or a vocabulary belonging to a particular vocation are used to distinguish the different characters. Apparently there is no attempt to give an accurate representation of the dialect of any district. However, it may be necessary to make an exception in the case of the trapper. It is probable that a part of his youth may have been spent in some of the sea-coast states of New England, judging from his statement that his father is buried near the ocean, and from numerous references in the other novels of the Leatherstocking series.

But he spent the greater part of his life in New York, and if his speech represents the dialect of any district it must represent that of this state. Western New York was Cooper's home and it is possible that the speech of the trapper, as far as dialect and colloquial words are concerned, is true to the district, but surely no one will maintain that an ignorant and 'unl'arned' trapper would speak with the vocabulary of learned words which he has at his command, or that he would habitually compose the long, well-rounded sentences in which he expresses his opinions.

Perhaps the trapper's most noticeable speech characteristic is his dialectal pronunciation, which is indicated by spelling. In a number of words he broadens e (û) to â, as in marciless, unl'arned, 'arth, and uns'archable. Probably a shortening of the u is indicated by the spellings, greatur, and natur, while in ag'in for again and against, another kind of shortening is indicated.

1 II, p. 180; 2 I, p. 157; 3 I, p. 101; 4 II, p. 57;
 5 I, p. 47; 6 I, p. 77; 7 I, p. 33; I, p. 77; 8 I, p. 102;

Loss of consonants is found in grand'ther,¹ which
 also appears as gran'ther.² It is hard to see the
 significance of the spelling of many of his participles, such as
craz'd,³ fou't,⁴ and fill'd,⁵ which are clipped without
 any apparent reason.

The trapper is not always careful of the
number of his verbs. The compound subject, "many a
 dreary winter and scorching summer,"⁶ is followed by
 the singular has, while welfare, which is ordinarily
 singular, is followed by the plural are in, "when the
 welfare of so many human souls are concerned,"⁷ He
 employs the illiterate ar't,⁸ and uses was⁹ instead
 of the subjunctive were. Frequently he uses incorrect
 verb forms, as in, "I might have know'd it!"¹⁰ and
 several forms which are now archaic, among which are,
awoke,¹¹ hath,¹² drunk,¹³ as a preterite, and gotten.¹⁴
 The verb conceit,¹⁵ which is now archaic, often appears
 in his speeches. Sometimes pleonasm are found in his
 speech, as in the sentence, "the Lord, he only knows,"¹⁶
 and "have I seen human man."¹⁷

1 I, p.155; 2 II, p.270; 3 I, p.249; 4 I, p.190; 5 II, p.7;
 6 II, p.168; 7 II, p.35; 8 I, p.252; 9 II, p.31; 10 I, p.113;
 11 I, p.55; 12 II, p.78; 13 II, p.68; 14 II, p.23; 15 II, p.27;
 16 II, p.92; 17 II, p.68;

1 2 3

Afore, atween, atwixt, etc., which are

dialectal, rare or obsolete in their various uses as prepositions, conjunctions, or adverbs, are used frequently by him. Some of his expressions, such as, used-to-could,⁴ and as I hope,⁵ are significant dialectally, and the occasional misuse of certain words is significant. Note the use of morally in,⁶ "If the thing was not morally impossible."

Although Cooper has expended greater effort on the dialect of the trapper and has given him the largest number of dialectal words, he has endowed his other actors with a few speech characteristics. In the language of the group from Tennessee we find some resemblances to the trapper's speech. The shortening of participles is similar to his, for example, robb'd,⁷ and pass'd,⁸ and the broadening of the e in learning which they, also, call l'arning.⁹ Agone¹⁰ is used by them and the trapper. The verb 'camp¹¹ which is used frequently by those in Ishmael's group seems to be employed because of Cooper's

1 I, p.49; 2 II, p. 70; 3 I, p.145; 4 II, p. 257; 5 I,p.85;
6 II, p.69; 7 I, p.82; 8 I, p.163; 9 I, p. 195; 10 I, p.129;
11 II, p. 240.

misunderstanding of its origin rather than because it is a dialectal word. ¹ Sin' seems to belong to this group, as does skeary, ² while ar' ³ appears to be their particular property, although it may appear occasionally in the speeches of other characters. ⁴ Calculate, meaning "to think", "opine", which is usually considered a New England usage, seems out of place in their vocabulary.

Hover's chief dialectal characteristic is his misuse of verbs and his use of terms connected with his vocation. Like the trapper, he shortens some words, such as pay'd. ⁵ Occasionally a dialectal phrase or clause, like if-so-be, ⁶ creeps into his language, and his grammatical slips, such as, "no bones broke", ⁷ are numerous. ⁸ Judgmatical is a colloquial word, while gainsay, ⁹ which he uses also, is now considered a literary word, slightly archaic, and seems out of place in his speech. The words pertaining to his vocation which he employs most frequently, and in every sort of connection, are ¹⁰ line, ¹¹ lining, ¹² and swarm, all of which pertain to bee-hunting.

1. II, p. 224; 2. I, p. 92; 3. I, p. 23; 4. II, p. 225; 5. I, p. 237; 6. II, p. 127;
 7. I, p. 233; 8. II, p. 195; 9. II, p. 225; 10. I, p. 78; 11. I, p. 148; 12. I, p. 58;

The language of Doctor Battius is that of Cooper with the exception of the Latin words which he occasionally introduces, and his use of the familiar second person singular form of certain verbs, such as dwellest,¹ and the archaic third person singular, as in, "Esther sleepeth."² But others, especially the trapper, also employ these forms at various times. Among the Doctor's Latin words we find jusjurandum,³ compactum,⁴ and homo,⁵ used as English words. And the archaic certes,⁶ the rare hiation,⁷ arguated,⁸ which is an obsolete variant of arcuated, and the practically obsolete herbal,⁹ also appear in his speeches.

Middleton's language does not differ perceptibly from the author's except that he occasionally employs colloquial contractions, such as, 'twould.¹⁰ Although Cooper explains that Inez speaks with a foreign accent, he makes no attempt to indicate her pronunciation, and her language is very much like his own. The drunkard is just an ordinary illiterate person, without any very definite characteristics of speech, who occasionally misuses his verbs.

1 I,p.203; 2 I,p. 171; 3 I,p.142; 4 I,p.138; 5 I,p.246;
6 I,p.136; 7 I,p.168; 8 I,p.106; 9 I,p.138; 10 I,p.209.

Even the names of the characters may have a dialectal or slang significance. Bush suggests forest or frontier. As the drunkard says, the name White may be intended to express Abiram's hatred of negroes. Hover described Paul's actions while he was following the Bushes. To us the Doctor's surname, Batt, suggests that he is "batty" or at least eccentric - but this slang meaning seems to be a recent development. Middleton may have been so named because he is the messenger or go-between in restoring Inez to her father.

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In all the novels of the Leatherstocking series, Cooper explains that, for the benefit of his readers who are ignorant of Indian languages, he translates the speeches of the natives into good, idiomatic English. But in these 'translated' speeches he does not hesitate to use the idiom of the Indians, or at least an 'unenglish' idiom which seems to be that of the Indians. Then too, particularly in these speeches, we find words which have been taken into English from the native languages, and words borrowed by them from the French.

In these snatches of strange idiom we see the Indian tendency to characterize the new, the unknown, and the strange, in terms of the familiar. Frequently the pale new-comers are called white-skins¹ or pale-faces². Sometimes they are called Big-knives³ or long-knives⁴ from the swords carried by the soldiers. And the Spaniards, from Mexico, who are darker than the English and French, are called Tawney-faces⁵. Individuals whose names are unknown are characterized in the same manner. Mahtoree commands the trapper to, "Sing in the ears of the dark-eye,"⁶ and he later adds, "Tell the light-hair, that she too may stay in the lodge of a brave."⁷

The supreme being is called the Master of Life,⁸ the Great Spirit,⁹ and the Good Spirit,¹⁰ although the last expression is used only by the trapper; and the terms blessed prairies¹¹ and prairies of the Good Spirits¹² are employed to designate the place of abode in the after life.¹³ Indian heaven¹³ is used - probably without connection with any Indian idiom - and happy hunting grounds¹⁴ also appears

1 II, p. 132; 2 I, p.55; 3 II,p.6; 4 I,p.75; 5 II, p.7;
6 II, p.145; 7 II, p.146; 8 II, p.17; 9 II,p.8; 10 II,p.42;
11 II,p.134; 12 II, p.131; 13 II, p.97; 14 II, p. 192.

once. However, in the sentence, "Courthouses are the happy hunting grounds, as a Redskin would say, for them that are born with gifts no better than such as lie in the tongue," it does not seem to have the meaning of future life which we usually attach to it.

In conversation with the natives, a day is a sun and a lunar month is a moon; a person who is deceitful speaks with a forked tongue; liquor or 'fire-water' is called the milk of the Big-knives. The President of the United States is the great white father or the Great Father.

Geographic features are designated by characterizing names. The Mississippi is called the Father of Rivers, the Big-river, and the "endless river". The phrase Long-river probably refers to it. The Missouri is the river with a troubled stream and the river of troubled waters. References to the Loup-river and waters of the wolves do not give any hint as to which rivers are meant, but from the names it is probable that both refer to the same stream. The salt lake mentioned seems to be the Atlantic Ocean.

1 II, p. 205; 2 II, p. 173; 3 II, p. 37; 4 II, p. 58; 5 I, p. 60;
6 I, p. 160; 7 I, p. 116; 8 II, p. 7; 9 I, p. 14; 10 II, p. 7;
11 II, p. 176; 12 II, p. 171; 13 II, p. 131; 14 II, p. 176; 15 II, p. 128.

Of words relating to customs peculiarly

Indian, we find a number, most of which have to do with warfare. There is mention of war-cries, war-paint, war-parties, and war-paths, as well as of the custom of striking the dead, which is the removal of the scalp or scalp-lock. As a sign of peace, opposing tribes buried the tomahawk and from this custom comes our phrase bury the hatchet. A potent force in the life of the tribe was the medicine man, or as Cooper calls him, the medicine, who virtually ruled the camp by means of the power which he exercised over his superstitious fellows. But his chief duty was the excitation of warriors to deeds of valor by means of his chants and dances and mysterious medicine-bags. But though the Indians' chief business was war, and though they were well armed, considering their stage of civilization, with their bows, arrows, battle-axes, knives, lances, quivers, and shields, they have contributed only one word, tomahawk, to our names of weapons.

1	2	3	4	5
II, p.211;	II,p.3;	II,p.3;	II, p.39;	II,p.212;
6	7	8	9	10
II,p.70;	II, p.5;	II,p.39;	II,p.11;	II,p.61;
11	12	13	14	15
II,p.122;	II,p.210;	II,p.5;	III,p.140;	II,p.204;
16	17	18	19	20
II,p.204;	II,p.5;	II,p.121;	II,p.5;	I,p.77;

Their other contributions to the language,
 as shown by The Prairie, are not numerous. Moccasin,
tobacco, aquaw, wampum, wigwam, and the geograph-
 ical names, Missouri and Mississippi are the words
 which are most commonly used. The word canoe, which
 comes from the Haytian canoa, was introduced into
 Spanish in its original form, and was later borrowed
 into English, in which it has been used, with some
 slight variations of form, since 1600. The ejacula-
 tions, wagh and hugh, (the latter of which is,
 perhaps, not peculiarly Indian) are occasionally en-
 countered, but the words Menahashah, Wahconghecheh,
 and Washsheomantiqua, seem to be peculiar to this
 novel. Wahcondah, meaning great spirit, may survive
 in place names such as Waconda, Great Spirit Spring,
 Mitchell County, Kansas.

It is possible that the natives are respons-
 ible for the reintroduction of brave into the language,
 for they seem to have borrowed it from the French and

1,	2	3	4	5
I, p.147;	I, p.266;	I, p.62;	I, p. 65;	II, p.77;
6	7	8	9	10
II, p.16;	I, p. 14;	II, p. 209;	II, p. 252;	II, p.146;
11	12	13	14	15
II, p.57;	II, p. 58;	II, p.57;	I, p.75;	II, p.39;

contributed it to the English-speaking colonists.

¹
Partisan, also, may have been introduced in a similar manner, and Cooper's loose use of it seems to justify the idea, but, though a note in the Crowell edition gives this as a fact, the statement is at least questionable.

#

The pictures of frontier life which the author paints for us disclose a type of existence which can never again appear on this continent. The people of the emigrant train form a self-sufficient group, for, except for powder² and lead³ and possibly salt, which they must buy, they can supply all their own wants. Yet in the Prairie this isolated group, with its special needs, gives us few words which are peculiar to the frontier.

⁴ Scouter, ⁵ outlyer, and ⁶ out-lyings, suggest border warfare. Firearms, too, except for sport, suggest the frontier, and those mentioned by Cooper are perhaps worthy of mention because of the many improvements which

¹ I, p. 265; ² I, p. 42; ³ I, p. 31; ⁴ II, p. 3; ⁵ II, p. 68;
⁶ II, p. 77;

have been made since his day. We very seldom hear of
 1 2 3 4
carabines, fuseses, or fowling-pieces. Piece, as
 5
 applied indifferently to any gun, is very rare. Rifle
 6
 is a common term, but the long rifle is obsolete. Since
 the development of more efficient means of firing, we
 7 8
 hear no more of flints and priming, while the powder
 9 10
horns and shot pouches are to be encountered only as
 11
 "antiques". Ball, or rifle ball, is heard occasionally,
 12
 and buckshot is more common.

Much of the clothing of the frontiersman was
 made from the skins of beasts, especially from that of
 13
 the deer, for buckskin was highly prized because of
 14
 its softness and durability. The hide of the buffaloe
 was used for robes and covers, and the skins of smaller
 15
 quadrupeds, such as the marten, were used for caps and
 16
 finer apparel. Cloth was made in the home. Tow was
 17
 spun by hand from a distaff, woven on a home loom, and
 manufactured into garments. Even the tent of Inez was
 18
 made of linen. Ishmael's blanket-coat was probably made
 19
 from the wool of the fleeces, spun, woven and tailored
 by his wife.

1 2 3 4 5 6
 II,p.40; I,p.202; I,p.65; I,p.21; II,p.93; I,p.240;
 7 8 9 10 11 12
 I,p.38; I,p.38; I,p.42; I,p.41; I,p.42; I,p.42;
 13 14 15 16 17
 I, p.147; I,p.40; I,p.17; I,p.130; I,p.130;
 18 19
 I,p.17; I,p.33;

1

The family of the squatter, for he was a
 squatter instead of a settler,² lived mainly on meat,³
 venison and buffalo, but they drove a herd of grunters
 to have a supply of pork if the game gave out. Cows,
 which they drove ahead of them, supplied them with milk
 for butter and cheese.

4

Plunder, to Ishmael, means the accoutrements⁵
 of a trapper, but in the Deerslayer it is used in its
 ordinary meaning. The hides which the trapper is supposed
 to collect are referred to as peltry,⁶ a word which was
 much used in records of early Mississippi valley explor-⁷
 ations. The men of the emigrant's party carry packs
 to increase the quantity of belongings which they can
 transport to their destination. Upon arriving at a
 spot where they are to make their pitch,⁸ or camp, they
 turn loggers⁹ and give a demonstration of their ability
 to clear a piece of logging;¹⁰ in other words, they fell
 enough trees to make a clearing,¹¹ furnish material for beds,
 make a sort of barricade, and furnish fuel for fires.

1 I, p. 76; 2 I, p. 30; 3 I, p. 81; 4 I, p. 31; 5 Deerslayer, M. p. 9.
 6 I, p. 31; 7 I, p. 17; 8 I, p. 77; 9 II, p. 7; 10 I, p. 162;
 11 I, p. 32;

The emigrant intended to settle in some
¹ fertile bottom where the rich alluvion ² would give
 him abundant return for little effort. Dr. Battius,
 who accompanied him, had agreed to minister to the
³ family through the attacks of fever-an-agry which
 some of them were sure to suffer before they were
 acclimated to their new home. But, after the disso-
 lution of their agreement, Esther avouched her ability
 to equal his powers with only the aid of cherry bark
 tea and a drop or two of western comfort.⁴

⁵ The word Leech, meaning a physician, was often
 used, and, although an archaism, it may be a frontier
 or dialectal term. ⁶ Lick is peculiar to certain dis-
 tricts but was of particular importance along the
 frontiers, for licks were the only accessible supply
 of salt. This word is found now in certain place names,
 such as French Lick, (Indiana) and Rock Lick, and Spring
⁷ Lick, (Kentucky). Husking parties, later called husking
 bees, were common gatherings in frontier communities.
⁸ Light, meaning daybreak, and ⁹ sundown, meaning west, are
 probably colloquialisms peculiar to the squatters.

