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.

COMPILED AND EDITED BY

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VOL. VI.—REA to STOZZLE.

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MCMIII.

2. (colloquial). — An exaggeration; a STRETCHER (q.v.): see WHOPPER.

1662. Fuller, Worthies, ii. 117. I can hardly believe that REACHER... that "with the palms of his hands he could touch his knees, though he stood upright."

**REACH-ME-DOWN**, subs. phr. (common). — In pl. = second-hand or ready-made clothes: also HAND-ME-DOWNS: Fr. décrochez-moi-ça. Also as adi.

1860. Thackeray, Philip, xxiv. In the Palais Royal they hang out the most splendid REACH-ME-DOWN dressing-gowns, waistcoats, and so forth.

1875. Besant and Rice, Harp and Crown, xv. The capitalist who can afford two new pairs of second-hand machine-made REACH-ME-DOWNS in a single winter. Where is he, I say?


**READ.** To read between the lines, verb. phr. (colloquial). — To look into a milestone; to quest for hidden meanings in plain English.

1833. Gentleman's Mag., June. They read between the lines, as they say, and find that two and two are intended to represent five.

To read the paper, verb. phr. (common). — To take a nap: see Doss.

**READ-AND-WRITE**, subs. (rhyming). — Flight. Also, as verb. = to fight.

**READER**, subs. (thieves'). — 1. A pocket-book; (2) a newspaper, letter, &c. Whence to read = to steal; READER-HUNTER (or -MERCHANT) = a pickpocket, a DUMMY-HUNTER (q.v.); READED = advertised in the Police Gazette; WANTED (q.v.). — Parker, Grose, Vaux, Bee.

c.1819. Song, 'The Young Prig' [Farmer, Musa Pedestris (1896), 82]. And I my reading learnt betime, From studying pocket-books, Sirs.

1828. Bee, Picture of London, 286. For this purpose they had an old pocket-book, or READER now put into one pocket, now into another.
1839. *Vidocq's Memoirs*, ‘On the Prigging Lay’ ([Farmer, Musa Pedestris](1839), 107. I stops a bit; then toddled quicker, For I'd prigged his reader, drawn his ticker.

1834. *Ainsworth, Rookwood*, iii. v. None knap a reader like me in the lay.

1842. *Egan, 'Jack Flashman'*(in Capt. Macheth). Jack long was on the town, a teaser; Could turn his fives to anything, Nap a reader, or filch a ring.

1859. *Matzell, 'A Hundred Stretches Hence' [Vocabulum]. The bugs, the bungs, and well-filled readers.

**READY (The) (Ready-stuff, -John, -gilt, or ready-money), subs. (old).—I. Money: spec. money in hand (B. E. and Gros). Hence ready thick-un = a sovereign; 20/-: see Rhino.**

c.1618. Webster and Rowley, *Cure for a Cuckold*, ii. 2. Ready money is the prize I look for.

1688. *Shadwell, Sg. of Alsatia*, i. Take up on the reversion, 'tis a lusty one; and Cheately will help you to the Ready.

1712. *Arbuthnot, History of John Bull*, i. iii. He was not flush in ready, either to go to law or to clear old debts.

1732. *Fielding, Covent Garden Tragedy*, ii. i. Therefore, come down the ready, or go. Ibid. (1743), Jonathan Wild (1893), 28. Mr. Wild immediately conveyed the larger share of the ready into his pocket.

1821. *Egan, Life in London*, i. v. The notoriety [Logic] had obtained... for the Waste of Ready in Hoyle’s Dominions, was great indeed.

1840. *Barham, Ingold. Leg. (Merchant of Venice)*. While, as for the ready, I'm like a Church-mouse,—I really don't think there's five pounds in the house.


1886. *Roosevelt, Hunting Trips*, 119. Patiently and noiselessly from the leeward... his rifle at the ready.

**Verb. (racing).—To pull a horse.**

1886-96. *Marshall, Nobbled ['Pomes', 114]. He made us all... believe he could ready his chance.*

1889. *Sporting Times, 29 June*. So as not to let the favourite be readied.

**REAL, adj. and adv. (originally American: now general).—A superlative: very; quite; really. Whence REAL FINE, GLAD, GOOD, &c. = very fine, glad, good, &c., indeed; REAL JAM = an acme: see JAM; REAL GRIT = 'sound to the core': see GRIT; THE REAL (OR THE REAL THING) = the genuine article.**

c.1830. *American Humour, 1*. I reckon the chaplain was the real grit for a parson—always doin' as he'd be done by, and practisin' a darn'd sight more than he preached.

1841. *Thackeray, Men and Pictures...*. Persons who make believe that they are handing you round toky—giving you the real imperial stuff.

1872. *C. D. Warner, Blackleg Studies*, 4. A cynic might suggest as the motto of modern life this simple legend—'just as good as the real.'

1879. *Justin McCarthy, Donna Quixote*, xvii. But I do like her. I took to her from the first... *real jam*, I call her.

1885. *Punch*, 3 Jan., 4, 2. Without real jam—cash and kisses—this world is a bitterish pill.

**REAM. See Rum.**

**REAM-PENNY, subs. phr. (old).—Peter-pence (that is 'Rome'-penny). To reckon one's ream pennies = to confess one's faults.**

**REAR, subs. (University).—A jakes: also as verb.**
Rebec.

Rebec (or Rebeck), subs. (old colloquial).—An old woman: in reproach: cf. Ribibe.

1383. Chaucer, Cant. Tales, ‘Friar’s Tale,’ 275. Here woneth an old rebekke That hadde almost as lief to lise hire nekke As for to give a peny of hir good.

Receipt-of-Custom, subs. phr. (venery).—The female pudendum; the Custom’s-house (‘where Adam made the first entry’): see monosyllable. Hence Custom’s-house officer = the penis (Grose).

Receiver-General, subs. phr. (old).—1. A prostitute: see Tart.
2. (pugilists’).—A boxer giving nothing for what he gets.

Recker, The (or Rekker), subs. (Harrow).—The town recreation-ground. [Where the school sports are held.]

Reckon, verb. (once literary: now American).—To think; to suppose; to consider—peculiar to the Middle and Southern States, and provincial [Halliwell] in England: cf. guess and calculate.

1611. Bible, Isaiah xxxviii. 13. I reckoned [margin, R.V. = thought] till morning that as a lion, so will he break all my bones. Ibid., Rom. viii. 18. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy, &c.

d.1745. Swift, Nobles and Commons, v. I reckon it will appear to many as a very unreasonable paradox.

1776. Foote, Bankrupt, iii. What, you are a courtier, I reckon?

1825. Scott, St. Roman’s Well, x. I reckon you’ll be selling out the whole—it’s needless making two bites of a cherry.

1889. Century Dict. [American], s.v. Reckon, v. ii. 6. The use of reckon in this sense [to hold a supposition or impression] though regularly developed and found in good literature... has by reason of its frequency in colloquial speech in some parts of the United States, especially in the South (where it occupies a place like that of ‘guess’ in New England), come to be regarded as provincial or vulgar.

1892. Gunter, Miss Dividend, iii. Reckon your pap has had too much railroad and mine on his hands to be able to even eat for the last month.

TO RECKON UP, verb phr. (colloquial).—To gauge a person; to measure (q.v.); to size (q.v.). Hence, to slander; to back-bite.

1852. Dickens, Bleak House, liv. 447. Mr. Tulkinghorn employed me [Bucket, the detective] to reckon up her Ladyship.

1877. Five Years’ Penal Servitude, i. 33. The officer spotted him directly, and if he could not reckon him up himself, would mark him for the attention of someone else.

See Chickens and Host.

Reckoning. See Accounts.

Record. To beat (break, cut, lower, or smash) the record, verb phr. (colloquial: chiefly athletic).—To surpass all previous performances, ‘to go one better’ (q.v.).

Recordite, subs. (obsolete clerical).—The Low Church Party of the Established Church. [Their organ was The Record.]

1854. Conybeare, Church Parties, 16. This exaggeration of Evangelicalism, sometimes called the Puritan, sometimes, from its chief organ, the Recordite party. Ibid. It is a popular delusion that the Recordites are excluded from public amusements.

Recreant, subs. (old: now recognised).—A Poltron, or Coward, one that eats his Words, or unsaies what he said.’—B.E.(c.1696.)

Recurit, subs. (Old Cant).—In pl. = money in prospect: e.g., ‘HAVE YOU RAISED THE RECRUITS?’ =
‘Has the money come in?’—B. E. Whence (Grose) Recruiting Service = ‘robbing on the highway.’

Rector, subs. (common).—I. A poker kept for show: Curate (q.v.) = the work-a-day iron; (2) the bottom half of a tea-cake or muffin (as getting more butter), the top half being the Curate, and so forth.

Rector of the Females, subs. phr. (venery).—The penis: See Prick.

1647-80. Rochester, Poems. Then pulling out the rector of the females, Nine times he bath’d him in their piping tails.

Red, subs. and adj. (thieves').—I. Gold: also red-un: Fr. jaune (= yellow); Ital. Rossume (= redness). Red-rogue (old) = a gold piece; red-toy (or kettle) = a gold watch; red-tackle = a gold chain. Cf. Ruddock. Red-un also = a sovereign.

1617. Fletcher, Mad Lover, v. 4. There’s a red rogue, to buy thee handkerchiefs.


1883. Sims, Plank Bed Ballad [Revue, 12 Feb.]. A toy and a tackle—both red-un's.

c.1886. Sporting Times [S. J. and C.]. ‘There’s a red-un—or in other words ‘a quid.’”

1901. D. Telegraph, 14 May, 11, 5. You have got a fine red-un. Ibid. You just now alluded to your watch as a red-un.—Cooper: I did. And then you explained that “red-un” was thieves’ slang.

—So it is.

2. (common).—Various applied to objects red in colour: as (1) a red herring (q.v.); (2) in pl., the menses: whence red-rag = the menstrual cloth; to flash the red rag = to have one’s courses; (3) in pl. = blushes: also red-rag, whence to mount the red rag (or flag) = to blush; (4) a Red Republican: spec. (France ‘93) a violent revolutionary of the established order. See also Admiral, red-cent, and red-coat.

Combinations are numerous—The red-ace (or C) = the female pudendum: see monosyllable; red-book = a book of the officers of State or the Peerage: cf. blue-book; red-breast = a Bow-St. runner (they wore red waistcoats); also see infra; red-cent (see quot. 1889, nary and nickel); red-coat = a soldier: also the reds; red-cock = an incendiary fire; red-cross (see quot. 1626); red-dog (see shinplaster); red-eel = a term of contempt; red-eye (or red-head) = fiery whiskey; red-eye sour = whiskey and lemon; red-flannel = the tongue: see rag, 2; red-fustian = (1) port, (2) claret (B. E. and Gross), and (3) porter: also red-tape; red-grate (see red-lattice); red-head = a red-haired person, a carrots (q.v.); red-herring = a soldier: cf. soldier = a red-herring; red-horse = a native of Kentucky; red-hot (adj.) = violent, extreme: red-letter day = (1) a Church festival (printed in red characters in the Calendar): hence (2) a happy day or lucky occasion (Grose): whence red-letter man = a Roman Catholic (B. E. and Gross); red-liner (see quot. 1851); red-peticoat (see quot. 1670); red-rag (see rag and red), and (2) = a source of annoyance or disgust: usually ‘a
Red.

Red-Rag to a mad-bull; Red-Ribbon = brandy (Grose): cf. White-Satin; Red-Sail Docker = a buyer of stores stolen out of the royal yards and docks (Grose); Red-Skin = a North American Indian.

c. 1485. Lady Bessy (Queen of Henry VII.) [Percy Soc. Pub., ix.]. [Oliphant, New Eng., i. 396. We now first hear of Rede Coates, Lord Stanley’s soldiers; a well-known word in Cromwell’s day, 130 years later].

1626. Smith, Treatise on English Sea Terms [Arber], 262. [Oliphant, New English, ii. 66. An English ship is called a Red Crosse].

1662. Rump Songs, ii. 5. Our Politique Doctors do us teach, That a Blood-snaring Red-coat’s as good as a Leech.


c. 1720. Old Song [Durfey, Pills &c. (1720) vi. 324]. Old musty Maids that have Money ... May have a Bit for their Bunny, To pleasure them in their Beds, Their hearts will turn to the Red-coats.

1815. Scott, Guy Mannering. ... We’ll see if the Red cock craw not in his bonny barn-yard ae morning before day dawning.

1826. Cooper, Last of Mohicans [Bartlett]. What may be right and proper in a Red-skin may be sinful in a man who has not even a cross in his blood to plead for his ignorance.

1830. Lytton, Paul Clifford, 80. A tumberle of blue ruin fill, fill for me, Red Tape those as likes it may drain.

1834. Ainsworth, Rookwood, i. ix. Famous wine this—beautiful tipple—better than all your Red Fustian.

1848. Ruxton, Far West, 3. Jest then seven darned Red Heads top the bluff. Ibid., ii. Being as a Redskin, thirsting for their lives.

1848. Thackeray, Book of Snobs, xxv. A woman who was intimate with every duchess in the Red Book.

1851. Mayhew, London Lab., ii. 564. The Red Liners, as we calls the Mendicity officers, who goes about in disguise as gentlemen, to take up poor boys caught begging.

c. 1852. Traits of Amer. Humour, ii. 114. With their furniture, and the remains of a forty-two gallon Red-head.

1852. Bristed, Upper Ten Thousand, 144. It was a great catch for Miss Lewison, without a red cent of her own.

1861. Macaulay, Eng. Hist., iii. “Oliver’s Redcoats had once stabled their horses there.”

1871. De Vere, Americanisms ... “Salted provisions and red-eye to boot” is the refrain of many a rude song, and if the latter is fiery and raw it is none the less welcome.

1883. C. Marvin, Gates of Herat, 98. These opinions cannot but be so many Red rags to English Russophobists.

1889. Century Dict., s.v. Red. The copper cent is no longer current, but the phrase red cent remains in use as a mere emphatic form of cent: ‘as it is not worth a red cent.


1892. Nisbet, Bushranger’s Sweetheart, 33. Who would take her for twenty-five, and an old traveller, to see her mounting the red rag like a girl of fourteen?

1896. Crane, Maggie, ix. Not a cent more of me money will yehs ever get—not a red.

1899. Whiteing, John St., 217. Won’t it be fine to see the sojers on horseback? I hope its the reds.

1892. Kipling, Barrack-room Ballads. ‘Tommy.’ The publican ‘e up an’ sez, ‘We serve no Red-coats here.’

1892. Globe, 28 Sept. 6, 1. On his journey he gathers the anathemas of those to whom the literary picture is the red rag.

Neither fish, flesh, fowl, nor good red-herring, phr. (old).—Nondescript; neither one thing nor another; neither hay nor grass.—Ray.

1528. Rede me and be nott Wrothe, i. iii. b. Wone that is neither Flesshe nor Fisshe.
1530. Tyndale, Works [Parker Soc. i. 299]. We know not whether they be good or bad, or whether they be fish or flesh.

1546. Heywood, Proverbs, i. x. She is neither fish, nor flesh, nor good red herring.

1598. Shakespeare, 2 Hen. IV., iv. 3. She's neither fish nor flesh; a man knows not where to have her.

1656. Muses Recr. [Hotten], 94. They are neither fish, flesh, nor good red herring.

7 Marsden, Hist. Ch. Churches, i. 267. "They were neither Parsons, nor Vicars, nor stipendiary curates; in fact, They were neither fish, nor flesh, nor good red herring."

1683. Dryden, Duke of Guise, Epil. Damn'd Neuters, in their Middle way of Steering, Are neither Fish, nor Flesh, nor good Red Herring.

To paint (or varnish) the town red (or crimson), verb. phr. (American).—See quot.

1889. Detroit Free Press, 9 Mar. Painting the town red undoubtedly originated among the cowboys of western Texas, who, upon visits to frontier towns, would first become very drunk, or pretend to be so, and then mount their bronchos, gallop up and down the principal street, shooting at anything, and signifying their intention to paint the whole town red if any opposition to their origies was attempted. It was a mere extravagant threat; one constable could usually put the whole band in the calaboose.

1891. Harry Fludyer at Cambridge, 105. Now, do come... to see us row. We've got a good chance of going head, and if we do, my eye, won't we paint the whole place red on Tuesday night!

1892. Pall Mall Gaz., 17 Oct., 2, 3. He appears here as the typical Johnnie... whose aid is sought by young men who are desirous of painting the town red.

Redbreasts (The), subs. phr. (military).—The 5th (Royal Irish) Lancers.

2. See Red.

Red Feathers (The), subs. phr. (military).—The late 46th Foot, now the 2nd Batt. Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. [A light company were brigaded with others in 1777 as "The Light Battalion." The Americans, harassed by the Brigade, vowed "No Quarter." In derision, to prevent mistakes, the Light Battalion dyed their feathers red.] Also "Murray's Bucks"; "The Surprisers"; "The Lacedemonians"; and "The Docs."

Rede (or Ridge), subs. (old).—Gold: see Red, subs. 1. Hence Rede-Cully = a goldsmith.

1665. Head, English Rogue (1874), i. v. 52, s.v. Ridge-cully.


Red-knights, subs. phr. (military).—The Cheshire Regiment (formerly the Twenty-second Regiment of Foot). [In 1795 it was served with red jackets, waistcoats and breeches in lieu of the proper uniform.] Also The Two Two's.

Red (or Scarlet) Lancers (The), subs. phr. (military).—The 16th (The Queen's) Lancers. [The only Lancer regiment with a scarlet tunic.]

Red-lane (-close or -sea), subs. phr. (old).—The throat; Gutter-alley (q.v.).—Grose.

1566. Udall, Roister Doister, i. 3. M. Mumb. And sweete malte maketh ioly good ale for the nones. Tib Talk. Whiche will slide downe the lane without any bones.

1814. Colman, Poetical Vagaries (1814), 75. O butter'd egg, best eaten with a spoon, I bid your yelk glide down my throat's red lane.
Red-lattice. 9

Red-lattice, subs. phr. (old).—An ale-house sign.

Hence red-lattice phrases = pothouse talk: also Green lattice; red-grate = tavern or brothel, or both combined.—B. E. and Grose.

1596. Shakespeare, Merry Wives, ii. 2. Your cat-a-mountain looks, your Red-lattice phrases, and your bold beating oaths. Ibid. (1598), 2 Henry IV., ii. 1. He called me even now, my lord, through a red lattice.

1596. Jonson, Ev. Man in his Humour, iii. 3. I dwell, sir, at the sign of the Water Tankard, hard by the Green lattice: I have paid Scot and lot there any time this eighteen years.

1602. Marston, Auton. and Melida, v. No, I am not sir Jeffery Balurdo: I am not as well known by my wit, as an alehouse by a red lattice.

C.1607. Wilkins, Mis. of Inf. Marr [Dodsley, Old Plays (Reed), v. 44]. Be mild in a tavern! 'tis treason to the red-lattice, enemy to the sign post, and slave to humour.

1622. Massinger, Virgin Martyr, iii. 3. spun. I see then a tavern and a bawdy-house have faces much alike; the one hath red grates next the door, the other hath peeping-holes within-doors.

Redraw, subs. (back slang).—A warder; a Jigger-dubber (q.v.).

1875. Greenwood, Low-life Deeps. Shying a lump of wet oakum at the redraw.

Redshanks, subs. (old).—See quotas.—Grose.

C.1540. Eldar [Pinkerton. Hist. Scot., ii. 396]. Both summer and winter . . . going always barelegged and barefooted . . . therefore . . . as we use and delight, so to go always, the tender delicate gentlemen of Scotland call us Redshanks.

1542. Boorde, Works [E. E. T. S.] [Oliphant, New Eng., i. 495]. We see redshank (applied to the Irish).

1565. Stapleton, Bede, B iii., c. 4. A priest . . . called Columban cam from Ireland into Britany to preche the woorde of God to the redshankes [Picti] as dwelt in the south quarters.

1577. Holinshed, Hist. Scotland, 318. In the battle of Bannockburn were three thousande of the Irish Scots, otherwise called Kateranes or Redshanks.

d.1599. Spenser, State of Ireland. He [Robert Bruce, 1306-30] sent over his brother Edward with a power of Scots and Redshanks unto Ireland, where they got footing.


1630. Taylor, Works [Nares]. High-land-men, who for the most part speake nothing but Irish; and in former time were . . . called the red-shankes.

1730. Burt, Letters, i. 74 [Note]. In the lowlands of Scotland, the rough footed Highlanders were called Redshanks from the colour of the red-deer hair.

1809. Scott, Lady of Lake, lx. [Note]. The ancient buskin was made of the undress'd deer hide . . . which procured the Highlanders the well-known epithet of Red-shanks.

3. (Old Cant).—A turkey. [Properly the pool-snipe.]

1707. Old Song, 'Rum Mort's Praise of Her Faithless Mauder' [Farmer, Musa Pedestris (1856), 36]. Redshanks then I could not lack.

c.1725. Old Song, 'Retoure my dear dell [New Canting Dict.]. On redshanks and tibs thou shalt every day dine.

4. (Old Cant).—A duck or drake.—Harmann and B. E.

Red-tape, subs. phr. (common).—

1. Official routine; formality. Hence, as adj. = formal: also red-tapery or red-tapeism = official routine; red-tapist = (1) a government clerk; and (2) a precisian. Cf. Blue-tape.

1775. Lord Minto. Letter, 31 Aug. [W. & Q., 6 S, viii. 349]. Howe gets the command. The ships are in great forwardness. I can't say so much for the army. Your old friend sticks to rules, TAPE and pack thread.


1855. Dickens, *Prince Bull* [Rep. Pieces]. He had a tyrannical old godmother whose name was *tape* (*et passim*).


1871. *Daily News*, 29 Dec. It is *more red tape*.


1873. W. Mathews, *Getting on in World*, 99. In no country is the *red-tapeist* so out of place as here. Every calling is filled with bold, keen, subtle-witted men.

1890. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 17 Feb., 7. An amusing instance of *red-tapeism* is reported from America.

2. *See Red.*

**REEB**, subs. (back slang).—*Beer*: TOP OF *REEB* = a pot of beer.

**REEF**, subs. (thieves').—To draw up a dress-pocket until the purse is within reach of the fingers.

2. (racing).—*See quot. [from Century]*.

1888. *Atlantic*, lxiv. 115. When the driver moves the bit to and fro in his mouth, the effect is to enliven and stimulate the horse . . . If this motion be performed with an exaggerated movement of the arm, it is called *reefing*.

To LET OUT A REEF, verb. phr. (common).—To unfasten a button after a meal.

To NEED A REEF TAKEN IN, verb. phr. (common).—To be drunk: *see Drinks and Screwed.*

**REEFER**, subs. (nautical).—1. A midshipman.

1834. *Marryatt, Peter Simple*, iv. A young lady, very nicely dressed, looked at me very hard, and said "Well, *reefer*, how are you off for soap?"

1888. *Harper's Mag.* [Century]. The gun-room, the home of darling *reefers*.

2. (colloquial).—A short all-round jacket; an *arse-hole* *perisher* or *bum-freezer* (*q.v.*).

**REEK**, subs. (Old Cant).—Money: *see Rhino.*

**REEKIE.** *See Auld Reekie.*

**REEL.** To REEL OFF (or OUT), verb. phr. (colloquial).—To speak or produce easily. Off the *reel* = in succession; right off.

1883. *D. Telegraph*, 26 Oct. Winning three nurseries Off the *reel*.


1894. Moore, *Esther Waters*, xxx. First five favourites STRAIGHT OFF THE REEL, three yesterday, and two second favourites the day before.

**To dance the miller's reel** (REEL O' STUMPIE OR REEL OF BOGIE), verb. phr. (venery).—To copulate: *see Ride.*

b. 1796. *Old Scots Song*, 'The Mill, Mill, O' [Merry Muses (collected by Burns)]. Then she fell o'er, an' sae did I, An' DANC'D THE MILLER'S REEL, O. 17 [?]. *Old Song*, 'Cald Kaill of Aberdene' [SHARPE, *Ane Pleasant Garden*]. The lasses about Bogingicht, Their eens they are baith cleer and richt, And if they are but girded richt, They'll *dance the reel of Bogie.*

**REELER**, subs. (rhyming).—A policeman; a *peeler* (*q.v.*).

1879. Horsley [Macm. Mag., xl. 502]. A *reeeler* came to the cell and cross-kiddled (questioned) me.
### Reel-pot

**REEL-pot, sub. phr.** (old). - A drunkard: see Lushington.

**Reeling** = drunk: see Screwed.

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### Reformado

**Reformado, subs.** (old). - A disband soldier; a degraded officer. [In Sp. = an officer deprived of his command but retaining rank and pay: Fr. reformé.]

**Reformed** = degraded.

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### Regular

**Regular, subs.** (thieves'). - In pl. = shares of a booty: see Nab.

**English synonyms.** — To come, or stand in; to go rags; to whack, to go whacks, or to whack up; to go snacks.

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### Reener

**Reener, subs.** (tramps'). - A coin: as in quot.

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### Reesbin

**Reesbin, subs.** (tinkers'). - A prison; a stir: see Cage.

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### Reflector

**Reflector, subs.** (gaming). - A prepared card: the pattern on the back is so grouped as to signalise its face value.

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### Refresher

**Refresher, subs.** (legal). - 1. A daily fee given to a barrister after the retainer: spec. when a case is adjourned.

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### Regardless

**Regardless.** See Get-up.
2. (colloquial).—(1) A person keeping stated times or doing regular duty; (2) anything recurring periodically: as a daily passenger, a drink taken at fixed hours, &c.


1858. Pratt, Ten Nights in a Bar-room, ii. 1. I've been in the habit of taking my REGULARS ever since I was weaned.

1888. Gould, Double Event, 23. He had his breakfast before the REGULARS came down.

Adj. (colloquial).—Thorough; out-and-out: as a REGULARtartar = a shrew (male or female); a REGULAR sell = a consummate swindle; a REGULAR corpse = a knock-out blow; a REGULAR pelter = a cat-and-dog rain; a REGULAR crow = a person disarmally garbed.

1850. Smedley, Frank Fairlegh, 403. Our fine letter's been no go,—turned out a regular sell, you see, eh?

1888. Cornhill Mag., March, 228. If Joanna was ever so blessed as to hear her sing 'Hoop la!' it would be a regular eye-opener to her.

REGULATOR, subs. (venery).—I. The female pudendum: see Monosyllable.

2. (Western American).—In pl. = a band of lynchers; a VIGILANCE COMMITTEE (q.v.). See RUSTLER.

1892. Scotsman, 7 May, 'Rustlers and REGULATORS.' By this band the REGULATORS were besieged for about three days at the "Ta" ranche, where they had strongly entrenched themselves.

REHOBOAM, subs. (old).—I. See quot.

1849. Bronte, Shirley, i. The whole surmounted by a REHOBOAM, or shovel-hat, which he did not seem to think it necessary to lift.

2. (common).—A quadruple MAGNUM (q.v.); a double JEROBOAM (q.v.): usually of champagne.

REIGN, verb. (Australian thieves').—To be at liberty.

RELIBE, verb. (common).—To ease, (1) the bowels, (2) the testes, and (3) sexual desire.

1868. Hall [Lyndesay, Works (E. E. T. S.), 347, Magin]. He sees her come quietly into his bedroom, scans her unconcealed charms with great relish, and grows amorous . . . and will die, unless she RELIEVES him.

RELIEVER, subs. (old).—See quot.

1850. Kingsley, Cheap Clothes and Nasty. In some sweating places there is an old coat kept called the RELIEVER, and this is borrowed by such men as have none of their own to go out in.

RELIEVING-OFFICER, subs. phr.—See quot.

1883. Grenville-Murray, People I Have Met, 227. Now the RELIEVING OFFICER, or, for brevity's sake, the "R. O.," was a term of endearment which the Honourable Felix, in common with other young noblemen and gentlemen at Eton, applied to his father.

RELIGION. To GET RELIGION, verb. phr. (American).—To be 'converted.'

RELIGIOUS, adj. (Western American).—I. Free from vice: specifically of horses; and (2) of a horse given to going on his knees: see DEVOTIONAL HABITS.

RELIB, subs. (old).—'Carnal connection with a woman' (Grose): see GREENS and RIDE.
Remainder, subs. (booksellers'). —
1. The unsold part of an edition bought to be re-sold at a reduced price.

1889. Athenæum [Century]. His main dealings . . . having been in remainders, and his one solitary publication a failure.

2. (publicans'). —The drainings of pots and glasses: see All Nations.

Remedy, subs. (Winchester). —1. A holiday: cf. work (= pain) and Remi.

d.1519. Colet, Statutes of St. Paul's School. I will also that they shall have no remedies . . . excepte the Kynge . . . desire it.

1539. Magnus, Endowment Deed, Newark Grammar School. Thomas Magnus ordeyneth . . . that the said maisters shall not be myche inclyned . . . to graunt remedy for Recreacyon.

1593. Rites Durham Cath. [Surtees Soc.]. There was . . . a garding and a bowling allie . . . for the Novices sometymes to recreate themselves when they had remedy of thare master.

c.1840. Mansfield, School Life, 49. Remedys were a kind of mitigated whole holiday.

1891. Wrench, Word-Book, s.v. Remedy . . . Remedium seems to have been the original word for holiday; translated Remedy . . . The tradition of Remedies being granted by great persons survives in the custom of the Judges on Circuit demanding a Half-Remedy.

2. (Old Cant). —A sovereign; 20/-: see Rhino.


Remember. See Parson Mel-drum.


Rem-in-re, subs. phr. (colloquial). —The deed of kind; copulation. To be caught with rem-in-re = to be taken in the act.


Rent, subs. (Old Cant). —Plunder; booty. To collect rent = to rob travellers on the highway (Bee). Hence, rent-collector = a highwayman: specifically one whose fancy was for money only.

Rents coming in, phr. (old colloquial). —Dilapidated; ragged.

1708-10. Swift, Polite Conversation, 1. I have torn my Petticoat with your odious Romping; my rents are coming in; I'm afraid, I shall fall into the Ragman's Hands.

To pay one's rent, verb. phr. (old). —To punish (q.v.); to pay out (q.v.).

1370. Rom. Rich. Coer de Lion [WEBER] [OLIPHANT, New Eng., i. 86. Richard pays the Saracens their rent; like our "give them their bellyfull."]

Rep, subs. (old). —1. A woman of reputation (Grose): whence (2) a harlot; a woman of a certain reputation: also demi-rep: cf. rip. Also as in quot. 1732, short for 'repute.'

1721. Durfey, Two Queens of Brentford, i. Flower'd callicoes that fill our shoars, And worn by dames of rep', as well as whores.

1732. Fielding, Covent Garden Tragedy, 13. Nor modesty, nor pride, nor fear, nor rep; Shall now forbid this tender, chaste embrace.

'Pon (or on) rep, phr. (old). —' Upon my reputation.'

1708-10. Swift, Polite Conversation, 1. Lady Smart. What ... Do you say it upon rep? Neverout. Poz, I saw her with my own Eyes.
Repairs.

Some of our words . . . in familiar writings and conversations . . . often lose all but their first syllables, as in mob, rep, pos, incog, and the like.

3. (Harrow).—A repetition.

1892. Anstey, *Voices Populi* 'At the Regent Street Tussand's,' 65. It's not in *Selections from British Poetry*, which we have to get up for rep.

**Repairs.** No repairs, *phr.* (common).—Said of a reckless contest; neck or nought.

*See Road.*

**Repartee,** *subs.* (old: now recognised).—' A sudden smart Reply.'—B. E. (c. 1696).

**Repeater,** *subs.* (American political).—An elector voting twice on the same qualification.

**Reporter,** *subs.* (old Irish).—A duelling pistol: *see Meat-in-the-Pot.*

1827. Jonah Barrington, *Personal Sketches* (1869), i. 288. A tolerable chance of becoming acquainted with my friend's reporters (the pet name for hair-triggers). *Idem*, 288-9. I have this moment sent to the mail coach-office two bullet-moulds, not being certain which of them belongs to the reporters.

1885. Cornhill Mag., xi. 166. In those days Irish gentlemen always carried their reporters or pistols with them.

**Reposer,** *subs.* (common).—A final drink; a *nightcap* (*q.v.*).

**Reptile,** *subs.* (American cadet).—
2. (colloquial).—A degraded wretch; a baseling. Hence *reptile press* = the hireling press.


**Republic of Letters,** *subs.* *phr.* (old).—The post-office.—BEE.

**Requisition,** *verb.* (American military).—To take by force: now recognised.

1864. Sala [Daily Telegraph, 2 Aug., ' 'America in the Midst of War']. Nothing too small to be annexed. From a hundred thousand dollar requisition on the Municipality of a Country Town to a basket of eggs and a housewife's fresh butter.

1871. Morning Advertiser, 1 Feb. We have all heard of General Butler, We know "how Providence plesht him mit teapots and shpoons" whilst he was requisitioning down south.

**Re-raw,** *subs.* (common).—A drinking bout; drunk.

**Reservoir.** Au reservoir, *phr.* (common).—' Au revoir.'

1897. Mitford, *Romance of Cape Frontier*, i. v. "'Au resevoir,' for your way, I believe, lies past the dam."

**Residential-club,** *subs.* *phr.* (common).—An habitual assemblage of loafers: spec. a crew of idlers, male and female, frequenting the reading-room of the British Museum for the sake of shelter and warmth.

**Respectable,** *adj.* (colloquial).—Chaste; decent.

1857. Dickens, *Little Dorrit*, i. 35. Something must be done with Maggy . . . who . . . is—ha—barely respectable.

1899. Whiteing, *John St.*, xxvii. Some . . . bear it in silence, feeling that it is the price of 'keeping respectable.'

**Respond,** *verb.* (venery).—To share the sexual spasm; *to come* (*q.v.*).

**Responsions,** *subs.* (Oxford).—The first examination for candidates for the B.A. degree.

1888. Lang, *XXII. Ballades in Blue China*, 'Ballad of the Midsummer Term.' When Lent and responsions are ended.
RESPUN, verb. (tinkers'). — To steal: see PRIG.

REST. AND THE REST? phr. (common). — A retort to anything incomplete, or in which something is being kept back.

REST-AND-BE-THANKFUL (THE), subs. phr. (venery). — See MONOSYLLABLE.

RESTY, adj. and adv. (old). — 'Head-strong, Wayward, Unruly, Masterless.' — B. E. (c. 1696).

RESURRECTION, subs. phr. — A dish made of remains; also RESURRECTION-PIE.

1884. Cornhill Mag., April, 438. He gave us RESURRECTION-PIE; He called it beef-steak—O my eye!

RESURRECTIONIST (or RESURRECTION-MAN, -COVE, -WOMAN), subs. phr. (old; now rare). — I. A body-snatcher. Whence RESURRECTION-RIG = body-snatching. — PARKER, GROSE, and VAUX.

1814. Scott, Guy Mannering . . . Resurrection women, who had promised to procure a child's body for some young surgeons.

1821. EGAN, Life in London, ii. i. The slavey and her master—the surgeon and the RESURRECTION-MAN—... they are "all there."

1859. DICKENS, Tale of Two Cities, ii. xiv. "Father," said Young Jerry, "what's a RESURRECTION MAN?" . . . "Oh, father, I should so like to be a RESURRECTION MAN when I'm quite growed up."

1862. MAYHEW, Lon. Lab., iv. 26. Those who steal dead bodies—as the RESURRECTIONISTS.

1865. MACDONALD, Alec Forbes, lxvii. The RESURRECTIONISTS were at their foul work, and the graveyard, the place of repose, was itself no longer a sanctuary!

1896. J. B. BAILEY, Diary of a RESURRECTIONIST, vii. The information concerning the RESURRECTION Men is very scattered. Idem, p. 137. He continued in the RESURRECTIONIST business up to the time of the passing of the Anatomy Act. Et passim.

RESURRECTIONISTS (THE), subs. (military). — The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). [From a rally at Albuera after dispersal at the hands of the Polish Lancers.] Also "The Buff Howards"; "The Nutcrackers"; and "The Old Buffs."

RES-WORT, subs. phr. (back slang). — Trousers: see KICKS.

RETOURE. See TOURE.

RETURNED-EMPTY, subs. phr. (clerical). — A colonial missionary preferred to a place at home.

1899. Daily Telegraph, 27 Jan., 4, 5. There are two classes of RETURNED EMPTIES, those who are called home to receive dignities and those who are not. Taken in the lump, a returned missionary does not turn out a good parish priest, but he generally turns out an admirable dignitary.


REVELATION, subs. (American). — A drink; a GO (q.v.).

18[?]. S. COURIER, Hard and Fast. Will you have a REVELATION, Mr. Jones, an outpouring of the spirit—Monongahela or brandy—I've got 'em both?

1863. ARTEMUS WARD, Brigham Young. Smith used to have his little REVELATION almost every day—sometimes two before dinner. Brigham Young only takes one once in a while.

REVEL-DASH (or -ROUT), subs. phr. (old). — (1) A rough, noisy, and indecent gathering or carouse. REVEL-ROUT also = a company of SPREESTERS (q.v.).
1591. SPENSER, Mother Hub. Tale, i. 556. Then made they REVELL ROUTE and goodly glee.

d. 1592. GREENE, Works, i. 175. Have a flurt and a crash, Now play REVELDASH.

1613. PURCHAS, Pilgrimage, 430. Laughing, singing, dauncing in honour of that God. After all this REVELL ROUTE they demaund againe of the Demoniake if the God be appeased.

1619. FLETCHER, Monsieur Thomas, p. 465. There is a strange thing like a gentlewoman, Like mistress Dorothy (I think the fiend), Crept into the nunnery, we know not which way, Plays REVELL ROUTE among us.

c. 1620. Fryar and Boye, ii. We'll break your spell Reply'd the REVELL ROUTE.

d. 1625. ROWLANDS, Hist. Rogues [RIETON-TURNER, 582]. They chose a notable swaggering rogue called Puffing Dicke to reuell over them, who plaid REVELL ROUTE with them indeede.

1632. BROME, Queen's Exchange, ii. 2. Wilt thou forsake us, Jeffrey? then who shall daunce The hobby horse at our next REVEL ROUT.

1707. WARD, Hud. Rediv., ii. v. 16. Amongst the rest o' th' REVEL ROUT, Two crazy Watchmen crawl'd about.

1713. ROWE, Jane Shore, i. 1. "My brother—rest and pardon to his soul—Is gone to his account: for this, his minion, The REVEL ROUT is done."

REVENGE, subs. (common). — An opportunity for recouping or retaliation.

1710. SWIFT, Pol. Conv., iii. Lady Smart. Well, Miss, you'll have a sad husband, you have such good luck at cards. Miss. Well, my Lady Smart, I'll give you REVENGE whenever you please.

REVENGE IN LAVENDER, phr. (old).—A vengeance in store; a ROD IN PICKLE (g.v.).—B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

REVERENCE. See SIR REVERENCE.

REVERENT, adj. (American).—See quot.

1586. American Slang [The State, 20 May, 217]. A whisky or brandy which is held in merited respect for very superior potency is entitled REVERENT, from the same kind of fancy which led the Scotch to call a whisky-jar 'a greybeard.'

REVERSED, adj. (old).—'A Man set (by Bullies) on his Head, and his Money turn'd out of his Breeches.'—B. E. and GROSE.

REVIEW. Review of the Black Cuirassiers, subs. phr. (old).—A visitation of the clergy.—GROSE.

REVIVER, subs. (common). — A drink; a PICK-ME-UP (g.v.); a GO (g.v.).

1856. Besant and Rice, Golden Butterfly. It was but twelve o'clock, and therefore early for REVIVERS of any sort.

2. (common). — A mending tailor: cf. TRANSLATOR. Hence, as verb. = to mend; to patch.

1864. The Times, and Nov. REVIVERS, who rejuvenate seedy black coats, and, for the moment, make them look as good as new.

1865. Cassell's Paper, Article, 'Old Clo'. They are now past 'clobbering,' 'REVIVING,' or 'translating.'

REV-LIS, subs. (back slang).—Silver.

REWARD, subs. (kennel).—Supper specifically the blood and entrails of the quarry.—B. E. (c.1696).

rex. To PLAY REX, verb. phr. (old).—To handle roughly and terribly; to PLAY HELL WITH (g.v.).

1586. WARNER, Alb., i. vi. 22. With these did Hercules PLAY REX. . . Not one escapes his deadly hand that dares to show his head.

1599. BRETON, Dream of Str. Effects, 17. Love with Rage kept such a REAKES that I thought they would have gone mad together.
1599. Breton, Dream of Strange Effects, 17. Love and Rage kept such a reakes that I thought they would have gone mad together.

d.1599. Spenser, View of Ireland, 445. Thinke it to be the greatest indignity to the queene that may be, to suffer such a caytiffe to play such rexes.

1605. Sylvester, Du Bartas, 504. Then playes he rex, tears, kils, and all consumes.

1611. Cotgrave, Dict., s.v. Faire le diable de Vauvdt To keepe an old coyle, horrible, bustling, terrible swaggering; to play monstrous reaks, or raks-jakes.

