

*Nesh*, tender and delicate, used to describe one who cannot stand much cold or hard work. This is old English, but marked in the dictionaries as obsolete except in the midland counties of England; Halliwell adds Northumberland.

He was too *nesske* and she too *harde*.—Gower *C. A. V.*

It may be noted here that the people of Newfoundland use the word *twinly* with almost the same meaning. It is undoubtedly formed from twin like *twinling*, a diminutive, meaning a little twin, given by Wright as *twinlling*.

*Nunch*, the refreshment men take with them on going to the woods. It is an old form of the word "lunch" as "nuncheon" for "luncheon" (Wright). But by others it is regarded, we think not so probably, as referring to noon, and meaning the refreshments that laborers partake of at that hour. Connected with this is the word *nunny bag* originally meaning a lunch bag, but now used in the general sense of a bag to carry all the articles necessary in travelling. They have also a very expressive word, though I am not sure that it is general, *nunny fudger*, denoting primarily a man who is thinking more of his dinner than of his work, hence generally a man who looks out for his own interest.

*Patienate*, long suffering. Wright gives it as used in Westmoreland in the same sense.

*Peek*, to peep, common in New England.

*Perney*, an adverb meaning presently or directly, as when a servant told to go and do a thing might reply "I will *perney*." The word I do not find in any dictionary to which I have access, but from cognate words I believe that it has come down from the old English. Related to it is the Latin adjective *pernix*, quick, nimble, active, and the old English word *pernicious*, signifying quick. Thus Milton:—

Part incentive reed

Provide *pernicious* with one touch of fire.

*Paradise Lost*, vi. 520.

Hence the noun *pernicity*, swiftness of motion which lingered longer. "Endued with great swiftness or *pernicity*," Ray on the Creation, 1691.

*Piddle* or *peddle*, is used to describe dealing in a small way, without any reference to hawking or carrying goods round from house to house for sale. This was the old meaning of the word.