1 I,p.101; 2 II,p. 236; 3 II,p.224; 4 II,p.224; 5 I,p.89;
 6 I,p.78; 7 II,p.13; 8 I,p.161; 9 I,p.32;

Most of the callings followed by the characters in this story are callings usually found only on the outskirts of civilization. Besides the Indians, who are hunters and trappers, there are Middleton, the border soldier, Paul Hover, the bee-hunter, Ishmael and his family, who are squatters emigrating to new territory, the trapper who dislikes being called a ¹ hunter because he is no longer able to maintain the dignity of that vocation, and the Doctor, who is examining the flora and fauna of a new region.

#

As Cooper progressed with the writing of The Prairie he neglected some of the dialectal and colloquial words he was using to distinguish his characters, or else he assumed that the speech of each individual would be so firmly fixed in the mind of the reader that its rigid use was no longer necessary. At any rate, we find a falling off of colloquial or dialectal contractions and a few alterations of dialectal words in the latter part of the book. Grand'ther.²

1

I, p. 30;

2

I, p. 155;

employed often by the trapper, in conversation with
Middleton, is shortened to gran'ther¹ in one sentence.

Sometimes the trapper corrects his speech and says
learned² although in the first part of the book he
uses unl'arned³ and l'arning⁴. He says merciless⁵
and later, marciless⁶. Esther, who, with the rest of
the emigrants, ordinarily says ar'⁷ once employs are⁸
in the same sentence with ar'. Examples of Cooper's
inconsistency in the use of dialectal words might be
multiplied, but perhaps these few may serve to illus-
trate his tendency to bring the speech of his characters
nearer "correct" speech in the latter pages.

Most of the obsolete, rare, and archaic words
which appear in this study are employed by the different
speakers rather than by the author in person. But a
list of those used by Cooper in the narrative and de-
scriptive passages would be too long to be included here.

Few of the Americanisms found can be considered
peculiar to any restricted area, but authority has been

1 II, p. 270; 2 II, p.232; 3 I, p. 157; 4 I,p.195;
5 II, p. 126; 6 II, p. 180; 7 I, p.186; 8 II, p.239;

found for assigning some of them to particular districts.

Of calculate,¹ a verb meaning "to plan", expect to come to pass, etc.", Bartlett says, "Its use is confined to the illiterate of New England," while Clapin says,

"Often used, especially in New England." Conceit,² a verb, which the trapper often employs, is generally obsolete; of its use Clapin says, "Interior of New

England." Creek³ is, according to Bartlett, "A

small river or brook," and he adds, "In New York, the Middle and Western states and in Canada a small stream is called a creek." Creole, although originally used

in Louisiana, seems to have been in widespread use in Cooper's day. Clapin says of fog,⁴ "In the Canadian

Maritime Provinces, last year's grass standing in the fields through the winter." Gobbler,⁵ Clapin tells

us, is, "In the West, a turkey, and especially a turkey-cock," but both Thornton and Bartlett define it without naming the territory to which it belongs.

Interval⁶ seems to be very rare as an attributive.

Bartlett defining the noun interval or intervale

1 II, p. 225; 2 II, p. 27; 3 I, p. 33; 4 II, p. 65;

5 I, p. 234; 6 I, p. 34;

quotes Worcester, "Low or alluvial land on the margin of rivers. So called in New England. Similar land is called, in the Western States, 'bottom land'." The attributive use in interval land¹ is a natural extension.

From these few words we gain further proof that the dialects used by Cooper are "character distinguishing" and "vocalational" rather than true representations of the dialect of the district from which the characters are supposed to have come.

#

Much of Cooper's work shows evidence of haste and carelessness and some of his errors indicate his lack of literary training. In the 1836 edition of The Prairie there are a few words which can be nothing more than misprints. Dowfall² is obviously meant for downfall and fantsatic³ can scarcely be intended for anything but fantastic.⁴ With dying the case is somewhat different, for it may show ignorance or carelessness on the part of the author. It may, of course, be a typographical error, the word intended being dyeing.

¹ I, p. 34; ² II, p. 78; ³ II, p. 236; ⁴ II, p. 113;

Cooper seems to have been rather uncertain about the spelling of a few words. Mullein appears as mullen,¹ and mullin,² and in combination as mullein-top. There seems to be no justification for his spelling screen³ skreen.⁴ Scary generally appears in its usual form⁵ when spoken by the trapper but becomes skeary when used by Ishmael. This change probably indicates pronunciation rather than the author's uncertainty.

The author seems to have regarded camp, the verb, as a dialectal shortening of encamp, for he writes it 'camp'.⁶ Summons,⁷ which is now used only as singular, is used as the subject of a plural verb.⁸ Although the phrase so soon as introduces a positive statement, so as a correlative of as, now almost invariably appears in negative assertions or in questions implying negative answers. At the time⁹ Cooper wrote, notorious did not seem to have the unsavory connotation now attached to it; for he uses it to mean noted or famous.¹⁰ The use of selfishness

1 I, p.119; 2 II, p. 71; 3 I, p. 51; 4 II, p. 68; 5 I,p.92;
6 I,p.24; 7 I,p.211; 8 II, p.135; 9 II,p.263; 10 II,p.144;

as an adjective in the clause, "his morals were accomo-
 dating and his motives selfishness," is not justified
 by any precedent found in making this study. Sit (sat)¹
 is misused for set in, " he sat himself at work," while
 the participle sit² appears in, "has been sit upon."²
Transpire³ is misused by Cooper in several sentences
 where he evidently means " to occur", or "to happen".
Unconscious⁴ appears in a number of instances where it
 is loosely used to indicate indifference or unconcern.

Grammatical errors are, of course, inevitable
 in the speeches of illiterate characters, but they are
 inexcusable when they appear in the author's own lines.
 Most of those which are chargeable against Cooper are the
 result of archaic constructions or of his loose use of
 certain words. Begun⁵, as a preterite, is no longer
 tolerated, but Cooper employs it and the New English
 Dictionary tells us that it was in good use from the
 sixteenth to the nineteenth century. The archaic pre-
 terite, trode⁶ is used once, run⁷ appears as preterite,

1 I,p. 170; 2 II,p.13; 3 II,p.216; 4 I,p.120; 5 II,p.178;
 6 I,p. 193; 7 II,p. 173;

and there are many other similar examples which might be noted. ¹ Was follows a plural noun in, " in such offices as was best adapted to his strength and situation". ¹ Were appears after the singular pronoun none, while be, which is now used only for certain senses in the subjunctive and for the infinitive, appears several times as third person singular, present indicative, a use which is now filled by is. A number of collective nouns, which now generally require singular verbs, are used with verbs which are plural, as, " The dark troop were to be seen."³

Although the tendency seems to be to misuse superlative for comparative, instead of comparative for superlative, Cooper has the trapper say " better horse"⁴ when speaking of three, while he himself makes the more common error of saying, " the least disposed of the two."⁵ An exceedingly awkward construction, which may be simply a printer's error, is found in, " addressing the trapper she demanded, with the dignity of an offended gentlewoman, though with her accustomed grace of, to what circumstance they owed this extraordinary and unexpected visit."⁶

¹ I, p. 235; ³ I, p. 51; ⁴ II, p.108; ⁵ I, p. 132; ⁶ II, p.145.

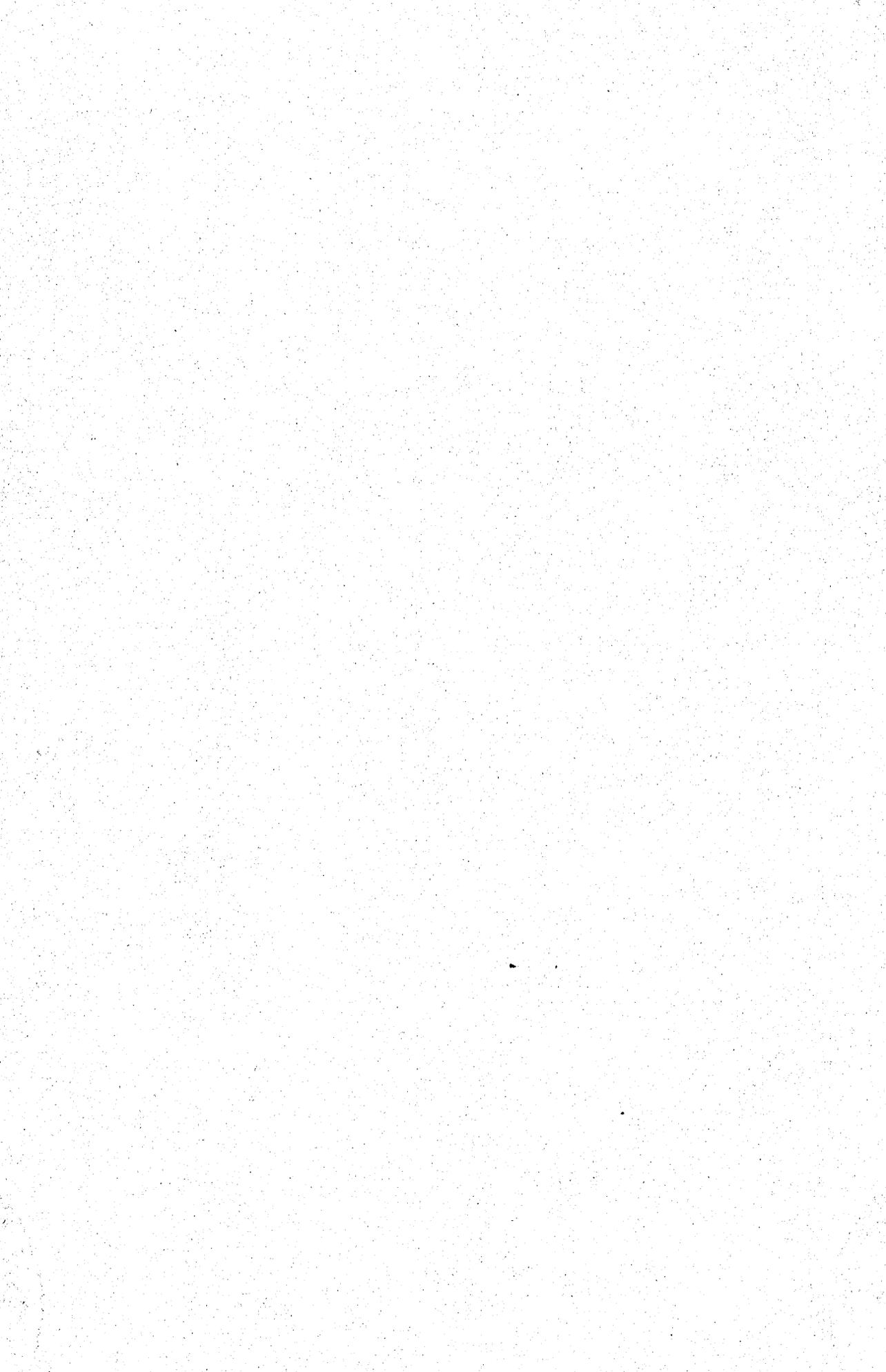
#

From this brief and somewhat superficial study of a novel written just a century ago we find that many changes have taken place in the short space of a hundred years. The vocabulary has been affected most but there have been some trifling grammatical changes which are to be ascribed to changes in the popularity of certain forms of construction rather than to any newly developed syntax. One group of words, most of them in literary use, has become archaic while another group, which was probably archaic at that time, has since become obsolete. A small group, composed of frontier terms, which was new in Cooper's day, has passed out of general use. Except for a few which are generally used, most of them have already become historical. Words introduced from the Indian tongues are a real contribution to the language and most of them show a tendency to remain.

This study also shows the difference between the American and the English uses of certain words and

helps to emphasize the importance of the publication of a distinctly American historical dictionary. It shows that dialect, which is very difficult to classify as to locality, deserves particular attention both as to district and period, for the dialectal words within a given area vary from generation to generation.

If this thesis can be a small contribution to our knowledge of the dialect and colloquialisms of our country, the time spent on it will not have been spent in vain.



A

acclimated, p.p.

Vol. I Chap. VI, p.90

until the family were thoroughly "acclimated".

N.E.D. Acclimate = acclimatize
 now more common.

acclimator, n

Vol. II Chap. XIV, p.224

He an acclimator!

Esther

admirator, n.

Vol. II Chap. V, p.75

I am no great admirator of your old morals,
 Trapper

N.E.D. Obs. rare. Example 1603.

a-dry, pred. a.

Vol. I Chap. XV, p.225

I am a-dry, and I can never talk with
 elegance when my throat is husky,

Drunkard

N.E.D. Last example 1830.

afore, conj.

Vol. I Chap. III, p.49

they will be here afore you can find a cover!
 Trapper

N.E.D. Afore is now mostly obsolete
 in Lit. Conj. Arch. and dial. This
 passage is quoted as an example.

afore, prep

Vol. 1 Chap. III, p.42

you have a long and a happy - ay, and an honest life afore you!

Trapper

again (ag'in) adv.

Vol. 1 Chap. II, p.33

Until I see reason to stop, or to turn ag'in, Ishmael

again (ag'in), prep.

Vol. 1 Chap.VII, p.102

It lies ag'in the outer edge of old Kentuck, I reckon;

Hover

N.E.D. prep. obs. or dial

again (ag'in), prep

Vol.1 Chap. V, p.77

because it's reason ag'in instinct.

Trapper

agone, adv.

Vol. 1 Chap. VIII, p.129

it was your rifle I heard a few minutes agone,

Esther

N.E.D. agone has remained dialectally, and as an archaic and poetic variant to the present day.

ah's me,

Vol. II Chap. V, p.68

Ah's me! what a number of seasons, hot and
cold, wet and dry, have rolled over my poor
head,

Trapper

a-hungered, a.

Vol. 1 Chap. XI, p.165

A desperate eater is Asa, when a-hungered,
by a little work!

Esther

N.E.D. arch.

ailings, n.

Vol. 1 Chap. XVII, p.247

you're a dealer in ailings and cures:

Trapper

air-holder, n.

Vol.1 Chap.VII, p.107

giving to the land-holder, or perhaps he
should be called air-holder, so many rods
of heaven,

Ishmael

a-leg-weary, a.

Vol. 1 Chap XII, p.180

If you are a-leg-weary, say so,

Esther

alluvion, n.

Vol.II Chap. XV, p.236

A solitary willow had taken root in the
alluvion,

ambushment, n.

Vol. 1 Chap. III, p.50

If there were just six of us, lad, what a beautiful ambushment we might make upon them,

Trapper

N.E.D. arch.

anan, interj.

Vol. II Chap. II, p.30

"Anan," said the old man,
(Trapper)

N.E.D. Obs. and dial.

an't, contr.

Vol. 1 Chap. XVII, p.252

As you think the object an't a man, you shall see his whole formation,
Trapper

N.E.D. contraction of aren't, are not; colloquial for am not; and in illiterate or dialect speech for is not, has not, (han't); a later and still more illiterate form is ain't.

are (ar'), v.

Vol. 1 Chap. 1, p.23

Stranger, if you ar' much acquainted in this country,

Ishmael

are (ar'), v.

Vol. II Chap. XV, p.241

Your tarry here ar' likely to be long.

Ishmael

arquated, a.

Vol. 1 Chap. VII, p.106

Can you tell me if what you encountered was of the species, ursus horribilis - with the ears, rounded - front arquated - eyes - destitute of the remarkable supplemental lid -

Doctor

N.E.D. Obs. variant of Arcuated .

arrow, n.

Vol. II Chap. IX, p.140

Immediately beneath the favorite bow of the chief, and encircled in a sort of magical ring of spears, shields, lances and arrows, all of which had in their time done good service,

artillerist, n.

Vol. II Chap.VIII, p.126

would to Heaven that some of my trusty artillerists might fall upon this accursed encampment!

Middleton,

N.E.D. Earliest example 1878

askaunt, adv.

Vol. 1 Chap. IX, p.135

Paul, who continued eating with increasing industry, looking askaunt not unlike a dog when engaged in the same agreeable pursuit,

N.E.D. 7 - 9 askaunt

atween, prep.