1616. Court and Times Chas. I., i. 256. Then came the English ordnance, which had been brought to land, to play such reaks among the horse that they were forced to fly.

1622. Fletcher, Sea Voyage, iv. ii. In that rage (for they are violent fellows) they play such reaks!

1653. Urquhart, Rabelais, iii. ii. Playing reeks with the high and stately timber, and preparing ... for the eve of the great Day of Judgment.

1655. Fanshawe, Luciad, x. 65. With fire and sword he overcomes and breaks; In Beadala shall his blade play rex.

### Rheumatism in the Shoulder

subs. phr. (common).—Arrest.—Grose.

**Rhino, subs. (old).—Money:**
generic; specifically ready money.
—B. E. (c.1696); Dyche (1748); Grose (1785). Whence rhino-fat (or rhinoceral) = rich.

**Synonyms.**—Generic. Actual; ballast; beans; bit (bite or byte); blunt; brads; brass; bustle; Californians; captain (the); caravan; change; charms; checks; chink; chinkers; chips; clink; coal (or cole); cod (q.v.); coin; colander-seeds; coppers; cork; corn in Egypt; crap (or cole); crimp; cucks; darby; delog (back slang); dibs; dimmock; dinarly (or dinarlies); dingbat; dirt; dollars; dooheroomus (or doot); dots; ducats; dunes; dumps; dust; dye-stuffs; evil (the); family-plate; fat; feathers; flimsy (or flim); flour; gent; gilt (gelt, gelter, or gilt-tick); gingerbread; gingleboys; gingleers; glanthorne; goree; greed; grocery; haddock (q.v.); hard; hardstuff; hen; honey; horse-nails; hoxters (or huxters); iron; jink; John (John Davis or ready-John); kelter (or kilter); King's (or Queen's pictures); lawful pictures; legem pone; loaver; lour (or loure); c s. d.; lurries; mammon; metal; mopusses; mouldy-'uns; moss; muck; needful; nobbings; nonsense; nuggets; ochre; oil of angels; oil of palms; ointment; old; oof (or ooftish; Yiddish); paint; palm-oil; pan; pap (cf. soft); paper; pea; penny; pewter; pieces; pile; plate; plums; pocket; pony; portcullis; posh; pot; powder; prey; punchable (q.v.); purse; queer; quids; rags; ready (ready-gilt or ready-John); ridget (or ridge); reek; regulars; ribbon; ring; rivets; root of all evil; rowdy; salt; sawdust; scads; screens; screeves; scuds; shadscales (or scales); shan; shekels; shells; shigs; shinners; shot; shinplasters (or plasters); sinews of war; skin; soap; soft; soft-flimsy (base); Spanish; spans; spankers; spondulicks; spoon; stamps; steven; stevers; stuff; stuffy; sugar; tin; teaspoons; tow; wad; wedge; wherewith (or wherewithal); yellowboys; yennoms (back slang). £1,000,000 = marigold. £100,000 = plum. £1,000 = cow. £500 = monkey. £100 = century. £25 = pony. £10 = double-finnup; long-tailed finnup (also of notes of higher
values); tenner. £5 = Abra-
ham Newland (q.v.); finnup; fiver; flimsy; lil (or lill); Marshall; pinnif. £1 (and in many
cases formerly = £1 1s) = bean (or bien); bleeder; canary; chip; couter (or cooter); dragon; dunop; foont; George (or yellow-
Georges); gingleboy; glister; goblin; goldfinch; harlequin; horse-sovereign; illegitimate; Jack; James; Jane; Jimmy-
o'-Goblin (rhyming); job (or jobe); meg (cf. mag = \(\frac{3}{4}\) d); monarch; mousetrap; ned (or neddy); new-hat; nob; old Mr. Gory; ponte; poona; quid; red-un; remedy; ridge (or redge); shiner; skin; skiv; stranger; strike; thick-un (also of 5/-); yellow-boy; yellow-
hammer. 10s = half-bean; half-
couter; half-Jack: half-James; half-Jane; half-ned (or -neddy); net-gen; smelt; young illegiti-
mate. 7s = spangle. 6s 6d = George. 5s 3d = where's
curse. 5s = bull (or bull's-eye);
caroon; cart-wheel; coach-wheel; case; caser; decus; dollar; hind coach (or cart) wheel; Oxford; thick-
'un; tusheroon; wheel. 2s 6d = coach-wheel; five-pot piece; flatch; fore-coach-
wheel; George; half-case; half-
dollar; half-Oxford; half-yenork; madza-caroon; slat. 2s = half-
dollar. 1s 6d = hog and a kye. 1s 1\frac{1}{2} d = loonslate (or loonslatt); hangman's wages. 1s = Abra-
ham's willing (rhyming); blow; bob; bobstick; borde; breaky-
leg; button; deaner (or deener); gen; generalise; grunter; hog; jogue; levy; lilywhite-groat; Manchester sovereign; mejoge; north-easter; oner; peg; teviss; thirteener; touch-me; twelver. 10d = dacha-saltee; jumper. 9d = ill-fortune; picture of ill-
luck. 6d = bandy; bender; cripple; croaker; crook; crook-
back; deaner; downer; fiddle; fiddler; fyebuck; goddess Diana; griff-metol; grunter; half-borde; half-hog; kick; kye; lord-
of-the-manor; northeaster; pig; pot; sice; simon; snide; sow's-
baby; sprat; syebuck; tanner; tester; tilbury; tizzy. 5d = cinqua soldi; kid's-eye. 4d = castle-rag; flag; groat; joe (or joey). 3d = currants-and-plums; threps; threeswins; thurms. 2d = dace; deuce; duce. 1d = D =
dibblish; George; harper; pol-
lard; saltee; win; yennep. 1d = flatch; madza-saltee; Maggie Rab (or Robb); magpie; make (magg or mee); post; rap; scurrick; tonic. ½d = Covent-
garden; fadge; farden; fiddler; gennitraf; grig; Harrington; jig (origg); quartereen; score.

**Base coin or trick pieces** = cap; cover-down; dandy; double-
header; flats; fleet-note; fletch (or flatch); gassing-coin; galley-
halfpenny; gammy lour; gray; hard; hardware; kone; mopus; pony; queer; soft-flimsy; snide;
stumer.

**French synonyms.—Generic.**

*Achetoires; affure; artiche; atout; bathe; beurre; bille; braise; carme; ce qui se pousse; de quoi; douille; foin; galette; galtos; graisse; graissage; gras; huile; huile a' mains; jaunets; (or jauniau); metal; miche (or miche de profonde); monaco; mornifle; morlingue; morningue; mouscaillons; nerf; noyaux; oignons; os; oscille; patards; pécune; pépettes; pedsale; pêse (or pêze); picaillons; piesto; pimpions; plâtre; plombes; pogon (or poignon); pouiffe; poussier; quantum; quiubus;*
rhonds; rouis caillons; rubis; sable; savette; sine quä non; sitnomen; soldats; sonnettes; sous; thune (or tune); vaisselle de poche; zinc.

ITALIAN SYNONYMS.—Generic. Agresto (= sour grapes); albume; argume; asta (or asti); brunotti; contramigita; cucchi; lugani; penne; smilzi; squame.

SPANISH SYNONYMS.—Generic. Amigos (= friends); caire; florin; lana; loszurraco; morusa; mosca; numerario; plume (= feathers); sangré (= blood); à toca teja; unguento (or unguento de Mejica).

1670. Old Ballad, 'The Seaman's Adieu' [Notes and Queries, 7 S., v. 4.17]. Some as I know, Have parted with their ready rino.

1688. Shadwell, Sq. of Alsatia, i. Cole is, in the language of the witty, money; the ready, the rhino. Thou shalt be rhino-cerical, my lad. 1772. Bridges, Burlesque Homer, 139. For getting rhino here's the spot. 1740. Barham, Ingold. Leg. (Sir Rupert the Fearless). And to sum up the whole, in the shortest phrase I know, Beware of the Rhine, and take care of the rhino! 1848. Lowell, Biglow Papers, 1 S., Intro. A gold mine... Containing heaps heaps of native rhino. 1899. Scarlet City, 65. He added, throwing a sovereign on the table, 'Split up that bit of rhino.'

RHOODY (LITTLE), subs. phr. (American).—The State of Rhode Island: the smallest in the Union.

RHYME-SLINGER, subs. phr. (common).—A poet.

RHYMING SLANG.—A method of indicating words by a rhyming or quasi-rhyming substitute; e.g., ABRAHAM'S WILLING = shilling; STAND-AND-SHIVER = river; ELEPHANT'S TRUNK = drunk; PENNY-COME-QUICK = trick; and so forth. First in vogue during the late Fifties, but artistically developed of late years by The Sporting Times or Pink 'Un. With use the rhyme has been suppressed by experts: e.g., I'M-SO-FRISKY = whiskey becomes I'M-SO, while FLOUNDER-AND-DAB = cab is merely flounder.

RIB, subs. (common).—I. A wife: whence CROOKED RIB = a cross-grained wife. — Grose (1785). See Dutch.

1609. Hall, Solomon's Divine Arts. How many have we known whose heads have been broken by their own rib.


1732. Fielding, Mock Doctor, i. Go thrash your own rib, Sir, at home. 1772. Bridges, Burlesque Homer, 133. Your dunder-pate Shan't use your rib at such a rate.

1857. Trollope, Three Clerks, xlv. Half a dozen married couples all separating, getting rid of their ribs and buckling again, helter-skelter, every man to somebody else's wife.

2. (common).—In pl. = a stout person.

See Devil's Bones.

RIBALD (RIBOLD or RIBAUD), subs. (old colloquial: long recognised).—A profligate, male or female; spec. (a) a harlot, and (b) a ponce (q.v.) or mutton-monger (q.v.). Whence ribaldry (ribaudry, or ribble-rabble) = (1) indecency, 'profligate talk' (Grose), and (2) the mob, the scum of society; ribaudour = a retailer of smut (q.v.); ribaldist
Ribald.

(RIBAUDROUS, or RIBAUDRED) = whorish, whoreson, filthy and the like; RIBBLE-ROW = (1) a list of the rabble: whence (2) an inventory.

1360. Chaucer, Rom. of Rose, 5673. Many a ribaude is mery and bade.

1362. Langland, Piers Plowman (C), vii. 435. On fasting-dais by-fore noon iche fedde me with ale, Out of reson, a-mong rybaudes here rybaudrye to huyre. Ibid. (A), vii. 66. Ionete of the stuyues, And Robert the ribaudour.

1376. [Ribton-Turner, Vagrants, &c., 52]. In the last year of this reign we find the Commons petitioning the King “that ribalds . . . and sturdy beggars may be banished out of every town.”

1491. Destr. of Troy [E. E. T. S.], 765i. Ephistafus hym presit with his proude wordes, As a ribold with reueray to his roide speche.

1576. Gascoigne, Steel Glass, Ess. Ded. [Arber]. Though the shorneful do mocke me for a time, yet in the ende I hope to giue them al a ribbe to roste for their paynes.


1641. Milton, Def. of Humb. Remons. As for the proverb, the Bishop’s foot hath been in it, it were more fit for a sccura in Trivio, or some ribaured upon an ale-bench.


1670. Cotton [Works (1734), 119]. This witch a ribble-row rehearsest, Of scurvy names in scurvy verses.


Ribbin (RIBBON or RIBBAND), subs. (old).—1. Money: generic. Hence, the ribbin runs thick (or thin) = ‘the breeches are well lined’ (or there’s little cash about’).—B. E. (c. 1696); Grose (1785); Vaux (1812).

2. (common).—In pl. = reins: whence to handle (or flutter) the ribbons = to drive. See handle and add quotes. infra.

1837. Dickens, Pickwick (1837), 36. Give the gen’tman the ribbins.

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends, ‘St. Odille.’ ‘Tis the same with a lady, it once she contrives To get hold of the ribands.

See Blue Ribbon.

Rib-roast (-baste or -tickle), verb. (old).—To thrash; to punish (q.v.). Whence rib-roasting (&c.: also rib-bending or ribbing) = a pummelling; rib-roaster (&c.: also ribbender, ribber, or a rib of roast) = (pugilists’) a blow on the body, or in the ribs, which brings down an opponent’s guard and opens up the head.—B. E.; Martin (1754); Grose.

1576. Gascoigne, Steel Glass, Ess. Ded. [Arber]. Though the shorneful do mocke me for a time, yet in the ende I hope to giue them al a rybbe to roste for their paynes.

1595. Hall, Maroccus Extalicus. Such a piece of filching as is punishable with rib-roast.


1663. Butler, Hudibras. And he departs, not meanly boasting Of his magnificent rib-roasting.

d.1704. L’Estrange, Works [Ency. Dict.]. I have been . . . well ribroasted . . . but I’m in now for skin and all.

1762. Smollett, Sir L. Greaves, i. v. In which he knew he should be rib-roasted every day, and murdered at last.
Ribstone. 21 Ride.

1819. Moore, Tom Crib, 51. While ribbers rung from each resounding frame.

1857. Cuthbert Bede, Verdant Green, ii. iv. To one gentleman he would pleasantly observe . . . "There's a regular rib-roaster for you!"

1876. Hindley, Cheap Jack, 284. It was some time before he recovered the rib-bender he got from the fat show-woman.

1886. Phil. Times, 6 May. There was some terrible slogging . . . Cleary planted two rib-roasters, and a tap on Langdon's face.


Ribstone, subs. (common).—See Pippin.

1883. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads [Punch, 11 Oct.]. 'Ow are yer, my ribstone.

Rib-tickler, subs. phr. (colloquial).—1. Thick soup; glue (q.v.).

2. See Rib-roast.

Rice-bags, subs. phr. (common).—1. Trousers: see Kicks.

2. (American).—In sing. = a rice planter.

Rich, adj. and adv. (colloquial).—1. Outrageous; (2) ridiculous; and (3) spicy (q.v.).

c. 1350. Tournament of Totenham [Hazlitt, Early Pop. Poet., iii. 91]. Alle the wyues of Totenham come . . . To fech home thaire husbondis . . . With wispys and kixes, that was a rich sight.

1821. Egan, Life in London, ii. ii. The left-hand side of the bar is a rich bit of low life.

1840. Porter, Southwestern Tales, 57. Thar we was . . . rollin' with laughin' and liquor, and thought the thing was rich.

1844. Disraeli, Coningsby, viii. 1. 'Was Spraggs rich?'—'Wan't he! I have not done laughin' yet . . . Killing! . . . The richest thing you ever heard.'

1897. Mitford, Romance of Cape Frontier, ix. The notion of Allen bothering anyone to take out a bees' nest . . . struck them all as ineffably rich.

Riche-face, subs. phr. (old).—'A Red-face.'—B. E. (c. 1696).

Richard, subs. (common).—A dictionary: also Richard Snary and Richardanary.—Grose. Fr. musicien.

1622. Taylor (Water Poet), Motto, Intro., s.v. Richard Snary.

Rick-ma-tick, subs. phr. (Scots').—1. A concern; a business; a thing: as 'The whole blessed Rick-ma-tick went to smash.'

2. (school).—Arithmetic.

Ricochet, adj. (American cadet).—Gay; splendid.

Rid. To rid the stomach, verb. phr. (common).—To vomit.

Riddlemerree, subs. (old).—See quot.

c. 1772. Junius, Letters [Woodfall], ii. 316. This style, I apprehend, Sir, is what the learned Scriblerus calls rigmarol in logic—Riddlemerree amongst School-boys.

Ride, verb. (venery).—1. To possess carnally; to swive (q.v.). Fr. chevaucher (= to swive) and chevaucherie (= a swiving) (Cotgrave, 1611; and Grose, 1785).

English synonyms (also see Greens).—To accommodate; Adamize; ballock; belly-bump (Urquhart); bitch (generic); block; bob (Fletcher); bore; bounce; brush; bull; bum; bumbaste (Urquhart); bumbiddle (Davies of Hereford); bung; buttock; caress; caulk; cavault; chauver; chuck; clicket (Flet-
cher, Grose); club; cock; come about; come aloft (E. Spenser); compress; couple with; cover; cross; cuddle; dibble; diddle; do (Shakespeare, Jonson, generic); dock; dog; do over; case (=1 to rump, and (2) to deflower); embrace; ferret (Fletcher); fiddle; flap; flesh (Florio); flimp; flourish; flutter; foin (generic); fondle; foraminate (Urquhart); frisk; fuck (Lyndsay, Florio, Bailey, Burns); fuckle; fulke; fumble (Fletcher); futter (R. Burton); get-into; gonomicotwig (Florio); goose; goose-and-duck (rhyming); goose; go through; handle; have; hog; hole; hoist; horse (Jonson); huddle; huffle; hug (Fletcher, Burns); hump; hustle; impale; invade; jack; jape (Skelton, Palsgrave, Lyndsay, Florio); jig-a-jig; jiggle; jink (Ramsay, Robertson, of Struan); job (Burns); jock; jog (Middleton); jolt; jottle; jounce; jumm (Urquhart); jumble (or jumble up: Stanyhurst, Durfeys); jump (Randleph); kiss (Ramsay, Morris); knock (for nock: Durfeys, Ramsay); know (Biblical); lay out; lard; leacher (Cotgrave); leap (Shakespeare, Jonson, Dryden); lerricompoop; lie with; line (Shakespeare); love; man; meddle with; melf (Lydgate, Shakespeare); mount (Shakespeare, Jonson); mow (Scots': Lyndsay, Durfeys, Burns); muddle; mump; muss; nibble; nick; nidge (Scots'); nig; nigglet (Dekker, Rowlands, Brome); nock (Florio, Ash); nodge (Scots'); nub; nug; oblige; occupy (Shakespeare, Florio, Jonson); peg; perforate; perform on; pestle; phallicize; pizzle; please (Chapman, Burns); pleasure; plough (Shakespeare); plowter; pluck (Shakespeare); plug; poke (Durfeys); pole; poop; possess (Massinger, Smollett); pound; priapize; prick; prig; push; qualify; quiff; quim; rake; rasp; relish; rig; roger; rummage; rump; rut; Saint-George; sard (Lyndsay, Florio); scour; screw; see; serve; sew up; shag; shake; smock; smoke (Fletcher); snabkle; snib; solace; spike; split; stick; strike; stroke; stitch (Dorset); spread; strain; strum; swinge (Fletcher); swive; tail; taste (Fielding); thrum; toweze; touze (Fielding); tread; trim (Shakespeare, Fletcher); trounce; tumble; tup (Shakespeare); turn up; up; vault; wap (Old Cant); womanize; work.

French Synonyms [R. = Rabelais].—Abattre (or abattre du bois); s'aboucher; abuser; acclamer (R.); accointer (s'accointer or avoir des acctoinances: R.); accoler (R.); accommoder (R.); accomplir (accomblir son désir or plaisir); accorder sa flûte; accou- pandir (R.); s'accoupler; accoutrer; accrocher (R.); accueillir; affiler le bandage (R.); affronter (R.); aferer le tonel (O. Fr.); agir (la Fontaine); aiuer (conventional); ajuster (R.); aller à Cythère, à dame, à la charge, à pinada, au beurre, au bonheur, au choc, au ciel, au gratin, aux armes, aux épinards (cf. Greens), d'attaque (y), l'amble, and se faire couper les cheveux; allumer le flambeau d'amour; anthaster (R.); apaiser sa braise (la Fontaine); ap- pointer (R.); apprivoiser; appr- cher; approvisionner; arieter.
Ride.

(R.) ; arracher son copeau; arresser (R.) ; arriver à ses fins; arriver au but; assaillir (R. ; also assaillir); astiquer; AVOIR commerce, contentement, du plaisir, forfait, la cheville au trou; la jouissance, les bonnes grâces, le solaz, son plaisir, and une bonne fortune. BADIGEONNER ; badiner (=JAPE); baguer (STITCH, q.v.); baiser (Kiss, q.v.); balloter; bâter; bâter d'âne (R.); battre le briquet; battre les cartiers (R.); battre la laine (R.); beliner (R.); beluter (R.); bistoquer; bisouroser (R.); bluter; bobeliner (R.); boire (also boire la coupe de plaisir); boudiner; bourrer; bourriquer; ballotter; batte d'âne (R.); battre les cartiers (R.); battre la laine (R.).

battre la laine (R.); beliner (R.); beluter (R.); bistoquer; bisouroser (R.); bluter; bobeliner (R.); boire (also boire la coupe de plaisir); boudiner; bourrer; bourriquer; boxonner; branler le cul (or la croupière); braquemarder (R.); brocôtétiler; brigoler (R.); brimballer (R.); brisgoutter (R.); brochier; bromequiner; bruquer; brouiller (=JUMBLE, q.v.); brûliller une cierge; brusquer.

CALENDOSSER (also encaldosser); calieutrer (cf. CAULK); carabiner (R.); caracoler (R.); caramboler; caresser (LA FONTAINE); carillonner (R.); cauquer; causer; CHANTER la messe, l'office de la Vierge, l'introil, (or) un couplet; charger; chaudronner (R.); cheminier autrement que des pieds; chevaucher (R.; RIDE, q.v.); chevalier; choser; cliquer (R. = CLIQUET); cocher (R.); cogner (R.); se coller; combattre; commettre la folie (or le forfait); contailer; conférer; confessier; conjouindre (also se conjoindre); conjurer; connaître (also connaître au fond: KNOW, q.v.); conniller; conception; consoler; consommer le sacrifice; contenter (CONTENT, q.v. ; also contenter l'envie, ses désirs, or sa flamme); converser; copuler; coucher (LIE WITH, q.v.); coudre (LA FONTAINE: SEW UP, q.v.);

se coupler (R.); COUTIR, un poste, or des postes, l'aiguilette, la lance, l'amble, or sur le ventre; courter; couvrir (R. ; COVER, q.v.); cramper; créer l'œil; CUEILLIR des lauriers, la fraise, la noisette, or un bouton de rose sur le nombril; culbuter; cuiller (O. Fr.); cultiver. DANSER, aux noces, la basse danse (R.), la basse note, le branle de un dedan et deux, dehors, le branle du loup, une bourrée, and une sarabande; darder; debarbouiller (R.); débraguer (R.); décrotter; dédier; déliiter; déniaiser; dépecher; dépenser ses coteletttes; descrotter (R.); se désenmupper; déshouser (O. F. = to scour); deviser; dire ses oraison; disposer s'en DONNER; se donner carrière, de la satisfaction, des leçons de droit, des preuves d'estime, des secousses, au bon temps, and du plaisir; donner l'aubade, l'avoine, l'assant, le picotin, un branle, une leçon de physique expérimentale, une venue, au contentement, and un clôstèrè; dormir; doublier.

S'EBATTRE; s'éboudir (R.); s'édifier; s'éoustir; embloquer à la cupidique (R.); emboiter; emboucher; emboudiner; embriconner (also R. = to seduce); embrocher (R.); emmancher; s'emoucheter; empêcher (R. and LA FONTAINE); enclouter; encocher (R.); enconner (cf. R. BURTON'S 'encunt' = TO PUT IN); ENFERRER; enfiler (R.); enfouer; enfourcher (= TO SPREAD); enfourner; engagner (also engainer sa virgule); enjamber (cf. crop); entamer le cuir; enloiser; s'entraîner au jeu; entreprendre; ENTER AU couple, en champ clos, en danse, en guerre, en joute, and en lice; entretenir; envahir; enviander;
epouseter; s’escarmoucher (Rousseau); essayer un lit; estocader; étaller; étendre sa braise, sa Chandelle, et ses feux; étrangler; y être; être aux mains, aux prises, en action, en œuvre, impertinent, et vainqueur; être de corde à la viande; étirer; évacuer; exécuter; exercer (R.: also exercer les bons membres); expédier (La Fontaine); exploiter (also exploiter au Pavé-bas: R.). Façonner; faire (=to do), une barbe, une façon, bataille, beau bruit de culétiès (R.), bonne chère, campagne, ça, cela (Villon), connaissance, des bêtises, des galipettes, ça, ça; faire donner; se faire désirer; se faire de corvee a la viande; Etriller; evacuer; executer; exercer (R.: also exercer les bons membres); expedier (La Fontaine); explorer; faire: faire une barbe, une fable, un tronçon de bon ouvrage, un tronçon de chèvre lie (R.), virade, une pirouette sur le nombril, compter les solives à une femme, chou blanc, and pan-pan; se faire déroisier; faire zizi; fanfrelucher (R.); farouiller (R.); fatrouiller (O. Fr.); favoriser; fétérer; ferrer; festoyer (Voltaire); feter (Voltaire: also feter le Saint-Priâve); fichir; flatter; follier (R.); foraminer (R.); se forfaire; forger; forigner (of women: La Fontaine); forriller (R.); fouailler (R.); fouiller; fouler; fourbir (R.); fourcher (R.); fourgonner (R.); fournir (also fournir la carrière); foutrer (= fuck, q.v.); foutriller; franchir le saut; frayer; frétiller (also frétiller-nature and frétiller-étailer: R. = O. Fr. = to frisk); fringoter; fringuer (also fringasser); frotter son lard, la coine and la conemme (R.). Galantiser; galler (O. Fr. = s’amuser) gesir (O. Fr. = coucher); gesticuler; gimbretter (R.); glisser; goûter les ébats, les plaisirs ou les joies; grappiller; greffer (Voltaire); gribouiller (R.); grimper (R.); guayer; guincher. Habeloter; habiller; habiliter; haillonner (R.); hanter; harigoter (R.); hennéquiner; hocher (R. = shake); hoder (R.); hoguiner (R.); houblonner; houtre-biller (R.); houser (O. Fr. = to scour); houspiller; hubir; hurter; hurtibiller (R. = O. Fr. = s’accoupler); hutiner (R.). s’incarner; incrustier; inir; instruire (also s’instruire); instrumenter (R.); investir. Fancuuler; jaser (also jaser); jocuquer (R.); joindre (also se joindre); jouer (La Fontaine), à la bête à deux dos, à la corniche
Ride.

(R.); à cul-bas (R.); à la fossette (R. cf. Cherry-pit); à l'homme, au passe-temps de deux à deux, au piquet (R.), au reversis, aux caille, aux dames rabattues (R.), aux quilles, ce jeu-là, de la bragette, de la flûte, de la marotte, de la navette (R.), de la saque-boute, des basses marches (R.), des cymbales, des gobelets, des mannequins, des reins, du cul, du serre-cropthy (R.), du mirliton, du piston; de l'amorabaquine; jouir; joûter (also joûter à la quintaine: R.).

Labourer; se laisser aller (also laisser aller le chat au fromage, se le laisser faire, and laisser tout faire) ; lara'er (R.); lever la chemise (la cotte, le czil, le devant, or son droit); levretter (R.); lier son boudin; loger les aveugles (or les nus); lutter.

Manger de la chair (-rue or de la viande de Vendredi); manier; manipuler; margaua'er (R.); marjoller (R.); nzarteler; le METTRE, se mettre à la besogne, à juchée, l'ouvrage, chair vive en chair vive; mettre dedans, en besogne, ses reins en besogne, un membre dans un autre; mettre du lard en bouteille; monter (also monter à rassant or sur la bête); moudre (GRIND, g.v.); mouvoir des reins. Négocier; niguer (R.); Obliger; officier; ourser. Paffer; pail-larder (VILLON); parler; PASSER le pas, les détrois, par la par les mains, par les piques, par l'éta-mine, sa fantaisie, son appétit, son envie, and sur le ventre; payer la bienvenue (also les arrérages de l'amour, son écôt, or la comédie à Ferdinand); pêcher; pêcher; piner (cf. TO JOCK, TO COCK, TO PRICK); planter (des hommes ou des femmes: also le cresson and le mai); pousser un argument naturel et irrésistible (also sa pointe, l'aventure à bout, or une moulure); polluer; pomper (R.); ponöier; pourvoir; PRENDRE charnelle liesse, le déduit, le pâtère, le passe-temps, le provande, ses ébats (LA FONTAINE), ses rafraîchissements, son déduit, son délir, son plaisir, soulas, or une poignée; prier; promiscuiter; putasser. Quiller (R.); quouailler (R.); Raccointer (R.); ra-courter; valentir sa braise; ramonner (R.); rataconnculer (R.); ratisser; reçevoir un clôture (also une leçon, or l'assaut: of women or pathics); recogner (also recoigner); recueillir la jouissance (also le fruit d'amour); régaler; rehauser le linge (LA FONTAINE); se rejouir; rembourrer; remuer le croupion (R.); rempeller; remuer (BÉRANGER: also remuer les fesses, or les reins); rendre le devoir; repasser; retaper; retour de matines (LA FONTAINE); ribauder; rire; rirer le bis; rompre un lance; rouscailler (R.); roussiner (R.); Sabouler (R.); saccader (R.); sacrifier (of women); saigner entre deux orteils (R.); sailler (R.); sangler (R.); se satisfaire (also satisfaire à son plaisir); se faire sauter; sauter; savonner (also donner une savonnade); secouer (= TO SHAKE: also secouer le peisson); sentir douceur (also sentir de la volupté); séringuer; servir (LA FONTAINE: also se servir); solacier; sonder; sonner l'antiquaille; souffler en cul; soûler la volonté; soumettre (also soumettre à ses désirs); supposer.

Tabourer (also tabbourer: O. Fr. = battre du tambour: R.); tâcher (BÉRANGER); talocher (R.);
tamiser (R.); tantarer (R.); tarabuster; tâter (also tâter de la chair or la sauce); tâter; thermométriser; tirer à la cordelle, au blanc, au naturel, sa lance, son plaisir, du nerf, une venue (R.); tomber, à la renverse, and sur le dos; toucher (la Fontaine); tracasser; trafarcir; travailler (also travailler à la vigne ou du cuir); trousser (Béranger). User. Vendanger; VENIR (en); venir à l’abordage, au choc; en venir au fait, or aux prises; venir la; ventouser; ventrouiller; verger; vermineur (R.); verminer (R.); vétiller (R.); vitceuvrer; voir. Ziger.

c.1520. Mayd Emlyn [Hazelitt, Pop. Poet., iv. 96]. And bycause she loued Rydnyng, At the stewes was her abydinge.

[...]. MS. (Bodleian, 548). The hares haveth no seson of hure love, that as I sayde is clepid Rydnyng-tyme.

d.1529. Skelton, Bouge of Courte, 400. I let her to hyre, that men maye on her ryde.

c.1542. D. Lyndsay, On Jas. V. his Three Mistresses. Ryd not on your Olifsantus, For hurting of thy Geir.

1593. Florio, World of Words, s.v. Baiarda, a common, filthie, ouerridden whose.

1599. Shakspeare, Henry V., iii. 7, 60. They that ride so and ride not warily.

1607. Webster and Dekker, Westward Hoe, ii. 2. You know gentlewomen used to come to lords’ chambers, and not lords to the gentlewomen’s: I’d not have her think you are such a rank rider.

1611. Chapman, May-Day, i. 1. I have heard of wenches that have been won with singing and dancing, and some with riding, but never heard of any that was won with tumbling in my life.

c.1618-19. Fletcher, Mad Lover, iv. 5. He rides like a nightmare, all ages, all conditions. Ibid., 1637 [?], Elder Brother, iv. 4. He’ll ride you the better, Lily.

c.1620-50. Percy Folio M.S., 200, ‘Lye Alone.’ If dreams be true, then Ride I can: I lacke nothing but a man, for tis onlye hee can ease my moane.

1621. Burton, Anat. Melan., III. iii. i. 2. The adulterer sleeping now was riding on his master’s saddle.

1653. Urquhart, Rabelais, i. iii. If you find any . . . females worth the pains . . . get up, ride upon them.

1656. Fletcher, Martiall, xi. 105. The Phrygian Boys in secret spent their seed As oft as Hector’s wife rid on his steed.

1656. Muses Recr. [Hotten], 74. A smooth and gentle hand keeps women more in awe of due command Than if we set a ganneril on their Docks, Ride them with bits, or on their Geer set locks.


1796. Old Scots' Song, ‘Heigh for Bread and Cream.’ She poppit into bed, And I popp’t in beside her; She lifted up her leg, And I began to ride her.

1796. Morris, Pleni potencyari, 13. She had been well rid.

6.1796. Old Scots' Song, ‘Ye’se get a Hole to Hide it in.’ [Farmer, Merry Songs and Ballads (1897), iv. 269]. O haud it in your hand, sir, Till I get up my claes, Now ride me, as you’d ride for life.

2. (old).—To rob on the highway.

1605. London Prodigal, v. i. It is well known I might have rid out a hundred times if I would

PHRASES.—To ride and tie see quot. 1742); To ride the fringes see quot. c.1787); To ride as if fetching the midwife = to go post haste; To ride out = to adopt the profession of aims. See Back; Black Donkey; Bodkin; Brose; Cowlstaff; Grub;
HOLBORN HILL; HIGH-HORSE; HOBBY-HORSE; MARYLEBONE STAGE; ROMFORD; ROUGH-SHOD; SPANISH MARE; STANG; WILD-MARE.

1383. CHAUCER, Cant. Tales, Gen. Prol., 45. A knight ther was . . . That fro the time that he firste began To RIDE out, he loved chevalrie.

1737. BOSWELL, Johnson, i. v. note. Both used to talk pleasantly of this their first journey to London. Garrick . . . said one day in my hearing, 'We rode and tied.'

1742. FIELDING, Joseph Andrews, ii. 2. They . . . agreed to RIDE and TIE . . . The two . . . set out together, one on horseback, the other on foot: he on horseback . . . when he arrives at the distance agreed on . . . is to dismount, TIE his horse to some gate, tree, post . . . and then proceed on foot; when the other comes up to the horse, he unties him, mounts, and gallops on; till having passed by his fellow traveller, he likewise arrives at the place of TYING.

c.1787. Ireland Sixty Years Ago (1847), 51. To guard themselves from encroachment, the citizens from time immemorial perambulated the boundaries of their chartered district every third year, and this was termed riding their franchises, corrupted into RIDING THE FRINGES.

RIDER, subs. (common).—A question or clause added to a geometrical problem, an Act of Parliament, an examination paper, &c.

1852. DICKENS, Bleak House, xxxix. Vholes finally adds, by way of RIDER to this declaration of his principles . . . perhaps Mr. C. will favour him with an order on his agent.

1885. Report of Com. of Council on Education in Scotland for 1884, 285. They showed a very satisfactory knowledge of Euclid's propositions, and a very creditable proportion of students worked a considerable number of the RIDErs.

See RIDE, verb. 1.

2. See RIDE, verb. 1.

3. (old).—A Dutch coin with a man on horseback, worth about twenty-seven shillings: also a Scots gold piece issued by James VI.

1647. FLETCHER, Woman's Prize, 1, 2. His mouldy money! Half a dozen RIDERS, That cannot sit, but stamp fast to their saddles.

4. (old).—A commercial traveller; a BAGMAN (q.v.).

1810. CRABBE, Borough, iv. The come to us as RIDERS in a trade.

1825. LAMB, Letters, cxii. A RIDER in his youth, travelling for shops.

RIDGE (or REDGE), subs. (old).—Gold: manufactured or specie: in latter case specifically = a guinea. Whence, RIDGE-MONTRA = a gold watch; CLY FULL OF RIDGE = a pocket-full of money; RIDGE-CULLY = a goldsmith.—B. E. (c.1696); PARKER (1781); GROSE (1785); VAUX (1812).

RIDICULOUS, adj. (provincial).—See quot. 1847.

1847. HALLIWELL, Archaic . . . Words, &c., s.v. RIDICULOUS . . . Something very indecent and improper is understood; as, any violent attack upon a woman's chastity is called "very RIDICULOUS behaviour:" a very disorderly, and ill-conducted house, is also called a "RIDICULOUS One."

1889. Notes and Queries, 7 S., ix. 453. A man once informed me that the death by drowning of a relative was most RIDICULOUS.

RIDING-HAG, subs. phr. (colloquial).—The night-mare; also THE RIDING OF THE WITCH.

RIFF-RAFF (RAFF or RAFFLE), subs. (old).—1. Refuse, lumber; (2) the mob: spec. (Oxford Univ.) TOWN (q.v.) as opposed to GOWN (q.v.), or vice versa; and (3) booty: as adj. = worthless. Whence RAFF-MERCHANT = a marine-store dealer; RAFFISH = disreputable; RAFFISHNESS = scampishness. As verb. RAFF (or RAFFLE) = to live filthily, to PIG IT (q.v.). RAFFLE-COFFIN = 'a ruffian, ribald fellow.'—B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).
Rifle.

1647 and 1678). As verb. = (1) to play the wanton; (2) to spree (q.v.); (3) to trick, to steal; and (4) to ride pick-a-back. Hence riggish = wanton; rigolage = wantonness; to run (play or carry) a rig = to play fast-and-loose; to rig the market = to raise or depress prices for one's private advantage: hence to swindle; up to the rigs = expert, wide-awake, fly (q.v.).—Grose (1785).

c.1320. Cursor Mundi, MS. Coll. Trin., Cantab., f. r. In ryot and in rigolage spende mony her youthe and her age.

1551. Still, Gammer Gurton's Needle [Dodsley, Old Plays (Reed), ii. 43. Nay, fy on thee, thou rampe, thou ryg, with al that take thy part.


1598. Florio, Worlde of Worcles, s.v. Galluta, a cockish, wanton, or riggish wench. Ibid. Mocciacca . . . a rigge, a harlot.

1608. Shakespear, Antony and Cleopatra, ii. 2. For vilest things become themselves in her; that the holy priests bless her when she is riggish.

1647. Fletcher, Women Pleas'd, ii. 6. A pox o' yonder old rigel.

1650. Fuller, Pisgah Light, iv. vi. Let none condemn them [the girls] for riggs because thus hoyting with the boys.

1653. Urquhart, Rabelais, iii. ix. The mad-pate reeks of Bedlam.

1678. Cotton, Virgil Travestie [Works (1725), 64]. I hate a base cowardly drone, worse than a rigil with one stone.

1739. Duke of Montague [quoted by Theodore Hook in Odd People, 'An Honest Practical Joke']. 'Now all my wig-singing, and nose-blacking exploits, will be completely outdone by the rig [that was the favorite word in the year 1739] I shall run upon this unhappy devil with the tarnished lace.'
1775. Old Song, "The Potato Man" [Farmer, Musa Pedestris (1856), 55]. I'm up to all your knowing RIGS.

1782. Cowper, John Gilpin, 25. He little dreamt when he set out Of running such a RIG.

1823. Moncrieff, Tom and Jerry, ii. 6. We haven't had a better job a long vile nor the shabby genteel lay. That, and the civil RIG told in a pretty penny.

1836. Marryat, Japhet, ii. Sometimes I carry on my RIGS a little too far.

1837. Dickens, Pickwick (1857), 351. One expressed his opinion that it was "a RIG," and the other his conviction that it was "a go."

1848. Lowell, Biglow Papers, ... Who ever'd ha' thought sech a pisonous RIG Would be run by a chap thet wuz chose fer a Wig?

1855. Tom Taylor, Still Waters [Dicks], 13. We must rig the market. Go in and buy up every share that's offered.

1857-61. Mayhew, London Lab., iii. You're up to the RIGS of this hole; come to my hole—you can't play there!

1851. Chamber's Journal, xv. 103. A pawnbroker contributes the linen, an exuberant quantity of which is generally one of the characteristics of the Rig Sale.

1855. Tom Taylor, Still Waters [Dicks], 13. We must rig the market. Go in and buy up every share that's offered.

1857. Foote, Author, i. He's very young, and exceedingly well rigged.

1859. Parker, Life's Painter, 62. We shortly after rigged her with an entire new and very neat change of wearables.

1854. Byron, Beppo, v. Such as in Monmouth Street, or in Rag Fair, would rig you out in seriousness or joke.

1878. Besant & Rice, By Celia's Arbour, ch. ix. I was saluted in the street—it was on the Hard—by a tall and good-looking young sailor, in his naval rig, the handiest ever invented.

1899. Whiteing, John St., xvii. A fad every week at the 'osiers shops . . . and . . . a new rig-out for every fad.

RIGGEN. To ride the riggen, verb. phr. (provincial).—To be very intimate.

RIGGER, subs. (Durham School).—A racing boat.

RIGHT, adj. and adv. (old colloquial).—Very; just; quite. Colloquialisms are numerous: Right as rain (as ninenpence, my leg, anything, a fiddle, trivet, &c.) = absolutely dependable; to rights = com-
Right. 30 Right.

pletely to one's satisfaction; RIGHT THERE = on the spot; RIGHT GREAT = very much; RIGHT NOW = instanter; RIGHT SO = just so; TO DO ONE RIGHT (or REASON) = (1) to do justice, and (2) to pledge in drinking; RIGHT OUT = to a finish; RIGHT DOWN = downright; RIGHT SMART = extremely clever; RIGHT AWAY (OUT, or STRAIGHT), RIGHT OFF (HERE or OUT) = immediately; TO TURN (or SEND) = go. RIGHT THERE = on the spot; RIGHT GREAT = very much; RIGHT NOW = instanter; RIGHT SO = just so; TO DO ONE RIGHT (or REASON) = (1) to do justice, and (2) to pledge in drinking; RIGHT OUT = to a finish; RIGHT DOWN = downright; RIGHT SMART = extremely clever; RIGHT AWAY (OUT, or STRAIGHT), RIGHT OFF (HERE or OUT) = immediately; TO TURN (or SEND) = go.

