SLANG AND ITS ANALOGUES

PAST AND PRESENT.

A DICTIONARY, HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE, OF THE HETERODOX SPEECH OF ALL CLASSES OF SOCIETY FOR MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED YEARS.

WITH SYNONYMS IN ENGLISH, FRENCH, GERMAN, ITALIAN, ETC.

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MDCCCXCIII.
F

LABBERGAST, verb. (colloquial). To astound; to stagger, either physically or mentally. [O. E., FLAB — to frighten + GAST — to scare.] Fr., abalober; baba (from ébahi — astounded); épater (= flatten out). Sp., quedarse de, or hecho, una pieza (= 'knocked all of a heap'). See FLOORED.

1772. Annual Register, 'On New Words.' Now we are FLABBERGASTED and bored from morning to night.

1823. Bee, Dict. of the Turf, etc., p. 79. His colleagues were FLABBERGASTED when they heard of Castlereagh's sudden death.

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends ('Brothers of Birchington'). He was quite FLABBERGASTED to see the amount.

1841. Punch, vol. I., p. 261. We rather just imagine they will be not a little puzzled and FLABBERGASTED to discover the meaning or wit of some of those elegant phrases.

1864. Derby Day, p. 67. You're sort of FLABBERGASTED. It's taken all the wind out of you like, and you feel like an old screw a blowing up Highgate Hill.

1889. Licensed Victuallers' Gazette, 18 Jan. Poor Clarke was completely FLABBERGASTED.

1891. National Observer, 1 Aug. In no other sport is the laudator temporis acti so completely FLABBERGASTED as here.

FLABBERDEGAZ, subs. (theatrical). Words interpolated to dissemble a lapse of memory; GAG (q.v.). Also, imperfect utterance or bad acting.

FLAG, subs. (old).—I. A groat, or fourpenny piece. Also FLAGG, and FLAGGE. For synonyms, see JOEY.

1567. Harman, Caveat (1814), p. 65. Rye. But a flagge, a wyn, and a make. (But a groat, a penny, and a half-penny.)

1610. Rowlands, Martin Mark-all, p. 38 (H. Club's Rept. 1874) s.v.


tremendous black doll bought for a **flag** (fourpence) of a retired rag-merchant.

2. **(common).** — An apron; hence a badge of office or trade; *cf.*, **flag-flasher**. Equivalents are **belly-cheat** and **fig-leaf**.


1872. *Dundee Advertiser*, 20 April; ‘Report of Meeting of Domestic Servants. It was contended that they were compelled to wear what was generally known as a **flag**.

1887. W. E. Henley, *Villon’s Straight Tip*. Suppose you try a different tack, And on the square you flash your **flag**.

3. **(obsolete).**—A jade.

1539. David Lindsay, *Thrie Estaitis*. Works [Ed. Laing, 1879], ii. 109. Ane fistand **flag**.

4. **(common).**—The menstrual cloth. Variants are bandage; clout; danger-signal; diaper; double clout (Durfey); gentleman’s pleasure garden padlock; periodicity rag; the red rag; sanitary towel; window-curtain.

**The Flag** (or **danger-signal**) is up—“The Captain’s at home” (Grose), *i.e.*, the menstrual flux is on.

**English Synonyms.** — To have domestic afflictions, or the D.A.’s; to have the flowers (*q.v.*); to have one’s grandmother, or little friend, or auntie, with one; to have them (or it) on; to be in a state of ‘no thoroughfare’; to have the red rag on; to be road-making; to have the street up for repairs; to be at Number One, London; to have ‘the gate locked and the key lost.’

**French Synonyms.** — *Avoir ses cardinales* (literally, to have one’s reds); *avoir les histoires*; *avoir les affaires* (common); *avoir ses anglais* (in allusion to the scarlet of English soldiers); *bruyer des tomates* (= tomato-crushing); *avoir son marquis* (Cotgrave); *avoir les fleurs rouges*; *avoir sa chemise tachée* (Cotgrave); *voir Sophie*; *avoir les ordinaires*.

**Italian Synonyms.** — *Marchese* (Florio), *marchesano* (= menses. Michel says, Art. marque = a month, a woman. “Il nesaurait être douteux que ce nom ne soit venu à cette division de l’année, de l’infirmité périodique qu’ont les marques, ou femmes, lors que la Lune, pour tenir sa diette et vager à ses purifications menstruelles, fait marquer les logis feminins par son fourrier, lequel pour escusson n’a que son impression rouge”).

To **fly the flag**, *verb. phr.* (tailors’).—To post a notice that ‘hands’ are wanted. *See also flag the flag, post.*

**Flag of Defiance**, *subs. phr.* (old nautical).—A drunken roysterer. For synonyms, *see elbow-crooker.*

To **hang out the flag of defiance**(*or bloody flag*), *verb. phr.*—To be continuously drunk. [An allusion to the ‘crimson face’ (Cotgrave) and the pugnacity of certain terms of inebriety.] For synonyms, *see rinks.*

1690. B. E., *New Dict. of the Canting Crew*, s.v. *The flag of defiance is out* (among the Tarrs) the Fellow’s Face is very Red, and he is Drunk.


**Flag-flasher**, *subs. (common).* — One sporting a badge or other ensign of office (cap, apron, uni-
form, etc.) when off duty.—Cf., FLAG, sense 2.

FLAG-ABOUT, subs. (old).—A strum- pet. [From FLAG, a paving- stone]. For synonyms, see BARRACK-HACK and TART.

FLAG-FLYING.—See FLAG.

FLAG OF DISTRESS, subs. phr. (common).—1. A card announcing ‘lodgings,’ or ‘board and lodgings.’ Hence, any overt sign of poverty.

2. (common).—A flying short tail; in America, a LETTER IN THE POST-OFFICE (q.v.).

FLAGGER, subs. (common).—A street-walker. For synonyms, see BARRACK-HACK and TART.

1865. Daily Paper, ‘Police Report.’ She wasn’t a low sort at all—she wasn’t a FLAGGER, as we call it. So I replies, ‘I am well, thankee; and am happy to say I feel as such.’

FLAGS, subs. (common).—Linen drying and flying in the wind. For synonyms, see SNOW.

FLAG UNFURLED, subs. phr. (rhyming).—A man of the world.

FLAG-WAGGING, subs. (military).—Flag-signal drill.

FLAM, subs. (colloquial).—Non- sense (for synonyms, see GAMMON); humbug; flattery; or, a lie: as a REGULAR FLAM (for synonyms, see WHOPPER). Cf. FLIM- FLAM.

1647. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, Humorous Lieutenant, iv., 1. With some new FLAM or other, nothing to the matter.

1664. BUTLER, Hudibras, pt. II., ch. iii., p. 29. A FLAM more senseless than the roguery of old aruspicey and aug’ry.

1742–4. ROGER NORTH, Lives of the Norths, ch. i., p. 368. They must have known his Lordship better and not have ventured such FLAMS at him.

1760. FOOTE, Minor, Act II. Had the FLAM been fact, your behaviour was natural enough.

1762. FOOTE, Liar, bk. II., ch. ii. Can’t you discern that this FLAM of Sir James Elliot’s is a mere fetch to favour his retreat?

1830. SIR E. B. LYTTON, Paul Clifford, p. 298 (ed. 1854). Harry . . . told you as ow it was all a FLAM about the child in the bundle!

1837. BARHAM, Ingoldsby Legends (ed. 1862), p. 325. No trick nor FLAM, but your real Schiedam.

1849. C. KINGSLEY, Altom Locke, ch. ii. And their pockets full they crams by their patriotic FLANIS, And then swear ’tis for the good of the nation.

1850. D. JERROLD, The Catspaw, Act II. Though the story of that scoundrel Coolcard, Augustus Coolcard—and I was never before deceived—never—is a FLAM—all a FLAM.

1870. London Figaro, 22 Sept. Is not your boasted power a FLAM?

1887. W. E. HENLEY, Villon’s Good Night. You flymy titters fond of FLAM.

2. (old).—A single stroke on the drum.—[GROSE, 1785.]

Adj. (old).—False.

1692. SPRAT, Relation of Young’s Contrivance (Harl. Misc. vi. 224). To amuse him the more in his search, she addeth a FLAM story that she had got his hand by corrupting one of the letter-carriers in London.

Verb (colloquial).—1. To take in; to flatter; to lie; to foist or fob off. FLAMMING = lying.
Flambustious. 4 Flanders Pieces.

1658. Rowley and Ford, &c., Witch of Edm., ii., 2. Was this your cunning? and then flam me off with an old witch, two wives, and Winnifride.

1658. Shadwell, S. of Alsatia, ii. in Wks. (1720) iv. 41. Does he think to flam me with a lye?

1830. Rowley and Ford, &c., Wieth of Edm., ii., 2. Was this your cunning? and then FLAm me off with an old witch, two wives, and Winnifride.

1835. MARRYAT, Jacob Faithful, ch. xxviii. How she did FLAM that poor old Domine.

1868. Putnam's Magazine. We will have 'a FLAM BUSTIOUS time.

1888. New York Sun. We wasn't goin' to have any high falutin' FLAM DOODLE business over him.

FLAME, subs. (colloquial).—1. A sweetheart; a mistress in keeping. Old FLAME = an old lover; a cast-off mistress. Also (2) a venereal disease.

b. 1664. d. 1721. Mathew Prior [in Palgrave's "Golden Treasury of Songs and Lyrics," ed. 1855]. Euphelia serves to grace my measure, but Chloe is my real FLAME.

1757. Foote, Author, Act I. Let's see, Mr. and Mrs. Cadwallader, and your FLAME; the sister, as I live.

1840-8. Thackeray, Vanity Fair, ch. xiv. On this Rebecca instantly stated that Amelia was engaged to be married to a Lieutenant Osborne, a very old FLAME.

1859. Matsell, Vocabulum, or Rogue's Lexicon, s.v.

FLAMER, subs. (colloquial).—A man, woman, thing, or incident above the common. [Literally conspicuous to flaming point, i.e., as a light in the dark]. For synonyms, see STUNNER.

1840. H. Cockton, Valentine Vox, ch. ii. Concocting a criticism on the evening's performance, which certainly was, according to the signor's own acknowledgment, a regular FLAMER.

FLAMES, subs. (old).—A red-haired person. Cf., Carrots and Ginger.

1823. Jon Bee, Dict. of the Turf, etc., p. 79. Who should I fling my precious ogles upon but FLAMES—she as lived at the 'Blue Posts.'

FLAMING, ppl. adj. (colloquial).—Conspicuous; ardent; stunning (q.v.). For synonyms, see A I and FIZZING.

1738. Swift, Polite Conv., Dialogue II. Lord Sparkish. My Lady Smart, your ladyship has a very fine scarf. Lady Smart. Yes, my lord, it will make a FLAMING figure in a country church.

1776. Rubrick, The Spleen, ii. I'll send a FLAMING paragraph of the wedding to all the newspapers.

1872. Besant and Rice, Ready Money Mortiboy, ch. xxx. He called one of the children, and sent her for a bill. She presently returned with a FLAMING poster.

FLANDERLIN, subs. (old).—See quot.

1690. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew, s.v. A very large fat man or horse; also natives of that country.

FLANDERS FORTUNES, subs. phr. (old).—Of small substance. — B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew (1690).

FLANDERS PIECES, subs. phr. (old).—See quot.

1890. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew. FLANDERS PIECES, pictures that look fair at a distance, but coarser near at hand.
Flank, verb (common).—1. To crack a whip; also, to hit a mark with the lash of one.

1830. Sir E. B. Lytton, Paul Clifford (ed. 1854), p. 18. He then, taking up a driving whip, flanked a fly from the opposite wall.

1833. 'An Anglo-sapphic Ode' (Whibley, Cap and Gown, p. 135). Kicks up a row, gets drunk, or flanks a tandem whip out of window.

2. (colloquial).—To deliver—a blow or a retort; to push; to hustle; to quit (Shakspeare). Fr., flanquer: as in flanquer à la porte, and Je lui ai flanqué un fameux coup de pied au cul!

A Plate of Thin Flank, subs. phr. (common).—A 'sixpenny cut' off the joint. See N. Twill in Fancy Too Late for Dinner.

To Flank the Whole Bottle, verb, phr. (American soldiers').—To dodge, i.e., to outflank, to achieve by strategy. For synonyms, see Stick.

1871. De Vere, Americanisms, p. 286. When the men wished to escape the attention of pickets and guards by slipping past them, they said they flanked them; drill, and detail, and every irksome duty was flanked, when it could be avoided by some cunning trick. Soon, however, honesty itself was thus treated, and the poor farmer was flanked out of his pig and his poultry, and not infrequently even the comrade out of his pipe and tobacco, if not his rations. The height of strategy was employed in these various flank manoeuvres, when the Commissary could be made to surrender some of his whiskey, and thus it came about, in the South at least, that to flank the whole bottle was a phrase expressive of superlative cunning and brilliant success.

Flanker, subs. (common).—A blow; a retort; a kick. Cf., Flank, sense 1.

Flankey, subs. (common).—The posteriors. For synonyms, see Blind Cheeks and Monocular Eyeglass.

1848. Duncombe, Sinks of London, s.v.

Flannel. See Hot Flannel.

Flannels. To get one's flannels, verb phr. (schools').—To get a place in the school football or cricket teams, or in the boats. Cf., 'to get one's colours,' or 'one's blue.'

Flap, subs. (thieves').—1. Sheet-lead used for roofing. Fr., doussin; noir. Cf., Bluey.

2. (old).—A blow.

1539. David Lyndsay, Thrie Estaitis. Works (Laing, 1879), ii. 73. And to begin the play, tak thair ane flap.

To Flap the Dimmock, verb phr. (thieves').—To rob; to swindle. For synonyms, see Frig and Stick.

3. (venery).—To possess a woman. For synonyms, see Greens and Ride.

To Flap a Jay, verb phr. (thieves').—To swindle a greenhorn; to sell a pup (q.v.).

1885. Daily Telegraph, Aug. 18th, p. 3., col. 1. He and three others of the 'division' had 'cut up' £50 between them, obtained by flapping a jay, which, rendered into intelligible English, means plundering a simple-minded person.

To Flap the Dimmock, verb phr. (common).—To pay. [From Flap, a verb of motion + Dimmock = money]. Cf., Flap.

Flapdoodle, subs. (colloquial).—1. Transparent nonsense; "kid."
Flapdoodler.  Also FLAMDOODLE and FLAP-SAUCE, or FLAP-SAUCE. For synonyms, see GAMMON.

1833. MARRYAT, Peter Simple, ch. xxviii. 'It's my opinion, Peter, that the gentleman has eaten no small quantity of FLAPDOODLE in his lifetime.' 'What's that, O'Brien,' replied I. 'Why, Peter, it's the stuff they feed fools on.'

1861. HUGHES, Tom Brown at Oxford. I shall talk to our regimental doctors about it, and get put through a course of fools' diet—FLAPDOODLE they call it, what fools are fed on.

1884. S. L. CLEMENS ('Mark Twain'), Huck. Finn, xxv., 247. A speech, all full of tears and FLAPDOODLE about its being a sore trial for him and his poor brother to lose the diseased [deceased].

2. (venery). — The penis. (Unquhart). For synonyms, see CREAMSTICK and PRICK.

TO TALK FLAPDOODLE. verb. (American).—To brag; to talk nonsense.

1859. MATSELL, Vocabulum or Rogues' Lexicon, s.v.

1866. London Miscellany, May 19, p. 235. 'There's my FLAPPER on the strength of it.' Guy shook hands with the eccentric stranger heartily.

2. (common). — A little girl. [Also a fledgeling wild duck.]

3. (venery).—A very young prostitute; cf., sense 2.

4. (common).—A dustman's or coal-heaver's hat; a FANTAIL (q.v.).

5. (in. pl.). — Very long-pointed shoes worn by 'nigger' minstrels.

6. (venery).—The penis. (For synonyms, see CREAMSTICK and PRICK).

7. (colloquial). — A parasite; a remembrancer. (Cf. SWIFT; Gulliver, 'Laputa.')

FLAPPERSHAKING, subs. (common).—Hand-shaking.

1853. BRADLEY ('Cuthbert Bede'), Verdant Green, pt. II., ch. iv. Wondering whether... if the joining palms in a circus was the customary FLAPPERSHAKING before 'toeing the scratch' for business.

FLAP-SAUCE. See FLAPDOODLE.
FLARE, subs. (nautical).—1. Primarily a stylish craft; hence, by implication, anything out of the common. For synonyms, see STUNNER.

2. (colloquial). — A row; a dispute; a 'drunk'; or spree. Cf., FLARE-UP.

Verb. (thieves').—1. Specifically to whisk out; hence, to steal actively, lightly, or delicately.

1850. Lloyd's Weekly, 3 Feb. Low Lodging Houses of London. B. tried his pocket saying, 'I'll show you how to do a handkerchief'; but the baker looked round and B. stopped; and just after that I FLARED it (whisked the handkerchief out); and that's the first I did.'

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, I., p. 160. These (hot eel) dealers generally trade on their own capital; but when some have been having a FLARE-UP, and have 'broke down for stock' to use the words of my informant, they borrow £1 and pay it back in a week or a fortnight.

1879. Justin McCarthy, Donna Quixote, ch. xvii. Paulina had a hard struggle many a time to keep down her temper, and not to have what she would have called a FLARE-OUT.

ENGLISH SYNONYMS.—Barney; batter; bean-feast; beano; breakdown; burst; booze (specifically a drinking-bout); caper; devil's delight; dust; fanteague; fight; flare; flats-yad (back slang); fly; gig; hay-bag; hell's delight; high jinks; hooping up; hop; jagg; jamboree; jump; junketing; lark; drive; randan; on the tiles; on the fly; painting the town (American); rampage; razzle-dazzle; reeraw; ructions; shake; shine; spree; sky-wannocking; tear; tear up; tout.

FRENCH SYNONYMS.—La nocerie (popular: une noce à tout casser; or, une noce de bâtons de chaise = a grand jollification); faire des crépes (= to have a rare spree); badouiller (popular: especially applied to drinking bouts).

ITALIAN SYNONYM. — Far festa alle campane.

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1855. **THACKERAY, Newcomes, ch. xii.** He was in the ‘Cave of Harmony,’ he says, that night you **FLARED UP** about Captain Costigan.

1871. **Daily Telegraph, 8 June,** ‘Paris in Convalescence.’ On this he **FLARED UP** like a Commune conflagration, and cried out, ‘Shame, in the name of religion, art, and history!’

**FLASH,** subs. (old).—I. The vulgar tongue; the lingo of thieves and their associates. **TO PATTER FLASH** = to talk in thieves’ lingo. [The derivation of **FLASH,** like that of French argot, is entirely speculative. It has, however, been generally referred to a district called **FLASH** (the primary signification as a place name is not clear), between Buxton Leek and Macclesfield: there lived many chapmen who, says Dr. Aiken ("Description of Country round Manchester"), ‘were known as **FLASH-MEN** . . . using a sort of slang or cant dialect.’]

1718. **HITCHIN. The Regulator of Thieves, etc., with Account of FLASH words, etc.** (Title).

1781. G. PARKER, **View of Society,** IL, 69. Jigger, being cant or **FLASH** for door.

1819. MOORE, **Tom Crib’s Memorial,** p. 25. With respect to that peculiar language called **FLASH,** or St. Jiles’ Greek, etc.

1830. **SIR E. B. LYTTON, Paul Clifford, ch. viii.** Here a tall gentleman marched up to him, and addressed him in a certain language, which might be called the freemasonry of **FLASH.**

1839. **HARRISON AINSWORTH, Jack Sheppard** (1889), p. 12, ‘What does he say!’ roared the long drover, ‘He says he don’t understand **FLASH,**’ replied the lady in gentleman’s attire.

1843-4. **HOOD,** **Miss Kilmansegg.** His cheeks no longer drew the cash. Because, as his comrades explain’d in **FLASH,** He had overdrawn his badger.

1827. **MAGINN,** **Vidocq’s Song.** Pattered in **FLASH** like a covey knowing,

1884. **ATHENÆUM, 29 Oct.** The northern village of ill-repute, and bearing that name (**FLASH**) gave to felonious high-flying the term **FLASH.**

1884. **HAWLEY SMART, From Post to Finish,** p. 278. Why, when the late Lord Lytton wrote *Pelham* it was brought against him that ‘his knowledge of **FLASH** was evidently purely superficial.’ **FLASH,** my sister, is merely recondite slang or thieves’ argot.

**ENGLISH ANALOGUES.—** Back Slang or Kacab-Genals (the main principle consists in roughly pronouncing the word backwards, as *erif* for fire, *dab* for bad, etc.: the practice exists in most languages); **CANT** (q.v.); Centre Slang (the central vowel is made the initial letter, vowels and consonants being added at pleasure); Gammy (North country: mainly composed of Gypsy words); Gibberish (formed by inserting a consonant between each syllable of a word, the result being the F, G, H, M or S gibberish, according to the letter used: thus, “goming mout todhay,” or “gosings outs todays?,” = going out to-day?); jargon; the Green Lingo (French thieves’); Marrowskying or Hospital Greek (manufactured by transferring the initial letters of words; plenty of rain thus becomes *renty of plain* : the ‘Gower St. dialect’ of Albert Smith, *Mr. Ledbury*); Pedlar’s French (old cant: *FLORIO, 1598* ; *COTGRAVE, 1612* ); **RYMING SLANG** (q.v.); **SLANG** (q.v.); St. Giles’ Greek (last century for Slang as distinguished from Cant); Thieves’ Latin; the Vulgar Tongue; **YOB-GAB** (q.v.); **NOTIONS** (q.v.); **ZIPH** (q.v.).

**FRENCH AND OTHER ANALOGUES.—** Argot or arguche; la langue verte (properly gamesters’); le langage soudardant (soldiers’
lingo); le jars; le jargon bobelin; (Cotgrave, Dictionarie, 1611. jargon = 'Gibrige, fustian language, Pedlar's French, a barbarous jangling'); le langage de l'artis; langage en lem (formed by prefixing "1" and adding the syllable "em," preceded by the first letter of the word); thus "main" becomes "lainmem." A similar mode of dealing with words of more than one syllable is to replace the first consonant by the letter "1," the word being followed by its first syllable preceded by "du"; thus, "jaquette" becomes "laquette du jaq," or if "m" be used as a key-letter, "maquette du jaq," etc.; le javancis — here the syllable "av" is interpolated; e.g., "jave f'avai vauv javeudavi" = (je l'ai vu jeudi). German. — Rothwalsch (from Roter = beggar or vagabond + walsch = foreign); Gaunersprache (= thieves' lingo). Italian. — Lingua gerga (abbreviated into gerga; (Florio, 1598 'gergo = Pedlar's French, fustian, or roguish language, gibbrish'); lingua franca (Levantine: the source of some English slang); lingua furbesca. Dutch. — Bargoneis. Spanish. — Germania (the Gypsies were supposed to have come from Germany); jériganza. Portuguese. — Calo (Zincail or Calo = Gypsy).

2. Hence, at one period, especially during the Regency days, the idiom of the man about town, of Tom and Jerrydom.

1819. Moore, Tom Crib's Memorial, p. xxix. To the cultivation in our times, of the Science of Pugilism, the Flash language is indebted for a considerable addition to its treasures.

1823. Jon Bee, Dict. of the Turf, etc. They were invariably thieves and gamblers who used Flash formerly; but other kinds of persons, now-a-day, who may be rippishly inclined, adopt similar terms and phrases, to evince their uppishness in the affairs of life. These gentlemen also consider all terms of art and of science as Flash; . . . of course, those words and sayings which are appropriate to the turf, the ring, and field sports, are equally considered as Flash by them, and the word has been applied (too generally we allow), to all this species of quid pro quo lingo.

3. (old).—See quot. and cf., with a Shaksperian gloss of Flash = a burst of wit or merriment.

1748. T. Dyche, Dict. (5th ed.), Flash (s.), also a boast, brag, or great pretence made by a spendthrift, quack, or pretender to more art or knowledge than he really has.

4. (old).—A showy swindler. (e.g., the Sir Petronel Flash of quot.); a blustering vulgarian.

1605. Marston, Jonson, and Chapman, Eastward Hoe! iv. 1. 'Sir Petronel Flash, I am sorry to see such flashes come from a gentleman of your quality.

1632. Shirley. Love in a Maze, i., 2. The town is full of these vain-glorious flashes.

5. (old).—A peruke or perriwig.

1690. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew, s.v.


6. (common).—A portion; a drink; or go (q.v.). Cf., Flash of Lightning, sense i.

Adj. (common).—I. Relating to thieves, their habits, customs, devices, lingo, etc.

1782. Geo. Parker, Humorous Sketches, p. 34. No more like a kiddy he'll roll the Flash song.
1830. LYTTON, Paul Clifford, 'Long Ned's Song.' And rarely have the gentry flash, in sprucer clothes been seen.

1837. Dickens, Oliver Twist, ch. viii. I suppose you don't know what a beak is, my Flash com-pan-i-on.

1839. Snowdon, Mag. Assistant, 3rd ed., p. 448. I have seen Cheeks (a Flash name for an accomplice).

1842. READE, Hard Cash, 244. He used some Flash words, and they were shown into a public room.

1853. SNOWDON, Mag. Assistant, 3rd ed., p. 448. I have seen Cheeks (a Flash name for an accomplice).

1863. C. READE, Hard Cash, 244. He used some Flash words, and they were shown into a public room.

1864. Cornhill Magazine, ii., 336. In the following verse, taken from a pet Flash song, you have a comic specimen of this sort of guilty chivalry.

2. (thieves').—Knowing; expert; showy. Cf., DOWN, FLY, WIDE-AWAKE, etc. Hence (popularly), by a simple transition, vulgarly counterfeit, showily shoddy: possibly the best understood meanings of the word in latter-day English. To PUT ONE FLASH TO ANYTHING = to put him on his guard; to inform.

1819. Moore, Tom Crib's Memorial, p. 19. Another philosopher, Seneca, has shown himself equally Flash on the subject.

1835. Dickens, Sketches by Boz, p. 17. Laying aside the knowing look, and Flash air, with which he had repeated the previous anecdote.

1836. MARRYAT, Japhet, etc., ch. lvii. He considered me as ... a Flash pickpocket rusticating until some hue and cry was over.


1845. M. E. Baudon, Henry Dunbar, ch. v. He ... took out the little packet of bank-notes. 'I suppose you can understand these,' he said. The languid youth ... looked dubiously at his customer. 'I can understand as they might be Flash uns,' he remarked, significantly.

1888. C. D. Warner, Their Pilgrimage, p. 157. The Flash riders or horse-breakers, always called 'broncho busters,' can perform really marvellous feats.

3. (originally thieves', now general).—Vulgar, or blackguardly; showy; applied to one aping his betters. Hence (in Australia), vain glorious or swaggering. The idea conveyed is always one of vulgarity or showy blackguardism.


1861. A. Trollope, Framley Parsonage, ch. ix. If the dear friendship of this Flash Member of Parliament did not represent that value, what else did do so?

1880. G. R. Sims, Three Brass Balls, Pledge xi. The speaker was one of the Flash young gentlemen who haunt suburban billiard-rooms, who carry chalk in their pockets, and call the marker 'Jack.'

4. (common).—In a set style. Also used substantively.

1819. Vaux, Flash Dict., p. 173. S.V. A person who affects any peculiar habit, as swearing, dressing in a particular manner, taking snuff, etc., merely to be taken notice of is said to do it out of Flash.

1828. The English Spy, vol. i., p. 180. The man upon that half-starved nag is an Ex S—fl, a strange wag, Half Flash and half a clown.

1851. Mayhew, Lon. Lab. and Lon. Poor, i., p. 36. They all of them (coster lads) delight in dressing Flash as they call it.... They try to dress like the men, with large pockets in their cord jackets, and plenty of them. Their trousers, too, must fit tight at the knee, and their boots they like as good as possible. A good 'kingsman,' a plush skull-cap, and a seam down the trousers are the great points of ambition with the coster boys.

[Hence, in combination, Flash-case, crib, drum, house, ken, or panny (see Flash-ken); flash cove (q.v.); flash-dispensary (American = a boarding house), especially a swell brothel; flash-gentry (= the swell mob or higher class of thieves) ; flash-girl, moll, mollisher, piece of woman (= a showy prostitute); flash-jig (costers' = a favourite dance); flash-kiddy ( = a dandy); flash-lingo, or song (=
Flash.

1. To show; to expose.

Verb (common).—I. To show; to expose.

[Among combinations may be mentioned, to FLASH ONE'S IVORIES = to show one's teeth, to grin (Grose); to FLASH THE HASH = to vomit (Grose); to FLASH THE Dickey = to flash the shirt front; to FLASH THE DIBS = to show or spend one's money; to FLASH A FAWNEY = to wear a ring; to FLASH ONE'S GAB = to talk, to swagger, to brag; to FLASH THE BUBS = to expose the paps; to FLASH THE MUZZLE (q.v.); to FLASH ONE'S TICKER = to air one's watch; to FLASH THE DRAG = to wear women's clothes for immoral purposes; to FLASH THE WHITE GRIN = to show one's teeth; to FLASH IT (q.v.), or to FLASH ONE'S MEAT (cf., MEAT-FLASHER); to FLASH A BIT (q.v.); to FLASH THE FLAG = to sport an apron; to FLASH THE WEDGE = to 'fence' the swag, etc.]

1812. Vaux, Flash Dict. Don't FLASH YOUR STICKS, don't expose your pistols.

1819. Moore, Tom Crib's Memorial, p. 2. His lordship, as usual, that very great dab At the flowers of rhetoric, is FLASHING HIS GAB.

1823. Jon Bee, Dict. of the Turf, etc. He FLASHED THE BLUNT, made a show of money to dazzle the spectators.

1825. E. Kent, Modern Flash Dict. FLASHING HIS IVORY, shew his teeth.


1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends. 'The Dead Drummer.' When travelling, don't FLASH YOUR NOTES OR YOUR CASH Before other people—its foolish and rash.

1887. W. E. Henley, Villon's Good-Night. Likewise you molls that FLASH YOUR BUBS, For swells to spot and stand you sam.

1887. W. E. Henley, Straight Tip. Go crying croaks, or FLASH THE DRAG.

TO FLASH A BIT, verbal phr. (venery).—To show up; to permit examination; 'TO SPREAD' (q.v.); to behave indecently. Said of women only.

TO FLASH IT, or TO FLASH ONE'S MEAT. —To expose the person. [Hence MEAT-FLASHER] (q.v.). Said usually of men.

TO FLASH THE MUZZLE (old). —To produce a pistol.

c. 1823. Ballad (quoted in Don Juan xi.). On the high toby spice FLASH THE MUZZLE In spite of each gallows old scout.

TO FLASH IT ABOUT, or TO CUT A FLASH OR DASH, verbal phr. (common). —To make a display; to live conspicuously and extravagantly.

1877. Five Years' Penal Servitude, ch. iii., p. 220. He FLASHED IT ABOUT a good deal for a long time, going from one place to another. Sometimes he was a lord, at others an earl.

TO GO FLASHING IT, verb. phr. (venery).—To have sexual intercourse. Forsynonyms, see GREENS and RIDE.

FLASH-CASE (or -CRIB, -HOUSE, -DRUM, -KEN, -PANNY, etc.).—1. A house frequented by thieves, as a tavern, lodging -house, fence (q.v.).

1690. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew. FLASH-KEN, c., a house where thieves use, and are connived at.

1785. Grose, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue, s.v.

stolen goods. [Haggart’s spelling, being that of the respectable Edinburgh lawyer who took down his ‘confessions’ is generally misleading and inaccurate.]

1828. Smeeton, Doings in London, p. 39. It is a game in very great vogue among the macers, who congregate nightly at the flash-houses.

1830. Lyttton, Paul Clifford, p. 50 (ed. 1854). There is one Peggy Lobkins who keeps a public house, a sort of flash-ken called ‘The Mug’ in Thames Court.

1839. Ainsworth, Jack Shely, (ed. 1840), p. 271. I’ve been to all the flash-cases in town, and can hear nothing of him or his wives... 

2. (common).—A brothel; a haunt of loose women.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum (Flash song quoted under flash-panneys). Next for his favourite mot the kiddey looks about, And if she’s in a flash-panny he swears he’ll have her out; So he fences all his togs to buy her duds, and then He frisks his master’s lob to take her from the bawdy ken.

1830. Lyttton, Paul Clifford, ch. xvi. (ed. 1840). You know how little I frequent flash-houses.


1840. Macaulay, Essays: ‘Lord Clive.’ The lowest wretches that the company’s crimps could pick up in the flash-houses of London.

1852. Bristed, Upper Ten Thousand, p. 34. That is Mary Black who keeps the greatest flash house in Leonard Street.

Flash-Cove (also Flash-Companion), subs. (common).— A thief; a sharper; a fence (q.v.).

1825. E. Kent, Modern Flash Dict. Flash-Cove, the keeper of a place for the reception of stolen goods.

1839. H. Ainsworth, Jack Sheppard (1889), p. 60.—‘Awake! To be sure I am, my Flash-Cove!’ replied Sheppard.

Flash-Man, subs. (old).—Primarily a man talking flash (see quotas., 1823 and 1802); hence, a rogue, a thief, the landlord of a flash-case (q.v.). Also a fancy-joseph (for synonyms, see Fancy-Man). In America, a person with no visible means of support, but living in style and ‘showing up’ well.

1789. Geo. Parker, Life’s Painter, p. 141. A flashman is one who lives on the hackneyed prostitution of an unfortunate woman of the town.

1823. Moncrieff, Tom and Jerry, II., 1. Soon one is floored upon the ground. While loud her flashman cries, ‘Arise, my ladybird, arise!’

1823. Jon Bee, Dict. of the Turf, etc., p. 80. Derived from his language, and this again has its appellation (tis suggested) from the first flash-men being highwaymen, that then generally abounded (circa 1770). He is the favorite, or protector of a prostitute, whose flash-man he is; and she is called inversely, his flash-woman.

c. 1833. Broadside Ballad. My flash-man has gone to sea.

1849. New South Wales, Past, Present, and Future, ch. i., p. 14. This man was known to Mr. Day to be what is termed a flash-man; and, seeing his own imminent danger, he instantly spoke to him and called him a cowardly rascal, and offered to give him shot for shot, while he was re-loading.


1862. Smiles, Lives of the Engineers, vol. I., pt. 5, ch. i., p. 307. Those articles were sold throughout the country by pedestrian hawkers, most of whom lived in the wild country called the flash, from a hamlet of that name situated between Buxton, Leek, and Macclesfield... Travelling about from fair to fair, and using a cant or slang dialect, they became generally known as flash-men, and the name still survives (to which may be added: They paid, at first, ready money, but when they had established a credit, paid in promissory notes which were rarely honored.)
Flash of Lightning. 13  Flasher.

a. 1873. Lyra Flagitiosa. [Quoted in Hotten.] My flash man’s in quod, And I’m the gal that’s willin’, So I’ll turn out to-night, And earn an honest shillin’.


1821. P. Egan, Tom and Jerry (ed. 1890), p. 79. I have not exactly recovered from the severe effects of the peeled Flashes of Lightning and strong claps of thunder, with which I had to encounter last night.

1823. Jon Bee, Dict. of the Turf (quoted in). But ere they homeward pik’d it, A Flash of Lightning was serv’d round to every one as lik’d it.

1830. Lytton, Paul Clifford, (ed. 1854), p. 141. The thunders of eloquence being hushed, Flashes of Lightning, or, as the vulgar say, ‘glasses of gin’ gleamed about.

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, i., p. 168. The stimulant of a Flash of Lightning ... for so a dram of neat spirit was then called.


1864. Braddon, Henry Dunbar, ch. v. But he evinced no bad taste in the selection of a costume. He chose no gaudy colours, or Flashily cut vestments.

1873. Cassell’s Magazine, Jan., p. 246, col. 2. They are rather prone to dress Flashily, and wear, when in full fig, no end of jewellery.

1882. Century Magazine, xxvi., 295. As stones, they were cheap and Flashy.

FLASH-TAIL, subs. (common).—A prostitute. See TAIL.

1888. Temple Bar, xxiv., p. 538-9. Picking-up Moll. ... a Flash-tail? a prostitute who goes about the streets at nights trying to pick up toffs.

FLASHER, subs. (old).—A high-flyer; a fop; a pretendent to wit. For synonyms, see Dandy. Also (quot. 2), a Bonnet (q.v.).

1779. D’Arblay, Diary, etc. (1876), vol. 1., p. 185. They are reckoned the Flashers of the place, yet everybody laughs at them for their airs, affectations, and tonish graces and impertinences.
1880. *Derbyshire Gatherer*, p. 128. Long before this date (circa 1800) the cant name of Flasher was applied to the man who sat by the table in the gambling-house to swear how many times he had seen lucky gamblers break the bank.

**Flashery**, subs. (old).—Inferior, or vulgar, elegance, dash, distinction, display.

**Flash-yad**, subs. (back-slang).—A day’s enjoyment. For synonyms, see Flare-up.

**Flashy Blade or Spark**, subs. phr. (old).—A dandy (q.v.); now a cheap and noisy swell, whether male or female; cf., Flasher.

1719. *Durfey, Pills, etc.*, p. 104. In youth a nauseous flashy pop, in elder days a bore.

1819. *Moore, Tom Crib’s Memorial*, p. 46. For though all know that flashy spark, etc.

**Flat**, subs. (colloquial).—1. A greenhorn; noddy; gull. For synonyms, see Buffle and Cabbage-head; also Sammy-soft.

1762. *Goldsmith, Life of Nash*, in wks. p. 546 (Globe). Why, if you think me a dab I will get this strange gentleman, or this, pointing to the flat. Done! cries the sailor, but you shall not tell him.

1789. *G. Parker, Life’s Painter*, p. 142. Who are continually looking out for flats, in order to do them upon the broads, that is, cards.

1819. *Moore, Tom Crib’s Memorial*, p. 59. Poor Johnny Raw, what madness could impel, so run a flat to face so prime a swell.

1837. *Barham, Ingoldsby Legends*. Misadventures at Margate. He’s been upon the mill, And cos he gammons all the flats we call him Veepin Bill.

1841. *Lytton, Night and Morning*, bk. II., ch. ix. ‘Did he pay you for her?’ ‘Why, to besure, he gave me a cheque on Coutt’s.’ ‘And you took it? My eyes? what a flat.’

1847. *Punch*, vol. XIII., p. 148. It mayn’t precisely please the moral flat. You won’t find fault with it, kind friends, for that.

1848. *Thackeray, The Book of Snobs*, ch. x. When he does play he always contrives to get hold of a good flat.


1866. *Yatsbs, Black Sheep*, I., p. 70. The genius which had hitherto been confined to bridging a pack of cards, or ‘securing’ a die, talking over a flat, or winning money of a greenhorn.

1880. *Mortimer Collins, Thoughts in My Garden*, vol. II., p. 180. Their quick medicines that will cure everything, and their sales of invaluable articles at a loss, and a thousand other devices to catch flats.


2. (American thieves’).—An honest man.


**Adj.** (colloquial and literary).—Downright; plain; straightforward; as in that’s flat? a flat lie, “flat burglary,” etc.

1598. *Shakspeare, 1 King Henry IV*, Act I., Sc. 3. Wor.: You start away, And lend no ear to my purposes. Those prisoners you shall keep. Hot.: Nay, I will; that’s flat.


[There are other usages, more or less colloquial: e.g., Insipid; tame; dull: as in Macaulay’s “flat as champagne in decanters.” On the Stock Exchange, flat = without interest; Stock is borrowed flat when no interest is allowed by the lender as security for the due return of the scrip.]
Verb (American). To jilt. Cf., subs., sense 3. For synonyms, see MITTEN.

1871. J. C. Neat, Charcoal Sketches. Not to hurt a gentleman’s feelings and to make him FEEL FLAT afore the country.

2. (American).—To fail; to give way. Also used substantively.

FLAT AS A FLOUNDER (or PANCAKE), phr. (colloquial).—Very flat indeed. Also FLAT AS BE BLOWED.


TO BRUSH UP A FLAT. See BRUSER.

TO PICK UP A FLAT, verb. phr. (prostitutes’). To find a client. Fr., lever or faire un miché (miche = bread, from michon = money. Compare BREADWINNER: under MONOSYLLABLE (q.v.)).

1869. Greenwood, Seven Curses of London. To mark the many kinds of bait that are used in FLAT-CATCHING, as the turf slang has it.

FLAT-BACK, subs. (common).—A bed-bug. For synonyms, see NORFOLK HOWARD.

FLAT-BROKE, adj. (colloquial).—Utterly ruined; DEAD-BROKE (q.v.).

FLAT-CATCHER, subs. (common).—An impostor.

1823. Moncrieff, Tom and Jerry, i., 6. Cope (speaking of a horse). Well, Master Gull’em, do you think we shall get the FLAT-CATCHER off to-day?

1841. Blackwood’s Mag., 1., 202. Buttoners are those accomplices of thimble-riggers . . . whose duty it is to act as FLAT-CATCHERS or decoys, by personating flats.

1856. Mayhew, Great World of London, p. 45. And FLAT-CATCHERS, or ‘ring-droppers,’ who cheat by pretending to find valuables in the street.

1864. London Review, June 18, p. 643. ‘The Bobby’ or chinked-back horse, is another favourite FLAT-CATCHER.

1869. Whyte-Melville, M. or N., p. 110. Rather a FLAT-CATCHER, Tom? said that nobleman, between the whiffs of a cigar.

FLAT-CATCHING, subs. (common).—Swindling.

1821. Egan, Tom and Jerry, p. 118. The no-pinned hero, on being elevated, gave, as a toast, ‘Success to FLAT-CATCHING,’ which produced roars of laughter and shouts of approbation.

1869. Greenwood, Seven Curses of London. To mark the many kinds of bait that are used in FLAT-CATCHING, as the turf slang has it.

FLATCH, adj. (back-slang).—A half. FLATCH-KENNURD = half drunk; FLATCH-YENORK = half-a-crown; FLATCH-YENNEP = a half-penny (see subs., sense 1).

Subs. 1.—A half-penny. [An abbreviation of FLATCH-YENNEP.] For synonyms, see MAG.

1866. Vance, The Chickaleary Cove. I doesn’t care a FLATCH as long as I’ve a tach.

2 (coiners’).—A counterfeit half-crown. For synonyms, see MADZA.
FLAT-CAP, subs. (old).—A nickname for a citizen of London. [In Henry the Eight's time flat round caps were the pink of fashion; but when their date was out, they became ridiculous. The citizens continued to wear them long after they were generally disused, and were often satirized for their fidelity.]

1596. Ben Jonson, Every Man in H., ch. ii., v. 1. Mock me all over From my flat-cap unto my shining shoes.

1602. Dekker, Honest Whore. Old Plays, iii., 294. Come, SIRRah, you flat-cap, where be those whites?

1605. Marston, Dutch Court, ii., i. Wealthy flat-caps that pay for their pleasure the best of any men in Europe.

1613. Beaumont and Fletcher, Hon. Man's Fort., v. 3. Trade? to the city, child: a flat-cap will become thee.

FLAT-COCK, subs. (old).—A female. [Grose, 1785.] For synonyms, see Petticoat.

FLAT-FOOTED, adj. (American).—Downright; resolute; honest. [Western: the simile, common to most languages, is of a man standing, his back to the wall, resolute to accomplish his purpose.]

1821. Haggart, Life, p. 56. We played at flats in a budging-crib.

FLAT-HEAD, subs. (American).—A greenhorn; a sammy-soft (q.v.).

FLAT-IRON, subs. (common).—A corner public house. [From the triangular shape.]

FLAT-FEET, subs. (common).—Specifically the Foot Guards, but also applied to other regiments of the line. Also (generally with some powerful adjective), applied to militia men to differentiate them from linesmen. For synonyms, see Mud-Crusher.

FLAT-FISH, (generally, a regular flat-fish) subs. (common).—A dullard. [A play upon flat = stupid, and fish = something to hook or catch.] For synonyms, see Buffle, Cabbage-Head, and Sammy-Soft. Cf., fr., platpied = a contemptible fellow.

FLAT-FOOTED, adj. (American).—Standing, his back to the wall, resolute to accomplish his purpose.


FLAT-MOVE, subs. (old).—An attempt or project that miscarries; folly and mismanagement generally. —Grose.

FLATS, subs. (old). 1. Playing cards. For synonyms, see King's Books.

2. (old).—False dice. For synonyms, see Fulhams.
Flats and Sharps. 17  Flax-wench.

3. (old).—Base money.

Mahogany flats, subs. phr. (common).—Bed-bugs. For synonyms, see Norfolk Howards.

Flats and Sharps, subs. phr. (old).—Weapons.

1818. Scott, Heart of Midlothian, ch. xxx. ‘I have known many a pretty lad cut short in his first summer upon the road, because he was something hasty with his flats and sharps.’

Flatten out, verb. phr. (American).—To get the better of (in argument or fight). For synonyms, see Floor. Flattened-out = ruined; beaten.

Flatter-trap, subs. (common).—The mouth. Fr., la menteuse, but for synonyms, see Potato-trap.

1859. Matsell, Vocabulum, or Rogue’s Lexicon, s.v.

Flatty-ken, subs. (thieves')—See ouot.

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, vol. I., p. 261. Some take up their abode in what they call Flatty-ken, that is, houses the landlord of which is not ‘awake’ or ‘fly’ to the ‘moves’ and dodges of the trade.

Flawed, ppl. adj. (common).—I. Half drunk; ‘a little crooked’; quick-tempered.—Grose. For synonyms, see Drinks and Screwed.

2. (venery).—‘Cracked in the ring’; i.e., deflowered.

Flay (or Flay the Fox), verb. phr. (old).—To vomit: ‘from the subject to the effect,’ says Cotgrave; ‘for the flaying of so stinking a beast is like enough to make them spue that feel it.’

Now, to shoot the cat. For synonyms, see Accounts and Cast up Accounts. Cf., Fox, verb, sense I.

1653. Urquhart, Rabelais, bk. I., ch. xi. He would flay the fox.

2. (American).—To clean out by unfair means.

To flay or skin a flint, verb. phr. (old).—To be mean or miserly. See Skinflint.

1690. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew, s.v. He’ll flay or skin a flint of a Meer Scrat or Miser.


Flaybottom or Flaybottomist, subs. (common).—A schoolmaster, with a play on the word phlebotomist = a blood-letter.—Grose. Fr., fouette-cul; and (Cotgrave) “Fesse-cul, a pedantic whip-arse.”

Flavour, to catch (or get) the Flavour, verb. phr. (common).—1. To be intoxicated. For synonyms, see Drinks and Screwed.

2. (venery). To be ‘half-on’ for coition; to wax proud (q.v.): said of men and women both.

Flax, verb. (American).—To beat severely; to give it hot (q.v.). For synonyms, see Tan.

Flax-wench, subs. (old).—A prostitute. For synonyms, see Barrack-hack and Tart.

1604. Shakspeare, Winter’s Tale, i., 2. My wife’s a hobby-horse; deserves a name As rank as any Flax-wench.
Flea. To send away with a flea in the ear. *verb. phr.* (common). — To dismiss with vigour and acerbity.

1854. *Notes and Queries*, 8 Apr., p. 322, col. 2. The luckless applicant is peremptorily dismissed with an imperative flee!... or, facetiously, with a flea in his ear.

To have a flea in the ear = (1) to fail in an enterprise; and (2) to receive a scolding, or annoying suggestion.

To sit on a bag of fleas. *verb. phr.* (common). — To sit uncomfortably; on a bag of hen fleas = very uncomfortably indeed.

To catch fleas for, *verb. phr.* (venery). — To be on terms of extreme intimacy: e.g., 'I catch her fleas for her' = She has nothing to refuse me. Cf., Shakspeare (*Tempest*, III., 2), 'Yet a tailor might scratch her where'er she did itch.'

In a flea's leap, *adv. phr.* (old). — In next to no time; *instanter* (q.v.).

Flea-and-louse, *subs.* (rhyming slang). A house. For synonyms, see *Ken*.

Flea-bag, *subs.* (common). — A bed; Fr. un pucier. For synonyms, see *Kip*.

1839. *Lever, Harry Lorrequer*, ch. xl. 'Troth, and I think the gentleman would be better if he went off to his flea-bag himself.'


1630. *Taylor, Works*. If they doe lose by pirates, tempests, rocks, 'Tis but a flea-bite to their wealthy stockes; Whilst the poore cutpurse day and night doth toile, Watches and wardes, and doth himselfe turmoile.


1621. *Burton, Anatomy of Melancholy*. Their miseries are but flea bitings to thine.

Flea- (or Flay-) Flint, *subs.* (old) — A miser: *Cf.* Skin Flint (q.v.).

1719. *Durfey, Pills, etc.*, i., 114 The *flea-flints*... strip me bare.


1690. *B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew*.

Fleece, *subs.* (old). — An act of theft. *Cf.*, old proverb, 'to go out to shear and come home shorn.' For synonyms, see *Skin*.


2. (venery). — The female pubic hair. Fr. *toison* (Baudelaire); It. *barbiglioni* (Florio). For foreign synonyms, see *Mott*.

English Synonyms. — Banner (Durfey); bandoliers (old); beard; bear skin; belly-brisles; belly-thicket; belly-whiskers; Boskage of Venus; broom; brush; bush; cat skin; cloverfield; cunny-skin (Durfey); *Cupid's Arbour*; cunt-curtain; damber-, dilberry-, gooseberry-, furze-, quim-, or whin-bush; down; *Downshire*; front-doormat; feather (Prior and Moore); fluff; forest (Donne); fud (Burns); fur; fur-below (old catch); 'grove of eglantine' (Carew); hedge on
Fleece.

the dyke; lower-wig (Burton); moss; mott-carpet; mustard-and-cress; nether eye-brow (or -lashes); nether-whiskers; parsley (Durfey); plush; quim-whiskers; quim-wig; scut (Shakspeare); shaving-brush (cf., LATHER); scrubbing-brush; shrubbery; sporran; stubble (see POINTER); sweet-briar; thatch; tail-feathers; 'toupee'; 'tufted honours'; twat-rug.

Verb (now recognised).—To cheat; to shear or be shorn (as a sheep).

1593. Nashe, Christ's Tears, in wks. (Grosart) IV. 140. Tell me (almost) what gentleman hath been cast away at sea, or disasterly soundiorized it by lande, but they (usurers) have enforst him thereunto by their FLEECING.

1598. Shakspeare, I King Henry IV., ii., 2. Down with them: FLEECE them!

1620. Dekker, His Dreame, in wks. (Grosart) III. 52. Catchpolles, and varlets, who did poore men FLEECE (To their undoing) for a twelve-peny peece.


1822. Scott, Fort. of Nigel, ch. xxiii. He is now squeezed and FLEECED by them on every pretence.

1836. M. Scott, Cruise of the Midge, p. 106. He was stabbed by the Raggamuffin he had FLEECED.

1849. Thackeray, Pendennis, ch' xxxi. Bloudell is a professional blackleg, and travels the Continent, where he picks up young gentlemen of fashion and FLEECES them.

1859. Times, 25 Oct. 'Review of Dean Ramsay's Reminiscences.' I don't know whether they are black or white sheep, but I know that if they are long there they are pretty certain to be FLEECED.

1891. Licensed Victuallers' Gazette, 16 Jan. How you would be FLEECED! You've got a lot to learn yet.

Hence FLEECED = ruined; DEAD-BROKE (q.v. for synonyms).

Fleece, subs. (old).—A thief.

1600-69. Prynne, Breviate. Not FLEECERS, but feeders.

Fleece-Hunter, or -Monger, subs. phr. (venery).—A wholemaster. For synonyms, see MOL-ROWER.

Fleeter-Face, subs. (old).—A pale-face; a coward. Cf., Shakspeare's 'cream-faced loon.'

1647. Beaumont and Fletcher, Queen of Corinth. You know where you are, you FLEETER-FACE.

Fleet-Note, subs. (old).—A forged note.

1821. Real Life in London.

Fleet of the Desert, subs. phr. (common).—A caravan; cf., SHIP OF THE DESERT = camel.

Fleet-Street, subs. phr. (colloquial).—The estate of journalism, especially journalism of the baser sort.

Fleet-Streeter, subs. (colloquial).—A journalist of the baser sort; a spunging PROPHET (q.v.); a shambling dramatic critic; a SPICY (q.v.) paragraphist; and so on.

Fleet-Streese, subs. phr. (colloquial).—The so-called English, written to sell by the FLEET-STREETER (q.v.), or baser sort of journalist: a mixture of sesquipedalians and slang, of phrases worn threadbare and phrases sprung from the kennel; of bad grammar and worse manners; the like of which is impossible outside FLEET-STREET (q.v.), but which in FLEET-STREET commands a price, and enables not a few to live.

Flemish Account, subs. phr. (old). — A remittance less than was expected; hence, an unsatisfactory account. [Among the Flemings (the merchants of Western Europe when commerce was young) accounts were kept in livres, sols, and pence; but the livre or pound only = 12s., so that what the Antwerp merchant called one livre thirteen and fourpence would in English currency be only 20s.]

1668. T. Brown, The Accurate Accompitant, etc. Quoted in N. and Q. t. S. I., 286. London, August 10th, 1668. To Roger Pace, Factor, etc., for To pieces cont. 74 6 Ells Fl. at 5c. Flem. per Ell is £373 Flem. Exchange at 355. makes Sterling Money £213 2S. 1d.

1774-1826. Tyl. Antiq., p. 1773. A person resident in London is said to have had most of Caxton's publications. He sent them to Amsterdam for inspection, and on writing for them was informed that they had been destroyed by accident. 'I am very much afraid,' says Herbert, my kind friend received but a Flemish Account of his Caxton's.

1820. London Magazine, 1., 29. They are often without a Flesh-Bag to their backs.

Flesh, subs. (old). — Generic for the organs of generation, male or female. Also (of women) Fleshly-part.

1604. Shakspeare, Winter's Tale, iv., 3. She would not exchange flesh with one that loved her.

1608. Cymbeline, i., 5. If you buy ladies' flesh at a million a dram you cannot preserve it from tainting.

1620. Percy, Folio MSS. [Hales & Furnival]. 1867. 'As I was ridinge by the way.' Sweet hart, shall I put my flesh in thine?

Flesh, verb., or, Flesh It; or, to be fleshed in (venery). — To have carnal knowledge of — to be 'one flesh with' — a woman. [For synonyms, see Greens and Ride.] An equivalent in the passive sense is to feel his flesh in one's body (said by women only).

1598. Florio, A Worlde of Wordes, Andar in Carnafau. To go a fleshing or a wenching: (Carnafau = the brat-getting place; the hole of content).


Flesh-Bag, subs. (common). — A shirt or chemise.

English Synonyms. — Biled rag (American); camesa; carrion-case; commission; dickey (formerly a worn-out shirt); gad (gips'); lully; mill tog; mish; narp (Scots'); shaker; shimmy ( = a chemise, Marryat); smish.

French Synonyms. — Une liquette or limace (thieves' : from the Gypsy. The form also occurs also in the Italian lima); un panais (popular).

German Synonyms. — Kamis, Kansel, Kemsel, or Gemsel (from med. Lat., Camissiale; Fr. camisole); Kesones, Kusones, or Ksones (also = cotton and underclothing); Staude or Stauden; Hanfstandt (Libr. Vagatorum: literally hemp-shrub).

Italian Synonym. — Lima (see Fr., limace).

1820. London Magazine, 1., 29. They are often without a Flesh-Bag to their backs.


1690. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew. Flesh-broker, a match-maker; also a bawd; between whom but little difference, for they both (usually) take money.

2. A procuress [Grose]. Cf., Flesh-fly, Flesh-monger,
and FLESH-MARKET. For synonyms, see MOTHER.

**FLESH-FLY** (also, FLESH-MAGGOT), subs. (old). — A whoremaster. For synonyms, see MOLROWER.

1781. Cowper, Progress of Error, 323-324. Oh! that a verse had power, and could command far, far away, these FLESH-FLIES of the land.

**FLESH-MARKET** (or **FLESH-SHAMBLES**), subs. (common). — A brothel or FLASH-HOUSE (q.v.); also the pavement, in Piccadilly or Regent-street, for instance, where whores do congregate. Cf., MEATMARKET.

1668. John Day, Humour out of Breath, II. I aS. . . . She may bee well discended; if shee be, Shee's fit for love, and why not then for me. Boy. And you be not fitted in Venice 'tis straunge, for 'tis counted the best FLESH-SHAMBLES in Italie.

**FLESH-MONGER**, subs. (old). — A procurer; a whore-master. [From Eng. FLESH-MONGER]. For synonyms, see MOTHER and MOLROWER. Cf., FLESH-FLY, FLESH-MARKET, and FLESH-BROKER.

1603. Shakspeare, Measure for Measure, V., 1. And was the duke a FLESH-MONGER, a fool, and a coward, as you then reported him to be?

**FLESH-MONGERING.** To go FLESH-MONGERING, verb. phr. (venery). — To quest for women; to go on the prowl (q.v.), or after meat. See GREENS and RIDE.

**FLESH-POT.** SIGHING FOR THE FLESH-POTS OF EGYPT. phr. (common). — Hankering for good things no longer at command. [Biblical].

1884. Hawley Smart, From Post to Finish, p. 131. Do you think it is a HANKERING AFTER THE FLESH-POTS, and that the canon's cook reconciles me to the canon's opinions?

**FLESH-TAILOR**, subs. (old). — A surgeon. For synonyms, see SAWBONES.

1633. Ford, 'Tis Pity She's a Whore, iii. Oh, help! help! help! Oh, for a FLESH-TAILOR quickly.

**FLESHY**, subs. (Winchester College). — See CAT'S HEAD.

**FLETCH**, subs. (prison). A spurious coin. Cf., FLATCH.

**FLOOK** or **FLIG**, subs. (colloquial). — I. A cut with a whip-lash; hence, a blow of any sort. A FLOOKING is often administered by schoolboys with a damp towel or pocket-handkerchief. For synonyms, see TANNING.

1750. Fielding, Tom Jones, bk. VI., ch. 2. I do know you are a woman,' cries the squire, 'and it's well for thee, that art one; if had'st been a man, I promise thee I had lent thee a FLOOK long ago.

1787. Grose, Provincial Glossary, s.v. FLICK.

2. (common). — A jocular salutation; usually OLD FLOOK. Cf., CODGER and MY TULIP.

1883. Punch, 28 July, p. 38, col. 1. Well, last night, They'd a feet in these gardens, OLD FLOOK, as was something too awfully quite.

Verb. (thieves'). — I. To cut.

1690. B.E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew. Flicking, e., to cut, cutting.

1728. Bailey, Eng. Dict. (FLOOK is given as a 'country word').

1785. Grose, Dict. Vulg. Tongue. FLOOK me some pannam and cassan, cut me some bread and cheese; FLOOK the peter, cut off the cloak bag or portmanteau.
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<tr>
<th>Flicker.</th>
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1791. Carew, Life and Adventures, q.v.

1837. Disraeli, Venetia, ch. xiv. Flick the bread, cut the bread.

1859. Matsell, Vocabulum or Rogue's Lexicon, s.v. Flick the Peter and rake the swag for I want to pad my beaters.

2. (colloquial). — To strike with, or as with, a whip.

1836. Dickens, Pickwick, ch. xiii. Near him, leaning listlessly against the wall, stood a strong-built countryman, flicking with a worn-out hunting whip the top-boot that adorned his right foot.

1852. Dickens, Bleak House, ch. xxvii. Who... receives this compliment by flicking Mr. George in the face with a head of greens.

1854. Our Cruise in the Undine, p. 103. It appeared to us that one of the most frequent, and therefore we supposed the principal stroke aimed at (in a Heidelberg duel), was to strike your sword low down, perhaps four inches from the handle, upon your adversary's bandaged arm, so that the end of the weapon (the only part that is sharpened) should flick itself against your opponent's face.


**Flicker, subs. (Old Cant).** — A drinking glass.

1890. B.E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew, s.v. Flicker, to grin or flout.

Also flicking = (1) drinking, and (2) wanton laughter.

1854. Our Cruise in the Undine, p. 103. Clearly the G.O.M. is no flyer over this course.

1890. Bird o' Freedom, 10 Mar., p. 3, col. 1. Clearly the G.O.M. is no flyer over this course.

1891. Licensed Victuallers' Gazette, 20 Mar. Although he may doubtless be made a good deal better he may turn out to be no flyer.

**Flicker or Flyer, subs. (racing and yachting).** — 1. A horse or boat of great speed; also (American railway) a fast train; hence, by implication, anything of excellence. Cf., Dasher, Daisy, etc. Also adj., keen for.

1884. Hawley Smart, From Post to Finish, p. 156. Atalanta might be a flyer, but an artist like Pycroft, with a clever colt like Newsmonger under him, was quite likely to outride whatever boy Mr. Pipes might now be able to pick up.

1888. St. Louis Globe-Democrat, 2 Mar. In spite of the strike passenger trains, what are known as the flyers, are running with reasonable regularity.

1890. Birld o' Freedom, 10 Mar., p. 3, col. 1. Clearly the G.O.M. is no flyer over this course.

**French Synonyms.** — Une lampe (masons'); un guindal (popular); un godet (very old); une gobette (thieves'); un gobeson (thieves').

**Verb. 1. To drink. — Matsell.**

2. (old). — To laugh wantonly; also to kiss, or lewdly fondle a woman. — Palgrave. For synonyms, see Firkytoodle.

1690. B.E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew, s.v. Flicker, to grin or flout.


1719. Durfey, Pills, etc., ii., 20. Their bellies went flicket-a-flacket.

1865. Braddon, Henry Dunbar, ch. xxii. The mare's in splendid condition; well, you saw her take her trial gallop the other morning, and you must know she's a flyer, so I won't talk about her.

1884. Hawley Smart, From Post to Finish, p. 156. Atalanta might be a flyer, but an artist like Pycroft, with a clever colt like Newsmonger under him, was quite likely to outride whatever boy Mr. Pipes might now be able to pick up.

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1891. Bury and Hillier. Cycling, p. 6. A moderate rider, not being an athlete or a flyer... can... get over in an hour seven or eight miles of ground on a tricycle.
23. Flim-flam.

1891. Anti-Jacobin, 23 May, p. 400. When Dangerous, Plenipotentiary, Bay Middleton, and other FLYERS ran.

1891. Morning Advertiser, 28 Mar. In any event, he was never a FLYER at breakfast. But late at night, and when, perhaps, he tumbled across something equivalent to woodcock, tripe and onions, or a hot lobster, say, why then, take my word for it, he made up for previous abstinence.

1891. National Observer, 1 Aug. It remains to be seen whether large yachts constructed on the same principle will be equally invincible: that is, if the FLYERS we have are one and all to disappear.

2. (football).—A shot in the air. See MADE-FLYER.

3. (American).—A small handbill; a DODGER (q.v.).

TO TAKE A FLYER (American trade).—1. To make a venture; to invest against odds.

2. (venery). — To copulate in haste (GROSE); to do a FAST-FUCK (q.v.).

FLIES, subs. (rhyming). — Lies. Hence, nonsense; trickery; deceit.

THERE ARE NO FLIES ON ME, on HIM, etc., phr. (common). — 'I am dealing honestly with you;' 'he is genuine, and is not humbugging.' In America, the expression is used of (1) a man of quick parts, a man who 'knows a thing without its being kicked into him by a mule'; and (2) a person of superior breeding or descent. Sometimes the phrase is corrupted into 'no fleas.' See GAMMON.

1868. Diprose, St. Clement Danes, Past and Present. To Deaf Burke, the celebrated pugilist, is attributed the old story of the 'flies and the gin and water;' and hence the term 'no flies' became prevalent. Burke had ordered . . . some hot and strong and a dash of lemon.' The goblet was brought . . . Burke raised . . . the nectar to his lips, and beheld some dissipated flies lying at the bottom of the tumbler; he placed the glass on the table, and deliberately removed the flies with the spoon, five or six in number, and laid them side by side before him, and then giving a hearty pull at the gin and water, he as deliberately replaced the flies . . . and passed it to his friend. His companion stared angrily. 'Do you dare to insult me, and in the presence of company?' said theirate vis-à-vis. 'Pardon me,' replied Burke, quietly handing the glass a second time, 'though I don't drink flies myself, I didn't know but what others might.'

1888. Detroit Free Press, 25 Aug. THERE AIN'T NO FLIES ON HIM, signifies, that he is not quiet long enough for moss to grow on his heels, that he is wide awake.

1888. Missouri Republican, 24 Feb. People who are capable of descending to New York and Boston English are fully justified in saying that THERE ARE NO FLIES ON ST. LOUIS or the St. Louis delegation either.

FLIGGER (also Flicker), verb. (old). —To grin.

1720. DURFEY Pills, etc., vi., 267. He FLIGGERED, and told me for all my brave alls He would have a stroke.

FLIM.—See FLIMSY.

FLIM-FLAM, subs. (old).—An idle story; a sham; a ROBINHOOD TALE (q.v.). A duplication of FLAM (q.v.).

1589. Papp with an Hatchet (ed. 1844) p. 39. Trusse up thy packet of FLIM-FLAMS, and roage to some countrey faire, or read it among boyes in the belfrie.

1630. TAYLOR, Workes. They with a courtly tricke, or a FLIM-FLAM, do nod at me, whilst I the noddy am.

1750. FIELDING, Tom Jones, bk. XVIII., ch. xii. I thought thou had'st been a lad of higher mettle than to give way to a parcel of maidenish tricks. I tell thee 'tis all FLIM-FLAM.

1780. MRS. COWLEY, The Belle's Stratagem, iii., 1. Mr. Curate, don't think to come over me with your FLIM-FLAMS, for a better man than ever trod in your shoes is coming over-sea to marry me.
1805. ISAAC DISRAELI, FLIM-FLAMS; or the Life and Errors of my Uncle, and the Amours of my Aunt [title].

1825. C. LAMB, Munden (in London Magazine) Feb. I wonder you can put such FLIM-FLAMS upon us, sir.

Adj. (old).—Idle; worthless.


1589. FLORIO, A Worlde of Worries. Filastroccola, FLIM-FLAM tales, old wiues tales as they tell when they spinne, a tale without rime or reason, or head or foote.

1633. T. NEWTON, Lennie's Touchstone of Complexions, p. 120. Reporting a FLIM-FLAM tale of Robin Hood.

1750. FLIMSY, or FLIM, subs. (common).—1. A bank-note. [From the thinness of the paper.] SOFT-FLIMSY = a note drawn on 'The Bank of Elegance,' or 'The Bank of Engraving.' For synonyms, see SOFT.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v.

1818. P. EGAN, Boxiana, iv., 443. Martin produced some FLIMSY and said he would fight on Tuesday next.

1837. BARHAM, Ingoldsby Legends ('Merchant of Venice'). Not 'kites, manufactured to cheat and inveigle, But the right sort of FLIMSY, all sign'd, by Monteagle.

1855. Punch, XXIX., 10. 'Will you take it in FLIMSYs, or will you have it all in tin?'

1870. Chambers' Journal, 9 July, p. 448. 'What would it be worth? 'A FLIM, Sam.'

1884. Daily Telegraph, 8 Apr., col. 3. One of the slang terms for a spurious bank-note is a SOFT-FLIMSY.

1891. HUME NISBET, Bail Up! p. 149. Next morning when I went to the bank to collect the swag, they stopped the FLIMSY, and had me arrested before I could look round.

2. (journalists').—News of all kinds; POINTS (q.v.). [From the thin prepared paper used by pressmen for making several copies at once]. First used at Lloyd's.

1861. Cornhill Magazine, iv., 199 'At Westminster,' my lord is neither a mumbling nor a short-tempered judge; he will ... read them a great deal of his notes, which are a thousand-fold clearer, fuller, and more accurate than the reporter's FLIMSY.

1866. Morning Star ('The Flaneur'). A London correspondent, who, by the aid of FLIMSY misleads a vast number of provincial papers.

1870. London Figaro, 23 Sept. 'Special Lining.' We do not think it is
altogether worthy of the high repute of the Pall Mall Gazette to publish Flimsy as a special correspondence.

1876. Besant and Rice, *Golden Butterfly*, ch. xviii. The sharpest of the reporters had his Flimsy up in a minute, and took notes of the proceedings.

**FLINDERS**, *subs.* (common). — Pieces infinitesimally small.

1870. *New York Evening Sun*, 24 May. Report of Speech of Mr. Chandler. Let us knock the British crown to Flinders; let us arrange for some one or two hundred thousand British graves with, and cabbage the whole boundless continent without any further procrastination.

**FLING**, *subs.* (colloquial). — I. A fit of temper.

2. (common). — A jeer; a jibe; a personal allusion or attack.

1592. *Shakespere, I Henry VI.*, iii, i. Then would I have a fling at Winchester.

1888. *Star*, 10 Oct. Those writers who had a fling at Iddesleigh after his poor running at Stockton will have to take their words back some day.

1890. *Pall Mall Gazette*, 24 July, p. 4, col. 2. As the disputants warmed up, little personal flings were of course introduced

**Verb (old).** — I. To cheat; to get the best of; to do (*q.v.*) or diddle.—Grose.


2. (Scots). — To dance.

1790. Burns, *Tam O'Shanter*. To tell how Maggie lapt and flang (A souple jaud she was, and strang).

3. (venery). — To move in the act; to back-up (*q.v.*). Fr., *frizer la queue*—to wriggle the tayle (in leachering).—Cotgrave.


**TO FLING OUT,** *verb. phr.* (colloquial). — To depart in a hurry, and, especially, in a temper.

**TO FLING (or FLAP) IT IN ONE'S FACE,** *verb. phr.* (prostitutes')—To expose the person.

**IN A FLING,** *adv. phr.* (colloquial). — In a spasm of temper.

**TO HAVE ONE'S FLING,** *verb. phr.* (colloquial). — To enjoy full liberty of action or conduct. Cf., *High Old Time*.

1624. Beaumont and Fletcher, *Rule a Wife, &c.*, iii, 5. I'll have a fling.

1846-8. Thackeray, *Vanity Fair*, ch. xiii. Hang it; the regiment's just back from the West Indies, I must have a little fling, and then when I'm married I'll reform.

1855. Thackeray, *Newcomes*, II., 178. I don't want to marry until I have had my fling, you know.

1888. Gilbert, *Pirates of Penzance*. Peers will be peers, And youth will have his fling.

1901. Hume Nisbet, *Bail Up*! p. 253. If policy (police) show up, then you let me have my fling, eh?

**TO FLING DIRT.** — See *dirt*.

**FLINGER, *subs.* (Scots). — A dancer.**

1821. Scott, *Pirate*, ch. ix. That's as muckle as to say, that I suld hae minded you was a flinger and a fiddler yoursel', Maister Mordaunt.

**FLING-DUST, *subs.* (old). — A street-walker. For synonyms, see *barrack-hack* and *tart*.

**FLINT, *subs.* (workmen's). A man working for a 'Union' or 'fair' house; non-Unionists are dung (*q.v.*). Both terms occur in Foote's burlesque, *The Tailors: a Tragedy for Warm Weather*, and they received a fresh lease of popularity during the tailors'
strike of 1832. See quotas. Cf., SCAB SOC, SNOB, SNOB-STICK, and KNOBSTICK.

1785. GROSE, Dict. Vulg. Tongue, FLINTS, journeyman tailors who, on a late occasion, refused to work for the wages settled by law. Those who submitted were by the mutineers stiled dungs, i.e., dunghills.

1832. P. EGAN, Book of Sports, p. 34. Jack Reeve is without a rival; the throne of the FLINTS is decidedly freehold property to him.

1834. Noctes Amb., xxxiv., vol. IV., p. 83. (The company is discussing the tailors' strike). TICKLER. The FLINTS flash fire, and the day of the dungs is gone.

OLD FLINT, subs. phr. (common). A miser; one who would 'skin a flint,' i.e., stoop to any meanness for a trifle.

1840. DICKENS, Old Curiosity Shop, ch. vii., p. 34. It's equally plain that the money which the OLD FLINT—tor him—first taught me to expect that I should share with her at his death, will all be hers.

TO FIX ONE'S FLINT. See FIX.

TO FLINT IN, verb. phr. (American). To act with energy; not to stand on ceremony; to pitch into; to tackle. A verb of action well-nigh as common as FIX (q.v.).

FLIP, subs. (common).—1. Hot beer, brandy, and sugar; also, saysGrose,calledSIRCLOUDESLEY after Sir Cloudesley Shovel. See DRINKS.

1690. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew. FLIP, Sea Drink, of small beer (chiefly) and brandy, sweetened and spiced upon occasion.

1690. WARD, London Spy, part II., p. 41. After the drinking a Kan of Philip or a Bowl of Punch.

1705. WARD, Hudibras Redivivus, vol. I., pt. 4, p. 8. So have I seen on board of ship, Some knowing beef, some spewing FLIP.

1748. SMOLLETT, Rod. Random, ch xxiv. He . . . sent for a can of beer, of which he made excellent FLIP to crown the banquet.

1810. CRABBE, The Borough, Letter 16. Nay, with the seamen working in the ship, At their request, he'd share the grog and FLIP.

1875. C. D. WARNER, Backlog Studies, p. 18. It was thought best to heat the poker red-hot before plunging it into the mugs of FLIP.

2. (popular).—A bribe or douceur.

3. (common).—A light blow, or snatch.

1821. HAGGART, Life, p. 23. Barney made a very unceremonious FLIP at the bit.

Verb (thieves').—To shoot.

1819. VAUX, Flash Dict., s.v.

1834. AINSWORTH, Rookwood (ed 1864), p. 273. FLIP him, Dick; fire, or I'm taken.

TO FLIP UP verb. phr. (American).—To spin a coin.

1879. New York Tribune, 4 Oct. The two great men could FLIP UP to see which should have the second place.

FLIP-FLAP, subs. I (old).—I. A flighty creature.

1702. VANBRUGH, False Friend. 1. The light airy FLIP-FLAP, she kills him with her motions.

2. (popular). A step-dance; a CELLAR-FLAP (q.v.). Also (acrobats'); a kind of somersault, in which the performer throws himself over on his hands and feet alternately.

1727. GAY, Fables, 'Two Monkies.' The tumbler whirls the FLIP-FLAP round. With sommersets he shakes the ground.

1872. BARDDON, Dead Sea Fruit, ch. xiv. There ain't nothing you can't do, Morty, from Shylock to a FLIP-FLAP.
Flipper.

27

Floater.

1889. Pall Mall Gazette, 12 Nov., p. 6, col. 2. There were the clowns who danced, turned somersaults, FLIP-FLAPS, and contorted themselves.


1876. Besant and Rice, Golden Butterfly, ch. xviii. The first evening I took tea with Mrs. Scrimmager. 'It must be more than a mite lonely for you,' she said, as we sat over her dough-nuts and FLIP-FLAPS.

4. (nautical). The arm. For synonyms, see BENDER.

5. (venery). The penis.

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends. 'Lay of St. Gengulphus.' With those great sugar-nippers they nipp'd off his FLIPPERS, as the clerk, very flippantly, termed his fists.

1834. Punch, 11 Oct. 'Arry at a Political Picnic.' Old Bluebottle TIPPED ME HIS FLIPPER, and 'oped I'd refreshed, and all that.

2. (common). See FLAPPER.

3. (theatrical). Part of a scene, hinged and painted on both sides, used in trick changes.


1881. W. D. Howells, D. Breen's Practice, ch. i.: "Oh, you needn't look after her, Mr. Libby! There's nothing FLIRTATIOUS about Grace," said Mrs. Maynard.

FLIRT-GILL, FLIRTGILLIAN, or GILL-FLIRT, subs. (old). A wanton; a CHOPPING GIRL (q.v.); specifically a strumpet. For synonyms, see BARRACK-HACK and TART.

1595. Shakspeare, Romeo and Juliet, ii., 4. Scurvy knave! I am none of his FLIRT-GILLS.

1713. Guardian, No. 26. We are invested with a parcel of FLIRT-GILLS, who are not capable of being mothers of brave men.

1729. Gay, Polly, ii. 4. While a man is grappling with these GILL-FLIRTS, pardon the expression, Captain, he runs his reason aground.

1822. Scott, Fort. of Nigel, ch. v. She is a dutiful girl to her god-father, though I sometimes call her a JILL-FLIRT.

FLIRTINA COP-ALL, subs. phr. (common). A wanton, young or old; a MEN'S WOMAN (q.v.).

FLOAT, subs. (theatrical). — The foot-lights: before the invention of gas they were oil-pans with floating wicks. Cf., ARK-FLOATER.

1886. Saturday Review, 24 July, p. 108. To an actor the FLOAT is not what it is to a fisherman.

1889. Answers, 8 June, p. 24. He slapped me on the back, put me in a hansom, and cried, 'We'll have you behind the FLOAT (footlights) in a week.'

IF THAT'S THE WAY THE STICK FLOATS. See Stick.

FLOATER, subs. (Stock Exchange). — An Exchequer bill; applied also to other unfunded stock.

1871. Temple Bar, XXXI., 320. On the Stock Exchange, where slang abounds, FLOATERS is a term which would puzzle outsiders. FLOATERS are Exchequer bills and their unfunded stock.

2. (common). — A suet dumpling in soup.


1883. Graphic, 17 Mar., p. 279, col. 3. 'How many voters are there?' asked a candidate in one of these pure-blooded
Yankee townships. 'Four hundred.' 'And how many floaters, i.e., purchasable?' 'Four hundred.'

1888. New York Herald, 4 Nov. The Building Materials Exchange people were in line to the number of about 200, with a band, and were followed by a sixteen-horse stage of the 'Long Tom' shape containing a lot of floaters and some fifers and drummers.

4. (Western American). — A candidate representing several counties, and therefore not considered directly responsible to any one of them.

1853. Texas State Gazette, 16 July. J. W. Lawrence, Esq., requests us to withdraw his name as a candidate for floater in the district composed of the counties of Fayette, Bastrop, and Travis.

5. (venery). — The penis. For synonyms, see Creamstick and Prick.

Floating Academy, subs. phr. (old). — The hulks; also Campbell's Academy (q.v.), and floating hell (q.v.). For synonyms, see Cage.

Floating Batteries, subs. phr. (military). — 1. Broken bread in tea; also slingers (q.v.).


Floating Coffin, subs. phr. (nautical). — A rotten ship.

Floating Hell, or Hell Afloat, subs. phr. (nautical). — A ship commanded by (1) a brutal savage, or (2) a ruthless disciplinarian. See also Floating Academy.

Flock, subs. (colloquial). — A clergymen's congregation. Also any body of people with a common haunt or interest: e.g., a family of children, a company of soldiers, a school of girls or boys, 'a cabful of molls,' and such like.

To fire into the wrong flock, verb. phr. (American pioneers'). — To blunder. A variant is to bark up the wrong tree.

1858. New York Herald, 9 Nov. When Mr. Saulsbury rose and called the Speaker's attention to the alleged blunder in the Secretary's report, his own friends jumped up in great excitement and pulled him down; he soon found out that he had fired into the wrong flock.


2. (colloquial). — White waves on the sea: White horses (q.v.).

Flog, subs. (American thieves'). — 1. A whip. A contraction of flogger (q.v.). To flog (now recognised), is cited by B. E. (1690), Grose, and the author of Bacchus and Venus as Cant.

To be flogged at the tumbler, verb. phr. (old). — To be whipped at the cart's tail. See Tumbler.

1690. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew.

To flog the dead horse, verb. phr. (common). — 1. To work up an interest in a bygone subject; to try against heart; to do with no will nor liking for the job. [Bright said that Earl Russell's Reform Bill was a dead horse (q.v.), and every attempt to create enthusiasm in its favour was flogging the dead horse.]

2. (nautical). — To work off an advance of wages.
Flogger.

To flog a willing horse, verb. phr. (common).—To urge on one who is already putting forth his best energies.


2. (theatrical).—A mop (i.e., a bunch of slips of cloth on a handle) used in the painting room to whisk the charcoal dust from a sketch.

Flogging, ppl. adj. (old).—Careful; penurious.

Flogging-cove, subs. phr. (prison)—1. An official who administers the cat (q.v.). 1690. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew. Flogging-cove, c. the Beadle, or Whipper in Bridewell, or any such place.

1785. Grose, Dict. Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Flogging-cove, the beadle, or whipper, in Bridewell.

2. See Flogging Cully.

Flogging Cully, subs. phr. (venery).—A man addicted, whether from necessity or choice, to flagellation; a whipster (q.v.).

1690. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew. Flogging, c. a Naked Woman’s whipping (with rods) an Old (usually) and (sometimes) a young Lecher.

1857. G. A. Lawrence, Guy Livingstone, ch. xxi. ‘When I saw him so floored as not to be able to come to time, I knew there had been some hard hitting going on thereabouts, so I kept clear.’

1835. Coleridge, Table Talk (published posthumously). The other day I was what you may called floored by a Jew.

1862. Mrs. H. Wood, The Channings, ch. v. ‘If the master is directing his suspicions to the seniors, he’ll get floored.’

Flogging Stake, subs. phr. (old).—A whipping post.

1690. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew, s.v.

1785. Grose, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue, s.v.

Flogster, subs. (old).—One addicted to flogging. Specifically (naval), a nickname applied to the Duke of Clarence (afterwards William IV).

Floor, verb. (colloquial).—1. To knock down. Hence to vanquish in argument; to make an end of; to defeat; to confound. See floored and dead-beat.

1785. Grose, Dict. Vulg. Tongue. Floor the pig, knock down the officer.

1821. Haggart, Life, p. 15. That moment the farmer let fly at the drover, which floored him.

FLOOR, verb. (colloquial).—2. To flog a willing horse.

1882. Daily Telegraph, 16 Nov. The odds were, nevertheless, floored from an unexpected quarter.
1889. *Echo*, 24 Jan. As the odds bettered on Miss Jessie II. were easily FLOORED by Marsden.

2. (drunkards'). — To finish; to get outside of. *E.g.*; 'I FLOORED three half-pints and a nip before breakfast.'

1837. *Punch*, 31 Jan. Dear Bill, this stone jug . . . is still the same snug, Free-and-easy old hole, Where Macheath met his blowens and Wylde FLOORED his bowl.

18(?) Macmillan's Magazine (quoted in Century Dict). I have a few bottles of old wine left: we may as well FLOOR them.

3. (university). — To pluck; to PLOUGH (q.v.).

TO FLOOR A PAPER, LESSON, EXAMINATION, EXAMINER, etc., *verb. phr.* (university). — To answer every question; to master; to prove oneself superior to the occasion.


TO FLOOR ONE'S LICKS, *verb. phr.* (common). — To surpass one's self; to CUT-AROUND (q.v.)

1844. PUCK, p. 14. Now slowly rising, raised his pewter and FLOORED his licks.

TO HAVE, HOLD, OR TAKE THE FLOOR. *verb. phr.* (colloquial). — To rise to address a public meeting; in Ireland, to stand up to dance; and, in America, 'to be in possession of the House.'

1888. McCabe, *New York*, xxii., p. 342. A member making a bid below or an offer above the one which has the floor.

1888. *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*. After a half hour's recess Mr. Glover TOOK THE FLOOR.

1889. *Pall Mall Gazette*, 11 Nov., p. 6, col. 1. The Duke of Rutland, however, who 'TOOK THE FLOOR' non-politically at the end of the evening, was really 'felicitous' in his few remarks.

FLOORED, *ppl. adj.* (colloquial). —

1. Vanquished; brought under; ruined. For synonyms, see DEAD-BEAT and infra.

ENGLISH SYNONYMS. — Basketted; bitched; bitched-up; bowled out; broken up; buggered up; busted; caved in; choked-off; cornered; cooked; coopered up; dead-beat; done brown; done for; done on toast; doubled up; flattened-out; fluffed; flummoxed; frummagemmed; gapped; gone through St. Peter's needle; gone under; gravelled; gruelled; hoofed out; in the last of peatime, or last run of shad; jacked-up; knocked out of time; knocked silly; looed; mucked-out; petered out; pocketed; potted; put in his little bed; queered in his pitch; rantanned; sat upon; sewn up; shut-up; smashed to smithereens; snashed; snuffed out; spread-eagled; struck of a heap; stumped; tied up; timbered; treed; trumped; up a tree.

FRENCH SYNONYMS. — *Mon linge est lave' (pop.: = I have thrown up the sponge); coller sous bande (= to put in a hole: at billiards, bande = cushion); avoir son affaire (pop.: = to have got a 'settler'); aplatis (fam.: = to flatten out); aplombier (thieves': = to brazen down; to bluff); être pris dans la balancine (pop.: = to be in a fix); se faire coller (familiar); envoyer quelqu'un s'asseoir, or s'asseoir sur quelqu'un (popular).

ITALIAN SYNONYM. — *Traboccare (= to overturn).*
SPANISH SYNONYMS. — Pesado (doubled-up: from peso = weight); aculado (from acular = to corner); arrollar (= to sweep away, as a torrent); aturrullar (= to shut up); cogite! (= 'I've got you,' or, 'there I have you!')

2. (common). — Drunk; in Shaksperean 'put down': as Sir Andrew Aguecheek, 'Never in your life, I think, unless you see Canary put me down.' (Twelfth Night, i., 3). For synonyms, see SCREWED.

3. (painters'). — Hung low at an exhibition; in contradistinction to SKYED (q.v.), and ON THE LINE (q.v.).

FLOORER, subs. (common). —
1. An AUCTIONEER (q.v.); or knock-down blow; cf., DIG, BANG, and WIPE. Hence, sudden or unpleasant news; a decisive argument; an unanswerable retort; a decisive check. Sp., peso.

1819. T. Moore, Tom Crib's Memorial, p. 20 For in these fancy times, 'tis your hits in the MUNS, And your CHOPPERS and FLOORERS that govern the funds.

1839. Swinton, Trial of Wm. Humphreys, p. 297. It is a downright FLOORER to the Crown.

1856. H. C. Pennell, Puck on Pegasus, p. 20. What a FLOORER to my hopes is this performance on the ropes! Miss Marianne suspensa scalis—(Would twere susp. per coil instead).

1868. Cassell's Magazine, 4 Jan., p. 213. 'Ah, she hasn't told you of the strokes I have had, one after the other—clean FLOORERS, and left like a log of wood in my bed.'

2. (schools'). — A question, or a paper, too hard to master.

3. (bowling alley). — A ball that brings down all the pins.

4. (thieves'). — A thief who trips his man, and robs in picking him up; a RAMPER (q.v.).

1856. Hall, College Words and Customs. Any 'cute' performance by which a man is sold is a good FLOP, and by a phrase borrowed from the base-ball ground is 'rightly played.' The discomfited individual declares that they 'are all on a side,' and gives up, or 'rolls over,' by giving his opponent 'gowdy.' A man writes cards during examinations to feeze the profs; said cards are 'gumming cards,' and he FLOPS the examination if he gets a good mark by the means. One usually FLOPS his marks by feigning sickness.

2. (common). — A sudden fall or 'flop' down.

3. (common). — A collapse or breakdown.

4. (For FLAP or FLIP, old). — A light blow.

1662. Rump Songs, ii., 3. The good the Rump will do, when they prevail, Is to give us a FLOP with a fox's tail, Which nobody can deny.
Flop.

Verb. (colloquial).—I. To fall, or flap down suddenly. A variant of 'flap.' Fr., prendre un billet de parterre.

1742. Fielding, Joseph Andrews, bk. iv. ch. v. She had flopped her hat over her eyes.

1859. Dickens, Tale of Two Cities bk. ii. ch. i. If you must go flopping yourself down.

1726. Vanbrugh, Journey to London, Act I., Sc. 2. That down came I flop o' my face all along in the channel.

Flop-up, subs. (American).—A day's tramp, as opposed to a sot-down = half a day's travel.


Flop-up-time = bedtime.

Frounder, subs. (riverside thieves').—1. A drowned corpse. Cf., Dab, and for synonyms, see Stiff.
2. (Stock Exchange).—To sell, and afterwards re-purchase a stock, or vice versâ.

1889. Echo, i Feb. A third expedient offers itself—namely, to turn round and buy; but this operation goes by the name of 'FLOUNDERING' especially when the speculator loses both ways.

FLOUNDER-AND-DAB, subs. phr. (rhyming).—A cab. For synonyms, see GROWLER.

FLOUR, subs. (American).—Money. For synonyms, see ACTUAL and GILT.

FLOURISH, subs. (venery).—Coition in a hurry; FLYER (q.v.); a FAST-FUCK (q.v.). Also verbally. For synonyms see GREENS and RIDE.

1796. Grose, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue (3rd ed.), s.v. To enjoy a woman with her clothes on or without going to bed.

Verb (colloquial.)—To be in luck: e.g., 'I flourish' = 'I am well off'; 'Do you flourish,' or 'Are you flourishing?' = 'Have you got any money?'

FLOURISHING, adj. (colloquial).—A retort to the enquiry, 'How are you?' The equivalent of 'Pretty well, thank you?'

TO FLOURISH IT, verb. phr. (venery).—To expose the person.

FLOWER, subs. (venery).—1. The female pudendum. Also FLOWER-POT. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

2. in pl. (conventional).—The menstrual flux. Cf., FLAG, sense 3.

1598. Florio, A Worlde of Wordes. Biancure, the monthly FLOWERS that women have.

1611. Cotgrave, Dictionarie. Le fourrier de la lune a marqué le logis, applicable to a woman that hath her FLOWERS.

FLOWER - FANCIER, subs. phr. (venery).—A whore-master.

FLOWERY, subs. (thieves').—Lodging; entertainment; 'square the omee for the FLOWERY' = pay the landlord for the lodging. [Lingua Franca.]

FLOWERY LANGUAGE, subs. phr. (colloquial).—A euphemism for blasphemous and obscene speech.

FLOWER OF CHIVALRY, subs. phr. (venery).—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

FLOWING-HOPE, subs. (military).—A forlorn hope.

FLUB-DUB-AND-GUFF, subs. phr. (American).—Rhetorical embellishment; HIGH-FALUTIN' (q.v.).

1888. Detroit Free Press, August. Rev. Mr. Selah (to desk editor of the Daily Roarer)—'Mr. Seezars, are you going to publish my prayer in full?' Desk Editor—'In full? Well, I guess not.' (Changing his tone)—'However, we'll do what we can for you. By swiping out the FLUB-DUB-AND-GUFF, I guess we'll have room to put in the points.'


2. (colloquial).—The filth, part fluff, part hair, part dust, which collects under ill-kept beds, and at the junctures of sofas and chairs; BEGGAR'S VELVET (q.v.).

1860. Dickens, Uncommercial Traveller. 'Arcadian London.' A power they possess of converting everything into FLUE. Such broken victuals as they take by stealth appear (whatever the nature
of the viands) to generate FLUE. . . .
Ibid. 'Refreshment for Travellers.' Take the old established Bull's Head . . . with its old-established FLUE under its old established four-post bedsteads.

3. (common).—A contraction of 'influenza.'

Verb (common).—To put in pawn.

In (or up) THE FLUE, phr. (common). — Pawned. For synonyms, see Pop.
1821. Real Life, etc., I., p. 566.
1851. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, II., p. 250. I've had sometimes to leave half my stock IN FLUE with a deputy for a night's rest.

UP THE FLUE (or spout), adj. phr. (colloquial). — Dead; collapsed, mentally or physically.

TO BE UP ONE'S FLUE, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To be awkward for one. THAT'S UP YOUR FLUE = That's a 'facer,' or that's up against you.

FLUE-FAKER (or SCRAPER), subs. (common).—A chimney - sweep. [From FLUE + FAKER (q.v.).] MINOR CLERGY = young chimney sweeps. For synonyms, see CLERGYMAN.
1821. Egan, Tom and Jerry, p. 60. The 'office' has been given to 'shove ' the poor FLUE-FAKER against Tom's light drab coat.
1859. Matsell. Vocabulary, or Rogue's Lexicon, s.v.
1882. Punch. LXXXII., p. 185, col. 2.

FLUFF (or Fluffings), subs. (railway clerks').—I. Short change given by booking-clerks. The practice is known as FLUFFING. Cf., MENAVELINGS. Fr., des fruges (= more or less unlawful profits of any sort).

1890. Star, 27 Jan. Many porters on this line are but getting 15s. per week, and with regard to 'tips,' or, as we say, 'FLUFF'—well, would you not think it mean to tell your servant when you engaged him that such were strictly forbidden by punishment with dismissal, and then proclaim to the world that with good wages and tips your servant was well paid.

2. (theatrical).—'Lines' half learned and imperfectly delivered. Hence, TO DO A FLUFF = to forget one's part.

1891. W. Archer, The World, p. 28, col. 1, line 34. But even as seen through a cloud of FLUFF the burlesque is irresistibly amusing.

3. (venery).—The female pubic hair. For synonyms, see FLEECE.

Verb. (railway clerks').—I. To give short change.

2. (common).—To disconcert, to FLOOR (q.v.). Cf., FLUFF IN THE PAN = a failure.

3. (theatrical).—To forget one's part. Also TO DO A FLUFF.

FLUFF IT! Intj. (common).—An interjection of disapproval: 'Be off!' 'Take it away!'

FLUFFER, subs. (common).—I. A drunkard. Cf., FLUFFINESS.

2. (theatrical).—A player 'rocky on his lines'; i.e., given to forgetting his part.

3. (old).—A term of contempt.

FLUFFINESS, subs. (common).—
1. Drunkenness. Cf., FLUFFY and FLUFFER.

1886. Fun, 4 August, p. 44. A sullen-faced, clerical-looking young man, charged with FLUFFINESS in a public conveyance, said he was sober as a judge when taken into custody.
Fluffy.

2. (theatrical).—The trick, or habit, of forgetting words.

FLUFFY, adj. (common and theatrical).—Unsteady; of uncertain memory. Cf., FLUFFER (sense 2), and FLUFFINESS (sense 2).

1885. Referee, July 26, p. 3, col. 2. In the last act Groves and one or two others were either what actors call FLUFFY in their lines, or else Mr. Cross was guilty of irritating tautology.

FLUKE, subs. (common).—In billiards, an accidental winning hazard; in all games a result not played for; a CROW (q.v.). In yachting an effect of chance; a result in which seamanship has had no part. Hence, a stroke of luck. Sp., bambarria.

1857. Notes and Queries, 2 S. IV., p. 208, col. 1. In playing at billiards, if a player makes a hazard, etc., which he did not play for, it is often said that he made a crow. . . . Another term is, 'He made a Flook (of Fluke).

1869. Whyte Melville, M or N, p. 104. 'Only lost a pony on the whole meeting,' answered Dick triumphantly. 'And even that was a Fluke, because Bearwarden's Bacchante filly was left at the post.

1873. Black. Princess of Thule, ch. xix. 'These conditions are not often fulfilled—it is a happy Fluke when they are.

1880. Hawley Smart, Social Sinners, ch. xxxii. 'I suppose, by your asking the question, you have become acquainted with Mr. Solamo's past.' 'That's just it, Mr. Prossiter; by an odd Fluke I have.

1891. Hume Nisbet, Bail Up! p. 144. He was now being cured only to be hanged, most kely, unless by some happy Fluke he got off with imprisonment for life.

Verb (common and billiards).—

1. To effect by accident.

1888. Sportsman, 20 Dec. Fortune once more assisted Mitchell, who, in trying to make a red loser, FLUKED a cannon, from which he got on the spot, and made forty-three winners in a break of 161.

2. (schoolboys').—To shirk.

1864. Eton School Days, ch. xvi., p. 203. 'By Jove! I think I shall FLUKE doing Verses; I should like to see Paddy drive tandem through College,' said Butler Burke.

TO CUT FLUKES OUT, verb. phr. (nautical).—To mutiny; to turn sulky and disobedient.

TO TURN FLUKES, verb. phr. (nautical).—To go to bed; i.e., TO BUNK (q.v.), or turn in.

FLUKY, or FLUKEY, adj. (common).—Of the nature of a FLUKE (q.v.); i.e., achieved more by good luck than good guidance.


1891. Licensed Vict. Gazette, 20 March. Now, Grady was a smart young Irishman who had thrashed Stevens twice in days gone by, and had won a somewhat Flukey victory over Young Norley.

Hence FLUKINESS = abounding in FLUKES.

1886. Ill. Sport. and Dram. News, 20 Feb., p. 579. There is no Flukeness about him; he makes his runs because he is an excellent batsman, and takes his wickets because he is an excellent bowler.

FLUMMADIDDLE, subs. (American).—

1. Nonsense; FLUMMERY (q.v.).

2. (nautical).—A sea-dainty.

1884. G. A. Sala, in Ill. London News, July 19, p. 57, col 2. I suppose that when the friendly skippers GAM (q.v.), they feast on Flummadiddle, a dish composed, I am given to understand, of stale bread, pork fat, molasses, cinnamon, allspice, and cloves.

FLUMMERGASTED, ppl. adj. (colloquial).—Astonished; confounded. A variant of FLABBINGASTED (q.v.).
1849. *New South Wales: Past and Present*, ch. i., p. 14. This coolness so completely flummegasted the fellow, that he kept talking until Mr. Day shot him through the shoulder.

**Flummery**, subs. (colloquial). 1. Nonsense; gammon (q.v.); flat-tery.

1785. Grose, *Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue*, s.v. Oatmeal and water boiled to a jelly; also compliments: neither . . . over-nourishing.

1836. M. Scott, *Tom Cringle's Log*, ch. i. I shall . . . blow off as much of the froth as I can, in order to present the residuum free of flummery.

1846. Thackeray, *Yellow Plush Papers*. She swallowed Lord Crabs' flumerv just as she would so many musherums.

1854. Whyte Melville, *General Bounce*, ch. xii. None of the dubious, half-expressed, sentimental flummery.


3. (old). Oatmeal and water boiled to a jelly. — Grose (1785).

**Flummox, Flummocks, or Flummux**, verb. (colloquial). — 1. To perplex, dodge, abash, or silence; to victimize; to best (q.v.); to disappoint. Also conflummox. To Flummox (or conflummox) by the lip = to outslang (q.v.), or talk down; to flummox the coppers = to dodge the police; to flummox the old Dutch = to cheat one's wife, etc. For synonyms, see Flabbergast.

2. (theatrical). — To confuse, to queer (q.v.). Cf., corpse.

3. (American). — Used in the passive sense = to abandon a purpose; to give in; to die.

**Subs.** (American University). — A bad recitation; a failure.

**Flummoxed, ppl. adj.** (thieves' and general). — 1. Spoilt; ruined; drunk; sent down (q.v.); boshed (q.v.); defeated; disappointed; silenced; floored (q.v.).

1836. Dickens, *Pickwick*, ch. xxxiii., p. 283. 'And my pinion is, Sammy, that if your governor don't prove an alleybi, he'll be what the Italians call reg'larly flummoxed, and that's all about it.'

1840. Whibley, *Cap and Gown*, p. 170. So many of the men I know were flummoxed at the last great go.


1883. Daily Telegraph, 25 July, p. 2, col. 2. I'll give Tom his due, and say of him that for flummoxing a cuss (Custom House Officer) or working the weed, I don't know any one he couldn't give a chalk to and beat 'em.

1890. Punch, 30 Aug., p. 97. I'm fair flummoxed, and singing, 'Oh, what a surprise!'

**Flummocky, adj.** (colloquial). — Out of place; in bad taste.

1891. F. H. Groome. *Blackwood's Mag*, March, p. 319. 'It is a nice solemn dress,' she said, as she lifted a piece to examine it more closely; 'there's nothing flummocky about it.'

**Flummut, subs.** (vagrants'). — A month in prison. See Flummoxed. For synonyms, see Dose.

1889. Answers, 20th July, p. 121 col. 2. If you want to get rid of an importunate tramp tell him to 'stow his patter,' or you will get him a flummut.

Flump, verb, (colloquial).—To fall, put, or be set, down with violence or a thumping noise. Onomatopoecic. Also to come down with a Flump. Cf., Plump and Cachunk.

1840. Thackeray, Paris Sketch Book, ch. v. Chairs were flumped down on the floor.

1865. H. Kingsley, The Hillyars and the Burtons, ch. lxii. Before my mother had been a week in the partly-erected slab-house, the women began to come in, to flump down into a seat and tell her all about it.

Flunk, subs. (American colloquial).—I. An idler, a Loafer (q.v.) or Lawrence (q.v.).

2. (Also Flunk-out).—A failure, especially (at college) in recitations; a backing out of undertakings.

1853. Songs of Yale. In moody meditation sunk, Reflecting on my future flunk.

1877. Brunonian, 24th Feb. A flunk is a complete fizzle; and a dead flunk is where one refuses to get out of his seat.

1888. Missouri Republican, 11th Feo. Riddleberger forced the presidential possibilities of the senate to a complete flunk.

Verb (American).—To retire through fear; to fail (as in a lesson); to cause to fail. Cf., Funk.

1888. Neal, Charcoal Sketches, IV. Why, little 'un, you must be cracked, if you flunk out before we begin.

1847. The Yale Banger, 22 Oct. My dignity is outraged at beholding those who fizzle and flunk in my presence tower above me.

1853. Amherst Indicator, p. 253. They know that a man who has flunked, because too much of a genius to get his lesson, is not in a state to appreciate joking.


Flunkey, subs. (nautical).—I. A ship's steward.

2. (American.)—An ignorant dabbler in stock; an inexperienced jobber.

1862. A Week in Wall St., p. 90. A broker, who had met with heavy losses, exclaimed: 'I'm in a bear-trap, — this won't do. The dogs will come over me. I shall be mulct in a loss. But I've got time; I'll turn the scale; I'll help the bulls operate for a rise, and draw in the flunkies.

3. (American University.)—One that makes a complete failure in a recitation; one who flunks (q.v.).

1859. Yale Lit. Magazine. I bore him safe through Horace, Saved him from the flunkey's doom.

4. (colloquial).—A man-servant, especially one in livery. Hence, by implication, a parasite or toady (q.v.). Fr., un larbin.

1848. Thackeray, Book of Snobs, ch. v. You who have no toadies; you whom no cringing flunkies or shopmen bow out of doors.

Whence, Flunkeyism = Blind worship of rank, birth, or riches. Fr., la larbinerie.


Flurriement, subs. (common).—Agitation; bustle; confusion; nervous excitement. [Pleonastic, from Flurry.]

1848. Jones, Sketches of Travel, p. II. Mary and all on 'em was in a monstrous flurriement.

Flurry One's Milk, verb. phr. (common).—To be worried, angry, or upset; To fret one's kidneys (q.v.); To tear one's shirt, or one's hair (q.v.).
**Flush.**

**Flush, subs. (gamesters')**—A hand of one suit.

**Adj. (colloquial).**—1. With plenty of money; the reverse of **hard up** (q.v.); **warm** (q.v.), Also abounding in anything: e.g., **flush of his patter** = full of his talk; **flush of the lotion** = liberal with the drink; **flush of his notions** = prodigal of ideas; **flush of her charms** = lavish of her person; and so forth.

1603. **Dekker,** *Batchelors' Banquet*, ch. viii. Some dames of the company, which are more flush in crownes than her good man.

1605. *The Play of Stucley,* 1. 538. They know he hath received His marriage money: they perceive he's flush And mean to share with him ere all be gone.

1663. **Dryden,** *Wild Gallant*, Act II. Con. Since you are so flush, sir, you shall give me a locket of diamonds of three hundred pounds.

1690. **B. E.,** *New Dict. of the Canting Crew.* Flush in the pocket c. full of money. The cull is flush in the fob, the spark's pocket is well lined with money.

1767. **O'Hara,** *Two Misers*, Act I. What stops many an hopeful project? lack of cash—[looking archly at him]. Are you flush, Sir?

1785. **Grose,** *Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue*, s.v.

1846. **Thackeray,** *V. F.*, vol. I. ch. xxviii. The expenses were borne by Jos and Osborne, who was flush of money and full of kind attentions to his wife.

1861. **A. Trollope,** *Framley Parsonage*, ch. viii. Allow me to draw on you for that amount at three months. Long before that time I shall be flush enough.

1884. **Henley and Stevenson,** *Admiral Guineo*, i., 8. Pray for a new heart; flush out your sins with tears.

**Verb. (common).**—1. To whip.

**English Synonyms.**—To bludgeon; to bumbaste; to breech (Cotgrave); to brush; to club; to curry; to dress with an oaken towel; to drub; to drybeat; to dry-bob; to drum; to flap; to flick; to flop; to jerk; to give one ballast; to hide; to lamm; to larrup; to paste; to punch; to rub down; to swinge; to swish; to switch; to trounce; to thump; to tund (Winchester); to wallop. *See also tan.*

**French Synonyms.**—*Donner ravoizze* (pop. = to give a feed of hay); *allunzer* (popular); *bouiser* (thieves': *un bouis* = a whip).

**Italian Synonyms.**—*Smanegrare*; *cotillare*; *corillare*; *cerire*.

2. (colloquial).—To clean by filling full, and emptying, of water: e.g., to flush a sewer; to wash, swill, or sluice away. Also to fill with water: e.g., to flush a lock.

1884. **Henley and Stevenson,** *Admiral Guineo*, i., 8. To come flush on one, verb.

**Phr. (colloquial).**—To come suddenly and unexpectedly (Marvell); to overwhelm (as by a sudden rush of water).
Flushed on the Horse. 39 Flustration.

Flushed on the Horse, phr. (prison).—Privately whipped in gaol.

Flush-hit, subs. phr. (pugilistic).—A clean blow; a hit full on the mark and straight from the shoulder. For synonyms, see Dig.


Adv. (colloquial).—Full; straight; right on (g.v.).

1888. Sporting Life, 15 Dec. Both cautious, Wilson with marked frequency leading off, and getting the left flush on the face.

Fluster, verb. (old).—To excite; to confuse, abash, or flummox (g.v.); to upset, or be upset, with drink.

1602. Shakspeare, Othello, I., 3. The very elements of this warlike isle,—Have I to-night fluster'd with flowing cups.

1711. Spectator, No 87. It is very common for such as are too low in constitution to ogle the idol upon the strength of tea, to fluster themselves with warmer liquors.

1719. Durfey, Pills, etc., ii., 261. When I vexed proud Celia just come from my glass, She tells me I'm flustered, and look like an ass.

1731. Fielding, Letter Writers. Act II., Sc. 5. Who hath taken me to the tavern, and, I protest, almost fluster'd me.

Flustered (or flustrated), ppl. adj. (old).—Excited by drink, circumstances, another person's impudence, etc; also mildly drunk. Cf., flusticated. For synonyms, see screwed.

1866. Common. of Women, B.o.l. Another to compleat his daily task, fluster'd with claret, seizes on a mask.

1890. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew. Flustered, drunk.

1709. Steele, Tatler, No. 3. I therefore take this public occasion to admonish a young Nobleman, whocame flustered into the box last night.

1748. T. Dyche, Dict. (5th ed.) Flustered (a) ... somewhat intoxicated with liquor.

1750. Fielding, Tom Jones, bk. XIV. ch. ix. This latter, though not drunk, began to be somewhat flustered.

1779. The Mirror, No. 57. All of them flustered, some of them perfectly intoxicated.

1785. Grose, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue, s.v.

Flusticated, or flustrated, ppl. adj. (old and colloquial).—Confused; in a state of heat or excitement. Cf., flustered.

1712. Spectator, No. 493. We were coming down Essex Street one night a little flusticated.

1766. Colman, Cland. Marriage V., in works (1777) i. 271. Your mind is too much flustrated, and you can neither eat nor drink.

1843. Maj. Jones' Courtship, I. Somehow I was so flusticated that I took the wrong way.

1847. Porter, Big Bear, &c., p. 98. I set down, being sorter flusticated like, thinkin' of that skrape, last time I was there.

Flustration, subs. (old and colloquial).—Heat; excitement; bustle; confusion; flurry (q.v.).

1771. Smollet, Humphry Clinker, I., 126. Being I was in such a flustration.

1843. Major Jones' Courtship, viii. The old woman's been in a monstrous flustration 'bout the comet.

1847. Porter, Quarter Race, etc., p. 177. My wife is in a delicat way, and the frite might cause a flustration.

1848. Jones, Studies of Travel, p. 21. The old woman was in such a flustration she didn't know her lips from anything else.

1872. Mortimer Collins, Two Plunges for a Pearl, vol. II., ch. vii. Then was this pretty little actress whom he admired in a great state of flustration.
Flute.

FLUTE, subs. (old).—1. The recorder of a corporation.

1598. Florio, A Worlde of Wordes. Tibia, a flute, a recorder, a pipe.

1690. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew. FLUTE, c. The recorder of London or of any other town.

1785. Grose, Dist. of the Vulgar Tongue, s.v.

1825 Kent, Modern Flash Dict. FLUTE—the recorder of any town.

2. (venery).—The penis. Also the one-holed, the living, or the silent flute. To play a tune on the one-holed flute = to have connection. Cf., Dryden (Sixth Juvenal, line 107). 'And stretch his quail-pipe till they crack his voice.' For synonyms, see Creamstick and Prick.

1720. Durfee, Pills, etc., vi., 37. He took her by the middle, and taught her by the flute.

1736. Cupid, p. 169. The flute is good that's made of wood and is, I own, the neatest; yet nevertheless I must confess, The silent flute's the sweetest.

FLUTTER, subs. (common).—1. An attempt, or shy (q.v.), at anything; a venture in earnest; a spree; a state of expectancy (as in betting). Hence gambling.

1883. Echo, 26 Feb. p. 4, col. 2. I have no stable tip, but I fancy the animal named will at any rate afford backers a flutter for their money.

1889. Licensed Vict. Gazette, 8 Feb. Of course he told her he only went in for a little flutter occasionally.

1890. Saturday Review, 1 Feb., p. 134, col. 1. They find out the addresses of people whom they see at the races—people whom they suspect to be fond of a flutter, and then an invitation is sent to a little soirée insime.

1887. Henley, Culture in the Slums, iii. I likes a merry little flutter, I keeps a Dado on the sly, In fact my form's the blooming Utter.

2. (common).—The act of spinning a coin.

3. (venery).—Connection defloration. To have had a flutter = (1) to have been there (cf., greens); and (2) to have lost one's maidenhead.

Verb. (common).—1. To spin a coin (for drinks); also to gamble.

To flutter the ribbons, verb. phr. (common)—To drive.

1884. Eton School Days, chap. 1, p. 11. As I was going to be saying, I used to flutter the ribbons of the London Croydon and South Coast coach.

[Flutter, if not a word of all-work, is a word with plenty to do. Thus, to have (or do) a flutter = to have a look in (q.v.), to go on the spree, and (of both sexes) to have carnal connection; to be on the flutter = to be on the spree, and also (venery) to be all there (q.v.) or on the spot (q.v.); to flutter a Judy—both to pursue and to possess a girl; to flutter a brown = to spin a coin; to flutter (or fret) one's kidneys = to agitate, to exasperate; to flutter a skirt = to walk the streets; and so forth.]

FLUX, verb. (old).—1. To cheat; to cozen; to overreach. For synonyms, see Stick.

1785. Grose, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue, s.v.

2. (old.)—To salivate. Grose, (1785).

FLY, subs. (old).—A familiar; hence, by implication, a parasite or sucker (q.v.). [In the sixteenth and seventeenth century it was held that familiar spirits, in the guise of flies, lice, fleas, etc., attended witches, who for a price professed to dispose of the power for evil thus imparted.]
Fly.

1596. Lodge, Incarnate Devils. This divel prefers an Ephemerides before a Bible; and his Ptolemy and Hali before Ambrose, golden Chrisostome, or S. Augustine: promise him a familiar, and he will take a fly in a box for good payment.

1610. Ben Jonson, Alchemist i. You are mistaken, doctor, Why he does ask one but for cups and horses, A rifling fly, none of your great familiars.

1622. Massinger, Virgin Martyr, ii. 2. Courtiers have flies That buzz all news unto them.

2. (old).—A printer’s devil; specifically a boy who lifted the printed sheets from the press. [Now the vibrating frame used for the same purpose.]

1688. R. Holme, Academy of Armory. These boys do in a printing-house commonly black and bedaub themselves, when the workmen do jocosely call them devils, and sometimes spirits, and sometimes flies.

3. (trade).—A customer.

4. (common).—The act of spinning a coin. Cf., flutter.

5. (old).—A public wagon: afterwards (colloquial) a four-wheel hackney coach. Fr., mouche (fly) = a public boat on the Seine.

1714. Memoirs of John Hall, s.v.

6. (common).—A policeman. For synonyms, see beak and copper.


Adj. (common).—1. Knowing; artful (q.v.); up to every move; cute. Also fly to, a-fly, fly to the game, and fly to what’s what. Cf., awake, and, for synonyms, see knowing; fly dog (q.v.).

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, Cheese it, the coves are fly=be silent, the people understand our discourse.


1838. Glascock, Land Sharks and Sea Gulls, II., 4. That’s right; I see you’re fly to every fakement.

1850. Lloyd’s Weekly, 3 Feb. ‘Low Lodging Houses of London.’ They say the fliest is easy to take in sometimes—that’s the artfullest; but I could do no good there.

1851-61. H. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, vol. I., p. 260. ‘We were too fly to send anybody to market but ourselves.’

1861. H. Kingsley, Ravenshoe, ch. xxxv. [Chas. Ravenshoe to Shoeblock]. ‘On the cross?’ said Charles. ‘Ah, the boy said, he goes out cly-faking and such. He’s a prig, and a smart one, too. He’s fly, is Harry.

1876. Miss Braddon, Dead Men’s Shoes, ch. iii. ‘Go and fetch the cleverest police officer in Liverpool, and let him wait outside this door till I want him.’ ‘I’m fly,’ answers the youth, brightening at the prospect of excitement and remuneration. ‘Case of bezzlement, I suppose, Sir?’

1877. Five Years’ Penal Servitude, ch. ii., p. 125. A certain prisoner, who was what is termed a very fly man, i.e., a clever, scheming fellow . . . sounded him as to getting tobacco and other matters.

1879(?). Jenny Hill Broadside Ballad. I’ve cut my wisdom teeth, some at top, some underneath . . . So you needn’t try it on; I’m fly.

1890. Punch, 30 Aug., p. 3. Briggs, Junior, a lobscullter called me; I wasn’t quite fly to his lay.

1891. Licensed Victuallers’ Gazette, 9 Jan. If you get among a fly lot, why they’d skin you in less than no time.

2. (common).—Dextrous.

1834. Ainsworth, Rookwood, bk. III., ch. v. No dummy hunter had forks so fly.

1839. Reynolds, Pickwick Abroad, p. 223. We’ll knap a fogle with fingers fly.

3. (venery).—Wanton. Fly-girl, -woman, or -dame = a prostitute.
Fly.

1888. San Francisco News Letter, 4 Feb. ‘I’m just gettin’ sick’n tired o’ the way ’t them FLY dames go on, ’n the way ’t the fellahs hang round ’em ’n dance with ’em ’n so forth.’

Verb. (thieves’).—1. To toss; to raise; TO FLY THE MAGS = to toss up half-pence (cf., subs., sense 4).

1857. Snowden, Magistrates’ Assistant, 3rd ed., p. 447. To lift a window. TO FLY THE MAGS.

2. (pugilistic).—To give way: as, china FLIES in the baking.

1865. G. F. Berkeley, My Life, II. 296. Heenan ... told me his right hand was worth nothing to him, and we have since seen that his left FLIES, or, in other words, becomes puffed, softened, or severely damaged by the force of his own blows.

TO FLY AROUND, verb. phr. (American).—To bestir oneself; to make haste. Also TO FLY AROUND AND TEAR ONE’S SHIRT.

1851. Hooper, Widow Rugby’s Husband, p. 44, Old ’ooman, FLY AROUND, git somethin’ for the Squire and Dick to eat.

TO FLY THE FLAG, verb. phr. (colloquial).—1. To walk the streets.

2. (vulgar).—To experience the menstrual flux.

See also FLAG.

TO FLY HIGH (OR RATHER HIGH).—1. verb. phr. (common).—To get, or be drunk. For synonyms, see DRINKS and SCREWED.

2. (colloquial).—To keep the best company, maintain the best appearances, and affect the best aims: i.e., to be a HIGH-FLIER (q.v.). Also, to venture for the biggest stakes in the biggest way.

TO FLY LOW, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To make as little of oneself as possible; to SING SMALL (q.v.); and (among thieves) to keep out of the way when WANTED (q.v.).

TO FLY OFF THE HANDLE, verb. phr. (American pioneer).—To lose temper; to fail of a promise; to jilt; to die; also TO SLIP OFF THE HANDLE (q.v.); to disappoint in any way. [In pioneer life for an axe to part company with its handle is a serious trial to temper and patience.]

1843-4. Haliburton, The Attaché. You never see such a crotchical old critter as he is. He FLIES RIGHT OFF THE HANDLE for nothing.

1867. Home Journal (New York), 21 July (speaking of a man who had succeeded to a large fortune it says) he WENT OFF THE HANDLE in England rather unexpectedly.

1871. De Vere, Americanisms, p. 195. If a fair lady loses her temper, or worst of all, if she breaks the tender promise, she is said to FLY OFF THE HANDLE, and the disappointment is as serious to the unlucky lover as a lost axe to many a settler.

1888. Pittsburg Chronicle. ‘I can’t say that I’m stuck on Sue Fitzpercy,’ remarked Amy. ‘She is liable TO FLY OFF THE HANDLE.’

TO FLY OUT, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To get angry; to scold.

1612. Chapman, Widow’s Tears, Act II., p. 317 (Plays, 1874). For wherefore rage wives at their husbands so when they FLY OUT? for zeal against the sin?

1665-6. Pepys, Diary, 17 Jan. It is to be feared that the Parliament will FLY OUT against him and particular men, the next Session.

1712. Spectator, No. 479. He (Socrates) has said, My dear friend, you are beholden to Xantippe, that I bear so well your FLYING OUT in a dispute.

1855. Thackeray, Newcomes, ch. xx. ‘And then the Colonel FLIES OUT about his boy, and says that my wife insulted him!’
TO MAKE THE FUR (or FEATHERS) FLY, verb. phr. (common). — To attack effectively; to make a disturbance; to quarrel noisily like two tom cats on the tiles, who are said (in American) to pull fur, or to pull wool.

1847. Porter, Big Bear, etc., p. 132. Thar, they've got him agin, and now the FUR FLIES.

1888. Denver Republican, 29 Feb. 'Wait until the National Committee assembles on February 22,' said the organizer, 'and you will see the FUR FLY from the Cleveland hide.'

TO TAKE ON THE FLY, verb. phr. (vagrants'). — To beg in the streets; a specific usage of adverbial sense.

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, II., p. 59. The first move in his mendicant career was TAKING THEM ON THE FLY, which means meeting the gentry on their walks, and beseeching or at times menacing them till something is given.

TO FLY A KITE, verb phr. (common). — To raise money by means of accommodation bills; TO RAISE THE WIND (q.v.).

1812. From an old Dublin jester. [The story, however, with slight variations, is told of other judges. See N. and Q., 6 S. ix., 326-394.] In a case before the Lord Chancellor of Ireland Mr. Curran, on behalf of the suitor, prayed to be relieved from the payment of some bills for which he had not received consideration, but only lent his name as an accommodation. Mr. Curran, in the course of his pleadings, mentioned the terms KITE and RAISING THE WIND several times, when his lordship requested to know the meaning of the words. 'My lord,' Mr. Curran replied, 'in your country (meaning England) the wind generally raises the kite, but with us, significantly looking at the gentlemen of the bar, THE KITE RAISES THE WIND.'

1848. Punch, XIV., p. 226. 'The Model Gentleman.' He never does 'a little discounting' nor lends his hand to 'FLYING A KITE.'

1849. Perils of Pearl Street, p. 82. FLYING THE KITE is rather a perilous adventure.

1880. G. R. Sims, Ballads of Baby-lon (Little Worries). You have a KITE you cannot FLY, and creditors are pressing.

1891. Licensed Victuallers' Gazette, 23 Jan. Prince Alexis Soltyskoff, who has been FLYING KITES, and getting into trouble thereby, is the only son of Prince Soltyskoff, the steward of the Jockey Club.

2. (thieves')—To go out by the window.

3. (lodging - house). — To evacuate from a window.

4. (colloquial).—To attempt; to set one's cap at.

1863. H. Kingsley, Austin Elliot, ch. xii. 'They say that you FLEW YOUR KITE at that girl of George Cecil's who has married that prig, Lord Mewstone.'

TO FLY THE BLUE PIGEON, verb. phr. (thieves'). — To steal lead from roofs. See BLUE-PIGEON. Fr., faire la mastar au gras-double, or la faire au mastar.

1785. Grose, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue, s.v.

1789. G. Parker, Life's Painter; Thieves who FLY THE BLUE PIGEON, that is, who steal lead off houses, or cut pipes away... cut a hundredweight of lead, which they wrap round their bodies next to the skin. This they call a BIBLE (q.v.), and what they steal and put in their pockets, they call a TESTAMENT (q.v.).

1887. Judy, 27 April, p. 200. A burglar whose particular LAY was FLYING the BLUE PIGEON, i.e., stealing lead.

TO LET FLY, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To hit out. [From cock-fighting.]

1859. Punch, vol. XXXVII., p. 54. 'Essence of Parliament.' Monday, 25 July. Lord Lyndhurst LET FLY and caught him what (if pugilistic terms be not out of place when one is alluding to so pacific a personage; may be designated an extremely neat one on the conk.

NOT A FEATHER TO FLY WITH, adv. phr. (common).—Penniless and ruined; DEAD-BROKE (q.v. for synonyms).
TO BREAK A FLY ON A WHEEL, verb. phr. (colloquial). To make a mountain of a molehill. Cf., TO CRACK A NUT WITH A NASMYTH HAMMER = to lavish force or energy.

THE FLY ON THE WHEEL, subs. phr. (colloquial).—One who fancies himself of mighty importance. [From the fable.]

I DON'T RISE TO THAT FLY, phr. (common) = I don't believe you; you won't catch me with such bait as that. [From fly-fishing.]

OFF THE FLY, adv. phr. (colloquial).—On the quiet; laid up in dock; doing nothing: said of a strumpet retired from business, or a man (or woman) who has given over the pursuit of pleasure.

ON THE FLY, adv. phr. (popular).—1. Walking the streets; out for a LARK (q.v.); OFF WORK (q.v.); out on the SPREE (q.v.).

2. (thieves')—In motion: e.g., 'I got in one ON THE FLY' = I landed a blow while I was running.

1868. Temple Bar, xxiv., p. 538. I prigged an old woman's poke ON THE FLY.

FLY-BLOW, subs. (common).—A bastard; cf., BYE-BLOW. A nonce word.

1875. OUIDA, Signa, vol. I., ch. viii., p. 140. No doubt that little FLY-BLOW is his own.

FLY-BLOWN, adj. (common).—1. Intoxicated. For synonyms, see DRINKS and SCREWED.

1877. Judy, 18 May, p. 236. The officer assisted the pastor out, and hinted that he was slightly 'FLY-BLOWN.'

FLYCOP, subs. (American). — A sharp officer; one well broken in to the tricks of trade. [From FLY = knowing + COP, a policeman.]

1859. Matsell. Vocabulum or Rogue’s Lexicon, s.v.

FLY-DISPERSER SOUP, subs. phr. (common).—Oxtail.

FLYER. — 1. See Flier in all senses.

2. (old). — A shoe. For synonyms, see Trotter-case.

1690. B. E., New Dict. of Terms, etc., s.v.

1785. Grose, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue, s.v.

1851. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, vol. II., p. 34. There is another article called a flyer, that is, a shoe sold without being welted.

3. (Winchester).—A half-volley at football. A MADE-FLYER is when the bound of the ball is gained from a previous kick, by the same side, against canvas or any other obstacle, or is dropped, as in a ‘drop-kick’ This is now confused with a ‘kick-up.’

FLY-FLAPPED, adj. (obsolete).—Whipped in the stocks, or at the cart’s tail.—Grose.

FLY-FLAPPER, subs. (old). — A heavy bludgeon.

FLY-FLAT, subs. (turf).—A would-be connoisseur and authority. [From FLY = knowing + FLAT = a fool.]

FLYING.—To look as if the Devil had shit him (or her) flying (common and proverbial).

—Said in derision of one odd-looking, filthy, or deformed.

FLYING-ANGEL.—See Angel.

FLYING BRICKLAYERS, subs. phr. (military).—The mounted Royal Engineers.

FLYING CAMPS, subs. phr. (old).—Couples or gangs of beggars.


1785. Grose, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue, s.v.

FLYING-CAPER, subs. (thieves')—An escape from prison; LEG-BAIL (q.v.).

1864. Daily Paper, ‘Police Report.’ The blues are always ready to spot a fellow who has tried on the FLYING-CAPER with them, and given them leg-bail.

FLYING-CAT.—See Cat.

FLYING COUNTRY, subs. phr. (hunting).—A country where the GOING (q.v.) is fast and good.

1856. Whyte Melville, Kate Coventry, ch. xii. The heavy-top hounds are an establishment such as, I am given to understand, is not usually kept in Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, and other so-called ‘FLYING COUNTIES.’

FLYING COVE, subs. phr. (American thieves').—An impostor who gets, or tries to get, money from persons who have been robbed by pretending to give such information as will lead to recovery. Formerly, FLYING-PORTER (Grose).

1859. Matsell, Vocabulum or Rogues’ Lexicon, s.v.
FLYING-DUSTMAN.—See STIFF-UN.

FLYING-DUTCHMAN, subs. (common).—The London and Exeter express (G.W.R.). See also FLYING SCOTCHMAN and WILD IRISHMAN. Cf., DEATH-MEAT TRAIN and LARKY SUBALTERN'S COACH.

FLYING-HORSE (or MARE), subs. (wrestling).—The throw by which an opponent is sent over the head. Introduced, says Bee, by Parkins.

1754. Foote, Knights, Act I. But we don't wrestle after your fashion; we 'a no tripping; faith and soul! we all go upon close hugs or the FLYING-MARE.

1884. Referee, 23 March, p. 1, col. 1. In the third and last bout, Klein brought his man clean over his head—holding him by his own—with a sort of FLYING-MARE, and elicited thunders of applause.

1886. Pall Mall Gazette, 5 July, p. 4. On a Mississippi steamer he astonished a rowdy who was shocked at his unnatural objection to whisky, by performing upon him the feat known to British wrestlers as 'the FLYING-MARE.'

FLYING-JIGGER OR GYGGER, subs. (thieves').—A turnpike gate. JIGGER = a door or gate.

1785. Grose, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue, s.v.

1859. Matsell, Vocabulunt Or Rogue's Lexicon, s.v.

FLYING-MAN, subs. (football).—A skirmisher good at taking, and running with, the ball.

1864. Eton School Days, ch. 23, p. 255. He possessed good wind, and was a very good 'kick-off,' and he could 'bully' a ball as well as any one. He was a little too heavy for 'FLYING-MAN,' but he made a decent 'sidepost,' and now and then he officiated as 'corner.'

FLYING-MARE. See FLYING-HORSE.

FLYING PASTY, subs. phr. (obsolete).—Excrement wrapped in paper and thrown over a neighbour's wall. [Grose.]

FLYING-PORTER. See FLYING COVE.

FLYING-STATIONER, subs. (street) — A hawker of street ballads; a PAPERWORKER (q.v.), or RUNNING PATTERNER (q.v.). Cf., CROAK. 'Printed for the FLYING-STATIONER' is the imprimatur on hundreds of broadsheets from the last century onwards.

1785. Grose, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue, s.v.

FLYING-MY. Adj. (streets).—Knowing; FAST (q.v.); roguish; sprightly. From FLY (q.v.).


FLYING-MY-KITE, subs. phr. (rhyming).—A light.

FLYING-MY-MESS, TO BE IN A FLYING-MY-MESS, verb. phr. (military).—To be hungry and have nothing to eat. For synonyms, see PECKISH.

FLY-SLICER, subs. (common).—A cavalry-man: cf., MUDCRUSHER. French lancers are allumeurs de gaz, their weapons being likened to a lamplighter's rod.
1863. Grose, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue, s.v. FLY-SLICERS: Life-guardmen, from their sitting on horseback, under an arch, where they are frequently observed to drive away flies with their swords.

**FLY THE GARTER,** subs. phr. (school-boys').—Leap-frog.

1863. G. A. Sala, Breakfast in Bed, Essay VIII., p. 187 (1864). He has very probably been playing fly-the-garter in the gutter instead of waiting his turn at the office.

**FLY-TRAP,** subs. (common).—1. The mouth. For synonyms, see POTATO TRAP.

2. (venery).—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

**FOALED,** adj. (hunting).—Thrown from a horse. Fr., faire parache.

**FOB,** or FUB,** subs. (old).—1. A cheat; a trick; a swindle. To COME THE FOB = to impose upon; to swindle; cf., COME OVER.

1690. B. E., Dict. of the Canting Crew. Fob. c., a cheat trick.

1785. Grose, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue, Fob, s.v.

1852. Judson, Mysteries of New York, ch. vii. He come ze FOB on some of ze nobilitie, and zey invite him to go to Amerique.

2. (old: now recognised).—A breeches pocket; a watch pocket.

1678. Butler, Hudibras, III., i., 107. Had rifled all his pokes and fobs of gimcrack whins and gingumbobs.

1690. B. E., Dict. of the Canting Crew. Fob. c., also a little pocket.

1703. Marvell, Poems on Affairs of State. 'Royal Revolutions.' When plate was in pawn and FOB at an ebb. Ibid. 'Last Instructions,' etc. More gold in's FOB, more lace upon his coat.

1789. Howitt, Visits to Remarkable Places, p. 170. Very pretty sums he has FOBBED now and then.

1842. Punch, III., p. 239, col. 2. The world turns its back on you, and neither by cards nor dice can you FOB your brother mortal out of a single guinea.

2. (old).—To deceive; trifle with; disappoint; to put off dishonestly or unfairly.

1598. Shakspeare, 2 Henry IV., ii., 1. A hundred mark is a long loan for a poor lone woman to bear, and I have borne, and borne, and borne, and have been FUBBED off and FUBBED off.

1602. Shakspeare, Othello, IV., 2. I think it is scurvy, and begin to find myself FOBBED in it.

1610. Shakspeare, Coriolanus, I., 1. You must not think to FOB off our disgrace with a tale.

1884. Fortnightly Review, XXXVI., p. 75. In nothing are amateur backers of horses FOBBED OFF by professionals with less than the legitimate odds than in backing double and triple events.
1864. *The Trump Exposed*, p. 7. A miserable, a job lot of humanity as had ever been fobbled off on a defrauded universe.

**To gut a Bob**, verb. phr. (old). — To pick pockets. Cf., Bob, verbal sense 1. For synonyms, see *Prig*.

1819. **Moore, Tom Crib’s Memorial**, i. Diddling your subjects, and gutting their Bobs.


2. (venery). — The female pudendum. For synonyms, see *Monosyllable*.

**Fodder**, subs. (common). — Paper for the closet, bum - fodder (q.v.).

**Fetus. To tap the Fetus**, verb. phr. (medical). — To procure abortion.

**Fog**, subs. (old) — Smoke.—Grose [1785]; Modern Flash Dict. [1823]; Matzell [1859]. [Cf., Fogus.]

In a Fog, subs. phr. (colloquial).—In a condition of perplexity, doubt, difficulty, or mystification: as, ‘I’m quite in a fog as to what you mean.’