Vol. II Chap. V, p. 70

matters are not as they should be atween
the squatter and the Tetons,

Trapper

N.E.D. Arch. and dial. Latest
example 1842.

atwixt, prep.

Vol. I Chap. IX, p.145

There is but little said atwixt the hound
and me,

Trapper

N.E.D. Arch. or dial.

awoke, P.P.

Vol. I Chap. IV, p.55

if the travellers who lie near the willow
brake are not awoke out of their sleep
by a visit from these miscreants.

Trapper

N.I. Obs. or R. awoke.

a-weary, pred.a.

Vol. II Chap. VI, p.94

and my legs are a-weary of doing nothing.

Trapper

N.E.D. Last example 1830.

B

bag, v.

Vol. 1, Chap. IX, p.139

I reckon, stranger, you have a mind to bag
Ellen too!

Hover

N.E.D. colloq.ball, n

Vol. 1 Chap. III, p.42

and my character against a horn of powder,
that the bird would be hanging head downwards
in five minutes, and that too, with a single
ball.

Hover

bank-bill, n.

Vol. 1 Chap. XV, p.225

The fellow examined the bank-bills he received

N.E.D. Formerly, and still sometimes
in the provinces, and in U.S. synonymous
with Bank-note.

barker, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. VIII, p.120

Have you got a glimpse of any thing bigger
than one of them burrowing barkers?

Ishmael

battle-axe

Vol. II Chap. XIII, p.204

Each had his spear, his bow, his quiver, his
little battle-axe and his knife;

be, v.

Vol. II, Chap. V, p.78

for his natur' is the same, be he born in
the wilderness, or be he born in the towns,
Trapper

be. v.

Vol. I, Chap. II, p.31

At my time of life, food and clothing be
all that is needed;
Trapper

beau ideal,

Vol. I, Chap. VIII, p.124

Her person was of the smallest size that is
believed to comport with beauty, and which
poets and artists have chosen as the beau
ideal of feminine lovliness.

N.E.D. From F. A late introduction.
First example 1801.

beavers' tails,

Vol. I, Chap. VII, p.104

Beavers' tails and minks' flesh may do to
talk about before a maple fire and a quiet
hearth,"

Ishmael

beck-and-nod, g.

Vol. II, Chap. IX, p. 145

I was long a serving-man in my youth, not one
of your beck-and-nod runners about a household,
but a man that went through the servitude of
the forest with his officer,

Trapper

bee, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. X, p. 148

The bee is a bird I have never been compelled to seek,

Middleton

bee-hunter, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. III, p. 52

The bee-hunter so far obeyed as to continue immoveable and silent.

Note in Crowell edition, p. 113: The pursuit of a bee-hunter is not uncommon, on the skirts of American society, though it is a little embellished here. When the bees are seen sucking the flowers their pursuer contrives to capture one or two. He then chooses a proper spot, and suffering one to escape, the insect invariably takes its flight towards the hive. Changing his ground to a greater or less distance, according to circumstances, the bee-hunter then permits another to escape. Having watched the courses of the bees, which is technically called lining, he is enabled to calculate the intersecting angles of the two lines, which is the hive.

beggars' beans,

Vol. 1, Chap. VII, p. 101

It is good for such as they who make their dinner better on beggar's beans than on hominy.

Asa

beginner,

Vol. 1, Chap. XVI, p. 230

I think the man, who is certainly the master here, is but a new beginner in wickedness.

Inez

begun, pret.

Vol. II, Chap. XII, p.178

and it is possible, that he believed the retiring camp of the Siouzes contained a prize, that begun to have a value in his eyes, far exceeding any that could be found in fifty Teton scalps.

N.E.D. Pa.t. sing. - - (6 - 9 begun)

below, adv.

Vol. II, Chap. XVI, p.255

I had hoped and believed that you would have accompanied us below, [South]
Middleton

N.E.D. Only example of this use 1810.

belt, n.

Vol. I, Chap. I, p. 13

the measure had made us the masters of a belt of fertile country,

N.E.D. Examples of similar uses dated 1810 to 1850.

better, a.

Vol. II, Chap. VII, p. 108

My heart had its misgivings when I saw the lad choose the better horse,
Trapper

(In this statement the trapper speaks of three horses.)

Big-knives, n.

Vol. II, Chap.1, p.6

It is farther to the towns of the Big-knives,
Hard Heart

Big-river, n.

Vol. II, Chap.1,p.7

The runners, from the people on the Big-river,
Hard Heart

Big-River, n.

Vol.1, Chap. 1, p.23

Is the land filled on the other side of the
Big River?

Trapper

bison, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. VII, p.104

Bison or buffaloe, it makes but little matter.
Trapper

N.E.D. From L. has become familiar only
in connection with American Bison.
Can hardly be looked upon as English before
17th C.

black flesh

Vol. 1, Chap. VIII, p.125

The newspapers of Kentuck have called you a
dealer in black flesh a hundred times, but
little did they reckon that you drove the
trade into white families.

Asa

blanket-coat, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. I, p.17

the buttons of his rude and soiled blanket-coat were of the glittering coinage of Mexico;

Clapin - A common term, in the West, for a coat made from a blanket, and generally from the quality of blanket known as "Mackinaw."

blazed, p.a.

Vol. 1, Chap. VII, p.107

neither of us, I reckon, has ever had much to do with title-deeds, or county clerks, or blazed trees;

Ishmael
N.E.D. U.S. Of trees; Marked with white by cutting off a patch of the bark. Examples quoted 1737 to 1883.

Blessed Land, n.

Vol. II, Chap. V, p.77

I remember to have heard it, then and there, said, that the Blessed Land was once fertile as the bottoms of the Mississippi,

Trapper

blessed prairies,

Vol. II, Chap. VIII, p.134

Hard-Heart will ride his horse to the blessed prairies, and he will come before the Master of Life like a chief!

Trapper

blister, n. Vol. 1, Chap. XI, p.164

the fellow ordered me a blister around my mouth, because I complained of a pain in the foot!

Esther

N.E.D. Examples 1541 - 1875.

block, n. Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.80

Well done, young chips! well done, old block!
Hover

blood and bottom Vol. 1, Chap. XII, p.181

'Tis not a wolf; but a hound of thorough
blood and bottom.

Ishmael

blood-letter, n. Vol. 1, Chap. IX, p.138

this is the very blood-letter that Ellen
told me of!

Hover

N.E.D. Examples dated 1000 to 1840.

bluff, n. Vol. 1, Chap. XV, p.224

at some little distance from the place of the
encampment, and on the same high bluff of land,

N.E.D. A cliff or headland with a broad
precipitous face. (First used in N.America,
and still mostly used mostly of American
landscapes) Earliest example 1737.

board, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XVII, p.242

he'll need no finger board to tell him which way his road lies.

Hover

border, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p.33

the indirect manner so much in use by the border inhabitants.

N.E.D. quotes this passage.

borderer, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. VI, p.89

The resemblance between the American borderer and his European prototype is singular, though not always uniform.

border-man, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p.29

Whatever may be the other qualities of a border-man, he is seldom deficient in the virtue of hospitality.

This passage is quoted in N.E.D.

border-troop, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. X, p.147

trimmed with the yellow fringes and ornaments that were sometimes seen among the border-troops of the Confederacy.

bottom, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. VII, p. 101

There is richer soil in the bottoms,
Trapper

bow, n.

Vol. II, Chap. 1, p.5

He leaned lightly with one hand on a short
hickory bow,

brave, n.

Vol. II, Chap. III, p. 39

when their own young men never forget that
they are braves,

Mahtoree

N.E.D. A brave man, a warrior, soldier;
since 1800 applied chiefly to warriors among
the North American Indians (after the
French in N. America).

brave, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.82

"This is brave talking," he at length grumb-
led; "but to my judgment, too lawyer-like, for
a straight forward, fair-weather, and foul-
weather hunter."

Ishmael

N.E.D. (Rare in 18th c; in 19th c
apparently a literary revival, or adopted
from dialect speech.)

bridging, vb.n.

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p.33

Since then, we have done bravely, by bridging
a creek every day or two.

Ishmael

Probably means "fording", from bridge.
(N.E.D. A narrow ridge of rock, sand, or
shingle, across the bottom of a channel.)

broke up from,

Vol. 1, Chap. I, p. 14

Thousands of the elders, of what were then called the New States, broke up from the enjoyment of their hard earned indulgences, and were to be seen leading long files of descendants,

broke, p.a.

Vol. 1, Chap. XVI, p. 233

" This has been a regular knock-down and drag-out," he cried, "and no bones broke! .."
Hover

N.E.D. obsolescent form of Broken.
Latest example 1647.

brood, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VII, p.103

that the cunning Mahtoree instead of going to blows with the squatter, has become his friend, and that both broods, red and white, are on our heels,

Trapper

N.E.D. Of human beings: Family, children.
(Now generally somewhat contemptuous).

broomstick jumper,

Vol. II, Chap. X, p.157

An honest woman is no better in his eyes than one of your broomstick jumpers.
Esther

browse, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. I, p.24

all old journeyers, like myself, know the
virtue of sweet water, and a good browse
for the cattle

Ishmael

brush, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XII, p.174

when his hand and his rifle might both have
been wanted in a brush with the Siouxes,

Ishmael

brushing, p.pr.

Vol. 1, Chap. X, p.157

I have at this moment a dog brushing a deer,
not far from this,

Middleton

buck-horn, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. 1, p.17

the buck-horn haft of his knife was profusely
decorated with plates of silver;

buck-shot, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. III, p.42

The first is like a steel trap, and the last
nimble than a buck-shot.

Hover

N.E.D. 1st example 1776. Seems to be
a rather late development.

buckskin, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. X, p.147

His lower limbs were protected by buckskin
leggings,

buffaloe, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. III, p.40

You are not dodging the buffaloes at such an hour!

Hover

Note in Crowell edition, p.112: It is scarcely necessary to tell the reader that the animal so often alluded to in this book, and which is vulgarly called the buffaloe, is in truth the bison, hence so many contortments between the men of the prairies and the men of science.

buffaloe, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. VII, p. 104

Bison or buffaloe, it makes but little matter.
Trapper

burthen, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VI, p. 94

The horses, which had continued passive and trembling amid the raging of the fire, received their burthens with a satisfaction so very evident, as to furnish a favorable augury of their future industry.

N.E.D. The prevalent form is now burden, but burthen is still often retained for capacity of a ship; and also as a poet. or rhetorical archaism in other senses.

bury the hatchet,

Vol. II, Chap. I, p. 11.

And so the Wolf-tribe of the Pawnees have buried the hatchet with their neighbors the Konzas,

Trapper

N.E.D. To take or dig up the hatchet: to take up arms in warfare, to commence hostilities. To bury the hatchet: to lay down one's arms; to cease from hostilities. (These two phrases are derived from customs of the North American Indians).

bury the tomahawk,

Vol. II, Chap. III, p. 39

Why then do the Big-knives tell their red-brethern to bury the tomahawk,

Mahtoree

N.E.D. From the Indian custom of burying the tomahawk when peace is made.

by-play, n.

Vol. I, Chap. XIV, p. 210

During this moment of dangerous by-play, the sounds of a serious attack were very distinctly audible beneath.

N.E.D. Earliest example 1812.

C

calculate, v.

Vol. II, Chap. XIV, p.225

you have stolen a girl who is akin to my wife,
and who I had calculated to make one day a
daughter of my own.

Ishmael

N.E.D. U.S. Collog. First example 1830.
Ba. Its use is confined to the illiter-
ate of New England.

calculator, n.

Vol. I, Chap. XI, p.161

"Your uncle is, and always will be a dull
calculator, Nell," observed the mother, after
a long pause in a conversation that had turned
on the labours of the day; " a lazy hand at
figures and foreknowledge is that said Ishmael
Bush . . . "

Esther

camp-colourman, n.

Vol. I, Chap. X, p.160

it is strange that one so young and pros-
perous, and bearing the commission of the
Great Father, should be moving among the
prairies, without even camp-colourman to
do his biddings!

Trapper

N.E.D. Earliest example camp colour
men, 1853.

Canada, a.

Vol. I, Chap. II, p.30

for, unless we count the Canada traders
on the big river,

Ishmael

N.E.D. Earliest example of a. use
is 1840.

Canadas, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. X, p. 146

The semi-barbarous hunters from the Canadas,

can not (can't),

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p. 82

and am not over fond of neighbors who can't
settle a dispute without troubling a justice
and twelve men;

Ishmael

canoe, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VII, p. 109

It is not as handsomely turned as I have seen
a canoe in birchen bark,

Trapper

N.E.D. Sp. canoa, from Haytian canoa -
used in England with slight variations since
1600.

carabine, n.

Vol. II, Chap. III, p. 40

My father has a good carabine. Let him point it
in the bush and fire.

Mahtoree

castellain, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XII, p. 178

In this dilemma the squatter was obliged
to constitute the girl herself castellain;

N.E.D. quotes this passage.

cattle, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p. 80

your real Sioux cattle will run like so
many long-legged elks.

Trapper

cattle, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p. 26

he quietly proceeded to release the cattle
from the gears.

certes, adv.

Vol. 1, Chap. IX, p. 136

certes this is not the cor - -
Doctor

N.E.D. arch.chace, n.

Vol. II, Chap. II, p. 21

you are about to see a glorious chace.
Trapper

chap, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p. 83

I call myself a fair trader, and one who
gives to his chaps as good as he receives.
Ishmael

N.E.D. Still dial.chaunt, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XII, p. 198

and occasionally raising the threatening
expressions of their chaunt into louder and
more intelligible strains.

N.E.D. Also 8 - 9 chaunt.

chip, n.

Vol.1, Chap. V, p.80

Well done, young chips! well done, old block!

Hover

Chopper, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. VII,p.103

what will the Yankee Choppers say, when they have cut their path from the eastern to the western waters,

Trapper

N.E.D. quotes from this passage.

cis - Atlantic, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. VI, p.90

M.D. and fellow of several cis-Atlantic learned societies -

N.E.D. Earliest example 1823.

class, n.

Vol.1, Chap. IX, p.138

You are of the class, mammalia; order, primates; genus, homo; species, Kentucky.

Doctor

clearing, n.

Vol. 1, Chap.II, p.32

I find it is a wide tract of clearing, this, into which I have fallen.

Ishmael

close-jointed, a.

Vol. II, Chap. I, p.6

a close-jointed and gallant looking lad
he is;

Trapper

N.E.D. gives this word but cites no
examples of its use.

cloven feet,

Vol. I, Chap. IX, p.139

I was an eye-witness, myself, of the manner
in which the Siouzes broke into your encamp-
ment, and drove off the cattle; stripping
the poor man you call Ishmael of his smallest
hoofs, counting even the cloven feet.

N.E.D. Not applied to the animal as a
whole but only to the foot.

colour, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VIII, p.132

This is what the good Moravians said to the
councils of the Delawares, not what is so
often preached, to the White-skins in the
settlements, though to the shame of the colour
be it said, it is so little heeded.

Trapper

N.E.D. The hue of the darker (as dis-
tinguished from the 'white') varieties of
mankind; . . . In America esp. a person of
negro blood. - Cooper applies it to "whites".

comfort, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XVII, p.272

inasmuch as I find it a little painful to give
up for ever the use of the rifle and the
comforts of the chase.

Trapper

compactum, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. IX, p.138

I have journeyed far, having entered into a compactum or agreement with a certain man, named Ishmael -

Doctor

conceit, v.

Vol. II, Chap. II, p.27

for what the brutes in the rear didn't hear with their own ears, they'll conceit they did;
Trapper

N.E.D. Most uses of conceit obs.

Cl.(Interior of New England) Formerly colloquial in England in sense of to think, but now obsolete, although the substantive conceit still lingers in a somewhat similar sense.

conceiting, p.pr.

Vol. II, Chap. II, p.19

you would find yourself taking a turkey for a buffalo, or conceiting, full fifty times, that the roar of a buffalo bull was the thunder of the Lord.

Trapper

Confederacy, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XIV, p.202

I summon ye all, in the name of the Confederacy of the United Sovereign States of North America, to submit yourselves to the laws.

Doctor

congress-man, n.

Vol. II, Chap. 1, p. 13

it is often that you see a warrior on the
prairies far better mounted than a congress-
man in the settlements.