See LEG.

c.1307. Rel. Antiq., ii. 19. AS RYT AS RAMIS ORN.

1340. Gamelyn [OLIPHANT, New Eng., i. 39. Men dress (set) things TO-RIGHTES; this adverb (few recognise it) is one of our setting things TO-RIGHTES.

1350. William of Palerne [E. E. T. S.], 3066. The quene the day was dight wel TO RIGHTES Hendli in that bynde-skin as swiche bestes were. Ibid., 4268. Sche swelt for sorwe and swoned RIT THERE.

1356. MANDERVILL, Travels, 181. And he hem turneth alle the Firmament RIGHTE as dothe a Wheel that turneth be his Axille Tree.

1383. CHAUCER, Cant. Tales, 3629 [OLIPHANT, New Eng., i. 127. There are new phrases like RIGHT (just) NOW . . . ]

c.1440. Merlin [E. E. T. S.], ii. 129. Thei asked yef thei hadde grete haste; and thei anserde, 'Ye, RIGHT GRETE.'

c.1450. Knight of La Tour-Landry [OLIPHANT, New Eng., i. 284. We have RIGHT SO . . . where we now say just so],

d.1460. LVGDGATE [MS. Harl., 172, 71. Conveyde by lyne RYHT AS A RAMMES HORN.

d.1529. SKELTON, Why Come Ye Not, &c.? 86. Do ryght and doe no wronge, AS RYHT AS A RAMMES HORN. Ibid., Speke Parrot, 498. So myche raggyd RYghte OF A RAMMES HORN. Ibid., Colyn Cloute, 1200. They say many matters ar born Be hyt RYGHTE AS A RAMBES HORN.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, 2 Henry IV., v. 3. Why now you have DONE ME RIGHTE. Ibid. (1609), Tempest, iv. i. 101. And be a boy RIGHTE OUT.

1605. SYLVESTER, Du Bartas, ii. I doo adiure thee (O great King) by all That in the World we sacred count or call, TO DOE ME RIGHTE.

1607. WENTWORTH SMITH, Puritan, i. 1. He was my brother, as RIGHT AS RIGHT.

1612-5. HALL, Contemp. [TEGG], v. 176. A prudent circumlocution which RIGHT DOWN would not be digested.

1622. FLETCHER, Beggar's Bust, ii. 'Tis freely spoken, noble burgomaster I'll DO YOU RIGHTE.

1624. Massinger, Bondman, ii. 3. These glasses contain nothing; DO ME RIGHTE As e'er you hope for liberty.

1663. TUKE, Adv. Five Hours [DODSLEY, Old Plays (REED), xii. 26]. Your master's health, sir—I'LL DO YOU RIGHTE.

1703. FARQUHAR, Inconstant, ii. 2. Oh, pardon me, sir, you shall DO ME RIGHTE . . . Now, sir, can you drink a health.

1726. SWIFT, Gulliver's Travels, ii. viii. They let the hulk drop into the sea, which by reason of many breaches made in the bottom and sides, sunk TO RIGHTS.

1749. SMOLLETT, Gil Blas [ROUTLEDGE], 26. God knows if his heart lay in the RIGHT place.

18[?]. HUMPHREYS, Yankee in England, Aunt. Bring back an answer,—quick. Doolittle. In a jiffing, I'll be back TO RIGHTS.

1842. DICKENS, American Notes, ii. I now saw that "RIGHT AWAY" and "directly" meant the same thing. Ibid. (1854), Hard Times, iv. TURN this girl TO THE RIGHT-ABOUT, and there's an end of it.
### Right-about (THE), subs. (military).

The Gloucestershire Regiment. Also “The Old Braggs”; “The Slashers”; and “The Whitewashers.”

### Right-eye (or hand). My right-eye itches, phr. (old colloquial).

See quot.

### Right-hand, subs. phr. (pugilists’).

A hit with the right hand.

### Right-sort, subs. phr. (old).

Gin: see White Satin.—The Fancy (1820).

### Righteous, adj. (colloquial).

An inverted appreciation: e.g., a righteous (i.e., fine) as distinguished from a wicked (q.v.) day, &c.: cf. Religious.

More holy than righteous, phr. (common).—Applied to a tattered garment or person.

### Rigmarole, subs. (colloquial).

A tedious story; twaddle; a rambling statement: also RAGMAN ROLL, RIG-MY-ROLL, and RIG-MAROLE. As adj. = roundabout, nonsensical (GROSE). [A corruption of RAGMAN ROLL—i.e., the Devil’s Roll: cf. RAGMAN—applied apparently to any document containing many details; also to an old game in which a parchment roll played a part.]

### Right-side. To rise on the right-side, verb. phr. (old).

A happy augury: cf. Wrong side (q.v.) of the bed.

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Ring.

RING, subs. (venery).—I. The female pudendum; also hairy ring, Hans Carvel's ring (q.v.) and black-ring. Hence cracked (or clipped) in the ring = seduced.

1597. Lyly, Woman in Moon, iii. 2. Lear. Will Pandora be thus light? Gun. If she were twenty grains lighter I would not refuse her, provided always She be clipt within the ring.

1613. Beaumont and Fletcher, Captain. Come to be married to my lady's woman, After she's crack'd in the ring.

1622. Atley, Book of Airs, s.v.

1653. Urquhart, Rabelais, iii. xxviii. Never fail to have continually the ring of thy wife's commodity upon thy finger.

1660. Watson, Cheerful Airs, s.v.

c. 1700. Prior, Hans Carvel. Hans took the ring . . . And, trusting it beyond his joint, 'Tis done, he cry'd'. . . 'What's done, you drunken bear, You've thrust your finger God knows where!'

2. (colloquial).—A place set apart for, or a concourse engaged in, some specific object: as (racing) = (1) an enclosure used for betting, and (2) the bookmakers therein; (pugilists') = (3) the circle, square, or parallelogram within which a fight takes place: hence The Prize ring = the world of pugilists; (horse-
dealers') = (4) the space within which horses are exhibited at fair, market, or auction; (general) = (5) a combination for controlling a market or political measure; in America a TRUST.—B. E. (c. 1696); Grose (1785). Hence RINGMAN = a BOOKMAKER (q.v.).

1705. Farquhar, Twin Rivals, i. 1.
I fly at nobler game; THE RING, the Court, Pawlett's and the Park.

1819. Moore, Tom Crib, 57.
Ruffian'd the reeling youngsters round the RING.

1822. Scott, Fortunes of Nigel, ii.
Cold water and ... vinegar applied ... by the bottle-holders in a modern RING.

1848. Thackeray, Vanity Fair, xix.
One day, in the RING, Rawdon's Stanhope came in sight.

1855. Lawrence, Guy Livingstone, ix.
No RINGMEN to force the betting and deafen you with their blatant proffers.

American RINGS and Lobbyists. The modern political RING he described as a combination of selfish bad men, formed for their own pecuniary advancement.

1888. D. Chronicle, 12 July. The victory was very popular, and by the success of Satiety the RING sustained a severe blow.

3. (old).—'Money extorted by Rogues on the High-way, or by Gentlemen Beggars.'—B. E. (c. 1696); Grose (1785).

Verb. (common).—1. To manipulate; spec. to change: e.g., TO RING CASTORS = to exchange hats (Grose); TO RING THE CHANGES = (1) to substitute bad money for good; and (2) so to bustle that change is given wrong.—Grose (1785); Vaux (1812).

Jarvis ... after turning your money over and over ... declares they ring bad, and you must change them for good ones. If you appear tolerably 'soft,' and will 'stand it,' he perhaps refuses these also, after having rung the changes once more. This is called a double do.

2. (thieves').—See quot.

1863. Cornhill Mag., vii. 91. When housebreakers are disturbed and have to abandon their plunder they say that they have rung themselves.

3. (Australian).—To patrol cattle by riding round and round them. Also TO RING UP.

4. (American).—To create a disturbance; TO RACKET (q.v.).

5. (old).—To talk: spec. to scold: of women.—Grose.

Phrases.—TO RING THE HORSESHOES (tailors') = to welcome a man returning from a drinking bout; TO GO THROUGH THE RING = to go bankrupt, to be whitewashed (q.v.); TO RING IN (American) = (1) to quote; to implicate, (2) to get the better of, (3) in gaming, to add to (or substitute) cards in a pack surreptitiously: whence TO RING IN A COLD DECK = to substitute a prepared pack of cards; CRACKED IN THE RING = (1) flawed; (2) see subs., sense 1; TO COME ON THE RING = to take one's turn; TO TAKE THE MANTLE AND RING = to vow perpetual widowhood. Also see BALL.
Ring-dropper.

34 Rip.

RING-TAIL, subs. (military).—A recruit: see SNOOKER.

RING-TAILED ROARER, subs. phr. (American).—The nonsense name of some imaginary beast.—Century.

RING. To get out of one’s RING, verb. phr. (old colloquial).—To sow wild oats. [RING = a course, a race, ring, or circle.]

RING, subs. (common).—Any sort of potable; LAP (q.v.). Hence as verb. = to drink; TO LUSH (q.v.).

RIOT ACT. To read the RIOT ACT, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To administer a jobation; to reprove.


RIP, subs. (common).—A reprobat; a RAKE (q.v.). Hence anything censurable: as a SCREW (q.v.) of a horse (GROSE), ‘a shabby mean fellow’ (GROSE): sometimes in jest.

1544. ASCHAM, Toxophilus, 137. When a man shooteth, the might of his shoote lyeth on the foremost finger, and on the RING-MAN.

2. See RING, subs. i,
Ripe.

usually in phr. LET HER RIP: also TO RIP AND STAVE. Whence RIPPER = a tearer; TO RIP AND TEAR = to be furious; TO RIP OUT = to explode; also as an oath, RIP ME! = BLAST ME! (q.v.).


1848. Jones, Sketches of Travels, 78. He RIPPED OUT an oath that made the hair stand on my head.

1869. H. B. Stowe, Old Town Folks, 607. If she don't do nothing more . . . why, I say, let 'er RIP.

1877. Temple Bar, May, 109. It has its drawbacks, the principal of which is a growing tolerance of misrule and misconduct in office. "Let him RIP," is a common verdict; "we can turn him out when his time is up."

1885. Stevenson, Prince Otto, ii. 1. ‘You may leave the table,’ he added, his temper RIPPING OUT.

1895. Marriott-W, atson [New Review, 2 July]. "RIP ME," says he, starting up, d'ye think I could not ha' been in the job myself?"

2. (old).—To search; to rummage: espec. with a view to plunder; hence (3) to steal. RIPPER = a robber.

[. . .]. Ormulum, 10, 215. To RIPPEIN hemm and raffenn.

c. 1388. Towneley Myst., 112. Com and rype our hous, and then may ye se Who had hir.

[. . .]. Robin Hood and Beggar [Child, Ballads, v. 190]. And loose the strings of all thy pocks, I'll RIPPE them with my hand.

1816. Scott, Old Mortality, xxiii. I e'en riped his pouches, as he had dune mony an honester man’s.

Ripe, adj. and adv. (common).—
1. Drunk; and (2) ready.

1609. Shakspeare, Tempest, v. 1. Trinculo is reeling Ripe: where should they find this grand liquor that hath gilded 'em?

c. 1615. Fletcher, Woman's Prize, i. 1. Do all the ramping, roaring tricks a whore, Being drunk and tumbling-RIPE.

d. 1704. Brown, Works, i. 272. To show you how soon the Women of this age grow RIPE . . .

1821. Egan, Life in London, 178. Jerry was now RIPE for anything.

1842. Tennyson, Poems, ‘Will Water-proof.’ Half mused or reeling-RIPE.

RIPON (or RIPPON), subs. (old).—
1. A spur; and (2) a sword. [The Yorkshire City was formerly famous for its fine steel.]—Grose (1785).

1625. Jonson, Staple of News, i. 3. Why there’s an angel, if my spurs be not right RIPPON.

1636. Wits [Dodsley, Old Plays (Reed), viii. 501]. Whip me with wire, headed with rowels of Sharp RIPPON spurs.

RIPPER, subs. (colloquial).—Anything especial: a good ball (cricket); a knock-down blow (pugilistic); a fine woman; an outrageous lie, &c. Hence RIPPING = great, excellent, STUNNING (q.v.).

1851. Mayhew, Lond. Lab., i. 237. The . . . battle between the two young ladies of fortune is what we call a RIPPER.

1877. Belgravia, xxxii. 241. Mr. Wilkie Collins’s last novel is a RIPPING book.

1881. Howells, Dr. Breen’s Practice, ii. Barlow says it’s the hottest day he’s ever seen here . . . ‘It’s a RIPPER.’

1884. Hawley Smart, Post to Finish, i. What a RIPPING race it was.

1892. Nisbet, Bushranger’s Sweetheart, 209. ‘How are you getting on with her?’ ‘RIPPINGLY as far as she is concerned.’

1896. Cotsford Dick, Ways of World, 53. He calls the sunrise a ‘RIPPIN show.’

RIPPING, subs. (Eton College).—A ceremony incidental to the departure of a Senior Colleger for King’s College, Cambridge: when
he has 'got King's' his gown is stitched up that it may be RIPPED afterwards.

Adj. See Ripper.

Rise, subs. (colloquial).—An advance: in salary, price, betting, status, rank, &c. See Raise.

1837. Dickens, Pickwick, l.iii. Eighteen bob a-week, and a rise if he behaved himself.

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab., ii. 42. A friend or two in London . . . gave me a bit of a rise, so I began as a costermonger.

1864. Tennison, Aylmer's Field. Wrinkled benchers oft talk'd of him Approvingly, and prophesied his rise.

1893. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, 70. As to my chance of a rise wot do you think, old pal!

Verb. (colloquial).—1. To play into one's hands; to listen credulously.

1856. Whyte-Melville, Kate Coventry, xvi. John rose freely in a moment . . . he burst out quite savagely.

2. See Raise.

To get (have or take) a rise out of one, verb. phr. (common).—To mortify; to make ridiculous; to outwit.

1600. Kemp, Dance to Norwich (Oliphant, New Eng., ii. 52. The new substantives are pipe, a rise (leap); whence comes "get a riseout of him").

d. 1859. De Quincey, Spanish Nun. Possibly taking a rise out of his worship the Corregidor.

1901. Sporting Times, 6 Ap., 1, 4. But, I don't care how hard he tries, He out of me can't take a rise.

Phrases.—To rise a barney (showmen's') = to collect a crowd; to rise arse upwards = 'A sign of good luck' (Ray).

Rising, quasi-adv. (colloquial).—1. Upwards of; and (2) approaching to.

1853. Bradley, Verdant Green, i. 7. When Mr. Verdant Green was (in stable language) rising sixteen.

Rispin. See Respim.

Rites of love, subs. phr. (conventional).—Copulation: see Greens.

d. 1638. Carew, The Rapture. We only sin when love's rites are not done.

1733. Bailey, Coll. Eras., 'The Uneasy Wife.' There are some Women who will be querulous, and scold even while the Rites of Love are performing.

River Lea, subs. phr. (rhyming).—The sea.

River-rat, subs. phr. (common).—A riverside thief: specifically one who robs the corpses of men drowned.

River Tick. See Tick.

Rivet, subs. (common).—In pi. = money: see Rhino.

Verb. (colloquial).—To marry; to hitch (q.v.); to splice (q.v.).

1700. Congreve, Way of the World, i. 2. "Sir, there's such coupling at Pan-cras that they stood behind one another as 'twere in a country dance . . . so we drove round to Duke's Place, and there they were rivetted in a trice."

Riz. See Raise.

Rizzle, verb. (provincial).—See quot.

1890. Cassell's Sat. Jour., 2 Aug., 1068, 1. The newest of new verbs is the verb to rizzle . . . to enjoy a short period of absolute idleness after a meal.

R.M.D., phr. (common).—Ready Money Down; immediate payment.

Roach. See Sound.
**Road.** 37 **Roaratorio.**

**ROAD, subs. (venery).—** I. The female pudendum: also ROAD TO HEAVEN (or PARADISE): see MONOSYLLABLE. Whence ROAD-MAKING (or ROAD UP FOR REPAIRS) = menstruation. Also (2) a harlot.

1598. **SHAKESPEARE, a Hen. IV.,** ii. 2, 182. This Doll Tearsheet should be some ROAD.

c.1796. **Burns, Merry Muses,** 112.

To **TAKE TO THE ROAD,** verb. phr. (various).—To turn highwayman (THE ROAD also = highway robbery); footpad; beggar; trump; or commercial. Whence ROAD-AGENT, GENTLEMAN (or KNIGHT) OF THE ROAD = (1) a highwayman, and (2) a commercial traveller.

1704. [**ASHTON, Social Life, &c.,** ii. 242]. There is always some little Trifle given to Prisoners, they call Garnish; we of the ROAD are above it.

1730. **Swift, Capt. Creichton [OLIPHANT, New Eng.**, ii. 162. Among the verbs are . . . GO UPON THE ROAD (as a highwayman) . . .

1749. **Smollett, Gil Blas [ROUTLEDGE],** 13. I do not think you are fool enough to make any bones about consorting with GENTLEMEN OF THE ROAD.

1883. **Stevenson, Silverado Squatters,** 15. The highway robber—ROAD-AGENT; he is quaintly called.

1893. **Standard, 29 Jan.,** 2. Now suppose we are on the ROAD . . . and we meet a josser policeman.

1895. **Marriott-Watson [New Review, July, 8].** But if a GENTLEMAN OF THE ROAD must be hindered by the impudent accidents of the weather, he had best . . . settle down with empty pockets afore a mercer's counter.

**ROAF, adj.** (back slang).—Four. Hence ROAF-YANNEPS = four-pence; ROAF-GEN = four shillings.

**ROACH-AND-DACE,** subs. phr. (rhyming).—The face: see DIAL.

**ROADSTER, subs. (hunting).—** A person who prefers the road to cross country riding.

1885. **Field, 4 Ap.** Once in a way the ROADSTERS and shirkers are distinctly favoured.

**ROARER, subs. (common).—** Anything especially loud: e.g. (1) a broken-winded horse (GROSE); (2) a pushing newsvendor; (3) a stump-orator. Hence ROAR = (1) to breathe hard: of horses; (2) to RANT (q.v.); ROARING = the disease in horses causing broken wind.

1752. **JOHNSON, Rambler, No. 144.** The Roarer . . . has no other qualifications for a champion of controversy than a hardened front and a strong voice.

1841. **Peake, Quarter to Nine,** 1. His horse is neither a crib biter nor a ROARER.

d.1841. **Hook, Man of Many Friends.** His stalls at Melton inhabited by slugs and ROARERS.

1847. **Robb, Traits of Squatter Life,** 64. Ben was an old Mississip' ROARER.

1850. **Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin,** viii. Tom's a ROARER when there's any thumping or fighting to be done.

1865. **Evening Citizen, 7 Aug.** One of a class of men known as ROARERS went round with a few evening papers which he announced to be "extraordinary editions."

1872. **Figaro, 30 Nov.** Greeley's too great a ROARER, and depended too much on the stump.

1872. **ELIOT, Middlentarch,** xxiii. The horse was a penny trumpet to that ROARER of yours.

1883. **D. Telegraph, 5 Jan.,** 2, 6. Prosecutor, after paying for the mare, discovered her to be a ROARER.

**ROARATORIO, subs. (old).—** An oratorio:—**GROSE (1785).**
ROARING, adj. and adv. (common).—Brisk; successful; strong: see DRIVE, HUMMING, &c.

1831. Planché, Olympic Revels, 3. But what a ROARING trade I'm driving, burn me! But I can scarcely tell which way to turn me.

1837. MARRYATT, Snarleow, xii. You've got a ROARING fire, I'll bet.

1883. Referee, 20 May, 2, 4. Rain having kindly come to the rescue of managers on Whit-Monday, most theatres did a ROARING trade.

ROARING-BOY (-BLADE, -GIRL, -LAD, -RUFFIAN, &c., or ROARER), subs. phr. (old).—A street bully: late 16th and 17th centuries: also OATMEAL (q.v.) and TERRIBLE-BOY (q.v.). Also ROAR, verb. = to riot; to swagger; ROARING = riotous. As adv. = extravagantly, noisily, superbly. —B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

C.1600. Brave English Gypsy [COLLIER, Roxburghs Ballads (1847), 185]. Our knockers make no noise, We are no ROARING BOYES.

1603. DEKKER, London's Tempe. The gallant ROARS; ROARERS drink oathes and gail.

1609. SHAKESPEARE, Tempest, i. 1. What care these ROARERS for the name of King?

1610. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, Philaster, v. 4. We are thy myrmidons, thy guard, thy ROARERS. Ibid. (1616), Widow, ii. 3. TWO ROARING-BOYS of Rome that made all split.

1611. MIDDLETON, THE ROARING GIRL [Title]. Ibid. (1617), A Paire Quarrell, v. i. I saw a youth, a gentleman, a ROARER.

C.1620. Court and Times James I. [OLIPHANT, New Eng., ii. 58. The new cant word ROARING BOY comes up in p. 322].

1630. TAYLOR, Works [NARES]. Virago ROARING GIRLES, that to their middle, To know what sexe they were, was halfe a riddle.

1640. HUMPHRY MILL. Night's Search, Sect. 8, 42. Two ROARING BLADES being on a time in drink.

1640. The Wandering Jew. "I am a man of the Sword; a Battoon Gallant, one of our Dammees, a bouncing Boy, a kicker of Bawdes, a tyrant over Puncks, a terreur to Fencers, a mewer of Playes, a jeerer of Poets, a gallon-pot-flinger; in rugged English, a ROARER."

1658. ROWLEY [NARES], i. 2. One of the country ROARING LADS; we have such, as well as the city, and as arrant rakehells as they are.

1697. VANBRUGH, Prov. Wife, iii. 2. We's got a ROARING POW.

1791. BURNS, Tam o'Shanter. That every naig was ca'd a shoe on The smith and thee gat ROARING Fou on.

1822. SCOTT, Fort. of Nigel, xvii. The tarnished doublet of bald velvet . . . will best suit the garb of a ROARING BOY.

1834. MARRYAT, Peter Simple, xxviii. Three of our men whom he had picked up, ROARING DRUNK.

ROARING BUCKLE. See BUCKLE.

ROARING-FORTIES, subs. phr. (nautical).—The degrees of latitude between 40° and 50° N—the most tempestuous part of the Atlantic: also, occasionally to the same zone in the South Atlantic.

1884. LADY BRASSEV, The Trades, Tropics, and 'ROARING FORTIES' [Title].

1893. J. A. BARRY, Steve Brown's Bunyip, 165. They found the ROARING FORTIES quite strong enough for them.
Roaring game.

**Roaring Game (The), subs. phr. (Scots').** — Curling. [Burns: 'The curlers quest their ROARING PLAY.]

**Roaring Meg, subs. phr. (old).**—
1. A very famous piece of ordnance; whence (2) anything loud, efficient, or extraordinary.

1575. Churchyard, Chipper, 'Siege of Edenbrough Castell.' With thondryng noyes was shot off(I) ROERING MEG.

1602. Middleton, Blurt. Master Constable, ii. ii. O, Cupid, grant that my blushing prove not a lintstock, and give fire too suddenly to the ROARING MEG of my desires.

1623. Fletcher and Rowley, Maid of the Mill, in. ii. I'll sell my mill, and buy a ROARING MEG; I'll batter down his house.

1630. Taylor, Works [Nares]. Thy name and voice, more fear'd then Guy of Warwick, Or the rough rumbling, ROARING MEG of Barwicke.

1638. Whiting, Albino ana Bellama. Beates downe a fortresse like a ROARING MEG.

**Roast, verb. (old).**—I. To ridicule; TO QUIZ (q.v.).—Grose.


1751. Smollett, Peregrine Pickle, lxxi. Who no sooner entered the room than the mistress of the house very kindly desired one of the wits present to ROAST the old put.

1800. Lee, Chapter of Accidents, iii. i. But I must keep my own counsel, or my old beau of a brother will ROAST me to death on my system of education.

1854. Whyte Melville, General Bounce, xiii. "Let them but lay a finger on my 'Medea,' and I'll give them such a ROASTING as they haven't had since the days of the 'Dunciad.'"

1897. Mitford, Romance of Cape Frontier, i. ix. Poor Allen was ROASTED unmercifully on the strength of it.

2. (thieves').—(a) To watch closely; TO STALL (q.v.). Also TO ROAST BROWN and TO GET (OR GIVE) A ROASTING: Fr. pousser de la felicel. Thus (old) TO SMELL OF THE ROAST = to get into prison.—B. E. (c.1696); Grose (1785).

1587. Mirour for Magistrates [Nares]. My souldiers were slayne fast before mine owne eyes, Or forcd to flie, yeilde, and SMELL OF THE ROST.

1879. Horsley, Jottings from Jail [Mac. Mag., xl. 504]. I see a reeler giving me a ROASTING, so I began to count my pieces for a jolly.

1888. Sims, Plank Bed Ballad [Referee, 12 Feb.]. A reeler was ROASTING ME BROWN.

**Phrases.**—TO RULE THE ROAST = to lead, to domineer (B. E., Grose); TO CRY ROAST MEAT = to chatter about one's good fortune (B. E., Grose); TO MAKE ROAST MEAT FOR WORMS = to kill; TO GIVE ROAST MEAT AND BEAT WITH THE SPIT = 'to do one a Curtesy, and Twit or Upbraid him with it' (B. E.); TO ROAST SNOW IN A FURNACE = to attempt the unnecessary or absurd. Also PROVERBIAL SAYINGS:—'Set a fool to ROAST eggs, and a wise man to eat them'; 'You are in your ROAST MEAT when others are in their fod'; 'There's reason in ROASTING of eggs'; 'Great boast and small ROAST make unsavoury mouths.' Cf. RIB-ROASTER.

1380. Debate of the Carpenters' Tools [Hazlitt, Early Pop. Poet, i. 85]. My mayster yet shall REULE THE ROSTE.

1529. Skelton, Why Come Ye not to Court. He RULETH all the ROSTE With bragging and with boste.
1594. Shakespeare, 2 Henry IV., i. 1. "Suffolk, the new-made duke, that rules the roast." Ibid. (1608), Pericles, i. 3. Pand. The poor Transylvanian is dead, that lay with the little baggage. Bout. Ay, she quickly poop'd him; she made him roast meat for worms.


1634. Lenton, Innes of Court Anag. [Nares]. They boast of dainty cates, and afterwards cry roast.

1662. Gauden, Tears of the Church, 682. He might . . . not have proclaimed on the housetop to all the world the roast-meat he hath gotten.

1670. Cotton, Scoffer Scoffe [Works (1725), 256]. Why then, if I may rule the roast, I affect naked Women most.

1719. Durfey, Pills, iii. 22. When you give a man roast-meat, and beat with the spit.

1740. Smollett, Rod. Random, li. Who was hand and glove with a certain person who ruled the roast. Ibid. (1749), Gil Blas [Routledge], 362. She began to see that there was reason in roasting of eggs.

1749. Fielding, Tom Jones, iv. v. To trumpet forth the praises of such a person would . . . be crying roast meat.

1856. Motley, Dutch Republic, i. 377. Rich advocates, and other gentlemen of the robe.

1863. Thackeray, Roundabout Papers, xviii. His honour being even then a gentleman of the long robe.


ROBERD’S-MAN (-KNAVE, or ROBERTS’-MAN), subs. phr. (old).—
‘The third (old) Rank of the Canting Crew, mighty Thieves, like Robin-hood.’—B. E. (c.1696);
GROSE (1785).

1362. LANGLAND, Piers Plowman, 3. In glotonye... Go thei to bedde, And risen with ribaudie Tho ROBERDES KNAVES.

1838. TOMLINS, Law. Dia., s.v. ROBBERSMEN, or ROBBERDSMEN were a sort of great thieves mentioned in the statutes (5 Edw. 3, &c.)... of whom Coke says, that Robin Hood lived in the reign of King Richard I., on the borders of England and Scotland by robbery, burning of houses, rapine and spoil, &c., and that these ROBBERDSMEN took name from him.

ROBERT (or ROBERTO), subs. (common).—A policeman.

1870. Figaro, 18 Nov. That intolerable nuisance, the “British Peeler”—who is always poking his nose where he is not wanted, and is never to be found when he is—is, after all, a sensitive creature. The blood of the ROBERTS is at length aroused.

1880. Sims, An Awful Character. The guilt of one person is well to the fore, For our ROBERTS so terribly fly are.

ROBIN, subs. (common).—A penny: see RHINO.


2. (American).—‘A flannel under-shirt.’—BARTLETT.

See ROUND ROBIN.

ROBIN HOOD. Many phrases trace back to the legend of this heroic thief. Thus ROBIN HOOD, subs. = a daring lie; ROBIN HOOD’S PENNYWORTH (see quotes. 1662 and 1682); ‘GOOD EVEN, GOOD ROBIN HOOD’ (said of civility extorted by fear); ‘Many talk of ROBIN HOOD that never shot in his bow’ = Many speak of things of which they have no knowledge; ‘Tales of ROBIN HOOD are good enough for fools.’

1509. BARCLAY, Ship of Fools (1570), fol. 250. I write no ieste ne TALE of ROBIN HOOD.

d.1529. SKELTON, Why Come Ye, &c., 193. Is nat my reason good? Good EUYN, GOOD ROBYN HOOD! Some say yes, and some Syt styl as they were dom.

1617. Star Chamber Case [Camden Soc., 117]. “Walton the Bayllife/leavved of the poore mans goods 77/i att ROBIN-HOOD’S PENIWORDS.”

1633. T. NEWTON, Lennie’s Touchstone of Complexions, 129. Reporting a film-flam TALE of ROBIN HOOD.

1662. ASHMOLE, Life of Heylin, cxli. Soldiers seized on all... for the use of the Parliament (as they pretended) but sold as they passed along to any chapman, inconsiderable rates, ROBIN HOOD’S PENNYWORTHS.

1705. WARD, Hud. Rediv., i. viii. 8. Many Fools, their Parts to show Will TALK OF ROBIN and HIS Bow That never, by Enquiry, knew Whether ’twas made of Steel or Yew.

ROBIN REDBREAST, subs. phr. (old).—A Bow-street runner: also ROBIN and REDBREAST.

ROBIN’S-EYE, subs. phr. (common).—A scab.

ROBINSON. See JACK ROBINSON.

ROB-POT, subs. phr. (old).—A drunkard; a MALT-WORM (q.v.).

1622. MASSINGER, Virgin Martyr, ii. 1. Bacchus, the god of brew’d wine and sugar, grand patron of ROB-POTS.
Rob-the-ruffian, subs. phr. (venery).—The female pudendum: see Monosyllable.

Rob-thief, subs. phr. (old).—See quot.


Roby Douglas, subs. phr. (nautical).—The breech: see Monocular-eyeglass.

Rochester-portion, subs. phr. (old).—‘Two torn Smocks, and what Nature gave.’—B. E. (c. 1696); Grose (1785).

Rock, subs. (common).—Generic for hard eatables:—(1) = a cheese made from skim-milk, and said to be ‘used in making pins to fasten gates’ (Hampshire); (2) a kind of hard sweetmeat; (3) school bread as distinguished from ‘baker’s bread’ (Derby School); (4) a hard kind of soap: see quot. 18...; &c., &c.

1857. Kingsley, Two Years Ago, xv. Promising them rock and bull’s-eyes.

1885. W. L. Carpenter, Soap and Candles, 254. Calcium stearate and oleate are formed... These... when mixed together constitute an insoluble soap, technically called rock.

1888. Harper’s Mag., lxxvi. 625. Pieces of peppermint rock... prized by youthful gourmards.

5. (common).—A rock pigeon.


6. (American).—In pl. = money. Hence pocketful of rocks = flush; on the rocks = stranded (q.v.).

1846. Pickings from the New Orleans Picayune. Spare my feelings, Squire, and don’t ask me to tell any more. Here I am in town without a rock in my pocket, and without a skirt to my coat, or crown to my hat.

1847. Robb, Squatter Life, 165. You know if I had a pocket full of rocks you should share them.

7. (American).—A pebble; a stone (at Winchester = a medium-sized stone): as verb. = to throw stones.

1848. Georgia Scenes, 193. S— came home in a mighty bad way, with a cold and a cough; so I put a hot rock to his feet, &c.

8. (common).—A cause of difficulty, defeat, or annoyance: as an over-trump at cards, an obstacle suddenly placed in one’s way, and so forth.

1601. Shakspeare, Henry VIII., i. 1, 113. Lo, where comes that rock, That I advise your shunning. [Enter Cardinal Wolsey.]

d.1654. Selden, Table Talk, 57. Every Church govern’d itself, or else we must fall upon that old foolish Rock, that St. Peter and his Successours govern’d all.

The Rock, subs. phr. (common).—Gibraltar.

To do by rock of eye and rule of thumb, verb. phr. (tailors’).—To substitute guess-work for exact measurement.

See Bedrock, Rocker.

Rocker (or rokker), verb. (tramps’; originally Gypsy).—1. To understand; (2) to speak.

1876. Hindley, Cheap Jack, 231. Can you rocker Romany, Can you patter flash?
Rocketer.

1893. Standard, 29 Jan., 2. We have to be out in the road early, you know, to secure our "Toby" (great laughter). That's plain. We don't rock Romany all day long (laughter).

1894. A. Morrison [Strand Mag., July, 60]. Hewitt could rokker better than most Romany chals themselves.

ROCKETER, subs. (sporting). —A flushed pheasant, rising quick and straight; ROCKETTING = rising straight.

1869. Quarterly Rev., cxxvii. 387. The driven partridge and the rocking pheasant are beyond the skill of many a man who considers himself a very good shot.

1884. Field, 6 Dec. It is nonsense to say that a rocketer is easily disposed of.

ROCK-SCORPION, subs. phr. (naval and military). —A mongrel Gibraltarine: Spanish, Portuguese, French, Genoese, Barbary Hebrew, Moorish, negro—a mixture of all mettles.

ROCKY (ROCKED, or ROCKETTY), adj. (common).—1. Broken: by drink, illness, poverty; and (2) difficult; dubious; debateable. Hence TO GO ROCKY = to go to pieces; to go wrong. Whence ROCKINESS = (1) craziness; (2) incapacity, utter or partial; OFF ONE'S ROCKER = crazy; ROCKED IN A STONE KITCHEN = 'the person spoken of is a fool, his brains having been disordered by the jumbling of his cradle' (Grose).

1885. D. Telegraph, 28 Dec. Let him keep the fact of things having gone rocky with him as dark as he can.

RODMAKER, subs. phr. (Winton). —' The man who made the rods used in bibling (q.v.) — Mansfield (c. 1840).

RODEY. A REGULAR RODNEY, subs. phr. (old). —An idle fellow; a lazybones.


ROE, subs. (venery). —The semen: see CREAM. Hence to shoot one's roe = to emit.

ROF-EFIL, subs. phr. (back slang). —A life sentence; 'for life.'

ROGER, subs. (Old Cant). —1. A portmanteau; a poge (q.v.) — B. E. (c. 1696); Grose (1785).

2. (Old Cant). — A goose : also ROGER (or TIB) OF THE BUTTERY — Harman (1567); Dekker (1609); B. E. (c. 1696); Grose (1785).


1896. Crane, Maggie, xiv. I call it rocky treatment for a fellah like me.

1897. Sporting Times, 13 Mar., 1, 2. It dawned upon the crowd that he was a bit rocky in his aspirates.

ROD, subs. (common). — An angler.


2. (venery). — The penis: see PRICK; also FISHING-rod. Hence as verb. = to copulate.

See BREACH, PICKLE, TAIL.
Rogerian.

3. (venery).—The penis: see Prick. Hence as verb, = to copulate: see Ride. [Cf. Roger = ram, and 'Roger a name frequently given to a bull' (B. E., Grose).]

1653. Urquhart, Rabelais, i. xi. Taking you what between their fingers and dandling it. And some of the... women would give these names, my Roger... smell-smock... lusty live sausage.

1720. Duffey, Pills, &c., vi. 201. And may Prince G—'s Roger grow stiff again and stand.

1885. Burton, Thousana Nights, iii. 304. I will not Roger thee. Ibid. (1890), Priapeia, xii. Thou shalt he pedicate, (lad) thou also (lass!) shalt be Rogered.

4. (nautical).—A pirate flag: also Jolly Roger. —Grose (1785).

5. (old).—A rogue (g.v.).

Rogerian, subs. (old).—A kind of wig.

1599. Hall, Virgid, III. v. 16. The sportfull winde to mocke the headlesse man, Tosses apace his pitch'd Rogerian.

Rogue (ROGE or ROGER), subs. (Old Cant).—1. A professed beggar; 'the fourth Order of Canters' (Awdeley, Harman, B. E., Grose). Whence (2) Wild rogue (see quot. 1567), and (3, modern) = a knave or rascal; A Rogue in Grain = 'a great rogue, or a corn-chandler' (Grose); A Rogue in Spirit = 'a distiller or brandy-merchant' (Grose). As verb = to beg.

1531-47. Copland, Styttel Hous [Hazlitt, Early Pop. Poet., iv. 44]. These rogers that... foot and frydge.

1567. Awdeley, Warning, &c. A wilde Roger is he that is borne a Rogue: he is more subtil and more guen by nature to all kinde of knauery than the other. I once rebuking a wyld rogue because he went idelly about he shewed me that he was a begger by heritation—his grandfather was a begger, his father was one, and he must nedes be one by good reason.


1611. Cotgrave, Dict., s.v. Di-vague. Raunging, roguing about.

1619. Fletcher, Wildgoose Chase, ii. 3. 'Tis pity such a lusty fellow should wander up and down, and want employment. Bel. She takes me for a Rogue.

[Passin in English literature to the present time.]

2. (colloquial).—Anything vicious; bastard; or unstandardized. Thus Rogue-Elephant = an evil-minded murderous male or female; Rogue's-badge = blinkers for a vicious horse. [Cf. Rogue (christened Roger) Riderhood, Dickens, Mutual Friend.]

1859. Darwin, Origin of Species, 42 and 43. When a race of plants is... established the seed-raisers do not pick out the best plants, but... pull up the Rogues, as they call the plants that deviate from the proper standard... The destruction of horses under a certain size... may be compared to the Rouging of plants.

1888. Referee, 11 Dec. Admiral Benbow is a rogue, but he was tried exceedingly well in the summer time.

1891. Lic. Vict. Gaz. He wore the Rogue's badge, but is built on racing lines.

3. (colloquial).—An endearment. Whence Roguish = playfully mischievous. Also = a wag.
1596. SHAKESPEARE, Hamlet, ii, 2, 197. The satirical rogue says here that old men have grey beards. Ibid. (1598), 2 Hen. IV., ii. 4, 233. Ah, you sweet little rogue, you!

1607. Beaumont and Fletcher, Woman Hater, v. 5. Come, come, little rogue, thou art too maidenly [et passim].

1733. POPE, An Essay of Horace, i. vii. 27. What, rob your boys? those pretty rogues.

1886. Besant, World went very well Then, xxii. As for the Hue and Cry, leave that to me. I will tackle the Hue and Cry, which I value not an inch of ROGUES’ YARN.

1891. Century Diet., s.v. Rogue . . . In rope made in United States navy-yards the ROGUE’S YARN is twisted in a contrary direction to the others, and is of manila in hemp rope, and of hemp in manila rope.

ROGUE-AND-PULLET, subs. phr. (thieves’).—A man and woman in confederacy as thieves.

ROGUE-AND-VILLAIN, subs. phr. (rhyming). — A shilling: see RHINO.

1897. Horsley, Jottings from Jail. Come, cows-and-kisses, put the battle of the Nile on your Barnet fair, and a ROGUE AND VILLAIN in your sky-rocket.

ROGUESHIP. See SPITTLE ROGUESHIP.

1889. Horsley, Jottings from Jail. Come, cows-and-kisses, put the battle of the Nile on your Barnet fair, and a ROGUE AND VILLAIN in your sky-rocket.

ROISTER (ROYSTER DOISTER, ROYSTER, ROISTERER, &c.), subs. (old). — (1) A swaggerer (B. E., Grose); and (2) a frolic. Whence as verb. (also ROIST) = to swagger; ROISTING (ROISTERING, ROISTERLY, or ROISTEROUS) = uproarious.

1553. Udall, ROISTER DOISTER, Prol. The yayne glorious . . . Whose humour the ROYSTING sort continually doth feed.

1577. Harrison, England, 149. They ruffle and ROIST it out.

1602. Shakspeare, Troilus and Cress., ii. 2, 208. I have a roisting challenge sent amongst the dull and factious nobles of the Greeks.

1630. Time’s Whistle (B. E. T. S.), 60. They must not part till they have drunk a barrel, Or straight this ROISTER will begin to quarrel.