Verb (old).—1. To smoke.

2. (colloquial).—To mystify; to perplex; to obscure.


1883. *Punch*, May, p. 210, col. 1. So large a picture, treated so ideally—Not that that means stricture—Fogs us to find room for it.

1883. *Daily Telegraph*, 29 Sept. We turns what we say into tangle talk so as to fog them.

**Fogey, or Fog, Fogay, or Fogg**, subs. (old).—An invalid or garrison soldier or sailor. Whence the present colloquial usages: (1) a person advanced in life, and (2) an old-fashioned or eccentric person; generally old fogey. [Derivation doubtful; suggestions are (1) from Su. G. fogde and (2) from Eng. folk. See Notes and Queries, i S. vii., 354, 559, 632; viii., 64, 154, 256, 455, 652; 6 S. ix., 10, 195.]


1812. Letter quoted in Notes and Queries, 6 S., ix., 10. My company is now forming into an invalid company. Tell your grandmother we will be like the Castle Foggies.

1855. Thackeray, *The Ballad of Bouillabaisse*. When first I saw ye, cari luoghi, I’d scarce a beard upon my face, And now, a grizzled, grim old fogy, I sit and wait for Bouillabaisse.


1867. Nesmith, ‘Reminiscences of Dr. Anthon,’ in The Galaxy, Sept., p. 611. The adherents of ‘progress’ mostly regard classics as old fogey, and ‘see no use in the laborious years which youth spend upon them.

1883. James Payn, *The Canon’s Ward*, ch. xv. ‘He would have preferred some bookish sneak like Adair, or some old fogey like Mavors.’

1888. Sporting Life, 10 Dec. So it is with the sister art of music, for I (myself something of an old fogey in such matters).

So also fogeyish = old-fashioned; eccentric. Fogeydom = the state of fogeyishness; and fogeyism = a characteristic of fogeydom.
Foggage.

FOGGLE, subs. (thieves'). — A silk handkerchief; also generic. [Cf., Ital., foglia = a pocket, a purse: Fr., fouille = a pocket]. A cotton handkerchief is called a CLOUT.

ENGLISH SYNONYMS. — Bandanna; belcher; billy; clout; conch-clout; fam-cloth; flag; kent-rag; madam; muckender; mucketer (FLORIO); nose-wipe; pen-wiper; rag; sneezer; snootinger or snot-rag; stalk; wipe. See BILLY.

FRENCH SYNONYMS. — Un cachemire (popular); un blave or blavin (thieves'; from O.F., blave = blue); une fassolette (thieves': It., fazzoletto); un chiffon or chiffrion (popular = a rag); un moufion (popular); les mouchettes (popular = wipes).

GERMAN SYNONYMS. — Schneitzlingsschneiche (cf., SNOT-RAG); Flammert or Flamme (also a neckerchief and an apron); Wisch (= also clothing of any kind).

1877. Besant and Rice, Golden Butterfly, ch. i. They repaired arm-in-arm to their club—the Renaissance, now past its prime, and a little FOGYISH.

1883. Saturday Review, 31 March, p. 403, col. 1. Not the least among the pleasures of FOGEDOM, so ably depicted by Thackeray, is the confidence that it inspires in the hearts of the fairer sex.

FOGGAGE, subs. (colloquial).—Fodder, especially green-meat.

1785. Burns, To a Mouse. And naething now to bigg a new ane o' FOGGAGE green.

FOGGED, ppl. adj. (common).—1. Drunk. Cf., FOGGY. For synonyms, see DRINKS and SCREWED.

2. (common). — Perplexed; bewildered; at a loss. [From FOG (q.v.), to perplex]. For synonyms, see FLABBERGASTED.

1883. Illust. London News, 6 Jan., p. 6, col. 3. They were all treading on one another's heels, trying to do their best, but hopelessly FOGGED.

1887. All the Year Round, 30 July, p. 68. An Australian says that he is bushed just as an Englishman, equally characteristically, declares that he is FOGGED.

FOGGER, subs. (old).—1. A huckster; a cringing, whining beggar; a petitfogger.

1614. Terence in English. I shall be exclaim upon to be a beggarly FOGGER, greedily hunting after heritage.

2. (old).—A farm servant whose duty is to feed the cattle; i.e., to supply them with FOGGAGE (q.v.).

FOGGY, adj. (common).—1. Drunk; i.e., CLINCHED or HAZY (q.v.) For synonyms, see DRINKS and SCREWED.

2. (colloquial).—Dull; fatwitted; THICK (q.v.).
Fogle-hunter.

1858. A. Mayhew, *Paved with Gold*, bk. II., ch. i., p. 60. They're just made for hooking a Fogle [handkerchief] out of a clye.

**Fogle-hunter, subs. (thieves').**—A thief whose speciality is Foggles (q.v.) Fr. un blaviniste or un chiffonier, but for synonyms, see Stockhauler.

1827. Maginn, in Blackwood's Mag. ... the fogle hunters doing Their morning fake in the prigging lay.

1830. Lytton, *Paul Clifford*, ch. xvi. Who's here so base as would be a Fogle-hunter?


**Fogus, subs. (old).**—Tobacco. [Cf., FOGUS.] For synonyms, see Weed.


**Foist, FOYST, or FYST, subs. (old).**—A thief.

1796. D'Arblay, *Camilla*, ii., 5. Nobody's civil now, you know, it is a fogramity quite out of date.

**Fogue, adj.** (American thieves')—Fierce; fiery.


**FOILER, subs. (old).**—A thief.


**Foin, verb.** (obsolete).—To copulate, i.e., to thrust, to poke (q.v.). Also subs.

1598. Florio, *A Worlde of Wordes*. Scavulla: A thrust, a push, a foyne, or the serving to a woman of a man’s prick.

1598. Shakspere, 2 *Henry IV.*, ii., 4. Thou whoreson little tidy Bartholomew boar pig, when wilt thou leave fighting o' days, and foining o' nights, and begin to patch up thine old body for heaven?

**Foist, FOYST, or FYST, subs. (old).**—A cheat; a swindler; a sharper.

1596. Ben Jonson  Every Man in His Humour iv., 7. Prate again, as you like this, you whoreson foist you.

1607. Dekker, Jests to Make you Merry in wks. (Grosart) II., 326. To our foysts, alias pickpocket, alias cutpurse.

1609. Dekker, Lanthorne and Candlight, in wks. (Grosart) III., 212. A foyst nor a nip shall not walke into a Fayre or a Play-house.

1611. Middleton, Roaring Girl, O. Pl., vi., 113. This brave fellow is no better than a foist. Foist! what is that? A diver with two fingers; a pickpocket; all his train study thefigging law, that's to say cutting of purses and foisting.

2. (old).—A trick; a swindle; an imposture. Also foyster and foister.

1605. Ben Jonson, Volpone or the Fox, iii., 9. Put not your foists upon me. I shall scent 'em.

3. (old).—A silent emission of wind through the anus (see quot., sense 2); a cheeser. See fart and fousty. [Coles has to fyst, vissio; which in his Latin part he renders to fizzle. Also fyisting cur; and in Sherwood's English Dictionary, subjoined to cotgrave, fyisting curs, and other offenders of the same class, are fully illustrated.]

1598. Florio, A Worlde of Wordes. Loffa, a fyle, a fiste, a close fart.


1682. Rump Songs, II., 3. That a reason be enacted (if there be not one), Why a fart hath a voice, and a fyst hath none, Which nobody can deny.

1690. B. E., Dict. of the Canting Crew. Foyst... also a close strong stink, without noise or report.

1785. Grose, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue, s.v. Fice or foyst.

Verb. (old).—1. To trick; to swindle; to pick pockets.

1607. Dekker, Jests to Make You Merry, in wks. (Grosart) II., 332. But now to the manner of the foysting of a pocket, the sharing of the money, and how honest men may avoid them.


1653. Middleton, Spanish Gipsy, ii., 1. I mean fitching, foisting, nimming.

2. (old).—To fart. Also to copulate (urquhart).


1598. Florio, A Worlde of Wordes. Loffare, s.v.

1611. Cotgrave, Dictionarie, Vessir, s.v.

Foyster, or Foyster, subs. (old).—A pick-pocket; a cheat.

1598. Florio, A Worlde of Wordes. Barattiere, a barterer, a trucker, a marter, an exchanger, a briber, a cheater, a false gamester, a cousener, a broker, a fripper, a chaffrer, a cogger, a foyster, a deceiuer, a coni-catcher, a bareter, a prowler.

(?) Mirrour for Magistrates, p. 483, When facing foisters, fit for Tiburn. fraies, Are food-sick faint.

Follower, subs. (colloquial).—A maid - servant's sweetheart; a beau. For synonyms, see Jomer.


1870. Spectator, 15 Jan. It is safe, unkind as it may seem, to forbid the presence of a 'follower' in the house. A girl is less likely to get into mischief when she is walking with her friend in the street or talking with him over the area gate, than when she receives him alone in the kitchen.

1872 The Ladies, 29 June, p. 335. If you take into consideration that 'followers' are in most houses strictly for-
bidd'en, what wonder is it that girls are now and then caught flirting with the butcher and the baker at the area railings?

**Follow-me-lads.** subs. phr. (common). — Curls or ribands hanging over the shoulder; cf., Fr., suiv•ez-moi—jeune-homme= ribbons flying behind a lady's dress. Also Followers.

1872. *Spectator.* 'Follow-me-lads' are not in themselves very pretty, though, like any other fashion, they become the Princess, and they are exceedingly costly.

**Follow on,** subs. phr. and verb (cricket). — A team eighty runs behind the other in the first innings is obliged to follow on; i.e., to take to the wickets a second time. A run more, and it saves the follow on.

1891. *Pall Mall Gazette,* 5 Aug. 'Notts v. Surrey.' The game, with a possible prospect of the follow-on, being saved.

**Follow your nose!** intj. phr. (streets'). — A retort on asking the way. The full phrase is, 'Follow your nose, and you are sure to go straight.'

1620. *Percy, Folio MSS.,* p. 462. He went to the sea syde, and followed his nose.

1854. *Notes and Queries,* x., p. 66. In what collection of tales published in 1834 shall I find the tale entitled follow your nose?

**Foo-f00,** subs. (American). — A person of no account; an insignificant idiot; a poop (q.v.).

1837. *A Glance at New York* (in Bartlett). Don't know what a foo-f00 is? Well, as you're a greenhorn, I'll enlighten you. A foo-f00, or an outsider, is a chap that can't come the big figure.

**Fool,** subs. (colloquial). — A dish of gooseberries, boiled with sugar and milk. [Fr., groseilles en foule.] Also, a gull (q.v.).

1719. *Durfee, Pills,* etc., III., 9. 'Praise of the Dairy Maid.' A lady, I heard tell, Not far off did dwell, Made her husband a fool, and it pleased him quite well.

1774. *Goldsmith, Retaliation.* And by the same rule, Magnanimous Goldsmith's a gooseberry fool.


1848. *Jones, Sketches of Travel,* p. 33. I tell you what, Charleston ain't no fool of a city.

**To make a fool of,** verb. phr. (colloquial). — To delude. Specifically (venery), to cuckold, or to seduce under promise of marriage.

**To fool about** (or around), verb. phr. (American). — To dawdle; to trifle with; to be infatuated with; to hang about; to defraud.

1837. *A Glance at New York.* Mose — Now look a-here, Liz,—I go in for Bill Sykes, 'cause he runs wid our machine; but he musn't come foo-l'in' round my gal, or I'll give him fits.

1884. *Hawley Smart, Post to Finish,* ch. xvii. From what I hear, you came to Riddleton, fooling after my daughter. Now, I'll have no caterwauling of that sort.

1891. *Gunter, Miss Nobody of Nowhere,* p. 124. I should think you had too much ed-u-cash to fool about such a going on.

**Fool-finder,** subs. (obsolete). — A hum-bailiff. — *Grose.*

**Foolish,** adj. (prostitutes') — Said of a man that pays. 'Is he flash (q.v.) or foolish = Is he the cully or the other.' — *Grose.*

**Fool-monger,** subs. (colloquial). — A person, male or female, living by their wits, e.g., a promoter (q.v.); a betting-man; a swindler. Also Fool-catcher and Fool-trap (q.v.).
FOOLOMETER, subs. (colloquial).—A standard, positive or neuter, whereby to gauge the public taste.

FOOL'S FATHER, subs. phr. (theatrical).—The pantaloon or OLD 'UN. (q.v.)

FOOL-STICKER, subs. phr. (venery).—The penis. For synonyms, see CREAMSTICK and PRICK. Also FOOL-MAKER.

FOOL'S WEDDING, subs. phr. (common).—A party of women. For synonyms, see HEN PARTY.

FOOL-TRAP, subs. (colloquial).—1. A FOOL-MONGER (q.v.).

2. (venery).—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

3. (colloquial).—A high-class harlot.

FOONT, subs. (thieves')—A sovereign [Probably a corruption of Ger. Pfund.] For synonyms, see CANARY.

1879. J. W. HORSLEY, in Macm. Mag., XI., 592. The mob got me up a break (collection), and I got between five or six FOOINT (sovereigns).

FOOT, verb. (common).—1. To acknowledge payment; e.g., TO FOOT A BILL; cf. Foot-up.

1848. DURIVAGE, Stray Subjects, p. 183. If our plan succeeded the landlord was to foot the bill, and stand treat.

2. (football and colloquial).—To kick; to HOOF (q.v.). Cf., Merchant of Venice, I., 3. You, that did void your rheum upon my beard, And FOOT me, as you spurn a stranger cur.

1852. BRISTED, Upper Ten Thousand, p. 223. Both teams were FOOTING their very best.

To FOOT IT, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To walk. For synonyms, see PAD THE HOOF.

1892. PRICE, From Arctic Ocean to Yellow Sea. The discomfort of having to FOOT IT.

To FOOT-UP, verb. phr. (American colloquial).—To sum up the total (of a bill); to TOT UP (q.v.). Hence, to pay; to discharge one's obligations; to RECKON UP (q.v.); to summarize both merits and defects, and strike a balance. FOOTING-UP = the reckoning, the sum total. Fr., gomberger.

1885. SALA, A Trip to Barbary. The Arab abhors statistics. He won't be tabulated if he could help it, and were you to go to Algeria, Doctor Colenso, you would find a deeply rooted objection among the people to the reckoning, or FOOTING-UP, as the Americans call it, of anything animate or inanimate.

1871. DE VERE Americanisms, p. 310. To FOOT A BILL, by paying the amount at the bottom of the account, is a phrase equally well known abroad and with us.

1882. McCABE, New York, XXI., 333. The transactions of 'the Street' FOOT UP an almost fabulous sum daily.


To PUT ONE'S BEST FOOT (or LEG) FOREMOST, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To use all possible despatch; to exert oneself to the utmost.

1596. SHAKESPEARE, King John, iv., 2. Nay, but make haste; the better foot before.

To PUT ONE'S FOOT INTO ANYTHING, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To make a mess of it; to get into a scrape. THE BISHOP (i.e., the Devil) HAS PUT HIS FOOT IN IT (Old English proverb) is said of burned porridge or over-roasted meat.—GROSE. Fr., faire une gaffe.

1823. BEE, Dict. of the Turf, s.v.
To have one foot (or leg) in the grave. verb. phr. (common).—On one’s last legs; measured for a funeral sermon. Also as adj.

1825. English Spy, i., pp. 199-200. With one leg in the grave he’ll laugh.


1825. Neal, Brother Jonathan, Bk. I., ch. iv., How they pulled foot when they seed us commin.


1848. Burton Waggeries, etc., p. 65. I’m darned if I don’t streak it to the Squire’s foot-hot.

1777. Howard, State of Prisons in England and Wales, quoted in J. Ashton’s The Fleet, p. 295. A cruel custom obtains in most of our Gaols, which is that of the prisoners demanding of a new comer garnish, footing, or (as it is called in some London Gaols) chummage.

1781. G. Parker, View of Society, I., 48. I must instantly pay down two shillings for my footing.

1788. G. A. Stevens, Adv. of a Speculist, i., 211. I was drove from street to street by women of my own profession, who swore I should not come in their beats until I had paid my footing.

1830. Carleton, Collegian’s Colleen Bawn, 94. ‘Pay your footing now, Master Kyrle Daly, before you go farther,’ said one.

1840. Haliburton, Clockmaker, 3 S., ch. iii. ‘Waiter, half-a-dozen of iced champagne here, to pay for Mr. Slick’s footing.’

1891. Clark Russell, An Ocean Tragedy, p. 86. I was going aloft and wished to pay my footing.

Footing, subs. (common).—Money paid on entering upon new duties, or on being received into a workshop or society: as at sea when a comrade first goes aloft. Formerly foot-ale: cf., garnish.

1581. Lilly, Euphues, etc. But you shall not know the length of my foot, unstill by your cunning you get commendation.

1614. Terence in English. He measures an other man’s foote by his owne last. Hee considers an other mans meaning by his owne intent.

Footer, subs. (Harrow: once common).—1. Short for ‘football.’
FOOTLIGHTS. To smell the footlights, verb. phr. (theatrical). — To acquire a taste for theatricals. [Footlights = the float (q.v.) ; the row of burners in front of the stage.]

To smell of the footlights.
To carry theatrical concerns and phraseology into private life; to talk shop (q.v.).

FOOTMAN'S INN, subs. phr. (old). — A poor lodging; a jail. Fr., Hôtel de la modestie = the Poor Man's Arms.

1608. Penniles Parliament of Threedia Poets. Those that depend on destiny, and not on God, may chance look through a narrow lattice at Footman's Inn.

1612. Rowland, Knave of Hearts. Which at the heeles so hams his frighted ghost, That he at last in Footman's-inne must host, Some castle dolorous 'compos'd of stone, Like (let me see) Newgate is such a one.

FOOTMAN'S MAUND, subs. phr. (old). — An artificial sore, as from a horse's bite or kick. The Fox's bite of schoolboys. Also the Scaldrum Dodge, or Maund (q.v.). Maund = a cadger's sale-basket. Cf., Masons' Maund.

1690. B. E., Dict. of the Canting Crew, s.v. An artificial sore made with unslacked lime, soap, and the rust of old iron, on the back of a beggar's hand, as if hurt by the bite or kick of a horse.

1785. Grose, Dict. of the Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

FOOT-RIDING, subs. (cyclists'). — Walking and wheeling one's machine instead of riding it.

1887. T. Stevens, Round the World on a Bicycle. Already I realise that there is going to be as much foot-riding as anything for the first part of my journey.


FOOTSTOOL. See Angels' Footstool.

FOOT-WOBBLER, subs. (old, soldier's'). — An infantryman. For synonyms, see Mudcrusher.

1785. Grose, Dict. of the Vulg. Tongue, s.v.


1836. Michael Scott, Tom Cringle's Log, ch. v. My eye, Captain, no use to dodge from her; it is only dat footy little King's cutter on de Jamaica station.

FOOZLE, subs. (common and sporting). — I. A boggle; a miss.

2. (common). — A bore; a fogy; and (in America) a fool; a green 'un. For synonyms, see Buffe, Cabbage-head, and Sammy soft.

1867. Rhoda Broughton, Cometh up as a Flower, ch. xxvi. Frumps and foozles in Eaton Square.

Verb. (common). — To miss; to boggle; to muf (q.v.).


Foozled (or Foozley), adj. (colloquial). — Blurred in appearance and effect; fuzzy; muffed (q.v.). Often said of badly painted pictures, or parts of pictures.

FOP-DOODLE, subs. (old). — An insignificant man; a fool.


FOP'S ALLEY, subs. phr. (old). — See quot. 1883.

1883. Sala, Echoes of the Year, p. 369. For's Alley was the gangway running parallel to the footlights, between the last row of the stalls and the first row of the pit in Her Majesty's Theatre, and in its palmiest days it was always graced by the presence of a subaltern of the Guards in full uniform daintily swinging his bearskin.

**Forakers, subs.** (Winchester College). — The water-closet. [Formerly spelt foricus and probably a corruption of foricas, an English plural of the Latin forica.] For synonyms, see Mrs. Jones.

**Foraminate, verb** (venery). — To copulate. For synonyms, see Greens and Ride.

**Force, subs.** (colloquial). — The police; properly a body of men trained for action. For synonyms, see Beak and Copper.

1888. Braddon, Trail of the Serpent, bk. IV., ch. vi. 'I should like to . . . bring a child up from the very cradle to the police detective line, to see whether I couldn't make that 'ere child a ornament to the force.'


To **force the voucher, verb. phr.** (turf). — It is customary for sporting tricksters to advertise selections and enclose vouchers (similar to those sent out by respectable commission agents) for double or treble the current odds. The correspondent is informed that, in consequence of early investments, the extra odds can be laid; a remittance is requested; the voucher is forced; and then the firm 'dries up,' and changes its name and address.

**Forcemeat ball, subs. phr.** (old). — Something endured from compulsion: as (1) a rape; (2) going to prison; (3) transportation; (4) an affiliation order; (5) abstention (from drink, pleasure, etc.) through impecuniosity.

**Forceps, subs.** (old). — The hands. [Properly a pair of surgeon's pincers.] — For synonyms, see Daddle.

**Fore-and-aft, verb.** (venery). — To copulate. See Greens and Ride.


1840. Haliburton, Clockmaker, 3 S., ch. xi. 'The way she walks her chalks ain't no matter. She is a regular fore-and-after.'

2. (venery). — A double-barrelled (q.v.) harlot. [As in the song attributed to an eminent living man of letters: "Sing whore, sing whore, Behind and before, Her price is a shilling— She never gets more."]

**Fore-buttocks, subs.** (old). — The paps. — For synonyms, see Dairy.

1745. Swift, Pope, and Arbuthnot, Misc. iv., 222. Now her fore-buttocks to the navel bare.

**Forecaster, subs.** (venery). The female pudendum. For synonyms, see Monosyllable.

**Fore-coach-wheel, subs.** (common). — A half-crown. For synonyms, see Caroon.

**Fore-court, subs. phr.** (venery). — The female pudendum. Also Fore-hatch, Fore-castle, and Fore-room. For synonyms, see Monosyllable.

**Forefoot, subs.** (old). — The hand.

1599. Shakspeare, Henry V., II., 1. Give me thy fist; thy forefoot to me give.

1785. Grose, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue.
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<td><strong>FOREGATHER, verb. (old).</strong> — To share the sexual embrace. For synonyms, see RIDE.</td>
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<td><strong>FORK, subs. (old).</strong> 1. A pickpocket. Fr., ‘Avoir les mains crochues= to be a light-fingered or lime-fingered filcher; every finger of his hand as good as a lime-twig.’ —COTGRAVE.</td>
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<td><strong>FOREHATCH, subs. (venery).—The female pudendum.</strong> For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE. Also FORECASTLE.</td>
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<td>1690. B. E., Dict. of the Canting Crew, s.v.</td>
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<td><strong>FOREMAN, subs. (old).—</strong> 1. The penis. For synonyms, see CREAMSTICK and PRICK. [Cf., FOREWOMAN.]</td>
<td>1785. GROSE, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue.</td>
<td>2. (thieves').—A finger. The forks = the fore and middle fingers; also cf., (proverbial) ‘Fingers were made before forks.’</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FOREMAN OF THE JURY, subs. phr. (old).—</strong> A babbler; one with the GIFT OF THE GAB (q.v.).</td>
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<td><strong>ENGLISH SYNONYMS.</strong> — Claws; cunt-hooks (Grose); daddles (also the hands); divers; feelers; fives; flappers; grapplers; grappling irons; gropers; hooks; nail-bearers; pickers and stealers (Shakspeare); corn-stealers; Ten Commandments; ticklers; pinkies; muck-forks.</td>
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<td>1690. B. E., Dict. of the Canting Crew, s.v.</td>
<td><strong>FRENCH SYNONYMS.</strong> — Les apôtres (thieves‘ = the ten Apostles); les fourchettes, or les fourchettes d’Adam (popular: = Adam’s forks); le peigne d’allemand (thieves‘: RABELAIS).</td>
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<td><strong>FORESKIN HUNTER, subs. phr. (venery).—</strong> A harlot. For synonyms, see BARRACK-HACK and TART.</td>
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<td><strong>GERMAN SYNONYMS.</strong> — Ezba (= the finger, especially the first or fore-finger. The names of the others are: Godel = the thumb; Ammo = the middle-finger; Kemizo = the ring-finger; Seres, i.e., ‘span’ = the little finger); Griffing (= also the hand. From greifen = to seize).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FOREST, subs. (venery).—</strong> The female pubic hair. For synonyms, see FLEECE.</td>
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<td><strong>SPANISH SYNONYMS.</strong> — Mandamiento (= a commandment: cf., Ten Commandments); tireras (= the fore- and middle fingers; MINSHEU (1599) Dictionarie, tireras = ‘small sheares, seizors, snuffers.’).</td>
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<tr>
<td>1573-1631. DONNE, Elegies, xviii. Yet ere thou be where thou would’st be embarked, Thou must upon another forest set, Where many shipwreck and no further get</td>
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Fork.

PORTUGUESE SYNONYM. — Medunhos.

1831. HAGGART, Life, p. 121. My forks were equally long, and they never failed me.

1834. AINSWORTH, Rookwood. 'Nix my Dolly.' No dummy hunter had forks so fly. Ibid. Jack Sheppard (1839), p. 20. I'll give him the education of a priig—teach him the use of his forks betimes.

1841. Tait's Edinburgh Mag., VIII., p. 220. My forks were light and fly, and lightly faked away.

1891. Licensed Victuallers' Gazette, 9 Feb. Up they came briskly with smiling mugs, shook hands, then stepped back a pace or two, put up their forks, and the spectators were hushed into silence, for they saw that the battle was about to begin.

2. (in plural (common). — The hands.

3. (旧). — A gibbet; in the plural = the gallows. [Fork is often applied to anything resembling a divarication (as of a tree, river, or road), etc.: Cf., sense 2. Cf., Cicero (de Div., i., 26). Ferens furcam ductus est: a slave so punished was called furcifer.]

5. (旧). — A spendthrift.

1725. New Canting Dict., s.v.

6. (tailors' and venery). — The CRUTCH (q.v.), NOCKANDRO (q.v.), or TWIST (q.v.). [Thus, A BIT ON A FORK = the female pudendum; a GRIND (q.v.).] Fr., 'Fourcheure, that part of the bodie from whence the thighs depart.'—COTGRAVE.

Verb (old). — I. To steal; specifically to pick a pocket by inserting the middle and forefinger. Also TO PUT ONE'S FORKS DOWN: Fr., vol à la fourchette.

1690. B. E., Dict. of the Canting Crew. Let's fork him, c. Let us pick that man's pocket, the newest and most dextrous way; it is to thrust the fingers straight, stiff, open, and very quick into the pocket, and so closing them hook what can be held between them.

1785. GROSE, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue. Let us fork him.

1830. LYTTON, Paul Clifford, ch. xvi. Yet so keen was his appetite for the sport, that the veteran appropriator absolutely burst into tears at not having 'forked more.'

1878. C. HINDLEY, Life and Times of James Catnach. Frisk the Cly and fork the Rag, Draw the fogles plummy.

2. (venery). — To open up, or SPREAD (q.v.).

TO FORK OUT, OR OVER (sometimes abbreviated to FORK). Verb. phr. (common). — To hand over; to pay; TO SHELL OUT (q.v.).

1830. LYTTON, Paul Clifford, ch. xxxi. The person forks him out ten shiners.

1836. DICKENS, Sketches by Boz, p. 84. His active mind at once perceived how much might be done in the way of . . . shoving the old and helpless into the wrong buss, and carrying them off . . . till they was rig'larly done over, and forked out the stumpy.

1837. BARHAM, I. L., The Execution. He Pulls up at the door of a gin-shop, and gaily Cries, 'What must I fork out to night, my trump, For the whole first-floor of the Magpie and Stump?'

1840. Comic Almanack. 'Tom the Devil,' p. 214. 'That's a nate way of doin' business, sure enough, was the commentary; 'only I can't larn the sinse of going to a private lodging, where, if you order a kidney for breakfast, you're expected to fork out to the butcher.

1852. H. B. STOWE, Uncle Tom's Cabin, ch. viii. You've got to fork over fifty dollars, flat down, or this child don't start a peg.

1864. DICKENS, Our Mutual Friend, Bk. III., ch. i. 'Now,' said Fledgeby, 'fork out your balance in hand, and prove by figures how you make it out that it ain't more.'
1867. Albany Argus, 5 Sept. Now, sir, you will please fork over that money to me, and pay your bill, or I'll have the law out of you, as sure as you are born.

1867. Lippincott's Magazine, Aug., p. 199. Just calculate my percentage of our liabilities, and allow me to fork over.

1887. Detroit Free Press, 9 Sept. The dozen screw-drivers came up C. O. D. and he had to fork over for them.

To fork on, verb. phr. (American)—To appropriate. Cf., To Freeze on to.

To pitch the fork, verb. phr. (popular).—To tell a pitiful tale.

To eat vinegar with a fork, verb. phr. (common).—A person either over-shrewd or over-snappish is said to have eaten vinegar with a fork. Fr., Avoir mangé de l'oseille. See Nettle.

Forker, subs. (nautical).—A dockyard thief or fence (q.v.). [From fork = to steal + ER.]

Forking, subs. (thieves').—I. Thieving. See Fork.

2. (tailors').—Hurrying and scamping (q.v.).

Forkless, adj. (thieves').—Clumsy; unworkmanlike; as without forks (q.v.).

1821. Haggart, Life, p. 40. I met George Bagrie, and William Paterson, alias old Hag, two very willing, but poor snibs, accompanying a lushy cove, and going to work in a very forkless manner.

Forloper, subs. (South African).—A teamster guide.

Forlorn hope, subs. phr. (colloquial).—A gamaster's last stake. —Grose.

Form, subs. (turf.)—I. Condition; training; fitness for a contest.

In or out of form = in or out of condition, i.e., fit or unfit for work. Better or Top form, etc. (in comparison). Cf., Colour.

1861. Walsh, The Horse, ch. vi. If it be supposed that two three-year-olds, carrying the same weight, could run a mile and a-half, and come in abreast, it is said that the form of one is equal to that of the other.

1884. Hawley Smart, Post to Finish, ch. xxxv. When fillies, in racing parlance, lose their form at three years old, they are apt to never recover it.

1888. Whyte, Melville, White Rose, ch. xxxiv. That mysterious property racing men call 'form.'

2. (colloquial).—Behaviour (with a moral significance: as good form, bad form = agreeable to good manners, breeding, principles, taste, etc., or the opposite). This usage, popularised in racing circles, is good literary English, though the word is commonly printed in inverted commas (" "): Shakspeare (Two Gentlemen of Verona, 4), says, 'Can no way change you to a milder form,' i.e., manner of behaviour.

1871. Orchestra, 13 Jan. This squabble at the Globe may most fitly, perhaps, be characterised by the words 'bad form.'

1871. The Drawing Room Gazette, Dec. 9, p. 5. It is an open question, whether snubbing be not, like cutting, in the worst possible 'form.'

1873. Belgravia, Feb. The demeanour and conduct which the 'golden youth' of the period call 'good form' was known to their fathers as bad manners.

1881. Jas. Payn, Grape from a Thorn, ch. xvii. It would be considered what they call 'bad form' in my daughter Ella if she were known to be a contributor—for pay—to the columns of a magazine.

1890. Speaker, 22 Feb., p. 211, col 2. Still, after all, we doubt very much whether it be fair, or right, or even prudent—it certainly is not 'good form'—to publish to a world of Gallios a lot of irreverent bar-mess and circuit 'good stories,' worked up about living Lord Chancellors, Lord Justices, and other present occupants of the judicial bench.
3. (common).—Habit; GAME (q.v.): e.g., 'That's my FORM = That's what I'm in the way of doing'; or 'That's the sort of man I am.'

1884. Punch, 11 Oct. 'Arry at a Political Picnic.' Athletics ain't hardly my FORM.

FORNEY, subs (thieves').—A ring; a variant of FAWNEY (q.v.).

1871. Egan, Finish of Tom and Jerry, p. 243. He sports a diamond FORNEY on his little finger.

FORNICATING-ENGINE (-MEMBER; -TOOL), subs. phr. (venery).—The penis. For synonyms, see CREAM-STICK and PRICK.

FORNICATOR, subs. (venery).—1. The penis. For synonyms, see CREAM-STICK and PRICK.
  2. In pl. (obscure).—The old-fashioned flap trousers.

FORNICATOR'S HALL, subs. phr. (venery).—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

FORT, subs. (venery).—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

1620. Percy, Folio MSS. [Hales & Furnivall, 1867]. 'Come, Wanton Wenches. When they your FORT beleauger; grant but a touch or a kisse for a tast.

FORTUNE-BITER, subs. (obscure).—A sharper.

1719. Durfey, Pillis, etc., ii. 'Hey! for Richmond Ball!' FORTUNE-BITERS, Hags, bum-fighters, Nymphs of the Woods, And stale City goods.

FORTUNE-TELLER, subs. (old).—A magistrate.

1690. B E., Dict. of the Canting Crew. FORTUNE-TELLERS, c. the Judges of Life and Death, so-called by the Canting Crew.

1785. Grose, Dict. of the Vulg. Tongue. FORTUNE-TELLER, or cunning man; a judge who tells every prisoner his fortune, lot, or doom; to go before the FORTUNE-TELLER, lambskin man or conjuror, to be tried at an assize.

1871. Egan, Finish of Tom and Jerry, p. 242. He had been very cruelly used by the FORTUNE-TELLERS.

FORTY. To TALK FORTY (more commonly NINETEEN) TO THE DOZEN, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To chatter incessantly; to gabble.
To WALK OFF FORTY TO THE DOZEN = to decamp in quick time.

1891. Farjeon, Mystery of M. Felix, p. 107. He run agin me, he did, and I ased, 'Who are yer pushing of?' He didn't say nothink, but walked off FORTY TO the DOZEN.

ROARING FORTIES, subs. phr. (nautical).—The Atlantic between the fortieth and fiftieth degrees of latitude; also applied to the same region in southern latitudes.

FORTY-FACED, adj. (colloquial).—An arrant deceiver: e.g., a FORTY-FACED liar, a FORTY-FACED flirt, and so forth.

FORTY-FIVE, subs. (American).—A revolver. For synonyms, see MEAT IN THE POT.

FORTY-FOOT or FORTY-GUTS, subs. (common).—A fat, dumpy man, or woman. In contempt.

ENGLISH SYNONYMS. — 'All arse, and no body'; arse-and-corporation; all-belly (Cotgrave); all guts (idem); bacon - belly; barrel-belly; belly-god; bladder-figured; bosse - belly; Bosse of Billingsgate (Florio = a fat woman); chuff (Shakspeare); Christmas beef; double-guts; double-tripe; fat-cock; fat-guts (Shakspeare and Cotgrave); fatico; fattymus or
Forty-jawed. 61  Fossick.

fattyma; fubsy; fat Jack of the bonehouse; fat-lips; flanderkin; fustluggs (Burton); fussock; gorbelly; grampus; gotch-guts; grand-guts (Florio); gulche (Florio); gulyguts; gundigutts; guts; guts and stomach; guts and garbage; guts to sell; hoddy-doddy; humpty-dumpy; hogshead; hopper-arse; Jack Weight; loppers; lummox; paunch; pod; porpoise; pot-guts; princod; pudding-belly; puff-guts; ribs; 'short-and-thick-like-a-Welshman's-cock'; slush-bucket; sow (afat woman); spud; squab; studgy-guts; tallow-guts; tallow-merchant; thick-in-the-middle; tripes; tripes and trullibubs; tubs; waist; water-butt; walking ninepin; whopper.

French Synonyms. Un gros bajaf (popular); un bout de cul (popular); un bas de plafond, or de cul (popular); un brasset (= a tall, stout man); un berdouillard.

Spanish Synonym. Angelon de retablo (generally applied to a pot-bellied child).

Forty-jawed, adj. (colloquial).—Excessively talkative.

Forty-lun ged, adj. (colloquial).—Stentorian; given to shouting; leather-lun ged (q.v.).

Forty-rod or Forty-rod Lightning, subs. phr. (American).—Whiskey; specifically, spirit of so fiery a nature that it is calculated to kill at Forty Rods' distance, i.e., on sight. Cf., Rot-gut. For synonyms, see Drinks and Old Man's Milk. Cf., Florio (1598), Catoblepa, 'a serpent in India so venomous that with his looke he kills a man a mile off.'

1884. M. TWAIN, Huck. Finn, ch. v., p. 36. He got powerful thirsty and clumb out on to the porch-roof and slid down a stanchion, and traded his new coat for a jug of Forty-rod.

Forty-twa, subs. (Scots).—A common jakes, or Bogshop (q.v.).—in Edinburgh: 'so called from its accommodating that number of persons at once' (Hotten). [Long a thing of the past.]

Forty Winks, subs. phr. (colloquial).—A short sleep or nap. See Dog's Sleep.

1866. G. ELIOT, Felix Holt, ch. xliii. She was prevented by the appearance of old Mr. Transome, who since his walk had been having 'Forty-winks' on the sofa in the library.

1871. EGAN. Finish to Tom and Jerry, p. 87. On unconmanly big gentlemen, told out, taking Forty-winks.

[Forty is often used to signify an indefinite number; cf., Shakspeare's usage, 'I could beat forty of them' (Cor. iii., 1); 'O that the slave had forty thousand lives' (Othello iii., 1); 'forty thousand brothers' (Hamlet, v., 1); 'The Humour of Forty Fancies' (Taming of the Shrew); and Jonson Some forty boxes' (Silent Woman).]

Fossed, ppl. adj. (American thieves').—Thrown; cf., [foss = a ditch].

Fossick, verb (Australian miners').—To work an abandoned claim, or to wash old dirt; hence to search persistently. [Halliwell: = to take trouble, but cf., fosse, a ditch or excavation.] Also Fossicking = a living got as afore-said; Fossicker = a man that works abandoned claims; Fossicking about = (American) Shinning Around, or in England Ferreting (q.v.).

1870. Notes and Queries, 4 S., vi., p. 3.
1878. *Fraser's Mag.*, Oct., p. 449. They are more suited . . . to plodding, fossicking, persevering industry, than for hard work.

1887. *Sala*, in *Ill. Lond. News*, 12 Mar., p. 282, col. 2. 'To fossick' in the old digging days was to get a living by extracting gold from the refuse wash-dirt which previous diggers had abandoned as worthless.

1890. *Illustrations*, Jan., p. 158. After some 'fossiking' we discover three or four huts within 'cooe,' all diggers, all 'hatters,' and mostly good fellows.

Fou, or Fow, adj. (old English and Scots' colloquial).—Drunk; variants are bitch-fou; greetin'-fou; piper-fou; roarin'-fou; fou as barty (Burns); pissing-fou; and so forth. For synonyms, see drinks and screwed. Also (Scots') = full of food or drink, as in quot. under date 1815.

1897. *Vanbrugh*, *Provoked Wife*, III., ii. (quoted in). Then sit ye awhile, and tipple a bit, For we's not very fou, but we're gayly yet.

1877. *Five Years' Penal Servitude*, ch. iii., p. 243. 'A foulcher, with flimsies and couters for a score of quid in it.'

1878. *Coles*, *Eng. Dict.* Foul, hindred or intangled with another ship's ropes, etc.

1874. *Connaisseur*, No. 3. Which sailed very heavy, were often a-ground, and continually ran foul on each other.

1881. *Hughes*, *Tom Brown at Oxford*, ch. xiii. Their coxswain . . . had to pull his left hand hard or they would have fouled the Oxfordshire corner.

1885 *Illus. London News*, March 28, p. 316, col. 1. In 1849 there were two races in the course of the year; Cambridge won the first, Oxford the second, on a foul (the only time the race has been so won).

1889. *Licensed Victuallers' Gaz.*, 18 Jan. Dick was done out of the stakes on an appeal of foul.

To foul a plate with, verbal phr. (old, colloquial).—To dine or sup with.—Grose.

Foulcher, subs. (thieves').—A purse.

1877. *Five Years' Penal Servitude*, ch. iii., p. 243. 'A foulcher, with flimsies and couters for a score of quid in it.'

Foul-mouthed, adj. (colloquial).—Obscene or blasphemous in speech.

Found in a parsley-bed. See parsley-bed and gooseberry-bush.

Fountain of love, subs. phr. (venery).—The female pudendum.

For synonyms, see monosyllable.

Four-and-nine (or four-and-ninepenny), subs. phr. (old).—A hat. [So-called from the price at which an enterprising Bread Street hatter sold his hats, circa 1844, at which date London was hideous with posters displaying a large black hat and '4s. and 9d.' in white letters.]

1844. *Advertisement Couplet*. Whenever you incline to slumber, take a short nap at four-and-nine.
1846. THACKERAY, Yellow Plush Papers, p. 152 (ed. 1887). You may, for instance, call a coronet a coronal (an 'ancestral coronal,' p. 74) if you like, as you might call a hat a 'swart sombrero,' a 'glossy four-and-nine,' 'a silken helm to storm impermeable, and lightsome as the breezy gossamer;' but in the long run it is safer to call it a hat.

1847. THACKERAY, Mrs. Perkins's Ball (The Mulligan). The Mulligan has withdrawn his custom from the 'infernal four-and-ninepenny scoundrrel,' as he calls him. The hatter has not shut up shop in consequence.

1849. VIATOR, Oxford Guide. He then did raise his four-and-nine, and scratched his shaggy pate.

1857. PUNCH, 31 Jan. 'Dear Bill, This Stone-jug.' For them coves in Guildhall and that blessed Lord Mayor, Prigs on their four bones should chop whiners I swear.

FOUR-BONES, subs. (thieves'). — The knees.

FOUR-EYES, subs. (common). — A person in spectacles: 'a chap that can't believe his own eyes.'

FOUR-HOLED MIDDINGS, subs. phr. (Winchester College). — Ordinary walking shoes; cf. BEESWAXERS. Obsolete.

FOUR KINGS. The history (or book) of the four kings. subs. phr. (old). — A pack of cards; otherwise, a child's best guide to the gallows, or the devil's picture books. Fr., Livre des quatre rois.

FOUR-LEGGED BURGLAR-ALARM, subs. phr. (common). — A watch dog.

FOUR-LEGGED FROLIC, subs. phr. (venery). — The act of kind: a reminiscence of the proverb, 'There goes more to a marriage than four bare legs in a bed.' For synonyms, see GREENS and RIDE.


1836. DICKENS, Pickwick, ch. xlv. 'Vill you allow me to enquire vy you make up your bed under that ere deal table?' said Sam. 'Cause I was always used to a four-poster afore I came here, and I find the legs of the table answer just as well,' replied the cobbler.

FOUR SEAMS AND A BIT OF SOAP, subs. phr. (tailors'). — A pair of trousers. See KICKS.

FOUR (more commonly THREE) — SHEETS IN THE WIND, adv. phr. (nautical). — Drunk; cf., HALF SEAS OVER. For synonyms, see DRINKS and SCREWED.

FOURTEEN HUNDRED, . . . phr. (Stock Exchange). — A warning cry that a stranger is in the 'House.'

1888. Times Democrat, 5 Feb. To take the law is one of the greatest privileges in the estimation of the colored folk that the fourteenth amendment conferred, and, whether offender or defendant, they take a pride in summonses beyond describing.
FOURTH, sub. (Cambridge University).—A rear (q.v.) or jakes. [Origin uncertain; said to have been first used at St. John's or Trinity, where the closets were situated in the Fourth Court. Whatever its derivation, the term is now the only one in use at Cambridge, and is frequently heard outside the university.] The verbal phrase is to keep a fourth (see keep).

ON HIS FOURTH, phr. (common).—Hopelessly drunk. For synonyms, see drinks and screwed.

FOURTH ESTATE, sub. phr. (literary).—The body of journalists; the Press. [Literally the Fourth Estate of the realm, the other three being Queen, Lords, and Commons.]


FOUR-WHEELER, sub. (common).—A steak.

2. (colloquial).—A four-wheeled cab; a growler (q.v.).

1873. Black, Princess of Thule, ch. ro. Having sent on all their luggage by a respectable old four-wheeler.

FOUSTY, adj. (colloquial).—Stinking [probably derived from foist, sense 3].

FOUTER, verb, and FOUTERING, sub. (common).—To meddle, importune, waste time and tongue; the act of meddling, importunity, wasting time and tongue. E.g., 'Don't come foutering here!' [From the French, foutre: the sense of which is intensified in a vulgarism of still fuller flavour].

FOX, sub. (old).—A sword; specifically, the old English broadsword.

[Derivation dubious. Suggestions are: (1) from a maker's name; (2) from the fox sometimes engraved on the blade; (3) from the Latin falx.] For synonyms, see cheese-toaster and poker.

1588. Shakspeare, Henry V., 4. O signieur Dew, thou dy'st on point of fox.

1614. Jonson, Bartholomew Fair, ii. A fellow that knows nothing but a basket-hilt, and an old fox in't.

c. 1640. [Shirley], Captain Underwit, in Bullen's Old Plays, ii., 321. Un. An old fox blade made at Hounside heath.

1667. Shirley, Love Tricks, Act II., Sc. 1. They say your swords most commonly are foxes, and have notable metal in them.

1700. Congreve, Way of the World, Act V., Sc. io. Sir, I have an old fox by my thigh shall hack your instrument of ram vellum to shreds, Sir.

1821. Scott, Kenilworth, ch. iv. 'Come, come, comrade,' said Lambourne, 'here is enough done, and more than enough, put up your fox, and let us be jogging.'

Verb (old).—I. To intoxicate. Foxed = drunk; to catch a fox = to be very drunk; while to flay the fox (Urquhart) = to vomit, to shed your liquor, i.e., to get rid of the beast.

1611. Barry, Ram Alley, Act IV. They will bib hard; they will be fine sunburnt, sufficient fox'd or coltimber'd now and then.


c. 1640. [Shirley], Captain Underwit, in Bullen's Old Plays, ii., 375. Then to bee fox'd it is no crime, Since thickest and dull braines It makes sublime.

1661. T. Middleton, Mayor of Quinborough, V., i. Ah, blind as one that had been fox'd a sevennight.

1719. Durfee, Pills, etc., i., 194. Come, let’s trudge it to Kirkham Fair: There’s stout liquor enough to fox me.

1738. Swift, Polite Convers., Dial. 2. Lady Sm. But, Sir John, your ale is terrible strong and heady. . . . Sir John. Why, indeed, it is apt to fox one.

1748. T. Dyche, Dictionary (5th ed.). Fox (v.) . . . also to make a person drunk or fuddled.

1891. Sporting Times, 11 April. And so to bed well nigh seven in the morning, and myself as near foxed as of old.

2. (old).—To cheat; to trick; to rob (colloquial at Eton). For synonyms, see Gammon.

1631. Mayne, City Match, iii., 1. Fore Jove, the captain foxed him rarely.

1806. Notes and Queries, 3, S. x., 123. Where the tramps . . . out of their gout are foxed.

3. (common).—To watch closely. Also to fox about. Cf., fox’s sleep. For synonyms, see nose.

1880. Greenwood, Odd People in Odd Places, p. 61. ‘You keep it going pretty loud here, with a couple of policemen foxing about just outside.’

4. (colloquial).—To sham.

1880. One and All, 6 Nov., p. 296, ‘Let us look at these vagabons; maybe they’re only foxin’. The two men who had received such tangible mementos of the whip-handle and the blackthorn lay perfectly still.

5. (American).—To play truant.

6. (booksellers’).—To stain; to discolour with damp; said of books and engravings. Foxed = stained or discoloured.

1881. C. M. I[ngleby] in Notes and Queries (6th S., iv., 96). Tissue paper harbours damp, and in a damp room will assuredly help to fox the plates which they face.

1885. Austin Dobson, At the Sign of the Lyre, 83. And the Rabelais foxed and flead.

7. (theatrical).—To criticise a ‘brother pro’s’ performance.

8. (common).—To mend a boot by ‘capping’ it.

To set a fox to keep one’s geese, phr. (common).—To entrust one’s money, or one’s circumstances, to the care of sharpers. Latin, Ovem lupus commissisti.

To make a fox paw, verb. phr. (common).—To make a mistake or a wrong move; specifically (of women) to be seduced. [A corruption of the Fr. faux pas.]


Fox’s sleep, subs. phr. (common).—A state of feigned yet very vigilant indifference to one’s surroundings. [Foxes were supposed to sleep with one eye open.]

1830. Sir J. Barrington, Personal Sketches, Vol. III., p. 171 (ed. 1832). Mr. Fitzgerald, he supposed, was in a fox’s sleep, and his bravio in another, who, instead of receding at all, on the contrary squeezed the attorney closer and closer.

Foxy, adj. (colloquial).—1. Red-haired; cf., carrotty.

1828. G. Griffin, Collegians, ch. ii. Dunat O’Leary, the hair-cutter, or Foxy Dunat, as he was named in allusion to his red head.

2. (colloquial).—Cunning; vulpine in character and look. Once literary. Jonson (1605) calls his arch-foist Volpone, the second title of his play being ‘The Fox’; and Florio (1598) defines Volpone as ‘an old fox, an old reinard, an old, crafty, sly, subtle companion, sneaking, lurking, wilie deceiver.’
Foy. 66 Free.

66

Foy.

66

Free.

Foy, sub. (old). — A cheat; a swindle.

1615. Greene, Thieves Falling Out.
You be crossbites, foys, and nips.

Foyle-Cloy, sub. (old). — A pickpocket; a rogue—B.E. [1690].

Foyst, sub. and verb. See Foist.

Foyster. See Foister.

Fraggle, verb. (Texas). — To rob.

Fragment, sub. (Winchester College). — A dinner for six (served in College Hall, after the ordinary dinner), ordered by a Fellow in favour of a particular boy, who was at liberty to invite five others to join him. Obs. A fragment was supposed to consist of three dishes. — Winchester Word-book [1891].

Frazer, sub. (American cobblers'). — Repaired with new toe-caps. See Fox, verb, sense 8.

1877. M. Twain, Life on the Mississippi, ch. lvii., p. 503. It was the scarecrow Dean—in foxy shoes, down at the heels; socks of odd colours, also 'down.'

4. (booksellers'). — A term applied to prints and books discoloured by damp; see Fox, verb, sense 6.

5. (painters': obsolete). — Inclined to reddishness.

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Free-and-Easy.

1859. Matesell, Vocabulary, or Rogue's Lexicon, s.v.
1882. McCabe, New York, ch. xxxiv., p. 509. (Given in list of slang terms.)

Free-fucking, subs. (venery).—General lewdness. Also the favour gratis. Also fidelity to the other sex at large.

Free of Fumbler's Hall, adv. phr. (venery).—Impotent; unable to do 'the trick.' [Fumbler's Hall = female pudendum.]
1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue s.v., a saying of one who cannot get his wife with child.


To make free with both ends of the busk, verb phr. (venery).—To take liberties with a woman. Cf., Both ends of the busk.

Free of the house, adj. phr. (colloquial).—Intimate; privileged to come and go at will.

Free of the bush, adj. phr. (venery).—On terms of extreme intimacy. See Bush.

[For the rest, the commonest sense of free is one of liberality: e.g., Free of his foolishness = full of chaff; free-handed = lavish in giving; free-hearted = generously disposed; free of her favours = liberal of her person; free of his patter = full of talk.]

Free-and-Easy, subs. (common).—A social gathering where you smoke, drink, and sing; generally held at a public house.

1796. (In Bee's Dict. of the Turf, published 1823, s.v.). Twenty seven years ago the cards of invitation to that (free-and-easy) at the 'Pied Horse,' in Moorfields, had the notable 'N.B.—Fighting allowed.'

1810. Cradie, The Borough, Letter 10. Clubs. Next is the club, where to their friends in town, our country neighbours once a-month come down; we term it free-and-easy, and yet we find it no easy matter to be free.


1843. Macaulay. Essays: Gladstone on Church and State. Clubs of all ranks, from those which have lined Pall-Mall and St. James's Street with their palaces, down to the free-and-easy which meets in the shabby parlour of the village inn.

1869. Mrs. H. Wood, Roland Yorke, ch. xii. He tilted himself on to a high stool in the middle of the room, his legs dangling, just as though he had been at a free and-easy meeting.

1880. Jas. Greenwood, Odd People in Odd Places, p. 64. A roaring trade is done, for instance, on a Saturday evening at the 'Medley' in Hoxton, a combination of theatre and music-hall, and serves as a free-and-easy chiefly for boys and girls.

1891. Cassell's Saturday Journal, Sept., p. 1068, col. 3. The free-and-easy of to-day among us is a species of public-house party, at which much indifferent liquor and tobacco are consumed, songs are sung, and speeches are got rid of.

Freebooker, subs. (journalists').—A 'pirate' bookseller or publisher; a play on the word freebooter.

Free fight, subs. (colloquial).—A general meller.

1877. W. Mark, Green Past. and Picc., ch. xxx. That vehement German has been insisting on the Irish porters bringing up all our luggage at once; and as there has been a sort of free fight below he comes fuming upstairs.
**Free-fishery.**

**FREE-FISHERY, subs. phr.** (venery).—The female *pudendum*. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

**FREEHOLDER, subs. (venery).**—1. A prostitute's lover or FANCY-MAN. *Cf.*, FREE-FISHERY, and for synonyms, see JOSEPH.

2. (old).—A man whose wife insists on accompanying him to a public house.


**FREE-LANCE, subs. (common).**—An habitual adulteress.

c1889. (Quoted from *Spectator* in 'Slang, Jargon, and Cant'). Sooner than be out of the fashion they will tolerate what should be most galling and shaming to them—the thought that by these they are put down among the FREE-LANCES.

Also said of a journalist attached to no particular paper.

**FREEMAN, subs., (venery).**—A married woman's lover.

**FREEMAN OF BUCKS, subs. phr.** (old).—A cuckold. [In allusion to the horn.] *Grose.*

**TO FREEMAN, or TO MAKE A FREEMAN OF,** verb. phr. (school-boys').—To spit on the *penis* of a new comer. Also **TO FREE-MASON.**

**FREEMAN'S QUAY.** To drink, or LUSH, at FREEMAN'S QUAY, verb. phr. (old).—To drink at another's expense. [Freeman's Quay was a celebrated wharf near London Bridge, and the saying arose from the beer that was given to porters, carmen, and others going there on business.]


**FREEZE, subs. (colloquial).**—1. The act or state of freezing; a frost.

2. (old).—Hard cider. *—Grose.*

**Verb.** (American).—To long for intensely; *e.g.*, 'to FREEZE to go back,' said of the home-sick; 'to FREEZE for meat.'

1848. RUXTON, *Life in the Far West* (1887), p. 129. Threats of vengeance on every Redskin they met were loud and deep; and the wild war songs round their nightly camp-fires, and grotesque scalp-dances, borrowed from the Indians, proved to the initiated that they were, one and all, HALF-FROZE for hair.'

2. (thieves').—Hence, to appropriate; to steal; 'to stick to.'

3. (old).—To adulterate or BALDERDASH *(q.v.)* wine with FREEZE *(q.v. sense 2).*—*Grose.*

**TO FREEZE TO (or ON TO), verb phr.** (American).—To take a strong fancy to; to cling to; to keep fast hold of; and (of persons) to button-hole or shadow.

1883. *Graphic*, 17 March, p. 287, col. 1. If there was one institution which the Anglo-Indian FROZE to more than another, it was his sit-down supper and—its consequences.

1888. *Daily Inter-Ocean*, 2 March. The competence of a juror was judged by his ability to shake ready-formed opinions and FREEZE ON TO new ones.

**TO FREEZE OUT, verb. phr.** (American).—To compel to withdraw from society by cold and contemptuous treatment; from business by competition or opposition; from the market by depressing prices or rates of exchange.

**FREEZER, subs. (common).**—1. A tailless Eton jacket; *cf.*, BUM-PERisher. For synonyms, see MONKEY-JACKET.
2. (colloquial).—A very cold day. By analogy, a chilling look, address, or retort.

FRENCH-ELIXIR (CREAM, LACE, or ARTICLE), subs. phr. (common).—Brandy. [The custom of taking of brandy with tea and coffee was originally French.—Whence French Cream. LACED TEA = tea dashed with spirits].

1815. Scott, Guy Mannering, ch. ix. ‘Get out the gallon punch-bowl, and plenty of lemons. I'll stand for the FRENCH ARTICLE by the time I come back, and we'll drink the young Laird's health.'

1821. Real Life, i., p. 606. Not forgetting blue ruin and FRENCH LACE.

ENGLISH SYNONYMS. — Ball-of-fire; bingo; cold tea; cold nantz; red ribbon.

FRENCH SYNONYMS.—Le parfait amour du chiffonnier (i.e., ragman's happiness = coarse brandy); le trois-six (popular: = rot-gut); fil-en-quatre, fil-en-trois, fil-en-six (specifically, old brandy, but applied to spirits generally); le dur (= a drop of hard: common); le raide (popular: a drop of stiff): le chenique or chnic (popular:); le rude (popular: = a drop of rough, i.e., coarse brandy); l'eau d'affe (thieves'); le pissat d'âne (popular: = donkey's piss; sometimes applied to bad beer, which is likewise called pissat de vache); l'avoinne (military = hay, as who should say 'a nose bag'); le bianc (popular = brandy or white wine); le possédi (thieves: bingo); le raspail (popular:); le crik (popular: also crik, crique, or crique = rough brandy:); le schnaps (popular); le schnick (common: = bad brandy); le campbre (popular: = camphor; applied to the coarsest spirit); le sacré-chien or sacré-chien tout pur (common: = the vilest sold); case poitrine (common: = brandy heightened with pepper; cf., rot-gut); le jaune (rags pickers': = a drop of yellow); tord-boyaux (popular = twist-gut); la consolation (popular = a drop of comfort); requiquit (workmen's); eau de mort (common: = death-water); le Tripoli (rank brandy); casse - gueule (= 'kill the carter'; applied to all kinds of spirits).

FRENCH FAKE. subs. phr. (nautical).—The fashion of coiling a rope by taking it backwards and forwards in parallel bands, so that it may run easily.

FRENCH GOUT (or DISEASE, FEVER, etc.), subs. phr. (common).—Sometimes CLAP (q.v.), but more generally and correctly syphilis, Morbus Gallicus, especially with older writers. For synonyms, see LADIES FEVER. Also THE FRENCHMAN. FRENCH POX = a very bad variety of syphilis. The French themselves always refer to the ailment as the mal de Naples, for which see MARSTON (1598) and his 'Naples canker,' and FLORIO (1598) mal di Napoli = French pocks. Cf., SHAKESPEARE, Henry V., v., i. News have I that my Nell is dead i' the spital Of malady of France.

1598. Florio, A Worlde of Wordes. Lxe, a plague . . . . It is also used for the FRENCH POX.

1611. Cotgrave, Dictionarie, Mal de Naples, the FRENCH POCKS.

1690. B. E. Dict. of the Canting Crew. (s.v.).
French Leave. 70

1740. Poor Robin. Some gallants will this month be so penurious that they will not part with a crack'd groat to a poor body, but on their cockatrice or punquetto will bestow half a dozen taffety gowns, who in requittal bestows on him the French fox.

1785. Grose, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue, s.v. He suffered by a blow over the snout with a French faggot-stick; i.e., he lost his nose by the fox.

**Frenchified, adj.** (old).—Clapped; more generally and accurately poxed.

1690. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew, s.v.

1785. Grose, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue, s.v. Frenchified, infected with the venereal disease; the mort is Frenchified = the wench is infected.

**French Leave,** To take French leave. verb. phr. (colloquial).—

1. To decamp without notice;
2. To do anything without permission;
3. To purloin or steal;
4. To run away (as from an enemy).

[Derivation obscure; French, probably traceable to the contempt engendered during the wars with France; the compliment is returned in similar expressions (see Synonyms) + leave = departure or permission to depart. Sense 1 is probably the origin of senses 2, 3, and 4. See Notes and Queries, i S. i, 246; 3 S. vi, 17; 5 S. xii, 87; 6 S. v, 347, 496; viii, 514; ix, 133, 213, 279; 7 S. iii, 5, 109, 518.]

**English Synonyms.**—To retire up (one's fundament); to slope; to smouge; to do a sneak; to take the Frenchman; to vamoose.

**French Synonyms.**—

S'escairpiner (popular: = to flash one's pumps; escairpin = a dancing shoe; jouer de l'escairpin = to ply one's pumps; (16th century); s'échapper, s'esquiver, filer, disparaître, s'éclipser, se dérober, se retirer, and s'en aller à l'anglaise (= to take English leave); puser à l'anglaise (= to do an English piss, i.e., affect a visit to the urinal); prendre sa permission sous son coude (popular: literally to take one's leave under one's arm); ficher or foutre le camp.

**German Synonyms.**—Französischen Abschied nehmen (= to take French leave: from Gutzkow, R. 4, 88, etc., born 1811); französischer Abschied (IfJland, 1759-1814, 5, 3, 117); auf gut französisch sich empfehlen (Blumauer, 2, 72, 1758-1798: also Gutzkow, R., 4, 88; hinter der Thür urlaub (= to take leave behind [or outside] the door, i.e., after one has got outside it: quoted by Sanders, from Fischart, 1550-1589); hinter der Thiere Abschied nehmen (= to say good-bye outside, to take French leave); also, er beurlaubte sich in aller Stille, explained as er stahl sich, schlich sich davon, and translated 'he took French leave'; also, sich aus einer Gesellschaft stehlen.—Hilpert's Dict., 1845.

**Spanish Synonym.**—Despedirse d la francesa (= to take French leave).

1771. Smollett, Humphrey Clinker, p. 54. He stole away an Irishman's bride, and took a French Leave of me and his master.

1805. Newspaper (quoted in Notes and Queries, 5, S. xii., 2 Aug., 79, p. 87, col. 2). On Thursday last Monsieur J. F. Desgranche, one of the French prisoners of war on parole at Chesterfield, took French Leave of that place, in defiance of his parole engagement.

1854. F. E. Smedley, Harry Covendale, ch. lviii. 'I thought I would avoid
French Letter.

all the difficulties . . . by taking French leave, and setting off in disguise and under a feigned name.'

1885 STEVENSON, Treasure Island, ch. xxi., p. 178 (1886). My only plan was to take French leave, and slip out when nobody was watching.


French, (also American, Spanish, and Italian) Letter, subs. phr. (colloquial). — A sheath —of india-rubber, gold beater's skin, gutta-percha—worn by a man during coition to prevent infection or fruition. Usually described in print as specialities (q.v.), or circular protectors and (in U.S.A.) as safes (q.v.). See Candum. Fr., capote anglaise.

French Pigeon, subs. phr. (sportsman's). — A pheasant killed by mistake in the partridge season. Also moko and oriental (q.v.).

French Pig, subs. phr. (common). — A venereal bubo; a blue boar (q.v.), or winchester goose (q.v.).


1849-50. THACKERAY, Pendennis II., ch. xxxi. Young de Boots of the Blues recognised you as the man who came to barracks, and did business, one-third in money, one-third in eau-de-cologne, and one third in French prints, you confounded, demure, old sinner.

French Vice, verb. phr. (venery). — A euphemism for all sexual malpractices; larks (q.v.). First used (in print) in the case of Crawford v. Crawford and Dilke.

Frenchy, subs. (colloquial). — A Frenchman.


1803. Gradus ad Cantabrigiam, s.v.

1896. Trevelyan, Horace at Athens. When you and I were fresh.

2. (common). — Slightly intoxicated; elevated. For synonyms see drinks and screwed. (Scots' = sober).

1829. MARRYAT, Frank Mildmay, ch. xiii. Drinking was not among my vices. I could get fresh, as we call it, when in good company and excited by wit and mirth; but I never went to the length of being drunk.

3. (Old English and modern American). — Inexperienced, but conceited and presumptuous; hence, forward, impudent.

1596. SHAKESPEARE, King John, iii, 4. How green you are and fresh in this old world.

1886. FRANCIS, Saddle and Mocassin. 'Has Peggy been too fresh?' Her sunburnt cheeks flushed.

4. (common). — Fasting; opposed to eating or drinking.

Fresh as paint, as a rose, as a daisy, as a new-born turd, etc., phr. (common). — Full of health, strength, and activity; fit (q.v.).

1864. E. YATES, Broken to Harness, ch. xix. This is his third day's rest, and the cob will be about as fresh as paint when I get across him again.

1880. Punch's Almanack, p. 12.

Fresh on the graft, adj. phr. (common). — New to the work. Cf., fresh bit.

Fresh Bit, subs. phr. (venery). — A beginner; also a new mistress. Cf., bit of fresh = the sexual favour: meat, or mutton, or fish (q.v.), being understood.
Freshen One's Way.  72  Freshwater Soldier.

Freshen One's Way.  

verb. phr. (nautical).—To hurry; to quicken one's movements. [The wind freshens when it rises.]

Freshen Up, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To clean; to vamp; to revive; to smarten.

Fresher, subs. (University).—An undergraduate in his first term.

Freshers. The Freshers, subs. (University).—That part of the Cam which lies between the Mill and Byron's Pool. So called because it is frequented by Freshmen (q.v.).

Freshman (or Fresher), subs. (University).—A University man during his first year. In Dublin University he is a Junior Freshman during his first year, and a Senior Freshman the second year. At Oxford the title lasts for the first term. Ger., Fuchs.

1596. Nashe, Saffron Walden, in wks. iii., 8. When he was but yet a freshman in Cambridge.

1611. Middleton, Roaring Girl, Act iii., Sc. 3. S. Alex. Then he's a graduate. S. Davy. Say they trust him not. S. Alex. Then is he held a freshman and a sot.

1677. Colman, Oxonian in Town, ii., 3. And now I find you as dull and melancholy as a freshman at college after a jobation.

1841. Lever, Charles O'Malley, ch. xiv. 'This is his third year,' said the Doctor, 'and he is only a freshman, having lost every examination.'

1891. Sporting Life, 20 Mar. The mile, bar accidents, will be a gift to B. C. Allen, of Corpus, who has more than maintained the reputation he gained as a fresher.

Adj. (University).—Of, or pertaining to, a freshman, or a first year student.

Freshmanship, subs. (old).—Of the quality or state of being a freshman.

1605. Jonson, Volpone, or the Fox, iv., 3. Well, wise Sir Pol., since you have practised thus, Upon my freshmanship, I'll try your salt-head With what proof it is against a counter-plot.

Freshman's Bible, subs. phr. (University).—The University Calendar.

Freshman's Church, subs. phr. (University).—The Pitt Press at Cambridge. [From its ecclesiastical architecture.]

Freshman's Landmark, subs. phr. (University).—King's College Chapel, Cambridge. [From the situation.]

Freshwater Mariner (or Seaman), subs. phr. (old).—A beggar shamming sailor; a Turnpike Sailor (q.v.).

1567. Harman, Caveat (1869), p. 48. These freshwater mariners, their shipes were drown'd in the playne of Salisbury. These kynde . . . counterfet great losses on the sea.


Freshwater Soldier, subs. phr. (old).—A raw recruit.

1598. Florio, A Worlde of Wordes, Biancone. A goodly, great milke-soppe, a fresh water soldier.

1603. Knolles, Hist. of the Turkes. The nobility, as freshwater soldiers, which had never seen but some slight skirmishes, made light account of the Turks.

FRET, To fret one's gizzard, guts, giblets, kidneys, cream, etc., verb. phr. (common).—To get harassed and worried about trifles; to tear one's shirt (q.v.).

FRIAR, subs. (printers').—A pale spot in a printed sheet. Fr., un moine (=monk).

FRIB, subs. (old).—A stick. For synonyms, see TOKO.

1754. Discoveries of John Poulter, p. 43. A Jacob and frib; a ladder and stick.

FRIBBLE, subs. (old).—A trifler; a contemptible fop. [From the character in Garrick's Miss in her Teens (1747)].

1785. Grose, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue, s.v.

1880. Thackeray, Four Georges. George IV. That fribble, the leader of such men as Fox and Burke!

FRIDAY-FACE, subs. (old).—A gloomy, dejected-looking man or woman. [Probably from Friday being, ecclesiastically, the banyan day of the week.] Fr., figure de carême.

1592. Greene, Groatsworth of Wit, in wks. xii., 120. The Foxe made a Friday-face, counterfeiting sorrow.

1785. Grose, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue, s.v.

1889. Gentleman's Mag., June, p. 593. Friday-face is a term still occasionally applied to a sour-visaged person; it was formerly in very common use.

FRIDAY-FACED, adj. (old).—Mortified; melancholy; 'sour-featured' (Scott).

1592. John Day, Blind Beggar, Act iii., Sc. 2, p. 57. Can. No, you Friday-faced frying-pan, it was to save us all from whipping or a worse shame.

1606. Wily Begguled (Hawkins Eng. Dr., iii., 356). Marry, out upon him!

What a Friday-faced slave it is! I think in my conscience his face never keeps holiday.

FRIEND (or LITTLE FRIEND), subs.—The menstrual flux or domestic afflictions (q.v.), whose appearance is sometimes announced by the formula 'My little friend has come.' Conventionalisms are queer; poorly; changes (Irish); 'the Captain's at home' (Grose). See Flag.

To go and see a sick friend, verb. phr. (venery).—To go on the loose. See Greens.

FRIEND CHARLES. See Charles his friend.

FRIENDLY LEAD, subs. phr. (thieves').—An entertainment (as a sing-song) got up to assist a companion in trouble (q.v.), or to raise money for the wife and children of a 'quodded pal.'

1871. Daily Telegraph, 4 Dec. This was the secret business, the tremendous conspiracy, to compass which it was deemed necessary to act with infinitely more caution than the friends of Bill Sikes feel called on to exercise when they distribute tickets for a Friendly lead for the benefit of Bill, who is 'just out of his trouble.'


FRIENDS IN NEED, subs. phr. (common).—Lice. For synonyms, see CHATES.

FRIG, verb trans. and refl. (venery).—To masturbate. Also subs. = an act of masturbation. Known sometimes as keeping down the census. [Latin, fricare = to rub.]

ENGLISH SYNONYMS. — To bob; to box the Jesuit ['St. Omer's lewdness,' Marston,
Frillery, subs. (common). — Feminine underclothing. For synonyms, see Snowy. To explore one's frillery (venery) = to grope one's person.

Frills, subs. (American). — Swagger; conceit; also accomplishments (as music, languages, etc.); and culture; cf., man with no frills.

1884. Clemens ('Mark Twain'), Adventures of Huck Finn, 33. I never see such a son. I bet I'll take some of these frills out of you before I'm done with you.

To put on one's frills, verb. phr. (American). — To exaggerate; to chant the poker; to swagger; to put on side (q.v.); to sing it (q.v.). Fr., se gonfler le jabot, and faire son lard.

1890. Rudyard Kipling National Observer, March, 1890, p. 69. 'The Oont.' It's the commissariat camel putting on his blooming frills.
2. (venery).—To get wanton or PRICK-PROUD (q.v.); in a state of MUST (a.v.).

TO HAVE BEEN AMONG ONE'S FRILLS, verb. phr. (venery).—To have enjoyed the sexual favour. For synonyms, see GREENS.

Frint, subs. (old).—A pawnbroker.
For synonyms, see UNCLE.

Frisco, subs. (American).—Short for San Francisco.
1890. Sporting Life, 8 Nov. The battle . . . took place in the theatre, Market St., Frisco.

Frisk, subs. (old).—1. A frolic; an outing; a LARK (q.v.); mischief generally.
1697. Vanbrugh, Provoked Wife, iii., i. If you have a mind to take a frisk with us, I have an interest with my lord; I can easily introduce you.
1781. G. Parker, Life’s Painter, p. 179. They frisk him? That is search him. Ibid., p. 122. Putting a lap-feeder in our sack, that you or your blowen had prig’d yourselves though we should stand the frisk for it.
1782. Jon. Bee, Pict. of London. p. 69. The arms are seized from behind by one, whilst the other frisks the pockets of their contents.
1852. Judson, Mysteries, etc. of New York, ch. vii. Vel sære, the offisare ‘ave frisk me: he ‘ave not found ze skin or ze dummy, eh?

1859. Matsell, Vocabulum, or Rogue’s Lexicon, p. 21. ‘The knuck was copped to rights, a skin full of honey was found in his kick’s poke by the copper when he frisked him’; [i.e.] the pickpocket was arrested, and when searched by the officer a purse was found in his pantaloons pocket full of money.

2. (thieves’).—To pick pockets; to rob. TO FRISK A CLY = to empty a pocket.

1883. Daily Telegraph, 13 June, p. 7, col. 3. The ragged little wretches who prowl in gangs about the suburbs, who crawl on their hands and knees into shops in order to ‘frisk the till.’

3. (venery).—To ‘have (q.v.) a woman.’ For synonyms, see RIDE.

To dance the Paddington frisk, verb. phr. (old).—To dance on nothing; i.e., to be hanged. [Tyburn Tree was in Paddington.] For synonyms, see LADDER.
FRISKER, subs. (old).—A dancer.

1719. DERFEY, Pills, etc., ii., 20.
At no Whitsun Ale there e'er yet had been Such Fraysters and Friskers as these lads and lasses.

FRIVOL or FRIVVLE, verb. (colloquial).—To act frivolously; to trifle. [A resuscitation of an old word used in another sense, viz., to annul, to set aside].

1883. W. BLACK, Yolande, ch. xx. 'Mind, I am assuming that you mean business—if you want to Frivole, and pick pretty posies, I shut my door on you but, I say, if you mean business, I have told Mrs. Bell you are to have access to my herbarium, whether I am there or not.'

FROG, subs. (common).—1. A policeman. For synonyms, see BEAK and COPPER.

1881. New York Slang Dict., 'On the Trail.' I must amputate like a go-away, or the frogs will nail me.

1886. Graphic, 30 January, p. 130, col. 1. A policeman is also called . . . a 'frog, the last-named because he is supposed to jump, as it were, suddenly upon guilty parties.

2. (common).—A Frenchman. Also FROGGY and FROG-EATER. [Formerly a Parisian; the shield of whose city bore three toads, while the quaggy state of the streets gave point to a jest common at Versailles before 1791: Qu'en disent les grenouilles? i.e., What do the Frogs (the people of Paris) say?]

1883. Referee, 15 July, p. 7, col. 3. While Ned from Boulogne says 'Oui mon brave,' The Froggies must answer for Tamatave.'

3. (popular).—A foot. For synonyms, see CREEPERS.

TO FROG ON, verb. phr. (American).—To get on; to prosper FROGGING-ON = success.

FROG-AND-TOAD, subs. (rhyming) —The main road.


1859. MATSELL Vocabulum, or Rogue’s Lexicon, p. 35. Coves, let us frog-and-toe, coves, let us go to New York.

FROGLANDER, subs. (old).—A Dutchman. Cf., FROG, sense 2.

1890. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew, s.v.

1852. Judson, Mysteries, etc. of New York, ch. xiv. The funny swag which they raised out of the Froglander coves.

FROG-SALAD, subs. (American).—A ballet; i.e., a LEG-PIECE (q.v.).

FROG'S MARCH. To give the frog's March, verb. phr. (common).—To carry a man face downwards to the station; a device adopted with drunken or turbulent prisoners.

1871. Evening Standard, 'Clerkenwell Police Report,' 18 April. In cross-examination the police stated that they did not give the defendant the Frog's March. The Frog's March was described to be carrying the face downwards.

1884. Daily News, Oct. 4, p. 5, col. 2. They had to resort to a mode of carrying him, familiarly known in the force, we believe, as the Frog Trot, or sometimes as the Frog's March. . . . The prisoner is carried with his face downwards and his arms drawn behind him.

1888. Daily Telegraph, 22 Dec. Whether the 'bobbies' ran the tipsy man in, treating him meanwhile to a taste of the Frog's March, and whether he was fined or imprisoned for assaulting the police, is not upon the record.

1890. Bird o' Freedom, 19 March, p. 1 col. 1. And then he gets the Frog's March to the nearest Tealeaf's.
FROG'S WINE, subs. phr. (old).—
Gin. For synonyms, see DRINKS and SATIN.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v.

FROLIC, subs. (common).—A merry-making.

1847. ROBB. Squatter Life, p. 133.
At all the FROLICKS round the country, Jess was hangin' onter that gal.


FRONT, verb (thieves').—To conceal the operations of a pickpocket; to COVER (q.v.).

1379. J. W. HORSLEY in Macmillan's Mag., XL., 506. So my pal said, 'FRONT me (cover me), and I will do him for it.'

FRONT-ATTIC (or -DOOR, -GARDEN, -PARLOUR, -ROOM, or -WINDOW). subs. phr. (venery).—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE. To HAVE (or DO) a BIT OF FRONT-DOOR WORK =to copulate.

1823. BEE, Dict. of the Turf, s.v.
MRS. Fubb's FRONT-PARLOUR (vide Tom Rees) is not to be mistaken for any part of any building.

FRONT-DOOR MAT, subs. phr. (venery).—The female pubic hair. For synonyms, see FLEECE.

FRONT-GUT, subs. (venery).—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

FRONTISPICE, subs. (pugilists').—The face. For synonyms, see DIAL.

1818. P. EGAN, Boxiana, I., p. 221. Tyne put in right and left upon the Jew's FRONTISPICE two such severe blows, that Crabbe's countenance underwent a trifling change.

1845. Buckstone, Green Bushes, i., 1.
It's a marcy my switch didn't come in contact with your iligant FRONTISPICE.

1850. Chambers' Journal XIII., p. 368. His forehead is his FRONTISPICE.

1864. A. TROLLOPE, Sm. Ho. at Allington (1884), vol. ii., ch. V., p. 47. He said that he had had an accident—or rather, a row—and that he had come out of it with considerable damage to his FRONTISPICE.

1891. Sporting Life, 28 Mar. It must be confessed that the ludicrous was attained when Griffiths subsequently appeared with a short black pipe in his distorted and battered FRONTISPICE.

FRONT-WINDOWS, subs. (common).

1. The eyes; also the face.

2. In sing. (venery).—The female pudendum. Cf., FRONT-ATTIC; and for synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

FROST, subs. (common).—A complete failure. Cf., Fr., un four noir. Also un temps noir=a blank interval; a prolonged silence (as when an actor's memory fails him).

1885. Saturday Review, 15 Aug., p. 218. He is an absolute and perfect FROST.

1885. Bell's Life, 3 Jan., p. 3, col. 6. We regret we cannot write favorably concerning this matter, the affair being almost as big a FROST athletically as it was financially.

1889. Star, 17 Jan. The pantomime was a dead FROST.

2. (common).—A dearth of work; TO HAVE A FROST=to be idle.

FRONDACIOUS, FRONDACITY, aaj. and subs. See quotas.

1888. Colonies and India, 14 Nov. The word 'FRONDACITY,' invented by Mr. Darnell Davis in his able review of The Bow of Ulysses, recently published, has reached the height of popularity in the Australasian Colonies, where it has come into everyday use. In the Melbourne Assembly the other day an hon. member observed—speaking of some remarks made by a previous speaker—that he never heard
such FROUDACIOUS statements in his life. The colonial papers are beginning, also, to spell the word with a small 'f,' which is significant.

1889. Graphic, 16 Feb. By exposing some of Mr. Froude's manifold errors (the most dangerous is that which assumes the sour Waikato clays to be rich because they grow fern) he justifies the Australian adjective FROUDACIOUS.

FRUOST, subs. (Harrow Schooll).—
1. Extra sleep allowed on Sunday mornings and whole holidays. Fr., faire du lard.
2. (common).—A stink; stuffiness (in a room).

FRUSTY, adj. (common).—Stinking.

FROUT, adj. (Winchester College).—Angry; vexed.

FROW (or FROE, or VROE), subs. (old).—A woman; a wife; a mistress. [From the Dutch.]

1607. Dekker, Westward Hoe, Act. V., Sc. 1. Eat with 'em as hungerily as soldiers; drink as if we were FROES.

1690. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew, V. Brush to your FROE and wheedle for crap, c. whip to your mistress and speak her fair to give or lend you some Money.


1789. Parker, Life's Painter, p. 119 A flash of lightning next Bess tipt each cull and FROW.

FRUITFUL VINE, subs. phr. (venery).—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v. FRUITFUL VINE. A woman's private parts, i.e., that has flowers every month, and bears fruit in nine.

FRUMMAGEMENT, adj. (old).—Choked; strangled; spoilt.


1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Choaked, strangled, or hanged. Cant.

1815. Scott, Guy Mannering, ch. xxviii. 'If I had not helped you with these very fambles (holding up her hands), Jean Baillie would have FRUMMAGEMENT you, ye feckless do-little!'

1819. Moore, Tom Crib's Memorial, p. 21. There he lay, almost FRUMMAGEMENT.

FRUMP, subs. (old).—1. A contemptuous speech or piece of conduct; a sneer; a jest.

1553. Wilson, Art of Rhetorique, p. 137. (He) shall be able to abashe a right worthie man, and make him at his witte's ende, through the sodaine quicke and unlooked FRUMPE given.

1659. Greene, Menaphon, p. 45. For women's paines are more pinching if they be girded with a FRUMPE than if they be galled with a mischiefe.

1598. Florio, A Worlde of Wordes. Bichiacchia, jestes, toyes, FRUMPS, flim-flam tales, etc.

1606. Dekker, Seven Deadly Sinnes, p. 44 (ed. Arber). The courtiers gives you an open scoffe, ye clown a secret mock, the citizen yat dwels at your threshold, a ieery FRUMP.

1630. Taylor, Works. But yet, me thinkes, he gives thee but a FRUMPE, In telling how thee kist a wenches rumpe.

1662. Rump Songs, Arsy-Varsy, etc., ii., 47. As a preface of honor and not as a FRUMP, First with a Sir reverence ushers the Rump.

1668. Dryden, An Evening's Love, Act IV. Sc. 3. Not to be behindhand with you in your FRUMPS, I give you back your purse of gold.

2. (common).—A slattern; more commonly a prim old lady; the correlative of FOGEY (q.v.). Fr., un graillon.

1831. J. R. Planche, Olympic Revels, Sc. i. Cheat, you stingy FRUMP! Who wants to cheat?

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends, I., p. 157. Get into the hands of the other old FRUMPS.
1857. Thackeray, Virginians, ch. xxxi. She is changed now, isn't she? What an old Gorgon it is! She is a great patroness of your book-men, and when that old FRUMP was young they actually made verses about her.

3. (old).—A cheat; a trick.

1802. Rowland, Greene's Ghost, 37. They come off with their . . . FRUMPS

Verb (old).—To mock; to insult.

1589. Nashe, Month's Mind, in Works, Vol. I., p. 158. One of them . . . maketh a jest of Princess, and 'the troubling of the State, and offending of her Majestie,' her turneth of with a FRUMPING forsooth, as though it were a toie to think of it.

1593. G. Harvey, Pierces Super, in Works II., 107. That despiseth the graces of God, floweth the constellations of heaven, FRUMPETH the operations of nature.

1609. Man in the Moone. Hee . . . FRUMPETH those his mistresse frownes on.

1757. Garrick, Irish Widow, I., i. Yes, he was FRUMPED, and called me old blockhead.

FRUMPER, subs. (old).—A sturdy man; a good blade.

1825. Kent, Modern Flash Dict., s.v.

FRUMPISH, adj. (colloquial).—Cross-grained; old-fashioned and severe in dress, manners, morals, and notions; ill-natured; given to frumps. Also FRUMPY.

1589. Greene, Tullies Love, in wks. vii., 131. Who were you but as favourable, as you are FRUMPISH, would soone censure by my talke, how deepe I am reade in loues principles.

1701. Farquhar, Sir Harry Wildair, Act. V., Sc. 5. She got, I don't know how, a crotchet of jealousy in her head. This made her FRUMPISH, but we had ne'er an angry word.

1757. Foote, Author, Act II. And methought she looked very FRUMPISH and jealous.

1764. O'Hara, Midae, I., 3. La! mother, why so FRUMPISH?

1844. Dickens, Our Mutual Friend, Bk. I., ch. xi. 'Don't fancy me a FRUMPY old married woman, my dear; I was married but the other day, you know.'

1889. Modern Society, 12 Oct., p 1271, col. 2. Quite an elderly and superannuated look is given to the toilette which is finished off by a woollen cloud or silken shawl, and only invalids and sixty-year-old women should be allowed such FRUMPISH privileges.

FRUSHEE, subs. (Scots').—An open jam tart.

Fry, verb (common).—To translate into plain English. Cf., BOIL DOWN.

1881. Jas. Payn, Grape from a Thorn, ch. xxx. 'I shall repose the greatest confidence in you, my dear girl, which one human being can entrust to another,' was one of its sentences, which, when it came 'to be FRIED,' meant that she should delegate to her the duties of combing Fido and cutting her canary's claws.

Go and FRY YOUR FACE, phr. (common).—A retort expressive of incredulity, derision, or contempt.

Frying-pan. To JUMP FROM THE FRYING-PAN INTO THE FIRE, verb. phr. (common).—To go from bad to worse. Cf., 'from the smoke into the smother' (As You Like it, i., 2.). Fr., tomber de la poele dans la braise.

1684. Bunyan, Pilgrim's Progress, Part II. Some, though they shun the FRYING-PAN, do leap into the fire.

To FRY THE PEWTER, verb phr. (thieves').—To melt down pewter measures.

F Sharp, subs. phr. (common).—A flea; cf., B flat.

Fuant, subs. (old).—Excrement.—B. E., Dict. of the Canting Crew.

FUB, verb. (old).—To cheat; to steal; to put off with false excuses. Also FUBBERRY = cheating, stealing, deception.
Fubsey. 80  Fucking.

1598. Shakspeare, 2 Henry IV., II., 1. I have borne, and borne, and borne, and have been FUBBED OFF, and FUBBED off from this day to that day.

1604. Marston, Malcontent, i., 3. O no; but dream the most fantastical. O heaven! O FUBBERY! FUBBERY!


1647. Cartwright, Ordinary iv., 4. I won't be FUBBED.

FUBSEY or FUBSY, adj. (old).—Plump; fat; well-filled. FUBSY DUMMY = a well-filled pocket book; FUBSY wench = a plump girl.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. F-K, to copulate.


1568. Anonymous, Bannatyne M.S.S., Hunterian Soc. Publication, p. 298. As with the glaikkis he wer ourgane; Yit be his feiris he wald haif FUKK1T.

1598. Florio, A Worlde of Wordes, Fottere. To jape; to sarde, to FUCKE; to swive; to occupy.

1620. Percy, Folio M.S.S., p. 459. [Hales and Furnivall, 1867.] A mighty mind to clipp, kisse, and to FUCK her.

1647-80. Rochester, 'Written under Nelly's Picture.' Her father FUCKed them right together.

1683. Earl of Dorset, 'A Faithful Catalogue.' From St. James's to the Land of Thule, There's not a whore who f—s so like a mule.

1785. Burns, Merry Muses. And yet misca's a poor thing That FUKKS for its bread.

FUCKABLE, adj. (venery). —Desirable. Also FUCKSOME.

FUCKER, subs. (common).—1. A lover; a FANCY JOSEPH (q.v.).

2. (common). — A term of endearment, admiration, derision, etc.

FUCK-FINGER, subs. phr. (venery).—A fricatrix.

FUCK-FIST, subs. phr. (venery).—A FRIGSTER (q.v.); a masturbator. For synonyms, see MILKMAN.

FUCK-HOLE, subs. phr. (venery).—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

FUCKING, subs. (venery).—Generic for the 'act of kind.'

1568. Scott, Bannatyne M.S.S., Hunterian Soc. Publication, p. 363. 'To the Derrisoun of Wantoun Wemen.' Thir foure, the suth to sane, Enforsis thame to FUCKING . . . Quod Scott.

*Adj.* (common). — A qualification of extreme contumely.

*Adv.* (common). — 1. Intensive and expletive; a more violent form of BLOODY (*q.v.*). See FOUTERING.

**FUCKISH,** *adj.* (venery).—Wanton; PROUD (*q.v.*); inclined for coition.

**FUCKSTER,** *subs.* (venery). — A good performer (*q.v.*); one specially addicted to the act. A WOMAN-FUCKER (FLORIO), but in feminine FUCKSTRESS.

**FUD,** *subs.* (venery). — The pubic hair. For synonyms, see FLEECE. Also the tail of a hare or rabbit.

1785. BURNS, *The Jolly Beggars.* They scarcely left to co'er their FUDS.

**FUDDLE,** *subs.* (common). — 1. Drink. [Wedgwood: A corruption of FUZZ.]

1621. BURTON, *Anatomy of Melancholy.* The university troop dined with the Earl of Abingdon and came back well FUZZED.

1680. B. E., *New Dict. of the Canting Crew,* s.v. FUDDLE, Drink. ‘This is rum FUDDLE, e. this is excellent Tipple.’

1705. WARD, *Hudibras Redivivus,* l., Pt. iv., p. 18. And so, said I, we sipp'd our FUDDLE, As women in the straw do caudle, 'Till every man had drown'd his noodle.

1733. BAILEY, *Erasmus,* p. 125 (ed. 1877). Don't go away; they have had their dose of FUDDLE.

2. (common). — A drunken bout; a DRUNK.

1889. *Echo,* 15 Feb. If rich, you may FUDDLE with Bacchus all night, And be borne to your chamber remarkably tight.

**FUDDLECAP** (*or FUDDLER*), *subs.* (common). — A drunkard; a boon companion. For synonyms, see LUSHINGTON.

1897. DEKKER, *Jests to make you Merie,* in wks. (GROSART) ii., 299. And your perfect FUDDLECAP [is known] by his red nose.

*d.* 1682. T. BROWNE, *Works,* iii./93. True Protestant FUDDLECAPS.

1748. T. DYCHE, *Dictionary* (5th ed.) FUDDLECAP (S.) one that loves tippling, an excessive drinker, or drunkard.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue,* s.v.

**FUDDLED,** *adj.* (colloquial). — Stupid with drink. Forsynonyms, see DRINKS and SCREWED.

1661. PEPYS, *Diary,* 8 March After dinner, to drink all the afternoon . . . at last come in Sir William Wale, almost FUDDLED.

1713. *Guardian,* No. 145. It was my misfortune to call in at Tom's last night, a little FUDDLED.

1730. THOMSON, *Autumn,* 537. The table floating round, And pavement faithless to the FUDDLED foot.

1838. DICKENS, *Nich. Nickleby,* ch. lx., p. 485. You're a little FUDDLED to-
night, and may not be able to see this as clearly as you would at another time.

1841. *Punch*, I., p. 74. The Sultan got very fuddled last night with forbidden juice in the harem, and tumbled down the ivory steps.

1864. *Glasgow Citizen*, 19 Nov. No other word has so many equivalents as 'drunk.' . . . One very common and old one has escaped Mr. Hotten—fuddled.

1888. *Daily News*, 28 Nov. Music halls would soon decrease in numbers if drink were not sold in them, for sober people would not go to see spectacles only attractive to those who were half fuddled.

FUDGE, subs. (colloquial). — Nonsense; humbug; an exaggeration; a falsehood. [Provincial French, fuche, feuche; an exclamation of contempt from Low Ger. futsch = begone; see, however, quots. 1700 and 1712.] Also as an exclamation of contempt.

1700. ISAAC DISRAELI, *Notes on the Navy*. There was, in our time, one Captain Fudge, a commander of a merchant-man; who, upon his return from a voyage, always brought home a good cargo of lies; insomuch that now, aboard ship, the sailors, when they hear a great lie, cry out FUDGE.

1712. W. CROUCH, *A Collection of Papers*. In the year 1664 we were sentenced for banishment to Jamaica by Judges Hyde and Twisden, and our number was 55. We were put on board the ship Black Eagle; the master's name was FUDGE, by some called lying FUDGE.

1768 GOLDSMITH, *Vicar of Wakefield*, ch. xi. Who . . . would cry out FUDGE! an expression which displeased us all, and, in some measure, damped the rising spirit of the conversation.

1841. LYTTON, *Night and Morning*, Bk. II., ch. vii. Very genteel young man—prepossessing appearance—that's a FUDGE!—highly educated; usher in a school—eh?

1850. THACKERAY, *Rebecca and Rowena*, ch. i. Her ladyship's proposition was what is called bosh . . . or FUDGE in plain Saxon.

1861. *Cornhill Magazine*, iv., 102. 'A Cumberland Mare's Nest.' . . . Up jumped the worthy magistrate, And seizing 'Burn,' Of justices the oracle and badge, he straight Descended to' his 'lion's den' (a sobriquet in FUDGE meant) Where he, 'a second Daniel,' had often 'come to judgment.'

1864. Tangled Talk, p. 108. It is FUDGE to tell a child to 'love' every living creature—a tapeworm, for instance, such as is bottled up in chemists windows.

1865. *Morning Star*, 1 June. Old as I am and half woor out, I would lay (too bad, Mr. Henley, this) upon my back and hallo FUDGE!

1882. *Daily Telegraph*, 5 Oct., p. 2, ccl. 2. Much that we hear concerning the ways and means of the working classes is sheer FUDGE.

Verb. (colloquial). — 1. To fabricate; to interpolate; to contrive without proper materials.

1776. **FOOTE**, *The Bankrupt*, iii., 2. That last 'suppose' is FUDGED in.

1836. MARRYAT, *Midshipman Easy*, ch. xviii. By the time that he did know something about navigation, he discovered that his antagonist knew nothing. Before they arrived at Malta, Jack could FUDGE a day's work.

1858. SHIRLEY BROOKS, *Gordian Knot*. Robert Spencer was hiding from his creditors, or FUDGING medical certificates.

1859. G. A. SALA, in *John Bull*, 21 May. I had provided myself with a good library of books of Russian travel, and so FUDGED my Journey Due North.

2. (schoolboys') — To copy; to crib; to dodge or escape.

1877. BLANCH, *The Blue Coat Boys*, p. 97. FUDGE, verb., trans. and intrans. To prompt a fellow in class, or prompt oneself in class artificially. Thence to tell; e.g., 'FUDGE me what the time is.'

3. (common).—To botch; to bungle; to MUFF (q.v.)

4. (schoolboys').—To advance the hand unfairly at marbles.
FUG, verb (Shrewsbury School).—To stay in a stuffy room.

FUGEL, verb. (venery).—To possess; TO HAVE (q.v.).

1719. DURFEY, Pills, etc., I., 126. Who FUGELLED the Parson’s fine Maid.

FUGGY, subs. (schoolboys’).—A hot roll.

Adj. (Shrewsbury School).—Stuffy.

FUGO, subs. (obsolete).—The rectum, or (COTGRAVE) ‘bung-hole.’

1720. DURFEY, Pills, etc., vi., 247. This maid, she like a beast turned her FUGO to the East.

FULHAMS or FULLAMS, subs. (old).—Loaded dice; called ‘high’ or ‘low’ FULLAMS as they were intended to turn up high or low. Cf., GOURDS. [Conjecturally, because manufactured at Fulham, or because that village was a notorious resort of blacklegs.] For synonyms, see UPHILLS.

1594. NASHE, Unf. Traveller, in wks. v., 27. The dice of late are growen as melancholy as a dog, high men and low men both prosper alike, langrets, FULLAMS, and all the whole fellowshippe of them will not affoord a man his dinner.

1596. SHAKESPEARE. Merry Wives of Windsor, i., 3. Let vultures gripe thy guts! for gourd, and FULLAM holds, And high and low beguile the rich and poor.

1599. JONSON, Every Man out of His Hum., iii., 1. Car.: Who! he serve? ‘blood, he keeps high men, and low men, he! he has—fair living at Fullam. [Whalley’s note in Gifford’s Jonson, ‘The dice were loaded to run high or low; hence they were called high men or low men, and sometimes high and low FULLAMS. Called FULLAMS either because F. was the resort of sharpers, or because they were chiefly made there.’]

1664. BUTLER, Hudibras, Part II., C. i., 164. But I do wonder you should chuse this way t’ attack me with your muse, As one cut out to pass your tricks on, With FULLAMS of poetic fiction.

Full, adj. (colloquial).—1. Drunk. For synonyms, see DRINKS and SCREWED.

1888. Detroit Free Press, 15 Dec. When he was FULL the police came and jugged.

2. (turf). Used by book-makers to signify that they have laid all the money they wish against a particular horse.

FULL-GUTS, subs. phr. (common).—A swag-bellied man or woman.
A Full hand, subs. phr. (American waiters'). Five large beers. For analogous expressions, see Go.

Full in the belly, subs. phr. (colloquial).—With child.

Full in the pasterns (or the hocks), subs. phr. (colloquial). Thick-ankled.

Full team, subs. phr. (American). An eulogium. A man is a full team when of consequence in the community. Variants are whole team, or whole team and a horse to spare. Cf., one-horse = mean, insignificant, or strikingly small.

Full in the waistcoat, adj. phr. (colloquial).—Swag-bellied.

Full of 'em, adj. phr. (common).—Lousy; nitty; full of fleas.

Full to the bung, adj. phr. (colloquial).—Very drunk. For synonyms, see Drinks and Screwed.

To have (or wear) a full suit of mourning, verb. phr. (pugilists').—To have two black eyes. Half-mourning = one black eye. For synonyms, see Mouse.

To come full bob, verb. phr. (old colloquial).—To come suddenly; to come full tilt.


Full against, adv. phr. I. Dead, or decidedly opposed to, a person, thing, or place.

Full-bottomed (or -breched, or -pooped), adv. phr. (colloquial).—Broad in the behind; barge-arsed (q.v.)

Full-flavoured, adv. phr. (colloquial).—Peculiarly rank: as a story, an exhibition of profane swearing, an emission of wind, etc.

Full-fledged, adv. phr. (venery).—Ripe for defloration.

Full-gutted, adv. phr. (colloquial).—Stout; swag-bellied.

Full of emptiness, adv. phr. (common).—Utterly void.

Full on, adv. phr. (colloquial).—Set strongly in a given direction, especially in an obscene sense: e.g., full on for it or full on for one = ready and willing au possible.

At full chisel, adv. phr. (American).—At full speed; with the greatest violence or impetuously. Also full drive; full split. Cf., hickey split; ripping; staving along; two-thirty, etc.

In full blast, swing, etc., adv. phr. (colloquial).—In the height of success; in hot pursuit.

1859. Sala, Twice Round the Clock, 5 a.m., Part I. At five a.m. the publication of the Times newspaper is, to use a north-country mining expression, in 'full blast.'

1884. Daily News, Feb. 9, p. 5, col. 2. If he visit New York in that most pleasant season, the autumn, he will find that the 'fall' trade is 'in full blast.'

1888. Daily Telegraph, 17 Nov. By half-past ten o'clock the smoking-room was in full swing.

In full dig, adv. phr. (common).—On full pay.
IN FULL FEATHER, see FEATHER.

IN FULL FIG.—I. See Fig (to which may be added the following illustrative quotations).

1836. M. Scott, Cruise of the Midge, p. 178. In front of this shed—FULL FIG, in regular Highland costume, philabeg, short hose, green coatee, bonnet and feather, marched the bagpiper.

1836. M. Scott, Cringle's Log, ch. xi. Captain Transom, the other lieutenant, and myself in full puff, leading the van, followed by about fourteen seamen.

1821. Real Life in London, i., 394. The swell covies and out-and-outers find nothing so refreshing, after a night's spree, when the victualling office is out of order, as a little FULLER'S EARTH, or dose of Daffy's.

1823. Moncrieff, Tom and Jerry, iii., 3. Bring me de kwarten of de FULLER'S EARTH.

FULLIED. To be fullied, verb. phr. (thieves').—To be committed for trial. [From the newspaper expression, 'Fully committed.'] Fr., être mis sur la planche au pain.


1879. Horsley, 'Autobiography of a Thief,' in Macmillan's Magazine, xl., 506. I . . . was then FULLIED and got this stretch and a half.

FULNESS. There's not fulness enough in the sleeve top. phr. (tailors').—A derisive answer to a threat.

FUMBLER, subs. (old).—An impotent man.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. c 1790. Burns, 'David and Bathsheba,' p. 40. 'By Jove,' says she, 'what's this I see, my Lord the King's a fumbler.'

FUMBLER'S HALL, subs. phr. (venery).—The female pudendum. See, however, quot. 1690. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.
Fumbles.  

1690. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew. FUMBLER’S HALL, the place where such (FUMBLERS, q.v.) are to be put for their non-performance.

FREE OF FUMBLER’S HALL, phr.—Said of an impotent man.

FUMBLER’S HALL, the place where such (FUMBLERS, q.v.) are to be put for their non-performance.

FUNDAMENTAL FEATURES, subs. phr. (common).—The posteriors. For synonyms, see BLIND CHEEKS and MONOCULAR EYE-GLASS.

FUN, subs. (old).—I. A cheat; a trick.

1690. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew s.v.

2. (old).—The posteriors, or WESTERN END (MARVELL). Probably an abbreviation of fundament. For synonyms, see BLIND CHEEKS and MONOCULAR EYE-GLASS.

FUNDS, subs. (colloquial).—Finances; e.g. ‘my FUNDS are very low.’

1855. HALIBURTON (‘Sam Slick’) Human Nature, p. 124. I thought you was pokin’ FUN at me; for I am a poor ignorant farmer, and these people are always making game of me.

1865. NEAL, Charcoal Sketches (in Bartlett). Jeames, if you don’t be quit pokin’ FUN at me, I’ll break your mouth, as sure as you sit there.

TO HAVE BEEN MAKING FUN, verb. phr. (common).—Intoxicated. For synonyms, see DRINKS and SCREWED.

TO HAVE (or DO) A BIT OF FUN, verb. phr. (venery).—To procure or enjoy the sexual favour. For synonyms, see GREENS.

FUNCTION or FUNTURE, subs. (Winchester College).—An iron bracket candlestick, used for the nightlight in college chambers. [The word, says Winchester Notions, looks like fulctura, an earlier form of fulture, meaning a prop or stay with phonetic change of l into n.]

1870. MANSFIELD, School Life at Winchester, p. 68. Beside the window yawned the great fireplace, with its dogs, on which rested the faggots and bars for the reception of the array of boilers. Above it was a rushlight, fixed in a circular iron pan fastened to a staple in the wall; it was called the FUNKCTOR.

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1818. Moore, Fudge Family, ix., Aug. 21. O can we wonder, best of speechers, When Louis seated thus we see, That France’s ‘FUNDAMENTAL FEATURES’ Are much the same they used to be?

1837. BARHAM, Ingoldsby Legends, i., p. 280. O fie! Mister Noakes,—for shame, Mr. Noakes! To be pokin’ your FUN at us plain-dealing folks.
Funeral.

**Funeral.** It's not my (or your) funeral, verb. phr. (American).—i.e., It is no business of mine, or yours. Fr., *nib dans mes blots* (= that is not my affair). Also used affirmatively.

1867. *Mrs. Whitney, A Summer in Leslie Goldthwaite's Life*, p. 183. 'It's none of my funeral, I know, Sin Saxon,' said Miss Craydocke. 'I'm only an eleventh-hour helper; but I'll come in for the holiday business . . . that's mere in my line.'

1871. *De Vere, Americanisms*, p. This is none of your funeral is heard quite frequently as an indirect rebuke for intermeddling, with the ludicrous undercurrent of thought, that the troublesome meddler has no right to be crying at a strange man's funeral.

1888. *Missouri Republican*, 8 Apr. After a lot of slides had been exhibited the audience howled for Miss Debar. It got so noisy that Mr. Marsh reluctantly exclaimed—'Well, is this your funeral or mine?'

**Fungus,** subs. (old).—An old man.

**Funk,** subs. (old).—I. Tobacco smoke; also a powerful stink. 
*Cf.* Ger., *funke*; Walloon *funki*.


2. (vulgar).—A state of fear; trepidation, nervousness, or cowardice; a STEW (q.v.). Generally, with an intensive, e.g., a 'mortal,' 'awful,' 'bloody,' 'blue,' or 'pissing' *funk*. Fr., *la guenette*; *le flubart* (thieves); *la frousse* (also = diarrhoea). It., *filo* = thread.

1796. *Wolcott, Pindarina*, p. 59. If they find no brandy to get drunk, Their souls are in a miserable *funk*.


1821. *P. Egan, Tom and Jerry (1890)*, p. 91. I was in a complete *funk*.


1859. *Whitty, Political Portraits*, p. 30. Lord Clarendon did not get through the business without these failures, which result from the intellectual process termed freely *funk*.

1861. *Macmillan's Magazine*, p. 211. I was in a real blue *funk*.

1861. *Hughes, Tom Brown at Oxford*, ch. xxxvi. I was in a real blue *funk* and no mistake.


3. (schoolboys').—A coward.

1882. *F. Anstey, Vice Versa*, ch. v. Bosher said, 'Let's cut it,' and he and Peebles bolted. (They were neither of them *funks*, of course, but they lost their heads.)

Verb. (common).—I. To smoke out. See *Funk the cobbler*. 

See Funk the cobbler.
1720. Durfee, Wit and Mirth, vi., 393. With a sober dose of coffee FUNKs his nose.

1578. Grose, Vulg. Tongue. FUNK, to smoke, figuratively to smoke or stink through fear.

1823. Moncrieff, Tom and Jerry, ii., 2. Tom. But, I say, only see how confoundedly the dustman's getting hold of Logic—we'll FUNK him. (Tom and Jerry smoke Logic), Log. Oh, hang your cigars, I don't like it; let's have no FUNKING.

1841. Punch, I., p. 172. Look here...isn't it considerable clear they're all FUNKING like burnt cayenne in a clay pipe, or couldn't they have made a raise somehow to get a ship of their own, or borrow one to send after that caged-up coon of a Macleod.

2. (common).—To terrify; to shrink or quail through nervousness or cowardice.

1858. A. Mayhew, Paved with Gold, Bk. III., ch. vi., p. 294. Perhaps we're only FUNKING ourselves useless, and it mayn't be the farm chaps at all.

3. (colloquial).—To fear; to hesitate; to shirk; and (among pugilists) TO COME IT (q.v.).

1836. Smith, The Individual, 'The Thieves' Chaunt.' But dearer to me Sue's kisses far than grunting peck or other grub are, And I never FUNK the lambskin men When I sits with her in the boozing ken.

1846. Punch, X., p. 163. But as yet no nose is bleeding, As yet no man is down; For the gowsmen FUNK the townsman, And the townsman FUNK the gowan.

1848. J. R. Lowell, Biglow Papers. To FUNK right out o' p'litical strife ain't thought to be the thing


English Synonyms.—To come it; to lose one's guts; to shit one's breeches; to get the needle (athletic).

French Synonyms.—Pani-quer (thieves': Panique = sudden fright); blaguer (familiar: = to swagger: Il avait l'air de blaguer mais il n'était pas à la nose = he put on a lot of side, but he didn't like it); avec le cœur en gargousse (sailors' = with sinking heart); avoir une fluxion (popular: fluxion = inflammation); avoir la Jlemme (popular: also = to be idle); avoir le trac or trak (general); foirer (popular: foire = excrement); lèziner (popular: also = to cheat).

Spanish Synonym. — Paja-rear.

Italian Synonym. — Filare (= to run : Fr., fîler).

4. (colloquial).—To be nervous; to lose heart.

1827. 'Advice to Tommy,' Every Night Book (by the author of 'The Cigar'). Do not go out of your depth, unless you have available assistance at hand, in case you should FUNK.

1856. Hughes, Tom Brown's School Days, ii., p. 5. He's FUNKING; go in Williams!


1857. Hood, Pen and Pencil Pictures, p. 144. I have seen him out with the governor's hounds: he FUNKED at the first hedge, and I never saw him again!

1863. Reade, Hard Cash, ii., p. 135. I told him I hadn't a notion of what he meant! 'O yes I did,' he said, 'Captain Dodd's fourteen thousand pounds! It had passed through my hands.' Then I began to FUNK again at his knowing that... I was flustered, ye see.

1865. H. Kingsley, The Hillyars and the Burtons, ch. xxxii. The sound of the table falling was the signal for a
rush of four men from the inner room, who had to use a vulgar expression, FUNKED following the valiant scoundrel Sykes, but who now tried to make their escape, and found themselves hand to hand with the policemen.

1871. Morning Advertiser, 11 Sept. 'Holy Abr'ham!' mused he vauntingly, 'shall British sailors FUNK, While tracts refresh their spirits, tea washes down their junk?'


1891. Licensed Vict. Gazette, 13 Feb. Smith's friends thought he was FUNKING, and shouted to Tom to go in and punch him.

5. (schoolboys').—To move the hand forward unfairly in playing marbles; to FUDGE (q.v.).

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum. FUNK, to use an unfair motion of the hand in plumping at taw.

1851-61. MAYHEW, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, i., p. 144. I've noticed them, too, playing at ring-taw, and one of their exclamations is 'Knuckle down fair, and no FUNKING.'

To FUNK THE COBBLER, verb. phr. (schoolboys').—To smoke out a schoolmate; a trick performed with asafetida and cotton stuffed into a hollow tube or cow's horn; the cotton being lighted, the smoke is blown through the key-hole.

1899. Ward, London Spy, Pt. IX., p. 197. Ws moaked the Beans almost as bad as un lucky schoolboys us'd to do the COBLERS, till they sneaked off one by one, and left behind 'em more agreeable Company.

1785. Grose, Dict. of the Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

See also Peter Funk.

FUNKER, subs. (old).—1. A pipe; a cigar; a fire. [From FUNK=to smoke + ER.]

2. (thieves').—A low thief.

1848. Duncombe, Sinks of London, etc., s.v.

1859. Matsell, Vocabulary, or Rogue's Lexicon. FUNKERS, the very lowest order of thieves.

3. (colloquial).—A coward.

4. (prostitutes').—A girl that shirks her trade in bad weather.

FUNKING-ROOM, subs. (medical).—The room at the Royal College of Surgeons where the students collect on the last evening of their final during the addition of their marks, and whence each is summoned by an official announcing failure or success.

1841. Punch, i., p. 225, col. 2. On the top of a staircase he enters a room, wherein the partners of his misery are collected. It is a long, narrow apartment, commonly known as the FUNKING-ROOM.

FUNKSTER, subs. (Winchester College).—A coward; one that FUNKS (q.v.).

FUNKY, adj. (colloquial).—Nervous; frightened; timid.

1845. Naylor, Reynard the Fox, 46. I do seem somewhat FUNKY.

1863. C. Reade, Hard Cash, 1., 143. On his retiring with twenty-five, scored in eight minutes, the remaining Barkingtonians were less FUNKY, and made some fair scores.

1876. Hindley, Life and Adventures of a Cheatjack, p. 237. The second round commences with a little cautious sparring on both sides, the bounding Elias looking very FUNKY.

1891. Hume Nisbet, Bail Up! p. 51. 'I'll noy Funky,' returned the Chinaman impressively.

FUNNEL, subs. (common).—The throat. For synonyms, see GUTTER ALLEY.
Funniment

1712. Blackmore, Creation, Bk. VI
Some the long funnel's curious mouth extend, Through which the ingested meats with ease descend.

Funniment, subs. (colloquial).—1. A joke, either practical or verbal.

2. (venery). — The female pudendum. For synonyms, see Monosyllable.

Funny, subs. (nautical).—A clinker-built, narrow boat for sculls.

1837. Barham, I. L., Sir Rupert the Fearless. Sprang up through the waves, popped him into his funny. Which some others already had half-filled with money.

1853. Thackeray, 'Shabby Genteel Story,' ch. ix. He had merely received a blow on that part which anatomists call the funny bone.

1870. Lowell Courier. Thanks for your kind condolence; I would write a merry rhyme in answer if I might; But then—confound the fall!—the very stone That broke my humerus hurt my funny bone!

FUNNY-MAN, subs. (common).—A circus clown. Also a joker in private life.


Fur, subs. (venery). — The pubic hair. For synonyms, see Fleece.

To make the fur fly.—See Fly.

To have one's fur out, verb. phr. (Winchester College).—To be angry. For synonyms, see Nab the rust.

Fur and Feathers, subs. phr. (sporting).—Generic for game.

Fur-Below, subs. (venery).—The female pubic hair. For synonyms, see Fleece.

Furioso, subs. (old).—A blusterer; Ital., furioso = raving.

1692. Hacket. Life of Archbishop Williams, ii., p. 218. A violent man and a furioso was deaf to all this.

English Synonyms.—Barker; blower; bobadil; bouncer; bulldozer (American); cacafogo; Captain Bounce; Captain Bluff; Captain Grand; Captain Hackam; cutter; fire-eater; hector; huff-cap; humguffin; gasper; gasman; mouth; mouth-almighty; pissfire; pump-thunderer; ramper; roaring; ruffler; shitefire; slangwhanger; spitfire; swashbuckler; swasher; teazer; Timothy Tearcat.

French Synonyms.—Un avalé-tout-cru (popular: = an eat-all-he-kills); un fendart or fendart
(popular: a cutter); un aveluer de charrettes férées (popular); un mata (printers': from matador = a bull-fighter); un bousineur (popular: bousin = uproar, shindy); un bourreau de crânes (military): = a scull-destroyer; un bouffier (popular: = an ugly customer); un mauvais gas (familiar: from garçon); un homme qui a l'air de vouloir tout avaler (familiar: a man who looks as though he'd swallow the world); un croquet (popular).

Spanish Synonyms.—Perdonavidas; fierabras (fiera = a wild beast); botarate; macareno caca-fuoco (= a shitfire).

Furk, Ferk, Firk, verb. (Winchester College).—To expel; to send (as on a message); to drive away. Also to FURK UP and FURK DOWN. [Old English fercean, High German ferken, Middle English to lead or send away.]

Furmen, subs. (old).—Aldermen. From their fur-trimmed robes.

1690. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew, s.v.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

Furmity-faced, adj. phr. (old).—White-faced (Furmity is described by Grose as 'wheat boiled to a jelly'). To simper like a furmity kitten (Grose), see Simper.

Furnish, verb. (common).—To fill out; to improve in strength and appearance.

Furniture Picture, subs. phr. (artists').—A 'picture' sold not as a piece of art but as a piece of upholstery, such things being turned out by the score, as pianos are, or three-legged stools; the worst and cheapest kind of pot-boiler (q.v.).

Furrow, subs. (venery). Also Cupid's (or the One-ended) furrow, etc.—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see Monosyllable. To draw a straight furrow. See Draw.

To fall in the furrow, verb. phr. (venery).—To achieve emission.

To fall (or die) in the furrow, verb. phr. (venery).—To do a dry-bob (q.v.).

Furry Tail, subs. phr. (printers').—A non-unionist; a rat (q.v.). Specifically, a workman accepting employment at less than 'Society' wages. Cf., Dung, Flint, etc.

Further. I'll see you further first, phr. (colloquial).—A denial. I'll sooner die first (q.v.).

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, i., p. 29. I gave a country lad 2d. to mind him (the donkey) in a green lane there. I wanted my own boy to do so, but he said, I'll see you further first. A London boy hates being by himself in a lone country part. He's afraid of being burked.

Fur Trade, subs. phr. (old).—Barristers.

1839. Reynolds, Pickwick Abroad, ch. xxvi. Let nobs in the fur trade hold their jaw, and let the jug be free.

Furze-Bush, subs. phr. (venery). The female pubic hair. For synonyms, see Fleece.
**Fussock.**

_Fussock_, and _Fussocks_, subs. (old).—Opprobrious for a fat woman.

1690. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew. _Fussocks_, a meer _Fussocks_, a Lazy Fat-Arsed Wench, a fat _Fussocks_, a Fussom, Fat, Strapping Woman.

1785. GROSE, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue, s.v.

**Fussocks.** A meer _Fussocks_.

1785. GROSE, Did. of the Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

**Fust (or Fust out),** verb. (American).—To end in smoke; to go to waste; to end in nothing. *Cf.*, _Fizzle_.

**Fustian,** subs. and adj. (old).—1. Bombast; bad rhetoric; sound without sense: bombastic; ranting. Now accepted.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, 2 Henry IV, II., 4. Thrust him downstairs; I cannot endure such a _Fustian_ rascal.

1602. SHAKESPEARE, Twelfth Night II., 5. A _Fustian_ riddle.

1602. SHAKESPEARE, Othello, II., 3. And discourse _Fustian_ with one’s own shadow.

1690. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew. _Fustian-verses_, verse in words of lofty sound and humble sense.

1828-45. HOOD, Poems, i., p. 105 (ed. 1846). The saints! — the bigots that in public spout, Spread phosphorous of zeal on scraps of _Fustian_, And go like walking ‘Lucifers’ about These living bundles of combustion.

2. (common).—Wine; _White Fustian_ = champagne; _Red Fustian_ = port.

1834. W. H. AINSWORTH, Rookwood. p. 51 (ed. 1864). I’m as dry as a sandbed—Famous wine this—beautiful tipple—better than all your red _Fustian_. Ah, how poor Sir Piers used to like it!

**Fustilarian,** subs. (old).—A low fellow; a common scoundrel.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, 2 Henry IV., II., 1. Away, you scullion! you ram-pallian! you _Fustilarian_! I’ll tickle your catastrophe.

**Fustilug (or Fustilugs),** subs. (old).—A piece of grossness, male or female; a coarse and dirty Blowzalinda; a foul slut; a fat stinkard.

1690. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew. _Fustiluggs_, a Fultom, Beastly, Nasty Woman.

1739. JUNIUS (quoted in Encly. Dict.). You may daily see such _Fustilugs_ walking in the streets, like so many tuns.

1785. GROSE, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue.

**Futter,** verb. (venery).—To copulate. Fr., _foutre_. [A coinage of Sir. R. Burton’s, who makes continual use of it in the _Thousand Nights and a Night_.] For synonyms, see _Greens_ and _Ride_. Also _to do a Futter_.

1885. BURTON, _Thousand Nights_, II., 332. Eating and drinking and _futtering_ for a year of full twelve months.

1890. BURTON, _Priapeia_, Ep. xii. Thee, my girl, I shalt _Futter_.

**Future, to deal in futures,** verb phr. (Stock Exchange).—To speculate for a rise or fall.

1862. _Globe_, 1 Dec. He _deals in Futures_, i.e., speculates in cotton with Stock Exchange folks, or speculates in securities.

**Fuzz,** verb. (old).—1. ‘To shuffle cards minutely; also to change the pack.’ [GROSE.]

2. (old).—To be, or _to make_, drunk.

1885. Life of Amb. Wood, 14 July. Came home well _Fuzd_.
Fuzziness, subs. (old).—The condition of being in drink. Hence blurredness; incoherence; bewilderment.

Fuzzy, adj. (common).—1. Drunk. For synonyms, see Drinks and Screwed. Hence blurred (as a picture); tangled; incoherent or inconsequent.

1876. Hindley, Life and Adventures of a Cheap Jack, p. 324. Her husband or any other man might have drunk six glasses, with no more hurt than just making him a little fuzzy.

2. (popular).—Rough; as in a fuzzy head; a fuzzy cloth; a fuzzy bit (= a full-grown wench); a fuzzy carpet; etc.

Fuzzy-wuzzy, subs. (military). A Soudanese tribesman.

1890. Rudyard Kipling, National Observer, 8 Mar., p. 438, col. 1. So 'ere's to you fuzzy-wuzzy and your 'ome in the Soudan, you're a pore benighted 'eathen but a first-class fighting man; and 'ere's to you fuzzy-wuzzy with your 'ay-rick ead of 'air, you big, black bouncing beggar, for you bruk a British square.

Fye-buck, subs. (old).—A sixpence. For synonyms, see Bender.

1781. G. Parker, View of Society, II., 56. You give a shilling to buy a comb, for which he gives sixpence, so works you for another fye-buck.

1885. Household Words, 20 June, p. 155. 'Buck' is most likely a corruption of fye-buck, a slang name for sixpence, which is now almost, if not altogether, obsolete.

Fylche.—See Filch.

Fyst.—See Foist.
AB, subs. (vulgar).—1. The mouth; also GOB. For synonyms, see POTATO-TRAP.

1785. GROSE, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue, s.v.

1820. Scott, The Abbot, ch. xiv. 'And now, my mates,' said the Abbot of Unreason, 'once again digut your GABS and be hushed—let us see if the Cock of Kennaguhair will fight or flee the pit.'

1890. Rare Bits, 12 Apr., p. 347. 'Clap a stopper on your GAB and whack up, or I'll let 'er speak!'

2. (vulgar).—Talk; idle babble. Also GABB, GABBER, and GABEL.

1712. Spectator, No. 389. Having no language among them but a confused GABBLE, which is neither well understood by themselves or others.

1811. POOLE, Hamlet Traversied, I., 3. Then hold your GAB, and hear what I've to tell.

1883. C. READE, Hard Cash, ch. xxxiv. 'Hush your gab,' said Mr. Green, roughly.

1887. Punch, 10 Sept., p. 111. Gladstone's GAB about 'masses and classes' is all tommy rot.

Verb (vulgar: O. E., and now preserved in GABBLE).—To talk fluently; to talk brilliantly; to lie.

1853. CHAUCER, Canterbury Tales. 1652. I GABBE nought, so have I joye or bliss.

1402. [P. T. OcCLEVE], Letter of Cupid, in Arber's Garner, vol. IV., p. 59. A foul vice it is, of tongue to be light, For who so mochil clappeth, gabbeth oft.

1601. SHAKESPEARE, Twelfth Night, Act II., Sc. iii. Mal. . . . Have you no wit, manners, nor honesty, but to GABBLE like tinkers at this time of night.

1663. BUTLER, Hudibras, pt. I., ch. i., p. 5. Which made some think when he did GABBLE Th' had h'ard three Labourers of Babel.

1786. BURNS, Earnest Cry and Prayer, st. 10. But could I like Montgomeryes fight, Or GAB like Boswell.

1880. G. R. Sims, ZePh, ch. vii. An elderly clergyman . . . GABBLED the funeral service as though he were calling back an invoice at a draper's entering desk.

1887. Punch, 10 Sept., p. 111. Gals do like a chap as can GAB.

GIFT OF THE GAB (or GOB), subs. phr. (colloquial).—The gift of conversation; the talent for speech. Fr., n'avoir pas sa langue dans sa poche.

d. 1653. Z. BOYD, Book of Job, quoted in Brewer's Phrase and Fable, s.v., 'GAB. There was a good man named Job, Who lived in the land of Uz, He had a good gift of the GOB.

1690. B. E., New Dict. of the Canting Crew. GIFT OF THE GOB, a wide, open Mouth; also a good Songster, or Singing-master.

1785. GROSE, Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue, s.v.

1820. SHELLEY, Ædipus Tyrannus, Act I. You, Purganax, who have the GIFT o' THE GAB, Make them a solemn speech.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Author/Works</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1837</td>
<td>Dickens, Oliver Twist, ch. xliii.</td>
<td>And we'll have a big-wig, Charley: one that's got the greatest gift of the gab: to carry on his defence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851-61</td>
<td>Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, I., 250.</td>
<td>People reckon me one of the best patterers in the trade. I'm reckoned to have the gift—that is, the gift of the gab.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1889</td>
<td>Whyte-Melville, M. or N., p. 29.</td>
<td>I've got the gift of the gab, I know, and I stick at nothing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>Lond. Figaro, 18 Sept.</td>
<td>Of all gifts possessed by man,' said George Stephenson, the engineer, to Sir William Follett, 'there is none like the gift of the gab.'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1876</td>
<td>Hindley, Life and Adventures of a Cheap Jack, p. 193.</td>
<td>Others, although they have the gift of the gab when they are on the ground, as soon as they mount the cart are dumbfounded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1819</td>
<td>Moore, Tom Crib's Memorial, p. 2.</td>
<td>While his Lordship . . . that very great dab At the flowers of rhet'ric is flashing his gab.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1834</td>
<td>Ainsworth, Rookwood, bk. III., ch. 5.</td>
<td>Never blow the gab or squeak.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1819</td>
<td>Moore, Tom Crib's Memorial, p. 2.</td>
<td>While his Lordship . . . that very great dab At the flowers of rhet'ric is flashing his gab.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Goble, subs. (common).** — The mouth. For synonyms, see potato-trap.  
**Gable, subs. (common).** — The head. Also Gable-end. For synonyms, see crumpet.  
**Gabster, subs. (common).** — A voluble talker, whether eloquent or vain; one having the gift of the gab (q.v.).  
**Gab-string.—See gob-string.**  
**Gaby (also Gabbe and Gabby), subs. (common).** — A fool; a babbler; a boor. Icl. gapī= a foolish person, from gapa = to gape.  
**Gad, subs. (common).** — An idle slattern. An abbreviation of gad-about (q.v.).  
**Intj. (common).** — An abbreviation of by gad! Cf. agad, egad—themselves corruptions of by god, lit.  
**On the gad, adv. phr. (old).** —1. On the spur of the moment.  
| 1605 | Shakespeare, Lear, i., 2. | All this is done upon the gad.  
| 1818 | Austen, Persuasion. | I have no very good opinion of Mrs. Charles' nursery maid. . . . She is always upon the gad.  

**2.** (colloquial). — A voluble talker.  
**Gabble-mill, subs. (American).** —1. The United States Congress. Also Gabble-manufactory.  
**2.** (common). — A pulpit. For synonyms, see humbox.  

**Gad, subs. (common).** — A voluble talker, whether eloquent or vain; one having the gift of the gab (q.v.).  
**Gab-string.—See gob-string.**
3. (colloquial).—On the spree (especially of women); and, by implication, on the town.

To GAD THE HOOF, verb. phr. (common).—To walk or go without shoes; TO PAD THE HOOF (q.v.). Also, more loosely, to walk or roam about.


GADABOUT, subs. (colloquial).—A trapesing gossip; as a housewife seldom seen at home. But very often at her neighbours' doors [From GAD = to wander, to stray (Cf., Lycidas: 'the gadding vine') + ABOUT.] Used also as an adjective; e.g., 'a GAD-ABOUT hussey.'

GADSO, subs. (old).—The penis. Italian cazzo. For synonyms, see CREAMSTICK and PRICK.

Intj. (old: still literary and colloquial).—An interjection. [A relic of phallicism with which many popular oaths and exclamations have a direct connection, especially in Neo-Latin dialects. A Spaniard cries out, CARAJO! (—the member), or COJONES! (—the testicles); an Italian says CAZZO (the penis); while a Frenchman exclaims by the act itself, FOUTRE! The female equivalent, (coño with the Spaniard, CONNO with the Italian, CON with the Frenchman, and CUNT with ourselves), was, and is, more generally used as an expression of contempt, which is also the case with the testicles. (Cf., ante, ALL BALLS!) Germanic oaths are profane rather than obscene; except, perhaps, in POTZ! and POTZTAUFEND! and the English equivalent FOX! which last is obsolete. See CATSO. [In Florio (A Worlde of Wordes, 1598), Cazzo = 'a man's privie member, and cazzo di mare = a pintle fish; while cassica = 'an interjection of admiration and affirming. What? Gad's me, Gad forfend, tush.']

1697. Vanbrugh, Provoked Wife, iii. I. Sir? GADSO! we are to consult about playing the devil to night.

1770. Foote, Lame Lover, i. Gadso! a little unlucky.

1838. Dickens, Oliver Twist, ch. iv. 'GADSO!' said the undertaker... 'that's just the very thing I wanted to speak to you about.'

GADZOOKS! intj. (old and colloquial).—A corruption of GADZO (q.v.).

GAFF, subs. (old).—I. A fair.'

1754. Discoveries of John Poulter, p. 32. The first thing they do at a GAFF is to look for a room clear of company.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v. The drop coves maced the joskins at the GAFF; the ring-droppers cheated the countryman at the fair.

1821. Haggart, Life, p. 22. We stopped at this place two days, waiting to attend the GAFF.

1823. Jon. Bee, Dict. of the Turf, etc., s.v. A fair is a GAFF as well as all the transactions enacted there.

2. (common).—A cheap, low music-hall or theatre; frequently PENNY-GAFF, Cf., quot. 1823, sense 1. Also DOOKIE. Fr., un beuglant (= a low music-hall; beugler = to bellow); un bouisbouis (boui = brothel); une guinche (popular). See also quot. 1889.

1851-61. Mayhew, Loud. Lab. and Lond. Poor, I., p. 46. They court for a time, going to raffles and GAFFS together, and then the affair is arranged.

1869. Greenwood, Seven Curses of London, p. 68. A GAFF is a place where stage plays, according to the strict interpre-
tation of the term, may not be represented. The actors of a drama may not correspond in colloquy, only in pantomime; but the pieces brought out at the gaff are seldom of an intricate character, and the not over-fastidious auditory are well content with an exhibition of dumb-show and gesture.

1870. Orchestra, 18 Feb. The absolute harm done by these gaFFS does not consist in the subjects represented.

1889. Notes and Queries, 7 S. vii., p. 395. I have often heard the British soldier make use of the word when speaking of the entertainment got up for his benefit in barracks.

3. (prison).—A hoax; an imposture. Cf., Fr., gaffe = joke, deceit.

1877. Five Years' Penal Servitude, ch. iv., p. 312. I also saw that Jemmy's blowing up of me was all Gaff. He knew as well as I did the things left the shop all right.

1892. Hume Nisbet, Bushranger's Sweetheart, p. 227. Can you put me up to this other GAFF.

4. (old sharpers').—A ring worn by the dealer. [From gaffe = a hook.]

5. (American cock-pit).—A steel spur.

6. (anglers') — A landing spear, barbed in the iron.

Verb. (old).—1. To toss for liquor. See GAFFING.

1823. Jon Bee, Dict. of the Turf, s.v.

2. (theatrical).—To play in a Gaff (q.v. sense 2).

TO BLOW THE GAFF, OR GAB (q.v.), verb. phr. (common). To give information; to let out a secret. For synonyms, see Peach.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue. To blow the gab (cant), to confess, or impeach a confederate.

1833. Marrvat, Peter Simple, ch. xliii. One of the French officers, after he was taken prisoner, axed me how we had managed to get the gun up there; but I wasn't going to blow the gaff.

1877. Five Years' Penal Servitude, ch. ii., p. 122. The prisoner, burning for revenge, quietly bides his time till the chief warder comes round, then asks to speak to him, and blows the gaff.

1891. Referee, 8 Mar. Under sacred promise not to blow the gaff I was put up to the method.

GAFFER, subs. (old).—1. An old man; the masculine of gammer (q.v.). Also a title of address: e.g., 'Good day, gaffer!' Cf., uncle and daddy. Also (see quot. 1710), a husband.

1710. Dame Hurdle's Letter (quoted by Nares). My gaffer only said he would inform himself as well as he could against next election, and keep a good conscience.

1714. Gay, Shepherd's Week. For gaffer Treadwell told us, by-the-bye, excessive sorrow is exceeding dry.


2. (common).—A master; an employer; a boss (q.v.); (athletic) a pedestrian trainer and farmer; and (navvies') a gang-master or ganger (q.v.).

1719. Durfee, Pillo, etc., iv., 123. In comes our gaffer Underwood, and sits him on the bench.

1748. T. Dyche, Dict. (5th ed.) Gaffer (S.) a familiar word mostly used in the country for master.

1885. Daily News, 24 Jan., p. 3. c. i. They go and work at fivepence, and some on 'em as low as threepence halfpenny, an hour; that's just half what we get, and the gaFFers keep 'em on and sack us.