Trapper

N.E.D. Earliest example 1834

cottons, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XVII, p. 243

I've stood in my thinnest cottons in the midst
of many a swarm that has lost its queen-bee

Hover

cotton-wood, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VI, p. 83

Give me a cottonwood, and I will turn you out
a canoe that shall carry us all,

Hover

cotton-wood, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p.26

he buried his axe to the eye, in the soft
body of a cotton-wood tree.

N.E.D. Cites this passage.

count my words,

Vol. II, Chap. IV, p. 62

Listen to me, gray-head, and count my words,
Mahtoree

county-house, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XIV, p.219

I am no troubler of county-houses,
Ishmael

N.E.D. Earliest example 1888.

county-officer, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XIV, p.220

Poverty and labour bore hard upon him,
especially as county-officers were getting
troublesome,

Esther

cover, n.

Vol. I, Chap. III, p.49

they will be here afore you can find a cover!
Trapper

N.E.D. This passage is quoted for an
example.

cradler, n.

Vol. I, Chap. XI, p.162

or a cradler that knows better how to lead a
gang of hands through a field of wheat,

Esther

N.E.D. Earliest example 1835.

crazed, (craz'd), n.

Vol. I, Chap. XVII, p.249

One would think the man was craz'd,
Trapper

creature (creatur'), n.

Vol. 1, Chap. III, p.47

They who think men enjoys all the knowledge of the creatur's of God, will live to be disappointed,

Trapper

creek, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p.33

Since then, we have done bravely, by bridging a creek every day or two.

Ishmael

N.E.D. In U.S. and British Colonies. A branch of a main river, a tributary river; a rivulet, brook, small stream, or run. Example 1674 to 1848.

B. A small river or brook. In New York, the Middle and Western states and in Canada a small stream is called a creek.

Cl. Used extensively, except in most of New England, and as far up as Canada, to mean a running stream of fresh water, which in England is called a "brook", and in the Southern States becomes a "branch".

Creole, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XV, p.218

Middleton pressed the blushing and timid young Creole to his bosom, as his acknowledged and unalienable wife.

N.E.D. In the U.S. it is applied only to the French-speaking descendants of the early French settlers in Louisiana.

The Creole is a word signifying "native", and applies to all kinds of men and things indigenous to New Orleans. A. Oakley Hall, "Manhattaner in New Orleans", p.17.

Ba. In that city, (New Orleans) too, a creole is a native of French extraction, as pure in pedigree as a Howard; and great offence has been given by strangers applying the term to a good-looking malatto or quadroon.

Cl. in Louisiana (especially in New Orleans) the meaning of the word is restricted to a native of French descent.

crier, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VII, p.103

Do you think newspapers and town criers are needed to tell a scout what is doing on the prairies,

Trapper

crimped, a.

Vol. II, Chap. VI. p.98

That I should mistake the hide of a buffalo, scorched and crimped as it is, for the carcass of a horse!

Trapper

cross fingers,

Vol. I, Chap. X, p.148

"I thought as much," exclaimed Paul, thrusting forth his hand frankly, and with the true freedom of manner that marks an American borderer. "Let us cross fingers. . . ."

Hover

crowdy, a.

Vol. I, Chap. I, p.23

but to my taste, it is getting crowdy.

Ishmael

crying shame

Vol. II, Chap. VII, p.112

it is a crying shame, if not a sin, that so fine a youth as this should lose his scalp for two beings so worthless as ourselves.

Trapper

N.E.D. 1890 earliest example of use of crying shame.

cubit, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. IX, p.142

he had covenanted that I should swear,
(jurare per deos) not to approach nigher
than a defined number of cubits, for a
definite period of time.

Doctor

N.E.D. Obs. exc. Hist.

cudgel-player, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XV, p.216

he never failed to repulse the father with
something of the power with which a nervous
cudgel-player would deal with a skillful
master of the rapier,

N.E.D. Last example 1826.

D

dark-eye, n.

Vol. II, Chap. IX, p.145

Sing in the ears of the dark-eye.
Mahtoree

day, n.

Vol. I, Chap. VIII, p.129

at your time of day to be shooting at hawks
and buzzards,

Esther

deal, n.

Vol. I, Chap. VII, p.103

She gave me a deal of trouble,
Trapper

N.E.D. colloc.

dealt forth,

Vol. II, Chap. V, p.77

as they dealt forth the history and doctrines
of the elder times,

Trapper

deerskin, a.

Vol. I, Chap. I, p.17

In place of the usual deerskin belt, he
wore around his body a tarnished silken
sash of the most gaudy colors;

deliberation, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XII, p.194

Thank you for this small favour, old deliberation,
Hover

desert, n.

Vol. I, Chap. II, p.28

Men seldom bring anything to be concealed
into these deserts,

Trapper

N.E.D. Formerly applied more widely
to any wild, uninhabited region, including
forest-land. Obs.

desperate, a.

Vol. II, Chap. VII, p.114

this Pawnee youth and I, and my stout friend
the physician, who is a desperate warrior,
are men enough to keep the bank,

Trapper

devoted, a.

Vol. II, Chap. IX, p.141

that every additional misfortune fell with a
diminished force on her seemingly devoted head.

dew-drop, n.

Vol. I, Chap. X, p.148

and you know how to relish a genuine dew-
drop when it falls into your very mouth,
Hover

did not (didn't),

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.82

I didn't come to be robb'd of my plunder,
Ishmael

N.E.D. Colloq.

dig their graves with their teeth, Vol. 1, Chap. II, p.30

but I have eaten for the day, and am not
one of them, who dig their graves with their
teeth.

Trapper

ding, v.

Vol. 1, Chap.VII, p.106

I have come five hundred miles to find a place
where no man can ding the words of law in my
ears,

Ishmael

N.I. Colloq. or dial.

diplomatist, n.

Vol. II, Chap.XVII, p.266

they set an example of courtesy, blended with
reserve, that many a diplomatist of the most
polished court might have strove in vain to
imitate.

dirk, n.

Vol. I, Chap. X, p.147

A richly ornamented, and exceedingly dangerous
straight dirk, was stuck in a sash of red silk-
net work;

distaff, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. VIII, p.130

dropping the tow she was twisting on a distaff,

do, v.

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p.35

it won't do;

Trapper

N.I. Colloq.

doe-heart, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XIV, p.211

little reason have I to prove a doe-heart
with fourscore years on my back.

Trapper

do not (dont)

Vol. 1, Chap. VIII, p.119

he is a fool if he dont pay himself something
in the way of commission.

Ishmael

do not (don't),

Vol. 1, Chap.V, p.78

Don't call the squatter a friend of mine!

Hover

N.E.D. colloq.

dosed (dos'd), pret.

Vol. 1, Chap.XII, p.176

and you dos'd me with a drug that still
hangs about my tongue,

Esther

N.E.D. Latest example 1824.

doser, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XII, p.176

it must be a rare doser that, if it gives a heavy feel to the tongue of old Esther!

Ishmael

double-jointed, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. IV, p.56

They are a long-sided and a double-jointed breed;

Hover

dowfall, n.

Vol. II, Chap. V, p.78

But how do you account for these changes on the face of the 'arth itself, and for this dowfall of nations, .

Trapper

do ye (d'ye)

Vol. 1, Chap. VIII, p.129

D'ye think mouths can be filled, and hunger satisfied, by laziness and sleep?

Esther

N.E.D. Colloq. and dial.dress, v.

Vol. 1, Chap. XI, p.162

a set of boys who will, on occasion, sooner chop a piece of logging and dress it for the crop,

Esther

drove, p.p.

Vol. 1, Chap. XV, p.225

I have drove many a bargain in my time,
Drunkard

drummer, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XV, p.225

I believe it would be better justice to order
the drummer to pay you a visit, fellow.
Middleton

N.E.D. In the British army it was
formerly also his duty to carry out sentences
of the "cat".

drunk, pret.

Vol. II, Chap. V, p.68

did he ever tell you of the deer we took, that
night the outlyers of the accursed tribe
drove us to the caves, on the island, and
how we feasted and drunk in security?
Trapper

N.E.D. Pa.t. sing. 6 - 9 drunk plu.
5 - generally same as sing.

dwellest,

Vol. 1, Chap. XIV, p, 203

Thou knowest the character of the man with
whom thou dwellest,

Doctor

dying, p.pr.

Vol. II, Chap. VII, p.113

Then he was seen drifting away in the torrent,
and dying the turbid waters deeply with his
blood.

E

earth ('arth), n.

Vol. 1, Chap. VII, P.101

where he who loves to till the 'arth might have
received bushels in return for pints,
Trapper

eat, pret.

Vol. 1, Chap. IX, p.132

He eat, it is true, and with a relish; but
it was always with the moderation with which
age is apt to temper the appetite.

N.E.D. Pa.t. 7-9 eat.N.I. pret. . . . Obsolete and colloc.eat.elder, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. I, p.14

Thousands of the elders, of what were then
called the New States,

Eldorado, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. I, p. 15

a band of emigrants seeking for the Eldorado
of their desires.

N.E.D. This passage is cited as an
example.

electric fluid,

Vol. II, Chap.XV, p.246

as the visible horizon is often charged to
fullness by one dazzling flash of the
electric fluid.

element, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VI, p.89

The subtle element seized with avidity upon its new fuel, and in a moment forked flames were gliding among the grass,

elite, n.

Vol. II, Chap. IV, p.50

this little band of the elite in returning from its wild exhibition of savage contempt, took its place in the rear,

N.E.D. Elite. Earliest example 1823.

encamp ('camp), v.

Vol. II, Chap. XV, p.240

is it not time to 'camp.

Abiram

encamp ('camp) v.

Vol. I, Chap. I, p.24

Where I may 'camp for the night.

Ishmael

"endless river", n.

Vol. I, Chap. I, p.14

placing the "endless river" between him and the multitude,

engage, v.

Vol. II, Chap. I, p.12

I'll engage they abound in many a wholesome and honest tradition.

Trapper

N.E.D. To pledge, offer as a guarantee (one's life, honor, etc.); also to expose to risk, compromise. rare in mod. use .

exempted, p.p.

Vol. II, Chap. XIV, p.218

No one was exempted from this arrangement.

expect, v.

Vol. II, Chap. XV, p.240

The squatter found his children expecting his return,

N.E.D. To wait for; want. Obs. Last example 1822.

eye, n.

Vol. II, Chap. II, p.20

apparently in the direction in which the Pawnee had riveted his eye.

Eyes of a mole,

Vol. II, Chap. II, p.20

Eyes of a mole! as if man's eyes were not as good for names as the eyes of any other creatur' !

Trapper

F

face, v.

Vol. 1, Chap. XVII, p.251

He wants to face us out of sight and reason,
Trapper

N.E.D. to face out of latest example
1601.

fair and foul,

Vol. II, Chap. XI, p.179

but fair and foul has coloured me darker than
the skin of a fox.

Trapper

fair-weather, g.

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.82

"This is brave talking," he at length grumbled;
"but to my judgment, too lawyer-like, for a
straight forward, fair-weather, and foul-weather
hunter."

Ishmael

Fall, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. VIII, p.115

the verdure of summer giving place more rapidly
to the brown and party-coloured livery of the
fall.

N.E.D. In U.S. the ordinary name for
autumn.

family, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. VI, p.90

until the family were thoroughly "acclimated."

fantsatic, a.

Vol. II, Chap. XV, p.236

The larger, ragged and fantsatic branches still
obtruded themselves abroad,

Father of Rivers, n.

Vol. I, Chap. VIII, p.116

which found its way, after winding a vast
distance through the plains, into one of the
numerous tributaries of the Father of Rivers.

fatted, p.a.

Vol. I, Chap. I, p.20

in the same sluggish manner that an over
fatted beast would have yielded to the
downward pressure.

N.E.D. Somewhat arch.

fawn (fa'n), n.

Vol. I, Chap. II, p.35

the very fa'ns play in open view of us,
Trapper

fear, v.

Vol. II, Chap. VIII, p.127

but I fear me there is small hope left for the
Pawnee!

Trapper

N.E.D. Now only arch. in phrase I dear me.

feel, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XII, p.176

it must be a rare doser that, if it gives a heavy feel to the tongue of old Esther!

Ishmael

N.E.D. Rare.

fellow, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VI, p.99

There is the congress-man in our district, and that tonguey little fellow, who puts out the paper in our county,

Hover

N.E.D. Earliest example 1861.

N.I. Chiefly colloq.

female, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. I, p.18

Of the females, there were but two who had arrived at womanhood;

N.E.D. As a mere synonym for "woman". Now commonly avoided by good writers except with contemptuous implication.

female, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. XIV, p.200

she endeavoured to recall to her confused faculties some one of the many tales of female heroism,

fever-and-agy, a.

Vol. II, Chap. XIV, p. 224

I will engage to get the brats acclimated to a fever-and-agy bottom in a week,

Esther

Probably a colloquial or dialectal variant of fever-ague.

field, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XV, p.236

There were, it is true, in general, the same wide and empty wastes, the same rich and extensive bottoms, and that wild and singular combination of swelling fields and of nakedness,

N.E.D. Open land as opposed to woodland; a stretch of open land; a plain. Obs.

filled (fill'd), p.a.

Vol. II, Chap. I, p.7

and then the land will be a peopled desert, from the shores of the main sea to the foot of the Rocky Mountains; fill'd with all the abominations and craft of man,

Trapper

fixen, n.

Vol. I, Chap. II, p.30

your fixen seem none of the best for such a calling.

Ishmael

N.E.D. This passage is cited as an example.

flat, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VII, p.109

The naturalist placed a foot in the frail vessel, as an elephant will try a bridge, or a horse is often seen to make a similar experiment, before he will trust the whole of his corporeal treasure on the dreaded flat,

N.E.D. Earliest example 1849.

fleece, n.

Vol. I, Chap. II, p.33

The woman lost a fleece or two from the next year's shearing,

Ishmael

flight, n.

Vol. I, Chap. V, p.76

a rushing sound was heard, similar to that which might be expected to precede the passage of a flight of buffaloes,

flint, n.

Vol. I, Chap. III, p.38

He raised his rifle while he spoke, and assured himself of the state of its flint, as well as of the priming,

"flowers", n.

Vol. II, Chap. XII, p.190

The trapper perceived in this arrangement the reluctance of Mahtoree to trust his newly found "flowers" beyond the reach of his eye,

fog, n.

Vol. II, Chap. IV, p.65

but keep on the old fog to deaden the sounds.
Trapper

N.E.D. Obs.

Cl." In the Canadian Maritime Provinces,
last year's grass standing in the fields
through the winter."

fog, n.

Vol. I, Chap. III, p.50

their progress through the fog of the autumnal
grass, was swift and silent;

foot it,

Vol. II, Chap. XVI, p.255

do you mean to foot it to the settlements,
Hover

foot up,

Vol. II, Chap. XIV, p.223

It is time to foot up the small reckoning, that
has been running on for some time atwixt us.
Ishmael

N.E.D. Chiefly colloq. and dial.forage-cap, n.

Vol. I, Chap.X, p.147

He wore a forage-cap of fine blue cloth,

N.E.D. Earliest example 1844.

fortiter in re,

Vol. 1, Chap. VI, p.96

there was a moment, I acknowledge, when the fortiter in re faltered before so terrible an enemy;

Doctor

fought (fou't) n.p.

Vol. 1, Chap. XIII, p.190

The boy has been set upon by the savages in a body, and has fou't like a hero as he was,
Abiram

fought (fou't), pret.

Vol. 1, Chap.V, p.85

I fou't my last battle,
Trapper

foul-weather, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.82

"This is brave talking," he at length grumbled, "but to my judgment, too lawyer-like, for a straight forward, fair-weather, and foul-weather hunter."

Ishmael

fowling-piece, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. IV, p.65

Each man laid aside the light fowling-piece which under the name of a carbine, he carried in virtue of his rank;

Frencher, n.

Vol. II, Chap. I, p. 7

Though it is with the Frenchers, and not with the men who claim to own the Mexicos, that my people have bargained.

Trapper

N.E.D. contemptuous. rare. First example 1845.

fry, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XV, p.237

and the younger fry were wrangling about their simple dishes,

N.E.D. Now obs. exc. as transf, from, "Young fishes just produced from spawn";

fusee, n.

Vol. I, Chap. XIV, p.202

now raised a white handkerchief on the end of his own fusee,

N.E.D. Latest example 1813.

G

gainsay, v.

Vol. II, Chap. XIV, p.225

that I did not give the most civil treatment to your pots and pails, I am not going to gainsay.

Hover

N.E.D. Now a purely literary word, and slightly arch.

gaol, n.