1749. Smollett, Gil Blas [ROUTLEDGE], 175. This is beyond all bearing, screamed out the young ROYSTER.

1809. Irving, Knickerbocker, 92. An honest social race of jolly ROYSTERS, who had no objection to a drinking bout, and were very merry in their cups. Ibid., 348. A gang of merry ROISTERING devils.

1843. Carlyle, Past and Present, ii. 15. ROISTEROUS young dogs; carolling, howling, breaking the Lord Abbot’s sleep.

1855. Tennyson, Maud, xiv. 2. Her brother lingers late with the ROISTERING company. Ibid. (1859), Gervain. A rout of ROISTERERS femininely fair: and disolutely pale.

ROKE, subs. (schools).—A ruler; a stick; a poker. FLAT-ROKE = a flat ruler. [Roke (HALLIWELL)] = to stir a fire, a liquid, &c.

ROLAND (or ROWLAND) FOR OLIVER, subs. phr. (old).—(1) A match; a tit for tat; six of one and half a dozen of the other; a fanciful or practical proof of equality.—B. E. and Grose. Fr. Guy Contre Robert.
Roly-poly. 46

1542. HALL, Henry VI., f. But to have a Rowland to resist an Oliver, he sent solempne ambassadors to the kyng of Englane, offeryn g hym hys doughter in marriage.

1565. CALPHILL, Treat. of Cross, 374. Have a quarrel to Rowland and fight with Oliver.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, 1 Hen. VI., i. 2. England all Oliver's and Rolands bred.

1612. Court and Times James I., 187. There is hope you shall have an Oliver for a Roland.

1696. WARD, Wooden World, 68. By the help of some twopenny Scribbler she will always return him a Rowland for his Oliver.

1820. COMBE, Syntax, ii. iii. I shall be able . . . to bestow . . . a quid pro quo; Which I translate for Madam, there, A Rowland for your Oliver.

1891. D. Telegraph, 18 Nov., 7, 3. Oh, we are getting on splendidly! (Laughter.) That is a Roland for an Oliver.

ROLY-POLY, subs. phr. (old).—I. A country bumpkin.

2. (common).—A jam roll pudding; Dog-in-a-blanket; also Roll-up. As adj. = round and fat.

1841. THACKERAY, Great Hoggarty Diamond, xii. You said I make the best Roly-poly puddings in the world. Ibid. (1848), Book of Snobs, i. As for the Roly-poly, it was too good.

1851. MAYHEW, Lond. Lab., i. 207. Sometimes made in the rounded form of the plum-pudding; but more frequently in the Roly-poly style.

1852. MRS. CRAIK, Agatha's Husband, xii. Cottages, in the doors of which a few Roly-poly, open-eyed children stand.

1860. ELIOT, Mill on Floss, i. 6. I know what the pudden's to be—apricot Roll-up—O my buttons!

3. (common).—See quot.

1713. ARBUTHNOT, Hist. John Bull. Let us begin some diversion; what d'ye think of ROULYPOULY or a country dance?

1851-61. MAYHEW, Lond. Lab., iii. 145. When I danced it was merely a comic dance—what we call a ROLEY-POLEY.

4. (venery).—The penis: see PRICK.

ROLL, subs. (common).—In pl. = a baker: see BURNCRUST. Also MASTER OF THE ROLLS.

Verb. (old).—A verb of spirit: generic (1) = to gad; (2) to rollick in one's walk; and (3) to swagger: also TO ROLL ABOUT. Whence TO ROLL IN BUB (or GRUB) = to have plenty to eat (or drink); TO ROLL IN GOLD = to be monstrous rich; TO ROLL IN ONE'S IVORIES = to kiss; TO ROLL IN EVERY RIG = to be "up-to-date"; TO ROLL THE LEER = to pick pockets; TO HAVE A ROLL ON = to swagger, to put on side (q.v.); TO ROLL ONE'S HOOP = to go ahead, to be on the safe side; ROLLING = smart, ready; ROLLING KIDDY = a clever thief; ROLLICK (or ROLLOP) = to romp along.

1238. CHAUCER, Cant. Tales, Prol. Wife of Bath's Tale, 6235. Man shall not suffer his wif go roule about.

1542. UDALL, Apoph., 243 [OLI- PHANT, New Eng., i. 490. A bombastic orator ROLLS (exults) in painted terms; hence our 'ROLL IN WEALTH,' and the later ROLICK].

1567. HARMAN, Caveat, 20. These unruly rascals in their rolling disperse themselves into several companies.

1775. Old Song, 'The Potato Man' [FARMER, Musa Pedestris (1896), 55. I am a saucy ROLLING blade.
Roller.

1780. **Tomlinson, Slang Pastoral,** viii. To **ROLL IN HER IVORY,** to pleasure her eye.

1789. **Parker, Life’s Painter,** ‘The Happy Pair.’ Moll Blabbermares and ROWLING Joe. [Note, a kind of fellow who dresses smart or what they term natty.] *Ibid.* Then we’ll all **ROLL IN BUB AND GRUB. Ibid.** Up to St. Giles’s they roll’d, sir.

1790. **Old Song, ‘The Flash Man of St. Giles’ [The Busy Bee].** We **ROLL IN EVERY KNOWING RIG.**

c.1824. **Egan, Boxiana,** iii. 621, 622. The boldest lad That ever mill’d the cly, or roll’d the leer. *Ibid.* With **ROLLING KIDDIES,** Dick would dive and buy.

1830. **Lyttton, Paul Clifford** (1854), 18. He merely observed by way of compliment, that Mr. Augustus and his companions seemed to be **ROLLING KIDDIES.**

1836. **Dickens, Sketches, ‘Characters,’** vii. That grave, but confident, kind of **ROLL peculiar to old boys in general.**

1837. **Hook, Jack Brag [Latham].** He described his friends as **ROLLICKING blades.**

1855. **G. Meredith, Rhoda Fleming,** xxix. He had not even money enough to pay the cabman . . . He **ROLLICKED in his present poverty.**

1877. **Pascoe, Everyday Life, &c.** Anything approaching swagger is severely rebuked ; there is no more objectionable quality than that understood by the expression, “He’s got such a horrid **ROLL ON.**”

1893. **Milliken, ’Arry Ballads.** It sets a chap fair on the **ROLL.**

**Roller, subs.** (Oxford University).

1. A **roll-call.**

2. (Stock Exchange).—In **pl. = United States Rolling Stock.**

3. (old).—In **pl.,** the horse and foot patrols. — **Grose (1785); Vaux (1812).**

4. (old).—A go-cart.

1660. **Smith, Lives of Highwaymen,** ii. 50. He could run about without a **ROWLER or leading-strings.**

5. (common).—A big wave coming in from a distance, and so with an enormous energy : also **RUNNER.**


**Roller, ** subs. (common).—A vehicle.

**Rolleckers, subs.** (military).—The 2nd Bat. The Princess Victoria’s Royal Irish Fusiliers (formerly the Eighty-Ninth Foot). Also (1798) ‘Blayney’s Blood-hounds.’

**Rolling-pin.** *See Pin.*

**Roll-me-in-the-dirt, subs. phr. (rhyming).—** A shirt.

**Roll-up.** *See Rol-y-Poly.

**Rom. See Romany.

**Romance, subs.** (colloquial).—A lie ; a tarradiddle. Hence, as **verb = ‘to lie pleasantly, to Stretch in Discourse.’—B. E. (c.1696).**

1651. **Evelyn, Diary,** 6 Sep. The knight was . . not a little given to **ROMANCE when he spake of himself.**

†1742. **Prior, An Eng. Padlock.** A Staple of Romance and Lies, False Tears and real Perjuries.

†1742. **Bailey, Erasmus,** i. 53. I hear others **ROMANCING about Things they never heard nor saw . . . with that Assurance that . . . they persuade themselves they are speaking Truth all the While.**

**Roman-fall, subs.** (obsolete).—A posture (c.1868) in walking : the head well forward and the small of the back well in : **see** **Grecian Bend.**

1870. **Orchestra,** 25 Mar., ‘Grand Comic Concert.’ The ladies have their Grecian bend, our typical gentlemen explains a correspondent masculine affectation which he dubs The **Roman Fall.**
Romany.

1890. Answers, 8 Feb., 172, 2.
Livingstone noticed that among the young bloods and sable patricians of Loanda a sort of Romany Fall seems to be practised, which consists of hobbling along as though encumbered by a load of ornaments.

Romany (Rommany or Rom), subs. (common).—I. A gypsy; and (2) the language spoken by gypsies. Whence to patter Romany = 'to talk the gypsy flash' (Grose); Romany rye = a gentleman who talks and associates with gypsies (Grose; Vaux). [A few Romany words have passed into English, but the only European tongues on which the Gipsy has had much influence are those of the Peninsula. In Spanish and Portuguese almost all the slang is Gipsy and almost all the Gipsy is slang. Our chief authorities, apart from personal knowledge, are J. Fitzmaurice Kelly, Esq., James Platt, Jr., Esq., and El Gitano by Francisco Sales Mayo (Madrid. 1870).]


1834. Ainsworth, Rookwood (1864), 175. I'm dumb founded if he can't patter Romany as vel as the best on us!

1851. Borrow, Lavengro, xvii. 'We were talking of languages, Jasper ... Yours must be a rum one?' 'Tis called Rommany.' ... 'And you are what is called a Gypsy King?' 'Ay, ay'; a Rommany kral.' Ibid. Rum and dree, Rum and dry, Rally round the Romany Rye.

1871. Meredith, Harry Richmond, xlv. I recognized a strange tongue in the cry, but too late that it was Romany to answer it.

1883. G. R. Sims, The Romany Rye [Title].

1893. Emerson, Signor Lippo, xx. My old man was a Romany ... but he was an awful booser.

See Rum.

Romboyle (or Romboyles), verb. (Old Cant).—To make hue and cry; to whiddle beef (q.v.). Fr. battre morasse (B. E., Grose). Whence Romboyl'd = wanted (q.v.).

Rome. See Rum, passim.

Romer (or Romekin), subs. (Old Cant).—A drinking glass (or can). —B. E. (c. 1696).

Roméville, subs. phr. (Old Cant). —London. [See Rum].

Romford. See Rumford.

Romp, subs. (old: now recognised).—A boisterous girl; a tomboy: see Ramp and quot. 1698 (B. E., Grose). Also as verb. = (1) to lark (q.v.); to play the rig (q.v.); to wanton; and (2) to romp in = to win easily (racing).

1647. Fletcher, Mad Lover, i, 1. How our St. Georges will bestride the dragons, The red and ramping dragons.

1698. Collier, Eng. Stage [Oliphant, New Eng., ii. 128. The a changes to o, for the noun romp is formed from the verb ramp].

1711. Steele, Spectator, 187. The air she gave herself was that of a romping girl. Ibid., Tatter, No. 15. My cousin Betty, the greatest ramp in nature.

1730. Thomson, Autumn, 528. Romp-loving miss is haul'd about, in gallantry robust.

1761. Churchill, Rosciad. First, giggling, plotting chamber-maids arrive, Hoydens and romps, led on by Gen'ral Clive.

1882. "Thormanby," Famous Racing Men, 16. The north-country horse ... could not touch Eclipse, who simply romped in, the easiest of winners.

1891. Sporting Life, 20 Mar. I recall his recent half-mile at Oxford, when he romped home in the easiest possible manner.

1894. Moore, Esther Waters, xxx. Favourites romping in one after the other.
RONCHER (or ROUNCHER), subs. (American). — Anything of exceptional size or quality.

ROOK, subs. (old). — I. A cheat: spec. gaming: also ROOKER: cf. sense 2 and PIGEON. Hence Rookery (or ROKING) = swindling; ROOKY (or ROOKISH) = rascally, scampish; as verb. = to cheat, to swindle (B. E., DYCHE, GROSE, VAUX, BEE). Hence Rookery = (1) a gambling hell; and (2) any place of ill repute: e.g., (a) a brothel, (b) subalterns’ barrack quarters, and (c) a neighbourhood occupied by a criminal or squalid population, a SLUM (q.v.).

1590. Sir Thomas More [Shakspeare Soc.] [OLIPHANT, New Eng., ii. 8. There are the new verbs ROOKE (plunder) and sharke (prey) . . .].

1603. Dekker, Wonderful Year [GROSART, Works, i. 89]. ROOKES, catch-polls of poesy, That feed upon the fallings of hye wit.

1609. Jonson, Epicaene, i. 1. Such a rook . . . that will betray his mistress to be seen.

1641. Milton, Ref. in England, i. A band of rooking officials. Ibid., ii. The Butcherly execution of Tormentors, Rooks and Rakeshames sold to lucre.

1672. Wycherley, Love in a Wood, iii. 4. I dare no more venture myself with her alone, than a cully that has been bit dares venture himself in a tavern with an old rook.

d.1697. Aubrey, Lives, ‘Sir J. Denham.’ He was much rooked by gamesters.

1705. Ward, Hud. Rediv., i. ix. 22. For like a Rook at Gaming-Table . . . he . . . cheats all sides with equal zeal.

1748. Smollett, Rod. Random, xlviii. He would not lend him money to squander away upon rooks. Ibid. (1751), Peregrine Pickle, lxxxviii. Having lost a few loose hundreds in his progress through the various rookeries of the place.

1760. Lucas, Gamesters, 125. Rooks are grown of late so intolerably Rude and Insolent.

1821. Egan, Life in London, ii. iii. Guv'nur, how long are ye to be kept in this here rookery, before you give us a sight of this phenomony?

1836. Dickens, Sketches by Boz, 105. That classical spot adjoining the brewery at the bottom of Tottenham-court-road, best known to the initiated as the Rookery.

1840. Thackeray, Captain ROOK and Mr. Pigeon [Title].

1869. Gent. Mag., July, 231. No opportunity of pigeon-plucking is lost by the majority of [billiard] markers . . . still he is not the worst form of rook.

1884. Spencer, Man v. State, 54. The misery, the disease, the mortality of rookeries.

2. (old). — A simpleton; a PIGEON (q.v.). [One fit for ROOKING: see sense 1].

1596. Jonson, Every Man in His Humour, i. 1. Hang him, rook! he! why he has no more judgment than a malt horse. Ibid. (1599), Every Man Out of His Humour, i. 1. A tame rooke, you'll take him presently. Ibid. (1602), Poetaster, i. 1. What? shall I have my son a Stager now? an Engle for Players? a Gull? a rooke? a Shot-clog? to make suppers, and bee laught at?

1607. Dekker, Westward Ho, v. 1. Let’s be wise, and make rooks of them that, I warrant, are now setting purse-nets to conycatch us.

1611. Chapman, May-Day, iii. An arrant rook, by this light, a capable cheating stock; a man may carry him up and down by the ears like a pippin.


4. (tailors’). — A sloven.

5. (thieves’). — A housebreaker’s JEMMY (q.v.); a CROW (q.v.). — GROSE.
**Rookery.**

**Verb. 1.** See subs. 2.

2. (gaming).—To win heavily.

1887. *Sporting Times*, 12 March, 2. We play nap, and rook George Fredericks all the way.

**ROOKERY, subs. (old).—See ROOK, i.**


**ROOKY (or ROOKEY), subs. (military).—A recruit: see SNOOKER, and ROOK, subs. 1.**

1893. Kipling, *Many Inventions*, “His Private Honour.” “’Tis a hundred and thirty-seven rookies to the bad, son.” . . . You can’t ride, you can’t walk, you can’t shoot,—you,—you awful rookies.

**Room. To LEAVE THE ROOM, verb. phr. (conventional school).—To go to the W.C.**

**Verb. (colloquial).—To inhabit.**

Hence ROOMER = a lodger: spec. one occupying a single apartment.

1864. *Daily Telegraph*, 26 July. It’s risky, I know, but I’ll try him. I never did room with a Rooshian before, and I’d like to know them stript.

1869. Stowe, *Oldtown*, 418. I am . . . living at the minister’s! and then I room with Esther.

1874. [?] *The Standard (Century)*. The mother . . . occupies herself more with the needs of the roomers, or tenants, and makes more money.

**See APARTMENTS.**

**ROOMBELOW. See RUMBEBLOW.**

**ROORBACK, subs. (American).—1.*

A journalistic, or printed lie.

1876. *Providence Journal*, 9 May. Another infamous Democratic roorback 1

1876. *New York Tribune*, 14 Ap. The manufacture of roorbacks against Mr. Blaine, though active, is not very successful in producing a merchantable article.

**ROOSHER, subs. (thieves').—A constable: see NARK.**

**ROOST, subs. (colloquial).—1. Bed:**

also ROOSTING-PLACE: also as verb. = (1) to sleep, and (2) to lodge.

1749. Smollett, *Gil Blas* [Routledge], 29. I . . . slunk to my roosting-place where I fell asleep like a man.

1821. Egan, *Life in London*, ii. ii. Mammy Brimstone . . . has also "toddled" in to have a "flash of lightning" before she goes to roost.

1843. Moncrieff, *Scamps of London*, i. 2. You can go to roost whenever you like.

1847. Lytton, *Lucretia*, ii. vii. And always give a look into my room every night before you go to roost.

1857. O. W. Holmes, *Autocrat*, vi. The world has a million roosts for a man, but only one nest.

1899. Whiteing, *John St.*, ix. You must do like them, roost in the open air.

**Verb. (colloquial).—1. See subs.**

2. (military).—To imprison.

3. (common).—To cheat: TO ROOST OVER ONE = to get a RISE (q.v.).

**ROOSTER, subs. (American).—A euphemism for ‘cock’—(a word impossible on the lips of any delicate American female)—the male of the barndoor hen.**

1838. Neal, *Charcoal Sketches* [Bartlett]. As if the flourish of a quill were the crowing of a rooster.

1855. Irving, *Woolfert’s Roost*, 17. The Skinners and Cowboys of the Revolution, when they wrung the neck of a rooster, did not trouble . . . whether they crowed for Congress or King George.


1870. White, *Words and Their Uses* [Walsh]. All birds are roosters . . . hens . . . as well as the cocks. What . . . delicacy then . . . in calling the cock a rooster.
Roost-lay.

2. (old: now American).—A street brawler; a rough.


2. (old: now American).—A street brawler; a rough.

1821. Egan, Life in London, ii. v. Roosters and the 'peep-o'-day boys' were out on a prowl for a spree.

1885. IV. Am. Rev., cxli. 434. The toughest set of roosters that ever shook the dust of any town.

3. (venery).—The female pudendum: see Monosyllable.

See Queer.

Roost-lay, subs. phr. (old).—Poultry stealing: see Lay.—Grose.

Root (The), subs. (common).—1. Money. ['The root of all Evil.]

1899. D. Telegraph, 7 Ap., 8, 3. All the week they do their little bit o' graft . . . an' take home the root on Sat'days to the missus or the mam.

2. (venery).—The penis: see Prick. Also Man-root.

Verb. (common).—To kick. Whence (The Leys School) root-about = promiscuous football practice: also as verb.

Rooter, subs. (colloquial).—A superlative: as a brutal attack; a very smart dress; a priceless gem; a flagrant untruth, and so forth: see whopper.

Rootle, verb. (venery).—To copulate: see Ride. Also to do a rootle.

Rooty, subs. (military).—See quot.

1883. G. A. S[ala], in Illust. L. News, 7 July, 3, 3. [A correspondent in S. Travancore says that in Tamil and Teluga 'Rottie' means a loaf of bread.] Long since Private Tommy Atkins, returning from Indian service, has aclima-
tised "Rottie" (pronounced "Rooty") in the vocabulary of the British barrack. At least eight years ago I heard of a private soldier complaining in his barrack-room that he had not had his "proper section of Rooty," i.e., his proper ration of bread.

Rope, subs. (football).—1. In pl. = a half-back.

2. (old).—A trick or knack; spec. (nautical) to know the ropes (or to be up to the ropes) = (1) to be expert, and (2) to be artful, fly (q.v.); to pull (or work) the ropes = to control or direct; to rope in (or rope) = (1) to lose a race by pulling (q.v.) or other foul means; (2) to decoy (in a mock-auction, gambling-den, &c.) : hence Roper-in = a decoy; and (3) to pull (or gather) in: as to rope in the pieces = to make money. Hence plenty of rope = lots of choice; at the end of one's rope = exhausted, done for.

1863. Fraser's Magazine, Dec., 'The English Turf.' An order to pull a horse back, i.e., to 'rope' him, or, as in a late suspicious case it was expressed, to 'put the strings on,' is seldom resorted to.
Rope.

1877. BESANT and RICE, Golden Butterfly, xliii. You've sought me out, and gone about this city with me; you've put me up to ropes.

1882. McCABE, New York, xxxix. The visitors to these establishments are chiefly strangers in the city, who are lured, or roped, into them by agents of the proprietors.

1888. BOLDREWOOD, Robbery Under Arms, xliiv. He knew the ropes better than he did.

1889. Snacks, July, No. i. He were sixty-nine year old—'n' got roped in by a young widow, 'n' choused out of twenty-six thousan' dollars.

1892. ANSTEY, 'Maker of Nations,' i. You do require to know the ropes. And what is more, you require to be very careful how you pull those ropes when you are familiar with them.

Verb. (old).—i. To hang: see ladder. Whence rope-tricks (roping or ropery) = roguery; rope-ripe = fit for hanging; to cry rope = to warn, to bid beware; 'give rope [or line] enough and he'll hang' = 'He'll decoy himself to his undoing' (B. E.); Mr. Roper (or the roper) = the hangman; the rope-walk = the Old Bailey; to go into the rope-walk = to take up criminal practice.

1553. Wilson, Arte of Rhetorique [NARES]. Rope-ripe chiding [of very foul and abusive language].

1584. Three Ladies of London [NARES]. Thou art very pleasant, and full of thy ropery.

1592. Shakspeare, 1 Henry VI., i. 3, 53. Winchester Goose, I cry a rope! a rope! Ibid., 1593, Taming of the Shrew, 1, 2. She may perhaps call him half a score knaves or so: an' he begin once, he'll rail in his rope-tricks. Ibid.

1595. Rom. and Juliet, ii. 4, 154. What saucy merchant was this that was so full of his ropery.

1611. Chapman, May Day, iii. 1. Lord, how you roll in your rope-ripe terms!

1620. Fletcher, Chances, iii. 1. You'll leave this ropery, when you come to my years.


1663. Butler, Hudibras, i. i. Could tell what subtlest parrots mean that speak, and think, contrary clean; what member 'tis of whom they talk when they cry rope...

d.1705. Dorset [Chalmers, Eng. Poets, viii. 345]. The queen, overhearing what Betty did say, would send Mr. Roper to take her away.

1848. Ruxton, Far West, i. Maybe you'll get roped.

1871. Temple Bar, xxxi. 32x. In the law, for instance, a barrister is said to have gone into the rope-walk, when he has taken up practice in the Old Bailey.

1882. Serum Ballantyne, Experiences, viii. What was called the rope-walk [at the Old Bailey] was represented by a set of agents clean neither in character nor person.

2. (old).—To beat with a rope: hence rope's-end = a thashing.

c.1460. Book of Precedence [E.E.T.S.] [Oliphant, New Eng., i. 297. There are roppys end, coke fyghtynge, callot . . .].

1593. Shakspeare, Com. of Errors, iv. 4, 46. Mistress . . . respect your end; or rather . . . beware the rope's-end.

Phrases.—A rope of sand (Ray) = (1) a feeble hold, and (2) an endless or unprofitable task; on the high ropes = elated, arrogant: see high horse (B. E., Grose); 'What a rope! = 'What the devil'; to put a rope to the eye of a needle = to attempt the impossible or absurd; also the proverbial saying, 'A rope and butter: if one slip, the other may hold.'
Roper (Mrs.), subs. (naval).—See quot. To marry Mrs. Roper = to list in the Marines.

1868. Brewer, Phrase and Fable, s.v. "Mistress Roper." The Marines, or any one of them: so called by the regular sailors, because they handle the ropes like girls, not being used to them.

Ropper, subs. (tramps').—A scarf; a comforter. [? Wrapper.]

1873. Greenwood, In Strange Company. A great deal of the lower part of the face hidden in the thick folds of a Ropper.

Roram (or ? Roland), subs. (old).—The sun: cf. Oliver = moon.

Roritorious, adj. and adv. (old).—Uproarious: cf. 'rory-tory' (Devon) = showy, dashing.

Rorty (or Raughty), adj. (costers').—Of the very best. Hence RORTY-TOFF = an out-and-out swell; RORTY-DASHER = a fine fellow; TO DO THE RORTY = to have a good time.

1864. Vance, Chickaleary Cove, i. I have a rorty gal. *Ibid., 2. The vestat with the bins so rorty.

1887. Henley, Culture in Slums, 'Rondeau,' 3. For in such rorty wise doth Love express His blooming views.

1893. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, 31. We'd a rare rorty time of it. *Ibid., 69. A doin' the rorty.

1899. Whiteing, John St., 49. She is Boadicea ... no 'British warrior queen' of nursery recitation, but a right-down raughty gal leading her alley to battle against the Roman 'slops.'

Rory-O'-More, subs. phr. (rhyming).—(1) The floor; (2) a whore; and (3) a door. Also RORY.


Rorys (The), subs. (military).—The Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders).

Rosary, subs. (old).—A base coin (temp. Ed. I.), resembling the current silver penny. [It bore (verso) a rose or rosette.]

Rose, subs. (showmen's).—1. A bitch.

2. (Stock Exchange).—In pl. = Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railway Ordinary Stock.

3. (venery).—The female pudendum: see Monosyllable; and (4) a maidenhead. To pluck a rose = (1) to take a maidenhead, and (2) a woman's euphemism for micturition or defecation in the open air: cf. To pick a daisy (Grose, Halliwell).

1792. Swift, Pan. on Dean [Chalmers, Eng. Poets, xi. 489]. The bashful maid, to hide our blush ... unobserved she boldly goes ... to pluck a rose.

Under the rose, phr. (colloquial).—Secretly; in confidence (Dyche, Grose).

1546. Dymocke, Letter to Vaughan [Walsh]. And the sayde questyon were asked with lysence, and that yt should remain under the rose, that is to say, to remain under the bourde and ne more to be rehersyd.

1616-25. Court and Times James I. [Oliphant, New Eng., ii. 71. As to the prepositions we see under the rose].

1625. Jonson, Staple of News, ii. You are my lord, The rest are cogging Jacks, under the rose.

1632. Chapman, Ball, ii. 2. Under the rose the lords do call me cousin.

c. 1770. Old Song, 'Praise of the Dairy Maid' [Durffeys, Pills, &c. (1799), i. 12. Such bliss ne'er oppose If e'er you'll be happy — I speak under the rose].

1753. Adventurer, No. 98. Under the rose, I am a cursed favourite amongst them.
All people have their blind side—their superstitions; and I have heard her declare, under the rose, that Hearts was her favourite suit.

The rose . . . symbol of secrecy . . . was used with great propriety on privy seals, which came into use about the middle of the twelfth century.

All great ladies gamble in stock nowadays under the rose.

A rose between two thorns (or nettles), phr. A woman sitting between two men: the usual retort is, mutatis mutandis, as in quot.

To strike with a feather and stab with a rose, &c., &c., phr. (colloquial).—To chastise playfully. A Music Hall refrain (c. 1888), but see quot.

They are but rosining, sir, and they'll scrape themselves into your company presently.

A short lame man, with a violin under his arm, suggesting the identity with the rozin announced.

A debutante.

A woman sitting between two men: the usual retort is, mutatis mutandis, as in quot.

To strike with a feather and stab with a rose, &c., &c., phr. (colloquial).—To chastise playfully. A Music Hall refrain (c. 1888), but see quot.

If I take her near you, I'll cut her throat. Flam. With a fan of feathers.

—London County Council 2½ per cent. Stock. [Lord Rosebery was the first Chairman of the Council.]

1885. Field, 3 Oct. The future looks most ROSY.

1893. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, 69. A doin' the roty and rosy as lively as 'Opkins's lot. Ibid., 77. Not my idea of the ROSY.

ROT, subs. (common).—Nonsense; BOSH (q.v.): also TOMMY-ROT (q.v.). As verb. = to humbug; to bully; ROTTER = a good-for-nothing.

1861. H. C. Pennell, Puck on Pegasus, 'Sonnet by M. F. Tupper.' A monstrous pile of quintessential ROT.

1879. Braddon, Cloven Foot, iv. I thought he despised ballet-dancing, yet this is the third time I have seen him looking on at this ROT.

1888. Boldrewood, Robbery Under Arms, xiii. Half what them fellows puts down is regular ROT.

1891. Harry Fludyer at Cambridge, 106. Everybody here would have ROTTED me to death.

1892. Henley and Stevenson, Deacon Brodie, iii. i. 30. Oh, ROT, I ain't a parson.

1894. Moore, Esther Waters, xxxix. All bloody ROT; who says I'm drunk? Ibid., xi. A regular ROTTER; that man is about as bad as they make 'em.

1899. Critic, 18 Mar., 13, 2. ROTTER, at both our seats of learning, is applied indiscriminately to all persons prone towards intellectual levity. But the word must have an elastic meaning; for it embraces quacks and impostors who pass through existence with their tongue in their cheek.

ROT IT (or ROT'UM), intj. phr. (common).—Hang it! damn it!

1664. Cotton, Virgil Travestie, 75. Where once your what shals' cal' ums—(ROT UM! It makes me mad I have forgot 'um).
Rothschild. See Come.

Rotten-row. To belong to Rotten-row, verb, phr. (naval). To be laid up as past service: of ships.

Rotten-sheep, subs. phr. (Fenian). —See quot. 1889. Daily News, 3 July, 6. Sir Richard Webster suddenly asked him if Rotten sheep was a Fenian expression. It would mean traitor or a useless fellow, said Mr. Davitt, adding that he himself had used it in a letter.

Rouge, subs. (Eton). —A point in the Eton game of football: 3 Rouges = 1 goal.

Rough, subs. and adj. (old colloquial: now largely recognised). —A ruffian: see quot. 1868. As adj. = "uncouth, hard" (B. E.), severe: also (of fish) coarse or stale. Also to cut (or turn) up rough (or to rough up) = (1) to be annoyed, and (2) to use strong language; to rough one = to vex; to rough it (or lie rough) = (1) to endure hardship (Grose); (2) to take pot-luck; and (3) to sleep in one's clothes (B. E., Grose); Rough-and-ready = unpolished, happy-go-lucky; Rough on = hard, severe.

1814. Austen, Mansfield Park, xxxix. Take care of Fanny, mother. She is tender, and not used to rough it like the rest of us.

1843. Punch, iv. 254. He has, to use his own expression, roughed-it all through his life.

1857-61. Mayhew, London Lab., i. 55. The poorer classes live mostly on fish, and the "dropped" and "rough" fish is bought chiefly for the poor.

1857. Lawrence, Guy Livingstone, iv. There was a railway in progress near, and the navvies and other Roughs came flocking in by hundreds.

1857. F. Locker, Mabel. My jealous Pussy cut up rough. The day before I bought her muff With sable trimming.

1858. Trollope, Dr. Thorne, xxii. He was not going to hang back ... he had always been rough and ready when wanted — and then, he was as ready as ever, and rough enough, too, God knows.

1860-5. Motley, Un. Netherlands, iv. 138. The great queen ... was besought ... to name the man to whom she chose that the crown should devolve. 'Not to a rough,' said Elizabeth, sententiously and grimly.

1861. Hughes, Tom Brown at Oxford, iii. Drysdale seemed to prick up his ears and get combative whenever the other spoke, and lost no chance of roughing him in his replies.

1868. Dickens, All Year Round, 10 Oct. I entertain so strong an objection to the euphonious softening of ruffian into rough, which has lately become popular, that I restore the right word to the heading of this paper.

1870. Bret Harte, Luck of Roaring Camp. Yet a few of the spectators were, I think, touched by her sufferings. Sandy Tipton thought it was rough on Sal.

1872. Judy, 29 May, 59, 2. Have the ornaments handy, in case he should turn up rough.

1883. Black, Yolanda, i. A lot of English servants, who don't know what roughing it in a small shooting-box is like?

1889. Pall Mall Gazette, 18 Nov., 1, 3. It must have been during the early months of 1852 that Lord Salisbury "roughed it" on the colonial goldfields.

1893. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, 8o. Going to rough up. Ibid., 40. Playing it rough.

1900. White, West End, 355. She'll cut up rough. But when she hears what you expect ... she'll have a different feeling about it.

Rough on rats, phr. (common). —A hard case.

See Ruff.
ROUGH-AND-TUMBLE, subs. phr. (common).—I. A free fight; a mellow: as adj. = boisterous.

1838. Haliburton, Clockmaker, 2 S., 1. "Fair fight, or rough and tumble,—we've whipped 'em, that's a fact."

1873. Conservative, 15 Feb. His talent for rough and tumble does not hold his own against the more scientific style and larger frame of the Oxford Pet.

1883. Payn, Thicker than Water, xiv. Ralph foresaw that there might he... "A rough and tumble" with his young relative.


1888. Boldrewood, Robbery Under Arms, xxxvii. Moran after his rough and tumble with Jim... was ready for anything.

ROUND, subs. (colloquial).—An appointed and established circuit of travel: generic: cf. rounder. Hence gentleman of the round = an officer of the watch. Thus (1) round (topers') = (a) liquor enough to go round the table, and (b) a toast drunk round; (2) round (gamesters') = (a) cards to all, and (b) a hand in which all the players deal in turn; (3) an habitual course of visits, calls for orders, inspection; (4) a shot, a cartridge; and (5) archery = a competition; (6) (pugilists'—old) = the successive periods of action in a mill: between fall and fall; and (pugilists'—new, under Queensbury Rules) = so many encounters so many minutes long.

ROUGH-MUSIC, subs. phr. (common).—A clatter of sticks, pots, pans, and musical instruments: for the annoyance of offenders outraging public prejudice. Sometimes accompanied by a burning in effigy.

ROUGHSHOD. To ride roughshod (over, or down).—To domineer; to be void of guts (q.v.) or bowels (q.v.).

ROUGHSHOD OVER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CHURCH.

ROUGHSHOD OVER HIS MAJESTY'S SCHEMES OF ARMY REFORM.

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1889. Referee, 26 Jan. It may be remembered that only a few weeks ago, in a similar rough up with the gloves to that under notice.

ROUGH-MUSIC, subs. phr. (common).—A clatter of sticks, pots, pans, and musical instruments: for the annoyance of offenders outraging public prejudice. Sometimes accompanied by a burning in effigy.

ROUGHSHOD. To ride roughshod (over, or down).—To domineer; to be void of guts (q.v.) or bowels (q.v.).

ROUGHSHOD OVER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CHURCH.

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1596. Jonson, Every Man in his Humour, iii. 2. He had writhe himself into the habit of one of your poor infantry, your decay'd, ruinous, worm-eaten gentlemen of the round. Ibid. (1609), Epicoene, iv. 2. He walks the round, up and down, through every room of the house.

1620. Fletcher, Philaster, ii. 4. Come, ladies, shall we take a round? as men do walk a mile, women should talk an hour after supper.

d.1667. Jer. Taylor, Works (1835), i. 615. Them that drank the round, when they crowned their heads with folly and forgetfulness.

d.1735. Granville, Epigrams, &c. [Century]. Women to cards may be compar'd; we play a round or two, when we'd, we throw away.

d.1790. B. Franklin, Aut. 239. They would salute with some rounds fired before my door.

1827. Keble, Christian Year, 'Morning.' The trivial round, the common task.

1836. Lane, Mod. Egyptians, i. 143. They accompany the military guards in their nightly rounds through the metropolis.

1847-8. Thackeray, Vanity Fair, xxxiv. The Banbury man... polished him off in four rounds.


1593. Harvey, Pierces Superog. [Wks., ii. 49]. Hee it is, that hath it rightly in him indeede; and can roundly doe the feate, with a witness.

1596. Shakspere, M. of Venice, i. 3, 104. Three thousand ducats; 'tis a good round sum. Ibid. (1598), Hen. V., iv. 1. Your reproof is something too round. Ibid. (1602), Hamlet, iii. 2. Let her be round with him. Ibid. (1602), Othello, i. 3, 90. I will a round un-
Round.

varnish’d TALE deliver. *Ibid.* (1605), King Lear, i. 4. He answered me in the roundest manner, he would not.


1620. FLETCHER and MASSINGER, *Little Fr. Lawyer*, iii. 2. What a bold man of war! he invites me roundly.


1646. BROWNE, *Vulg. Err.*, vi. 1. The age of Noah is delivered to be just five hundred when he begat Sem; whereas perhaps he might be somewhat above or below that round and complete number.

1700. CENTLIVRE, *Perjured Husband*, iv. 2. Suppose I help you to a lady with a round sum; you’d keep your word, and marry her?

1751. FIELDING, *Amelia*, vii. ix. I began to entertain some suspicions, and I took Mrs. Ellison very roundly to task upon them.

1779. SHERIDAN, *Critic*, i. 1. He roundly asserts that you had not the slightest invention or original genius.

1815. SCOTT, Guy Mannering, xliii. It’s likely he might be bought to pay a round sum for restitution. *Ibid.* (1818), Rob Roy, vii. The self-willed girl told me roundly, that my dissuasions were absolutely in vain.


1851-61. MAYHEW, *London Lab.*, ii. 526. This . . . pursuing the round number system would supply nearly five articles, &c.

1859. TENNYSON, *Geraint*. Round was their pace at first, but slackened soon.


1891. *Lancet* [Century]. The destructors now consumed, roundly, about 500 loads of refuse a week.

1898. GLADSTONE, *Might of Right*, 175. [The United States] has risen, during one simple Century of freedom, in round numbers, from two millions to forty-five.

2. (tailors’).—Languid ; MONDAYISH (q.v.)

Verb. (colloquial).—1. To betray; to PEACH (q.v.); (2) to turn upon and berate: also TO ROUND ON.

1864. *Cornhill Magazine*, vi. 646. Rounding or treachery is always spoken of very indignantly, and often severely, and even murderously punished.

1877. *Five Years’ Penal Servitude*, i. Both desisted from their own recriminations as to rounding and “blowing” on each other.

1882. *D. Telegraph*, 6 Oct., 6, 2. The prisoner . . . denied the charge, but afterwards asked who had rounded.

1889. *Answers*, 11 May, 380. He rounded on the warder, and the Governor, to catch the officer, ordered the prisoner to act as if the discovery had not been known.

1897. MAUGHAM, *Liza of Lambeth*, xi. They’ve all rounded on me except you, Tom.

To round up, verb. phr. (colonial).—To collect cattle: for inspection, branding, &c.: also as subs. Whence (general) = to complete; to take stock.

1881. GRANT, *Bush Life*. Round them up, if possible, and let them stand a few minutes to breathe.

1886. ROOSEVELT, *Hunting Trips*, ii. [A ranchman’s] hardest work comes during the spring and fall round-ups.

1886. *Philadelphia Times*, 3 May [Century]. That exception . . . will probably be included in the general round-up [of an agreement among railroads] tomorrow.

1887. FRANCIS, *Saddle and Moccasin*. As soon as the round up was completed, the branding was to take place.

To bet round, verb. phr. (racing).—To bet upon (or against) several horses in a race.
**Round-about, subs. (old).—I.** See quot. c.1548. Also (2 : modern) = a short, close-fitting jacket: also ROUNDER.


1848. Durivage, Stray Subjects, 81. One of the party in a green Round-about.

1893. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, 24. That’s me in plaid dittos and Rounder.

3. (thieves’).—A female thief’s all-round pocket.

4. (common).—1. A horizontal wheel or frame, turned by a small engine, and furnished with wooden horses or carriages; a merry-go-round.

1872. Besant & Rice, R. M. Mortiboy, xxiii. He got . . . a Punch and Judy, swing-boats, a Roundabout, and a performing monkey.

5. (prison).—A treadmill; the Everlasting-Staircase (q.v.).

6. (thieves’).—A housebreaker’s tool: it cuts a round piece, about five inches in diameter, out of a shutter or door; also Round Robin (Grose).

**Round-and-square, phr. (rhyming).— Everywhere.**

**Round-betting.** See Round.

**Roundem, subs. (thieves’).—A button.**

**Rounder, subs. (common).—I.** A whoremaster: see Mutton-monger: spec. a Fancy-man (q.v.).

2. (common).—A person or thing taking or making a round (subs., sense: 1-6).

3. (common).—A round of cheers.

**Round-mouth (The), subs. phr. (old).—** The fundament: also Brother Round-mouth. ‘Brother Round-mouth speaks’ = ‘He has let a fart’ (Grose).

1882. Blackmore, Christowell, xxxiii. Was off amid a Rounder of ‘Thank’e, ma’am, thank’e.’

4. (common).—A big oath.

1886. Campbell - Praed, Heaa Station, 33. We can all swear a Rounder in the stock-yard.

5. (American).—A man who goes habitually from bar to bar.

1883. Century, xxxvi. 249. Midnight Rounders, with nose laid over . . . as evidence of their prowess in bar-room mills and paving-stone riots.