1888. Sportsman, 20 Dec. Comic enough were some of the stories 'Jemmy' told of his relations with 'the gaffer.'

1889. Broadside Ballad, 'The Gaffers of the Gang.' We are the boys that can do the excavations, we are the lads for the 'atin' and the dhzin', With the ladies we are so fascinatin', Because we are the gaffers of the gang.
Gaffing.

3. (old).—A toss-penny; a gambler with coins. From GAFFING (q.v.).

1828. Jon Bee, Living Picture of London, p. 241. If the person calling for 'man' or 'woman' is not right or wrong at five guesses, neither of the GAFFERS win or lose, but go again.

Verb. (venery).—To copulate. For synonyms, see GREENS and RIDE.

GAFFING, subs. (old).—See quot.

1821. Pierce Egan, Life in London, p. 279. GAFFING was unfortunately for him introduced. Ibid. Note.—A mode of tossing for drinks, etc., in which three coins are placed in a hat, shaken up, and then thrown on the table. If the party to 'call' calls 'heads' (or 'tails') and all three coins are as he calls them, he wins; if not, he pays a settled amount towards drinks.

1839. Brandon, Poverty, Mendicity, and Crime, s.v.

GAG, subs. (common).—I. A joke; an invention; a hoax.

1823. Jon Bee, Dict. of the Turf, s.v. GAG—a grand imposition upon the public; as a mountebank's professions, his cures, and his lottery-bags, are so many broad GAGS.

1871. All the Year Round, 18 Feb., p. 288. You won't bear malice now, will you? All GAG of mine, you know, about old Miss Ponsonby.

1888. Daily News, 16 May, p. 5, c. 2. 'The Mahdi sends you lies from Khartoum, and laughs when you believe them,' said a native, lately. We need not gratify the Mahdi by believing any bazaar-GAG he may circulate.

2. (theatrical).—Expressions interpolated by an actor in his part; especially such as can be repeated again and again in the course of performance. Certain plays, as The Critic, are recognised 'gag-pieces,' and in these the practice is accounted legitimate. Cf., Hamlet, iii., 2: 'And let those, that play your clowns, say no more than is set down for them.' Cf., WHEEZE. Fr., la cocotte (specifically additions to vocal scores). A typical example is the 'I believe you, my boy!' of the late Paul Bedford. In the quot. under 1851-61, it is probable that GAG = PATTER (q.v.)

1841. Punch, i., p. 105. I shall do the liberal in the way of terms, and get up the GAG properly.


1866. W. D. Howells, Venetian Life, ch. v. . . . I have heard some very passable GAGS at the Marionette, but the real commedia a braccio no longer exists.

1889. Globe, 12 Oct., p. 4, c. 4. In a high-class music hall it is a rule that no song must be sung till it is read and signed by the manager, and this applies even to the GAG.

1890. Pall Mall Gazette, 5 Mar., p. 4, c. 3. Mr. Augustus Harris pointed out that if the clause were carried the penalty would, in many cases, be incurred twenty times in one scene, for actors and singers were continually introducing GAG into their business.

Gag.

3. (American).—A commonwealth of players in which the profits are shared round. Cf., CONSCIENCE.

1817. Darley, Drama in POKERVILLE, p. 124. The artist . . . merely remarking that he had thought of a GAG which would bring them through, mounted a ladder, and disappeared.

4. (American).—A fool; i.e., a thing to laugh at. For synonyms, see CABBAGE- and BUFFLE-HEAD and SAMNY SOFT.

1838-40. Haliburton, The Clockmaker, p. 46. 'Sam,' says he, 'they tell me you broke down the other day in the House of Representatives and made a proper GAG of yourself.'
5. (Christ's Hospital).—Boiled fat beef. GAG-EATER = a term of reproach.

1813. Lamb, Christ's Hospital, in wks., p. 324 (ed. 1852). L. has recorded the repugnance of the school to GAGS, or the fat of fresh beef boiled; and sets it down to some superstition. ... A GAG-EATER in our time was equivalent to a ghoul ... and held in equal estimation.

6. (Winchester College).—An exercise (said to have been invented by Dr. Gabell) which consists in writing Latin criticisms on some celebrated piece, in a book sent in about once a month. In the Parts below Sixth Book and Senior Part, the GAGS consisted in historical analysis. [An abbreviation of 'gathering. ']

1870. Mansfield, School-life at Winchester College, p. 108. From time to time, also, they had to write ... an analysis of some historical work; these productions were called GATHERINGS (or GAGS).

Verb, trs. and intrs. (theatrical).

—1. To speak GAGS (q.v.), sense 2. Fr., cascadier.

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, III., 149. He has to GAG, that is, to make up words.

1852. Dickens, Bleak House, ch. xxxix. The same vocalist GAGS in the regular business like a man inspired.

1883. Referee, 15 April, p. 3, c. 1. Toole ... cannot repress a tendency to GAG and to introduce more than is set down for him by the author.

2. (old).—To hoax; to puff.

1781. G. Parker, View of Society, II., 154. Having discovered the weak side of him he means to GAG.

1823. Jon Bee, Dict. of the Turf, etc., s.v. A showman cries 'Walk in, ladies and gentlemen, they're all alive,' but the spectators soon perceive 'it's all stuff,' reproach Mr. Merryman, and he, in excuse, swears he said 'they were' and not 'are alive.' He thus GAGS the public.

1876. Hindley, Life and Adventures of a Cheap Jack, p. 325. Then they GAG the thing up, and send their bills out about the immense cost of scenery and dresses, and other expenses they are at, etc.

3. (thieves').—To inform; to ROUND ON (q.v.); also TO BLOW THE GAG. Cf., GAFF, GAB, etc. For synonyms, see PEACH.

1891. Morning Advertiser, 28 Mar. She ... besought them with (crocodile) tears not to GAG on them, in other words not to give information to the police.

ON THE HIGH GAG., adv. phr. (old).—On the whisper; telling secrets; cf., verb, sense 3.


1848. Duncombe, Sinks of London, etc., s.v.

ON THE LOW GAG, adv. phr. (old).—On the last rungs of beggary, ill-luck, or despair.


1848. Duncombe, The Sinks of London, etc., s.v.

TO STRIKE THE GAG, verb. phr. (old).—To cease from chaffing.

1839. Ainsworth, Jack Sheppard (ed. 1880), p. 43. 'A clever device,' replied Jonathan; 'but it won't serve your turn. Let us pass, sir. STRIKE THE GAG, Blueskin.'

GAGE (GAUGE or GAG), subs. (old).

—1. A quart pot (i.e., a measure). Also a drink or GO (q.v.).


1622. J. Fletcher, Beggar's Bush. I crown thy nab with a GAGE of benhouse.
Gagers. 100

1656. BRoome, Jovial Crew, Act ii., I bowse no lage, but a whole GAGE of this I bowse to you.

1690. B. E., New Dict. of the Cant. Crew. GAGE, c. A pot or pipe. Tip me a GAGE, c. give me a pot, or pipe.


1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue. GAGE, a quart pot, also a pint (cant).

1821. HAGGART, Life, p. 40. We drank our GAUGE and parted good friends.

2. (18th century).—A chamber-pot.

3. (old).—A pipe.

1690. B. E., New Dict. of the Cant. Crew (See quot. 1690 under sense 1).

1796. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue (3rd Ed.), s.v.

1834. H. AINSWORTH, Rookwood, Bk. III., ch. v. In the mean time, tip me a GAGE of fogus, Jerry.

4. (American).—A man. For synonyms, see COVE.

1859. MATSELL, Vocabulum or Rogue's Lexicon. Deck the GAGE, see the man.

GAGGERS, subs. (American).—The eyes. For synonyms, see GLIMS.

1859. MATSELL, Vocabulum, s.v.

GAGGA, subs. (old).—See quot.

1796. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue (3rd Ed.). Cheats who by sham pretences and wonderful stories of their sufferings impose on the credulity of good people.

GAGGER, subs. (theatrical).—A player who deals in GAGS (q.v.), sense 2. Also GAGGIST, GAGMASTER, and GAGSTER.


1887. BURNAND and A'BECKETT in Fortn. Review, April, p. 548. Robson ... was an inveterate GAGGER.

1890. Globe, 3 March, p. 1, c. 4. The low comedy was much toned down ... In other words, the GAGGERS were gagged.

GAGGERY, subs. (theatrical).—The practice of GAGGING (q.v.), sense 3.

GAGGING, subs. (old).—I. BLUFF (q.v.); specifically, BUNCO-STEERING (q.v.), the art of talking over and persuading a stranger that he is an old acquaintance. Cf., GAG, verb, sense 2.

1828. G. SMEATON, Doings in London, p. 28. One of the modes of raising money, well known in town by the flash name of GAGGING, has been practised of late to a considerable extent on simple countrymen, who are strangers to the 'ways of town.'

2. (cabmen's).—Loitering about for 'fares'; 'crawling.'

1851-61. H. MAYHEW, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, Vol. III., p. 356. The means used are GAGGING, that is to say, driving about and loitering in the thoroughfares for jobs.

3. (theatrical).—Dealing in GAGS (q.v.), sense 1. Also as ppl. adj.

1883. The Echo, 5 Jan., p. 2, c. 3. A protest, by no means unneeded, against the insolence or ignorance of some playwrights, and GAGGING actors.

1889. Answers, 27 July, p. 143, c. 2. GAGGING is a thing about which the public know little.

GAGGLER'S COACH, subs. phr. (old).—A hurdle.

1823. KENT, Modern Flash Dict., s.v.

1848. DUNCOMBE, Sinks of London s.v.

GAIL, subs. (old).—A horse. For synonyms, see PRAD.
GAILY- LIKE, adj. (American). — Showy; expensive: BANG- UP (q.v.).

1872. Clemens (Mark Twain), Undertaker's Chat. Now, you know how difficult it is to roust out such a GAILY-LIKE thing as that in a little one-horse town like this.

GAIN-PAIN, subs. (old). —A sword; specifically, in the Middle Ages, that of a hired soldier. [From Fr., gagner = to gain + pain = bread. Cf., BREADWINNER (prostitutes') and POTBOILER (artists').] For synonyms, see CHEESE-TOASTER and POKER.

GAIT, subs. (colloquial).—Walk in life; profession; mode of making a living; GAME (q.v.).

1859. MASELL, Vocabulum. ‘I say, Tim, what's your GAIT now?’ ‘Why, you see, I'm on the crack' (burglary).

GAITERS, subs. (American colloquial).—Half boots; shoes.

GAL, subs. (common).—1. A girl; a servant-maid; a sweetheart. BEST GIRL = favourite flame.
2. (common). — A prostitute. For synonyms, see BARRACK-HACK and TART.

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, Vol. III., p. 535. Upon the most trivial offence in this respect, or on the suspicion of an offence, the GALS are sure to be beaten cruelly and savagely by their 'chaps.'


GALANEY. See GALENY.

GALANTY (GALLANTY or GALANTEE) SHOW, subs. phr. (common). — A shadow pantomime: silhouettes shown on a transparency or thrown on a white sheet by a magic lantern. Specifically, the former. See PUNCH AND JUDY.

1851-61. H. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, Vol. III., p. 81. The GALANTEE show don't answer, because magic lanterns are so cheap in the shops.

1884. Cassell's Technical Educator, pt. 10, p. 244. That reminiscence of the nursery, the GALANTY SHOW.

1888. Notes and Queries, 7 S. v., p. 265. A flourish on the panpipes and a rumble on the drum was followed by the cry, GALANTY-SHOW!

GAL-BOY, subs. (American). — A romp; a TOM-BOY (q.v.).

GALENA, subs. (American).—Salt pork. [From Galen, Ill., a chief hog-raising and pork-packing centre].

GALLEY, subs. (old). — The domestic hen; now (West of England) a Guinea fowl. [Latin, gallina]. For synonyms, see CACKLING-CHEAT.

1887. Temple Bar, Mar., p. 333. It's a sin to think of the money you'd be spending on girls and things as don't know a hen's egg from a GALENY'S.

GALIMAUFREY, subs. (old). — I. A medley; a jumble; a chaos of differences. [Fr., galimaufrie = a hash].

1592. Nashe, Pierce Pennesse, in wks., ii., 93. Coblers, Tinkers, Fencers, none escap't them, but they mingled them all on one GALLIMAUFREY of glory.


1604. Shakspeare, Winter's Tale, Act iv., Sc. 4. And they have a dance which the wenches say is a GALLIMAUFREY of gambols, because they are not in't.

1781. G. PARKER, View of Society, i., 207. A compound of Player, Soldier, Stroller, Sailor, and Tinker! An odd GALLIMAUFY!

1860. HALIBURTON (Sam Slick), The Season Ticket, No. 7. This portion of my journa’, which includes a variety of topics and anecdotes, some substantial like solid meat, some savoury as spicy vegetable ingredients, and some fragments to swell the bulk, which, though not valuable as materials, help to compound the GALLIMAUFY.

2. (old).—A hodge-podge of scraps and leavings.


3. A mistress.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, Merry Wives, ii., 1. He loves thy GALLYMAWFY; Ford, perpend.

4. (venery).—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

GALL, subs. (common).—Effrontery; CHEEK (q.v.); BRASS (q.v.); e.g., ‘Ain’t he got a GALL on him?’

1789. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue (3rd Ed.), s.v. His GALL is not yet broken, a saying used in prisons of a man just brought in who appears melancholy and dejected. [i.e., ‘He is not yet embittered enough to care for nothing, and meet everything with a front of brass.’]

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v.

a 1891. New York Sun (quoted in Slang, Jargon, and Cant, s.v.). ‘What do you think he had the GALL to do to-day?’ Brown: ‘He has the GALL to do anything.’ Dumley: ‘He asked me to drink with him; but he'll never repeat the impudence.’

GALLANT, subs. (old).—A DANDY (q.v.); a ladies’ man; a lover; a cuckold-maker, whether in posse or in esse (Shakspeare).

1596. SHAKSPEARE, Merry Wives, ii. One that is well-nigh worn to pieces with age to show himself a young GALLANT!

GALLANT, subs. (old).—A DANDY (q.v.); a ladies’ man; a lover; a cuckold-maker, whether in posse or in esse (Shakspeare).

1598. SHAKSPEARE, 1 Henry IV., ii., 4. GALLANTS, lads, boys, hearts of gold, all the titles of good fellowship come to you.

1663. DRYDEN, The Wild Gallant [Title.]

1690. B.E., A New Dict. GALLANT a very fine man; also a Man of Metal, or a brave Fellow; also one that Courts, or keeps, or is Kept by, a Mistress.

1719. DURFEY, Pills, etc., i., 110 There’s never a GALLANT but sat at her hand.

1751-4. JORTIN, Eccles. Hist. (quoted in Encyclopaedic Dict.). As to Theodora, they who had been her GALLANTS when she was an actress, related that demons, or nocturnal spirits, had often driven them away to lie with her themselves.

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1789. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue (3rd Ed.), s.v. His GALL is not yet broken, a saying used in prisons of a man just brought in who appears melancholy and dejected. [i.e., ‘He is not yet embittered enough to care for nothing, and meet everything with a front of brass.’]

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v.

a 1891. New York Sun (quoted in Slang, Jargon, and Cant, s.v.). ‘What do you think he had the GALL to do to-day?’ Brown: ‘He has the GALL to do anything.’ Dumley: ‘He asked me to drink with him; but he’ll never repeat the impudence.’

GALLANT, subs. (old).—A DANDY (q.v.); a ladies’ man; a lover; a cuckold-maker, whether in posse or in esse (Shakspeare).

1598. SHAKSPEARE, 1 Henry IV., ii., 4. GALLANTS, lads, boys, hearts of gold, all the titles of good fellowship come to you.

1663. DRYDEN, The Wild Gallant [Title.]

1690. B.E., A New Dict. GALLANT a very fine man; also a Man of Metal, or a brave Fellow; also one that Courts, or keeps, or is Kept by, a Mistress.

1719. DURFEY, Pills, etc., i., 110. O London is a fine town, and a GALLANT city.

Verb. (old).—To sweetheart; to squire; to escort; to pursue or to enjoy.

To GALLANT A FAN, verb. phr. (old).—To break with design, to afford an opportunity of presenting a better. — B.E. (1690).

GALLANT FIFTIETH, subs. phr. (military).—The Fiftieth Foot. [For its share in Vimiera, 1808.] Also, BLIND HALF HUNDRED (q.v.); and DIRTY HALF HUNDRED (q.v.).

GALLANTRY, subs. (1). SPARKISHNESS (q.v.); dandyism; (2) the habit, or pursuit, of the sexual favour. A LIFE OF GALLANTRY = a life devoted to the other sex.
GALLERY, subs. (Winchester College).—A commoner bedroom. [From a tradition of GALLERIES in Commoners.] See GALLERY-NYMPHS.

To play to the Gallery, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To act so as to win the applause of the vulgar: i.e., to abandon distinction and art for coarseness of means and cheapness of effect. Said indifferently of anyone in any profession who exerts himself to win the suffrages of the mob; as a political demagogue, a 'popular' preacher, a 'fashionable' painter, and so on.

1872. Standard, 23 Oct. 'New York Correspondence.' His dispatches were, indeed, too long and too swelling in phrase; for herein he was always PLAYING TO THE GALLERIES.

Hence, GALLERY-HIT, SHOT, STROKE, etc. = a touch designed for, and exclusively addressed to, the non-critical.

To play the Gallery, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To make an audience; to applaud.

1870. Echo, 23 July, p. 5, c. 4. He seemed altogether a jovial, amusing sort of fellow, and as we were close by him, and constantly called in to PLAY THE GALLERY to his witty remarks, we asked him, when his friends left him, to join our party.

GALLERY NYMPH, subs. phr. (Winchester College).—A housemaid. See GALLERY.

GALLEY—Put a brass GALLEY down your back, verb. phr. (printers').—An admonition to appear before a principal; implying that the galley will serve as a screen.

GALLEY-FOIST, subs. (old).—The state barge, used by the Lord Mayor when he was sworn in at Westminster.

1609. Ben Jonson, Silent Woman, iv. 2. Out of my doores, you sons of noise and tumult, begot on an ill May day, or when the GALLEY-FOIST is aloate to Westminster.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v.

GALLEY-GROWLER or -STOKER, subs. (nautical).—A loafer; a MALINGERER (q.v.); a GRUMBLE-GUTS (q.v.).

GALLEY-HALFPENNY, subs. (old).—A base coin, tempus Henry IV. [So called because it was commonly imported in the Genoese galleys. See Leake, English Money, p. 129; Ruding, Annals of Coinage, i., 250; and Stow, Survey (ed. 1842) p. 50.]

GALLEY-SLAVE, subs. (printers').—A compositor. [From the oblong tray whereon the matter from the composing stick is arranged in column or page.] For synonyms, see DONKEY.

1683. Moxon, s.v.

GALLEYWEST, adj. or adv. (American).—An indefinite superlative. Cf., ABOUT-EAST.

1884. Clemens, (M. Twain) Huck Finn, xxxvii., 382. Then she grabbed up the basket and slammed it across the house, and knocked the cat GALLEYWEST.

1857. Francis, Saddle and Moccasin (quoted in Slang, Jargon, and Cant). I'll be darned if this establishment of yours, Hunse, don't knock any one of them GALLEY WEST!—GALLEYWEST, sir, that's what it does.

GALLEY-YARN (or NEWS), subs. phr. (nautical).—A lying story; a swindle or TAKE-IN (q.v.). Frequently abbreviated to 'G.Y.'

1884. Henley and Stevenson, Admiral Guinea, iii., 4. What? lantern and cutlass yours? you the one that knew the house; you the one that saw; you the one overtaken and denounced; and you spin me a GALLEY-YARN like that.
GALLIED, ppl. adj. (old). — ‘Harried; vexed; over-fatigued; perhaps like a galley-slave’ (Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.). In Australia, frightened.

GALLINIPPER, subs. (West Indian). — A large mosquito.

1847. Porter, Big Bear, etc., p. 119. In the summer time the lakes and snakes . . . musketoes and GALLINIPPERS, buffalo gnats and sandflies . . . prevented the Injins from gwine through the country.

1888. Lippincott’s Magazine. I thought the GALLINIPPERS would fly away with me before the seed ticks had sucked all my blood.

GALLIPOT, subs. (common). — An apothecary.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v

1836. M. Scott, Cringle’s Log, ch. xiv. In truth, sir, I thought our surgeon would be of more use than any outlandish GALLIPOT that you could carry back.

1848. Thackeray, Book of Snobs, ch. xxvii. ‘Half a-dozen little GALLIPOTS,’ interposed Miss Wirt.

ENGLISH SYNONYMS.—Bolus; bum-tender; clyster-giver; clyster-pipe; croaker; crocus; drugs; Ollapod (from a creation of the Younger Coleman’s); gage-monger; Galen (from the great physician); jakes-provider; pill-box; pill-merchant; pills; squirt; salts-and-senna; squire of the pot.

FRENCH SYNONYMS.—Un mirancu (obsolete: a play on mire en cul, respecting which cf., Béralde, in Molière, Malade Imaginaire: ‘On voit bien que vous n’avez pas accoutumé de parler à des visages’); un limonadier de postérieurs (popular: cf., ‘bum-tender’; un flûtencul (common); un insinuant (popular: one who ‘insinuates’ the clyster-pipe).

GERMAN SYNONYMS.—Rokeach, Raukeach, or Raukack (from the Hebrew).

GALLivant, verb. (colloquial). — I. To gad about with, or after, one of the other sex; to play the gallant; to ‘do the agreeable.’

1838. Dickens, Nicholas Nickleby, ch. lxiv. You were out all day yesterday, and GALLIVANTING somewhere, I know.

1862. H. Brecher Stowe, in The Independent, 27 Feb. What business had he to flirt and GALLIVANT all summer with Sally Kittridge?

1888. Hawley Smart, Struck Down, xi. The ramparts is a great place for GALLIVANTING.

1863. H. Kingsley, Austin Elliot, i., 112. It’s them gals, Mr. Austin. Come in afore she sees you, else she’ll not be at home. She is GALLIVANTING in the paddock with Captain Hertford.

2. (colloquial).—To TRAPES (q.v.); to fuss; to bustle about.

1859. Boston Post, 10 Dec. Senator Seward is GALLIVANTING gaily about Europe. Now at Compiègne, saying soft things to the Empress and studying despotism, now treading the battle-field of Waterloo, then back at Paris, and so on.

1871. C. D. Warner, My Summer in a Garden. More than half the Lima beans, though on the most attractive sort of poles, which budded like Aaron’s rod, went GALLIVANTING off to the neighboring grape trellis.

1848. Ruxton, Far West, p. 145. The three remaining brothers were absent from the Mission . . . Fray Jose, GALLIVANTING at Pueblo de los Angeles.

1863. Norton, Lost and Saved, p. 255. A pretty story, if, when her services were most wanted by the person who paid for them, she was to be gadding and GALLIVANTING after friends of her own.

1885. M. E. Braddon, Henry Dunbar, ch. x. A pretty thing it would have been if your pa had come all the way from India to find his only daughter GALLIVANTING at a theaytre.

1870. London Figaro, 6 Dec. You’re never content but when you’re GALAVANTING about somewhere or other.
GALLIVATE, verb (American).—To frisk; to ‘figure about’; cf., GALLIVANT.

GALLON. WHAT’S A GALLON OF RUM AMONG ONE? phr. (American).—The retort sarcastic; applied, e.g., to those with ‘eyes too big for their stomach’; to disproportionate ideas of the fitness of things, and so forth.

GALLON DISTEMPER, subs. phr. (common).—I. Delirium tremens; (2.) the lighter after-effects of drinking.

ENGLISH SYNONYMS.—(1) For the former, barrel-fever; black-dog; blue-devils; blue Johnnies (Australian); B. J’s. (idem.); blues; bottle-ache; D. T.; horrors; jim-jams; jumps; pink-spiders; quart-mania; rams; rats; shakes; snakes in the boots; trembles; triangles; uglies.

2. For the latter: a head; hot-coppers; a mouth; a touch of the brewer; a sore head (Scots).

FRENCH SYNONYMS.—Avoir mal aux cheveux (familiar=the hair-ache); les papillons noirs (Cf., pink spiders; also = hypochondria); avoir fumé dans une pipe neuve (=sick of a new clay).

GALLOPER, subs. (old).—I. A blood horse; a hunter.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v. The toby gill clapped his bleeders to his GALLOPER and tipped the straps the double.

2. (military).—An aide-de-camp.

GALLOW-GRASS, subs. phr. (old).—Hemp. [i.e., halters in the rough.]

1578. Lyte, Trans. of Dodoens History of Plantes, fol. 72. Hemp is called in . . . English, Neckweede, and GALLOWGRASS.

GALLOWS, subs. (old).—I. A rascal; a wretch deserving the rope.

1594. SHAKESPEARE, Love’s Labours Lost, v, 2. A shrewd unhappy GALLOWS too.


1837. Dickens, Oliver Twist. (To Oliver). Now, young GALLOWS.

1838. Jas. Grant, Sketches in London, ch. ii., p. 58. Blow me tight, young GALLOWS, if I don’t pound your ribs to powder!

2. (common: generally in. pl. = GALLOWSES).—A pair of braces.

1835. HALIBURTON, Clockmaker, r S., ch. xv. Chock-full of spring, like the wire end of a bran new pair of trouser GALLOWSES.

1848. Durivage, Stray Subjects, p 168. If I wouldn’t spile his picter bust my boots and GALLOWSES.

1851-61. H. MAVENE, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, vol. I., p. 431. The braces, which in some parts of the country are called 'GALLOWSES.'

c. 1852. Traits of American Humor, p. 58. Hole on, dod drot you, wait till I unbutton my GALLOWSES.

1864. JAMES, etc, Italian-English Dict. GALLOWSES, batilla.

1883. G. A. S[ALA], in Ill. Lond. News, Sept. 22, p. 275, c. i. Braces (which, when I was young, used, in the north of England, to be known by the expressive name of GALLOWSES.)

Adv. (old).—Excessively; same as BLOODY, BLEEDING, (q.v.), etc. (As adj.) great; uncommon; real.

c. 1551. L. SHEPHERD. John Bon in Arber’s Garner, Vol. IV., p. 109. Ye, are much bound to God for such a spittle holiness. A GALLOWS gift!

1789. PARKER, Life’s Painter, p. 120. Some they pattered flash with GALLOWS fun and joking.

1827. EGAN, Anecdotes of the Turf, etc., p. 44. Then your blowen will wax GALLOWS haughty! [Also quoted in notes to Don Juan.]
1830. LYTTON, Paul Clifford, p. 293. (ed. 1854). Ah, Dame Lobkin, if so be as our little Paul vas a vith you, it would be a GALLOWS comfort to you in your latter hend!

1851-61. MAYHEW, London Lab. and Lond. Poor, III., go. I'll be smothered if I'm going to look down that GALLOWS long chimney.

1861. H. KINGSLEY, Ravenshoe, ch. xli. And the piece come in, and got GALLUS well kicked about the head.

1869. GREENWOOD, Seven Curses of London, p. 244. Put it on your face so GALLUS thick that the devil himself won't see through it.

GALLOWS-BIRD (also NEWGATE-BIRD), subs. (common).—I. A son of the rope; an habitual criminal; a vagabond or scoundrel, old or young; a crack-rope or wag-halter (COTGRAVE; a gallows-clapper (FLORIO). Fr., gibier de Cayenne, or de potence.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. One that deserves hanging.

1822. SCOTT, Fortunes of Nigel, ch. xi. That very GALLOWS-BIRD were enough to corrupt a whole ante-chamber of pages.

2. (common).—A corpse on, or from, the gallows.

1861. READE, Cloister and Hearth, ch. xxviii. I ne'er minced (dissected) ape nor GALLOWS-BIRD.

GALLOWS-FACED, adj. (old).—Evil-looking; hang-dog. Also GALLUS-LOOKING.

1766. H. BROOKE, Fool of Quality, ii. 16. Art thou there, thou rogue, thou hang-dog, thou GALLOWS-FACED vagabond?

1768. GOLDSMITH, Good-natured Man, Act v. Hold him fast, he has the GALLOWS in his face.

1837. BARHAM, I. L. (Misadv. at Margate). A little GALLOWS-LOOKING chap—dear me! what could he mean?

GALLOWS-MINDED, adj. (colloquial).—Criminal in habit and idea; also, evil-hearted.

GALLOWSNESS, subs. (old).—Rascality; recklessness; mischievousness.

1859. G. ELIOT, Adam Bede, ch. vi. I never knew your equal for GALLOWSNESS.

GALLOWS-RIPE, adj. (old).—Ripe for the rope.

1837. CARLYLE, French Revolution, Pt. II., bk. v., ch. iii. Loose again, as one not yet GALLOWS-RIPE.

GALLUS.—See GALLOWS.

GALLY-FOIST—See GALLEY-FOIST.

GALLYSLOPES, subs. (Old Cant).—Breeches. For synonyms, see KICKS.

GALOOT (also GALLOOT and GEELOOT), subs. (general).—A man (sometimes in contempt); also (in America) a worthless fellow (or thing, see quot. 1888); a rowdy; a CAD (q.v.).

1835. MARRYAT, Jacob Faithful, ch. xxxiv. Four greater GALLOOTS were never picked up, but never mind that.

1869. S. L. CLEMENS (Mark Twain) Innocents at Home, p. 22. He could lam any GALOOT of his inches in America.

1871. JOHN HAY, Jim Bludso. I'll hold her nozzle agin the bank Till the last GALOOT's ashore.


1888. New York Tribune, May 16. It is better to have a Carrot for a President than a dead beat for a son-in-law. In this way we again score a live beat on the GALOOT.

1892. R. L. STEVENSON and L. OSBOURNE, The Wrecker, p. 137. 'My dear boy, I may be a GALOOT about literature, but you'll always be an outsider in business.

ON THE GAY GALOOT, adv. phr. (common).—On the spree.

1892. MILLIKEN, 'Arry Ballads, p. 3. I'm off on the GAY GALOOT somewheres.
Galoptious, 107  Gambler.

**Galoptious or Galuptious, adj.** (popular).—Delightful; a general superlative.

1887. *Judy, 21 Sept.*, p. 140. Four young ladies represented the Galophhus sum of 20,000,000 dollars.

**Galore** (also Gallore and go-lore), *adv.* (old; now recognised).—In abundance; plenty. [Irish and Gaelic *go leor* = in plenty.]


1856. C. Reade, *Never Too Late*, ch. lx. He found rogues galore, and envious spirits that wished the friends ill.

1891. *Licensed Vic. Mirror, 30 Jan.*, p. 1, c. 1. Of chit-chat this week we have galore, and the difficulty is how to sift the wheat from the chaff.

**Galumph**, *verb.* (American).—To bump along (Onomatopoeia).

1888. *New York World, 13 May.* The young man tackled the driver of a green bobtail car that galumphed through Lewis Street at a high rate of speed.

**Galvanised Yankee, subs. *phr.* (American Civil War).—A Greyback (*q.v.*) who took the oath to the North and served in its armies.

**Gam, subs.** (thieves').—1. Pluck; gameness.

1888. *Cassell's Saturday Journal, 8 Dec.*, p. 260. I'm not so sure about his lack of cunnin', speed, or gam.

2. (American thieves')—Stealing (*Matsell, 1859*).

*Verb.* (American thieves').—1. To steal.

2. (American).—To engage in social intercourse; to make a call; to have a chat. *See Gamming*.

**Gamaliel, subs.** (colloquial).—A pedant; a person curious of the letter and the form: *e.g.*, 'these Gamaliels of the theory' = these ultra-puritans, to whom the spirit is nothing.

**Gamaruche, subs.** (venery).—See Cunnilingist and Cockteaser. *Verb* (venery).—To irrumate; to Bag-pipe (*q.v.*). Also to Cunniling* (q.v.).* Fr., gamahucher.

**Gamb** (or *GAM*), subs. (old).—A leg. In use also in this sense as an heraldic term. [It., *gambe*; Fr., *jambe*; probably through Lingua Franca.] For synonyms, *see Drumsticks and Pins.*

1789. Geo. Parker, *Life's Painter*, p. 143. If a man has bow legs, he has queer gams, gams being cant for legs.


1887. *Henley, Villon's Good Night.* At you I merely lift my gam.

([To flutter a gam = to dance; to lift a gam = to break wind; to gam it = to walk; to run away; to leg it (*q.v.*)].

**Gamble, subs.** (colloquial).—A venture; a flutter (*q.v.*).

1892. R. L. Stevenson and L. Osbourne, *The Wrecker*, p. 250. And you know the Flying Scud was the biggest gamble of the crowd.

**Gambler, subs.** (old, now recognised). *See quotas.*


1855. *Grose, Vulg. Tongue.* Gambler, a sharper; a tricking gainer.

1818. Johnson, *Eng. Dict. (11th ed.*). Gambler, a cant word, I suppose. A knave whose practice it is to invite the unwary to game and cheat them.
1890. Cassell's Enc. Dict. Gambler, one given to playing for a stake.

**Gambol.** sub. (booking clerks').
A railway ticket.


**GAM-CASES.** sub. (old). Stockings (Parker, Life's Painter).

[From GAM=leg + CASE.]

**Game.** sub. (old). - I. The proceeds of a robbery; SWAG (q.v.).


1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, i., 263. Whether the GAME got stale, or Peter became honest, is beyond the purport of my communication to settle.


1859. Matsell, Vocabulum or Rogue's Lexicon, s. v. The particular line of rascality the rogue is engaged in; thieving; cheating.

1860. Chambers' Journal, Vol. 13, p. 281. I asked him if he meant by a trading voyage, the GAME.

5. (colloquial).—A source of amusement; a LARK (q.v.): a BARNEY (q.v.); as, e.g., It was such a GAME!

6. (colloquial).—A design; trick; object; line of conduct: e.g., What's your little GAME? What are you after? Also, None of your little GAMES!= None of your tricks! See HIGH OLD GAME.

1854. Whyte Melville, General Bounce, ch. ix. Honesty, indeed! if honesty's the GAME, you've a right to your share, what Mrs. Kettering intended you should have.

1857. Ducange Anglicus, The Vulg. Tongue, p. 9. Game n. Intention. 'What's your game?' or, 'What are you up to?' (very generally used).

1870. Standard, 27 Sept. If we accept the meaner GAME which the Times indicates for us, it can only be by deliberate choice.

1879. Justin McCarthy, Donna Quixote, ch. xiii. Come, what's your little GAME?

1889. Standard, 1 May, p. 5, c. 1. The 'game of law and order' is not up, in Paris.

1890. Punch, 30 Aug., p. 97. Mug's game! They'll soon find as the Marsters ain't going to be worried and welched.

1891. J. Newman, Scampering Tricks, p. 46. She knew how to work the game of fascination right.

1892. R. L. Stevenson and L. Osbourne, The Wrecker, p. 349. 'It was the thing in your times, that's right enough; but you're old now, and the game's up.'

Adj. (old).—1. Plucky; enduring; full of spirit and bottom (q.v.). [Cock-pit and pugilists'. The word may be said to have passed into the language with the rise to renown of Harry Pearce, surnamed the Game Chicken.]

1747. Capt. Godfrey, Science of Defence, p. 64. Smallwood (a boxer) is thorough game, with judgment equal to any, and superior to most.

1819. Moore, Tom Crib's Memorial, p. 57. Pitying raised from earth the old man.

1825. Scott, St. Ronan's Well, ch. i. Catching hold of the devil's game leg with his episcopal crook.

1851. G. Borrow, Lavengro, ch. lxvii., p. 204 (1888). Mr. Platitude, having what is vulgarly called a game leg, came shambling into the room.

1875. Jas. Payn, Walter's Word, ch. i. Well, you see, old fellow, with a game-arm (his left arm is in a sling), and a game-leg (he has limped across the platform with the aid of his friend, and also of a crutch), one feels a little helpless.

4. (thieves').—Knowing; wide-awake; and (of women) flash (q.v.) or inclined to venery. E.g., game-cove = an associate of thieves; game-woman = a prostitute; i.e., a woman who is game (sense 2); game-pullet (grose) = a girl that will show sport, a female game-cock; game-ship (old) = a ship whose commander and officers could be corrupted by bribes to allow the cargo to be stolen (Clark Russell).
1676. Etheredge, Man of Mode, ii. Go on, be the Game mistress of the town and entice all our young fops as fast as they come from travel.

Cock of the Game, subs. phr. (old). — A champion; an undoubted blood; a star of magnitude (cock-pit).

1719. Dursey, Pills, iii., 329. Now all you tame gallants, you that have the name, And would accounted be cocks of the Game.

1822. Scott, Nigel, xiv. I have seen a dung-hill chicken that you meant to have picked clean enough; it will be long ere his lordship ruffles a feather with a cock of the Game.

To make game of, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To turn into ridicule; to delude; to humbug.

1671. Milton, Samson, 1331. Do they not seek occasion of new quarrels, On my refusal, to distress me more; Or make a game of my calamities?

1690. B. E., New Dictionary. What you game me? c. do you jeer me, or pretend to expose me to a May-game of me?

1745. Hist. of Coldstream Guards, 25 Oct. If the militia are reviewed tomorrow by his Majesty, the soldiers of the third regiment of Guards are to behave civilly and not to laugh or to make any game of them.

To die game, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To maintain a resolute attitude to the last; to show no contrition.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue. To die game, to suffer at the gallows without showing any signs of fear or repentance.

1815. Scott, Guy Mannering, ch. liv. The ruffian lay perfectly still and silent. 'He's gaun to die game ony how,' said Dinmont.

1836. Dickens, Pickwick (ed. 1857), p. 303. I say that the coachman did not run away; but that he died game—game as pheasants; and I won't hear nothin' said to the contrary.

1869. Spencer, Study of Sociology, ch. vii., p. 183 (9th ed.). Nor should we forget the game-cock, supplying, as it does, a word of eulogy to the mob of roughs who witness the hanging of a murderer, and who half condone his crime if he dies game.

1871. Times, 30 Jan. Critique on London, etc. The principal was acquitted, and though his accomplices were hung in Pall Mall at the scene of their act, they died game.

To get against the game, verb. phr. (American).—To take a risk; to chance it. [From the game of poker.

To play the game, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To do a thing properly; to do what is right and proper.

1889. Geoffrey Drage, Cyril, ch. vii. I really think he is...not playing the game.

The first game ever played, subs. phr. (venery).—Copulation. For synonyms, see Greens and Ride.

Gamecock, adj. (old).—Hectoring; angry; valiant out of place.

1838. Lever, Handy Andy. Smoke and fire is my desire, So blaze away my Gamecock squire.

Gameness, subs. (colloquial).—Pluck; endurance; the mixture of spirit and bottom.

1861. Hughes, Tom Brown at Oxford, ch. xxiv. There was no doubt about his gameness.

1884. Referee, 23 March, p. 1, c. 4. Carter fought with great gameness, but he never had a look in.

Gamester, subs. (old).—i. A prostitute. For synonyms, see Barrack-Hack and Tart.

1598. Shakspeare, All's Well, v. 3. She's impudent, my lord, and was a common gamester to the camp.

1614. Jonson, Bartholomew Fair, ii. 1. Ay, ay, gamesters, mocke a plain soft wench of the suburbs. do.
**Gamey.**

1820. Percy, Folio MSS., p. 404. Be not att first to nice nor coye when gamsters you are courtinge.

2. (old).—A ruffler; a gallant; a wencher; a man fit and ready for anything; also a player.

1639-61. Rump, i., 253. 'A Medley.' Room for a gamester that flies at all he sees.

1676. Etheredge, Man of Mode, v., 1. Live it also like a frank gamester, on the square.

**GAMING-HOUSE,** subs. (old).—A house of ill-repute—hell, tavern, or stews.

1611. Cotgrave, Dictionarie, Berlan, a common tippling house, a house of gaming, or of any other disorder.

**GAMER,** subs. (old).—An old wife; a familiar address; the correlative of gaffer (q.v.).

1581. Gammer Gurton's Needle Title.

1706. Hudibras Redivivus, Part VI. And monkey faces, yawns, and stammers, Delude the pious dames and gammers To think their mumbling guides preceation So full of heavenly inspiration.


**Gamming,** subs. (nautical).—A whaleman's term for the visits paid by crews to each other at sea.

1884. G. A. Sala, in Illus. Lon. News, July 19, p. 51, c. 2. When two or more American whalers meet in mid-ocean, and there are no whales in sight, it is customary to tack topsails and exchange visits. This social intercourse the whalemen call gamming; I cannot help fancying that 'gam' is in greater probability an abbreviation of the Danish 'gammen,' sport, or that it has something to do with the nautical 'gammoning,' the lasting by which the bowsprit is bound firmly down to the cutwater.

1890. Century, Aug. To gam means to gossip. The word occurs again and again in the log-books of the old whalers.

**Gammon,** subs. (colloquial).—I. Nonsense; humbug; deceit. Sometimes gammon and spinach. No gammon = no error, no lies.

[Skeat says from Mid. Eng. Gamen = a game; but R. Sherwood (Eng. Dict., 1660), gives 'a beggar or seller of gammons of bacon; and in Cotgrave (1611), jambonnier = a beggar, also a seller of bacon, or gammons of bacon.]

c. 1363. Chester Plays. i. 102. This gammon shall begin.

1781. G. Parker, View of Society, I. 208. I thought myself pretty much a master of gammon, but the Billingsgate eloquence of Mrs. F. . . . exceeded me.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v. Gamon. What rum gamon the old file pitched to the flat.

1823. Mod. Flash Dict. Gammon—Falsehood and bombast.


1834. Dickens, Pickwick, ch. xxvii. Lord bless their little hearts, they think's all right, and don't know no better, but they're the victims o' gammon, Samivel, they're the victims o' gammon.
Gammon.

1837. Barham, I. L. Blasphemer's Warning. When each tries to humbug his dear Royal Brother, in Hopes by such GAMMON to take one another in.

1839. Comic Almanack, Jan. But if you wish to save your bacon, Give us less GAMMON.

1849. Dickens, David Copperfield, ch. xxii., p. 190. 'Oh, my goodness, how polite we are!' exclaimed Miss Mowcher. . . . 'What a world of GAMMON and SPINNAGE it is!'

1890. Hume Nisbet, Bail up! p. 92. I'm real grit and no GAMMON.

2. (thieves').—A confederate whose duty is to engage the attention of a victim during robbery; a BONNET (q.v.) or COVER (q.v.).

Verb (colloquial).—I. To humbug: to deceive; to take in with fibs; to KID (q.v.).

1700. Step to the Bath, quoted in Ashton's Soc. Life in Reign of Queen Anne, v. ii., p. iii. We went to the Groom Porter's . . . . there was Palming, Hodging, Loaded Dice, Levant, and GAMMONG, with all the Speed imaginable.

1823. Moncrieff, Tom and Jerry, ii., 6. Vile I can get fifteen bob a day by GAMMONING a maim, the devil may vork for me.

1825. Buckstone, The Bear Hunters, ii. There! that's just the way she GAMMONS me at home.

1836. M. Scott, Tom Cringle's Log, ch. ii. Why, my lad, we shall see tomorrow morning; but you GAMMONS so bad about the rhino that we must prove you a hit; so Kate, my dear,—to the pretty girl who had let me in.

1836. Dickens, Pickwick, ch. xiii. So then they pours him out a glass o' wine, and GAMMONS him about his driving, and gets him into a reg'lar good humour.

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends, 'Misadventures at Margate.' And 'cause he GAMMONS so the flats, ve calls him Veeping Bill!

1840. Hood, Tale of a Trumpet. Lord Bacon couldn't have GAMMONED her better.

1890. Hume Nisbet, Bail Up! p. 70. Oh, don't try to GAMMON me, you cunning young school-miss.

ENGLISH SYNONYMS.—To bam; to bamblustercate; to bamboozle; to bambosh; to Barney; to be on the job; to best; to bilk; to barney; to blow; to bosh; to bounce; to cob; to cod; to cog; to chaff; to come over (or the artful, or Paddy, or the old soldier over) one; to cram; to do; to do brown; to doctor; to do Taffy; to fake the kidment; to flare up; to flam; to flummox; to get at (round, or to windward of) one; to gild the pill; to give a cock's egg; to gravel; to gull; to haze: to jimmify; to jaw; to jockey; to jolly; to kid; to make believe the moon is made of green cheese (Cotgrave); to mogue; to palm off on; to pickle; to plant; to plum; to poke bogey (or fun) at; to promoss; to put the kibosh on; to put in the chair, cart, or basket; to pull the leg; to queer; to quiz; to roast; to roorback; to run a bluff, or the shenanigan; to sell; to send for pigeon's milk; to sit upon; to send for oil of strappum, etc.; to shave; to slum, or slumguzzle; to smoke; to snack; to soap, soft soap, sawder, or soft sawder; to spoof; to stick; to stall; to string, or get on a string; to stuff; to sawdust, or get on sawdust and treacle; to suck; to suck up; to sugar; to swap off; to take a rise out of; to rot; to tommy-rot; to take in, or down; to take to town; to take to the fair; to tip the traveller; to try it on; to throw dust in the eyes; to throw a tub to a whale; to pepper; to throw pepper in the eyes; to use the pepper box; to whiffle; to work the poppycock racket (Irish-American). [NOTE.—Many of the foregoing are used substantively, e.g., a bam, a Barney, a.
sell, bambosh = nonsense; deceit; a hoax, etc.

**French Synonyms.**—*Donner un pont à faucher* (also, thieves’ = to lay a trap); *dindonner* (popular: from *dindon* = a gull, a gobbler); *batre à la Parisienne* (thieves’: = to cheat; to come the cockney); *se ficher de la fiole, or de la bobine, de quelqu’un* (popular: = to get on with it, i.e., to try to fool); *envoyer chercher le parapluie de escouade* (military: *parapluie de escouade* = the squad’s umbrella: to send on a fool’s errand; cf., to send for pigeon’s milk, etc.); *faucher* (thieves’ = to best); *enfoncer* (familiar: to let in; also to surpass); *cabasser* (popular); *molder des couleurs, le Job,* or *tin schtosse* ( = to do up brown); *faire le coup,* or *monter* *un coup,* *a quelqu’un* (popular: = to take a rise); *bouffer la botte* (military: = to sell [q.v.] or *bilk,* as a woman refusing congress after receiving the *socket-money* [q.v.] in advance); *bouler* (popular: also to *whop* [q.v.]); *être l’autre* (popular: = to get left [q.v.]); *mettre dans le sac* (thieves’: = to bag, i.e., to trap); *coller* or *poser un lapin* (popular: = to make a harel of [q.v.]); also more generally, to *bilk* [q.v.]; *émblémer* (thieves’: = to stick); *faire voir le tour* (popular: = to show how it’s done; *connaitre le tour* = to know the game); *faire la queue à quelqu’un* (popular: = to pull one’s leg); *tirer la carotte* (thieves’); *canarder* (popular: = to bring down); *empaler* (popular: = to stick); *passer des curettes* (popular: = to befool); *monter une gaffe* (popular: *gaffe* = a joke, a hoax); *jobarder* (popular: *job* = simpleton, and is the same as *jobelin*); *mener en bateau un pante pour le refaire* (thieves’: = to take a man on); *monter un bateau* (popular); *promener quelqu’un* (popular: cf., to take to town); *compter des *moustoufles* (fam.: *moustoufle* = a scurry trick); *gourer* (popular: = to bosh); *affuer* (from *flour* = to cheat, to diddle); *rouster* (popular and thieves’); *afluter* (thieves’ = to run down, also to make unlawful profits); *bouler* (popular); *juiffer* (popular = to *jew*); *pigeonner* (popular to *pluck a pigeon* [q.v.]); *flancher* (popular = to *kid* [q.v.]); *faire la barbe* (popular = to *shave* [q.v.]); *monter* or *hisser un gandin* (thieves’ = literally to hoist a swell); *fourrer* or *mettre dedans* (popular = to take in and do for); *planter un chou* (fam.); *être marron* (popular); *interver dans les vannes* (= to let oneself be sucked-up); *monter un godan à quelqu’un* (popular); *griller quelqu’un* (popular = to cuckold); *passer en lunette* (popular); *goujonner* (i.e., to hook like a gudgeon); *fourguer* (thieves’ = also to *fence* [q.v.]); *pousser une blague* (popular = to cram); *paquelineur* (thieves’); *se baucher* (thieves’); *balancer* popular.

**German Synonyms.**—Zinkennen an Almoni peloni (= to send one after Cheeks the Marine [q.v.]. *Almoni* and *peloni* are used mockingly in combination and also singly for a non-existent person); *anbeulen* (= to fool); *jemanden arbeiten* (= to haze, to cram); *bekaspern,* or *bekaschpern,* or *beschwatsen* (= to fool: from Heb. *kosaw* = to cheat).

**Spanish Synonyms.**—*Disparar* (= also to talk nonsense; to
blunder); hacer á uno su dominguillo, or hacer su dominguillo de uno (colloquial: dominguillo = a figure made of straw and used at bull fights to enrage the bulls); freirselá á alguno (freir = to fry: to deceive: Cf., to ROAST, or have one ON TOAST); pegar una tostada á alguno ( = to put one on toast: more generally to play a practical joke); echar de baranda (= to EMBROIDER (q.v.)); bola (subs. = humbug; a hoax); borrufalla (subs. = bombast); chicolear (= to jest in gallantry); engatusar (= to rob, or hurt; also to trick without intention); can-donguear (also = to jeer); abrir á chasco (also to jeer); encantar ( = to enchant).

ITALIAN SYNONYMS. Canessarre; dar la stolta; traversare (cf., to COME OVER); scamuffare (= to disguise oneself).

2. (thieves').—To act as BONNET (q.v.) or COVER (q.v.) to a thief.

Intj. (colloquial).—Nonsense; SKITTLES! (q.v.).


1836. M. Scott, Tom Cringle's Log, ch. vii. GAMMON, tell that to the marines: you're a spy, messmate.

1854. Thackeray, The Rose and the Ring, p. 100. Ha! said the king, you dare to say GAMMON to your sovereign.

1861. A. Trollope, Framley Parsonage, ch. iv. GAMMON, said Mr. Gowerby; and as he said it he looked with a kind of derisive smile into the clergyman's face.

GAMMON AND PATTER. subs. phr. (thieves'). — 1. (old).—The language used by thieves; 2. (modern).—A meeting; a PALAVER. (q.v.). 3. Commonplace talk of any kind.

1789. Geo. Parker, Life's Painter, p. 150. GAMMON AND PATTERN is the language of cant, spoke among themselves: when one of them speaks well, another says he GAMMONS well.

1811. Lex. Bal. s.v. GAMMON AND PATTERN. Commonplace talk of any kind.

TO GIVE (or KEEP) IN GAMMON.

verb. phr. (thieves').—To engage a person's attention while a confederate is robbing him.

1719. Capt. Alex. Smith, Thieves' Grammar, s.v.

1821. Haggart, Life, p. 51. Bagrie called the woman of the house, KEPT HER IN GAMMON in the back room, while I returned and brought off the till. Ibid., p. 68. I whidded to the Doctor and he GAVE ME GAMMON.

TO GAMMON LUSHY (or QUEER, etc.). verb. phr. (thieves').—To feign drunkenness, sickness, etc.

TO GAMMON THE TWELVE. verb. phr. (thieves').—To deceive the jury.

1819. Vaux, Life. A man who has been tried by a criminal court and by a plausible defence has induced the jury to acquit him, or to banish the capital part of the charge and so to save his life, is said by his associates to have GAMMONED THE TWELVE in prime twig, alluding to the number of jurymen.

GAMMONER, subs. (old).—1. One who GAMMONS (q.v.); a nonsense-monger. Fr., bonisseur de loititudes; blagueur; mangeur de frimes.

1823. Moncrieff, Tom and Jerry i. Fly to the GAMMONERS, and awake to everything that's going on.

2. (thieves').—A confederate who covers the action of his chief; a BONNET, a COVER, a STALL, all which see.
Gammy.

1821. Haggart, *Life*, p. 66. The Doctor played the part of the Gammoner so well that I made my escape without being observed.

**Gammy, subs.** (tramps'). — I. Cant.

1755. Grosb, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. Do you stoll the Gammy? Do you understand cant?

2. (common). — A nickname for a lameter; a hopping Jesus; *(q.v.)*.


1892. Hume Nisbet, *Bushranger's Sweetheart*, p. 191. Well, of all the Gammies you are the gaminest, Slowboy, to go and string yourself to a woman, when you might have had the pick of Melbourne.

**Adj.** (tramps'). — 1. Bad; impossible. Applied to householders of whom it is known that nothing can be got. *See Beggars' Marks.* Gammy-vial = a town in which the police will not allow unlicensed hawking. *(VIAL = Fr., Ville.)*


1891-61. Mayhew, *Lond. Lab.*, i., 466. No villages that are in any way Gammy are ever mentioned in these papers. *Ibid.*, i., 404. These are left by one of the school at the houses of the gentry; a mark being placed on the door post of such as are bone or Gammy, in order to inform the rest of the school where to call, and what houses to avoid.

2. Forged; false; spurious: as a Gammy-Moneker = a forged signature; Gammy-Lour = counterfeit money, etc.


3. (theatrical). — Old; ugly.

4. (common). — Same as Game, sense 3: *e.g.*, a Gammy-arm = an arm in dock. Gammy-eyed = blind; sore-eyed; or afflicted with ecchymosis in the region of the eyes. Gammy-leg = a lame leg. Also (subs.) a term of derision for the halt and the maimed.

**Gamp, subs.** (common). — I. A monthly nurse; a Fingersmith *(q.v.)*. [After Mrs. Sarah Gamp, a character in *Martin Chuzzlewit* (1843).] Also applied to a fussy and gossiping busybody.

1864. Sun, 28 Dec. A regular Gamp... a fat old dowdy of a monthly nurse.

1868. Brewer, *Phr. and Fab.* (quoted from *Daily Telegraph*). Mr. Gathorne Hardy is to look after the Gamps and Harrises of the Strand.

2. (common). — An umbrella; specifically, one large and loosely-tied; a Lettuce *(q.v.)*. [The original Sarah always carried one of this said pattern.] Sometimes a Sarah Gamp. For synonyms, *see Rain-napper.*

1870. Lond. Figaro, 15 June. Though shattered, baggy, shivered Gamp!


1890. Daily Chron., 5 Mar. Sainte-Beuve insisted that though he was prepared to stand fire he was under no obligation to catch cold, and with his Gamp over his head he exchanged four shots with his adversary.

1892 Ally Sloper, 2 Apr., p. 106, c. 3. I never had a brand new tile, a glossy silk or swagger brown, But I left home without a Gamp, And rain or hail or snow came down

3. (journalists'). — *The Standard.*

**Adj.** (common). — Bulging.

Also Gamphish.
1864. *Derby Day*, p. 18. I wasn't joking, there is an air of long-suffering about you, as if you had been mortifying the flesh by carrying a *gampish umbrella* up Piccadilly, and back again.


**Gamut, subs.** (artists'). — Tone; general scheme; *swim* (*q.v.*).

Thus in the *gamut* = a picture, a detail, or a shade of colour, in tone with its environment.

**Jan** (also *gane*), subs. (old). — The mouth. [A.S., *ganian* = to yawn.] Occasionally = throat, lip. For synonyms, *see* *potato-trap*.

1512-13. DOUGLAS, *Virgil*, 250, 29. To behold his ouglie ene twane, His teri-bill vissage, and his grislie *gane*.


1656. BROOME, *A Jovial Crew*, Act ii. This bowse is better than rombowse, it sets the *gan* a giggling.


1917. PORTER, *Big Bear*, p. 96. *Seein' how the gander hopped* I jumped up and hollered, Git out, Tromp, you old rascal!

**What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander, phr.** (common).—A plea for consistency.

**Gander-month, subs.** (common). — The month after confinement; when a certain license (or so it was held) is excusable in the male. Also *gander-moon*, the husband at such a period being called a *gander-mooner*. *Cf.*, *Buck-Hutch* and *goose-month*.


1861. H. KINGSLEY, *Ravenshoe*, ch. xlvii. She *gandered* upstairs to the dressing-room again.

**Gone Gander. — See Gone Coon.**

**Gander-pulling.** *See* *goose-riding*.

**Gander's Wool, subs. phr.** (common.) — Feathers.
1704. CIBBER, Careless Husband, i., 1. Sir C. Who was that other? More. One of Lord Foppington's gang.

1754. FIELDING, Jonathan Wild, bk. i., c. 14. What then have I to do in the pursuit of greatness, but to employ a gang, and to make the use of this gang centre in myself? Idem. bk. iii., c. 14. But in an illegal society or gang, as this of ours, it is otherwise.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1859. MATSELL, Vocabulum. Gang, company, squad, mob.

GANGER, subs. (old: now recognised).—An overseer or foreman of a gang of workmen; one who superintends. For synonyms, see Governor.

1851-61. MAYHEW, Lond. Lab., ii., 487. The ganger, or head of the working gang, who receives his orders from the inspector, and directs the men accordingly.

1884. Cornhill Mag., June, p. 614. The mother and boy do the work, while the father constitutes himself contractor for and ganger over their labour.

GANIMEDE, subs. (old).—1. A sodomist. For synonyms, see Usher.

1598. FLORIO, Worlde of Wordes, Catamite, a ganimed, an ingle, a boie hired to sinne against nature. [And in COTGRAVE (1611) under Ganimeced; Any boy that's loved for carnal abuse, an ingle.]

1659. FLORIO-TORRIANO, Vocabolaria. Mescitore, a skinner or filler of wine; also a mingler, a ganimeed.


GAOL-BIRD, subs. (old: now recognised).—A person who has been often in gaol; an incorrigible rogue. Fr., un chevronné. For synonyms, see Wrong 'Un.

1680. Hist. of Edward II., p. 146. It is the piety and the true valour of an army, which gives them heart and victory; which how it can be expected out of ruffians and gaol-birds, I leave to your consideration.

1701. DEFOE, True Born Englishman, part II. In print my panegyrics fill the street, And hired gaol-birds, their huzzas repeat.

1762. SMOLLETT, L. Greaves, vol. II., ch. ix. He is become a blackguard gaol-bird.

1857. C. READE, Never Too Late ch. xi. The gaol-birds who piped this tune were without a single exception the desperate cases of this moral hospital; they were old offenders.


GAOLER'S COACH, subs. phr. (old).—A hurdle to the place of execution.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v.

GAP, subs. (venery).—The female pudendum: also sportsman's gap and water-gap (q.v.). For synonyms, see monosyllable.

d. 1746. Robertson of Struan, Poems, p. 84. O gracious Hymen! Cure this dire mishap, Sew up this mighty rent, or fill the gap.

TO BLOW THE GAP, verb. phr. (old).—The same as to blow the gaff (q.v.).

1821. EGAN, Real Life, etc., i., 557 He should like to smack the bit without blowing the gap.

GAPER, subs. (venery).—The female pudendum. Also, gaper (and gape) over the garter. For synonyms, see monosyllable.

GAPES, subs. (colloquial).—A fit of yawning; also the open mouth of astonishment.

1818. AUSTEN, Persuasion. Another hour of music was to give delight or the gapes.
Gapeseed. 

1838. H ALIBURTON, Clockmaker (ed. 1862), p. 373. But what gave me the GAPES was the scenes (at the theatre).

GAPSEED, subs. (common). — 1. A cause of astonishment; anything provoking the ignorant to stare with open mouth. Also TO SEEK A GAPE'S NEST.

1598. Florio, World of Words. Ansanare . . . to go idly loytring vp and downe as we say, to go seeking for a halfepenie worth of GAPING SEEDE.

1600. Nashe, Summer's Last Will, in wks. (Grosart), vi., 144. That if a fellow licensed to beg, Should all his life time go from faire to faire, And buy GAPE-SEEDE, having no businesse there.

1694. Poor Robin. 'Tis plainly clear, They for their GAPES-SEEDE do pay dear.

1856. N. and Q., 2 S 1., 362. Plenty of persons were sowing GAPSEED.


2. (venery). — The penis. [GAP = female pudendum]. For synonyms, see CREAMSTICK and PRICK.

GAR. See by Gar!

GARBLE, to GARBLE THE COIN-AGE, verb. phr. (old). — See quot. [GARBLE = to pick and choose.]

1875. Jevons, Money, etc., p. 81. A practice amongst money-lenders of picking out the newest coins of full weight for export or re-melting, and passing the light ones into circulation.

GARDEN, subs. (various). — 1. (greengrocers', fruiterers', etc.) = Covent Garden Market; 2. (theatrical) = Covent Garden Theatre; 3. (diamond merchants') = Hatton Garden. Cf., HOUSE, LANE, etc.

[The GARDEN (=Covent Garden) was frequently used for the whole neighbourhood. which was notorious as a place of strumpets and stews. Thus, GARDEN-HOUSE = a brothel; GARDEN-GODDESS = a woman of pleasure; GARDEN-GOUT = the pox or clap; GARDEN-WHORE = a low prostitute, etc.]

1733. Bailey, Erasmus. When young men by whoring, as it commonly falls out, get the pox, which, by the way of extenuation, they call the Common GARDEN-GOUT.

1782. Geo. Parker, Humorous Sketches, p. 90. No more the GARDEN female orgies view.

1851-61. W. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, Vol. I., p. 85. Not only is the GARDEN itself all bustle and activity, but the buyers and sellers stream to and from it in all directions, filling every street in the vicinity.

1884. Jas. Payn, in Cornhill Mag., Mar., p. 257. She [Miss O'Neill] talked of the GARDEN and 'the Lane,' and was very fond of recitation.

1890. Tit-Bits, 29 Mar., p. 389, c. 1. Let me describe the GARDEN. A long, straight street, stretching almost due north and south, from Holborn Circus to Clerkenwell Road. Ibid. c. 2. The cut stones are chiefly sold to the large dealers in the GARDEN.

GAPPED, ppl. adj. (old). — Worsted; FLOORED (q.v.) for synonyms.

1753. Richardson, Sir Chas. Grandison. I will never meet at hard-edge with her; if I did . . . I should be confoundedly GAPPED.

GAP-STOPPER, subs. (old). — 1. A whoremaster. For synonyms, see MOLROWER.
2. (venery).—The female \textit{pu-dendum}. [The simile is common to all nations, ancient and modern. Shakspeare, in Sonnet 16, seems to play upon this double meaning;\textit{e.g.}, \textit{Now stand you on the top of happy hours; And many maiden-garden, yet unset, With virtuous wish would bear you living flowers.}] Also GARDEN OF EDEN. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

\textbf{GARDENER, subs. (common).—1.} An awkward coachman. [In allusion to the gardener who on occasion drives the carriage.]\textit{Cf., Tea-kettle Coachman.}

1859. \textit{Sala, Twice Round the Clock.} Noon: Par. I. He can drive neither to the right nor to the left, nor backwards nor forwards. . . . A sarcastic saloon omnibus driver behind jeeringly bids him keep moving, accompanying the behest by the aggressive taunt of GARD'NER.

2. (venery).—The \textit{penis}. \textit{Garden (q.v.) = female pudendum.} Also GARDEN-ENGINE. For synonyms, see CREAMSTICK and PRICK.

\textbf{GARDEN-GATE, subs. phr. (rhyming).—1.} A magistrate. For synonyms, see BEAK.

2. (venery).—The \textit{labia minora}. [GARDEN-HEDGE = the pubic hair.]

\textbf{GARDEN-LATIN, subs. (colloquial).—} Barbarous or sham Latin. Also APOTHECARIES', BOG, DOG, and KITCHEN-LATIN.

\textbf{GARDEN-RAKE, subs. phr. (common).—} A tooth-comb. Also SCRATCHING-RAKE OR RAKE.

\textbf{GARDY-LOO, subs. (old Scots).—} A warning cry; 'take care!' [Fr. \textit{gardes} (\textit{vous de} l'eau! Used before emptying slops out of window into the street. Hence the act of emptying slops itself, as in quotation dated 1818.]

1771. \textit{Smollet, Humphry Clinker,} (British Novelists), xxxi., p 57. At ten o'clock the whole cargo is flung out of a back windore that looks into some street or lane, and the maid calls GARDY-LOO to the passengers, which signifies 'Lord have mercy on you!'

1818. \textit{Scott, Heart of Midlothian,} ch. xxvii. She had made the GARDY-LOO out of the wrong window.

\textbf{GARGLE, subs. (formerly medical students', now common).—} A drink; also generic. \textit{Cf., Lotion,} and for synonyms, see \textit{Go.}

1889. \textit{Sporting Times,} 3 Aug., p. 3, c. 1. We're just going to have a gargarle—will you join us?

\textbf{Verb. (common).—} To drink; to 'liquor up.' For synonyms, see DRINKS and LUSH.

1889. \textit{Sporting Times,} 3 Aug., p. 5, c. 5. We gargled . . .

1891. \textit{Morning Advertiser,} 2 Mar. It's my birthday; let's gargle.

\textbf{GARGLE-FACTORY, subs. (common).—} A public house. For synonyms, see LUSH CRIB.

\textbf{GARN, intj. (vulgar).—} A corruption of Go on! Get away with you!


1892. \textit{Ally Sloper,} 19 Mar., p. 90, c. 3. Gar'n, you men ain't got no sense.

1892. \textit{National Observer,} 6 Feb, p. 307, c. 2. And so simple is the dictum, so redolent of the unlettered Arry that we long to add GARN, oo're you gettin' at?
GARNISH, subs. (old).—1. A fee or footing (q.v.); specifically one exacted by gaolers and old prisoners from a newcomer. The practice was forbidden by 4 Geo. IV., c. 43, sec. 12. Also GARNISH-MONEY.

1592. GREENE, Quip, in works, xi., 256. Let a poore man be arrested into one of the counters [prisons] . . . he shall be almost at an angel's charge, what with GARNISH [etc.].

1606. T. DEKKER, Seven Deadly Sinnes, p. 28 (Arber's ed.). So that the Counters are cheated of Prisoners, to the great dammage of those that shoulde have their morning's draught out of the GARNISH.

1632. JONSON, Magnetic Lady, v. 6. You are content with the ten thousand pounds Defalking the four hundred GARNISH-MONEY?

1704. STEELE, Lying Lover, Act iv., Sc. iv. But there is always some little trifle given to prisoners, they call GARNISH.

1752. FIELDING, Amelia, Bk. I., ch. iii. Mr. Booth . . . was no sooner arrived in the prison, than a number of persons gathered round him, all demanding GARNISH.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum., s.v. 1837. BAHAM, Ingold. Leg. What's called the claret Flew over the GARRET.

2. (old).—The fob-pocket.

TO HAVE ONE'S GARRET UN-FURNISHED, verb. phr. (common). To be crazy, stupid, lumpish. For synonyms, see APARTMENTS AND BALMY.

GARRETEER, subs. (thieves'). A thief whose speciality is to rob houses by entering skylights or garret-windows. Also DANCER and DANCING-MASTER. For synonyms, see THIEVES.

2. (journalists').—An impetuous author; a literary hack.

1815. SCOTT, Guy Mannering, ch. xliv. [Jailer log.] Thirty shillings a week for lodgings, and a guinea for GARNISH.

1849-61. MACAULAY, Hist. of Eng., ch. xxv. GARRETEERS, who were never weary of calling the cousin of the Earls of Manchester and Sandwich an upstart.

1886. SHELLEY (quoted in Dowden's Life), i., 47. Show them that we are no Grub-street GARRETEERS.

1892. National Observer, 18 Mar., p. 453. Has proclaimed urbi et orbi that governments have no business to manufacture specious sentiment by greasing the palms of ignorant and greedy GARRETEERS.

GARRET-MASTER, subs. (trade).—A cabinet-maker who works on his own account, selling his manufacture to the dealers direct.

1851-61. MAYHEW, Lond. Lab., ii., p. 376. These trading operatives are known by different names in different trades. In the shoe trade, for instance, they are called 'chamber-masters,' in the cabinet trade GARRET-MASTERS, and in the cooper's trade the name for them is 'small trading-masters.'
GARRISON-HACK, subs. (common). — 1. A woman given to indiscriminate flirtation with officers at a garrison.

1889. Daily Telegraph, 14 Feb. Lord Normantower, Philip's dearest friend, to whom she, when a GARRISON-HACK, had been engaged, and whom she had thrown over simply because he was poor and prospectless.

1890. Athenæum, 8 Feb., p. 176, c. r. The heroine is a GARRISON-HACK, but the hero is an Australian.

2. (common). — A prostitute; a soldier's trull. For synonyms, see BARRACK HACK and TART.

GARROTTE, subs. (common). — A form of strangulation (see verb). [From the Spanish la garrota = a method of capital punishment, which consists in strangulation by means of an iron collar.]

Verb. (common). — 1. A method of robbery with violence, much practised some years ago. The victims were generally old or feeble men and women. Three hands were engaged: the FRONT-STALL who looked out in that quarter, the BACK-STALL at the rear, and the UGLY or NASTY-MAN who did the work by passing his arm round his subject's neck from behind, and so throttling him to insensibility.

1869. Greenwood, Seven Curses of London, p. 201. The delectable epistle was written by GARROTTER Bill to his brother.

2. (gamblers'). — Hiding a part of one's hand at the back of the neck for purposes of cheating.

GARTER, subs. (nautical). — 1. pl. the irons, or bilboes. For synonyms, see DARBIES.

To GET OVER THE GARTER, verb. phr. (venery). — To take liberties with a woman.

To FLY OR PRICK THE GARTER. See PRICK THE GARTER.

GARVIES, subs. (Scots'). — 1. Sprats. Sometimes GARVIE-HERRING.

1845. P. Alloa, Statis, Acc., viii., 597. They are often very successful in taking the smaller fish, such as herrings, garvies or sprats, sparlings or smelts.

2. (military). — The Ninety-fourth Foot. [From the small stature of the earlier recruits.]

1869. Notes and Queries, 4 S. iii., p. 349. GARVIE. The soubriquet points to the low average height of the recruits in the Fifeshire regiments, which, however, may not now be the case, since recruiting has become less local.

GAS, subs. (common). — Empty talk; bounce; bombast.

1847. Porter, Quarter Race, etc., p. 120. The boys said that was all GAS to scare them off.

1867. Chambers' Jour., 29 June. I've piped off Sabbath GAS in my time I don't deny, but under the woods we mostly tell the truth.

1868. Chambers' Jour., 15 Feb., p. 110. I don't, an' never could splice ends with them as blow off GAS about gold-digging—saying it's plunder easy come an' easy gone, seeking the root of evil, an' other granny talk which hasn't no meaning.
Gas.

1871. Emerson (quoted in De Vere's Amer.). 'Tis odd that our people should have not water on the brain, but a little gas there.

1889. Globe, 31 Oct., p. 4, c. 4. It went on to state that the petitioner's talk about a divorce was all gas, and made a further appointment.

Verb. (common).—1. To talk idly; to brag; to bounce; to talk for talking's sake. Fr., faire son cheval de corbillard (in American, 'to be on the tall grass.') See Long Bow.

1872. Lond. Figaro, 14 Dec. There is no good to be got out of gassing about rallying around standards, uniting as one man to resist, etc.

1875. 'American English' in Chambers' Jour., 25 Sept., p. 610. To gas is to talk only for the purpose of prolonging a debate.

1885. Society, 7 Feb., p. 7. Agitators and place-seekers may gas as much as they please, but they cannot make black appear white.

2. (common).—To impose on by 'gas'; to fill (q.v.); to splash (q.v.). For synonyms, see gammon.

To take the gas out of one, verb. phr. (common).—To take the conceit out of; to take down a peg.

To turn on the gas, verb. phr. (common).—To begin bouncing; also to gas (q.v.).

To turn off the gas, verb. phr. (common).—To cease, or cause to cease, from bouncing, vapouring, or gas (q.v.).

To gas round, verb. phr. (common).—To seek information on the sly; also to gas (q.v.).

Gas-bag, subs. (common).—A man of words or gas (q.v.); a gasconader. Also gasometer. For synonyms, see mouth Almighty.

1889. Referee, 6 Jan. That great gas-bag of modern days.

Gash, subs. (American).—1. The mouth. For synonyms, see potato-trap.

1878. H. B. Stowe, Paganuc People, ch. xiv., p. 122. Ef Zeph Higgins would jest shut up his gash in town-meetin', that air school-house could be moved fast enough.

2. (venery).—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see monosyllable.

Gashly, adj. (common).—A vulgarism for ghastly.

Gaskins, subs. (old).—Wide hose; wide breeches. [From galli-gaskins. Johnson says, 'an old ludicrous word.]

Gasp, subs. (common).—A dram of spirits. For synonyms, see go.

Verb. (common).—To drink a dram, e.g., 'Will you gasp?=' Will you take something neat.

Gaspipe, subs. (nautical).—1. An iron steamer, whose length is nine or ten times her beam. [At one time a ship's length but rarely exceeded four and a half to five times the beam.]

2. (printers').—Bad rollers.

3. (common).—A rifle; specifically the Snider.

1883. Daily Telegraph, 9 July, p. 5, col. 7. The old Snider—the despair-breeding gas-pipe of our Volunteers—continues to be used in many of the competitions.

Gassier, subs. (common).—A braggart. For synonyms, see MOUTH ALMIGHTY.

Gassy (or Gaseous), adj (common).—1. Likely to take umbrage or to flare-up.


2. (colloquial).—Full of empty talk or GAS (q.v.).

1872. Whitney, Life and Growth of Lang., p. 17. As when we call an empty and sophistical but ready talker GASSY.

Gaster, subs. (nonce-word).—A fine and curious eater (Thackeray). In Rabelais—the belly and the needs thereof: a coinage adopted by Urquhart.

Gat, subs. (schoolboys').—A quantity; e.g., a GAT of grub= plenty to eat. Also GATS.

1803. Every-day Life in our Public Schools. They are called up in GATS of three at a time.

Gate, subs. (colloquial).—1. The attendance at a race or athletic meeting, held in enclosed grounds; the number of persons who pass the gate.

1883. Sportsman, 20 Dec. The Birmingham man, on account of the large GATE that would be secured, wanted the affair to be brought off in that town, whereas Regan favoured Wolverhampton.

2. Money paid for admission to athletic sports, race course, etc.; the same as GATE-MONEY (q.v.).

1891. Telegraph, 21 Mar. The leading clubs are now commercial corporations, dependent for revenue on the GATES at the matches.

3. in. pl. (University).—The being forbidden to pass outside the gate of a college. See verb, sense 1.

1877. Five Years' Penal Servitude, ch. i., p. 5. The steel,' a slang name of the large metropolitan prisons, as the GATE is for Newgate.

To break gates, verb. phr. (University).—To stay out of college after hours.

To be at Gates, verb. phr. (Winchester College).—To assemble in Seventh Chamber passage, preparatory to going Hills or Cathedral.

1870. Mansfield, School Life, p. 145. Soon after morning chapel on a holiday or a remedy all the boys assembled at GATES.

On the gate, adv. phr. (thieves').—On remand.
GATE-BILL, subs. (University).—The record of an undergraduate’s failure to be within the precincts of his college at, or before, a specified time at night.

1803. Gradus ad Cant., p. 128. To avoid gate-bills he will be out at night as late as he pleases...climb over the college wall, and fee his gyp well.

GATE-MONEY, subs. (colloquial).—The charge for admission to a race-meeting. See Gate, subs., sense I.

1885. Daily News, 25 May, p. 3, c. 2. The truth of the matter is, that so far as sport goes, open meetings like those at Bath and Salisbury cannot stand up against gate-money meetings such as Manchester.

1888. Sporting Life, 10 Dec. The comfort that is brought home at our great gate-money meetings gatherings to every visitor.

GATE-OF-HORN, subs. phr. (venery). The female pudendum. Cf., Horn, and for synonyms, see monosyllable.

GATE-OF-LIFE, subs. (venery).—The female pudendum. Also Gate-of-Horn. For synonyms, see monosyllable.

GATER, subs. (Winchester College),—A plunge head foremost into a pot (q.v.).

GATE-RACE (or -MEETING), subs. (sporting).—Formerly, a contest not got up for sport but entrance money; now a race or athletic meeting to which admission is by payment.

1881. Daily News, 14 July. Few of these athletics care to compete at gate-meetings.

GATH, subs. (colloquial).—A city or district in Philistia (q.v.); often used, like askelon (q.v.) for Philistia itself. Hence, to be mighty in gate = to be a philistine (q.v.) of the first magnitude; to prevail against gate = to smite the Philistines hip and thigh, as becomes a valiant companion of the Davidsbund; and so forth.

Tell it not in Gath, verb. phr. (colloquial).—An interjection of derision, signifying that the person exclaimed against has done something the knowledge of which would bring on him the wrath, or the amazement, of his friends.

GATHER. To gather up, verb. phr. (American).—To lead away.

1847. Chronicles of Pineville, p. 182. ‘Gather him up, boys,’ said the judge, ‘the sentence of the law must be executed.’

To gather the taxes, verb. phr. (tailor’s).—To go from workshop to workshop seeking employment. Hence, tax-gatherer = a man out of work and looking for a job. Cf., inspector of public buildings.

Out of gathers, adv. phr. (colloquial).—In distress. Cf., out at elbows.

GATHERINGS. See Gags.

GATTER, subs. (common).—Beer; also liquor generally. Shant of gatter = a pot of beer. Fr., la moussante. For synonyms, see drinks.

1818. Maginn, Vidocq Versified. Lots of gatter, says she, is flowing. Lend me a lift in the family way.

1841. Punch, I., p. 243. Gatter is but threepence a pot, and that’s the price of a reasonable ‘pike ticket.

1851-61. H. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, Vol. i., p. 232. They have a ‘shant of gatter’ (pot of beer) at the nearest ‘boozing-ken’ (alehouse).
GAUDEAMUS, subs. (colloquial).—A feast; a drinking bout; any sort of merry-making. [German students', but now general and popular.] From the first word of the medieval (students') ditty. For synonyms, see JAMBOREE.

GAUDY (or GAUDY-DAY), subs. (common).—A feast or entertainment: specifically the annual dinner of the fellows of a college in memory of founders or benefactors; or a festival of the Inns of Court. (Lat. gaudere = to rejoice.)

1721. E. COLES, Eng. Dict. GAUDY DAYS, college or Inns of Court festivals.

1754. B. MARTIN, Eng Dict., 2nd ed. GAUDIES, double commons, such as they have on GAUDY or grand DAYS in colleges.

1760. FOOTE, Minor, Act i. Dine at twelve, and regale, upon a GAUDY DAY, with buns and beer at Islington.

1763. Gradus ad Cantab., p. 122. Cut lectures . . . give GAUDIES and spreads.

1803. Gradus ad Cantab., p. 122. Cut lectures . . . give GAUDIES and spreads.

1820. LAMB, Elia (Oxford in the Vacation). Methought I a little grudged at the coalition of the better Jude with Simon—clubbing (as it were) their sanctities together, to make up one poor GAUDY-DAY between them.

1822. Scott, Fortunes of Nigel, ch. xxiii. We had a carouse to your honour . . . we fought, too, to finish off the GAUDY.

1878. BESANT AND RICE, By Celia's Arbour, ch. xxxiii. Champagne . . . goes equally well with a simple luncheon of cold chicken, and with the most elaborate GAUDY.

Adj. (colloquial). — Good; frolicsome; festive. Cf., Shakespere's 'Let's have one other GAUDY night.'—Ant. and Cleo., iii, 13.

1884. HAWLEY SMART. From Post to Finish, p. 176. 'Yes,' answered the trainer, slowly, 'he's right enough; but a Leger's a Leger, and I don't think they are likely to give him a very GAUDY chance.'

1884. H. MARTINEAU, Soc. in America, i., 299. They proved such GAWKS that they were unable to learn.

1882. McCabe, New York, p. 217. I wasn't half as awkward as some of the GAWKS about me.

GAWF, subs. (costers'). — A red-skinned apple.

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab., i., 63. A cheap red-skinned fruit, known to costers as GAWFS, is rubbed hard, to look bright and feel soft, and is mixed with apples of a superior description. GAWFS are sweet and sour at once, I was told, and fit for nothing but mixing.

GAULY.

GAWK, subs. (colloquial).—A simpleton, especially an awkward one, whether male or female. For synonyms, see BUFFLE and CABBAGE-HEAD. [Scots GOWK = a cuckoo; a fool; whence, TO GOWK = to play the fool. As in the 'Derision of Wanton Women' (Bannatyne, MS., 1567), 'To gar them ga in GUCKING = to make them play the fool.]

1837. H. FREDERIC, Seth's Brother's Wife, ch. iv. Girls brought up to be awkward GAWKS, without a chance in life.

Verb. (colloquial).—To loiter round; to PLAY THE GOAT. [The same verb is used by Jonson.
Gawkiness.

(Magnetic Lady, iii., 4, 1632) in the sense of amazed, or bamboozled, *i.e.*, absolutely befooled: Nay, look how the man stands, as he were GOWKED!]

1888. F. R. Stockton, Rudder Grange, ch. xvi. That afternoon we gawked around a-lookin' at all the outside shows, for Jone said he'd have to be pretty careful of his money now.

**GAWKINESS, subs.** (colloquial).—Awkwardness; silliness; GREENNESS (*q.v.*).

1873. Miss Broughton, Nancy, ch. xxxvii. The crude GAWKINESS of the raw girl he has drifted into marrying.

**GAWKING, subs.** (colloquial).—Loitering and staring; GATHERING HAYSEED (*q.v.*).

**GAWKY, subs.** (colloquial).—An awkward booby; a fool. 'Now SQUIRE GAWKY' = a challenge to a clumsy lout. For synonyms, see BUFFLE and CABBAGE-HEAD.

1759. Townley, *High Life Below Stairs* 1., 1. Under the form of a GAWKY country boy I will be an eye-witness of my servants' behaviour.

1855. Thackeray, *Newcomes*, ch. xlviii. Even for his cousin Samuel Newcome, a GAWKY youth with an eruptive countenance, Barnes had appropriate words of conversation.

**GAWNEY** (or **GONEY**), subs. (common).—A fool. For synonyms, see BUFFLE and CABBAGE-HEAD.

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Gay, adj. (colloquial).—1. Dissipated; specifically, given to venery: As in the French, *avoir la cuisse gaie* = to be addicted to the use of men. Hence GAY WOMAN, or GIRL, or BIT = a strumpet; GAY HOUSE = a brothel; TO BE GAY = to be incontinent; GAY IN THE LEGS, IN THE GROIN, IN THE ARSE = SHORTHEELED (*q.v.*); GAYING INSTRUMENT = the penis [Lexicon Balatronicum, 1811, *s.v.*]; GAY MAN = a wencher; GAY LADIE (old) = a mistress; GAYING IT = copulating.


1754. *Adventurer*, No. 124. The old gentleman, whose character I cannot better express than in the fashionable phrase which has been contrived to palliate false principles and dissolute manners, had been a GAY man, and was well acquainted with the town.

1854. Leech, *Pictures of Life and Character*. How long have you been GAY?

1857. J. E. Ritchie, *Night Side of London*, p. 40. Here in Catherine-street vice is a monster of a hideous mien. The GAY women, as they are termed, are worse off than American slaves.

1868. Sunday Times, 19 July. As soon as ever a woman has ostensibly lost her reputation, we, with a grim inappropriateness, call her GAY.

2. (common).—In drink. For synonyms, see SCREWED.

**ALL GAY** (or **ALL SO GAY**). *adv. phr.* (common).—All right; first-rate; ALL SERENE (*q.v.*).

**TO FEEL GAY.** *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—Inclined for sport, venereal or other; **TO FEEL NAUGHTY** (*q.v.*).

**GAY TYKE BOY**, subs. *phr.* (old).—A dog fancier.
Gazebo.

GAZEBO, subs. (old).—A summer-house commanding an extensive view. [Dog-Latin, GAZEBO = I will gaze.]

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.
1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v.

GEACH, subs. (thieves').—A thief.

For synonyms, see THIEVES.

1821. Haggart, Life, p. 56. He was a tolerable GEACH.

Verb. (thieves').—To steal. For synonyms, see PRIG.

1821. Haggart, Life, p. 73. A small dross scout. . . which I knew had been GEACHED.

GEAR, subs. (venery).—The private parts, both male and female. ['`Gere, besognes; aussi les parties honteuses' (Robert Sherwood's Dictionarie, English and French, appended to Cotgrave, 1660). 'Besonger . . . also to do or leacher with' (Cotgrave). Anglo-Saxon: gearwe (strong feminine plural) ornaments. Skeat says original sense of gear was 'preparation.]

1598. Florio, Worlde of Wordes, Mosza, a wench, a lasse, a girle. Also a woman's GERE or cunnie.

1620. Percy, Folio MSS. 'Fryar and Boye.' I swore, by night nor day thy GEARE is not to borrow.

1659. Torriano, Vocabulario, s.v.

2. (obsolete).—Work, BUSINESS (q.v.). Thus: Here's goodly GEAR = Here's fine doings; Here's a pretty kettle of fish. As in Romeo and Juliet (ii., 2, 106).

GEE, subs. (colloquial).—See GEE-GEE.

Verb. (colloquial).—1. To go or turn to the off-side; used as a direction to horses. Cf.: It: gio = Get on!


2. (colloquial).—To move faster: as a teamster to his horses, 'Gee up!'

1824. Blackwood's Mag., Oct. Mr. Babb ge-humped in vain, and strove to jerk the rein. Nobbs felt he had his option to work or play.

3. (colloquial).—To stop: as 'Gee whoa!'

TO GEE WITH, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To agree with; to fit; to be congenial; to go on all fours with; to do.

1690. B. E., Dict. of the Cant. Crew, GEARS, s.v. . . . It won't GEE, it won't hit or go.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue. GEE, it won't GEE, it won't hit or do, it does not suit or fit.

1850. Seaworthy, Nag's Head, ch. v., p. 35. It don't seem to GEE! said Isaac, as he was trying to adjust the stove.

1888. Missouri Repub., 8 April. He and Mrs. Barnay did not GEE.

GEE-GEE (or GEE).—subs. (common).—1. A horse. See GEE, verb, in all senses. For synonyms, see I'RAD.

1888. Referee, 15 April, 1/2. In nearly all other races they see most of the GEE-GEE'S do a canter on their way up the course.

1889. Pall Mall Gaz., 14 April. He knows as much about GEE-GEE'S as a professional trainer.

1890. Licensed Vict. Gaz. 8 Feb. The GEES were all broken to the stable.

2. (colloquial).—The nickname among journalists (of the interviewer, type) of Mr. G(eorge) G(rossmith), better known, perhaps, as the Society Clown.
Gee-gee Dodge.

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Gemini.

GEE-GEE DODGE, subs. phr. (trade).—Selling horseflesh for beef.

1884. Greenwood, Veiled Mysteries. The gee-gee dodge... was seldom or ever practised... it was impossible... to bargain for a regular supply.

GEEKIE, subs. (Scots thieves').—A police-station.

GEELoot. See Galoot.

GEese, All his geese are swans, phr. (colloquial).—He habitually exaggerates, or embroiders (q.v); or, He is always wrong in his estimates of persons and things.

The old woman's picking her geese (proverbial).—Said of a snowstorm. [The other leg of the couplet (schoolboys') runs: 'And selling the feathers a penny a piece.]

Like geese on a common (colloquial).—Wandering in a body, aggressive and at large: e.g., as faddists (q.v.) in pursuit of a fad; or members of Parliament in recess, when both sides go about to say the thing which is in them.

Geewhilikens! intj. (Western American).—An exclamation of surprise; also JEEWHILIKENS.

1888. Detroit Free Press. It is on time? No? Three hours late? Geewhilikens!

Geezer, subs. (popular).—An appellation, sometimes, but not necessarily, of derision and contempt; applied to both sexes, but generally to women. Usually, old geezer. For synonyms, see Witch.

1885. Truth about the Stage, p. 16. If we wake up the old geezers we shall get notice to quit without compensation.

1886. Broadside Ballad. 'Her Mother's Got the Hump.' This frizzle-headed old geezer had a chin on her as rough—well, as rough as her family, and they're rough 'uns.

1890. A. Chevalier, 'Knocked 'Em in the Old Kent Road.' Nice old geezer with a nasty cough.

1892. Anstey, Voces Populi, p. 82. Our old geezer's perdoocin' the customary amount o' sensation.

GELDING, subs. (old).—A eunuch.


1659. Torriano, Vocabolario, s.v.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v.

To enter for the geldings' stakes, verb. phr. (old).—To castrate a man; also used to describe a eunuch.

GELT, subs. (old).—Money; gilt (q.v.). Also GELTER. — (Duncombe, 1848).

1690. B. E., Dict. of the Cant. Crew, s.v. There is no gelt to be got, trading is very dull.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v.

GEMINI! (or GEMINY! or JIMINY!) intj. (common).—An exclamation of surprise; a mild oath. [Generally referred to the Lat.: Gemini=the Twins (i.e., Castor and Pollux, the objects of an old Roman oath); but Palmer (Folk Etymology), traces the interjection to the German, O Gemine!; Dutch, Jeminy!; both abbreviated from the Latin, O Jesu Domine!; or merely from Jesu meus!; Italian, Gesù mio! It seems to have come in at the Restoration.] Also O JIMMINY!;
O JIMMINY FIGS! O JIMMINY GIG! etc.: for the phrase has pleased the cockney mind, and been vulgarised accordingly.


1731. Fielding, The Lottery, Sc. 2. Lord Lace! Oh GEMINI! who's that?

1780. Mrs. Cowley, The Belle's Stratagem, iv., 2. Oh GEMINI! beg the petticoat's pardon.

1797. M. G. Lewis, Castle Sisectre, iii., 3. Oh GEMINI! what would he use with me, lady?

1836. Scott, Tom Cringle's Log, ch. i. 'GEMINI! what is that now?' quoth Tip again.

1887. Saturday Review, 14 May, p. 700. The difficulty of inverting the word shilling accounts for 'generalize,' from which the abbreviation to GEN is natural as well as affectionate.

GENDER, verb. (old). — To copulate. [An abbreviation of EN-GENDER.] For synonyms, see GREENS and RIDE.

1767. Colman, Oxonian in Town, i., i. A cistern for foul toads To knot and GENDER in.

1778. Bailey, Eng. Dict., s.v. GENDER.

1816. Johnson, Eng. Dict., s.v. GENDER.

1892. Bible, Lev. xix., 19. Thou shalt not let thy cattle GENDER with a diverse kind.

FEMININE GENDER, subs. phr. (schoolboys').—The female pudendum. [As in the old (schoolboys') rhyme: Amo, amas, I loved a lass, And she was tall and slender, Amas, amat, I laid her flat, And tickled her FEMININE GENDER. Quoted (with modifications) by Marryat in Jacob Faithful, 1835.]

GENERALIZE, subs. (costers'). A shilling. See GEN.

GENERATING PLACE, subs. phr. (venery).—The female pudendum.

GENERATION TOOL, subs. phr. (venery).—The penis. For synonyms, see CREAMSTICK and PRICK.

GENEVA PRINT, subs. phr. (old).—Gin. For synonyms, see DRINKS and SATIN.

1584-1640. Massinger (quoted in Slang, Jargon, and Cant). And if you meet an Officer preaching of sobriety, Unless he read it in GENEVA PRINT, Lay him by the heels.
**GEN-NET, subs. phr.** (back slang).
—Ten shillings.

**GENNITRAF, subs.** (back slang).
—A farthing.

**GENOL, adj.** (back slang).
—Long.

**GENT, subs.** (once literary: now vulgar).—1. A showily-dressed vulgarian. [A contraction of ‘gentleman.’]

1635. [GLAPTHORNE], Lady Mother, in Bullen's Old Plays, ii., 114. Hees not a GENT that cannot parlee. I must invent some new and polite phrases.

1785. BURNS, Epistle to J. Lafiraite, st. 11. Do ye envy the city GENT, Behint a kist to lie and sklen't?

1843. THACKERAY, Irish Sketch Book, ch. viii. The crowd of swaggering GENTS (I don’t know the corresponding phrase in the Anglo-Irish vocabulary to express a shabby dandy), awaiting the Cork mail.

1844. DISRAELI, Coningsby, bk. IV., ch. ii. ‘Ah, not in business! Hem professional? ’ ‘No,’ said Coningsby, ‘I am nothing.’—‘Ah! an independent GENT; hem! and a very pleasant thing too.’

1846. Sunday Paper, 24 May. Mr. Rawlinson (Magistrate at Marylebone Police Court). What do you mean by GENT? There is no such word in our language. I hold a man who is called a GENT to be the greatest blackguard there is.


1869. Blue Budget. The GENT indicates a being who apes the gentility without the faintest shadow of a claim to it.

2. (Old Cant).—Money. [From Fr., argent.] For synonyms, see ACTUAL and GILT.


3. (colloquial).—A sweetheart, a mistress: e.g., My GENT = my particular friend.

**Adj.** (old literary).—Elegant comely; genteel.

1383. CHAUCER, Canterbury Tales. ‘Miller’s Tale.’ [Skeat, 1878, i., 194]. As any wesil her body GENT and small.

1553-99. SPENSER. He loved as was his lot, a lady GENT. *Idem.* A knight had wrought against a lady GENT.

1704. Mad. Knight’s Jour., p. 44. Law you, sais she, it’s right GENT, do you take it—tis dreadful full pretty.

**GENTILE, subs.** (colloquial). Any sort of stranger, native or foreign; among the Mormons, any person not professing the Gospel according to Joe Smith. Hence, IN THE LAND OF THE GENTILES = (1) in foreign parts; and (2) in strange neighbourhoods or alien society.

**GENTLE, subs.** (anglers’).—A maggot; vulgarly, GENTILE.

1811. Songs of the Chase. ‘The Jolly Anglers.’ We have GENTLES in our horns.

**GENTLE CRAFT, subs.** (old).—1. The trade of shoemaking. [From the romance of Prince Crispin, who is said to have made shoes.]

1862. Rump Songs. ‘A Hymn to the Gentle Craft,’ etc., ii. 152. Crispin and he were nere akin: The GENTLE CRAFT hath a noble kin.

2. (anglers’).—Angling.

1892. MILLIKEN, ’Arry Ballads, p. 65. Sez I, GENTLE CRAFT, said I.

**GENTLEMAN, subs.** (thieves’).—A crowbar. For synonyms, see JEMMY.

To put a CHURL (or BEGGAR) UPON A GENTLEMAN, verb. phr. (old).—To drink malt liquor immediately after wine.—GROSE.

GENTLEMAN OF THE (THREE, or FOUR, or FIVE) OUTS (or INS), subs. phr. (old).—A
varying and ancient wheeze, of which the following are representative:

Out of money, and out of clothes; Out at the heels, and out at the toes; Out of credit, and in debt.

A man in debt, in danger, and in poverty; or in gaol, indicted, and in danger of being hanged.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1830. Lytton, Paul Clifford, ch. iv. Paul became a gentleman of three outs—out of pocket, out of elbows, and out of credit.

1834. H. Ainsworth, Rookwood, Bk. III., ch. v. Jerry Juniper was what the classical Captain Grose would designate a gentleman with three outs, and, although he was not entirely without wit, nor his associates avouched, without money, nor certainly, in his own opinion, had that been asked, without manners.

Gentleman of the Back (or Backdoor), subs. (old).—A sodomist. For synonyms, see Usher.

Gentleman of Fortune, subs. phr. (common).—An adventurer.

1890. R. L. Stevenson, Treasure Island, p. 149. 'Why, in a place like this, where nobody puts in but gentlemen of fortune, Silver would fly the jolly roger, you don't make no doubt of that.

Gentleman of Observation, subs. phr. (turf).—A tout.

Gentleman of the Round, subs. phr. (old).—An invalided or disabled soldier, making his living by begging.

1596. Jonson, Every Man in, etc., 2. Your decayed, ruinous, worm-eaten gentlemen of the round.

Gentleman of the Short Staff, subs. phr. (old).—A constable.

1839. Ainsworth, Jack Sheppard (1889), p. 12. In the language of the
gentleman of the short staff an important caption could be effected.

Gentleman of the Fist, subs. phr. (pugilists').—A prize-fighter.

1819. Moore, Tom Crib, p. 44. Furnish such gentlemen of the fist.

Gentleman in Brown, subs. phr. (common).—A bed bug. For synonyms, see Norfolk Howard.

1885. G. A. Sala in Daily Telegraph, 14 Aug., 5/3. Bed bugs, the convertible term for which is 'chintzes,' are the disagreeable insects known in modern polite English as 'Norfolk Howard,' or gentlemen in brown.

The Little Gentleman in Brown Velvet, subs. phr. (obsolete).—A mole. [The Tory toast after the death of William III., whose horse was said to have stumbled over a mole-hill.]

Gentleman of the Green Baize Road, subs. phr. (gamblers').—A card sharper.

Gentleman Commoner, subs. phr. (University).—1. A privileged class of commoners at Oxford, wearing a special cut of gown and a velvet cap.

2. (common).—An empty bottle. Also fellow-commoner (q.v.); [A sarcastic allusion to the mental capacity of this class of student.] For synonyms, see Dead-man.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

Gentleman-ranker, subs. (military).—A broken gentleman serving in the ranks.

1892. Kipling, Barrack Room Ballads. 'Gentlemen Rankers.' Gentleman-rankers out on the spree, Damned from here to eternity, God ha' mercy on such as we, Baa! Yah! Bah!
GENTLEMAN'S COMPANION, subs. phr. (common).—A house. For synonyms, see CHATES. 1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

GENTLEMAN'S MASTER, subs. phr. (old).—A highwayman. GROSE.

GENTLEMAN'S (or LADIES’) PIECE, subs. phr. (colloquial).—A small or delicate portion; a TIT-BIT.

GENTLEMAN'S PLEASURE-GARDEN, subs. phr. (venery).—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE. [Hence, GENTLEMAN'S PLEASURE-GARDEN PADLOCK = menstrual cloth]

GENTLEMEN'S SONS, subs. phr. (common).—The three regiments of Guards.

GENTLY intj. (stables' and colloquial).—An interjection = STAND STILL (q.v.); hence, colloquially, = don’t get into a passion, GO SLOW (q.v.).

GENTRY COVE (or COFE), subs. (old cant).—A gentleman; a NIB-COVE (q.v.). Fr., un messire de la haute. 1567. HARMAN, Caveat, s.v.

1650. BROME, Joviall Crew, Act ii. For all this bene Cribbing and Peck let us then, Bowse a health to the GENTRY COFE of the Ken.

1654. WITTS’ RECREATIONS. As priest of the game, And prelate of the same. There’s a GENTRY COFE here.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1822. SCOTT, Fortunes of Nigel, ch. Tour the bien mort twirling the GENTRY COFE.

1837. DISRAELI, Venetia, p. 71. The GENTRY COFE will be ramboyled by his dam.

GENTRY COVE’S KEN (or GENTRY-KEN), subs. phr. (Old Cant).—A gentleman’s house. 1567. HARMAN, Caveat (1814), p. 65. A GENTRY COFE’s KEN, a noble or gentleman’s house. A GENTRY COFE, a noble or gentle man.


1822. SCOTT, Fortunes of Nigel, ch. Tour the bien mort twirling the GENTRY COFE.

1837. DISRAELI, Venetia, p. 71. The GENTRY COFE will be ramboyled by his dam.

GENTRY MORT, subs. phr. (old cant).—A lady. 1567. HARMAN, Caveat (1814), p. 65. A GENTRY MORT, a noble or gentle woman.


GENTRY MORT, subs. (Winchester College).—Praise.

Adj. (colloquial).—Trustworthy; not false nor double-faced.

Verb. (Winchester College).—To praise. ‘He was awfully quilled and GENUINED my task.’ [Probably from calling a thing genuine. Cf., to blackguard, to lord, etc. But fifty years ago it was a subs. only.—Notions.]

GEORDIE, subs. (North Country).—1. A pitman; also, a Northumbrian in general.

2. (nautical).—A North Country collier.

3. See GEORGE.

GEORGE (or Scots’ diminutive GEORDIE), subs. (old). I.—A half crown. Also (obsolete), the noble = 6s. 8d., temp., Henry VIII
1688. Shadwell, Sp. of Abatia, List of cant words. George, half-a-crown.

1690. B. E., Dict. of the Cant. Crew. He tipt me Forty Georges for my earnest, He paid me Five Pounds for my Share or Snack.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

2. (old).—A guinea; also more frequently YELLOW GEORGE.

1785 Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.


3. (old).—A penny.


Brown George.—See Ante.

By Fore, or By George.—See By George.

George Horne, intj. (printers').—A derisive retort on a piece of stale news. Also G. H. ! [From a romancing compositor of the name.]

George-Porgy, verb (colloquial).—To pet; to fondle; to beslobber.

1883. R. L. Stevenson, The Treasure of Franchard, ch. iii., in Longman's Magazine, April, p. 685. He must be spoken to with more respect, I tell you; he must not be kissed and GEORGY-PORGY’d like an ordinary child.

German. The German, subs. phr. (New York).—A round dance.

German Duck, subs. phr. (obsolete).—1. Half a sheep’s head, stewed with onions.—Grose.

2. (common).—A bed bug. For synonyms, see Norfolk Howard.

German Flutes, subs. phr. (rhyming).—A pair of boots.

Germantowner, subs. (American billiards').—A pushing shot—when the balls played with, and at, are jarred together. Cf., Whitechapeller.

Gerry, subs. (Old Cant).—Excrement.

1567. Harman, Caveat, s.v.

Gerry Gan, intj. (Old Cant).—A retort forcible. Stow it! (q.v.). [From GERRY = excrement + GAN = mouth, i.e., literally, Shit in your mouth.] The common form is: Shit (or a turd) in your teeth; as in Ben Jonson, Bartholomew Fair, 1614. Fr., Tais ta gueule ou j'te chie dedans.

1567. Harman, Caveat. Gerry gan, the ruffian cly thee.

Gerrymander (pronounced with the ‘g’ hard, as in ‘get’), verb (political American).—To arrange the electoral subdivisions of a State to the profit and advantage of a particular party.

[The term, says Norton, is derived from the name of Governor Gerry, of Massachusetts, who, in 1811, signed a Bill readjusting the representative districts so as to favour the Democrats and weaken the Federalists, although the last-named party polled nearly two-thirds of the votes cast. A fancied resemblance of a map of the districts thus treated led Stuart, the painter, to add a few lines with his pencil, and say to Mr. Russell, editor of the Boston Sentinel, 'That will do for a Salamander.' Russell glanced at it: 'Salamander,' said he, 'call it a GERRY-MANDER!' The epithet took at once, and became a Federalist war-cry, the caricature being published as a campaign document.]

1871. Boston Daily Advertiser, 6 Dec. Gerrymander was the name printed under a picture of a pretended monster, whose shape was modified from the distorted geography which Mr. Gerry’s friends inflicted on part of the State for the sake of economizing, majorities.
Gerrymandering, subs. (political American). See Gerrymander.


1890. Athenaeum, 22 Feb. p. 23, c. 1. Whatever faults can be found with Sir John's administration, it has been good and successful enough to afford excuse for all the Gerrymandering with which he is charged by his critics.

1891. Belfort's Mag., Aug., p. 439. The Democrats of Michigan have carried the art of Gerrymandering to such an extent that they have thoroughly disgusted their opponents.

Gerund-Grinder, subs. (common).—A schoolmaster, especially a pedant. Also Gerund-Grinding.


1825-7. Hone, Every Day Book, II., p. 33. Gerund-Grinding and parsing are usually prepared for at the last moment.

Get, subs. (old).—1. A cheating contrivance; a HAVE (q.v.).

2. (old).—A child; the result, that is, of an act of procreation or begetting. Thus, one of his gets = one of his making; whose get is that? = Who's the father? It's his get, anyhow = At all events he got it.


d'1798. Burns, Merry Muses. 'For a'that.' O' bastard gets some had a score, An' some had mair than a'that.

1891. N. Gould, Double Event, p. 41. 'This, again, is unusual for a Chester, as his get are generally quiet and docile, but a bit lazy.'

Get! (or You Get!) intj. (American).—Short for GET OUT! Usually, GIT! (q.v.).

1892. Hume Nisbet, Bushranger's Sweetheart, p. 176. None of your damned impertinence. Get!

To get at, verb, phr. (colloquial).—1. To quiz; to banter; to aggravate; to take a rise out of. Also To get back at.

1891. Sloper's Half Holiday, 3 Jan. 'Your family don't seem to get on, missie.' 'On!' replied the child, with dignity flashing from her great blue eyes; 'on! I've got a father on the booze, a sister on the music 'all, an' a brother on the treadmill. On! who're ye gettin' at?'

2. (racing and colloquial).—To influence; to bribe; to corrupt (of horses), and to corrupt (of persons); applied to horse, owner, trainer, jockey, and vet. alike.

1870. Spectator, 23 April. That, of course, makes it profitable for owners to withdraw horses they have secretly betted against, and for scoundrels to get at horses.

1871. Saturday Review, 9 Sept. It is quite clear that some of the foreign working men have been got at.

1883. Graphic, 17 March, p. 262, c. 2. The House of Commons . . . can also be trusted to decide in local questions without any suspicion of being got at, as is sometimes the case elsewhere.

1883. Badminton Library, Steeple-chasing, p. 404. Suspicions that the mare had been got at, that is to say, drugged, were afterwards noised abroad.

1888. Daily Telegraph, 17 Nov. It was strongly suspected that he had been got at.

1890. Globe, 11 Aug., p. 1, c. 1. Fancy the professional agitator trying to get at such men as these—men who gloried in being soldiers and nothing else!

1892. Pall Mall Gazette, May 10, p. 3, c. 2. The scoundrels (verily of the lowest form) who have tried to get at Orme.

1892 National Observer, vii. 630. If the horse were got at, then a bookie who stood heavily to lose is probably assumed.
To get about, verb. phr. (venery).—To do the act of introduction. For synonyms, see Greens and Ride.

To get back at, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To satirise; to call to account.

Get back into your box! phr. (American).—An injunction to silence; stow it! (q.v. for synonyms).

To get encored, verb. phr. (tailors').—To have a job returned for alterations.

To get even with, verb. phr. (common).—To take one's revenge; to give tit for tat.

To get it, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To be punished (morally or physically); to be called over the coals. Also (venery) to catch a clap.

To get off, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To (1) escape punishment; to be let off; (2) to utter, to deliver oneself of, to perpetrate—as to get off a joke; and (3) to get married.

To get on, verb. phr. (colloquial).—1. To back a horse; to put a bit on (q.v.).

2. (colloquial).—To succeed; or, simply, to fare. Thus, How are you getting on? may signify (1) To what extent are you prospering? or (2) How are you doing?

1871. Pall Mall Gaz., 29 Dec. That great Anglo-Saxon passion of rising in the world, or getting on—that is, rising into the class above him.

1892. A. W. Pinero, The Times: a Comedy, v. 1. We used to go very early to such places and stay right through, now that papa has got on, we arrive late everywhere and murmur an apology!

To get one in the cold, verb. phr. (American).—To have at an advantage; to be on the windward side (q.v.); to have on toast (q.v.).

To get one on, verb. phr. (pugilists').—To land a blow.

To get down fine (or close), verb. phr. (American).—To know all about one's antecedents; and (police) to know where to find one's man.

To get into, verb. phr. (venery).—To occupy (q.v.). Also to get in and to get up. For synonyms, see Greens and Ride.

1620. Percy, Folio MSS., p. 197. Gett vp againe, Billy, if that thou louest me.

To get over, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To seduce, to fascinate, to dupe. Also to come over and to get round.

To get outside of, verb, phr. (colloquial).—1. To eat or drink; also to accomplish one's purpose.

1892. S. Watson, Wops the Waif, p. 9. Tickle urged Wops again and again to drink, but Wops's only reply was, 'Yer go on, Tickle; git outside the lot, if yer can; it'll do yer good, Cully.'

2. (venery).—To receive the sexual embrace: of women only.

To get out of bed on the wrong side, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To be testy or cross-grained. [A corruption of an old saying, 'To rise on the right side is accounted lucky'; hence the reverse meant trials to temper, patience, and luck.]

1607. Marston, What You Will. You rise on your right side to-day, marry.

1608. Machin, Dumb Knight, iv., 1. Sure I said my prayers, ris'd on my right side, Wash'd hands and eyes, put on my
girdle last; Sure I met no splea-footed baker, No hare did cross me, nor no bearded witch, Nor other ominous sign


1647. Beaumont and Fletcher, i. Women Pleased. You rose o' your right side.

1890. Globe, 15 May, p. 2, col. 2. Some of them had—if we may employ such a vulgar expression—GET OUT OF BED ON THE WRONG SIDE to-day.

To get out (or Round), verb. phr. (racing).—To back a horse against which one has previously laid; to HEDGE (q.v.).

1884. Hawley Smart, From Post to Finish, p. 318. He had an idea Johnson was this time cleverly working a very well authorised commission, and that he personally had taken more than one opportunity of what is termed GETTING OUT.

To get set, verb. phr. (cricketing).—1. To warm to one's work at the wicket, and collar the bowling; to get one's eye well in.

To get there, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To attain one's object; to be successful; to make one's jack (q.v.); to get there with both feet = to be very successful.

1887. Francis, Saddle and Mocassin. He said as he'd been gambling, and was two hundred dollars ahead of the town. He got there with both feet at starting.

1888. New York Herald, 29 July. Although not a delegate he got there all the same.

2. (common).—To get drunk. For synonyms, see Drinks and Screwed.

3. (venery).—To enjoy the sexual favour.

To get through, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To pass an examination; to accomplish.

1853. Bradley, Ver. Green, II. ch. xii. So you see, Giglamps, I'm safe to get through.

To get up and dust, verb. phr. (American).—To depart hastily. For synonyms, see SKEDDLE and AMPUTATE.

To get up behind (or get behind) a man, verb. phr. (common).—To endorse or back a bill.

1880. Life in a Debtor's Prison, p. 87. In other cases he figured as the drawer, or simply as endorser. This, Mr. Whipper described as getting up behind.

To get up the mail, verb. phr. (thieves').—To find money (as counsels' fees, etc.) for defence.

1889. Clarkson and Richardson, Police, 322, s.v.

[Get enters into many other combinations. See back teeth; bag of sack; bead; beans; beat; big bird and goose; big head; billet; bit; boat; bolt; books; bulge; bullet; bull's feather; crockettets; dander and monkey; dark; drop; eye; flannels; flint; game; grand bounce; gravel-rash; grind; grindstone; hand; hang; hat; head; hip or hop; home; horn; hot; jack; keen; length of one's foot; measure; mitten; needle; religion; rise; run; scot; swot; scrape; set; shut of; silk; sniff; straight; sun; ticket of leave; wool; wrong box.]

Get away, subs. (American thieves').—A locomotive or train; a puffer (q.v.).

Getter. A sure getter, subs. phr. (Scots).—A procreant male with a great capacity for fertilisation.
**Get-up.** 137


1856. *Whyte Melville, Kate Coventry,* ch. xiv. Is that killing get up entirely for your benefit, John? I asked.

1865. G. A. Sala, *Trip to Barbary,* ch. x. Altogether the get up of a Mauresque *en promenade* is livelier and smarter than that of a Turkish woman.

1866. G. Eliot, *Felix Holt,* ch. xii. The graceful, well-appointed Mr. Christian, who sneered at Scales about his get up, having to walk back to the house with only one tail to his coat.

1882. *Graphic,* 9 Dec., p. 643, c. 2. Comic gets up, which will make the house roar presently, are elaborated with the business air of a judge in banc, or a water-rate collector.

1889. *Mirror,* 26 Aug., p. 2, c. 1. I cannot, however, congratulate F. C. G. on his sketch of Blowitz; it isn’t much like the great man, and the get up is quite too absurd.

1890. *Daily Telegraph,* 25 Feb., p. 7, col. 7. Dressed as a copurich, and, giving himself out as an Italian count—thinking to entrap some Transatlantic heiress by his title, fascinating appearance, and gorgeous get up.

**Verb. phr.** (colloquial).—(1) To prepare (a part, a paper, a case); (2) to arrange (a concert); (3) to dress (as got up regardless, to the nines, to the knocker, to kill, within an inch of one’s life); (4) to disguise (as a sailor, a soldier, Henry VIII., a butcher, a nun). See also get into.

1828. L. Hunt, *Essays* (Camelot ed.), p. 13. The pocket-books that now contain any literature are got up, as the phrase is, in the most unambitious style.

1856. *Whyte Melville, Kate Coventry,* ch. xviii. Three very gentleman-like, good-looking men, got up to the utmost extent of hunting splendour.

1884. *Eton School Days,* ch. xviii., p. 207. He felt confident in his power of getting up so that no one would recognise him.

1886. *New York Home Journal,* Jan. While that admirable old dame, Nature, has been strangely neglectful of much which might be conducive to our comfort, she has gotten up, regardless of expense, a few articles which are good for some purposes, as the witty Hood has told us.

1871. *London Figaro,* 11 Mar. It is got up very much in the style of the Paris journals, and is very inferior compared with any respectable journal in England.


1892. *Chevalier,* 'The Little Nipper.' I’ve knowed 'im take a girl on six feet tall; ‘E’d git ’imself up dossy, Say 'I’m goin’ out wi' Flossie.'

**G.H.** See George Horne.

**Ghost,** subs. (common). — One who secretly does artistic or literary work for another person taking the credit and receiving the price. [The erm was frequently used during the trial of Laws v. Belt in 188(?).] Cf., Devil.

1890. *Daily Telegraph,* 8 Feb. The sculptor’s ghost is conjured up from the vastly deep of bygone lawsuits.

1892. *National Observer,* vii., 327 Would not the unkind describe your 'practical man' as a ghost?

**Verb.** (common).—To prowl; to spy upon; to shadow (g.v.).

**The ghost walks (or does not walk)** phr. (theatrical). — There is (or is not) money in the treasury.

1853. *Household Words,* No. 183. When no salaries are forthcoming the ghost doesn’t walk.
Ghoul.

1883. *Referee*, 24 June, p. 3, c. 2. An Actor’s Benevolent Fund box placed on the treasurer’s desk every day when THE GHOST WALKS would get many an odd shilling or sixpence put into it.

1885. *The Stage*, p. 112. The rogues seldom appear at a loss for a plausible story when it is time for the GHOST TO WALK. *Ibid*. The next day THE GHOST DECLINES TO WALK.

1889. J. C. Colman (in *Slang, Jargon, and Cant*), p. 405. GHOST-WALKING, a term originally applied by an impecunious stroller in a sharing company to the operation of ‘holding the treasury,’ or paying the salaries, which has become a stock facetia among all kinds and descriptions of actors. Instead of enquiring whether the treasury is open, they generally say—‘Has the GHOST WALKED?’ or ‘What, has this thing appeared again?’ (Shakspeare).

1890. *Illustrated Bits*, 29 Mar., p. x, c. 1. And a few nights with empty benches LAID THE GHOST completely. It could not even walk to the tune of quarter salaries.

**THE GHOST OF A CHANCE**, subs. phr. (colloquial).—The faintest likelihood, or the slightest trace: e.g., He hasn’t THE GHOST OF A CHANCE.

1891. *Sportsman*, 26 Mar. He did not give THE GHOST OF A CHANCE.

**GHOUL**, subs. (American.)—1. A spy; specifically a man who preys on such married women as addict themselves to assignation houses.

2. (journalistic).—A newspaper chronicler of the smallest private tittle-tattle.


1877. *Five Years’ Penal Servitude*, ch. iii., p. 221. I did a lagging of seven, and was at the GIB three out of it.

1892. *Pall Mall Gazette*, 23 Mar., p. 6, c. 1. ‘Stormy Weather at GIB.’ The weather here has been fearful; 51 inches of rain have been registered, and the land for miles round Gibraltar is submerged.

**TO HANG ONE’S GIB**, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To pout. See JIB.

**GIBBERISH** (or **GEBBERISH, GIBBERIDGE, GIBRIGE**, etc.), subs. (old: now recognised).—Originally the lingo of gipsies, beggars, etc. Now, any kind of inarticulate nonsense. [From GIBER, a variant of JABBER. See CANT, SLANG, PEDLAR’S FRENCH, etc.]


1598. Florio, *Worlde of Wordes*. Gergare, to speak fustian, pedlers french, or rogues language, or GIBBRISH.

1611. Cotgrave, *Dictionarie*. Jargon, gibridge fustian language, pedler s French, a barbarus jangling.

1659. Torriano, *Vocabolario*, s.v.

1748. Smollett, *Rod. Random*, ch. xxx. He repeated some GIBBERISH which by the sound seemed to be Irish.

1748. H. Shirley, *Martyr’d Soulied*. Feele my pulse once again and tell me, Doctor, Tell me in tearmes that I may understand—I doe not love your GIBBERISH,—tell me honestly Where the Cause lies, and give a Remedy.


1850. D. Jerrold *The Catspaw*. Act i. Odds and ends . . . writ down in such a kind of GIBBERISH that I can’t make out one of ’em.

1858. G. Eliot, *Mr. Gilfill’s Love Story*, ch. iv. It’ll learn to speak summat better nor GIBBERISH, an’ be brought up i’ the true religion.

1892. R. L. Stevenson and L. Osbourne, *The Wrecker*, p. 129. It was Fo’c’l’sle Jack that piped and drawled his ungrammatical GIBBERISH.
Gibble-Gabble, subs. (colloquial).
—Nonsense; Gibberish (q.v.).
[A reduplication of Gabble (q.v.).]

1600. Dekker, Shoemaker's Holiday, in wks. (1873) i., 21. Hee's some uplandish workeman, hire him good master, That I may learne some Gibble Gabble, 'twill make us worke the faster.

1659. Torriano, Vocabolario, s.v.

1748. T. Dyche, Dictionary (5th ed.). Gibble-gabble (s), silly, foolish, idle talk.

Gib-Cat, subs. (old).—A tom-cat.
[An abbreviation of Gilbert = O. Fr. : Tibert, the cat in the fable of Reynard the Fox.]

1360. Chaucer, Romaunt of the Rose, 6204 (Thibert le Cas is rendered by Gibbe, our cat).

1508. Shakspeare, 1 Henry IV., Act i., Sc. 2. I am as melancholy as a gib-cat.

1614. Jonson, Bartholomew Fair, i., 1. Before I endure such another day with him, I'll be drawn with a good gib-cat through the great pond at home.

1688. Rump Songs, 'Rump Carbonadoed,' ii., 71. As if they had less wit and grace than Gib-Cats.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

Gibe, verb. (American).—To go well with; to be acceptable. See Gee.

Gibel, verb. (thieves').—To bring.
1837. Disraeli, Venetia, bk. i., ch. xiv. Gibel the chive, bring the knife.

Gib-Face, subs. (colloquial).—A heavy jowl; an Ugly-Mug (q.v.). Cf., to hang one's Gib.

Giblets, subs. (common).—I. The intestines generally; the Manifold (q.v.). Cf., Trouble-Giblets.

1864. Browning, Dramatis Personae, 'Flight of the Duchess.' Is pumped up briskly through the main ventricle, and floats me genially round the giblets.

2. (colloquial).—A fat man; Forty-guts (q.v.). Also Duke of Giblets.

To join giblets, verb, phr. (venery) — To copulate. Also to have or do a bit of giblet-pie. For synonyms, see Ride. Hence to cohabit as husband and wife; to live tally. Cf., plaster of warm guts.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1887. Notes and Queries, 7 S., iv., 511. 'To join giblets.'—This expression may occasionally be heard in this district, among the lowest and vulgarest, and has a very offensive meaning.

To fret one's giblets, verb, phr.—See Fret.

Gibraltar, subs. (American).—A party stronghold: e.g., the Gibraltar of Democracy. — Norton.

Gibson (or Sir John Gibson), subs. (old coachbuilders').—A rest to support the body of a building coach.

Gibus, subs. (colloquial).—1. An opera, or crush hat. Fr., un accordéon. [From the name of the inventor.]


1871. Figaro, 2 Sept. Much fun may be made by wearing a Glans, and collapsing it at the moment of contact with the funnel.

1885. Punch, 4 Apr., p. 160. Giving his comic, shiny, curly-brimmed hat to the swell who couldn't by any possible chance have mistaken it for his own Gibus.

1887. Atkin, House Scraps, p. 144. Their Gibus hats are cock'd awry.
**Giddy.**

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**Giddy, adj.** (colloquial).—Flighty; wanton: e.g., TO PLAY THE GIDDY GOAT = to live a fast life; to be happy-go-lucky.

1892. *Ally Sloper,* 19 Mar., p. 91, c. 2. Fanny Robinson was flighty; she PLAYED THE GIDDY OX — I mean heifer.

**Giffle-gaffle, subs.** (old).—Nonsense; a variant of GIBBLE-GABBLE (q.v.).


**Gif-gaff (or Giff-gaff), subs.** (Scots').—A bargain on equal terms. Whence the proverb: GIF-GAF makes guid friens. Fr.: *Passe-moi la casse et je t'enverrai la senne.*

**Gift, subs.** (colloquial).—1. Anything lightly gained or easily won.

2. (common).—A white speck on the finger nails, supposed to portend a gift.

1811. *Lexicon Balatronicum,* s.v.

3. (printers').—See GIFT-HOUSE.

**As full of gifts as a brazen horse of farts, phr.** (old).—Mean; miserly; disinclined to PART (q.v.).

1811 *Lexicon Balatronicum,* s.v.

**Gift of the Gab.—See Gab.**

**Gift-house (or Gift), subs.** (printers').—A club; a house of call; specifically for the purpose of finding employment, or providing allowances for members.

**Gig (Gigg, Gigge), subs.** (old).—1. A wanton; a mistress; a flighty girl. Cf., GIGLET.

1373. *Chaucer, House of Fame,* iii. 851. This house was also ful of gyyges.


1780. D'ARBELEY, *Diary,* etc. (1876), i., 286. Charlotte L — called, and the little gig told ... of the domestic life she led in her family, and made them all ridiculous, without meaning to make herself so.

1825. *Planche, Success in Extravaganzas* (1879) I., 26. He! he! What a gig you look in that hat and feather!

1832. *Macauley in Life,* by Trevelyan (1884), ch. v., p. 188. Be you Foxes, be you Pitts, You must write to silly chits, Be you Tories, be you Whigs, You must write to sad young gigs.

2. (old).—A jest; a piece of nonsense; anything fanciful or frivolous. Hence, generally, in contempt.


1793. *Butt, Poems.* ... Fograms, quizzes, treats, and bores, and gigs, Were held in some account with ancient prigs.

1856. WHYTE MELVILLE, *Kate Coventry,* ch. xiv. Such a set of gigs, my dear, I never saw in my life; large underbred horses, and not a good-looking man amongst them.

3. (old).—The nose. For synonyms, see CONK. To SNITCHELL THE GIG = to pull the nose. GRUNTER'S GIG = a hog's snout.

1690. B. E., *Dict. of the Cant.* Crew, s.v.

1785. *Grose, Vulg. Tongue,* s.v.

4. (venery).—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE. [Possibly from gig = a top, i.e., a toy; possibly, too, from It. giga = a fiddle (q.v.) ; but see post sense 8.]

1690. B. E., *Dict. of the Cant.* Crew, s.v.

1785 *Grose, Vulg. Tongue,* s.v.
5. (old: now recognised).—A light two-wheeled vehicle drawn by one horse.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1809. Windham, Speech, 25 May. Let the former riders in gigs and whiskeys, and one horsed carriages continue to ride in them.

6. (old).—A door. See Gigger.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue. It is all bob, now let's dub the gig of the case: now the coast is clear, let us break open the door of the house.

7. (Eton).—A fool; an overdressed person. For synonyms, see Sammy-soft.


1870. Athenaeum, 16 Apr. He would now be what Eton used to call a gig, and Westminster a Quiz.

8. (old).—Fun; a frolic; a spree. [Possibly from Fr.: gigue = a lively dance movement. Cf.: gigue et jon = a Bacchanalian exclamation of sailors. In Florio, too, frrottolare = 'to sing gigges, rounds, or . . . wanton verses.'] Full of gig = full of laughter, ripe for mischief.

1811. Moore, Twopenny Post-bag, Letter 3. We were all in high gig—Roman punch and tokay travelled round, till our heads travelled just the same way.

1820. Randall, Diary. In search of lark, or some delicious gig, The mind delights on, when 'tis in prime twig.

1823. Moncrieff, Tom and Jerry, i., 3. I hope we shall have many a bit of gig together.


9. (old).—The mouth. For synonyms, see potato-trap.

1871. Finish to Tom and Jerry, p. 175 (ed. 1872). The bit of myrtle in his gig.

10. (old).—A farthing. Formerly grig (q.v.).


Verb. (old).—To hamstring.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. To gig a Smithfield hank, to hamstring an overdrove ox.

By gigs! intj. (old).—A mild and silly oath. See oaths.

1551. Gammer Gurton's Needle, ii., 51. Chad a foule turne now of late, chill tell it you, by gigs!

Gigamaree, subs. (American).—A thing of little worth; a pretty but useless toy; a gimcrack (q.v.).

1848. Jones, Sketches of Travel, p. 9. Byin' fineries and northern gigamarees of one kind or another.

Ibid. I ax'd the captain what sort of a gigamaree he had got up there for a flag.

Gigantomachize, verb. (old).—To rise in revolt against one's betters. Gr., gigantomachia = the War of the Giants against the Gods. [Probably a coinage of Ben Jonson's.]

1599. Jonson, Every Man Out, Act v., 4. Slight, fed with it the whoreson, strummel-patched, goggle-eyed grumblers would have gigantomachized their Maker.

Gigger, subs. (tailors')—I. A sewing machine. (In allusion to noise and movement).

2. See Jigger.

Giggles-nest. Have you found a giggles-nest? phr. (old).—Asked of a person titterering, or one who laughs immoderately and senselessly.
Gig-lamps.

**Gig-lamps, **subs. (common).—I. Spectacles. For synonyms, see Barnacles.

1848. Bradley, in Letter to J. C. H. Gig-lamps (certainly a university term. I first heard it in 1848 or 1849, long before Mr. Verdant Green was born or thought of).

1877. *Five Years' Penal Servitude,* ch. ii., p. 140. You with the gig-lamps, throw us your cigar.


1892. F. Anstey, *Voces Populi.* 'At the Tudor Exhibition.' Stop, though, suppose she *has* spotted me? Never can tell with giglamps.

2. (common).—One who wears spectacles; a four eyes (q.v.). [Popularised by Verdant Green.]

**Gigler** (or *Giglet, Goglet, Gigle, Gig*), subs. (old).—A wanton; a mistress. Giglet (West of England) = a giddy, romping girl; and in Salop a flighty person is called a giggle. Cf., gig, sense 1.

1533. Udal, *Floures for Latine Spekynges,* fo. 'or. What is the matter, foolish giglote? What meanest thou? Whereat laughest thou?

1567. Harman, *Caveat,* leaf 22, back. Therefore let us assemble secretly into the place where he hath appoynted to meet this gylet that is at your house.

1603. Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure,* v., 1. Let him speak no more: away with those giglots too, and with the other confederate companion.


1620. Massienger, *Fetal Downy,* Act. iii. If this be the recompense of striving to preserve a wanton giggle honest, very shortly 'Twill make all mankind pandars.


**Adj.** (old).—Loose in word and deed. Also giglet-like, and giglet-wise = like a wanton.

1598. Shakespeare, *Henry IV,* Act v., Sc. 1. Young Talbot was not born to be the pillage of a giglet wench.


**Gild,** verb. (old).—To make drunk; to flush with drink.

1609. Shakespeare, *Tempest,* Act v., Sc. 1. This grand liquor that hath gilded them.


**To gild the pill,** phr. (colloquial).—To say, or do, unpleasant things as gently as may be; to impose upon; to bamboozle (q.v.).

**Gilded Rooster,** subs. phr. (American).—A man of importance; a howling swell (q.v.); sometimes the gilded rooster on the top of the steeple. Cf., big-bug; big dog of the tanyard, etc.

1888. *New York Herald.* We admit that as a metropolis Chicago is the gilded rooster on top of the steeple, but even gilded roosters have no right to the whole corn bin.

**Gilderoy’s Kite.** To be hung higher than gilderoy’s kite, verb. phr. (old).—To be punished more severely than the very worst criminals. ‘The greater the crime the higher the gallows’ was at one time a practical legal axiom. Hence, out of sight; completely gone.

**Giles’ Greek.** See St. Giles’ Greek.
**Gilguy.**

**Gilguy, subs.** (nautical).—Anything which happens to have slipped the memory; equivalent to what's-his-name or thingamytight.

**Gilkes, subs.** (old).—Skeleton keys.

1610. ROWLANDS, Martin Mark-all, p. 38 (H. Club’s Rept., 1874). Gilkes for the Gigger, false keys for the doore or picklocks.

**Gill (or Jill), subs.** (old).—I. A girl; (2) a sweetheart: e.g., every Jack must have his Gill; (3) a wanton, a strumpet (an abbreviation of Gillian). For synonyms, see Jomer and Titter.


1598. Florio, A Worlde of Wordes, Paladrima, a common queane, a harlot, a strumpet, a Gill.

1620. Percy, Folio MSS., p. 104. There is neuer a Jacke for Gill.

1659. Torriano, Vocabolario, s.v.

2. (common).—a drink; a Go (q.v.).


3. in. pl. ‘g’ hard (colloquial).—The mouth or jaws; the face. See Potato-Trap and Dial.

1622. Bacon, Historia Naturalis. Redness about the cheeks and Gills.

1632. Jonson, Magnetic Lady, i. He . . . draws all the parish wills, Designs the legacies, and strokes the Gills of the chief mourners.

b. 1738. Wolcot, Pindar’s Works (1809), i., 8. Whether you look all rosy round the Gills, Or hatchet-fac’d like starving cats so lean.

1820. Lamb, Elia (Two Races of Men). What a careless, even deportment hath your borrower! what rosy Gills!

1855. Thackeray, Newcomes, ch. viii. Binnie, as brisk and rosy about the Gills as chanticleer, broke out in a morning salutation.

1884. Punch. He went a bit red in the Gills.

4. in. pl. (common).—A very large shirt collar; also Stick-ups and Sideboards. Fr. : cachetonbonbon-à-liqueur = a stick-up.

1859. Sala, Twice Round the Clock, 6 p., in Part 7. With a red face, shaven to the superlative degree of shininess, with Gills white and tremendous, with a noble white waistcoat.


To grease the Gills. — verb phr. (common).—To have a good meal; to Wolf (q.v.).

To look blue (or queer, or green) about the Gills, verb. phr. (common).—To be downcast or dejected; also to suffer from the effects of a debauch. Hence, conversely, to be rosy about the Gills = to be cheerful.

1836. M. Scott, Tom Cringle’s Log, ch. ii. Most of them were very white and blue in the Gills when we sat down, and others of a dingy sort of whitey-brown, while they ogled the viands in a most suspicious manner.


A cant (or dig) in the Gills, phr. (pugilists’).—A punch in the face. See Bang.

**Gill-flirt, subs.** (old).—A wanton; a flirt. For synonyms, see Barrack Hack and Tart.

1598. Florio, A Worlde of Wordes

1611. Cotgrave, Dictionarie. Gautiere, a whore, punke, drab, queane, Gill flirt.
1690. B. E., Dict. of the Cant. CREW, s.v. A proud minx.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1811. LECTION BALATRONICUM, s.v.

GILLY, subs. (American).—A fool. For synonyms, see BUUFFLE and CABBAGE-HEAD.