Vol. I, Chap. XII, p.184

and set up for showmen, around the court-houses and gaols of Kentucky,

Abner

gear, n.

Vol. I, Chap. II, p.26

he quietly proceeded to release the cattle from the gears.

generous, a.

Vol. II, Chap. XIII, p.202

with an elasticity of step and a loftiness of air, that would have done no discredit to the highest trained and most generous charger.

N.E.D. Of animals: Of good breed or stock.
Obs.

genus, n.

Vol. I, Chap. IX, p.138

You are of the class, mammalia; order, primates; genus, homo; species, Kentucky.

Doctor

gobbler, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XVI, p.234

come and look nature boldly in the face, and not go sneaking any longer, among the prairie grass and mullein tops, like a gobbler nibbling for grasshoppers.

Hover

I. In the West a turkey, and especially a turkey-cock.

Th. "A turkey cock."

B. "A male turkey; a turkey cock."

good, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. VIII, p.119

I have been robbed of my stock, and I have a scheme to make myself as good as before, by taking hoof for hoof;

Ishmael

Good Spirit,

Vol. II, Chap. III, p.42

then I slept happily where my eyes could look up through the branches of the pines and the beeches, to the very dwelling of the Good Spirit of my people.

Trapper

Good Spirits,

Vol. II, Chap. VIII, p.131

He found the bones of his father on the hunting-ground of the Osages, and he has sent them to the prairies of the Good Spirits.

Hard-Heart

gotten, p.p.

Vol. II, Chap. II, p.23

and when he has gotten his sirloin or his steak,
Trapper

Th. Archaic in England, but common in the
U.S. It has not, however, driven out the
participle got.

gotten, p.p.

Vol. II, Chap. X, p.158

where ar' ye gotten to.

Esther

grace, n.

Vol. II, Chap. IX, p.145

and addressing the trapper she demanded, with
the dignity of an offended gentlewoman, though
with her accustomed grace of, to what circum-
stance they owed this extraordinary and
unexpected visit.

"grace of God"

Vol. I, Chap. V, p.78

and there lay the people's officer at its roots,
with a hole directly through the "grace of God"
which he carried in his jacket pocket covering
his heart,

Hover

Ba. This remarkable expression for a writ,
I find used in a letter written at Philadelphia,
in 1772, addressed to William Ellery, a signer
of the Declaration of Independence:- Ray Sands
is truly long-winded; and, if jogging him will
not do after trying him again, thou must put the
"Grace of God" upon his back, which I would
chuse to avoid, if he would pay without.

grandfather (grand'ther), n. Vol. 1, Chap. X, p.155

I see your grand'ther was just,
Trapper

grandfather (gran'ther), n. Vol. II, Chap. XVII, p.270

I remember you with the whole of your company;
ay, and your gran'ther, that went before you.
Trapper

granivorous, a. Vol. 1, Chap. VI, p.98

"That, carnivorous," he continued, glancing
his eye at the open page of his tablets;
" this, granivorous; . . ."
Doctor

Great Father, n. Vol. 1, Chap. X, p.160

it is strange that one so young and prosperous,
and bearing the commission of the Great Father,
should be moving among the prairies, without even
a camp-colourman to do his biddings!
Trapper

Great Spirit, n. Vol. II, Chap. 1, p.8

Why then should I wish to meet the Great Spirit,
face to face, while his countenance is dark
upon me!
Trapper

great white father,

Vol. 1, Chap. IV, p.60

Why can the children of my great white father
never find room on it?

Mahtoree

grey-head, n.

Vol. II, Chap. IV, p.62

Listen to me, grey-head, and count my words,
Mahtoree

N.E.D. Only example is dated 1702.

grum, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. XII, p.176

"No more of your doctoring for me!" cried
the grum Esther;

grunter, n.

Vol 1, Chap. V, p.81

I believe even the grunters, foot sore as they
be, are ploughing the prairie.

Ishmael

H

half-and-half, n.

Vol. I, Chap. III, p.38

the half-and-halves, that one meets, in these distant districts, are altogether more barbarous than the real savage.

Trapper

half-breed, n.

Vol. I, Chap. X, p.146

and the metiffs or half-breeds, who claimed to be ranked in the class of white men, were scattered among the different Indian tribes,

Note in Crowell Edition, p.25 - Half-breeds: men born of Indian women by white fathers. This race has much of the depravity of civilization without the virtues of the savage.

hand-gallop, n.

Vol. II, Chap. IV, p.60

As the Tetons however rode at a hand-gallop, but a moment of time was necessary, after the ass began to walk, to remove them effectually from before the vision of his rider.

handy, a.

Vol. II, Chap. XIV, p.226

or of the parson if one happens to be handy,
Hover

hang out the cloth,

Vol. 1, Chap. VIII, p.129

Well shall hang out the cloth, if any of the
red-skins show themselves,

Esther

'happy hunting-grounds,'

Vol. II, Chap. XII, p.192

court-houses are the 'happy hunting-grounds',
as a red skin would-say, for them that are born
with gifts no better than such as lie in the
tongue.

Trapper

N.E.D. Earliest example 1836.

hard by, prep.

Vol. II, Chap. VIII, p.128

a mighty people who once lived on the shores
of the Salt-lake, hard by the rising sun?

Trapper

N.E.D. Somewhat arch.

harken (or hearken) ye,(harkoe), Vol. 1, Chap. VIII,p.118

Harkoe, friend; I'm not much of a husbandman,
Ishmael

has, y.

Vol. II, Chap. X, p.168

Many a dreary winter and scorching summer has
gone by since I have turned, to the right hand
or to the left, to add an hour to a life that
has already stretched beyond fourscore years.

Trapper

has not (hasn't), Vol. 1, Chap. XVI, p.237

hasn't she pay'd him
Hover

hath, v. Vol. II, Chap. V, p.78

To my weak judgment it hath ever seemed as
though his gifts are not equal to his wishes.
Trapper

N.E.D. arch. 3rd pers. sing.pres. ind.
of Have.

he, pron. Vol. II, Chap. VI, p.92

the Lord, he only knows,
Trapper

headed, p.p. Vol. 1, Chap. II, p.32

a real river must be crossed; not headed,
like a bear in a country hunt.
Abiram

Note in Crowell Edition, p.18:- There
is a practice in the new countries, to assem-
ble the men of a large district, sometimes of
an entire county, to exterminate the beasts
of prey.

heark ye (heark'ee), Vol. 1, Chap. XVII, p.243

Now, heark'ee, old trapper;
Hover

hectorer, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XII, p.175

you are a hectorer with the boys,
Esther

N.E.D. This passage is quoted as an
example.

hem ('em), pron.

Vol. 1, Chap. XI, p.162

and he gives 'em a deed of the plantation,
Esther

N.E.D. The commoner pron. of 3rd pers.
pl.obj. (dat. and acc.) in OE. and ME. was
Hem. surviving colloq. and dial. as 'em.

herbal, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. IX, p.138

it was a prolific week, as my herbal and
catalogues shall one day prove to the world.
Doctor

N.E.D. Obs. exc. Hist.

here-away, adv.

Vol. II, Chap. II, p.28

you may see them here-away,
Trapper

N.E.D. Now dial. and U.S.

hereaway, adv.

Vol. 1, Chap. III, p.40

Or do you actually live, hereaway, in the
prairies?

Hover

he will (he'll),

Vol. 1, Chap. XVII, p.242

he'll need no finger board to tell him which way his road lies.

Hover

hiation, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XI, p.168

It is sufficiently exhibited in the tendency to hiation,

Doctor

N.E.D. rare.

hist, interj.

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.80

Hist! crouch again into the grass,

Trapper

hoity-toity, interj.

Vol. II, Chap. X, p.157

Hoity-toity; who set an Indian up for a maker and breaker of the rights of wedded wives!

Esther

homo, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XVII, p.246

A homo is certainly a homo,

Doctor

hommony, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p.30

with a mouth filled nearly to overflowing
with the delicious hommony, prepared by his
skilful though repulsive spouse.

N.E.D. Of American Indian origin.

This passage is cited as an example.

Note in Crowell Edition, p.15: -

Hommony is a dish composed chiefly of cracked
corn, or maize.

hommony-mortar, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p.29

The young men ... were all engaged ... some ..
others in plying the heavy pestle of a moveable
hommony-mortar,

honest corner,

Vol. II, Chap. XIV, p.220

but he has listened to my words, and his mind
has got round again into its honest corner.

Esther

honester, a.

Vol. II, Chap. XIV, p.222

so have you broken into my encampment, aiding
and abetting, as they have called many an
honester bargain, in destroying my property.

Ishmael

hoof, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. VIII, p.119

I have been robbed of my stock, and I have a
scheme to make myself as good as before, by
taking hoof for hoof;

Ishmael.

hoof, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.81

Then the woman has not a cloven hoof for her
dairy or her loom,

Ishmael

hoofless, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.76

The reptiles have left him as hoofless as a
beaver!

Trapper

horn, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. III, p.42

and my character against a horn of powder, that
the bird would be hanging head downwards in five
minutes,

Hover

horrification, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VII, p.105

what have I not known the young, and the deli-
cate, and the virtuous, and the modest, to
undergo, in my time, among the horrifications
and circumventions of Indian warfare!

Trapper

N.E.D. This passage cited as an example.

horrified, a.

Vol. II, Chap. VII, p.103

for good-looking and noble-looking he is,
though a little horrified perhaps with paint -

Trapper

horror-struck, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. XV, p. 226

"Stolen!" groaned the horror-struck husband.

hot-blood, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XVII, p.241

But what has one so near his time to do with
ill-blood and hot-blood at his heart!

Trapper

hounds of the law,

Vol. 1, Chap. VIII, p.126

If the hounds of the law have put their bills
on the trees and stumps of the clearings,

Ishmael

howsomever, coni.

Vol. 1, Chap. VII, p.103

Howsomever, these are thoughts that are more
likely to rise in him who has seen the folly
of eighty seasons,

Trapper

N.E.D. Now dial. or vulgar.

hug, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. IV, p.56

he who takes the measure of one of them on the
ground must be a workman at a hug.

Hover

N.E.D. Latest example 1827.

hugh,

Vol. II, Chap. IX, p. 146

"Hugh!" ejaculated the attentive Mahtoree

humanity hunter,

Vol. I, Chap. XV, p.226

I have been a humanity hunter.

Drunkard

hump, n.

Vol. I, Chap. IX, p.131

discussing the merits of a savoury bison's hump,

hunter, n.

Vol. I, Chap. II, p.30

You are mistaken, friend, in calling me a hunter; I am nothing better than a trapper.

Trapper

hunting-shirt, n.

Vol. I, Chap. X, p.147

His body was enveloped in a hunting-shirt of dark green,

Bartlett. A blouse or shirt originally made of deerskin and highly ornamented, worn by trappers and hunters as well as by travellers on the Western frontier.

husking, a.

Vol. II, Chap. I, p.13

as if it were Ellen herself getting her shining hair ready for a dance or a husking frolic!

Hover

I

I, pron.

Vol. II, Chap. II, p.28

if you should once get fairly beset by a brood
of grizzly bears, as happened to Hector and I,
Trapper

I am (I'm),

Vol. II, Chap. X, p.153

that I'm tired of carrying on a discourse
with fingers and thumbs, instead of a tongue,
ar' a natural fact;

Ishmael

if-so-be,

Vol. II, Chap. VIII, p.127

if-so-be they will not trade on these conditions,
Hover

N.B.D. Arch. and dial.

I have (I've),

Vol. I, Chap. XVII, p.243

I've stood in my thinnest cottons
Hover

Indian, n.

Vol. II, Chap. X, p.153

So you'll play linguister and put my words
into up-and-down Indian,

Ishmael

Indian heaven,

Vol. II, Chap. VI, p.97

and happy have they been if their own souls
are not now skirting along the path which leads
to the Indian heaven.

Trapper

indulgence, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. I, p.14

broke up from the enjoyment of their hard-
earned indulgences.

in her eye,

Vol. 1, Chap. VIII, p.120

I hope it is an army of red-skins she has in
her eye;

Ishmael

N.E.D. Obs. in lit. sense.

in making,

Vol. II, Chap. VI, p.82

These several dispositions were not long in
making, and the little group was soon seated
about a repast

in order to,

Vol. 1, Chap. XIII, p.190

the corpse itself should be examined in order
to a more accurate knowledge of its injuries.

N.E.D. Obs. Latest example 1629.

inside-over, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. IX, p.136

turn the piece round and find your inside-overs.

Trapper

interrogatory, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XVII, p. 245

thy interrogatory might have a tendency to embroil us in an angry disputation.

Doctor

interval, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p. 34

... and deceptive light from a new moon, was playing over the endless waves of the prairie, tipping the swells with gleams of brightness, and leaving the interval land in deep shadow.

Ba. Interval or Intervale, Low or alluvial land on the margins of rivers. So called in New England. Similar land is called, in the Western States, "bottom land."-Worcester.

is, v.

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p. 31

food and clothing be all that is needed;

Trapper

is it (is't),

Vol. 1, Chap. XVII, p.249

What is't?

Trapper

is not (isn't),

Vol. II, Chap. 1, p. 13

Isn't this a real trotter, old trapper,
Hover

it is (it's),

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p.28

It's an honest regulation, friend,
Abiram

it is like ('tis like),

Vol. 1, Chap. VII, p.102

You've been in York, 'tis like?
Trapper

N.E.D. Now only dial. Latest example
1816.

it is ('tis),

Vol. 1, Chap. IV, p.58

'Tis the gift of youth to be rash and heady,
Trapper

it was ('twas),

Vol. 1, Chap. VIII, p.129

'twas to frighten the hawk
Ishmael

it will ('twill),

Vol. 1, Chap. XIV, p.211

'twill prove a treacherous hold!
Trapper

it would ('twould),

Vol. 1, Chap. XIV, p.209

'twould be but a broken arm or a bruised head
at the most.

Middleton

I will (I'll),

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p. 85

I'll warrant ye,

Ishmael

J

jerked, a.

Vol. II, Chap. I, p.11.

dropping a piece of jerked bison's meat,

N.E.D. Corrupted from American Sp.
chargue-a .judgmatical, a.

Vol. II, Chap. XII, p.195

you have some judgmatical notions in these
matters.

Hover.

N.E.D. Colloc.junkett, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XI, p.162

ar' you keeping your junketts,
Ishmaeljusjurandum, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. IX, p. 142

Your jusjurandum, or oath, is a serious matter,
Doctor

K

keel, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p.32

it must be a considerable stream, and deep
enough for a keel, from top to bottom.

Asa

Kentuck, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. VII, p.106

" . . he shall feel the contents of old
Kentuck," slapping his rifle, in a manner that
could not be easily misconstrued,

Ishmael

Kentucky (Kentuck), n.

Vol. 1, Chap. VII, p.102

It lies ag'in the outer edge of old Kentuck,
I reckon;

Hover

Th. A familiar designation for Kentucky,
which in early days was spelled Kentucke.

kin, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XVII, p.243

afore any of the squatter's kin will venture
to molest us.

Trapper

N.E.D. Now rare.

knew (knowed, know'd), n.p. Vol. 1, Chap. VII, p.113

I might have know'd it!

Trapper

knife, n. Vol. II, Chap. XIII, p.204

Each had his spear, his bow, his quiver, his
little battle-axe and his knife;

knock-down and drag-out, Vol. 1, Chap. IV, p. 55

Ay, it was thinking of what you call conse-
quences, Ellen, that prevented me from putting
the matter, at once, to yonder red devil, and
making it a real knock-down and drag-out!

Hover

Ba. A fight carried to extremities.

Cl. In pugilistic circles, a fight carried
to extremities, as when one of the contestants
has to be carried out of the arena

knowest, Vol. 1, Chap. XI, p.172

I have been journeying in this desert, as
thou knowest,

Doctor

L

lance, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VIII, p.121

The shield, the quiver, the lance and the bow of its master, were to be seen suspended from a light post before the opening, or door of each tenement.

lappells, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. X, p.147

Beneath this, however, were visible the collar and lappells of a jacket,

lead, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p. 31

to barter for a horn of powder or a bar of lead.
Trapper

learning (l'arning), n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XIII, p.195

he has not the sin of wasted l'arning to answer for.

Esther

least, adv. compar.