1886. Philadelphia Times [Century]. G . . . had made himself conspicuous as a Rounder.


To Round (or Round in the ear), verb. phr. (old).—To whisper.

1604. Shakspeare, Winter’s Tale, i. 2, 217. They're . . . whispering, rounding.

1611. Cotgrave, Dict., s.v. s’accoyer a l’oreille.

See Round, subs. and adj., and Round-about.

**Roundhead, subs. (old colloquial).—** A Puritan (q.v.). [The hair was worn closely cropped.] To round the head = to cut the hair round.—B. E., Grose.

**Roundy (or Roundy-ken), subs. phr. (old).—** A watch-house; a lock-up.


**Roundy Mouth (The), subs. phr. (old).—** The fundament: also Brother Round-mouth. ‘Brother Round-mouth speaks’ = ‘He has let a fart’ (Grose).
**Round O.**

**R O U N D O., subs. phr. (old).—**A thumping lie; see WHOPPER.

1605. London Prodigal, iii. 2. Howsoever the Devonshire man is, my master's mind is bloody, that's a ROUND O [aside], and, therefore, Sir, entreatye is but vain.

**R O U N D R O B I N, subs. phr. (old).—**

1. See quot. 

1563. Fox, Acts and Monuments, 523. Scurrilous Protestants used to call the Host ROUND ROBIN; we apply the phrase to petitions.

d.1569. COVERDALE, Works, i. 426. Certain fond talkers... invent and apply to this most holy sacrament names of despite and reproach, as to call it Jack-in-the-Box and ROUND-ROBIN.

1661. HEYLIN, Reformation, i. 99. Reproached it [the Sacrament] by the odious names of Jack-in-a-box, ROUND ROBIN, Sacrament of the Halter...

2. (old).—A religious (= political) brawler.

1692. HACKET, Life of Williams, ii. 177. These Wat Tylers and ROUND ROBINS being driven... out of Whitehall.

3. (colloquial).—See quot. (GROSE).

1682. Hacket, Life of Williams, ii. 177. These Wat Tylers and ROUND ROBINS being driven... out of Whitehall.

**R O U N D-ROBIN, subs. phr. (colloquial).—**A reprimand.

1692. MARSHALL, The Rusher [Sporting Times, 29 Oct.]. My ROUND-THE-HOUSES I tried to dry, By the Anna Maria's heat.

1821. HAGGART, Life, 90. A field where some coves were roasting RONNIES.

**R O N N Y, subs. (old).—**A potato; a MURPHY (q.v.).

1821. HAGGART, Life, 90. A field where some coves were roasting RONNIES.

**R O U S E, subs. (old).—**(1) A large glass full of liquor; a big bumper; (2) a carouse.

1898. Pink 'Un and Pelican, 153. Mr. Commissioner Kerr... once informed a snip who was after a chap for the price of a couple o' pair o' light ROUND-MY-HOUSES... that there was no such thing as taking credit.

1850. CRANSTON and RICHARDSON, Police, 341. Go in for a ROUND ROBIN, or good heavy swindle.
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<tr>
<th><strong>Rouser.</strong></th>
<th><strong>Rover.</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>1623. Massinger, <em>Duke of Milan</em>, i. 1. Your lord, by his patent, stands bound to take his rouse.</td>
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<td>1840. Tennyson, <em>Vision of Sin</em>. Fill the cup and fill the can, Have a rouse before the morn.</td>
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<td>3. (thieves').—See quot.</td>
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<td>1888. <em>Ev. Standard</em>, 26 Dec. If the constable did not allow him to go to the station in a cab he would rouse (a slang term for fighting).</td>
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<td>ROUSER, subs. (common).—Generic for anything exceptional. Hence ROUSING = very, great, startling, exciting.</td>
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<td>1775. Sheridan, <em>Rivals</em>, i. 1. A tall Irish baronet she met... at Lady Macshuffle's rout.</td>
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<td>ROUTE, verb. (old : now recognised).—'To wander idly up and down.'—B. E. (c. 1696).</td>
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<td>ROVER, subs. (American).—I. See quot.</td>
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2. (old).—A pirate; a free-booter; (formerly: now recognised) a 'wanderer; a vagabond.'
—B. E., Grose. Also (B. E.) to run (or shoot) at rovers = 'to run wild, to act at random.'

—Fabyan, Chronicle, 259. The best men of ye cytie by thyse ryotous persones were spoyled and robbid; and by the rouers also of ye see.

1611. Bible, 1 Chron. xii. 21. And they helped David against the band of the rovers.

1715. South, Sermons [Century]. Providence never shoots at rovers.

1765. Pocock, Desc. of East, ii. i. 51. The Maltese rovers take away every thing that is valuable both from Turks and Christians.

1827. Cooper, Red Rover, ii. The ship of that notorious pirate, the Red Rover.

3. (common).—In pl. = the thoughts (Jamieson).

Row, subs. (originally University: now general).—I. A disturbance; a shindy (q.v.); boisterous talk: also rowing: hence (2) a mob (Univ.). Whence rowing-man (ow as ough in 'bough') = a spreester (q.v.). Also as verb. = (1) to abuse; to create a disturbance (see quot. 1825); to get into a row = to get into trouble; [Grose: s.v. Rout, 'shortened into row, Cambridge slang.']

1794. Gent. Mag., 1885. And was very near rustication [at Cambridge], merely for kicking up a row after a beakering party.

1820. Byron [to Mr. Murray, 20 May]. Tell [Campbell] all this, and let him take it in good part; for I might have rammed it into a review and rowed him.


1825. English Spy, i. 158 [Note, 'Oxford.']. Rowing a fellow—going with a party in the dead of night to a man's room, nailing or screwing his oak up, so as it cannot be opened on the inside, knocking at his door, calling out fire, and when he comes to the door, burning a quantity of shavings . . . to impress him with the idea that the staircase . . . is on fire. And when he is frightened almost out of his senses, setting up a most hideous horse-laugh and running away.

1826. Croker [Croker Papers, i. 331]. Where there was a smart young waiter, whom, however, these two Englishmen used to row exceedingly.

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Leg., i. 35. Next morning there was a great row about it.


1864. Eton School Days, ii. Chudleigh was going to speak . . . when Chorley cried, Hold your row, will you?

1883. Punch, 11 August, 72, 2. My sire will row me vigorously, My mother sore complain.

1889. Time, Aug., 149. I have a reminiscence of rowing her for growing as tall as myself. Ibid., 151. He rows her so fearful that Kitty thinks he'll be sure to desert her now.

1812. Combe, Syntax, Picturesque, c. xxiii. 'Tis not confined, we all must know, To vulgar tradesmen in the Row.

1879. Dickens, Dict. of London, s.v. Bond Street. Those who would see the lounger of the present day must look for him in the Row.
PHRASES. A HARD (or LONG) ROW TO HOE = a difficult task; TO HOE ONE'S OWN ROW = to mind one's own business; TO ROW IN THE SAME BOAT = to share.

1840. Crockett, Tour Down East, 69. Gentlemen, I never opposed Andrew Jackson for the sake of popularity. I knew it was a HARD ROW TO HOE.

1847. Robb, Squatter Life, 122. God help that poor creature, she's got a HARD ROW TO HOE.

1871. Mulford in San Francisco Chronicle. Now that I have HOED MY OWN ROW and rumor gives me a false condition, they deluge me with congratulations.

1892. Gunter, Miss Dividends, iv. I am afraid Harry Lawrence has a HARD ROW TO HOE.

ROWDY, subs. (common). — 1. A blackguard; and (2) a political brawler (American). Hence ROWDY (ROWDY-DOWDY, or ROWDY-DOW) = blackguardly, turbulent, vulgar; ROWDYISM (ROWDY-DOW, or ROWDINESS) = blackguardism.

1842. Dickens, American Notes, xiii. Two ... demi-johns, were consigned to the least ROWDY of the party for safe-keeping.

1852. Bristed, Upper Ten Thousand, 33. Whose team is that? Some ROWDY'S, I perceive. Ibid., 69. My red wheels ... are rather ROWDY, I must own; not exactly the thing for a gentleman.

1852. Cadger's Ball (Labern, Comic Song Book). Jane of the Hatchet-face divine just did the ROWDY-DOWDY poker.

1857. Kingsley, Two Years Ago, x. A drunken, gambling, cut-throat ROWDY.

1857. Baltimore Clipper, 8 Sept. 'Convention of Baltimore Rowdies.' [Title.]

1859. Bartlett, Did. Americanisms, s.v. ROWDY. The rowdy nomenclature of the principal cities may now be classified as follows:—NEW YORK.—Dead Rabbits; Bowery Boys; Forty Thieves; Skinners; Robin Hood Club; Huge Paws; Short Boys; Swill Boys; Shoulder-hitters; Killers. PHILADELPHIA.—Killers; Schuykill Annihilators; Moyamensing Hounds; Northern Liberty Skivers; and Peep of Day Boys. BALTIMORE.—Plug-Uglies; Rough Skins; Double Pumps; Tigers; Black Snakes; Stay Lates; Hard Times; Little Fellows; Blood Tubs; Dips; Ranters; Rip-Raps; and Gladiators.

1866. Howells, Venetian Life, xx. The lasagnone is a loafer ... but he cannot be a ROWDY,—that pleasing blossom on the nose of our fast, high-fed, thick-blooded civilisation.

1871. Observer, 24 Dec. Everything seems to be rowdy, and to have about it a flavour of brandy-and-water; yet the people are industrious and well-ordered.

1882. Anstey, Vice-Versa, v. "I was strolling down Petty Cury with two other men, smoking (Bosher of 'Pothouse,' and Peebles of 'Cats,' both pretty well known up there for general rowdiness, you know—dear old friends of mine)."

3. (common). — Money: see RHINO: cf. RUDDY.


1842. Egan, Bould Yeoman (Capt. Macheath). I will not down you, if you will but disburse your ROWDY with me.

1849. Thackeray, Pendennis, lxxv. From your account of him he seems a muff and not a beauty. But he has got the rowdy, which is the thing.

1856. Punch, xxxi. 79. The Queen of Oude, May spend her rowd, V, careless and sans souci.

ROWL, verb. (American University).—To recite well: cf. RUSH.

2. (old).—Money: see RHINO.
ROYAL, subs. (dockers'). — See quot.

1883. Sims, How the Poor Live, 96. Regular men, called ROYALS, are pretty sure to be taken on, their names being on the ganger's list and called out by him as a matter of course. Ibid., 98. It is when the ROYALS are exhausted that the real excitement begins.

ROYAL-GOATS, subs. phr. (military).
— The Royal Welsh Fusiliers (formerly the Twenty-third Foot.) Also "Nanny-goats." [A goat is kept as a regimental pet.]

ROYAL-IMAGE, subs. phr. (old).
— In pl. = money: see RHINO.

1749. Smollett, Gil Blas [Routledge], 287. Poor Gil Blas was left behind, without a ROYAL IMAGE in his pocket.

ROYAL POVERTY, subs. phr. (old).
— Gin: see WHITE SATIN.— Bailey (1728).

ROYAL-SCAMP, subs. phr. (old).
— A GENTLEMAN OF THE ROAD (q.v.) as distinguished from a foot-pad (Grose).

ROYSTER. See ROISTER.

ROZIN. See ROSIN.

ROZZER, subs. (thieves'). — A policeman: see BEAK.

1891. Emerson, Signor Lippo, xviii. If the ROZZERS was to see him in bona clobber they'd take him for a gun. Ibid., xx. So I took on knocker up, but when I began the ROZZERS was down on me.

1898. Pink 'Un and Pelican, 237. What does she do? Lor' doomy! she acksherly sticks 'er 'ead out o' winder an' calls up a ROZZER!

1901. Sporting Times, 6 Ap., i. 4. From calmness I don't mean to lapse, I scorn you counterjumping chaps, Or you're some ROZZER's nark, perhaps.

R'S. See Three R's (The).

RUB, subs. (colloquial). — 1. An obstacle; a disputable point; a difficulty; also (Old Cant) = a hard shift (B. E., Grose). Hence, as verb = to hinder, to obstruct. Also RUBBER.

1590. Nashe, Pasquil's Apologie [Works, i. 214]. Some small rubs, as I heare, haue been cast in my way to hinder my comming forth, but they shall not profit.

1599. Shakspere, Henry V., ii. 2. We doubt not now But every rub is smoothed on our way. Ibid. (1602-3), Hamlet, iii. 1. To die, to sleep; To sleep: perchance to dream: ay, there's the RUB. Ibid. (1605), Lear, ii. 2. 'Tis the duke's pleasure, Whose disposition, all the world well knows, Will not be RUB'D nor stopped.

1606. Day, Ile of Guts, ii. 4. The duke is comming to bowles, and I would not for halfe mine office you shuld be a RUB in the way of his patience.

1617. Purchas, Pilgrimage, 243. Perceiving that their power and authoritie would be a perilous RUB in his way.

1634. Bunyan, Pilgrim's Progress, 11. We have met with some notable RUBS already, and what are yet to come we knew not.

1724. Harper in Harlequin Sheppard. He broke thro' all RUBBS in the whitt.

1762. Goldsmith, Life of Nash [Works, 552 (Globe)]. But he experienced such RUBS as these, and a thousand other mortifications, every day.

1840. Dickens, Old Curiosity Shop, vii. 'Look at the worst side of the question then,' said Trent. . . . 'Suppose he lives.' 'To be sure,' said Dick, 'There's the RUB.'

1886. Trollope, Duke's Children, lxxi. He who lives on comfortable terms with the partner of his troubles can afford to acknowledge the ordinary RUBS of life.

2. (military). — A loan: as of a newspaper.

Verb. (venery). — 1. To masturbate; TO FRIG (q.v.): also TO RUB UP (or OFF); also subs. = an act of masturbation. Hence RUBBER-UP = a masturbator;
RUBBING-UP = masturbation; TO DO A RUB UP = to masturbate.
Fr. se branler, se coller une douce, &c. Also (2) to copulate: see RIDE.

1599. Jonson, Ev. Man Out of His Humour, iv. 4. Carlo. Let a man sweat once a week in a hot-house and be well rubbed and frothed, with a good plump juicy wench, and sweet linen, he shall ne'er have the pox.

1676. Fletcher, Martill, xi. 30. Thus Phillis rub me up, thus tickle me.

1772. Bridges, Burlesque Homer, 5. Thou that rubs up the girls of Lilla.

3. (old).—To run or take away. Also to rub off; TO RUB TO THE WHITT = to send to Newgate (B. E., GROSE).

1461-73. Paston Letters. I wyll RUBBE ON.

1610. Mirr. Mag., 463. Enough, you rub'd the guiltie ON THE GAULE.

3. (old).—To run or take away. Also to rub off; TO RUB TO THE WHITT = to send to Newgate (B. E., GROSE).

1461-73. Paston Letters. I wyll RUBBE ON.

1610. Mirr. Mag., 463. Enough, you rub'd the guiltie ON THE GAULE.

1842. Punch's Almanac. You see Jinks with a three days' beard—you rub out the slates—forget his action, and—.

1848. Ruxton, Far West, 65. Inarticulate words reached the ears of his companions as they bent over him. RUBBED OUT at last, they heard him say.
Rubbacrock.  67  Rubber-neck.

1850. TENNYSON, In Memoriam, lxxxix. We rub each other's angles down.

1863. READE, Hard Cash, i. 46. What I have got to rub up is my Divinity and my Logic; especially my Logic. Will you grind Logic with me?

1868. WHYTE MELVILLE, White Rose, i. xxv. It is no unusual drawback to married life, this same knack of rubbing the hair the wrong way.

1870. D. News, 26 May. Metropolitan Police. Rubbing it in well is a well-known phrase amongst the doubtful portion of the constabulary.

1877. BESANT and RICE, Golden Butterfly, vii. Clawed I should have been, mauled I should have been, rubbed out I should have been, on that green and grassy spot, but for the crack of Mr. Dunquerque's rifle.

1879. JAMES, Bundle of Letters, No. IV. She is for ever throwing Boston up at me; I can't get rid of Boston. The other one rubs it into me, too; but in a different way.

1883. J. HAWTHORNE, Dust, 291. Philip . . . was always rubbed the wrong way by Lady Flanders.

1888. DETROIT FREE PRESS, 8 Dec. When I was a young man I had to slosh around dark, wet nights in rubber over-shoes; goloshes.

1902. PALL MALL GAZ., 8 Mar., 10, i. It required considerable craning and stretching, or, as the Americans pithily describe it, rubber-necking, to allow even an occasional glimpse.

RUBBACROCK, subs. (colloquial).—A filthy slattern; a PUZZLE (q.v.).

RUBBAGE (or RUBBIDGE), subs. (vulgar).—Rubbish.

RUBBER, subs. (gaming).—I. A round of three games: also RUB (B. E., GROSE).

1831. Egan, Real Life, i. 142. She shall stump up the rubbish before I leave her.

Rubicon, subs. (gaming). — Used as in quot.

1896. Farjeon, Betray. John Fordham, III. 288. "Rubicon'd agin!" cried Maxwell with a oath, dashin' is fist on the table. Ibid., 292. Eight fifty. Double the stake if you like. Thirteen 'underd. Another rubicon . . . Luck wos agin me last night ; looks as if it was turning.

Rubigo, subs. (old Scots'). — The penis: see Prick.

c.1584. R. Sempill, Leg. of the Bishop, &c. His rubigo began to ryiss.

Rubric. In (or out of) the rubric, phr. (old). — In (or out of) holy orders.

1699. Farquhar, Constant Couple, i. 1. Who would have thought to find thee out of the rubric so long? I thought thy hypocrisy had been wedded to a pulpit cushion long ago.

Rub-rub, phr. (old). — ' Us'd on Greens when the Bowl Flees too fast, to have it forbear, if Words wou'd do it.'—B. E. (c.1696).

Ruby, subs. (colloquial). — I. Blood; claret (q.v.). Hence ruby-face = 'a very red face' (B. E., Grose); whence (2) ruby = a grog-blossom (q.v.).

c.16[?]. Rox. Ballads [Brit. Mus., C.20, f. 7, 214], 'The Little Barly-Corne,' 11. It will enrich the palest face, and with rubies it adorn.

1839. Ainsworth, Jack Sheppard, II. v. 'Jolly nose, the bright rubies that garnish thy tip.

1860. Chambers' Journal, xiii. 348. The fluid of which Harvey demonstrated the circulation in the human body, he speaks of as 'claret,' or 'carmine,' or ruby,

1886-9. Marshall ['Pomes,' 49], Honest Bill. You'd be sure to nark the ruby round his girt.

1888. Sporting Life, 11 Dec. Saunders stopped a flush right-hander with his organ of smell, the ruby duly making its appearance.

Ruck, subs. (colloquial). — I. The mob (B. E., c.1696); whence (2) = rubbish. Hence to come in with the ruck (or to ruck in) = to come in unnoticed, or (racing) unplaced.

1846. Punch, xi. 15. Who floored Sir Robin? . . . Who headed the ruck? "I," said Lord George so able, Racy speech and mind stable, "And I headed the ruck."

1857. Holmes, Autocrat of the Breakfast Table, iv. First turn in the race . . . Several shew in advance of the ruck.

1864. Derby Day, 18. It will be unpleasant for me if Ascapart is in the ruck.

1874. Collins, Frances, xxiii. I don't care for Americans myself, men or women . . . the ruck want educating.

1879. Scrib. Mag., vm. 159. He's stuck up and citified, and wears gloves . . . and all that sort of ruck [Century].

1893. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, 75. A Missus with money, and rucks in along o' the rest.


Verb. (common). — I. To inform; to split (q.v.); (2) = to turn rusty (q.v.); and (3) to drag or create.

1884. D. News, 20 Sept., 2. I told the prisoner that I was not going to ruck on an old pal.

1880. Answers, 13 Ap., 313. To such of their own fraternity who ruck or "blab" upon them, they most certainly entertain feelings of the deepest hatred.

1893. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, 71. Mine rucked when I turned up in trousers in checks.

1894. Egerton, Keynotes, 177. They [trousers] ruck up at the knees.
To ruck (or rucket) along, *verb. phr.* (Oxford University).—To walk quickly.

**Ruction**, *subs.* (common).—An up-roar.—**Halliwell** (1847).


1894. *Echo*, 19 March, 2, 3. The police, when there is a ruction, drop quietly over a wall into the midst of the combatants.

1900. *White*, *West End*, 124. Ructions took place . . . and . . . he went so far as to tell his wife that “he didn’t care a damn what she did.”

**Rudder**, *sub.* (venery).—The penis: see **Prick**. Also (Somerset) = copulation.


1760. Robertson of Struan, *Poems*, 95. Sure Venus never can be tir’d While pow’rful Mars directs the rudder.

**Ruddocks** (or **Red**, or **Golden**, **Ruddocks**), *subs.* (old).—Money: specifically gold: also **Ruddy**. [Formerly gold was conventionally “red” (‘a girdle of gold so red’ and ‘good red gold’—**Percy Rel.**).] Cf. **Ridge** and **Rudge**.

1570. Turberville [*Chalmer’s, Poets*, ii. 647]. The greedie cardie came . . . and saw the pot behind Where ruddocks lay, but ruddocks could not find.

1585. *Choice of Change* [*Cens. Literaria*, ix. 435]. He must have his red ruddocks ready.

1593. *Florio, Worlde of Wordes*, s.v. Zanfrone. Used also for crownes, great pieces of gold, as our countrymen say red-ruddocks.

1609. Munday and Drayton, *Oldcastle*, i. 2. My fingers’ end do itch To be upon those golden ruddocks.

1607. Heywood, *Fair Maid* [*Works*, ii. 277]. I believe they be little better than pirates, they are so flush of their ruddocks.


1597. Shakspeare, *Richard II.*, ii. 1, 156. We must supplant these rough rug-headed kerns.

1622. Fletcher and Massinger, *Prophetess*, ii. 2. I had rather meet an enemy in the field than stand thus nodding Like to a rug-gouned watchman.

1654. Witt’s Recr. [*Nares*]. A rug-gowns ribs are good to spur a horse.

**Rue**, *subs.* (colloquial).—Repentance: as **Rue-Quarrel**, *verb.* = to repent and withdraw; **Rue-Bargain** = smart-money.

1817. Scott, *Rob Roy*, xxvii. He said it would cost him a guinea of rue-bargain to the man who had bought his pony before he could get it back again.


**Ruff**, *subs.* (old).—‘An old-fashioned double band.’—B. E. (c. 1696).

2. (old).—A court card: hence to ruff = to trump. [Ruff = a game similar to whist, ‘in which the greatest sorte of sute carrieth away the game.’—*Peele*, i, 211, note.] See **Trump**.


1837. Dickens, Pickwick, xxxv. Miss Bolo would inquire . . . why Mr. Pickwick had . . . ruffled the spade, or finessed the heart.

3. (old).—See quot.

1593. Harvey, Four Letters. He . . . in the ruff of his greatest jollity was fain to cry M. Churchyard a mercy to print.

1610. Mirr. Mag., 607. In the ruffe of his felicitie . . . he began disdain to His bastard lord's usurp'd authority.

Ruffian, subs. (old).—I. Spec. the Devil: also old Ruffian. Whence (2) anyone behaving roughly or severely: as a magistrate, and esp. a pimp (see Ponce) or bawdy-house bully, 'a brutal bully or assassin' (B. E., Rowlands, Coles, Grose), also a pugilist all spirit and no science; and so forth. Hence as adj. = (1) wanton (Grose); (2) = brutal; and (3) = violent. As verb. = (1) to pimp, (2) to bully, and (3) to maul. Also Ruffianly (or Ruffinous) = wanton, outrageous. 'Ruffian cook Ruffian, he scalded the devil in his feathers' (Grose), said of a bad cook. Ruffian's-hall (see quot. 1679). Cf. Rough.

1450. York Plays [Shakspeare Soc.], i. 17. [Oliphant, New Eng.]; i. 288. The Devil is spoken of as Ruffyne, which perhaps led to our Ruffian.

1556. Udall [Richardson]. Repent of light Ruffianlyng and blasphemous carnal gospelizing.

1567. Harman, Caveat, 86. Gerry gan, the ruffian clye thee. A torde in thy mouth, the deuyll take thee.

1592. Florio, World of Words, s.v. Ruffiano, a ruffin, a swagger, a swashbuckler. Ibid., Ruffo, a rufian, a ruffling roister; . . . also rude, ruffe, or rough.

1598. Smith, Sermons, 208. She could not mince finer . . . nor carry more trappings about her, than our Ruffians and wantons do at this day.

1603. Chapman, Iliad, vi. 456. To shelter the sad monument from all the Ruffinous pride Of storms and tempests.


1622. Fletcher, Beggar's Bush, 'Maunder's Initiation.' Strine and trine to the Ruffin (justice of peace).

1657. Smith, Sermons, 208. She could not mince finer . . . nor carry more trappings about her, than our Ruffians and wantons do at this day.

d.1679. Blount [Halliwell]. Ruffians Hall.—So that part of Smithfield was antiently called, which is now the horse-market, where tryals of skill were plaid by ordinary Ruffianly people with sword and buckler.

1819. Moore, Tom Crib, 57. Hammering right and left with ponderous swing, Ruffian'd the reeling youngster round the ring.

1834. Ainsworth, Rookwood, iii. ii. 'Not now, in the devil's name!' said Turpin, stamping impatiently. 'We shall have Old Ruffin himself amongst us presently, if Peter Bradley grows gallant.'

Ruffle, subs. (Old Cant).—A handcuff: usually in pl. (Grose, Vaux).

1826. Old Song, 'Bobby and His Mary' [Univ. Songst., iii. 108]. And ruffles soon they popped on.

1839. Ainsworth, Jack Sheppard, ii. ix. 'I'll accommodate you with a pair of ruffles,' and he proceeded to handcuff his captive.
THE RUFFLE, subs. phr. (conjurers').—The flourish to a trick at cards: the deck held firmly at the lower end by the left hand is rapidly manipulated by the right hand with a crackling noise.

See RUFFLER.

RUFFLER (RUFFLE, or RUFFLING ROISTER), subs. (old).—1. Spec. as in quot. 1565 (in Statue 27 Hen. VIII. = a sham soldier or sailor): whence (2) a bully, cheat, or violent or swaggering blackguard (AWDELEY, HARMAN, B. E., COLES, GROSE). RUFFLE (also RUFFLER), verb. = (1) to plunder, to rob: spec. with menaces and imprecations; and (2) to swagger, flaunt it, put on SIDE (q.v.) or be turbulent; RUFFLERY = violence; RUFFERED = boisterous; and RUFFLE = to dispute.

c.1537-50. Old Poem[OLIPHANT, New Eng., i. 512. There are the Dutch words RUFFLE (brag), and trick up (ornare.)

1565. HARMAN, Caveat, 29. Now these RUFFLARS, the out castes of seruing men, when begginge or crauinge fayles, then they pycke and pylfer, from other inferiour beggares that they meete by the waye, as Roages, Pallyardes, Mortes, and Doxes. Ibid. A RUFFLAR . . . wretchedly wanders aboute the most shyres of this realme; and with stoute audacity de-maundeth where he thinketh he may be bolde, and circomspecyte ynoogh as he sethe cause to aske charitie.

1579. Mariage of Witt and Wisdome. My man Lobb Is become a jolly RUFFLER.

1582. STANIHURST, Aeneid, iii. But neere ioynclye brayeth with RUFFLERYE rumboled Ætina.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, Titus And., i. 2. One fit to bandy with thaw lawlessons, And RUFFLE in the Commonwealth of Rome. Ibid. (1609), King Lear, iii. 7. I am your host. With robber's hands, my hospitable favours You should not RUFFLE thus. Ibid. (1609), Lover’s Compl. Sometimes a blusterer, that the RUFFLE knew Of court and city.

1598. FLORIO, Worlde of Wordes, s.v. Ruffo . . . Also a RUFFLING ROISTER or ruffian, a swaggerer.

1600. JONSON, Cynthia's Revels, iii. 3. Lady, I cannot RUFFLE IT in red and yellow.

1610. Mirr. for Mag., 473. And what the RUFFLER spake, the lout took for a verdite, For there the best was worst, worst best regarded. Ibid., 165. To Britain over seas from Rome went I. To quaile the Picts, that RUFFLED in that ile.

1611. MIDDLETON, Roaring Girl [DOOSLEY, Old Plays (REED), vi. 108]. Brother to this upright man, flesh and blood, RUFFLING Tear-cat is my name; and a RUFFLER is my stile, my title, my profession.

1614. FLETCHER, Wit without Money, v. 3. Can I not go about . . . But such companions as you must RUFFLE me.

1641. MILTON, Ref. in Eng., i. Revil'd and RUFFLE'D by an insulting . . . Prelate.

1712. STEELE, Spectator, 132. Our company was so far from being soured by this little RUFFLE that Ephraim and he took particular delight in being agreeable to each other for the future.

1818. SCOTT, Midlothian, xxv. A gude fellow that has been but a twelvemonth on the lay, be he RUFFLER or paddar.

1830. LYTTON, Paul Clifford, xvi. Oh, what a beast is a niggardly RUFFLER, Nabbing—grabbing all for himself.

1890. Answers, 27 Dec. In this fashion I RUFFLED like a prince for six years on a regular income of nothing per annum.

RUFFMANS, subs. (Old Cant).—A hedge: cf. quot. 1610 (HARMAN, B. E., HALL, GROSE).

1565. HARMAN, Caveat, 86. We wyll fylche some duddes of the RUFFMANS.

1608. DEKKER, The Beggars' Curse [GROSART, Works, iii. 203]. If we mawnd Pannam, lap, or Ruff-peck, Or poplars of yarum: he cuts, bing to the RUFFMANS. Ibid. (1612), O, per se O [FARMER, Musa Pedestris(1856), 12]. We did creepe, and plant in RUFFMANS low.
1610. Rowlands, Martin Mark-all, 40 (H. Club, 1874). Ruffmans, not the hedge or bushes as heretofore: but now the eavesing of houses or roofes: Cragmans is now vsed for the hedge.

1611. Middleton and Dekker, Roaring Girl, v. 1. I woud lib all the lightmans . . . under the Ruffmans.

1622. Fletcher, Beggar's Bush, iii. To mill from the Ruffmans commissions and slates.

Ruff-Peck, subs. phr. (Old Cant).—Bacon. —Harman (1567); Rowlands(1610); Head(1665); B. E. (c. 1696); Coles (1724).

1608. Dekker, The Beggars' Curse [ Grosart, Works, iii. 203]. If we maund Pannam, lap, or Ruff-Peck.

1613. Scott, Waverley, xlii. The gude auld times of ruggning and riving . . . are come back again. Ibid. (1824), Redgauntlett, xi. Sir John . . . voted for the Union, having gotten it was thought, A RUG of the compensations.

All RUG, phr. (Old Cant).—All right; certain (B. E., Grose).

1714. Lucas, Gamesters, 104. His great dexterity of making all Rugg at Dice, as the Cant is for securing a Die between two fingers.

See Bug and Ruggins.

Ruge. See Rouge.

Rugger, subs. (schools').—Football: the Rugby game.

1902. Pall Mall Gaz., 2 Jan., 9, 2. The article which, so far as figures go, proves to the hilt England’s degeneracy at Rugger, and most lucidly gives the reason why.

Ruggin's, subs. (Old Cant).—Bed; AT RUG = asleep: e.g., ‘the whole gill is safe AT RUG’ = ‘the household are asleep’ (Grose).

1828. Lytton, Pelham, lxxii. Stash the lush . . . ay, and toddle off to Ruggins.

Ruin. See Blue Ruin.

Rule. To run the rule over, verb. phr. (thieves').—See quot; to frisk (q.v.).

1779. J. W. Horsley [Macm. Mag., xl. 504]. I am going to run the rule over (search) you.
1866. D. News, 30 Sept., iii. 2. When paraded each man has THE RULE RUN OVER HIM, i.e., searched.

1886-96. Marshall, He Slumbered ['Pomes,' 118]. A lady ... ran the rule through all his pockets for her cheek was fairly tall.

**Rule-of-three (The), subs. phr.** (venery).—I. The penis and testes; and (2) copulation: cf. ADDITION, MULTIPLICATION, and SUBTRACTION.

C.1720. Durfey, Pills, &c., vi. 329. This accountant will come without e'er a fee, and warrants a boy by his rule of three.

**Rule of Thumb, subs. phr.** (colloquial).—A rough-and-ready way: practical rather than exactly scientific (Grose).

1864. D. Review, 17 Oct. The result, we trust, will exemplify the value of science versus rule of thumb in politics.

**Rum (Rome, Roome, or Ram), adj.** (Old Cant).—I. A generic appreciative; good; fine; clever; excellent; strong, &c.: cf. sense 2 and queer; rumly = bravely, cleverly, delicately. Thus RUM-BEAK (or -BECK) = a justice of the peace; rum-bing (or -BUNG) = a full purse; rum-bit (or -BITE) = (1) a clever rogue, and (2) a smart trick; rum-bleating-cheat = a fat wether; rum-blowen (or -BLOWER) = a handsome mistress; rum-bluffer = a jolly host; rum-bob = (1) a young apprentice, (2) a clever trick, and (3) a smart wig; rum-booze (-BOUSE, -BUSE, -BUZE, or BOUZE) = (1) wine, or (2) good liquor of divers kinds; rum-boozing-welt = a bunch of grapes; rum-bubber = a good thief; rum-buffer (or -BUGHER) = a valuable dog; rum-chant = a good song; rum-chub = (butchers') an ignorant buyer; rum-clank = a gold or silver cup; rum-clout (or WiPe) = a silk handkerchief; rum-cod = (1) a full purse, and (2) a large sum of money; rum-cole = new money; rum-cove (or -cull) = (1) a clever rogue, (2) a rich man, (3) a lover, and (4) an intimate: also rum-cull (theatrical) = a manager, or boss; rum-degen (-TOL, or -TILTER) = a splendid sword; rum-dell (-DOXY or -MORT) = a handsome whore; rum-diver = a clever pickpocket; rum-drawers = silk stockings; rum-dropper = a vintner; rum-duke = (1) a handsome man, (2) a jolly companion, and (3) see quot. 1696 and also sense 2; rum-duchess = a handsome woman; rum-duber (or -FILE) = an expert picklock; rum-fam (or fem) = a diamond ring; rum-fun = a clever fraud; rum-gelt (or -GILT) = new money; rum-gill = (1) a clever thief, and (2) a handsome man; rum-gagger = a whining beggar; rum-glymmer = a chief link-boy; rum-going = fast trotting; rum-gutters = canary; rum-hopper = an innkeeper; rum-kicks = silver or gold-braided breeches; rum-ken = a popular inn or brothel; rum-kin = a large mug; rum-mizzer = a thief expert at clearing (q.v.); rum-mort = a lady; rum-one = a settling blow; rum-nab = a good hat; rum-nantz = brandy; rum ned = a rich fool; rum-pad = the highway; rum-padder = a highwayman; rum-peeker = a silver looking-glass; rum-peck = good food; rum-
PRANCER = a fine horse; RUM-QUIDD = a large booty; RUM-RUFFPECK = Westphalian ham; RUM-SQUEEZE = fiddlers' drink in plenty; RUM-SNITCH = a hard blow on the nose; RUM-TOPPING = a rich head-dress; RUM-VILLE = London.—AWELEY (1560); HARMAN (1567); ROWLANDS (1610); HEAD (1665); B. E. (c. 1696); COLES (1724); BAILEY (1726); PARKER (1781); GROSE (1785); VAUX (1812); BEE (1823).

1567. HARMAN, Caveat, 86. Byng we to Rome-vyle.

1607. DEKKER, Jests to make you Merie in Wks. (Grosart), ii. 308. A rum coves bung (so called in their canting vse of speech) (and as much as to say in ours, a rich chuffes purse).

1610. ROWLANDS, Martin Mark-All, 'Toure Out Ben Morts.' For all the Rome coues are budgd a beake. Ibid. The quire coves are budgd to the bowsing ken As Romely as a ball.

1611. MIDDLETON and DEKKER, Roaring Girl, v. i. So my bousy nab might skew rome boose.

1612. DEKKER, O per se O, 'Bing Out, Bien Mort.' On chates to trine, by Rome-coues dine for his long lib at last. Ibid. Bingd out bien morts, and toure, and toure, bing out of the Rome-vile; ... And Jyre well Ierkt, tick Rome-compeck.

1641. BROME, Jovial Crew, 'Morts' Drinking Song.' This bowse is better than rom-bouse.

1653. URQUHART, Rabelais, ii. 1. Note. Piot a common cant word used by French clowns and other tippling companions; it signifies rum-boozle as our gypsies call gud-guzzle.

1656. BLOUNT, Gloss., 538. Rambuze. A compound drink at Cambridge, and is commonly made of eggs, ale, wine, and sugar; but in summer, of milk, wine, sugar, and rose-water.

1664. COTTON, Virgil Traversie (1st ed.), 108. With that she set it to her Nose, And off at once the Rumkin goes.

1665. HEAD, Eng. Rogue [RIBTON-TURNER, 621]. We straight took ourselves to the Boozing ken; and having bubb'd rumly, we concluded an everlasting friendship.

1688. SHADWELL, Sq. of Alsatia, ii. [Works (1720), iv. 47]. Belf. Sen. ... Here's a nabb! you never saw such a one in your life. Cheat. A rum nabb: it is a beaver of 45.

C.1696. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, passim. Also, more particularly, s.v. Rum-dukes, c. the boldest or stoutest Fellows (lately) amongst the Alsatians, Minters, Savoyards, &c. Sent for to remove and guard the Goods of such Bankrupts as intended to take Sanctuary in those Places. Ibid., s.v. Peck. The Gentry Cove tipt us rum Peck and rum Gutlers, till we were all Bowsy, and snapt all the Flickers.

1706. FARQUHAR, Recruiting Officer, ii. 3. You are a justice of peace, and you are a king, and I am a duke, and a rum duke, a'n't I?

1707. SHIRLEY, Triumph of Wit, 'Rum-Mort's Praise of Her Faithless Mauder.' By the rum-pad maundeth none, ... Like my clapper-dogeon.

1724. HARPER, in Harlequin Shep-ward, 'Frisky Moll's Song.' I Frisky Moll, with my rum coll.

1760. Old Song, 'Come All You Buffers Gay' [The Humourist, 2]. Come all you buffers gay, That rumly do pad the city. Ibid. If after a rum cull you pad.

1781. PARKER, View of Society, ii.

174. Rum-mizzlers. Fellows who are clever in making their escape. Ibid. (b. 1789), Cantata, 'The Sandman's Wedding.' For he's the kiddy rum and queer.

1819. MOORE, Tom Crib, 76. The brandy and tea, rather thinnish, That knights of the Rumpad so rurally sip. Ibid. Thus rumly floored.

C.1819. Song, 'The Young Prig' [FAR-\[\text{removed}\]MER, Musa Pedestris (1806), 83]. But my rum-chants ne'er fail, sirs; The dubs-man's senses to engage.

1821. EGAN, Life in London, ii. iii. From a rum ken we bundled.

1823. MONCRIEFF, Tom and Jerry, ii. 6. Now, your honours, here’s the rum peck, here's the supper.

1825. JONES, Old Song, 'The True Bottom'd Boxer' [Univ. Songst., ii. 96]. Spring's the boy for rum going and coming it. Ibid. You'll find him a rum-'un, try on if you can.
2. (common).—In modern slang (by inversion) rum = indifferent; bad; questionable; odd: as adj. rummy (or rumly). Whence (3) rum = anybody or anything odd or singular in habit, appearance, &c.; rum-ned = a silly fellow (B. E.); rum duke = a half-witted churl (but see sense 1); to come it rum = to act (or talk) strangely.

1729. Swift, Grand Question Debated. A rabble of tenants and rusty dull
rum's.

1772. Bridges, Burlesque Homer, 155. Well said, Ulysses, cries the king (A little touch'd tho' with the sting of this rum speech).

1781. Old Song [N. & Q., 7 S., ix. 97. Although a rummy codger, now list to what I say.

1781. Parker, View of Society, i. 48. ' Blow me up (says he) if I have had a fellow with such rum toogys cross my company these many a day.'

1803. Sharp [Correspondence (1888), i. 18. They were angry with rums, they were troubl'd with bores.

1819. Moore, Tom Crib, ' Jack Holmes's Song.' Some wonder, too, the tits that pull this rum concern along, so full.

1829. Somerset, Day After the Fair. Well, dang it! though she's a rum one to look at, she's a good one to go.

1836. Dickens, Pickwick, xvi. "You're a rum 'un to look at, you are," thought Mr. Weller.

1840. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends (Hamilton Tighe). And the neighbours say, as they see him look sick, "What a rum old covey, is Hairy-faced Dick!"

1877. Besant and Rice, Son of Vulcan, ii. xxvii. How much? It's a rummy ramp—but how much?

1882. Anstev, Vice-Verste, xi. There's young Tom on the box; don't his ears stick out rummily?

1888. Boldrewood, Robbery Under Arms, i. What a rum thing a man should laugh when he's only got twenty-nine days more to live.