GILLY-GAUPUS, subs. phr. (Scots).—A tall loutish fellow.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

GILT, subs. (popular).—1. Money. [Ger. : Geld; Du. : Gelt.]

ENGLISH SYNONYMS.—Add to those under Actual:—Charms; checks; cole or coal; colander seeds; corn in Egypt; crap; darby; dots; ducats; gingerbread; kelter; lowie; lurries; moss; oil of palms; palm-oil; peck; plums; rhino; rivets; salt; sawdust; scad; screen; scuds; shigs; soap; spoon; Steven; sugar; tea-spoons; tinie.

FRENCH SYNONYMS.—Le galtos (popular); l’odeur de gousset (obsolete); Ponguent (= palm grease, Sp., unguento; the simile is common to most languages); le morlingue (thieves’); la menouille (popular); le michon (thieves’; from miche, a loaf, cf., Loaver); les monacos (popular); le monarque (prostitutes’; primarily a five franc piece); le ble = corn or loaver); les étoffes (thieves’).

SPANISH SYNONYMS.—Lalana (= wool); la morusa (colloquial); la mosca (= the flies); lo numerario; la pelusa (= down); losurraco (colloquial); lo unguento de Mejjico (= Mexican Grease); a’ toca teja (colloquial: ready money); caire.

ITALIAN SYNONYMS.—Cucci; cuchieri; cucchielli; lugani.

GERMAN SYNONYMS.—Fuchs (= fox: an allusion to the ruddy hue of gold pieces; fuxig or fuxern = golden, red; fuchsmeischener = goldsmith); gips or gyps (Viennese thieves’, from the Latin, gypsum); hora (= ready-money: from the Hebrew heren); kall (Han: especially small change: from Heb. kal = lowly light); kis, kies, kiss (applied both to money in general and the receptacle or purse in which it is carried); love, love (Han.); mepaie (from the Fr., payer) mesumme, linke mesumme = counterfeit money); moos (from Heb., méo = a little stone); pich, picht, or pech; stub ( = dust).

1599. SHAKESPEARE, Henry V., Act ii. Chorus. These corrupted men . . . have for the gilt of France (O guilt, indeed) Confirmed conspiracy.

1714. Memoirs of John Hall (4th ed.), p. 9. And from thence conducted (provided he has gilt) over the way to Hell.

1885. Daily News, 25 May, p. 3, c. 1. Disputatious like mobs grouped together to discuss whether Charrington or Crowder had the most gilt.

2. subs. (old).—A thief; a pick-lock; also GILT- or RUM-DUBBER, GILTER, etc.


1673. Character of a Quack Astrologer. For that purpose he maintains as strict a correspondence with GILTS and lifters.

1676. Warning for Housekeepers, p. 3. The gilter is one that hath all sorts of picklocks and false keys.

1680. COTTON, Complete Gamester, p. 333. Shoals of muffs, hectors, setters, GILTS, puds, hiters, etc. . . . may all pass under the general appellation of snobs.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.
3. (thieves'). — Formerly a pick-lock or skeleton key; now a crow-bar. For synonyms, see JEMMY.

1671. R. Head, English Rogue, Pt. ix, ch. v, p. 50 (1874). GILT, a pick-lock.

1724. E. Coles, Eng. Dict. GILT, c. a pick-lock.

1839. W. H. Ainsworth, Jack Sheppard, p. 183 (ed. 1840). We shall have the whole village upon us while you're striking the jigger. Use the GILT, man!

To TAKE THE GILT OFF THE GINGERBREAD, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To destroy an illusion; to discount heavily.

1884. Hawley Smart, From Post to Finish, p. 171. You see we had a rattling good year all round last, bar the Dancing Master. He took the gilt off the gingerbread considerably.

GILT-DUBBER, see GILT, sense 2.

GILT-EDGED, adj. (American).—First-class; the best of its kind; a latter-day superlative. For synonyms, see AI and FIZZING.

c. 1889. Chicago Tribune (quoted in Slang, Jargon, and Cant). He's a gilt-edged idiot to play the game.

1891. Standard, 18 June, p. 2, c. 1. 'Gilt-edged mutton' is the latest of glorified and 'boomed' American products.

1891. Tit Bits, 8 Aug., p. 286, c. 2. Another accomplishment, peculiar to the gilt-edged academy, is learning to eat asparagus, oranges, grapes, etc.

GILTER, see GILT, sense 2.

GILT-TICK, subs. (costermongers'). Gold.

GIMBAL-(or GIMBER-) JAWED, adj. (common).—Loquacious; talking NINETEEN TO THE DOZEN (q.v.). [Gimbals are a combination of rings for free suspension; hence applied to persons the joints of whose jaws are loose in speech.]

GIMCRACK (GINCRACK, or JIMCRACK), subs. (old).—1. A showy simpleton, male or female; a DANDY (q.v.).

1618. Beaumont and Fletcher, Loyal Subject, iv, 3. These are fine gimcracks; hey, here comes another, a flagon full of wine in his hand.

1637. Fletcher, Elder Brother, iii., 3. You are a handsome and a sweet young lady, And ought to have a handsome man yoked to ye. An understanding too; this is a gimcrack That can get nothing but new fashions on you.

1690. B. E., Dict. of the Canting Crew. Gimcrack, a spruce wench.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

2. (colloquial).—A showy trifle; anything pretty to look at but of very little worth.

1632. Chapman and Shirley. The Ball, Act iv. Lu. There remains, To take away one sample. Wi. Another gimcrack?


1698-1700. Ward, London Spy, pt. 7, p. 108. I suppose there being little else to lose except scenes, machines, or some such jim-cracks.

1843. Thackeray, Irish Sketch Book, ch. 1. There was the harp of Brian Boru, and the sword of some one else, and other cheap old gimcracks with their corollary of lies.


3. (provincial).—A handy man; a JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES (q.v.).

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. A gimcrack also means a person who has a turn for mechanical contrivances.
Gimcrackery.

Ginger.

4. (venery). — The female pudendum. [A play on sense 2, and crack, (q.v.).] For synonym, see monosyllable.

Adj. (colloquial). — Trivial; showy; worthless.

1855. Thackeray, Newcomes, ch. ix. No shops so beautiful to look at as the Brighton gimcrack shops, and the fruit shops, and the market.


1892. Tit Bits, 19 Mar., p. 425 c. 2. A large cabinet or wardrobe, beautifully carved, and very substantial, no gimcrack work.

Gimcrackery, subs. (colloquial). — The world of gimcrack (q.v.).

1884. A. Forbes, in Eng. Illustrated Mag., Jan., p. 230. The inner life of the Empire was a strange mixture of rottenness and gimcrackery.

Gimlet-eye, subs. (common).—A squint-eye; a piercer (q.v.). Fr.: des yeux en trou de pine.

Gimlet-eyed, adj. (common).—Squinting, or squinny-eyed; cock-eyed. As in the old rhyme: 'Gimlet eye, sausage nose, Hip awry, bandy toes.'

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

Gimmer, subs. (Scots').—An old woman. A variant of 'cummer.'


1857. Kingsley, Two Years Ago, ch. xiii. An Australian settler's wife bestows on some poor slaving gin a cast-off French bonnet.


2. (Australian). — An old woman. For synonyms, see geezer.

Gin-and-gospel gazette, subs. phr. (journalists').—The Morning Advertiser: as the organ of the Licensed Victualling and Church of England party. Also the tap-tub and beer and bible gazette.

Gin-and-tidy, adv. phr. (American). — Decked out in 'best bib and tucker.' A pun on 'neat spirits.'

Gin-crawl, subs. (common).—A tipple (q.v.) on gin.

1892. A. Chevalier, 'The Little Nipper.' I used to do a gin crawl every night, An' very, very often come 'ome tight.

Gingambobs (or jiggumbobs), subs. (common).—I. Toys; baubles.

1690. B. E. Dict. of the Cant. Crew, s.v.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

2. (venery). — The testicles; also thingambobs. For synonyms, see cods.

Ginger, subs. (common).—I. A fast, showy horse; a beast that looks figged (q.v.).


2. (common).—A red-haired person; carrots (q.v.). [Whence the phrase (venery) 'Black for beauty, ginger for pluck.]

1885. Miss Tennant in Eng. Illustrated Magazine, June, p. 605. The policemen are well known to the boys, and appropriately named by them. There is 'Jumbo,' too stout to run; ginger, the red-haired.

3. (common).—Spirit; dash; go (q.v.). To want ginger = to lack energy and pluck (q.v.).

1888. The World, 13 May. You will remark that your spinal column is requiring a hinge, and that considerable ginger is departing from your resolution to bear up and enjoy yourself.
Gingerbread. 147 Ginger-snap.

1891. GUNTER, Miss Nobody of Nowhere, p. 124. If father objects send him to me, I'll take the GINGER out of him in short order.


Adj. (common).—Red-haired; FOXY (q.v.); JUDAS-HAIRED (q.v.). Also GINGER-PATED, GINGER-HACKLED, and GINGERY.

1875. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Red-haired; a term borrowed from the cock-pit, where red cocks are called GINGERS.

1839. H. AINSWORTH, Jack Sheppard, ch. xii. Somebody may be on the watch—perhaps that Old GINGER-HACKLED Jew.

1852. DICKENS, Bleak House, ch. xix., p. 160. The very learned gentleman who has cooled the natural heat of his GINGERY complexion in pools and fountains of law, until he has become great in knotty arguments for term-time.

1878. M. E. BRADDON, Cloven Foot, ch. iv. The landlady was a lean-looking widow, with a false front of GINGERY curls.

GINGERBREAD, subs. (old).—I. Money: e.g., 'He has the GINGERBREAD' = he is rich.

1690. B. E. Dict. of the Cant. Crew, s.v.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1834. AINSWORTH, Rookwood. Your old dad had the GINGERBREAD.

1864. Standard, 13 Dec. We do not find ... the word GINGERBREAD used for money, as we have heard it both before and within the last six months. The origin of the use of the word may probably be the old fairy legends wherein the coin obtained over night from the elves was usually found in the morning to have turned into little gingerbread cakes.

2. (colloquial).—BRUMMAGEM (q.v.); showy, but worthless ware.

Adj. (colloquial).—Showy but worthless; tinsel. Fr., en pain d'épice. GINGERBREAD WORK (nautical) = carved and gilded decorations; GINGERBREAD QUARTERS (nautical) = luxurious living.

1757. SMOLLETT, Compendium of Voyages and Travels. The rooms are too small and too much decorated with carving and gilding, which is a kind of GINGERBREAD work.

TO TAKE THE GILT OFF THE GINGERBREAD. See GILT.

GINGERLY, adj. and adv. (old: now recognised).—As adj., delicate; fastidious; dainty; as adv., with great care; softly.

1533. UDAL, Flores for Latine Speyngynge. We stayghe and prolonge our goyng, with a nyce or tendre and softe, delicate, or GINGERLY pace.

c. 1563. Jacke Jugeler, p. 40 (ed. Grosart). We used to call her at home Dame Coye, a pretie GINGERLIE pice [piece].

1592. NASHE, Pierce Penilesse, in Wks., ii., 32. That lookes as simperingly as if she were besmeared, and sits it as GINGERLY as if she were dancing the Canaries.

1611. CHAPMAN, May-Day, Act p. 294 (Plays, 1874). Come, come, GINGERLY; for God's sake, GINGERLY.

1659. TORRIANO, Vocabolario, q.v.

1759-67. STERNE, Tristram Shandy, vol. V., ch. v. My mother was going very GINGERLY in the dark.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. To go GINGERLY to work, i.e., to attempt a thing gently, or cautiously.

1874. MRS. H. WOOD, Johnny Ludlow, i S. 12, p. 207. The Squire went in GINGERLY, as if he had been treading on a spiked ploughshare.

GINGER-POP, subs. (colloquial).—


2. (rhyming).—A policeman; a SLOP (q.v.).

1887. DAGONET, Referee, 7 Nov., P. 7. c. 3. Ere her bull-dog I could stop, She had called a GINGER-Pop.

GINGER-SNAP, subs. (American).—A hot-tempered person, especially one with carrotty hair.
Gingham, subs. (common).—An umbrella; specifically one of this material. For synonyms, see Mushroom.

1889. Miss Braddon, Trail of the Serpent, Bk. I., ch. vii. Mr. Peters therefore took immediate possession by planting his honest gingham in a corner of the room.

1868. Miss Braddon, Trail of the Serpent, Bk. I., ch. vii. Mr. Peters therefore took immediate possession by planting his honest gingham in a corner of the room.

Gin-twist, subs. (common).—A drink composed of gin and sugar, with lemon and water.

1841. Comic Almanac, p. 271 What, for instance, but gin-twist could have brought Oliver Twist to light?

Ginnified, subs. (common).—Dazed, or stupid, with liquor.

Ginnums, subs. (common).—An old woman: especially one fond of drink.

Ginny, subs. (old).—A housebreaker’s tool; see quot., 1754.

1690. B. E., Dict. of the Cant. Crew, s.v.

1754. Scoundrel’s Dict. An instrument to lift up a grate or grating, to steal what is in the window. ‘The ninth is a ginny, to lift up the grate, If he sees but the Lurry, with his Hooks he will bait.’

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

Gin-penny, subs. (costermongers’).—Extra profit, generally spent in drink.

Gin-slinger, subs. (common).—A gin-drinker. For synonyms, see Lushington.

Gin-spinner, subs. (old).—A distiller; a dealer in spirituous liquors. Cf., ale-spinner.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1827, Egan, Anecdotes of the Turf, p. 179. Just as she was about to toddle to the gin-spinner’s for the ould folk and lisp out for a quateron of Max.

1888. F. Green, in Notes and Queries, 7 S., vi., 153. I have always understood that a gin spinner is a distiller who makes gin, but could never find out why so called.

Gin-twist, subs. (common).—A drink composed of gin and sugar, with lemon and water.

1841. Comic Almanac, p. 271 What, for instance, but gin-twist could have brought Oliver Twist to light?

Gingle-boy, subs. (old).—A coin; latterly a gold piece. Also gangler. See actual and canary.

1622. Massinger and Dekker, Virgin Marty, ii., 2. The sign of the gingleboys hangs at the door of our pockets.

Gingle-bob. See gingham.

Gincomtwig, verb. (venery).—To copulate. For synonyms, see ride.

1598. Florio, World of Words, Scuotere il pellicone. To ginicomtwig or occupie a woman.

Gingumbobs. See gingham.

Gin-lane (or trap), subs (common).—1. The throat. For synonyms, see gutter-alley. Gin-trap, also = the mouth. For synonyms, see potato-trap.

1827. Egan, Anecdotes of the Turf, p. 67. Never again could... he feel his ivories loose within his gin-trap.

2. (common).—Generic for the habit of drunkenness.

1839. Ainsworth, Jack Sheppard [1889], p. 8. Let me advise you on no account to fly to strong waters for consolation, Joan. One nail drives out another, it’s true; but the worst nail you can employ is a coffin nail. Gin Lane’s the nearest road to the churchyard.

Gin-mill, subs. (American).—A drinking saloon. For synonyms, see lush-crib.
GIN UP, verb. (American).—To work hard; to make things lively or hum (q.v.). For synonyms, see Wire in.

1887. Francis, Saddle and Moccasin. They were ginning her up, that’s a fact.

GIP, subs. (American thieves').—1. A thief. 2. Also (Cambridge University) a college servant. See GYP. For synonyms, see Thieves.

GIRL, subs. (common).—1. A prostitute; in. pl. = the stock in trade of a brothel. See Barrack Hack, Tart, and Gay. Fr., fille.

2. (colloquial).—A mistress; a MASH (q.v).

3. In. pl. (venery).—The sex—or that part of it which is given to unchastity—in general; hence the girls = lechery.

After the girls. He's been after the girls, verb. phr. (common).—Said of one with clap or pox.

GIRL AND BOY, subs. phr. (rhyming). A saveloy.

GIRLERY, subs. (colloquial).—A brothel. Also a theatre for burlesque and comic opera.

GIRL-GETTER, subs. (colloquial).—A mincing, womanish male.

GIRLING. To go GIRLING, verb. phr. (venery).—To quest for women; to go on the loose (q.v.).

GIRLOMETER, subs. (venery).—The penis. Also, GIRL-CATCHER. For synonyms, see Creamstick and Prick.

GIRL-SHOOP, subs. phr. (common).—A brothel.

GIRL-SHOW, subs. phr. (common).—A ballet, a burlesque, a leg-piece (q.v.).

GIRL STREET. In HAIR COURT, GIRL STREET, subs. phr. (common).—Generic for fornication. Also the female pudendum.

GIRL-TRAP, subs. phr. (common).—A seducer; a MUTTON-MONGER (q.v.).

GIT! (or YOU GIT!), intj. (American).—Be off with you! An injunction to immediate departure; WALKER! (q.v.). Sometimes a contraction of GET OUT! Also GET OUT AND DUST!

1851. Seaworthy, Bertie, p. 78. Thruk as the tin commandhers! GIT AOUT!

To have no GIT up and GIT, phr. (American).—To be weak, vain, mean, or slow—generally deprecatory.

GIVE, verb. (vulgar).—1. To lead to; to conduct; to open upon: e.g., ‘The door gave upon the street.’ Cf. the idiomatic use, in French, of donner.

2. (American).—An all-round auxiliary to active verbs: e.g., TO GIVE ON PRAYING = to excel at prayer; TO GIVE ON THE MAKE = to be clever at making money, etc.

TO GIVE IT TO, verb. phr. (old).—1. To rob; to defraud. —GROSE.

2. (common).—To scold; to thrash. Also to give what for; to give it hot; to give something for oneself; to give one in the eye, etc.
Fr., aller en donner. For synonyms, see Wig and Tan respectively.

1852. 

TO GIVE AWAY, verb. phr. (American).—To betray or expose inadvertently; TO BLOW UPON (q.v.): TO PEACH (q.v. for synonyms). Also TO GIVE DEAD AWAY. Largely used in combination: e.g., GIVE-AWAY = an exposure; GIVE-AWAY CUE = an underhand revelation of secrets.

1836. F. M. Crawford, Doctor Claudius, ch. vi., p. 100. It always amused him to see sanguine people angry. They looked so uncomfortable, and gave themselves away so recklessly.

1886. A. Lang, Longman's Mag., VII., 321. I know not whether the American phrase, to GIVE A PERSON AWAY, to GIVE YOURSELF AWAY, meaning to reveal your own or another's secret, is of provincial English origin. Did it cross over with the Pilgrim Fathers in the Mayflower, or is it a recent bit of slang?

'Who GIVETH THIS WOMAN AWAY?' asked the rural American parson in the wedding service. 'I could, came the voice of a young man from the gallery, 'but I'd never be so mean.'

1888. Detroit Free Press, Aug. Careful what we say, for it will give us dead away.

1889. Answers, 20 Apr., p. 326. My closely cropped hair, however, gave me away.


TO GIVE ONE BEST, verb. phr. (schoolboys').—1. To acknowledge one's inferiority, a defeat. Also (thieves') to leave, TO CUT (q.v.).

1887. Horsley, Jottings from Jail. But after a time I gave him best (left him), because he used to want to bite my ear (borrow) too often.

TO GIVE THE COLLAR, verb. phr. (American).—To seize; to arrest; TO COLLAR (q.v.). For synonyms, see NAB.

TO GIVE THE BULLET (SACK, BAG, KICK-OUT, PIKE, ROAD, etc.), verb. phr. (common).—To discharge from an employ.
GIVER, subs. (pugilistic).—A good boxer; an artist in PUNISHMENT (q.v.).

1824. Reynolds, (‘Peter Corcoran’), The Fancy, p. 73. She knew a smart blow from a handsome giver would darken lights.

GIXIE, subs. (obsolete).—A wanton wench; a strumpet; an affected mincing woman.

1598. Florio, World of Words. Faina, a mincing, coie, nice, puling, squeamish woman, an idle huswife, a flurt, a gixgi. Also as Foina [i.e., ‘a polecat’; while Foirere = ‘to lust for beastly leacherie, to be salt as a bitch.’]

1611. Cotgrave, Dictionarie, s.v. Gadrouillette, a minx, gigle, flirt, callet gixie: (a fained word applicable to any such cattell). [See further, gadriller (a wench) = ‘to rump or play the rig’].

GIZZARD, TO FRET ONE’S GIZZARD, verb, phr. (common).—To worry oneself. See FRET.

To stick in one’s gizzard, verb phr. (common).—To remain as something unpleasant, distasteful or offensive; to be hard of digestion; to be disagreeable or unpalatable.

c. 1830. Finish of Tom and Jerry, p. 241. It had always stuck in his gizzard to think as how he had been werry cruelly used.

To grumble in the gizzard, verb phr. (common).—To be secretly displeased. Hence, GLADSTONE-GIZZARD (q.v.).

GLADSTONE, subs. (common)—1. Cheap claret. [Mr. Gladstone, when in office in 1869, reduced the duty on French wines.] See DRINKS.


1885. A. Birrell, Obiter Dicta, p. 96. To make him unbosom himself over a bottle of gladstone claret in a tavern in Leicester Square.

2. colloquial).—A travelling bag. [So named in honour of Mr. Gladstone.]

GLADSTONIZE, verb (colloquial).—To talk about and round; to evade or prevaricate; to speak much and mean nothing.

GLANTHORNE, subs. (old).—Money. For synonyms, see ACTUAL and GILT.

1789. Parker Life’s Painter, p. 42. Drop the glanthorne = part with money.
**Glasgow Greys.**

**Glasgow Greys, subs. phr.** (military). — The 70th Foot. [Which in the beginning was largely recruited in Glasgow.]

The 70th were long known as the **Glasgow Greys**.

**Glasgow Magistrate, subs. phr.** (common). — A herring, fresh or salted, of the finest. [From the practice of sending samples to the Bailie of the River for approval.] Also **Glasgow Bailie**.

1855. *Strang, Glasgow and its City Clubs*. This club . . . better known by the title of the Tinkler's club, particularly when the brotherhood changed the hour of meeting . . . and when the steak was exchanged for a 'Welsh rabbit' or **Glasgow Magistrate**.

**English Synonyms** (for herrings generally). — Atlantic ranger ; Californian ; Cornish duck ; Digby chicken ; Dunbar wether ; gendarme ; Gourock ham ; magistrate ; pheasant (or Billingsgate pheasant) ; reds ; sea-rover ; soldier ; Taunton turkey ; two-eye'd steak ; Yarmouth capon. Fr. : gendarme.

**Glass, subs.** (American thieves'). — An hour. [An abbreviation of 'hour-glass.]

1859. *Matsell, Vocabulum, s.v.*
The badger piped his Moll about a glass and a half before she cribbed the flat.

**There's a deal of glass about, phr.** (common). — I. Applied to vulgar display = 'It's the thing' (q.v.).

2. (common). — Said in answer to an achievement in assertion. A memory of the proverb, 'People who live in glass houses should not throw stones.'

**Who's to pay for the broken glass? verb. phr.** (colloquial). — See **Stand the racket**.

**Been looking through a glass, adv. phr.** (common). — Drunk. For synonyms, see **Drinks and Screwed**.

**Glass-eyes, subs.** (old). — A man wearing spectacles ; **Four-eyes** (q.v.) ; Gig-lamps (q.v.).

1811. *Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v.*

**Glass-house.** To live in a glass house, verb. phr. (colloquial). — To lay oneself open to attack or adverse criticism.

**Glass-work, subs.** (card-sharpers'). — An obsolete method of cheating at cards. A convex mirror the size of a small coin was fastened with shellac to the lower corner of the left palm opposite the thumb, enabling the dealer to ascertain by reflection the value of the cards he dealt.

**Glass, subs.** (card-sharppers'). — An obsolete method of cheating at cards. A convex mirror the size of a small coin was fastened with shellac to the lower corner of the left palm opposite the thumb, enabling the dealer to ascertain by reflection the value of the cards he dealt.

1800. *B. E., Dict. of the Cant. Crew, s.v.*


1754. *Discoveries of John Poulter*, p. 43. Undub the Jeger and jump the **Glass**.


1830. *Finish to Tom and Jerry* [1872], p. 82. A random shot milling the **Glass**.

**Verb** (old). — To cheat at cards. See quot. and **Glass-work**.

1821. *P. Egan, Real Life*, I., 297. If you take the broads in hand in their company, you are sure to be work'd, either by **glassing**, that is, putting you in front of a looking glass, by which means your hand is discovered by your antagonist, or by private signals from the pal.
Glazier. 153

To Mill (or Star a Glaze), *verb. phr.* (old).—To break a window.

1823. MONCRIEFF, *Tom and Jerry*, iii., 2. "Jerry. What are you about, Tom? Tom. I'm going to Mill the Glaze—ill—(Is about to break the glass, when Kate and Sue appear as the Miss Trifles.)"

1823. Jon Bee, *Dict. of the Turf*. Glaze, *s.v.*, to Mill the Glaze, the miller may adopt a stick or otherwise, as seems most convenient.

On the Glaze, *adv. phr.* (thieves').—Robbing jewellers' shops by smashing the windows. See Glazier.

1724-34. C. JOHNSON, *Highwaymen and Pyrates*, q.v.

1889. Ally Sloper, 4 May. Getting a reprieve he went to Dublin on the Glaze.

Glazier, *subs., in. pl.* (old).—1. The eyes. For synonyms, see Glims. Fr.: les ardens.


1611. Middleton and Dekker, *Roaring Girl*, v., i. These glaziers of mine, mine eyes.


1890. *Licensed Vict. Gaz.*, 31 Jan. The rest who were so glib with their promises.

Glube, *subs.* (American thieves').—Writing; specifically, a written statement.

Glim (or Glym), *subs.* (old).—1. A candle, or dark lanthorn; a fire or light of any kind. To dose the glim = to put out the light. Fr.: estourbir la cabande. Also short for Glimmer or Glymmar (*q.v.*).

1690. B. E., *Dict. of the Cant. Crew*, *s.v.* A dark lanthorn used in Robbing Houses; also to burn in the Hand.


1785. Grosle, *Vulg. Tongue*. Bring bess and glym; i.e., bring the instrument to force the door, and the dark lanthorn.

1823. Moncrieff, *Tom and Jerry*, ii., 2. "Tom. Then catch—here's the gentlemen's tooth-picker, and here's his glim—(Throws stick and lanthorn to Jerry.)"
1834. AINSWORTH, Rookwood, bk. III., ch. 5. Every star its glim at hiding.

1837. DICKENS, Oliver Twist, ch. 16. Let's have a glim... or we shall go breaking our necks.

1837. LYTTON, Ernest Maltravers, Bk. I., ch. 10. 'Hush, Jack!' whispered one; 'hang out the glim and let's look about us.'

1852. JUDSON, Myst., etc., of New York, ch. iv. Old Jack bade Harriet trim the glim.

1852. R. L. STEVENSON, Treasure Island, p. 89. Sure enough, they left their gum here.

1884. HENLEY and STEVENSON, Admiral Guinea, ii., 6. Now here is my little glim; it aint for me because I'm blind.

2. (old).—A sham account of a fire as sold by FLYING STATIONERS (q.v.).

1851-61. MAYHEW, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, i., 233. His papers certify any and every 'ill that flesh is heir to'...

3. in. pl. (common).—The eyes.

4. in. pl. (common).—A pair of spectacles. For synonyms, see BARNACLES.

5. (common).—Gonorrhcea or clap (q.v.). [From sense 1 = fire.]

Verb (old).—To brand or burn in the hand.

1892. MILLIKEN, 'Arry Ballads, p. 56. A pootty gal, gentle, or simple, as can't use her glims is a flat.

1690. B. E., Dict. of the Cant. Crew, s.v. As the cull was glimm'D, he gangs to the Nubb, c., if the Fellow has been Burnt in the Hand, he'll be Hang'd now.

1714. Memoirs of John Hall, p. 15. Profligate women are glimm'd for that villany, for which, rather than leave it, they could freely die martyrs.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

To puff the glims, verb. phr. (veterinary).—To fill the hollow over the eyes of old

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Glim-Fenders. 155  Glistner.

horses by pricking the skin and blowing air into the loose tissues underneath, thus giving the full effect of youth.

Glim-Fenders, subs. (old).—I. Andirons, or fire-dogs.


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

2. (old).—Handcuffs. [A pun on sense 1.]

1823. Jon Bee, Dict. of the Turf s.v.

1848. Duncombe, Sinks of London, s.v.

Glimflashly (or Glim-flashey), adj. (old).—Angry. See Nab the Rust and Hair.

1690. B. E., Dict. of the Cant. Crew, s.v. Glimflashly, c., Angry, or in a Passion. The Cull is Glimflashly, c. the Fellow is in a Heat.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1830. Lytton, Paul Clifford, ch. xxxi. No, Captain, don’t be Glimflashey! You have not heard all yet.

Glim-Jack, subs. (old).—A link boy; a moon-cursel (q.v.); but, in any sense, a thief.

1690. B. E., Dict. of the Cant. Crew, s.v.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

Glim-lurk, subs. (tramps').—A beggars' petition, based on a fictitious fire or Glim (sense 2).

1851-61. H. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, vol. I., p. 233. The patterer becomes a ' lurker,—that is, an imposter; his papers certify any and every ' ill that flesh is heir to.' Shipwreck is called a Shake-lurk; loss by fire is a Glim

Glimmer (or Glymmar), subs. (old).—Fire. See quot.

1587. Harman, Caveat. These Demaunders for Glymmar be for the moste parte wemen.


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

Glimmerer, subs. (old).—A beggar working with a petition giving out that he is ruined by fire. Also Glimmering Mort = a female Glimmerer.

1690. B. E., Dict. of the Cant Crew, s.v. Glimmerer, c., the Twenty-second Rank of the Canting Tribe, begging with Sham Licences, pretending to Losses by Fire, etc.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

Glimstick, subs. (old).—A candlestick. [From Glim = a light + stick.] Fr. : une occasion.


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

Glistner, subs. phr. (thieves').—See quot., Glistner of Fish-hooks.


Glistner, subs. (old).—A sovereign. For synonyms, see Canary.
Gloak.

Gloak (or Gloach), subs. (old).—A man. For synonyms, see Chum and Cove.


Globe, subs. (old).—1. A pewter pot; pewter.

1714. Memoirs of John Hall, s.v.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v.

2. in. pl. (common).—The paps. For synonyms, see Dairy.

Globe-rangers, subs. (nautical).—The Royal Marines.

Globe-trotter, subs. (colloquial).—A traveller; primarily one who races from place to place, with the object of covering ground or making a record. Fr. : un pacquelineur.

1886. Graphic, 7 Aug., 147/1. Your mere idle gaping glocketrotter will spin endless pages of unobservant twaddle, and will record his tedious wanderings with most painful minuteness.

1888. Academy, 17 Mar. The inevitable steamboat, the world, and the omnivorous globe-trotter.

1889. Echo, 9 Feb. The British globe-trotter knows Japan as he knows England, and English books about Japan are turned out by the ton.

1890. Pall Mall Gaz., 27 Jan., p. 5, c. 2. This popular definition of a quickmover has now become effete. Miss Bly is a GLOPE-GALLOPER or she is nothing.

Globe-trotting, subs. (colloquial).—Travelling after the manner of GLOBE-TROTTERS (q.v.).

1888. Academy, 22 Sept. In fact, globe-trotting, as the Americans somewhat irreverently term it, is now frequently undertaken as a mere holiday trip.

Glope, verb. (Winchester College).—To spit. (Obsolete).

Glores, aaj. (common).—Excited with drink; ‘in one’s altitudes’; BOOZED. For synonyms, see DRINKS and SCREWED.

1791. Burns, Tam o’ Shanter. Kings may be blessed, but Tam was glorious, O’er a’ the ills of life victorious.

1853. Thackeray, Barry Lyndon, ch. xviii., p. 252. I knew nothing of the vow, or indeed of the tipsy frolic which was the occasion of it; I was taken up glorious, as the phrase is, by my servants, and put to bed.

1891. Licensed Vict. Gaz., 9 Feb. But as they all began to get glorious, personalities became more frequent and very much stronger.

Glorious Sinner, subs. phr. (rhyming).—A dinner.

Glory, subs. (common).—The after life; KINGDOM COME (q.v.). Usually, THE COMING GLORY.

1841. Punch, 17 July, p. 2. Clara pines in secret—Hops the twig, and goes to glory in white muslin.

In one’s glory, adv. phr. (colloquial).—In the full flush of vanity, pride, taste, notion, or idiosyncracy.

Gloves, to go for the gloves, verb. phr. (racing).—To bet recklessly; to bet against a horse without having the wherewithal to pay if one loses—the last resource of the plunging turfite. The term is derived from the well-known habit of ladies to bet in pairs of gloves, expecting to be paid if they win, but not to be called upon to pay if they lose.

1877. Hawley Smart, Play or Pay, ch. xi. One of the boldest plungers of the day, who had begun badly, was going for the gloves upon this match.
Glow, adj. (tailors').—Ashamed.

Glue, subs. (common).—1. Thick soup. (Because it sticks to the ribs.)

English Synonyms. — Deferred stock; belly-gum; giblets-twist; gut-concrete; rib-tickler; stick-in-the-ribs.

French Synonyms. — La menetre (thieves'); la lavasse (= a mess of pot liquor); la laffe (thieves'); la jaffe (popular); l'ordinaire (popular: soup and boiled beef at an ordinary); le fond d'estomac (= thick soup); la mousse; la mouillante (= the moistener).

German Synonyms.—Jauche; Polifke.

2. (common).—Gonorrhoea.

Glue-pot, subs. (common).—A parson. [Because he joins in wedlock.] For synonyms, see Devil-dodger and Sky-pilot.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

Glum, adj. (old: now recognised).—Sullen; down in the mouth; stern. Fr.: faire son nes = to look glum; also, n'en pas mener large.


1755. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

17(?) Broadside Ballad. 'Sam Hall, The parson he will come, And he'll look so bloody glum.'

1816. Johnson, Dict. of the English Language. Glum, s.v., a low cant word formed by corrupted 'gloom.'

1847. Thackeray, Vanity Fair, ii., ch. vi. 'I wonder whether Lady Southdown will go away; she looked very glum upon Mrs. Rawdon,' the other said.

1888. Referee, 21 Oct. Who found him looking glum and gray, And thought his accent gruff and foreign.

1892. A. W. Pinero, The Times, v., i. What are you so glum about.

Glump, verb. (provincial).—To sulk. Hence glumpy, glumping, and glumpish = sullen or stubborn.


1835. Th. Hook, Gilbert Gurney. He was glumpy enough when I called.

1860. G. Eliot, Mill on the Floss, Bk. VI., ch. iv. 'An it worrets me as Mr. Tom 'ull sit by himself so glumphish, a-knittin' his brow, an' a lookin' at the fire of a night.

Glutman, subs. (old).—See quot.

1797. Police of the Metropolis, p. 64. An inferior officer of the Customs, and particularly one of that class of supernumerary tide waiters, who are employed temporarily when there is a press or hurry of business. These glutmen are generally composed of persons who are without employment, and, being also without character, recommend themselves principally from the circumstance of being able to write.

Glutton, subs. (common).—1. A horse which lasts well; a layer (q.v.).

2. (pugilists'). — A pugilist who can take a lot of punishment (q.v.).

1819. Moore, Tom Crib, xvi. Thus Theocritus, in his Milling Match, calls Amycus a glutton, which is well known to be the classical phrase at Moulsey-Hurst for one who, like Amycus, takes a deal of punishment before he is satisfied.
Gnoler.

1801. Licensed Vict, Mirror, 30 Jan., p. 6, c. 3. He was known to be an awfully heavy hitter with both hands, a perfect glutton at taking punishment.

Gnoler, subs. (thieves’). — A watch dog. For synonyms, see Tike.

Gnasp, verb. (old). — To vex. For synonyms, see Rile.

1728. Bailey, English Dict. s.v.

Gnoff.—See Gonnof.

Gnostic, subs. (colloquial). — A knowing one; a downy cove (q.v.); a whipster (q.v.). [From the Gr., gnosis=knowledge.]

1819. Moore, Tom Crib, p. 27. Many of the words used by the Canting Beggars in Beaumont and Fletcher’s Masque are still to be heard among the Gnastics of Dyot Street and Tothill Fields.

adj. (colloquial). — Knowing, artful (q.v.).


1825. Scott, St. Ronan’s Well, ch. iv. He was tog’d gnostically enough.

Go, subs. (common). — I. A drink; specifically a quartern of gin. (Formerly a go-down, but Cf., quot. 1811.)

[For other combinations see abroad—

West—whole animal—woodbine—woolgathering—wrong.

English Synonyms.—
Bender; caulkier; coffin nail; common-sewer; cooler; crack; cry; damp; dandy; dash; dew-hank; dewdrop; dodger; drain; dram; facer; falshe; gargarisme; gasp; go-down; hair of the dog, etc.; Johnny; lip; liquor up; livener; lotion; lounce; modest quencher; muzzler; nail from one’s coffin; night-cap; nip or nipper; nobbler; old crow; a one, a two, or a three; out; peg; pick-me-up; pony; quencher; reviver; rince; sensation; settler; shift; shove in the mouth; slug; small cheque; smile; sniffer; something damp; something short; swing; thimbleful; tiddly; top up; tot; warmer; waxer; wet; white-wash; yard.

French Synonyms.—
Un bourgeron (popular = a nip of brandy); un asticot de cercueil (= a coffin-worm, a play on verre and biere); un coup d’arrosoir (popular : a glass of the watering pot); un gargarisme (popular : = a gargle [q.v.]); un galopin (= a pony [q.v.] of beer; un larme (= a tear); un mistiche (thieves’); un miserable (popular : a glass of spirits costing one sou; une demi-selle = two sous; un monsieur = four sous; un poisson = five sous); un mince de chic (popular : in contempt); une coupille de noix (popular = a thimbleful; a very small go; a drain); un jeune homme (familiar = in capacity four litres); un Kolback (popular = a small glass of brandy, or large glass of wine); une flute (familiar); un extravagant (popular = a long drink); un fil (= a drain); un
**Italian Synonym.** — Schioppa (= a long drink: also a large beer glass).

**Spanish Synonyms.** — Chiciguete (colloquial); enjuagadientes (also = a mouthful of water or wine for rinsing the mouth after eating); espolada (= a long drink).

**Portuguese Synonym.** — Quebrado (= broken: a small glass).

1690. D’Urfe, Collin’s Walk, canto 4. And many more whose quality forbids their toping openly, Will privately, on good occasion, take six go-downs on reputation.

1793. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Go-shop... The Queen’s Head in Duke’s Court.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum. Go-shop, s.v. The Queen’s Head, in Duke’s Court, Bow Street, Covent Garden, frequented by the under players, where gin and water was sold in three-halfpenny bowls, called goes; the gin was called Arrack.

1820. Jack Randall’s Diary. Gents (says he), you all well know The joy there is whene’er we meet; It’s what I call the primest go, And rightly named, ’tis—quite a treat.

1835. Dickens, Sketches by Boz, p. 251. A considerable bustle and shuffling of feet was then heard upon the stage, accompanied by whispers of ‘Here’s a pretty go!—what’s to be done?’

1850. Mrs. H. Wood, Roland Yorke, ch. xli. I am about to try what a month or two’s absence will do for me.’ And leave us to old Brown?—that will be a nice go!’

1869. Thackeray, Pendennis, ch. lxxiii. Master Frank Clavering... had only time to ejaculate the words, ‘Here’s a jolly go!’ and to disappear sniggering.

1883. Echo, 7 Feb., p. 4, c. 3. Witness asked him what he had been drinking. He replied, ‘Two half-goes of rum hot and a half-pint of beer.’

2. (colloquial).—An incident; an occurrence: e.g., a rum go = a strange affair, or queer start; a pretty go = a startling business; a capital go = a pleasant business.

1803. Kenney, Raising the Wind, i., 3. Ha! ha! ha! Capital go, isn’t it?


1841. Punch, vol. I., p. 162. Stating his conviction that this was rayer a rummy go.

1849. Thackeray, Pendennis, ch. lxxiii. Master Frank Clavering... had only time to ejaculate the words, ‘Here’s a jolly go!’ and to disappear sniggering.


1870. Figaro, 28 May. Their musical performances are evidently inspired by goes of gin.
1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v. He is quite the go, he is quite varment, he is prime, he is bang up.

1821. Egan, Tom and Jerry [ed. 1891], p. 35. Tom was the go among the goes.

1835. Haliburton ('Sam Slick'), The Clockmaker, 3 S., ch. xiv. Whatever is the go in Europe will soon be the cheese here.

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends, I., 251. It was rather the go with pilgrims and saints in the Second Crusade.

1846. Punch, vol. X., p. 163. From lowly Queen's quadrangle, where muffins are the go.

1850. G. R. Sims, Ballads of Babylon (Beauty and Beast). And all day long there's a big crowd stops to look at the lady who's all the go.

4. (colloquial).—Life; spirit; energy; enterprise; impetus: e.g., plenty of go = full of spirit and dash. Fr.: avoir du chien.

1825. The English Spy, i., 178. She's only fit to carry a dean or a bishop. No go in her.

1865. Macdonald, Alec Forbes of How-glen, II., 269. All night Tibbie Dyster had lain awake in her lonely cottage, listening to the quiet heavy go of the water.


6. (American).—A success. To make a go of it = to bring things to a satisfactory termination.

7. (gaming). The last card at cribbage, or the last piece at dominos. When a player is unable to follow the lead, he calls a go!

8. (old.)—A dandy (q.v. for synonyms): a very heavy swell indeed, one in the extreme of fashion.

1821. Egan, Tom and Jerry [people's ed.], p. 35. In the parks, Tom was the go among the goes.

Verb (American political).—1. To vote; to be in favour of. Cf., go for.

2. (colloquial).—To succeed; to achieve. Cf., go down.

5. (colloquial).—A turn; an attempt; a chance. Cf., no go.

To have a go at, verb. phr. = to make essay of anything: as a man in a fight, a shot at billiards, and (specifically) a woman.

1836. C. Dickens, Pickwick Papers (about 1827), p. 377 (ed. 1857). Wot you think o' that for a go?

1878. Jas. Payn, By Proxy, ch. iii. 'I would practise that in the seclusion of my own apartments,' observed Penicuick; 'and after a few goes at it, I'll bet a guinea I'd shake the right stick out first.'

1888. Haggard, Mr. Meeson's Will, ch. x. You have had seven goes and I have only had six.

5. (colloquial).—A turn; an attempt; a chance. Cf., no go.

1882. Illustrated London News, 10 March, p. 242, c. 3. There was any amount of dash and go in their rowing.

1887. Paton, Down the Islands. Barbadian may therefore be said to mean a man with go and grit, energy and vim.

1889. Sportsman, 19 Jan. It all lent a certain zet and go to the proceedings.

1890. Pall Mall Gaz., 21 Feb., p. 7, c. 1. There was so much heartiness and go (so to speak) in the work that it reminded me of what I had read about peasant proprietors labouring in Switzerland and elsewhere under a Home Rule Government.


7. (gaming). The last card at cribbage, or the last piece at dominos. When a player is unable to follow the lead, he calls a go!


8. (old.)—A dandy (q.v. for synonyms): a very heavy swell indeed, one in the extreme of fashion.
Go.

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Go.

1870. H. D. TRIALL, 'On the Watch.' Sat. Songs, p. 22. Eh, waddyer say? Don't it go? Ho, yes! my right honnoble friend. It's go and go over the left, it's go with a hook at the end.

3. (colloquial).—To wager; to risk. Hence to stand treat; to afford.

1768. GOLDSMITH, Good Natured Man, Act iii. Men that would go forty guineas on a game of cribbage.

1876. BESANT AND RICE, Golden Butterfly, Prologue ii. The very dice on the counter with which the bar-keeper used to go the miners for drinks.

1877. S. L. CLEMENS (M. Twain), Life on the Mississippi, ch. xliii., p. 390. There's one thing in this world which a person won't take in pine if he can go walnut; and won't take in walnut if he can go mahogany. . . . That's a coffin.

4. (racing). — To ride to hounds.

1884. HAWLEY SMART, From Post to Finish, p. 219. There would be far too many there who had seen Gerald Rockingham go with the York and Ainstey not to at once know that he and Jim Forrest were identical.

5. (colloquial).—To be pregnant.

1561-1626. BACON, (quoted by Dr. Johnson). Women go commonly nine months, the cow and ewe about six months.

1601. SHAKESPEARE, Henry VIII., iv., 1. Great bellied women that had not half a week to go.

GO DOWN, verb. phr. (colloquial).—1. To be accepted, received, or swallowed; to WASH (q.v.).

1809. DEKKER, Lanthorne and Candle-Light, in wks. (Grosart), III., 272. For the worst hors-flesh (so it be cheape) does best GOE DOWNE with him.

1659. MASSINGER, City Madam, i., 1. But now I fear it will be spent in poultry; Butcher's-meat will not GO DOWN.

1683. PEPYS, Diary, 9 Nov. The present clergy will never heartily GO DOWN with the generality of the commons of England.

1742. FIELDING, Joseph Andrews, bk. II., ch. xvii. 'O ho! you are a pretty traveller,' cries the host, 'and not know the Levant! . . . you must not talk of these things with me, you must not tip us the traveller—it won't go here.'

1748. SMOLLETT, Roderick Random, ch. xxi. He. . . shook his head, and beginning with his usual exclamation said, 'That won't go down with me.'

1885. W. E. NORRIS, Adrian Vidal, ch. vii. In fashion or out of fashion, they always pay and always GO DOWN with the public.

2. (University).—To be under discipline; to be rusticated.

1863. H. KINGSLEY, Austin Elliot, i., 179. How dare you say 'deuce in my presence? You can go down, my Lord.

3. (common). — To become bankrupt. Also, TO GO UNDER.


To GO DUE NORTH, verb. phr. (obsolete). — To go bankrupt, [That is, to go to White-cross Street Prison, once situate in north London]. See QUISBY.

To GO ON THE DUB, verb. phr. (old).—To go house-breaking; to pick locks. See DUB.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s. v.

To GO TO THE DOGS, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To go to ruin. [Cf., the Dutch proverb 'Toe go, toe de dogs' = money gone, credit gone too.] See DEMNITION BOW-WOWS.

1857. A. TROLLOPE, Three Clerks, ch. i. The service, he said, would GO TO THE DOGS, and might do for anything he cared and he did not mind where.
1863. H. Kingsley, Austin Elliot, 1, 179. 'Got a second!—bah! The University is going to the "— Deuce!' suggested Lord Charles, who was afraid of something worse. 'Dogs, Sir, dogs!' c. 1879. Broadside Ballad, 'Old Clo.' My line of business is played out, University is going to the ' - Deuce!' It's able, they straightway seem to have whenever an unpleasant effect was obtain-
table; nor the reader one iota;Sweetheart, do it. Some men had
1871. John Hay, Jim Bludso. He see'd his duty, a dead-sure thing—And he FOR his uncle's house, he had made up his mind to
1892. Hume Nisbet, Bushranger's Sweetheart, p. 123. ''Well mate, GO FOR him, and we'll keep the cops off till you settle his hash.'
3. (colloquial). - To support; to favour; to vote for.
4. (theatrical). - To criticise; specifically, to run down. [An extension of sense 2.] For syn-
onyms, see Run Down.
To go in for (or at), verb. phr. (colloquial). - To enter for; to apply oneself to (e.g., to GO IN FOR honours). Also to devote oneself to (e.g., to pay court); to take up (as a pastime, pursuit, hobby, or principle). Closely allied to GO FOR.
1836. C. Dickens, Pickwick Papers, p. 18 (ed. 1857). This advice was very like that which bystanders invariably give to the smallest boy in a street fight; namely, 'GO IN, and win': an admirable thing to recommend, if you only know how to do it.
1849. Dickens, David Copperfield, ch. xviii., p. 162. Sometimes I GO IN AT the butcher madly, and cut my knuckles open against his face.
1864. Dickens, Our Mutual Friend, iii., 3. Go in for money—Money's the article.
1869. Whyte Melville, M. or N., p. 31. Long before he had reached his uncle's house, he had made up his mind to GO IN, as he called it, for Miss Bruce, morally confident of winning, yet troubled with certain chilling misgivings, as fearing that this time he had really fallen in love.
1870. Agricultural Jour., Feb. Men who go in for bathing, running, etc.
1872. Besant and Rice, My Little Girl (in Once a Week, 14 Dec., p. 598). He had, after a laborious and meritorious career at Aberdeen, gone in for Scotch mission work in Constantinople.
1873. Miss Broughton, Nancy, ch. xlv. His cheeks are flushed; he is laughing loudly, and going in heavily for the champagne.
1883. James Payn, *Thicker than Water*, ch. xx. This is very nice, but I do wonder, Mrs. Tidman, that you never GO IN FOR curries.

1890. H. D. Trail, *A Noble Watchword*, Sat. Songs, p. 58. To GO IN solid for the cause how noble! (though, 'tis true, We must hope at next election that you'll GO IN liquid, too).

TO GO IN UNTO, verb. phr. (Biblical). — To have sexual intercourse with. For synonyms, see GREENS and RIDE.

1892. Bible, Gen. xxx. 3. Behold my maid Bilhah, GO IN UNTO her.

TO GO IT, verb. phi-.(colloquial). - To act with vigour and daring; to advocate or speak strongly; to live freely. Also to GO IT BLIND, FAST, BALD-HEADED, STRONG, etc. Cf., DASH.


1821. Egan, *Tom and Jerry* [people's ed.], p. 67. Logic, under the domino, had been GOING IT on a few of his friends with much humour.

Ibid., p. 22. To GO IT, where’s a place like London?

1837. R. H. Barham, *The Ingoldsby Legends* (Ed. 1862), p. 375. For this be assured, if you GO IT TOO FAST, you’ll be ‘dished’ like Sir Guy.


1849. Dickens, *David Copperfield*, ch. 6. I say young Copperfield, you’re GOING IT.

1841. Dow, *Sermons*, vol. I., p. 176. I would have you understand, my dear hearers, that I have no objection to some of the sons and daughters of the earth GOING IT, while they are young, provided they don’t GO IT TOO STRONG.


1880. Milliken, in *Punch’s Almanack* Apr. Nobby toggs, high jinks, and lots o’ lotion, That’s the style to GO IT, I’ve a notion.

Intj. (common). — Keep at it! Keep it up! — a general (sometimes ironical) expression of encouragement. Also GO IT YE GRIPPLES, CRUTCHES ARE CHEAP! (or NEWGATE’S ON FIRE); GO IT, MY TULIP; GO IT MY GAY AND FESTIVE CUSS! (Artemus Ward); or (American) GO IT BOOTS! GO IT RAGS! I’LL HOLD YOUR BONNET! G’LANG! (usually to a man making the pace on foot or horseback.) For similar expressions see MOTHER. Fr., hardi!

1840. Thackeray, *Cox’s Diary*. Come along this way, ma’am! GO IT, YE CRIPPLES!


1868. Miss Braddon, *Trail of the Serpent*, bk. I., ch. iii. Three cheers for red! GO IT—GO IT, red!

1890. *Tit Bits*, 1 Mar., Q. 325. ‘Not for Joe’... came from a once popular gong. So did GO IT, YOU CRIPPLES.

1841. Punch, vol. I., p. 113. Pockets, ... to use the flippant idiom of the day, are GOING OUT.

TO GO OUT, verb. phr. (colloquial). — To fall into disuse.

To GO OVER, verb. phr. (colloquial). — I. To desert from one side to another; specifically (clerical) to join the Church of Rome; to VERT (q.v.).

1861. Thackeray, *Lovel the Widower*, ch. ii. I remember Pye, of Maudlin, just before he WENT OVER, was perpetually in Miss Prior’s back parlour with little books, pictures, medals, etc.

1878. Miss Braddon, *Open Verdict*, ch. vi. Mr. Dulcimer is a horrid person to tell you such stories; and after this, I shouldn’t be at all surprised at his GOING OVER to Rome.

2. (colloquial). — To die; i.e., to GO OVER to join the majority. Also to GO OFF. To GO OFF
THE HOOKS, TO GO UNDER, TO GO ALOFT, and TO GO UP.

1848. Ruxton, Life in the Far West, p. 4. 'A sight, marm, this coon's gone over.' Ibid., p. 3. Them three's all gone under.

3. (thieves')—To attack, rifle, and rob.

1889. Referee, 2 June. A few who had ... gone over the landlord, left him skinned.

To GO OFF, verb. phr. (colloquial).—1. To take place; to occur.

1866. Mrs. Gaskell, Wives and Daughters, ch. xiv. The wedding went off much as such affairs do.

2. (colloquial).—To be disposed of (as goods on sale, or a woman in marriage).

1835. Dickens, Sketches by Boz, p. 208. Miss Malderton was as well known as the lion on the top of Northumberland House, and had an equal chance of going off.

3. (colloquial).—To deteriorate (as fish by keeping, or a woman with years).

1883. Pall Mall Gazette, 16 Apr., p. 3, c. 2. Shotover rather went off in the Autumn, and her Leger preparation was not altogether satisfactory.

1892. Tit-Bits, 17 Sept., p. 422, c. 3. To those ... who are apt to go off colour, so to speak, through injudicious indulgence at table.

4. (colloquial).—To die. For synonyms, see ALOFT.

1606. Shakespeare, Macbeth, v., 7. I would the friends we miss were safe arrived: Some must go off.

1836. C. Dickens, Pickwick Papers (about 1827), p. 368 (Ed. 1857). She's dead, God bless her, and thank him for it! —was seized with a fit and went off.

Go as YOU PLEASE, adj. phr. (athletics').—Applied to races where the competitors can run, walk, or rest at will: e.g., in time and distance races. Hence, general freedom of action.

1884. Punch, 11 Oct. 'Arry at a Political Picnic.' 'Twas regular go as you please.

To go to BATH, PUTNEY, etc.—See BATH, BLAZES, HELL, HALIFAX, etc.

To go through, verb. phr. (American).—1. To rob: i.e., to turn inside out. Hence, to master violently and completely; to make an end of.

1872. Evening Standard, 21 June. The roughs would work their will, and, in their own phrase, go through New York pretty effectually.

1888. Baltimore Sun. He was garrotted, and the two robbers went through him before he could reach the spot.

Ibid. It was a grand sight to see Farnsworth go through him; he did not leave him a single leg to stand upon.

2. (venery).—To possess a woman. For synonyms, see RIDE.

To go up (or under), verb. phr. (colloquial).—1. To go to wreck and ruin; to become bankrupt; to disappear from society. Also, to die. For synonyms, see DEADBROKE.

1864. The Index, June. Soon after the blockade, many thought we should go up on the salt question.

1879. Jas. Payn, High Spirits (Finding His Level). Poor John Weybridge, Esq., became as friendless as penniless, and eventually went under, and was heard of no more.

1890. Pall Mall Gaz., 29 May, p. 5, c. 1. He asks us further to state that the strike is completely at an end, the society having gone under.

2. (colloquial).—To die: Cf. Ger.: untergehen. For synonyms, see ALOFT.

1873. Hawkeye, The Iowa Chief, p. 210. Poor Hawkeye felt, says one of his biographers, that his time had come, and
Goaler's Coach.

1888. _Puck's Library_, May, p. 12. He thought a moment, and shook his head. It's no go was the dictum.

1890. _Punch_, 22 Feb., p. 85. He's a long-winded lot, is Buchanan, slops over treblemous, he do; . . . But cackle and splutter ain't swimming; so Robert, my nabs, it's no go.

1892. J. McCarthy and Mrs. Campbell-Praed, _Ladies' Gallery_, p. 84. She sees it is no go with the baronet.

A LITTLE BIT ON THE GO, _adv. phr._ (old).—Slightly inebriated; elevated. For synonyms, see DRINKS and SCREWED.

1821. _Egan, Tom and Jerry_ [peoples' ed.], pp. 58. The Corinthian had made him a little bit on the go.

GOAD, _subs._ (old).—1. A decoy at auctions; a horse-chaunter; a PETER FUNK (q.v.). [One who goads (i.e., sends up) the prices.]

1785. _Grose, Vulg. Tongue_, s.v. GOADS, those that wheedle in Chapman for Horse-courser.

GOAL, _subs._ (Winchester College).—1. At football the boy who stands at the centre of each end, acting as umpire; and (2) the score of three points made when the ball is kicked between his legs, or over his head without his touching it.

1870. Mansfield, _School-Life at Winchester College_, p. 138. Midway between each of the two ends of the line was stationed another boy, as umpire (Goal, he was called) who stood with his legs wide apart, and a gown rolled up at each foot; if the ball was kicked directly over his head, or between his legs, without his touching it, it was a goal, and scored three for the party that kicked it.

Goaler's Coach. See Goaler's Coach.
Go-along.

Go-ALONG, subs. (thieves'). — A fool; a FLAT (q.v.). For synonyms, see BUFFLE and CABBAGE HEAD.

1851-61. H. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, vol. I., p. 460. In four days my adviser left me; he had no more use for me. I was a flat. He had me for a GO-ALONG, to cry his things for him.

1853. Household Words, No. 183. s.v. 'Slang.'

GOAT, subs. (old). — A lecher; a MOLROWER (q.v.).

1599. SHAKESPEARE, Henry V., iv., 4. Thou duinn'd and luxurious mountain GOAT.

1690. B. E., Diet. of the Cant. Crew, s.v. GOAT, a Lecher, a very lascivious person.

1717. Cibber, Nonjuror, i., r. At the tea-table I have seen the impudent GOAT most lusciously sip off her leavings.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

Verb (common).—1. To thrash. For synonyms, see TAN.


To PLAY THE GOAT, verb. phr. (common).—1. To play the fool; to MONKEY (q.v.). Fr., faire l'oiseau.

2. (venery).—To lead a fast life; to be given to MOLROWING (q.v.).

To RIDE THE GOAT, verb. phr. (common).—To be initiated into a secret society. [From the vulgar error that a live goat, for candidates to ride, is one of the standing properties of a Masonic lodge.]

Goatee, subs. (colloquial). — A tufted beard on the point of a shaven chin. [In imitation of the tuft of hair on a goat's chin.]

English Synonyms (for a beard generally).—Charley; imperial; Newgate (or sweep's) frill, or fringe.

French Synonyms. — Une marmouse (thieves'); un impériale (colloquial: formerly une royale); un bouc ou une bouquine (= a goatee); bacchantes (thieves': the beard, but more especially the whiskers, from bâche = awning).

German Synonym. — Soken (from the Hebrew; also = old man).

Italian Synonyms. — Bosco di berlo (the forest on the face); settona (= full of hair); spinola (= thorny).

Spanish Synonym. — Bosque (= wood).

1869. Orchestra, 18 June. Working carpenters with a straggling GOATEE on the chin, and a mass of unkempt hair on the head.

GoATER, subs. (American thieves'). — Dress. For synonyms, see TOGS.

Goat - house, subs. (old). — A brothel. [From GOAT, subs., sense 1.] For synonyms, see NANNY-SHOP.

GoATISH, adj. (old, now recognised). — Lecherous. [As vieing with a goat in lust.] Hence GOATISHLY, adv., and GOATISHNESS, subs.

1822. Massinger and Dekker, Virgin Martyr, iii., 1. Give your chaste body up to the embraces of goatish lust.

1605. Shakespear, King Lear, i. 2. An admirable evasion of whoremasterman, to lay his GOATISH disposition to the charge of a star.
GOAT-MILKER, subs. (venery).—1. A prostitute. For synonyms, see BARRACK-HACK and TART.

2. (venery).—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

GOAT'S JIG (or GIGG), subs. (old).—Copulation. For synonyms, see GREENS.—GROSE.

GO-AWAY, subs. (American thieves').—A railway-train.

1859. MATSELL, Vocabulum, s.v. The knock was working the GOAWAYS at Jersey City.

GOB (or GOBBET), subs. (old: now vulgar). 1. A portion; a mouthful; a morsel. Also a gulp; a BOLT (q.v.). [Latin, gob = mouth; Old Fr., gob = a gulp.] Skeat says the shorter form GOB is rare.

1380. WYCLIFFE, Trans. of Bible. Thei token the relifis of broken GOBETIS twelve cofres full.

1542. A pop. of Erasmus [1878], p. 14. A bodie thinketh hymself well enemede in his substauncie and riches, to whom hath happen'd some good GOBBE of money, and maketh a great whinyng if he haue had any losse of the same.

1599. NASHE, Lenten Stuffe, in wks., v. 261. And thrust him downe his pudding house at a GOBBE.

1605. CHAPMAN, All Fools, Act iii., p. 62 (Plays, 1874). Ri. And do you think He'll swallow down the gudgeon? Go. O my life, It were a gross GOB would not down with him.

1611. L. BARRY, Ram. Alley, 1., i. That little land he gave, Throat the lawyer swallowed at one GOB For less than half the worth.

1690. B. E., Dict. Canting Crew, s.v. GOB(c) . . . also a Bit or Morsel; hence GOBBETS, now more in use for little Bits.

1748. T. Dvche, Dictionary (5th ed.). GOB or GOBBET (s.) a piece just big enough, or fit to be put into the mouth at once.

1774. FOOTE, Cozens, ii., 2. The venison was over-roasted, and stunk—but Doctor Dewlap twisted down such GOBS of fat.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1816. JOHNSON, Eng. Dict. (12th ed.) GOB, a small quantity, a low word.

1869. S. L. CLEMENS (M. Twain), Innocents Abroad, ch. vii. It is pushed out into the sea on the end of a flat, narrow strip of land, and is suggestive of a GOB of mud on the end of a shingle.

2. (common). — The mouth. SHUT YOUR GOB = an injunction to silence. See GAB. A SPANK ON THE GOB = a blow on the mouth. GOB-FULL OF CLARET = a bleeding at the mouth. GIFT OF THE GAB or GOB, see GAB. For synonyms see POTATO-TRAP.

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. GOB, the Mouth.


1836. M. SCOTT, Tom Cringle's Log, ch. i. 'All right—all right,' I then exclaimed, as I thrust half a doubled-up muffin into my GOB.


3. (common).—A mouthful of spittle. Fr., un copeau; It., smalzo di cavio (=gutter-butter). For synonyms, see SIXPENCES.

Verb. (common). — 1. To swallow in mouthfuls; to gulp down. Also GOBBLE (q.v.).
1692. L’ESTRANGE, *Fables.* Down comes a kite powdering upon them, and gobbet up both together.

2. (common). — To expectorate. Fr., glavioter (popular); molarder.

**Gobbia, subs.** (nautical). — A coastguardsman; whence gobbi-ship, a man of war engaged in the preventive service.

1890. *Scotsman,* 4 Aug. When a meeting takes place the men indulge in a protracted yarn and a draw of the pipe. The session involves a considerable amount of expectoration all round, whereby our friends come to be known as gobbies, and in process of time the term came to be applied to the ships engaged in the service. *Ibid.* There are no fewer than three other gobbie ships in the channel fleet, each of which carries a considerable number of coastguardsmen putting in their annual period of drill.

**Gobble (or Gobble up), verb.** (vulgar). — To swallow hastily or greedily; hence (American) to seize, capture, or appropriate. Also gob: e.g., gob that!

1602. Dekker, *Satiro-mastix,* in wks. (1673) i. 233. They will come to gobble downe Plummes.


1751. Smollett, *Peregrine Pickle,* ch. cvi. Summoned in such a plaguy hurry from his dinner, which he had been fain to gobble up like a cannibal.

1846-48. Thackeray, *Vanity Fair,* vol. i. ch. v. Mr. Jos. . . . helped Rebecca to everything on the table, and himself gobbled and drank a great deal.

1860. Thackeray, *Philipp,* ch. xiii. There was a wily old monkey who thrust the cat’s paw out, and proposed to gobble up the smoking prize.

**Gobble-prick, subs.** (old). — A lecherous woman. — Grose.


2. (colloquial). — A turkey cock; a bubbly - jock (q.v.). Also gobble-cock.


1851. Hooper, *Widow Rugby’s Husband,* etc., p. 94. Her face was as red as a gobbler’s snout.

3. (vulgar). — The mouth. For synonyms, see Potato-trap.

4. (colloquial). — A greedy eater. For synonyms, see Stodger.

**Gobbling, subs.** (vulgar). — Gorging.

1846-48. Thackeray, *Vanity Fair,* ch. iii., vol. 1. His mouth was full of it, his face quite red with the delightful exercise of gobbling ‘Mother, it’s as good as my own curries in India.’

**Go-between, subs.** (old). — A pimp or bawd. Now an intermediary of any kind.

1596. Shakspeare, *Merry Wives of Windsor,* Act ii., sc. 2. Even as you came into me, her assistant, or go-between, parted from me.


**Goblin, subs.** (old). — A sovereign. For synonyms, see Canary.

1887. W. E. Henley, *Tillon’s Straight Tip.* Your merry goblins soon strang : Boose and the blowens cop the lot.

**Gob-box, subs.** (common). — The mouth. [From gob, subs.] For synonyms, see Potato-trap.

1773. Forster, *Goldsmith,* Bk. IV., ch. xiv., p. 414 (5th ed.). Shuter protesting in his vehement odd way that ‘the boy could patter,’ and ‘use the gob-box as quick and smart as any of them.’

1819. Scott, *Bride of Lammermoor,* ch. i. Your characters . . . made too much use of the gob-box; they patter too much.
Gob-stick, subs. (old). — A silver table-spoon. (In use in America = either spoon or fork); (nautical), a horn or wooden spoon.

1789. Parker, Life’s Painter, s.v.
1859. Matsell, Vocabulum, s.v.

Gob-string (or Gab-string), subs. (old). — A bridle.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.
1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v.

Go-by, subs. (colloquial). — The act of passing; an evasion; a deception. To give one the go-by = to cut; to leave in the lurch. Cf., Cut (subs. sense 2, verb. sense 2).

1876. Hindley, Cheap Jack, p. 214. When we came in contact with a travelling bookseller we could give him the go-by with our library.

1892. R. L. Stevenson, Kidnapped, ch. ix. “She gave us the go-by in the fog — as I wish from the heart that ye had done yoursel’!”

1892. Sala’s Journal, 25 June, p. 194. Now can you understand how it is possible, and, I think, expedient, to give politics the go-by, so far as one conveniently can?

Go-by-the-ground, subs. (old). — A dumpy man or woman. — Grose.

God, subs. (common). — 1. in. pl. (printers’). — The quadrats used in Jeffing (q.v.).


1881. Pascoe, Life in our Public Schools. A god at Eton is probably in a more exalted position, and receives more reverence than will ever afterwards fall to his lot.

A sight for the gods, phr. (common). — A matter of wonderment.

1892. Hume Nisbet, Bushranger’s Sweetheart, p. 31. Stringy Bark prepared to greet his native land, was a sight for the gods to behold with satisfaction, and men to view from afar with awed respect.
**Goddess Diana.**

**God Pays!** *phr.* (old).—An expression at one time much in the mouth of disbanded soldiers and sailors (who assumed a right to live on the public charity). The modern form is, 'If I don't pay you, God Almighty will.'

1605. *London Prodigal*, ii., 3. But there be some that bear a soldier's form, that swear by him they never think upon; Go swaggering up and down, from house to house, crying, God pays.

1864. The *Press*, 12 Nov. Goddess Diana is the rhyming equivalent for a tanner which signifies sixpence.

**Goddess Diana, subs.** *phr.* (rhyming). A sixpence. For synonyms, see *Tanner*.


1765. *Percy, Reliques*, 'The heir of Linne.' Then John he did him to record draw, and John he cast him a God's penny.

**Go-down, subs.** (old).—1. A draught of liquor; a go (*q.v.*).

2. (American).—See quot.

1881. *New York Times*, 18 Dec., quoted in *N and Q* 6, S.v. 65. Go down. A cutting in the bank of a stream for enabling animals to cross or to get to water.

**God-permit, subs.** (old).—A stage coach. [Which was advertised to start Deo volente.]

1825. *Modern Flash Dict.*, s.v.

**God's-mercy, subs.** (old).—Ham (or bacon) and eggs. ['There's nothing in the house but God's mercy': at one time a common answer in country inns to travelers in quest of provantz.]

**God's-penny, subs.** (old).—An earnest penny.

1785. *Grose*, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. *God-Permit*, a stage coach, from that affectation of piety, frequently to be met with in advertisements of stage coaches or waggons, where most of their undertakings are promised with if God permit, or God willing.

**Go-easter, subs.** (American cowboys').—A portmanteau; a *Peter* (*q.v.*). [Because seldom used except in going city- or east-wards.]
Goer.

Goer, subs. (o.l.d.).—1. The foot. For synonyms, see Creepers.


2. (colloquial).—An expert or adept; as in drawing, talking, riding; one well up to his (or her) work: generally with an adjective, as e.g., a fast (or hell of a) GOER = a good goer.

1857. G. A. Lawrence, Guy Livingstone, ch. xx. Nevertheless, she was always deeply engaged, and generally to the best goers in the room.

GOFF. See Mrs. Goff.

Goggles, subs. (common).—1. A goggle-eyed person. Also Goggler.

1847. Beaumont and Fletcher, Knight of Malta, v., 2. Do you stare, Goggles?


2. in. pl. (common).—The eyes: specifically those with a constrained or rolling stare; also Goggle-eyes. Google-eyed = squint-eyed.

1598. Florio, A Worlde of Wordes, Strabo, he that looketh a squint or is goggle-eide.


1691-1763. Byrom, Dissection of a Beau’s Head. Those muscles, in English, wherewith a man ogles, When on a fair lady he fixes his googlers.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. GOGGLE, to stare.


1880. Milliken, Punch’s Almanack, April. Scissors! don’t they goggle and look blue.

GOGMAGOG, subs. (colloquial).—A goblin; a monster; a frightful apparition.—HOOD.

GOING, subs. (colloquial).—The condition of a road, a piece of ground, a cinder-path: i.e., the accommodation for travelling. E.g., the going is bad.

1872. Morning Post, 19 Aug. The Lamb’s starting in the Frankfort steeplechase will depend upon the state of the ground, and, avoiding Wiesbaden, where the going is indifferent.

1883. Daily Telegraph, 23 Nov. The going was wonderfully clean for the time of year.

GOINGS-ON, subs. (colloquial).—Behaviour; proceedings; conduct. Cf., Carryings On.

1845. Douglas Jerrold, Mrs. Caudle, Lecture viii. Pretty place it must be where they don’t admit women. Nice goings-on, I daresay, Mr. Caudle.

1870. Lloyd’s Newspaper, 11 Sept. ‘Review.’ Elsie is beloved by Gawthwaite, the village schoolmaster, and he takes her to task for her goings-on.

GOLDARNED (or Goldurned, Goldasted, etc.), adj. (common).—A mild form of oath: = Blamed (q.v.); Bloody (q.v.). See Oaths. As intj., Goldarn it! etc.

1888. American Humorist. ‘Bill, are you hurt?’ ‘Yes, by gum; I’ve broke my goldarned neck.’
1888. Cincinnati Enquirer. Finally, Deacon Spalding broke out with: 'That goldasted St. Louis mugwump has made suckers of us again with his cracks about coming into the league. I move we adjourn.'

GOLD-BACKED 'Un, subs. (common).
—A louse. Also GREY-BACKED 'Un. For synonyms, see CHATES.

GOLD BUG, subs. phr. (American).
—A man of wealth and (inferentially) distinction; a millionaire. See BUG.

1888. St. Louis Globe Democrat, Mar. 5. I do not think the feeling against silver is anything like as strong as it was. Of course, a few GOLD BUGS might fight him.

GOLD-DROPPER, subs. (old). —A sharper. An old-time worker of the confidence trick. See quotes. Also GOLD-FINDER.

1690. B. E., Cant. Crew, s.V. GOLDFINCH, c. He that has alwaies a Purse or Cod of Gold in his Fob.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.
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1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1852. JUDSON, Mysteries, etc., of New York, ch. iv. 'Was the swell a GOLDFINCH?' 'He wasn't nothin' else. Got a clean ten times ten out of him.'

1811. LEXICON BALATRONICUM, s.V. GOLDEN-CREAM, subs. (thieves').—Rum.

1889. CLARKSON and RICHARDSON, Police, p. 321, s.V.

GOLD-END MAN, subs. phr. (old).
—An itinerant jeweller; a buyer of old gold and silver. [GOLD-END = a broken piece of jewellery.] Also GOLDSMITH'S APPRENTICE. See Eastward Hoe.

1610. JONSON, Alchemist, ii., i. I know him not, he looks like a GOLD-END MAN.

1622. FLETCHER, Beggar's Bush, iii., i. Hig. Have ye any ENDS OF GOLD or silver?

GOLDEN GREASE, subs. phr. (old).
—A fee; also a bribe. For synonyms, see PALM OIL.

GOLDFINCH, subs. (old).—1. A well-to-do man; a WARM 'Un (q.v.).

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. GOLDFINCH, c. He that has alwaies a Purse or Cod of Gold in his Fob.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.
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1852. JUDSON, Mysteries, etc., of New York, ch. iv. 'Was the swell a GOLDFINCH?' 'He wasn't nothin' else. Got a clean ten times ten out of him.'

Ibid. 'It'll be a great lay, if the game's fat. Is it a GOLDFINCH?' 'Fifty thousand, hard dust.'

2. (common).—A guinea; a sovereign. For synonyms, see CANARY.

1700. FARQUHAR, Constant Couple, ii., 2. Sir H. Don't you love singing-birds, madam? Angel (aside). That's an odd question for a lover; (aloud) Yes, sir. Sir H. Why, then, madam, here is a nest of the prettiest GOLDFINCHES that ever chirped in a cage.

1822. SCOTT, The Fortunes of Nigel, ch. iv. Put your monies aside, my lord; it is not well to be seen with such GOLDFINCHES chirping about one in the lodgings of London.

1826. BUCKSTONE, Luke the Labourer, iii., 4. Good-night, noble captain. Pipe all hands at five o'clock, for I've a day's work to do. We'll jigg it to-morrow, to the piping of GOLDFINCHES.


GOLDFINCH'S NEST, subs. (venery).
—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

1827. The Merry Muses, p. 70. And soon laid his hand on the GOLDFINCH'S NEST.
GOLD-FINDER, subs. (old).—I. An emptier of privies. Also TOMTURD-MAN; GONG-MAN; and NIGHT-MAN. Fr., un fouillemerde; un fij. Also passer la jambe à Jules = to upset MRS. JONES, i.e., to empty the privy tub.

1811. COTGRAVE, Dictionarie, Gadourard, a GOLDFINDER, Jakes-farmer.

1835. FELTHAM, Resolves. As our GOLDFINDERS . . . . in the night and darkness thrive on stench and excrements.

1653. MIDDLETON, Sp. Gipsy, ii., 2, p. 398 (Mermaid series). And if his acres, being sold for a maravedi a turf for larks in cages, cannot fill this pocket, give 'em to GOLDFINDERS.

1659. TORRIANO, Vocabolario, s.v.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v

2. (old).—A thief; a GOLDDROPPER (q.v.).

GOLD HAT-BAND, subs. (old University).—A nobleman undergraduate; a TUFT (q.v.).

1628. EARLE, Microcosmography. His companion is ordinarily some stale fellow that has been notorious for an ingle to GOLDFINDERS, whom he admires at first, afterwards scorner.

1598. FLORIO, Worlde of Wordes. Biondella . . . . a golden-lockt wench, as we say a GOLDLICKS.

1605. BEN JONSON, The Fox, i., 1. Thence it fled forth, and made quick transmigration to GOLDFY-Locked Euphorbus.

GOLD MINE, subs. phr. (common).—A profitable investment; a store of wealth, material or intellectual.

1664. H. PEACHAM, Worth of a Penny, in Arber’s Garner, vol. VI., p. 249. Some men . . . . when they have met with a GOLD MINE, so brood over and watch it, day and night, that it is impossible for Charity to be regarded, Virtue rewarded, or Necessity relieved.

1830 TENNYSON, Dream of Fair Women, p. 274. GOLDMINES of thought—to lift the hidden ore.

1882. THORMANBY, Famous Racing Men, p. 81. Mendicant . . . ran nowhere in the Cup . . . in reality she was destined to prove a GOLD MINE, for ten years afterwards she brought her owner £80,000 through her famous son, Beadsman.

1883. SAT. REVIEW, 28 Apr. 533/2. His victory proved a GOLD MINE to the professional bookmakers.

GOLGOtha, subs. (old).—I. The Dons’ gallery at Cambridge; also applied to a certain part of the theatre at Oxford. [That is, 'the place of skulls': Cf., Luke xxiii. 33, and Matthew xxvii. 33, whence the pun: Dons being the heads of houses.]

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v

1791. G. HUDDESFORD, Salmagundi, (Note on, p. 150). GOLGOtha, The place of a Scull,' a name ludicrously affixed to the Place in which the Heads of Colleges assemble.

1808. J. T. CONYBEARE in C. K. Sharpe’s Correspondence (1888), i., 324. The subject then, of the ensuing section is Oxford News . . . . we will begin by GOLGOtha . . . . Cole has already obtained the Headship of Exeter, and Mr. Griffiths . . . . is to have that of University.
2. (common).—Hence, a hat.

**ENGLISH SYNONYMS.**—Battle of the Nile (rhyming, *i.e.*, a **tile** (*q.v.*); bell-topper; billy-cock; beaver; box-hat; cady; caunister cap; castor; chummy; cathedral; chimney; chimney-pot; cock; collegier; cock-and-pin; cowshooter; David; deer-stalker; digger's delight; fantail; felt; Gibus; gomer (Winchester); goss; moab; molocher; mortar-board; muffin-cap; mushroom; nab; nap; napper; pantile; pimple-cover; pill-box; plug-hat; pot; shako; shovel; sleepless hat; sou'wester; stave-pipe; swatter; thatch; tile; topper; truck; upper-crust; wash-pot; wee-je; wide-ague.

**FRENCH SYNONYMS.**—Un **accordon** (popular: = an opera hat); une **ardoise** (= a tile); une **bâche** (thieves': also an awning); une **biscope** or **viscope** (vulgar); un **blockaus** (vulgar: a shako); un **bloumard** or une **blounze** (popular); une **boîte à cornes** (a horn case; *i.e.*, a cover for a cuckold); un **Bolivar** (from the hero of 1820); un **boisseau** (also =a bushel); un **bossilard** (school-boys': from bosselé = bruised or dented); un **cabas** (popular: = old hat; also basket or bag); un **cadratizz** (p1 inters' = a stove-pipe); un **caloquet** (thieves'); cambria, cambriev, or cambriot (popular); un **capel** (from old French, capel); une **capsule** (popular = a percussion cap); un **carbeluché galice** (a silk hat); une **casque** (= helmet); un **chapiska** (= a shako); une **cheminée** (popular: = chimney - pot); une **corniche** (popular: = a cornice); un **couvercle** (popular: = pot-lid); une **couverante**; un **couvre - amour** (military); un **cylindre** (= a stove-pipe); un **Desfoux** (from the maker's name); un **épicaflé** (students' = from the Greek); un **gadin** (an old hat); un **galure** or **galurin** (popular); un **Garibaldi**; un **Gibus** (from the inventor's name); un **lampon** (thieves': = grease - pot); un **loubion** (thieves'); un **marquin** (thieves'); un **monument** (popular); un **nid d'hirondelle**; un **niolle** (thieves': an old hat); un **tromblon** (obsolete = blunder-buss); un **tubard, tube, or tube à haute pression** (= a cylinder); une **tuile** (= a tile); une **tuyau de poêle** (= a stove-pipe).

**GERMAN SYNONYMS.**—**Bre** (Viennese); **Kowe** (from the Hebrew, kowa).

**ITALIAN SYNONYMS.**—**Busala; baccha or biffacha; cresta or cristiana** (= a cruet); **fungo** (= mushroom).

**SPANISH SYNONYMS.**—Tejado or techo (= tiled roof).

**GOLIATH, subs. (colloquial).**—1. A big man.

2. A man of mark among the **PHILISTINES** (*q.v.*). [Mr. Swinburne described the late Matthew Arnold as 'David, the son of Goliath.]

**GOLL, subs. (old).**—The hand; usually in. pl. See Bunch of Fives and Daddle.

1601. **B. Jonson, Poetaster, v.,** Bring the whoreson detracting slaves to the bar, do; make them hold up their spread GOLLS.

1602. **Dekker, Satiro-Mastrix, in wks. (1873), i., 203.** Holde up thy hand: I ha seen the day thou didst not scorn to holde vp thy golles.

1611. **Middleton, Roaring Girl, Act i.** This is the goll shall do't.
1620. MIDDLETON, Chaste Maid, ii., 2. What their golls can clutch.

1634. S. ROWLEY, Noble Souldier, Act ii., Sc. 2. Bal. Saist thou me so? give me thy GOLll, thou art a noble girle.

1659. MASSINGER, City Madam, iv., i. All the gamesters are ambitious to shake the golden golls of worshipful master Luke.

1661. T. MIDDLETON, Mayor of Quinborough, v., i. Down with his Gou.s, I charge you.


1787. GROSE, Prov. Glossary. GoLL, a hand or fist; give me thy GOLL.

1803. C. K. SHARPE in Correspondence (1888), i., 17). Miss Reid with her silk coat and greasie GOLI.S.

GOMER, subs. (Winchester College). — 1. A large pewter dish used in college.

2. (Winchester College). — A new hat. See GOLGOTHA.


GOMUS, subs. (Irish). — A fool. For synonyms, see BUFFLE and CABBAGE-HEAD.

GONDOLA, subs. (American). — 1. A railway platform car, sideless or low-sided. Also a flat-bottomed boat.

GONDOLA OF LONDON, subs. phr. (common). — A hansom cab; a SHOFUL (q.v.). [The description is Lord Beaconsfield’s.]

GONE, adj. (colloquial). — 1. Ruined; totally undone. Also, adv., an expression of completeness, e.g., GONE BEAVER, CORBIE, COON, GANDER, or GOOSE = a man or an event past praying for: Cf., GO UP and GO DOWN.

1604. SHAKESPEARE, Winter’s Tale, iv., 3. He must know ’tis none of your daughter nor my sister; we are GONE else.
Goner.

1843–4. Haliburton, Sam Slick in England, ch. xviii. If a bear comes after you, Sam, you must be up and doin', or it's a GONE GOOSE with you.

1848. Ruxton, Life in the Far West, p. 40. From that moment he was GONE BEAVER; he felt queer, he said, all over.

1857. Notes and Queries, 2 S. iii., 519. To call a person a GONE CORBIE, is only to say in other words, it's all up with him.

1862. Clough, Poems. He had been into the schools; plucked almost; all but a GONE-COON.

1863. C. Reade, Hard Cash, I., 178. I shall meet her again next week; will you come? Any friend of mine is welcome. Wish me joy, old fellow; I'm a GONE COON.

1887. John Strange Winter, That Int'l, p. 44. He was a fine fellow, and no mistake. And was GONELady Lorrimor!

1890. Illustrated Bits, 29 Mar. p. 10, c. 3. He must have been terribly GONE ON this woman.

1891. N. Gould, Double Event, p. 113. 'Poor chap, he's very far GONE,' thought Jack.

1892. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, p. 31. I'll eat my old boots if she isn't dead GONE ON.

GONER, (or GONES, GONUS, or GONEY), subs. (American).—1. A fool; a simpleton. Also GAUNEY (q.v.). For synonyms, see Buffle or Cabbage-Head.

1857. Punch, 31 Jan. But the lark's when a GONEY up with us they shut, As ain't up to our lurks, our flash patter, and smut.

1860. Haliburton, Sam Slick, 'The Season Ticket,' No. X. 'It's only grief, Nabby dear, my heart is broke.' 'Is that all, you GONEY?' says she; 'it's lucky your precious neck ain't broke.'

a. 1871. The Dartmouth, vol. iv. One day I heard a Senior call a fellow a GONUS. 'GONUS,' echoed I, 'what does that mean?' 'Oh,' said he, 'you're a Freshman, and don't understand. A stupid fellow, a dolt, a boot-jack, an ignoramus, is here called a GONUS. All Freshmen,' he continued gravely, 'are GONUSES.'

2. (colloquial).—A person past recovery, utterly ruined, or done for in any way.

1876. S. L. Clemens (Mark Twain), Tom Sawyer, p. 99. 'Yes, but she ain't dead; and, what's more, she's getting better too.' 'All right, you wait and see. She's a goner, just as dead sure as Muff Potter's a goner.'

1888. Cincinnati Enquirer. Fortunately, she did not see me, or else I should have been a goner.

1891. N. Gould, Double Event, p. 261. 'Make a noise or follow me, and you're a goner,' said Smirk.

1892. Hume Nisbet, Bushranger's Sweetheart, p. 212. A few more of her meddlings and she's a goner, that's what she is.

GONG (or GONG-HOUSE), subs. (old).—A privy. For synonyms, see Mrs. Jones.

1383. Chaucer, Canterbury Tales. 'The Parsons Tale' [Riverside Ed. 0880], ii., 241. Thise foolish wommen, that mowe be likened to a commune gong, whereas men purgen hire ordure.

GONG-FARMER (or GONG-MAN), subs. (old).—An emptier of cess-pools; a GOLD-FINDER (q.v.).

1598. Florio, A Worlde of Wordes. Curadestri, a iakes, gong, or doong farmer.

GONOF (or GONOF or GONOPH or GNOF), subs. (thieves').—1. A thief; specifically a pick-pocket, and especially an adept. [From the Hebrew. Ancient English; a legacy from the old time Jews. It came into use again with the moderns who employ it commonly. Cf., gonov=thief in Ex. xxii, 2 and 6, viz., 'if the gonov be found.'] See Thieves.

1857. Dickens, On Duty with Inspector Field, in 'Reprinted Pieces' p. 256. If the smallest gonoph about town were crouching at the bottom of a classic bath Inspector Field would nose him.
1849. *Morning Chronicle*, 2 Nov. A burglar would not condescend to sit among pickpockets. My informant has known a housebreaker to say with a sneer, when requested to sit down with the GONOFFS, 'No, no, I may be a thief, but at least I'm a respectable one.'


1852. JUDSON, *Myst., etc., of New York*, ch. vii. He next assumed his present profession, and became a GNOF or pickpocket.


1889. *Referee*, 12 May. GONOPHS . . . were frequent in Tattersall's on Friday.


2. (old).—A bumpkin; a churl; a clumsy hand; a shameless simpleton.

1383. CHAUCER, *Canterbury Tales*, 3187-8. Whilom there was, dwelling in Oxenforde, A rich GN0F, that gertes helde to borde.

1886. *Sporting Times*, 17 July, 1/4. He was a nice young man for a small tea party, And rather GOOD GOODS at a Sunday-school treat.


**GOOD**

**GOOD I subs. (printers').**—An abbreviation of 'Good Night!'

**Adj.** (colloquial).—Responsible; solvent; principally now with 'for'; e.g., He is good for any amount. Also, expert.

1824. REYNOLDS, *Peter Corcoran*, 91 Good with both hands and only ten stone four.

**GOOD GOODS, in. pl., subs. phr.** (sporting).—Something worth trying for; a success. In the superlative, 'best' GOODS.

1886. *Sporting Times*, 17 July, 1/4. He was a nice young man for a small tea party, And rather GOOD GOODS at a Sunday-school treat.

**BIT (or PIECE) OF GOODS, subs. phr. (common).**—A woman. For synonyms, see PETTICOAT.

**GOOD OLD** . . . adj. phr. (popular).—A familiar address, derisive or affectionate according to circumstances. See quotes.

1891. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 16 Sept., p. 6, c. 1. It was Mephisto's greeting to Mary Anne—in Marguerite’s garden— 'GOOD OLD MARY ANNE!!'

Ibid. The famous medico craned his neck out of the window, and, sniffing in the smoke, cried, GOOD OLD LONDON. This is a true story.

Ibid., 17 Sept. Mr. Chirgwin . . . rouses mirth by . . . exclaiming GOOD OLD SPOT! as he discloses the large white ace of diamonds painted over his right optic.
Good.

1892. CHEVALIER. 'The Little Nipper.' 'E calls 'is mother 'Sally,' And 'is father 'good old pally,' And 'e only stands about so 'igh, that's all!

TO FEEL GOOD, verb. phr. (American).—To be jolly; comfortable; 'in form'; to be on perfect terms with oneself.

1887. Proctor [in Knowledge, 1 Dec., p. 29]. A friend of mine tells me a proposition was once invitingly made to him which, to say the least, involved no virtuous self-abnegation, and he was urged to accept it by the plea that it would make him FEEL GOOD.

1888. Texas Siftings, 15 Sept. The saloons are going Saturday afternoon, and the men FEEL pretty GOOD before they come abroad.

TO BE IN ONE'S GOOD BOOKS, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To be in favour; in good opinion. Conversely, TO BE IN ONE'S BAD BOOKS = To be in disfavour. See Book.

GOOD AT IT (or AT THE GAME), adj. phr. (venery).—An expert bedfellow, male or female.

TO HAVE A GOOD SWIM.—See Swim.

GOOD AS WHEAT.—See WHEAT.

GOOD AS EVER PISSED, phr. (venery).—A qualification of extreme excellence.

1785. OVID, Signa, vol. II., ch. v., p. 66. So the child went up to the hills with Bruno, and stayed there for GOOD AND ALL.

1892. CHEVALIER. 'The Little Nipper.' 'E calls 'is mother 'Sally,' And 'is father 'good old pally,' And 'e only stands about so 'igh, that's all!

1710. DURFEY, Pills, etc., ii., 260. And she is as good for the game as e'er pissed.

GOOD AS A PLAY.—See PLAY.

GOOD AS GOLD, adv. phr. (colloquial).—Very good; usually of children.

AS GOOD AS THEY MAKE 'EM.—See MAKE 'EM.

GOOD-BYE, JOHN! phr. (American).—It's no go; all's U.P.

GOOD CESS, subs. phr. (Irish).—Good luck. (Probably an abbreviation of 'success.') BAD CESS = the reverse.

1845. BUCKSTONE, Green Bushes, i., 1. All. Bravo, Paddy! Good cess to ye, Paddy! Hurrah!

GOODFELLOW (or GOOD BOY, or GOOD MAN), subs. (old).—I. A roysterer; a boon companion.

1673. WYCHERLEY, Gent. Danc. Master, ii., in wks. (1713), 276. If I went, I would go FOR GOOD AND ALL.


1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. GOODFELLOW, a Pot companion or Friend of the Bottle.

1822. SCOTT, Fortunes of Nigel, ch. xvii. Rattling Reginald Lowestoffe of the Temple—I know him; he is a GOOD BOY.

2. (old).—A thief. See THIEVES.

1608. MIDDLETON, Trick to Catch the Old One, ii., 1. Luc. Welcome, GOODFELLOW. Host. He calls me thief at first sight. [Footnote in 'Mermaid Series' Ed. GOODFELLOW was then the cant term for a thief.]
Good Girl

1870. Evening Standard, 11 Feb. 'Police Report.' Police detective said that he believed the two prisoners were GOOD MEN. In reply to the magistrate he explained that he meant they were old thieves.

GOOD GIRL (or GOOD ONE), adj. phr. (old).—A wanton.

1611. Cotgrave, Dictionarie. Gaultière—A whore, punke, drab, queane, gill, flirt, strumpet, cockatrice, mad wench, common hackney, GOOD ONE.

GOOD GIRL (OT GOOD ONE), adj. phr. (old).—A wanton.

1611. Cotgrave, Dictionarie. Gaultière—A whore, punke, drab, queane, gill, flirt, strumpet, cockatrice, mad wench, common hackney, GOOD ONE.

GOOD MAN, subs. (old).—I. A gaoler; a DUBSMAN (q.v.).

1721-2. Woodrow, History, ii., 636. The Goodman of the Tolbooth came to him in his chamber, and told him he might save his life, if he would sign the petition.

2. (colloquial).—The devil.

For synonyms, see SKIPPER.

GOODMAN-TURD, subs. (old).—A contemptible fellow; a BAD-EGG (q.v.).

1598. Florio, Worlde of Wordes. Dometa, an old worde for a shitten fellow, or GOODMAN-TURDE.

GOOD NIGHT! intj. phr. (general).
—A retort to an incredible statement or a delightful piece of news. See CARRY ME OUT!

GOOD-PEOPLE, subs. (old colloquial).—The fairies.

1828. G. Griffin, Collegians, ch. v. An nothin' shows itself now by night, neither spirits nor GOOD PEOPLE.

1848. Forster, Oliver Goldsmith, bk. i., ch. 1, p. 8 (5th ed.). A small old parsonage house (supposed afterwards to be haunted by the fairies, or GOOD PEOPLE of the district).

1891. R. L. Stevenson, Kidnapped, p. 168. 'Did ever ye hear tell of the story of the Man and the GOOD PEOPLE?'—by which he meant the fairies.

GOOD SORT, subs. (poplar).—A man of social and other parts.

1892. Hume Nisbet, Bushranger's Sweetheart, p. 149. Had we not better make a clean breast of it, and trust to his generosity; he seems a GOOD SORT?

GOOD TIME, subs. phr. (colloquial).
—Something worth having or backing; a bon mot; GOOD GOODS (q.v.). In racing a presumed CERT (q.v.).

1844. Puck, p. 63. Here's to the GOOD TIME whose neatness we prize.

1884. Saturday Review, 2 Aug., p. 147, c. 2. The Goodwood Stakes was considered a GOOD TIME for Florence, who has proved herself to be an extraordinary mare.

1888. Sporting Life, 10 Dec. In a field of four, Livingstone, who was voted a GOOD TIME, was served up a warm favourite.

1891. Daily Telegraph, 21 Mar. It had been generally anticipated that this was a GOOD TIME for Oxford.

1892. Ally Sloper, 19 Mar., p. 90, c. 3. That them as trades in rags and bones Makes more than them as writes GOOD THINGS.

GOOD TIME, subs. phr. (old).—A carouse; a friendly gathering; an enjoyable bout at anything.

TO HAVE A GOOD TIME, verb. phr. (old).—To be fortunate or lucky; to enjoy oneself; to make merry. See COCUM.

1596. Jonson, Every Man in His Humour, i., 2. As not ten housewives pewter, again a GOOD TIME, shews more bright to the world than he! (=some festival, 'when housewives are careful to set out their furniture to the best advantage.')—Note by Whalley, given in Cunningham's Gifford's Jonson (1870).


1883. Bret Harte, In the Carquinez Woods, ch. ix. But we must keep it dark until after I marry Nellie, don't you see. Then we'll have a GOOD TIME all round, and I'll stand the drinks.
Good 'un, subs. phr. (colloquial).—
1. A man, woman, or thing of
decided and undoubted merit.
Cf., GOOD-GIRL.
1828-45. T. Hood, Poems, vi., p. 254 [ed. 1846]. A GOOD 'un to look at but
bad to go.
1851. Martin and Aytoun, Bon Gaultier Ballads. 'The Dirge of a
Drinker.' Like a good 'un as he is.
1891. N. Gould, Double Event, p. 160. He's a real
GOOD UN, and when his
party plunk the stuff down it's generally a
moral.
2. (colloquial).—An expression
of derisive unbelief: e.g., a lie.
See WHOPPER.

GOOD-WOOLED, adj. phr.
(American).—Of unflinching
courage; of the greatest merit;
thoroughly dependable.
1859. Matsell, Vocabulum, s.v.

GOODY, subs. (popular).—1. A
matron: the correlative of GOOD-
MAN = husband. (Used like
AUNTIE, and MOTHER, and GAM-
MER, in addressing or describing
an inferior.) (A corruption of
GOOD-WIFE).
1598. Florio, A Worlde of Wordes.
Mora. . . . Also a nickname for women
as we say gammer, GOODIE, goodwife,
such a one.
1889. Acts of the Churchwardens of
Sprowston. Paid GOODY Crabbin
for washing the surplus and church
powrch, 1s. 3d.
  d. 1732. Gay. Swarm’d on a rotten
stick the bees I spy’d Which erst I saw
when GOODY Dopon dy’d.
  d. 1745. Swift. Plain GOODY would
no longer down: ‘Twas Madam in her
grogram gown.
1802. Bloomfield, Rural Tales,
‘Richard and Kate.’ Come, GOODY, stop
your humdrum wheel.
1816. Johnson, Engl. Dict. s.v. A
low term of civility used to mean persons.

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends,
‘The Witches’ Frolic.’ Old GOODY Price,
Had got something nice.
Hence GOODSHIP = ‘ladyship.’
3. The more shame for her GOODSHIP,
To give so near a friend the slip.

2. (colloquial).—A religious
hypocrite, male or female; the
‘unco guid’ of Burns.
1836. Kidd, London Ambulator,
p. 14. Clapham is celebrated for
GOODIES—ladies of a certain age, who not having
succeeded in finessing for husbands,
betake themselves to a religious life as a
dernier resort.
Hence GOODY-GOODYISM =
sentimental piety.
3., c. 1. The Christmas tale of adventure
. . . has perhaps cast off its element of
GOODY-GOODYISM, but the general features
and cast are as of old.
3. generally in, pl. (colloquial).
—Sweetmeats; bon-bons; cakes
and buns.
1853. Mayhew, Letters Left at a
Pastrycook’s. Propped up on each side
with bags of oranges, cakes, and
GOODIES.
1855. H. A. Murray, Lands of the
Slave and the Free, ch. xii. Adjourning
from time to time to some café for the
purpose of eating ices or sucking
GOODIES.
4. (American).—The kernel of
a nut.
Adj. (colloquial).—Well-
meaning but petty; officiously
pious. Also GOODY-GOODY.
1864. D. W. Thompson, Daydreams
of a Schoolmaster, p. 230. I would
rather they were not too good; or
GOODY. Let us have a little naughtiness, sprinkled
in at intervals.
1892. S. Watson, Waps the Waif,
p. 7. He knew well enough the whole of
this enterprise had sprung from a GOODY-
GOODY idea of ‘doing something,’ born of
impulse and whim.

GOODYEAR, subs. (old).—The
pox. (A corruption of gougeer,
from gouge = a soldier’s trull).
For synonyms, see LADIES’
FEVER.
The GOODYEARS shall devour them.
**Gook.**

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**Goose.**

**Gook,** subs. (American).—A low prostitute. For synonyms, see BARRACK HACK and TART.

**Goose,** subs. (common). — 1. A tailor's smoothing iron. (Whose handle is shaped like the neck of the bird.) Hence the old ditton, 'A tailor be he ever so poor is sure to have a goose at his fire.

—GROSE. Fr., un gendarme.

1606. **SHAKESPEARE,** Macbeth, ii., 3. Come in, tailor; here you may roast your GOOSE.

1606. **DEKKER,** Newes from Hell, in Wks. (Grosart) ii., 114. Every man being armed with his sheers and pressing Iron, which he calls there his GOOSE.

1638. **RANDOLPH,** Hey for Honesty. . . . Tailor. Oh! it is an age that, like the Ostrich, makes me feed on my own GOOSE.

1703. **WARD,** London Spy, pt. xii., p. 276. He grew as hot as a Botcher's GOOSE.

1748. **T. THRUML,** Dictionary (5th ed.). GOOSE (S.) . . . also the large, heavy iron used by taylors, to press down their seams with when heated very hot.

1766. **KENRICK,** Falstaff's Wedding, iii., 1. Although they had been hissing all the way like a tailor's GOOSE.

1861. **SALA,** Twice Round the Clock, Noon, Par. 12. An Irish tailor who has had a slight dispute with his wife the night before, and has corporally chastised her with a hot GOOSE—a tailor's GOOSE, be it understood—to the extent of all but fracturing her skull.

1877. **FIVE YEARS' PENAL SERVITUDE,** ch. ii., p. 89. On the return of the warders from their own breakfast, the tools—scissors, sleeve-boards, irons, or GESE—are served out.

2. (common).—A simpleton: usually only of women. Also GOOSECAP (q.v.).

1591. **SHAKESPEARE,** Romeo and Juliet, ii., 4. Mercutio. Was I there with you for the GOOSE? Rom. Thou wast never with me that thou wast not for the GOOSE.


3. (venery).—See WINCHESTER GOOSE.

4. (colloquial).—A reprimand; a WIDDING (q.v.); cf., verb, sense 1.

1865. G. F. **BERKELEY,** My Life etc., i., 276. On the adventure reaching the ears of the Duke of Wellington, the active experimentalist received considerable GOOSE.

5. (printers'). —See WAYZ GOOSE.

6. (colloquial).—A woman: whence, by implication, the sexual favour.

**Verb.** (common).—1. To hiss; to condemn by hissing. Also to GET THE GOOSE or THE BIG BIRD (q.v.). Among Fr. equivalents are: appeler or sifler Azor (=to whistle a dog, Azor being a common canine appellation); boire une goutte (=to be goosed); attrapper; reconduire; se faire travailler; empoigner; éreinter; polissoyer; égayier.

1854. **DICKENS,** Hard Times, ch. vi. He was GOOSED last night, he was GOOSED the night before last, he was GOOSED today.

1858. **DICKENS** Xmas Stories (Going into Soc.), p. 67 (House. Ed.). Which makes you grind your teeth at him to his face, and which can hardly hold you from GOOSING him audible when he's going through his War-Dance.

1873. **HORNET,** 29 Jan., p. 211, c. 2. Ferdin. Fact! My soul is sick on't. GOOSED last night; My salary docked.

1875. T. **FROST,** Circus Life, p. 281. An artiste is GOOSED, or GETS THE GOOSE, when the spectators or auditors testify by sibilant sounds disapproval or dissatisfaction.

1886. **GRAPHIC,** 10 Apr., p. 399. To be GOOSED, or, as it is sometimes phrased, 'to get the big bird,' is occasionally a compliment to the actor's power of representing villainy, but more often is disagreeably suggestive of a failure to please.

2. (colloquial).—To ruin; to spoil. See COOK ONE'S GOOSE.
Goose.

1888. Cassell's Saturday Journal, 22 Dec., p. 301. We was pretty nigh GOOSED.

3. (cobblers'). — To mend boots by putting on a new front half-way up, and a new bottom; elsewhere called FOOTING boots. Cf., FOX.

4. (venery).—To go wenching; to WOMANIZE (q.v.).

5. (venery). — To possess a woman.

GOOSE WITHOUT GRAVY, subs. thr. (nautical).—A severe but bloodless blow. See WIPE.

To BE SOUND ON THE GOOSE, verb. phr. (American).—Before the civil war, to be sound on the pro-slavery question: now, to be generally staunch on party matters; to be politically orthodox.

1857. Providence Journal, 18 June. To seek for political flaws is no use, His opponents will find he is SOUND ON THE GOOSE.

1857. Gladstone, Kansas; or Squatter Life, p. 43. One of the boys, I reckon? ALL RIGHT ON THE GOOSE, eh? No highfalutin airs here, you know.

1862. Lowell, Biglow Papers, II. Northern religion works wal North, but it's ez suft ez spruce, compar'd to our'n for keepin' sound, sez she, UPON THE GOOSE.

1875. American English in Chamb. Journal, 25 Sept., p. 610. A man who can be depended upon by his party is said to be SOUND ON THE GOOSE.

1892. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, p. 76. And now . . . . he can hardly SAY BOH TO A GOOSE.

See also WILD-GOOSE CHASE.

GOOSE - AND - DUCK, subs. phr. (rhyming).—A fuck.

GOOSE AND GRIDIRON, subs. phr. (political American). — The American eagle, and the United States flag. See GRIDIRON.

1891. Standard, 3 Jan., p. 3, c. 1. This is curious, considering the almost fetish-like veneration entertained by the modern American for his Standard, which, coupled with the national bird, tempted the Loyalists in the early days of the war to vent endless rude witticisms on the GOOSE AND GRIDIRON.

GOOSEBERRY, subs. (common).—1. A fool. For synonyms, see BUFFLE and CABBAGE-HEAD. [Perhaps from GOOSEBERRY FOOL; as in Goldsmith's Retaliation: — 'And by the same rule Magnanimous Goldsmith's a GOOSEBERRY FOOL.]

2. (common).—A chaperon; one who takes third place to save appearances or play propriety (q.v.); a DAISY- or GOOSEBERRY-PICKER.

Everything is lovely and the goose hangs high, phr. See EVERYTHING.

He'll be a man among the geese when the gander is gone, phr. (old).—Ironical; = 'He'll be a man before his mother.'

Go! shoe the goose, phr. (old).—A retort, derisive or incredulous = the modern 'To hell and pump thunder.'

UNABLE TO SAY BOH! TO A GOOSE, phr. (colloquial).—Said of a bashful person. — GROSE.

1892. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, p. 76. And now . . . . he can hardly SAY BOH TO A GOOSE.

See also WILD-GOOSE CHASE.
3. (common).—A marvellous tale; a MUNCHAUSEN (q.v.); a flim-flam. Also GIGANTIC, and GIANT GOOSEBERRY. Hence GOOSEBERRY SEASON = the dull time of journalism, when the appearance of monstrous vegetables, sea serpents, showers of frogs, and other portents is chronicled in default of news. Cf., SILLY SEASON (q.v.).

1870. Figaro, 22 June. If we have no big GOOSEBERRIES this season, we have at least a big salmon.

1871. Graphic, 22 Apr. Mr. Tupper excited a great deal of incredulity a few years ago by announcing in the prodigious GOOSEBERRY SEASON that he had discovered an ancient Roman coin embedded in the heart of an oak tree.

1885. Ill. London News, 18 July, p. 58, c. 2. Amongst journalists there is popularly known what they call 'the GIANT GOOSEBERRY season,' the meaning of which is, that when Parliament has risen and the Law Courts are shut and subjects on which to write become scarce, adventurous spirits are apt to discourse in their newspapers of fruit of abnormal size, and other natural prodigies, which, according to current banter, exist only in their own imagination.

4. in. pl. (venery).—The testicles. For synonyms, see CODS.

TO PLAY (OR DO) GOOSEBERRY, verb. phr. (common).—To play propriety; also to sit third in a hansom.

1877. Hawley Smart, Play or Pay. ch. vi. To take care of a pretty girl, ... with a sister to DO GOOSEBERRY.

1890. G. R. Sims, Jeph, p. 8. Mamma always PLAYED GOOSEBERRY on these occasions.

1883. Globe, 6 July, p. 1, c. 5. They will be compelled in self-defence to have a shorthand writer present to PLAY GOOSEBERRY, and to be able to furnish proof that their discourse was innocent.

1892. J. McCarthy and Mrs. Campbell-Praed, Ladies’ Gallery, p. 51. Well, I am not a good hand at PLAYING GOOSEBERRY, and I don’t like spoiling sport.


GOOSEBERRY-GRINDER, subs. (old). —The breech. For synonyms, see MONOCULAR EYEGlass.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue. GOOSEBERRY-GRINDER, s.v. Ask Bogey the GOOSEBERRY-GRINDER, ask mine a—e.

GOOSEBERRY LAY, subs. phr. (thieves').—Stealing linen from a line.

GOOSEBERRY-PICKER, subs. (colloquial). —I. A person whose labour profits, and is credited to, another; a GHOST (q.v.).
2. (common). — A chaperon.
See Gooseberry, subs. sense 2.

1884. Cornhill Mag., Dec., p. 578. The good host experienced the sensations of being GOOSEBERRY-PICKER. He sat under a tree, ate, drank, smoked, and finally fell asleep, whilst the Prince and Ottilie explored the Gaulish city and the convent.

GOOSEBERRY - PUDDING, subs. (rhyming). — A woman. For synonyms, see PETTICOAT.

GOOSEBERRY-WIG, subs. (old). — A large frizzled wig. 'Perhaps,' says Grose (s.v.), 'from a supposed likeness to a gooseberry bush.'

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v.

GOOSECAP, subs. (common). — A booby, male or female; a NOODLE. For synonyms, see BUFFLE and CABBAGE-HEAD.

1593. G. Harvey, Pierce's Super. in wks. II., 72. A foole, an idiot, a dolt, a GOOSE-CAPP, an asse, and seee fourth.

1604. Dekker, Honest Wh. in wks. (1873), ii., 81. Out, you gulles, you GOOSE-CAPS, you gudgeon-eaters!


1763. Foote, Mayor of Garratt, Act i. My husband is such a GOOSE-CAP that I can't get no good out of him at home or abroad.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. A silly fellow or woman.

GOOSE- (or GOOSE'S) EGG, subs. (American). — No score. Also GOOSER. See DUCK.


1889. Modern Society, 12 Oct., p. 1264. An enthusiastic lady cricketer has just bowled over Mr. Jones in a matrimonial match. 'No, Mr. Brown, I cannot marry you. You score a GOOSER this time.'

GOOSE-FLESH (or GOOSE-SKIN), subs. (colloquial). — A peculiar tingling of the skin produced by cold, fear, etc.; the sensation described as 'cold water down the back'; the CREEPS (q.v.).

1824. Miss Ferrier, Inheritance, ch. ii. Her skin began to rise into what is vulgarly termed GOOSE-SKIN.

GOOSE-GOG (or GOOSE-GOB), subs. (common). — A gooseberry.


GOOSE-MONTH, subs. (old). — The lying-in month. Cf., GANDER-MONTH.

GOOSE-PERSUADER, subs. (common). — A tailor. For synonyms, see SNIP.

GOOSER, subs. (popular). — 1. A settler; a knock-out blow; the act of death. See DIG and WIPE.

1851-61. H. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, vol. III., p. 733. It was he who saved my life. If it hadn't been for him it would have been a GOOSER with me.

1857. Morning Chronicle, 9 Sept. In the event of my getting a GOOSER.

2. (sporting). — No score; a GOOSE-EGG (q.v.).

3. (venery). — The penis. For synonyms, see CREAMSTICK and PRICK.

GOOSE - RIDING. See GANDER-PULLING.

GOOSE'S GAZETTE, subs. (old). — A lying story; a flim-flam tale; that is, a piece of reading for a GOOSE, sense 2.
Goose-shearer. 185  Gorge.

1815. Scott, Guy Mannering, ch. xxxiv. Lieutenant Brown . . . , told him some GOOSE'S GAZETTE about his being taken in a skirmish with the land-sharks.

GOOSE-SHEARER, subs. (common). —A beggar. For synonyms, see CADGER. [From GOOSE = simpleton + SHEARER = a cheater.]

GOOSE'S-NECK, subs. (venery). — The penis. For synonyms, see CREAMSTICK and PRICK.

GOOSE-STEP, subs. (common). — Balancing on one foot and moving the other back and forwards without taking a step. [A preliminary in military drill, the pons asinorum of the raw recruit.] Also (more loosely) 'marking time': that is, lifting the feet alternately without advancing.

1840. Tate's Mag., Sept., p. 607 Whether the remarkable evolution [the GOOSE STEP] was called ... from the nature of the operation requiring the exhibitor to stand on one leg, in imitation of the above-named animal, I am totally at a loss to say.

1890. Licensed Vict. Gaz., 7 Nov. He won his spurs at Punchestown before he had mastered the GOOSE STEP.

GOOSE-TURD GREEN, adj. (old). — A light - yellowish green. — COTGRAVE.

GOOSEY-GANDER, subs. (common). —A fool. For synonyms, see BUFFLE and CABBAGE-HEAD.

GOOSING-SLUM, subs. (American). — A brothel. [GOOSING = womanizing; also copulating.] For synonyms, see NANNY-SHOP.

GOPHER, subs. (American). — I. A young thief; especially a boy employed by burglars to enter houses through windows, skylights, etc. [In natural history GOPHER = a burrowing squirrel.]

2. (Southern States).—A rude wooden plough.

GOREE, subs. (old). — Money; specifically gold or gold-dust. From Fort Goree on the Gold Coast. For synonyms, see ACTUAL and GILT.


1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1859. Matsell, Vocabulary, s.v.

GORGE, subs. (vulgar).—I. A heavy meal; a TUCK-IN (q.v.); a BLOW-OUT (q.v.).

1553. Wilson, Arte of Rhetorique, p. 112. The counseler heareth causes with lesse pain being emptie, then he shal be able after a full GORGE.

1883. Daily News, March 24, p. 3, c. 4. The keeper tries these brutes once a week to see whether they are ready for a GORGE, and the python has been known to devour eight ducks at one meal, feathers and all, before signifying enough.

2. (theatrical). — A manager; an abbreviation of GORGER (q.v.).

Verb (vulgar).—To eat voraciously; also to gulp as a fish does when it swallows (or gorges) a bait. For synonyms, see WOLF.


1633. Massinger, New Way to Pay Old Debts, iii., 2. Mar. Come, have patience If you will dispense a little with your worship, And sit with the waiting women, you'll have dumpling, Woodcock, and butter'd toasts too. Greedy. This revives me: I will GORGE there sufficiently.

1654. Chapman, Revenge for Honour, Act i., Sc. i. Here men o' th' shop can GORGE their musty maws With the delicious capon, and fat limbs of mutton.

1748. T. Dyche, Dictionary (5th ed.), GORGE (v.), to eat over-much, to cram, glut, or fill unreasonably.
Gorger.

1843. Dickens, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, ch. xxxiv., p. 336. No man had spoken a word; every one had been intent, as usual, on his own private gorging; and the greater part of the company were decidedly dirty feeders.

1853. Wh. Melville, *Digby Grand*, ch. iii. Who might be such a fine race, if they would only not gorge their food so rapidly.

Gorger, subs. (vulgar). — 1. A voracious eater; a scruncher (q.v.). Rotten gorger = a lad who hangs about Covent Garden eating refuse fruit.


1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v. Mung the gorger; beg child beg of the gentleman.

3. (common). — An employer; a principal; especially the manager of a theatre. [Perhaps because he takes (or gorges) all the fat (q.v.).] Also cully-gorger. Fr., amendier.

1872. M. E. Braddon, *Dead Sea Fruit*, ch. xiv. The gorger's awful coally on his own slumming, eh? . . . I mean to say that our friend the manager is rather sweet upon his own acting.


1320-30. Gawaine, 957. That other wyth a gorgor watz gored ouer the swyre.

Gorgonzola Hall, subs. phr. (Stock Exchange). — Formerly the New Hall; now the corporation generally. [From the colour of the marble.]


Gorm, verb. (American University). — To gorge (q.v.). For synonyms, see wolf.

I'm gormed, phr. (popular). — A profane oath. See gaum.

1849. Dickens, *David Copperfield*, ch. iii. If it [his generosity] were ever referred to, . . . he struck the table a heavy blow with his right hand (had split it on one such occasion), and swore a dreadful oath that he would be gormed if he didn't cut and run for good, if it was ever mentioned again.

1883. Punch, May 19, p. 230, c. 2. Why, of course I hardly expects to be believed, but I'm gormed if there was more than six of one and half-a-dozen of the other.

1884. Julian Sturgis, in Longman's Mag., iii., 623. 'Gormed if there ain't that old parson again!' cried Henry, with enthusiasm.

Gormagon, subs. (old). — See quots.

1785. Grose, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. A monster with six eyes, three mouths, four arms, eight legs, five on one side and three on the other, three arses, two tarses, and a cunt upon its back; a man on horseback with a woman behind him.

1892. Fennell, *Stanford Dict.*, s.v., Gormagon . . . a member of an English Secret Society which existed in the second quarter of 18 c.

Gormy-ruddles, subs. (common). — The intestines.

Gorram (or Goram). — See By Goldam

Gorry. — See By Gorry!

Goschens, subs. (Stock Exchange). — The 2½ per cent. Government Stock created by Mr. Goschen in 1888.

1889. Man of the World, 29 June. The nickname Goschens is going out of fashion. The new 2½ stock is now called by the old name.

1891. Punch, 4 Apr. Securities yielding a larger return than 2½ Goschens.

Gosh, see by gosh.

1862. H. Kingsley, Ravenshoe, ch. lx. She is a good young woman, and a honest young woman in her way, and what she says this night about her brother is GOSPEL-TRUTH.

1864. Derby Day, p. 35. Apparently unable to resist the powerful influences brought to bear upon him, he replied, in a tone which carried the impress of veracity with it, 'GOSPEL.'

1891. N. Gould, Double Event, p. 175. It was true as GOSPEL.

TO DO GOSPEL, verb. phr. (common).—To go to church.

GOSPEL-GAB, subs. (common).—Insincere talk concerning religion; cant.

1892. Hume Nisbet, Bushranger's Sweetheart, p. 146. Yes; when I saw I was in for it, I told them my name and all about my father without any reserve; that, with a little GOSPEL-GAB and howling penitence, got the church people interested in me, and so I was let off easily.

GOSPEL-GRINDER (-POSTILLION, -SHARP, or -SHARK), subs. (common).—A clergyman or missionary. For synonyms, see DEVIL-DODGER and SKY-PILOT;—

FRENCH SYNONYMS. — La forêt noire (thieves' = the black forest); une entonne rampante (thieves'); enonner = to intone); une antijle (thieves'); une cavel (thieves' = a black hole); une chique (thieves').

SPANISH SYNONYM.—Salud.

ITALIAN SYNONYMS.—Balza; balzana.

1869. S. L. Clemens, Innocents at Home, p. 19. 'A what!' 'GOSPEL-SHARP—parson.' 'Oh! why did you not say so before? I am a clergyman—a parson.'

1877. Besant and Rice, Golden Butterly, ch. viii. Else we should be as stagnant as a Connecticut GOSPEL-GRINDER in his village location.

GOSPEL-MILL (or -SHOP), subs. (common).—A church or chapel. Also SCHISM-SHOP and DOXOLOGY-WORKS (q.v.).

1872. Geo. Parker, Humorous Sketches, p. 83. From Whitfield and Romaine to Pope John range; Each GOSPEL-SHOP ringing a daily change.

1871. Life of J. Lackington, Letter xix. As soon as I had procured a lodging and work my next enquiry was for Mr. Wesley's GOSPEL-SHOPS.

1852. Judson, Mysteries of New York, pt. II., ch. ii., p. 13. On about that ere GOSPEL-SHOP as you was agoin for to crack last week.

1869. S. L. Clemens (Mark Twain) Innocents at Home, p. 17, 18. Are you the duck that runs the GOSPEL-MILL next door.

1892. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, p. 35. It's all GOSPEL-SHOP gruel.

GOSS (or GOSSAMER), subs. (common).—A hat. (At first a make of peculiar lightness called a FOUR-AND-NINE (q.v.).) In quot. 1836 = a white hat. For synonyms, see GOLGOTHA.

1836. Dickens, Pickwick, ch. xii. 'That's one thing, and every hole lets in some air, that's another—ventilation GOSSAMER I calls it.' On the delivery of this sentiment, Mr. Weller smiled agreeably upon the assembled Pickwickians.

1838. Jas. Grant, Sketches in London, ch. ix., p. 294. Another passenger inquired whether the hat was 'a vashing beaver von?' while a fourth inquired whether it was 'a gossamer ventilator?'

1851. H. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, Vol. II., p. 49. I have sold hats from 6d. to 3s. 6d., but very seldom 3s. 6d. The 3s. 6d. ones would wear out two new GOSSAMERS, I know.

1884. A. Lang, Much Darker Days, p. 25. Yes, the white hat, lying there all battered and crushed on the white snow, must be the hat of Sir Runan! . . . who else would wear the gay GOSSAMER of July in stormy December?
1888. Harper's Magazine, LXXVII., 139. Flinging off his gossamer and hanging it up to drip into the pan of the hat rack.

To give (or get) goss, verb. phr. (American).—To require an injury; to kill; to go strong; to get an opportunity; to put in big licks (q.v.). Sometimes ejaculatory, as 'Give me goss and let me rip!'


1847. Darley, Drama in Porterville, p. 114. Divers hints passed from one to another among the more excitable citizens, that 'Old Sol' was going to get goss, sure.

1847. Porter, Quarter Race, etc., p. 115. Shouts of 'Fair play,' 'Turn 'em out,' 'Give him goss,' were heard on all sides.

a. 1852. Traits of American Humour, II., 261. Ef I don't, the old man will give me goss when I go back.

Gossoon, subs. (colloquial Irish).—A boy. [A corruption of Fr., garçon = a boy.]

Gotch-gutted, adj. (old).—Pot-bellied; 'a gothick in Norfolk, signifying a pitcher or large round jug.'—Grose.

Got 'em bad, phr. (common).—A superlative of earnestness or excessiveness: e.g., anyone doing his work thoroughly, a horse straining every nerve, a very sick person, especially a patient in the horrors (q.v.), is said to have got 'em bad.

Got 'em on (or all on), phr. (common).—Dressed in the height of fashion. See Rigged Out.


188(?). Broadside Ballad, 'Arry.' Where are you going on Sunday, 'Arry, now you've got 'em on?

188(?). Broadside Ballad. 'He's got 'em on.'

Goth, subs. (common).—A frumpish or uncultured person; one behind the times or ignorant of the ways of society.

1712. Spectator, No. 367. But I shall never sink this paper so far as to engage with Goths and Vandals.

1751. Smollett, Peregrine Pickle, ch. lxi. You yourself are a Goth... to treat with such disrespect a production which... will, when finished, be a masterpiece of its kind.

1865. Ouida, Strathmore, ch. ii. For God's sake don't suppose me such a Goth that I should fall in love with a dairymaid, Strath!

Gotham, subs. (common).—New York City. Gothamite, a New Yorker. [First used by Washington Irving in Salmagundi (1807).]

1852. Bristed, Upper Ten Thousand, p. 37. The first thing, as a general rule, that a young Gothamite does is to get a horse.

Gothic, adj. (old).—See Goth.


1773. Goldsmith, She Stoops to Conquer, ii. 8. Why, with his usual Gothic vivacity, he said I only wanted him to throw off his wig to convert it into a tête for my own wearing.

Go-to-meeting Bags (or Clothes, Dress, etc.), subs. phr. (common).—Best clothes. [As worn on Sundays, or holiday occasions.]

1837-40. Haliburton, The Clockmaker, p. 243 (Ed. 1862). If he hadn't his go-to-meetin' dress and looks on this day to the jury, it's a pity.

1854. Bradley, Verdant Green, Pt. II., p. 5. Besides his black go-to-meeting bags please to observe the peculiarity, etc.
**Gouge.**

1856. Hughes, *Tom Brown's School-days*, pt II., ch. vi. I want to give you a true picture of what every-day school life was in my time, and not a kid-glove and GO-TO-MEETING-COAT picture.

1857. Kingsley, *Two Years Ago*. Looks right well in her GO-TO-MEETING CLOTHES.

**Gouge, subs.** (American). — An imposture; a swindle; a method of cheating.

1845. *New York Tribune*, 10 Dec. R—and H—will probably receive from Mr. Polk's administration $100,000 more than respectable printers would have done the work for. There is a clean, plain gouge of this sum out of the people’s strong box.

Verb. (old).—1. Grose says, 'To squeeze out a man's eye with the thumb, a cruel practice used by the Bostonians in America.'

1848. Ruxton, *Life in the Far West*, p. 49. His eyes having been gouged in a mountain fray.

2. (American). — To defraud.

1845. *New York Tribune*, 26 Nov. Very well, gentlemen! Gouge Mr. Crosby out of the seat, if you think it wholesome to do it.

1874. W. D. Howells, *Foregone Conclusions*, ch. iii. The man's a perfect Jew—or a perfect Christian, one ought to say in Venice; we true believers do gouge so much more infamously here.

1885. Bret Harte, *A Ship of '49*, ch. i. He's regularly gouged me in that 'ere horsehair spekilation.

**Gouger, subs.** (American). — A cheat; a swindler. For synonyms, see ROOK.

**Gouging, subs.** (American). — Cheating.

**Goujeers.** See GOODYEAR.

**Gourd, subs.** (old). — False dice with a cavity within, which in FULLAMS (q.v.) was filled with lead to give a bias. See also HIGH-MEN and LOW-MEN.

1854. Ascham, *Toxophylus*. What false dyse use they! as dyse stopped with quicksilver and heares, dyse of vauntage, floutes, gourds, to chop and change when they liste.


1616. Beaumont and Fletcher, *Scornful Lady*, iv. And thy dry bones can reach at nothing now But GOURDS or nine-pins; pray go fetch a trencher, go.

**Gourock Ham, subs.** (common). — A salt herring (Gourock was formerly a great fishing village). For synonyms, see GLASGOW MAGISTRATE.

**Government-man, subs.** (old Australian). — A convict.


1883. Graphic, 17 Mar., p. 262, c. 3. They never settle down as thousands of our GOVERNMENT MEN cheerfully did in Australia after they had their freedom.

**Government-securities, subs.** (common). — Handcuffs; fetters generally. For 'synonyms, see DARBIES.

**Government-signpost, subs.** (old). — The gallows. For synonyms, see NUBBING-CHEAT.


**Governor** (or Gun), subs. (common). — 1. A father. Also RELIEVING OFFICER; OLD 'UN; PATER; NIBS; and HIS NIBS. Applied to elderly people in general. Fr., le géniteur and l'ancien (= the old 'un).

1836. Dickens, *Pickwick*, ch. xx. p. 169. 'You're quite certain it was them, governor?' inquired Mr. Weller, junior. 'Quite, Sammy, quite,' replied his father.
Governor.


1859. *Witty Political Portraits*, p. 111. Unconscious of the constitutional delusions on which his governor has thrived.

1889. *Answers*, 20 Apr., p. 323. To call your father the ‘Governor’ is, of course, slang, and is as bad as referring to him as ‘The Boss,’ ‘The Old Man,’ or ‘The Relieving Officer.’

1891. *Licensed Vict. Gaz.*, 9 Jan. It was mortifying to be done in that manner by a low fellow like Muggins, that I had always looked upon as a fool, and had made a butt of when the GUV. was out of the way.

1892. *Hu M ISBET*, *Bushranger’s Sweetheart*, p. 118. The governor is in an awful funk about him.

2. (common). — A mode of address to strangers. Fr., bourgeois.

1892. *Anstey*, *Voces Populi* (Second Series). ‘At the Guelph Exhibition.’ Right, guvnor; we’ll come.

3. (colloquial).—A master or superior; an employer.

English Synonyms.—Boss; captain of the waiters; captain; chief; colonel; commander; chief bottle-washer; ganger; head-butler; head-cook and bottle-washer; gorer; ome; rum-cull.

French Synonyms. — Le pantriot (popular and thieves’; also = a young nincompoop); le, or la, pête (popular: properly paste or dough); le naif (printers’: obsolete); le herz or hers (thieves: obviously from the German); le loncegnet (thieves’: Fr., back-slang; = gonce, itself a slang term for a man); le galeux (popular) = one with the itch; le grèle (popular: specifically a master-tailor); le singe ( = monkey); le troploc; le nourisseur = the grubber; l’ogre (specifically a fence); le notaire ( = publican); le patron (colloquial: = governor).

Italian Synonyms. — Chiel-micro (vulgar).

Governor’s-stiff, subs. (American).—A pardon.


Gower-street *Dialect*. See Medical Greek.

Gowk, subs. (prison).—A simpleton. (Scots’ gowk = a cuckoo). For synonyms, see Buffel and Cabbage-head. Also a countryman. For synonyms, see Joskin.


To Hunt the Gowk, verb. phr. (common).—To go on a fool’s errand.

Gowler, subs. (old).—A dog; specifically a howler.

Gown, subs. (Winchester College).


2. (University).—The schools as distinguished from the Town (q.v.), e.g., Town and Gown.

1847. *Thackeray*, *Punch’s Prize Novelists*, ‘Codlingsby,’ p. 232. From the Addenbrooke’s hospital to the Blenheim turnpike, all Cambridge was in an uproar—the College gates closed—the shops barricaded—the shop-boys away in support of their brother townsfolk—the battle raged, and the Gown had the worst of the fight.

1853. Bradley, *Verdant Green*, II., ch. iii. When Gown was absent, Town was miserable.

1891. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 30 May, p. 4, c. 3. Town and Gown joined in harmony.
GOWNSMAN (also GOWN), subs. (university).—A student.

1800. C. K. Sharpe, in Correspondence (1888), i., 96. A battle between the GOWNSMEN and townspeople . . . . in spite of the Vice-Chancellor and Proctors.

1850. F. E. Smedley, Frank Fairleigh, ch. xxv. The ancient town of Cambridge, no longer animated by the countless throngs of GOWNSMEN, frowned in its unaccustomed solitude.

1861. Hughes, Tom Brown at Oxford. The townsmen . . . . were met by the GOWNSMEN with settled steady pluck.

GRAB, subs. (vulgar).—I. A sudden clutch.

1835. Haliburton, Clockmaker, 1st S., ch. viii. He makes a GRAB at me, and I shuts the door right to on his wrist.

2. (American).—A robbery; a STEAL (q.v.). Cf. GRAB-GAINS.

3. (old).—A body-stealer; a resurrectionist.

1830. S. Warren, Diary of a Late Physician, ch. xvi. Sir —'s dressers and myself, with an experienced GRAB—that is to say, a professional resurrectionist—were to set off from the Borough.

4. (gamesters').—A boisterous game at cards.

Verb (vulgar).—I. To PINCH (q.v.); to seize; to apprehend; to snatch or steal. GRABBED = arrested.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum. The pigs GRABBED the kiddy for a crack.

1859. Matsell, Vocabulum. You GRABBLED the goose-cap and I'll frisk his pokes.

2. (venery).—To grope; to fumble; TO FAM (q.v.).

1819. Durfee, Pills, etc., 193. When Nelly, though he teized her, And GRABBLED her and squeezed her.
GRABBY, subs. (military). — An infantry-man. [Used in contempt by the mounted arm.] Fr., marionnette.

1808. Whyte Melville, White Rose, ch. x. 'Is it a good regiment? How jolly to dine at mess every day!' 'I shouldn't like to be a GRABBY though' (this from the Dandy); 'and after all, I'd rather be a private in the cavalry than an officer in the regiment of feet!'

GRAB-GAINS, subs. (thieves'). — The trick of snatching a purse, etc., and making off.

GRAB-GAME (or-coup, or-racket), subs. (old). — A mode of swindling; the sharpers start by betting among themselves; then the by-standers are induced to join; then stakes are deposited; lastly, there is a row, when one of the gang GRABS the stakes, and decamps. But see quot., 1823.

1823. Bee, Dict. of the Turf, s.v. GRAB-COUP, modern practice of gambling, adopted by the losers, thus the person cheated, or done, takes his opportunity, makes a dash at the depository of money, or such as may be down for the play, and GRABS as much as possible, pockets the proceeds, and fights his way out of the house.

18(?). Scenes in the Rocky Mountains, p. 282. 'I'll bear you company. What d'ye say to that?' 'Just as you like,' responded his two companions, 'that is provided you won't attempt the GRAB GAME on us.'

1892. R. L. Stevenson and L. Osbourne, The Wrecker, p. 219. 'Now, boss!' he cried, not unkindly, 'is this to be run shipshape; or is it a Dutch GRAB-RACKET?


GRADUATE, subs. (turf). — 1. A horse that has been run.

2. (colloquial).—An adept; an ARTFUL MEMBER (q.v.).

3. (venery).—An unmarried woman who has taken her degree in carnal lore.

Verb. (colloquial).—To seek and acquire experience: in life, love, society, or trade; and so on.

GRADUS, subs. (gamesters'). — A mode of cheating: a particular card is so placed by the shuffler that when he hands the pack to be cut, it projects a little beyond the rest; the chance being that it is the turn-up. Also THE STEP (q.v.). [From the Latin.]

GRADUAD-AD-PARNASSUM, subs. (old literary). — The treadmill. For synonyms, see WHEEL-OF-LIFE.

GRAFT, subs. (common). — Work; employment; LAY (q.v.): e.g. What GRAFT are you on now? GREAT - GRAFT = profitable labour; GOOD BIZ (q.v.). Also GRAFTING and ELBOW-GREASE.