Vol. 1, Chap. IX, p.132

The one to whose knowledge in the culinary art the other was indebted for his banquet, seemed the least disposed of the two to profit by his own skill,

leech, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.89

He had no respect for any learning, except that of the leech;

N.E.D. Now arch. (chiefly poetic) or jocular.

legend, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XV, p. 213

a detachment led by the young soldier who has become so busy an actor in the scenes of our legend.

N.E.D. A story, history, account, Obs.

let, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XIV, p.227

she shall have no let or hindrance from me.
Ishmael

N.E.D. Now arch., most common in phrase let or hindrance.

lick, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.78

to rout the unlawful settlers who had gathered nigh the buffalo lick in old Kentucky?
Hover

N.E.D. This passage cited as an example.

light, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XI, p. 161

Here he sat lolloping about the rock from light
until noon,

Esther

light-faced (light-fac'd), a.

Vol. II, Chap. I, p.11

The Loups and the light-fac'd Red-skins are
again friends.

Trapper

light-hair, n.

Vol. II, Chap. IX, p.146

Tell the light-hair, that she too may stay in
the lodge of a brave,

Mahtoree

line, y.

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.78

I had lined a beautiful swarm that very day
into the hollow of a dead beech,

Hover

N.E.D. This passage is cited as an example.

linen, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XIII, p.198

The loosened linen felt its influence and
tottered;

linguacious, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. XI, p.169

On the summit, Obed fully expected to encounter Esther, of whose linguacious powers, he had too often been furnished with the most sinister proofs.

N.E.D. Obs. rare.

linguister, n.

Vol. II, Chap. IX, p.135

there are linguisters in the settlements that can do still more.

Trapper

N.E.D. Now only U.S.

lining, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. X, p. 148

do you understand lining a bee from this open place into a wood,

Hover

lodgment, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XIV, p.211

who by this time had made a complete lodgment among the crags of the citadel.

N.E.D. Now rare.

logger, n.

Vol. II, Chap. I, p.7

and it will not be long before an accursed band of choppers and loggers will be following on their heels,

Trapper

N.E.D. This passage cited as an example.

logging, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XI, p.162

a set of boys who will, on occasion, sooner chop a piece of logging and dress it for the crop,

Esther

lolloping, p.pr.

Vol. 1, Chap. XI, p. 161

Here he sat lolloping about the rock from light till noon,

Esther

N.E.D. Loppop, v. Colloq.

long, adv.

Vol. 1, Chap. X, p.148

How long ar' you from the settlements, pray?
Hover

Long-Knife, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.75

If the Tetons lose their great chief by the hands of the Long-Knives, old shall die as well as young!

Weucha

Th. Long-knives, big-knives. Names applied by the Indiana to the white men, especially to the Virginians.

Note in Crowell Edition, p.58:-
The whites are so called by the Indians, from their swords.

long rifle,

Vol. 1, Chap. XVII, p.240

A long rifle would have thrown a bullet from the height, on which the squatter now stood, into the very cover where the fugitives, who had wrought all this mischief, were clustered.

Long-river, n.

Vol. II, Chap. I, p.7

And warriors are going up the Long-river, to see that they have not been cheated in what they have bought?

Hard Heart

long-sided, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. IV, p.56

They are a long-sided and double-jointed breed;

Hover

N.E.D. Obs. Last example 1664.

looked (look'd), p.p.

Vol. 1, Chap. XVII, p. 247

all that time have I look'd at the growing and dying trees,

Trapper

loth, a.

Vol. II, Chap. XIV, p.229

and I should be loth to hear she ever came to harm.

Ishmael

N.E.D. Spelling Loath more common.

Louisianian, a.

Vol. I, Chap. XV, p. 214

Middleton was among the first, of the new possessors of the soil, who became captive to the charms of a Louisianian lady.

Loup-river, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VIII, p. 131

These legs are old, but they may yet carry me to the forks of the Loup-river.

Trapper

lived (liv'd), p.p.

Vol. II, Chap. V, p. 75

I have liv'd long

Trapper

M

make good,

Vol. 1, Chap. XIV, p. 201

Esther had already, on one occasion, made good the log tenement of Ishmael against an inroad of savages;

Th. 1911

mainly, adv.

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p.30

and I must say, the report was mainly true; Ishmael

make out,

Vol. 1, Chap. VIII, p.126

I'm no great performer with the knife, but, on an occasion, could make out, myself, to cut off a slande- -

Asa

N.E.D. Chiefly U.S.

man, n.

Vol. II, Chap. V, p.68

never, before nor since, have I seen human man in such a state of mortal despair as that very savage,

Trapper.

mankind, n.

Vol. II, Chap. V, p.76

Mankind twist and turn the rules of the Lord, to suit their own wickedness,

Trapper

Master of Life,

Vol. II, Chap. 1, p.17

Your warriors think the Master of Life has
made the whole earth white.

Hard Heart

mayhap, adv.

Vol. II, Chap. XVI, p.255

No great bargain, mayhap;

Trapper

N.I. Archaic or dial.

me, pron.

Vol. 1, Chap. III, p.41

Me! I never took even a slinking mink or a
paddling musk-rat in a cage;

Hover

meadow, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VI, p.90

That time is needed to cool the meadow,

Trapper

medal, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. VII, p.106

though he wore the medal of Washington, himself;

Ishmael

Note in Crowell Edition, p.85 : - The
American government created chiefs among the
western tribes, and decorated them with silver
medals bearing the impression of the different
presidents. That of Washington is the most
prized.

medicine, n.

Vol. II, Chap. IV, p.51

Look ahead, lad, as if ye were talking of our medicines, or perhaps praising the Teton beasts.
Trapper

N.E.D. Used to represent the terms applied in their native languages by North American Indians to denote any object or ceremony supposed by them to possess a magical influence. Examples 1805 to 1877.

medicine, n.

Vol. II, Chap. IV, p.61

the ways of a great medicine are not like the ways of other men.

Trapper

medicine-bag, n.

Vol. II, Chap. IX, p.130

encircled in a sort of magical ring of spears, shields, lances and arrows, all of which had in their time done good service, was suspended the mysterious and sacred medicine-bag.

N.E.D. Earliest example 1809.

melee, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XIII, p.210

The victors pushed their success to the opposite shore and gained the solid ground in the melee of the fight.

N.E.D. Mêlée

Menahashah, n.

Vol. II, Chap. IV, p. 57

He had heard of a great council, at which the Menahashah, or Long-knives, and the Washsheomantiqua, or Spaniards, had smoked together,

merciless (marciless), a.

Vol. II, Chap. XI, p.180

as you seem to know little of the merciless intentions of your own people.

Trapper

metheglin, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. IX, p.132

If I had but a cup of metheglin,

Hover

metiff, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. X, p.146

and the metiffs or half-breeds, who claimed to be ranked in the class of white men, were scattered among the different Indian tribes,

N.E.D. This passage is cited as an example.

Mexican, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.81

a foal that is worth thirty of the brightest Mexicans that bear the face of the King of Spain.

Ishmael

N.E.D. Only example 1890.

Mexicos, n.

Vol. II, Chap. 1, p.7

Though it is with the Frenchers, and not with the men who claim to own the Mexicos, that my people have bargained.

Trapper

mien, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XV, p.241

This very steadiness of mien was a thousand times more alarming and hopeless than any violence could have proved.

N.E.D. Only literary.

milk, n.

Vol. II, Chap. IV, p.58

Has Weucha drunk of the milk of the Big-knives today?

Trapper

Mississippi, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. 1, p.14

plunged into the thickets that fringed the right bank of the Mississippi,

N.I. Algonquain, missi, great + sene, water.

moccasin, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. X, p.147

His lower limbs were protected by buckskin leggings, and his feet by the ordinary Indian moccasins.

N.E.D. Powhatan mo'ckasin, Odjibwa, ma'kisin, etc.

moon, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XI, p.173

You know it is many moons since he started
for the blessed prairies;

Mahtoree

morally, adv.

Vol. II, Chap. V, p.69

if the thing was not morally impossible,
Trapper

mortal, a.

Vol. II, Chap. V, p.68

never, before nor since, have I seen human
man in such a state of mortal despair as that
very savage, and yet he scorned to speak, or
to cry out, or to own his forlorn condition!

Trapper

mullein-top, n.

Vol. II, Chap. V, p.71

growing up out of the grass like two
mullein-tops!

Hover

mullin, n.

Vol. I, Chap. VIII, p.119

you are no better than a thistle or a mullin;
Ishmael

mustered (muster'd), p.p.

Vol. 1, Chap. XVI, p.234

when the time shall come, that all are to be
muster'd face to face,

Trapper

my word for it,

Vol. II, Chap. V, p.70

My word for it but they would find out their
blunder at the first mouthful!

Hover

N

named (nam'd), pret.

Vol. 1, Chap.XVI, p.234

the Delawares nam'd me for my eyes,
Trapper

nap, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XI, p.165

we shall have the boy coming up, grumbling
for his meal, and hungry as a bear after
his winter's nap.

Esther

nation, n.

Vol. II, Chap.1, p.7

The runners, from the people on the Big-river,
tell us that your nation have traded with the
Tawney-faces

Hard Heart

nation, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VII, p.101

When the Pawnee war whoop is in their ears,
the whole nation howls.

Hard Heart

nature (natur'), n.

Vol.1; Chap. V, p.77

natur' has cheated him of the pleasure of
stripping the 'arth of its lawful trees.

Trapper

nature (natur'), n. Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.77

Red natur' is red natur',
Trapper

near, adv. Vol. 1, Chap. XVI, p.233

Here she has remained for near an hour,

necessary, n. Vol. 1, chap.1, p.23

can you tell a traveller where he may find
necessaries for the night?
Ishmael

need, v. Vol. II, Chap. VI, p.98

but if a fight needs be, it is always wise
to get the first shot.

Trapper

need not (need'n't), Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.78

Now, Ellen, you need'n't be troubled;
Hover

nigh by, Vol. II, Chap. II, p.21

that Pawnee has a troop of his people in
some of the hollows, nigh by;

Trapper

nigher, adv.

Vol. 1, Chap. 1, p.19

As the day drew nigher to a close,

N.E.D. Near. adv. and a. which in all senses has taken the place of nigh except in archaic or dialect use.

nighest, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. I, p.23

What may a man call the distance, from this place to the nighest point on the main river?
Ishmael

N.E.D. This passage is cited as an example.

none, pron.

Vol. 1, Chap. XVII, p.241

after running his eye, over the different individuals who gathered about him, in order to see that none were missing.

non-effect, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. XIV, p. 203

I hereby pronounce, a certain compactum entered into and concluded between Ishmael Bush, squatter, and Obed Battius, M.D. to be incontinently null and of non-effect.

Doctor

nose, v.

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p. 35

what is it nosing, now?

Trapper

notorious, a.

Vol. II, Chap. XVII, p.263

Paul is actually at this moment a member of the lower branch of the legislature of the State where he has long resided; and he is even notorious for making speeches that have a tendency to put that deliberative body in a good humour,

0

old woman,

Vol. 1, Chap. XI, p.163

So, old woman, you can give us a few steaks
of the venison,

Ishmael

order, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. IX, p.138

You are of the class, mammalia; order, primates;
genus, homo; species, Kentucky.

Doctor

outlyer, n.

Vol. II, Chap. V, p.68

did he ever tell you of the deer we took, that
night the outlyers of the accursed tribe drove
us to the caves,

Trapper

out-lying, n.

Vol. II, Chap. V, p.77

in the more peaceful hours of our out-lyings,
Trapper

out-lying, p. pr.

Vol. 1, Chap. XII, p.174

Here has the live-long night gone by, and he
out-lying on the prairie,

Ishmael

overly, adv.

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p.28

to my eye it seems not to be overly peopled.

Abiram

N.E.D. In O.E., Sc. and U.S. This passage is cited as an example

overset, v.

Vol. II, Chap. VI, p.88

with a violence that betrayed the utter intellectual confusion which had overset the equanimity of his mind.

P

pack, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. 1, p.17

In addition to the pack and the rifle which were slung at his back,

paid, payed (pay'd), p.p.

Vol. 1, Chap. XVI, p.237

hasn't she pay'd him in teaching the young devils to read their bible,

Hover

pale-face, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. IV, p.55

They are too cunning to believe that a woman of the "pafe-faces" is to be found so far from the settlements,

Trapper

pale-face, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. IV, p.58

Have the pale-faces eaten their own buffaloes,
Weucha

parched (parch'd), p.p.

Vol. 1, Chap. IX, p.134

this youth can give you carn, parch'd till it be whiter than the upland snow;

Trapper

parson, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XIV, p.226

Some think it is enough to say yes and no, to the questions of the magistrate, or of the parson if one happens to be handy,

Hover.

Partisan, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XVII, p.265

As it drew nigh, the Partisan of the Loups was seen at its head

Note in Crowells Edition, p.437:- The Americans and the Indians have adopted several words which each believe peculiar to the language of the other. Thus "Squaw", "papoose", or child, wigwam, etc., etc., though it is doubtful whether they belong at all to any Indian dialect, are much used by both white and red men in their intercourse. Many words are derived from the French in this species of prairie nomaic. Partisan, brave, etc., are of the number.

partisan, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XVI, p.253

The heart of Middleton had beat quick, as the young partisan alluded to the charms of Inez,

passado, n.

Vol. I, Chap. XV, p.217

but with these homebred implements he never failed to repulse the father with something of the power with which a nervous cudgel-player would deal with a skilful master of the rapier, setting at nought his passados by the direct and unanswerable arguments of a broken head and a shivered weapon.

N.E.D. Obs. Last example 1830.

passed (pass'd), pret.

Vol. I, Chap. XI, p.163

He pass'd the spot where I found the marks,
Abiram

peace-runner, n.

Vol. II, Chap. I, p.16

They, who wade the Missouri, are the warriors of my great father, who has sent them on his message, but we are peace-runners.

Trapper

pegged, p.p.

Vol. I, Chap. II, p.27

Large folds of cloth were next drawn out of the vehicle, and after being spread around the whole, were pegged to the earth in such a manner as to form a tolerably capacious and an exceedingly convenient tent.

peltry, n.

Vol. I, Chap. II, p.31

I see but little difference whether a man gets his peltry by the rifle or by the trap.

Abiram

physic, n.

Vol. I, Chap. XVII, p.246

Physic may do for such as relish it;

Trapper

N.E.D. When used to mean medicine,
Now chiefly colloq.

physicianer, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XII, p.192

It is little that a Red-skin would care to have a physicianer at his hurts,

Trapper

N.E.D. Dial. = physician.

piebald (pieball'd), n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XVII, p.249

One would think the man was craz'd, with his
enthralled looks and pieball'd colors!

Trapper

piece, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. 1, p.21

who loosened the stock of his piece and
brought it dexterously to the front,

pinched (pinch'd), p.p.

Vol. 1, Chap. XVII, p.247

the leaf falls when it is pinch'd by the frosts,
Trapper

pitch, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.77

the traveller may just make his pitch
where he is;

Trapper

N.E.D. Obs. rare. Example 1791.

pitched, p.p.

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.78

there were fifty others who had pitched in
that neighborhood with just the same
assistance from the law.

Hover

N.E.D. Now rare or arch.

plains of Kentucky,

Vol. II, Chap. XVII, p.262

but shortly after he led his bride into the
plains of Kentucky,

plentier, a.

Vol. II, Chap. VI, p.93

cannon and plentier than the rifle used to be,
Trapper

N.E.D. Now chiefly colloq.

plunder, n.

Vol. I, Chap. II, p.31

You seem to have but little plunder, stranger,
for one who is far abroad,

Ishmael

N.E.D. U.S. local. This passage is
cited as an example.

Note in Crowell Edition, p.17 :- The
cant word for luggage in the western states
of America is "plunder". The term might easily
mislead one as to the character of the people
who, notwithstanding their pleasant use of so
expressive a word, are, like the inhabitants
of all new settlements, hospitable and honest.
Knavery of the description conveyed by "plunder"
is chiefly found in regions more civilized.

poh, interj.

Vol. I, Chap. VIII, p.129

Poh! 'twas to frighten the hawk

Ishmael

N.E.D. Latest example 1824.

portrayed (pourtrayed), pret. Vol. 1, Chap. XIII, p.196

There were faint and indistinct images in the minds of two or three of the oldest, which pourtrayed the father himself, as ready to imitate the example of Abraham,

N.E.D. Latest example of this spelling 1800.

pouch, n. Vol. 1, Chap. III, p.41

when I had much better have kept my powder in the horn and the lead in its pouch.