1892. Kipling, Barrack Room Ballads, ' Route Marchin.' There's that rummy silver grass.

1899. Whiteing, John St., v. Rummy lot dah there.

RUMBLE, subs. (colloquial).—A seat for servants at the back of a carriage: also rumble-tumble (which likewise [Grose and Vaux]) = a stage coach. See Dickey and quot. 1830.

1830. Lytton, Paul Clifford, xxv. His favourite servant sat in the dickey in front (rumble-tumblies not being then in use). Ibid. (1858), What Will He Do, &c., i. 15. From the dusty height of a rumble-tumble... Vance caught sight of Lionel and Sophy.

1848. Thackeray, Vanity Fair, xiv. A discontented female in a green veil and crimped curls on the rumble.

Verb. (old).—To try; to search; to handle.

1821. Haggart, Life, 14. I was rumbling the cloys of the twigs.

1886-96. Marshall, Beautiful Dreamer [' Pomes,' 65]. I rumbled the tip as a matter of course.

The books which booksellers call rums appear to be very numerous, ... yet they are not really so.
Rumbler.

1898. *Pink 'Un and Pelican*, 209. I soon RUMBLEd he was in it when I heard Bull givin' him the ' me lord ' for it.

**RUMBLER**, subs. (old).—A hackney coach. Hence RUMBLER'S-FLUNKEY = (1) a footman and (2) a cab-runner; RUNNING-RUMBLER = a carriage thief's confederate.

C.1816. Maher, *Song*, 'The Night Before Larry was Stretched.' The RUMBLER jugg'd off from his feet, And he died with his face to the city.

**RUMBLING**, subs. (Old Cant: now recognised).—‘The rolling of Thunder, motion of a Wheelbarrow, or the noise in the Gutts.’ —B. E. (c. 1696).

**RUM-BLOSSOM** (or -BUD), subs. *phr.* (common).—A nasal pimple: cf. GROG-BLOSSOM.

1889. Bush, *Effects of Ardent Spirits*. Redness and eruptions generally begin with the nose . . . they have been called RUM-BUDS, when they appear in the face.

**RUMBO**, subs.—1. Rum grog: also RUMBULLION and RUMBOWLING: cf. RUM-BOOZE (Grose).

1651. MS. Descrip. of Barbadoes [Academy, 5 Sep., 1885, 155]. The chief fuddling they make in the island is RUMBULLION, alias Kill-Divil, and this is made of sugar canes distilled.

1751. Smollett, *Per. Pickle*, ii. He and my good master . . . come hither every evening, and drink a couple of cans of RUMBO a-piece. Ibid. (1762), Sir L. Grewes, i. 1. Three of the travellers . . . agreed to pass the time . . . over a bowl of RUMBO.

1821. Scott, *Pirate*, xxxix. Regaling themselves with a can of RUMBO.

**RUMFORD.** To RIDE TO ROMFORD, *verb. phr.* (old).—To get new breeched: [Grose: ‘Rumford was formerly a famous place for leather breeches: a like saying is current of Bungay.’] Also see quot.

1885. *D. News*, 12 August, 5. 2. When sailors speak of their grog as RUMBOWLING the expression is really a survival of the old word [*i.e.*, RUMBULLION, supposed to be the original name of ‘Rum,’ and of which the tatler is a corruption].

2. (old).—A prison: also RUMBO-KEN.

3. (dockyard).—Stolen rope (CLARK RUSSELL).

**Adi.** (old).—Good; plenty.

1870. *Hazlewood and Williams*, *Leave it to Me*, i. Fifty pounds! Oh, what a coal and tater shop I will have. . . Is that RUMBO? (holds out his hand).


1895. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 21 Dec., 8, 1. But if the carts are all RUMBO, and the 'orses was all RUMBO, and there was no tickets and no jumpers.


2. (old).—A prison: also RUMBO.

1724. Harper [Harlequin Sheppard, 'Frisky Moll's Song'], But filing of a RUMBO-KEN, My Boman is snabbled again.

**RUMBOWLINE** (or RAMBOWLINE), subs. (nautical).—1. Condemned stores: rope, canvas, &c.; whence (2) anything inferior or deteriorated: as adj. = adulterated.

See RUMBO.

**RUMBUSTICATE**, verb. (venery).—To copulate: see GREENS and RIDE.
Rum-gagger. 77 Rum-Johnny.

1708-10. Swift, Pol. Conv., ii. One may ride to Rumford upon this knife, it is so blunt.


**Rumgumption, Rumbumption, &c.**, subs. and adj. (common). — A class of colloquialisms compounded with an intensive prefix: (1) RAM (imitatively varied by RUM) = very, strong; and (2) RUM (q.v.) = good, fine, &c. : also of RAMP as in RAMPAGEOUS. Thus RAMBUNCTIOUS (or RUMBUSTIOUS) = noisy, ‘high-and-mighty’; RAMBUSTION = a row; RUMBUMPTION = conceited, self-assertive (GROSE); RUMGUMP = mother-wit; RUMGUMPTION = mother-wit; RUMGUMPTIOUS = shrewd, bold, rash (GROSE); RUMBEEZELED = exhausted; RUMBUSKIOUS = rough; RUMGUNSCHOCH = rough; RUMSHACKLE = rickety, crazy. Substantives are similarly formed: e.g., RAMBUNCTION, RAMBUMPOTION, RAMGUMPOTION, &c., whilst such variants as RUMMEL-FUMPOTION, RUMBLE-GUMPOTION, RUM-STUGENOUS, and the like are coined at will. Also RUMBUSTICATOR = a man of means, and RAMSTAM = a headlong fool, and as adj. = deliberately or undilutedly silly.

1758. Ross, Helenore, ‘Beattie’s Address.’ They need not try thy jokes to fathom, They want RUMGUMPATION.

1778. Foote, Trip to Calais, i. The sea has been rather RUMBUSTIOUS, I own.

d.1796. Burns, To James Smith. The hairum-scairum, RAM-STAM boys.

1817. Scott, Rob Roy, xxviii. If we gang RAM-STAM in on them [we’ll get] a broken head to learn us better havings.

1819. T. Moore, Tom Crib’s Memorial, 3. Has thought of a plan, which — excuse his presumption — He hereby submits to your Royal RUMGUMPATION.

1822. Hogg, Perils of Man, i. 78. Ye sud hae stayed at hame, an’ wantit a wife till ye gathered mair RUMMELGUMPATION.

1823. Galt, Entail, III. 70. Wattie is a lad of a methodical nature, and no a hurly-burly RAMSTAM.

1824. Surtees, Hillingdon Hall, v. 21. The RUMBUSTICAL apologies for great coats that have inundated the town of late years.

1847. Porter, Big Bear, 120. He’s as RAMSTUGENOUS an animal as a log-cabin loafer in the dog-days.

1847. G. Eliot [Life (1885), i. 168]. All those monstrous RUMBUSTICAL beasts with their horns.

1847. Thackeray, Cane-Bottom’s Chair, st. 5. And ’tis wonderful, surely, what music you get From the rickety, RAMSHACKLE, wheezy spinet.

1850. Smedley, Frank Fairleigh, ix. He boldly inquired whether . . . “I had not been a-enhaling laughing gas, or any such RUMBUSTICAL wight?”

1853. Lyttton, My Novel, xl. xix. As for that white-whiskered alligator . . . let me get out of those RAMBUSTIOUS, unchristian, filbert-shaped claws of his.

1860. Dickens, Uncommercial Traveller, xviii. The RAMSHACKLE veturino carriage in which I was departing.


1883. Clemens, Life on Mississippi, xlviii. Strung along below the city, were a number of decayed, RAM-SHACKLY, superannuated old steamboats.

**Rum-hole**, subs. phr. (American). — A grog-shop: see LUSH-CRIB.

**Rum-homee** (or -omer) of the Case. See OMER.

2. (naval and military).—A prostitute: see TART.

RUMKIN, subs. (old).—I. A drinking vessel.


2. (old).—A tailless fowl.

RUMLY (or ROMELY). See RUM.

RUMMAGE, verb. (venery).—To grope (or possess) a woman; TO FIRKY-TOODLE (q.v.).

RUMMIE. See RUM.

RUMMILL, subs. phr. (American).—A grog-shop; a LUSH-CRIB (q.v.).

RUMP, subs. (vulgar).—I. The posteriors: see BUM. Hence as verb = (1) to slight; (2) to FART AT (q.v.); (3) to SHIT ON (q.v.); (4) to flog (VUAx, 1812), and (5) (venery) to copulate; whence LOOSE IN THE RUMP = wanton; RUMP-SPLITTER = (1) the penis: see PRICK; and (2) a whore-master. Also subs. (2) = fag end: spec. (political) the remnant of the Long Parliament after Pride's Purge (1653); whence RUMPER = a Long Parliamentarian. Again RUMP (3) = a whore; RUMPER = a whore-master; RUMP-WORK = copulation; and verb. = to possess, to FUCK-BUTTOCK. 'He hath eaten the hen's RUMP' (RAY), said of a person full of talk.

c.1635. Broadside Ballads, 'Scotch Moggy's Misfortune' [Pepys's Collect. (Bodleian), iii. 288]. Robin he chast me about the stack, Robin laid me on my back, Robin he made my RUMP to crack.

1653. URQUHART, Rabelais, i. xi. Some of the women would give these names . . . my crimson chitterling, RUMP-SPLITTER, shove-devil.

1660. PEPSYS, Diary, 7 Mar. Sir Arthur appeared at the House; what was done I know not, but there was all the RUMPERS almost come to the House to-day.

1661. Old Song, 'There was three Birds' [FARMER, Merry Songs and Ballads (1897), i. 141]. There was three birds that built on a stump, The first and the second cry'd, have at her RUMP, The third he went merrily in and in.

1662. The Rump [Title].

1708-10. SWIFT, Pol. Conv., Int. The art of blasphemy or free-thinking . . . first brought in by the fanatic faction . . . and . . . carried to Whitehall by the converted RUMPERS.

1711. DURFEY, The Fart [Pills to Purge (1719), i. 28]. Gave a proof she was LOOSE IN HER RUMP.


1814. COLEMAN, Poetical Vagaries, 129 [2nd ed.]. He RUMPS us quite, and won't salute us.

RUMP-AND-DOZEN, subs. phr. (old).—An Irish wager: i.e., 'A rump of beef and a dozen of claret' (GROSE).

RUMP-AND-KIDNEY MEN, subs. phr. (old).—'Fidlers that Play at Feasts, Fairs, Weddings, &c., And Live chiefly on the Remnants, or Victuals' (B. E., GROSE).

RUMP-AND-STUMP, phr. (colloquial).— Entirely; completely.

RUMPY, subs. (Stock Exchange).—The thirty-second part of a pound sterling; a TOOTH (q.v.).

RUMPUS, subs. (common).—(1) A row; a noise; a disturbance: also as verb. and adj. (GROSE); (2) = a masquerade (VUAx, 1812).

1763. Foote, Mayor of Garratt, ii. Oh Major! such a riot and RUMPUS!

1819. MOORE, Tom Crib, 6. And, setting in case there should come such a RUMPUS.
**Rum-slim.**

2. There never shall be no disgraceful RUMPusses, now I'm come into power.

1850. Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, xxiv. And Marie routed up Mammy nights, and RUMPussed and scolded.

She is a young lady with a will of her own, I fancy. Extremely well-fitted to make a RUMPUS.

**Rum-slim (or Rum-SLum), subs. phr. (old).—**Punch.


He was up to the rum-slim.

**Rum-sucker, subs. phr. (American).—**A toper; LUSHINGTON (q.v.).

1858. New York Tribune, 9 July
An acquired appetite as strong as that of a RUM-SUCKER.

**Rum Tom Pat, subs. phr. (old).—**A clergyman.

1781. Parker, *Variegated Characters.* "What, are Moll and you adamed?"
"Yes, we are, and by a RUM TOM PAT too."

**Rumtitum, adj. (old).—**'On prime twig, in fine order or condition: a flash term for a game bull (GROSE).

**Rum-un.** See Rum.

**Run, subs. and verb. phrs. (colloquial).—**Generic for freedom or continuance. Thus (subs. phrs.), run (of dice, cards, or luck) = a spell or period of good or bad fortune; run (of a play, book, fashion, &c.) = the course of representation, sale, popularity; the run of things = the state of affairs; the run of a place = freedom of range; the run of one's teeth (or knife and fork) = victuals for nothing; a run on a bank = a steady call, through panic, on its resources; cattle-run = a farm where cattle roam at will; a run to town (or into the country) = a trip; to have (or lose) the run = to lose sight of; to get (or have) the run on = (1) to turn a joke on, and (2) to have the upper hand; to have a run = (1) to take a walk, a constitutional (q.v.); (2) to get an opportunity: see P.P.; and (3) to make a fight for anything; to run = to manage; to run a bluff = to carry things with a high hand; to run a buck (see Buck); to run for office (parliament, congress, &c.) = to start as a candidate; to run a rig = to play a trick; to run a chance (or risk) = to take the odds; to run a tilt at = to attack; to run the cutter = to smuggle; to run an eye over = (1) to glance at; to run the gauntlet (see Gauntlet); to run across = to meet casually; to run after = to court; to run against = (1) to come in collision with, (2) to calumniate, (3) to attack, and (4) to meet casually; to run amuck (see Amuck); to run away with = (1) to elope, (2) to steal; to run away with a notion = to be over credulous; to run big = to be out of training; to run counter = to oppose; to run down = to pursue, depreciate, attack; to run dry = to give out; to run foul of = to attack or antagonise; to run hard = (1) to threaten, endanger, make difficult, and (2) to equal or almost achieve; to run high
Run. 80 Run.

= (1) to be violent, (2) to excel in a marked degree; TO RUN IN = (1) to arrest, and (2) to introduce; TO RUN IN ONE'S HEAD = (1) to bear in mind, (2) to remember; TO RUN INTO THE GROUND = to carry to excess; TO RUN IT (American cadets') = to go beyond bounds; TO RUN LIKE MAD = to go at the top of one's speed; Fr. ventre à terre; TO RUN LOW = (1) to diminish, (2) to be of little account; TO RUN MAD AFTER = to have a strong desire for; TO RUN OFF = (1) to repeat, (2) to count; TO RUN OFF WITH = (1) to elope, (2) to carry beyond bounds; TO RUN OFF THE STRAIGHT (see STRAIGHT); TO RUN ON = to keep going: spec. to chatter; TO RUN ON ALL FOURS (see MILTS); TO RUN ON PATTENS (see PATTENS); TO RUN ON THE HIRL = to gad, to LOAF (q.v.); TO RUN ONE'S FACE (or SHAPE) = to obtain credit; TO RUN ONE'S HEAD INTO A NOOSE = to fall into a snare; TO RUN ONE'S TAIL = to live by prostitution; TO RUN ONE'S WEEK (Am. Univ.) = to trust to chance for success; TO RUN ONE WAY AND LOOK ANOTHER = to play a double game; TO RUN OUT = (1) to end, (2) to have had one's day, (3) to be lavish; TO RUN OUT ON = to enlarge on; TO RUN OVER = (1) to count, (2) to call to mind, (3) to examine, (4) to describe, and (5) to sum up; TO RUN RIOT = (1) to be violent, (2) to exaggerate, (3) to have plenty, (4) to be active, (5) to disobey; TO RUN RUSTY (see Rusty); TO RUN SLY (see SLY); TO RUN SMOOTH = to be prosperous; TO RUN THIN = to back out of a bargain; TO RUN TO = (1) to risk, (2) to suffice, (3) to afford; TO RUN TOGETHER = to grow like; TO RUN TO SEED = (1) to age, (2) to deteriorate; TO RUN THROUGH = (1) to be uniform, (2) to pervade, (3) to be present, (4) to kill, and (5) to be prodigal; TO RUN UP = (1) to increase, (2) to build, and (3) see RUNNER-UP; TO RUN UP AN ACCOUNT = (1) to get credit, (2) to get into debt, and (3) to charge; TO RUN UP BILLS = to obtain goods with no intention of paying; TO RUN UPON = (1) to quiz, (2) to require; TO RUN TO WASTE = (1) to empty, (2) to fritter away; TO RUN WILD = (1) to ROMP (q.v.), and (2) to riot; BY (or WITH) A RUN = suddenly; A RUN FOR ONE'S MONEY = a good time in exchange for a certain expenditure of energy and cash; RUN OFF ONE'S LEGS = (1) exhausted, (2) bankrupt; A NEAR RUN = (1) a close finish, (2) a bare escape, (3) cheek by jowl; RUN AFTER = in repute; RUN DOWN = seedy, poor. Also proverbs and sayings, 'To run where the devil drives'; 'To run through thick and thin'; 'His shoes are made of RUNNING leather'; 'To run a wild-goose chase'; 'The Coaches won't run over him' (i.e., 'He's in gaol'); 'He that runs may read' (said of things unmistakably plain); 'To run where the devil drives'; 'Run tap, run tapster' (RAY: 'of a tapster that drinks so much himself and is so free to others that he is fain to run away'); 'To hold with the hare and run with the hounds' (HEYWOOD, 1546). [Many of these colloquialisms are found passim in English literature, and, though fitly mentioned in this place, do not require extended illustration. Therefore, only early or striking quotations are given.]
Run.

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Run.

1812. AUSTEN, Pride and Prejudice, liii. I will not spend my hours in running after my neighbours.

1837. DICKENS, Pickwick, x. You have run off with this lady for the sake of her money. Ibid. (1843). Martin Chuzzlewit, xxx. I think of giving her a run in London for a change. Ibid. (1846). Cricket on Hearth, i. Busy . . . Caleb? 'Pretty well, John . . . There's rather a run on Noah's Arks at present.'

1847. PORTER, Quarter Race, 23. I would not advise any man to try to run over me.

1848. RUXTON, Far West, 103. From the run of the hills, there must be plenty of water.

c.1854. MACAULAY, Montgomery's Poems. The publications which have had a run during the last few years.

1860. Music Hall Song, 'Drink under the Licensing Act.' It may be your fate, If not walking quite straight, By blue Guardians to be run in.

1861. KINGSLEY, Ravenshoe, xxxvii. If any . . . burglar had [cracked] that particular crib . . . and got clear off with the swag he . . . might have been run . . . for Congress in a year or two.

1861. TIMES, 23 July. Is there such a thing as a run in calamity? Misfortunes, they say, never come single.

1864. LAURENCE, Guy Livingstone, xii. Livingstone headed the list, though Fallowfield ran him hard.

1865. KINGSLEY, Hillyars & Burtons, lix. He might have his run swept by fire . . . and be forced to hurry his sheep down to the boiling house.

1866. ELIOT, Felix Holt, xx. There was a great run on Gottleb's bank in '16. Ibid., xxv. For a man who had long ago run through his own money, servitude in a great family was the best kind of retirement after that of a pensioner.

1869. STOWE, Oldtown, 29. She had the in and out of the Sullivan house, and kind o' kept the run o' how things went and came into it.

1877. North Am. Rev., July, 5. They assumed the functions of all offices, including the courts of justice, and in many places they even run the churches.

1879. HOWELLS, Lady of the Aroostook, vii. "Every novelist runs a blonde heroine; I wonder why."

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d.1400. CHAUCER, Rom. of Rose. [OLIPHANT, New Eng., i. 400. There are . . . run down his fame, valour (in the new sense of worth) . . .].

c.1500. DUNBAR [OLIPHANT, New Eng., i. 365. Among the verbs are run down a man, take thy choice . . .].

1577. HARRISON, Description of England. [OLIPHANT, New Eng., i. 595. The verb run is applied in a new sense; a range of hills runs in a certain direction.]

1605. JONSON, Volpone, iii. 6. So of the rest till we have quite run through, And wearied all the fables of the gods. Ibid. (1601). Poetaster, ii. 1. These courtiers run in my mind still.

1613. PURCHAS, Pilgrimage, 196. And because these prayers are very many, therefore they run them over.

c.1617. HOWELL, Letters, i, v. 7. Jack Stanford would have run at him, but was kept off by Mr. Nicholas.

1678. BUTLER, Hudibras, iii. 2, 11. That first run all religion down.

1694. PENN, Rise and Prog. of Quakers, v. Some . . . who, through prejudice or mistake, ran against him.

1705. FARQUHAR, Twin Rivals, Pref. One reason that the galleries were so thin during the run of this play.

1709. STEELE, Tatler, 27. His desires ran away with him.

1710-3. SWIFT, Stella [OLIPHANT, New Eng., ii. 150. A book has a run like the old course; there is also a run of ill weather.]

1711. SPECTATOR, 262. I run over in my mind all the eminent persons in the nation. Ibid. (1712), 390. This creature, if not in any of their little cabals, is run down for the most censorious dangerous body in the world. Ibid. (1714), 592. Several of them lay it down as a maxim, that whatever dramatic performance has a long run, must of necessity be good for nothing; as though the first precept in poetry were not to please.

1726. POPE, Dunciad, i. 113. Now (shame to Fortune) an ill run at play Blank'd his bold visage.

1726. FIELDING, Pasquin, i. I read your comedy over last night . . . if it runs as long as it deserves, you will engross the whole season to yourself.

1748. SMOLETT, Rod. Random, xlvi. I would not have you run your head precipitately into a noose.
1879. *Auto. of Thief* [Macm. Mag., xl. 506]. 'I got run in, and was tried at Marylebone.'

1880. *Sims, Ballads of Babylon (Forgotten).* I made a success, and was lucky, the play ran half a year.

1883. *Referee,* 29 April, 7, 2. American evangelists and speculators who run salvation on much the same lines as Barnum runs his menagerie.

1883. *D. Telegraph,* 28 August, 5, 1. It does not always follow that the silly backers get a run for their money. The horse... may be scratched a few hours before the race. *Ibid.* (1883), 4 Oct., 3, 2. What I should like is a nice pair of spectacles, and, as far as my money would run to it, everything else accordin' sir. *Ibid.* (1885), 7 July. Marchant being foolishly run out. *Ibid.* (1886), 8 Feb. Coming down to the ground with a run.

1885. *Money Market Review,* 29 Aug. We were unable to run the mill.

1885. *Echo,* 8 Sep. The run upon the Bank of Ireland and the Provincial Bank was very severe.

1886. *Palmer,* *New and Old,* 62. If I had had time to follow his fortunes, it was not possible to keep the run of him.

1887. *Francis,* *Saddle and Moccasin.* I ran a bluff on 'em. They said they wasn't driving 'em anyhow, but they got started in the trail ahead of 'em, and it wasn't their business to turn 'em.

1888. *Bryce,* *American Commonwealth,* 1. 84. It is often said of the President that he is ruled—or, as the Americans express it, run—by his Secretary.


1889. *Marriott-Watson,* *Australian Wilds,* 135. Drummond, a young squatter in Otago, had succeeded to the management of the run on the death of his father.

1889. *Globe,* 11 Feb. Of late they have had a long run of luck.

1890. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 3 Mar., 5, 2. Mr. Depew asserts that he is running a railroad and not a Presidential boom.

1892. *Nisbet,* *Bushranger’s Sweetheart,* 22. Sailors, as a rule, are not friends of bailiffs or Custom House officers, and thus appreciate running the cutter.


1893. *Emerson,* *Signor Lippo,* xiv. Alright, give me due beonck quatro soldi per run and I'll bring you the duckets.

1895. *Iota,* *Comedy in Spasms,* iv. It will give a fellow quite an added cachet... to run so fine a woman as that, and pay off some old scores into the bargain.

1899. *Whiteing,* *John St.,* i. A coral island... run on principles of almost primitive Christianity.

1900. *White,* *West End,* 40. I always had an idea that the Guv'nor had some money, but I didn't imagine it would run to this. *Ibid.,* 157. 'Cricket tour,' said he, indignantly. 'I must get fit first. I feel quite run down.'

**Runabout, subs. (old).—** A gadabout; a vagabond.


**Run-down, subs. phr. (conjurers').—** The bridge between stage and auditorum; Fr. *practicable* and *tont.*

**Run-goods, subs. phr. (venery).—** 'A maidenhead, being a commodity never entered.'—Grose.

**Runner, subs. (printers').—** 1. See quot.

1892. *Jacobi,* *Some Notes on Books and Printing,* 47. Runners, s.v. Figures or letters placed down the length of a page to indicate the particular number or position of any given line.
2. (various). — A tout: e.g. (Stock Exchange) = a broker's assistant with a private canvassing connection; (racing) = a messenger stationed at a telegraph office to get early information; (old gaming) = see quot. 1731 (BAILEY); (American) = (1) a steamboat and railroad tout: see TICKET-SCALPER; and (2) a commercial traveller.

1731. St. James’s Evg. Post [SYDNEY, Eng. in 18th Cent., i. 229]. List of officers attached to the most notorious gaming houses . . . a RUNNER, who is to get intelligence of the justices' meetings, and when the constables are out.

1828. SMEATON, Doings in London, 'Humours of the Fleet.' Now mean as once profuse, the stupid sot Sits by a RUNNER’s side and damned his lot.

1869. Fraser’s Mag., British Merchant Seamen.' The “touter,” whose business it is to attract the sailor to his master’s lodgings by the judicious loan of money, the offer of grog or soft tack (bread); the RUNNER, who volunteers to carry his box of clothes and bedding free of charge to the same destination.


1383. CHAUCER, Canterbury Tales, 'Friar’s Tale,' Prol. 19. A Somnour is a RENNHER up and down.

c.1820. T. HUDSON . . . They straightway sent to Bow-street for the famous old RUNNER, Townsend.

1825. SCOTT, St. Ronan’s Well, iii. Constables, Bow-street RUNNERS, and such like.

1839. DICKENS, Oliver Twist, xxx. 'It’s the RUNNERS,' cried Brittles . . . 'The what?' . . . 'The Bow-street officers, sir.'

4. (common). — A wave: cf. ROLLER.

5. (nautical). — A smuggler. Also a crimp; a single rope rove through a moveable block; and (formerly) a vessel sailing without a convoy in time of war. [CLARK RUSSELL].

c.1730. NORTH, Lives of the Norths, ii. iii. The unfair traders and RUNNERS will undersell us. Ibid., Examen, 490. RUNNERS and trickers . . . that cover a contraband trade.

RUNNER-UP, subs. phr. (common).

—1. In coursing the hound taking second prize, losing only the final course against the winner; whence (2) any competitor running second or taking second place; whence RUN-UP = the race from the slips to the first turn of the hare: see TO RUN UP.

1834. Field, 6 Dec. The falling together of last year’s winner and RUNNER-UP.

RUNNING, subs. (racing). — Pace; staying power. Whence, IN (or OUT) OF THE RUNNING = (1) in (or out) of competition; (2) qualified (or not); (3) likely to win (or not); TO MAKE GOOD RUNNING = to do well; TO MAKE GOOD ONE’S RUNNING = to do as well as one’s rival; TO MAKE THE RUNNING = to force the pace; spec. (racing) to start a second-rate horse at a high speed with a view of giving a better chance to a ‘stayer’ belonging to the same owner; TO TAKE UP THE RUNNING = (1) to increase one’s pace, (2) to take the lead or most active part.

1858. TROLLOPE, Dr. Thorne, v. But silence was not dear to the heart of the honourable John, and so he TOOK UP THE RUNNING. Ibid. (1864). SMALL House at Allington, ii. The world had esteemed him when he first MADE GOOD HIS RUNNING with the Lady Fanny.

1861. KINGSLEY, Ravenshoe, xxxvi. Ben Caunt was to MAKE THE RUNNING for Haphazard.
1889. Bird o’ Freedom, 7 Aug., 3. Stewart made the running so fast that I couldn’t see the way he went.

1892. Tit-Bits, 17 Sep., 423, 2. There is a striking variation in the periods at which women retire from the running, if we may be permitted to make use of a sporting phrase in speaking of such a subject.

Adj. (old).—Hasty.

1601. Shakspere, Henry VIII., i. 4. Had the Cardinal But half my lay thoughts in him, some of these should find a running banquet ere they rested. Ibid., v. 4, 69. There they are like to dance these three days; besides the running banquet of two beadles that is to come.

Prep. (old).—Approaching; going on for: cf. rising.

1614. Fletcher, Wit Without Money, v. 2. Before I buy a bargain of such runts, I’ll buy a college for bears, and live among ’em.

1711. Addison, Spectator, No. 108. This overgrown runt has struck off his heels, lowered his foretop, and contracted his figure, that he might be looked upon as a member of this newly erected society [The Short Club].

1721. Centlivre, Artifice, iii. This city spoils all servants: I took a Welsh runt last spring.

1848. Jones, Sketches of Travel, 115. ‘No indeed,’ ses another little runty-lookin’ feller—we’ve got enuf to do to take care of our own babys in these diggins.

RUNNING-GLASIER, subs. phr. (old).—A thief: a sham glazier.

RUNNING-HORSE, subs. phr. (old).—A clap (q.v.); a gleet (Grose).

RUNNING-LEATHER. To have shoes of running leather, verb. phr. (common).—To be given to rambling.

RUNNING- (or FLYING) PATTERER (or STATIONER), subs. phr. (old).—A hawker of ballads, dying-speeches, newspapers, and books: cf. PINNER-UP (B. E., and Grose).

1851-61. Mayhew, London Lab., 1. 228. The latter include the running patterers, or death-hunters; being men (no women) engaged in vending last dying speeches and confessions.

1864. Hotten, Slang Dict., s.v. Running stationer. Persons of this class formerly used to run, blowing a horn. Nowadays . . . these peripatetic newsmen bawl in quiet London thoroughfares, to the disturbance of the residents.

RUNNING-RUMBLE. See RUMBLER.

RUNNING-SMOBBLE, subs. phr. (old).—‘Snatching goods off a counter, and throwing them to an accomplice, who brushes off with them’ (Grose).

RUNNING-SNAVEL, subs. phr. (old).—A thief whose speciality is the kinchin-lay (q.v.): see snaffle.

RUNT, subs. (old).—A term of contempt: specifically of an old woman. Whence runty = surly; boorish. Also a short, squat man or woman [cf. Welsh runts = small cattle].

1864. Fletchin, Wit without Money, v. 2. Before I buy a bargain of such runts, I’ll buy a college for bears, and live among ’em.

1711. Addison, Spectator, No. 108. This overgrown runt has struck off his heels, lowered his foretop, and contracted his figure, that he might be looked upon as a member of this newly erected society [The Short Club].

1721. Centlivre, Artifice, iii. This city spoils all servants: I took a Welsh runt last spring.

1848. Jones, Sketches of Travel, 115. ‘No indeed,’ ses another little runty-lookin’ feller—we’ve got enuf to do to take care of our own babys in these diggins.

RUNNIENT-TO-SEED, phr. (colloquial).—Pregnant; in pod (q.v.).

RUOF, adj. (back slang).—Four.

RURAL, subs. (old colloquial).—A rustic.

1604. Middleton, Father Hubbard’s Tales. Amongst rurals verse is scarcely found.

1656. Ford, Sun’s Darling, ii. Beckon the rurals in; the Country-gray Seldom ploughs treason.

To do a rural, verb. phr. (common).—To ease oneself in the open: cf. to pluck a rose.
RUSH, subs. and verb. (common).
—Generic for violence. Whence (1) as subs. (old) = robbery with violence: distinguished from a RAMP (q.v.), which might refer to the ‘lifting’ of a single article, whereas THE RUSH involves CLEANING OUT (q.v.); hence (2) any swindle; and, as verb.—to rob, to cheat, to extort (e.g., ‘I RUSHED the old girl for a quid’): also THE RUSH-DODGE, and TO GIVE ONE THE RUSH (PARKER, GROSE, VEAUX). Into modern colloquial usage RUSH enters largely: as subs. = (1) extreme urgency of affairs; (2) a great demand, a RUN (q.v.); (3) a stampede of horses or cattle; (4) a mellay; (5) in Amer. schools = (a) a gabbled or brilliant recitation, and (b) a very successful ‘pass’; (6) a forward’s work at football: whence a SCRIMMAGE (q.v.), or play in which the ball is forced. As verb. = (1) to hurry, to force (or advance) a matter with undue haste; (2) to go for an opponent blindly: chiefly pugilists; (3) to charge or attack wildly; and (4) at football = (a) to force a ball, (b) to secure a goal by forcing. Also TO DO A RUSH (racing) = to back a SAFE-UN (q.v.), and (among bookmakers’ touts) TO BET FLASH (q.v.), to induce business, to BONNET (q.v.). Whence RUSHER = (1) a cheat, a thief (spec. a thief working a house insufﬁciently guarded); (2) a man of sensational energy, as a ranting divine, a bawling politician, a reckless punter, a wild-hitting pugilist; and (3) a forward good at running ball in hand or forcing the play (football). Also, TO ROAM ON THE RUSH (racing) = to swerve from the straight at the spurt for the finish; ON (or WITH) A RUSH = with spirit, energetically; ON THE RUSH = on the run, hard at it; TO RUSH THE SEASON = to anticipate social and other functions; TO DO A RUSH UP THE STRAIGHT (the FRILLS, or PETTICOATS) = to possess without further ado a yielding woman: see GROPE; TO RUSH A BILL (parliamentary) = to put a bill through, (a) without debate, or (b) by closing the Opposition.

1595. SHAKSPEARE, Rom. and Juliet, iii. 3, 25. The kind prince, Taking thy part, hath RUSH’d aside the law.

1825. JONES, True Bottom’d Boxer [Univ. Songst., ii. 96]. For taking and giving, for sparring and RUSHING it. Ibid. With chancery suiting, and sparring and RUSHING.

1871. De Vere, Americanisms, 171. The miner in California and Nevada has been known, in times of a RUSH, to speak of a place where he could stand leaning against a stout post, as his diggings for the night.

1872. Daily Telegraph, 9 Feb. The place was RUSHED—an expressive word, which signifies that the diggers swarmed to the spot in such crowds as to render merely foolish any resistance which an owner might be inclined to make. Ibid. (1874), 4 Aug. A number of bills are RUSHED through Parliament. Ibid. (1883), 22 May, 2, 3. The sore point of intrigue and bribery too well known by those familiar with the RUSHING of private bills through the American Senate as existing in that Assembly.

1881. Grant, Bush Life. A confused whirl of dark forms swept before him, and the camp so full of life a minute ago is desolate. It was a RUSH, a stampede.

1885. Punch, 24 Jan., 42. But, in affairs of empire, Have you been fogged—or RUSHED?
1887. PAYN, *Glow Worm Tales*, 123. That a fraud had been committed on us was certain, and a fraud of a very clumsy kind... he had rushed us as the phrase goes.

1888. BOLDREWOOD, *Robbery Under Arms*, xxiii. I've known cases where a single bushranger was rushed by a couple of determined men. *Ibid.*, xxiii. It's no use trying the rush dodge with them.

1888. BESANT, *Fifty Years Ago*, 137. Peeresses... occupied every seat, and even rushed the reporters' gallery.

1889. Illustrated Bits, 13 July, 3. A girl of sixteen who receives calls from admirers, is commonly considered to be rushing the season. She is precocious and the reverse of passé.

1889. Lic. Vict. Gaz., 4 Jan. Ain't that the swine of a snob that rushed me at Battersea?

1890. Nineteenth Century, xxvi, 854. There was a slight boom in the mining market, and a bit of a rush on American rails.

1892. Kipling, Barrack Room Ballads, 'Fuzzy Wuzzy.' A happy day with Fuzzy on the Rush.

1892. NISBET, *Bushranger's Sweetheart*, 96. "Jim always meant business wherever he went," she said confidentially, "and we should be sure to hear of that rush if he had taken it up."

1892. N.A. Review [Century]. Hazing, rushing, secret societies, society imitations and badges... are unknown at Oxford and Cambridge.

1892. Sci. American [Century]. In rushing, as well as in following or heading off... the front lines get the most shocks.

1897. Kennard, *Girl in Brown Habit*, x. She's a rusher, and just the animal to stick her forefeet into a drain like this, especially when she got excited.

1901. D. Telegraph, 9 Nov., 7, 2. At the next lecture the Swami made a dead rush to get those present to join.

7. (old).—The lowest minimum of value: cf. straw, rap, cent, &c. [See quot. 1591.]

1362. Langland, Piers Plowman, 2421. And yet yeve ye me nevere The worthe of a rishe.

c.1440. Generydes [E.E.T.S.], I. 1680. Of all his payne he wold not set a rishe.

c.1540. Doctour Doubble Ale, 279. By them I set not a rysh.

1591. Lvly, *Sappho and Phaon*, ii. 4. But bee not pinned alwayes on her sleeves; strangers have green rushies, when daily guests are not worth a rush.

1593. Shakspeare, *Com. of Errors*, iv. 3. A rush, a hair, a drop of blood, a pin, a nut, a cherry-stone.


1767. Sterne, *Tristam Shandy*, ix. 17. I would not, my good people! give a rush for your judgment.

RUSH-RING. To marry with a rush-ring, verb. phr. (old).—

1. To marry in jest; and (2) to feign marriage. See quot. 1776.


1598. Shakspeare, *All's Well*, ii. 2, 22. As sit... as Tib's rush for Tom's forefinger.

c.1610. Fletcher, *F. Shepherdess*, i. 3. Or gather rushes to make many a ring, For thy long finger.

1668. Davenant, *Rivals*. I'll crown thee with a garland of straw then, And I'll marry thee with a rush-ring.

1684. Durfey, *Winchester Wedding [Several New Songs]*. And Tommy was so to Katty, And wedded her with a rush-ring. And thus of Fifty fair Maids... Scarce Five of the Fifty was left ye, That so did return again.

1776. Brand, *Pop. Antig.*, ii. 38. A custom... appears ancienly to have prevailed, both in England and in other countries, of marrying with a rush-ring; chiefly practised, however, by designing men, for the purposes of debauching their mistresses, who sometimes were so infatuated as to believe that this mock ceremony was a real marriage.

RUSH-BUCKLER, subs. phr. (old).—

A violent bully.

1551. More, *Utopia*, ii. 4. Take into this number also their servants: I mean all that flock of stout bragging rush-bucklers.
RUSSIA, subs. (thieves').—A pocket-book; a READER (q.v.).

1877. Five Years’ Penal Servitude, iii. 244. It was the swell’s RUSSIA—a RUSSIA, you know, is a pocket-book.

RUSSIAN-LAW, subs. phr. (old colloquial).—See quot.

1641. John Day, Parliament of Bees, 65 (Bullen). This three-pile-velvet rascall, widows decayer, The poore frys beggerer and rich Bees betrayer, Let him have RUSSIAN LAW for all his sins. Die. What’s that? Imp. A 100 blowes on his bare shins.

RUST, verb. (streets').—See quot.

1884. Cornhill Mag., June, 620. So far as Slinger has any business, it is that of RUSTING, i.e., collecting — on the chiffonier system — old metal and disposing of it to the marine-store dealers . . . though RUST is the primary object of his explorations of rubbish heaps, all is fish that comes to his net.

To NAB THE RUST, verb. phr. (old).—I. To take offence; to get restive: cf. RUSTY.—ROSE (1785).

ENGLISH SYNONYMS.—To chew oneself; to comb one’s hair; to cut up rusty; to get dandered (or one’s dander up); huffed or huffy; in a pelter; in a scot; in a wax; one’s mad up; on the high ropes; the needle; the monkey up; the monkey on one’s back; popped; shirty; the spur; waxy; to have one’s bristles raised; one’s shirt or one’s tail out; to lose one’s vest; to be miffed; to pucker up; to squall; to stand on one’s hind leg; to throw up buckets.

FRENCH SYNONYMS. — Avoir mange de oseille; avoir son cran; avoir son arnaud (also être arnaud); en rester tout bleu; avoir son bœuf; gober sa chèvre; entrer en tempête; monter à l’arbre or l’escalier.

SPANISH SYNONYMS.—Amon- tanar; atocinar; barba; desban- tizarse despampanar; embersen- charse; escamonearse; mosqurear.

2. (old).—To receive punishment unexpectedly.

3. (old).—See quot.

1853. A. Mayhew, Paved with Gold, iii. v. There’s no chance of NABBING ANY RUST (taking any money).

RUSTIC, subs. (old: now recognised).—A clownish Country Fellow.'—B. E. (c. 1696).

RUSTICATE, verb. (University).—To banish by way of punishment; TO SEND DOWN (q.v.). Hence RUSTICATION (ROSE).

1714. Spectator, 596. After this I was deeply in love with a milliner, and at last with my bedmaker, upon which I was sent away, or, in the university phrase, RUSTICATED for ever.

1779. Johnson, Life of Milton, 12. It seems plain . . . that he had incurred RUSTICATION . . . with perhaps the loss of a term.

1794. Gent. Mag., 1085. And was very near RUSTICATION, merely for kicking up a row after a beakering party.

1841. Lever, Charles O’Malley, lxxix. Cecil Cavendish . . . has been RUSTICATED for immersing four bricklayers in that green receptacle of stagnant water and duckweed yeclpt “the Haha.”

1843. Thackeray, Fitz-Boodle’s Confess. Then came demand for an apology; refusal on my part; appeal to the dean; convocation; and RUSTICATION of George Savage Fitz-Boodle.