FRENCH SYNONYMS. — Le bas-timage (thieves'); le goupinage (thieves'); la laine (tailors'); le maquillage (thieves'); le massage (popular); la masse; le métche (printers').

1878. Graphic, 6 July, p. 2. According to the well-known maxim in the building trade, 'Scotch masons, Welsh blacksmiths, English bricklayers, Irish labourers' . . . . Perhaps in a generation or two Paddy will fail us. He will have become too refined for hard GRAFTING.

1887. Henley, Villon's Straight Tip. The merry little dibbs you bag At my GRAFT, no matter what.
1892. Tit Bits, 19 Mar., p. 417, c. 1. Millbank for thick shins and graft at the pump.

*Verb* (common).—1. To work. Fr., baussier; membrer.

2. (American).—To steal.

3. (old). — To cuckold; to plant horns.


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

4. (American).—To sole old boots. Cf., Goose and TRANSLATE.

**Grampus**, subs. (colloquial).—A fat man. For synonyms, see Forty-guts.

To blow the Grampus. (nautical). — To drench; and (common), to sport in the water.

**Grand**, subs. (colloquial).—Short for 'grand piano.'

1891. Morning Advertiser, 28 Mar. A precocious young relative is now about to take the daits. There she stands, violin in hand, and there begins the preliminary scramble on the hired Grand.

*Adj.* (colloquial).—A general superlative.

1892. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, p. 77. Wot we want in a picter is flavour and 'fetch,' and yours give it me Grand.

To do the Grand, *verb. phr.* (common).—To put on airs. For synonyms, see Lardy-dah.

**Grand Bounce.** See Bounce.

**Grandmother.** To see one's grandmother, *verb. phr.* (common).—To have a nightmare.

To see (or have) one's grandmother (or little friend, or auntie) with one. *verb. phr.* (common).—To have the menstrual discharge. See Flag.

To shoot one's grandmother, *verb. phr.* (common).—To be mistaken; to have found a mare's nest; to be disappointed. Commonly 'You've shot your grannie.'

To teach one's grandmother (or grannie) how to suck eggs, *verb. phr.* (common).—To instruct an expert in his own particular line of business; to talk old to one's seniors.

1811. Lexicon Balatricum, s.v.

1892. Globe, 27 Jan., p. 1, c. 5. Evidently he did not consider, as Englishmen seem to do, that grandmothers possess no more knowledge than is required to efficiently suck eggs.

1892. Hume Nisbet, Bushranger's Sweetheart, p. 210. 'Confound you stupid, what do you take me for, that you try to teach your grandmother to suck eggs.

1882. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, p. 77. She's a teaching 'er grandmother, she is, although she's a littery swell.

**My grandmother's review.** subs. *phr.* (obscure).—The British Review. [The nickname was Lord Byron's.]


1823. Moncrieff, Tom and Jerry, i., 4. We'll start first to the show shop of the metropolis, Hyde Park! promenade it down the Grand strut.

**Granger**, subs. (American political).—1. A member of the Farmers' Alliance; a secret society, nominally non-political, but really taking a hand in politics when occasion offered to favour agricultural interests. [During the decade of years ending 1870, it attained to great numerical strength, and extended throughout the United States.] See Agricultural Wheel.
2. (American). — Hence, a farmer; a countryman; anyone from the rural districts. For synonyms, see Joskin.

Grangerise, verb. (literary). — To fill out a book with portraits, landscapes, title-pages, and illustrations generally, not done for it.

1883. Sala, Living Wonders, p. 497. Mr. Ashton's Social Life in the Reign of Queen Anne . . . would be a capital book to Grangerize.

Grangerism, subs. (literary). — The practice of illustrating a book with engravings, etc., from other sources. [From the practice of illustrating Granger's Bibliographical History of England.]

1883. Saturday Review, Jan. 27, p. 123, c. 2. Grangerism, as the innocent may need to be told, is the pernicious vice of cutting plates and title-pages out of many books to illustrate one book.

Grangerite, subs. (literary). — A practitioner in Grangerism (q.v.).

1890. 'Grangerising,' in Cornhill Mag., Feb., p. 139. Another favourite subject, and suitable also for the Grangerite, is ' Boswell's Johnson.' It must be admitted that this delightful book may gain a fresh chance by being thus treated, but 'within the limits of becoming grangerism.'

Grannam, subs. (old). Corn. [From the Latin.] — Fr., le grenu, or grelu. It., re di granata; staffile; corniole: Sp., grite.


1797. Bacchus and Venus. 'The Strowling Mort.' Grannam ever filled my sack.

Grannam's-gold. subs. (old). — Wealth inherited. [Grannam = grandmother; cf., Beaumont and Fletcher, Lover's Progress, iv., 1. 'Ghosts never walk till after midnight, if I may believe my grannam.]

Granny, subs. (nautical). — 1. A bad knot with the second tie across; as opposed to a reef knot in which the end and outer part are in line. Also Granny's Knot or Granny's Bend.

2. (common). — Conceit of superior knowledge.

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, i., 404. To take the Granny off them as has white hands.

Verb (thieves'). — To know; to recognise. Also to swindle.


Ibid., p. 340. If they Granny the manley (perceive the signature) of a brother officer or friend.

Grant. To grant the favour, verb. phr. (venery). — To confer the sexual embrace; to spread (q.v.).

1720. Durfey, Pills, etc., vi 58. If at last she grants the favour, and consents to be undone.

1754. Fielding, Jonathan Wild, iv. 7. I . . . never would grant the favour to any man till I had drunk a heavy glass with him.

Grape-shot, adj. (common). — Drunk. For synonyms, see Drinks and Screwed.


Grape-vine Telegraph, subs. phr. (American). — News mysteriously conveyed. [During the Civil War bogus reports from the front were said to be by the Grape-vine Telegraph.] Also Clothes-line Telegraph.
**Grapple.**

**Grapple,** subs. (common).—The hand. Also grappler. For synonyms, see Daddle and Mauley.


1877. *Five Years’ Penal Servitude,* ch. iii., p. 246. Anything she once put her grapples on she slipped inside.

GRAPPLER-THE-RAILS, subs. (Irish).—Whiskey. For synonyms, see Drinks and Old Man’s Milk.


**Grappling-irons (or -hooks),** subs. (old).—1. Handcuffs. For synonyms, see Darbies.


4. I hope the bailiffs have not laid their grappling irons on young Miles.

2. (nautical).—The fingers. For synonyms, see Fork. Also Grappers and Grappling-Hooks.


2. (American).—Fresh mint.

3. (common).—Short for sparrow-grass (= asparagus.


4. (Australian printers’).—A temporary hand on a newspaper; hence the proverb, ‘A grass on news waits dead men’s shoes.’ Cf., grass-hand = a raw worker, or green hand.

a. 1889. Fitzgerald, *Printers’ Proverbs,* quoted in *Slang, Jargon, and Cant.* Why are the grass, or casual news hands not put on a more comfortable footing?

**Verb** (pugilistic).—To throw (or be thrown); to bring (or be brought) to ground. Hence, to knock down; to defeat; to kill.

1818. Egan, *Boxiana,* ii., 375. He had much the worst of it, and was ultimately grassed.

1819. Moore, *Tom Crüe,* p. 57. The shame that aught but death should see him grassed.

1846. Dickens, *Dombey,* xliv., 385. The Chicken himself attributed this punishment to his having had the misfortune to get into Chancery early in the proceedings, when he was severely fibbed by the Larkey One, and heavily grassed.

1881. *Daily Telegraph,* 26 Nov. The Doctor had killed twenty out of twenty-five, while his opponent had grassed seventeen out of the same number.

1883. W. Besant, *All in a Garden Fair,* Intro. It was a sad example of pride before a fall; his foot caught in a tuft of grass, and he was grassed.


1891. *Scamping Tricks,* p. 119. I saw I was grassed, so I took his measurement.

1892. F. Anstey, *Voices Populi.* ‘The Riding-Class,’ p. 168. Didn’t get grassed, did you?

**To give grass,** verb. phr. (colloquial).—To yield.

**To go to grass,** verb. phr. (colloquial).—1. To abscond; to disappear. Also to hunt grass.

2. (common).—To fall sprawling; to be ruined; to die.

1876. Hindley, *Cheap Jack,* p. 237. Elias was sent to grass to rise no more off it.

3. (common).—To waste away (as of limbs).

**To hunt grass,** verb. phr. (common).—1. To decamp.

2. (cricket).—To field; to hunt leather (= grass).
3. (American). To fall; to go to ground; hence, to be puzzled or bewildered.

1869. S. L. Clemens, *Innocents at Home*, p. 21. You're most too many for me, you know. When you get in with your left I HUNT GRASS every time.

**To cut one's own grass.** *verb. phr.* (thieves').—To earn one's own living.

1877. *Five Years' Penal Servitude*, c. iii., p. 242. 'Cut her own grass! Good gracious! what is that!' I asked. 'Why, purvide her own chump—earn her own living,' the old man replied.

**To be sent to grass.** *verb. phr.* (University).—To be rusticated; to receive a traveling scholarship (*q.v.*).

1794. *Gent. Mag.*, p. 1085. And was very near rustication [at Cambridge] merely for kicking up a row after a beakering party. 'Soeh, Jack!' briskly rejoined another, 'almost presented with a travelling fellowship? very nigh being sent to grass, hey?'

Go to grass! *phr.* (common).—Be off! You be hanged! Go to hell!

1848. Durivage, *Stray Subjects*, p. 95. A gentleman who was swimming about, upon being refused, declared that he might go to grass with his old canoe, for he didn't think it would be much of a shower, anyhow.

1865. Bacon, *Handbook of America*, p. 363. Go to grass! be off! get out!

**To let the grass grow under one's feet.** *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To proceed or work leisurely. *Fr.*, limier.

**To take Nebuchadnezzar out to grass.** *subs. phr.* (venery).—To take a man. [Nebuchadnezzar = *penis.*] For synonyms, see Greens.

Grass-comber, *subs.* (nautical).—A countryman shipped as a sailor.

1886. W. Besant, *World Went Very Well Then*, ch. xxix. Formerly, Jack would have replied to this sally that, 'ye see, Luke was a grass comber and a land swab, but that for himself, there was no tea aboard ship, and a glass of punch or a bowl of flip was worth all the tea ever brought from China.

Grasser, *subs.* (sporting).—A fall.

Grasshopper, *subs.* (common).—

1. A waiter at a tea-garden.

2. (rhyming).—A policeman, or copper (*q.v.*).

3. (thieves').—A thief. See Gunner.

1893. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 2 Jan., p. 4. Quite a 'school' of youthful grasshoppers are in possession of one corner of the ice, but on the Westminster side of the park 'pon bridge there is a good sprinkling of old hands.

Grassing, *subs.* (printers').—Casual work away from the office. See Smouting.

Grassville, *subs.* (old).—The country; *cf.*, Daisyville.

Grass-widow, *subs.* (old).—1. An unmarried mother; a deserted mistress. See Barrack-hack and Tart.

1690. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. Widow's weeds, a grass-widow, one that pretends to have been married, but never was, yet has children.


2. (colloquial).—A married woman temporarily separated from her husband.

The usually accepted derivation that grass = *Fr.*, grace is doubtful. Hall (says J. C. Atkinson, in *Glossary of Cleveland Words*) gives as the definition of this word 'an unmarried woman who has had a child'; in Moor's *Suffolk Words and Phrases*, grace-widow, 'a woman who has had a child for her cradle ere she has had a husband for her bed'; and corresponding with this is the N. S. or Low Ger., gras-weduwe. Again, Sw. D., gras-anka, or -enka = grass-widow, occurs in the same sense as with us: 'a low, dissolute, unmarried woman living by herself.' The original meaning of the word seems to
Grass-widow.

have been 'a woman whose husband is away,' either travelling or living apart. The people of Belgium call a woman of this description haek-wedewe, from haekken, to feel strong desire. . . . It seems probable, therefore, from the etymology, taken in connection with the Clevel. signification, that our word may rather be from the Scand. source than from the German; only with a translation of the word enka into its English equivalent.

Dan. D., graesenka, is a female whose betrothed lover (fastman) is dead; nearly equivalent to which is German, strokwilfwe, literally straw-widow. See N. and Q. 6 S viii., 268, 414 : x. 333, 436, 526 ; xi. 78, 178.

ENGLISH SYNONYMS. — Californian widow; widow-bewitched; wife in water colours.

1700. Congreve, Way of the World, Act iii. If the worst come to the worst,—I'll TURN MY WIFE TO GRASS— I have already a deed of settlement of the best part of her estate, which I wheedled out of her.

1877. Chamb. Journal, 12 Mar., p. 173. Mrs. Brittomart was one of those who never tolerated a bow-wow—a species of animal well known in India—and never went to the hills as a GRASS-WIDOW.

1878. London, A GRASS-WIDOW. And so, you see, it comes to pass That she's a WIDOW OUT AT GRASS And happy in her freedom.

1882. Saturday Review, 11 Feb. She is a GRASS-WIDOW, her husband is something in some Indian service.

1885. W. Black, White Heather, ch. xii. Mrs. Lalor, a GRASS-WIDOW who was kind enough to play chaperon to the young people, but whose effective black eyes had a little trick of roving on their own account.

1889. Daily Telegraph, 12 Feb. She had taken up her residence at a house in Sinclair-road, Kensington, where she passed as a GRASS-WIDOW. She represented that her husband was engaged in mercantile pursuits.

GRASS-WIDOWER, subs. (common).—A man away from his wife.

1886. New York Evening Post, 22 May. All the GRASS-WIDOWERS and unmarried men.

Gravel, verb. (old).—1. To confound; to puzzle; to FLOOR (q. v.).

1593. G. Harvey, Pierus Supererog., in wks. II., 296. The finest intelligencer, or sagacious Politician in a state, would undoubtedly have been GRAVELLED in the execution of that rash attempt.


1600. Shakespear, As You Like It. When you were GRAVELLED for lack of matter.

1604. Marlowe, Faustus, Act i., Sc. 1. And I, that have with conceits syllogisms GRAVELLED the pastors of the German church.


1857. A. Trollope, Three Clerks, ch. xxxiv. He was somewhat GRAVELLED for an answer to Alaric's earnest supplication, and therefore made none till the request was repeated.

1866. R. L. Stevenson, Kidnapp', p. 206. I thought Alan would be GRAVELLED at that, for we lacked the means of writing in that desert.

1889. National Observer, 11 Feb., p. 32r. In truth to talk of Burns as the apotheosis of Knox is really to GRAVEL at d confound your readers; and but for the context one might be suspected that the innuendo hid a touch of sarcasm.

2. (American).—To go against the grain.

1887. Clemens, Life on the Mississippi, ch. xiv., p. 138. By long habit, pilots came to put all their wishes in the form of commands. It GRAVELS me to this day, to put my will in the weak shape of a request, instead of launching it in the crisp language of an order.

GRAVEL-CRUSHER, subs. (military).—A soldier doing defaulter's drill.

GRAVEL-GRINDER, subs. (popular).—A drunkard. For synonyms, see Lushington.
Gravel-rash. 

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Gray-beard.

Gravel-rash, subs. (colloquial).—The lacerations caused by a fall.

To have the gravel rash, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To be reeling drunk. For synonyms, see Drinks and Screwed.

Gravesend-bus, subs. (common).—A hearse.

Gravesend-sweetmeats, subs. (popular).—Shrimps.

Gravesend-twins, subs. (common).—Solid particles of sewage.

Grave-yard, subs. (common).—I. The mouth. For synonyms, see Potato-trap.

To keep a private grave-yard, verb. phr. (American).—To affect ferocity; to bluster.

Gravy, subs. (venery).—The sexual discharge; the spendings (q.v.) both male and female. [Hence gravy-giver = the penis and the female pudendum; and gravy-maker = the female pudendum. Hence, too, to give one's gravy = to spend (q.v.). Cf., Beef and Mutton.]

Gravy-eye, subs. (common)—A derisive epithet: e.g., Well Old Gravy-eye.

Grawler, subs. (old).—A beggar. For synonyms, see Cadger.

1821. D. Haggart, Life, Glossary p. 62. Not so much as would sweeten a grawler in the whole of them.

Gray, subs. (thieves').—I. A coin showing either two heads or two tails; a pony (q.v.).

1828. G. Smethon, Doings in London, p. 40. Breslaw could never have done more upon cards than he could do with a pair of grays (gaffing-coins).

1851-91. H. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, Vol. II, p. 154. Some, if they can, will cheat, by means of a half-penny with a head or a tail on both sides, called a gray.

1868. Temple Bar, Vol. XXIV., p. 539. They have a penny with two heads or two tails on it, which they call a grey, and of course they can easily dupe flats from the country. How do they call it a grey, I wonder? I suppose they have named it after Sir George Grey because he was a two-faced bloke.

2. (common).—See Grayback, sense 1.

3. in. pl. (colloquial).—Yawning; listlessness. Cf., Blues.

Grayback, subs. (common).—I. A louse. Also Scots Greys. Fr., un grenadier. For synonyms, see Chates.

2. (American).—A Confederate soldier. [Partly from the colour of his uniform, and partly because of its inhabitants. Cf., sense 1.] See Blue-bellies.

1883. Daily Telegraph, 9 Feb., p. 5, C. 4. The Confederate armies, during the great Civil War in America . . . were known . . . as Greybacks, whereas their Federal opponents, from the light-azure gaberdines which they wore, were dubbed 'blue-bellies.'

1890. Scribner's Mag. Mar., p. 283. Mrs. Rutherford stood in such abject fear of the Graybacks that she regarded the possession of so large a sum as simply inviting destruction.


a. 1845. Longfellow, Luck of Eden Hall. The gray-beard, with trembling hand obeys.

2. (old).—Originally a stone-ware drinking jug; now a large earthenware jar for holding wine or spirits. [From the bearded face in relief with which they were ornamented.]
Gray-cloak. 199

1811. *Lexicon Balatronicum*, GREYBEARD, s.v. Dutch earthen jugs, used for smuggling gin on the coasts of Essex and Suffolk, are at this time called GREYBEARDS.

1814. Scott, Waverley, ch. lxxiv. There's plenty of brandy in the GREYBEARD.

1816. Scott, Black Dwarf, ch. iv. Biggin a dry-stane dyke, I think, wi' the GREY-GEESE as they ca' thae great loose stones.

Gray-cloak, subs. (common).—An alderman above the chair. [Because his proper robe is a cloak furred with grey amis.]

Gray-mare, subs. (common).—A wife; specifically one who wears the breeches (q.v.). [From the proverb, 'The gray mare is the better horse' = the wife is master: a tradition, perhaps, from the time when priests were forbidden to carry arms or ride on a male horse: *Non cuim licuerat pontificem sacrorum vel arma ferre, vel praeclar quam in equum equitare.—Beda, Hist. Eccl. ii., 13. Fr., mariage d'épervier = a hawk's marriage; the female hawk being the larger and stronger bird. Lord Macaulay's explanation (quot. 1849) is the merest guess-work.]

1546. John Haywood, Proverbs [Sharman's reprint, 1874]. She is (quoth he) bent to force you performe, To know that the GREY MARE is the better horse.

1550. A Treatise, Shewing and Declaring the Pryde and Abuse of Women Now a Dayses (in Hazlitt's Early Popular Poetry, iv., 237). What! shall the GREY MAYRE be the better horse, And be wanton styll at home?

1605. Camden, Remains Concerning Britain [ed. 1870, p. 332]. In list of proverbs. (Is said to be the earliest in English.)

1670. Ray, Proverbs, s.v.

1693-1750. Ward, London Spy, part II., p. 40. Another as dull as if the GREY MARE was the better Horse; and deny'd him Enterance for keeping late Hours.

1705-1707. Ward, Hudibras Redivivus, vol. II., pt. iv., p. 5. There's no resisting Female Force, GREY MARE will prove the better Horse.

1717. Prior, Epilogue to Mrs. Manley's Lucius. As long as we have eyes, or hands, or breath, We'll look, or write, or talk you all to death. Yield, or she- Pegasus will gain her course, And the GREY MARE will prove the better horse.

1738. Swift, Polite Convers., dial. 3. I wish she were married; but I doubt the GREY MARE would prove the better horse.

1748. Smollett, Rod. Random, ch. xix. By the hints they dropped, I learned the GREY MARE was the better horse—that she was a matron of a high spirit.
1819. Macaulay, Hist. England. The vulgar proverb, that the Grey Mare is the better horse, originated, I suspect, in the preference generally given to the Grey Mares of Flanders over the finest coach horses of England.

1883. G. A. S[ala], in Illustr. London News, 14 Apr., p. 359, c. 2. She [Mrs. Romford], did not over-accentuate either her strong-mindedness or her jealousy of her flighty husband; but she let him and the audience unmistakably know that she was in all respects the Grey Mare in the Romford stable.

GRAY-PARSON (or GRAY-COAT PARSON, subs. (old).—A lay impropriator, or lessee of tithes.


1830 in Cobbett’s Rura.? Rides, vol. i., p. 123 note (ed. 1886). The late editor says, that, having been a large holder of lay tithes, the author applied to Mr. Nicholls, the name of the Grey-Coated Parson.

GREASE, subs. (common).—1. A bribe; Palm-Oil (or -GREASE). (q.v. for synonyms). In America Boodle (q.v.). GREASING = bribing.

1823. Bee, Dict. of Turf, s.v. A bonus given to promote the cause of anyone.

2. (printers’). — Well-paid work; Fat (q.v.).

3. (common). — Fawning; flattery (a figurative use of sense 1).

Verb (old).—1. To bribe; to corrupt by presents; to Tip (q.v.). Also more fully to grease in the fist, hand, or palm. Fr., coquer la boucanade. For synonyms, see SQUARE.


1578. Whetstone, Promoss and Cassandra, ii., 3. Grease them well in their hands.

1592. Greene, Quip in wks., xi., 261. That did you not grease the sealers of Leaden Hall thoroughly in the fist, they should never be sealed, but turned away and made forfeit by the statute.

1619. Fletcher, Wild Goose Chase. Am I greased once again?

1649. F. Quarles, Virgin Widow, IV., i., p. 40. Grease my fist with a Tester or two, and ye shall find it in your penny-worths.

1678. C. Cotton, Scarronides, Bk. IV., p. 70 (ed. 1725). Him she conjures, intreats, and prays, With all the cunning that she has, Greases His Fist; nay more, engages Thenceforth to mend his Quarters-wages.

1878. J. Payn, By Proxy, ch. x. His Excellency, your master, has given orders, I presume, that after I have made my compliments—and delicate a phrase as he could think of for greasing the hands of justice—I shall be at liberty to visit my friend.

1879. Horsley, in Macmillan’s Magazine, Oct. When I went to the fence he bested (cheated) me because I was drunk, and only gave me £8 10s. for the lot. So the next day I went to him and asked him if he was not going to grease my Duke (put money into my hand).

1891. Pall Mall Gaz., 2 Sept., p. 7, c. 2. Did other people having business with the printing bureau tell you that it would be necessary to grease Senecal?

2. (common).—To fawn; to flatter. Formerly, to GREASE ONE’S BOOTS.

1598. Florio, A Worlde of Wordes. Onger i stivali, to grease ones bootes, id est, to flatter or cog with, to faune vpon one.

3. (old).—To gull; to cheat; to do.
Greased Lightning.

TO GREASE A FAT SOW IN THE ARSE, verb. phr. (old).—To bribe a rich man.—GROSE.

TO GREASE ONE'S GILLS, verb. phr. (common).—To make a good or luxurious meal.

GREASED LIGHTNING, subs. phr. (American).—An express train.

1871. De Vere, Americanisms, p. 359. The usual Express Train is not half fast enough for the impatient traveller; he must have his Lightning Express Train, and in the Far West improves still farther by calling it GREASED LIGHTNING, after a favourite Yankee term.

LIKE GREASED LIGHTNING, adv. phr. (American).—Very quick. See BED-POST.

1848. Durivage, Stray Subjects, p. 72. Quicker than GREASED LIGHTNING, My covies, I was dead.

1890. Globe, 27 Aug., p. 2, c. 5. He is drawn along at a rapid rate, or, as the correspondent puts it, he is whisked all over town like GREASED LIGHTNING.

1891. J. Newman, Scampering Tricks, p. 98. He measured again, and then off went his coat LIKE GREASED LIGHTNING, and we all followed suit.

GREASER, subs. (American).—1. A Mexican in general; also a Spanish American: see quot. 1848 and 1888. The term originated during the Mexican war.

1848. Ruxton, Life in the Far West, p. 3. Note. The Mexicans are called Spaniards or GREASERS (from their greasy appearance) by the Western people.

1855. Marrvat, Mountains and Mole Hills, p. 236. The Americans call the Mexicans GREASERS, which is scarcely a complimentary sobriquet; although the term GREASER CAMP as applied to a Mexican encampment is truthfully suggestive of filth and squalor.

1876. Besant and Rice, Golden Butterfly, Prologue i. Behind the leaders followed a little troop of three, consisting of one English servant and two GREASERS.

1883. Bret Harte, In the Carquinez Woods, footnote to ch. vii. GREASERS, Californian slang for a mixed race of Mexicans and Indians.

1888. Century Mag., October. To avenge the murder of one of their number the cowboys gathered from the country round about, and fairly stormed the GREASER—that is, Mexican—village where the murder had been committed, killing four of the inhabitants.

1891. Gunter, Miss Nobody, ch. 2. Don't let the GREASER git his fingers in your ha'r.

2. in. pl. (Royal Military Academy).—Fried potatoes, as distinguished from BOILERS = boiled potatoes.

TO GIVE ONE GREASER, verb. thr. (Winchester College).—To rub the back of the hand hard with the knuckles.

GREASE-Spot, subs. (common).—The imaginary result of a passage at arms, physical or intellectual.

1844. Haliburton, The Attaché, ch. xvi. If he hadn't a had the clear grit in him, and showed his teeth and claws, they'd a nullified him so you wouldn't see a GREASE-SPOT of him no more.

GREASY-CHIN, subs. (old).—A dinner.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends, 'Lay of St. Gengulphus.' And to every guest his card had express'd 'Half past' as the hour for a GREASY CHIN.

GREAT CRY AND LITTLE WOOL.—See CRY.

GREAT GO (or GREATS), subs. (Cambridge University).—The final examination for the B.A. degree; cf., LITTLE-GO. At Oxford, GREATER.

1841. Prince of the New-made Baccalere, Oxford. GREAT-GO is passed.

1861. Hughes, Tom Brown at Oxford, ch. x. Both small and GREAT are sufficiently distant to be altogether ignored, if we are that way inclined.
Great Gun.

1850-7. THACKERAY, King of Brentford’sTest, st. 7. At college, though not fast. Yet his little-go and great-go, he creditably pass’d.

1871. Morning Advertiser, 28 Apr. Yes, Mr. Lowe has been plucked for his great go.

1880. Echo, 3 May, p. 2, c. 4. But few, indeed, are the men who have been in for greats during the last twenty years, and who have not blessed Mr. Kitchin for his edition of the Novum Organum.

GREAT GUN, subs. phr. (common).
—1. A person of distinction; a thing of importance.

ENGLISH SYNONYMS.—Big bug; big dog of the tanyard; big dog with the brass collar; big gun; big head; big one; big (or great) pot; big wig; biggest toad in the puddle; cock of the walk; don; large potato; nob; rumbusticator; stunner; swell; swell-head; topper; top-sawyer.

FRENCH SYNONYMS.—Un gros bonnet (familiar = big wig); un fierot (a stuck-up); un herr (from the German); Monsieur Raüillon or Monsieur Pointu (= Mr. Stuck-up).


1843. Haliburton, Sam Slick in England, ch. xv. The great guns and big bugs have to take in each other’s ladies.

Ibid., p. 24. Pick out the big bugs and see what sort of stuff they’re made of.

1853. WH. MELVILLE, Digby Grand, ch. x. The great guns of the party, the rector of the parish, the member for the county.

2. (pedlers’). — A peculiar practice; a trick of particular usefulness and importance; a favourite wheeze (q.v.).

1851. MAYHEW, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, i., 256. The street-seller’s great gun, as he called it, was to make up packets, as closely resembling as he could accomplish it those which were displayed in the windows of any of the shops.

TO BLOW GREAT GUNS, verb. phr. (nautical).—To blow a gale; also to blow great guns and small arms.

1839. Harrison AINSWORTH, Jack Sheppard (1859), 23. ‘Curse me, if I don’t think all the world means to cross the Thames this fine night!’ observed Ben. ‘One’d think it rained fares as well as blowed great guns.


1885. H. KINGSLEY, Hillyars and Burton, ch. lxxvii. It was blowing pretty high guns, sou’ eastern by east, off shore and when we came to the harbour’s mouth there was Tom Wyatt with his pilot just aboard.

1889. ARTHUR SKETCHLEY, Mrs. Brown on Things in General. I never did see such weather, a-blowing great guns as the sayin’ is.


GREAT-HOUSE. See Big-house.

GREAT-JOSEPH, subs. (old).—An overcoat.

GREAT SCOTT! intj. (American).—An exclamation of surprise; an apology for an oath. [Possibly a memory of the name of Gen. Winfield Scott, a presidential candidate whose dignity and style were such as to win him the nickname “Fuss-and-Feathers.”] Also great Caesar.


1891. GUNTER, Miss Nobody of Nowhere, p. 96. Bob, what’s the matter with you? Great Scott! the mine hain’t give out.
Great Shakes. 203 Greedy-gut.

1891. Licensed Vict. Gaz., 19 June, p. 395, c. 2. Great Scotch!—no, we mean Scott—well, language worthy of the great Harry prevailed for awhile.

1891. N. Gould, Double Event, p. 305. 'Great Scott! what the deuce is Wells up to?' said the Squire.


1892. Tit Bits, 19 Mar., p. 416, c. 1. He. Great Caesar! There you go again! She. James will you please remember that it is your wife to whom you are speaking, sir? He. No other woman could drive me raving, distracted, crazy, asking silly questions about—She. James!

Great Shakes. See Shakes.

Great Smoke, subs. (thieves')—London.

Great Sun, intj. (common).—An exclamation.

1876. Besant and Rice, Golden Butterfly. Great Sun! I think I see it now.

Great-unwashed, subs. (colloquial).—The lower classes; the rabble. Also the unwashed. [First used by Burke; popularised by Scott.]

1882. Sydney Watson, Weis the Wait, ch. iii., p. 4. We begin to understand what is meant by the lowest classes, the great unwashed.

Great Whッpper-in, subs. phr. (common).—Death; old floorer (q.v.).

Grecian, subs. (old).—1. A roysterer; a Greek (q.v.).

2. (Christ's Hospital).—A senior boy.

3. (popular).—An Irishman.

Grecian Accent, subs. (popular).—A brogue.

Grecian-bend, subs. (common).—A stoop in walking. [Affected by some women c. 1869-80.] Cf., Alexandra Limp, Roman Fall, Italian Wriggли, Kangaroo Droop.

1821. Etonian, ii., 57. In person he was of the common size, with something of the Grecian bend, contracted doubtless from sedentary habits.

1869. Daily Telegraph, 1 Sept. I do not, however, think the 'stoop' our girls now have arises from tight-lacing. Some affect what is called the Grecian bend.

1870. Orchestra, 25 Mar. 'Grand Comic Concert.' The ladies have their Grecian bend, our typical gentleman explains a correspondent masculine affectation which he dubs 'The Roman Fall—The Roman Fall.'

1871. Morning Advertiser, 4 Dec. A lady of five feet becomes, say, five feet two inches per heels, five feet six inches per hair, five feet again, per Grecian bend.

1876. Chambers' Journal, No. 629. Your onvil advocacy for the Grecian bend and the Alexandra limp—both positive and practical imitations of physical affliction.

1886. Cornhill Magazine, Dec., p. 618. You ain't nearly fine enough for a waitress or for 'im, neither. He likes a smart young woman with a Grecian bend.

Greed, subs. (thieves).—Money. For synonyms, see Actual and Gilt.

1857. Ducange Anglicus, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1859. Matsell, Vocabulum, s.v.

Greedy-gut (or -guts), subs. (old).—A voracious eater; a glutton. [As in the old (school-boys') rhyme: 'Guy-hi, Greedy-gut, Eat all the pudding up.']. For synonyms, see Stodger. Fr., un glaftre.

1598. Florio, A Worlde of Wordes, Edace, an eater, a devourer, a greedigut. Iblid. Putti occhi, greedie eies.


1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v.
GREEK, subs. (old).—1. Slang, or FLASH (q.v.); usually ST. GILES' GREEK (q.v.). Cf., CANT, GIBBERISH, etc.

2. (colloquial).—A card-sharper; a cheat.

1523. Roy and Barlow, Rede me and be not wrothe, p. 117 [ed. Arber, 1871]. In card playinge he is a goode GREKE And can skyll of post and glycke, Also a prayre of dyce to trolle.

1598. Satirical Poems, 'Scottish Text Soc.' [1889-91] i., 77. A cowle, a cow le, for such a GREEK were fittter far to wea're.

1602. Shakspeare, Troilus and Cressida, iv., 4. A woful Cressid 'mongst the MERRY GREEKS.

GREEK FIRE, subs. phr. (thieves').—Bad whiskey; ROTGUT (q.v.).

GREEK KALENDS, subs. phr. (colloquial).—Never. To defer anything to the Greek Kalends is to put it off sine die. (The Greeks used no kalends in their reckoning of time.)

c. 1649. Drumm. of Hawth. Consid. Parit., wks. (1711) 183. That gold, plate, and all silver, given to the mint-house in these late troubles, shall be paid at the GREEK KALENDS.

1653. Urquhart, Rabelais, bk. I., ch. xx. The judgment or decree shall be given out and pronounced at the next GREEK KALENDS, that is, never.

1825. Scott, Betrothed. Intro. Will you speak of your paltry prose doings in my presence, whose great historical poem, in twenty books, with notes in proportion, has been postponed ad GRAECAS KALENDAS?

1872. O. W. Holmes, Post Breakf. T. 1., 18. His friends looked for it only on the GREEK KALENDS, say on the 31st of April, when that should come round, if you would modernize the phrase.
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1882. Macmillan’s Mag., 253. So we go on . . . and the works are sent to the Greek Calends.

ENGLISH SYNONYMS.—In the reign of Queen Dick; when the devil is blind; when two Sundays come in a week; at Doomsday; at Tib’s Eve; one of these odd-come-shortlys; when my goose pisses; when the ducks have eaten up the dirt; when pigs fly; in a month of Sundays; once in a blue moon.

FRENCH SYNONYMS.—Mardi s’il fait chaud (obsolete); Dimanche après la grande messe (popular); quand les poules pissetront; semaine des quatre jeudis (popular: when four Thursdays come in a week).

GREEN, subs. (common).—1. Rawness; simplicity. Generally, ‘Do you see any GREEN in my eye’? = Do you take me for a fool? See adj. sense.

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, 247. I’m not a tailor, but I understand about clothes, and I believe that no person ever saw anything GREEN in my eye.

1892. Ally Sloper, 19 Mar., p. 95, c. 2. Ally Sloper the ‘cute, Ally Sloper the sly, Ally Sloper, the cove with no GREEN in his eye.

1892. Illustrated Bits, 22 Oct., p. 14, c. 2. Sinding both shhips is it? How wud Oi have a check on ye? Do ye see any GREEN in me Oi?

Adj. (colloquial).—Simple; inexperienced; gullible; Unsalted (q.v.).


1605. Chapman, All Fools, Act iv., p. 67 (Plays, 1874). Shall I then say you want experience? Ye are GREEN, ye are credulous; easy to be blinded.

1748. T. Duche, Dictionary (5th ed.). GREEN (a). . . so likewise a young or unexperienced person in arts, sciences, etc., is sometimes said to be GREEN, raw, etc.

1823. Moncrieff, Tom and Jerry. Tom. No; you’re GREEN! Jerry. GREEN! Log. Ah! not fly! Tom. Yes, not awake!

1837. Dickens, Oliver Twist, ch. viii. ‘My eyes, how GREEN!’ exclaimed the young gentleman. ‘Why a beak’s a madgirtte.’

1841. Punch, July 17, p. 6. What a GREEN chap you are, after all. A public man’s consistency! It’s only a popular delusion.

1850. Smedley, Frank Fairleigh, p. 19. Eh! why! what’s the matter with you? have I done anything particularly GREEN, as you call it?

1856. T. Hughes, Tom Brown’s School Days, pt. I., ch. ii. You try to make us think . . . that you are, even as we, of the working classes. But bless your hearts, we ain’t SO GREEN.

1869. Literary World, 31 Dec., p. 129, c. 2. His fellow-passengers laughed at him for being SO GREEN.

1879. Punch’s Almanack, p. 7. Seasonable Slang. For Spring.—You be blowed! For Summer.—I’ll warm yer! For Autumn.—Not so blooming GREEN! For Winter—An ice little game all round.

1887. Lippincott, July, p. 104. Within the last day or so a young fellow has arrived who is in danger of being eaten by the cows, SO GREEN is he.

1900. Licensed Vict. Gaz., 7 Nov. Being quite GREEN at the time, I rather lost my head over my good fortune.

Verb (colloquial).—To hoax; to swindle. At Eton TO GREEN UP. For synonyms, see GAMMON.

1836-41. T. C. Buckland, Eton. I was again catechized on many points personal to myself, and some mild attempts were made to GREEN me, as boys call it.

1889. Answers, 2 Mar., p. 218, c. 1. Whereupon the old humbug burst into a loud guffaw, as though he were rejoicing at having GREENED the toff.

1892. Anstey, Voices Populi (Second Series). ‘Bank Holiday,’ 147. The DamSEL (giggling). You go on—you don’t GREEN me that w’y.
GREENS, subs. (old).—I. Chlorosis: *i.e.*, the green sickness.

1719. **Durfee, Pills**, etc., i., 313.

The maiden takes five, too, that's vexed with her greens.

2. *in. pl.* (printers').—Bad or worn out rollers.

**To have, get, or give one's greens,** verb phr. (venery).—To enjoy, procure, or confer the sexual favour. Said indifferently of both sexes.

Hence, also, **ony for one's greens**=amorous and willing; **after one's greens**=in quest of the favour; **green-grove**=the pubes; **green-grocery**=the female pudendum; **the price of greens**=the cost of an embrace; **fresh greens**=a new piece (*q.v.*). [Derived by some from the old Scots' *grene* =to pine, to long for, to desire with insistence: whence **greens**=longings, desires; which words may in their turn be referred, perhaps, to Mid. Eng., *zernen*, A.S., *gyrnan*, Icelandic, *girna*=to desire, and Gothic, *gatins*=desirous. Mod. Ger., *begehren*=to desire. See Dalziel, *Darker Superstitions of Scotland*, 1835, p. 106:—'He answered that he wald gif the sum Spanyie fleis callit cantarides, quhilk, gif thou suld move the said Elizabeth to drynk of, it wold mak hir out of all question to GRENE eftir the.' **Trial of Peter Hay, of Kirklands, and others, for Witchcraft, 25th May, 1601.** But in truth, the expression is a late and vulgar coinage. It would seem, indeed, to be a reminiscence of **garden** (*q.v.*), and the set of metaphors—as **kail, cauliflower, parsley bed**, and so forth (all which *see*)—suggested thereby.]

**English synonyms.—To be** all there but the most of you; in Abraham's bosom; up one's petticoats (or among one's frills); there; on the spot; into; up; up to one's balls; where uncle's doodle goes; among the cabbages.

**To dance** the blanket hornpipe; the buttock jig; the cushion dance (see *monosyllable*); the goat's jig; the mattress jig; the married man's cotillion; the matrimonial polka; the reels o' Bogie (Scots'); the reels of Stumpie (Scots'); to the tune of the **shaking of the sheets**; with your arse to the ceiling, or the kipples (Scots').

**To go** ballocking; beard-splitting; bed-pressing (Marston); belly-bumping (Urquhart); bitching (Marston); bum-fighting; bum-working; bum-tickling; bum-faking; bush-ranging; buttock-stirring (Urquhart); bird's-nesting; buttocking; cock-fighting; cunny-catching; doodling; drabbing; fleshy it; flesh-mongering; goosing: to Hairyfordshire; jock-hunting; jottling; jumming (Urquhart); leather-stretching; on the loose; motting; molrowing; pile-driving; prick-scouring; quim-sticking; rumping; rump-splitting; strumming; twatting; twat-faking; vaulting (Marston, etc.); wenching; womanizing; working the dumb (or double, or hairy) oracle. twat-raking; tummy-tickling; tromboning; quim-wedging; tail-twitching; button-hole working; under-petticoating.

**To have, or do, a bit of** beef (of women); business
To HAVE, or DO, or PERFORM, the act of androgynation (Urquhart); a ballocking; a bit; a lassie’s by - job (Burns); a bedward bit (Durfey); a beanfeast in bed; a belly-warcer; a blindfold bit; a bottom-wetter (of women); a bout; a brush with the cue; a dive in the dark; a drop-in; a double fight; an ejectment in Love-lane; a four-legged frolic; a fuck; a futter; a game in the cock-loft; a goose-and-duck (rhyming); the culbatizing exercise (Urquhart); a grind; a hoist-in; a jottle; a jumble-giblets; a jumble-up; an inside worry; a leap; a leap up the ladder; a little of one with t’other (Durfey); a mount; a mow (David Lyndsay, Burns, etc.); a nibble; a plaster of warm guts (Grose); a poke; a put; a put-in; a random push (Burns); a rasp; a ride; a roger; a rootle; a rush up the straight; a shot at the bull’s eye; a slide up the board; a squirt and a squeeze; a touch-off; a touch-up; a tumble-in; a wet-un; a wipe at the place; a wollop-in.

SPECIFIC.—To HAVE, or DO, A BACK-SCUTTLE, (q.v.); A BUTTERED BUN (q.v.); A DOG’S MARRIAGE (q.v.); A KNEE-TRMBLER, PERPENDICULAR, OR UPRIGHT (q.v.); A MATRIMONIAL (q.v.); SPOON-FASHION (q.v.); A ST. GEORGE (q.v.).

To PLAY AT, All-fours; Adam-and-Eve; belly-to-belly (Urquhart); brangle-buttock (Urquhart); buttock-and-leave-her; cherry-pit (Herrick); couple-your-navel; cudle-my-cuddie (Durfey); Hey Gammer Cook (C. Johnson); fathers-and-mothers; the first-game-ever-played; Handie-Dandie; Hooper’s Hide (q.v.); grapple-my-belly (Urquhart); horses-and-mares (schoolboys’); the close-buttock-game (Urquhart); cock-in-cover; houghmagandie (Burns); in-and-in; in-and-out; Irish-whist (where-the-JACK (q.v.), takes-the-ACE [see MONOSYLLABLE]); the loose coat-game (Urquhart); Molly’s hole (schoolboys’); pickle-me-tickle-me (Urquhart); mumble-peg; prick-the-garter; pully-hauly (Grose); put-in-all; the same-old-game; squeezem-close; stable-my-naggie; thread-the-needle; tops-and-bottoms; two-handed-put (Grose); up-tails-all.

GENERAL.—To Adam and Eve it; to blow the groundsels; to engage three to one; to chuck a tread; to do (Jonson); to do it; to do ‘the act of darkness’ (Shakspeare), the act of love, the deed of kind, the work of increase, ‘the divine work of fatherhood’ (Whitman); to feed the dumb-glutton; to get one’s hair cut; to slip in Daintie Davie (Scots’), or Willie Wallace (idem); to get Jack in the orchard; to get on top of; to give a lesson in simple arithmetic (i.e., addition, division, multiplication and subtraction); to give a GREEN GOWN (q.v.); to go ‘groping for trout in a peculiar
Greens.

river’ (Shakspeare); to go face-making; to go to Durham (North Country); to go to see a sick friend; to have it; to join faces (Durfey); to join giblets; to make ends meet; to make the beast with two backs (Shakspeare and Urquhart); to make a settlement in tail; to play topsawyer; to put it in and break it; to post a letter; to go on the stitch; to labor lea (Scots); to tether one’s nags on (idem); to nail twa wames thegither (idem); to lift a leg on (Burns); to ride a post (Cotton); to peel one’s end in; to put the devil into hell (Boccaccio); to rub bacons (Urquhart); to strop one’s beak; to strip one’s tarse in; to grind one’s tool; to grease the wheel; to take on a split-arsed mechanic; to take a turn in Bushy-park, Cock-alley, Cock-lane, Cupid’s-alley, Cupid’s-corner, Hair-court, ‘the lists of love’ (Shakspeare), Love-lane, on Mount Pleasant, among the parsley, on Shooter’s-hill, through the stubble; to whack it up; to wollop it in; to labour leather; to wind up the clock (Sterne).

OF WOMEN ONLY.—To get an arselins coup (Burns); to catch an oyster; to do the naughty; to do a spread, a tumble, a backfall, what mother did before me; a turn on one’s back, what Eve did with Adam; to hold, or turn up one’s tail (Burns and Durfey); to get one’s leg lifted, one’s kettle mended, one’s chimney swept out, one’s leather stretched; to lift one’s leg; to open up to; to get shot in the tail; to get a shove in one’s blind eye; to get a wet bottom; what Harry gave Doll (Durfey); to suck the sugar-stick; to take in beef; to take Nebuchadnezzar out to grass; to look at the ceiling over a man’s shoulder; to get outside it; to play one’s ace; to rub one’s arse on (Rochester); to spread to; to take in and do for; to give standing room for one; to get hulled between wind and water; to get a pair of balls against one’s butt; to take in cream; to show (or give) a bit; to skin the live rabbit; to feed (or trot out) one’s P שש (q.v.); to lose the match and pocket the stakes; to get a bellyful of marrow pudding; to supple both ends of it (Scots); to draw a cork; to get hilt and hair (Burns); to draw a man’s fireworks; to wag one’s tail (Pope); to take the starch out of; to go star-gazing (or studying astronomy) on one’s back; to get a GREEN GOWN (Herrick and Durfey); to have a hot pudding (or live sausage) for supper; to grant the favour; to give mutton for beef, juice for jelly, soft for hard, a bit of snug for a bit of stiff, a hole to hide it in, a cure for the HORN (q.v.), a hot poultice for the Irish toothache; to pull up one’s petticoats to; to get the best and plenty of it; to lie under; to stand the push; to get stabbed in the thigh; to take off one’s stays; to get touched up, a bit of the goose’s-neck, a go at the creamstick, a handle for the broom.

CONVENTIONALISMS. — To have connection; to have carnal, improper, or sexual intercourse; to know carnally; to have carnal knowledge of; to indulge in sexual commerce; to go to bed with; to lie with; to go in unto (Biblical); to be intimate.
improperly intimate, familiar, on terms of familiarity with; to have one’s will of; to lavish one’s favours on; to enjoy the pleasures of love, or the conjugal embrace; to embrace; to have one’s way with; to perform connubial rites; to scale the heights of connubial bliss; to yield one’s favours (of women); to surrender, or give one the enjoyment of one’s person (of women); to use benevolence to; to possess. For other synonyms, see RIDE.

To SEND TO DR. GREEN, verb. thr. (old).—To put out to grass.

1811. *Lexicon Balatronicum*, s.v. My horse is not well, I shall send him to Doctor Green.

S’ELP ME GREENS! (or TATURS!) intj. (common).—A veiled oath of an obscene origin; see GREENS. For synonyms, see OATHS.

1851-61. *H. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor*, vol. iii., p. 144. They’ll say, too, s’elp my greens! and ‘Upon my word and say so!’

1891. *Licensed Vict. Gaz.*, 23 Jan. ‘Well, s’elp me greens! he cried, wiping his eyes and panting for breath, ‘if you ain’t the greatest treat I ever did meet; you’ll be the death o’ me, Juggins, you will. Why, you bloomin’ idiot, d’ye think if they had’nt been rogues we should have been able to brie ‘em?’

JUST FOR GREENS, adv. phr. (American).—See quot.

1848. *Jones, Sketches of Travel*, p. 7. I’ve made up my mind to make a tower of travel to the big North this summer, jest for greens, as we say in Georgia, when we haint got no very pertickeler reason for anything, or haint got time to tell the real one.

GREEN-APRON, subs. (old).—A lay preacher. Also adjectively. For synonyms, see DEVIL-DODGER and SKY-PILOT.


1785. *Tucker, Lt. Nat., II.*, 451 The gifted priestess amongst the Quaker is known by her green apron.

GREEN-BACK, subs. (common).—I A frog.

2. (University).—One of Todhunter’s series of mathematical text-books. (Because bound in green cloth. Cf., BLUE-RUIN.)

3. (American).—The paper issue of the Treasury of the United States; first sent out in 1862 during the civil war. [From the back’s being printed in green.] Hence green-backer = an advocate for an unlimited issue of paper money.

1873. *Echo*, 8 May. This was accomplished by the issue of legal tender notes, popularly known as greenbacks.

1877. *Clemens, Life on the Mississippi*, ch. lvii., p. 499. Anything in the semblance of a town lot, no matter how situated, was saleable, and at a figure which would still have been high if the ground had been sodded with greenbacks.

1891. *Gunter, Miss Nobody of Nowhere*, p. 228. Gussie can near the crinkle of the greenbacks as he folds them up.

GREEN BAG, subs. (old).—A lawyer. [From the green bag in which robes and briefs were carried. The colour is now blue, or, in cases of presentation from seniors to juniors, red.]


English Synonyms.—Black box; bramble (provincial); devil’s own; gentleman of the long robe; land-shark; limb of the law; mouth-piece; Philadelphia lawyer (q.v.); quitam; six-and-eightpence; snipe; sublime rascal.

French Synonyms. Un bavard (pop. =a talker or mouth-piece); un blanclusseur (=white-washer); un brodancheur à la plaque, aux macarons, or à la cymbale (thieves’: a notary-public); un gerbier (thieves’); un grippemini (obsolete: grippeminaud =thief); un inutile (thieves’: a notary-public); une éponge d’or (=a sucker-up of gold: in allusion to the long bills); un macaron huissier (popular).

Italian Synonyms.—Dragòn del gran soprano; dragònnetto (=a dragon, or SUCK-ALL).

Spanish Synonyms.—Remedio (=a remedy); la letradería (=a body or society of lawyers); cataribera (jocular).

Green-bonnet. To have (or wear) a green bonnet, verb. phr. (common).—To fail in business; to go bankrupt. [From the green cloth cap once worn by bankrupts.]

Green Cheese. See Cream Cheese and Moon.

Green Cloth. See Board of Green Cloth.

Green Dragoons, subs. (military).—The fifth Dragoon Guards; also known as the Green Horse. [From their green facings.]

Greener, subs. (common).—A new, or raw hand; specifically employed of inexperienced work-men introduced to fill the place of strikers; Dung (q.v.). Cf., Flint. For synonyms, see Snooker.

1889. Pall Mall Gaz., 14 Oct., p. 6, c. 3. A howling mob of Hebrew men and women . . . . in their own Yiddish jargon criticised the new arrivals, or Greeners, in language that was anything but complimentary.


1891. Gunter, Miss Nobody of Nowhere, p. 223. In his opinion Stillman Myth, and Co., were in the Green Goods business.

2. (venery).—A prostitute new to the town; a Fresh Bit (q.v.).

Green-Goods Man (or Operator), subs. (American).—1. A counterfeiter of spurious greenbacks; a Snide-Pitcher (q.v.).

1888. Troy Daily Times, 3 Feb. Driscoll was hung, but the Green Goods-Man escaped, for the only proof against him was that he sold a quantity of paper cut in the shape of bills, and done up in packages of that size.

2. (venery).—A Fresh Bit (q.v.) fancier. Also an amateur of defloration; a Minotaur (q.v.).

Green-Goose, subs. (old).—1. A cuckold.

2. (old).—A prostitute. For synonyms, see Barrack-Hack and Tart.

1594. Shakespeare, Love’s Labour Lost, iv., 3. This is the liver vein, which makes flesh a deity; A Green Goose, a goddess, pure, pure idolatry.

1607. Beaumont and Fletcher, Woman Hater, i., 2. His palace is full of Green Geese.

Green-Gown. To give a green-gown, verb. phr. (old).—To tumble a woman on the grass; to copulate. For synonyms, see Greens and Ride.
1647-8. HERRICK, Hesperides. ‘To Corinna To go a Maying.’ Many a GREEN GOWN has been given.


1719. DURFEY, Pills, etc., i., 277. Kit gave a GREEN GOWN to Betty, and lent her his hand to rise.

1719. SMITH, Lives of Highwaymen, i., 214. Our gallant being disposed to give his lady a GREEN GOWN.


1785 GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

GREENHEAD, subs. (old). — A greenhorn. For synonyms, see BUFFLE and CABBAGE-HEAD.


1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

GREENHORN (or GREEN-HEAD, or GREENLANDER), subs. (common). — A simpleton; a fool; a GULL (q.v.); also a new hand. For synonyms, see BUFFLE and CABBAGE-HEAD. To come from GREENLAND = to be fresh to things;RAW (q.v.). GREENLANDER sometimes = an Irishman.

1785. Adventure, No. 100. A slouch in my gait, a long lank head of hair and an unfashionable suit of drab-coloured cloth, would have denominated me a GREENHORN, or in other words, a country put very green.

1815. Scott, Guy Mannering, ch. xliv. ‘Why, whoa but a crack-brained greenhorn wad hae let them keep up the siller that ye left at the Gordon-Arms?”

1837. DICKENS, Oliver Twist. A new pall... Where did he come from? GREENLAND.

1849. THACKERAY, Pendennis, ch. ix. All these he resigned to lock himself into a lone little country house, with a simple widow and a GREENHORN of a son.

GREENHOUSE, subs. (London ‘bus-drivers’). — An omnibus.


GREENLINNETS, subs. phr. (military). — The 39th Foot. [From the facings.]

GREENLY, adv. (old). — Like a greenhorn; foolishly.

1838. JAS. GRANT, Sketches in London, ch. vi., p. 205. Instances of such perfect simplicity or GREENNESS, as no one could have previously deemed of possible existence.
GREEN-RAG.—See GREENY, sense 1.

GREEN-RIVER. To send a man up GREEN-RIVER, verb. phr. (American).—To kill. [From a once famous factory on Green River, where a favourite hunting-knife was made.] For synonyms, see COOK ONE'S GOOSE.

1848. Ruxton, Life in the Far West, p. 175. A thrust from the keen scalp-knife by the nervous arm of a mountaineer was no baby blow, and seldom failed to strike home UP TO THE GREEN RIVER [i.e., the mark] on the blade.

GREEN-SICKNESS, subs. (old).—Chlorosis.

GREEN-TURTLE. To live up to GREEN-TURTLE, verb. phr. (American).—To do, and give, one's best. [From the high esteem in which the green fat of turtle is held.]

1888. Paton, Down the Islands. People who, as hosts, LIVE UP TO THEIR GREEN TURTLE.

GREENWICH BARBER, subs. (old).—A retailer of sand from the Greenwich pits. [A pun upon 'shaving' the banks.]

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

GREENWICH-GOOSE, subs. (old).—A pensioner of Greenwich Hospital.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

GREENY, subs. (old theatrical).—1. The curtain. [From the colour.] Also GREEN-RAG.

1821. Egan, Tom and Jerry, p. 110 [ed. 1890]. It is far more difficult to please the company behind GREENY; I beg pardon, sir, I should have said than the audience before the curtain.

2. (University).—A freshman. For synonyms, see SNOOKER.

1834. Southey, The Doctor, ch. i. He was entered among the GREENIES of this famous University.

3. (common).—A simpleton; a GREENHORN (q.v.). For synonyms, see BUFFLE and CABBAGE-HEAD.

1852. Judson, Myst., etc., of New York, part III., ch. 9, p. 58. Anybody could know that there was once a GREENE.

1887. Congregationalist, 7 April. Jim said I was a GREENY . . . [and] that he had a lot of houses.

GREEN' Fu', adv. phr. (Scots'). Drunk: literally 'crying drunk.' For synonyms, see DRINKS and SCREWED.

GREEZE, subs. (Westminster School).—A crowd; a PUSH (q.v.).

GREGORIAN, subs. (old).—A kind of wig worn in the 17th century. [After the inventor, one Gregory, a barber in the Strand.]

1658. Honest Ghost, p. 46. Pulling a little down his GREGORIAN.

GREGORIAN-TREE, subs. (old).—The gallows. [After a sequence of three hangmen of the name.] For synonyms, see NUBBING-CHEAT.

1658. Honest Ghost, p. 46. Pulling a little down his GREGORIAN.

GREGORINE, subs. (common).—A louse; specifically, head vermin. [From the Italian.] For synonyms, see CHATES.

GRESHAMITE, subs. (old).—A Fellow of the Royal Society.—B.F. [1690.]

GREY.—See GRAY, passim.
Griddle.

Griddle, subs. (streets'). — To sing in the streets. Whence, GRIDDLING = street-singing; GRIDDLER = a street-singer.


1877. Besant and Rice, Son of Vulcan, pt. I. ch. xii. Cardiff Jack's never got so low as to be griddling on the main drag—singing, I mean, on the high-road.

1888. W. Besant, Fifty Years Ago, ch. iv., p. 53. They [street singers] have not yet invented Moody and Sankey, and therefore they cannot sing 'Hold the Fort' or 'Dare to be a Daniel,' but there are hymns in every collection which suit the gridler.

1890. Daily Telegraph, 20 May. Singing or shouting hymns in the streets on Sundays. To this system the name of gridling has been applied. The gridlers, it was stated, were known to boast, as they returned to their haunts in Deptford and Southwark, how much they could make in a few hours.

Gridiron, subs. (American).—I. The United States' flag; the Stars and Stripes. Also Stars and Bars; Blood and Entrails; Gridiron and Doughboys; and, in speaking of the Eagle in conjunction with the flag, the Goose and Gridiron.

2. (common). — A County Court Summons. [Originally applied to Writs of the Westminster Court, the arms of which resemble a gridiron.]

1859. Sala, Gaslight and Daylight, ch. xxi. He collects debts for anybody in the neighbourhood, takes out the abhorred gridirons, or County Court summonses.

3. (thieves'). — The bars on a cell window. Fr., les gaules de Schtard.

The Gridiron, subs. phr. (common). — The Grafton Club. [Where the grill is a speciality.]

On the Gridiron, adv. phr. (common).—Troubled; harassed; in a bad way; on toast (q.v.).

The Whole Gridiron, subs. phr. (common). — See Whole Animal.

Grief, To Come to Grief, verb. phr. (colloquial). — To come to ruin; to meet with an accident; to fail. In quot., 1891 = trouble.

1855. Thackeray, Newcomes, ch. x. We drove on to the Downs, and we were nearly coming to grief. My horses are young, and when they get on the grass they are as if they were mad.

1888. Cassell's Saturday Journ., 8 Dec., p. 249. In the United States he had started a 'Matrimonial Agency,' in which he had come to grief, and he had been obliged to return to this country for a similar reason.

1891. Sportsman, 28 Feb. The flag had scarcely fallen than the grief commenced, as Midshipmite and Carlo rolled over at the first fence, Clanranald refused at the second, and Dog Fox fell at the third.

Griffin (or Griff), subs. (common). — I. A new-comer; a raw hand; a Greenhorn (q.v.) See Snooker and Sammy Soft. [Specific uses are (Anglo-Indian) = a new arrival from Europe; (military) = a young subaltern; (Anglo-Chinese) = an unbroken horse. Griffinage (or Griffinism) = the state of greenhornism.

1859. H. Kingsley, Geoffrey Hamlyn, ch. xxviii All the griffins ought to hunt together.

1878. Besant and Rice, By Celia's Arbor, ch. xxx. We were in the Trenches; there had been joking with a lot of griffes, young recruits just out from England.

1882. Miss Braddon, Mount Royal, ch. xxii. There was only one of the lads about the yard when he left, for it was breakfast-time, and the little griffin didn't notice.
3. Many a youngster has got on in his profession . . . by having the good fortune to make a friend of the old Indian who took him in as a GRIFFIN of a stranger.

2. (colloquial). - A woman of forbidding manners or appearance; a GORGON. Also a caretaker, chaperon, or SHEEP-DOG (q.v.) [A reflection of the several griffins of ornithology and of heraldry: the former a feeder on birds, small mammals, and even children; the latter (as in Milton) a perfection of vigilance.]

2. (thieves'). - A signal: e.g., TO TIP THE GRIFFIN = to warn; TO GIVE THE OFFICE (q.v.), or TIP (q.v.). THE STRAIGHT GRIFFIN = the straight tip.

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4. m. pl. (trade). — The scraps and leavings from a contract feast, which are removed by the purveyor.

GRIFF-METOLL, subs. (old). — Sixpence. For synonyms, see TANNER.

1754. Discoveries of John Poulter, s.v.

GRIG, subs. (old). — 1. An active, lively, and jocose person: as in the phrase ‘Merry as a GRIG.’ [An allusion to the liveliness of the grasshopper, sand-eel, or to GRIG (= Greek: cf., Troilus and Cressida i. 2; iv. 4).

1611. Cotgrave, Dictionarie. Galbon-temps. A MERRY GRIG.
To grin in a glass case. verb. phr. (old).—To be shown as an anatomical preparation. [The bodies and skeletons of criminals were once preserved in glass cases at Surgeon's Hall.—Grose.]

To flash the upright grin, verb. phr. (venery).—To expose the person (of women).

Grinagog, the cat's uncle, subs. phr. (old).—A grinning simpleton.—Grose.

Grincums, subs. (old).—Syphilis.
For synonyms, see Ladies' Fever.

1608. Middleton, Family of Love, B. i. I had a receipt for the grincomes in his own hand.

1635. Jones, Adrasta or the Woman's Spleen, c. 2. You must know, sir, in a nobleman 'tis abusive; no, in him the serpigo, in a knight the grincomes, in a gentleman the Neapolitan scabb, and in a serving man or artificer the plaine pox.

1637. Massinger, Guardian, iv. The comfort is, I am now secure from the grincomes, I can lose nothing that way.

Grind, subs. (common).—1. A walk; a constitutional: e.g., 'to take a grind' or (University) 'to go on the Grandchester (or Gog Magog Hills) grind.'

2. (common).—Daily routine; hard or distasteful work.

1853. Bradley, Verdant Green, pt. III., ch. xi. To a University man, a grind did not possess any reading signification, but a riding one. In fact, it was a steeple-chase, slightly varying in its details according to the college that patronised the pastime.

1870. London Figaro, 28 July. The world is a wearisome grind, love, Nor shirk we our turn at the wheel.

1880. A. Trollope, The Duke's Children, ch. xxv. 'Isn't it a great grind, sir?' asked Silverbridge. 'A very great grind, as you call it. And there may be the grind and not the success. But—'

1880. One and All, 27 Mar., p. 207. Soul-weary of life's horrid grind, I long to come to thee.

3. (schools').—Study; reading up for an examination; also a plodding student, i.e., a grinder.

1856. Hughes, Tom Brown's School Days, pt. II., ch. v. 'Come along, boys,' cries East, always ready to leave the grind, as he called it.

1887. Chambers' Jour., 14 May, p. 310. Smalls made just such a goal as was required, and the grind it entailed was frequently of no slight profit to him.

4. (medical students').—A demonstration: as (1) a 'public grind' given to a class and free to all; and (2) a 'private grind' for which a student pays an individual teacher. In America, a quiz (q.v.).

5. (Oxford University).—Athletic sports. Also, a training run.

1872. Chambers' Jour., April. Joe Rullock, the mighty gymnasiarch, the hero of a hundred grinds, the unwearied haunter of the palaestra, could never give the lie to his whole past life, and deny his own gymnastics.

6. (venery).—An act of sexual intercourse: e.g., To do a grind. [Mill and grindstone (venery) = the female pudendum.] For synonyms, see Greens and Ride.

1598. Florio, A Worlde of Wores. Macinio, the grinding of grist. Also taken for carnal copulation.

1647. Ladies Parliament. Digbie's lady takes it ill, that her Lord grinds not at her mill.
Grind.

THE GRIND, subs. phr. (Cambridge University). — The ferry-boat at Chesterton.

Verb. (University). — 1. To prepare for examination to study; to read.

1856. T. Hughes, Tom Brown's School Days, pt. II, ch. vii. 'The thing to find out,' said Tom meditatively, 'is how long one ought to grind at a sentence without looking at the crib.'

2. (University). — To teach; to instruct; to coach (q.v.).

3. (common). — To do a round of hard and distasteful work; to apply oneself to daily routine.

1880. Punch, 5 June, p. 253. 'Fred on Pretty Girls and Pictures.' And the pars in the Scannmag—he does them—are proper, and chock full of 'go.' Only paper I care to grind though.

4. (venery). — To copulate.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum. GRIND, s.v.

5. trans. (American). — To vex; to 'put out.'

1879. W. D. Howells, Lady of the Aroostook, ch. vii. After all, it does grind me to have lost that money!

Also grinding = (1) the act of reading or studying hard; (2) the act or occupation of preparing students, for an examination; and (3) the act of copulation.

ON THE GRIND, subs. phr. (venery). — Said of incontinent persons of both sexes. Also of prostitutes.

TO GRIND AN AXE. — See Axe.

TO GET A GRIND ON ONE, verb. phr. (American). — To play practical jokes; to tell a story against one; to annoy or vex.

TO GRIND WIND, verb. phr. (old prison). — To work the treadmill. See Everlasting Staircase.


1812. Miss Edgeworth, Patronage, ch. iii. Put him into the hands of a clever grinder or crammer, and they would soon cram the necessary portion of Latin and Greek into him.

1814. Punch, vol. i., p. 201. Then contriving to accumulate five guineas to pay a grinder, he routs out his old note books from the bottom of his box and commences to read.

1814. A. Smith, 'The London Medical Student' in Punch, i., p. 229. G was a grinder, who sharpen'd the fools.

1849. Thackeray, Pendennis, ch. v. She sent me down here with a grinder. She wants me to cultivate my neglected genius.

2. Usually in. l. (common). — The teeth.

ENGLISH SYNONYMS. — Bones; chatterers; cogs; crashing cheats; dining-room furniture (or chairs); dinner-set; dominoes; front-rails; Hampstead Heath (rhyming); head rails; ivories; park-palings (or railings); smugglers; tushes (or tusks); tomb-stones.

FRENCH SYNONYMS. — Les soeurs blanches (thieves = the white sisters or ivories); les chocottes (thieves'); les cassantes (thieves = grinders); les broches (popular = head-rails); les crocs (popular = tusks); le clou de girofle (common = a decayed, black tooth); les branlanles (popular = the quakers: specifi-
Grinder. 217  Grinding-house.
cally, old men's teeth); le mobilier (thieves' = furniture); les meules de moulin (popular = millstones); le jeu de dominos (thieves' = dominoes); les osanores (thieves'); les osselets (thieves' = bonelets); les palettes (popular and thieves'); la batterie ( = the teeth, throat, and tongue).

GERMAN SYNONYMS.—Krächling (= grinderkin; from krachen = to crush).

ITALIAN SYNONYMS.—Merlo (= battlement); sganascio; rastrelliera (= the rack).


1640. Humphrey Mill, Night's Search, Sect. 39, p. 194. Her GRINDERS white, her mouth must show her age.

1653. Urfahrt, Rabelais, bk. IV. Author's Prologue. The devil of one musty crust of a brown George the poor boys had to scour their GRINDERS with.

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew. GRINDER, s.v. The Cove has Rum GRINDERS, the Rogue has excellent Teeth.

1693. Dryden, Juvenal, x., 355. One, who at sight of supper open'd wide His jaws before, and whetted GRINDERS tried.

1700. Walpole, Correspondence. A set of gnashing teeth, the GRINDERS very entire.


1817. Scott, Ivanhoe, c. 16. None who beheld thy GRINDERS contending with these peas.

1819. Moore, Tom Crib, p. 23. With GRINDERS dislodged, and with peepers both poach'd.

1834. Ainsworth, Rookwood, bk. iv., ch. i. A GRINDER having been dislodged, his pipe took possession of the aperture.

1836. M. Scott, Cruise of the Midge, p. 83. Every now and then he would clap his head sideways on the ground, so as to get the back GRINDERS to bear on his prey.

1848. Thackeray, Book of Snobs ch. xiii. Sir Robert Peel, though he wished it ever so much, has no power over Mr. Benjamin Disraeli's GRINDERS, or any means of violently handling that gentleman's jaw.

1871. Chambers' Jour., 9 Dec., p. 772. My GRINDERS is good enough for all the wittels I gets.

1888. Sporting Life, 28 Nov. Countered heavily on the GRINDERS.

TO TAKE A GRINDER, verb. phr. (common).—To apply the left thumb to the nose, and revolve the right hand round it, as if to work a hand-organ or coffee-mill; TO TAKE A SIGHT (q.v.); TO WORK THE COFFEE-MILL (q.v.). [A street boy's retort on an attempt to impose on his good faith or credulity.]

1836. Dickens, Pickwick, ch. xxxi. Here Mr. Jackson smiled once more upon the company; and, applying his left thumb to the tip of his nose, worked a visionary coffee-mill with his right hand, thereby performing a very graceful piece of pantomime (then much in vogue, but now, unhappily, almost obsolete) which was familiarly denominated TAKING A GRINDER.

1870. Athenaeum, 8 July. 'Rev. of Comic Hist. of United States.' He finds himself confronted by a plumed and lightly-clad Indian, who salutes him with what street-boys term a GRINDER.

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GRINDING-HOUSE, subs. (old).—
1. The House of Correction. For synonyms, see CAGE.

1614. Terence in English. The fellow is worthy to be put into the GRINDING-HOUSE.

2. (venery).—A brothel. For synonyms, see NANNY-SHOP. [GRINDING-TOOL = the penis.]
GRINDING - MILL, subs. (common).—The house of a tutor or COACH (q.v.) where students are prepared for an examination.

GRIND-OFF (or GRINDO), subs. (common).—A miller. [From a character in The Miller and his Men.]

GRINDSTONE, subs. (common).—1. A tutor; a COACH (q.v.).
2. (venery).—The female pudendum.

To BRING (HOLD, PUT, or KEEP) ONE’S NOSE TO THE GRINDSTONE, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To oppress, harass, or punish; to treat harshly. To HAVE ONE’S NOSE KEPT TO THE GRINDSTONE = to be held to a bargain, or at work.

1578. NORTH, Plutarch, p. 241. They might be ashamed, for lack of courage, to suffer the Lacedcemonians TO HOLD THEIR NOSES TO THE GRINDSTONE.

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew. GRIP, or GRIPER, s.v. An old covetous wretch. Also a banker, money scrivener, or usurer.

2. in. pl. (colloquial).—The colic; the stomach ache; the COLLYWOBLES. For synonyms, see JERRY-GO-NIMBLE.

1684. BUNYAN, Pilgr. Prog., Pt. II. He concluded that he was sick of the GRIPES.

1705. Char. of a Sneake, in Harl. Misc. (ed. Park), ii., 356. He never looks upon her Majesty’s arms but sempereadem gives him the GRIPES.

1714. Spectator, No 559. Meeting the true father, who came towards him with a fit of the GRIPES, he begged him to take his son again, and give back his cholic.

1812. COOMBE, Tour in Search of Picturesque, c. xxvi. That he who daily smokes two pipes, The tooth-ache never has—not GRIPES.

GRIPE-FIST, subs. (common).—A miser; a grasping broker. For synonyms, see HUNKS. Also GRIPE-PENNY.

1859. MATSELL, Vocabulum, s. v.

GRIST, subs. (American).—A large number or quantity. [Swift uses GRIST = a supply; a provision.]

1818. COOPER, Oak Openings. There’s an unaccountable GRIST of bees, I can tell you.


To BRING GRIST TO THE MILL, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To bring profitable business; to be a source of profit.

1719. Poor Robin’s Almanack, May. Lawyers pleading do refrain A while, and then fall to ’t again; Strife brings GRIST unto their MILL.

1770. FOOTE, Lame Lover, i. Well, let them go on, it brings GRIST TO OUR MILL.

1804. HORSLEY, Speech, 23 July. A sly old pope created twenty new saints, TO BRING GRIST TO THE MILL of the London clergy.

1817. SCOTT, Ivanhoe, c. 16. Some three or four dried pease—a miserable GRIST for such a mill.

**Gristle, *subs.* (venery). —** The penis. For synonyms, see CREAMSTICK and FRICK.

**Grit, *subs.* (originally American: now colloquial). —** I. Character; pluck; spirit; sand (*q.v.*). Also clear Grit. No grit = lacking in stamina; wanting in courage.

1825. **Neal, *Bro. Jonathan*, bk. II., ch. xiv.** A chap who was clear Grit for a tussle, any time.

1848. **Burton, *Waggeries*, etc., p. 13.** The old folks . . . began to think that she warn't the clear Grit.

1849. **C. Kingsley, *Alton Locke*, ch. vi.** A real lady — fair noble — the real genuine Grit, as Sam Slick says.

1852. **H. B. Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, ch. vii.** You're a right brave old girl. I like Grit, wherever I see it.

1889. **Referee, 6 Jan.** They never did think there was any real Grit about him.

1890. **Scribner, Feb., 242.** ‘Looks like he got Grit, don’t it?’ Lige muttered.


2. (Canadian political). — A member of the Liberal party.

**Gritty, *adj.* (American). —** Plucky; courageous; resolute; full of character.

1847. **Robb, *Squatter Life*, p. 106.** There never was a grittyfier crowd congregated on that stream.

**Grizzle, *verb.* (colloquial). —** To fret. Also to grizzle one’s guts.

1872. **Miss Braddon, *To the Bitter End*, ch. xvi.** ‘If the locket’s lost, it’s lost,’ she said philosophically; ‘and there’s no use in grizzling about it.’

**Grizzle-guts (or Grizzle- or Glum-pot). *subs.* (common). —** A melancholy or ill-tempered person; a Sulkington (*q.v.*).

**Groaner, *subs.* (old). —** A thief plying his trade at funerals or religious gatherings.

1848. **Duncombe, *Sinks of London*, s.v.**

1859. **Matsell, *Vocabulum*, s.v.**

**Groaning, *subs.* (old). —** The act of parturition. Also, adj., parturient; or appertaining to parturition: as in groaning-malt (Scots’) = drink for a lying-in; groaning-pains = the pangs of delivery; groaning-wife = a woman ready to lie-in.

1594. **Nashe, *Unfort. Trav.* (Chiswick Press, 1892), p. 92.** As smoothe as a groaning-wive’s bellie.

1596. **Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, iii., 2.** It would cost you a groaning to take off my edge.

1786. **Burns, *The Rantin’ Dog the Daddie O’t*.** Wha will bring the groaning-malt?

**Groats, *subs.* (nautical). —** The chaplain’s monthly allowance.

**To save one’s groats. *verb.* (old University). —** To come off handsomely. [At the Universities nine groats are deposited in the hands of an academic officer by every person standing for a degree, which, if the depositor obtains, with honour, are returned to him.—*Grose.*]


1728. **Bailey, *Eng. Dict.*, s.v.**


1847. **Porter, *Quarter Race*, etc.** 104. He went into his favourite grocery.
3. (common).—Sugar. [A restricted use of a colloquialism.]

1841. Lytton, Night and Morning, Bk. V., ch. ii. A private room and a pint of brandy, my dear. Hot water and lots of the GROCERY.

Grog, subs (old: now recognised).—Spirits and water; strong drink generally. [Till Admiral Vernon's time (1745) rum was served neat, but he ordered it to be diluted, and was therefore nicknamed 'Old Grog,' in allusion to his program coat: a phrase that was presently adapted to the mixture he had introduced.] Groggy = drunk.

Verb. (old).—To dilute or adulterate with water.

1818. Lincoln, Rutland, and Stamford Mercury, 8 Mar. The defendants had grogged the casks by putting in hot water.

To have grog on board (or to be grogged), verb. phr. (common).—To be drunk. For synonyms, see Screwed.

1829. Buckstone, Billy Taylor, i., as a gay young woman, will delude Taylor away from Mary, make him groggy, then press him off to sea.

1863. Fun, 23 May, p. 98, c. 2. They fined drunkards and swearers, and there is a record in the parish-books, among others of a similar nature, of a certain Mrs. Thunder who was fined twelve shillings for being, like Mr. Cruikshank's horse at the Brighton Review, decidedly groggy.

1872. Echo, 30 July. A model of perfection had she not shown more than necessary partiality to her elder friend's brandy bottle during the journey, despite the latter's oft-repeated caution not to become groggy.

2. (colloquial).—Staggering or stupefied with drink. Also (stable) moving as with tender feet. Also (pugilists') unsteady from punishment and exhaustion. Fr., loccher = to be groggy.

1831. Youatt, The Horse, ch. xvi., p. 350. Long journeys at a fast pace will make almost any horse groggy.

1846-8. Thackeray, Vanity Fair, vol. ii., ch. v. Cuff coming up full of pluck, but quite reeling and groggy, the Fig-merchant put in his left as usual on his adversary's nose, and sent him down for the last time.

1853. Diogenes, vol. ii., p. 177. The anxiety is not confined to the metropolis; as a respectable grazier, who rides a groggy horse, on hearing of it at a public-house the other day, affirmed it to be the mysterious cause of the rise in the value of horseflesh.

1888. Sportsman, 28 Nov. In the tenth Thompson, who had been growing groggy, to the surprise of Evans began to force the fighting.
GROGHAM, subs. (old). — A horse; a DAISY-KICKER (q.v.). Now mostly in contempt. For synonyms, see PRAD.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

GROG-SHOP, subs. (common). — The mouth. For synonyms, see POTATO-TRAP.

1843. Thackeray, Men’s Wives, Frank Berry, ch. i. Clarret drawn in profusion from the gown-boy’s GROG-SHOP.


GROOM, subs. (gamesters’). — A croupier.

GROOMED. See WELL-GROOMED.


Adj. (popular). — Settled in habit; limited in mind.

GROPE, verb. (venery). — To feel a woman; to fumble; to FAM (q.v.).


1719. Dufrey, Pills, etc. i., 194. Smoking, toping, Landlady groping.

GROPER, subs. (old). — i. A blind man; HOODMAN (q.v.).


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

2. (old). — A pocket. For synonyms, see BRIGH and SKYROCKET.


3. (old). — Amidwife; a FINGER-SMITH (q.v.).

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

GROTHO, subs. (venery). — The female pudendum. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

GROUND. To suit down to the ground, verb. phr. (common). — To be thoroughly becoming or acceptable.

1878. M. E. Braddon, Cloven Foot, ch. xlv. Some sea coast city in South America would suit me down to the ground.

1891. Licensed Vict. Gaz., 9 Feb. I knows the very bloke that’ll suit you down to the ground.

1891. Sporting Life, 28 Mar. At Knowle he is suitied down to the ground.

1892. Milliken, ‘Arry Ballads, p. ii. They suit me right down to the ground.

To wipe (or mop) up the ground (or floor) with one, verb. phr. (common). — To administer the very soundest thrashing; to prove ones-if absolutely superior to one’s opposite.

1887. Henley and Stevenson, Deacon Brodie, i., 3. Muck! that’s my opinion of him; ... I’ll mop the floor up with him any day, if so be as you or any on ’em ’ll make it worth my while.

1888. Detroit Free Press, Aug. The Scroggin boy was as tough as a dogwood knot. He’d wipe up the ground with him; he’d walk all over him.

To go (or get) well to the ground, verb. phr. (old colloquial). — To defecate; to REAR (q.v.). For synonyms, see MRS. JONES.

1608. Middleton, Family of Love, v. 3. Do you go well to the ground?

1856. Notes and Queries, 2 S., i., p. 324. To get to the ground, in medical phraseology, means to have the bowels opened.
Grounder, subs. (cricketers').—A ball with a ground delivery; a sneak; a grub; and (in America) at base-ball, a ball struck low, or flying near the ground.

Ground-floor. To be let in on the ground-floor, verb. phr. (American).—To share in a speculation on equal terms with the original promoters.

Ground-squirrel, subs. (old).—A hog; a grunter—Lex. Bal. For synonyms, see Sow's Baby.

Ground-sweat. To have (or take) a ground-sweat, verb. phr. (old).—To be buried.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

Grouse. To do a grouse (or to go grousing), verb. phr. (venery).—To quest, or to run down, a woman; to molrow (q.v.). Groused = Molled (q.v.).

Grouser, subs. (popular).—1. A grumbler. For synonyms, see Rusty-guts.

2. (venery).—One who goes questing after women; a molver (q.v.).

3. (sporting).—A rowing man; a wet-bob (q.v.).

Grousing, subs. (venery).—Going in quest of women; sparrow-catchiing (q.v.); molrowing (q.v.).

Grouse, verb. (Marlborough and Cheltenham Colleges).—To work or study hard; to swot (q.v.). For synonyms, see Wire In.

Groudy, adj. (common).—Crabbed; sulky.

Grove of Eglantine, subs. phr. (venery).—The female pudendum; also the female pubic hair. For synonyms, see monosyllable and Fleecce.

1772. Carew, Poems. 'A Rapture.'
Retire into thy Grove of Eglantine.

Grove of the Evangelist, subs. phr. (common).—St. John's Wood; also Apostle's Grove, and the Baptist's Wood.

Grow, verb. (prison).—To be accorded the privilege of letting one's hair and beard grow. Also to grow one's feathers.


English Synonyms.—Bird-cage; blucher; bounder; fever-trap; flounder and - dab (rhyming); four-wheeler; groping hutch; mab (an old hackney); rattler; rumbler.

French Synonyms.—Un bordel ambulant (common = a walking brothel); un char numéro déc (popular); un flatter (thieves'); un foutoir ambulant (= a fuckery on wheels); un mylord (popular).

1870. Orchestra, 21 Mar. A recent enigmatical bill-poster on the walls, with the device 'Hie, Cabby, Hie!' turns out to be a Patent Cab Call—an ingenious sort of lamp-signal for remote hansoms and growlers.

1873. Land and Water, 25 Jan. The knacker's yard is baulked for a time, while the quadruped shambles along in some poverty-stricken growler.
Grown-man’s-dose. 223 Grub.

1883. *Daily Telegraph*, 8 Jan., p. 5, c. 3. But while a great improvement has been made in hansoms of late years, the four-wheeler or Grub is still as a rule a disgrace to the metropolis.


1891. *Globe*, 15 July, p. 1. Adapting the words of Waller to the condition of many of our Grubbers — The cab’s dull framework, battered and decayed, lets in the air through gaps that time has made.

To Rush (or Work) the Gruber, verb. phr. (American workmen’s). — *See* quot. [Grower = pitcher.]

1888. *New York Herald*, 29 July. One evil of which the inspectors took particular notice was that of the employment by hands in a number of factories of boys and girls, under ten and thirteen years, to fetch beer for them, or in other words to Rush the Gruber.

Grown-man’s-dose, subs. (common). — A lot of liquor. Also a Long Drink (q.v.). *For synonyms, see Go.*


**English Synonyms.** — Belly-cheer (or chere); belly-furniture; belly-timber; Kaffir’s tightener (specifically, a full meal); chuck; corn; gorge-grease; manablins (= broken victuals); mouth harness; mungarly; peck; prog; scoff (S. African); scran; stodge; tack; tommy (specifically, bread); tuck; yam. Also, verbally, to bung the cask; to grease the gills; to have the run of one’s teeth; to yam. *See also Wolf.*

**French Synonyms.** — La bequetance (popular = peck); le biffre (popular); la frigousse (popular); la fripe (popular, from O. Fr., friper = to eat); la gringue (common); les matériaux (freemason’s = materials); la briffe (popular); laboustifaille (popular); le harnois de gueule (Rabelaisian = mouth-harness); le coton (popular, an allusion to a lamp-wick); les comestaux (popular = comestibles); le tortorage (thieves’); la boute (popular = grazing); la morve (O. Fr. Also, in a verbal sense = to feed); tortiller du bec (popular = to wag a jaw); se calfater le bec (nautical: also = to drink); becqueter (popular = to ‘peck’); béguiller (popular); chiquérer (popular = to ’chaw’); bouffer (popular); bouloter (common); taper sur les viées (popular = to assault the eatables); pitécher (common: also = to drink); passer à la tortore (thieves’); se l’envoyer; casser la cornistile (thieves’ = to crack a crust); tor­torer (thieves’); briffer; passer à briffe (popular); bouter (Villon = to browse); se caler, or se caler les anygdales (popular); mettre de l’huile dans la lampe (common = to trim the lamp); se coller quelque chose dans le fanal, dans le fusil, or dans le tube (popular = to trim one’s beacon-light; to load one’s gun, etc.); chamailler des dents (popular = to ‘go it’ with the ivories); jouer des badigoinces (common = badigoinces = chaps); jouer des dominos (popular = dominos = teeth); déchirer la cartouchie (military); gobichonner (popular); engouler (popular = to bolt); enguèveler (colloquial = to gobble); friturer (popular: also = to cook); gonfler (popular: to blow out); morfaillier (Rabelaisian); mor-
Grub.

Grub.

Signer, or morfier (From O. Fr., morfier; cf., Ital., morfiero or morfissare); cacher (popular = to stow away); se mettre quelque chose dans le cadavre (popular = to stoke); se Lester la cale (nautical: to lay in ballast); se graisser les balots (thieves': to grease the gills); se caresser (to do oneself a good turn); effacer (popular = to put away); travailler pour M. Domange (popular: M. Domange was a famous Goldfinder or Gong Farmer (q.v.); clapotel (popular); debriver la margoulette (popular = to put one's nose in the manger); croustiller (popular); charger pour la guadaloupe (popular); travailler pour Jules (common: Jules = Mrs. Jones); se faire le jabot (popular, jabot = stomach); jouer des osanores (popular: osanores = teeth); casser (thieves'); claquer (familiar = to rattle one's ivories); klebjer (popular); faire trimer les mathurins (popular = to make the running with one's teeth); se coller quelque chose dans le bocal (common: bocal = paunch); estropier (popular = to maim); passer à galotes (nautical); bourrer la paillasse (common = to stuff the mattress); faire trimer le bâtant (thieves'); jouer des mandibules (popular); s'emplir le gilet (popular = to fill one's waistcoat); se garnir le bocal (popular: to furnish one's paunch); se suivir la gargarouasse (nautical: also = to drink); babouiner (popular); charger la canonnière (popular: canonnière = the breech); gousser (popular); gouffier (obsolete).

German Synonyms.—Achile, Achelinenchen, or Achelintken (from Heb. Ochal); Achelputz (from Heb. ochal + putzen from O.H.G. bizen or pizzan = to eat).

Italian Synonyms.—Artibrio; and, verbally, sbattere (= to beat, to struggle); intappare il fusto (= to bung the cask); smorfiero.

Spanish Synonyms.—Papar (colloquial: from papa = pap); hacer el buche (low: buche = craw or crop); echar (colloquial); manducar; meter.

1659. Dialogue betwixt an Exciseman and Death, transcribed from a Copy in British Museum, printed in London by J. Clark. I'll pass my word this night Shall yield us GRUB before the morning light.

1725. New Cant. Dict. GRUB, s.v., victuals.

1781. G. PARKER, View of Society, I., 171. How did you procure your GRUB and BUB?


1836. M. Scott, Tom Cringle's Log, ch. iii. Poor Purser! de people call him Purser, sir, because him knowing chap; him cabbage all de GRUB, slush, and stuff in him own corner.

d. 1842. Maginn, Vidocq's Song. Any bubbly and GRUB, I say?

1857. Thackeray, Shabby Gentle Story, ch. i., p. 9. He used to . . . have his GRUB too on board.

1877. Five Years' Penal Servitude, ch. i., p. 45. I at once congratulated my- self on not being a large eater, as there was no doubt but my GRUB would run very short if it depended on my oakum-picking.

1889. Star, 3 Dec., p. 2, c. 6. Of course it was GRUB. It was for food, the food for which they beg, and steal, and go willingly to prison, for a certain good square meal of meat.

1892. Hume Nisbet, Bushranger's Sweetheart, p. 154. That sad, sad secret about Mary would keep him in GRUB for the next day or two at 'The Rose in Bloom.'

2. (old). — A short thick-set man; a dwarf. In contempt. For synonyms, see Hop-O' My-Thumb.
Grub. 225  Grubbing-crib.

3. (colloquial).—A dirty sloven; generally used of elderly people.

4. (American).—A careful student; a hard reader.

1856. HALL, College Words and Phrases, quoted from Williams' Coll. Quarterly, ii., 246. A hard reader or student: e.g., not grubs or reading men, only wordy men.

5. (American).—Roots and stumps; whatever is 'grubbed up.'

6. (cricketers').—A ball delivered along the ground; a grounder (q.v.); a daisy-cutter (q.v.). For synonyms, see lob-sneak.

1823. BEE, Dict. of the Turf. Grub. s.v.

Verb. (old).—1. To take or supply with food. For synonyms, see subs. sense 1.


1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue. Grub, s.v., to dine.

1836. DICKENS, Pickwick, ch. xxii., p. 184. I never see such a chap to eat and drink; never. The red-nosed man warned by no means the sort of person you'd like to grub by contract, but he was nothin' to the shepherd.

1838. Daily Telegraph, 18 May, p. 3, c. r. 'They are not bound to grub you, don't you know,' said Mr. Sleavey, 'and they try the starving dodge on you sometimes.'

2. (old).—To beg; to ask for alms, especially food.

3. (American).—To study, or read hard; to 'sweat.'

TO RIDE GRUB, verb. phr. (old).—To be sulky; crusty (q.v.); disagreeable.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue. To ride grub, to be sullen or out of temper.

To grub along, verb. phr. (common).—To make one's way as best one can; 'to rub along.'

1883. Daily Telegraph, 19 Oct. When a youth left school to follow the pursuits of life he found that he had to grub along as best he could.

GRUBBING, subs. (common).—Eating.

1819. MOORE, Tom Crib. What with snoozing, high grubbing, and guzzling like Cloe.

GRUBBING, subs. (common).—(1) an eating-house. Also (2) a dining-room, and (3) the mouth.

1823. Bee, Dict. of the Turf. Grub, s.v.

GERMAN SYNONYM.—Achile-bajes (from Heb., Ochal—to eat).

SPANISH SYNONYM.—Ostaleria, or Osteria (also = lush-crib).

1823. Bee, Dict. of the Turf, s.v.

2. (tramps').—A workhouse. For synonyms, see SPINNIKEN. Sometimes Grubbiken.
Grubble.

1851-61. MAYHEW, Loud. Lab. and Loud. Poor, iii., 416. I know all the good houses, and the tidy Grubbikens—that's the unions where there's little or nothing to do for the food we get.

GRUBBLE, verb. (colloquial).—(1) To feel for at random or in the dark; and (2) (venery) TO GROPE (q.v.).

1884. DRYDEN, The Disappointment. 'Prologue.' The doughty bullies enter bloody drunk, Invade and Grumble one another's punk.

GRUBBY, subs. (thieves').—Food. [A diminutive of GRUB (q.v.).] d. 1842. MAGINN, Vidocq's Song. I pattered in flash like a covey knowing, Tol lol, etc. Ay, bube or Gubbby, I say.

Adj. (colloquial).—Dirty; slovenly.

d.1845. HOOD, A Black Job. Like a grubby lot of sooty sweeps or colliers.

GRUB-HUNTING, subs. (tramps').—Begging for food.

GRUB-SHITE, verb. (old).—To make foul or dirty; to bewray.

GRUB-SHOP, (or -CRIB,-TRAP, etc.), subs. (common).—1. The mouth; and (2) a Grubbery (q.v.). For synonyms, see POTATO-TRAP.

1840. THACKERAY, Comic Almanack, p. 229. 'That's the Grub shop,' said my lord, 'where we young gentlemen wot has money buys our wittles.

3. See GRUBBING-CRIB in both senses.

GRUB-STAKE, subs. (American).—Food and other necessaries furnished to mining prospectors in return for a share in the 'finds.' Hence, TO GRUB-STAKE = to speculate after this fashion.

1884. BUTTERWORTH, Zig-zag Journeys. When miners become so poor that they are not able to furnish the necessary tools and food with which to go prospecting, a third party of sufficient means offers to furnish tools and provisions on condition that he is to have a certain interest in anything that may be found.

1891. GUNTER, Miss Nobody of Nowhere, p. 100. He Grub-staked us and we used to work on the Tillie mine together.

GRUB-STREET, subs. (colloquial).—The world of cheap, mean, needy authors. [Originally a street near Moorfields, changed in 1830 to Milton Street.

1890. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. GRUB-STREET news, false, forg'd.

1728. POPE, Dunciad, iii., 135. Shall take through Grub-street his triumphant round.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. A Grub-street writer means a hackney author, who manufactures books for the booksellers.


1821. EGAN, Life in London, i. Few, if any, writers, out of the great mass of living scribblers, whether of Grub Street fabrication, or of University passport . . . possess souls above buttons.

1892. HUME NISBET, Bushranger's Sweetheart, p. 119. We are going it, have got our agents in GRUB STREET.

GRUEL, subs. (common).—I. A beating; PUNISHMENT (q.v.). For synonyms, see TANNING. Hence, TO GET (or GIVE) ONE'S GRUEL = to castigate, or be well beaten; also killed. In the prize ring = to knock a man out for good. GRUELLED = floored; also GRUELLING.

1815. SCOTT, Guy Mannering, ch. xxvii. He gathered in general, that they expressed great indignation against some individual. 'He shall have his Gruel,' said one.

1837. BARHAM, Ingoldsby Legends. 'Babes in the Wood.' He that was mildest in mood gave the truculent rascal his Gruel.

1849. C. KINGSLEY, Alton Locke, ch. xii. They were as well gruelled as so many posters, before they got to the stile.
Grueller. 227

Grunter.

1888. Sporting Life, 15 Dec. Preferred to be easily knocked out to taking his gruel like a man.

1891. Licensed Vict. Gaz., 23 Jan. Both men were badly punished, but George had, of course, the lion's share of the gruel.

1891. Licensed Vict. Mirror, 30 Jan., p. 7, c. 3. All the advantage rested with the same side for some little time, Paddock getting such a gruelling that his head swelled out like a pumpkin.

2. (American thieves'). —

Coffee.

1859. Matsell, Vocabulum, s.v.

Grueller, subs. (common).—A knock-down blow; a settler; a floorer (q.v.).

Grumble-guts, subs. (popular).—An inveterate croaker. Also grumble-gizzard.

Grumbles. To be all on the grumbles, verb. phr. (popular). —To be discontented; cross; on the snarly-yow (q.v.).

Grumbletonian, subs. (common).—A pattern of discontent: one ever on the grumble. [Grumbleton (during the reigns of the later Stuarts) = an imaginary centre of discontent; hence, Grumbletonian, a nickname of the County party, distinguished from the Court, as being in opposition.]

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, Grumbletonians, malecontents, out of humour with the Government, for want of a place, or having lost one.


1773. Goldsmith, She Stoops to Conquer, Act 1. Now, if I pleased, I could be so revenged upon the old grumbletonian.


1840-61. Macaulay, Hist. of Eng., ch. xix. Who were sometimes nicknamed the grumbletonians, and sometimes honoured with the appellation of the County party.

Grummet, subs. (venery).—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see monosyllable.

Grumpy (or Grumpish), adj. (colloquial). —Surly; cross; angry.

1810. Mrs. Trollope, Michael Armstrong, ch. vi. If you blubber or look grumpy.

1859. Sala, Twice Round the Clock, 3 a.m., par. 13. Calling you a 'cross, grumpy, old thing,' when you mildly suggest that it is very near bed-time.

1868. Miss Braddon, Trail of the Serpent, bk. IV., ch. 1. A grumpy old deaf keeper, and a boy, his assistant.

1883. Punch, 19 May, p. 239, c. 2. They all looked grumpy and down in the mouth.

Grundy, subs. (old).—A short fat man; a forty-guts (q.v.). —See Mrs. Grundy.

1563. Fox, Acts and Monuments (London, 1844), iii., 1104. For that he being a short Grundy, and of little stature, did ride commonly with a great broad hat.

Grunter, subs. (old).—1. A pig; a grunting-cheat (q.v.). In quot. 1652 = pork. For synonyms, see Sow's Baby.


1841. Comic Almanack, p. 266. And the squeaking grunter is loose on the green.

2. (common).—A sixpence. In quot. 1785=1s. Cf., Hog and Pig.


1858. A. Mayhew, Paved with Gold, bk. III., ch. iii., p. 267. One of the men ... had only taken three 'twelvers' [shillings] and a grunter.

1885. Household Words, 20 June. p. 155. The sixpence ... is variously known as a 'pig,' a 'sow's baby,' a grunter, and 'half a hog.'

3. (common).—A policeman; a Trap (q.v.); a Pig (q.v. sense 2). For synonyms, see Beak.

1820. London Magazine, i., 26. As a bonnet against ... grunters.

1859. MASELL, Vocabulum. Grunter, s.v., a country constable.

4. (tailors').—An habitual grumbler; a Grumble-Guts (q.v.).

GRUNTER'S-GIG, subs. (old).—A smoked pig's chap.—Grose.

GRUNTING-CHEAT, subs. (old).—A pig. See Chete. For synonyms, see Sow's Baby.

1567. Harman, Caveat, p. 86. She has a cackling-chete, a grunting-cheete, ruff pecke, cassan, and poplarr of yarum.

1622. Fletcher, Beggar's Bush, v., 1. Or surprising a boor's ken for grunting-cheats? Or cackling-cheats?

GRUNTING-PECK, subs. (old).—Pork or bacon.


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1836. Smith, Individual. 'The Thieves' Chaunt.' But dearer to me Sue's kisses far than grunting peck or other grub are.

GRUTS, subs. (common).—Tea; For synonyms, see Scandal-Broth.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v.

G. T. T. GONE TO TEXAS, phr. (American).—Absconded. [Moonshining gentry used to mark G. T. T. on the doors of their abandoned dwellings as a consolation for inquiring creditors.] Fr., aller en Belgique. For synonyms, see Swartwort.

1835. Haliburton, Clockmaker, 5 S., ch. viii. Before this misfortin' came I used to do a considerable smart chance of business; but now it's time for me to cut dirt, and leave the country. I believe I must hang out the G. T. T. sign.'—'Why, what the plague is that?' says I. 'GONE TO TEXAS,' said he.'

GUAGE.—See GAGE.

GUBBINS, subs. (old).—Fish-Offal.

1611. Cotgrave, Dictionarie, q.v.

GUDGEON, subs. (old).—1. A bait; an allurement. Hence, To Gudgeon (or To swallow a gudgeon) = to be extremely credulous or gullible.

1598. Shakspeare, Merchant of Venice, i., 1. But fish not with this melancholy bait, For this fool's gudgeon, this opinion.

1598. Florio, World of Wonders, Bersela, s.v. To swallow a gudgeon ... to believe any tale.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, Gudgeon, s.v. To swallow the bait, or fall into a trap, from the fish of that name which is easily taken.

1892. National Observer, 23 July, vii., 235. It has educated Hodge into an increased readiness to gorge any gudgeon that may be offered him.

2. (colloquial).—An easy dupe; a Buffle (q.v.).

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

GUERRILLA, subs. (American sharpers').—See quot.

This name is applied by gamblers to fellows who skin suckers when and where they can, who do not like the professional gamblers, but try to beat them, sometimes inform on them, and tell the suckers that they have been cheated.

**Guff**, subs. (common).—Humbug; bluff; jabber. For synonyms, see *Gammon*.

1889. *Sportsman*, 19 Jan. Hereafter he can have the newspapers to himself, and with that windbag Mitchell fill them with guff and nonsense, but I won’t notice them.

**Guffy**, subs. (nautical).—A soldier. For synonyms, see *Mudcrusher*.

**Guiders**, subs. (general).—1. Reins; ribbons (q.v.).

2. (common).—Sinews; leaders (q.v.).

**Guinea.** _A guinea to a gooseberry, phr._ (sporting).—Long odds. See *Lombard Street to a China Orange*.

1884. Hawley Smart, *Post to Finish*, ch. vli. What! old Writson against Sam Pearson? Why, it’s a *guinea to a gooseberry on Sam*!

**Guinea-dropper**, subs. (old).—A sharper. Specifically one who let drop counterfeit guineas in collusion with a gold-finder (q.v.). For synonyms, see *Rook*.

1712. Gay, *Trivia*, iii., 249. Who now the guinea dropper’s bait regards, tricked by the sharper’s dice or juggler’s cards.

**Guinea-hen**, subs. (old).—A courtesan. For synonyms, see *Barrack-hack and Tart*.


_Ere I would say I would drown myself for the love of a guinea-hen, I would change my humanity with a baboon._

1630. Glapthorne, *Albertus Wallenstein*. Yonder’s the cock o’ the game! About to tread yon guinea-hen, they’re billing.

**Guinea-pig, subs.** (old).—1. A general term of reproach.

1748. Smollett, *Roderick Random*, xxiv. A good seaman he is, as ever stepp’d on forecastle—none of your *guinea-pigs*—nor your freshwater, wishy-washy, fair-weather fowls.

2. (old).—Any one whose nominal fee for professional services is a guinea: as vets., special jurymen, etc. Now mainly restricted to clergymen acting as deputies, and (in contempt) to directors of public companies. Hence *Guinea-trade* = professional services of any kind.

1821. Coombe, *Dr. Syntax*, Tour III., c. iv. ‘Oh, oh,’ cried Pat, ‘how my hand itches, Thou guinea-pig [a ‘vet.’], in boots and breeches, to trounce thee well.’

1871. *Temple Bar*, vol. xxxi., p. 320. A much more significant term is that of *guinea-pigs*, the pleasant name for those gentlemen of more rank than means, who hire themselves out as directors of public companies, and who have a guinea and a copious lunch when they attend board meetings.

1880. *Church Review*, 2 Jan. *Guinea-pigs* . . . are, for the most part, unattached or roving parsons, who will take any brother cleric’s duty for the moderate remuneration of one guinea.

1883. *Saturday Review*, 25 Aug., p. 245, c. 2. A country parson was suddenly attacked with diphtheria, late in the week. Recourse was had in vain to the neighbours, and it was decided at last to telegraph to London for a *guinea-pig*.

1884. *Echo*, 19 May, p. 1, c. 5. Let us apply the principle further, and imagine . . . limited liability swindlers tried by a jury of *guinea-pigs* and company promoters.
Guise's Geese. 230 Gulf.

1884. Graphic, 29 Nov., p. 562, c. 3. And the guinea-pig, whose name is on a dozen different boards, is justly regarded with suspicion.

1886. Chambers's Jour., 24 Apr., p. 258. In order to be considered of any value as Director of a Company, a guinea-pig ought to have a handle to his name.

1887. Payn, Glow Worm Tales. 'A Failure of Justice.' He is best known to the public as a guinea-pig, from his habit of sitting at boards and receiving for it that nominal remuneration, though in his case it stands for a much larger sum.

1889. Drage, Cyril, vii. The rector has, as usual, got the gout, and we live under a régime . . . . . of guinea-pigs.

1890. Standard, 26 June, p. 5, c. 4. The least attempt to saddle responsibility for misleading statements upon Boards of Directors would drive prudent, 'respectable' men out of what is vulgarly called the guinea-pig business.

3. (nautical).—See quot.

1840. Marryat, Poor Jack, ch. xxvi. While Bramble was questioned by the captain and passengers, I was attacked by the midshipmen, or guinea-pigs as they are called.

Guise's Geese, sub. phr. (military).—The Sixth Foot or 'Saucy Sixth.' [From its Colonel's name, 1735-63.]

Guiver, sub. (theatrical).—(1) Flattery, and (2) Artfulness (q.v.). For synonyms, see Soft Soap.

Adj. (common). — Smart; fashionable; on it (q.v.). Guiver lad = a low-class dandy; also an artful member (q.v.).

a. 1866. Vance, Chickaleary Cove. The stock around my squeeze of a guiver colour see.

Verb (sporting). — To humbug; to fool about (q.v.); to show off.

1891. Sporting Life, 25 Mar. He goes into a ring to fight his man, not to spar and look pretty, and run, and dodge, and guiver.

Gulf, sub. (old).—I. The throat; also the maw. For synonyms, see gutter-alley.

1579. Spencer, Shepherde's Calendar, Sept. That with many a lamb had glutted his gulf.

2. (Cambridge Univ.).—The bottom of a list of 'passes,' with the names of those who only just succeed in getting their degree.

1852. Bristed, Five Years in an English University, p. 205. Some ten or fifteen men just on the line, not bad enough to be plucked, or good enough to be placed, are put into the gulf, as it is popularly called (the examiners' phrase is 'degrees allowed'), and have their degrees given them, but are not printed in the calendar.

3. (Oxford Univ.).—A man who, going in for honours, only gets pass.

Verb (Cambridge Univ.).—To place in the gulf, sub., sense 2 (q.v.); to be gulfed = to be on such a list. [Men so placed were not eligible for the Classical Tripos]. Cf., pluck and plough.

1853. Bradley, Verdant Green, pt. iii., p. 89. I am not going to let them gulf me a second time.

1863. H. Kingsley, Austin Elliot, p. 123. The good Professor scolded, predicted that they would all be either gulfed or ploughed.

1865. Sporting Gaz., 1 Apr. A man who was gulfed for mathematical honours was certainly, in olden time, unable to enter for the classical examination; but though the arrangement is altered, the term is not obsolete. A man who is gulfed is considered to know enough mathematics for an ordinary degree, but not enough to be allowed his degree in mathematics only; he is consequently obliged to pass in all the ordinary subjects (except mathematics) for the 'poll,' before taking his degree.
1876. Trevelyan, Life of Macaulay (1884), ch. ii., p. 61. When the Tripos of 1822 made its appearance, his name did not grace the list. In short... Macaulay was gulfed.

1852. Bristed, Five Years in an English University, p. 297. I discovered that my name was nowhere to be found—that I was gulfed.

Gulf-spin, subs. (American cadet).
—A rascal; a worthless fellow; a Beat (q.v.) a Shyster (q.v.).

Gull, subs. (old, now recognised).
—I. A ninny. For synonyms, see Buffle and Cabbage-head.

1596. Sir J. Davies, Book of Epigrams. A Gull is he who feares a velvet gowne, And when a wench is brave dares not speak to her; A Gull is he which traverseth the towne, And is for marriage known a common wooer; A Gull is he, which while he proudly weares A silver-hilted rapier by his side. Indures the lye and knockes about the eares, While in his sheath his sleeping sword doth bide. But to define a Gull in termes precise—A Gull is he which seems, and is not, wise.

1609. Florio, A World of Wordes, passim.


1609. Shakspeare, Timon of Athens. Lord Timon will be left a naked Gull. Which flashes now a phcenix.

1614. Overbury, Characters. 'A Roaring Boy.' He cheats young guls that are newly come to town.

1618. Rowlands, Night Raven, p. 28 (H. C. Rept., 1872). I know the houses where base cheaters vse, And note what gulls (to worke vpon) they chuse.

1661. Brome, Poems, 'The Cure of Care.' Those gulls that by scraping and toiling.

1818. S. E. Ferrier, Marriage, ch. li. The poor gull was caught, and is now, I really believe, as much in love as it is in the nature of a stupid man to be.


1892. R. L. Stevenson and L. Osbourne, The Wrecker, p. 231. I was a dweller under roofs; the gull of that which we call civilisation.

2. (old).—A cheat; a fraud; a trick.

1900. Shakspeare, Much Ado about Nothing, ii., 3. I should think this a gull, but that the white-bearded fellow speaks it.

1611. Cotgrave, Dictionarie, q.v.

1600. Jonson, Every Man in his Humour, v. This is a mere trick, a device, you are gulled in this most grossly.

1602. Shakspeare, Twelfth Night, ii. 3. Mar. For Monsieur Maluolio, let me alone with him; If I do not gull him into a napword, and make him a common recreation, do not thinke I haue witte enough to lye straight in my bed; I know I can do it.

1607. Rowlands, Diogenes, his Lanthorne, p. 11 (H. C. Rept. 1873). He promist me good stuffe truly, a great penny-worth indeed, and verily did gull me.

1610. Jonson, Alchemist, v., 2. Hast thou gulled her of her jewels or her bracelets?

1699. Selden, Table Talk, p. 98 (Arber's ed.). Presbyters have the greatest power of any Clergy in the world, and gull the Laity most.

1778. Sketches for Tabernacle-Frames, p. 25, note. These fanatica Preachers frequently squeeze out Tears to gull their Audience.


Gullage.

1851-61. MAYHEW, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, i. 472. It's generally the lower order that he gulls.

1892. HENLEY and STEVENSON, Deacon Brodie, ix. Pay your debts, and gull the world a little longer.

Hence GULLIBLE, adj., = easily duped.

1841. THACKERAY, Character Sketches 'Fashionable Authoress.' And, gull'd themselves, gull the most gullable of publics.

GULLAGE, subs. (old colloquial). — The act of trickery; the state of being gulled.

1605. B. Jonson, Volpone, v., 5. Had you no quirk To avoid gullage, sir, by such a creature?


GULL-CATCHER (or GULLER, GULL-SHARPER, etc.), subs. (old). — A trickster; a cheat. See GULL, senses 1 and 3.

1602. SHAKESPEARE, Twelfth Night, ii., 5. Here comes my noble gull-catcher.

GULLERY, subs. (old colloquial). — Dupery; fraud; a cheat's device. Cf., GULLAGE.

1596. Jonson, Every Man in His Humour, iii., 2. Your Balsamum and your St. John's wort are all mere gulleries and trash to it.

1608. John Day, Humour out of Breath, Act iv., Sc. 3. I am gull'd, palpably gull'd... and mine owne gullery grieves me not half so much as the Dukes displeasure.

1630. TAYLOR, Works. For 'tis concluded 'mongst the wizards all, To make thee master of gull-finches hall.

1633. MARMION, Fine Companion. Lit. What more gulleries yet? they have cost me of my daughters, I hope they will cheat me of my wife too: have you any more of these tricks to show, ha?

1821. SCOTT, Kenilworth, ch. xx. Do you think, because I have good-naturedly purchased your trumpery goods at your roguish prices, that you may put any gullery you will on me?

Gullet, subs. (old: now recognised). — The throat. For synonyms, see GUTTER-ALLEY.

1383. CHAUCER, Canterbury Tales, 12, 477. [Quoted in Ency. Dict.]. Out of the harde bones knocken they the mary, for they casten nought away, That may go through the gullet soft and sote.

1836. DICKENS, Pickwick, ch. 15. So he puts a pistol to his mouth, and he fires it down his gullet.


Gull-finch, subs. (old). — A simpleton; a fool. For synonyms, see BUFFLE and CAB-BAGE-HEAD.

1830. TAYLOR, Works. For 'tis concluded 'mongst the wizards all, To make thee master of gull-finchess hall.


1609. DEKKER, Lanthorne and Candle-light. The gull-groper is commonly an old mony-monger, who having travailed through all the folyes of the world in his youth, knowes them well, and shunnes them in his age, his whole felicite being to fill his bags with golde and silver.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.
**GULLY, subs. (common).—**
1. The throat. For synonyms, see GUTTER-ALLEY.

2. (venery). — The female pudendum. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

3. (old and Scots').—A knife. For synonyms, see CHIVE.

1653. URQUHART, Rabelais, bk. I., ch. xxvii. Fair GULLIES which are little haulch-backed demi-knives.

1785. BURNS, Death and Dr. Hornbook. I rod ye weel, tak care o' skaiith, See, there's a GULLY.

1789. BURNS, Address to Captain Grose. The knife that nickit Abel's craig, He'll prove ye fully It was a faulding jocteleg, Or lang-kail GULLY.

**GULLY-HOLE** (or **GULLY**), subs. (common).—I. The throat, or gullet. For synonyms, see GUTTER-ALLEY.

2. (venery). — The female pudendum. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

**GULLY-RAKER, subs. phr. (venery).**
—1. The penis; and (2) a wencher. For synonyms, see CREAMSTICK, PRICK, and MOLROWER.


1881. A. C. GRANT, Bush Life in Queensland . . . following up his admonition by a sweeping cut of his GULLY-RAKER, and a report like a musket-shot.

**GULPIN, subs. (common).** — A simpleton; a GAPSEED (q.v.). Fr., un gobemouche; une éponge. For synonyms, see BUFFLE and CABBAGE-HEAD.

1886. W. BESANT, World Went Very Well Then, ch. xxix. But Jack persisted, and I rose too. 'Go then!' the Admiral roared, with a great oath. 'Go then, for a brace of GULPINS!'

**GULPY, adj. (common).—**Easily duped.

**GULSH.** To hold one's GULSH, verb. phr. (provincial).—To hold one's tongue; to keep quiet.

**GUM, subs. (old).—**
1. Chatter; talk; JAW (q.v.). Also abuse.

1751. SMOLLETT, Peregrine Pickle, ch. xiv. There's no occasion to bowse out so much unnecessary GUM.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Come let us have no more of your GUM.

1824. R. B. PEAKE, Americans Abroad, i., t. Dou. Come, none of your GUM—now you are but an underlin', tho' you are so uppish and twistical—where's the chair?

2. (American).—A trick; a piece of dupery; a SELL (q.v.). Also GUMMATION.

3. (American). — A golosh; an india-rubber overshoe. [Short for 'gum-shoes.']

1872. Morning Post, 9 Jan. Forbidding him again to cross her threshold or to leave his GUM-SHOES in her hall.

**Verb** (common).—To cheat; to TAKE IN (q.v.); to ROAST (q.v.) or quiz. For synonyms, see GAMMON.
1859. Sala, Twice Round the Clock, 6 p.m., par. I. I began to think either that he was quizzing me—gumming is the proper Transatlantic colloquialism, I think.

1875. 'American English' in Chamb. Journal, 25 Sept., p. 611. To 'gum-tree' is to elude, to cheat [from opossum], and this again is shortened into 'to gum,' as the phrase, 'Now don't you try to gum me.'

OLD MOTHER GUM, subs. phr. (common).—An old woman: in derision.

BY GUM! intj. (common).—A mild oath. For synonyms, see OATHS.

1860. Haliburton (Sam Slick), The Season Ticket, No. ix. By gum, Squire Shegog, we have had the greatest bobbery of a shindy in our carriage you ever knowed in all our born days.

BLESS YOUR (or HIS, HER, ITS, etc.) GUMS, phr. (common).—A piece of banter: a facetious way of saying 'Bless your soul!'

GUMMAGY, adj. (common).—Snarling; of a scolding habit.

GUMMED, adj. (billiards).—Said of a ball close to the cushion.

GUMMY, subs. (common).—1. A toothless person; i.e., with nothing but gums to show. Generally, OLD GUMMY.

2. (thieves').—Medicine. Also GUMMY-STUFF.—Matsell.

3. (common).—A dullard; a fool. For synonyms, see Buflle and cabbage-head.

Adj. (common).—Puffed; swollen; clumsy.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. GUMMED, clumsy, particularly applied to the ankles of men, or women, and the legs of horses.

TO FEEL GUMMY, verb. phr. (University).—To perspire.

GUMP, subs. (common).—A dolt. For synonyms, see Buflle and Cabbage-head.

1825. Neal, Bro. Jonathan, bk. II., ch. xv. He's... sort of a natural too, I guess; rather a gum, hey?

GUMPTION, subs. (colloquial).—Cleverness; understanding; nous (q.v.). Also Rum Gumption.


1787. Grose, Prov. Glossary, s.v. 'Gawm.' Gawm, to understand; I dina gawm ye, I don't understand you. Hence, possibly, gawmiont, or Gumption, understanding.

1831. Atlantic Club-book, I., 33. D'ye think I'm a fellow of no more Gumption than that?

1843. Comic Almanack. Poor beasts, 'tis very clear, To any one possess'd of Gumption, That if they'd not come over here, They'd have been carried off by home consumption.


1883. Daily Telegraph, 25 June, p. 3, c. 2. But poor people—leastways, those that have got any Gumption—know better than that.

1890. Notes and Queries, 7 S., x., 303. As familiar as the Greek word nous for what . . . . is known . . . as Gumption.

Gumptious, adj. (colloquial).—Shrewd; intelligent; vain.

1853. Lytton, My Novel, bk. IV., ch. xii. Landlord. There's gumption and Gumptious! Gumption is knowing, but when I say that sum un is Gumptious, I mean—that's more vulgar like—sum un who does not think small beer of hisself. You take me, sir?

GUM-SMASHER (or TickleL), subs. (common).—A dentist. For synonyms, see Snag-catcher.

GUM-SUCK, verb. (American).—To flatter; to humbug; to dupe. For synonyms, see Gammon.
GUM-SUCKER, subs. (Australian).—
1. See quot. Cf., CORN-STALK.

1887. All the Year Round, 30 July, p. 67. A GUM-SUCKER is a native of Tasmania, and owes his elegant nickname to the abundance of gum-trees in the Tasmanian forests.

2. (common).—A fool. For synonyms, see BUFFLE and CABBAGE-HEAD.

GUM-TICKLER, subs. (colloquial).—
1. A drink. Specifically, DROP or SHORT, or a dram. For synonyms, see GO.

1814. Quarterly Review, vol. X., p. 521. A gill, taken fasting, is called a GUM-TICKLER.

1864. Dickens, Our Mutual Friend, bk. IV., ch. iii. I prefer to take it in the form of a GUM-TICKLER.

2. See GUM-SMASHER.

GUM-TREE. To BE UP A GUM-TREE, verb. phr. (American).—To be on one's last legs; at the end of one's rope. He has seen his last GUM-TREE: it is all up with him.

GUN, subs. (old).—1. A lie. New Cant. Dict., 1725. For synonyms, see WHOPPER.

2. (common).—A thief; specifically, a MAGSMAN (q.v.) or street-artist. Also GUN-SMITH and GUNNER. GUNNING = thieving. [An abbreviation of GONOF (q.v.).] See AREA-SNEAK and THIEVES.

1859. Matsell, Vocabulum, s.v. GUNNED.

2. (American).—To strive hard; to make a violent effort: e.g., to GUN A STOCK = to use every means to produce a 'break'; when supplies are heavy and holders would be unable to resist.

IN THE GUN, phr. (old).—Drunk. For synonyms, see DRINKS and SCREWED.

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. GUN, s.v., he's IN THE GUN, he is drunk, perhaps from an allusion to a vessel called a GUN, used for ale in the universities.

SON OF A GUN. See SON.

SURE AS A GUN, phr. (common).—Quite certain; inevitable.

1633. Jonson, Tale of a Tub, ii., 1. 'Tis right; he has spoke as TRUE AS A GUN, believe it.


1694. Congreve, Double Dealer, v., 20. All turned topsy-turvy, as SURE AS A GUN.

1720. Gay, New Song of New Similes. SURE AS A GUN SHE'LL DROP A TEAR.

1749. Fielding, Tom Jones, bk. xviii., ch. ix. As SURE AS A GUN I have hit o' the very right o' t.

1759. Sterne, Tristram Shandy, vol. vi., ch. xxvi. Think ye not that, in striking these in,—he might, peradventure, strike something out? as SURE AS A GUN.

1825. Egan, Life of an Actor, iv. By gum! he roared out, sir, AS SURE AS A GUN.

d. 1842. Father Prout, Reliques, I. 19. 'Vert-Vert, the Parrot.' Scared at the sound,—'SURE AS A GUN, The bird's a demon!' cried the nun.
236 Gundiguts.

1849. Thackeray, *Pendennis*, ch. lviii. In every party of the nobility his name's down as SURE AS A GUN.


1892. Manville Fenn, *New Mistress*, xxxv. They were both down there about that school-money Betsey, as SURE AS A GUN.

**Gundiguts**, subs. (common) — A fat man; a FORTY GUTS (q.v.).


**Gunner's Daughter.** To Kiss (or Marry) the Gunner's Daughter, verb. phr. (nautical). To be flogged. [Gunner's daughter = the gun to which boys were lashed for punishment.]


1833. Marryat, *Peter Simple*, ch. xxxii. I don't know what officers are made of now-a-days. I'll marry some of you young gentlemen to the Gunner's daughter before long. Quarter-deck no better than a bear-garden.


**Gunter.** — See Cocker.

**Gup,** subs. (Anglo-Indian). — Gossip; scandal.

1868. Florence Marryatt, *Gup*, xix. With regard to my title . . . GUP is the Hindustani for 'Gossip.' Voilà tout!

1883. Hawley Smart, *Hard Lines*, ch. xxix. Our Eastern empire is much addicted to what they term GUP, whereby they mean gossip, scandal, or by whatever other equivalent the taking away of one's neighbours' characters may be designated.

To be a Gup, verb. phr. (American). — To be easy to take or steal.

**Gurtsey,** subs. (American Cadet). — A fat man; a Podge (q.v.). For synonyms, see Forty-Guts.

**Gush**, subs. (colloquial). — The expression of affected or extravagant sentiment.

1883. *Saturday Review*, 3 Feb., p. 148, c. 2. Mr. Picton's style is pleasant and easy, as long as he allows himself to be natural, and does not fall into GUSH.

1886. *Church Times*, 17 Sep. Not mere GUSH or oratorical flip-flap.

**Verb** (colloquial). — To overflow with extravagant or affected sentiment.

1883. Miss Braddon, *Golden Calf*, ch. vii. 'Yes, and you saw much of each other, and you became heart-friends,' gushed Miss Wolf, beaming benevolently at Brian.

**Gusher,** subs. (colloquial). — A practitioner of GUSH (q.v.). Also GUSHINGTON.

1861. E. Yates, *Broken to Harness*, ch. vi., p. 66 (1873). The enthusiastic Gusher who flings his or herself upon our necks, and insists upon sharing our sorrow.

1882. Miss Braddon, *Mount Royal*, ch. viii. 'But, surely there is nothing improper in the play, dear Lady Cumberbridge,' exclaimed the eldest Gusher, too long in society to shrink from sifting any question of that kind.

**Gushing**, adj. (colloquial). — Extravagant; affected or irrational in expression; demonstratively affectionate. Also GUSHINGLY.

1864. 'The Campaigner' (No. XVI.), in *Fraser's Mag.*, p. 627. Donald did not belong to what, in the slang of translated Cockneys, is called the Gushing School.

1864. *Punch's Almanack*, 'Our Growling Bard.' Some, I admit, are Militant Dears, As GUSHING ladies say, and some are Muffs.

1872. *Sunday Times*, 18 Aug. This however, was no surprise to the plaintiff, it having been understood from the first that the parties being past the Gushing age the letters between them should be of a business character.

Gusset.

1883. Hargrave Jennings, quoted in Saturday Review, 23 Apr., p. 536, c. l. Women are not the gushingly credulous creatures that man in his constant condescension and in his appreciation of himself would deem.

1884. F. Anstey, Giant’s Robe, ch. xx. ‘It’s not precisely gushing,’ he said to himself, ‘but she couldn’t very well say more just yet.’

Gusset, subs. (common).—Generic for the female sex. Thus, Brother (or Knight, or Squire) of the Gusset = a pimp; Gussetting = wenching; Gusseteer = a wench; etc.

Gusset of the Arse, subs. thr. (common).—The inside edge of the buttocks.

d. 1796. Burns, Merry Muses, pp. 99-100. An’ he grippit her fast by the gusset of her arse.

Gut, subs. (vulgar).—The vice or habit of gluttony; the belly [as opposed to the Groin (q.v.).]

2. in. pl. (common).—The stomach and intestines.

1609. Dekker, Gut’s Horne-Booke, chap. ii. The Neapolitan will (like Derick, the hangman) embrace you with one arme, and rip your guts with the other.


1661. Brome, Poems, ‘A Satire on the Rebellion.’ The grumbling guts, the belly of the State.

1738. Swift, Polite Conversation, I. The fellow’s well enough if he had any guts in his brain.

1787. Burns, Death and Dr. Hornbook, st. 27. A countra Laird had ta’n the batts, Or some curnmurring in his guts.

3. in. pl. (old).—A fat man; a forty - guts (q.v.). Also Guts - and - garbage. More guts (also More Balls) than brains = a fool.


4. (artists’ and colloquial).—Spirit; quality; a touch of force, or energy, or fire: e.g., a picture, a book, an actor. With guts = a strong thing. Put your guts into it (aquatic)= Row the very best you can. He (or it) has no guts in him (or it)= He (or it) is a common rotter (q.v.). Hence, gutsy, adj. = having guts, and gutsiness, subs. = the condition of being gutsy.

1787. Burns, Death and Dr. Hornbook, st. 27. A countra Laird had ta’n the batts, Or some curnmurring in his guts.

Verb (vulgar).—I. To plunder, or take out all or most of the contents (i.e., intestines) of a place or thing; to drain; to ‘clean out’: e.g., To gut a house (thieves’) = to rifle it; to gut an oyster = to eat it; to gut a book = to empty it of interesting matter; to gut a quart pot = to drain at a draught. Whence, gutted = dead-broke.


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1819. Moore, Tom Crib, p. 1. Whether diddling your subjects or gutting their jobs.

1849-61. Macaulay, Hist. of England. The king’s printing-house . . . was, to use a coarse metaphor, which then for the first time came into fashion, completely gutted.
Gut-entrance. 238  Gutter.

1892. R. L. Stevenson and L. Osbourne, The Wrecker, p. 373. Well, we've got the guts out of you!

2. (schools').—To eat hard, fast, and badly. For synonyms, see Wolf.

To fret one's guts, verb. phr. (common).—To worry.

To have plenty of guts but no bowels, verb. phr. (common).—To be unfeeling, hard, merciless.

My great guts are ready to eat my little ones, phr. (old).—'I am very hungry.' Also, my guts begin to think my throat's cut; my guts curse my teeth; and my guts chime twelve.—Grose.

Not fit to carry guts to a bear, phr. (common).—To be worthless; absolutely unmannerly; unfit for human food (q.v.).

Gut-entrance, subs. (venery).—The female pudendum. Also front-gut. For synonyms, see Monosyllable.

Gut-foundered, adj. (old).—Exceedingly hungry.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

Gut-pudding, subs. (old).—A sausage. — Nomenclator (1696). For synonyms, see Mysteries.

Gut-puller, subs. (common).—A poulterer; a chicken-butch er (q.v.).

Gut-scraper, subs. (common).—A fiddler. Also cat-gut scraper, and tormentor of cat-gut. For synonyms, see Rosin-the-bow.

1719. Durfey, Pills, ii., 218. 'A Song' etc. Strike up, drowsie gut-scrapers.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.
1785. Burns, Jolly Beggar. Her charms had struck a sturdy Ca'ird, As weel's a poor gut-scraper.

1834. W. H. Ainsworth, Rookwood, p. 192 (ed. 1864). Make ready there, you gut-scrapers, you shawm-shavers; I'll put your lungs in play for you presently. In the mean time—charge, pals, charge—a toast, a toast!

1834. Marryat, Peter Simple, ch. xxxi. 'You may save yourself the trouble, you dingy gut-scraper,' replied O'Brien [addressing a fiddler].

Gut-stick, subs. (venery).—The penis. For synonyms, see Cream-stick and Prick. To have a bit (or a taste) of the gut-stick = to copulate (of women only).

Gut-sticker, subs. phr. (venery).—A sodomite. Also gut-fucker and gut-monger. For synonyms, see Usher.

Gutter, subs. (American thieves').—1. Porter.—Matsell. [Probably a corruption of gatter (q.v.).]

2. (venery).—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see Monosyllable.

Verb (Winchester College).—To fall in the water flat on the stomach. Fr., piquer un plat-ventre.

To lap the gutter, verb. phr. (common).—To be in the last stage of intoxication. For synonyms, see Drinks and Screwed.

Carry me out and leave me in the gutter, phr. (American).—See Carry me out.
Gutter-alley.

GUTTER-ALLEY (or LANE), subs. (common).—The throat. ALL GOES DOWN GUTTER-LANE = 'He spends all on his stomach.'

English Synonyms. — Beer Street; common sewer; drain; funnel; Gin Lane; gulf; gullet; gully-hole; gutter; Holloway; Peck Alley; Red Lane; the Red Sea; Spew Alley; swallow; thrapple; throttle; whistle.

French Synonyms. — La carafe (tramps'); la creuse (popular = Holloway); le corridor; le cornet (popular); le couloir; le lampas; la goutte (popular); le gosse (popular; an abbreviation of gosier; also gésier); la gargoiné (thieves'); la gargarousse (thieves' = Old Gall-gles); le four (popular=the oven); le fanal (popular); l'entonnoir (popular=the funnel); l'avaloir (thieves' = the swallow).

German Synonym. — Kollert (Hanoverian).

Spanish Synonym. — La gorja.

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. 1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. 1787. Grose, Prov. Glossary, p. (1811), p. 81. All goeth down GUTTER LANE. That is, the throat. This proverb is applicable to those who spend all their substance in eating and drinking.

2. (common).—A urinal. For synonyms, see Pissing-post.

GUTTER-BLOOD, subs. (common).— 1. See quot. Also (2) a vulgarian; an upstart from the rabble.


GUTTER-CHAUNTER, subs. (common).—A street singer.

GUTTER-HOTEL, subs. (tramps').—The open air. For synonyms, see Hedge-square.

GUTTER-LITERATURE. See Blood-and-thunder, and Awful.

GUTTER-MASTER, subs. (old).—A term of reproach.

1607. Marston, What You Will, iii, 1. And now my soule is skipt into a perfumer, a GUTTERMASTER.

GUTTER-PROWLER, subs. (thieves').—A street thief. For synonyms, see Area-sneak and Thieves.

GUTTER-SNIPE, subs. (common).— 1. A street arab. Also GUTTER-SLUSH. For synonyms, see MUD-LARK.

2. (American printers'). — A poster for the kerb.

3. (American Commercial).—An 'outside' broker who does business chiefly in the street; a Kerystone Broker (q.v.). Fr., un lout-cervier.

GUTTLE, subs. (golfers') — 1. A gutta-percha ball.

2. (colloquial).—A glutton.—For synonyms, see STODGER.

3. (colloquial).—A FORTY-GUTS, which see for synonyms.

GUTTLE, verb. (vulgar).—To eat greedily; to gormandize (q.v.). Also to drink: e.g., to guttle a pint = to take off, or do, a pint; 'He's been guttling swipes' = he's been drinking beer. Hence guttler = a coarse, or greedy eater; a sturdy pot-companion: a GORGER (q.v.). Cf., Thackeray's Book of Snobs for GUTTFLEBURY Fair. See Guzzle.

Gullit-e-chop. 240 Guzzle.

Gulttl-shop, subs. (Rugby).—A pastry-cook's; a TUCK-SHOP (q.v.).

Guv, subs. (common).—An abbreviation of GOVERNOR (q.v.).

Guy, subs. (colloquial).—1. A Fifth of November effigy; whence (2) an ill-dressed person. As in the old street cry, 'Hollo, boys, there goes another GUY! (an abbreviation of Guy Fawkes) = a figure of fun; a fright.

English Synonyms.—Cautious; Captain Queer-nobs; chivey; comic bird; ragamuffin; sight.

French Synonyms. Un paquet (popular); une hallebarde (popular = a clothes-prop); un nippe-nyal (popular); une bécasse ( = a gaby); un carnavale (popular = a figure of fun).

1806. W. Burrell, in C. K. Sharpe's Correspondence (1888), i., 277. A month ago there was neither shape nor make in use... no GUY ever matched me.

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends. 'The Nurse's Story.' Did you see her, in short, that mud-hovel within, With her knees to her nose, and her nose to her chin, Leering up with that queer, indescribable grin, You'd lift up your hands in amazement and cry, Well!—I never did see such a regular GUY!'