Trapper

power, n. Vol. II, Chap. X, p.158

Let your copper-coloured minx come forth, and shew her tawney beauty before the face of a woman who has heard more than one church bell, and seen a power of real quality,

Esther

N.E.D. Now dial. or vulgar colloq.

prairie, n. Vol. 1, Chap. VI, p.93

I had crossed a large tract of prairie -
Doctor

pride, n. Vol. II, Chap. V, p.77

"Your morals are exact enough for me," returned the grave old man, "for I think I see in them the very pride of folly..."

Trapper

prime, v.

Vol.1, Chap.IX, p.144

You have rifles, friends; would it not be prudent to prime them,

Doctor

priming, n.

Vol. 1, Chap.III, p.38

He raised his rifle while he spoke, and assured himself of the state of its flint, as well as of the priming,

pry, n.

Vol.1, Chap.XIV, p.209

Put in another pry, girls;

Phoebe

pshaw, interj.

Vol.1, Chap.XII, p.175

"Pshaw! " muttered Abiram; "the boy has killed a buck; ..."

Abiram

pup, n.

Vol.1, Chap.II, p.38

The pup is not apt to complain of the harmless game.

Trapper

push, n.

Vol. II, Chap.IV, p.52

reason teaches that breath is needful in a hard push, and that a weary leg makes a dull race.

Trapper

pushed (push'd), pret.

Vol. 1, Chap.XVI, p.233

When Sir William push'd the German, Dieskau,
thro' the defiles at the foot of the Hori -
Trapper

put to,

Vol. II, Chap.X, p.158

Put to; put to; if that weak-minded, soft-
feeling man, your father, eats or drinks
again in this neighborhood, we shall see
him poisoned with the craft of the Red-skins.
Esther

N.E.D. Obs.

Q

quality, n.

Vol. II, Chap. X, p.158

Let your copper-coloured minx come forth,
and shew her tawney beauty before the face
of a woman who has heard more than one church
bell, and seen a power of real quality,
Esther

N.E.D. Now arch, or vulgar and dial.

quarter, n.

Vol. I, Chap. IV, p.56

his camp is but a short quarter from us.
Hover

quiver, n.

Vol. II, Chap. I, p.5

A quiver made of the cougar skin, from which
the tail of the animal depended, as a
characteristic ornament, was slung at his
back,

R

rags of paper,

Vol.1, Chap.VIII, p.117

who always fulfils his agreements better than
your dealers in wordy contracts written on
rags of paper.

Ishmael

raise, v.

Vol. 1, Chap. VII, p.101

On one of them was I born, and raised to be
a lad like yonder tumbling boy.

Trapper

rattler, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XVII, p.249

The snakes of the prairies are harmless, unless
it be now and then an angered rattler,

Trapper

N.E.D. This passage is quoted as an example.

reckon, v.

Vol.1, Chap.VII, p.107

neither of us, I reckon, has ever had much to
do with title-deeds, or county clerks, or
blazed trees;

Trapper

N.E.D. This passage is cited as an
example.

Red-man, n.

Vol. II, Chap.XIII, p.207

the Red-man can never want an enemy;

Mahtoree

red-skin, n.

Vol. 1, Chap.VII, p.103

while it seems that your heart is with the
red-skins.

Ishmael

restaurans, n.

Vol. II, Chap.II, p.28

or at the most renowned of the Parisian
restaurans.

N.E.D. This passage cited as an
example.

restaurateur, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. IX, p.131

the viand might well have claimed a decided
superiority over the meretricious cookery
and laboured compounds of the most renowned
restaurateur;

riband, n.

Vol. 1, Chap.VIII, p.121

Is that a riband of the child, dangling from
the corner of the hill below!

Ishmael

N.I. Archaic var. of Ribbon.

rifle, n.

Vol.II, Chap. VI, p.93

cannon are plentier than the rifle used to be.
Trapper

ring, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VII, p.101

No bad invention, when powder and flint were
wanting to kindle a ring.

Trapper

rise, v.

Vol. I, Chap. XVII, p.242

but a few moments elapsed before the party
rose a swell of the prairie and descending
without a moment's delay on the opposite side,
they were at once removed from every danger
of being seen by the son's of Ishmael,

N.E.D. Chiefly U.S.

'river of troubled waters',

Vol. II, Chap. XI, p.171

The fishes in the 'river of troubled waters'
know him, and come at his call.

Lahtoree

'river with a troubled stream', Vol. II, Chap. XI, p.176

but he will shut them in the bend of the
'river with a troubled stream'.

Le Balafre

robbed (robb'd), p.p.

Vol. I, Chap.V, p.82

I didn't come to be robb'd of my plunder,
Ishmael

roll, n.

Vol. II, Chap. V, p. 69

they had ascended a roll of the prairie in order to cross into the very bottom where this unknown animal was now seen.

N.E.D. Earliest example 1874

rolling, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. VIII, p.115

Amid the monotonous rolling of the prairie,

"rolling prairie", n.

Vol. 1, Chap. I, p.15

to pursue its course across the undulating surface, of what, in the language of the country of which we write, is called a "rolling prairie".

rolling swells,

Vol. II, Chap. VII, p.117

they found the vast plain, the rolling swells, the little hillock, and the scattered thickets, covered alike in one, white, dazzling sheet of snow

run, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p.25

and joining its waters to those of other similar little fountains, in its vicinity, their united contributions formed a run, which was easily to be traced for miles along the prairie,

N.E.D. Chiefly U.S. and north.dial.

run, pret.

Vol. II, Chap. XI, p.173

In consequence of the rapid manner in which he run over their names,

S

saltant, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. IV, p.60

no professor of the saltant art ever applied himself with greater industry than the naturalist now used his heels on the ribs of Asinus.

N.E.D. Now rare or obs. This passage is cited as an example.

Salt-lake, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VIII, p.128

have you ever in your traditions heard of a mighty people who once lived on the shores of the Salt-lake, hard by the rising sun?

Trapper

same, absol.

Vol. II, Chap. XII, p.194

If such be your commendable opinions of confinement, honest friend, you had better manifest the same, by putting us at liberty with as little delay as possible,

Middleton

N.E.D. Now rare in literary use.

savant, n.

Vol. II, Chap. II, p.27

now that he is established in all the scientific dignity and security of a savant in one of the maritime towns,

say, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. VIII, p.129

You'll have your say,

Ishmael

NED. Earliest example 1858.

scalp, n.

Vol. II, Chap. V, p.70

nor will I answer as yet for the safety of
any scalp among us.

Trapper

scalp-lock, n.

Vol. II, Chap. I, p.5

His head was as usual shaved to the crown,
where a large and gallant scalp-lock seemed
fearlessly to challenge the grasp of his
enemies.

N.E.D. This passage is cited as an example.

scarce, adv.

Vol. 1, Chap. VII, p.112

The absence of human forms would have scarce
created a sensation in the bosom of one so
long accustomed to solitude,

N.E.D. = Scarcely. Now only literary.

scary, a.

Vol. II, Chap. V, p.68

if any can pretend to know the world, or to
have seen scary sights, it is myself!

Trapper

N.I. Colloq.

scary (skeary), a.

Vol. 1, Chap. VI, p.92

a skeary comrade in the woods ... is apt to
make a short path long;

Trapper

N.E.D. This passage is cited as an example.

scouter, n.

Vol. II, Chap. 1, p. 3

But this is a scouter in his war-paint!
Trapper

N.E.D. This passage is cited as example.

screen (skreen), v.

Vol. I, Chap. III, p.51

the grass in which they were concealed, not only served to skreen them from the eyes of the savages, but opposed an obstacle to prevent their horses, which were no less rude and untrained than their riders, from trampling on them,

season, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XIII, p.215

The Teton mounted again, just in season to escape a flight of arrows

N.E.D. Chiefly U.S.

selfishness, a.

Vol. II, Chap. IX, p.144

his morals were accomodating and his motives selfishness.

sempiternum, a.

Vol. I, Chap. IX, p.141

there is no condition which says that the said journey shall be sempiternum, or eternal.
Doctor

settler, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p.30

I can hardly be called a settler, seeing that
I have no regular abode,

Trapper

sex, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VII, p.102

and the young brave appeared to be deeply and
intuitively sensible to the influence of so
rare a model of the loveliness of the sex.

N.E.D. This use now rare.

shanty, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XVI, p.256

I offer you, as my side of the business, one
half of my shanty,

Hover

N.E.D. Chiefly U.S. and Canada. This
passage is cited as an example.

sheep-skin, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. VII, p.106

Why do not they cover their shining sheep-
skins with big words, giving to the land-
holder or perhaps he should be called air-
holder, so many rods of heaven,

Ishmael

sheer, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XVI, p.254

just give the boat a sheer toward yonder, low,
sandy point,

Trapper

N.E.D. This passage cited as an example.

shew, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XIV, p.200

the smaller were to be used more for shew
than any positive service they could perform,

N.E.D. Variant of Show, sh. and v.

N.I. Now rare.

shewed, pret.

Vol. 1, Chap. VI, p.95

with a sudden lighting of her sprightly blue
eyes, that shewed she knew how to play with
the foible of her learned companion.

shewn, p.p.

Vol. 1, Chap. XVII, p.251

I have seen the time when a red-skin would have
shewn a foolish daring to peep out of his
ambushment in that fashion on a hunter I could
name,

Trapper

shield, n.

Vol. II, Chap. 1, p.5

a shield of hides, quaintly emblazoned with
another of his warlike deeds, was suspended
from his neck by a thong of sinews.

shot-gun, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. IV, p.56

but I scorn to slander even a Tennessee
shot-gun.

Hover

N.E.D. Originally U.S. First example
1828

shot-pouch, n.

Vol. II, Chap. II, p.27

There they go, like dogs with so many half-filled shot-pouches at their tails,
Trapper

side by side,

Vol. II, Chap. XVII, p.273

In order then to save labour, lay the pup at my feet, or for that matter put him side by side.

Trapper

side of the business,

Vol. II, Chap. XVI, p.256

I offer you, as my side of the business, one half of my shanty,

Hover

sidling, p.pr.

Vol. I, Chap. VI, p.92

"Unfortunate," echoed the little man, sidling nigher to his companion,

N.E.D. Earliest example 1855.

silk-net, a.

Vol. I, Chap. X, p.147

A richly ornamented, and exceedingly dangerous straight dirk, was stuck in a sash of red silk-net work;

since (sin'), conj. Vol. II, Chap. XIV, p.224

But sin' it is your wish to let him depart,
Ishmael

sit. y. Vol. 1, Chap. XI, p.170

he sat himself at work,

sit, p.p. Vol. II, Chap. 1, p.13

The saddle, as you rightly think, has been
sit upon in its day by a great Spanish captain,
Trapper

skeary, a. Vol. 1, Chap XVII, p.249

Here is something skeary,
Trapper

N.E.D. Obs. or dial. if scary.

skim the cream, Vol. II, Chap. VI, p.93

"That you must have seen many a chopper
skimming the cream from the face of the earth,
and many a settler getting the very honey of
nature, old trapper," said Paul, "no reasonable
man, can, or, for that matter, shall doubt..."
Hover

skinned, (dark-skin'd), a. Vol.1, Chap. III, p.41

though I admit having peppered a few of the
dark-skin'd devils,

Trapper

skipper, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. VIII, p.117

I reckon, Abiram, you could glean a living among the grasshoppers; you ar' an active man, and might outrun the nimblest skipper of them all.

Ishmael

N.E.D. U.S.

skirred, pret.

Vol. II, Chap. XII, p.198

Suddenly one of the oldest, and most ferocious of them all broke out of the ring, and skirred away in the direction of her victims,

N.I. Obs. or Dial. Eng.

N.E.D. This passage is cited as axample.

Skirting, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. III, p.46

If one of them lazy sons of Skirting Ishmael is prowling out of his camp to-night,
Hover

skirting it,

Vol. 1, Chap. VIII, p.118

I heard a travelling preacher, who was skirting it down the Ohio,

Abiram

sledge-hammer, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. IV, p.56

few men love Ishmael Bush and his seven sledge-hammer sons less than one Paul Hover,
Hover

sleepeth, v.

Vol. 1, Chap. XI, p.171

Esther sleepeth!

Doctor

smootly, a.

Vol. II, Chap. VI, p.89

many is the time I have burnt a smootly path,
from wanton laziness to pick my way across a
tangled bottom.

Trapper

so, adv.

Vol. II, Chap. IX, p.135

So soon as Mahtoree found that the other had
stopped within reach of him,

so, adv.

Vol. II, Chap. IV, p.57

and it is afflicting to see so noble a
creatur' as this,

Trapper

Social Compact,

Vol. 1, Chap. XIV, p.202

I am a peaceful citizen of the before named
Confederacy, a supporter of the Social Compact,
Doctor

something, adv.

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p.30

They told us below, we should find settlers
something thinnish, hereaway,

Ishmael

N.E.D. Now rare or dial. This
passage is cited as an example.

somewhat, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VIII, p.127

you ar' skilled in Indian tongues and know
somewhat of Indian deviltries.

Hover

N.E.D. Now arch. or dial.

species, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. IX, p.138

You are of the class, mammalia; order, primates;
genus, homo; species, Kentucky.

Doctor

squatter, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.76

They have robbed the squatter of his beasts!

Trapper

N.E.D. U.S.

squaw, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. IV, p.62

my ears have heard that there are lands
where the councils are held by squaws,

Trapper

N.E.D. American Indian

stand, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. I, p.21

The man in front of the emigrants came to a
stand, and remained gazing at the mysterious
object,

N.E.D. Now rare or obs.

stand, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. 1, p.19

It is unnecessary to warn the practised reader, that the sameness of the surface, and the low stands of the spectators exaggerated the distances;

N.E.D. Rare.stand-up, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. IV, p.56

There is as much of the true stand-up courage among them,

Hover

steel, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. VI, p.94

I profited by the opportunity, and by the aid of steel and taper, I wrote his description on the spot.

Doctor

stock, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. X, p.147

Around his throat he had negligently fastened a stock of black silk.

straight-going, a.

Vol. II, Chap. X, p.154

But put you the question in straight-going Indian,

Ishmael

N.E.D. Earliest example 1865.

straw, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p.34

The trapper loitered about the place, declining to share the straw of the emigrant, until the whole arrangement was completed, and then, without the ceremony of an adieu, he slowly retired from the spot.

straw, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.88

The hive has remained stationary, and they who flutter around the venerable straw are won't to claim the empty distinction of antiquity,

stretched (stretch'd), p.p.

Vol. 1, Chap. XVII, p.247

Many is the hour that I've passed, lying in the shade of the woods, or stretch'd upon the hills of these open fields,

Trapper

strike the dead,

Vol. II, Chap. XII, p.196

he had been remarkable for preferring the pleasure of destroying life, to the glory of striking the dead.

striking, p.pr

Vol. II, Chap. XIII, p.212

each man burning with the wish to reap the high renown of striking the body of the dead.

stript, p.p.

Vol. 1, Chap. IV, p.54

The Indians had, however, no sooner deprived the captives of their arms and ammunition, and stript them of a few articles of dress of little use

N.E.D. rare. stript.

strove, p.p.

Vol. II, Chap. XVII, p. 266

that many a diplomatist of the most polished court might have strove in vain to imitate.

N.I. rare, Strove.

stroller, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VIII, p.128

I speak not now of any strollers, who have crept into the land to rob the lawful owners of their birth-right,

Trapper

such, adv.

Vol. II, Chap. IX, p.141

Sustained by such sacred resolutions the mild, the patient and the confident girl was bowing her head to this new stroke of Providence,

summons, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XIV, p.211

The repeated summons to surrender, which Paul uttered in a voice that he intended should strike terror to their young bosoms, were as little heeded as were the calls of the trapper . . .

sun, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XIII, p. 205

The swiftest horse shall not go from the village of the Tetons to the village of the Loups in many suns.

Mahtoree

sundown, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p.32

Have you been far towards the sundown, friend?
Ishmael

N.E.D. Chiefly U.S. and Eng. and Colonial
dial; Occas. poet. or rhetorical. This passage
is cited as an example

suttler, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XV. p.227

he made the best of his way towards the shop of
the suttler.

swale, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.76

Fire low, boys - Level into the swales, for the
red-skins are settling to the very earth!
Hover

N.E.D. Esp. U.S. This passage is cited
as an example

swam, p.p.