1853. Bradley, Verdant Green, iv. Our hero . . . missed the moral of the story and took the RUSTICATION for a kind forgiveness of injuries.

1885. D. Telegraph, 29 Oct. Students who are liable at any moment to be RUSTICATED.

RUSTLE, verb. (American).—To bestir oneself; to grapple with circumstances; to rise superior to the event. Whence RUSTLER
Rusty

= (1) an energetic resourceful man; and (2) a rowdy, a desperado: spec. (Western States) a cattle-lifter. **Rustling =** active, energetic, **smart** (q.v.).

1872. S. L. Clemens, **Innocents at Home,** 20. Pard, he was a rustler.

1882. Century Mag., Aug., 508. I'll **rustle around** and pick up something. *Ibid.* Rustle the things off that table. *Ibid.* To say that a man is a rustler is the highest indorsement a Dakotan can give. It means that he is pushing, energetic, smart, and successful.

1884. Century, xxxvii. 770. They're a thirsty crowd, an' it comes expensive; but they're worth it, fer they're rustlers, ivery wan of thim.

1889. Harper's Mag., lxxi. 190. Rustle now, boys, rustle! for you have a long and hard day's work before you.

1892. Scotsman, 7 May, 'Rustlers' and 'Regulators.' The lawless element . . . not content with stealing cattle, openly defied the authorities. In June . . . an expedition started . . . and the result was that sixty-one thieves were hanged, after a pitched battle between the cattle men and the rustlers.

**Rusty,** subs. (thieves').—An informer.

1840. Lytton, Paul Clifford, xxxiv. He'll turn a rusty, and scrag one of his pals!

*Adj.* (also **Resty**) (colloquial).

—Ill-tempered; sullen; restive; insolent; or (Grose) 'out of use': whence to **ride rusty** or **nab the rust:** see **Rust**; and **rusty-guts** (B. E., Grose) = a churl.

1362. Langland, **Piers Plowman,** 3941. Robyn the ribaudour For hise rusty wordes.

[?]. Coventry Myst. [Shakspeare Soc.], 47. Rustynes of synne is cauose of these wawys.

c.1625. Court and Times Chas. I., 1. 36. In the meantime, there is much urging and spurring the parliament for supply and expedition, in both which they will prove somewhat rustv.

1649. Milton, **Iconoclastes,** xxiv. The master is too rusty or too rich to say his own prayers.

1662. Fuller, **Worthies,** ii. 293. This Nation long restive and rusty in ease and quiet.

1706. Ward, Wooden World, 22. If he stand on his Punctilio's . . . he is immediately proclaimed throughout the Fleet a resty Puppy.

1772. Bridges, Burlesque Homer, 74. They're not to blame for being crusty, Twould make a Highlander ride rusty.

d.1794. Colman, The Gentleman, No. 5. His brown horse, Orator, took rust, ran out of the course, and was distanced.

1815. Scott, Guy Mannering, xxviii. The people got rusty about it, and would not deal. *Ibid.* (1821), Pirate, xxxix. Even Dick Fletcher rides rusty on me now and then.

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. . . . If then she [a cat] turns rusty . . . he'll [a monkey] . . . give her a nip with his teeth.

1860. Punch, xxxix. 177. He don't care in whose teeth he runs rusty.

1863. Reade, **Hard Cash,** xlv. They watched the yard till dusk, when its proprietor ran rusty and turned them out.

1864. Eton School Days, xix. What is the good of turning rusty? with me, too. I haven't done anything.

1866. Eliot, Felix Holt, xi. Company that's got no more orders to give, and wants to turn up rusty to them that has, had better be making room for filling it.


**RUSTY-FUSTY-DUSTY,** adj. and adv. (old colloquial). — Begrimed; malodorous and dirty.

1362. Taylor, Works, ii. 24. Our cottage that for want of use was musty, And most extremly rusty-fusty-dusty.
Rusty Buckles.

Rusty Buckles (The), subs. phr. military.—The Second Dragoon Guards (Queen’s Bays): also “The Bays.”

Ruttish, adj. (venery).—Lecherous (Grose): also in rut and rutty. Hence rutting (or rutting-sport) = the deed of kind; rut, verb. (see quot. 1679); and rutter (q.v.).

1598. Shakspeare, All’s Well, iv. 3, 243. A foolish idle boy, but for all that very ruttish.

1670. Cotton, Scoffer Scoffe [Works (1725), 192]. What with some Goddes he’d have bin Playing, belike, at In-and-In, And would be at the Rutting-sport?

1679. Dryden, Ovid’s Metam., x. What piety forbids the lusty ram, Or more salacious goat, To rut their dam?

To keep a rut, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To play the meddler; to make mischief.

Rutting (or rattat), subs. (back slang).—A potato; a ‘tatur.’

Rutter, subs. (venery).—1. A man or woman in rut (q.v.); and (2) Elizabethan for the German reiter.

1596. Lodge, Wit’s Miserie. Some authors have compared it to a rutter’s codpiece.

c.1618. Fletcher, Custom of Country, iii. 3. The rutter, too, is gone. Ibid. (c.1620), The Woman’s Prize, i. 4. Such a regiment of rutters Never defied men braver.

Ry, subs. (Stock Exchange).—A dishonest practice; a sharp dodge.

Ryder, subs. (common).—A cloak.

Rye. See Romany.

Rye-buck, adv. (American).—All right; o. k. (q.v.).
A, adj. (showmen's).
—Six.

1893. Emerson, Lippo, xx. Vell, when I got well I was hired out to a woman for a soldi a day.

SABBATH-DAY'S JOURNEY, subs. phr. (colloquial).—A short walk: also (ironically) an excuse for not stirring.

SABE (SAVE, or SAVVY), subs. (American).—Shrewdness; NOUS (q.v.); GUMPTION (q.v.).

SABLE-MARIA. See BLACK MARIA.

SABIN, subs. (old).—A whimster.

1637. Holland, Camden, 542. Grimsby, which our SABINS, or conceited persons dreaming what they list . . . will have to be so called of one Grimes a merchant.

SACER, subs. (Harrow School).—The sacrament: cf. SOCCER, RUGGER, BREKKER, COLLECKER, &c.

SACHEVEREL, subs. (old).—'The iron door, or blower, to the mouth of a stove: from a divine of that name who made himself famous for blowing the coals of dissension in the latter end of the reign of Queen Ann' (Grose, Halliwell).

SACK, subs. (Old Cant).—A pocket. As verb = to pocket; TO DIVE INTO A SACK = to pick a pocket.

PHRASES are: TO GIVE (or GET) THE SACK (BAG, BILLET, BULLET, CANVAS, KICK-OUT, MITTEN, PIKE, or ROAD) = to give or get discharge: from employment, office, position, &c.: see BAG: also TO SACK and TO BESTOW (or GET) THE ORDER OF THE SACK; TO BUY THE SACK = to get drunk (Grose); TO BREAK A BOTTLE IN AN EMPTY SACK = 'a bubble bet, a sack with a bottle in it not being an empty sack' (Grose); MORE SACKS TO THE MILL! = (1) Pile it on! a call to increased exertion, and (2) plenty in store.

1607. Dekker and Webster, Westward Hoe, ii. i. There's other irons i' th' fire, more sacks are coming to the mill.


1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends, ii. 247. Don't . . . fancy, because a man's nous seems to lack, That whenever you please, you can give him the sack.

1864. Yates, Broken to Harness, xxi. If it rested with me, doctor, I'd give him unlimited leave, confer on him the order of the sack.
Sacrifice.

1867. All Year Round, 13 July, 55.
When hands are being sacked.

1895. Standard, 18 Ap., 1. Thus giving the sack arose from the fact that masters or mistresses gave dismissed servants a rough bag in which to pack up their belongings, in order to expedite their departure.

You must sack your keeper. He's not fit to live in the same country with a Godfearing fox.

SACRIFICE, subs. (Trade Cant).—The surrender, or loss of profit: as verb = to sell regardless of cost.

1844. Dickens, Chimes, ii. It's patterns were last year's and going at a sacrifice.

SAD, adj. and adv. (colloquial).—Mischievous; troublesome; of little account; merry; fast: as a SAD DOG = (1) 'a wicked debauched fellow' (Grose), and (2) a playful reproach.

1706. Farquhar, Recruiting Officer, iii. 2. Syl. . . . you are an ignorant, pretending, impudent coxcomb. Brat. Ay, ay, a SAD DOG.

1713. Swift, Stella [Oliphant, New Eng.], ii. 150. The word sad is much used; a man is a SAD DOG; sour grapes are sad things.

1713. Steele, Spectator, No. 448. Then does he begin to call himself the saddest fellow, in disappointing so many places.

1726. Vanbrugh, Provoked Husband, iii. 1. When a sad wrong word is rising just to one's tongue's end, I give a great gulp, and swallow it.

1748. Smollett, Rod. Randon, xvi I suppose you think me a SAD DOG . . . I . . . confess that appearances are against me.

1759. Goldsmith, Bee, No. 2. You have always been a SAD DOG—you'll never come to good, you'll never be rich.

1771. Mackenzie, Man of Feeling, xiv. I have been told as how London is a sad place.

1836. Dickens, Sketches by Boz, 141. Mr. Tones used to poke him in the ribs, and tell him he had been a SAD DOG in his time.


1611. Chapman, May-day, iii. 2. Mine uncle Lorenzo's maid, Rose . . . he will needs persuade me her old master keeps her for his own SADDLE.

1621. Burton, Anat. Melan., III. iii. i. 2. The adulterer sleeping now was riding on his master's SADDLE.

1704. Brown, Works, ii. 312. Damme, if I car'd a rush who rode in my SADDLE.

2. theatrical).—See quot.

1781. Parker, View of Society, i. 54. His conscience carried him to extort two guineas on each person's benefit by way of SADDLE (which among theatrical people is an additional charge upon the benefits).

PHRASES. — TO PUT THE SADDLE ON THE RIGHT HORSE = (1) to blame (or praise) where justly due, and (2) to cast a burden where best borne; TO SUIT ONE AS A SADDLE SUITS A SOW = to become ill; to be incongruous; TO SADDLE A MARKET (Amer. Stock Exchange) = to foist a stock on the market; TO SADDLE ONE WITH A THING = to impose a thing on, to constrain to accept an unwelcome gift; 'He has a saddle to fit every horse' = 'He has a salve (or remedy) for every sore (or mishap)'; TO SADDLE THE SPIT = to give a dinner or supper (Grose); TO SADDLE ONE'S NOSE = to wear spectacles (Grose); TO SADDLE A PLACE = to oblige the owner to pay a certain portion of his income to someone nominated by the donor' (Grose); SADDLE-LEATHER = the skin of the posterior{s}; SADDLE-SICK = galled by riding (Grose).
1607. Dekker and Webster, Westward Ho, v. i. How say you, wenches? Have I set the saddle on the right horse?

c.1616. Court and Times James I. [Oliphant, New Eng., ii. 70. We see set the saddle on the right horse . . .].

1668. Dryden, All for Love, Preface. A wiser part to set the saddle on the right horse.

1708-10. Swift, Polite Conversation, ii. Ld. Smart. Why, he us'd to go very fine, when he was here in Town. Sir John. Ay; and it became him, as a saddle becomes a sow.

1744. North, Lord Guildford, i. 314. His . . . lordship had done well to have shown . . . what was so added, and then the saddle would have fallen on the right horse.

1837. Carlyle, Diamond Necklace, i. Roland . . . was saddle-sick, constipated.

1860. Thackeray, Lovel the Widower. Lady B. sailed in . . . many brooches, bangles, and other gimbobs ornamenting her plenteous person.
A man must dismiss all thoughts of masquerade dresses, and just sail in and make an unmitigated fool of himself.

The verdict of the jury was that William ought to have sailed in an hour and a half earlier.

**SAILOR’S-PLEASURE, **subs. phr. (nautical).—‘Yarning, smoking, dancing, growling, &c.’ (CLARK RUSSELL).

**SAILOR’S-WAITER, **subs. phr. (nautical).—See quot.

The second mate is neither officer nor man . . . The crew call him the SAILOR’S-WAITER, as he has to furnish them with spun yarn, marline, and all other stuffs that they need in their work...

**SAINT, **subs. (old).—‘A piece of spoiled timber in a coachmaker’s shop, like a saint, devoted to the flames’ (GROSE).

**ST. ANTHONY’S PIGS (see quot. 1662); ST. GEOFFREY’S DAY = never (GROSE); see QUEEN DICK; ST. GILES’S BREED = ‘Fat, ragged, and saucy’ (GROSE); ST. GILES’S GREEK = Cant, slang (q.v.), peddler’s French (GROSE); ST. LAWRENCE’S TEARS (see quot. 1874); ST. LUBBOCK’S DAY = a bank-holiday; ST. LUKE’S BIRD = an ox (GROSE); ST. MARKET’S ALE = water: see ADAM’S ALE; ST. MARTIN’S EVIL = drunkenness; ST. MARTIN’S RING = a copper-gilt ring; ST. MARTIN’S LACE = imitation gold lace, stage tinsel: see quot. 1607 (DEKKER); ST. MONDAY = ‘a holiday taken on Monday to recover from the effects of the Sunday’s rest’ (GROSE): whence MONDAYISH = lazy: see COBBLER’S SUNDAY and SHOEMAKER’S HOLIDAY; ST. NICHOLAS (see NICHOLAS); ST. PATRICK (or ST. PATRICK’S WELL) = the best whiskey; ST. JOHN TO BORROW (see BORROW); TO DINE WITH ST. ANTHONY (cf. DUKE HUMPHREY); RIDING ST. GEORGE = ‘the woman uppermost in the amorous congress, that is the dragon on St. George’ (GROSE): whence ST. GEORGE A-HORSE-BACK = the act of kind (see quot. 1617); THE ’SPITAL STANDS TOO NIGH ST. THOMAS A’ WATERINGS = ‘Widows who shed most tears are sometimes guilty of such indiscretions as render them proper subjects for the public hospitals’ (HAZLITT); SAINT OF THE SAUCEPAN = an expert cook.

. . . . Plaine Percivall[BRAND, Pop. Antig., ii. 27, note]. I doubt whether all be gold that glistereth, sith SAINT MARGET’S RINGS be but copper within, though they be gilt without.

. . . . Puritan, i. 1. Here’s a puling . . . my mother weeps for all the women that ever buried husbands . . . Alas! a small matter lucks a handkerchief! and sometimes THE ’PITAL STANDS TOO NIGH SAINT THOMAS A’ WATERINGS.

. . . . Dekker, Westward Ho, ii. 1. You must to the Pawn to buy lawn; to SAINT MARTIN’s for LACE.

c.1617. FLETCHER, Mad Lover, i. 1. How our SAINT GEORGES will bestride THE DRAGONS, The red and ramping dragons.

1632. MASSINGER, Fatal Dowry, iii. 1. Charal. You did not see him on my couch within, Like GEORGE A-HORSEBACK, on her, nor a-bed?
1648. *A Brown Dozen of Drunkards*. ... By one that hath drunk at St. Patrick's Well [*Title*].

1662. Fuller, *Worthies* (London), i. 65. Nicholas Heath ... noted for one of Saint Anthonie's Pigs therein (so were the Scholars of that school [City of London] commonly called, as those of St. Paul, Paul's Pigeons).

1749. Smollett, *Gil Blas* [ROUTELEDGE], 42. That Saint of the Saucepan ... leaving him ... to ... his usual nap after dinner, we took away, and demolished the remainder with appetites worthy of our master. Ibid., *Gil Blas* (1812), ii. viii. Comedians ... do not travel a-foot, and dine with St. Anthony.

1791. Lackington, *Letter*, iii. [Life, 1803]. While he was keeping Saint Monday, I was with boys of my own age, fighting, cudgel-playing, wrestling, &c.

1823. Moncrieff, *Tom and Jerry*, 5. Flash, my young friend, or slang, as others call it, is the classical language of the Holy Land; in other words, St. Giles's Greek.

1874. Eng. Mechanic [Davies]. The familiar shower of shooting stars [9th to 11th Aug.] known of old as St. Lawrence's tears, but now termed—rather more scientifically—the Perseids, from the point in the heavens whence they appear to radiate.

1882. Riddell, *Weird Stories, The Open Door*. We were always counting the weeks to next St. Lubbock's Day.

1884. *D. News*, 22 July, 5, 3. It was evident that universal homage was being paid to Saint Monday. Working London proclaimed a general holiday.

1902. *Pall Mall Gazette*, 26 July, 3, 1. It [Coronation day] will be the most memorable Bank Holiday that has yet figured in the annals of St. John Lubbock.

**SAKE.** For sake's sake (any sake, goodness sake, &c.), *phr.* (colloquial).—A strong appeal. For old sake's sake = for 'auld lang syne.'

1670. Howard, *Committee*, iii. Run after him, and save the poor fellow for sake's sake.

1857. Hughes, *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, i. iii. Us be cum to pay 'e a visit ... For old sake's sake.


**SALE.** *House of Sale, subs. phr. (old).*—See quot. and NANNY-HOUSE.

1596. Shakspeare, *Hamlet*, ii. i. 60. I saw him enter such a house of sale, Videlicet, a brothel.

See Wash-sale.
SALESMAN’S-DOG, subs. phr. (old).
—A shop tout ; a BARKER (q.v.).
—GROSE.

SALISBURY, subs. (political : obsolete).—See quot.

1890. Standard, 3 Mar., 3, 4 [Mr. Lanschere loquitur]. Some time ago they invented a word for the Marquess’s statements. They said, “When you are telling a lie and want to tell it civilly, say you are telling a SALISBURY.”

1890. Pall Mall Gaz., 1 Mar., 5, r. Lord Salisbury’s evasion, which past experience, even without the facts, suggested was a SALISBURY. Ibid., 6, r. The famous SALISBURY about the Secret-Treaty . . . must henceforth be read “cum grano salis-bury.”

SALLY. See Aunt Sally.

SALLY-PORT, subs. phr. (venery).—The female pudendum: see MONOSYLLABLE.

1656. FLETCHER, Martialis. Torches can Best enter at the SALLI-PORT of man.

SALLINGER’S- (or SALLENGER’S—i.e., ST. LEGER’S) ROUND. To dance SALLINGER’S-round, verb. phr. (old).—To wanton; to copulate: cf. THE TUNE OF THE SHAKING OF THE SHEET. [SALLINGER’S ROUND = a loose ballad and tune, tempus Elizabeth.]

1698. London Spy [NARES]. It will restore an old man of threescore, to the juvenality of thirty, or make a girl at fourteen, with drinking but one glass, as ripe as an old maid of four and twenty. ‘Twill make a parson dance SALLINGER’S-round, a puritan lust after the flesh.

SALMAGUNDY (or SALMON-GUNDY), subs. (old).—1. See quot. Hence (2) = a cook.

1748. SMOLLETT, Rod. Random, xxvi. Ordering the boy to bring a piece of salt beef from the brine, cut off a slice, and mixed it with an equal quantity of onions, which seasoning with a moderate proportion of pepper and salt he brought it into a consistence with oil and vinegar. Then tasting the dish, assured us, it was the best Salmagundy that he had ever made.

SALMON (or SALOMON), subs. (Old Cant).—The mass; ‘the Beggars Sacrament or Oath.’ [SMYTH-PALMER, Folk Etymology: ‘probably a corruption of Fr. serment’;
OLIPHANT, New Eng., i. 384, ‘Henry VIII., when surprised, cries by the mass (ELLIS, Letters, III. i. 196, 1513-25); this was to become a common oath all through the country.’] (HARMAN, DEKKER, ROWLANDS, HEAD, B. E., BAILEY, GROSE, EGAN, BEE.)

c.1536. COPLAND, Spyttel-hous [HAZLITT, Pop. Poet., iv.]. By SALMON, and thou shalt pek my jere.

1611. MIDDLETON, Roaring Girl, v. 1. I have, by the SALOMON, a doxy that carries a kinchin-mort in her slate at her back.

1614. OVERBURY, Characters, ‘A Canting Rogue.’ He will not beg out of his limit though hee starve; nor break his oath if hee swear by his SALOMAN . . . though you hang him.

1622. FLETCHER, Beggar’s Bush, ‘Mauder’s Initiation.’ I . . . stall thee by the SALMON into clowes.

1641. BROME, Jovial Crew, ii. By SALAMON, I think my mort is in drink.

1707. SHIRLEY, Triumph of Wit, ‘Mauder’s Praise of His Strowling Mort.’ Doxy, oh! thy glaziers shine As glimmer; by the SALMON!

1749. MOORE-CAREW, Oath of Canting Crew. And as I keep to the foregone, So may help me SALAMON!

1815. SCOTT, Guy Mannering, xxxiv. She swore by the SALMON.

SALMON-AND-TROUT, subs. phr. (rhyming).—The mouth: see POTATO-TRAP.

SALT, subs. (common).—1. A sailor: esp. an old hand: also SALT-WATER.
1835. Dana, Two Years, i. My complexion and hands were enough to distinguish me from the regular salt.


1844. Selby, London By Night, i. I am too old a salt to allow myself to drift on the quicksand of woman's perfidy.

1844. Selby, Jack's Courtship, viii. He can turn his hand to anything, like most old salts.

1861. Hughes, Tom Brown at Oxford, viii. The crew in oilskins, the older salts among them casting their eyes to windward at the stormy look of the driving sky.

1886. Brewer, Phrase and Fable, s.v. Salthill. At the Eton Montem the captain of the school used to collect money from the visitors on Montem day. Standing on a mound at Slough, he waved a flag, and persons appointed for the purpose collected the donations. The mound is still called Salt-Hill, and the money given was called salt... similar to the Lat. salariun (salary) the pay given to Roman soldiers and civil officers.

1890. Speaker, 22 Feb., 210, 2. In lively, but worldly fashion we go to Eton, with its buried Montem, its "salt! your majesty, salt!" its gin-twirley, and its jumping through paper fires in Long Chamber.

Adj. (old).—1. Wanton; amorous; proud (q.v.). Also, as subs. = (1) heat (q.v.), and (2) = the act of kind; as verb = to copulate (B. E., Grose). Whence salt-cellar = the female pudendum: see monosyllable; and salt-water = urine.

1598. Florio, World of Words, s.v. Esser in frega, to be proud or salt as a bitch, or a catterwalling as cats.

1599. Jonson, Ev. Man Out of His Humour, iv. 4. Let me perish, but thou art a salt one. Ibid. (1605), Fox, ii. 1. It is no salt desire Of seeing countries... hath brought me out.

1599. Hall, Satires, iv. 1. He lies wallowing... on his brothel-bed Till his salt bowels boile with poisonous fire.

1602. Shakspeare, Othello, ii. 244. For the better compassing of his salt and most hidden loose affection. Ibid. (1608), Antony and Cleopatra, ii. 1. All the charms of love, salt Cleopatra, soften thy wan lip.

1607. Topsell, Beasts, 139. Then they grow salt, and begin to be proud.

1647-8. Herrick, Parting Verse [Hesperides, 186]. The expressions of that itch And salt which frets thy suters.

d.1704. Brown, Works, ii. 202. It is not fit the silent beard should know how much it has been abus'd... for, if it did it would... make it open its sluice to the drowning of the low countries in an inundation of salt-water.

2. (colloquial).—Costly; heavy; extravagant: generic for excess: e.g., as salt as fire = as salt as may be. Also salty.

1847. Robb, Squatter Life, 142. Well, that thar was a salty scrape, boys.

1887. Fun, 21 Sept., 126. A magistrate who was lately fined 20s. for striking a man in the street, seemed somewhat astonished on hearing the decision, and remarked, "It's rather salt."

Verb. (common).—To swindle: specifically to cheat by fictitiously enhancing value; e.g., to salt books = (1) to make bogus entries showing extensive and profitable
business; to SALT an invoice = to charge extreme prices so as to permit an apparently liberal discount; to SALT a mine = to sprinkle (or PLANT, q.v.) a worn-out or bogus property with gold dust, diamonds, &c., with a view to good sales, and so forth. Hence SALTER = a fraudulent vendor.

1872. Civil Service Gaz., 28 Dec. The magnificent Californian diamond fields are nowhere . . . only SALTed with diamonds and rubies bought in England, according to the well-known process of SALTing.

1883. PAYN, Canon's Ward, xlviii. Your two friends had . . . been SALTing the mine. There is a warrant out for Dawson's apprehension on a much more serious charge.

1885. D. Telegraph, 22 Sept. One of the first to practise the art of SALTing sham goldfields.

1892. PERCY CLARKE, New Chum in Australia, 72. A SALTed claim, a pit sold for a £10 note, in which a nugget worth a few shillings had before been planted.

1894. Pall Mall Gaz., 22 Dec. 'The art of SALTing a mine' [Title]. Ibid. Even experienced mining men and engineers have been made victims by SALTERs.

d.1901. BREIT Harte . . . . And the tear of sensibility has SALTed many a claim.

2. (American colloquial).—To be-jewell profusely: see sense 1, TO SALT A MINE.

1873. Times, 20 Jan. 'WELL SALTed.' An American paper states that Colorado ladies wearing much jewelry are said to be WELL SALTed.

3. (old).—See quot.

1636. [MARTIN, Life of First Lord Shaftesbury, i. 42]. On a particular day, the senior undergraduates in the evening called the freshmen to the fire, and made them hold out their chins; whilst one of the seniors with the nail of his thumb (which was left long for that purpose) grated off all the skin from the lip to the chin, and then obliged him to drink a beer glass of water and SALT.

1850. Notes and Queries. i S., i. 390. 'College SALTing and Tucking of Freshmen.'

PHRASES.—WITH A GRAIN OF SALT = under reserve: Lat. . . . NOT WORTH ONE'S SALT = unworthy of hire; TO EAT ONE'S SALT = to be received as a guest or under protection; SALT also = hospitality; TO PUT (CAST, or LAY) SALT ON THE TAIL = to ensnare, to achieve: as children are told to catch birds; TO COME AFTER WITH SALT AND SPOONS ('of one that is none of the Hastings,' B. E.); MAN OF SALT = a man of tears.

1880. Lyly, Euphues [OLIPHANT, New Eng., i. 607. Among the verbs are . . . . LAY SALT ON A BIRD'S TAIL].

1603-11. HALL, Epistles, Dec. i., Ep. 8. Abandon those from your table and SALT whom . . . experience shall describe dangerous

1664. BUTLER, Hudibras, ii. i. 278. Such great achievements cannot fail To CAST SALT ON A WOMAN'S TAIL.

1809. WELLINGTON [GLEIG, Life, 702]. The real fact is . . . I have EATEN the King's SALT. On that account I believe it to be my duty to serve without hesitation . . .

1824. SCOTT, Redgauntlet, xi. Were you coming near him with soldiers, or constables . . . you will never LAY SALT ON HIS TAIL.

1854. DICKENS, Hard Times, xvii. He is a dissipated extravagant idler; he is NOT WORTH HIS SALT. Ibid. (1861), Great Expectations, iv. Plenty of subjects going about for them that know how TO PUT SALT UPON THEIR TAILS.

1855. THACKERAY, Newcomes, v. One does not EAT A MAN'S SALT as it were at these dinners. There is nothing sacred in this kind of London hospitality.

SALT-BOX, subs. (thieves'). — A prison cell: specifically (Newgate) = the condemned cell (GRose, VAUX). Fr. abattoir.
1820. *London Mag.*, i. 29. Leaving the stone-jug after a miserable residence in the salt-boxes, to be topp’d in front of the debtors’ door.

**Salt-box-cly**, subs. phr. (Old Cant).—An outside pocket with a flap (Grose, Vaux).

**SALTEE** (or **SAULTY**), subs. (theatrical).—A penny: see RHINO.

1861. READE, *Cloister and Hearth*, iv. It had rained kicks all day in lieu of SALTTEES.

1874. MARRYATT, *Snarley You*, xii. So while they cut their raw SALTJUNKs, with beef you will be crammed.

1880. Blackwood’s Mag., Jan., 59. 'Let me give you some SALTJUNK.' John was hungry, and rather enjoyed the salt beef.

1884. RUSSELL, *Jack’s Courtship*, i. SALT-HORSE works out of the pores.

**SALTIMBANCO**, subs. (showmen’s).—A street clown; a JIM CROW; a BILLY BARLOW. Fr. pitre.

**SALT RIVER**, subs. phr. (American).—See quots.

1843. BARTLETT, *Dict.* [quoting J. INMAN]. To row up SALT RIVER... there is a small stream of that name in Kentucky... difficult and laborious by its tortuous course as by shallows and bars. The application is to the unhappy wight who has the task of propelling the boat up the stream; but, in political or slang usage, it is to those who are rowed up.

c.186[?]. Burial of Uncle Sam [quoted by De Vere]. "We thought... That Sag-Nichts and strangers would tread o’er his head, And we up the SALT RIVER billows."

1871. DE VERE, *Americanisms,...* It has become a universal cant phrase to say, that an unlucky wight, who has failed to be elected to some public office, was ROWED UP SALT RIVER. If very grievously defeated, they were apt to be rowed up to the very headwaters of SALT RIVER.

1877. New York Tribune, 28 Feb. Put away his empty barrel; Fold his Presidential clothes; He has started up SALT RIVER, Led and lit by Cronin’s nose.

**SALTS AND SENNA**, subs. phr. (common).—A doctor: see TRADES.

**SALUBRIous**, adj. (common).—I. Drunk: see SCREWED; (2) = 'Pretty well, thank you.'

**SALVE**, subs. (common).—Praise; GAMMON (q.v.): cf. LIP-SALVE.

**SAM**, subs. (provincial).—A Liverpudlian: also DICKY SAM.

**To stand** SAM, verb. phr. (common).—To pay the shot; TO TREAT (q.v.).

1823. MONCRIEFF, *Tom and Jerry*, iii. 5. Landlady, serve them with a glass of tape, all round; and I’ll stand SAMMY.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood*, iv. ii. I must insist upon standing SAM upon the present occasion.

1876. HINDLEY, *Cheap Jack*, 123. He had perforse to STAND SAM for the lot.

1885. BLACK, *White Heather*, xxxii. There’s plenty ready TO STAND SAM, now that Ronald is kent as a writer o’ poetry.
1887. **Henley, Villon’s Good-Night.**

Likewise you molls that flash your bubs For Swells to spot and stand you sam.

1892. **Milliken, ’Arry Ballads,** 36.

If sometimes P. J. do stand Sam, why I ain’t one to give myself airs.

**Sambo,** subs. (old).—A negro: generic: c. 1558 (Arber, Garner, v. 95) a tribe of Africans is called Samboes.

1893. **Lk. Vict. Gaz.,** 8 Feb. I'll stand Sam for a week at Brighton for both of us.

1893. **MILLIKEN, ‘elerry Ballads,** 36.

If sometimes P. J. do stand Sam, why I ain’t one to give myself hairs.

**Sammy** (or **Sammy-Soft**), subs. phr. (common).—A fool: see Buffle. Also as adj. = foolish (Grose).

1837. **Peake, Quarter to Nine,** 2.

What a Sammy, give me a shilling more than I axed him!

1843. **MONCRIEFF, Scamps of London,** ii. i.

I'm a ruined homo, a muff, a flat, a Sam, a regular ass.

**Sample,** verb. (common).—1. To drink: see Lush. Hence Sample-room = a drinking bar.

1847. **Porter, Quarter Race,** 118.

Old T. never samples too much when on business.


2. (venery).—To fumble, or occupy a woman for the first time.

**Sample-count,** subs. (commercial).

A traveller; an ambassador of commerce (q.v.).

1894. **Egerton, Keynotes,** 72.

An ubiquitous sample-count from Berlin is measuring his wits with a . . . merchant.

**Sample of Sin,** subs. phr. (old).—A harlot: see Tart.

1749. **Smollett, Gil Blas** [Routledge], 105. That delicate sample of sin, who depends on her wantonness for her attractions.

**Sampler,** subs. (venery).—The female pudendum: see monosyllable.

**Samson** (or **Sampson**), subs. (common).—1. A drink made of brandy, cider, sugar, and a little water (Halliwell).

2. (Durham School).—A baked jam pudding.

**Samson and Abel,** subs. phr. (Oxford University).—A group of wrestlers in the quadrangle of Brasenose. [Some said it represented Samson killing a Philistine; others Cain killing Abel: the matter was compromised.]

**Samson’s-posts,** subs. phr. (common).—A mousetrap so constructed that the capture is crushed to death.

**Sand,** subs. (old).—1. Moist sugar (Grose, VAux).

2. (American).—See quotes.

1847. **Robb, Squatter Life,** 73.

He set his brain to work conning a most powerful speech, one that would knock the sand from under Hoss.

1884. **Clemens, Huck. Finn,** viii.

When I got to camp I warn’t feeling very brash, there warn’t much sand in my craw; but I says, this ain’t no time to be fooling around.

1892. **J. L. Hill, Treason-Felony,** 22.

You’re a long-winded old fraud, Mac, with a bonnet full of bees, and a head full of maggots, but you’ve got the sand.

1896. **Lillard, Poker Stories,** 19.

Sand enough and money enough to sit out the game.

**To eat sand,** verb. phr. (old).

—See quot.


Now it is very common for the man at the helm to shorten his watch by turning the glass before it is quite run out, which is called eating of sand . . . as we had not seen the sun for nine days.
together . . . it happened, that the helmsmen had eaten so much sand, that at the end of nine days they had changed the day into night, and the night into day.

**Sandbag, subs.** (thieves').—1. A long sausage-like bag of sand dealing a heavy blow that leaves no mark. Also as verb., and sandbagger.

1895. POCOCK, *Rules of the Game*, II. vii. The other burglar, who looked like a mechanic, had now come up behind, and was brandishing a sand-bag.

2. (military).—In pl. = The Grenadier Guards. Also Old Eyes, Coalheavers, Housemaids' Pets, and Bermuda Exiles (q.v.).

**Sandboy.** As happy (jolly or merry) as a sandboy, phr. (old).—'All rags and all happiness . . . a merry fellow who has tasted a drop' (BEE).


1900. BOOTHBY, *Maker of Nations*, iv. He had had a fairly rough time of it, but the men seemed as jolly as sandboys.

**Sandgate-rattle, subs.** phr. (provincial).—A quick and violent stamping dance.

**Sandman (or Sandy-man), subs.** phr. (nursery).—When sleepy children begin to rub their eyes 'the sand-man (or dustman) is coming.'

**Sandpaper, verb.** (common).—See quotes.

1889. *Answers*, 9 Feb. "You will have to enact three parts in the 'Silent Foe' to-night." "Can't do it," said Lancaster, "and I hope to be sandpapered if I try."

1901. *D. Telegraph*, 14 May, 10, 7. Let the American grass-widow with the broad and exasperating accent, which she takes no pains to sandpaper, be reduced to a minimum.

**Sandwich, subs.** (common).—1. See quotes. Also sandwich man: see Toad-in-the-hole.

1836. DICKENS, *Boz*, 147. He stopped the unstamped advertisement—an animated sandwich, composed of a boy between two boards.


2. (common).—A gentleman between two ladies: cf. Bodkin; thorn between two roses, &c. Fr. âne à deux pannières.

1848. THACKERAY, *Vanity Fair*, lviii. A pale young man . . . came walking down the lane en sandwich—having a lady, that is, on each arm.

Verb. (colloquial).—To insert between dissimilar.

1886. *Referee*, 18 April. These proceedings were sandwiched with vocal and instrumental selections.

**Sandwich-boat.** See Bumping-race.

**Sandy, subs.** (Scots' colloquial).—A Scot short for Alexander.

1500. DUNBAR, *Works* [PATERSON], 251 [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 362]. Alexander appears as Sandy; Englishmen on the other hand, dock the last half of the Greek word, and make it Alick).

d.1555. LYNDSDAY, *Kitty's Confession* [LAING], i. 136. Ane plack I will gar Sandy, Gie the agane with Handie-Dandie.

1885. *Sportsman*, 23 July, 2, 1. Scotland has been troubled by a great and mighty heat, which has scorched Sandy's brow and burnt the colour out of his kilt.

**Sandy-pate, subs.** (old).—'One red-hair'd' (B. E., GROSE).

Sanguinary James. See Bloody.

Sank (Sanky, or Centipers), subs. (old). — A soldiers' tailor (Grose) : whence Sank-work (see quot).

1851-61. Mayhew, Lon. Lab., i. 377. She's gone almost as blind as myself working at the Sank work (making up soldiers' clothing).

Sap (Saphead, Sap-pate, or Sapscull), subs. (old). — I. A fool : see Buffle. Whence Sappy (or Sapheaded, &c.) = foolish ; namby-pamby ; lazy (B. E., Dyche, Martin, Grose, Bee).

1665. Head, English Rogue (1874), i. v. 48. Culle a sap-headed fellow.

1848. Kingsley, Yeast, i. Sapping and studying still.

1850. Smedley, Frank Fairleigh, 117. They pronounced me an incorrigible Sap.

1853. Lytton, My Novel, i. xii. He was sent to school to learn his lessons, and he learns them. You call that Sapping — I call it doing his duty.

1856. Whyte-Melville, Kate Coventry, xvii. At school, if he makes an effort at distinction in school-hours, he is stigmatised by his comrades as a SAP.

1888. Goschen, Speech at Aberdeen, 31 Jan. Epithets applied to those who... commit the heinous offence of being absorbed in it [work]. Schools and colleges... have invented... phrases, semi-classical or wholly vernacular, such as a "SAP," "smug," "swot," "bloke," "a mugster."

1891. Harry Fludyer at Cambridge, 46. I... haven't to go Sapping round to get it when I want my own tea.

3. (common). — Ale : see Drinks. Hence, as verb. = to BOOZE (q.v.): SAPPY-DRINKING = excessive drinking.

Sappy, adj. (Durham School). — I. Severe; of a caning.

2. See SAP, subs. 1.


Sarah's Boots, subs. phr. (Stock Exchange). — Sierra Buttes Gold Mining Co.'s Shares.

Sard, verb. (old). — To copulate: see Greens and Ride.

1539. Lyndsay, Thrie Estaitis [Laing], 3027, 8. Qubilk will, for purging of their neirs SARD up ae raw, and doun the uthir.

1593. Florio, World of Words s.v. Fottere. To iape, to sard, to fucke, to swive, to occupye.

SARDINE. sub. (American). — 1. A sailor: spec. an old whaling hand. [The living space on board a whaler is limited.] Whence (2) one of the crowd: see HERRING. Packed like sardines = huddled.

c.1844?], New Haven, J. C. [Bartlett]. We ‘Old Whalers,’ or as we are sometimes called ‘Sardines.’


SARK, verb. (Sherborne School). — To sulk.

SASSINGER (or SASSIGER), sub. (vulgar). — A sausage.

SATAN’S BONES. See BONES.

SATCHEL-ARSED. See ARSE.

SATE-POLL, sub. phr. (common). — A stupid person: see BUFFLE.

SATIN. See WHITE SATIN.

SATURDAY-NIGHTER, sub. phr. (Harrow School). — An exercise set for Saturday night.

SATURDAY-SCAVENGER (or SCARA-MOUCH). See WEEKLY SCARGER.


SATURDAY-TO-MONDAY, sub. phr. (colloquial). — 1. A week-end jaunt; and (2) a week-end woman.

SATYR, sub. (Old Cant). — A cattle-thief.

SAUCE (SARSE, SASS, or SAUCINESS), sub. (colloquial). — 1. Impudence; assurance (see quot. 1555). Hence SAUCY (adj.) = (1) impudent, bold, presuming; and (2) SMART (q.v.) as verb. (or TO EAT SAUCE) = to abuse, TO LIP (q.v.); SAUCE-BOX (SAUCE-PATE, SAUCELING, or SAUCE-JACK) = an impertinent: see JACK-SAUCE (B. E., Grose).

d.1520. Skelton, Bowge of Courte, 71. To be so perte... she sayde she trowed that I had eten sauce; she askd ye euer I dranke of saucys cuppe. Ibid., Magnyfycence, 1421. Ye haue eten sauce, I trowe, at the Taylors Hall.

d.1555. Latimer, Sermons, 182. When we see a fellow sturdy, loftie, and proud, men say, this is a saucy fellow... whiche taketh more upon him than he ought to doe. Ibid. He that will be a Christian man... must be a sausie fellow: he must be well powdered with the sauce of affliction.

1587. Staninhurst, Desc. of Ireland, i. 13. Ineptus is as much in English, in my phantasie, as saucie or malapert.

1588. Marprelate’s Epistle (Arber), 6. This is a pretie matter yat standers by must be so busie in other men’s games: why sawcebones must you be pratling?

1594. Tynney, Lochrine, iii. 3. You, master saucebox, lobcock, cockscomb.

1595. Shakspeare, Romeo and Juliet, ii. 4, 153. What saucy merchant was this, that was so full of his ropery? Ibid. (1596), As You Like It, iii. 5. I’ll sauce her with bitter words. Ibid. (1600), Merry Wives, iv. 3. I’ll make them pay: I’ll sauce them. Ibid., Lear (1605), i. 1. This knave came somewhat saucily into the world before he was sent for.