1858. G. Eliot, Janet's Repentance, ch. vi. Ned Phipps... whispered that he thought the Bishop was a GUY, and I certainly remember thinking that Mr. Pendergast looked much more dignified with his plain white surplice and black hair.

1871. Morning Advertiser, 26 Jan. There is no imperative reason why a constable should be a GUY.

3. (common).—A dark lantern. [Obviously a reminiscence of the Gunpowder Plot.]

1889. Sporting Times, 3 Aug., p. 5, c. 5. There was a gee, there was a bugy, but there wasn't a punctual Pitcher. So a cheerful GUY to Waterloo was the game.

Verb (common).—1. To quiz; to chaff; TO ROAST (q.v.); TO JOSH (q.v.).

1889. Detroit Free Press, 26 Jan. His advent here created much merriment, and the operators GUYED him loud enough for him to hear them.

2. (common).—To escape; to HEDGE (q.v.); to run away. Also TO DO A GUY (which also = to give a false name). For synonyms, see AMPUTATE and SKEDADDLE.

1879. J.W. Horsley, in Macmillan's Mag., xl. 500. I planned with another boy to GUY (run away).

1887. Fun, 23 Mar., p. 125. 'Boat-race Day, as per usual,' said the clerk to the court, 'they'll all be DOING GUYS' (giving false names!).

1889. Clarkson and Richardson Police, p. 321. To run away... DO A GUY.

1892. Punch, 24 Sept. 'Arry at Arrygate.' I just DID A GUY.

3. (American)—To spoil; to muddle; to disfigure or distort.

1891. New York Herald, 31 May, p. 12, c. 4. Finally, I would remind them that they are apt to GUY their cause by making 'guys' of themselves, and that the best way of making women a power in the land is by encouraging them to be womanly women.

4. (theatrical).—To damn; to hiss; TO SLATE (q.v.) or GIVE THE BIRD (q.v.).

Guzzle (or Gulttl), subs. (vulgar).

1. An insatiable eater or drinker. For synonyms, see STODGER and LUSHINGTON respectively.

2. (vulgar).—A debauch.


3. (common).—Drink.
1653. Urquhart, Rabelais, Bk. II., ch. i., note. It signifies rum-booze, as our gipsies call good-guzzle.


c. 1795. Wolcot [P. Pindar] Peter’s Pension, in wks. (Dublin, 1795), vol. i., p. 484. Lo, for a little meat and guzzle, This sneaking cur, too, takes the muzzle.

Verb. (vulgar).—I. To drink greedily, or to excess.

1607. Dekker, Westward Ho, v., i. My master and Sir Gosling are guzzling; they are dabbling together fathom-deep.

1693. Dryden, Persius, vi., 51. And, lavish of suspense, Quaffs, crams, and guttles, in his own defence.

1698. Farquhar, Love and a Bottle, Act i. His education could reach no farther than to guzzle fat ale.

1727. Gay, Beggar’s Opera, i., 3. Tom Tipple, a guzzling soaking sot, who is always too drunk to stand himself.

1748. T. Dyche, Dictionary (5th ed.). Guzzle (v.) to tipple, to fuddle, to drink much and greedily.

1782. Wolcot [P. Pindar], Lyric Odes, Ode i. The poet might have guttled till he split.

1849. Thackeray, Pendennis, ch. lxi. Are you . . . to tell me that the aim of life is to guttle three courses and dine off silver?

Guzzle-guts, subs. (common).—A glutton; a hard drinker.—Lex. Bal. (1811). See Guzzle.

Guzzler, subs. (colloquial).—A hard drinker; a coarse, voracious feeder. See Guzzle.


1841. Dickens, Barnaby Rudge, ch. xiii. To be looked upon as a common pipe-smoker beer-bibber, spirit-guzzler, and toss-pot.

Guzzling, subs. (vulgar).—Eating or drinking to excess; also eating or drinking in a coarse unmannerly fashion.

1819. Moore, Tom Crib, p. 28. What with snoozing, high-grubbing and guzzling like Chloe.

1882. F. Anstey, Vice Versâ, ch. xv. There shall be no pocketing at this table, sir. You will eat that pudding under my eye at once, and you will stay in and write out French verbs for two days. That will put an end to any more guzzling in the garden for a time, at least.

Guzzum, subs. (American).—Chatter; noise. For synonyms, see Patter.

1888. Detroit Free Press, 22 Dec. ‘Now, Jerry, if yer don’t stop yer guzzum I’ll skin yer alive!’ she exclaimed as she stood in the door and flourished a skillet at him.

G.Y. All a G.Y., adv. phr. (North Country).—Crooked; all on one side; ‘all of a hugh.’

Gybe, subs. (old).—A written paper.

1567. Harman, Caveat (1814), p. 65 A gyb, a writing

1608. Dekker, Belman of London, in wks. (Grosart) III., 104. His office is to make counterfeit licences, which are called gybes.


Verb (old).—I. To whip; to castigate. E.g., Gybed at the cart’s arse = whipped at the cart’s tail.

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew Gyb’d, jerkt or whipt.

16
GYBING (also GIBERY), subs. (old: now recognised).—Jeering.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

GYGER. See JIGGER.

GYMNASIUM, subs. (venery).—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

GYP, subs. (Cambridge University).
   1. A college servant. At Oxford, a scout, at Dublin, a skip. (Etymology doubtful: according to Sat. Rev, an abbreviation of Gipsy Joe; according to Cambridge undergraduates from the Greek γυψ (GUPS) = a vulture; from the creature's rapacity.)

1791. Gent. Mag., p. 1085. [A Cambridge college servant is called a JIP.]
1842. Tail's Mag., Oct., 'Reminiscences of Coll. Life.' There is attached to colleges and halls a person more useful than ornamental, and better known than paid, whom Oxonians name GYP, from his supposed moral affinity to a vulture (γυψ). The same is in Dublin denominated a Skip, because of the activity which is an indispensable item in his qualifications.

1849. C. KINGSLEY, Alton Locke, ch. xii. I'll send you in luncheon as I go through the butteries; then, perhaps, you'd like to come down and see the race. Ask the GYP to tell you the way.

1850. Smedley, Frank Fairleigh, p. 254. Fellow you call the gyp wanted to make me believe you were out—thought I looked too like a governor to be let in, I suppose.

1882. F. ANSTEY, Vice Versa, ch. v. Who should we see coming straight down on us but a Proctor with his bull-dogs (not dogs, you know, but the strongest Gyps in the college).

2. (American).—A thief. For synonyms, see THIEVES.

GYPSIES OF SCIENCE, subs. phr. (literary.)—The British Association.

1846. Times, 5 Sept. On Thursday next, the Gypsies of Science (the British Association) will have pitched their tents at Southampton.

GYROTWISTIVE, adj. (American).—Full of evasions and tricks; a 'portmanteau word.'

GYTE, subs. (common).—1. A child; in contempt. [A corruption of goat.]

2. (Scots').—A first year's pupil in the Edinburgh High School.

GYVEL, subs. (Scots' venery).—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

d. 1796. BURNS, The Merry Muses, 'Nine Inches for a Lady,' 33-4. Come louse and lug your battering ram, An' thrash him at my GYVEL.
ABERDASHER, 
subs. (old colloquial: now recognised). — 1. A dealer in small wares; specifically (1) a hatter, and (2) a publican (i.e., a seller of tape (q.v.)). Now restricted to a retail draper.

1599. MINSHU, Dictionarie, s.v.

d. 1680. Butler, Remains (1739), ii., 107. He set up haberdasher of a small poetry.

1823. Moncrieff, Tom and Jerry, iii., 5. The haberdasher is the whistler, otherwise the spirit-merchant, Jerry—and tape the commodity he deals in.

HABERDASHER OF PRONOUNS, subs. phr. (common). — A school-master. For synonyms, see Bunbrusher.

1602. Shakspeare, Twelfth Night, iii., 4. His incensement at this moment is so great that satisfaction can be none but by pangs of death and sepulchre. Hob-nob is his word; give't, or take't.


1690. B. E., Cant. Crew, s.v. Hab-nab, at a Venture, Unsight, Unseen, Hit or Miss.


2. (old). — By hook or by crook; by fair means or foul.

1581. Lilly, Euphues, 107. Philantus determined habnab to send his letters.

Verb (old). — To drink with; giving health for health.

1836. Horace Smith, The Tin Trumpet. 'Address to a Mummy.' Perchance that very hand now pinioned flat Has hob- and nobbed with Pharaoh glass for glass.

HACK (or HACKNEY), subs. (old: now recognised). — 1. A person or thing let out for promiscuous use: e.g., a horse, a whore, a literary drudge. Whence (2) a coach that plies for hire; (3) (stables') a horse for everyday use, as offered to one for a special purpose—hunting, racing, polo. (4) (Cambridge Univ.), see quot. 1803. Also Hackster.

1333. Chaucer, Canterbury Tales, 16,027. His Hakeney, which that was a pomelé gris.

1540. Lyndsay, Satyre of the thi Estaites, 3237. I may finde the Earle of Rothus best hacknay.
1582. Hakluyt, Voyages, i., 400. There they use to put out their women to hire as we do here Hackney horses.

1594. Shakespeare, Love's Labour Lost, iii., i. The hobby-horse is but a colt, and your love perhaps a Hackney.

1584. Nashe, Unf. Traveller, 101 (Chiswick Press, 1890). Out whore, strumpet, sixpenny Hackster, away with her to prison!

1594. Shakespeare, Love's Labour Lost, iii., r. The hobby-horse is but a colt, and your love perhaps a Hackney.

1598. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Hackney Writer, one who writes for attorneys or booksellers.

1725. New Cant. Dict., s.v. Hackum, Captain Hackum, a bravado, a slasher.

HAD.—See HAVE.

HADDOCK, subs. (common).—1. A purse. Haddock of Beans = a purse of money. [Haddock = cod : O. Sw., Rudde ; Lc., Koddi = a small bag. Cf., Codpiece.] For synonyms, see POGE.


HACK.—See HENCE.

HACKSLAVER, verb. (old).—To stammer; to splutter; to hesitate in speech.

HACKUM (or CAPTAIN HACKUM, or HACKSTER), subs. (old).—A bully; a bravo. For synonyms, see FURIOSO.

1823. Moncrieff, Tom and Jerry, i., 7. A rattler is a rumbler, otherwise a Jarvy! Better known, perhaps, by the name of a Hack.

Verb (colloquial, football).—To kick shins. Hacking = the practice of kicking shins at football.

1785. Pope, Ep. to Sat. Shall each spurgall'd Hackney of the day, Or each new pension'd sycophant, pretend To break my windows?

1857. Lady Alimony, i, 3 (Dodson, Old Plays, 4th ed., 1875, xiv., p. 282). Vowing, like a desperate Haxter that he has express command to seize upon all our properties,

1859. Matsell, Vocabulary. Hackum, Captain Hackum, a bravado, a slasher.

1869. Spencer, Study of Sociology, ch. viii. p. 186 (fifth ed.). And thus, perhaps, the 'education of a gentleman' may rightly include giving and receiving Hacking of the shins at foot-ball.

1582. The Echo, 3 Nov. Some of the modern foot ball players have the tips of their shoes tipped with iron, and others wear a kind of armour or iron plate under their knicker-bockers to avoid . . . what is called Hacking.

HACKLE, subs. (common).—Pluck; spirit; Bottom (q.v.). To show Hackle = to show fight. [Hackle = a long shining feather on a cock's neck.] Fr., avoir du foie; n'avoir pas le flubart, or avoir du poil au ciel.

1657. Lady Alimony, i, 3 (Dodson, Old Plays, 4th ed., 1875, xiv., p. 282). Vowing, like a desperate Haxter that he has express command to seize upon all our properties.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Hackney-Writer, one who writes for attorneys or booksellers.


1819. Moore, Tom Crib. I first was hired to peg a Hack.

1823. Moncrieff, Tom and Jerry, i., 7. A rattler is a rumbler, otherwise a Jarvy! Better known, perhaps, by the name of a Hack.


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1859. Matsell, Vocabulary. Hackum, Captain Hackum, a bravado, a slasher.

Verb (colloquial, football).—To kick shins. Hacking = the practice of kicking shins at football.
Haddums. 245

Haggler.

2. _in. pl._ (Stock Exchange).—
North of Scotland Ordinary Stock.

**Haddums (or Had 'Em).—**See quots.

1690. B. E., _Cant. Crew._ The Spark has been at Haddums. He is Clapt, or Postx.


1785. _Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v._ He has been at Hadd'em and come home by Clapham, said of one who has caught the venereal disease.

**Hag,** _subs._ (old: now recognised).—
1. A witch. Whence (2) an ugly old woman; a she-monster. Also (3) a nightmare. At Charterhouse, a female of any description; at Winchester, a matron. Hence, HAG-RIDDEN = troubled with nightmare. HAG-BORN = witch-born. HAG-SEED (Shakespeare, _Tempest_) = spawned of a witch. HAG-FACED = foul-featured. In another sense, HAGS = spots of firm ground in a moss or bog.

d. 1529. Skelton, _Duke of Albany_, Lyke a Scottish HAG.

1606. _Wily Beguiled_ (Dodsley, _Old Plays, 4th ed., 1875, ix., 277)._ Like to some hellish HAG or some damned fiend.

1606. _Shakespeare, Macbeth, iv., 1._


1632. Jonson, _Magnetic Lady, v. 6._

Out HAG!

1637. Jonson, _Sad Shepherd, ii., 2._ As if you knew the sport of witch-hunting, Or starting of a HAG.

1680. Cotton, _Poems, etc., 'To Poet E.W.'_ Adulterate HAGS, fit for a common stew.

1690. B. E., _Cant. Crew, s.v._

1748. Thomson, _Castle of Indolence, i., 73._ Fierce fiends and HAGS of hell their only nurses were.

1773-83. Hoole, _Orlando Furioso, xliii., 998._ But such a HAG to paradise conveyed, Had withered by her looks the blissful shade.

1815. Scott, _Guy Mannering, xliii._ Hatteraick himself, and the gypsy sailor, and that old HAG.

1892. Hume Nisbet, _Bushranger's Sweetheart, p. 89._ Old women were there also, with hideous vice-stamped features, veritable HAGS all of them.

**Your Hagship!** _phr._ (common).—In contempt (of women).

**Hag-finder,** _subs._ (old).—A witch finder.

1637 Jonson, _Sad Shepherd, ii., 2._ That I do promise, or I am no good Hag-finder.

**Hagged,** _adj._ (old, now [as HAGGARD] recognised).—Ugly; gaunt; hag-like.


1716-1771. Gray, _A Long Story._ The ghostly prudes with HAGGED face.

**Haggisland,** _subs._ (common).—Scotland.

**Haggle,** _verb._ (old, now recognised).—To bargain keenly; to stick at, or out for, trumpery points; to debate small issues.

1690. B. E., _Cant. Crew, s.v_ HAGGLING with the greedy, making up quarrels.

**Hagglers,** _subs._ (old).—Formerly a travelling merchant; a pedlar: now (in London vegetable markets) a middleman. _Cf._ BUMMAREE.

1662. Fuller, _Worthies; Dorsetshire._ Horses, on which HAGLERS used to ride and carry their commodities.

1690. B. E., _Cant. Crew, s.v._ A Hagler, one that buys of the Country Folks, and sells in the Market, and goes from Door to Door.
Hail.

To RAISE HAIL (or Ned, or Cain, or Hell), verb. phr. (American).—To make a disturbance; to kick up a row.

To BE HAIL FELLOW WELL MET, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To be on very easy terms: also AT HAIL-FELLOW.

To BE HAILED FOR THE LAST TIME, verb. phr. (nautical).—To die. For synonyms, see ALOFT.

HAIR, subs. (venery).—1. The female pubes. Whence (2) generic for the sex: e.g., AFTER HAIR = in quest of a woman; PLENTY OF HAIR = lots of girls; HAIR TO SELL = a woman with a price; HAIR-MONGER = a wencher; BIT OF HAIR = the sexual favour. For synonyms, see FLEECE.

To GO AGAINST THE HAIR, verb. phr. (old colloquial).—To go against the grain, or contrary to nature. [From the texture of furs.]

To SPLIT HAIRS, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To cavil about trifles; to quibble; to be over-nice in argument.
Hair.

To raise (or lift) Hair, verb. phr. (Amerian).—To scalp; hence, idiomatically, to defeat; to kill. To keep one's hair = to escape a danger.

1848. Ruxton, Life in the Far West, p. 194. Kit Carson . . . had raised more hair from the redskins than any two men in the Western country.

1891. Gunter, Miss Nobody, p. 101. If you'll take the chances of keeping your hair.

To comb one's hair, verb. phr. (common).—To castigate; to monkey (q.v.). See comb one's hair, ante.

To hold (or keep) one's hair (or wool) on, verb. phr. (common).—To keep one's temper; to avoid excitement; to take easily. Also to keep one's shirt on, or to pull down one's jacket (or vest). Fr., être calme et inodore.

1885. Bret Harte, A Ship of '49, ch. vi. 'But what the devil——' interrupted the young man impetuously. 'Keep yer hair on!' remonstrated the old man with dark intelligence.

1892. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, p. 78. Do keep your 'air on, dear pal.

1892. Cassell's Sat. Jour., 5 Oct., p. 45, c. 1. 'Who make devill's row like that all night?' he asked. 'Keep your hair on, Moses Trinko,' replied the reception officer, cheerily.

A hair of the black bear (or B'ar), subs. phr. (American).—A spice of the devil.

1848. Ruxton, Life in the Far West, p. 6. Thar was old grit in him, too, and hair of the black b'ar at that.

To get one's hair cut, verb. phr. (venery).—To visit a woman; to see a sick friend (q.v.). For synonyms, see greens and ridf.


To make one's hair stand on end, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To astonish.

1697. Vanbrugh, Provoked Wife, lv., 4. It's well you are come: I'm so frightened, my hair stands on end.

1886. J. S. Winter, Army Society ch. iii. If I were to tell you some incidents of my life since you and I last met, I should make your hair stand on end.

A hair of the dog that bit you, subs. phr. (common).—A 'pick-me-up' after a debauch. [Apparently a memory of the superstition, which was and still is common, that, being bitten by a dog, one cannot do better than pluck a handful of hair from him, and lay it on the wound. Also figuratively, see quot. 1888.]

1531. Bovilli, Prov. ii., xvi. siècle, t. i., p. 192. Du poil de la beste qui te mordis, Ou de son sacer gueris.

1546. Heywood, Proverbs [1874], 79. What how fellow, thou knave, I pray thee let me and my fellow have a hair of the dog that bit us last night. And bitten were we bothe to the braine aright.

1614. Jonson, Bartholomew Fair, I. 'Twas a hot night with some of us, last night, John: shall we pluck a hair of the same wolf to-day, proctor John?

1738. Swift, Polite Convers., Dial 2 Lady Gur. But, Sir John, your ale is terrible strong and heady . . . Sir John Why, indeed, it is apt to fox one; but our way is to take a hair of the same dog next morning.

1841. Dickens, B. Rudge, ch. iii. Put a good face upon it, and drink again. Another hair of the dog that bit you, captain!

1888. Detroit Free Press. 'Talk of the Day,' 3 Nov. Travis. — 'Hello, De Smith! You're looking better than expected. I understood that you were completely crushed by that love affair. How did you recover?' 'De Smith — hair of the dog that bit me. Fell in love with another girl.'
HAIR-BUTCHER, subs. (American).—A barber. For synonyms, see NOB-THATCHER.

1888. *Puck's Library*, May, p. 15. 'Oi 'm wullin' thot bloomin' HAIR-BUTCHER shud have a fit, av he wants.

HAIR-COURT, subs, phr. (venery).—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE. TO TAKE A TURN IN HAIR-COURT = to copulate.

HAIR-DIVIDER (or -SPLITTER), subs. (venery).—The penis. For synonyms, see CREAMSTICK and PRICK. Also BEARD-SPLITTER.


HAIR-PIN, subs. (American).—An individual, male or female: e.g., THAT'S THE SORT OF HAIR-PIN I AM = that's my style.

1888. *Detroit Free Press*, 6 Oct. 'That's the kind of hairpins we are,' said the enthusiastic swain.

HAIRY, adj. (Oxford University).—
1. Difficult.

1861. ARTHUR CLOUGH, *Long Vacation Pastoral*. Three weeks hence we return to the shop and the wash-hand-stand-bason, Three weeks hence unbury Thicksetides and hairy Aldrich.

1864. *The Press*, 12 Nov. HAIRY for difficult is a characteristic epithet.

2. (colloquial). — Splendid; famous; cor.spicuous; uncommon.

1892. RUDYARD KIPLING, *Barrack Room Ballads*. 'The Sons of the Widow.' Did you hear of the Widow of Windsor with a hairy gold crown on her head?

3. (venery).—Desirable; full of sex; FUCKABLE (q.v.). [Said only of women: e.g., HAIRY BIT = an amorous and taking wench.] See HAIR.

HALF. It's half past kissing time and time to kiss again. phr. (common).—The retort impudent (to females) when asked the time. A snatch from a ballad. [In SWIFT (Polite Conversation) = an hour past hanging time.]

HALF-A-CRACK (or JIFFY, or TICK).—Half a second.

HALF-AND-HALF, subs. (colloquial).—Equal quantities of ale and porter; * Cf., Four-half and Drinks.*

HALF-AND-HALF, subs. (colloquial).—A barber. For synonyms, see NOB-THATCHER.

1888. *Puck's Library*, May, p. 15. 'Oi 'm wullin' thot bloomin' HAIR-BUTCHER shud have a fit, av he wants.

HAIRYFORDSHIRE, subs. (venery).—The female pudendum. TO GO TO HAIRYFORDSHIRE = to copulate. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

HAIRY-ORACLE (or -RING), subs. (venery).—The female pudendum WORKING THE HAIRY-ORACLE = wenching. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

HALBERT. TO GET THE HALBERT, verb. phr. (old military).—To rise to sergeant's rank. [The weapon was carried by sergeants of foot.] TO BE BROUGHT TO THE HALBERTS = to be flogged; TO CARRY THE HALBERT IN ONE'S FACE = to show that one rose from the ranks (of officers in commission).

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v.

HALF. It's half past kissing time and time to kiss again. phr. (common).—The retort impudent (to females) when asked the time. A snatch from a ballad. [In SWIFT (Polite Conversation) = an hour past hanging time.]

HALF-A-CRACK (or JIFFY, or TICK).—Half a second.

HALF-AND-HALF, subs. (colloquial).—Equal quantities of ale and porter; * Cf., Four-half and Drinks.*

1824. REYNOLDS, *Peter Corcoran*, 41. Over my gentle HALF-AND-HALF.

1835. DICKENS, *Sketches by Boz*, p. 111. We were never tired of wondering how the hackney-coachmen on the opposite stand could... drink pots of HALF-AND-HALF so near the last drop.
Half-an-eye. 249  Half-crown Word.

1841. Albert Smith (in *Punch*). 'The Physiology of the London Medical Student.' Half-and-half... is... ale and porter, the proportion of the porter increasing in an inverse ratio to the respectability of the public house you get it from.

1851. Martin and Aytoun, *Ron Gaultier Ballads.* 'My Wife's Cousin.' Half-and-half goes down before him, Gurgling from the pewter-pot; And he moves a counter motion For a glass of something hot.

1872. *Fun,* July. 'The Right Tap.' If the lever, meaning a plumper, were labelled 'stout,' and those recording a split vote half and half, the illusion would be complete.

Adj. (common).—Half-drunk; half-on (*q.v.*). For synonyms, see Drinks and Screwed.


Half-and-half-coves (or men, boys, etc.), *subs.* (old).—Cheap or linsey-woolsey dandies; half-bucks (*q.v.*) and half-tigers (*q.v.*).

1823. Moncrieff, *Tom and Jerry,* i., 7. Jerry. The half-and-half coves are somewhat different from the swaddies, and gay tyke boys, at the dog pit—Eh, Tom?

Half-an-eye. To see with half an eye, *verb.* phr. (colloquial).—To discern readily; to be quick at conclusions.

Half-baked (or soft-baked), *adj.* (common).—Halfwitted; cracked; soft (*q.v.*); doughy (*q.v.*); also half-rocked (*q.v.*). For synonyms, see Apartments and Tile Loose. Fr., *n'avoir pas la tête bien cuite.*

1825. Scott, *St. Ronan's Well,* ii., 221. He must scheme forsooth, this half-baked Scotch cake! He must hold off and on, and be cautious, and wait the result, and try conclusions with me, this lump of natural dough!

1857. C. Kingsley, *Two Years Ago,* ch. iv. 'A sort of half-baked body,' said Kate.

1886. W. Besant, *Children of Gibeon,* Bk. ii., ch. xiv. A daughter of seventeen not quite right in her head—half-baked, to use the popular and feeling expression.

1890. *Answers,* Xmas No., p. 19, c. 3. 'You needn't be so crusty,' said Todkins to his better half. 'Better be a little crusty than not half-baked,' was the reply of his amiable spouse.

1892. *Pall Mall Gaz.,* 1 Nov., p. 2, c. 3. Mr. Vane Tempest as serenest of half-baked cynics, and Mr. H. Vincent as most credulous of bibulous optimists.

Half-breed, *subs.* (American political).—A nick-name applied to certain New York Republicans, who wavered in their allegiance during an election to the Senate in 1881.—Norton.

Half-cocked, *adv.* (common).—Half-drunk. For synonyms, see Drinks and Screwed.

1887. H. Smart, *Saddle and Sabre,* ch. xvii. 'Black Bill,' as he was called by his brother jockeys, was very often half-cocked when he got up to ride... The man could ride as well half-drunk as sober.

To go off at half-cock (or half-cocked), *verb.* phr. 1. (sporting).—To fail through hasty and ill considered endeavours; and 2. (venery) = to ejaculate before completing erection.

1848. Lowell, *Biglow Papers* [Wk. 1891], p. 231. Now don't go off half-cock; folks never gains By usin' pepper-sarse instid o' brains.


1887. W. P. Frith, *Autobiog.,* i., 129. Who was what is vulgarly called half-cracked.

Half-crown Word, *subs.* phr. (common).—1. A difficult or uncommon vocable; a jaw-breaker (*q.v.*) or crack-jaw. Also (tailors') = a sleeveboard (*q.v.*).
**Half-crowner.**

HALF-CROWNER, subs. (booksellers'). —A publication costing 2s. 6d.

HALF-CUT, adv. (common). —Half-drunk. For synonyms, see DRINKS and SCREWED.

HALF-FLYFLAT, subs. phr. (thieves'). —A thief's jackal; a man (or woman) hired to do rough or dirty work.

HALF-GROWN SHAD, subs. phr. (American). —A dolt. For synonyms, see BUFFLE and CABBAGE-HEAD.

1838. Neal, Charcoal Sketches.


HALFLINGS, adj. (Scots'). —Betwixt and between. [Usually said of a boy or girl just leaving childhood.]

1818. Scott, Heart of Midlothian, xi. In my youth, nay, when I was a HAPFLINS callant.

HALF-MAN, subs. (nautical). —A landsman rated as A.B.

HALF-MARROW, subs. (old Scots'). —I. A faithless spouse; also a parcel husband or wife.

1600-61. Rutherford, Letters, i., 123. Plead with your harlot-mother, who hath been a treacherous HALF-MARROW to her husband Jesus.

2. (nautical). —An incompetent seaman.

HALF-MOON, subs. (old). —I. A wig; and (2) the female pudendum. For synonyms, see PERIWINKLE and MONOSYLLABLE.

1611. Lodowick Barry, Ram Alley (Dodslcy, Old Plays, viii., 326, ed. 1875). Is not her HALF-MOON mine?

HALF-MOURNING, subs. (common). —A black eye. FULL-MOURNING = two black eyes or DEEP GRIEF.

HALF-NAB (or NAP), adv. (old). —See quot.

1791. Bampfylde-Moore Carew, Life. HALF-NAB — at a venture, unsight unseen, hit or miss.

HALF-ON, adj. (colloquial). —Half-drunk.

HALF-ROCKED, adv. (common). —Half-witted; silly. [From a West Country saying that all idiots are nursed bottom upwards.] See APARTMENTS and TILE LOOSE.

HALF-SAVED, adv. (common). —Weak-minded; shallow-brained. See APARTMENTS and TILE LOOSE.

1834. Southey, The Doctor, ch. x. William Dove's was not a case of fatuity. Though all was not there, there was a great deal. He was what is called HALF-SAVED.

1874. M. Collins, Frances, ch. xlii. This groom was what they call in the west country HALF-SAVED.

HALF-SCREWED, adj. (common). —More or less in liquor. See DRINKS and SCREWED.

1839. Lever, Harry Lorrequer, ch. ii. He was, in Kilrush phrase, HALF-SCREWED, thereby meaning more than half tipsy.

HALF - SEAS OVER, adv. phr. (colloquial). —Loosely applied to various degrees of inebriety. Formerly = half way on one's course, or towards attainment. For synonyms, see SCREWED.
Half-seas Over. 251

[In its specific sense Gifford says, "a corruption of the Dutch op-zee sober, 'over-sea beer,' a strong heady beverage introduced into Holland from England." 'Up-zee Freese' is Friezeland beer. The German zauher means 'strong beer' and 'bewitchment.' Thus (1610) in Jonson, Alchemist, iv., 2. 'I do not like the dulness of your eye, It hath a heavy cast, 'tis up-zee Dutch.' Other nautical terms = drugged are WATER-LOGGED; SPRUNG; SLEWED; WITH ONE'S JIB WELL BOWSED; THREE SHEETS IN THE WIND; CHANNELS UNDER, but see DRINKS and SCREWED.]

1631-1701. Dryden. I am HALF-SEAS OVER to death.

1690. B. E., Cant. Crew, s.v. HALF-SEAS OVER, almost Drunk.

1697. Vanbrugh, Relapse, iii., 3-Good; that's thinking HALF-SEAS OVER. One tide more brings us into port.

1714. Spectator, No. 616. The whole magistracy was pretty well disguised before I gave them the slip. Our friend the alderman was HALF-SEAS OVER before the bonfire was out.

1738. Swift, Pol. Conyers., Dial i. You must own you had a drop in your eye; when I left you, you were HALF SEAS OVER.

1751. Smollett, Peregrine Pickle, ch. ix. Who, by this time, had entered into all the jollity of his new friends, and was indeed more than HALF-SEAS-OVER.

1785. Grose, Vidg. Tongue, s.v.

1829. J. B. Buckstone, Billy Taylor. The public-houses will not close till morn, And wine and spirituous liquors are so cheap, That we can all get nicely HALF SEAS OVER, And see no sea at all.

1839. Ainsworth, Jack Sheppard (1889), p. 40. Mr. Smith, now being more than HALF-SEAS OVER, became very uproarious.

1849. Thackeray, Pendennis, ch. xxx. It's pay-day with the General ... and he's a precious deal more than HALF-SEAS OVER.

1856. G. Eliot, Felix Holt, ch. xxviii. There's truth in wine, and there may be some in gin and muddy beer ... I've got plenty of truth in my time out of men who were HALF-SEAS-OVER, but never any that was worth a sixpence to me.

1890. Globe, 16 Apr., p. 2, c. i. The familiar phrase HALF-SEAS OVER, for example, is wanting, and for this we appear to be indebted to the Dutch.


HALF-SLEWED, adj. (common).—Parcel drunk. For synonyms, see SCREWED.

HALF-SNACKS (or HALF-SNAGS), adv. phr. (colloquial).—Half-shares. See quotas.

1683. Earl of Dorset, A Faithful Catalogue. She mounts the price and goes HALF-SNACK herself.

1875. Walford's Antiquarian, p. 252. HALF-SNAGS is a corrupted form of half snacks, i.e., half shares. If one of a party of Arabs finds any article it becomes his entire property unless his fellows say HALF-SNAGS, or 'Quarter-bits,' or 'Some for your neighbours.'

HALF-'UN, subs. (common).—Half a glass of spirits and water; HALF-A-GO (q.v.).

HALF-WIDOW, subs. (American).—A woman with a lazy and thrifty husband.

[For Half in combination, see also BEAN; BORDE; BULL; CENTURY; COUNTER; DOLLAR; GEORGE; GO; GRUNTER; HOG; JACk; JAMES; NED; OUNCE; QUIP; SKIV; STRETCH; TUSHEROON; WHEEL.

HALIFAX. Go to HALIFAX. verb. phr. (American).—Be off! GO TO HELL (q.v.). The full text is GO TO HELL, HULL, or HALIFAX. Cf., BATH, BLAZES, HULL, PUTNEY, etc.

1599. Nashe, Lenten Stuffe (Grosart, 1883-84, p. 284). If frier Pendela and his fellows, had any thing to say to him, in his admiral court of the sea, let them seek him, and neither in hull, hell, nor HALIFAX.

1875. Notes and Queries, 5 S., iv., p. 66. Go to HALIFAX. This expression is sometimes used in the United States as a mild substitute for a direction to go to a place not to be named to ears polite.
Hall.

Hall, subs. (fishmongers'). — i. Specifically the Hall = Leadenhall Market. Cf., Garden, Lane, etc.

2. (Oxford Univ.).—Dinner. [Which is taken in College Hall.] To Hall = to dine.

Go and Hire a Hall. phr. (American). — A retort upon loquacious bores.

Hall by the Sea, subs. phr. (medical students'). — The Examination Hall of the conjoined Board of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons. [Situate on the Embankment at the foot of Waterloo Bridge.]


Hallan-shaker (or Hallenshaker), subs. (old). — A vagabond or sturdy beggar. For synonyms, see Cadger and Mumper.


(?) 1642. Old Ballad. ‘Maggie Lauder. Right scornfully she answered him, Begone, you Hallan-shaker.

1724. Journal from London, p. 4. Had seen me than staakin about like a Hallen-shaker, You wou’d ha’e taen me for a water-wraith.

1817. Scott, Rob Roy, ch. iv. This is a decentish Hallion.

1847. Porter, Big Bear, etc., p. 60. The scoundrels! the oudacious little hellions!

Halloo. To Halloo with the Under Dog, verb. phr. (American). — To take the losing side.

Halo. To work the Halo Racket, verb. phr. (common). — To grumble; to be dissatisfied. [From the story of the Saint in Heaven who got dissatisfied with his nimbus.]

Haltersack, subs. (old). — A gallows-bird; a general term of reproach and contempt.

1598. Florio, Worlde of Wordes, Bazaro, a shifter, a conicatcher ... a Haltersack.


Halves, subs. (Winchester College). — (pro. Haves.) Half-Wellington boots, which were strictly non licet (obs.). — Notions.

To go (or cry) Halves, verb. phr. (colloquial). — To take (or claim) a half share or chance. In America, at the Halves.

1831. Neal, Down Easters, ch. iv., p. 45. ‘Lives by preachin’ at the Halves a sabb’-days.’ ‘Preaching at the Halves — how’s that?’ ‘Why don’t you know? in partnership for what’s taken arter the sarmon’s over.’

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, III., 122. He’ll then again ask if anybody will go him Halves.

Ham, subs. (old). — i. (in. pl.) Trousers: also Ham-cases. For synonyms, see Kicks.


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.


Halliballo. — See Hulliballo.

Hallion (or Hallyon), subs. (old). — i. A rogue; a clod; a gentleman’s servant out of livery; also (2) a shrew. Cf., Hell-cat.

2. (American).—A LOAFER (q.v.). Also HAM-FATTER. [The American Slang Dict. says 'A tenth-rate actor or variety performer.]

1888. Missouri Republican, 27 Mar. Connelly . . . is a good fighter, but will allow the veriest ham to whip him, if there is any money to be made by it.

1888. New York Herald, 29 July. The . . . more prosperous professional brother of the hamparter.

No HAM AND ALL HOMINY, phr. (American).—Of indifferent quality; 'no great shakes'; 'all work and no play'; 'much cry and little wool.'

Hamlet, subs. (old and American). See quotes.

1690. B. E., Cant. Crew, s.v. Hamlet . . . a High Constable.


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Hamlet; a high constable (cant).


Ham-match, subs. (common).—A stand-up luncheon.

1890. Daily Telegraph, 4 Feb. At one o'clock they relieve their exhausted frames by taking perpendicular refreshment—vulgarly termed a ham-match—at some City luncheon bar.

Hammer, subs. (pugilistic).—I. A hard-hitter: especially with the right hand, like the illustrious Hammer Lane. Also Hammer and Hammer-man.

1819. Moorf, Tom Crib, p. 33. A letter written on the occasion by Henry Harner, the hammerer.

1823. Bee, Dict. of the Turf, 93. When a man hits very hard, chiefly with a favorite hand, his blows are said to fall like those of a sledge-hammer. Such boxers are hammering fighters, that do not defend their own vitalis, cannot make sure of a blow, and are termed hammerers and hammermen.

2. (common).—An unblushing lie. For synonyms, see whopper.

Verb (pugilistic).—I. To beat; to PUNISH (q.v.).

1887. T. E. Brown, The Doctor, p. 159. And bedad I did, and before herself too, and hammered him well.

1891. Gunter, Miss Nobody, ch. ii. 'Hammer him? What with?—a club?' 'No, with my fists.'

2. (American).—To bate; to drive down (prices, etc.).

1865. Harper's Magazine, p. 619. The chronic bears were amusing themselves by hammering, i.e., pressing down the price of Hudsons.

3. (Stock Exchange).—To declare one a defaulter.

1885. Fortnightly Review, xxxviii., p. 578. A 'defaulter' has been declared or hammered, as it is technically termed.

1888. Echo, 28 Dec. If any unfortunate member be hammered to-day or to-morrow it will in all probability be a bear.

1890. Daily Telegraph, 1 Nov. This being the third day after the general settlement, a defaulter who had been unable to provide cash was hammered, and private arrangements are reported in other quarters without resort to this extreme measure.

1891. Pall Mall Gazette, 25 July, p. 1, c. 3. But what is an 'outside broker?' some (possibly lady) reader may ask. Well, he may be, and often is, a regular, who has been hammered for failing to meet his 'differences.'

1891. Tit Bits, 15 Aug. I need not go into the circumstances which led to my being expelled from that honourable body, or hammered as it is familiarly called, owing to the taps with a hammer which the head porter gives before he officially proclaims the name of a defaulter.
Hammer-and-Tongs. 254  Hampered.

DOWN AS A HAMMER, adv. phr. (common).—1. Wide-awake; knowing (q.v.); fly (q.v.).

1819. Moore, Tom Crib, p. 45. To be down to anything is pretty much the same as being up to it, and down as a hammer is, of course, the intensivum of the phrase.

2. (colloquial). — Instant; peremptory; merciless. Cf., like a thousand of bricks. Also to be down on . . . like a hammer.

AT (or UNDER) THE HAMMER, adv. phr. (auctioneers'). — For sale at auction.

THAT'S THE HAMMER, verb. phr. (colloquial).—An expression of approval or assent.

TO BE HAMMERS TO ONE, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To know what one means.

TO HAMMER OUT (or INTO), verb. phr. (colloquial).—To be at pains to deceive; to reiterate; to force to hear.

1596. Ben Jonson, Every Man in his Humour, iii., 3. Now am I, for some five and fifty reasons, hammering, hammering revenge.

1719. Durfeey, Pills, etc., iii., 23. If any Scholar be in doubt, And cannot well bring this matter about; The Blacksmith can hammer it out.

1888. J. McCarthy and Mrs. Campbell-Praed, The Ladies' Gallery, ch. i. I think the chaps that are always hammering on about repentance and atonement and forgiveness of sin have got hold of the wrong end.

HAMMER-AND-TONGS, adv. phr. (common).—Very violently; ding-dong.

1781. G. Parker, View of Society, II., 108. His master and mistress were at it hammer and tongs.

1833. Marryat, Peter Simple, ch. xxxv. Our ships were soon hard at it, hammer and tongs.

1837. Marryat, Swanleyw. Ods bobs! hammer and tongs! long as I've been to sea.

1861. H. Kingsley, Ravenshoe, ch. lx. Mr. Malone fell upon them hammer and tongs.

1862. M. E. Braddon, Lady Audley's Secret, ch. iv. 'I always said the old buffer would marry,' he muttered, after about half an hour's reverie. 'Alicia and my lady, the stepmother, will go at it hammer and tongs.

1884. Jas. Payn, Talk of the Town, ch. xx. Both parties went at it hammer and tongs, and hit one another anywhere and with anything.

HAMMER-HEADED, adj. (common).—1. Oafish; stupid.


2. (colloquial).—Hammer-shaped: i.e., long and narrow in the head.

1865. Dickens, Our Mutual Friend i., 9. Mr. Boffin's equipage consisted of a long hammer-headed old horse, formerly used in the business . . . a driver being added in the person of a long hammer-headed young man.

HAMMERING, subs. (pugilistic and colloquial).—1. A beating; excessive punishment (q.v.).

2. (printers').—Over-charging time-work (as 'corrections').

HAMMERING-TRADE, subs. (pugilistic).—Pugilism.

1819. Moore, Tom Crib, pugilistic. The other, vast, gigantic, as if made, express, by Nature for the hammering trade.

HAMMERSMITH. To go to Hammersmith, verb. phr. (common).—To get a sound drubbing.

HAMPERED, adj. (old: now recognised).—Let or hindered; perplexed; entangled. [From Old Eng., hamper = a fetter: see quot. 1613].
Hampstead Donkey. 255 Hand.

1613. Browne, Britannia’s Pastoral, bk. 1, s. 7. Shackles, shacklockes, HAMPERS, gives and chaines.

1690. B. E., Cant. Crew, s.v.

HAMPSTEAD DONKEY, subs. phr. (common).—See quot. For synonyms, see CHATES.

c. 1870. Daily Paper. The witness testified to the filthy state of the linen which she wore, and also the state of the sheets. Was told not to get into bed until she had looked for the HAMPSTEAD DONKEYS. ‘Did you know what that meant?’ – ‘No sir, not until I looked on the pillow and saw three’ (loud laughter). ‘Do you mean lice?’ – ‘Yes, sir, I do.’

HAMPSTEAD-HEATH, subs. phr. (rhyming). — The teeth. For synonyms, see GRINDERS.

1887. Referee, 7 Nov., p. 7, c. 3. She’d a Grecian ‘I suppose,’ And of HAMPSHEAD HEATH two rows, In her ‘Sunny South’ that glistened Like two pretty strings of pearls.

HAMPSTEAD-HEATH SAILOR, subs. phr. (common).—A LANDLUBBER (q.v.); a FRESHWATER SAILOR (q.v.). Fr., un marin d'eau douce ou un amiral Suisse (=a Swiss admiral: Switzerland having no seaboard).

HANCED, adj. (old).—In liquor. [From HANCE = ‘to elevate.’] For synonyms, see DRINKS and SCREWED.

1630. Taylor, Works. I doe finde my selfe sufficiently hanced, and that henceforth I shall acknowledge it; and that whenever I shall offer to bee hanced again, I shall arme my selfe with the craft of a fox, the manners of a hogge, the wisdom of an asse mixt with the civility of a beare.

HAND, subs. (colloquial).—Properly a seaman; now a labourer, a workman, an agent.

1658. Phillips, New World of Words, s.v. HAND . . . a Word us’d among Mariners . . . when Men are wanted to do any Labour they usually Call for more HANDS.

1632-1704. Locke, Wks. A dictionary containing a natural history requires too many HANDS, as well as too much time.

1711. Spectator, No. 232. The reduction of the prices of our manufactures by the addition of so many new HANDS, would be no inconvenience to any man.

1754. Fielding, Jonathan Wild, i, 14. The mercantile part of the world, therefore, wisely use the term ‘employing HANDS,’ and esteem each other as they employ more or fewer.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v. We lost a HAND, we lost a sailor.

1871. Chambers’ Miscellany, No. 113, p. 3. He was admitted as a HAND in an establishment already numbering three hundred active workers.

1892. Milliken, ‘Arry Ballads, p. 70. The HANDS has all bloomin’ well struck.

1892. National Observer, 22 Oct., vol. viii., p. 571. The dispute in the South-East Lancashire cotton trade is like to result in the stoppage of fourteen or fifteen million spindles which will take employment from sixty thousand HANDS, a fifth of them women and children.

1893. For footprintly Review, Jan., p. 62. The wages paid to the operatives in our woollen industry are, to a marked extent, lower than those received by the HANDS employed in our cotton mills.

2. (coachmen’s). — See quot.

1856. Whyte Melville, Kate Coventry, ch. xv. Lady Horsingham was tolerably courageous, but totally destitute of what is termed hand, a quality as necessary in driving as in riding, particularly with fractious or high-spirited horses.

A GOOD (or COOL, NEAT, OLD, FINE, etc.) HAND, subs. phr. (colloquial).—An expert.

1748. T. Dyche, Dictionary (5th ed.), s.v. HAND (v.). ‘He is a good HAND,’ spoke of one that is an artist in some particular mechanical art or trade, etc.
Hand. 256 Hand.

1773. Goldsmith, She Stoops to Conquer, iii., i. When I was in my best story of the Duke of Marlborough and Prince Eugene, he asked if I had not a good hand at making punch.

1854. Whyte Melville, General Bounce, xii. A quaint boy at Eton, cool hand at Oxford, a deep card in the regiment, man or woman never yet had the best of 'Updy.'

1877. Five Years' Penal Servitude, i., p. 33. The new man, the green hand, takes little or no heed of the entrance of the officers. . . . Not so the old hand.

1886. R. L. Stevenson, Kidnapped, p. 195. Ye're a grand hand at the sleeping!

1892. W. E. Gladstone, Times 'Report.' . . . This old parliamentary hand.

1892. Henley and Stevenson, Deacon Brodie, i., 7, p. 18. You always was a neat hand with the bones.

A hand like a foot, phr. (common).—A large, coarse hand. Also a vulgar or uneducated handwriting.

1738. Swift, Polite Conversation, i. Col. Whoe'er writ it with a hand like a foot.

A hand like a fist, phr. (gamesters').—A hand full of trumps. Also (in derision) a hand there's no playing.

To take a hand with the outside music, verb. phr. (American).—See quot.

1892. J. L. Sullivan, A 19th Century Gladiator, iii. After thirty-seven rounds in fifty-five minutes, the umpires and seconds get into a fight, and Sullivan felt fresh enough to take a hand in the outside music.

To get a hand on, verb. phr. (tailors').—To suspect; to be distrustful.

To get one's hand in, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To practise with a view to proficiency.

To get one's hand on it, verb. phr. (venery).—To grope a woman.

To bear a hand, verb. phr. (old).—See quot.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v. Bear a hand, make haste.

To bring up by hand, verb. phr. (venery).—To procure erection manually.

To bring down (or off) by hand, verb. phr. (venery).—To masturbate. For synonyms, see frig.

To stand one's hand, verb. phr. (Australian).—To Treat (q.v.); to stand Sam (q.v.).

1892. Hume Nisbet, Bushranger's Sweetheart, p. 58. I used to see her at some of the public-houses frequented by Mrs. Condon, standing her hand liberally to all who happened to be in the bar, and therefore being made much of by the thirsty loafers whom she treated.

To hand in one's chips (or checks).—See Cash one's Checks.

To have (or get) the upper hand, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To have at an advantage; to get to windward (q.v.).

1886. R. L. Stevenson, Kidnapped, p. 173. I was growing impatient to get back and have the upper hand of my uncle.

To hand up, verb. (Winchester College).—To give information against; to betray. — Notions.

Hands up! intj. (common).—An injunction to desist; stow it! (q.v.). Also (police) = a command to surrender. Bail up (q.v.).

1888. J. Runciman, The Chequers, p. 120. Hands up! Jerry.
Amongst other colloquial usages of HAND are the following:—

- **AT HAND** = readily, hard by; **AT ANY HAND** (Shakespeare) = on any account; **AT NO HAND** = on no account; **FOR ONE’S OWN HAND** = for one’s own purpose or interest; **FROM HAND TO HAND** = from one to another; **IN HAND** = in a state of preparation, under consideration, or control; **OFF ONE’S HANDS** = finished; **ON HAND** = in possession; **OFF ONE’S HANDS** = finished; **IN ONE’S HAND** = in one’s care; **OUT OF HAND** = completed, without hesitation; **TO ONE’S HAND** = ready; **HAND OVER HEAD** = negligently, rashly; **HAND TO MOUTH** = improvident; **HANDS OFF!** = stand off; **HEAVY ON HAND** = hard to manage; **HOT AT HAND** = difficult to manage; **LIGHT IN HAND** = easy to manage; **TO ASK (or GIVE) THE HAND OF** = to ask (or give) in marriage; **TO BE HAND AND GLOVE WITH** = to be very intimate with; **TO BEAR A HAND** = to help; **TO BEAR IN (or ON) HAND** = to cheat or mock by false promises; **TO CHANGE HANDS** = to change owners; **TO COME TO HAND** = to be received; **TO GET HAND** = to gain influence; **TO GIVE A HAND** = to applaud; **TO GIVE THE HAND TO** = to be reconciled to; **TO HAVE A HAND IN** = to have a share in; **TO HOLD HANDS WITH** = to vie with; **TO HOLD ONE’S OWN** = to lay hands on = to assault, to seize; **TO LEND A HAND** = to help; **TO MAKE A HAND** = to gain an advantage; **TO PUT (or STRETCH) FORTH THE HAND AGAINST** = to use violence; **TO SET THE HAND TO** = to undertake; **TO STRIKE HANDS** = to make a bargain; **TO TAKE BY THE HAND** = to take under one’s guidance; **TO TAKE IN HAND** = to attempt; **TO WASH ONE’S HANDS OFF** = to disclaim responsibility; **A HEAVY HAND** = severity; **A LIGHT HAND** = gentleness; **A SLACK HAND** = idleness, carelessness; **A STRICT HAND** = severe discipline; **CLEAN HANDS** = freedom from guilt; **TO STAND ONE IN HAND** = to concern, to be of importance to; **HAND TO FIST** = tête-a-tête, hip to haunch; **HAND OVER HAND** = easily; **TO GET A HAND** = to be applauded.

**Hand-and-Pocket Shop** (i.e., Schoolboys’).—A stroke on the hand with a cane; **A PALMIE** (q.v.).

1883. **Hawley Smart**, *Hard Lines* xxi. The race carried so many penalties and allowances that it partook somewhat of the nature of a **Handicap**.

**Verb** (colloquial). 1. To adjust or proportion weights, starts, etc., in order to bring a number of competitors as nearly as possible to an equality.

1860. **Pepys, Diary**, 18 Sep. Here some of us fell to **Handicapping**, a sport that I never knew before.

1883. **Hawley Smart**, *Hard Lines* xxi. The term is derived from the old game of **hand-in-cap**, or handicapping.

**Handicap** (i.e., Schoolboys’).—An arrangement in racing, etc., by which every competitor is, or is supposed to be, brought on an equality so far as regards his chance of winning by an adjustment of the weights to be carried, the distance to be run, etc. : extra weight or distance being imposed in proportion to their supposed merits on those held better than the others. [A handicap is framed in accordance with the known performances of the competitors, and, in horse-racing, with regard to the age and sex of the entries. The term is derived from the old game of **hand-in-cap**, or handicap.]

1660. **Pepys, Diary**, 18 Sep. Here some of us fell to **Handicapping**, a sport that I never knew before.

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Handie-dandie.

1841. LEVER, Charles O'Malley, ch. lxviii. Pleasant and cheerful enough, when they're handicapping the coat off your back, and your new tilbury for a spavined pony: nd a cotton umbrella; but regular devils if you come to cross them the least in life.

2. To make even or level; to equalise between.

3. To embarrass, burden, hinder, or impede in any way.

1883. GRENVILLE-MURRAY, People I Have Met, 123. He was not handicapped by a title, so that the beautiful ethics of hereditary legislation had no claim on his attention.


1490-1554. DAVID LYNDAY, Kitty's Confession [LAING], i., 136. Ane plack I will gar Sandie, Gie the agane with HANDIE-DANDIE.

HANDLE, subs. (common).—1. The nose. For synonyms, see CONK.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum. The cove flashes a rare handle to his physog; the fellow has a large nose.

1887. Modern Society, 27 Aug., 864. A restless, intriguing, and busy old lady, with an immense handle to her face.

2. (colloquial).—A title. Fr., une queue, as Monsieur Sans-queue = Mr. Nobody.

1855. THACKERAY Newcomes, xxiii. She . . . entertained us with stories of colonial governors and their ladies, mentioning no persons but those who had handles to their names, as the phrase is.

1857. DUCANGE ANGLICUS, Vulg. Tongue. HANDLE, n. Title. Oh, you want a handle to your name.

1871. London Figaro, 17 June, 'The plaint of a poor Parson.' Neither he nor his clerical neighbours—unless they belong to county families, or have handles to their names—have ever been invited by the Dean to partake of the hospitality of the Deanery.

1886. J. S. WINTER, Army Society, ch. ii. That's the worst of having a handle to one's name.

1891. Licensed Vict. Gaz., 16 Jan. Here's the Honourable Tom Jones, and Lord Smith, and Viscount Brown—that's them, with the handles knocked off their names.

1892. HENLEY AND STEVENSON, Deacon Brodie, i., 2. He was aye settling after a bit handle to his name.

3. (colloquial).—Occasion; opportunity; means.

1753-77. MELMOTH, Cicero, bk. ii., let. 17 (note 5). The defence of Vatinius gave a plausible handle for some censure upon Cicero.

Verb (cardsharper's).—1. To conceal cards in the palm of the hand, or up the sleeves; TO PALM (q.v.).

2. (colloquial).—To use; to make use of; to manage.

1606. CHAPMAN, Gentleman Usher, iii., 5. Now let the sport begin: I think my love will handle him as well as I have done.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v. HANDLE. To know how to handle one's fists; to be skilful in the art of boxing.

1836. DICKENS, Pickwick, ii., 7. Smart chap that cabman—handled his fives well.

1892. HENLEY AND STEVENSON, Admiral Guinea, ii., 5. Commander, you handled him like a babbage, kept the weather gauge, and hulled him every shot.

To handle the ribbons, verb. phr. (common).—To drive.

1857. MONCRIEFF, Bashful Man, ii. 4. Shouldn't have any objection in life, squire, to let you handle the ribbons for a stage or two, but four-in-hand, you know, requires——

1872. Evening Standard, 10 Aug. The Princess of Wales is expected, and her Royal Highness has several times during the week driven through the town in an open phaeton, drawn by four beautiful ponies, and she appears to handle the ribbons in a very skilful manner.

1891. N. GOULD, Double Event, p. 198. It was agreed Marston should handle the ribbons.
1892. Milliken, 'Ary Ballads, p. 32. He 'anded the ribbings to rights.

To fly off the handle. See Fly, to which add the following earlier quot.

1825. Neal, Brother Jonathan, bk. 1., ch. iv. Most off the handle, some o' the tribe, I guess.

Hand-me-downs. (or Hand'-em-downs), subs. (common).—Second-hand clothes. Hand-me-down-shop, or Never-too-late-to-mend-shop = a repairing tailors.' Fr., un decochés-moi-ca.


1888. New York World, 5 Mar. Russell Sage, it is said, walked into a Broadway clothing store the other day and tried on and purchased a twelve-dollar suit of hand-me-downs.

1889. Sporting Times, 29 June. Trousers which fit him nowhere in particular, and which all over proclaim themselves entitled to the epithet of hand-me-down.

English Synonyms.—Reach-me-downs; translations; wall-flowers.

French Synonyms. —La musique (popular); la mise-bas (servants': especially 'perks').

Hand-out, subs. (American).—Food to a tramp at the door.

1887. Morley Roberts, The Western Avernus. Some of the boys said it was a regular hand-out, and that we looked like a crowd of old bummers.

Handpiece, subs. (American).—A handkerchief. For synonyms, see Wipe.

1852. Bristed, Upper Ten Thousand, p. 67. Then . . . . he tied his white hand-pieces to an opening made for the purpose on one side of the dashboard.

Handsome, adj. and adv. (colloquial, and formerly literary).—Sharp, severe; convenient, fit; neat, graceful; dextrous, skilful, ready; ample, generous, liberal; manageable; in good or proper style; and (in America) grand or beautiful.

1553. Wilson, Arte of Rhetorique, p. 3. Phauroinus the Philosopher did hit a yong man ouer the thumbes very handsomely.

1553-99. Spenser, Wks. For a thief it is so handsome, As it may seem it was first invented by him.

1590. Goldyng, Cæsar, p. 220. They had not so handsome horses.

1593. Shakespeare, Titus Andronicus, ii., 3. If we miss to meet him handsomely.

1600. P. Holland, Lyly, p. 255. A light footman's shield he takes with him, and a Spanish blade by his side, more handsome to fight short and close.

1604. Shakespeare, Winter's Tale, iv., 3. His garments are rich, but he wears them not handsomely.


1672-1719. Addison, Wks. An alms-house, which I intend to endow very handsomely.

1778-79. V. Knox, Essays, 102. A handsome sum of money.

1798. Lodge, Illust. Brit. Hist., i., 178. He is very desyrus to serve your Grace, and seymes to me to be a very handsome man.

1848. Ruxton, Life in the Far West, p. 8. He turned on his back handsome.

Handsome, subs. (common).—A street vendor of knives and razors; an itinerant Chive-fencer (q.v.).

Hand-saw, subs. (common).—A street vendor of knives and razors; an itinerant Chive-fencer (q.v.).

To do the handsome (or the handsome thing, verb. phr. (common).—To behave extremely well; to be 'civil.'
Handsome-reward. 260 Hang.

Handsome is that handsome does, phr. (colloquial).—'Actions, not words, are the test of merit'; also ironically of ill-favoured persons.

Handsome-bodied in the face, adv. phr. (old).—See quot.

Handsome-bodied man in the face, a 'eering commendation of an ugly fellow.

Handsome as a last year's corpse, adv. phr. (American).—A sarcastic compliment.

Handsomely! intj. (nautical).—Gently! A cry to signify smartly, but carefully. Also handsomely over the bricks = Go cautiously.

Handsome-reward, subs. phr. (old).—See quot.

Handsome-reward. This, in advertisements, means a horse-whipping.

Handsprings. To chuck handsprings, verb phr. (common).—To turn somersaults.

Handstaff, subs. (venery).—The penis. For synonyms, see cream-stick and prick. [From that member of the flail which is held in the hands].

Handy. Handy as a pocket in a shirt, phr. (American).—Very convenient.

Handy-blows, (or cuffs), subs. (old).—Cuffs with the hand; fisticuffs; hence close quarters.

Hang, subs. (colloquial).—1. The general drift, tendency, or bent: as in to get the hang of = to get conversant with; to acquire the trick, or knack, or knowledge of.

Hangy-man, subs. (colloquial).—A servant or workman doing odd jobs.

Handy-man, subs. (colloquial).—A servant or workman doing odd jobs.

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Hangy-man, subs. (colloquial).—A servant or workman doing odd jobs.
c. 2. When I GET THE HANG OF them I shall be a regular dab at theosophy.

2. (colloquial).—A little bit; a bit; a DAMN. See CARE. Fr., s’en contreficher or s’en tamponner le coquis (or coquillard).

1881. H. Kingsley, Ravenshoe, ch. xliii. She looks as well as you by candlelight, but she can’t ride a HANG.

Verb (generally HANG IT!).—An exclamation of vexation, disgust, or disappointment; also, more forcibly, a euphemism for DAMN IT! Fr., Ah! mince alors.

1598. Shakspeare, 2 Henry IV., ii., 4. He a good wit? HANG HIM, baboon!

1609. Jonson, Epicane, ii., 2. A mere talking mole, HANG HIM.

1614. Jonson, Bartholomew Fair, v. 3. Ay, and BE HANGED.

1694. Dunton, Ladies’ Dict., p. 229. Aristtenetus telling a brisk buxom Lass of a proper fine Man that would make her a good Husband, HANG HIM [reply’d she] he has no Mony.


1780. Mrs. Cowley, Belle’s Stratagem, iv., 1. HANG Harriet, and Charlotte, and Maria! the name your father gave ye?

1823. W. T. Moncrieff, Tom and Jerry, ii., 5. HANG cards! bring me a tobbick of rum slim.

1836. M. Scott, Cruise of the Midge, p. 169. ‘You be hanged, Felix,’ quoth his ally, with a most quizzical grin.

1863. Ch. Reade, Hard Cash, ii., 218. HANG the grub; it turns my stomach.


1890. Grant Allen, Tents of Shem, ch. xvii. HANG IT ALL, if that’s English law, you know. I don’t thing very much of the wisdom of our ancestors.

1891. N. Gould, Double Event, p. 164. HANG IT ALL.
TO HANG OUT, verb (common).—To live; to reside. Also (subs.), a residence; a lodging; and (American university) a feast; an entertainment.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v. HANG OUT. The traps scavey where we HANG OUT; the officers know where we live.

1836. Dickens, Pickwick, ch. xxx. ‘I say, old boy, where do you HANG OUT?’ Mr. Pickwick replied that he was at present suspended at the George and Vulture.

1852. Bristed, Five Years in an English University, p. 80. The fourth of July I celebrated by a HANG-OUT.


1892. Milliken, Arry Ballads, p. 14. I should like to go in for blue blood, and HANG OUT near the clubs and the parks.

TO HANG OUT A SHINGLE, verb. phr. (American).—To start or carry on business.


TO HANG ONE’S LATCHPAN, verb. phr. (common).—To be dejected; to pout. Fr., faire son aguillon.

TO HANG IT OUT, verb. phr. (common).—To skulk; to MIKE (q.v.).

TO HANG UP, verb. phr. (common).—I. To give credit; to score (or chalk) up: said of a reckoning. Also ‘to put on the slate’ or (American) ON THE ICE (q.v.).

1725. New Cant. Dict., s.v. HANG-IT-UP, speaking of the Reckoning at a Bowsing-Ken, when the Rogues are obliged, for want of Money, to run on Tick.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

2. (American).—To bear in mind; to remember.

1859. Matsell, Vocabulum, s.v. HANG IT UP. Think of it, remember it.

3. (American).—To pawn, For synonyms, see POP.

4. (thieves’).—To rob with violence on the street; TO HOLD UP (q.v.). Fr., la faire au père François.

5. (common).—To be in extremis; to know not which way to turn for relief: e.g., A MAN HANGING = one to whom any change must be for the better.

6. (colloquial).—To postpone; to leave undecided.

1887. Cornhill Magazine, June, p. 624. To HANG UP A BILL is to pass it through one or more of its stages, and then to lay it aside, and defer its further consideration for a more or less indefinite period.

TO HANG ON, verb. phr. (colloquial).—(1) To sponge; and (2) to pursue an individual or a design.

1601. Shakspeare, Henry VIII., iii., 2. Oh, how wretched Is that poor man that HANGS ON princes’ favours!

TO HANG OFF, verb. phr. (printers’).—To fight shy of.

TO HANG UP ONE’S FIDDLER, verb. phr. (American).—To retire; to desist. TO HANG UP ONE’S FIDDLER ANYWHERE = To adapt oneself to circumstances.

TO HANG UP ONE’S HAT, verb. phr. (common).—I. To die. For synonyms, see ALOFT.

1854. Notes and Queries, Vol. X., p. 203. He has HUNG UP HIS HAT. This sentence, which is sometimes used in reference to persons deceased, etc.

1882. Punch, lxxxii., 185, c. i.

2. (American).—To bear in mind; to remember.

2. (common).—To make oneself permanently at home.
Hang-bluff, subs. (rhyming).—
Snuff.
1857. Ducange Anglicus, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.
1859. Matsell, Vocabulum, s.v.

Hang-by, subs. (old).—A hanger-on; a parasite; a companion.
1598. Jonson, Every Man in his Humour, iv., 2. I am not afraid of you nor them neither, you hang-byes here.

Hang-dog, subs. (old).—A pitiful rascal, only fit for the rope or the hanging of superfluous curs. Cf., Gallows-Bird.
1732. Fielding, Mock Doctor, i., 4. Heaven has inspired me with one of the most wonderful inventions to be revenged on my hang-dog.

Adj. (old).—Vile, or suspicious, in aspect; Gallows-Looking (q.v.).

Hang-gallows, adj. (old).—See quot.
1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Hang-gallows Look, a thievish, or villainous appearance.

Hangman, subs. (old).—A jocular endearment.
1600. Shakspeare, Much A Do About Nothing, iii., 2. He had twice or thrice cut Cupid’s bowstring, and the little hangman dare not shoot at him.

Hangman’s-Day, subs. (old).—Monday, and (in America) Friday.
1859. Matsell, Vocabulum, s.v. Hangman’s day. Friday is so called from the custom of hanging people on a Friday.

Hangman’s-wages, subs. (old).—Thirteen-pence-halfpenny. [The fee for an execution was a Scots
mark: the value of which piece was settled, by a proclamation of James I., at 13½d.]

1602. DECKER, Honest Whore, Pt. II., in Wks. (1873) ii., 171. Why should I eate hempe-seed at the hangman's thirteene-pence half-penny ordinary?

1659. Hangman's Last Will (Rump Song quoted in Notes and Queries, 2 S. xi., 316). For half thirteene-pence half-penny wages, I would have cleared out all the town cages, and you should have been rid of all the sages. I and my gallows groan.

1678. BUTLER, Hudibras, Pt. III., c. 2. To find us pillories and cart's-tails, or hangman's wages.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Hangman's wages, thirteenepence half-penny, which according to the vulgar tradition was thus allotted, one shilling for the execution, and three halfpence for the rope.

Hang-slang about, verb. phr. (common).—To abuse; to slang (q.v.); to billingsgate (q.v.).

Hank, subs. (old colloquial).—1. A tie; a hold; an advantage; a difficulty. [In a hank = in trouble].

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. He has a hank upon him, or the ascendant over him.

1725. New Cant. Dict., s.v. He has a hank upon him; he . . . will make him do what he pleases.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. He has a hank on him, i.e., an ascendant over him, or a hold upon him: a smithfield hank = an ox rendered furious by over driving and barbarous treatment.

1859. Matsell, Vocabulum, s.v. Hank. To know something about a man that is disreputable. He has a hank on the bloke, whereby he sucks honey when he chooses, he knows something about the man, and therefore induces him to give him money when he chooses.

2. (common).—A spell of rest; an easy time.

1888. Sporting Life, 7 Dec. So quiet was the first round that the ire of the company was raised, and they called out, 'No hank!'

Verb (common).—To worry; to bait; to drive from pillar to post.

Hanker, verb (old: now recognised).—To desire eagerly; to fret after; to long or pine for; generally with 'after.' Also, hankerin' (subs.) = an importunate and irritating longing.

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. Hanker after, to long or wish much for.


1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. To hanker after anything, to have a longing after or for it.

1847. ROBB, Squatter Life, p. 98. I did see a creature once, named Sofy Mason . . . . that I tuk an orful hankerin' arter.

1878. WHITMAN, Leaves of Grass, 'Spontaneous Me,' 90 (ed. 1884). The hairy wild-bee that murmurs and hankers up and down.

Hankin, subs. (commercial).—The trick of putting off bad work for good. [Cf., to play hankey, or to play hanky-panky.]

Hankteleo, subs. (old).—See quot.

1593. NASHE, Strange Newses (Grosart, Wks., ii., 251). Is the Astrolgiaall Discourse a better booke than Pierce Pennisses? Gabriel Hangtelow saies it is?


1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

Hanky-Panky, subs. (common).—(1) Legerdemain; whence (2) trickery; underhand (q.v.) work; cheating; any manner of
double-dealing or intrigue. HANKY-PANKY BUSINESS = conjuring; HANKY-PANKY WORK (or TRICKS) = double-dealing. A BIT OF HANKY-PANKY = a trick; a piece of knavery.


1880. G. R. Sims, *Ze 4611*, ch. xiii. He knew that . . . any crime committed on his premises would tell against him on licensing day, and he kept a pretty sharp look out to see that what he was pleased to term HANKY PANKY was not carried on under his nose.

1877. *Five Years' Penal Servitude*, ch. v., p. 323. —There's some HANKY-PANKY business going on among the men of No. 2 prison; the Catholic side is ringing changes and it is done in this shop.

HANKY-PANKY-BLOKE, subs. phr. (theatrical). —A conjuror; a PILE OF MAGS (q.v).

HANKY-S Hanky-Panky adj. (common). —Dashing; NOBBY (q.v.). Specifically of well-cut clothes.

HANNAH. That's the man as married HANNAH, phr. (streets'). —'That's the thing': used of a thing well begun and well ended; or as an expressive of certainty. Varied sometimes by THAT'S WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HANNAH.

HANS CARVEL'S RING, subs. phr. (venery). —The female pudendum. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE. [From Poggio (tit. Annu- lus); Cent Nouvelles Nouvelles (xi); Ariosto (*Sat.* v.); the Nouvelle of Malespini (89, ii.); Rabelais (*Pantagruel*, iii., 28); and Matthew Prior.]

HANSEL (or HANDSEL) subs. (common). —The first money taken in the morning; lucky money. Hence, earnest money; first- fruits, &c. HANSEL-MONDAY = the first Monday in the new year, when presents were received by children and servants. [A.S., handselen = to deliver into the hand.]

1587. *Greene, Menaphon* (Arber), p. 71. He should like enough have had first HANDSELL of our new Shepheards sheepchooke.

1614. *Jonson, Bartholomew Fair*, ii. Bring him a sixpenny bottle of ale: They say a fool's HANDSEL is lucky.

1679. *Holland, Ammianus Marcellinus*. With which wofull tidings being sore astonied, as if it were the first HANSELL and beginning of evils comming toward him.

1677. *Grose, Prov. Glossary, etc.* (1811), p. 121. It is a common practice among the lower class of hucksters, pedlars, or dealers in fruit or fish, on receiving the price of the first goods sold that day, which they call HANSEL, to spit on the money, as they term it, for good luck.

1815. *Scott, Guy Mannering*, ch iii. There was a whin bonnie lasses there, forbye mysel', and deil ane to gie them HANSELS. *Ibid*, ch. xxxii. Grizzy has naething frae me, by twa pair o' new shoon ilka year, and maybe a bit compliment at HANSEL MONANDAY.

1821. *Scott, Kenilworth*, ch. xix. 'How wears the Hollands you won of me? 'Why, well, as you may see, Master Goldthred,' answered Mike; 'I will bestow a pot on thee for the HANDSEL.'

Verb (common). —1. To give handsel to; also (2), to use for the first time.

1589. *Nashe, Lenten Stuffe*, in *Wks.*, v., 249. And gather about him as flocking to HANSELL him and strike him good luck.

1605. *Chapman, etc., Eastward Hoe*, ii. My lady . . . is so ravished with desire to HANSELL her new coach.

1639-61. *Rump Songs*, i. [1662], 137. Belike he meant to HANSELL his New Satten.
Hanseller.

1663. Pepys, Diary, 12 Apr. Coming home to-night, a drunken boy was carrying by our constable to our new pair of stocks to HANSELL them.

1874. [G. A. Lawrence], Hagarene, ch. xvii. The habit of stout blue cloth ... was ' Pete Harradine's last and crowning extravagance, as they passed through town on their way to Fulmerstone, and it had never been HANSELLED yet.

1881. Besant and Rice, Sweet Nelly, in Ten Years' Tenant, etc., Vol. I., p. 200. I wanted to present her with something to HANSEL friendship.

HANSELLER, subs. (common).—A street vendor; a Cheap Jack.


HANS-EN-KELDER, subs. (old).—A child in the womb; literally, JACK-IN-THE-CELLAR (q.v.).

[From the Dutch.]

1647. CLEAVELAND, Character of a London Diurnall. The originall sinner in this kind was Dutch; Galliobelicus, the Protoplast; and the moderne Mercuries, but HANS-EN-KELDERS. The countesse of Zealnd was brought to bed of an almanack; as many children as dayes in the yeare.

1648. Mercurius Pragmaticus, i. The birthday of that precious new government which is yet but a HANS-EN-KELDER.

d.1658. LOVELACE, Poems, p. 63. Next beg I to present my duty To pregnant sister in prime beauty, Whom [who] well I deem (ere few months elder) Will take out HANS FROM pretty KELDER.

1663. Dryden, Wild Gallant, v., Wks., i. 6r (1701). Seems you are desirous I should Father this HANS EN KELDER heere.

1672. MARVELL, Char. of Holland, line 65. More pregnant then their Marg'ret, that laid down For HANS-IN-KELDER of a whole Hanse town.

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. HANS-EN-KELDER, Jack in the Box, the Child in the Womb, or a Health to it.

1672. WyCHERLEY, Love in a Wood, v. Then I am as it were a grandfather to your new Wiffe's, HANS EN KELDER.

1678. T. Baker, Tunbridge Wells, p. 27. Here's a health to this Lady's HANS IN KELDER!

1725. New Cant. Dict., s.v. HANS IN KELDER, a health frequently drank to breeding women, or their husbands.

HANSOM, subs. (coster).—A chop.

HAP-HARLOT, subs. (old).—A coarse stuff to make rugs or coverlets with; a rug. Cf., WRAP-RASCAL = an overcoat.

HAP'PORTH O' COPPERS, subs. phr. (legal).—Habeas Corpus.

Hap'porth of Liveliness, subs. phr. (Coster).—i. Music.

1851-61. H. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, i., p. 21. Or they will call to the orchestra, saying, 'Now then you catgut-scrapers! Let's have a HAP'PORTH OF LIVELINESS.'

2. (common).—A loitering Lawrence; a SLOWCOACH (q.v.).

HAPPIFY, verb. (American).—To please.

1612. Sylvester, Lach. Lach., 642. One short mishap for ever HAPPIFIES.

1848. Burton, Waggeries, etc., p. 70. For eatin' and drinkin', it HAPPIFIES me to say that we bang the bush.

HAPPY, adj. (common).—Slightly drunk; ELEVATED (q.v.). For synonyms, see DRINKS and SCREWED.
Happy-despatch. subs. (common).—Death, specifically, a sudden or violent end.

Happy-dosser. See Dosser.

Happy Eliza, subs. (common).—A female Salvationist [As in the Broadside Ballad (1887-8), ‘They call me Happy Eliza, and I’m Converted Jane: We’ve been two hot’uns in our time.”]

Happy-family, subs. (colloquial).—See quot.

1851-61. H. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, iii, p. 224. Happy families, or assemblages of animals of diverse habits and propensities living amicably, or at least quietly, in one cage.

Happy-go-lucky, subs. (colloquial).—Careless; thoughtless; improvident. Fr., va comme je te pousse and à la flan.

1856. Reade, Never Too Late to Mend, ch. xv. In the Happy-go-lucky way of his class.

1883. Illust. London News, 8 Dec., p. 551, c. 1. He dashes off a play in a happy-go-lucky style, basing it on theatrical precedent so far as certain stock situations are concerned.

Happy hunting-grounds, subs. (American).—1. The future state; glory (q.v.). [From the North-American Indian’s conception of heaven.]

1818. Ruxton, Life in the Far West, p. 98. After a long journey, they will reach the Happy Hunting-grounds.

1891. Gunter, Miss Nobody of Nowhere, ch. v. Old Mescal is now keeping a sharp eye out for the child and the cowboy, that he may send them to the Happy Hunting-grounds also.

2. (colloquial).—A favourable place for work or play.

Hard, subs. (prison).—1. Hard labour.

1890. Globe, 26 Feb., p. 1, c. 4. Monetary penalties, therefore, do not act as deterrents, but the certainty of seven days’ incarceration, with or without hard, would soon diminish the nuisance.

2. See Hard-shell.

3. (colloquial).—Third-class. As opposed to soft (q.v.). Thus: ‘Do you go hard or soft?’ ‘Do you go Third or First?’ An abbreviation of Hard-arse.

Adj. (American).—1. Applied to metal of all kinds: e.s., hard (cole or stuff) = silver or gold as compared to cheques or soft (q.v.).


1844. Puck, p. 146. That cunning old file wont let her go with the hard cash down.

1859. Matsell, Vocabulary, s.v. hard; metal.

1859. Matsell, Vocabulary, s.v. hard cole. Silver or gold money.

1863. Charles Reade, Hard Cash, [Title].
2. (old: now recognised).—I. Sour or souring; as in HARD-CIDER; (2) hard drinks (American) = intoxicating liquors, as wine, ale, etc., while lemonade, soda-water, ginger-beer, etc., are soft.

1890. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. Hard drink, that is very stale, or beginning to sour.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Hard, stale beer nearly sour, is said to be hard.

1882. Daily Telegraph, 10 Oct., p. 5, c. 3. A fourth defendant, in pleading guilty, urged that the month of August last 'turned a lot of beer sour,' and that he had only used some sugar for the purpose of mollifying the hard or sour porter.

Hard as a bone (nails, etc.), adj. phr. (colloquial).—Very hard; austere; unyielding.

1885. Indoor Paupers, p. 79. He stood it for a week or two without flinching—being at that date hard as nails, as he expresses it.

Hard at it, adj. phr. (colloquial).—Very busy; in the thick of a piece of work.

To die hard, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To sell one's life dearly; e.g., The die-hards (q.v.), the 59th Regiment, so called from their gallantry at Albuera.

To give hard for soft, verb. phr. (venery).—To copulate. See Greens.

To be hard hit. See Hard-hit.

Hard, adj., is used in many combinations; generally with an unpleasant intention. Thus, hard-arsed (of fist ed, or handed) = very niggardly; hard-bit (or hard-mouthful) = an unpleasant experience; hard-driven (or hard-run) = sore bested; hard-faced (or favoured, or featured) = grum, shrewish, or bony; hard-headed (of hard-witted) = shrewd and intelligent, but unimaginative and unsympathetic; hard-hearted = incapable of pity; hard-lipped = obstinate, dour.

Hard-master = a nigger-driver; hard-nut = a dangerous antagonist; hard-on = putile in severity; hard-riding = selfish and reckless equestration; hard-service = the worst kind of employment; hard-wrought = overworked, etc., etc.

Hard-a-weather, adj. (nautical).—Tough; weather-proof.

1891. W. C. Russell, Ocean Tragedy, p. 44. They were hard-a-weather fellows.

Hard-bake, subs. (schoolboys').—A sweetmeat made of boiled brown sugar or treacle with blanched almonds.


1882. Dickens, Pickwick, ii. The commodities exposed for sale in the public streets are marine stores, hard-bake, apples, etc.

Hard-baked, adj. (old).—I. Constipated.

1823. Jon Bee, Dict. of Turf, s.v.

2. (common).—Stern; unflinching; strong.

1847. Robb, Squatter Life, p. 73. It's my opinion, these squintish kind a fellars ain't particular hard-baked.

Hard-bargain (or Case), subs. (common).—I. A lazy fellow; a bad-egg (q.v.); a skulker. One of the Queen's hard-bargains = a bad soldier.

1848. Ruxton, Life in the Far West, p. 71. La Bonté had lost all traces of civilised humanity, and might justly claim to be considered as hard a case as any of the mountaineers then present.

1888. Lynch, Mountain Mystery, ch. xliii. A fellow who comes and goes between here and Rockville, generally considered a hard case, and believed to be more outlaw than miner.

2. (trade).—A defaulting debtor.

3. (nautical).—A brutal mate or officer. Also hard-horse.
**Hard-bit.**

**HARD-BIT** (or **Bit of Hard**), subs. (venery). — 1. The *penis* in erection; whence (2), for women, the act of connection.

**HARD-BITTEN**, adj. (colloquial). — Resolute; GAME (g.v.); desperate.

1815. Scott, *Guy Mannering*, iii. My sooth, they’ll be hard-bitten terriers will worrie Dandie.

**HARD-CHEESE**, subs. (Royal Military Academy).—Hard lines; bad luck; specifically at billiards.

**HARD-COLE.** See **HARD and COLE**.

**HARD-DOINGS**, subs. (American).—i. Rough fare; and (2) hard work.


**HARD-DRINKING**, subs. (old: now recognized).—Drinking to excess.


**HARD-HEAD,** subs. (American).—A man of good parts, physical, intellectual, or moral.

1824. R. B. Peake, *Americans Abroad*, i., i. Dou. None of your flouting, by jumping jigs, I won’t stand it—we Americans have got hard heads—we warn’t brought up in the woods to be scare at by an owl—you can’t scare me so.

1848. Durivage, *Stray Subjects*, p. 110. Most of the passengers had disappeared for the night, and only a knot of hard-heads were left upon deck.

**HARD-HIT.** To be hard hit, verb phr. (colloquial). — 1. To have experienced a heavy loss; as over a race, at cards, etc.

2. (colloquial).—To be deeply in love; completely gone on (g.v.).

1888. J. McCarthy and Mrs. Campbell-Praed, *Ladies’ Gallery*, ch. xxi. The wound was keen, I had been hit hard.


**HARD-LINES,** subs. (colloquial).—Hardship; difficulty; an unfortunate result or occurrence. [Formerly LINE = lot: Cf., Bible and Prayer book version of Psalm xvi., 5, 6.]

1855. *Notes and Queries*, i S. xii., p. 287. HARD LINES. Whence is this expression, so common, particularly among seafaring men, derived?

1881. W. Black, *Beautiful Wretch*, ch. xxxii. I think it’s deuced hard lines to lock up a fellow for merely humbugging an old parson up in Kentish Town.

1888. *Sporting Life*, 15 Dec. For the Kempton folks it was rather hard lines.

1888. J. McCarthy and Mrs. Campbell-Praed, *Ladies’ Gallery*, ch. xxvi. It’s awful hard lines, Lady Star Strange, that I am only thought good enough for you Londoners in the dead season.


**HARD-MOUTHED,** adj. (colloquial).—Difficult to deal with; wilful; obstinate. Also coarse in speech. [From the stable.]

1886. Durfey, *Commonw. of Words*, i., i. [Speaking of a girl.] I hate your young Weches, Skitish Colts—they are so hard mouth’d, there’s no dealing with em.

1704. Swift, *Tale of a Tub*, Sect. ix. I myself, the author of these momentous truths, am a person, whose imaginations are hard-mouthed, and exceedingly disposed to run away with his reason.


**HARD-NECK,** subs. (tailors’).—Brazen impudence, MONUMENTAL CHEFK (g.v.).
Hard-on.

Hard-on, adj. phr. (venery).—Prick-proud. For synonyms, see Horn.

Hard-tack.

Hard-shell, subs. (American).—A member of an extreme section of Baptists holding very strict and rigid views. [The soft-shells are of more liberal mind.] Also HARDS and SOFTS.


1888. Baltimore Sun. Mr. E., a regular member of the hard-shell Baptist Church.

1893. Stevenson, Island Night's Entertainments, p. 35. He's a hard-shell Baptist is Papa.

2. (political American).—A division of the Democratic Party in 1846-48, when the HUNKERS (q.v.) received the name of HARDS, and their opponents, the BARN-BURNERS (q.v.) that of SOFTS.

1847. Robb, Squatter Life, p. 91. HARDS, softs, whigs and Tylerites were represented.

Adj. (American).—Extremely orthodox; unyielding; hide-bound.

Hard-stuff, subs. (American).—

1. Money.

2. (Australian).—Intoxicating liquors; see HARD (adj. sense 2). For synonyms see DRINKS.

Hard-tack, subs. (nautical).—1. Ship's biscuits; specifically, ordinary sea-fare as distinguished from food ashore, or SOFT-TOMMY (q.v.).

1811. Lever, Charles O'Malley, ch. lxxxviii. No more hard-tack, thought I, no salt butter, but a genuine land breakfast.

1899. Lippincott, Oct., p. 476. They have feasted on salt horse and hard-tack many a day; but they know a good thing when they find it.

2 (common).—Coarse or insufficient fare.
**Hard-up.**

**Hard-up, subs. (common).**—I. A collector of cigar ends, a Topper-Hunter. [Which refuse, untwisted and chopped up, is sold to the very poor.] Sometimes Hard-cut. Fr., un mignonier.

1851-61. H. Mayhew, *Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor*, i., p. 5. The cigar-end finders, or Hard-ups, as they are called, who collect the refuse pieces of smoked cigars from the gutters, and having dried them, sell them as tobacco to the very poor.

1888. *Tit Bits*, 24 March, 373. Smoking Hard-up is picking up the stumps of cigars thrown away in the streets, cutting them up, and smoking them in the pipe.

1891. *Morning Advertiser*, 26 Mar. A constable on duty on the Embankment early in the morning saw the accused prowling about, and on asking what he was doing, received the reply that he was looking for Hard-cut.—Mr. Vaughan: Looking for what? — The Prisoner: Hard-cut; dropped cigar-ends.

2. (common).—A poor man; a Stony-Broke (q.v.).


Ado, phr. (colloquial).—Very badly in want of money; in urgent need of anything. Also Hard-run and Hard-pushed.

1809-41. *Th. Hook, The Sutherlands*. He returned, and being Hard up, as we say, took it into his head to break a shop-window at Liverpool, and take out some trumpery trinket stuff.

1821. *Haggart, Life*, p. 104. There I met in with two Edinburgh snibs, who were Hard up.

1837. *Barham, Ingoldsby Legends*, 'Merchant of Venice.' Who by showing at Operas, Balls, Plays, and Court, . . . Had shrunk his 'weak means,' and was 'stump'd' and Hard up.

1852. *Dickens, Bleak House*, ch. xi. He . . . . was, not to put too fine a point upon it Hard-up.

1865. *New York Herald*. This anxiety . . . . shows conclusively that they are Hard-up for political capital.

1871. *Lond. Figaro*, 25 Jan. For years, England has been a refuge for Hard-up German princelings.

1887. *Manville Fenn, This Man's Wife*, i., 13. I don't look Hard up do I? No, because you've spent my money on your wretched dress.

1891. *Fun*, 25 Mar. You're Hard up, ain't you? Stumped? Well, it's Threadneedle Street to a frying-pan, that if Popsy knew your real name, he'd lend you a thousand or two like a shot.

**English Synonyms.**—Many under floored apply equally to Hard-up; others are:—At low water mark; cracked up; dead-broke; down on one's luck; fast; in Queer Street; in the last of pea time; in the last run of shad; low down; low in the lay; oofless; out of favor with the oof-bird; pebble-beached; seedy; short; sold-up; stony-broke; strapped; stuck; stumped; suffering from an attack of the week's (or month's) end; tight; on one's uppers; under a cloud; on one's beam ends.

**French Synonyms.**—Se mettre dans le bœuf (common = to go in for block ornaments, q.v.); être en brindezingue (mountebanks = gone to smash); être brouillé avec la monnaie (familiar = to have had a row with one's banker); être coupé (printers'); être à la côte (familiar = on the shelf); être fauché (thieves' = cut down); être dans la purée (thieves'); être molle (thieves'); être à la faridon (popular); être en éche (popular); être désargenté (thieves' = oofless); être bref (popular = short); être à fond de cale (popular = down to bed-rock); être à la manque (popular = on short commons); manger de la misère (popular = to sup sorrow); être dans le lac (popular = a hole); être pané (general); panné comme la Hollande (general = very hard up).
SPANISH SYNONYMS.—Estar pelado or ser un pelado (=skinned); tiñoso (=scabby).

ITALIAN SYNONYM.—Calcare a ventun’ ora.

2. (common).—Intoxicated. For synonyms, see DRINKS and SCREWED.

3. (Winchester College).—Out of countenance; exhausted (in swimming).

HARD-UPNESS or HARD-UPPISHNESS, subs. (colloquial).—Poverty; a condition of impoverishment.

1876. HINDLEY, Adventures of a Cheap Jack. There were frequent . . . . collapses from death of hard-upness.

1883. Illust. London News, 26 May, p. 519, c. 3. These I O U’s . . . . do not imply, as might be supposed, common hard-upness.

1891. N. GOULD, Double Event, p. 28. Ike’s knowledge of some of the bookmakers he had met in the old land led him to believe that hard-uppishness would scare any knight of the pencil away.

HARDWARE (or HARD), subs. (American).—Counterfeit coin.

1859. MATSELL, Vocabulum, s.v.

HARDWARE-BLOKE, subs. (thieves’).—A native of Birmingham; a BRUM (q.v.).

HARDY-ANNUAL, subs. (Parliamentary).—A bill that is brought in every year, but never passed into law. Hence (journalistic), any stock subject.

1892. Pall Mall Gaz., 16 Aug., p. 4, c. 2. Signs of the so called ‘silly season’ which has been somewhat delayed this year owing to the political crisis, are now beginning to appear. The readers of the Daily Telegraph are once more filling the columns of that journal with ‘Is Marriage a Failure?’ The hardy annual is called ‘English Wives’ this time

HARE, verb. (old).—To dodge; to double; to bewilder.

1719. DURFEY, Pills, etc., i., 92. Running, haring, gaping, staring.

1672. MARVELL, Rehearsal, Tr. (Grosart), iii, 372. They amaze, shatter and hare their people.

TO HARE IT, verb. phr. (American thieves’).—To retrace one’s steps; to double back. [From the way of a hare with the hounds.]

TO MAKE A HARE OF, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To make ridiculous; to expose the ignorance of any person.

1830-32. CARLETON, Traits and Stories, ‘The Hedge-School.’ What a hare that made of him . . . . and did not leave him a leg to stand on!

1844. LEVER, Tom Burke of Ours, ii., 393. It was Mister Curran made a hare of your Honor that day.

TO SWALLOW A HARE, verb. phr. (old).—To get very drunk. For synonyms, see DRINKS and SCREWED.

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v

1725. New Cant. Dict. HARE, s.v.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. He has swallowed a hare, he is drunk, more probably a hair which requires washing down.

1859. MATSELL, Vocabulum, s.v.

TO HOLD WITH THE HARE AND HUNT WITH THE HOUNDS, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To play a double game; to keep on good terms with two conflicting parties.

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v

TO KISS THE HARE’S FOOT, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To be late; to be a day after the fair; to kiss the post.
Hare-brained.

**HARE-BRAINED** (or **HAIR-BRAINED**), *adj.* (old colloquial: now recognised).—Reckless; flighty; impudent; skittish. Also, substantively, HARE-BRAIN = a hare-brained person.

1534. N. Udal, *Roister Doister*, I., iv., p. 27 (Arber). Ah foolish HARE-BRAINE, This is not she.


1870. Chambers’ Miscellany, No. 53, p. 28. The Slater girls are as HARE-BRAINED as herself.

HARED, *adj.* (old).—Hurried.

HARE-SLEEP, *subs.* (old).—Sham slumber; FOXES’ SLEEP (q.v.).


HARKING, *subs.* (old).—See quotas.


1785. Grose, *Vulg. Tongue* s.v HARK-VE-ING, whispering on one side to borrow money.

HARLEQUIN, *subs.* (theatrical).—I. A sovereign. For synonyms, see CANARY.

2. (Winchester College).—The wooden nucleus of a red india-rubber ball.

3. (old).—A patchwork quilt.

HARLEQUIN CHINA, *adj. phr.* (old).—Sets composed of several patterns and makes.

HARLOTRY, *subs.* (old).—A wanton.

1529. Skelton, *Bouge of Courte*. He had no pleasure but in HARLOTRY.


Harlotry, subs. (old).—A wanton.

Adj. (old).—Disreputable.

1598. Shakspeare, *Henry IV.*, ii., 4. Oh rare! he doth it as like one of these HARLOTRY players, as ever I see.

HARMAN-BECK (or HARMAN), *subs.* (old).—An officer of justice. For synonyms, see BEAK and COPPER.

1657. HARMAN, *Caveat* (1814), p. 66. The HARMAN-BECK, the constable.

1610. Rowlands, *Martin Mark-All*. With the HARMAN-BEAKE out and alas to Whittington we goe.

1656. Broome, *Jovial Crew*, ii. Here safe in our skipper let’s cly off our peck, And bowse in defiance O’ th’ HARMAN-BECK.


1828. Lyttton, *The Disowned*. The worst have an awe of the HARMAN’S claw.


HARMANS, *subs.* (Old Cant).—The stocks. [The suffix ‘MANS’ is common; *Cf.*, LIGHTMANS, DARKMANS, ROUGHMANS, etc.]

1587. HARMAN, *Caveat* (1814), p. 66. The HARMANS, the stocks.

Harness. 274

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

Harness. In Harness, adj. phr. (colloquial).—In business; at work: as, to die in harness = to die at one's post; to get back into harness = to resume work after a holiday. [Harness also = armour.]

1772. Fun, to Aug. 'Over! Aye! But the sting of it's here, Just as I'm back into harness, Others are off to sea, mountain, and mere.


Harp, interj. (Irish).—See quot.

1775. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Harp ... Harp is also the Irish expression for 'woman' or 'tail,' used in tossing up in Ireland, from Hibernia being represented with a harp, on the reverse of the copper coins of that country, for which reason it is in hoisting the copper, i.e., tossing up, sometimes likewise called music.

To harp on, verb. phr. (old, now recognised).—To dwell persistently and at any cost upon a subject.

1596. Nashe, Have with you to Saffron Walden. As if I had continually harped upon it in every tenth line of my book.

1596. Shakespere, Hamlet, ii., 2. Still harping on my daughter.


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1886. R. L. Stevenson, Kidnapped, p. 291. He was back harping on my proposal.

Harper, subs. (old).—A brass coin current in Ireland, temp. Elizabeth, value one penny. [From the Irish Harp figured upon it.]

1574-1637. Ben Jonson, The Gipsies Metamorphosed. A two-pence I had to spend over and above; besides the harper that was gathered amongst us to pay the piper.

Have among you my blind harpers, phr. (old).—See quot.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Have among you my blind harpers, an expression used in throwing or shooting at random among a crowd.

Harridan, subs. (old, now recognised).—See quot. Also (colloquial) a disagreeable old woman. [A corruption of O. Fr. haridelle = a worn out horse, a jade.]

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. Harridan, one that is half Whore, half Bawd.


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Harridan, a hagg'd old woman, a miserable scraggy worn out harlot, fit to take her bawd's degree.

1815. Scott, Guy Mannering, ch., xxxix. 'Now what could drive it into the noddle of that old harridan,' said Pleydell.

1859. Matsell, Vocabulum, s.v.

Harrington, subs. (old).—A brass farthing. [Lord Harrington obtained a patent of manufacture under James I.]

1616. B. Jonson, Devil is an Ass, ii., 1. Yes, sir, it's cast to penny halfpenny farthing, O' the back side there you may see it, read; I will not bate a Harrington o' the sum.

1632. B. Jonson, Magn. Lady, ii., 6. His wit he cannot so dispose by legacy As they shall be a Harrington the better for't.

Harry, subs. (old).—1. A countryman; a clown. For synonyms, see Joskin.


2. (colloquial).—See 'Arry.
OLD HARRY, subs. (common).—The devil. For synonyms, see SKIPPER.

1693. Congreve, Old Bachelor, ii., 1. By the Lord Harry I'll stay no longer.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v.

1830. Lytton, Paul Clifford, ch. iv. May Old Harry fly off with him.

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends (1865), p. 406. Shall I summon Old Harry himself to this spot?

HARRY OF THE WEST, subs. phr. (political American).—Henry Clay.

TO PLAY OLD HARRY, verb. phr. (common).—To annoy; to ruin; to play the devil.


TOM, DICK, AND HARRY, phr. (common).—Generic for any and everybody; the mob.

1886. R. L Stevenson, Kidnapped, p. 287. He rode from public house to public house and shouted his sorrows into a mug of Tom, Dick, and Harry.

WHAT HARRY GAVE DOLLI., verb. phr. (old venery).—The penis: also generic for fornication.

HARRY-BLUFF, subs. (rhyming).—Snuff.

HARRY-COMMON, subs. phr. (old).—A general wencher.


HARRY-SOPH, subs. (Cambridge Univ. : obsolete).—See quotes.

1795. Gent. Mag., p. 20. A Harry, or errant Soph, I understand to be either a person, four-and-twenty years of age, and of an infirm state of health, who is permitted to dine with the fellows, or to wear a plain, black, full-sleeved gown; or, else, he is one who, having kept all the terms, by statute required previous to his law-act, is hoc ipso facto entitled to wear the same garment, and, thenceforth, ranks as bachelor, by courtesy.

1803. Gradus ad Cantabrigiam. Harry Soph; or Henry Sophister; students who have kept all the terms required for a law act, and hence are ranked as Bachelors of Law by courtesy. They wear a plain, black, full-sleeved gown.

HARUM-SCARUM, adj. and subs. (old colloquial).—1. Giddy; careless; wild; a thoughtless or reckless fellow.

1740. Round about our Coal Fire, c. i. Peg would scuttle about to make a toast for John, while Tom run harum scarum to draw a jug of ale for Margery.

1780. Mad. D'Arblay, Diary, i. 358 [ed. 1842]. He seemed a mighty rattling haremscarem gentleman.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Harum Scarum, he was running harum scarum, said of any one running or walking carelessly and in a hurry, after they know not what.

1836. Harriet, Japhet, ch. xci. I'm not one of those harum-scarum sort, who would make up a fight when there's no occasion for it.

1855. Thackeray, Newcomes, ch. v. They had a quarrel with Thomas Newcome's own son, a harum-scarum lad, who ran away, and then was sent to India.

1870. London Figaro, 19 Oct. 'Within an inch.' Tom—that's my son—has worked with me in the mine ever since he was quite a little chap; and a harum-scarum young dog he was, when a boy.

2. (sporting).—Four horses driven in a line; Suicide (q.v.).

HAS-BEEN, subs. (colloquial Scots').—Anything antiquated; specifically in commendation: as 'the good old has-beens'; cf., never was.

1891. Sportsman, 1 Apr. Big Joe M'Auliffe proved conclusively that he is one of the has-beens or else one of the never wasters, as Dan Rice, the circus man, always called ambitious counterfeiters.
Hash, subs. (colloquial).—1. A mess; specifically in the phrase 'to make a HASH of.' For synonyms, see SIXES AND SEVENS.

1747. WALPOLE, Lett. to Mann, 23 Feb (1833) Vol. II., p. 274. About as like it as my Lady Pomfret's HASH of plural persons and singular verbs or infinitive moods was to Italian.

1836. MICHAEL SCOTT, Cruise of the Midge, p. 115 [Ry. ed.]. Listado never could compass Spanish, because, as he said, he had previously learnt French, and thus spoke a HASH of both.

1837. BARHAM, Ingoldsby Legends. 'M. of Venice.' Don't suppose my affairs are at all IN A HASH, but the fact is, at present I'm quite out of cash.

1843. Punch's Almanack, July (q.v.).


1890. GRANT ALLEN, Tents of Sham, ch. xvi. She made a HASH of the proper names, to be sure.

2. (American cadets').—Clan-destine preparation for supper after hours.

3. (colloquial).—A sloven; a blockhead.

1785 BURNS, Epistle to J. Lapraik. A set o' dull, conceited HASHES.

Verb (colloquial).—1. To spoil; to jumble; to cook up and serve again.

1891. Notes and Queries, 7 S. xii., 22 Aug., p. 144. I do not think that Earle, a scholar of a high order and a man of the most keen wit and judgment, would have spoken thus of a thing HASHED UP by a hard-headed pedant, however able, such as Gauden.

2. (American).—To vomit. Also to FLASH THE HASH (q.v.). For synonyms, see ACCOUNTS and CAT.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1859. MATSELL, Vocabulum, s.v.

3. (Cheltenham School).—To study hard; to SWEAT (q.v.).

To settle one's HASH, verb. phr. (common).—To defeat one's object; to kill. For synonyms, see COOK ONE'S GOOSE.

1864. BROWNING, Dramatis Personae. 'Youth and Art.' You've to settle yet Gibson's HASH.

C. 1871. BUTLER, Nothing to Wear. To use an expression More striking than classic, it SETTLED MY HASH.

1883. Punch, Nov. 3, p. 208, C. That one stab, with a clasp-knife, which SETTLED THE young Squire's HASH in less than two seconds.

1890. HUME NISBET, Bushranger's Sweetheart, p. 123. We'll keep the cops off till you SETTLE HIS HASH, the rest replied, getting round us.

To go back on one's HASH, verb. phr. (American).—To turn; to succumb; to WEAKEN (q.v.).

Hash-house, subs. (American).—A cheap eating-house; a GRUB-BING crib (q.v.).

1883. Daily Telegraph, 10 Jan., p. 5, c. 4. There are [in New York] lunch counters, cookshops, 'penny' restaurants, fifteen-cent restaurants, commonly called HASH-HOUSES and foreign cafes.

Haslar-Hag, subs. (nautical).—A nurse at the Haslar Hospital. Cf., Hag.

Hastings. To be none of the Hastings sort, verb. phr. (old colloquial).—To be slow, deliberate, or slothful.

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. You are none of the Hastings, of him that loses an Opportunity or a Business for want of Dispatch
Hasty.


1811. *Lexicon Balatronicum*, s.v. He is none of the Hastings sort; a saying of a slow, loitering fellow; an allusion to the Hastings pea, which is the first in season.

**Hasty**, adj. (old: now recognised).
- Rash; passionate; quick to move.


**Hasty G.**, subs. (Cambridge Univ.).—See quot.

1883. Daily News, 24 Mar., p. 5, c. 2. Mr. Weller's own Hasty G (as Cambridge men say when they mean a 'hasty generalisation').

**Hasty Pudding**, subs. (common).
- 1. A bastard. For synonyms, see Bloody Escape.

2. (old).—A muddy road; a quag.

The way through Wandsworth is quite a HASTY PUDDING.

**Hat**, subs. (Cambridge Univ.).—1. A gentleman commoner. [Who is permitted to wear a hat instead of the regulation mortar-board.]
Also Gold Hatband.

Young Gentleman of the Universitie' (ed., Arber, 1869). His companion is ordinarily some stale fellow that has beene notorious for an ingle to Gold Hatbands, whom hee admires at first, afterwards scorres.

1803. Gradus ad Cantabrigiam.
Hat Commoner; the son of a Nobleman, who wears the gown of a Fellow Commoner with a hat.

1830. Lytton, *Paul Clifford*, ch. xxxii. I knew intimately all the hats in the University.

1841. Lytton, *Night and Morning*, bk. I., ch. i. He had certainly nourished the belief that some one of the hats or tinsel gowns—i.e., young lords or fellow-commoners, with whom he was on such excellent terms... would do something for him in the way of a living.

2. (venery).—The female pudendum. Generally Old Hat. For synonyms, see Monosyllable.

1754. Fielding, *Jonathan Wild*, i., 6 (note). I shall conclude this learned note with remarking that the term old hat is used by the vulgar in no very honourable sense.


['Because often felt.'] See also Top Diver.


3. (Scots').—A prostitute of long standing. For synonyms, see Barrack-Hack and Tart.

**To eat one's hat** (or head), verb. phr. (common).—Generally, I'll EAT MY HAT. Used in strong emphasis. See Eat.

'If I knew as little of life as that, I'd EAT MY HAT and swallow the buckle whole,' said the clerical gentleman.

1837. Dickens, *Oliver Twist*, ch. xiv. Even admitting the possibility of scientific improvements being ever brought to that pass which will enable a man to eat his own head, Mr. Grimwig's head was such a particularly large one that the most sanguine man alive could hardly entertain a hope of being able to get through it at a sitting.

1844. J. B. Buckstone, *The Maid with the Milking Pail*. If you are not as astonished as I was, I'll EAT OLD ROWLEY'S HAT.


1887. E. E. Money, *Little Dutch Maiden*, II., viii., 148. And if you don't run up against him next day in Bond Street, you may EAT YOUR HAT!

1892. Milliken, *'Arry Ballads*, p. 38. If some of the swells didn't ditto, I'll EAT MY OLD HAT, which it's tough.

**To get a hat**, verb. phr. (cricketers').—See Hat-trick,
To get into the hat, verb. phr. (common).—To get into trouble.

To have a brick in one's hat, verb. phr. (American).—To be top-heavy with drink. For synonyms, see Drinks and Screwed.

To hang up one's hat.—See Hang.

To pass (or send) round the hat, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To make a collection.

To talk through one's hat, verb. thr. (American).—To rag; to huff; to bluster.

1888. New York World, 13 May. Dis is only a bluff dey're makin'—see! Dey're talkin' tru deir hats.

All round my hat, phr. (streets).—A derisive retort. [From a Broadside Ballad, popular c. 1830: 'All round my hat I wears a green willow, All round my hat for a twelvemonth and a day, And if any one should ask you the reason why I wear it, Tell them my true love is gone far away'; sung to a tune adapted from a number in Zampa.] Also, as in quot. = all over; completely; generally.

1892. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, p. 54. I'm a 'ot un, mate, all round my 'at.

Shoot that hat! phr. (streets).—A derisive retort. Also I'll have your hat! Both circa 1860-72.

Well, you can take my hat! phr. (American) = 'Well, that beats me,' i.e., 'that is past belief.'

1873. A Yankee in a Planter's House. 'What's yer name?' 'Name Grief, manssa.' 'Name whar?' 'Name Grief manssa.' 'Get out! Yew're jokin'! What's yer name, anyhow?' 'Name Grief manssa.' 'Wal, yew kin take my hat."

What a shocking bad hat phr. (streets).—[Said to have originated with a candidate for parliamentary honours, who made the remark to his poorer constituents, and promised them new head-gear.]

1892. Anstey, Model Music Hall, 140. Lord B. Regular bounder! Shocking bad hat! Ver. Not so bad as his boots, and they are not so bad as his face.

Hatch, verb. (common).—To be brought to bed with child; to BUST UP (q.v.).

To be under hatches, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To be in a state of trouble, poverty or depression. Also dead.

1606. Marston, The Fasone, iv. Remember hee got his elder brother's wife with child . . . that will stow him under hatches, I warrant you.

1632-1704. Locke [quoted in Ency. Dict.]. He assures us how this fatherhood continued its course, till the captivity in Egypt, and then the poor fatherhood was under hatches.

1639-1661. Rump Songs, i. [1662], 260. And all her orphans bestowed under hatches.


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Under the hatches, in trouble, distress, or debt.

1789. Dibdin, Tom Bowling, For though his body's under hatches his soul has gone aloft.

1835. Buckstone, Dream at Sea., 3. Good-bye, dame, cheer up; you may not always be under hatches.

1859. Matsell, Vocabulum, s.v. Hatchet, subs. (tailors').—I. An ill-favoured woman. For general synonyms, see Ugly Mug.
2. (American).—A bribe received by Customs officers in New York for permitting imported dutiable goods to remain on the wharf when they ought to go to the general store-house.

To BURY (or DIG UP) THE HATCHET.—See BURY.

To THROW (or SLING) THE HATCHET, verb. (common).—1. To tell lies, to yarn; to DRAW THE LONG BOW (q.v.). Hence HATCHET FLINGING (or THROWING) = lying or yarning.

1789. Geo. Parker, Life's Painter, p. 94. This is a fault, which many of good understanding may fall into, who, from giving way too much to the desire of telling anecdotes, adventures, and the like, habituate themselves by degrees to a mode of the HATCHET-FLINGING extreme.

1821. P. Egan, Life in London, p. 217. There is nothing creeping or THROWING the HATCHET about this description.

1893. Emerson, Signor Lipho, ch. xx. We had to call her mother, and, if anyone stopped, she'd SLING THE HATCHET to them, and tell them she was a poor lone widow left with five children.

2. (nautical).—To sulk.

HATCHET-FACED, adj. (old colloquial: now recognised).—See quotas. For synonyms, see UGLY-MUG.


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. HATCHET FACE, a long thin face.

1865. Sala, Trip to Barbary, p. 130. The man in black baize with the felt képi, and who had a HATCHET FACE desperately scarred with the small-pox, looked from head to heel a bad egg.

1888. J. Runciman, The Chequers, p. 7. His HATCHET FACE with its pig-gish eyes, his thin cruel lips, his square jaw, are all murderous.

HATCH, MATCH, AND DISPATCH COLUMN, subs. phr. (journalistic).—The births, marriages, and deaths announcements. Also CRADLE, ALTAR AND TOMB COLUMN.

HATCHWAY, subs. (common).—1. The mouth. For synonyms, see POTATO-TRAP.

2. (venery).—The female pudendum. Also FORE-HATCH. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

HATE-OUT, verb. (American).—To boycott; to send to Coventry.

1893. S. Kercheval, History of Virginia. The punishment for idleness, lying, dishonesty, and ill-fame generally, was that of HATING the offender out, as they expressed it. It commonly resulted in the reformation or banishment of the person against whom it was directed. If a man did not do his share of the public service, he was HATED-OUT as a coward.

HATFIELD, subs. (common).—A drink, whose chief ingredients are gin and ginger-beer.

1883. Daily News, 5 July, p. 5, c. 1. There are, we believe, all sorts of strong waters in the mild-looking and seductive HATFIELD, while the majority of 'cups' are distinctly 'mixed.'

HATFUL, subs. (colloquial).—A large quantity; a heap.

1859. Punch, lxxx., vi., 236. If they had trusted their own judgment they would have won a HATFUL.

1864. M. E. Braddon, Henry Dunbar, ch. xxii. He was in a very good temper however, for he had won what his companions called a HATFUL of money on the steeple-chase.

HATPEG, subs. (common).—The head. For synonyms, see CRUMPET.

HATTER, subs. (Australian).—A gold-digger working alone.

1881. A. Bathgate, Waitaruna, p. 88. He is what they call a HATTER, that is he works alone.

1885. Chambers’ Journal, 2 May, p. 286. Some prefer to travel, and even to work, when they can get it, alone, and these are known to the rest as HATTERS.
Hat-trick. 280  Have.

1890. Illustrations, p. 158. The former occupant was what is known as a HATTER, i.e., a digger living by himself.

1890. Marriott Watson, Broken Billy. He was looked upon as a HATTER, that is to say, a man who has lived by himself until his brain has been turned.

Who's your HATTER? phr. (streets).—A catch-cry long out of vogue.

Mad as a HATTER, phr. (colloquial).—Very mad.

1843. Marshall [Title of a farce].

Mad as a Hatter.

Hat-trick, subs. (cricket).—Taking three wickets with three consecutive balls: which feat is held to entitle the bowler to a new hat at the cost of the club.

1888. Sportsman, 28 Nov. Mr. Absolom has performed the HAT TRICK twice, and at Tufnell Park he took four wickets with four balls.

1892. Cassell's Sat. Jour. 21 Sept., p. 13, c. 2. On one occasion I succeeded in doing the HAT TRICK.

1892. Woolwich Polytechnic Mag., 20 May. Three of these wickets were taken in succession, thus accomplishing the HAT-TRICK.

Hat-work, subs. (journalists').—Hack work; such stuff as may be turned out by the yard without reference to quality.

1888. H. Rider Haggard, Mr. Meeson's Will, c. 1. And five-and-twenty tame authors (who were illustrated by thirteen tame artists) sat—at salaries ranging from one to five hundred a year—in vault-like hutches in the basement, and week by week poured out that HAT-WORK for which Meeson's was justly famous.

Haulable, adj. (University).—Used of a girl whose society authorities deem undesirable for the men: e.g., she's HAULABLE = a man caught with her will be proctorised.

Haul-bowline, subs. (nautical).—A seaman. For synonyms, see Strawyarder.

Haul-devil, subs. (common).—A clergyman. For synonyms, see Devil-dodger and Sky-pilot.

Haul Devil, Pull Baker. See Devil.

Haut-boy (or Ho-boy), subs. (American).—A night scavenger; a jakesman or Gold-finder (q.v.).

Have, subs. (common).—1. A swindle; a TAKE-IN (q.v.); a DO (q.v.). For synonyms, see Sell.

2. in. pl. (common).—The moneyed classes; as opposed to the HAVE-NOTS, their antipodes.

1893. National Observer, Feb. 25, ix., 357. A body whose policy is to make the HAVE-NOTS as comfortable and objectionable as possible at the cost in coin and comfort of the HAVEs.


Is that a Catch or a Have? verb. phr. (vulgar).—A formula of acknowledgment that the speaker has been 'had.' [If the person addressed be unwise enough to answer with a definition, the instant retort is 'Then you CATCH (or HAVE, as the case may be) your nose up my arse.']

Verb (colloquial).—1. To cheat; to TAKE-IN; to DO. See Be.

1805. G. Harrington, New London Spy (4th Ed.) p. 26. Ten to one but you are HAD, a cant word they make use of, instead of saying, as the truth is, we have cheated him.
1825. **EGAN**, *Life of an Actor*, ch. iv. 'He's not to be had,' said Gag, in an audible whisper.

1878. **HATTON**, *Cruel London*, bk. II., ch. v. 'They have had me, bless you,' said Brayford, 'the men who have "limbed" you.'


1889. *Answers*, 23 Feb., p. 196, c. 2. But even these fellows, sharp as they are, have been caught napping lately in a humorous way. 'Those who have had them have been young fellows with friends inside the Stock Exchange.'

1891. *N. GOULD*, *Double Event*, p. 161. 'Had me nicely once at cards.'

1891. *Licensed Vict. Gaz.*, 23 Jan. I never felt so wild in my life. I'm no fool, you know, and I began to think I was being had a bit.

1891. **J. NEWMAN**, *Scamping Tricks*, p. 58. I was nearly had.

1892. *Illus. Bits*, 22 Oct., p. 14. c. 2. 'Oh, mebboy, Oi wasn't t' be had that way. Oi always kape resates—spishully Gov'ment wans. Oi got it safe and cosy in me pocket-book.'

2. (venery).—To possess carnally. [Said indifferently of, and by, both sexes.] For synonyms, see **GREENS**.

**TO HAVE HAD IT**, verb. phr. (venery).—To have been seduced.

**TO HAVE (OR TAKE) IT OUT OF ONE,** verb. phr. (colloquial).—To punish; to retaliate; to extort a *quid pro quo*; to give tit for tat.

**TO HAVE IT OUT WITH ONE,** verb. phr. (colloquial).—To speak freely in reproof; to complete an explanation; to settle a dispute with either words or blows.

1886. **J. S. WINTER**, *Army Society*, ch. xix. Instead of going down to St. Eve's and having it out, he fretted, and worried, and fumed the six days away.

1888. *Daily News*, 8 Dec. There was a question as to who struck the first blow, but it seemed to him certain that a man who crossed the road to have it out with another was the most likely to have commenced hostilities.

**HAVERCAKE-LADS**, subs. phr. (Military).—The Thirty-third Foot. [From the circumstance that its recruiting sergeants always preceded their party with an oatcake on their swords.]

**TO HAVE ON,** verb. phr. (colloquial).—To secure a person's interest, attention, sympathy: generally with a view to deceiving him (or her).

**TO HAVE TOWARDS (OR WITH, OR AT),** verb. phr. (old).—r. To pledge in drinking; to toast. See **HERE**.

1836. **M. SCOTT**, *Tom Cringle's Log*, ch. ii. 'Have with you, boy—have with you,' shouted half-a-dozen other voices, while each stuck his oaken twig through the handkerchief that held his bundle, and shouldered it, clapping his straw or tarpaulin hat, with a slap on the crown, on one side of his head, and staggering and swaying about under the influence of the poteen.

2. (common).—To agree with

**TO HAVE ON TOAST,** verb. phr. (common).—r. To take in.

2. (common).—To worst in argument.

**TO HAVE ON THE RAWS,** verb. phr. (common).—To tease; to touch to the quick.

**TO LET ONE HAVE IT,** verb. phr. (colloquial).—To punish severely.

1848. **RUXTON**, *Life in the Far West*, p. 8. 'Hurraw, Dick, mind your hair,' and I ups old Greaser and let one Injun have it, as was going plum into the boy with his lance.

**HAVE UP,** verb. phr. (colloquial).—To bring before the authorities; to summons (q.v.).
HAVEY-CAVEY, adj. (old).—Uncertain; doubtful; shilly-shally.
1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v.
1859. Matzell, Vocabulum, s.v.

HAVIL, subs. (old).—A sheep. For synonyms, see WOOL-BIRD.
1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v.
1859. Matzell, Vocabulum, s.v.

HAVOCK, subs. (old: now recognised).—Devastation; waste.
1607. Shakspeare, Julius Caesar, iii., 1. Cry havock, and let slip the dogs of war.
1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. They made sad havock, they destroy'd all before 'em.

HAWCUBITE, subs. (old).—A roysterer; a street bully. [After the Restoration there was a succession of these disturbers of the peace: first came the Muns, then followed the Tityre Tus, the Hectors, the Scourers, the Nickers, the Hawcubites, and after them the MOHAWKS (q.v.).]

HAWK, subs. (common).—1. A card-shaper; a Rook (q.v.).
1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Hawk also signifies a sharer, in opposition to pigeon.
1891. New York Herald [London ed.], 31 May. These were hawks and pigeons, and those who are no longer pigeons, and never had, or will have, an inclination to be hawks.

2. (common).—A bailiff; a constable. For synonyms, see BEAK.

1831. Ainsworth, Rookwood, bk. I., ch. iii. 'The game's spoiled this time, Rob Rust, anyhow,' growled one, in an angry tone; 'the hawks are upon us, and we must leave this brave buck to take care of himself.'

Verb (old).—See quot.

1589. Nashe, Anatomie. Whereas, by their humming and hawkling, they have leisure to gesture the mislike of his rudeness.

1600. Shakspeare, As You Like It, v., 3. Shall we clap into 't roundly, without hawkling, or spitting, or saying we are hoarse?

1604. Marston, Malcontent, ii., 2. Is he troubled with the cough of the lungs still? Does he hawke a night's?

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant Crew, s.v. . . . . . . . Also spitting difficulty.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. . . . Hawkling, an effort to spit up the thick phlegm, called oysters, whence it is wit upon record, to ask the person so doing, whether he has a license, a punning allusion to the act of hawkers and pedlars.

1815. Scott, Guy Mannering, ch. xlii. This tremendous volley of superlatives which Sampson hawked up from the pit of his stomach.

1822. Byron, Vision of Judgment, xc. To cough and hawk, and hem, and pitch His voice into that awful note of woe.

WARE HAWK! phr. (old).—A warning; look sharp! See subs. sense 2.

d. 1529. Skelton, Ware Hawk (Title).

1625. Jonson, Staple of News, v. 2. See! the whole covey is scattered; ware, ware the hawks!

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Hawk, ware hawk, the word to look sharp, a bye-word when a bailiff passes.

1815. Scott, Guy Mannering, ch. iii. Ware hawk! Douse the Glim.

TO HAWK ONE'S MEAT, verb. phr. (common).—To peddle one's charms, i.e., to show a great deal of neck and breasts. Fr., montrer sa viande.

HAWK-A-MOUTHED, adj. phr. (old).—See quot.
Hawker.  

283  Hay-pitcher.

c. 1750. Dialogue in the Devonshire Dialect (Palmer, 1839) s.v. One that is perpetually hawking and spitting; also foul-mouthed.

Hawker, subs. (old: now recognised).—A pedlar.


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Hawkers, licensed itinerant retailers of different commodities, called also pedlars; likewise the sellers of newspapers.

Hawking, verb. subs. (old: now recognised).—Peddling; offering small wares for sale from door to door. Also see quot. 1690.


Hawk-eye State, subs. phr. (American).—Iowa. [After the famous Indian chief.]

Hay. To make hay, verb. phr. (University).—To throw into confusion; to turn topsy-turvy; to knock to pieces in argument or single combat. Also, to kick up a row.

1861. H. Kingsley, Ravenshoe, ch. vii. The fellows were mad with fighting too. I wish they hadn't come here and made hay afterwards.

To dance the hay, verb. phr. (old).—See quot.

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. To Dance the Hay. To make hay while the sun shines, or make good use of one's time.

Hay-bag, subs. (thieves').—A woman. [I.e., something to lie upon.] For synonyms, see petticoat. Fr., une paillassise.


Hay-band, subs. (common).—A common cigar. For synonyms, see weed.

1864. Glasgow Herald, 9 Nov., q.v.

Haymarket-hector, subs. (old).—A prostitute's bully. See Hector.

c. 1675. Marvell, Cutting of Sir John Coventry's Nose, vi. O ye Haymarket Hectors!

Haymarket-ware, subs. (common).—A common prostitute. For synonyms, see barrack-hack and tart.

Hay-pitcher (or hay-seed), subs. (American).—A countryman. Cf., gape-seed.


1888. New York World. 'I wouldn'thev come into his shop if I had known it,' protested the imitation hay-pitcher.

1890. Norton, Political Americanisms, p. 53. Hayseeds—rustics. The 'Hayseed delegation' in a State legislature is supposed to consist of farmers or their representatives.

1890. Judge, 'Christmas No.' p. 31. Them two fellers... has been passin' d'rog'tory remarks about that Hayseed's ears.

1893. Clark Russell, Life of the Merchant Sailor, in Scribner's, xiv, 8. Hired by the State to court the Hayseed to the tenders.

HAYS! intj. (American).—An injunction to be gone; GIT (q.v.).

HAZE, subs. (American).—Be-wilderment; confusion; FOG (q.v.).

HAZE, verb (American).—1. To play tricks or practical jokes; to frolic. Hence, HAZING. Also to mystify or FOG (q.v.).

Hazy, adj. (old: now recognised).—1. See quot.

Hazy Weather, when it is Thick, Misty, Foggy.

2. (common).—Stupid with drink; MIXED (q.v.). For synonyms, see DRINKs and SCREWED.

HEAD, subs. (nautical).—1. A man-of-war's privy.

HEAD, subs. (nautical).—2. The obverse of a coin or medal. HEADs or TAILS?—Guess whether the coin...
spun will come down with head uppermost or not. [The side not bearing the Sovereign's head has various devices: Britannia, George and the Dragon, a harp, the Royal arms, an inscription, etc.—all included in the word 'tail,' i.e., the reverse of 'head.' The Romans said HEADS or SHIPS?]

3. (old).—An arrangement of the hair; a coiffure.

1773. Goldsmith, She Stoops to Conquer, ii., 10. Pray how do you like this head? ... I dressed it myself from a print in the Ladies' Memorandum Book for last year.

To HAVE AT ONE'S HEAD, verb. phr. (old).—To cuckold.

1640. Gough, Strange Discovery. Not if you stay at home, and warm my bed; but if you leave me, HAVE AT YOUR HEAD.

To TAKE ONE IN THE HEAD, verb. phr. (old).—To come into one's mind.

1609. Holland, Amoenanus Marcellinus. Now, it tooke him in the head, and incensed was his desires (seeing Gaule now quited) to set first upon Constantius.

To DO ON HEAD, verb. phr. (old).—To act rashly.

1559. Eliot, Dict. Abruptum ingenium, a rash brayne that dooth all things on head.

To DO ON ONE'S HEAD, phr. (thieves').—To do easily and with joy.

To FLY AT THE HEAD, verb. phr. (old).—To attack; to go for (q.v.).

1614. Terence in English. Fellow servant, I can very hardly refraine my selfe, but that I must needes FLEE AT THE HEAD OF HIM.

2. (colloquial). — To froth malt liquors. [*E.g., ‘Put a head on it, Miss,’ addressed to the barmaid, is a request to work the engine briskly, and make the liquor take on a cauliflower (q.v.).*]

**Heads I win, tails you lose, phr. (common).** — A gage of certainty = In no case can I fail: I hold all the trumps.

1890. *Welfare*, Mar., p. 8, c. 1. A director holding shares to the extent of £50 will draw a yearly recognition of his patronage to the tune of £100. It is unnecessary to ask whether such a course of speculation follows the principle of tails you lose, heads I win.

**To get the head into chancery, verb. phr. (formerly pugilists' now common).** — To get the other fighter's head under one arm and hold it there; a position of helplessness. *See Chancery.*

1892. *Milliken, 'Arry Ballads*, p. 43. That's what I meant when I said that that joker, whose name I've forgotten 'ad 'it the right nail on the 'ead.

**To argue (or talk) one's head off, verb. phr. (common).** — To be extremely disputative or loquacious; to be all jaw (q.v.).


**To bundle out head (or neck) and heels, verb. phr. (common).** — To eject with violence.

**To have no head, verb. phr. (common).** — 1. (of persons). To lack ballast; to be crack-brained. *See Apartments to let.* Hence, to have a head on = to be cute, alert; to have sand (q.v.).
Head. 287  Head-beetler.

1888. Lynch, Mountain Mystery, ch. 2. Caledonia was declared to possess a Coroner with a head, and a very good one on him, and a messenger was sent to rouse him.

2. (of malt liquors).—To be flat. See Cauliflower.

To have a head, verb. phr. (common).—To experience the after-effects of heavy drinking (cf., mouth); also to have a head-ache. For synonyms, see Screwed.

To give one his head, verb. phr. (common).—To give one full and free play; to let go.

To have maggots in the head, verb. phr. (common).—To be crotchety, whimsical, freakish; to have a bee in one’s bonnet. For synonyms, see Apartments.

To hurt in the head, verb. phr. (old).—To cuckold; to corrupt.

To lie heads and tails, verb. phr. (common).—To sleep packed sardine fashion, i.e., heads to head-rail and foot-rail alternately.

Over head and ears (in work, love, debt, etc.), phr. (common).—Completely engrossed in; infatuated with; to the fullest extent.

1589. Nashe, Pasquill of England (Grosart), i. 114. Presently he fetcheth his seas himselfe, and leaps very boldly over heade and eares.

1735. Granville (quoted in Johnson’s Dict., s.v. Head). In jingling rimes well fortified and strong, He fights intrenched o’er head and ears in song.

Without head or tail, adv. phr. (common).—Incoherent; neither one thing nor the other. E.g., I can’t make head or tail of it = I cannot make it out.

1728. Vanbrugh, Journey to London, iv. He had the insolence to intrude into my own dressing room here, with a story without a head or tail.

1736. Fielding, Pasquin, v. Take this play, and bid ’em forthwith act it; there is not in it either head or tail.

1874. Mrs. H. Wood, Johnny Ludlow, 1st Series, No. 12, p. 203. Mrs. Blair has been writing us a strange rigmarole, which nobody can make head or tail of.

1891. W. C. Russell, Ocean Tragedy, p. 22. There is nothing to make heads or tails of in it that I can see.

To have a head like a sieve, verb. phr. (common).—To be unreliable; to be forgetful.

Heads out! phr. (American university).—A warning cry on the approach of a master.

Arse over head. See Arse and Heels over head.

Mutton-head (or headed). See Mutton-head.

Fat (or soft) in the head, adv. phr. (common).—Stupid. For synonyms, see Apartments.

Off one’s head, adv. phr. (common).—Stupid; crazy. For synonyms, see Apartments.

Shut your head, phr. (American).—‘Hold your jaw.’

Head-beetler, subs. (workmen’s).—1. A bully; and (2) a foreman; a ganger (g.v.).

1886. Chambers’ Journal, 18 Sept., p. 599. Head-beetler is used (in Ulster) in the same vulgar sense as ‘Head-cook and bottle-washer’ in some localities. The ‘beetle’ was a machine for producing figured fabrics by the pressure of a roller, and head-beetler probably means the chief director of this class of work.
HEAD-BLOKE. See HEAD-SCREW.

HEAD-BULLY (or -CULLY). — See quotas.

HEAD BULLY OF THE PASS OR PASSAGE BANK. The Top Tilter of the Gang, throughout the whole Army, who Demands and receives Contribution from all the Pass Banks in the Army.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

2. (common). — One in authority; a boss (q.v.). Cf., HEAD-BEETLER.


HEAD-CLERK. HEAD-CLERK OF DOXOLOGY WORKS, subs. phr. (American). — A parson. See DEVIL-DODGER.

1869. Clemens (Mark Twain), Innocents at Home, ch. ii. If I’ve got the rights of it, and you are the HEAD CLERK OF THE DOXOLOGY WORKS next door.

HEADER, subs. (tailors’). — A notability; a BIG-WIG (q.v.).

TO TAKE A HEADER, verb. phr. (colloquial). — I. To plunge, or fall, head foremost, into water: and (theatrical), to take an apparently dangerous leap in sensational drama. Hence, to go straight and directly for one’s object.

1856. Inside Sebastopol, ch. xiv. We may surely shut the door and take a HEADER.
1863. Fun, 4 Apr., p. 23. Did the chairman commence the proceedings by TAKING A TREMENDOUS HEADER ... a verbatim report might be interesting.

1884. W. C. Russell, Jack’s Courtship, ch. vii. ‘Miss Hawke,’ said I, plucking up my heart for a HEADER and going in, so to speak, with my eyes shut and my hands clenched.

HEAD-FRUIT, subs. (old). — Horns: i.e., the result of being cuckolded.

1694. Congreve, Double Dealer, ii., 3. That boded horns: the FRUIT of the HEAD is horns.

HEAD-GUARD, subs. (thieves’). — A hat; specifically, a billy-cock.

1889. Clarkson and Richardson, Police, p. 21. A billy-cock, a HEAD-GUARD.

HEADING, subs. (American cow-boys’). — A pillow; any rest for the head.

HEADING ’EM, subs. phr. (streets). — The tossing of coins in gambling. (In allusion to the head on the coin.)

HEAD-MARKED, adj. (venery). — Horned. To know by HEAD-MARK = to know (a cuckold) by his horns.

HEADQUARTERS, subs. (racing). — Newmarket. (Being the chief racing and training centre.)

1888. Sportsman, 28 Nov. Of the two-year olds that ran ... races for them are the strong point of that particular gathering at HEADQUARTERS.

HEAD-RAILS, subs. (old nautical). — The teeth. For synonyms, see GRINDERS.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1853. Bradley, [Cuthbert Bede] Verdant Green, Pt. II., ch. iv. He had agreeable remarks for each of his opponents ... to another he would cheerfully remark, ‘your HEAD-RAILS were loosened there, wasn’t they?’

HEAD-ROBBER, subs. (journalists’). — 1. A plagiarist.
2. (popular).—A butler.

**HEAD-SCREW** (or **BLOKE**), sub. (prison).—A chief warder.

**HEADY, adj.** (old: now recognised).
—1. See quot.

2. (colloquial).—Restive; full of arrogance and airs; opinionated.
1864. *National Review*, p. 535. I think it's the novels that make my girls so heady.

**HEADY-WHOP, sub.** (streets).—A person with a preternaturally large head. (A corruption of WHOPPING-HEAD (*q.v.*).)

**HEALTHERIES, sub.** (common).—The Health Exhibition, held at South Kensington. [Others of the series were nick-named The Fisheries, The Colinderies, The Forestries, etc.]

**HEAP, sub.** (colloquial).—A large number; lots; a great deal.
1861. *Hughes, Tom Brown at Oxford*, ch. xxxv. I sha'n't see her again, and she wont hear of me for I don't know how long; and she will be meeting heeps of men.
1885. *Punch*, 4 July, p. 4. 'Splendid sight,' he goes on, 'heaps of people—people you don't see anywhere else—and lots of pretty girls.'
1888. *Texas Siftings*, 20 Oct. He did not encroach on the domain of familiarity, but he looked a heap.
1892. *Gunter, Miss Dividends*, xi. Every one here would do a heap for Bishop Tranyon's darter.

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*Adv.* (American).—A great deal.

**ALL OF A HEAP, phr.** (old: now colloquial).—Astonished; confused; taken aback; FLABBERGAST (*q.v.*); and (pugilists') 'doubled up.'
1775. Fielding, *Tom Jones*, bk. VIII., ch. ii. My good landlady was (according to vulgar phrase) struck all of a heap by this relation.
1782. *Egan, Book of Sports*, s.v. *All of a heap* and all of a lump, unmistakably doubled up by a smasher.
1836. Dickens, *Pickwick*. 'And what's the lady's name?' says the lawyer. My father was struck all of a heap. 'Blessed if I know,' said he.
1891. *Scots' Mag.*, Oct., p. 321. Spinks and Durward were struck, as we may say, all of a heap, when they fully realised that Folio had disappeared.