Vol. II, Chap. VII, p.106

I have swam like a fish in my day, and I can
do it again,
Hover

Swarm your own hive,

Vol. 1, Chap. IV, p.58

Swarm your own hive," returned the discontented
bee-hunter.

N.E.D. This passage cited as an example.

swarming time,

Vol. II, Chap. VI, p.87

I am for a swarming time, and a flight before
the hive is too hot to hold us,

Hover

sweet water,

Vol. I, Chap. I, p.24

all old journeyers, like myself, know the virtue
of sweet water,

swell, n.

Vol. I, Chap. I, p. 19

From the summits of the swells, the eye became
fatigued with the sameness and chilling
dreariness of the landscape.

T

Table-land, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VIII, p.120

On the very edge of what might be called the table-land, were pitched the hundred lodges of a horde of wandering Siouzes.

Tawney-face, n.

Vol. II, Chap. I, p.7

The runners, from the people on the Big-river, tell us that your nation have traded with the Tawney-faces who live beyong the salt-lake,

tell, n.

Vol. I, Chap. II, p.32

from his tell, it must be a considerable stream,
Asa

N.E.D. Now dial. This passage is quoted as an example.

tender ones,

Vol. II, Chap. VII, p.114

Now mount you, with the tender ones, and ride for yonder hillock,

Trapper

thank ye (thankee),

Vol. II, Chap. XVI, p.259

Thankee, thankee, Captain;

Trapper

thank ye (thank'ee),

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.82

I didn't come to be robb'd of my plunder, and
then to say thank'ee to the man who did it!
Ishmael

thee, pron.

Vol. 1, Chap. XIV, p.203

I demand of thee the surrender of this rock,
Doctor

them, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. X, p.155

'Twas a perilous time he had of it, among them
hills,

Trapper

N.E.D. Now only dial. or illiterate.

thereaway, adv.

Vol. II, Chap. VI, p.95

A noble stream is running thereaway,
Trapper

N.E.D. Chiefly Sc. and north. dial.

there is (there's),

Vol. II, Chap. I, p.13

There's not a brigadier in all Kentucky that
can call himself master of so sleek and well-
jointed a nag!

there will (there'll),

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.85

But there'll come a time, stranger,
Ishmael

they, pron.

Vol. II, Chap. III, p.39

None go out on the war-path but they who are gifted
with the qualities of a brave,
Trapper

N.E.D. Somewhat arch.

they, pron.

Vol. 1, Chap X, p.158

Paul Hovor had actually swallowed each syllable
of the discourse as they fell alternately from
the different speakers,

they will (they'll),

Vol. 1, Chap. 1, p.21

they'll never miss a single man from their
tribe.

Abiram

thing, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VI, p.90

it cleared every thing before it,

thinnish, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. II, p.30

They told us below, we should find settlers
something thinnish hereaway,

Ishmael

N.E.D. This passage is cited as an
example.

this-a-way,

Vol. II, Chap. II, p.23

But the herd is heading a little this-a-way,
Trapper

thou, pron.

Vol. 1, Chap. XIV, p.203

Thou knowest the character of the man
Doctor

through (thro'), prep.

Vol. 1, Chap. XVI, p.233

When Sir William push'd the German, Dieskau,
thro' the defiles at the foot of the Hori -
Trapper

thy, pron.

Vol. 1, Chap. XI, p.168

and may prove dangerous not only to yourself,
but to all thy father's family!

Doctor

tide, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XIII, p.210

he cast himself headlong into one of the most rapid veins of the current, his hand still waving in triumph above the fluid, even after his body had sunk into the tide forever.

N.E.D. poet. and rhet.

tight, adv.

Vol. I, Chap. V, p.82

I found the law sitting too tight upon me,
Ishmael

time back,

Vol. II, Chap. VII, p.108

that used to be prowling through the woods of York, a time back, that is some sixty years ago,

Trapper

N.E.D. Obs. or dial. First example 1834.

tobacco, n.

Vol. I, Chap. XV, p.226

like a merchant who leaves off selling tobacco by the hogshead,

Drunkard

tomahawk, n.

Vol. I, Chap. V, p.77

He felt for the weapon of which he had been so suddenly deprived, fumbled with impotent haste for the handle of his tomahawk, and ...

tongue, n.

Vol. II, Chap. IX, p.135

Is the Pale-face made with two tongues?
Mahtoree

tongue, n.

Vol. II, Chap. III, p.37

Your head is white, but you have a forked
tongue.

Mahtoree

tonguey, a.

Vol. II, Chap. VI, p.99

There is a congress-man in our district, and
that tonguey little fellow, who puts out the
paper in our county,

Hover

N.E.D. Now U.S. and didl.

tow, n.

Vol. I, Chap. VIII, p.130

dropping the tow she was twisting on a distaff,

town-officer, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XVII, p.263

He soon became a landholder, then a prosperous
cultivator of the soil, and shortly after a
town-officer.

trail of carrion,

Vol. I, Chap. III, p.47

Did you ever run him upon the trail of carrion?
Hover

trail of powder,

Vol. II, Chap. VI, p.97

as you may see by yon streak of flame, which is flashing along afore the wind as it if were on a trail of powder.

Trapper

translator, n.

Vol. I, Chap. XV, p.227

But this gentleman is now, and has been for years to my certain knowledge, a regular translator of the human body from one State to another.

Drunkard

N.E.D. Obs.

transpire, v.

Vol. II, Chap. XIV, p.216

when circumstances were about to transpire that might leave a lasting impression on the wild fortunes of their semi-barbarous condition.

trapper, n.

Vol. II, Chap. I, p.7

the hunters and trappers on La Platte.

Trapper

N.E.D. This passage is quoted as an example

trapper, n.

Vol. I, Chap. II, p.30

You are mistaken, friend, in calling me a hunter; I am nothing better than a trapper.

Trapper

(See note from Crowell Edition next page)

Note Crowell Edition, page 17:- It is scarcely necessary to say, that this American word means one who takes game in a trap. It is of general use on the frontiers. The beaver, an animal too sagacious to be easily killed, is oftener taken in this way than in any other.

trencher, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VI, p.82

laying a morsel of delicate venison before Inez, on a little trencher neatly made of horn,

N.E.D. Arch. and Hist.

N.I. Obs. and Hist.

trode, prst.

Vol. 1, Chap. XIII, p.193

When a sufficiency of earth was laid upon the senseless clay of Asa, to protect it from injury, Enoch and Abner entered the cavity, and trode it into a solid mass,

N.E.D. Pa.t. . arch.trode.

troop, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. III, p.51

the dark troop were to be seen riding, in a disorderly manner,

tub, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VII, p.109

This tub, venerable hunter, will never reach the opposite shore in safety.

Doctor

N.I. A slow moving boat or vessel.

Slang.

U

Uncle Sam, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. X, p.148

At his back he bore a knapsack, which was marked by the well known initials that have since gained for the government of the United States, the good-humoured and quaint appellation of Uncle Sam.

unconscious, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. VIII, p.120

Ishmael cast his eye upward to the place, where the offending, but unconscious girl was holding her anxious watch.

ungenteelly, adv.

Vol. 1, Chap. XV, p.227

but if you treat me so ungenteeelly again,
Drunkard

unlearned (unl'arned), a.

Vol. 1, Chap. X, p.157

what, the name of the solitary, unl'arned
hunter?

Trapper

unsearchable (uns'archable), a. Vol. II, Chap. IV, p.57

Such are the wise and uns'archable ways of
one who alone knows good from evil!

Trapper

up-and-down, a.

Vol. II, Chap. X, p.153

so you'll play linguister and put my words
into up-and-down Indian,

Ishmael

N.E.D. U.S. Earliest example 1836

used-to-could,

Vol. II, Chap. XVI, p.257

A small and trifling matter is it, to what I
used-to-could offer in the way of bargains;

Trapper

used-to-could-be,

Vol. I, Chap. II, p.38

I am not so ready and true with the piece as
I used-to-could-be,

Trapper

used to go,

Vol. II, Chap. III, p.37

The women and children of a Pale-face are not
used to go far on foot.

Mahtoree

V

vale, n.

Vol. II, Chap. V, p.69

they had ridden in the little vales in order to seek the protection of the shadows,

N.E.D. In later use chiefly poet. but employed as an ordinary prose word by American writers in the second half of the 18th century.

valley, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. 1, p.18

In the little vallies, which, in the regular formation of the land, occurred at every mile of their progress,

N.E.D. This passage is cited as an example.

vapour, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XV, p.221

He found the night dark, and the heavens charged with the threatening vapour, which in that climate was the infallible forerunner of a gust.

venator, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. VII, p.104

I am grieved when I find a venator or hunter, of your experience and observation, following the current of vulgar error.

Doctor

vermin (varmint), n.

Vol. 1, Chap. IV, p.55

it would be as hard to drive a hound from his
game as to throw the varmints from its trail.
Trapper

N.E.D. Rare before 1825. Dial. and U.S.

very, a.

Vol. II, Chap. VII, p.115

endeavouring to catch a furtive glimpse of the
lead which he fancied was whizzing at his very
ear,

N.E.D. Now rare except as an echo of
Biblical usage.

viator, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XIV, p.223

That there did exist a certain compactum or
agreement between Obed Batt, M.D., and Ishmael
Bush, viator, or erratic husbandman,
Doctor

N.I. Obs.

W

wagh!

Vol. 1, Chap. XVII, p.252

a tall Indian sprang from beneath that bed of leaves and brush, which he had probably collected about his person at the approach of the party, and stood upright, uttering the sententious exclamation, "Wagh!"

N.E.D. This passage is cited as an example.

Wahcondah, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.75

Life is the gift of the Wahcondah,
Trapper

Wahconshecheh, n.

Vol. II, Chap. IV, p.58

They know, that the Wahconshecheh (bad spirit)
loves his own children,
Trapper

wampum, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. IV, p.65

Mahtoree assured himself of the right position of his tomahawk, felt that his knife was secure in its sheath of skin, tightened his girdle of wampum, and saw that the lacing of his fringed and ornamented leggings was secure

wampum, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XVI, p.253

He would tell them that the Pawnees were just, and there would be a line of wampum between the two nations.

wampum belt,

Vol. I, Chap. XVI, p.235

thrusting both his hands through his wampum belt,

war-cry, n.

Vol. II, Chap. XIII, p.211

the disheartened Pawnees were beginning to think of a retreat, when the well-known war-cry of Hard-Heart was heard at hand,

war-paint, n.

Vol. II, Chap. I, p. 3

But this is a scouter in his war-paint!
Trapper

N.E.D. Earliest example 1826. Cooper
Last of Mohicans.

war-party, n.

Vol. II, Chap. V, p.77

whether it might be on the trail of a war-party of the Mingoes, or on the watch for a York deer.

Trapper

N.E.D. Earliest example 1826. Cooper
Last of Mohicans.

war-path, n.

Vol. II, Chap. III, p.39

None go out on the war-path but they who are gifted with the qualities of a brave,

Trapper

N.E.D Earliest example 1841, Cooper
Deerslayer.

war-path, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VIII, p.122

while their discretion was still too doubtful to permit them to be trusted on the war-path,

warrant, v.

Vol. I, Chap. I, p.21

I warrant me, Asa, or Abner will give some account of the creatur' !

Esther

N.E.D. I warrent me, originally quasi-arch. Latest example 1826.

warrior, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VIII, p.122

The ordinary warriors of the band were still less diffident, not hesitating to mingle among the chiefs of lesser note, though far from assuming the right to dispute the sentiments of any established brave,

N.E.D. Now chiefly poet. and rhetorical exc. as applied to the fighting men of the ages celebrated in epic and romance and of uncivilized peoples, for whom the designation soldier would be inappropriate. 1826 J.F. Cooper, Last of Mohicans XV.

war whoop,

Vol. II, Chap. VII, p.101

When the Pawnee war whoop is in their ears, the whole nation howls.

Hard Heart

was, v.

Vol. I, Chap. XVI, p.235

each individual employed himself in such offices as was best adapted to his strength and situation.

was, y.

Vol. II, Chap. II, p.31

if I was now, as I was then,
Trapper

wash their feet,

Vol. II, Chap. I, p.17

Let the women of my brother wash their feet
among the people of their own colour.
Hart Heart

wash our trail in water,

Vol. II, Chap. VII, p.104

He also agrees that it is needful to wash
our trail in water.
Trapper

Washsheomantiqua, n.

Vol. II, Chap. IV, p.57

He had heard of a great council, at which
the Menahashah, or Long-knives, and the
Washsheomantiqua, or Spaniards, had smoked
together,

waste, n.

Vol. I, Chap. X, p.159

But why do I find you, venerable and excellent
friend of my parents, in these wastes, so far
from the comforts and safety of the lower
country?

Middleton

N.E.D. Somewhat rhetorical.

'waters of the wolves', Vol. II, Chap. XI, p.176

My son opened his eyes on the 'waters of the
wolves'

Le Balafre'

welfare, n. Vol. II, Chap. III, p.35

My life and my traps are but of little value, when
the welfare of so many human souls are concerned,
Trapper

were, Vol. I, Chap. XVII, p. 250

It were difficult to describe the shape or
colours of this extraordinary substance,

western comfort, Vol. II, Chap. XIV, p.224

and not a word shall be uttered harder to
pronounce than the bark of a cherry-tree,
with perhaps a drop or two of western
comfort.

Esther

what,ho, interj. Vol. I, Chap. XIV, p.202

What, ho! I summon ye all,
Doctor

N.E.D. Arch. and dial.

what say,

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.80

What say, trapper! here is likely to be a
three-cornered war.

Hover

white, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. VII, p.103

They claim to be the lawful owners of this
country, and seldom leave a white more than
the skin he boasts of,

Trapper

white gifts,

Vol. II, Chap. VIII, p.132

that feeling would be a dangerous companion
for a man with white gifts to start with on
such a solemn journey,

Trapper

White-skin, n.

Vol. II, Chap. VIII, 132

This is not what the good Moravians said
to the councils of the Delawares, nor what is
so often preached, to the White-skins in the
settlements,

Trapper

N.E.D. Earliest example 1826. Cooper
Last of the Mohicans?

wigwam, n.

Vol. II, Chap. V, p.77

many is the long winter evening that I have
passed in the wigwams of the Delawares,

Trapper

'with the troubled waters' Vol. II, Chap. I, p. 16

are these the women of the white warriors, that
I hear are wading up the river 'with the
troubled waters'!

Hard Heart

woll not (won't), Vol. 1, Chap. II, p.35

It won't do, dog;

Trapper

woolly-head, n. Vol. 1, Chap. XV, p.226

Some people think the woolly-heads are mis-
erable, working on hot plantations under a
boiling sun -

Drunkard

worry it out, Vol. II, Chap. V, p.68 .

what a number of seasons, hot and cold, wet and
dry, have rolled over my poor head, since the
time we worried it out together, among the Red
Hurons of the Lakes,

Trapper

Y

Yankee, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. VII, p.103

what will the Yankee Choppers say, when they
have cut their path from the eastern to the
western waters,

Trapper

yard, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. XV, p.226

like a merchant who leaves off selling tobacco
by the hoghead, to deal in it by the yard.

Drunkard

ye, pron.

Vol. 1, Chap. VIII, p.129

Why do ye all keep hovering round the rock,
Esther

N.E.D. Now (in all uses) only dial.,
arch. or poet.

yea,

Vol. 1, Chap. VIII, p.119

yea, ye ar' wood of too open a pore to be good
even to burn!

Ishmael

yon, a.

Vol. 1, Chap. XII, p.184

there you will find it, in yon swale of alders.
Abner

N.E.D. Now Arch. and dial.

yon, adv.

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.84

there is old Esther yon;
Ishmael

N.E.D. Obs. exc. dial.York, n.

Vol. 1, Chap. V, p.82

But little use is there for a horse among
the hills and woods of York -
Trapper

York, a.

Vol. II, Chap. V, p.77

whether it might be on the trail of a war-
party of the Mingoos, or on the watch for
a York deer.

Trapper

you, pron.

Vol. II, Chap. VI, p.98

but for a hound, like you, who has lived so
long in the forest afore he came into these
plains, it is very disgraceful, Hector, to be
showing his teeth and growling at the carcass
of a roasted horse,

Trapper

you have (you've),

Vol. 1, Chap. III, p.48

You've said enough!

Ellen

you say right,

Vol. II, Chap. VI, p.94

You say right, my children, it is time to be
moving,

Trapper

you will (you'll),

Vol. I, Chap. VIII, p. 129

You'll have your say,

Ishmael

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