

*Barvel*, sometimes pronounced *barbel*, a tanned sheepskin used by fishermen, and also by splitters, as an apron to keep the legs dry, but since oilskin clothes have come into use, not now generally employed. Wright in his "Dictionary of Obsolete and Provincial English," marks it as Kentish, denoting "a short leather apron worn by washerwomen or a slabbering bib." Recently I heard of its being used by a fisherman on our Nova Scotia coast, to describe the boot or apron of a sleigh or carriage.

*Barm* is still commonly, if not exclusively used in Newfoundland for yeast, as it is in some parts of England. So *billets*, for small sticks of wood has now, with most English-speaking people, gone out of use. But it is quite usual in Newfoundland to hear of buying or selling *billets*, putting in *billets*, &c. The word, however, seems to have been introduced from the Norman French.

*Brews*.—This is a dish, which occupies almost the same place at a Newfoundlander's breakfast table, that baked beans are supposed to do on that of a Bostonian. It consists of pieces of hard biscuit, soaked over night, warmed in the morning, and then eaten with boiled codfish and butter. This is plainly the old English word usually written *brevis*, and variously explained. Johnson defines it as "a piece of bread soaked in boiling fat pottage made of salted meat." This is about the Newfoundland sense, substituting, as was natural, fish for meat. Webster gives it as from the Anglo-Saxon, and represents it as obsolete in the sense of broth or pottage, "What an ocean of *brevis* shall I swim in," (Beaumont & Fletcher), but as still used to denote "bread soaked in gravy or prepared in water and butter." This is the relative New England dish. Wright gives it in various forms *brewet*, *brewis*, &c., as denoting pottage, but says that in the North of England they still have "a *brewis*, made of slices of bread with fat broth poured over them."

*Child* is used to denote a female child. This is probably going out of use, as gentlemen, who have resided for some time on the island, say they have never heard it, but I am assured by others, that on the occasion of a birth they have heard at once the enquiry, "Is it a boy or a child?" Wright gives it as Devonshire, and it was in use in Shakspeare's time, "Winter's Tale," III, 3, "A boy or a child, I wonder." In two instances I have heard of its being used in this sense some years ago in Nova Scotia. The one was by an old man originally from the United States, who used Shakspeare's enquiry "A boy or a child." Again in a