**HEAPED, adj.** (racing).
—1. Hard put to it; FLOORED (*q.v.*).
1884. Hawley Smart, *From Post to Finish*, p. 158. They've all heard of Blackton's accident, and fancy we're fairly heaped for someone to ride.

2. (venery).—Piled in the act.
Hear. 290

HEAR. To hear a bird sing (old).—To receive private communication; in modern parlance, a little bird told me so.

1598. Shakspere, 2 Henry IV., v., 5. I will lay odds, that ere this year expire, we bear our civil swords and native fire as far as France. I hear a bird so sing.

HEARING, subs. (common).—A scolding; a lecture. For synonyms, see Wigging.

HEARING-CHEATS, subs. (old cant).—The ears.

1567. Harman, Caveat, s.v.

HEARING CHEATS; subs. (old cant).—The ears.

1567. Harman, Caveat, s.v.

ENGLISH SYNONYMS.—Drums; flappers; leathers; lugs (Scots'); taps; wattles.

FRENCH SYNONYMS.—Les plats à barbe (popular = large ears); les oches or locbes (thieves'); les tigourilles (popular); des feuilles de chou (popular = cabbage leaves); des écoutes or écoutes (popular = hearing cheats); des cliquettes (popular).

GERMAN SYNONYMS.—Horcher (= the listener); Linzer, Loser, (Viennese: also Losling, Leusling, Leisling, or Lauschling): Osen.

HEART. Next the heart, adv. phr. (old).—Fasting.

1592. Nashe, Pierce Penilesse [Grosart], ii., 37. You may command his hart out of his belly, to make you a rasher on the coales, if you will next your heart.

1633. Rowley, Match at Midnight, i. Made drunk next her heart.

[Other colloquial usages are at heart = in reality, truly, at bottom; for one's heart = for one's life; in one's heart of hearts = in the inmost recesses of oneself; to break the heart of = (a) to cause great grief, or to kill by grief, and (b) to bring nearly to completion; to find in one's heart = to be willing; to get or learn by heart = to commit to memory; to have at heart = to feel strongly about; to have in the heart = to design or to intend; to lay or take to heart = to be concerned or anxious about; to set the heart at rest = to tranquilize; to set the heart on = to be desirous of, to be fond of; to take heart of grace = to pluck up courage.]

HEART-AND-DART, subs. (rhyming). A fart (q.v.).

HEARTBREAKER, subs. (old).—A pendant curl; a love-lock (q.v.). Fr., un crévecœur.

1663. Butler, Hudibras. Pt. I., c. 1. Like Samson's heartbreakers, it grew in time to make a nation rue.

1694. Ladies' Dict. A créveceur, by some called heartbreaker, is the curled lock at the nape of the neck, and generally there are two of them.

1816. Johnson, Eng. Dict, s.v. A cant name for a woman's curls, supposed to break the hearts of all her lovers.

HEARTBURN, subs. (streets).—A bad cigar. For synonyms, see Weed.

HEARTSEASE, subs. (old).—A. See e quot.


HEARTSEASE. A twenty-shilling piece.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

2. (old).—Gin. For synonyms, see White Satin.


HEARTS-EASE. An ordinary sort of strong water.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

HEARTY, subs. and adj. (common).—Drink; drunk. For synonyms, see Drinks and Screwed.
MY HEARTY, phr. (nautical).—A familiar address.

HEARTY - CHOKE. To have a hearty choke and caper sauce for breakfast, verb, phr. (old).—To be hanged. Cf., vegetable breakfast, and for synonyms, see Ladder.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1834. AINSWORTH, 'Rookwood,' 'Nix my Doly,' Who cut his last fling with great applause To a hearty choke with caper sauce.

1893. DANVERS, The Grantham Mystery, ch. xiii, I am not particularly anxious to run the risk of being compelled to have a hearty-choke for breakfast one fine morning.

HEAT, subs. (racing and colloquial).—A bout; a turn; a trial; by whose means the 'field' is gradually reduced. Cf., Handicap.

1681. Dryden, Epit. to Saunders's Tamerlaine, 25. But there's no hope of an old battered jade; Faint and unnerved he runs into a sweat, And always fails you at the second heat.

1751. SMOLLETT, Peregrine Pickle, ch. lxxxviii. Our adventurer had the satisfaction of seeing his antagonist distanced in the first and second heats.

1753. Adventure, No. 37. The first heat I put my master in possession of the stakes.

1819. SCOTT, Bride of Lammermoor, ch. xxii. There was little to prevent Bucklaw himself from sitting for the county—he must carry the heat—must walk the course.

ON HEAT, subs. phr. (venery).—Amorously inclined, HOT (q.v.). [Said of women and bitches.]

HEATHEN - PHILOSOPHER, subs. (old).—See quot.

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. A sorry poor tatter'd Fellow, whose breech may be seen through his pocket-holes.


1785. Grose, Dict. Vulg. Tongue, s.v. This saying arose from the old philosophers, many of whom despised the vanity of dress to such a point, as often to fall into the excess complained of.

HEAVE, subs. (old).—1. An attempt to deceive or cajole: a dead-Heave = a flagrant attempt.

2. in. pl. (American).—An attack of indigestion or vomiting.

Verb (American).—1. To vomit.


2. (old).—To rob: has survived, in Shropshire, as a provincialism. The heler (hider) is as bad as the Heaver = the receiver is as bad as the thief.

1567. Harmen, Caveat, p. 66. To heue a bough, to robbe or rifle a boweth.

1575. AWEDELY, Fraternity of Vacabondes. But his chiefest trade is to rob bowthes in a faire, or to pilfer ware from staules, which they cal heaving of the bowth.

1608. Dekker, Belman of London in Wks. (Grosart) III., 102. But the end of their land-voiages is to rob Boothes at fayres, which they call Heaving of the Booth.


1748. T. Dyche, Dictionary, (5th Ed.). Heave (v.) . . . and in the Canting Language, it is to rob or steal from any person or thing.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. To Heave on (or ahead), verb, phr. (old).—To make haste; to press forward.

1833. Markyate, Peter Simple, ch. iv. Come heave ahead, my lads, and be smart.
Heaven.

Heaven, subs. (venery). — The female pudendum. For synonyms, see Monosyllable. To feel one's way to heaven = to grope (q.v.) a woman. See also, St. Peter.

Heavenly-collar, (or lappel), subs. (tailors'). — A collar or lappel that turns the wrong way.

Heaver, subs. (old). — 1. The bosom; the pantier (q.v.).
   1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

2. (American). — A person in love: i.e., sighing (= heaving the bosom, or making play with the heaver) like a furnace.


Heavy. See Heavy-wet.

Adj. (American). — Large: e.g., a heavy amount = a considerable sum of money.

To come (or do) the heavy, verb. phr. (common). — To affect a vastly superior position; to put on airs or frills (q.v.). See Come and Do.

The heavies, subs. phr. (military). — The regiments of Household Cavalry, 4th and 5th Dragoon Guards, and 1st and 2nd Dragoons. [From their equipment and weight.]

1841. Lever, Chas. O'Malley, ch. lviii. I'm thinking we'd better call out the heavies by turns.

Heavy-arsed (old colloquial), adj. phr. — Slow to move; inert; hard to stir. See Arse.

Heavy-Cavalry (or dragoons), subs. (common). — Bugs; light-infantry=fleas. Also heavy horsemens, the heavy troop, and the heavies.

Heavy-grog, subs. (workmen's). — Hard work.

Heavy-grubber, subs. (common). — 1. A hearty eater; a glutton. For synonyms, see Stodger.

1858. Dickens, Great Expectations, ch. xl., p. 190. 'I'm a heavy gruber, dear boy,' he said, as a polite kind of apology when he had made an end of his meal, but I always was. If it had been in my constitution to be a lighter gruber, I might ha' got into lighter trouble.'


1848. Duncombe, Sinks of London, s.v.

Heavy-(or howling-)swell, subs. (common). — A man or woman in the height of fashion: a spiff (q.v.).

1892. Anstey, Model Music Hall, 74. We look such heavy swells, you see, we're all aristo-crats.

Heavy-wet, subs. (common). — I. Malt liquor; specifically porter and stout. Also heavy. For synonyms, see Drinks and Swipes.

1821. Egan, Tom and Jerry, p. 75. The soldiers and their companions were seen toasting off the heavy wet and spirits.

1830. Lytton, Paul Clifford, ch. vii. I had been lushing heavy wet.

1838. Grant, Sketches in London, p. 92. If it be heavywet, the favorite beverage . . . of Dr. Wade.

1849. C. Kingsley, Alton Locke, ch. ii. Here comes the heavy. Hand it here to take the taste of that fellow's talk out of my mouth.
1852. Judson, Mysteries of New York, bk. II., ch. x. What'll it be, my covies? Heavy wet, cold or warm?

1888. J. Runciman, The Chequers, p. 86. Mother up with your heavy wet and try suthin' short.

2. (common).—An extraordinarily heavy drinking bout.

Hebe, subs. (old).—1. See quo's.

1648-9. Crashaw, Poems. ‘On the Death of Mr. H.’ Ere hebe’s hand had overlaid His smooth cheeks with a downy shade.

1778. Bailey, Eng. Dict., s.v. The first hair appearing about the genital parts; also the parts themselves; but more specifically the time of youth at which it first appears.

2. (common).—A waiting maid at an inn; a barmaid.

1603. J. Sylvestor, Tr. Du Barts, Mag., p. 65 (1608). Heer, many a Hebe faire, heer more than one Quickserving Chiron neatly waits upon the beds and boords.

1815. Scott, Guy Mannering, ch. xlix. Shortly after the same Hebe brought up a plate of beef-colllops.

1849-61. Macaulay, Hist. of Eng., ch. xvi. To play the Hector at cockpits or hazard tables.

Hebrew, subs. (common).—Gibberish; Greek (q.v.). To talk Hebrew = to talk nonsense or gibberish.

1705. Vanbrugh, Confederacy, ii., Mon. If she did but know what part I take in her sufferings—. Flip. Mighty obscure. Mon. Well, I’ll say no more; but—. Flip. All Hebrew.

1823. Bee, Dict. of the Turf, s.v. You may as well talk Hebrew, said of jargon.

Hector, subs. (old).—A bully; a blusterer.

1659. Lady Alimony, ii, 6 (Dodsley, Old Plays, 4th ed., 1875, xiv., 322). Hectors, or champion baxter's, pimps or palliards. Ibid, iii., I., (p. 326). Levelling at honour, they declare themselves glorious Hectors,

b. 1670. J. Hacket, Archbp. Williams, ii., 203. One Hector, a phrase at that time for a daring rufian, had the ear of great ones sooner than five strict men.

1874. Cotton, Complete Gamester, p. 333. Shoals of Huffs, Hectors, Setters, Gilts, Pads... And these may all pass under the general or common appellation of Rooks.

1877. Wycherley, Plain Dealer, iv., i. She would rather trust her honour with some dissolute debauched Hector.

1879. Butler, Hudibras, iii., 2, 168. As bones of Hectors when they differ Th’are Cudgel’d, grow the Stiffer.

1886. Athenaeum, 9 Jan., 63/2. It is not with the Colonel’s Hecters, however, that the manoeuvres of the military quintet are carried on.

1891. Sportsman, 25 Mar. Not even the kindly morning welcome of La Rerdon, most pleasant and courteous of dainty Hecters, could blot out the fact.

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so ill thereafter that he died a beggar by the roadside.

**Hectoring**, subs. and adj. (old: now recognised). — Bullying; blustering.


**Hedge**, subs. (racing).—See verbal sense.

1856. Hughes, *Tom Brown*, p. 200. Now listen, you young fool, you don't know anything about it; the horse is no use to you. He won't win, but I want him as a hedge.

1884. *Eton Schooldays*, ch. vii. He took the precaution to take those odds five or six times by way of a hedge, in case anything should happen to Chorley.

**Verb** (racing).—1. To secure oneself against, or minimise the loss on a bet by reversing on advantageous terms; TO GET OUT (q.v.). [Thus, if a man backs A to win him £100 at 5 to 1, he will if possible Hedge by laying (say) 3 to 1 to the amount of (say) £60 against him. He will then stand thus: If A wins he gains on the first bet £100, and loses on the second £60, leaving a net gain of £40; if A loses he loses on the first bet £20, and wins on the second £20, thus clearing himself.] See STANDING ON VELVET and GO.

1616. Jonson, *Devil is an Ass*, iii., 1. I must have you do A noble gentleman a courtesy here. In a mere toy, some pretty ring or jewel, Of fifty or threescore pound. Make it a hundred, And Hedge in the last forty that I owe you, And your own price for the ring.

1671. Buckingham, *The Rehearsal*, Prol. Now, critics, do your worst, that here are met, For, like a rook, I have HEG'D in my bet.


1748. T. Dyche, *Dictionary* (5th ed.). Hedge (v.) ... also to secure or re-insure a dangerous debt, voyage, wager, etc.

1751. Smollett, *Peregrine Pickle*, ch. lix. They changed their note, and attempted to Hedge for their own indemnification, by proposing to lay the odds in favour of Gauntlet.


1854. Whyte Melville, *General Bounce*, ch. xii. If she says 'Yes,' sell out ... If she says 'No' get second leave ... So it's HEG'D both ways.


2. (common).—To elude a danger.

TO DIE BY THE HEDGE, verb. phr. (common). — To die in poverty.

TO HANG IN THE HEDGE, verb. phr. (old).—See quot.


AS COMMON AS THE HEDGE (or HIGHWAY), phr. (old).—Very common.

1690. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. As common as the Hedge or Highway, said of a prostitute or Strumpet.


By Hedge or by Crook. See Hook.
HEDGE-BIRD, subs. (old). — See quot.


1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew. HEDGE-BIRD, a Scoundrel or sorry Fellow


HEDGE-BOTTOM ATTORNEY (or SOLICITOR), subs. phr. (legal). — A person who, being not admitted or being uncertificated (or, it may be, admitted and certificated both, but struck off the rolls for malpractice), sets up in the name of a qualified man, and thus evades the penalties attaching to those who act as solicitors without being duly qualified. [All the business is done in another name, but the hedge-bottom is the real principal, the partner being only a dummy.]

— Sir Patrick Colquhoun in Slang, Jargon and Cant.

HEDGE-CREEPER, subs. (old). — A hedge-thief; a skulker under hedges; a pitiful rascal.

1594. Nashe, Unfortunate Traveller p. 32 (Chiswick Press, 1892). Call him a sneaking eavesdropper, a scraping HEDGE-CREEPER, and a piperley pickthank.

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. HEDGE-CREEPER; a pitiful rascal.


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.


HEDGE-MARRIAGE (or WEDDING), subs. (old). — An irregular marriage performed by a HEDGE-PRIEST (q.v.); a marriage over the broom.

HEDGE-NOTE, subs. (old). — Low writing. [As Dryden: ‘They left these HEDGE-NOTES for another sort of poem.’]
HEDGER.  296  Heel.

1822. Scott, Fortunes of Nigel, ch. xvii. A hedge-parson, or buckle-beggar, as that order of priesthood has been irreverently termed.

HEDGER, See HEDGE, sense 2.

1828-45. Hood, Poems (Ed. 1846), p. 96. A black-leg saint, a spiritual HEDGER.

HEDGE-SCHOOL, subs. (Irish).—A school in the country parts of Ireland formerly conducted in the open air, pending the erection of a permanent building to which the name was transferred. Hence, HEDGE-SCHOOLMASTER.

HEDGE-SQUARE. To DOSS (or SNOOZE) IN HEDGE-SQUARE (or STREET), verb. phr. (vagrants'). —To sleep in the open air.

ENGLISH SYNONYMS. — To skipper it; to doss with the daisies; to be under the blue blanket; to put up at the Gutter Hotel; to do a star pitch.

FRENCH SYNONYMS. — Coucher à l'hôtel de la belle étoile (pop. = to sleep at the Star Hotel); manger une soupe aux herbes (popular); fiher la comète (popular = to nose the comet); coucher dans le lit aux pois verts.

1877. Greenwood, Under the Blue Blanket. The vagrant brotherhood have several slang terms for sleeping out in a field or meadow. It is called 'snoozing in HEDGE SQUARE,' etc.

HEDGE-TAVERN (or -ALE-HOUSE), subs. (old).—See quot.

1890. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. HEDGE TAVERN or ALEHOUSE, A Jilting, Sharping Tavern, or Blind Alehouse.

1705. Farquhar, Twin-rivals, i, 1. That was . . . in the days of dirty linen, pit-masks, HEDGE-TAVERNS, and beef-steaks.


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

HEDGE-WHORE (or HEDGE-BIT), subs. (old: now recognised).—A filthy harlot working in the open air.

1598. Florio, A Worlde of Wordes, s.v., Zambracca, a common - HEDGE-WHORE, strumpet, a base harlot.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

HEDGING, subs. (racing). — See HEDGE, verbal sense 2.

1867. A. Trollope, Claverings, ch. xxiv. He would be lessening the odds against himself by a judicious Hedging of his bets.

HEEL. To BLESS THE WORLD WITH ONE'S HEELS, verb. phr. (old).—To be hanged. For synonyms, see LADDER.

1566-7. Painter, Palace of Pleasure, sign R., 8. And the next daye, the three theves were conveied forth to BLESSE THE WORLDE WITH THEIR HEELES.

To COOL (or KICK) THE HEELS, verb. phr. (common).—To wait a long while at an appointed place.

1614. Jonson, Bartholomew Fair. Who forthwith committed my little hot furie to the stockes, where we will leave him to COOLE HIS HEELES, whilst we take a further view of the faire.

1673. Wycherley, Gentleman Dancing Master, iv., 1. They ne'er think of the poor watchful chambermaid, who sits KNOCKING HER HEELS IN THE COLD, for want of better exercise, in some melancholy lobby or entry.

1752. Fielding, Amelia. In this parlour Amelia COOLED HER HEELS, as the phrase is, near a quarter of an hour.

1830. Lytton, Paul Clifford [Ed. 1854], p 22. He expected all who kicked their heels at his house would behave decent and polite to young Mr. Dot.

1833. Marrivat, Peter Simple, ch. xii. Tell him that I'll trouble him to forget to go to sleep again as he did last time, and leave me here KICKING MY HEELS contrary to the rules of the service.
Heel. 297  Heeler.

1879. Sala, Paris Herself Again, i.  We cooled our heels during the ordinary an intolerable half hour.

1888. Lynch, Mountain Mystery, ch. xlvi. That young gentleman, who had been cooling his heels for what seemed like half the night.

To lay by the heels, verb. phr. (common).—To confine; to fetter; to jail.

1601. Shakespeare, Henry VIII., v., 4. If the king blame me for it, I'll lay ye all by the heels, and suddenly.

1614. Jonson, Bartholomew Fair, iii. Sir, if you be not quiet the quicklier, I'll have you clapp'd fairly by the heels, for disturbing the Fair.

1663-1678. Butler, Hudibras, i., 3. Th' one half of man, his mind, is, sui juris, unconfined, and cannot be laid by the heels.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v.

1886. R. L. Stevenson, Kidnapped, p. 184. If they lay me by the heels, Alan, it's then that you'll be needing the money.

To lift one's heels, verb. phr. (venery).—To lie down for copulation; to spread (q.v.).

To turn (or topple) up the heels (or toes), verb. phr. (old).—To die. For synonyms, see aloft.

1592. Nashe, Pierce Penilesse {Grosart], ii., 77. Our trust is . . . you will tourne up their heelles one of these yeares together, and provide them of such vnthrits to their heires, as shall spend in one weeke . . . what they got . . . all their lifetime.

1599. Nashe, Lenten Stuffe. Leaven thousand and fifty people toppled up their heels.

To take to (or show) a pair of heels, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To take to flight; to run away. For synonyms, see amputate.


1884. Chambers' Journal, Dec. Once before he had 'found means yet at length to deceive his keepers, and took him to his heels' to the sea coast.

His heels, verb. phr. (gaming).—The knave of trumps at cribbage or all-fours. Hence 'two for his heels'—two points scored (at cribbage) for turning up this card.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v.

To tread upon (or to be at or upon) the heels, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To follow close or hard after; to pursue.

1888. Denver Republican, 29 Feb. The heelers and strikers, bummers and stuffers, otherwise known as practical...
politicians, who do the work at the Democratic polls, and manipulate the primaries and local conventions.

1888. New York Herald, 4 Nov. A band succeeded them and preceded a lot of ward heelers and floaters.

2. (American).—A bar, or other loafer; anyone on the lookout for shady work.

3. (American thieves')—An accomplice in the pocket-book racket (q.v.). [The heeler draws attention, by touching the victim's heels, to a pocket-book containing counterfeit money which has been let drop by a companion, with a view to inducing the victim to part with genuine coin for a division of the find.]

4. (Winchester College).—A plunge, feet foremost, into water. Fr., une chandelle.


1795. Gent. Mag., p. 118. Briskly pushed towards me the decanter containing a tolerable bumper, and exclaimed, 'Sir, I'll buzz you: come, no heel-taps!'

1836. Dickens, Pickwick (Ed. 1857), p. 10. No heel-taps, and he emptied the glass.

1838. Dickens, Nicholas Nickleby, ch. xxxii. There was a proper objection to drinking her in heel-taps.

1841. Punch, i., 117. Empty them heel-taps, Jack, and fill out with a fresh jug.

1841. Buckstone, The Maid with the Milking Pail. Added to which, she's a termagant, and imbibes all the heel-taps.

1855. Thackeray, Newcomes, ch. xiv. The relics of yesterday's feast—the emptied bottles . . . the wretched heel-taps that have been lying exposed all night to the air.

2. (common).—A dance peculiar to London dustmen.

Heifer, subs. (common).—A woman; old heifer (in Western America) = a term of endearment. For synonyms, see Petticoat.

18(?). In the Back Woods, p. 71. Now, git out, I says, or the ol' heifer 'll show you whar the carpenter left a hole for you to mosey.

Heifer-paddock, subs. (Australian).—A ladies' school.

1885. Mrs. Campbell-Praed, Australian Life. The cattle (women) hereabouts are too scattered . . . . Next year I shall look over a heifer-paddock in Sydney, and take my pick.

Heigh-ho, subs. (thieves').—Stolen yarn. [From the expression used to apprise the fence that the speaker had stolen yarn to sell.]

Heights. To scale the heights of connubial bliss, verb. phr. (venery).—To copulate. For synonyms, see Greens and Ride.

Helbat, subs. (back).—A table.

Hell, subs. (old).—1. Generic for a place of confinement, as in some games (Sydney), or a cell in a prison: specifically, a place under the Exchequer Chamber, where the king's debtors were confined.

1593. Shakspeare, Comedy of Errors, iv., 2. A hound that runs counter, and yet draws dry-foot well, One that before the judgement, carries poor souls to hell.

1558. Counter-Rat. In Wood Street's hole. or counter's hell.

1598. Florio, Worldes of Words, s.v. Secreta . . . . Also the name of a place in Venice where all their secret records and ancient evidences are kept, as hell is in Westminster Hall.
2. (old).—A workman's receptacle for stolen or refuse pieces, as cloth, type, etc.; one's eyf. Also hell-hole and hell-box.

See cabbage. hell-matter = (printers') old and battered type.

(?) Newest Academy of Compliments. When tailors forget to throw cabbage in hell, and shorten their bills, that all may be well.

1589. Nashe, Martin's Months Minde (Grosart), i. 185. Remember the shedders that fall into the tailors hell, never come back to cover your back.

1592. Defence of Conny Catching, in Greene's Wks., xi., 95. This hel is a place that the tailors have under their shopboard, where all their stolen shreds is thrust.

1606. Day, Ille of Gulls. That fellow's pocket is like a tailors hell; it eats up part of every man's due; 'tis an executioner, and makes away more innocent petitions in one yeere, than a red-headed hangman cuts ropes in an age.

1625. Jonson, Stile of News, i., T. That jest has gain'd thy pardon, thou hadst liv'd condemn'd to thine own hell.

1663. Killegrew, Parson's Wedding, iii., 5., in Dodsley, O.P. (1780) xi., 452. Careless [addressing a tailor]. Why then, thou art damned. Go, go home, and throw thyself into thine own hell; it is the next way to the other.

1665-1712. King, Art of Cookery. In Covent Garden did a tailor dwell, who might deserve a place in his own hell.

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. Hell, the place where the Taylers lay up their cabbage, or remnants, which are sometimes very large.

1704. Swift, Tale of a Tub, Sec. iii. The tailor's hell is the type of a critic's common-place book.

1705. New Cant. Dict., s.v.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1814. C. Lamb, Melancholy of Tailors in Poems, etc. (Ed. Ainger), p. 333. The tailor sitting over a cave or hollow place, in the cabalistic language of his order, is said to have certain melancholy regions always open under his feet.

1853. Notes and Queries, i., S., viii., 315, c. 2. The term cabbage, by which tailors designate the cribbed pieces of cloth, is said to be derived from an old word 'cables,' i.e., wind-fallen wood. And their hell where they store the cabbage, from helan, to hide.

3. (common).—A gambling house. [Whence silver-hell = a gambling house where only silver is played for; dancing-hell = an unchartered hall; and so forth.]


1841. Comic Almanack, p. 285. A man at a hell, playing the part of a bonnet well.

1849. Thackeray, Pendennis, ch. xxxix. He plays still; he is in a hell every night almost.

1890. Saturday Review, 1 Feb., p. 134, c. 2. These private hells nevertheless exist, and as all money found on the premises is seized by the police, the players have to resort to all kinds of subterfuge when the three loud knocks are heard which indicate the presence of the commissaire.

4. (venery).—The female pudendum; cf., heaven. For synonyms, see monosyllable. [See Boccaccio, Decameron.]

Heaven, hell and purgatory, subs. phr. (old).—Three ale-houses formerly situated near Westminster Hall.

1610. Jonson, Alchemist, v., 2. He must not break his fast in heaven or hell.

Hell broke loose, subs. phr. (common).—Extreme disorder; anarchy.

1632. Hausted, Rivall Friends, v., 10. Fye, fye, hell is broke loose upon me.

1672. Marvell, Rehearsal (Grosart), iii., 212. War broke out, and then to be sure hell's broke loose.

1703. Farquhar, Inconstant, iv., 4. Hell broke loose upon me, and all the furies fluttered about my ears.
1719. DURFEY, *Pills, etc.*, i., 96. Tho' hell's broke loose, and the Devils roar abroad.

**Hell of a** (lark, goer, row, and so forth), *adj. phr.* (common).—Very much of a —; a popular intensive.

**All to hell** (or gone to hell), *adj. phr.* (colloquial).—Utterly ruined.

**To hope** (or wish) to hell, *verb. phr.* (common).—To desire intensely.

1891. N. GOULD, *Double Event*, p. 229. I hope to h—— the horse will break his neck and his rider's too.

**To play** (or kick up) hell and tommy, *verb. phr.* (common).—To ruin utterly. Also, to play hell and break things; to raise hell; to make hell's delight.

1837-40. HALIBURTON, *The Clockmaker*, p. 287 (Ed. 1862). And in the mean time rob 'em, plunder 'em, and tax 'em; hang their priests, seize their galls, and play hell and tommy with them, and all because they speak French.

1859. DE QUINCEY, *Wks.* (4th vol., ed. vi., 336). About a hundred years earlier Lord Bacon played h—— and tommy when casually raised to the supreme seat in the Council by the brief absence in Edinburgh of the King and the Duke of Buckingham.

1867. *Lahore Chronicle*, 20 May. The Sepoys are burning down the houses, and playing h—— and tommy with the station.

1879. JUSTIN M'CARTHY, *Donna Quixote*, ch. xxxii. We'll have a fine bit of fun, I tell you. I've played hell-and-tommy already with the lot of them.

**To lead apes in hell**, *verb. phr.* (old).—To die an old maid. [From a popular superstition.]

1600. SHAKESPEARE, *Much Ado about Nothing*, ii., 1. He that is more than youth is not for me, and he that is less than man I am not for him; therefore I will even lead his apes into hell.

1605. *London Prodigal*, ii. But 'tis an old proverb, and you know it well, that women, dying maids, lead apes in hell.

1611. CHAPMAN, *May-day*, v. 2. I am beholden to her; she was loth to have me lead apes in hell.

1659. *The London Chanticleers*, i., 2. I'll always live a virgin! What! and lead apes in hell?

1719. DURFEY, *Pills, etc.*, i., 179. Celladon at that began to talk of apes in hell.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, 'Bloudie Jacke.' They say she is now leading apes... And mends Bachelors' small clothes below.

**To put the devil into hell**, *verb. phr.* (old).—To copulate.—BOCCACCIO. [HELL = female pudendum.] For synonyms, see Greens and Ride.

**To give hell**, *verb. phr.* (common).—To trounce; abuse; or punish severely. Also (American), *to make one smell hell* (or a damn particular smell).

**Hell-for-leather**, *adv. phr.* (common).—With the utmost energy and desperation.

1892. R. KIPLING, *Barrack Room Ballads*. When we rode hell-for-leather, Both squadrons together, Not caring much whether we lived or we died.

**Like hell**, *adv. phr.* (common).—Desperately; with all one's might.

1855. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, ch. xxix. I tried every place, everything; went to Ems, to Wiesbaden, to Hombourg, and played like hell.

**Go to hell**! *phr.* (common) —An emphatic dismissal: the full phrase is, 'Go to hell and help the devil to make your mother into a bitch pie.' [A variant is,
Hell-bender.

301 Hemp.

‘Go to hell and pump thunder.’ [For analagous phrases, see OATHS.

1836. Michael Scott, Cruise of the Midge, p. 72. So, good men, go to hell all of you—do—very mosh go to hell—do.

1889. *Daily News*, 21 Dec., p. 7. c. r. He was asked to see somebody about his evidence, and told him to go to hell.

1892. Kipling, Barrack Room Ballads. ‘Ford o’ Kabul River.’ Kabul town'll go to hell.

HELL AND SCISSORS! intj. (American).—An ejaculation of surprise and ridicule. In England, SCISSORS!

HELL-BENDER, subs. (American).—A drunken frolic; a tremendous row. Also HELL-A-POPPING and HELL'S DELIGHT.

HELL-BROTH, subs. (common).—Bad liquor. For synonyms, see DRINKS.

HELL-CAT (-HAG, -HOUND, -KITE, etc.), subs. (old: now recognised).—A man or woman of hellish disposition; a lewdster of either sex; cf., HALLION.


HELL-DRIVER, subs. (old).—A coachman.


HELLITE, subs. (gaming).—A professional gambler.—DUCANGE.

1838. Grant, Sketches in London. Prosecuting the HELLITES for assault.

HELLOPHONE, subs. (American).—The telephone. [From HALLOO! + PHONE.]

HELP, subs. (colloquial: once literary).—A hired assistant. LADY-HELP = a woman acting as a companion, and undertaking the lighter domestic duties with or without wages.


1889. De Quincey, Murder as one of the Fine Arts, ii. For domestic HELPS are pretty generally in a state of transition.

1848. Burton, Waggeries, p. 77. A bevvy of ready HELPS rushed upon him and tore him from the seat of honour.

1881. Hughes, *Tom Brown at Oxford*, ch. vi. ‘Well, you’ve had a pretty good day of it,’ said Tom, who had been hugely amused; ‘but I should feel nervous about the HELP, if I were you.’

SO HELP (or s’elp or s’welp) me GOD (Bob, never, or say-so, etc.), phr. (common).—An emphatic asseveration.

1888. J. Runciman, The Chequers, p. 86. I’ll pay it back, s’elp me GORD.

1892. A. Chevalier, ‘Mrs. ’Enery ’Awkins,’ SELP me Bob I’m crazy, Liza, you’re a daisy.

1892. Milliken, Arry Ballads, p. 62. ’SELP ME NEVER, old pal, it’s a scorcher.

1893. Emerson, Signor Lippo, ch. xiv. Well, so help my blessed tater, if this isn’t our old Jose turned up again.

HELPA, subs. (back).—An apple.

HELPLESS, adj. (colloquial).—Drunk. For synonyms, see DRINKS and SCREWED.

HEMISPHERES, subs. (venery).—The paps. For synonyms, see DAIRY.

HEMP (or HEMP-SEED, STRETCH-HEMP, HEMP-STRING, or HEMPY), subs. (old).—1. A rogue; a candidate fit for the gallows. Frequently used jocularly. A CRACK-HALTER (q.v.). Fr., une graine de bagne.
1532. Sir T. More, Wks. [1557], folio 715. [He] feareth not to mocke the Sacrament, the blessed body of God, and full like a Stretch HEMPE, call it but cake, bred, or starch.

1566. Gascoigne, Supposes, iv., 3. If I come near you, HEMPSRING, I will teach you to sing sol fa.

1598. Shakespeare, 2 Henry IV., ii., 1. Do, do, thou rogue, thou HEMPSEED.


1659. Lady Alimony, iv., 6. (Dodsley, Old Plays, 4th ed., 1875, xiv., p. 350). Now, you HEMPSRINGS, had you no other time to nim us but when we were upon our visits?

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. HEMP, YOUNG-HEMP, An appellation for a graceless boy.

1819 Scott, Bride of Lammermoor, ch. xvi. I wad wager twa and a plack that HEMP plaits his CRAVAT yet.

1823 Bee, Dict. Turf, s.v. HEMPEN HABEAS. He will get over it by a HEMPEN HABEAS.

1830 Lytton, Paul Clifford, ch. iv. If ever I know as how you makes a flat of my Paul, blow me tight, but I'll weave you a HEMPEN COLLAR: I'll hang you, you dog, I will.

1886 Miss Braddon, Mohawks, ch. xxviii. A full confession were perhaps too much to expect. Nothing but the immediate prospect of a HEMPEN NECKLACE would extort that.

HEMPEN-BRIDLE, subs. (old).—The hangman's noose; a halter. Also HEMP, and the HEARTY-CHOKE. Cf., ANODYNE NECK - LACE. See quot. 1595.

1530-95. Turner, Of Two Desperate Men. A man in deep despair, with HEMPE in hand, Went out in haste to ende his wretched days.

c. 1586. Marlowe, Jew of Malta, iv, 4. When the hangman had put on his HEMPE.

1594. Shakespeare, 2 Henry VI., iv., 7. Ye shall have a HEMPEN CANDLE then, and the pap of a hatchet.

c. 1785. Wollcot [P. Pindar], Rights of Kings, Ode xviii. Your HEMP CRAVATS, your pray'r, your Tyburn miser.

1839 Ainsworth, Jack Sheppard [1889], p. 76. She had been married four times; three of her husbands died of HEMP FEVERS.

HEMPEN FEVER. To die of a HEMPEN FEVER, verb. phr. (old).—To be hanged. For synonyms, see LADDER.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. HEMPEN FEVER, a man who was hanged, is said to have DIED OF A HEMPEN FEVER; and in Dorsetshire to have been stabbed with a Bridport dagger; Bridport being a place famous for manufacturing hemp into cords.

1839 Ainsworth, Jack Sheppard [1889], p. 76. She had been married four times; three of her husbands died of HEMP FEVERS.

HEMPEN-MORITURE, subs. (old).—Bad luck; a term for the gallows.
Hempen-squincy. 303

Hen-hearted.

1705. VANBRUGH, The Confederacy, v., 1. If ever I see one glance of your HEMPEN FORTUNE again, I'm off your partnership for ever.

HEMPEN-SQUINCY, subs. (old).—Hanging. For synonyms, see LADDER.

1646. RANDOLPH'S Jealous Lovers. Hear you, tutor, Shall not we be suspected for the murder, And choke with a HEMPEN SQUINCY.

HEMPEN-WIDOW, subs. (old).—A woman widowed by the gallows.

1650. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. HEMPEN WIDOW, One whose Husband was Hanged.

1725. New Cant Dict., s.v.

1748. T. DYCHE, Dictionary (5th Ed.). HEMPEN-WIDOW (s.), a woman whose husband was hanged.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

HENS AND CHICKENS, subs. phr. (thieves').—Pewter measures; quarts and pints. Cf., CAT AND KITTENS.

1851. H. MAYHEW, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, Vol. i., p. 276. The hens and chickens of the roguish low lodging-houses are the publicans' pewter measures; the bigger vessels are 'hens,' the smaller are 'chickens.'

HEN-DRINKING, subs. (provincial).—See quot.

1859. Notes and Queries, 2 S. viii., 239. There is yet another [Yorkshire marriage-custom], viz., the HEN-DRINKING. On the evening of the wedding day the young men of the village call upon the bridegroom for a hen—meaning money for refreshments . . . should the hen be refused, the inmates may expect some ugly trick to the house ere the festivities terminate.

HEN FRIGATE, subs. (nautical).—A ship commanded by the captain's wife. Cf., HEN-PECKED.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1883. CLARK RUSSELL, Sailors Language, s.v.

HEN-FRUIT, subs. (American).—Eggs.

HEN (or CHICKEN)-HEARTED, adj. (old: now recognised).—Timorous; cowardly.

d. 1529. SKELTON, Why Come Ye not to Courte. They kep them in their holdes Lyke HEN-HEARTED cuckoldes.

1506-56. UDAL, James I. He is reconed a lowte and a HENNE-HEARTED rascall.

1639-61. RUMP SONGS, i., [1662] 319. Let the hen-hearted Cid drink whey.

1748. T. DYCHE, Dictionary (5th Ed.). HEN-HEARTED, of a cowardly, fearful, or timorous disposition.

1754. B. MARTIN, Eng. Dict. (2nd Ed.), s.v. 'Poltron.' A coward, or HEN-HEARTED fellow.

1762. FOOKE, Liar, iii., 2. Why, what a dastardly, HEN-HEARTED—But come, Papillion, this shall be your last campaign.
Hen-house.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

HEN-HARTED . . . a low word.

1815. SCOTT, Guy Mannering, ch. xxviii. Are you turned HEN-HEARTED, Jack?

HEN-HOUSE, subs. (old).—See quot.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

HEN-HOUSE, a house where the woman rules, called also a she-house.

HEN OF THE GAME. See GAME.

HEN-PARTY (CONVENTION - or TEA-), subs. (common). — An assemblage of women for political or social purposes. Cf., BULL or STAG-PARTY. Also, BITCH-, TABBY-, and CAT-PARTY.

HEN-PECKED, adj. (old: now recognised). — Petticoat government; ruled by a woman.


HENPECKT Friggat, whose Commander and Officers are absolutely sway'd by their Wives. Ibid. HENPECKT Husband, whose Wife wears the Breeches.

1695. CONGREVE, LOVefOr LOVe, 11., 13. I believe he that marries you will go to sea in a HEN-PECKED FRIGATE.

1712. ARBUTHNOT, History of John Bull, Pt. I., ch. v. He had a termagant wife, and, as the neighbours said, was playing HENPECKED!

1712. Spectator, No. 479. Socrates, who is by all accounts the undoubted head of the sect of the HEN-PECKED.

1748. T. DycHe, Dictionary (5th Ed.). HEN-PECKED, a man that is overawed by his wife, and dares do nothing disagreeable to her inclinations.

1771. SmOLLETT, Humphry Clinker, l. 27. I shall never presume to despise or censure any poor man for suffering himself to be HENPECKED, conscious how I myself am obliged to trounce to a domestic demon.

1857. A. TROLLOPE, Barchester Towers, ch. iii. But Mrs. Proudie is not satisfied with such home dominion, and stretches her power over all his movements, and will not even abstain from things spiritual. In fact, the bishop is HENPECKED.

HEN’S-ARSEHOLE.—See MOUTH.


1883. Bulletin, 24 Nov. All the dead-beats and suspected HEN-SNATCHERS plead when before the Bench that they were only ‘mouching round,’ etc.

HENS'-RIGHTS, subs. (American). — Women’s rights.

HEN-TOED, adj. phr. (common).—To turn the toes in walking like a fowl.

HERE. HERE'S TO YOU (AT YOU, UNTO YOU, NOW, or LUCK), phr. (common). — An invitation to drink; here’s a health to you. For synonyms, see DRINKS.

1651. CARTWRIGHT, Royal Slave. HERE'S TO THEE, Leocrates.

1717. NED WARD, Wks. ii., 71. Then we were fain To use Hertfordshire kindness, HERE'S TO YOU again.

1853. Diogenes ii., 46. Each a pot in his hand . . . . Observed in a style of remarkable ease, ‘Old Buck HERE'S LUCK,’ And then at the pewter proceeded to suck.

HERE'S LUCK, phr. (tailors'). —I don’t believe you.

I AM NOT HERE, phr. (tailors').—‘I don’t feel inclined to work; ‘I wish you left alone.’

HERE'S TO IT, phr. (common). — An obscene toast. See IT, sense 2.

HERE-AND-THEREIAN, subs. phr. (old).—A rolling stone; a person with no permanent address. Lex. Bal., 1811.
HEREFORD.  

HEREFORD, adj. (American cowboy). White. [Herefords are white-faced.]

HEREFORDSHIRE-WEED, subs. (old).—An oak.

HER MAJESTY’S CARRIAGE, subs. phr. (common).—A prison van; the Queen’s ’bus. See BLACK MARIA. Fr., omnibus à pègres.

HER MAJESTY’S TOBACCO PIPE, subs. (common).—The furnace where the forfeited tobacco from the Customs House is burnt. [Now a thing of the past: the tobacco being distributed to workhouses, etc.]

1871. Echo, 27 Jan. All that was not sold will be burnt, according to custom, in her majesty’s tobacco pipe. We cannot think such waste justifiable.

HERMIT (or BALDHEADED HERMIT), subs. (venery).—The penis. For synonyms, see CREAMSTICK and PRICK.

HEROD. To OUT-HEROD HEROD, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To outdo; specifically (theatrical) to excel in rant.

1596. SHAKESPEARE, Hamlet, iii., 2. Oh, it offends me to the soul to hear a robustious, perriwig-pated fellow tear a passion to tatters, to very rags, to split the ears of the groundlings . . . . it out-herods Herod.

HERRING. Neither fish, flesh, fowl, nor good red herring, phr. (old).—Neither one thing nor the other.

1682. DRYDEN, Duke of Guise, Epil. (5th line from end). Neuters in their middleway of feering, are neither fish, nor flesh, nor good red herring.

TO THROW A SPRAT TO CATCH A HERRING (or WHALE), verb. phr. (old).—To forego an advantage in the hope of greater profit.

1826. BUCKSTONE, Luke the Labourer, i., 2. I give dat like throwing away a sprat to catch a herring, though I hope on this occasion to catch a bigger fish.

1890. GRANT ALLEN, Tents of Shem, ch. xix. He’s casting a sprat to catch a whale.

DEAD AS A HERRING (or SHOT-TEN HERRING), adv. phr. (old).—Quite dead. [Herrings die sooner on leaving the water than most fish.] See DEAD.

1785. BURNS, Death and Dr. Horn-book. I’ll nail the self-conceited sot as dead’s a herring.

1790. RHODES, Bombastes Furioso, Sc. 4. Ay, dead as herrings—herrings that are red.

LIKE HERRINGS IN A BARREL, adv. phr. (common).—Very crowded.

1891. N. GOULD, Double Event, p. 117. People jammed inside like herrings in a barrel.


HERRING-GUTTED, adj. (old).—Lanky; thin.—GROSE.

HERRING-POUND, subs. (common).—The sea; specifically, the North Atlantic Ocean. See BRINY and PUDDLE. To be sent across the herring-pond = to be transported.

1722. England’s Path to Wealth. ’Tis odds but a finer country, cheaper and better food and raiment, wholesome air, easier rents and taxes, will tempt many of your countrymen to cross the herring-pond.

1729. GAY, Polly, i., 1. Bless us all! how little are our customs known on this side the herring pond!
Hertfordshire-kindness. 306  Hiccius Doccius.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.
1823. Bee, Dict. Turf, etc., s.v. Herring-pond—the sea, the Atlantic; and he who is gone across it is said to be lagged, or gone a Botanizing.
1830. Lytton, Paul Clifford, p. 256, ed. 1854. You’re too old a hand for the Herring-pond.
1864. M. E. Braddon, Henry Dunbar, ch. xxv. You’re not going to renounce the pomps and vanities of this wicked world, and make an early expedition across the Herring-pond—eh?
1884. Phillipps-Woolley, Trottings of a Tenderfoot. Everyone nowadays has read as much as he or she cares to about the voyage across the Herring-pond.

1890. Hertfordshire-kindness, subs. (old).—An acknowledgment, or return, in kind, of favours received. (But see quot.s, 1662, 1690, and 1738).

1662. Fuller, Worthies. This is generally taken in a good and grateful sense, for the mutual return of favours received: it being (belike) observed that the people in this county at entertainments drink back to them who drank to them.
1717. Ned Ward, Wks., ii., 7. Then we were fain Touse Hertfordshire-kindness, Here’s to you again.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Hertfordshire Kindness, drinking twice to the same person.

Hewgag. The Hewgag, subs. (American).—A name for an undetermine, unknown, mythical creature.—Slang, Jargon, and Cant.

Hey-gammer-cook. To play at Hey-gammer-cook, verb. phr. (venery).—To copulate. For synonyms, see Greens and Ride.
1720. C. Johnson, Highwaymen and Pyrates, ‘Margaret Simpson’ (q.v.).

Hiccius Doccius, subs. phr. (Old Cant).—A juggler; also a shifty fellow or trickster.

1676. Shadwell, Virtuoso, ii., p. 19. I shall stand here till one of them has whipt away my Mistris about business, with a Hiccius Doccius, with the force of Repartee, and this, and that, and Everything in the world.
1678. Butler, Hudibras, iii., 3, 579. At Westminster, and Hickses-Hall, And Hiccius Doccius play’d in all.
1688. Wycherley, Country Wife, iii. That burlesque is a Hocus-pocus trick they have got, which by the virtue of Hiccius Doxius, topssey-turvey, etc.
1812. Johnson, Eng. Dict., s.v. Hiccius Doccius . . . . a cant word for a juggler; one that plays fast and loose.

Adj. (old).—Drunk; slovenly. Also, Hickey (q.v.). For synonyms, see Drinks and Screwed.

**Hic Jacet**,

*subs. phr.* (common).—

A tombstone; also a memorial inscription. [From the opening words.]

1598. *Shakspeare, All’s Well, etc.*, iii., 5. The merit of service is seldom attributed to the true ... performer. I would have that drum ... or *Hic Jacet*.

1858-59. *Tennyson, Idylls of the King* (‘Vivien’). Among the cold *Hic Jacets* of the dead.

**Hick**, *subs.* (Old Cant).—I. A man; specifically a countryman; a booby. Also (American thieves’) *Hickjop* and *Hicksam*. For synonyms, see *Joskin*.

1690. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. *Hick*, any Person of whom any Prey can be made, or Booty taken from; also a silly Country Fellow.

1720. *Smith, Lives of Highwaymen and Pyrates*, ii., 39. Among whom was a country farmer ... which was not missed at all by the Country *Hick*.

1725. *New Cant. Dict. Song 3*. ‘The Thief-catcher’s Prophecy.’ The Eighth is a Bulk, that can bulk any *Hick*.

1754. *Scoundrel’s Diet.* The fourteenth, a gamester, if he sees the *Hick* sweet He presently drops down a cog in the street.


**Hickey-split**, *adj.* (American).—

With all one’s might; at top speed; *Hammer and Tongs* (q.v.); *Full Chisel* (q.v.).

**Hickey**, *adj.* (old).—See quot.


**Hide**, *subs.* (common).—The human skin. Once literary; now colloquial and vulgar.


1731. *C. Coffey, The Devil to Pay*, Sc. 5. Come, and spin, you drah, or I’ll tan your *hide* for you.

1892. *Kipling, Barrack-Room Bai-lads*. ‘Gunga-Din.’ An’ for all ’is dirty *iDE* ’e was white, clear white, inside.

**Verb** (common).—To flog.

For synonyms, see *Tan*.

1868. *Cassell’s Mag.*, May, p. 80. This was carried across the yard to Jacky as a regular challenge, and some said that Kavanagh and his friends were coming over to *Hide* Jacky after dinner.

1885. *Punch*, 29 Aug. p. 98. And the silver-topped rattan with which the boys I used to *Hide*.
Higgledy-piggledy.

1864. Mark Lemon, Jest Book, p. 236. Some people have a notion that villany ought to be exposed, though we must confess we think it a thing that deserves a hiding.

1871. All the Year Round, 18 Feb. p. 288. Served me right if I'd got a hiding.

1883. Pall Mall Gaz., 16 Apr., p. 7. They should stone all boys they met who were not members of the society, or in default themselves receive a good hiding.

1888. Sportsman, 22 Dec. The chairman told Deakin he could scarcely expect anything but a hiding for being connected with such a scurrilous publication.

1891. Licensed Vict. Mirror, 30 Jan., p. 7, c. 1. Before Paddock could claim the victory, which cost the Redditch fighter one of the severest hideings he ever had to put up with.

Higglea'y-pgledy. 308

High.

HIGH, adj. (American).—Drunk. For synonyms, see Drinks and Screwed.

2. (colloquial).—Stinking; gamey (q.v.); whence, by implication, diseased (as a prostitute); obscene in intention and effect.

THE HIGH AND DRY, subs. phr. (clerical).—The High Church or Anglo-Catholic party in the Establishment, as opposed to the Low and Slow (q.v.), or Evangelical section. Cf., broad and shallow.

1854. Conybeare, Church Parties, 74. Its adherents [of the High Church] are fallen from their high estate, and are contemptuously denominated the high and dry, just as the parallel development of the Low Church is nicknamed 'low and slow.'

1857. Anthony Trollope, Barchester Towers, ch. liii. Who belongs to the high and dry church, the High Church as it was some fifty years since, before tracts were written and young clergymen took upon themselves the highly meritorious duty of cleaning churches?

1886. Graphic, 10 Apr., 399. In the Church have we not the three schools of High and Dry, Low and Slow, and Broad and Shallow?

HIGH AND MIGHTY, adv. phr. (colloquial).—Arrogant; imperious; proud; 'on the high horse,' or the 'high ropes' (q.v.); full of side (q.v.).

HIGGER, subs. (old).—A hawker.

Higgledy-piggledy, adj. (Old Cant: now recognised).—In confusion; topsy-turvy; at sixes and sevens.

1598. Florio, World of Words, s.v. Alla raffa, snatchingly, higledy-pigledie, shiftingly, rap and run.


1758. A. Murphy, The Upholsterer, ii. Ambassadors and Hair-Cutters, all higgledy-piggledy together.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1812. Johnson, Eng. Dict., s.v. Higgledy-piggledy, a cant word, corrupted from higgle, which denotes any confused mass, as higgler carry a huddle of provisions together.

1849. Dickens, David Copperfield, ch. xxii., p. 199. His name's got all the letters in it, higgledy-piggledy.

1873. Miss Broughton, Nancy, ch. ii. We are all higgledy-piggledy—at sixes and sevens!

1876. M. E. Braddon, Joshua Haggard, ch. xvi. 'If some of you will sit down,' remonstrated Judith, 'I'll pour out the tea. But I don't feel as if anybody wanted it while you're standing about higgledy-piggledy.'
High-belled.

1891. N. Gould, Double Event, p. 121. None of your high and mighty games with me.

1892. Henley and Stevenson, Deacon Brodie, i., 2. Ye need na be sae high and mighty anyway.

1892. Hume Nisbet, Bushranger's Sweetheart, p. 49. 'Mighty high some people are, ain't they?' the man observed loudly, straightening himself, and ordering a nobbler for himself.

Too high for one's nut, adv. phr. (American).—Out of one's reach; beyond one's capacity; over one's bend (q.v.).

You can't get high enough, verb. phr. (common).—A derisive comment on any kind of failure. [Probably obscene in origin.]

How is that for high? phr. (American).—'What do you think of it?' [Once a tag universal; common wear now.]

1860. Bartlett, Americanisms, s.v. High. For when he slapped my broad-brim off, and asked, How's that for high? it roused the Adam in me, and I smote him hip and thigh!

1872. Clemens (Mark Twain), Roughing It, 334. We are going to get it up regardless of expense. [He] was always nifty himself, and so you bet his funeral ain't going to be no slouch,—solid silver door-plate on his coffin, six plumes on the hearse, and a nigger on the box in a biled shirt and a plug hat,—how's that for high?

1889. Pall Mall Gaz., 23 Sep., p. 2, c. 1. 'Cricket' stories are the thing just now. How is this for high?

High-belled (or High in the Belly), adj. phr. (colloquial).—Far gone in pregnancy. Also high-waisted.


2. (political American).—A political conspirator. —Norton.

High-bloke, subs. (American).—1. A judge.

2. (American).—A well-dressed man; a splawger (q.v.).—Matsell.

Higher - Malthusianism, subs. phr. (colloquial).—Sodomy.

Highfalut, verb. (American).—To use fine words. Also to yarn (q.v.). See Highfaluting. Fr., faire l'étroite.

Highfaluting, subs. (formerly American: now general).—Bombast; rant.

1865. Orchestra. We should not think of using high-falutin on ordinary serious occasions, and that we never shall use it in future, unless we happen to speak of the Porcupine critic.

1886. Pall Mall Gaz., 3 May, 6, 2. A glib master of frothy fustian, of flatulent high-falutin', and of oratorical bombast.

Adj. (general).—Bombastic; fustian; thrasonical.

1870. Friswell, Modern Men of Letters. A driveller of tipsy, high-flown, and high-falutin' nonsense.

1884. Echo, 17 Mar., p. 1, c. 4. It is the boast of high-falutin' Americans that theirs is a country 'where every man can do as he darn pleases.'

High-feather. In high feather, adv. phr. (colloquial).—In luck; on good terms with oneself and the world.

High-fly. To be on the high-fly, verb. phr. (thieves').—Specifically, to practise the begging-letter imposture, but (generally) to tramp the country as a beggar.

1839. Brandon, Poverty, Mendicity, and Crime, 163. The high-fly—beggars, with letters, pretending to be broken-down gentlemen, captains, etc.
**Highflyer.**


**Highflyer, subs.** (old). — 1. Anything or anybody out of the common, in opinion, pretension, attire, and so forth: as a prostitute (high-priced and well-dressed); an adventurer (superb in impudence and luck). 2. A dandy, male or female, of the first water. 3. A fast coach.

1690 Dryden. Prol. to Mistakes in Wks., p. 473 (Globe). He’s no Highflyer—he makes no sky-rockets, His squibs are only levelled at your pockets.

1693. Congreve, Old Bachelor, i., i. Well, as high a flyer as you are, I have a lure may make you stoop.

1698. R. Estcourt, Fair Example, Act i., p. 10. You may keep company with the highest flyer of ‘em all.


1818. Scott, Heart of Midlothian, i. Mail-coach races against mail-coach, and High-flyer against High-flyer, through the most remote districts of Britain.

1821. Egan, Tom and Jerry, v. As you have your high-flyers at Almack’s, at the West End, we have also some choice features at our All Max in the East.

1823. Bee, Dict. Turf, s.v. High-flyers—women of the town, in keeping, who job a coach, or keep a couple of saddle-horses at least.

1830. Lytton, Paul Clifford, (Ed. 1854) p. 75. Howsoever, the high-flyers doesn’t like him; and when he takes people’s money, he need not be quite so cross about it!

1860 Dickens, Uncommercial Traveller, xxii., p. 137. The old room on the ground floor where the passengers of the high-flyers used to dine.

1864. Dickens, Our Mutual Friend, i., 5. Mrs. Boffin, Wegg . . . is a ‘highflyer at fashion.


4. (thieves').—A beggar with a certain style; a begging-letter writer; a broken swell.


1858. A. Mayhew, Paved with Gold, bk. III., ch. iii., p. 268. He was a High-flyer, a genteel beggar.

1887. Standard, 20 June, p. 5, c. 2. The pretended noblemen and knights who ‘say they have suffered by war, fire, or captivity, or have been driven away, and lost all they had,’ are still represented by the high-flyers or broken-down gentlemen.

5. (circus).—A swing fixed in rows in a frame much in vogue at fairs.

**High-flying, subs.** (old).—1. Extravagance in opinion; pretension or conduct.

1689. Dryden, Epil. to Lee’s Princess of Cleves, 6. I railed at wild young sparks; but without lying Never was man worse thought on for High-flying.

2. (thieves').—Begging; The High-fly (q.v.); Stilling (q.v.).

**High-gag, subs.** (American).—A whisperer. Matsell.

**The High-gag, subs.** phr. (American).—Telling secrets. Matsell.

**High-game, subs. thieves').—See quot.**


**High-gig. In High-gig, adv. phr.** (old).—In good settle; lively. Cf., Gig.
High-go. 311 High-jinks.

1819. Moore, Tom Crib, p. 15. Rather sprightly—the Bear in HIGH-GIG.

HIGH-GO, subs. (common).—A drinking bout; a frolic.

HIGH-HEELED SHOES. To have high-heeled shoes on, verb. phr. (American).—To set up as a person of consequence; to do the grand (q.v.).

HIGH HORSE. To be (or get) on (or ride) the high horse, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To give oneself airs; to stand on one's dignity; to take offence. [Fr. monter sur ses grands chevaux. The simile is common to most languages.]

1816. Addison, Freeholder, 5 Mar. He told me, he did not know what travelling was good for, but to teach a man to ride the great horse, to jabber French, and to talk against passive obedience.

1836. MARRAT, Midshipman Easy, ch. xii. He was determined to ride the high horse—and that there should be no Equality Jack in future.

1842. Comic Almanack, p. 327. Yet Dublin deems the foul extortion fair, and swears that, as he's ridden the high horse, so long and well, she now will make him mayor.

HIGH-JUNKS, subs. (old).—I. An old game variously played. [Most frequently dice were thrown by the company, and those upon whom the lot fell were obliged to assume and maintain for a time a certain fictitious character, or to repeat a certain number of fescennine verses in a particular order. If they departed from the characters assigned . . . they incurred forfeits, which were compounded for by swallowing an additional bumper.—Guy Mannering, 1836. Note to ch. xxxii.]


1780. Ramsay, Maggy Johnston, i., 25. The queff or cup is filled to the brim, then one of the company takes a pair of dice, and after crying Hy-jinks, he throws them out; the number he casts out points out the person that must drink; he who threw beginning at himself number one, and so round till the number of the person agree with that of the dice (which may fall upon himself if the number be within twelve); then he sets the dice to him, or bids him take them; he on whom they fall is obliged to drink, or pay a small forfeiture in money, then throws, and so on. But if he forgets to cry 'Hy-jinks' he pays a forfeiture into the bank. Now, he on whom it falls to drink (if there be anything in the bank worth drawing) gets it all if he drinks; then with a great deal of caution he empties his cup, sweeps up the money, and orders the cup to be filled again, and then throws: for if he errs in the articles he loses the privilege of drawing the money. The articles are—(1) Drink, (2) Draw, (3) Fill, (4) Cry 'Hy-jinks,' (5) Count just, (6) Chuse your doublet, man—viz., when two equal numbers of the dice is thrown, the person whom you chuse must pay a double of the common forfeiture, and so must you when the dice is in his hand (sic).

1815. Scott, Guy Mannering, ch. xxxvi. The frolicsome company had begun to practise the ancient and now forgotten pastime of high jinks.

1861. H. Kingsley, Ravenshoe, iv. He had made an engagement to drive Lord Saltire, the next morning, up to Wargrave in a pony-chaise, to look at Barrymore House, and the place where the theatre stood, and where the game of high jinks had been played so bravely fifty years before.

2. See quot., and cf. sense 1.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue. A gambler at dice, who, having a strong head, drinks to intoxicate his adversary, or pigeon. Under this head are also classed
those fellows who keep little goes, take in insurances; also, attendants at the races, and at the E O tables; chaps always on the look out to rob unwary countrymen at cards, etc.

3. (common).—A frolic; a row.

1861. Hughes, Tom Brown at Oxford, i. All sorts of high jinks go on on the grass plot.

1872. Daily Telegraph, 13 Sept. 'Filey the Retired.' Frisky Filey cannot assuredly be called. There are no high jinks on her jetty; and, besides, she hasn't got a jetty, only a 'Brigg.'

1890. Pall Mall Gaz., 24 July, 4, 2. Yesterday and to-day there have been high jinks in Petworth Park, rich and poor for miles round being invited, and right royally feasted on the coming of age of Lord and Lady Leconfield's eldest son.

1891. Licensed Vict. Gaz., 3 Apr. While Bank Holiday was being celebrated with such éclat at Kempton, they were carrying on high jinks over hurdles and fences at Manchester.

182. Sala's Journal, 2 July, p. 223. High jinks with the telephone have been the order of the day at Warwick Castle; taps and wires have been turned on and off, and flood of melody of various kinds have delighted listening ears.

1893. National Observer, 25 Feb., ix., 357. Time was when there were high jinks in that vast quadrangle.

To be at his high jinks, phr. (common).—To be stilted and arrogant in manner; to ride the high horse (q.v.). Fr., faire sa merde or sa poire.

High-kicker, subs. (colloquial).—Specifically, a dancer whose specialty is the high kick or the porte d'armes; whence, by metaphor, any desperate spreeester (q.v.), male or female.

High-kiltered, adj. (Scots').—Obscene or thereabouts; full flavoured (q.v.).

Highland-bail, subs. (Scots').—The right of the strongest; force majeure.

1816. Scott, Antiquary, ch. xxix. The mute eloquence of the miller and smith, which was vested in their clenched fists, was prepared to give highland bail for their arbiter.

High-lawyer, subs. (old).—A highwayman. For synonyms, see road agent.

1592. John Day, Blind Beggar, p. 27 (Ed. Bullen). He wo'd be your prigger, your prancer, your high-lawyer.

1610. Rowlands, Martin Mark-all, p. 50 (H. Club's Rept., 1874). He first gave termes to robbers by the high-way, that such as robbe on horse-backe were called high lawyers, and those who robbed on foote, he called Padders.

High-liver, subs. (old).—A garretteer; a thief housed in an attic. Hence, high-living = lodging in a garret.—Lex. Bal.

High-men, subs. (old).—Dice loaded to show high numbers. Also, high-runners. See full-hams and low-men.

1594. Nashe, Unf. Traveller in Wks. (Grosart), v., 27. The dice of late are grown as melancholy as a dog, high men and low men both prosper alike.

1596. Shakspere, Merry Wives, i., 3. Let vultures gripe thy guts! for gourd and fullam holds, and high and low beguiles the rich and poor.

1598. Florio, A Worlde of Wordes. Pise, false dice, high men or low men.

1605. London Prodigal, i., 1. I bequeath two bale of false dice, videlicet, high men and low men, fullams, stop-catertrías, and other bones of function.

1615. Harington, Epigrams, i., 79. Your high and low men are but trifles.

1657-1733. John Dennis, Letters, ii., 407. Shadwell is of opinion, that your bully, with his box and his false dice, is an honester fellow than the rhetorical author, who makes use of his tropes and figures, which are his high and his low runners, to cheat us at once of our money and of our intellectuals.
High-nosed.

1822. Scott, Fort. of Nigel, ch. xxiii. Men talk of High and low Dice.

HIGH- NOSED, adj. phr. (colloquial).
—Very proud in look and in fact; supercilious in bearing and speech; SUPERIOR (q.v.).

HIGH- [or GAY-] OLD (TIME, GAME, LIAR, etc.), adj. phr. (common).
—A general intensive: e.g., HIGH OLD TIME = a very merry time indeed; HIGH OLD LIAR = a liar of might; HIGH OLD DRUNK = an uncommon BOOZE (q.v.).

1883. Referee, 11 Mar., p. 3, c. 2. All the children who have been engaged in the Drury Lane pantomime took tea on the stage, and had a HIGH OLD TIME (while it lasted).

1888. J. McCarthy and Mrs. Campbell-Praed, Ladies' Gallery, ch. xxxv. I went down to Melbourne, intending to have a HIGH OLD TIME.

1891. Murray's Mag., Aug., p. 202. There will be a Want of Confidence Motion, and a HIGH OLD debate.


1892. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, p. 35. We'd the HIGHEST OLD game.

1892. F. Anstey, Voices Populi, 'The Riding Class,' p. 108. We've bin having a GAY OLD time in 'ere.

HIGH- PAD (or TOBY, or HIGH-TOBY- SPLICE), subs. (old).—I. The highway. Also, HIGH- SPLICE TOBY. For synonyms, see DRUM.

1567. Harman, Caveat, p. 86. Rage. Nowe bynge we a waste to the HYGH PAD, the ruffmanes is by.

c. 1819. Slang-Song (quoted in notes to Don Juan, x., 10). On the HIGH-TOBY- SPLICE flash the muzzle In spite of each gallows old scout.

1836. H. M. Milner, Turpin's Ride to York, i., sc. 2. Come, lads a stirrup-cup at parting, and then hurrah for the game of HIGH-TOBY.

1876. Hindley, Adventures of a Cheap Jack, p. 4. Halting for a few hours at mid-day during the heat in the HIGH-SPICE-TOBY, as we used to call the main road.

2. (old).—A highwayman. Also, HIGH-TOBYMAN (or GLOAK). For synonyms, see ROAD AGENT.


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1823. Bee, Dict. Turf, s.v. HIGH TOBY-GLOAK, a highway robber well mounted.

1834. Ainsworth, Rookwood, bk. IV., ch i. Tom King, a noted HIGH-TOBY GLOAK of his time.

1857. Punch, 31 Jan. (from slang song). That long over Newgit their Worships may rule, As the HIGH-TOBY, mob, crack, and scrreeve model school.

3. (old).—Highway robbery.

1819. Vaux, Cant. Dict. HIGH- TOBY, the game of highway robbery, that is exclusively on horseback.

HIGH- POOPED, adj. (colloquial).—Heavily buttcked.

HIGH- RENTED, adj. (popular).—I. Hot.

2. (thieves').—Very well known to the police; HOT (q.v.).

HIGH- ROLLER, subs. (American).—A GOER (q.v.); a fast liver; a heavy gambler; a HIGHFLYER (q.v.).

1887. Francis, Saddle and Moccasin, He's a high-ROLLER, by gum!

HIGH- ROPES. To be on the HIGH ROPES, verb. phr. (common).
—To be angry or excited. Also to put on airs; to stand on one's dignity; to ride the HIGH-HORSE (q.v.).

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v. To be on the HIGH ROPES, to be in a passion.

1859. Matsell, Vocabulum, s.v.
1886. Yates, Land at Last. ii. He's on the high ropes, is Master Charley! Some of you fellows have been lending him half a-crown, or that fool Caniche has bought one of his pictures for seven-and-six!

**HIGH-SEASONED (or HIGHLY-SPICED), adj. (colloquial).** Obscene. For synonyms, see SPICY.

**HIGH- (or CLOUTED-) SHOON, subs.** (old).—A countryman. For synonyms, see JOSKIN.


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

**HIGH-SNIFFING, adj. phr.** (colloquial).— Pretentious; supercilious; very obviously better than one's company; HIGH-NOSED (q.v.).

**HIGH-STEPPER, subs.** (common).— An exemplar, male or female, of what is fashionable in conversation, conduct, or attire; a SWELL (q.v.). Also, a person of spirit. Whence, adj., HIGH-STEPPING (or HIGH-PACING) = conspicuously elegant or gallant in dress, speech, manner, conduct, anything.

1891. Gunter, Miss Nobody of Nowhere, ch. ix. From her actions and style I'm pretty certain she's English and a HIGH-STEPPER.

**HIGH-STOMACHED, adj.** (colloquial).— Proud; disdainful; very valiant.

**HIGH-STRIKES, subs.** (common).— A corruption of 'hysterics.'


1860. Miss Wetherell, Say and Seal, ch. vii. She wants you to come. I'm free to confess she's got the HIGH-STRIKES wonderful.

**HIGH-TEA, subs.** (colloquial).— A tea with meat, etc. In Lancashire BAGGING (q.v.).

1888. Sporting Life, 15 Dec. Following run there will be HIGH-TEA and a grand smoking concert, to which visitors are cordially invited.

**HIGH-TI, subs.** (American: Williams Coll.).— A showy recitation; at Harvard = a SQUIRT (q.v.).

**HIGH-TIDE (or WATER) subs.** (colloquial).— Rich for the moment; The state of being FLUSH (q.v.). For synonyms, see WELL-BALANCED.

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. HIGH TIDE when the Pocket is full of Money.


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1823. Bee, Dict. Turf, s.v. High-Tide—plenty of the possibles; whilst 'low-water' implies empty claes.

**HIGH-WATER MARK, adv. phr.** (colloquial).— In good condition; a general expression of approval.

**HIGH-TOBY. See HIGH PAD.**


**HIGH-TONED, adj.** (American).— Aristocratic; also, morally and intellectually endowed; spiritually beyond the common. HIGH-SOULED = cultured; fashionable. HIGH-TONED NIGGER = a negro who has raised himself in social position. [Once literary; now utterly discredited and never used, save in ignorance or derision.] Stokes, the maniac who shot Garfield, described himself as a 'HIGH-TONED Lawyer.'

1884. Phillips Woolley, Trottings of a Tender Foot. I never saw any so-called HIGH-TONED NIGGERS.
Highty-tighty. 315 Hind-leg.

1893. Cassell's Sat. Jour., i Feb., p. 389, 1. One day a fashionably-dressed young man, giving an address in a HIGH-TONED suburb, called upon Messrs. Glitter.

HIGHTY-TIGHTY (or HOITY-TOITY), subs. (old).—A wanton.

1890. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. HIGHTETITY, a Ramp, or Rude Girl.


Adj. (colloquial).—Peremptory; waspish; quarrelsome.

1848. Thackeray, Vanity Fair, ch. xviii. La, William, don't be so HIGHTY-TIGHTY with us. We're not men.

HIGH WOOD. To LIVE IN HIGH WOOD, verb. phr. (common).—To hide; to dissemble of purpose; to lie low and keep quiet.

HIGULCION-FLIPS, subs. (Texas).—An imaginary ailment.

HIKE, verb. (old).—To move about. Also to carry off; to arrest.

1811. Lexicon Baltronicum, s.v. Hike. To HIKE OFF; to run away.

1884. Daily Telegraph, 2 Feb., p. 3, c. 1. We three, not having any regler homes nor a steady job of work to stick to, HIKE ABOUT for a living, and we live in the cellar of a empty house.

HILDING, subs. (old).—A jade; a wanton; a disreputable slut.

1593. Shakspeare, Taming of the Shrew, ii., 1. For shame thou HILDING of a devilish spirit.

1595. Shakspeare, Romeo and Juliet, ii., 4. HILDINGS and harlots.

HILL. Not worth a HILL OF BEANS, phr. (American).—Absolutely worthless.

HILLS, subs. (Winchester Coll.).—1. St. Catharine's Hill.

1870. Mansfield, School Life, p. 28. Some of his principal duties were to take the boys 'on to HILLS,' call names there, etc.

2. (Cambridge Univ.).—The Gogmagog Hills; a common morning's ride. Gradus ad Cantab.

HILLY, adj. (colloquial).—Difficult: e.g., HILLY READING = hard to read; HILLY GOING = not easy to do; etc.

HILT. LOOSE IN THE HILT, adv. phr. (old).—Unsteady; ROCKY (q.v.); lax in the bowels.

1639-61. Rump Songs. 'Bum-fodder,' ii., 56. If they stay longer, they will us beguilt With a Government that is LOOSE IN THE HILT.

HIND-BOOT, subs. (common).—The breech. For synonyms, see MONOCULAR EYEGLASS.

HIND-COACHWHEEL, subs. (common).—A five shilling piece. Fr., roue de derriere, thune, or palet, = a five-franc piece. For synonyms, see CAROON.

HINDER-BLAST, subs. (old).—Crepitation.

1540 Lindsay, Thrie Estaitis [in Bannatyne MSS., Hunterian Club, ed., 1879-88], p. 511] line 1429-30. Scho hes sic rumling in her wame, That all the nycht my hairt ouercastis With bokking and with HINDER BLASTIS.

HINDER-END, subs. phr. (common).—The breech. Also, HINDER-PARTS and HINDER-WORLD.

HINDER-ENTRANCE, subs. phr. (common).—The fundament.

HIND-LEG. To KICK OUT A HIND LEG, verb. phr. (old).—To lout; to make a rustic bow.
To talk the hind leg off a horse (or dog). See Talk.

To sit upon one's hind legs and howl, verb. phr. (American).
- To bemoan one's fate; to make a hullabaloo.

Hindoo, subs. (American). - See Know Nothing.

Hindoo Punishment, subs. phr. (circus). - See quot. 1875. Frost, Circus Life, ch. xvi. The Hindoo Punishment is what is more often called the muscle grind, a rather painful exercise upon the bar, in which the arms are turned backward to embrace the bar, and then brought forward upon the chest, in which position the performer revolves.

Hind-shifters, subs. (old). - The feet. For synonyms, see Creepers.

Hinges. Off the hinges, adv. phr. (common) - In confusion; out of sorts; 'not quite the thing.'

Hinterland, subs. (old). - The breech.

Hip, (in. pl.), subs. (colloquial). - Conventional - as in the proverb, 'Free of her lips; free of her hips' - for the buttocks. Hence, to walk with the hips = to make play with the posteriors in walking; long in the hips; and hips to sell = broad in the beam; nimble-hipped = active in copulation.

c. 1580. Dunbar, Poems, 'Of a Dance in the Queenis Chalmer' (1836), i., 119. His hippis gaff mony a hiddous cry. Ibid. i., 124. 'Of Ane Blak-moir.' . . . Sall cum behind and kiss hir hippis.

1640. Lindsay, Thrie Estaitis, line 3227. My craig will wit quhat weys my hippis. Ibid., line 4424. Ye wald not stick to preise my graith With hobblling of your hippis.

To have (get, or catch) on the hip, verb. phr. (old). - To have (or get) an advantage. [From wrestling.]

1591. Harrington, Orlando Furioso, bk. xlvii., st. 117. In fine he doth apply one special drift, Which was to get the pagan on the hip, And having caught him right, he doth him lift By nimble sleight, and in such wise doth trip That down he threw him.

1598. Shakspeare, Merchant of Venice, i. 3. If I can catch him once upon the hip, I will feed fat the ancient grudge I bear him.

1605. Marston, Dutch Courtezan, iii., 1. He said he had you a the hip.

1617. Andrews, Sermons ('Library of Ang.-Cath. Theology'), Vol. IV., p. 365. If he have us at the advantage, on the hip as we say, it is no great matter then to get service at our hands.

1635. D. Dike, Michael and the Dragon, in Wks., p. 328. The Divell hath them on the hip, he may easily bring them to anything.

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. Upon the hip . . . at an Advantage in Wrestling, or Business.

1697. Vanbrugh, Relapse, iv., 1. My lord, she has had him upon the hip these seven years.


1836. Michael Scott, Cruise of the Midge, p. 226. 'Ha! ha! I have you on the hip now, my master,' shouted Peter.

Hipe, subs. (wrestling). - A throw over the hip. Hence Hipe, verb = to get across the hip before the throw.
**Hip-hop.**

**HIP-HOP, verb (old).**—To skip or move on one leg; to hop. 'A cant word framed by the reduplication of hop.'—JOHNSON, 1812.

1670-1729. CONGREVE [Quoted in JOHNSON'S Eng. Dict.]. Like Volscius hip-hop in a single boot.

**HIP-INSIDE, subs. (thieves').**—An inner pocket. HIP-OUTSIDE = an outer ditto.


**HIpped (or HIPPISH), adj. (common).**—Bored; melancholical; out of sorts. [From HYPOCHONDRIA.]


1712. Spectator, No. 284. I cannot forbear writing to you, to tell you I have been to the last degree HIpped since I saw you.

1837. BARHAM Ingoldsby Legends, 'Babes in the Wood.' The wicked old Uncle, they say, In spite of his riot and revel, Was HIPPISH and qualmish all day, And dreamt all night long of the devil.

1864. DICKENS, Our Mutual Friend, bk. III., ch. x. 'You are a little HIpped, dear fellow,' said Eugene; you have been too sedentary. Come and enjoy the pleasures of the chase.'

**HIPPEN, subs. (Scots': colloquial).**—A baby's napkin (i.e., HIPPING cloth). Also (theatrical), the green curtain.

**HIren, subs. (old).**—1. A prostitute. [A corruption of 'Irene,' the heroine in Poole's play: see quot. 1584.] For synonyms, see BARRACK-HACK and TART.

1584. POOLE, The Turkish Makomet and Hyren the Fair Greek. Note. In Italian called a courtesan; in Spaine a margarite; in English . . . . a punk.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, 2 Henry IV., ii., 4. Have we not Hiren here?

1615. ADAMS, Spiritual Navigator. There be sirens in the sea of the world. Syrens? Hiren, as they are now called. What a number of these sirens [HIRENS], cockatrices, courteghians, in plain English, harlots, swimme amongst us!

d. 1618. SYLVESTER, Trans. Du Bartas' Week of Creation, ii., 2, pt. 3. Of charming sin the deep-inchaunting syrens, The snares of virtue, valour-softening HIRENS.

2. (old).—A sword. Also a roaring bully; a fighting hector. [From Irene = the Goddess of Peace, a lucus a non lucendo.]

**HISHEE-HASHEE. See SOAP-AND-BULLION.**

**His Nibs (or NABS).** See NIBS.

**Hiss.** The HISS, subs. phr. (Winchester College).—The signal of a master's approach.

**HISTORICAL- (WROUGHT, or ILLUSTRATED-) SHIRT, subs. (old).**—A shirt or shift worked or woven with pictures or texts.

1596. BEN JONSON, Every Man out of his Humour, iv., 6. I wonder he speaks not of his WROUGHT-SHIRT.

1639. MAYNE, City Match, ii., 2. My smock sleeves have such holy imbroderies, And are so learned that I fear in time, All my apparel will be quoted by some pure instructor.

1647. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, Custom of the County, ii., 1. Having a mistress, sure you should not be Without a neat HISTORICAL-SHIRT.

1848. PUNCH, XIV., 226. He never broke a bank, He shuits cross-barred trousers, His linen is not ILLUSTRATED, but beautifully clean.

1851. MAYHEW, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, I., 51. Colored, or ILLUSTRATED SHIRTS, as they are called, are especially objected to by the men.
1889. Puck's Library, Apr., p. 12. Being an educated man, I feel ten thousand woes, Cavorting for the populace In ILLUSTRATED CLOTHES.

HISTORY OF THE FOUR KINGS.
See Four Kings.

HIT, subs. (common).—A success; e.g., To MAKE A HIT = to score; to profit; to excel.

1602. Marston, Antonio and Mellida. Induction. When use hath taught me action to HIT the right point of a lady's part.


1828-45. T. Hood, Poems, v., p. 197, (Ed. 1846). Nor yet did the heiress herself omit The arts that help TO MAKE A HIT.

1870. Figaro, 10 June. To MAKE A GREAT HIT is, after all, more a matter of chance than merit.

1889. Pall Mall Gaz., 3 July. Madam Melba MAKES AN ESPECIAL HIT in the valse from Romeo et Juliette.

1889. Referee, 6 Jan. Quite A HIT HAS BEEN MADE by the clever juvenile, La Petite Bertoto.

Adj. (Old Bailey).—Convicted.

HARD-HIT, adj. phr. (colloquial).—Sore beset; HARD-UP (q.v.). Also deep in love (or grief, or anger).

1890. Licensed Vict. Gaz., 7 Nov. It was pretty generally known that he had been HARD HIT during the season.

Verb (American).—To arrive at; to light upon.

1888. Detroit Free Press, Oct. Professor Rose, who hit this town last spring, is around calling us a fugitive from justice.

To HIT IT, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To attain an object; to light on a device; to guess a secret.

1594. Shakspere, Love’s Labour Lost, iv., 1. Thou canst not HIT IT, HIT IT, HIT IT, Thou canst not HIT IT, my good man.

1596. Shakspere, Merry Wives, iii., 2. I can never HIT one’s name.

1773. O. Goldsmith, She Stoops to Conquer. Ecod, I have HIT IT. It’s here. Your hands. Yours and yours, my poor sulky! My boots there, ho! Meet me two hours hence at the bottom of the garden.

1880 A. Trollope, The Duke’s Children, ch. lii. He dressed himself in ten minutes, and joined the party as they had finished their fish. ‘I am awfully sorry,’ he said, rushing up to his father, ‘but I thought that I should just HIT IT.’

TO HIT OFF, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To agree together; to fit; to describe with accuracy and precision.

1857. A. Trollope, Barchester Towers, ch. xxxiv. It is not always the case that the master, or warden, or provost, or principal can HIT IT OFF exactly with his tutor. A tutor is by no means indisposed to have a will of his own.

1880. A. Trollope, The Duke’s Children, ch. xxxvi. ‘One gentleman with another, you mean? ’ ‘Put it so. It don’t quite HIT IT OFF, but put it so.’

1886. J. S. Winter, Army Society. ‘Sidelight,’ ch. xiv. ‘Hey!’ said Orford, ‘Didn’t you and he HIT IT OFF?’

1889. Daily News, 22 Oct., p. 5. The nations that quarrel are the nations that do not HIT IT OFF on some point of feeling or taste.

TO HIT THE FLAT, verb. phr. (American cowboy).—To go out on the prairie.
HITCH, verb (American).—To marry. HITCHED = married.


1883. L. Oliphant, Altiora Peto, II., xxix., 156. 'How long is it since we parted, Ned?' 'A matter of five years; and it wasn't my fault if we didn't stay hitched till now.'

1892. Tit-Bits, 17 Sept., p. 419, c. 1. 'We've come to get hitched,' said the man, bashfully.

2. (American).—To agree. Also to hitch horses.

To hit the pipe, verb. phr. (American).—To smoke opium.

To hit one where he lives, verb. phr. (American).—To touch in a tender part; to hurt the feelings; to touch on the raw (q.v.).

Hit (or struck) with, adv. phr. (colloquial).—Taken; enamoured; prepossessed. Also, hit up with.

1891. Tales from Town Topics. 'Count Candawles,' p. 28. She is very amusing, but the Count cannot be really hit with such a little mountebank.

Hit on the tail, verb. phr. (old venery).—To copulate. For synonyms, see Greens and ride.


Hit in the teeth, verb. phr. (old).—To reproach; to taunt; to fling in one's face.


HITCH, verb (American).—I. To marry. HITCHED = married.


1883. L. Oliphant, Altiora Peto, II., xxix., 156. 'How long is it since we parted, Ned?' 'A matter of five years; and it wasn't my fault if we didn't stay hitched till now.'

1892. Tit-Bits, 17 Sept., p. 419, c. 1. 'We've come to get hitched,' said the man, bashfully.

2. (American).—To agree. Also to hitch horses.

To hit one's team to the fence, verb. phr. (American).—To settle down.

HITTITE, subs. (pugilists').—A prize fighter.

English Synonyms.—Basher; bruisher; dukester; fistite; knight of the fist; gemman of the fancy; milling-cove; pug; puncher; scrapper; slasher; slogger; slugger; sparrin-bloke.


1860. The Druid, Post and Paddock. 'The Fight for the Belt.' And the Sherwood Ranger, bold Bendigo, is on training no more intent; but the trout full well that ex-Hittite know on a Summer's eve in the Trent.

HIVE, subs. (venery).—The female pudendum. C.f. Honey. Hence, verbally, to HIVE IT = to effect intromission.

Verb (American cadet).—To steal. For synonyms, see Prig.

To get hived, verb. phr. (American Cadets' and popular).—I. To be caught out in a scrape. Also, to be hidden. To BE HIVED PERFECTLY FRIGID = to be caught in flagrante delicto.

HIVER, subs. (Western American).—A travelling bawd.

HIVITE, subs. (school).—A student of St. Bees' (Cumberland).

1865. John Bull, 11 Nov. To be a Hivite has long been considered a little worse than a 'literate' . . . . Of the value of some St. Bees testimonials we may form an estimate, etc., etc.

HOAKY. BY THE HOAKY, intj. (nautical).—A popular form of adjuration.
**Hoax.**

**Hoax, subs. (old: now recognised).**—A jest; a practical joke; a take-in. Originally (Grose) University cant. [Probably from hocus (q.v.).]


1811. *Lexicon Balatronicum*, s.v. hoaxing. Bantering, ridiculing. hoaxing a quiz; joking an odd fellow.—University wit.

1815. Scott, *Guy Mannering*, ch. iii. Whose humble efforts at jocularity were chiefly confined to what were then called bites and bams, since denominated hoaxes and quizzes.


**Verb. To play a practical joke; to 'take-in'; to bite (q.v.). See subs. sense. For synonyms, see gammon.**


1854. F. E. Smedley, *Harry Coverdale*, ch. viii. I thought you were hoaxing us, and I sat down to play the duet for the amiable purpose of exposing your ignorance.

1772. Graves, *Spiritual Quixote*, bk. VIII., ch. xxi. (new Ed., 1808). Having drunk hob or nob with a young lady in whose eyes he wished to appear a man of consequence, he hurried out into the summer-house.

1823. Bee, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. hob nob—two persons pledging each other in a glass.


1849. Thackeray, *Pendennis*, ch. xxx. He would have liked to hob and nob with celebrated pick-pockets, or drink a pot of ale with a company of burglars and cracksmen.


2. (old).—To give or take; to hit or miss at random. [Saxon, habban, to have; nabban, not to have.]

1577-87. Holinshed, *Chronicles of Englande, Scotlande, and Irelande* (1807) p. 317. The citizens in their rage shot habbe or nabbe (hit or miss) at random.

1602. Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*, iii., 4. Hob-nob is his word, give ’t or take ’t.


1673. Quack Astrologer. He writes of the weather hab nab, and as the toy takes him, chequers the year with foul and fair.

3. (colloquial)—To be on terms of close intimacy; to consort familiarly together.

1870. Mark Twain, *Innocents Abroad*, ch. i. They were to hob-nob with nobility and hold friendly converse with kings and princes.
Hobbes's-voyage. 321

Hobbledehoy.

1892. Hume Nisbet, Bushranger's Sweetheart, p. 109. I had hob-nobbed for the last two hours with the most notorious bushranger in the colony.

1892. A. K. Green, Cynthia Wakeham's Money, p. 5. Each tree looks like a spectre hob-nobbing with its neighbour.

**Hobbes's-voyage, subs. (old).—**A leap in the dark.


**Hobbinol, subs. (old).—**A country-man. For synonyms, see Joskin.


**Hobble. In a hobble (or Hobbled), adv. phr. (colloquial).—**In trouble; hampered; puzzled. Also (thieves), committed for trial. Fr., tomber dans la mélasse (=to come a cropper), and faitrê (=booked (q.v.)). Hobbled upon the legs = transported, or on the hulks.

1777. Foote, Trip to Calais (1795), ii., p. 39. But take care what you say! you see what a hobble we had like to have got into.

1789. Geo. Parker, Life's Painter, p. 163. A term when any of the gang is taken up and committed for trial, to say, such a one is hobbled.

1811. Poole, Hamlet Travestie, iii., 5. Horatio, I am sorry for this squabble; I fear 'twill get me in a precious hobble.

1819. Vaux, Cant. Dict., s.v. Hobbled, taken up, or in custody; to hobble a plant, is to spring it.

1838. Haliburton, Clockmaker, 2nd S., ch. xvii. A body has to be cautious if he don't want to get into the centre of a hobble.

1849. Punch, Fortune-Tellers' Almanack. To dream that you are lame is a token that you will get into a hobble.

1892. Milliken, Arry Ballads, p. 44. I got into a 'obble.

**Verb (venery).—**See quot.

1688. Sempill, 'Crissell Sandilands' in Bauntyne MSS. (Hunterin Club, 1879-88), p. 354, lines 21-2. Had scho bene undir, and he hobland above, That were a perellous play for to suspect them.

**Hobbledehoy, subs. (old, now colloquial).—**A growing gawk: as in the folk-rhyme, 'Hobbledehoy, neither man nor boy.' [For derivation, see Notes and Queries, 1 S., v., 468, vii., 572; 4 S., ii., 297, viii., 451, ix., 147; 7 S., iv., 523, and v., 58.]

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends, 'Aunt Fanny.' At the epoch I speak about, I was between a man and a boy, A hobble-de-hoy, A fat, little, punchy concern of sixteen.

1848. Thackeray, Vanity Fair, ch. iv. He remembered perfectly well being thrashed by Joseph Sedley, when the latter was a big, swaggering, hobbady-hoy, and George an impudent urchin of ten years old.

Hence Hobbledehoyish and Hobbledehoyhood.
1812. Colman, *Poetical Vagaries*, p. 12 (2nd Ed.). When Master Daw full fourteen years had told, He grew, as it is termed, Hobbehvyoeish; For Cupidons and Fairies much too old, For Calibans and Devils much too boyish.

1839. Thackeray, *Fatal Boots*, Apr. From boyhood until Hobbevyohood (which I take to be about the sixteenth year of the life of a young man).

1848. Thackeray, *Book of Snobs*, ch. xlii. A half-grown, or Hobbevyohish footman, so to speak, walked after them.

**Hobbledejee, subs.** (old).—A pace between a walk and a run; a jog-trot.

1811. *Lexicon Balatronicum*, s.v. **Hobbler, subs.** (nautical).—A coast-man, half smuggler, half handyman; an unlicensed pilot. Also a landsman acting as towing-Jack.—Smyth. Also (Isle of Man), a boatman.

1887. T. E. Brown, *The Doctor*, p. 226. An' the hobbler there was terrible divarted.

**Hobby, subs.** (old).—A hackney; a horse in common use.


2. (university).—A translation. To ride hobbies = to use cribs (q.v.).

**Sir Posthumous Hobby, subs.** (old).—One nice or whimsical in his clothes.

**Hobby-horse, subs.** (old: now recognised).—1. A whim; a fancy; a favourite pursuit. Hence hobbyhorsical = strongly attached to a particular fad.

1759. Sterne, *Tristan Shandy* (1793), ch. vii., p. 18. Have they not had their hobby-horses?


1785. Grose, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. **Hobby Horse**, a man's favourite amusement, or study, is called his hobby horse.

1893. Westminster Gaz., 15 Mar., p. 9, c. 1. We quarrel a bit—he is so hobby-horsical, you can't avoid it—and then we make friends again.

2. (colloquial).—A rantipole girl; a wench; a wanton.


3. (old).—A witless and unmannery lout.

1609. Jonson, *Epicene*, iv., 2. Daw. Here be in presence have tasted of her favors. Cler. What a neighing hobby-horse is this!

*Verb* (old).—To romp.

**Hob-collingwood, subs.** phr. (North Country).—The four of hearts, considered an unlucky card.

**Hob-jobber, subs.** (streets).—A man or boy on the look out for small jobs—holding horses, carrying parcels, and the like.

**Hob-nail, subs.** (old).—A country man. For synonyms, see Joskin.
1647. **Beaumont and Fletcher, Women Pleased**, ii., 6. The **hob-nail** thy husband's as fitly out o' th' way now.

1785. **Grose, Vulg. Tongue**, s.v. **hobnail**, a country clodhopper, from the shoes of country farmers and ploughmen being commonly stuck full of **hobnails**, and even often clouted, or tipped with iron.

**Hobnailed, adj.** (colloquial).—Boorish; clumsy; coarse; ill-done.


**Hobson's-Choice, subs.** (common).
—That or none: *i.e.*, there is no alternative. [Popularly derived from the name of a Cambridge livery stable keeper, whose rule was that each customer must take the horse next the door, or have no horse at all. That old Hobson existed is clear from Milton's epitaph, but Bellenden Ker (Archaeology of Popular Phrases) affirms the story to be a Cambridge hoax, and maintains the proverb to be identical in sound and sense as the Low Saxon, *Op soens sche ho eysche* = when he had a kiss he wanted something else.]


1710. **WARD, England's Reformation**, ch. iv. 'Tis **Hobson's Choice**, take that or none.

1712. **Steele, Spectator**, No. 509, p. 191. I shall conclude this discourse with an explanation of a proverb [**Hobson's choice**], which by vulgar error is taken and used when a man is reduced to an extremity, whereas the propriety of the maxim is to use it when you would say there is plenty, but you must make such a choice as not to hurt another who is to come after you. *Ibid* He [**Hobson**] kept a stable of forty good cattle, always ready and fit for travelling; but when a man came for a horse he was led into the stable, where there was great choice, but was obliged to take the horse which stood nearest to the stable-door; so that every customer was alike well served, according to his chance, and every horse ridden with the same justice.

1717. **Cibber, Non-Juror**, i. Can any woman think herself happy that's obliged to marry only with a **Hobson's choice**?

1725. **New Cant. Dict.**, s.v. **hobson's choice**.

1725. **Grose, Vulg. Tongue**, s.v. **hobnail**.

1820. **Reynolds** [Peter Corcoran], *The Fancy*. Black men now are **Hobson's choice**.

1851. **F. E. Smedley, Lewis Arundel**, ch. iii. 'When shall we go?' inquired Laura. 'Why, it's a case of **Hobson's choice**,' returned Leicester.

1854. **Notes and Queries**, 21 Jan., p. 51. It was clear a choice had been given to him, but it was a **Hobson's choice**.

**Hock, subs.** (American).—1. The last card in the dealer's box at faro. [From soda (q.v.) to hock = from beginning to end.

2. In. pl. (common).—The feet. Curby hocks = clumsy feet. For synonyms, see CREEPERS. [From the stable.]

1855. **Grose, Vulg. Tongue**, s.v. Hocks . . . you have left the marks of your dirty hocks on my clean stairs.

1859. **Matsell, Vocabulary**, s.v.

**Old hock, subs. phr.** (common).—Stale beer; *swipes* (q.v.). See HOCKEY.

**In hock, adv. phr.** (general).—Laid by the heels; fleeced; *bested* (q.v.); and (thieves'), in prison.

1859. **Matsell, Vocabulary**. 'If the cove should be caught in the hock he won't snickle,' if the fellow should be caught in the act, he would not tell.

**Hock-dockies, subs.** (old).—Shoes. For synonyms, see TROTTER-CASES.

**Hockey.**

**Hockey,** adj. (old).—Drunk, especially on stale beer. For synonyms, see **Drinks** and **Screwed**.


**Hocus,** subs. (old: now recognised).

—1. A cheat; an imposter. [An abbreviation of **Hocus - Pocus** (q.v.).]

1654. *Witts. Recreations.* Here HOCAS lieth with his tricks and his knocks, Whom death hath made sure as a juggler’s box; Who many hath cozzen’d by his leger-demain, Is presto convey’d and here underlain. Thus HOCAS he’s here, and here he is not, While death plaid the HOCAS, and brought him to th’ pot.

2. (old: now recognised).—Drugged liquor.

1823. *Bee,* *Dict. Turf,* s.v. HOCUS or HOCUS POCUS... A deleterious drug mixed with wine, etc., which enfeebles the person acted upon.

**Adj.** (old).—See quotes. For synonyms, see **Drinks** and **Screwed**.


1785. *Grose,* *Vulg. Tongue,* s.v. HOCUS POCUS, he is quite HOCUS, he is quite drunk.

**Verb** (old: now recognised).

1. To cheat; to impose upon.

2. (old: now recognised).—To drug; TO SNUFF (q.v.).

1838. Dickens, *Pickwick,* ch. xiii., p. 104. ‘What do you mean by HOCUSING brandy and water?’ inquired Mr. Pickwick. ‘Puttin’ laund’nnum in it,’ replied Sam.

1838. *Comic Almanack,* p. 1. For that we HOCUS’d first his drink.

1848. Thackeray, *Vanity Fair,* II., ch. xxix. Mr. Frederick Pigeon avers that, ‘it was at her house at Lausanne that he was HOCUSSED at supper and lost eight hundred pounds to Major Loder and the Honourable Mr. Deucease.

1 54. De Quincey, *Murder as one of the Fine Arts, Wks.,* xiii., 119. Him they intended to disable by a trick then newly introduced amongst robbers, and termed HOCUSsing, i.e., clandestinely drugging the liquor of the victim with laudanum.

1859. Matsell, *Vocabulum,* s.v. HOCUS... ‘HOCUS the bloke’s lush, and then frisk his sacks,’ put something into the fellow’s drink that will stupify him, and then search his pockets.

1859. *The Bulletin,* 21 May. An offence which goes by the name of HOCUSING, and which consists of an evil doer furtively introducing laudanum or some other narcotic into beer or spirits, which the victim drinks and, becoming stupefied thereby, is then easily robbed.

1864. Dickens, *Our Mutual Friend,* bk. II., ch. xii. ‘I will not say a HOCUSSED wine, but fur from a wine as was ’elthy for the mind.

**Hocus - pocus,** subs. (old: now recognised). —1. A juggler’s phrase. Hence a juggler’s (or imposter’s) stock in trade. Also **Hocus-Trade**.


1839-61. *Rump Songs,* ii., 156. ‘The Rump Ululant.’ Religion we made free of **HOCUS TRADE**.

1646. Randolph, *Jealous Lovers,* If I do not think women were got with riddling, whip me! HOCAS POCAS, here you shall have me, and there you shall have me.

1755. Adey, *Candle in the Dark,* p. 29. At the playing of every trick he used to say, HOCUS POCUS, tontus, talontus, vade celeriter jubeo.

Hoddy-peak.

1883. Daily Telegraph, 26 Mar., p. 5, c. 3. The lock of hair, the dragon’s blood, and the stolen flour were only the HOCUS-POCUS of her sham witchcraft like the transfixed waxen puppets of the sorcerers of the past.

2. (old).—A trickster; a juggler; an impostor.

1625. Jonson, Staple of News, ii. That was the old way, gossip, when Iniquity came in [on the stage] like Hokus Pokos, in a juggler’s jerkin, with false skirts, like the knave of clubs.

1654. HOCUS POCUS JUNIOR, The Anatomie of Leger de main. [Title].

1656. BLOUNT, Glossographia. s.v. HOCUS POCUS, a juggler, one that shows tricks by sleight of hand.


3. (old).—A cheat; an imposition; a juggler’s trick.

1713. Bentley, Free Thinking, 12. Our author is playing HOCUS-POCUS in the very similitude he takes from that juggler.

4. (old).—See HOCUS, sense 2.

Adj. (old).—Cheating; fraudulent.

1715. Addison, The Drummer. If thou hast any HOCUS-POCUS tricks to play, why can’t not do them here?


1759. Macklin, Love à la Mode, ii., 1. The law is a sort of HOCUS-POCUS science that smiles in yer face while it picks your pocket.

Verb (old).—To cheat; to trick.

Hod (or Brother Hod), subs. (common).—A bricklayer’s labourer.
Hodge, subs. (colloquial).—A farm labourer; a rustic.

HODGE-Podge (or Hotch-potch), subs. (old: now recognised).—A mixture; a medley. Sp., commistraio. See Hotch-potch.

Hodman, (Oxford Univ.).—A scholar from Westminster School admitted to Christ Church College, Oxford.

Hodmandod, subs. (old).—I. A snail in his shell—Bacon. See Doddy.

Hoe. To hoe in (American Univ.).—To work with vigour; to swot (q.v.).

To hoe one's own row, verb. phr. (American).—To do one's own work.

Hard row to hoe. See Hard Row.

Hoe-down, subs. (American).—A negro dance; a breakdown (q.v.).

Hog, subs. (old).—I. A shilling: also a sixpence: and (in America) a ten-cent piece. For synonyms, see Blow. Half-a-hog = sixpence, or five-cent piece.

1594. Nashe, Unf. Trav., 166 [Chiswick Press, 1891.] No other epte means had this poore shee captived Cicely to worke her husband a proportionable plague to his jealously.

1589. Greene, Menaphon, p. 58 [ed. Arber, 1880]. These Arcadians are guien to take the benefit of euery Hodge.

1675. A. Marvel, Satire. HODGE'S Vision from the Monument. [Title.]


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1791. Smart, Fables, xiii., 27. Is that the care (quoth Hodge)? O rare!

1880. Richard Jefferies, Hodge and his Masters. [Title.]

1884. The National Observer, 25 Feb., ix., 358. 'Pay me an infinitesimal sum,' Lord Winchilsea says (in effect) to Hodge, 'and you shall have a weekly newspaper for nothing.'

HODGE-PODGE (or HOTCH-POTCH), subs. (old: now recognised).—A mixture; a medley. Sp., commistraio. See Hotch-potch.

1553-99. Spenser, State of Ireland. They have made our English tongue a galimaufrey, or hodgepodge of all other peeches.


1728. Vanbrugh, Journey to London. They were all got into a sort of hodge-podge argument for the good of the nation which I did not well understand.

1764. Lloyd, Poems (774), 'A Tale.' Was ever such an hodge-podge seen.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1788. Shadwell, Squire of Alsatia, s.v. Hog, a shilling.

1893. National Observer, 25 Feb., ix., 358. Pay me an infinitesimal sum, Lord Winchilsea says (in effect) to Hodge, 'and you shall have a weekly newspaper for nothing.'

Hodman, (Oxford Univ.).—A scholar from Westminster School admitted to Christ Church College, Oxford.

Hodmandod, subs. (old).—I. A snail in his shell—Bacon. See Doddy.

1686. Captain Cowley in Harris Voyages, i., 82. We walked, moreover, without the town to the villages inhabited by the Hodmandods, to view their nasty bodies.

Hoe. To hoe in (American Univ.).—To work with vigour; to swot (q.v.).

To hoe one's own row, verb. phr. (American).—To do one's own work.

Hard row to hoe. See Hard Row.

Hoe-down, subs. (American).—A negro dance; a breakdown (q.v.).

Hog, subs. (old).—I. A shilling: also a sixpence: and (in America) a ten-cent piece. For synonyms, see Blow. Half-a-hog = sixpence, or five-cent piece.


Hog, You Darkman Budge, will you Fence your hog at the next Boozing ken?


1809-12. Miss Edgeworth, Ennui, ch. vi. "It's only a tester or a Hog they want your honour to give 'em, to drink your honour's health," said Paddy. "A Hog to drink my health?" Ay, that is a thirteen. Please your honour; all as one as an English shilling.

1825. Egan, Life of an Actor, ch. iv. You shall have . . . eighteen Hog a week, and a benefit which never fails.

1851-61. H. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, vol. i., p. 529. The slang phrases are constantly used by the street lads; thus a sixpence is a 'tanner'; a shilling a 'bob,' or a Hog . . . . The collection of coin dealers amply show, that the figure of a hog was anciently placed on a small silver coin.

1857. Mrs. Mathews, Tea Table Talk, p. 207. The shopwoman satisfied Suett after her fashion, that his little lump of Suett had absorbed flour and lard (pastry) to the amount of what her queer customer would have termed a Hoc.


2. (colloquial). — A foul-mouthed blackguard; a dirty feeder. Also, a common glutton.

1690. Florio, A World of Words, s.v. Ciro, a Hogge, a swine, a filthie fellowe.

1892. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, p. 69. 'Arry's a Hog when he feeds.

3. (Cambridge Univ.: obsolete). — A student of St. John's.

1796. Gent. Mag., lxv., 22. The JOHNIAN HOGS were originally remarkable on account of the squalid figures and low habits of the students, and especially of the sizers of Saint John's College. [Another story of how name originated is given in detail in Gent. Mag. (1795), lxv., 107.]


4. (old Scots').— A yearling sheep.

1796. Burns, Poems. What will I do gin my hoggie die, my joy, my friend, my hoggie.

5. (American).— An inhabitant of Chicago. [That city being a notable pig-breeding and pork-packing centre.]

6. (old).— A Hampshireman.

1770. Lord Hailes, Ancient Scottish Poems, 'Dance of the Seven Deadly Sins.' Note on line 115. And thus his ill-bred raillery will be like that of Essex calves, HAMPSHIRE HOGS, Middlesex mongrels, Norfolk dumplings, Welsh goats, etc.

Verb (American). — 1. To cheat; to humbug; TO GAMMON (q.v.).


2. (venery). — To copulate. For synonyms see GREENS and RIDE.

3. (stables).—To cut short; e.g., to Hog a horse's mane.

A HOG IN ARMOUR, subs. phr. (old).—A lout in fine clothes. Also a Jack-in-office; HOG-IN-TOGS = (in America) a well-dressed loafer. [Hog = Hodge (q.v.), a rustic.]

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Hog . . . an awkward, or mean looking man or woman, finely dressed, is said to look like a Hog in Armour.
To go the whole hog.
See Whole Animal.

To bring one's hogs (or pigs) to a fine market, verb, phr. (old).—To do well; to make a good deal (q.v.). Also, in sarcasm, the opposite.

HOG-GRUBBER, subs. (old).—A miser; a niggard; a mean cuss (q.v.).


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Hog grubber, a mean stingy fellow.

HOGMAGUNDY (or Houghmagan-die), subs. (Scots).—Copulation. For synonyms, see Greens and Ride.

1786. Burns, The Holy Fair [last stanza]. There's some are fou o' love divine, There's some are fou o' brandy; An' mony jobs that day begin, May end in hougmagandie Some ither day.

HOGMENAY, subs. (old Scots').—1. New Year's Eve, which is a national festival. [The origin has been the subject of much discussion.]


1793. The Bee, 10 July, p. 17. The night preceding that festival Hogg-monay.

1879. James Napier, Folk Lore, p. 154. After the Reformation, the Scotch transferred Hagmanay [from Xmas Eve] to the last day of December, as a preparation day for the New Year.

2. Hence a wanton. [The feast is celebrated with much drink and not a little license.]

HOGO, subs. (old).—A flavour; an aroma; a relish. Hence, in irony, and by corruption, a stink. Cf., Fogo. [From Fr., haut goût.] See High, sense 2.


1639-61. Rump Songs. 'A Vindication of the Rump.' Oh! what a Hogo was there.
Hogshead.

1645. Howell, *Letters*, v., xxxviii., p. 42. He can marinate fish, make gellies, and is excellent for a *pickant* sauce, and the HAUGOU.

1653. Walton, *Compleat Angler*, i., ch. vii. To give the sauce a hOGOE let the dish (into which you let the Pike fall) be rubbed with it [garlick].

1656. Cheyne *Drollery*, p. 34. And why not say a word or two Of she that's just ? witness all who Have ever been at thy HO-GO.


Hoist.

1690. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. Hoist. Labour in vain, which the Latines express by Goats-wooll, as the English by the SHEARING of HOGGS.

Hogs-norton. To have been born at Hogs-norton, verb. phr. (old).—To be ill-mannered.


1676. Marvel, *Mr. Smirke* [Grosart], iv., p. 89. A pair of organs of cats which he had done well to have made the pigs at HOGGS-NORTON play on.

Hogstye of Venus, subs. phr. (venery).—See quot. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.

1598. Florio, *Worlde of Wordes*, s.v. Porcile di venere, the HOG-STYE OF VENUS, a woman's privities or gear.

Hog-wash, subs. (common).—I. Bad liquor; specifically, ROT-GUT (q.v.).

2. (journalists'). — Worthless newspaper matter; SLUSH, SWASH, and FLUB-DUB (q.v.).

Hoi polloi, subs. phr. (university). The candidates for ordinary degrees. [From the Greek.] Cf., GULF.

Hoist, subs. (old).—A shoplifter; also a confederate hoisting or helping a thief to reach an open window. THE HOIST = shoplifting. To GO UPON THE HOIST = to enter a house by an open window.

1796. Grose, *Vulg. Tongue* (3rd Ed.), s.v. Hoist. This is done by the assistance of a confederate called THE HOIST, who leans his head against the wall, making his back a kind of step or ascent.—Gros.

1819. Vaux, *Cant. Dict.* Hoist, the game of shop-lifting is called THE HOIST; a person expert at this practice is said to be a good hoist.
Holster. 330  Holborn Hill.

1821. Haggart, Life, p. 38. We were principally engaged upon the hoys and coreing.

Verb (thieves').—1. To practise shop-lifting; to rob by means of the hoist (q.v.).

2. (American).—To run away; to decamp. For synonyms, see amputate and skedaddle.

1847. Porter, Quarter Race, etc., p. 174. Jist hist, and take yourself off.

3. (common).—To drink. E.g., Will you hoist? = will you have a liquor?; hoisting = drinking; on the hoist = on the drunk. Also a hoist in.

To give a hoist, verb. phr. (tailors').—To do a bad turn.

To have (or do) a hoist in. verb. phr. (venery).—To copulate. For synonyms, see greens and ride.

Hoister, subs. (old).—1. A shop-lifter; a hoist (q.v., sense 1). Also a pickpocket.

1847-50. J. H. Jesse, London, i., 30. He that could take out a counter without any noise was allowed to be a public hoyster. N.B.—That a hoyster is a pickpocket.

2. (common).—A sot. For synonyms, see lushington.

Hoisting (or hoist-lay), subs. (thieves').—1. Shop-lifting. The hoist (q.v.). Also shaking a man head downwards, so that his money rolls out of his pockets.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v.


1888. Temple Bar, xxiv., 534. She can secrete articles about her dress when in a shop looking at things, and that's one way of hoisting.

2. (old).—See quot.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Hoisting, a ludicrous ceremony, formerly performed on every soldier, the first time he appeared in the field, after being married: as soon as the regiment, or company, had grounded their arms, to rest awhile; three or four men of the same company, to which the bridgroom belonged, seized upon him, and putting a couple of bayonets out of the two corners of his hat, to represent horns, it was placed on his head, the back part foremost, he was then hoisted on the shoulders of two strong fellows, and carried round the arms, a drum and fife beating and playing, the pioneers call, named round-heads and cuckold, but on this occasion stiled the cuckold's march; in passing the colours, he was to take off his hat ... This in some regiments was practised by the officers on their brethren.

Hoit (or Hoyt), verb. (old).—To be noisily or riotously inclined.

1611. Beaumont and Fletcher, Knight of the Burning Pestle, iv., 1. He sings, and hoysts, and revels among his drunken companions.

Hoity-toity. See highty-tighty.

Hokey-pokey, subs. (common).—1. A cheat; a swindle; nonsense. [From Hocus Pocus.]

2. (common).—A cheap ice-cream sold in the streets.

Holborn Hill. To ride backwards up Holborn Hill, verb. phr. (old colloquial).—To go to the gallows. [The way was thence to Tyburn, criminals riding backwards.—Grose.]

1614. Jonson, Bartholomew Fair, ii., 1. Urs. Up the heavy hill—Knock. Of Holbourne, Ursula, mean'st thou so? for what, for what, pretty Urs? Urs. For cutting halfpenny purses, or stealing little penny dogs out o' the fair.

1659. Harry White's Humour (Nares). Item, he loves to ride when he is weary, yet at certaine times he holds it ominous to ride up Holborne.

1695. Congreve. Love for Love, ii., 7. Sirrah, you'll be hanged; I shall live to see you go up Holborn Hill.
Hold, verb. (old).—1. To bet; to wager. See Do YOU HOLD?


1584. Udall, Roister Doister, i., 2 (Dodsley, Old Plays, 4th ed., 1875, iii., 7). I hold a groat ye will drink anon of this gear.

To hold up, verb. phr. (American and Australian).—1. To rob on the highway; to bail or stick up (q.v.). Also as subs. = a highwayman or road-agent (q.v.).

1888. Detroit Free Press, 8 Dec. One man held up six stage passengers in Arizona the other day and robbed them of $2,000. Each was armed, but it is customary to submit out there, and so up went their hands.


1892. Lippincott, Oct., p. 405. Would hold the train up until I had finished.

2. (thieves').—To arrest. For synonyms, see NAB.

To hold the stage, verb. phr. (theatrical).—To have the chief place on the boards and the eye of an audience. Fr., avoir les planches.

To hold a candle to, verb. phr. (colloquial).—See Devil, and add the following quot.

1868. Reade and Boucicault, Foul Play, p. 65. But you see, sir, he has got the ear of the merchant ashore; and so I am obliged to hold a candle to the devil.

To hold on to, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To apply oneself; to be persistent: generally, to hold on like grim death.

1848. Ruxton, Life in the Far West, p. 71. He recovered, and wisely held on to for the future.

To hold in hand, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To amuse; to possess the attention or the mind; to have in one's pocket.

To hold the market, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To buy stock and hold it to so large an extent that the price cannot decline.

Do you hold? phr. (streets).—Have you money to lend? Can you stand treat? Cf. verb., sense 1.
**Hold-out.**

**Hold your horses, phr.** (American).—Go easy; don’t get excited: a general injunction to calm in act and speech.

**Hold your jaw, phr.** (colloquial).—Hold your tongue; **stow your gab** (q.v.).

**Hold hard!** (or **on**)! intj. (colloquial).—Wait a moment! don’t be in a hurry!

1761. Colman, *Jealous Wife*, V., in *Wks.* (1777), i., 130. **Hold hard! Hold hard!** you are all on a wrong scent.

1835. Dickens, *Sketches by Boz*, p. 280. ’**Hold hard!**’ said the conductor; I’m blowed if we ha’n’t forgot the gen’lm’n as vas to be set down at Doory-lane.’


**Hold-stitch.**—See **stitch**.

**Hold-water.**—See **water**.

**Hold-out, subs.** (gambling).—An old-fashioned apparatus, in poker, for ‘holding out’ desirable cards.

**Hole** (venery).—I. The female *pudendum*. Also, **Hole of Content**, and **Hole (or Queen) of Holes**. For synonyms, see **monosyllable**. **To give a hole to hide it in = to grant the favour** (q.v.). [Hence, by a play upon words, **Holy of Holies**.]

1595. Shakspeare, *Romeo and Juliet*, ii., 4. This drivelling love is like a great natural, that runs lolling up and down to hide his *bauble* (q.v.) in a **hole**.

1598. Florio, *Worde of Worde*, s.v. *Carnafau*, the brat-getting place, or **hole of content**.

1620. Percy, *Folio MS.*, p. 197. ... He light in a **hole** ere he was aware!


d. 1649. Drummond, *Posthumous Poems*, ‘The Statue of Alcides.’ Fair nymph, in ancient days, your holes, by far, Were not so hugely vast as now they are.

1719. Durfey, *Pills*, etc., iv., 72. It has a head much like a Mole’s, And yet it loves to creep in **holes**. ‘The fairest She that e’er took Life, For love of this became a Wife.

2. (old).—A cell; cf., **Hell**, sense 1.

1540. Lindsay, *Thrie Estaits*, line 1016. Wee have gart bind him with ane poill, And send him to the theifis **hoill**.

1607. *Miseries of Enforced Marriage*, iii., 1. (Dodsley, *Old Plays*, 4th ed., 1875, ix., 514). If you shall think ... it shall accord with the state of gentry to submit myself from the feather-bed in the master’s side, or the flock-bed in the knight’s ward, to the straw-bed in the **hole**.

1607. Wentworth Smith, *The Puritan*, iii. But if e’er we clutch him again the Counter shall charm him. **Raw. The hole shall rot him.**

1657. *Walks of Hogsdon*. Next from the stocks, the **hole**, and little-ease.


3. (old).—A private printing office where unlicensed books were made; a **cock-robin shop** (q.v.).—Moxon, 1683.

4. (colloquial).—A difficulty; a fix; on the turf, **to be in a hole** = to lose (a bet) or be defeated (of horses).

1760-61. Smollett, *Sir L. Greaves*, ch. xvi. I should be in a deadly **hole** myself if all my customers should take it into their heads to drink nothing but water-gruel.

1868. Ouida, *Under Two Flags*, ch. i. ‘I am in a **hole**—no end of a hole.

5. (common).—A place of abode; specifically, a mean habitation; a dirty lodging. For synonyms, see **diggings**.

6. (common).—The *rectum* short for **arse-hole**. *E.g.*, **suck his hole** = a derisive retort upon an affirmative answer to the
question, 'Do you know So-and-So?' For synonyms, see MONOCULAR EYEGLASS.

1383. CHAUCER, Canterbury Tales, 'The Miller's Tale.' And at the window she put out her hole.

1540. LINDSAY, Thrie Estates, line 2174. Lift vp hir clais: Kis hir hoill with your hart.

1614. JONSON, Bartholomew Fair, v., 3. A pox o' your manners, kiss my hole here, and smell.

1649. DRUMMOND, Madrigals and Epigrams, 'A Jest' (CHALMERS, English Poets, 1810, x., 667). She turned, and turning up her hole beneath, Said, 'Sir, kiss her.'

d. 1732. GAY, Tales 'In Imitation of Chaucer's Style' (CHALMERS, English Poets, 1810, x., 504). Thou didst not forget to guard thy postern, There is an hole which hath not crossed been.

Verb (venery).—To effect intromission; to PUT IN (q.v.). Hence, HOLED, adj. = IN (q.v.).

A HOLE IN ONE'S COAT, subs. phr. (colloquial). — A flaw in one's fame; a weak spot in one's character. To PICK A HOLE IN ONE'S COAT = to find a cause for censure.

1789. BURNS, Verses on Capt. Grose. If there's a hole in a' your coats, I rede you tent it.

To MAKE (or BURN) A HOLE IN ONE'S POCKET, verb. phr. (colloquial). — Said of money recklessly spent.

To MAKE A HOLE IN ANYTHING, verb. phr. (colloquial). — To use up largely.


To MAKE A HOLE IN THE WATER, verb. phr. — (common). — To commit suicide by drowning.

1892. MILLIKEN, 'Arry Ballads, p. 76. I should just make a hole in the water, if 'tworn't for the wife and the kids.

To MAKE A HOLE, verb. phr. (colloquial). — To break; to spoil; to upset; to interrupt. Thus to MAKE A HOLE IN ONE'S MANNERS = to be rude; to MAKE A HOLE IN ONE'S REPUTATION = to betray; to seduce; to MAKE A HOLE IN THE SILENCE = to make a noise, to RAISE CAIN (q.v.).

TOO DRUNK TO SEE A HOLE IN A LADDER, phr. (common). — Excessively intoxicated. For synonyms, see DRINKS and SCREWED.

HOLE-AND-CORNER, adj. (colloquial). — Secret; underhand; out of the way: e.g., HOLE-AND-CORNER WORK = shady business. Also (venery) = copulation. [Cf., HOLE, subs. sense 1.]

HOLER (also HOLEMONGER), subs. (colloquial). — A whoremaster (cf., HOLE, subs., sense 1). Also (old), a harlot; a light woman (cf., HOLE, verb.). Hence, HOLING = whoring.

HOLIDAY, adj. (old). — Unskilled; indifferent; careless.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. HOLIDAY, A HOLIDAY BOWLER, a bad bowler.

BLIND MAN'S HOLIDAY. See ante.

To HAVE A HOLIDAY AT PECKHAM, verb. phr. (colloquial). — To go dinnerless. ALL HOLIDAY AT PECKHAM = no work and nothing to eat. [A play upon words.] See PECKISH.

1811. Lexicon Balatonicum. ALL HOLIDAY AT PECKHAM . . . . a saying signifying that it is all over with the business or person spoken of or alluded to.
1848. Forster, Oliver Goldsmith, bk. i., ch. vi., p. 55 (5th Ed.). "Oh, that is all a holiday at Peckham," said an old friend very innocently one day.

To take a holiday, verb. phr. (common).—To be dismissed; to get the bag (q.v.) or bargain (q.v.).

Gone for a holiday, adv. phr. (colloquial).—Said of a flaw, lapse, or imperfection of any kind (as dropped stitches, lost buttons, slurred painting, and so forth). See also quotes.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Holiday . . . a holiday is any part of a ship's bottom left uncovered in painting it.

1883. Clark Russell, Sailors' Language, p. 69, s.v. Holidays. Places left untarred on shrouds, backstays, etc., during the operation of tarring them.

Holler, verb. (American).—To cry enough; to give in; to cave in (q.v.).

1847. Porter, Quarter Race, etc., p. 89. The truth must come, he warped me nice, so just to save his time I hollered.

Hollis, subs. (Winchester College).—A small pebble. [Said to be derived from a boy.—Notions.]

Hollow, adj. (colloquial).—Complete; certain; decided. As adv. completely; utterly. E.g., to beat or lick hollow. See Beat and Creation.

1759. Townley, High Life Below Stairs, i., 2. Crab was beat hollow.

1781. Colman, Jealous Wife, V., in Wks. (1777), i., 134. So, my lord, you and I are both distanced: a hollow thing, damme.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v. Hollow. It was quite a hollow thing, i.e., a certainty, or decided business.

1814. Edgeworth, Patronage, ch. iii. Squire Burton won the match hollow.

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends. "Bloudie Jack." His lines to Apollo Beat all the rest hollow and gained him the Newdegate Prize.

1852. Dickens, Bleak House, ch. lxiv., p. 529. I have therefore taken a 'ouse in that locality, which, in the opinion of my friends, is a hollow bargain (taxes ridiculous, and use of fixtures included in the rent).

1871. Durham County Advertiser, 10 Nov. "It licks me hollow, sir, as I may say," put in the silent member.

1892. Punch, 9 July, p. 3. Booby-traps were beaten hollow.

Holloway, subs. (venery).—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see Monosyllable.

Holloway, Middlesex (common).—The lower bowel; the arse-gut (q.v.).

Holt, verb. (American).—To take; to take hold of.

Holus-bolus, subs. (nautical).—The head. Also the neck.

Adv. (colloquial).—Helter skelter; altogether; first come, first served.


Holy. More holy than righteous, adv. phr. (common).—Said of a person in rags, or of a tattered garment.

Holy-boys, subs. (military).—The Ninth Foot. [From a trick of selling bibles for drink in the Peninsula.] Also, Fighting Ninth.

1886. Tinsley's Magazine, Apr., 322. The 9th having bartered their Bibles in Spain for wine, and having there gained a reputation for sacking monasteries, were long known as the Holy Boys.
Holy-father, subs. (Irish).—See quote.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Holy Father, A butcher’s boy of St. Patrick’s Market, Dublin, or other Irish blackguard; among whom the exclamation, or oath, by the Holy Father (meaning the Pope), is common.


Holy Joe, subs. phr. (colloquial).
—A pious person, whether hypocritical or sincere. Also (nautical), a parson.

Holy Jumping Mother of Moses. See Moses.

Holy Lamb, subs. (old).—A thorough-paced villain.—Grose.

Holy Land (or ground), subs. (old).—I. St. Giles’s; Palestine (q.v.).

1819. Moore, Tom Crib’s Memorial to Congress, p. 7. For we are the boys of the holy ground, and we’ll dance upon nothing and turn us round.

1821. The Fancy, i., p. 250. The Holy Land, as St. Giles’s has been termed, in compliment to the superior purity of its Irish population.

1821. Egan, Tom and Jerry, ch. ii. At Mammy O’Shaughnessy’s in the back Settlements of the Holy Land.

1823. W. T. Moncrieff, Tom and Jerry, ii., 5. Let’s have a dive among the cadgers in the back slums, in the Holy Land.

1843 Punch’s Almanack, i Sept. St. Giles. The Marquis of Waterford makes a pilgrimage to his shrine in the Holy Land.

1859. Sala, Twice Round the Clock, one a.m., par. 28. Unfaithful topographers may have told you that the Holy Land being swept away and Buckeridge Street being pulled down, St. Giles’s exists no more.

1989. Westminister Gaz., 31 Jan., p. 3, C. 2. The Cabinet Council is the Holy of Holies of the British Constitution, and as Mr. Bagehot long ago regretted, no description of it at once graphic and authentic has ever been given.

3. (venery).—See Hole, sense 1, and for synonyms, Monosyllable.

Holy Poker (or Iron), subs. phr. (university).—The mace carried by an esquire bedel (of Law, Physic, or Divinity) as a badge of authority. [The term, which is applied to the bedels themselves, is very often used as an oath.]

1840. Comic Almanack, ‘Tom the Devil,’ p. 214. A hotel’s the place for me! I’ve thried em all, from the Club-house at Kilkenny, to the Clarendon, and, by the holy poker, never wish myself worse luck than such cantonments!

1870. London Figaro, 8 Oct., p. 2, col. 2. The bedels of a University are very important persons, although derisive undergraduates familiarly term them holy pokers.

1886. R. L. Stevenson, Kidnapped, p. 169. I swear upon the holy iron I had neither art nor part.

2. (venery).—The penis (by a play upon words). Cf., Hole, sense 1, Holy of Holies, sense

Holy Moses. See Moses.
Holy-water Sprinkler.

3, and POKE. For synonyms, see CREAMSTICK and PRICK.

**Holy-water Sprinkler**, subs. phr. (old).—A mediæval weapon of offence; a MORNING STAR (q.v.).


1893. *Gentlemen's Mag.*, Jan., p. 74. A’d then I learnt that by HOME he meant England, which, moreover, is referred to as ‘home’ by dusky myriads, who have never seen her cliffs rise above the waves.

**To get home**, verb, phr. (colloquial).—1. To achieve an object; to succeed perfectly; and (athletic) to reach the winning post.


1892. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 23 Jan., 3, 2. It is delightful to watch Mr. Charles Hawtrey telling lie after lie to his unbelieving wife, and joyfully, in misplaced confidence, saying to himself, ‘I’ve got home.’

2. (pugilists').—To get in (a blow) with precision and effect; TO LAND (q.v.). Also (old) to give a mortal wound.

1559. ELVOT, *Dictionary*, 3rd. ed. Aere meo me lasciss, thou gevest me scoffe for scoffe, or as we saie, thou paiest me home.


1698. FARQUHAR, Love and a Bottle, iv, 3. But hark ye, George; don’t push too home; have a care of whipping through the guts.

1706. FARQUHAR, Recruiting Officer, ii, 1. That’s home.

1888. *Sporting Life*, 10 Dec. In the next round got home several times without a return.

1891. *Licensed Vict. Gaz.*, 19 June, p. 395, c. 3. Mac got home a terrific cross-counter with the left on Bob’s left eye, which seemed to split the flesh open both above and below.

3. (turf).—To recover a loss; neither to win nor lose; to come out quits. Also, **to bring one-self home**.

4. (venery).—To get with child. Also, to compel the sexual spasm.

**To make oneself at home**, verb, phr. (colloquial).—To take one’s ease; to be familiar to the point of ill-breeding.

1892. MILLIKEN, ‘Arry Ballads, p. 10. As at home as a cat in a cream-shop.

**To come home to**, verb, phr. (colloquial).—To reach the conscience; to touch deeply.

**To go (send, or carry) home** (or to one’s last home), verb, phr. (colloquial).—To die; to kill; to bury. [The Chinese say ‘to go home horizontally.’] *See ALOFT.*

1598. FLORIO, *A Worlde of Wordes*. Mandar ‘al isalegro, to send to one’s last home.

1823. BEE, Dict. Turf, s.v. Home. Gone home, dead.

**Home-bird**, subs. (colloquial).—A henpecked husband. Also, a milksop. Fr., chauffe-la-couche (= warming-pan).

**Home for lost dogs**, subs. phr. (medical).—A large and well known medical school in London. [From the fact that the majority of its inmates have strayed there from the various hospital schools, as a last resource toward taking a degree.]
**Home-rule.**

**HOMERULE,** **subs.** (common). — Irish whiskey. For synonyms, see **Drinks** and **Old Man's Milk.**

**HOMESWEETHOME,** **subs.** (venery). — The female pudendum. For synonyms, see **Monosyllable.**

**HOMO,** **subs.** (old). — A man: generally **omee** (q.v.). [From the Latin.] For synonyms, see **Cove.**

**HOMONEY,** **subs.** (old). — A woman. For synonyms, see **Petticoat.** Also, a wife. For synonyms, see **Dutch** and **Cf. Homo.**

1754. **Discoveries of John Poulter,** p. 43. *My homoney is in quod, my wife is in gaol.*

**HOMOOPATHISE,** verb. (American). —To get bills (i.e., petitions) through Legislature, Congress, or City Council, by means of bills (i.e., bank-bills).

**HONE,** **subs.** (venery). — The female pudendum. For synonyms, see **Monosyllable.**

1719. **Durfey, Pills,** etc., i., 204. So I may no more pogue the hone of a woman.


1596. **Ben Jonson, Every Man in his Humour,** ii., 1. *Why cannot be, where there is such resort; O wanton gallants, and young revellers, That any woman should be honest long.*


1602. **Shakspeare, Othello,** iii., 3. *I do not think but Desdemona's honest.*

1614. **Jonson, Bartholomew Fair,** v., 3. *De honest woman's life is a dull scurvy life, indeed.*


1668. **Killigrew, The Parson's Wedding,** v., 4 (**Doddsley, Old Plays**, 4th ed., 1875, xiv., 525). *Crooked, dirty-souled vermin, predestined for cuckolds, painted snails with houses on their backs, and horns as big as Dutch cows . . . . Can any woman be honest that lets such hodmandods crawl o'er her virgin breast and belly?*

1672. **Wycherley, Love in a Wood,** ii., 1. *A man . . . . may bring his basful wench, and not have her put out of countenance by the impudent honest women of the town.*

1886-7. **Aubrey, Gentilisme** (1881), p. 163. *The towne is full of wanton wenches, and . . . . (they say) scarce three honest women in the Town.*

1693. **Congreve, Old Bachelor,** iii., ro. *Silvia. I'm not such a fool neither, but I can keep myself honest.*

1695. **Congreve, Love for Love,** iii., 14. *Mrs. Fore. Do you think any woman honest? Scan. Yes, several very honest; they'll cheat a little at cards sometimes; but that's nothing. Mrs. Fore. Pshaw! but virtuous, I mean.*

2. (common). — Not positively illegal: as honest penny or shilling = money earned by means immoral [as by prostitution] but within the law. Also, to turn an honest penny = to make a profitable deal.

1677. **Wycherley, Plain Dealer,** iii., 1. *You must call usury and extortion God's blessing, or the honest turning of the penny.*

1886. **J. S. Winter, Army Society,** ch. xxi. *There was a chance of turning an honest penny in hiring them out for the donkey-race.*

**To make an honest woman,** verb. phr. (colloquial). — To marry a mistress.

1629. **Earle, Microcosmographie** (5th ed.). *'A Serving Man.' The best work he does is his marrying, for he makes an honest woman, and if he follows in it his master's direction, it is commonly the best service he does him.*

Honest Injun. 338

Honeycomb. 338

1750. Fielding, Tom Jones, bk. XV., ch. viii. Mr. Nightingale, and his love, stepped into a hackney-coach, which conveyed him to Doctors' Commons, where Miss Nancy was, in vulgar language, soon made an honest woman.

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v., 1750. Fielding, Tom Jones, bk. XV., ch. viii. Mr. Nightingale, and his love, stepped into a hackney-coach, which conveyed him to Doctors' Commons, where Miss Nancy was, in vulgar language, soon made an honest woman.

1825. Scott, St. Ronan's Well, ch. xxv. My right honourable father nourished some thoughts of making an honest woman of Marie de Martiguy, and a legitimate elder brother of Francis.

1827. Egan, Anecdotes of the Turf, p. 182. She had now only to play her cards well, she was sure of winning the game, also of becoming an honest woman.

As honest a man as when kings are out, phr. (old).—Knavish.

Honest as the skin between the brows (or horns), phr. (old).—As honest as may be.

1551. W. Still, Ganner Gurton's Needle, (O.P.), ii., 67. I am as true, I wold thou knew, as skin betwene thy brows.

1599. Jonson, Every Man out of his Humour, ii., 2. Punt. Is he magnanimous? Gent. As the skin between your brows, sir.

1600. Shakspeare, Much Ado, iii., 5. An old man, sir, and his wits are not so blunt, as, God help, I would desire they were, but in faith, honest, as the skin between his brows.

1614. Jonson, Bartholomew Fair, iv., 5. It shall be justified to thy husband's faish, now: thou shalt be as honests as the skin between his horns, la.

Honest Injun! phr. (American).—A pledge of sincerity; honour bright (q.v.).

1884. Clemens [Mark Twain], Huckleberry Finn. She says 'Honest Injun, now hain't you been telling me a lot of lies?' 'Honest Injun' says I.

1892. Detroit Free Press, 12 Aug. I'll agree not to feel hard about it. Honest Injun?

Honey, subs. (American).—1. A good fellow.

1888. Missouri Republican, 24 Feb. Dave is a honey.

2. (rhyming slang).—Money. For synonyms, see Actual and Gilt.

3. (old colloquial).—A term of endearment.

4. (venery).—The semen. Also. White honey (q.v.). Cf., hive.

Verb (American).—To cajole; to exchange endearments; to deceive by soft words or promises.

1592. Shakspeare, Hamlet, iii., 4. Stew'd in corruption; honeying and making love Over the nasty sty.

1602. Marston, Antonio and Mellida, A. 4. Canst thou not honey me with fluent speach, And even adore my toplesse villany?

1604. Marston and Webster, Malcontent, O.P., iv., 66. O unpeerable! invention rare! Thou god of policy, it hones me.

1631. Chettle, Hoffman. Clo. A pretious villaine: a good villaine too. Well if he be no worse; that is doe worse, And honey me in my death - stinging thoughts, I will preferre him.

1888. Tuscaloosa News. It is of no use to honey; payments must be made at least once a year.

To sell honey for a half-penny, verb. phr. (old).—To rate at a vile price.

1562. Nashe, Pierce Penilesse [1842], p. 43. Thou that in thy dialogues soldest hunnie for a halfe-penie, and the choysest writers extant for cues a pееce.

Honey-blobs, subs. (Scots').—Large, ripe, yellow gooseberries.

1746. Walpole, Letters, i., 144. As he returned to the Tower, he stopped the coach at Charing Cross to buy honey-blobs, as the Scotch call gooseberries.

Honeycomb, subs. (old).—A sweetheart; a general term of endearment.
Honey-fogle.

1552. HULOET, Axcedarium, s.v. DARLYNGE, a wanton terme used in veneriall speach, as be these: HONYCOMBE, pyggisnye, swetehert, true love.

Honey-Fogle (or Fugle), verb. (American). — To cheat; to swindle; to humbug. For synonyms, see Gammon.

1888. Missouri Republican, 20 Jan. Noonan’s companion objected to this honey-fugling by knocking the demonstrative stranger down.

Honey-pot, subs. (old). — The female pudendum. For synonyms, see Monosyllable.

1719. DURFEY, Pills, etc., iii., 342. For when you have possession got, Of Venus’ Mark, or Honey-pot.

Honour Bright! intj. (common). — Upon my honour.

1819. Moore, Tom Crib, p. 36. At morning meet, and, — Honour bright, — agree to share the blunt and tatters!


1869. F. HALL, Marginal reading to Lyndsay’s Satire of Three Estates (E.E. Text Soc.), p. 382. She is more than a match for twenty-four a night, honour bright.


1881. W. BLACK, Beautiful Wretch, ch. xix. ‘I do not mean to marry Mr. Jacomb, if that is what you mean.’ ‘No? Honour bright?’ ‘I shall not marry Mr. Jacomb.’

1892. Cassell’s Sat. Jour., 28 Sep., p. 29, c. 3. ‘Come, come, Mr. Smith, you’re drawing the long bow!’ ‘Honour bright, I’m not.’

1892. N. GouLD, Double Event, p. 158. ‘She did, Honour bright,’ said Smirk.

Hood. Two faces under one hood (or Hat), phr. (old). — Double-dealing.


To put a bone in one’s hood, verb. phr. (obsolete). — To cuckold.


Hoodlum, subs. (American). — A boy rough. Also, a rough of either sex. Also (political), a low-class voter. Originally Californian. Cf., Arab.

1872. Sacramento Weekly Union, 24 Feb., p. 2. All the boys to be trained as scriveners, tape-measurers, counter-hoppers, clerks, petitfoggers, polite loafers, street-hounds, hoodlums, and bummers.

1877. Los Angeles Express, 25 Aug. A gang of boys . . . . associated for the purpose of stealing. . . . Their words of warning were ‘Huddle ’em, Huddle ’em.’ . . . . soon contracted into hoodlum.

1877. Boston Journal, Aug. You at the East have but little idea of the hoodlums of this city. They compose a class of criminals of both sexes, far more dangerous than are to be found in the Eastern cities. They travel in gangs, and are ready at any moment for the perpetration of any crime.

1877. Congregationalist, 26 Sep. A newspaper man attempting to coin a word to designate a gang of young street Arabs under the beck of one named ‘Muldoon,’ hit upon hoodlums, simply reversing the leader’s name. . . . The compositor, taking the n for an h, printed it hoodlum.

1877. Morning Call, 27 Oct. The rowdy element in the city . . . . who were soon after designated as hoodlums.

1885. G. A. SALA, in Daily Telegraph, 12 Aug., p. 5, c. 5. In order to guard against the contingency of the white hoodlums, or roughs, coming down in force from the American quarter of the city [San Francisco], and ‘going for’ the Celestials.
1888. *Missouri Republican*, 31 Mar. It is conceded by all that the Hoodlums have nominated weak men, and the citizens will have easy sailing on Tuesday.

1890. *Norton, Political Americanisms*, s.v. *Hoodlums*, A general name for roughs. It originated on the Pacific coast, as the designation of a company of young ruffians in San Francisco (about 1868). Subsequently it spread Eastward, and attained some political significance; as *the hoodlum element* in politics.

1892. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 29 Feb., p. 2, c. 2. A right of public meeting dependent on the good will of the hoodlum is not worth having.


**Hoodman.** *subs.* (old).—A blind man; a groper (*q.v.*).

*Adj.* (old).—1. Blind. Also *hoodman blind* = blind drunk; *cf.*, sense 2. Fr., *berlu* and *sans mirettes*.

2. (streets).—Drunk. For synonyms, *see* *drinks* and *screwed*.

**Hoof.** *subs.* (common).—A foot.

For synonyms, *see* *creepers*.

1836. M. Scott, *Cruise of the Midge*, p. 134. Contriving in their complex twirlifications not only to tread heavily on my toes with his own hoofs, but to hop his partner repeatedly over the same unfortunate members.

1838. Grant, *Sketches in London*, p. 213. He again put both his ugly hoofs on it.


1892. Sydney Watson, *Wops the Waif*, ch. iv., p. 5. Teddy, look out, yer’ve got yer hoof on my trotters!’

*Verb* (common).—To kick; *e.g.*, to hoof (or toe) one’s bum; to root (*q.v.* for synonyms).

Hence to hoof out = to eject; to dismiss; to discharge; to decline to see.

**To hoof it** (or to pad or beat the hoof), *verb. phr.* (common). To walk; to *tramp it*; to run away. For synonyms, *see* *amputate* and *skedaddle*. Hence *hoof-padding*.


1772. Cumberland, *Fashionable Lover*. Prologue. I am a devil, so please you, and must hoof up to the poet yonder with this proof.

1785. Grose, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. *hoof* to beat the hoof, to travel on foot; he hoofed it, of beat the hoof, every step of the way from Chester to London.


1837. Dickens, *Oliver Twist*, ch. ix. Charley Bates expressed his opinion that it was time to pad the hoof.

1885. *Detroit Free Press*, 5 Sept., p. 1, c 1. These busted theatrical people who are hoofing it back to Detroit. They come along at all hours of the day and night.

1888. Lynch, *Mountain Mystery*, ch. xviii. I s’posed he was tired out, and had got over watchin’ for tricks. So I hoofed it in.

1892. Milliken, ‘*Arry Ballads*, p. 70. Scenery’s all very proper, but where is the genuine pot who’d pad the ‘oof over the moors.
To see one's hoof in (a thing), verb. phr. (common).—
To detect personal influence or interference in a matter.

1863. Thackeray, *Roundabout Papers*, 'On Screens in Dining Rooms' (1887, p. 58). I am informed by the same New York correspondent that... I once said to a literary gentleman, who was possibly pointing to an anonymous article as his writing, 'Ah! I thought I recognized your hoof in it.'

Hoof-padder, subs. (common).—A pedestrian.

Hoofy, adj. (common).—Splay (or large).

Hook, subs. (thieves').—I. A finger.
(Cf., Cunt-hooks). For synonyms, see Fork. In plural—the hands. Also, hooks and feelers.

d. 1842. Maginn, *Vidocq Versified*. To his clies my hooks I throw in.

1877. *Five Years' Penal Servitude*, ch. iv., p. 259. I one day asked a man... if the hard work of prison did not spoil his hands for delicate manipulations. 'Oh, bless you, no!' he replied;... In a week or two a man can bring his hooks and feelers into full working trim again and no mistake.

2. (thieves').—A thief. Specifically, a pickpocket; a hooker (q.v.). For synonyms, see Thieves.


1887. Horsley, *Jottings from Jail*. Take my tip and turn square, from a hook who is going to be lagged, would be, in common parlance, take my advice and get your living honestly.

1892. Anstey, *Voices Populi* (2nd Series). 'In Trafalgar Square.' A professional hook.

3. (common).—A catch; an advantage; an imposture.

Verb (old).—I. Torob; to steal. Specifically, to steal watches, rings, etc., from a shop by cutting a small hole in the window, and fishing for such articles with a piece of string with a hook at the end.

1615. *Albumazar*, iii., 3. Is not this braver than sneak all night in danger, Picking of locks, or hooking cloths at windows.

b. 1796. Burns, *Jolly Beggars*. For mony a pursie she had hookit.

1876. Clemens [Mark Twain], *Tom Sawyer*, p. 34. And while Aunt Polly closed with a happy Scriptural flourish, *Tom hooked a doughnut*.

1884. M. Twain, *Huck. Finn*, xxx., 312. Didn't you have it in your mind to hook the money and hide it?

2. (colloquial).—To secure, as for marriage; to marry.

1886. J. S. Winter, *Army Society*, ch. xviii. I wonder if Mrs. Traff has contrived to hook him for her sweet Laura.

1892. Manville Fenn, *New Mistress*, ch. xxv. Have you I will—there now. Don't you think you're going to hook Lambent.

Intj. (Oxford Univ.).—An expression implying doubt. [Query from the note of interrogation (?) or connected with Hokey Walker (q.v.).]

On the hook, subs. phr. (common).—I. On the thief; on the cross (q.v.).

2. (old).—On the Hip (q.v.); at an advantage.

1694. Congreve, *Double Dealer*, iv., 18. Consider I have you on the hook; you will but flounder yourself a-weepy, and be nevertheless my prisoner.

Hook and eye, subs. phr. (tailors').—Arm in arm.

To take (or sling) one's hook (or to hook it), verb. phr. (common).—To decamp; to run away. For synonyms, see Amputate and Skedaddle.
1851. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor. ii., 137. He slipped from her and hooked it.

1852. Dickens, Bleak House, ch. xlvi. 'Hook it! Nobody wants you here,' he ses. 'You hook it. You go and tramp,' he ses.

1856. Bradley [Cuthbert Bede], Tales of College Life, p. 36. Hook it! old 'un, hook it!

1851. Licensed Vict. Gaz., 16 Jan., p. 43, col. 3. If you lot don't hook it, I'll stave in your blooming cocoa-nuts.

1856. Greenwood, Odd People in Odd Places, p. 37. I thought, to be sure, I was going off the hooks, and it was no use talking about it.

1861. H. Kingsley, Ravenshoe, ch. xlii. They all begins to get a bit noisy and want to fight, and so I hooked it.

1856. WhYTE MELVILLE, Good for Nothing, ch. xxvii. I worked on my own hook, after that, and I rather think I paid my expenses.

1861. Greenwood, Seven Curses of London, p. 499. To steal on your own hook as a bookmaker.

1892. Emerson, Sighnor Lifilio, ch. viii. We used to have to part company and go in twos and threes then on our own hook.

1892. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, p. 58. I went jest for a lark, and was quietly slingin' my 'ook.

1892. Kipling, Barrack-Room Ballads, 'Loot.' Before you sling your 'ook, at the 'ousetops take a look.

1892. Globe, 19 Oct., p. 3. Again from some neighbourin' roof comes back the weird responsive cry, Hook it! hook it.

1892. Herbert Campbell, Broadside Ballad, 'Then Up Comes I with My little Lot.' And the houses shook and the copper took his 'ook, and down come all the tiles.

To drop (go, or pop) off the hooks, verb. phr. (common).—
1. To die. For synonyms, see aloft.

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends, 'Black Mousquetaire.' I fear by his looks, Our friend, Francis Xavier, has popped off the hooks!

1842. Punch's Almanack, Dec. 15. Death wandered by the sea And struck by Walton's looks Broke Isaac's line of life And took him off the hooks.

1847. Robb, Squatter Life, p. 23. The signal was given, and in poured the subscribers to the dinner, with their guest, and in poured John on his own hook.

1849. Thackeray, Pendennis, ch. lxix. Do we come out as Liberal Conservative, or as Government man, or on our own hook?

1861. Whyte Melville, Good for Nothing, ch. xxvii. I worked on my own hook, after that, and I rather think I paid my expenses.

1869. Greenwood, Seven Curses of London, p. 499. To steal on your own hook as a bookmaker.

1889. Answers, p. 53, c. 3. Finally Edison went to work on his own hook.

1893. Emerson, Sighnor Lifilio, ch. viii. We used to have to part company and go in twos and threes then on our own hook.
By Hook or by Crook, phr. (colloquial).—By some means or other; by fair means or foul; at all hazards. [Probably of forestal origin.]

d. 1298. Thomas the Rhymer, On Parliament. Their work was by hook or crook to rap and bring all under the emperor's power.

1525. Bodmin Register. Dynmure Wood was ever open and common to the inhabitants of Bodmin to bear away upon their backs a burden of lop, crop, hook, crook, and bag wood.

d. 1529. Skelton, Collyn Clout. Nor wyll suffer this boke by hook ne by crooke Printed for to be.

1550. Bacon, Fortress of the Faithful. Whatsoever is pleasant or profitable must be theirs by hook or by crook.

1557. Tusser, Good Husbandrie, 30 Mar. Watch therefore in Lent, to thy sheepe go and look, For dogs will have vittels by hook and by crook.

1566. Archbp. Parker, Correspondence (Parker Soc.), p. 252. To win him in time, by hook or crook.

1596. Spenser, Faery Queen, v., 2, 27. The spoyle of people's euill gotten good, The which her sire had scrapt by hook and crooke.

1598. Florio, World of Words, s.v. Barocco, a shift made for good cheere, meas and drinke gotten by hook or crooke.

1621. Burton, Anatomy of Melancholy, xi, 186 (1836). By hook and by crook he will obtain it.

1824. Hitchings and Drew, Hist. Cornwall, ii., 214. The prior's cross, on which is cut the figure of a hook and a crook, in memory of the privilege granted to the poor for gathering such boughs and branches of such trees as they could reach with a hook or by a crook whence they will have it by hook and by crook.

1836. Michael Scott, Cruise of the Midge, p. 363. We must be manned by hook or crook, you know, however unwilling to distress running ships.

1883. W. Black, Yolande, ch. xliv. I should get you a ticket by hook or crook, if I failed at the ballot; I heard that one was sold for £40 the last time.

1888. Rider Haggard, 'Mrs. Mee'son's Will' (in Illustrated News, Summer Number, p. 5, c. i). Somehow or other, it would go hard if, with the help of the one hundred a year that he had of his own, he did not manage, with his education, to get a living by hook or by crook.

WITH A HOOK AT THE END, phr. (common).—A reservation of assent; over the left (q.v.); in a horn (q.v.). Cf., hook, intj.: and Hookey Walker.

1823. Bee, Dict. of the Turf, s.v. Hookey Walker—and with a hook, usually accompanied by a significant up-liftment of the hand and crooking of the forefinger, implying that what is said is a lie, or is to be taken contrary-wise.


1870. Traill, Saturday Songs, p. 22. It's go and go over the left, It's go with a hook at the end.

OFF THE HOOKS, phr. (old).—Out of temper; vexed; disturbed; out of sorts. Fr., sortir de ses gonds = off the hinges (q.v.). For synonyms, see nab the rust.
Hook and Snivey. 344

Hooker.

1639-61. Rump Songs. ‘Bum-fodder.’ That’s a thing would please the Butchers and Cooks, To see this stinking Rump quite off the hooks.

1665. Pepys, Diary, 26 May. In the evening by water to the Duke of Albemarle, whom I found mightily off the hooks, that the ships are not gone out of the River; which vexed me to see.


d. 1704. L’Estrange (quoted in Ency. Diet.). Easily put off the hooks, and monstrous hard to be pleased again.


1825. Scott, St. Ronan’s Well, ch. xxx. Everybody that has meddled in this St. Ronan’s business is a little off the hooks— . . . in plain words, a little crazy.

Hook and Snivey (or Hookum Snivey), subs. phr. (old).—1. An imposture; specifically, the getting of food on false pretences.

1781. G. Parker, View of Society, ii., 79. ‘Hook and Snivey, with Nix the Buffer’ [Title].

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v. Hook and Snivey with Nix the Buffer. This rig consists in feeding a man and a dog for nothing. . . . Three men, one of whom pretends to be sick and unable to eat, go to a public house; the two well men make a bargain with the landlord for their dinner, and when he is out of sight feed their pretended sick companion and dog gratis.


1835 in Comic Almanack 1835-43 (Hotten), p. 17, Zoological Society at Hookam Snivey. A new animal has been transmitted from No-Man’s Land, which has been named the Flat-Catcher.

2. (old).—An impostor as described in sense 1.

3. (streets).—A contumacious or sarcastic affirmation, accompanied by the gesture of taking a sight (q.v.) or playing hookey (q.v.).

4. (thieves’).—A crook of thick iron wire in a wooden handle, used to undo the wooden bolts of doors from without.

1801. Edgeworth, Irish Bulls, With that I ranges ‘em fair and even on my hook ‘em snivey, up they goes.

Hooked, adj. (old).—See quot.


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Hooker, subs. (Old Cant).—T. A thief; an angler (q.v.). Also, (modern) a watch-stealer; a dip (q.v.). Cf., quot. 1567 and 1888.

1567. Harman, Caveat, p. 35. These hookers, or Angglers, be peryllous and most wicked knaues, . . . . they customably carry with them a staffe of v. or vi. foote long, in which, within one ynch of the tope thereof, ys a lytle hole bored through, [leaf 9] in which hole they putte an yron hoke, and with the same they wyll pluck unto them quickly any thing that they may reche ther with.

1610. Rowlands, Martin Mark-all, p. 8 (H. Club’s Rept., 1874). They are sure to be clyd in the night by the angler, or hooker, or such like pilferers that hue upon the spoyle of other poore people.

d. 1626. John Davies, Scourge of Folly, p. 34. [Wks., Ed. Grosart]. A false knaue needs no brokers, but a broker Needs a false knaue (a hangman or a hooker).

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. Hookers, the third Rank of Canters; also Sharpers.


1888. Tit Bits, 17 Nov., p. 82, col. 2. There are usually three men in a gang; the hooker having got into conversation with his man, number two ‘covers’ his movements, whilst number three (on the opposite side of the
street) keeps a look-out for the 'enemy.' The hooker, having by careful manipulation got a hold of the desired prize, detaches it from the chain by breaking the ring and passes it to number two, who in turn passes it on to number three, from whom it is usually transferred to a receiver and melted down within a few hours of its being purloined.

2. (American).—A prostitute: i.e., a fisher, angler, or hooker of men. For synonyms, see Barrack Hack and Tart.

**Hookey.** To play hookey, verb. phr. (American).—To play truant; to do Charley-Wag (q.v.).

1876. Clemens [Mark Twain], Tom Sawyer, p. 100. Took his flogging . . . . for playing hookey the day before.

To do (or play) hookey (or hooky), verb. phr. (common).—To apply the thumb and fingers to the nose; TO TAKE A SIGHT (q.v.); TO COFFEE-MILL (q.v.).

**Hookey Walker!** (or Walker!) interj. (common).—Be off! go away. Also implying doubt. Cf., with a hook. [Bee: From John Walker, a hook-nosed spy, whose reports were proved to be fabrications.]

1811. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v. Hookey Walker, An expression signifying that the story is not true, or that he thing will not occur.

1843. Dickens, Christmas Carol [1843], p. 169. 'Buy it,' said Scrooge. 'Walker!' said the boy.

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends. 'Old Woman Clothed in Grey.' For mere unmeaning talk her Parch'd lips babbled now,—such as Hookey!—and Walker!—She expired, with her last breath expressing a doubt if his Mother were fully aware he was out?

1840. 'Characters of Freshmen' (Whibley, Cap and Gown, p. 183). The pestilent freshman . . . . is very pugnacious, and walking in the streets suddenly turneth and a keth a huge snob 'what the
dewe he meant by that?' Whereat the snob (having done nothing at all) coolly answereth (as the Pestilent Freshman intended he should) Hookey Walker, provocative of a combat.

**Hooking-cow, subs.** (Western American).—A cow that shows fight.

1887. Francis, Saddle and Mocassin. One . . . . was . . . . a hooking-cow, and to escape her repeated charges tested all our ability.

**Hook-pointed** (or Hook-pintled), a dj. (venery).—Imperfectly erected. Cf., Lob (q.v.).

**Hook-pole lay, subs. phr.** (old).—Pulling a man off his horse by means of iron hooks at the end of a long pole, and plundering him. (Smith, Lives of Highwaymen, III., 192, 1720).

**Hook-shop, subs.** (American).—A brothel. [Hooker (q.v.) = prostitute.] For synonyms, see Nanny-shop.

**Hoop, subs.** (American).—1. A ring.

2. (Devon).—See Bullfinch.

3. (venery).—The female pudendum. For synonyms, see Monosyllable.

Verb (old).—To beat. To well hoop one's barrel = to thrash soundly. For synonyms, see Tan.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

To hoop it (or go through the hoop), verb. phr. (old).—1. To pass the Insolvent Debtor's Court; to get hooped up= whitewashed (q.v.). For synonyms, see Dead-broke.
2. (old).—To run away. For synonyms, see AMPUTATE and SKEDADDLE.

1839. BRANDON, Poverty, Mendicity, and Crime, 116. I have heard them tell . . . boys . . . who have hoopered it from home that they had better go back whilst they had a home to go to.

HOOPER'S HIDE, subs. phr. (old venery).—Copulation. For synonyms, see GREENS.

1719. DURFEY, Pills, etc., i., 278. The while that his wife with Willy was playing at Hooper's Hide.

HOOP-STICK, subs. (common).—The arm. For synonyms, see CHALK FARM.

HOOSIER, subs. (American) — A native of Indiana. [Perhaps the most reasonable of several ingenious explanations is, that in the early days the customary challenge or greeting in that region was, 'Who's yer?' (who's here?): pronounced hoosier.—Norton.]

1843. D. CORCORAN, A Genuine Hoosier. An original character is your genuine Hoosier. By genuine, we mean such a one as has all the attributes that peculiarly belong to the back-woodsmen of the West.

1847. DARLEY, Drama in Pókerville, p. 197. None of them ' cotton'd ' to him more kindly than an elderly hoosier from the innermost depths of Indiana.

1848. DU RIVAGE, Stray Subjects, p. 79. There is a swarm of ' stickers,' ' hoosiers,' ' buckeyes,' ' corn-crackers,' and ' wolverines' eternally on the qui vive in those parts.

HOOTER, subs. (American).—I A steam-whistle; an AMERICAN DEVIL (q.v.).

2. (colloquial).—A wooden trumpet, so contrived as to make a horrible noise.

3. (American).—A corruption of ' iota '; e.g., 'I don't care a hooter for him.'

Hootings-pudding, subs. (provincial).—A plum-pudding with such a paucity of plums that you can hear them hooting after each other.—Slang, Jargon, and Cant.

HOP, subs. (common).—A dance. [Generally informal, as a CINDERELLA (q.v.).] Also, as in quot. 1579, the motions of dancing. For synonyms, see SKIP.

1579. GOSSEN, Schoole of Abuse, p. 33 (Arber's Ed.). He gaue Dauncers great stipends for selling their hoppes.

1811. JANE AUSTEN, Sense and S., ch. ix. At a little hop at the park, he danced from eight o'clock till four.

1823. BEE, Dict. Turf, s.v. HOP—a contra-dance of ordinary persons and promiscuous company is ' a hop ' and ' a penny-hop ' from the price formerly paid for admission.

1830. LYTON, Paul Clifford, iv. He gave them from time to time a very agreeable hop.

1847. THACKERAY, Mrs. Perkins's Ball (Mr. Larkins). To describe this gentleman's infatuation for dancing, let me say, in a word, that he will even frequent boarding-house hops, rather than not go.

1848. RUXTON, Life in the Far West, p. 189. The ' temple ' was generally cleared for a hop two or three times during the week.

1850. SMEDLEY, Frank Fairleigh, p. 129. Two undress-balls—hops they were.

1852. BRISTED, Upper Ten Thousand, p. 129. Two undress-balls—hops they were.

1882. Daily Telegraph, 13 Nov., p. 5, c. 3. At all seasons there is an immense amount of dancing; and at Washington there are continual ' hotel hops ' in the winter.

1887. W. S. GILBERT, Patience, ii. Prefers suburban hops to all your Monday pops.

1889. Lippincott, Oct., p. 447. Hang me if she isn't always on the plain, or at a hop, with one of those twin kids!
1892. Kipling, Barrack Room Ballads. 'Gentlemen Rankers.' To dance with blowzy housemaids at the regimental hops.

HOP-AND-GO-KICK, subs. phr. (tailors'). — A lameter; a HOP-AND-GO-ONE. Cf., DOT-AND-CARRY-ONE.

To hop the wag, verb. phr. (common).—To play truant, or Charley-wag (q.v.).

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, iii., 207. They often persuaded me to hop the wag, that is play truant from school.

To hop (or jump) over the broom (or broomstick), verb. phr. (colloquial). — To live as husband and wife; to live (or go) tally (q.v.).

1811. Poole, Hamlet Travestied, ii., 3. Jump o'er a broomstick, but don’t make a farce on the marriage ceremonies of the parson.

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, i., 336. There was always a broomstick wedding. Without that ceremony a couple weren’t looked on as man and wife.

1860. Dickens, Great Expectations, xlviii., 227. This woman in Gerrard Street, here, had been married very young, over the broomstick (as we say), to a tramping man.

c. 1879. Broadsides Ballad, 'David Dove that Fell in Love.' By L. M. Thornton. The girl that I had hoped to hear Pronounce my happy doom, sir, Had bolted with a carpenter, In fact hopped o'er the broom, sir.

To hop the twig, verb. phr. (common).—1. To leave; to run away; to skedaddle (q.v.).

For synonyms, see Amputate.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.


1830. Egan, Finish to Life in London, p. 217. I have lost my ticker; and all my toggery has been boned, I am nearly as naked as when I was born—and the cause—the lady bird—has hopped the twig.

1884. Daily News, 31 Oct., p. 3, c. 1. They knocked the Liberals down as fast as they could until they got too numerous and strong, and then we hopped the twig.

1888. All the Year Round, 9 June 543. To hop the twig . . . . and the like, are more flippant than humorous.

2. (common).—To die; to 'kick the bucket' (q.v.); to peg out (q.v.). Also to hop off.

English Synonyms. To be content; to cock up one's toes; to croak; to cut (or let go) the painter; to cut one's stick; to give in; to give up; to go to Davy Jones' lock-r; to go off the hooks; to go under; to go up; to kick the bucket; kickерáбóо (West Indian); to lay down one's knife and fork; to lose the member of one's mess; to mizzle; to pass in one's checks; to peg out; to put on a wooden surlout; to be put to bed with a shovel; to slip one's cable; to stick one's spoon in the wall; to snuff it; to take an earth bath; to take a ground sweat.

French Synonyms.—Passer l'arme à gauche (pop. = to ground arms); casser sa pipe (= to break one's pipe); dévisser or décoller son billard (= to break one's cue); graisser ses bottes (= to grease one's boots); avaler sa langue (= to swallow one's tongue); avaler sa gaffe (= to lower one's boat-hook); avaler sa cuiller or sa fourchette (= to swallow one's spoon or one's fork); avaler ses baguettes (military: = to swallow one's drumsticks); n'avoir plus mal aux dents (= to get rid of the tooth-ache: mal de dents, also = love);
poser sa chiquè (pop. := to put down one's quid); claquer (familiar := to croak); saluer le public (theat. := to go before the curtain); recevoir son décompte (military := to get one's quietus; décompte = also [military] a mortal wound); cracher son embouchure (= to spit one's mouthpiece); détendre (pop. := to wash off one's colour); donner son dernier bon à tirer (familiar := in American := to pass in one's checks; properly := to send one's last proof to press); lâcher la perche (pop. := to drop the boltrope); étendre son gaz (pop. := to turn off one's gas. Cf., to snuff it); épézoter son foret (pop. := to blunt one's drill, as in boring); être exproprié (pop. := to be dispossessed); expropriier (= to take possession of a debtor's land); pêter son lâf (sailor's); fumer ses terres; fermer son parapluier (pop. := to close one's umbrella); perdre son bâton (pop. := to lose one's walking stick); descendre la garde (pop. := to come off guard); défiler la parade (military := to face about); tortiller, or tourner de l'œil (pop.); perdre le goût du pain (pop. := to lose one's appetite); lâcher la rampe (theat. := to chuck the footlights); faire ses petits paquets (pop. := to pack up one's traps); casser son crachoir (pop. := to break one's spittoon); remercier son boulangier (thieves := to thank the baker; boulangier = the Devil); canner; dévider à l'estorgue (thieves'); baiser ou épuoser la Camarde or camarader (pop. := to hug, or go to church with, Mother Bones [Camarde = Death]); fuir (thieves' := to flee or escape); casser son câble (pop. := to slip one's cable); casser son fouet (pop. := to break one's whip); faire sa crêvéaison (pop. : crèver = to burst up); démanger (thieves' := to loo-e from the boltrope); virer de bord (sailors' := to tack about); déchirer son faux-côt (pop. := to break one's collar); dégeler (= to thaw); couper sa mèche (coachman's := to cut off one's lash); piquer sa plaquè (sailors'); mettre la table pour lesasticots (pop. := to lay the cloth for the worms); aller manger lespissenlits pâr la racine (pop. := to go grubbing off dandelion roots); laisser fuir son tonneau (familiar); calancher (vagrants'); laisser ses bottes quelque part (familiar := to leave one's boots about); déchirer son habit (pop. := to tear one's coat); déchirer son tablier (pop. := to tear one's apron); souffler sa veilleuse (pop. := to blow out one's candle; cf., to snuff it); pousser le boun du cygne (pop.); avoir son coke (familiar := to get one's cargo); rendre sa secousse (pop.); rendre sa bête (tailors'); rendre sa canne au minstre (military := to resign one's commission); rendre sa clef (gipsy := to give in one's key); rendre son livret (pop. := to pass in one's checks); passer au dixième régiment (military); s'ennuyer (pop. := to be at death's door); chasser les mouches (pop. := to go fly-catching); insurgiter son bilan (popular); resserrer son linge (pop.); faire sa malle (pop. := to pack one's trunk); avaler le goujon (pop.); s'habiller de sapin (pop. := to put on a wooden surtout); avoir son compte (pop.); battre de l'œil (thieves'); s'évanour (pop. := to mizzle); machaber (pop. := machabre = the Dance of Death); glisser (pop.); s'en aller dans le pays des marmottes (pop. := puppet); déménager (pop. := to move house).
**German Synonyms.** — Kra-chen gehen; uijtern; pegern or peigern; schoern or verschoern (=to get black); verschwarzen.

**Italian Synonyms.** Sbasire (=to faint); sbasire su le funi (=to faint on the rope).

**Spanish Synonyms.** — Hacer bodoques (=to take an earth bath); liarlas (=also to run away); obis-par; curvado (=bent, curved); cierto (=certain).

1839. Dance, Alive and Merry, i., 1. Couldn't you wait a bit till she's hopped off, and then you and I could marry, and be ladies and gentlemen?

1841. Punch, I., 2, 2. Clare pines in secret—Hops the twig and goes to glory in white muslin.

1863. Fun, vol. IV., p. 188. The night when Cromwell died a storm tore up many of the trees [of St. James's Park]—though what connexion there may be between the destruction of their branches and the hopping the twig of the Protector, we leave to our philosophical readers to decide.

1870. Chambers's Miscellany, No. 87, p. 26. That her disease was mortal, was past a doubt, and a month or two more or less could make no difference, provided she hopped off . . . before the year was expired.

**On the hop, adv. phr.** (common). — 1. Unawares; at the nick of time; in flagrante delicto. Also ON THE HOP.

1888. Broadside Ballad, 'The Chickaleary Cove.' For to catch me on the hop . . . . You must wake up very early in the morning.

1870. London Figaro, 26 Aug. If to catch any of the more ordinary folk on the hop is to secure a laugh, what must it be to catch the Tycoon 'on the—top?'

1872. Daily Telegraph, 3 Sept.-Goodbye, Johnny: before I leave you, One more kiss before I go. For to catch me on the hop.

1892. Anstey, Model Music Hall, 32. I never saw a smarter hand at serving in a shop, For every likely customer she caught upon the 'op.

2. (common).—On the go; in motion; unresting.

1892. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, p. 22. A deal on the 'op.

3. (colloquial). — See HIP.

**Hopeful (or Young Hopeful), subs. (colloquial).** — A boy or young man; in sarcasm or contempt.

1856. Bradley ('Cuthbert Bede'), Tales of College Life, 24. He'll be no end riled at seeing his hopeful play truant in this fashion.

**Hop- (or Hap-) Harlot, subs. (old).** — A coarse coverlet; Cf., WRAP-RASCAL.


**Hopkins (Hoppy, or Mr. Hopkins), subs. (old).** — A lameter. For synonyms, see DOT-AND-GO-ONE Giles.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

Don't hurry, Hopkins! phr. (American). — Ironical to persons slow to move or to meet an obligation.

**Hop-merchant (or Hoppy), subs.** (common) — A dancing master; a caper-merchant (q.v.). Also, a fiddler.

1892. Sydney Watson, Wops the Waif, ch. iii., p. 4. Who-ay, Cully, here's Hoppy with the rozin.
**Hop-o-my-thumb.**

**Hop-o-my-thumb, subs.** (common).—A dwarf.

1599. **Nashe, Lenten Stuffe,** in Wks. v., 248. Though the greatnesse of the redde herring be not small (as small a hoppe-on-my-thyme as hee seemeth).

1603. **Dekker, etc., Patient Grissell,** IV, ii., in Wks. (Grosart) vi., 195. Bab. No; he shall not haue them [children]: knocke out his braines, and sauie the little hop-a-my-thombes.

1748. **Smollett, Rod. Random,** ch. xi. You pitiful hop-o'-my-thumb coxcomb.

1785. **Grose, Vulg. Tongue,** s.v. Hop-o'-my-thumb. She was such a hop-o'-my-thumb that a pigeon, on sitting on her shoulder, might pick a pea out of her a—se.

1811. **Barham, Ingoldsby Legends,** 'Account of a New Play.' A hop-o'-my-thumb of a Page.

**English Synonyms.—** Go-by-the-ground; grub; grundy; Jack Sprat; little breeches; shrimp; stump-of-the-gutter; tom-tit. See also, Forty-Foot.

**Hopper, subs.** (colloquial).—The mouth. For synonyms, see Potato-Trap.

To go a hopper, verb. phr. (sporting).—To go quickly.

**Hopper-arsed (or Hipped), adj.** (old).—Large in the breech. Also (as in quot. 1529) snaggy-boned. Also as subs.

d. 1529. **Dunbar, Poems,** 'Complaint to the King' (1836, i., 144). With hopper-hippis and hanches narrow.

1672. **Wycherley, Love in a Wood,** ii., 1. Moreoever, she is bow-legged, hopper-hipped, and, betwixt pomatum and Spanish red, has a complexion like a Holland cheese.

1850. **Smedley, Frank Farleigh,** p. 5. I was tall for my age, but slightly built, and so thin, as often to provoke the application of such epithets as hop-pole, 'thread-paper,' etc.

1888. **Hopping-Jesus, subs.** (colloquial). A lameter. For synonyms, see Dot-and-Go-One.

1888. **Hopping-Mad, adj.** (American).—Very angry.

**Hopping-Giles, subs.** (common).—A cripple. For synonyms, see Dot-and-Go-One.

1811. **Grose, Vulg. Tongue,** s.v. Lexicon Balatronicum, s.v.

1885. **Household Words,** 27 June, p. 180. St. Giles is the patron saint of cripples; hence a lame person is mockingly called hopping giles.

1719. **Duriey, Pils, etc.,** vi., 357. And there'll be hopping-arsed Nancy.

1785. **Nashe, Lenten Stuffe,** in Wks. v., 284. A lady of prodigious fame, whose hollow eyes and hopper breech made common people call her witch.

1785. **Grose, Vulg. Tongue,** s.v. Hopping-docker, subs. (old).—A sho. For synonyms, see Trotter-Cases.

**Hopping-Mad, adj.** (American).—Very angry.

**Hopping-poser, subs.** (common).—Large in the breech. For synonyms, see Lamp-Post.

1850. **Smedley, Frank Farleigh,** p. 5. I was tall for my age, but slightly built, and so thin, as often to provoke the application of such epithets as hop-pole, 'thread-paper,' etc.

**Hopping-Pole, subs.** (common).—A tall, slight person, male or female. For synonyms, see Lamp-Post.

**Horizontal-refreshment, subs.** (venery).—1. Carnal intercourse; cf., Upright. For synonyms, see Greens and Ride. [Fr., une horizontale = a prostitute.] Also, To Horizontalise.
2. (common). — Food taken standing; generally applied to a mid-day snack at a bar.

HORN, subs. (common). — I. The nose. Also, Horney. For synonyms, see CONK.

1823. Bee, Dict. of the Turf, s.v. Horney—a nose; one that resounds in expectoration.

2. (common). — A drink; a dram of spirits. For synonyms, see Go.


1848. Ruxton, Life in the Far West, p. 126. They called the Scotchman to take a horn.

3. (venery). — An erection of the penis. [Properly of men only; but said of both sexes. In the feminine equivalents are cunt-itch and cunt-stand].

Hence to get (or have) the horn, verb phr. = to achieve erection; to cure the horn = to copulate; horniness and horniness, in course of, or disposed to erection; hornification, subs. = the state, or process, of erection; hornify (see verb), = to get (or give) the horn; Miss Horner, subs. = the preludentum muliere; old Horney (or Hornington) = the penis.

ENGLISH SYNONYMS.—Cock-(or prick-) stand; Irish toothache; in one’s Sunday (or best) clothes; the jack; hard-on (American); horn-colic; horn-mad (said also of an angry cuckold); fixed bayonets; lance in rest; the old Adam; standing; on the stand; stiffened up; the spike.

4. (old). — The penis. For synonyms, see CREAMSTICK and PRICK.

5. (colloquial). — Also in pl., see verb.

HORN, verb (colloquial). — To cuckold. [Becco (= a he-goat) and cornuto (= a horned thing) are good Italian for a cuckold; in Florio (Worldes of Worlde, 1598) andar in cornouaglia senza barca (i.e., to go to Cornwall without a ship) = to win the horn; and the expression, as the example from Lydgate appears to show, may very well have been imported into English from the Italian. Also, it seems to have begun to be literary about the middle of the sixteenth century, when the Italian influence was at its height. For the rest it passed in triumph into written English, was used in every possible combination, had a run at least two centuries long, and is still intelligible, though not in common service.] See ACTÆON, ANTLERS, BULL’S FEATHER, FREEMAN OF BUCKS, etc.

Hence, to hornify (see subs., sense 3), and to graft (or give) horns; to wear horns = to live a cuckold; hornery, subs. = a cuckold maker; horn-mad, adj. phr. (q.v.); horned, adj. = cuckolded; horn-grower (or merchant) subs. = a married man; horn-fever, subs. = cuckoldry; to exalt one’s horn, verb phr. =(1) to cuckold, and (2) to rejoice in, or profit by, the condition; to wind the horn = to publish the fact of cuckoldom; horns-to-sell, subs. phr. = to fork the fingers in derision (as in Hogarth’s ‘Industrious and Idle Apprentice,’ 1790, plate v.); horn-works = the process of cuckoldom; AT THE SIGN OF THE HORN = in cuckoldom; horn-pipe = (see quot. 1602); horned herd, subs. phr. = husbands in general (specifically, the city men, the Citizens of London (the cuckoldom of whom by West-end gallants is a constant theme of seventeenth century jokes); gilt-horn, subs. = a contented cuckold; spirit of harts-horn = the suspicion or the certainty of cuckoldom; long horns, subs. = a notorious cuckold; knight of Hornsey, also member for Horncastle, subs. phr. = a cuckold, etc.

d. 1440. Lydgate, Falle of Prynces, ii., leaf 56 (ed. Wayland, 1557, quoted in
To speke plaine Englishe made him cokolde. Alas I was not auised wel before Vnkonnygly to speke such language: I should have 'ayde how that he had an horne... And in some land Cornodo men do them call, And some affirme that such folk have no gall.


c. 1588. Shakspeare, 2 Henry IV., Act ii., sc. 2. Well, he hath the horn of abundance and the lightness of his wish shines through it.


1604. Marston, Malcontent i., 1. Mendoza is the man makes thee a horned beast: 'tis Mendoza cornutes thee.


1606. Chapman, All Fools, v., 1 (Plays, 1874, p. 75). And will you blow the horn yourself where you may keep it to yourself? Go to, you are a fool. Ibid. (p. 76.) It may very well be that the devil brought horns into the world, but the women brought them to the men.

1607. How a Man May Choose a Good Wife From a Bad, ii., 1. (Dodsley, Old Plays, 4th ed., 1875, ix., 28). Quondomem apuit, I shall have two horns on my caput.
1607. Dekker, Northward Hoe, Act i., p. 8. If a man be deuorest, whether he have an action or no, gainst those that make horns at him. Ibid. iv., p. 54. This curse is on all letchers throwne. They give horns and, at last, horns are their owne.

1608. Rowlands, Humor's Looking Glass, p. 22. Besides, shee is as perfect chast as faire. But being married to a jealous ass, He voves shee horns him.

1609. Jonson, Epicene, iii., 1. By that light you deserve to be grafted, and your horns reach from one side of the island to the other.

1610. Jonson, Devil's an Ass, v., 5. And a cuckold is, Wherever he puts his head, with a wannion, his horns be forth, the devil's companion.

1611. Samuel Rowlands, The Night Raven, p. 25. 'Tis this bad liver doth the hornes-plague breed, Which day and night my jealous thoughts doth feed.

1623. Cockran, Eng. Dict. s.v. Sargus, an adulterous fish which goes on the grassie shore, and horns the hee Goates that had horns before.

1627. Drayton, Agincourt and Other Poems, p. 174. Some made mouths at him, others as in scorne With their forkt Pointed him the horn.

1629. Davenant, Alboine, ed. 1673, p. 436. 'Twas a subtle reach to tell him that the King had horn'd his brow.

1633. Rowley, Match at Midnight (Dodsley, Old Plays, 4th ed., 1875, xiii., 40). Hornings the headman of his parish and taking money for his pains.

1633. Ford, Love's Sacrifice, iii., 3. Fernando is your rival, has stolen your duchess's heart, murber'd friendship; Hornes your head, and laughs at your horns.

1637. Beaumont and Fletcher, Elder Brother, iv., 4. I shall have some music yet At my making free o' th' company of horners.

1645. Rawlins, The Rebellion, i., i. (Dodsley, Old Plays, 4th ed., 1875, xiv., 15). Fresh as a city bridgeman that has signed his wife a grant for the grapping of horns.


1647. Beaumont and Fletcher, Women Pleased, v. 3. I shall then be full of scorn, Wanton, proud (beware the horn).


1653. Davenant, The Siege of Rhodes, p. 34. It stuffs up the marriage bed with thorns. It gores itself, it gores itself with imagined horns.

1657. Middleton, Women, Beware of Woman (1657), iii., 2. Cuckolds dance the hornpipe, and farmers dance the hay. Idem., iv., 2. (So, lie down, master; but take care your horns do not make holes in the pillow-beers.


1661. Webster, Cure for a Cuckold (1661), v., 2. He that hath horns thus let him learn to shed.

1663. Killigrew, The Parson's Wedding, iv., 1 (Dodsley, Old Plays, 4th ed., 1875, xiv., 473). I hope to exalt the parson's horn here. Ibid., (p. 477). Only to fright the poor cuckold and make the fools visit their horns. Ibid., v., 4 (p. 519). Methinks my horns ache more than my corns. Ibid. ib (p. 520). I have seen a cuckold of your complexion: if he had lent as much hoof as horn, you might have hunted the beast by the slot.

1664. Butler, Hudibras, II., ii. For when men by their wives are cowed, Their horns of course are understood.

1668. L'Estrange, Visions of Quevedo, p. 251 (ed. 1708). He that marries, ventures fair for the horn, either before or after.

1672. Ray, Proverbs (in Bohn, 1889), s.v. He had better put his horns in his pocket than wind them. Idem. (p. 184). Horns and gray hairs do not come with years. Idem. id., Who hath horns in his pocket let him not put them on his head.

1675. Wycherley, Country Wife, iv., 4. Epilogue: Encouraged by our woman's man to-day, a hornet's part may vainly think to play. Ibid., i., 1. I make no more cuckolds, sir. [M AKES H ORNS.] Ibid., iv., 3. If ever you suffer your wife to trouble me again here, she shall carry you home a pair of horns.

1677. Wycherley, Plain Dealer, iv., 1. First, the clandestine obscenity in the very name of horn.
d. 1680. Butler, Remains (1757), ii., 372. His own branches, his horns, are as mystical as the Whore of Babylon's Palfreys, not to be seen but in a vision.

1693. Congreve, Old Bachelor, iv., 15. Pox choke him. Would his horns were in his throat.


1698. Farquhar, Love and a Bottle, iv., 3. Should I ever be tried before this judge, how I should laugh to see how gravely his goose cap sits upon a pair of horns!

1700. Congreve, Way of the World, iii., 7. Man should have his head and horns, and woman the rest of him.

1702. Steele, The Funeral or Grief à la Mode, Act. i., p. 22. This wench I know has played me false, and horned me in my gallants. [Note.—That the speaker is a female shows the word to have been transferred to the other sex.]


1708. Prior, Poems. 'The Turtle and Sparrow,' line 302-9. 'Two staring horns;' I often said, 'but ill became a sparrow's head' . . . 'Whilst at the root your horns are sore, The more you scratch, they ache the more.'


1737. Fielding, Tumble-Down Dick, Works (1718) iii., 408. Think it enough your betters do the deed, And that by hornung you I mend the breed.

1742. Somerville, Occasional Poems (Chalmers, English Poets, 1810, xi., 238). If I but catch her in a corner, Humph! 'tis your servant, Colonel Horned.

1759-67. Sterne, Tristram Shandy, ch. xxxvii. Nor have the horn-works he speaks of anything to do with the horn-works of Cuckoldom.

1763. C. Smart, Fables, xi., line 66. And though your spouse my lecture scorches, Beware his fate, beware his horns.

1770. Chatterton, The Revenge, i., 1. Let her do what she will, The husband is still, And for his horns you would think him an ass. Idem., ii., 4 Have you come hornung.

1785. Grose, Dict. Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Captain Morkis (Collection of Songs), The Great Plenipotentiary, (9th ed. 1788, stanza ix., p. 43). She had horned the dull brows of her worshipful spouse Till they sprouted like Venus's myrtle.

d. 1796. Burns, Merry Muses, 'Cuddy the Cooper,' p. 84. On ilka brow she's planted a horn, An' swears that there they shall stan', O.


1816. Quiz, Grand Master, canto vii., p. 199, line 10 (She) smil'd, declaring that she scorn'd him, (She might have added that she'd horn'd him).

1822. Scott, Fortunes of Nigel, c. xxxvi. O what a generous creature is your true London husband! Horns hath he, but, tame as a fatt'd ox, he goret hot.

1825. Scott, The Betrothed, ch. xvii. I ever tell thee, husband, the horns would be worth the hide in a fair market.

To draw in one's horns, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To withdraw or to retract; to cool down.


To horn off, verb. phr. (American).—To put on one side; to shunt. [As a bull or stag with his horns.]

1851. Hooper, Widow Rugby's Husband, etc., p. 69. You horned me off to get a chance to get gaming witnesses out of the way.

In a horn, adv. phr. (American).—A general qualification, implying refusal or disbelief; over the left (q.v.).

1858. Washington Evening Star, 26 Aug. I have mentioned before the innumerable comforts—in a horn—of the old White Sulphur Springs.

To wind (or blow) the horn, verb. phr. (old).—To break wind; to fart (q.v.).
Horn-colic.

1620. PERCY, Folio, MSS., ‘Fryar and Boye.’ Her tayle shall wind the horne.

To CURE THE HORN, verb. phr. (venery).—To copulate. See HORN, subs., sense 3. For synonyms, see GREENS and RIDE.

To HAVE THE HORN, verb. phr. (venery). See HORN, subs., sense 3.

To COME OUT OF THE LITTLE END OF THE HORN, verb. phr. (common).—To get the worst of a bargain; to be reduced in circumstances. Also, to make much ado about nothing. Said generally of vast endeavour ending in failure. [Through some unexpected squeeze (q.v.).]

1605. JONSON, CHAPMAN, and MARSTON, Eastward Hoe, i., 1. I had the horne of suretiship ever before my eyes. You all know the devise of the horne, where the young fellow slippes in at the butte-end, and comes squesd out at the buckall.

1624. FLETCHER, Wife for a Month, iii., 3. Thou wilt look to-morrow else Worse than the prodigal fool the ballad speaks of, That was squeezed through a horn.

1847. PORTER, Big Ben, etc., p. 37. How did you make it? You didn’t come out at the little end of the horn, did you?

1847. PORTER, Quarter Race, etc., p. 24. You never saw such a run of luck; everywhere I touched was pizen, and I came out of the little end of the horn.

1891. Pall Mall Gaz., 3 July, i., 2. The ‘great Trek,’ in that expressive transatlantic phrase, has toddled out of the little end of the horn.

Horn-colic, subs. (venery).—See HORN, subs., sense 3.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v

Hornet, subs. (common).—A disagreeable, cantankerous person.

Hornie (or Horness), subs. (old).—1. A constable or watchman; a sheriff.

1819. VAUX, Life, s.v. Horney, a constable.

1821. HAGGART, Life, 51. The woman missing it immediately, she sent for the hornies.

1859. M. SELL, Vocabulum, s.v. Horness.

2. (Scots’).—The devil; generally Auld Hornie (q.v.).

1785. BURNS, Address to the Deil. O thou! whatever title suits thee, Auld Hornie, Satan, Nick, or Clootie.

Hornify, verb. (colloquial).—See HORN, subs., sense 3 and verb.

Horn-mad adj. (old).—1. See quot. 1690.

1563. SHAKESPEARE, Comedy of Errors, ii., 1. Why, mistress, sure my master is horn-mad.

1599. HENRY PORTER, The Two Angry Women of Abingdon (Dodsley, Old Plays, 4th ed., 1875, vii.). And then I wound my horn, and he’s horn-mad.

1604. MARSTON, Malcontent, i., 7. I am horn mad.

1605. JONSON, The Fox, iii., 6. Yet I’m not mad, Not horn-mad, see you.

1839-61. Rump Songs, [1662], 293. The Country has grown sad, The City is horn-mad.

1647. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, The Woman’s Prize, ii., 6. After my twelve strong labours to reclaim her, Which would have made Don Hercules horn-mad.


1693. CONGREVE, Old Bachelor, iv., 22. Ay, I feel it here; I sprout; I bud; I blossom; I am ripe horn-mad.

1694. CONGREVE, Double Dealer, iv., 20. She forks out cuckoldom with her fingers, and you are running horn-mad after your fortune.

1695. CONGREVE, Love for Love, v., 8. She’s mad for a husband, and he’s horn-mad.
Hornswoggle. 356

Horse.


1822. SCOTT, Fortunes of Nigel, ch. xxvi. Ye might as well expect brandy from beanstalks, or milk from a crag of blue whunstane. The man is mad, horn-mad, to boot.

1825. Harriette Wilson, Memoirs, ii. 228. The little he did say was chiefly on the subject of cuckolds and cuckolding. His lordship was horn-mad.

2. (venery).—Sexually excited; lecherous; musty (q.v.). Also, horny.

Hornswoggle, subs. (American).—Nonsense; humbug (q.v.). For synonyms, see gammon.

Verb (American).—To humbug; to delude; to seduce.—Shang, Jargon, and Cant. Cf., in a horn.

Horn-thumb, subs. (old).—A pickpocket. [From the practice of wearing a sheath of horn to protect the thumb in cutting out.] See thieves.

1589. Preston, Cambises (Dodsley, Old Plays, 4th ed., 1874, iv., 233). But cousin, because to that office ye are not like come, frequent your exercises, a horn on your thumb, a quick eye, a sharp knife.

1614. Jonson, Bartholomew Fair, ii. I mean a child of the horn-thumb, a babe of booty, boy, a cut-purse.


Horrors, subs. (common).—The first stage of delirium tremens. For synonyms, see gallon-dis-temper. Also low spirits, or the blues (q.v.).

1857. Philadelphia Evening Bulletin (quoted by Bartlett). This poison (fusil oil), which acts with terrible results on the nerves; seeming like a diabolical inspiration, stirring up mania, convulsions, and the horrors in an incredibly short space of time.

1864. Dickens, Our Mutual Friend, bk. iv., ch. viii. What are popularly called 'the trembles' being in full force upon him that evening, and likewise what are popularly called the horrors, he had a very bad time of it; which was not made better by his being so remorseful as frequently to moan 'Sixty threepennorths.'

1864. F. W. Robinson, Mr. Stewart's Intentions, ch. i. 'Well, sermons always gave me the horrors, and engendered a hate of the sermonizer.'

1883. Stevenson, Treasure Island, ch. iii., p. 20 (1886). If I don't have a dram o' rum, Jim, I'll have the horrors.

1889. C. HADDON CHAMBERS, In Australian Wilds. He's sober now, you see; but he managed to get blind drunk before eleven o'clock this morning, and last week he narrowly escaped an attack of the horrors.

1892. Henley and Stevenson, Three Rags, 'Admiral Guinea,' iv., 3. It's the horrors come alive.

2. (common).—Sausages. See chamber of horrors and dog's-paste.

3. (thieves').—Handcuffs. For synonyms, see Darbies.

Horse, subs. (common).—1. A five-pound note. See Finnup.

2. (thieves').—Horsemonger Lane Gaol. Also the old horse. Now obsolete.

1851-61. H. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, 1, p. 457. The only thing that frightens me when I'm in prison is sleeping in a cell by myself—you do in the old horse and the steel.

3. (American).—A man: generally in affection. Also old hoss, or hoss-fly.

1838. Haliburton ('Sam Slick'), The Clockmaker, 3 S., ch. xviii. He is all sorts of a hoss, and the best live one that ever cut dirt this side of the big pond, or 't'other side either.
1847. ROBB, *Squatter Life*, p. 74. What in the yearth did you do with old Hoss on the road?—He ain't git out, has he? *Ibid*, p. 70. None of your stick-up imported chaps from the dandy states, but a real genuine westerner—in short, a Hoss!

1848. RUXTON, *Life in the Far West*, p. 5. Hyar's a hoss as'll make fire come.

1857. GLADSTONE, *Englishman in Kansas*, p. 43. Here, boys, drink. Liquors, captain, for the crowd. Step up this way, old hoss, and liquor.

**Verb (venery).**—1. To possess a woman. For synonyms, see RIDE.


2. (workmen's).—See quot. Cf., FLOG THE DEAD HORSE.

1857. *Notes and Queries*, 2 S., iv., p. 192. A workman HORSES it when he charges for more in his week's work than he has really done. Of course he has so much unprofitable work to get through in the ensuing week, which is called dead horse.

1867. *All the Year Round*, 13 July, p. 59. To HORSE a man, is for one of two men who are engaged on precisely similar pieces of work to make extraordinary exertions in order to work down the other man. This is sometimes done simply to see what kind of a workman a new man may be, but often with the much less creditable motive of injuring a fellow workman in the estimation of an employer.

**THE GRAY MARE IS THE BETTER HORSE.** See GRAY-MARE.

HORSE FOALED OF AN ACORN, *subs. phr.* (old).—1. The gallows. For synonyms, see TRIPLE-TREE.

1780-81. SMOLLETT, *Sir L. Greaves*, ch. vii. I believe as how 'tis no horse, but a devil incarnate; and yet I've been worse mounted, that I have—I'd like to have rid A HORSE THAT WAS FOALED OF AN ACORN (i.e., he had nearly met with the fate of Absalom).

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v.

1827. LYTON, *Pelham*, ch. lxxiii. The cove . . . . is as pretty a Tyburn blossom as ever was brought up to ride A HORSE FOALED BY AN ACORN.

1839. AINSWORTH, *Jack Sheppard* [1889], p. 8 . . . . As to this little fellow . . . . he shall never mount A HORSE FOALED BY AN ACORN, if I can help it.

2. (military).—The triangles or crossed halbers under which soldiers were flogged.

**OLD- (or SALT-) HORSE, *subs.* (nautical).** Salt beef. Also JUNK and SALT-JUNK.

1858. *Washington Evening Star*. On Friday last, the engineer of a fast train was arrested by the authorities of a ONE-HORSE town in Dauphin County, Pa., for running through the borough at a greater rate of speed than is allowed by their ordinances.

1871. DE VERE, *Americanisms*, p. 291. The indignant settler who has been ill-treated, as he fancies, in court, denounced his attorney as a 'miserable, one-horse lawyer;' and the Yankee newly arrived in England does not hesitate to declare that 'Liverpool is a poor one-horse kind of a place,' a term applied by Mark Twain to no less a city than Rome itself: and a witty clergyman of Boston inveighed once bitterly against 'timid, sneaking, one-horse oaths, as infinitely worse than a good, round, thundering outburst.

1891. *National Review*, Sep., p. 127. Mr. Marion Crawford's *Witch of Prague* (Macmillan & Co.) is, as his compatriots would say, rather a one-horse witch.

**TO BE HORSED, *verb. phr.* (old).**—To be flogged [from the wooden-horse used as a flogging-stool]; to take on one's back as for a flogging.
Horse.

1678. Butler, Hudibras, pt. III., c. i. The spirit hors'd him like a sack Upon the vehicle his back.

1751. Smollett, Peregrine Pickle, ch. xvi. Our unfortunate hero was publicly horsed, in terrorem of all whom it might concern.

1857. Thackeray, Virginians, ch. v. Serjeants, school-masters, slave-overseers, used the cane freely. Our little boys had been horsed many a day by Mr. Dempster.

1881. Notes and Queries, i Jan., p. 18. I got well horsed for such a breach of discipline.

To fall away from a horse-load to a cartload, verb. phr. (old).—See quot.

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. Horse-play. Fallen away from a horse-load to a cartload, spoken ironically of one considerably improved in flesh on a sudden.

To flog the dead horse.—See Dead-horse and Horse, verb. sense 2.

To put the cart before the horse, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To begin at the wrong end; to set things hind-side before.


To put the saddle on the right horse, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To apportion accurately.

1690. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. Horse. Set the saddle on the right horse, lay the blame where the fault is.

To ride on a horse with (or bayard of) ten toes, verb. phr. (common).—To walk; to use the Marrowbone-stage. Cf., Shanks’s Mare.

1696. Breton, Good and Badde, p. 14. His trauell is the walke of the woful, and his horse bayard of ten toes.

1682. Fuller, Worthies, Somerset, ii., 291. At last he [Coryat] undertook to travail into the East Indies by land, mounted on an horse with ten toes.


As good as a shoulder of mutton to a sick horse, phr. (old).—Utterly worthless.

1596. Ben Jonson, Every Man in his Humour, ii., i. Counsel to him is as good as a shoulder of mutton to a sick horse.

As strong as a horse, adv. phr. (colloquial).—Very strong: a general intensifier.

Horse and horse, adv. phr. (American).—Neck and neck; even.

Horse-breaker (or Pretty Horse-breaker), subs. (colloquial).—A woman (c. 1860), hired to ride in the park; hence, a riding courtesan. See also quot.

1864. For synonyms, see Barrack-hack and tart.

1865. Public Opinion, 30 Sep. These demi-monde people, anonymas, horse-breakers, hetairx . . . . are by degrees pushing their way into society.

Horse-buss, subs. (old).—A loud-sounding kiss; a bite.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

Horse-capper (-coper, -coser, -coursier, or -chaunter), subs. (common).—A dealer in worthless or ‘faked’ horses. [Originally good English. To cope = to barter.] See Chanter. Hence Horse-coping and Horse-duffing.

1616. Overbury, Characters (Rimbault, 9th ed., 1856, p. 120). An arrant horse-courser hath the trick to blow up horseflesh as the butcher does veal.
Horse-collar.

d. 1680. Butler, Remains (1759), ii., 498. A horse-courser is one that hath read horses, and understands all the virtues and vices of the whole species by being conversant with them, and how to take the best advantage of both.

1742-4. North, Life of the Lord Keeper i., 271. There were horse-copers among them.

1785. Grosé, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Horse-coser, vulgarly and corruptly pronounced horse courser, a dealer in horses. The verb to cose, was used by the Scots, in the sense of bartering or exchanging.

1863. Sporting Life, 29 Apr., p. 4, col. 3. COPERS and Chaunters are now in full feather.

1864. London Review, 18 June, p. 643. Amongst the mysteries of horse-flesh is the noble science of coping, and its practitioners the horse-copers.

1874. G. A. Lawrence, Hagarene, ch. ii. He had lived somewhat precariously by his wits; eking out the scanty allowance wrung from his miserly old sire, by betting and horse-coping on a small scale.

1883. Daily News, 25 Jan., p. 2, C. 4. Even an attempt is made to lighten the horror of the climax of a criminal career, by speaking of dying in a horse's nightcap, i.e., a halter.

Horse-collars, subs. (venery).—1. The female pudendum. For synonyms, see monosyllable.

2. (tailors').—An extremely long and wide collar.

3. (old).—A halter. To die in a horse's nightcap = to be hanged. See ladder.

English Synonyms. — Anodyne necklace; Bridport dagger; choker; hempen cravat; hempen elixir; horse's neckcloth; horse's necklace; neck-squeezer; neckweed; squeezer; St. Andrew's lace; Sir Tristram's knot; tight cravat; Tyburn tiffany; Tyburn tippet; widow.

French Synonym.—La cravate de charme.

1593. Bacchus' Bounty in Harl. Misc. (ed. Park), ii., 304. Yea, his very head so heavie as if it had beene harnessed in an horse-nightcap.

1681. Dialogue on Oxford Parliament (Harl. Misc., ii., 125). He better deserves to go up Holbourn in a wooden chariot, and have a horse-nightcap put on at the farther end.

1888. Echo, 25 Jan., p. 2, c. 4. Even an attempt is made to lighten the horror of the climax of a criminal career, by speaking of dying in a horse's night-cap, i.e., a halter.

Horse-editor, subs. (American journalist's').—A sporting editor. Horse-copy = sporting news.

Horseflesh, See Dead Horse and Horse, verb. sense 2.

Horse-godmother, subs. (old).—A strapping masculine woman; a virago. Fr., une femme harnasse.

1785. Grosé, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

d. 1819. Wolcot, Wks. In woman angel sweetness let me see no galloping horse-godmother for me.


1846-8. Thackeray, Vanity Fair, ii., ch. 4. How do, my dear? Come to see the old man, hay? Gad—you've a pretty face, too. You ain't like that old horse-godmother, your mother.

Horse-latitudes, subs. (nautical).—A space in the Atlantic, north of the trade-winds, where the winds are baffling.
Horse-laugh.

Horse-laugh. 360

Horse-laugh, subs. (colloquial).
-A loud, noisy laugh; a guffaw.


Horse-leech, subs. (colloquial).
-1. An extortioner; a miser.
-2. (venery).—Anything insatiable. Also a whore.


1614. Jonson, Bartholomew Fair, ii., 1. You are one of those horse-leeches that gave out I was dead in Turnbull Street.

3. (old).—A horse-doctor; also a quack.

1594. Nashe, Terrors of the Night (Grosart, iii., 250). Whereas his horse-leech... will give a man twenty guineas in one.

1597. Hall, Satires, ii., 4. No horse-leech but will look for larger fee.

Horse-milliner, subs. (common).
-1. A dandy trooper.

1778. Chatterton, Ballads of Charity, ii., 113. The trammels of his palfrey pleased his sight, For the horse-milliner his head with roses dight.

1813. Scott, Bridal of Triermain, ii., 3. One comes in foreign trashery Of tinkling chain and spur, A walking haberdashery Of feathers, lace and fur; In Rowley’s antiquated phrase, Horse-milliner of modern days.

2. (old).—A saddler and harness-maker.

1818. Scott, Heart of Midlothian, xi. In my wretched occupation of a saddler, horse-milliner, and harness maker, we are out unconscionable sums just for barked hides and leather.

Horse-nails, subs. (common).—1. Money. For synonyms, see Actual and Gilt.

To feed on horse-nails, verb. phr. (cribbage).—So to play as not so much to advance your own score as to keep down your opponent’s.

To knock into horse-nails, verb. phr. (common).—To knock to pieces; to be absolutely victorious.
HORSE-NIGHTCAP, subs. (old).—See HORSE’S-COLLAR.

HORSE-POX, subs. (old).—A superlative of Pox (q.v.). Used in adjuration. E.g., A HORSE-POX on you! Ay, with a HORSE-POX, etc.

HORSE-PROTESTANT, subs. (tailors’).—A churchman.

HORSE-SENSE, subs. (American).—Sound and practical judgment.

1893. Lippincott, Mar., p. 260. A round bullet head, not very full of brains, perhaps, yet reputed to be fairly stocked with what is termed HORSE sense.

HORSES-AND-MARES. To play at HORSES-AND-MARES, verb. phr. (schoolboys’).—To copulate. For synonyms, see GREENS and RIDE.

HORSE’S-HEAD, subs. (cobbler’s).—The boot-sole, heel, and what is left of the front after the back and part of the front have been used to FOX (q.v.) other boots withal.

HORSE-SHOE, subs. (venery).—The female pudendum. [In German, Sie hat ein Hufeisen verloren (of women)=she has been seduced, i.e., she has lost a horse-shoe.]

HORSE’S-MEAL, subs. (old).—Meat without drink.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

HORSE-SOVEREIGN, subs. (common).—A twenty-shilling piece with Pistrucci’s effigies of St. George and the Dragon.

1878. Adams, Wykehamica, p. 267. It would be replaced and a fresh hot fared.

Adj. (colloquial).—I. Of persons: sexually excitable; lecherous; on heat (q.v.); RANDY (q.v.). Of things (as books): obscene; blue (q.v.); HIGH-KILTED (q.v.); HOT MEMBER (q.v.) = a male or female debauchee; or (as in sense 2), a man or woman contemptuous of decorum.

HORTUS, subs. (venery).—See quot. [Cf., GARDEN.] For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.


Hose. IN MY OTHER HOSE, subs. phr. (old). A qualification of refusal or disbelief; in a horn (q.v.); OVER THE LEFT (q.v.).

1598. Florio. A World of Words, s.v. Zoccoli Zoccoli, tushtush, awaie, in faith sir no, yea in my other hose.

HOST. To reckon without one’s host, verb. phr. (old: now recognised).—To blunder.


HOST. To reckon without one’s host, or count your Chickens before they are Hatched.

MINE HOST, subs. phr. (colloquial).—A taverner.

HOSTELER, subs. (old).—See quot.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

HOSTELER, i.e., oat stealer.

HOT, subs. (Winchester College).—

1. A mellay at football.

2. (Ibid).—A crowd.

1878. Adams, Wykehamica, p. 267. It would be replaced and a fresh hot fared.
Hot as they make them = exceedingly amorous or reckless.
Hot-blooded = lecherous: as (in Merry Wives, v., 5) 'the hot-blooded gods assist me.'
Hot-house (q.v.) = a brothel.

1380. Chaucer, Canterbury Tales. Prologue to Canterbury Tales, lines 97 and 98. So hote he lovede, that by nightertale, He sleep no more than doth a nightyngale.


1608. Shakspere, Antony and Cleopatra, iii., 11. Besides what hotter hours, Unregistered in vulgar fame you have Luxuriously picked out.

1682. Every Man in his Humour, iv., 8. Dost thou not shame, When all thy powers in chastity are spent, To have a mind so hot.

1719. Johnson, Volpone, iii., 6. I am now as fresh, As hot, as high, and in as jovial plight As when in that so celebrated scene At recitation of our comedy For entertainment of the great Valois, I acted young Antinous.


Verb (Winchester College).—
To crowd; to mob.
Hot-arsed.

TO GIVE (GET, or CATCH) IT HOT, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To thrash or reprove soundly; to be severely beaten or taken to task.

1859. *Fast Life*, p. 54. The craters, of course, caught it hot, and many had the sack.

1872. *Figaro*, 22 June. The German Emperor, Bismarck, and Earl Granville also got it, but not quite so hotly.

1877. *Five Years' Penal Servitude*, ch. iv., p. 887. A young man who . . . . had been guilty of bigamy, and to such a degree that he got it hot for such a crime—five years.

1882. *Anstey*, *Model Music-Hall*, 32. She spotted me in 'alf a jiff, and chaffed me precious hot.

LIKE A CAT ON HOT BRICKS, phr. (colloquial).—Uncomfortable; restive.

1886. J. S. Winter, *Army Society*, ch. xvi. Lady Mainwaring looked like an eel in a frying-pan, or, most of anything perhaps, like a cat on hot bricks.

HOT WITH, phr. (common).—Spirits with hot water and sugar. See CIDER AND, and COLD WITHOUT.

HOT-ARSED, adj. phr. (venery).—Excessively lewd. [Of women only.] Cf., Biter.

HOT-BEEF. To give hot-beef, verb. phr. (thieves' rhyming).—To cry 'Stop thief.' Also BEEF (q.v.).

1879. J. W. Horsley, in *Macm. Mag.*, xl., 506. He followed, giving me hot beef (calling 'Stop thief').

HOT-CAKES. To go off like hot cakes, verb. phr. (common).—To sell readily; to be in good demand.

1889. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 11 Oct., p. 6, c. 1. Sold at one penny retail they often go off like hot cakes.

1893 Emerson, *Signor Lippo*, ch. xii. It went off like hot cakes.

HOT - FOOT, adv. (colloquial).—Instant in pursuit.

HOTCH-POTCH, subs. (old: now recognised).—Amedley; a HODGE-PODGE (q.v.).


1606. *Return from Parnassus*, iv., 2. (Dodsley, *Old Plays*, 4th ed., 1875, iv., 182). This word, hotch-potch in English is a pudding; for in such a pudding is commonly not one thing only, but one thing with another.

1892. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. Hotch-potch, an Oglio, or Medly of several Meats in one Dish.

HOT-COPPERS, subs. (common).—The fever and parched throat, or MOUTH (q.v.), attending a debauch. See COOL ONE'S COPPER.

1830. Egan, *Finish to Life in London*, 156. The 'uncommonly big gentleman' in spite of swallowing oceans of soda-water, declared his copper to be so hot that he thought all the water in the sea could not reduce his thirst!

1841. *Punch*, vol. i., p. 244. 'Oh blow your physiology!' says Rapp. 'You mean to say you've got a hot copper—so have I. Send for the precious balm and then fire away.

1849. Thackeray, *Pendennis*, ch. xiii. 'Nothing like that beer,' he remarked 'when the coppers are hot.'

1864. *Comic Almanack*, p. 63. 'Cold Cream Internally.' Cold cream is an excellent remedy for hot coppers.
Hotel. 364 Hot-pudding.

1892. Hume Nisbet, *Bushranger's Sweetheart*, p. 134. He came . . . as happy-looking, and lively as if no such thing as hot Coppers existed.

**Hotel** (also Cupid's Hotel and Cupid's Arms).—*subs.* (venery). —The female pudendum. *Cf.*, Cock Inn. For synonyms, see Monosyllable.

**Hotel Barbering**, *subs.* (common).—Bilking.

1892. Daily Chronicle, 28 Mar., p. 5. c. 7. The inference is now fairly admissible that he may possibly have divided his time between polygamous pursuits and hotel barbering exploits.

**Hotel Warming-pan**, *subs.* phr. (common). —A chambermaid. Also Warming-pan (*q.v.*). *Fr.*, une limogère.

**Hot-flannel** (or Flannel), *subs.* (old).—Gin and beer, with nutmeg, sugar, etc., made hot.


**Hot-house**, *subs.* (old). —A brothel. Also (see quot. 1616), a public bath. For synonyms, see Nanny-shop.

1596. Nashe, *Have with You to Saffron Walden* (Grosart, iii., 106). Any hot-house or bawdy-house of them all.

1599. Jonson, *Every Man out of His Humour*, iv., 4. Let a man sweat once a week in a hot-house, and be well rubbed and frothed with a plump juicy wench and clean linen.

1603. Shakspeare, *Measure for Measure*, ii., 1. Now she professes a hot-house, which is a very ill house too.


1616. Jonson, *Epigrams*, 'On the New Hot-house.' Where lately harboured many a famous whore, A purging bill now fixed upon the door Tells you it is a hot-house: So it may, And still be a whore-house. They're synonyma.


**Hot-Meat** (or Beef or Mutton), *subs.* phr. (venery).—See Bit.

**Hot-member** (or Hot 'un).—See Warm Member.

**Hot-milk**, *subs.* (venery). —The semen. For synonyms, see Cream.

**Hot-place**, *subs.* (colloquial).—Hell. For synonyms, see Tropical Climate.

1891. F. H. Groome, *Blackwood*, Mar., p. 320. A letter from her son in Hull, told the curate that 'that did give me a tarn at first, for I thought that come from the hot place.'

**Hot-pot**, *subs.* (old).—Ale and brandy made hot.


**Hot-potato.** To drop like a hot potato, *verb.* phr. (common). —To abandon (a pursuit, a person, a thing) with alacrity.

**Hot-pudding.** To have a hot-pudding for supper, *verb.* phr. (venery). —To copulate. Of women only. [Pudding (Durfey) = the penis]. For synonyms, see Greens and Ride.
Hot-stomach. 365

Hot-stomach. So hot a stomach as to burn the clothes off his back. — Lex. Bal.

Hottentot, subs. (East-end). See quot.
1880. G. R. Sims, How the Poor Live, ch. x. The cry of Hottentots went round. ‘Hottentots’ is the playful way in this district of designating a stranger, that is to say, a stranger come from the West.

2. (common). — A fool. For synonyms, see Buffle and Cabbage-head.

Hot-tiger, subs. (Oxford Univ.). — Hot-spiced ale and sherry. — Hotten.

Hot-water. To be in hot-water, verb. phr. (colloquial). — To be in trouble, in difficulties, or worried.
1846. Punch’s Almanack, 29 Nov. The Times first printed by steam, 1814, and has kept the country in hot water ever since.
1864. Mark Lemon, Jest book, p. 238. Lord Allen, in conversation with Rogers, the poet, observed: ‘I never put my razor into hot water, as I find it injures the temper of the blade.’ ‘No doubt of it,’ replied Rogers; ‘show me the blade that is not out of temper when plunged into hot water.’

Hound, subs. (Cambridge Univ.).
1. See quot.
1879. E. Walford, in N. and Q., 5 S., xii., 88. In the Anecdotes of Bowyer . . . we are told that a hound of King’s College, Cambridge, is an undergraduate not on the foundation, nearly the same as a ‘sizar.’

2. (colloquial). A mean, contemptible fellow; a scoundrel; a filthy sneak.

Hounslow-heath, subs. (rhyming). — The teeth. For synonyms, see Grinders. Also Hampstead-heath.
1887. Dagonet in Referee, 7 Nov., p. 7, c. 3. She’d a Grecian ‘I suppose,’ And of Hampstead Heath two rows.

Hour of Fleet-street, subs. phr. (common). — A prostitute. For synonyms, see Barrack-hack and Tart.

1823. Bee, Dict. of the Turf, s.v. House. With them (the players) it means Covent-garden or Drury-lane, or indeed any other theatre. ‘A full-house’ and ‘half-a-house’ indicate the state of the receipts or number of the audience.

1870. Athenæum, 13 Aug., p. 120. ‘Letter of J. O. Halliwell.’ It is now certain that Shakespeare was never proprietor of either (the Globe or Blackfriars) theatre. His sole interest in them consisted in a participation, as an actor in the receipts of what is called the house.

1873. Home News, 24 Jan. I exerted myself, not for praise of that well-dressed mob they called the house, but for very love of the congenial sport.

1892. Sydney Watson, Wops the Waif, ch. iii., p. 4. There was tremendous enthusiasm this evening. Every scene was uproariously applauded, and at the climax the whole house rose and cheered and encored with tumultuous feeling.

The House (colloquial). — (1) The Stock Exchange; (2) The House of Commons; (3) Christ Church, Oxford.

House under the hill, subs. phr. (venery). — The female pudendum. For synonyms, see Monosyllable.

**Father of the House, subs. phr.** (Parliamentary).—The oldest elected member. See Base.

**House that Jack built, subs. phr.** (common).—A prison. For synonyms, see Cage.

**Like a house on fire, adv. phr.** (common).—Quickly; with energy. See Like.

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, i, 85. I'm getting on like a regular house on fire.

**Safe as houses, adv. phr.** (common).—Perfectly safe.

1864. E. Yates, Broken to Harness, ch. xxxii., p. 361 (1873). I have the means of doing that, as safe as houses.

1874. T. Hardy, Far from the Madding Crowd, ch. lvii. ‘The clothes will floor us as safe as houses,’ said Coggan.

1886. Grant Allen, In All Shades, ch. i. Why, of course, then, that's the explanation of it—as safe as houses, you may depend upon it.

1890. Grant Allen, Tents of Shem, ch. xxviii. You may make your forgery itself as safe as houses.

**House-bit (or -keeper, or -piece), subs.** (colloquial).—A servant-mistress.

**House-dove, subs.** (old).—A stay-at-home.

**Household-brigade. To join the Household Brigade, verb. phr.** (common).—To marry. For synonyms, see Splice.


**House of Civil Reception, subs. phr.** (old).—A brothel. For synonyms, see Nanny-shop.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

**House of Commons (or House of Office), subs. phr.** (old).—A W.C. For synonyms, see Mrs. Jones.

1611. Chapman, May-Day, iv., 2. No room save you turn out my wife's coal-house, and her other house of office attached to it, reserved for her and me sometimes, and will you use it being a stranger?

1748. Smollett, Roderick Random, c. xiii. Taking the candle in his hand, which he had left burning for the purpose, he went down to the house of office.

d. 1750. Robertson of Struan, Poems, 83. So to a house of office straight a school-boy does repair, To ease his postern of its weight.

**House-tailor, subs.** (old).—An upholsterer.


**Housewife (or Huswife, or Hussy), subs.** (colloquial).—1. Primarily, a house-keeper. Hence (a) a domestic servant; (b) a wanton or a gad-about wench; and (c) a comic endearment. Hence, too, housewifery, subs., and housewife's tricks = the habit of wantonness, the practice of men.

1508. Gawain and Gologras, 'Ballade:' (Pinkerton, Scottish Poems, 1792, iii.). A guude hussy-wife ay rinning in the toun.


1600. Look about You, sc. 28 (Dodsley, Old Plays, 4th ed., 1875, vii., 475). Huswife, I'll have you whipped for slandering me.

1602. Shakspeare, Twelfth Night, i., 2. I hope to see some housewife take thee between her legs and spin it off.

1659. Lady Alimony, iii., 3 (Dodsley, Old Plays, 4th ed., 1875, xiv., 331). And if the hussy challenge more, Charm the maddering gossip with your roar. Idem. iii., 6. (p. 340). If I make not these haxters as hateful to our hussies as ever they were to us, their husbands, set me up for a Jack-a-Lent.

1673. WyCHerLy, Gentleman Dancing Master, iv., i. What, hussy, would you not do as he'd have you?


1694. CONGREVE, Double Dealer, iv., 3. When I was of your age, hussy, I would have held fifty to one I could have drawn my own picture.

1697. VANBRUGH, Aësop, i., 1. Hark you hussy. You can give yourself airs sometimes, you know you can.

1697. VAnBRUGH, EsOp, i., 1. Hark you hussy. You can give yourself airs sometimes, you know you can.

1708. MRS. CENTLiVRE, The Busy-Body, IV., 2. I'll charm you, housewife. Here lies the charm that conjured this fellow in.

1697. PRIOR, Poems (Aldine ed. ii., 270, The Insatiable Priest.) To suppress all his carnal desires in their birth At all hours a lusty young hussy is near.

1720. SWiFT, Poems, 'A Portrait' (ChALMERS, English Poets, 1810, xi., 448). A housewife in bed, at table a slattern.

1728. SWiFT, Poems, 'My Lady's Lamentations' (ChALMERS, English Poets, 1810, xi., 460). Consider before you come to threescore, how the hussies will fleer Whene'er you appear.

1731. C. COFFEy, The Devil to Pay, i. Don't you know, hussy, that I am king in my own house.

1732. HENRY FIELDING, The Mock Doctor, i. Ay, hussy, a regular education; first at the charity-school where I learned to read.

1751. SMOLLETT, Peregrine Pickle, c. xviii. He supposed the object of his love was some paltry hussy, whom he had picked up when he was a boy at school.

1764. LLOYD, Poems (1774, 'Chit-Chat.') Lad! I could beat the hussey down, she's pored it all upon my gown.

1768. GOLDSMITH, Good Natured Man, II. And you have but too well succeeded, you little hussy, you.

1771. SMOLLETT, Humphrey Clinker (ed. 1890, p. 43). And I have been twice in the bath with mistress and na'r a smock upon our backs, hussy.

1782. COWLEY, Bold Stroke for a Husband, i., 2. Don C. Now, hussy, what do you expect?

1822. SCOTT, Fortunes of Nigel, ch. xxii. Say nothing of that, housewife, or I will beat thee—beat thee with my staff.

1829. C. A. SOMERSBT, The Day After the Fair, i. Oh, you hussy! so you were Madame Maypole!


2. (venery). — The female pudendum. For synonyms, see Monosyllable.

HOUSEY, adj. (Christ's Hospital).—Belonging to the Hospital.

HOusLE, verb. (Winchester College).—To hustle.

HOVELLER, subs. (nautical).—A beach-thief.

HOW. How came you so? phr. (old).—Drunk. For synonyms, see Drinks and Screwed.

1824. T. HOOK, Sayings and Doings, 1st S. Merton, ch. xiii. Ould Mrs. Etherington was a right bad one; she used to be lord, how come you so! every night, as regular as she went to bed.

HOW MUCH? phr. (common).—'What do you say?' 'What do you mean?' 'What price?'—A general request for explanations.

1852. F. E. Smedley, Lewis Arundel, ch. xxxiv. 'Then my answer must mainly depend on the exact height of the principles.' 'On the how much? inquired Frere, considerably mystified.

HOW ARE YOU OFF FOR SOAP, phr. (old).—A street catch.

1833. MARRYAT, Peter Simple. ch. iv. Well, Reefer, how are you off for soap?

1842. Punch, ii., 94, c. 2. Walker! how are you off for soap?

HOW THE BLAZES. See Blazes.

HOW IS THAT FOR HIGH. See High.

HOW'S YOUR POOR FEET, phr. (streets').—A street catch, of no particular meaning. See Street Cries.
1863. *All the Year Round*, x., 180. How's your poor feet? A year ago cheated half the natives of Cockaigne into the belief that they were gifted with a special genius for repartee.

1863. G. A. Sala, *Breakfast in Bed*, p. 163 (1854). But how would you like a screeching multitude, fifty thousand strong, and with not one of whom, to the best of your knowledge, you had even a bowing acquaintance, to vociferate in your track—in the public street, mind—'Ya-a-a-h! how are your poor feet?'

1890. *Town and Country* (Sydney), 11 Jan., p. 19, c. 4. Henry Irving's revival of 'The Dead Heart' has revived a bit of slang... When the play was brought out originally, where one of the characters says, 'My heart is dead, dead, dead!' a voice from the gallery nearly broke up the drama with How are your poor feet? The phrase lived.

**How'll you have it**, *phr.* (common).—An invitation to drink. For synonyms, see *Drinks*.

**How we apples swim** (sometimes amplified by *Quoth the Horse-Turd*)! *verb, phr.* (old).—Said in derision of a parvenu; of a person in better company than he (or she) has any right to keep; or of a pretender to honour or credit he (or she) does not deserve.


1697-1764. Hogarth (Works by J. Ireland and J. Nichols, London, 1873) III., p. 29. And even this, little as it is, gives him so much importance in his own eyes, that he assumes a consequential air, sets his arms akimbo, and strutting among the historical artists cries, *how we apples swim*.


**Howard's Garbage**, *subs. phr.* (military).—The Nineteenth Foot. Also Green Howards.

**Howard's Greens**, *subs. phr.* (military).—The Twenty-fourth Foot. [From its facings and its Colonel's name, 1717-37.]

**How-do-you-do**, *subs. (colloquial).*—A 'to do'; a 'kettle of fish'; a 'pass.'

1835. Haliburton, *Clockmaker*, 1 S., ch. xxvi. Thinks I, here's a pretty how do you do; I'm in for i now, that's a fact.

**Howler**, *subs.* (common).—An unblushing falsehood; an enormous blunder; a serious accident: and so forth. To *come* (or go) a howler = to come to grief; to run amuck.

1885. *Daily News*, 16 May, p. 4, c. 8. Now, to speak respectfully of old scholars that were before us, the translators of the Bible constantly made what undergraduates call howlers, or grievously impossible blunders.


1888. *Indoor Paupers*, p. 24. As to how we are to spend the eight hours, or thereabouts, that remain after meals, church, and howlers are disposed of, nobody, except ourselves and a few private friends outside, cares in the least.

1891. *Moonshine*, 14 Mar. Oh, I saw some piece in which a Johnnie smoked some cigarettes, and at last came a howler, and wanted to commit suicide.

1891. *Pall Mall Gas.*, 17 Sep., p. 2, c. 3. We wondered yesterday how many of our classical readers would see the howler—or the joke.

**Howling**, *adj.* (common).—A general intensitive. *E.g.*, howling-swell = a man in the extreme of fashion; howling-lie = a gross falsehood; howling-bags = trousers extravagant in cut or pattern; howling-cad, etc.
1865. G. A. Sala, *Trip to Barbary*, ch. vii. The hotel at Marseilles was full of our countrymen of the order known at Lane's and Limmer's as howling swells.


1892. Anstey, *Model Music-Hall*, 146. And all the while your heart was given to a howling cad.


1811. *Lexicon Balatronicum*, s.v. Hoxter: Confusion. A hoxter fellow, a man of confused ideas, or one thick of speech, whose words sound like water bubbling out of a bottle.

1811. *Lexicon Balatronicum*, s.v. Hubble-bubble . . . Also an instrument used for smoking through water in the East Indies, called likewise a caloon and hooker.

1888. *Boston Daily Globe*. The typical girl of the hub has been much written about in the novels of the period, and without doubt she is worth all the attention bestowed upon her.

HUBBLE-BUBBLE, *subs.* (colloquial).

1. *See* Hubby.

1874. F. Dyche, *Dictionary* (5th ed.). Hubble-bubble (s.) a confused noise made by a talkative person, who speaks so quick, that it is difficult to understand what he says or means.


2. (colloquial).—A husband. *See Hubby*.

HUBBLE-BUBBLE, *subs.* (colloquial).

1. *See* quots.

1869. *Boston Herald*, Dec. He is to have a quintette club of amateurs with him, from the hub.

1872. *Daily Telegraph*, 4 July. Boston claims to be the hub of the universe; but New York grandiloquently asserts itself to be the universal wheel itself.

1872. *Daily Telegraph*, Dec. The wealth of the hub of the universe, as Bostonians delight to call their city, is very great.

1878. *Boston Daily Globe*. The typical girl of the hub has been much written about in the novels of the period, and without doubt she is worth all the attention bestowed upon her.

2. (colloquial).—A husband. *See Hubby*.

HUBBLE-BUBBLE, *subs.* (colloquial).

1. *See* quots.


2. (colloquial).—A husband. *See Hubby*.

HUBBLE-BUBBLE, *adv.* (old).—Confusedly.—*Lex. Bal*.

HUBBUB, *subs.* (old: now recognised).—*See* quots.

d. 1639. Robert Carey (Earl of Monmouth), *Memoirs*, 1759, p. 155. This made a great hub-bub in our Court.


**Hubby** (or Hub), subs. (colloquial).

—A husband.

1788. Morton, *Secrets Worth Knowing*. Epilogue. The wife poor thing, at first so blithe and chubby, Scarce knows again her lover in her hubby.


1811. Poole, *Hamlet Travestied*, ii., 3. Now, madam, this once was your hubby.

1883. *Referee*, 17 Apr., p. 3, c. 2. I did hear it whispered that her parents and guardians, or her horrified hubby, had turned the key and far.

**Huck**, verb. (old).—To chaffer; to bargain.

1577. Holinshead, *Description of England*, ed. 1807, i., 315. It was his custome likewise to saie, if anie man hucked hard with him about the price of a gelding: 'So God helpe me . . . either he did cost me so much,' or else, 'By Jesus I stole him.'

**Huckleberry. Above one’s Huckleberry (bend, or hook), adv. phr. (American).—Beyond one’s ability; out of one’s reach. See Bend.

1848. J. F. Cooper, *The Oak Openings*. It would be above my bend to attempt telling you all we saw among the red skins.

1852. 'L’Allegro,' *As Good as a Comedy*, p. 61. Well, Squire Barry, you’re a huckleberry above my persimmon, but I reckon something can be done.

**Huckle-my-butt**, subs. (old).—Beer, egg, and brandy made hot.


1834. Ainsworth, *Rookwood*, iii., 5. 'If that’s a bowl of huckle-my-butt you are brewing, Sir William,' added he, addressing the knight of Malta, 'you may send me a jorum at your convenience.'

**Huckster**, subs. (old: now recognised).—1. A retailer of small goods; a pedlar.


2. (old).—A mean trickster.


**Hucksom** (also Huckle, or Hucklebone, or Huck-bone).—The hip.


d. 1529. Skelton, *Elynor Rummyn* (Poems, 1843, i.). The bones of her huckels Lyke as they were buckels.


**Huddle**, verb. (venery).—To copulate. For synonyms, see Greens and Ride.

**Hue**, verb. (old).—See quot.

1690. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. The Cove was hued in the Naskin, the Rogue was severely Lasht in Bride wel.

HUEY, subs. (Old Cant).—A town or village.


HUFF, subs. (colloquial).—1. An outburst of temper; peevishness; offence at some real or imaginary wrong or slight. Hence, TO GET (or TAKE) THE HUFF = TO fly into a passion.

1599. H. Porter, Two Angry Women of Abingdon (Dodsley, Old Plays, 4th ed., 1875, vii., 311). And as thou say'st to me, I said, But in a greater HUFF and hotter blood.

1688. Shadwell, Sq. of Alsatia, Wks. (1720), iv., 63. If you were not the brother to my dearest friend, I know what my honour would prompt me to [walks in a HUFF].

1630. Taylor, Works. The smell is the senting bawd, that HUFFS and snuffs up and downe, and hath the game alwayes in the winde. Ibid. One asked a HUFFING gallant why hee had not a looking-glasse in his chamber; he answered, he durst not, because hee was often angry, and then hee look'd so terribly that he was fearefull to looke upon himselfe.

HUFF-CAP.

Verb. (colloquial).—i. To bluster; to bounce; to swagger.


Huff.


1675. Wycherley, Country Wife. 'Prologue.' Well, let the vain rash fop, by Huffing so, Think to obtain the better terms of you.

1680. Dryden, Prol. to Lee's Cesar Borgia, p. 29. So big you look, though claret you retrench, That, armed with bottled ale, you Huff the French.

1682. Bunyan, Holy War (ed. M. Peacock, 1893, p. 72). He refused and Huffed as well as he could, but in heart he was afraid.

1680. Dryden, Prose, p. 29. So big you look, though claret you retrench, That, armed with bottled ale, you Huff the French.

1682. Bunyan, Holy War (ed. M. Peacock, 1893, p. 72). He refused and Huffed as well as he could, but in heart he was afraid.


1700. Mrs. Centlivre, Perjured Husband. 'Epilogue.' Let cowards cease to Huff.


1708. Prior, Poems, 'The Mice.' (Aldine ed. ii., 244, 50). One went to Holland where they Huff folk, T'other to vend his wares in Suffolk.

1714. Newest Academy of Compliments. Pray neighbour, why d'ye look awry? You're grown a wondrous stranger; You Huff, you pout, you walk about As tho' you'd burst with anger.


1725. Swift, Poems, 'A New Song' (Chalmers, English Poets, 1810, xi., 446). If he goes to the baker's the baker will Huff, And twenty pence ask for a two-penny loaf.


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. To anger; To Cheek (q.v.); to get angered.


1835. Marryat, Jacob Faithful, ch. xiii. Upon this she Huffed outright, and tells Tom he may go about his business, for she didn't care if she never sees him no more.

1839. W. H. Ainsworth, Jack Shetfield, p. 133 (Ed. 1840). If they do, now and then, run away with a knocker, paint a sign, beat the watch, or Huff a magistrate.

Intj. (obsolete). — See quots. Also Huffa and Huffa-Gallant. [Probably the oldest form of the word.]

c. 1510. Rastell, Four Elements (Dodsley, Old Plays, 4th ed., 1875, i., 20). With Huffa Gallant, turl on the berry, And let the wide world wind.


d. 1529. Skelton, Poems, 'Against Garnesche' (Dyce, i., 118, and note ii., 181-2). Huff a Galante, Garneysche, loke on your comely ars.

To Stand the Huff, verb. phr. (old).—To stand the reckoning.—Lex. Bal.

Also Huff = easily offended; Huffed = annoyed; Huffily = testily; in a tantrum.
1825. Neal, Bro. Jonathan, bk. II., ch. 15. A leetle on the HUFFY order, I guess! Aint you?

1825. H. B. Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin, ch. xvi. I ... actually was so cruel as to restrict him to one dozen of my cambric handkerchiefs. Dolph was particularly HUFFY about it, and I had to talk to him like a father to bring him round.

1852. H. B. Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin, ch. xvi. I ... actually was so cruel as to restrict him to one dozen of my cambric handkerchiefs. Dolph was particularly HUFFY about it, and I had to talk to him like a father to bring him round.

1853. Lytton, My Novel, bk. I., ch. ix. Though the Squire was inclined to be very friendly to all his neighbours, he was like most country gentlemen, rather easily HUFFED.

1873. Miss Broughton, Nancy, ch. xxxvi. 'I have no doubt you would!' say I, turning sharply and HUFFILY away.

1875. Ouida, Signa, vol. I, ch. xx., p. 324. She is a stupid little mule,' thought the old woman, angrily. She feels nothing, she sees no greatness in it all—she is only good to grub amongst her cabbages. And she went away HUFFED.

1885. T. E. Brown, The Doctor, p. 31. HUFFED is he, eh? And who regards him?

HUFF-CAP (or HUFF), subs. (Old Cant: still in use at Winchester College).—1. Strong ale. ['From inducing people to set their caps in a bold and HUFFING style.'—Nares.]

1579. Fulwell, Art of Flattery. Commonly called HUFF-cap, it will make a man look as though he had seen the devil.

1586. Holinshed, Description of England. These men hale at HUFF-cap till they be red as cockes and little wiser than their combes.


1614. Greene, Looking-Glass [Dyce], p. 127. The ale is strong ale, 'tis HUFFCAP; I warrant you, 'twill make a man well.

1630. Taylor, Wks. And this is it, of ale-houses and innes, Wine-marchants vintners, brewers, who much wins By others losing, I say more or lesse, Who sale of HUFFCAP liquor doe profess.

1857. Fulwell, Art of Flattery. Commonly called HUFF-cap, it will make a man look as though he had seen the devil.

1586. Holinshed, Description of England. These men hale at HUFF-cap till they be red as cockes and little wiser than their combes.


1630. Taylor, Wks. And this is it, of ale-houses and innes, Wine-marchants vintners, brewers, who much wins By others losing, I say more or lesse, Who sale of HUFF-CAP liquor doe profess.

Huftie-tuftie.

1750. OZELL, Rabelais, iv., pref. xxiii. Freeboters, desperadoes, and bullying Huff-Snuffs.

Huftie-tuftie, adj. (old).—Swaggering; gallant.

1596. Nashe, Saffron Walden (Grosart, Works, iii., 106). Came a ruffling it out, Huftie-tuftie, in his velvet suit.

1599. Nashe, Lenten Stuffe, (Grosart, Works, v., 250). Huftie-tuftie youthful ruffling comrades, wearing every one three yards of feathers in his cap for his mistres' favour.

Hug, subs. (thieves'). —Garrotting (q.v.). Also verbally, and to put on the hug.

1864. Home Magazine, 16 Mar. Hoax upon hoax about the putting on the Hug was played off upon a credulous and bugbear-loving community.

2. (old).—The sexual embrace. For synonyms, see Greens and Ride. Also the close Hug.


1696. Landsdowne, Poems, 'Prologue to The She-Gallants' (Chalmers, English Poets, 1810, xi., p. 36). Then, like some pensive statesman, treads demure, And smiles and hugs to make distinction sure.


1631. Drayton, The Mooncalf (Chalmers, English Poets, 1810, iv., 133). Hug him, and swear he was her only joy.

1637. Beaumont and Fletcher, Elder Brother, iv., 1. This night I'll hug my Lilly in my arms.

d. 1619. Drummond, Posthumous Poems, 'Of a Kiss.' Nor her who had the fate Ravis'd to be and hugged on Ganges' shore.

1659. Lady Alimony, iv. (Dodsley, Old Plays, 4th ed., 1875, xiv., 288a). Shall we Hug none of our own, But such as drop from the frigid zone.


d. 1710. R. Drake, Poems, 'A Song' (Chalmers, English Poets, 1810, ix., 224). Close hugs the charmer, and ashamed to yield, Though he has lost the day yet keeps the field. Iden. She hugs the dart that wounded her, and dies.

d. 1742. Somerville, Occasional Poems, etc., 'The Fortune-Hunter,' canto iii. (Chalmers, English Poets, 1810, xi., 221. Drinks double bub with all his might And hugs his doxy every night.

1746. Smollett, Advice, line 4. We'll hug the curse that not one joy can boast.

d. 1764. Lloyd, Poems (1774), 'The City's County Box.' Hugging themselves in ease and clover.

d. 1773. G. Cunningham, Poems, 'Holiday-Gown' (Chalmers, English Poets, 1810, xiv., 441). He hugs me so close, and he kisses so sweet.

1791. Antient and Modern Scottish Songs, 'My Jockey is a Bonnie Lad,' ii., 325. And then he fa's a kissing, clasping, hugging, squeezing, tousling, pressing, winna let me be.

d. 1789. Burns, The Jolly Beggars. And at night in barn or stable, hug our doxies on the hay.

Verb. (colloquial). — Properly to grapple with and hold the body, as a bear with his fore-paws. Hence (1) to cuddle; and (2) to perform the sexual embrace (see subs., sense 2). Hence, also, to hug brown bess (q.v.); to hug the gunner's daughter = to cuddle a gun for punishment; to hug the ground = to fall, or be hit off one's legs; to give the hug (pugilists) = to close with and grapple the body; to hug the shore (or bank or wall) to keep close to; cornish hug = a hold in wrestling; to hug a belief (or delusion, or thought) = to cherish; to hug one's chains = to delight in captivity.


**HUGGER-MUGGER**

*sub.* (colloquial).

—Muddle; confusion.

1868. C. Reade, *Foul Play*, ch. vii. Why didn’t you tell me, and I’d have tidied the room; it is all HUGGER-MUGGER, with miss a leaving.

1885. T. E. Brown, *The Doctor*, p. 36. And every place as neat as a pin, And couldn’t stand no HUGGER-MUGGER.

1892. * Pall Mall Gaz.*, 28 Oct., p. 2, c. 2. He wrote some lampoons in the papers at the time, in which he ridiculed the HUGGER-MUGGER of the prosecution.

**Adv.** (old). — See quot.

1690. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. HUGGER-MUGGER, Closely or by Stealth, Underboard: *To eat so, that is, to Eat by one’s self.*

1785. Grose, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. HUGGER-MUGGER, by stealth, privately, without making an appearance; they spent their money in a HUGGER-MUGGER way.

**Adj.** (common). — Confused; disorderly; hap-hazard; HAND-TO-MOUTH (q.v.).

1882. *Daily Telegraph*, 5 Oct., p. 2, c. 2. Nor can they be very severely blamed for this HUGGER-MUGGER, slipshod way of life.

**Verb.** (common). — To meet by stealth; to lay heads together.

1879. Justin McCarthy, *Donna Quixote*, ch. xxxii. I can see already that she won’t stand much more of you and me HUGGER-MUGGERING together.

**IN HUGGER-MUGGER**

*adv. phr.* (old). — 1. In secret.

1565. Stapleton, *Fort. of the Faith*, fol. 98. They should not have lurked all this while in HUCKER-MUCKER.


1590. Nashe, *Unfortunate Traveller* (Grosart, *Works*, v., 10). Myself that am but a poore childish wel-willer of yours, with the vain thought that a man of your desert and state by a number of pesants and varlets should be so incuriously abused in HUGGER-MUGGER have wept al my vrine upward.


1596. Shakspeare, *Hamlet*, iv., 5. King. . . . We have done but greenly, IN HUGGER-MUGGER to inter him.


1611. Corvat, *Crud.*, ii., p. 251, repr. So these perhaps might sometimes have some furtive conversation in HUGGER MUGGER.

1633. Ford, *Tis Pity She's a Whore*, ii., 1. There is no way but to clap up a marriage in HUGGER-MUGGER.

1663-61. *Rump Songs*, i. They brought me Gold and Plate IN HUGGAR-MUGGAR.


1762. Churchill, *The Ghost*, bk. iii., line 27. It must not, as the Vulgar say, Be done IN HUGGER MUGGER way.

1815. *Mirror for Mag.*, p. 457. For most that most things knew, IN HUGGER-MUGGER utter'd what they durst.

**HUGGING**

*subs.* (common). — Garotting (q.v.).

**HUGSOME**

*adj.* (colloquial). — Carnally attractive; FUCKABLE (q.v.).

**HULK**

(HULKY, or HULKING Fellow), *subs.* (colloquial). — A fat person; a big lout. Generally, ‘great hulk of a fellow.’


1748. T. Dyche, *Dictionary* (5th Ed.). HULK (s.) . . . also a lazy, dromish fellow.
Hull between. 376

Hum.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Hullkey, or Hulkling, a great Hulkkey fellow, an overgrown clumsy lout, or fellow.

1858. G. Eliot, Mr. Giffil's Love-Story, ch. ii. When you've got ... some great Hulkkey fellow for a husband, who swears at you and kicks your children.


1871. G. Eliot, Middlemarch, ch. i. I want to go first and have a round with that Hulky fellow who turned to challenge me.

1883. A. Dobson, Old-World Idylls, p. 164. I'd like to give that Hulkling brute a hit—beating his horse in such a shameful way!

Verb (colloquial). — To hang about; to MOOCH (q.v.).

Hull between Wind and Water, verb. phr. (venery). — To possess a woman. For synonyms, see GREENS and RIDE.

Hull-cheese, subs. (Old Cant). — See quot. For synonyms, see SWIPES.

Hulverhead, subs., and Hulverheaded, adj. (old). — See quotes. For synonyms, see Buffle and Cabbage-head.

1622. Taylor, A Very Merry Wherry-Ferry (Hindley, Works, 1872), 19. Give me hullicheese, and welcome and good cheer. Ibid. Hull-cheese, is much like a loafe out of a brewers basket, it is composed of two simples, malt and water, in one compound, and is cousin germane to the mightiest ale in England.


Hum, subs. (Old Cant). — 1. A kind of strong liquor: probably a mixture of beer and spirits, but see quot. 1690. Also HUM-CAP.

1618. Ben Jonson, Devil's Ass, i., 1. Carmen Are got into the yellow starch, and chimney sweepers To their tobacco, and strong waters, hum, Meath, and Obarni.

1619. Fletcher, Wild Goose Chase ii., 3. Lord, what should I ail? What a cold I have over my stomach; would I'd some hum.

1823. Bee, Dict. Turf, s.v. Hum-cap, old, mellow and very strong Beer.

1858. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Hum.

2. (common). — A trick; a delusion; a cheat. Also a lie.

1756. The World, No. 164. Now if this be only a Hum (as I suppose it is) upon our country apes, it being blown in the World will put an end to it.

1806. Lamb, Letters in Wks. (Ed. 1852), ch. v., p. 81. I daresay all this is Hum!

1820. Reynolds (P. Corcoran), The Fancy, 'King Tim's the First.' You or your son have told a bouncing Hum.


1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends, 'Row in an Omnibus Box.' It's 'No Go!'—it's 'Gammon!'—it's 'all a Hum!'

1848. Punch, vol. XIV., p. 37. 'Ye Frenche Goe Uppe to London.' That ye French threats were all bouncing, That ye master was a hum, And they'd never dare to come.

1858. T. E. Brown, The Doctor, p. 49. A hum and a huff, And none o' the real stuff.
Hum.

3. (old).—See quot.

1726. New Cant. Dict., s.v.
1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Hums, persons at church; there is a great number of Hums in the autem, there is a great congregation in the church.

Verb (old).—I. To cheat; to bamboozle; TO QUIZ (q.v.).

1782. Goldsmith, Life of Nash, in Wks., p. 552 (Globe). Here Nash, if I may be permitted the use of a polite and fashionable phrase, was hummed.

1764-1817. J. G. HOLMAN, Abroad and at Home, i., 3. Ser. It is queer enough that his father, Sir Simon Flourish, should be hummed so as to think he is going the tour of Europe, when, all the while, he never got a step farther than St. George's Fields.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1811. POOLE, Hamlet Travestied, iii., 1. Go seek him there: I fear he's only humming.

1819. MOORE, Tom Crib, p. 4. While you hum the poor spoonies with speeches so pretty.

2. (old).—To mumble.

1842. MAGINN, Vidocq Versified. To hear Old Cotton humming his pray.

TO HUM AND HAW, verb. phr. (colloquial). — To hesitate, to raise objections.

1469. Paston Letters, II., 347 (Ed. Gairdner). He wold have gotyn it awwy by hymys and by hays, but I wold not so be answeryd.

1504. NASHE, Unf. Traveller (Grosart, Wks., v., 96). Hee made no more humming or haunting, but in despite of her husbands kinsfolkes, gaue her her Nunca dimittis.

1610. JONSON, Alchemist, iii., 2. You may be anything, and leave off to make Long-winded exercises; or suck up Your ha! and hum! in a tune.

1614. JONSON, Bartholomew Fair, i., 1. A sober-drawn exhortation of six hours, whose better part was the Hum-ha-hum.

1620. MASSINGER, Fatal Dowry, ii., 1. Do you stand humming and hawing now?

1729. SWIFT, Intelligencer, No. 14, p. 165 (2nd Ed.). If any person . . . shall presume to exceed six minutes in a story, to hum or haw, use hyphens between his words, or digressions.

1842. Mad. D'ARRLAY, Diary, ii., 153 [ed. 1842]. I don't mean to cajole you hither with the expectation of amusement or entertainment; you and I know better than to hum or be hummed in that manner.

1856. ELLIOTT, Carolina Sports, p. 122. I hummed him, my stripping was all a feint.

To make things hum, verb. phr. (American). — To force the pace; to keep moving.

1888. San Francisco Weekly Exam., 23 Feb. Ever since he has taken the newspaper reins in San Francisco he has made things hum.

1890. Punch, 22 Feb. If I was flush of the ochre, I tell you I'd make the thing hum.

1891. Pall Mall Gaz., 28 Aug., p. 2, c. 3. With their advent things begin to hum.

1893. W. T. STEAD, Review of Reviews, p. 152. In the opinion of both foes and friends we make things hum.

To hum around, verb. phr. (American).—To call to account; to call over the coals (q.v.).

HUMAN, subs. (old: now American).—A human being. [Also HUMAN BOAR]. For synonyms, see COVE.
Humb-Box, subs. (common).—I. A pulpit.

1756. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1827. Lytton, Pelham, p. 302 [Ed. 1862]. Well, you parish bull prig, are you for lushing Jacky, or pattering in the hum-box?

1858. A Mayhew, Paved with Gold, bk. 111., ch. ix., p. 309. He was nick-named the ‘Amen bawler’ (parson) and recommended to take to the hum-box (pulpit) as better suited to him than cadging.

ENGLISH SYNONYMS:—Autem; cackle tub; clack loft; cowards’ castle; gospel mill (also a church); wood.

2. (American).—An auctioneer’s rostrum.

HUMBOX PATTERER, subs. (common).—A parson. For synonyms, see Devil Dodger and Sky Pilot.

1839. G. W. M. REYNOLDS, Pickwick Abroad, p. 223. Though the humbox patterer talked of hell.

HUMBUG, subs. (old: now recognised).—I. A hoax; an imposture; a swindle.

1735-40. Killigrew, The Universal Jester; or a pocket companion for the Wits: being a choice collection of merry conceits, facetious drolleries, &c., clenchers, closers, closures, bon-mots, and humbugs. [Title].

1754. Connoisseur, No. 14. Single words, indeed, now and then broke forth; such as — odious, horrible, detestable, shocking, humbug. This last new-coined expression, which is only to be found in the nonsensical vocabulary, sounds absurd and disagreeable whenever it is pronounced.

1762. Churchill, The Ghost, bk. I., line 72. And that Great Saint, we Whitefield call, Keeps up the humbug spiritual.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1828. Webster, Eng. Dict., s.v.

2. Deceit; pretence; affectation.

1837. R. H. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends. (Ed. 1862), p. 239. That sort of address which the British call humbug and Frenchmen ‘Finesse.’ (It’s ‘Blarney’ in Irish—I don’t know the Scotch.)

1842. Douglas Jerrold, Bubbles of the Day, i. Never say humbug; it’s coar-e. Sir P. And not respectable. Smoke. Pardon me, my lord; it was coarse. But the fact is, humbug has received such high patronage, that now it’s quite classic.

3. A cheat; an impostor; a pretender. Also (old), hummer.

1823. Bee, Dict. of the Turf, s.v. Hum. He is a humbug that has recourse to the meanness. He wishes to be a bugaboo, or most exalted fool.

1836. Dickens, Pickwick, ch. xxx. 'You're a humbug, sir.' 'A what?' said Mr. Winkle, starting. 'A humbug, sir. I will speak plainer, if you wish it. An impostor, sir.'

Verb. To hoax; to swindle; to cajole.

1751. Smollett, Peregrine Pickle, ch. lxxxv. He who seemed to be most afflicted of the two taking his departure with an exclamation of 'humbugged, egad!'

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1826. The Fancy, ii., 77. We would not have the reader believe we mean to humbug him—not for a moment.

1852. Judson, Myst., etc., of New York ch. iv. Oh, blast your humbuggery—talk plain English to me.

1855. Thackeray, Newcomes, ch. v. When the old lady was gone, Mr. Hobson had no need of any more humbugging, but took his pleasure freely.

1883. Mark Twain, Life on the Mississippi, ch. xi., p. 369. Traces of its inflated language and other windy humbuggeries survive along with it.

Humbug, subs. (old: now recognised).—I. A tiresome dullard; a steady-going, common-place person. See also quot. 1725.

1596. Jonson, Every Man in His Humour, i., 1. By gads-lid I scorn it, I, so I do, to be a consort for every humdrum.

1725. New Cant. Dict., s.v. Humdrums or Hums, a Society of Gentlemen, who meet near the Charter-House, or at the King's Head in St. John's Street. Less of mystery, and more of Pleasantry than the Free Masons.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

2. Monotony; tameness; dullness.


1893. The Nation, 13 July, p. 32, col. I. We go so far with the adorers of home and humdrum.

3. (old).—The same as humbug (q.v.).

1596. Nashe, Saffron Walden (Grosart, Works, iii., 14). Whereof generous Dick (without humdrum be it spoken) I utterly despair of them.

4. (old).—A wife; also a husband.

Adj. Dull; tame; common-place; monotonous.

1702. Vanbrugh, False Friend, ii. A very humdrum marriage this.

1705. Ward, Hudibras Redivivus, vol. i., pt. ii., p. 6. 'Tha' it is their humdrum fashion To hate all musical precation.
Humdrum.


d. 1764. Lloyd, *Poems* (1774), 'A Familiar Epistle.' So frothy, vapid, stale, humdrum.

1765. C. SMART, *Fables*, xv., line 5. Content in humdrum mood 't adjust Her matters to disperse the dust.

1774. Foote, *Cozeners*, i., i. Not one, madam, of the humdrum, drawing, long winded tribe.

1775. SHERIDAN, *Rivals*. ii., i. Yet am I by no means certain that she would take me with the impediment of our friends' consent, a regular humdrum wedding, and the reversion of a good fortune on my side.


1849. Thackeray, *Pendennis*, ch. lxi. The most fervent Liberals, when out of power, become humdrum Conservatives, or downright tyrants or despots in office.

1851. ALEX. SMITH, *Dreamthorp*, p. 23. Giddy people may think the life I lead here staid and humdrum, but they are mistaken.

1891. Gunter, *Miss Nobody*, ch. xvii. I just wanted to see my Tillie dance once. She's a society hummer now.

2. (American). — A man or woman of notable parts; a high stepper (q.v.); a good goer (q.v.). Cf., Rustler.

1889. Ally Sloper, 6 July. If Tootsie is anything as lively as the 'Gaiety Girls,' she must be a hummer.


Humming, adj. (old). Strong—applied to drink; brisk—applied to trade; hard—applied to blows. Humming October = the specially strong brew from the new season's hops; stingo (q.v.).


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1764. New Cant. Dict. s.v.

1748. T. Dyche, Dictionary (5th Ed.). Hummer (s.) a great, monstrous, or notorious lie.

Hummertime.


Hummer, subs. (old). — See quot.


1748. T. Dyche, Dictionary (5th Ed.). Hummer (s.) a great, monstrous, or notorious lie.

Hummer, adj. — See Humbug, sense 1.
1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends.
'The Wedding Day.' A mighty magnificent tub Of what men, in our hemisphere, term 'Humming Bub,' But which gods—who, it seems, use a different lingo, From mortals, are wont to denominate 'Stingo.'

1864. Dickens, Our Mutual Friend, bk. III., ch. vii. Wegg, in coming to the ground, had received a humming knock on the back of his devoted head.

Hump, verb. (common).—1. To spoil; to botch; to do for.

'To hump in street parlance, is equivalent to 'botch,' in more genteel colloquialism.

2. (colonial).—To shoulder and carry. E.g., To hump one's swag = to shoulder one's kit.

1886. Daily Telegraph, 1 Jan. Ladies whom I have met humping their own drums.

1887. All the Year Round, 30 July, p. 66.
A large blanket rolled up which contains the personal luggage of the man who carries of humps it.

1887. G. A Sala in Illus. Lon. News, 12 Mar., 282/2. All kinds of luggage, generally speaking, which are manually carried, are at present said to be humped. I have had to hump mine many a time and oft.

1888. Rolf Boldrewood, Robbery Under Arms, ch. xxii. We humped our saddles and swags ourselves.

1890. Family Herald, 8 Feb., p. 227. I was just debating whether I had better hump my drum.

3. (old).—See quot. For synonyms, see Greens and Ride.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Hum, to hump. Once a fashionable word for copulation.

To hump oneself, verb. phr. (American).—To stir; to prepare for attack; to fancy oneself.

1847. Porter, Quarter Race, etc., p. 177. Ef that are anything he humps hiself on besides ugly, it is his manners among the fimmales.

1847. Porter, Big Bear, etc., p. 126. He was breathin' sorther hard, his eye set on the Governor, humpin' himself on politics.

To get (or have) the hump, verb. phr. (common).—To be despondent, hurt, put out, down in the mouth (q.v.). Also, to have the hump up or on. For synonyms, see Snaggy.

1893. Gilbert Parker, Pierre and his People, p. 135. McGann was lying on his back on a pile of buffalo robes in a mountain hut. Australians would call it a humpey.

Humprey, subs. (Australian).—See quot.

1892. Anstey, Model Music-Hall, 43. The company consume what will be elegantly referred to as 'a bit of booze.' Aunt Snapper gets the 'ump.

1886. Jerome, Idle Thoughts, p. 14. 'Arry refers to the heavings of his wayward heart by confiding to Jimee that he has got the blooming hump!

Humphrey, subs. (American thieves').—A coat with pocket holes but no pockets.—Matsell.

To dine with Duke Humphrey. See Dine, Sir Thomas Gresham, and Knights.


Humphry-dumpty, subs. (colloquial).—1. A short and thick-set person; a Grundy (q.v.); a hunch-back. For synonyms, see Forty Guts.
HOG-STRAW.

2. (old). — See quot. 1690.

HUMPTFY DUMPTFY, Ale bold with Brandy.

1698. M. SORBIERE'S Journey to
London in the Year 1658, p. 135, quoted
in Notes and Queries, 6 S., xii., 167. He
answer'd me that he had a thousand such
sort of liquors, as HUMTIE DUMTIE,
Three Threads . . .

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

Adj. and adv. (colloquial).—
Short and thick; all of a heap; all together.

HUM-STRIUM. subs. (old). — See
quot.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.
HUMSTRUM, a musical instrument made of
a mopstick, a bladder, and some pack-
thread, thence also called bladder and
string, and hurdy gurdy; it is played on
like a violin, which is sometimes ludi-
crously called a HUMSTRUM; sometimes
instead of a bladder, a tin canister is
used.

HUNCH, verb. (old: now colloquial).
— To jostle; to shove; to squeeze.
For synonyms, see RAMP.

HUNCH, to justle, or thrust.

1712. ARBUTHNOT, Hist. of John
Bull, Pt. III., App., ch. iii. Then Jack's
friends began to HUNCH and push one
another.

1738. SWIFT, Polite Convers., Dial.
1. I was HUNCHED up in a hackney-
coach with three country acquaintance.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

1847. PORTER, Quarter Race, etc.,
p. 163. I hadn't fairly got to sleep before
the old 'oman HUNCHEP me.

HUNGRY, See WELL-HUNG.

TO BE HUNG UP, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To come to a stand-
still; to be in a fix.

1891. Fun, 10 June, p. 237. 'Ah! by
Bendigo, I forgot! Grimmy's HUNG UP!'
'What, Grimmy? Never!'

HUNGARIAN, subs. (Old Cant).—1.
A hungry man; a RARE PECKER
(q.v.).

1608. DODSLEY, Merry Devil of
Edmonton [Old Plays, v. 267]. Away, I
have knights and colonels at my house,
and must tend the HUNGARIANS.

1837. DISRAELI, Venetia, i., 14. As
for the beverage they drank HUMPTIE-
DUMPTIE, which is ale boiled with
brandy.

1837. DISRAELI, Venetia, i., 14. As
for the beverage they drank HUMPTIE-
DUMPTIE, which is ale boiled with
brandy.

2. (Old Cant).—A freebooter.

1808. Merry Devil of Edmonton
[DODSLEY, Old Plays, v. 285]. Come, ye
HUNGARIAN pilchers, we are once more
come under the zona torrida of the forest.

1893. National Observer, 'Spolia-
tion,' ix., 357. But, after all, it is only
another note in the gamut of spoliation,
whereof Mr. Gladstone's HUNGARIANS (a
good old word that!) would have the
mastery.

HUNK. To BE (or GET) HUNK or
ALL HUNK, verb. phr. (American).
—1. To hit a mark; to achieve
an object; to be safe. Also (2)
to scheme. [From Dutch honk= goal or home.]

1847. DARLEY, Drama in Poker-
ville, p. 50. I'll allow you're just HUNK
this time.

1893. Detroit Free Press, June 23,
'He threatens to go back,' p. 3. I propose
to have some of it, or I'll GET HUNK.

HUNKER (or OLD HUNKER), subs.
(American).—In New York (1844)
a Conservative Democrat, as
opposed to the Young Democracy
or BARN-BURNERS(q.v.). Hence,
an anti-progressive in politics.

HUNKS, subs. (old).—A miser; a
mean, sordid fellow; a curmud-
geon. For synonyms, see SNIDE.
1602. Dekker, Satiro-Mastix, in Wks. (1873), i. 201. Blym. Nay prethee deare Tucca, come you shall shake—Tuc. Not hands with great hunkes there, not hands, but Ile shake the gull-groper out of his tan’d skinne.


1602. DEK KER, SatirO-MaStiX, in Wks. (1873), i., 20E. Blun. Nay prethee deare Tucca, come you shall shake—Tuc. Not hands with great hunkes there, not hands, but Ile shake the gull-groper out of his tan’d skinne.

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HunKy.

Hunt.

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Hunt-about. 384 Hurly-Burly.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Hunting the Squirrel, an amusement practised by post boys, and stage coachmen, which consists in following a one-horse chaise, and driving it before them, passing close to it so as to brush the wheel, and by other means terrifying any woman, or person that may be in it. A man whose turn comes for him to drink, before he has emptied his former glass, is said to be hunted.

In, or out of, the hunt, adv. phr. (colloquial).—Having a chance, or none; in or out of the swim (q.v.). Admitted to, or outside, a circle or society.

Hunt-about, subs. (colloquial).—
1. A prying gossip.

2. (common).—A walking whore.

Hunt-counter, subs. (old).—A beggar.

1823. Shakspeare, 2 Henry IV., i., 2. You hunt - counter, hence! Avaunt!

Hunters. Pitching the hunters, verb. phr. (costermongers').

See quot.

1831-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor, i., 390. Pitching the hunters is the three sticks a penny, with the snuff-boxes stuck upon sticks; if you throw your stick, and they fall out of the hole, you are entitled to what you knock off.

1876. Hindley, Cheap Jack, p. 235. When . . . there was no cattle jobbing to be done, he would pitch the hunters, that is, put up the 'three sticks a penny' business.

Hurly-Burly, subs. (old: now colloquial).—A commotion; a bustle; an uproar.

c. 1509-1547. Lusty Juventus (Doddsley, [Old Plays, 4th ed., 1874, ii., 85]. What a hurly-burly is here! Smick smack, and all this gear!

1539. Tavernier, Garden of Wysdom, E. ii. verso. Thys kynde [Gelo] on a tymate exacted money of hys comons, whomse when he perceuyed in a hurly burly for the same, and ready to make an insurrection, he thus sodaynly appeased.

1542. Udall, Apothelegms of Erasmus [1877], p. 115. The meaning of the Philosophier was, that princes for the ambition of honour, rule and dominion, being in continuall strife, and hurley burlee, are in very deede persons full of miserie and wo.

1551. More, Utopia, (Pit Press ed., 1884, i., 52, 5). Whereby so many nations for his sake should be broughte into a troublesome hurley-burley.

1567. Fenton, Tragical Discourses, f. 104. They heard a great noyse and hurleyburley in the street of the Guard and chief officers of the Watch.

1592. Nashe, Pierce Penniless (Grosart, Works, ii., 53). Not trouble our peaceable Paradise with their private hurlie-burities about strumpets.

1599. Nashe, Lenten Stuffe (Grosart, Works, v., 293). Put them in feare where no feare is, and make a hurlie-burile in the realm.

1606. Shakspeare, Macbeth, i., 1. When the hurley-burley’s done, When the battle’s lost and won.

1619. T. North’s Diall of Princes (1557), corrected, p. 703, c. 1. Two or three dayes before you shall see such resort of persons, such hurly burly, such flying this way such sending that way, some occupied in telling the cookes how many sorts of meates they will have . . .


1771. Smollett, Humphrey Clinker (ed. 1890, p. 185). As for the lawyer he waited below till the hurly-burly was over, and then he stole softly to his own chamber.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.


1886. Max Adler Out of the Hurly-burly. Title.
HURRA'S-NEST, subs. (nautical).—The utmost confusion; everything topsy-turvy. For synonyms, see SIXES AND SEvens.

1840. R. H. Dana, *Two Years Before the Mast*, ch. ii. Everything was pitched about in grand confusion. There was a complete HURRAH'S NEST, as the sailors say, 'everything on top and nothing at hand.'

1869. Mrs. Stowe, *Old Townsfolks*, ch. iv. You've got our clock all to pieces, and have been keeping up a perfect HURRAH'S NEST in our kitchen for three days. Do either put that clock together or let it alone.

HURRAH IN HELL. Not to care a single HURRAH IN HELL, verb. phr. (American).—To be absolutely indifferent.

1893. Harold Frederic, *National Observer*, IX., 1 Apr., p. 493, col. 2. I don't care a single HURRAH IN SHEOL.

HURRY, subs. (musical).—A quick passage on the violin, or a roll on the drum, leading to a climax in the representation.

1833. Dickens, *Sketches by Boz*, p. 66. The wrongful heir comes in to two bars of quick music (technically called a HURRY).

HURRY-CURRY, subs. (obsolete).—See quot.

1599. Nashe, *Lenten Stuffe* (Grose-Art, *Works*, v. 267). The was so in his humps upon it . . . that he had thought to have tumbled his HURRY CURRIE, or can, into the sea.

HURRY-DURRY, adj. (old).—Rough; boisterous; impatient of counsel or control.

1677. Wycherley, *Plain Dealer*, i., 1. 'Tis a HURRYDURRY blade.

HURRYGRAPH, subs. (American).—A hastily written letter.

1861. Independent, 31 July. I must close this HURRYGRAPH, which I have no time to review.

HURRY-WHORE, subs. (old).—A walking strumpet.

1830. Taylor, *Wks*. And I doe wish with all my heart, that the superfluous number of all our hyreling hackney carryknaves, and HURRY-WHORES, with their makers and maintainers, were there, where they might never want continuall employment.

HUSBAND'S-BOAT, subs. (common) —The Saturday boat to Margate during the summer season.

c. 1807. Vance, *Broadside Ballad. The Husband's Boat.'


HUSBAND'S-SUPPER. To WARM THE HUSBAND'S SUPPER, verb. phr. (common). —To sit before the fire with lifted skirts. Fr., faire chapelle.

HUSBAND'S-TEA, subs. (common). —Weak tea; WATER BEWITCHED (q.v.).

HUSH, verb. (old).—To kill.—Grose.

HUSH-MONEY, subs. (old: now recognised). —Money paid for silence, to quash a case, or stay a witness; a bribe; blackmail.

1709. Steele, *Tatter*, No. 26. I expect HUSH-MONEY to be regularly sent for every folly or vice any one commits in this whole town.

1713. Guardian, No. 26. A poor chambermaid has sent in ten shillings out of her HUSH-MONEY, to expiate her guilt of being in her mistress's secret.

Hush-shop.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.
1852. Dickens, Bleak House, ch. xxxvii. To allow Ada to be made a bribe and hush-money of, is not the way to bring it out.
1884. Spectator, p. 530. They were disappointed of their hush-money, but he gave them an easy revenge.

Hush-shop (or-crib), subs. (common).—An unlicensed tavern.

1872. Globe, 18 Sep. At Barrow-in Furness the new Licensing Act has had the effect of calling numerous hush shops into existence.

Husky, subs. (Winchester College).—Gooseberry fool with the husks in it, obsolete. [Notions.]
1870. Mansfield, School Life, p. 145. There were two kinds [Gooseberry fool] Husky and non-husky.

Adj. (American).—Stout; well built.

Husky-lour, subs. (Old Cant).—A guinea; a job (q.v.). For synonyms, see Canary.
1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v.

Hussy, subs. (colloqu'al).—A corruption of Housewife (q.v.).

Hustle, verb. (venery).—1. To copulate. For synonyms, see Greens and Ride.

2. (American).—To bestir oneself; to go to work with vigour and energy. Also to hustle around.

Hustler, subs. (American).—An active, busy man or woman. A hummer (q.v.); a rustler (q.v.).

1890. Harold Frederic, Lawton Girl. A whimsical query as to whether this calamitous boy had also been named Benjamin Franklin crossed his confused mind, and then . . . . whether the child if so named, would be a hustler or not.

Hutch, subs. (common).—A place of residence or employment; one’s diggings (q.v.).

Hutter. See Hatter.

Huxter, subs. (common).—Money. Also Hoxter. For synonyms, see Actual and Gilt.

c. 186 (?). Broadside Ballad. These seven long years I’ve been serving, and Seven I’ve got for to stay, All for meeting a bloke down our alley And a-taking his huxters away.

Huzzy (or Huzzie), subs. (old).—A case of needles, pins, scissors, bodkins, etc.; a housewife’s companion.

Hymeneal-sweets, subs. (venery).—Copulation.

1604. Marston, Malcontent, i., 3. True to her sheetes, nay, diets strong his blood, To give her height of hymeneall sweetes.

Hypernesse, subs. (Winchester College).—See quot. Ziph (q.v.).

1864. The Press, 12 Nov. p. 1098. This dialect of school cryptoepy was known in our youth as Hypernesse. When spoken fast it defies an outsider’s curiosity. If two consonants commence a syllable, the former is dropped, and W substituted: thus breeches would be wæreeches. If P commences a syllable, G is interpolated: thus penny would be pegenney . . . . That Ziph and its cognate languages are well known beyond the boundaries of Winchester is certain. Bishop Wilkins described it, without mentioning it as a novelty, a couple of centuries ago.

Hyphenated American, subs. (American).—A naturalised citizen, as German-Americans, Irish-Americans, and the like. [Nortons.]
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<th><strong>Hypocrite.</strong></th>
<th><strong>387</strong></th>
<th><strong>Hyps.</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HYPOCRITE, subs.</strong> (American).—</td>
<td>A pillow slip or 'sham.'</td>
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<td><strong>HYPOGASTRIC-CRANNY, subs.</strong> (venery). The female pudendum.—</td>
<td>URQUHART. For synonyms, see MONOSYLLABLE.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HYPS (or HYPO), subs.</strong> (old).—The</td>
<td><strong>BLUE DEVILS</strong> (q.v.).</td>
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<td>1710. <strong>Swift, Tatler,</strong> No. 230. Will Hazard has got the HIPS, having lost to the tune of five hund'rd pound.</td>
<td>1729. <strong>Swift, Poems</strong> (CHALMERS, English Poets, 1810, xi., 486). And the doctor was plaguily DOWN IN THE HIPS.</td>
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<td>1738. <strong>Swift's Polite Conversation,</strong> Dial 1. Her ladyship was plaguily bamb'd; I warrant it put her into the HIPS.</td>
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<td>1811. <strong>Lexicon Balatronicum,</strong> s.v.</td>
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<td>1830. C. LAMB, <strong>Pawnbroker's Daughter,</strong> i., 2. The drops so like to tears did drip, They gave my infant nerves the HYP.</td>
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<td>1854. <strong>HALIBURTON, Americans at Home,</strong> i., 176. The old man would give up to the HYPO, and keep his bed for weeks. During this time, he wouldn't say a word, but 'I'm not long for this world.'</td>
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