1598. Laydock, Lomatius on Painting [Nares]. Nothing can deterre these saucie doultes from this their dizardly inhumanite.

1614. Jonson, Barth. Fair. The reckonings for them are so saucy, that a man had as good licke his fingers in a baudy house.

1620. Fletcher, Philaster, ii. 1. They were grown too saucy for himself.

1630. Taylor, Works, i. 113. Jack Sawce, the worst knave amongst the pack.
1638. Peacham, Truth of Our Times. In Queene Elizabeth's time were the great bellied doublets, wide sawcy sleeves, that would be in every dish before their masters.

1663. Killegrew, Parson's Wedding, iii. Why, goodman sauce-box, you will not make my lady pay for their reckoning, will you?

1689. Satyr Against Hypocrites [Nares]. Then, full of sauce and zeal, up steps Elnathan.

1703. Beverley, Hist. of Virginia. Roots, herbs, vine fruits, and salad flowers ... very delicious sauce to their meats.

1705. Beverley, Hist. of Virginia. Roots, herbs, vine fruits, and salad flowers ... very delicious sauce to their meats.

1708-9. Eliot, Amos Barton, vii. Having paid sauce for a supper which I had so ill digested. Ibid., ii. vii. Having breakfasted, and paid sauce for my good cheer, I made but one stage to Segovia.

1711. Neale, Down Easters, vii. 91. That ain't the kind o' sawse I wanted, puddin' gravy to corn-fish ... I wanted cabbage or potaters, or most any sort o' garden sawse.


1833. Neale, Down Easters, vii. 91. That ain't the kind o' sawse I wanted, puddin' gravy to corn-fish ... I wanted cabbage or potaters, or most any sort o' garden sawse.

1843. Moncrieff, Scamps of London, iii. 1. I've got a sawcy pair.

1856-7. Eliot, Amos Barton, vii. Nanny ... secretly chuckled over her outburst of sauce as the best morning's work she had ever done.

1862. Lowell, Biglow Papers. We begin to think it's nater To take sawce, and not be riled.


1890. M. Advertiser, 4 Nov. The witness denied that she sauced him or that she was drunk.

1897. Maugham, Liza of Lambeth, xi. I won't kill yer, but if I 'ave any more of your sauce, I'll do the next thing to it.


1849. Smollett, Gil Blas (1813), i. ii. Having paid sauce for a supper which I had so ill digested. Ibid., ii. vii. Having breakfasted, and paid sauce for my good cheer, I made but one stage to Segovia.

1896. Cotsford Dick, Way of World, 44. Let the sauce good for the gander Then be seasoned, without slander, for the goose!
**Saucepan.**

**Saucepan.** To have the saucepan on the fire, *verb. phr.* (old).—To be set on a scolding bout.

The saucepan runs (or boils) over, *phr.* (old).—‘You are exceeding bold.’—B. E. (c. 1696).

**Saucebox,** *subs.* (common).—The mouth.

2. See Sauce.

**Saucers,** *subs.* (common).—Eyes: spec. large, wide-opened eyes: also Saucer-eyes.

1599. Hall, *Satires,* vi. i. Her eyes like silver saucers faire beset.

1636. Suckling, *Goblins,* iv. Had we no walking fire, Nor saucer-eyed devil of these woods that led us.

1655. Massinger, *A Very Woman,* ii. Upon my conscience, she would see the devil first, With eyes as big as saucers; when I but named you.


1759-67. Sterne, *Tristram Shandy,* ix. 7. She made a feint, however, of defending herself by snatching up a sausage. Tom instantly laid hold of another—But seeing Tom's had more gristle in it—She signed the capitulation—and Tom seal'd it; and there was an end of the matter.

**Saucreous,** *adv.* (American).—Savage.

1847. Porter, *Big Bear,* 121. Well, Capting, they war mighty saucreous arter likher.


**Save,** *verb.* (racing).—To set part of one bet against another; *to hedge* (*q.v.*). [Two persons back different horses agreeing, if either wins, to give the other, say £5, who thus saves a 'fiver.' Also, as in pool, to save the stakes. Likewise to keep a certain horse on one side, not betting against it, saving it as a clear winner for oneself. Hence *saver* = a bet so made.

1869. Bradwood, *The O. V. H.,* xx. Most who received the news at least *saved* themselves upon the outsider.
The fact of the matter was, Kingdon had determined to make a £10,000 book for Mohican, or, in other words, to save that horse to run for him. *Ibid.*, 123. I've put a saver on Caloola.

**Hang saving,** *phr.* (old colloquial).—'Blow the expense.'


See Bacon.

**Save-all,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A stingy person; a miser (*Grose*).

**Savers,** *inti.* (boys').—'Halves!'

**Save-reverence.** See *Sir-reverence*.

**Saving-chin,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A projecting chin: 'that catches what may fall from the nose': cf. *nutcrackers* (*Grose*).

1772. Bridges, *Burlesque Homer*, 56. It had your phizz and toothless jaws, and saving-chin and pimp'd nose.

**Savey** (or *savvy*), *subs. and verb.* (American).—I. As *verb* = to know; as *subs.* = understanding; *wit*; *Nous* (*q.v.*).

1833. Carmichael, *West Indies* [*Bartlett*]. When I read these stories, the Negroes looked delighted, and said: 'We savey dat well, misses.'

1884. *Graphic*, 18 Oct., 418, 2. 'Because no can savey if Chinaman like it,' was the answer.

1888. Boldrewood, *Robbery Under Arms*, xiv. If George had had the savey to crack himself up a little.


2. (Pidgin).—To have; to know; to do; and all the other verbs that be.

**Saw,** *subs.* (whist).—The alternate trumping by two partners of suits led for the purpose; a *ruff*. Also see-saw, and as *verb*.

1755. *Connoisseur*, No. 60. A forces B, who, by leading Spades, plays into A's hand, who returns a Club, and so they get to a saw between them.

2. (American).—A hoax: also as *adj.* and *verb*. *Fr. scie*.

1847. Porter, *Quarter Race*, 68. 'Running a saw' on a French gentleman.

1847. Darley, *Drama in Poter ville*, 68. The manager was sawed, as certainly as that Mr. Waters was not slain. *Ibid.* The thoroughly sawed victim made way for him as if he had been the cholera incarnate.

**Saw your timber!** *phr.* (common).—Be off! Cut your stick (*q.v.*).

**Held at the (or a) long saw,** *phr.* (old).—Held in suspense.

1742. North, *Lord Guildford*, i. 148. Between the one and the other he was held at the long saw over a month.

**Sawbones,** *subs.* (common).—A surgeon; *flesh-tailor* (*q.v.*).

1836. Dickens, *Pickwick*, xxx. 'What! Don't you know what a sawbones is, sir?' inquired Mr. Weller. 'I thought everybody know'd as a sawbones was a surgeon.'


**Sawder** (or *soft-sawder*), *subs.* (common).—Soft speech; *blarney* (*q.v.*).


1863. Reade, *Hard Cash*, xli. She sent in a note explaining who she was, with a bit of soft sawder.

1866. Eliot, *Felix Holt*, xxi. My Lord Jermyn seems to have his insolence as ready as his soft sawder.


**Sawdust** (or *sawdusty*), *subs.* (common).—1. Humbug: also as *adj.*
Sawney.


1893. MILLIKEN, *Arry Ballads*, 41. That's true poetry, ain't it Not sawdusty and snivel.

2. (American).—A variety of the confidence trick.

1888. *Pittsburg Times*, 8 Feb. He is implicated in the robbery of $10,000 dollars from William Murdock on Saturday a week ago. Murdock was drawn into a sawdust game in an office whose location he could not remember, on Grant street.

1888. *New Orleans Times Democrat*, 6 Feb. The prominent men you speak of are never at the front in any of these sawdust transactions . . . The courts find it very difficult to send a man to State prison for this kind of swindling, and the sawdust man who fights hard is generally certain of acquittal.

Sawney (or Sawny), subs. (old).

—1. A lout: see Buffle (B. E.).

As adj. = stupid.


1873. Miss Broughton, *Nancy*, vii. The bronze of his face is a little paled by emotion, but there is no sawny sentiment in his tone, none of the lover's whine.

2. (Scots').—A Scot; Sandy (q.v.).—B. E., Grose.

d.1704. Brown, *Highlander* [Works, i. 127]. And learn from him against a time of need To husband wealth, as sawny does his weed.


Say-so, subs. phr. (colloquial).

An assertion; also a mild oath: On my say-so = 'On my word of honour': also Sammy Say-so.


You say you can, but can you? phr. (American).—'You lie.'
**Scab.**

**Scab, subs. (old).—1. A rascal: spec. a constable or sheriff’s officer: often jocular. Hence SCABBY (or SCABBY) = contemptible; beggarly; SCABBY-SHEEP = a ne’er-do-weel; SCABILONIAN (see quot. 1600).**


1594. Greene, Frier Bacon [GroSart, Works, x111. 9]. Loue is such a proud SCAB, that he will never meddle with fooles nor children.


1600. Thomas Hill, Cath. Religion [NAres]. With the introduction of the Protestant faith were introduced your galligascones, your scabilonians, your St. Thomas onions, your ruffees, your cuffees, and a thousand such new devised Luciferan trinkets.

1608. Middleton, Trick to Catch the Old One, ii. He? he's a scab to thee.

1630. Taylor, Works, ii. iii. A whore... growes pocky proud... That such poore scabs as I must not come neere her.


1701. Defoe, True Born Englishman, i. The Royal Branch, from Pict land did succeed, With troops of Scots, and scabs from North-by-Tweed.


1851-61. Mayhew, London Lab., i. 20. He's a regular scab. *Ibid.*, iii. 107. I was the scabby sheep of the family, and I've been punished for it.

1851-61. Meredith, Evan Harrington, vi. A scabby sixpence?


2. (artisans’). — A workman who refuses to join, or continues at work during a strike; a blackleg (q.v.); generally applied to all non-Union men. Fr. flint.

3. (tailors’). — A button-hole.

**Scabbado, subs. (old).—Syphilis.**


**Scabberd, subs. (venery).—The female pudendum: see monosyllable.**

**Scabby, adj. (printers’).—Unevenly printed; blotchy.**

**Scabby-neck, subs. phr. (nautical).—A Dane.**

**Scab-raiser, subs. phr. (military: obsolete).—A drummer. [One of whose duties was to wield the cat.]**

**Scad, subs. (American).—An abundance: hence in pl. = money; resources.**

**Scadger, subs. (common).—A mean fellow; a cadger (q.v.).**

**Scaff, subs. (Christ’s Hospital: obsolete).—A selfish fellow: the adj. forms are scaly and scabby = mean; stingy.**

**Scaffle-and-raff, subs. phr. (Scots’ colloquial).—Refuse, rabble, riff-raff (q.v.).**

**Scaffolders, subs. (old).—Speculators in the gallery; the gods (q.v.).**

1599. Hall, Satires, i. iii. 23. He ravishes the gazing scaffolders.
Scalawag.

Scalawag (or Scallawag), subs. (American).—(1) Anything low class; and spec. (2) as in quot. 1891. As adj. = wastrel; shrunken; profligate: cf. Carpet-bagger.


1870. Melbourne Argus. A new term has been added to the descriptive slang of the loafing classes of Melbourne. Vagrants are now denominated scalawags.

1877. North Am. Rev., July, 5. [The carpet-baggers] combining with a few scalawags and some leading Negroes to serve as decoys for the rest ... became the strongest body of thieves that ever pillaged a people.

1884. Chambers's Journal, i March, 139, 1. [Colorado man loquitur.] We are here to discuss the existence of thieves and scalawags amongst us.

1891. Century Dict., s.v. Scalawag. Used in the Southern States, during the Reconstruction period (1865-76) in an almost specific sense, being opprobriously applied by the opponents of the Republican party to native Southerners who acted with that party, as distinguished from Carpet-bagger, a Republican of Northern origin.

Scald, verb. (venery).—(1) To infect; and (2) to wax amorous. Scalder = a clap (GROSE). As adj. = (1) infected, and (2) contemptible; scoundrel. Cupid's scalding-house = a brothel.

1563-4. New Custom [Nares]. Like lettuce like lips, a scab'd horse for a scald squire.

1592. Nash, Piers Penniless [Halliwell]. Other news I am advertised of that a scald, trivial, lying pamphlet is given out to be of my doing.

1599. Middleton, Old Law, iii. 2. My three court codlings that look parboil'd, As if they came from Cupid's scalding house.

1639. Shakespeare, Hen. V., v. 1, 31. Will you be so good, scald knave, as eat it? Ibid. (1609), Timon of Athens, ii. 2. She's even setting on water to scald such chickens as you are.

1647-8. Herrick, Hesperides, 'To Blanch.' Blanch swears her husband's lovely, when a scald Has blear'd his eyes.

1678. Cotton, Virgil Travestie [Works (1725), 63. For that which stab'd her was his Weapon, For which she did so scald and burn, That none but he could serve her turn.

Scaldabanco, subs. (old colloquial).—See quotas.

1598. Florio, Worlde of Wordes, s.v. Scaldbanco, one that keeps a seat warme, but ironically spoken of idle lectures that possesse a pewe in the schools or pulpet in churches, and baffle out they know not what; also a hot-headed puritane.

1612. Hacket, Williams, ii. 182. The Presbyterians, those scalda-bancos, or hot declaimers, had wrought a great distast in the Commons at the king.

Scalded, subs. (common).—See quot., and Scal'd.

1802. Sydney Watson, Wops the Waif; iv. I'm good at a hoperation, I can tell yer, when it's on spot and scalder (which being interpreted, meant cake and tea).

Scaldings! intr. (Winchester).—Be gone! 'Be off!' Also a general warning, 'Look out!'

1748. Smollett, Roderick Random, xxv. The boy ... returned with it full of boiled peas, crying, 'Scaldings,' all the way.

Scald-rag, subs. phr. (old).—A dyer.

1630. Taylor, Works, ii. 165. As much impeachment as to call a justice of the peace, a beadle; a dyer, a scalder; or a fishmonger, a seller of gubbins.

Scaldrum-dodge, subs. phr. (tramps').—See quot. and Fox-bite; scaldrum = a beggar.

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab., i. 262. By these Peter was initiated into the scaldrum-dodge, or the art of burning the body with a mixture of acids and gunpowder, so as to suit the hues and complexions of the accident to be deplored.
**SCALE, verb.** (venery).—To MOUNT (q.v.) : see GREENS and RIDE.

1607. W[ENTWORTH] S[MIT], Puritan, i. 1. I, whom never man as yet hath SCALLED.

**SCALES.** See SHADESCALES.

**SCALLOPS, subs.** (old).—An awkward girl (HALLIWELL).

**SCALP, verb.** (American).—To sell under price ; to share commission or discount : e.g., TO SCALP STOCK = to sell stock regardless of value ; TICKET-SCALPING = the sale of unused railway tickets, or tickets bought in quantities as a speculation, at a cheaper than the official rate ; TICKET-SCALER = a ticket broker.

1882. Nation, 5 Oct., 276. With the eternal quarrel between railroads and SCALPERS, passengers have nothing to do.

1892. Pall Mall Gaz., 2 Nov., 2, 1. TICKET-SCALPING . . . has reference to the transferability or otherwise of tickets rather than to their date of expiry.

1894. Standard, 3 May, 7, 1. These huge grouped tenderings on a preconcerted plan . . . when successful merely represent a SCALPING of the Stock at the expense of the genuine investor.

2. (American party-politician’s).
   —(a) To ostracise for rebellion, and (b) to ruin one’s influence.

**SCALY, adj.** (common).—Shabby ; mean ; FISHY (q.v.).—GROSE.

1821. Egan, Life in London, ii. iii. If you are too SCALY to tip for it, I’ll shell out, and shame you.

1843. Dickens, Martin Chuzzlewit, xxviii. Don’t you remember hold mother Todgers’s? . . . a reg’lar SCALY old shop, warn’t it?

1848. Lowell, Biglow Papers, i. 99. The SCALIEST trick they ever played wuz bringin’ on me hither.

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab., 1. 85. They find the ladies their hardest of SCALIEST CUSTOMERS.

1880. J. B. Stephens, Poems, ‘To a Black Gin.’ Methinks that theory is rather SCALY.

1883. PAYN, Thicker than Water, xlv. Do you mean to say he never gave you nothing? . . . SCALY varmint!

**SCALY-FISH, subs. phr.** (nautical).—‘A honest, rough, blunt sailor’ (GROSE).

**SCAMANDER, verb.** (common).—To LOAF (q.v.).

**SCAMMERED, adj.** (common).—Drunk: see SCREWED.

1891. Carew, Auto. of a Gipsy, 435. He’ll think he was SCAMMERED over night.

**SCAMP, subs.** (Old Cant).—1. A highway robber (also SCAMPSMAN); and (2) highway robbery (also SCAMPERY). Whence as verb = to rob on the highway; ROYAL-SCAMP = ‘a highwayman who robs civilly’; ROYAL-FOOT-SCAMP = ‘a footpad behaving in like manner’; DONE FOR A SCAMP = convicted (GROSE, PARKER, VAUX). See quot. 1823.

1754. Disc. of John Poulter, 42. I’ll SCAMP on the panney.

1781. MESSINK, Choice of Harlequin. ‘Ye SCAMPS, ye pads, ye divers.’

1823. Bee, Dict. Turf, s.v. SCAMP . . . Beggars who would turn their hands to any thing occasionally, without enquiring in whom the thing is vested, are said to GO UPON THE SCAMP. Fellows who pilfer in markets, from stalls or orchards, who snatch off hats, cheat publicans out of liquor, or toss up cheatingly—commit SCAMPING tricks.

c.1824. Egan, Baxiana, iii. 622. And from the start the SCAMPS are cropp’d at home.

1830. Moncrieff, Heart of London, ii. 1. Cracksmen . . . SCAMPSMEN, we; fol de rol, &c.

1834. AINSWORTH, Rookwood, ‘The Game of High Toby.’ Forth to the heath is the SCAMPSMAN gone. Ibid., iii. 5. A rank SCAMP, cried the upright man.
**Scamp.**

1842. Egan, Captain Macheath, v. A scamp's man, you know, must always be bold.

3. (common).—A rogue; an arrant rascal; sometimes (colloquial) in jest. Hence scampish = roguish, tricky; scampery = roguery.

c.1835. Dana, Before the Mast, 84. Among the Mexicans . . . every rich man looks like a grandee, and every poor scamp like a broken-down gentleman.


1854. Whyte-Melville, General Bounce, ii. Tom Blacke was a scamp of the first water.

d.1859. De Quincey, Works, ii. 43. He has done the scamp too much honour. Ibid. Spanish Nun. 23. The alcaide personally renewed his regrets for the ridiculous scene of the two scampish occultists.

1879. Payn, High Spirits (Finding his Level). Vulgar dukes or scampish lords.

1883. Graphic, 24 Feb., 199, 3. All the scampery of Liverpool seems to be present.

1902. D. Mail, 14 Jan., 6, 3. Of all the scampish scamps unhung this specimen of perverted culture beats all.

**Verb.** (common).—2. To do carelessly and ill; to give bad work or short measure.

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab., iii. 240. Scamping adds at least 200 per cent. to the productions of the cabinetmaker's trade.

1862. London Herald, 27 Dec., 'Answers to Corresp.' Find out, if it is an estate where any scamping is allowed to create heavy ground rents.

1881. Payn, Grape from a Thorn, xliii. The idea of scamping her work . . . had no existence for her.

1883. Trollope, Autobiog., i. 164. It is not on my conscience that I have ever scamped my work. My novels, whether good or bad, have been as good as I could make them.

1886. D. Telegraph, 1 Jan. The work is as often . . . scamped as it is well done.

**Scamper,** verb. (old: B. E., c.1696).—'To run away, or scour off, either from Justice, as Thieves, Debtors, Criminals, that are pursued; or from ill fortune, as Soldiers that are repulst or worsted.'

**Scandal-broth (chatter, or water), subs. phr.** (common).—Tea; cat-lap (q.v.).—Grose.

**Scandalous,** subs. (old).—'A periwig.'—B. E. (c.1696).

**Scandal-proof** (old).—1. 'A thorough pac'd Alsatian, or Minter, one harden'd or ix. Shame,' B. E. (c.1696); and (2) 'one who has eaten shame and drank after it, or would blush at being ashamed,' Grose (1785).

**Scammag,** subs. (common).—Scandalous jobber; pettifogging slander; talk. [Short and derisive for scandalum magnatum.]

1883. G. A. Sala's Illustrated London News, 31 March, 310, 3. The audience have to listen to the bucolic drolleries of his groom, Saul Mash, and the provincial scammag of the notabilities of the little country town. Ibid. (1861), Twice Round the Clock, One p.m., Par. 2. The swarms of flies . . . inebriating themselves with saccharine suction in the grocers' shops, and noisily buzzing their scammag in private parlours.

**Scant-of-grace,** subs. (colloquial).—A scapegrace.

1821. Scott, Kenilworth, iii. You associate yourself with a sort of scant-of-grace.

**Scape,** subs. (old).—1. A cheat.

1599. Hall, Satires. Was there no 'plaining of the brewer's scape, Nor greedy vintner mixed the strained grape.

d.1634. Chapman, Hom. Hymn to Apollo. Crafty mate What other scape canst thou excogitate?
2. (old).—A fart.
1568. Florio, Worlde of Wordes, s.v. Pettare. To let a scape or a fart.
3. (old).—An act, or effect, of fornication.
1594. Winter's Tale, iii. 3, 73. Sure some scape . . . I can read waiting-gentlewoman in the scape.

Verb. (artists').—'To neglect one's brush' (BEE).

Scape-gallows, subs. phr. (old).—One who deserves but has escaped the gallows (GrOse).
1839. Dickens, Nick. Nickleby, xliv. Remember this scape-gallows . . . if we meet again . . . you shall see the inside of a gaol once more.

Scape-grace (or -thrift), subs. phr. (old).—A good-for-nothing; a ne'er-do-well (GrOse).
1577-82. Holinshed, Hist. Scot., an. 1427. For shortlie vpon his deliverance, he gathered a power of wicked scape-thrifts, and with the same coming into Inuernes, burnt the towne.
1862. Thackeray, Philp, ii. I could not always be present to guard the little scape grace.
1855. D. Telegraph, 29 Sept. The scape-graces and ne'er-do-wells you considered dead a generation since.

Scaramouch, subs. (old).—1. A buffoon; whence (2) = a disreputable rascal. [Stanford: It. Scaramuza, the bragart buffoon of Italian comedy.]
1662. Davies, Ambass. Trav. (1669), vi. 283. Countenances and Postures, as Scaramuzza himself would be much troubled to imitate.
1673. Wycherley, Gentleman Dancing Master, iii. 1. Ah, le brave Scaramouche!

1711. Spectator, No. 83. The third artist that I looked over was Fantasque, dressed like a Venetian scaramouch.
C. 1720. Broadside Ballad, 'The Masquerade' [Farmer, Merry Songs and Ballads (1897), iii. 233]. A Scaramouch is nimble, Tho' lazy he appears.
1716. Wilkins, Polit. Bal. (1860), ii. 175. The Scaramouches everywhere, With open throats bawled out.

1725. Bailey, Coll. Eras., 'Penitent Virgin.' O these Scaramouches, how they know to wheedle the poor people!
1824. Irving, Tales of a Trav. (1849), 322. He swore no scaramouch of an Italian robber would dare to meddle with an Englishman.

2. (showmen's).—A puppet.
1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab., iii. 60. This here's the Scaramouch that dances without a head.

Scborough - warning (leisure, scrabbling), &c., subs. phr. (old).—See quot.
1546. Heywood, Proverbs [Oliphant, New Eng., i. 504. Scborough warning (the blow before the word) is found in page 76].
1557. Heywood, Old Ballad [Harl. Misc. (Park), x. 258]. This term, Scborborow warning, grew (some say) By hasty hanging, for rank robbery theare.
1580. Tusser, Husbandry, x. 28, 22 [E. D. S.]. Be suretie seldome (but neuer for much) for feare of purse pennies hanging by such; Or Scaborow warning, as ill I beleue, when (sir I arest yee) gets hold of thy sleeue.
1582. Stanyhurst, Ænid, iv. 621. Al they the lyke poste haste dyd make with scaboroc' scrabbling.
1589. Puttenham, Eng. Poesy, B. iii. c. Scarborow warning, for a sodaine commandement, allowing no respect or delay to bethinke a man of his business.
1591. Harington, Ariosto, xxxiv. 22. They tooke them to a fort, with such small treasure And in so Scarborow warning they had leasure.
Scarce. 112 Scarlet-horse.

1593. Harvey, Pierces Supererog. [Grosart, Works, ii. 225]. He meaneth not to come upon me with a cowardly stratageme of Scarborough warning.

1603. T. Mathew (Bishop of Durham), Letter 19, Jan. [Nares]. I received a message from my lord chamberlaine, that it was his majesty's pleasure that I should preach before him upon Sunday next; which Scarborough warning did not only perplex me, but so puzzel me.

1616. Letter [quoted by Nares]. I now write upon Scarborough warning.

1670. Ray, Proverbs, 202. This proverb took its original from Thomas Stafford, who in the reign of Queen Mary, 1557, with a small company seized on Scarborough Castle (utterly destitute of provision for resistance) before the towns-men had the least notice of his approach. [This is taken from Fuller's Worthies: cf. Stafford Law and see quotas. 1546 and 1557 which show the phrase in earlier use.]

1787. Grose, Prov. Glossary (1811), 94. A Scarborough warning. That is, none at all, but a sudden surprise.


SCARCE. To make one's self scarce, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To retire (Grose).

1749. Smollett, Gil Blas [Routledge], 374. It was my fixed purpose to make myself scarce at Seville.

1812. Margravine of Anspach [C. K. Sharpe's Correspondence (1888), ii. 20]. I shall make myself very, very scarce, and live only for myself.

1821. Scott, Kenilworth, iv. Make yourself scarce—depart—vanish!

1836. M. Scott, Cruise of Midge, 114. My fine fellow, you are a little off your cruising ground, so be making yourself scarce—Bolt—vanish—get on deck with you.

1840. Barham, Ingolds. Leg. (Lay of St. Odille). Come, make yourselves scarce!—it is useless to stay.

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab., i. 265. I had warned her to make herself scarce at her earliest possible convenience.

1891. Lic. Vict. Gaz., 16 Jan. Now, bobbies, make yourselves scarce . . . you know this is a gentleman's private apartment, and you're trespassers.

SCARE. To scare up, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To find; to discover: e.g., 'To scare up money.'

SCARECROW, subs. (thieves').—See quot.

1884. Greenwood, Little Ragamuffins. The scarecrow is the boy who has served him [a thief] until he is well known to the police, and is so closely watched that he may as well stay at home as go out.

SCAREHEAD, subs. (journalists').—A line in bold type calculated to arrest attention.

1900. White, West End, 339. One of our calm days, unbroken by scareheads in the newspapers, or by the croakings of nervous critics.

SCARLET. To dye scarlet, verb. phr. (old).—See quot.

1598. Shakspere, 1 Hen. IV., ii. 4. They call drinking deep, dyeing scarlet.

To wear scarlet, verb. phr. (old).—1. To win the higher University degrees; (2) to attain sheriff or aldermanic rank. [Which were scarlet-robed.]

1610. Jonson, Alchemist, i. 1. This summer he will be of the clothing of his company, and next spring called to the scarlet.

1673. Webster, Devil's Law-Case, ii. 3. Your patience has not taken the right degree of wearing scarlet; I should rather take you for a bachelor in the art, than for a doctor.

SCARLET-FEVER, subs. phr. (common).—Flirtation with soldiers: Fr. culotte- (or pantalon-) rouge: cf. YELLOW-FEVER.

1862. Mayhew, Lon. Lab., iv. 235. Nursemaids . . . are always ready to succumb to the scarlet-fever. A red coat is all powerful with this class.

SCARLET-HORSE, subs. phr. (old).—See quot.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Scarlet Horse. A high-red, hired or hack horse: a pun on the word.
**Scarlet Lancers.**

**Scarlet Lancers (The).** See Red Lancers.

**Scarlet-runner, subs. phr.** (old).
1. A Bow-street officer; a Robin-redbreast (q.v.). [They wore scarlet waistcoats.]
2. (common).—A footman.

**Scarlet-town, subs. phr.** (provincial).—Reading [Berks.]

**Scarlet-woman, subs. phr.** (religious).—The Church of Rome.

**Scarter, verb.** (showmen's).—To run away: see Skedaddle.

**Scat, verb.** (common).—Begone!
1880. Harris, Uncle Remus, xxii. W'en ole man Rabbit say 'scoot,' dey scooted, en w'en ole Miss Rabbit say 'scat,' dey scatted.
1892. Nat. Observer, 20 Aug., 356. 1. There is a village somewhere West of Devonshire whose inhabitants are universally called '—Scat-Ups.' For... once at a volunteer review they could be induced to 'dismiss' only by an impassioned cry of 'Scat Up!'
1896. Lillard, Poker Stories, 210. We chucked him two watches and 380 dollars in cash quicker'n Scat.

**Scate, subs.** (provincial).—A light-heels (Halliwell).

**Verb.** (provincial).—To be loose in the bowels (Halliwell).

**Scatteration, subs.** (American).—A commotion; a dispersal. Hence Scatterationist = a politician running his personal fads without reference to either party or public.

1879. N. A. Rev., cxxvi. 244. Some well-directed shots... sent wagons flying in the air, and produced a Scatteration.

1883. Boldrewood, Robbery Under Arms, xiii. I did see one explode at a review in Melbourne—and, my word! what a Scatteration it made.

**Scatterbrain, subs.** (colloquial).—An unreasoning ass; Scatter-brained = giddy.


1857. Hughes, Tom Brown's Schooldays, i. ii. A... tearful scatterbrained girl.

1884. C. Reade, Art, 23. Poor Alexander, he is a fool, a Scatterbrain... but he is my son.

**Scattergood, subs.** (old).—A spendthrift.


1653. Sanders, Physiognomie. Which intimates a man to act the consumption of his own fortunes, to be a Scatter-good; if of honey colour or red, he is a drunkard and a glutton.

**Scatter-gun, subs.** (American).—A shot-gun.

**Scatterling, subs.** (old colloquial).—A vagabond.

1599. Spenser, State of Ireland [Century]. Many of them be such losells and Scatterlings as that they cannot easily... be gotten.


1604. Commons Journal, 14 May. [The Committee] found in Little Ease in the Tower an engine of torture... called Skevington's daughters.

1840. Ainsworth, Tower of Lonaon, xxiii. We will wed you to the Scavenger's Daughter, my little man.
1889. Answers, 9 Feb. The scavenger's daughter was a broad hoop of iron, consisting of two parts, fastened by a hinge. The prisoner knelt on the pavement, and the executioner having introduced the hoop under his legs, compressed the victim, till he was able to fasten the extremities over the small of the back. The time allotted was an hour and a half; it commonly happened that the blood started from the nostrils; sometimes, it was believed, from the extremities of the hands and feet.

Sew. See Skew.

Scellum, subs. (Old Cant).—A thief: cf. Skellum.

1630. Taylor, Works, ii. 123. None holds him, but all cry, Lope, scellum, lope!

Scene, subs. (colloquial).—An exhibition of feeling or temper.

1847. Bronte, Jane Eyre, xxvii. You have no desire to expostulate, to upbraid, to make a scene.

1862. Thackeray, Philip, xxvii. Hush! hush! . . . she must be kept quiet . . . There must be no more scenes, my fine fellow.

Behind the scenes, phr. (colloquial).—Having access to information not open to the general public; in the know (q.v.).

Scene-rat, subs. phr. (theatrical).—An “extra” in ballet or pantomime.

Sceptre, subs. (venery).—The penis: see Prick. Also Cyprian sceptre.

1653. Urquhart, Rabelais, i. xi. One of them would call it her fiddle-diddle, her staff of love . . . her Cyprian sceptre.

1772. Bridges, Burlesque Homer, 47. Now night came on, The thunder led His helpmate to her wicker bed; There they agreed, and where's the wonder, His sceptre rais'd she soon knock'd under.

Scheme, subs. (Winchester).—See quot.—Mansfield (c. 1840).

1801. Wrench, Word Book, s.v. Scheme . . . The candle on reaching a measured point ignites paper, which by burning a string releases a weight; this falls on the head of the boy to be waked.

Schism-shop, subs. phr. (old).—A dissenting meeting-house; schism-monger = a dissenting parson (Grose): amongst Catholics any Protestant church or chapel.

1840. Haliburton, Clockmaker, 3 S., iv. “Stickin’ a subscription paper into a very strait-laced man, even for building a schism-shop for his own folks, is like stickin’ a needle behind an ox’s ear, it kills him dead on the spot.”

1852. Shirley Brooks, Miss Violet and her Offers, vi. “The tenants-at-will who vote for church candidates —.” “By the tenants-at-won’t, who go in for the schism-shop”—dashed in the smart barrister.

Schitt, subs. (Winchester).—A goal: at football: see Gowner.

[Wrench: This was the word in general use till 1860, when it was superseded by ‘goal.’]

Schliver, subs. (old).—A clasp-knife (Bee).

Schol, subs. (Harrow).—1. A scholar; and (2) a scholarship.

School, subs. (old).—‘A party of persons met together for the purpose of gambling’ (Grose, Vaux). Also (modern) any small band of associates, as thieves or beggars working together, a set of passengers travelling regularly by the same train, &c. Hence schoolman = a companion, a mate.

1851-61. Mayhew, London Lab., i. 234. Some classes of patterers, I may here observe, work in schools or ‘mobs’ of two, three, or four.

1866. London Miscellany, 3 Mar., 57. We don’t want no one took in that’s on the square. The governor’s promised the school as strangers shant use the house.
Schooling, subs. (thieves').—A term of confinement in a reformatory.

1879. Auto. of Thief [Macm. Mag., xl., 501]. She is young—just come from a schooling.

2. (thieves').—See quot.

1888. Globe, 25 Mar. A batch of these grimy ones being brought up the other day for playing pitch and toss—in the local vernacular, schooling—in a public place, their counsel argued that they were driven to it by destitution.

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School-butter, subs. phr. (old).—A flogging (B. E., Grose).

Schoolmaster. I. See Bilk.

2. (racing).—A horse good at jumping: generally ridden with one in training.

School of Venus, subs. phr. (old).—A brothel: see Nanny-house (B. E., Grose).

School-street, subs. phr. (old University: Oxon.).—The University.

Schooner, subs. (American).—A tall glass: containing twice the quantity of an ordinary tumbler: THREE-MASTED SCOWNER = a schooner of extra size.

1888. Texas Siftings, 30 June. Thanks, old hoss fly, what do you say to taking a schooner of beer at my expense?

1859. D. Telegraph, 8 Feb. There is a coloured man at Derby who can swallow two quarts of molasses with as much ease as a Whyo can drink a schooner of beer, and in about the same time.

See Prairie Schooner.

Scissorean-operation, subs. phr. (literary).—Gutting a book.

See Prairies Schooner.

Scissor-ean-operation, subs. phr. (literary).—Gutting a book.

Scissors. To give one scissors, verb. phr. (common).—To pay out; to cut up (q. v.). Also scissors = an exclamation of disgust or impatience.

1843. Selby, Antony and Cleopatra. Oh, scissors! insinuate that it takes nine of us to make a man!

1847. Robb, Squatter Life, 64. I grabbed his slick har, and maybe I didn’t gin him scissors.

1893. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, 33. Oh, scissors! jest didn’t we give ’em tantivy.

Scissors-and-paste, subs. phr. (literary).—Compilation: as distinguished from original work. Fr. travailler à coups de ciseaux = to compile.

Scob, subs. (Winchester College).—'An oak box with a double lid, set at the angles of the squares of wooden benches in school: used as desk and book-case. [Probably the word has been transferred from the bench itself, and comes from Fr. escabeau, Lat. scabellum.]'—Wrench.

1620. Account [to J. Hutton at his entrance into the College]. For a scob to hold his books, 3s. 6d.

1890. G. Allen, Tents of Shem, xlii. Parker's scob was 270.

Scoff (or Scorf), verb. (nautical).

1. To eat: also as subs. = food. [Cf. Scots' scaff = food of any kind.]

1893. Flynt, Tramping with Tramps, ii. iii. Scoff's always more plenty than money.

1901. Walker, In the Blood, iv 'Those birds kill snakes do they?' . . . 'Rather . . . They goes down themselves and scoffs them.'

2. (American).—To run away; TO SKEDADDLE (q. v.): also TO SCOFF (or SCUFF) AWAY.
Scoffer, subs. (thieves').—Plate.

1891. Carew, Auto. of a Gipsy, 416. I gets clean off with the scawfer.

Scoldrum. See Scaldrum.

Schollard, subs. (vulgar).—A scholar.

1708-10. Swift, Polite Conversations, Intro. Happily sings the Divine Mr. Tibbad's... I am no schollard; but I am polite: Therefore be sure I am no Jacobite.

Scolopependra, subs. (old).—A harlot: i.e., a ramping thing with a sting in its tail: see Tart (Halliwell).


Scold's Cure, subs. phr. (old).—A coffin: 'the blowen has napped the scold's cure; the wench is in her coffin' (Grose).

Sconce, subs. (old).—I. The head (Grose, Halliwell = Old Cant'); whence (2) sense, judgment, brains.

1567. Damon and Pithias [Dodsley, Old Plays, iv.].

1593. Harvey, New Letter [Grosart, Wks., i. 283]. That can play upon his warped sconce, as upon a tabor, or a fiddle.

1598. Florio, Worldes of Wordes, 82. A head, a pate, a nole, a sconce.

1602. Shakespeare, Hamlet, v. 1. Why does he suffer this rude knave now to knock him about the sconce with a dirty shovel?

1611. Barry, Ram Alley, xii. 436. I say no more, But 'tis within this sconce to go beyond them.

1642. Dr. H. More, Psychodia, iii. 13. Which their dull sconces cannot easily reach.

1655. Fanshawe, Lusiad, viii. 51. Th' infused poysen working in his sconce.

1664. Cotton, Scoffer Scoft (Works (1725), 179). I go, and if I find him once, With my Battoon I'll bang his sconce.

1771. Smollett, Humphry Clinker, Ixii. And, running into the house, exposed his back and his sconce to the whole family.

1840. Thackeray, Paris Sketch Book, 110. At last Fips hits the West Indian such a blow across his sconce, that the other grew furious.

1856. R. Burton, El-Medinah, 357. Though we might take advantage of shade... we must by no means cover our sconces.


2. (old: now University).—A fine; a score. Hence to build a sconce (or to sconce) = (1) to run up a score: spec. with no intention of paying; (2) to be mulcted in fines; and (3) to sconce also = to pay out, to chastise (B. E., Dyche, Grose, Bee, Hotten).

1630. Randolph, Aristippus [Halliwell, Works (1757), 14. 'Twere charity in him to sconce 'em soundly.

1632. Shirley, Witty Fair One, iv. 3. I have had a head in most of the butteries of Cambridge, and it has been sconced to purpose.

c. 1640. [Shirley], Capt. Underwit [Bullen, Old Plays, ii. 323]. I can teach you to build a sconce, Sir.

d. 1704. T. Brown, Works, ii. 282. I never parted with any of my favours, nay, not... a clap gratis, except a lieutenant and ensign... once... built up a sconce, and left me in the lurch.

1710. Miller, Humours of Oxford, i. I understand more manners than to leave my friends to go to church—no, though they scone me a fortnight's commons, I'll not do it.

1760. Johnston, Chrysal., xxviii. These youths have been playing a small game, cribbing from the till, and building sconces, and such like tricks.

1764. Colman, Terre Filius, No. 1. Any sconce imposed by the proctors.

1768. Foot, Devil on Two Sticks, ii. 1. She paid my bill the next day without sconcing off sixpence.
1821. The Etonian, ii. 391. Was SCONCED in a quart of ale for quoting Latin, a passage from Juvenal; murmured, and the fine was doubled.

1833. Ellacombe [N. & Q., 6 S., viii. 326]. Men were SCONCED if accidentally they appeared in hall undressed. I think the SCONCE was a quantity of beer to the scouts. The SCONCE-table was hung up in the buttery.

1839. Answers, 14 Jan., i. 1. The average freshman is not very long at Oxford before he is acquainted with the mysteries of SCONCING. A SCONCE is a fine of a quart of ale, in which the unlucky fresher is mulcted for various offences in Hall.

Verb. (common).—4. To reduce; to discontinue: e.g., TO SCONCE ONE'S DIET = TO BANT (q.v.): TO SCONCE THE RECKONING = to reduce expenses.

5. (Winchester).—To hinder; to get in the way: as of a kick at football, a catch at cricket, &c.: e.g., “If you had not SCONCED, I should have made a flyer.”

1899. Pub. School Mag., Dec., 476. Opponents who get in each others way and SCONCE the kicks.

SCONICK, verb. (American).—To hurry about; to SHIN ABOUT (q.v.): also TO SCONICK ROUND.

1833. Neal, Down Easters, vii. 108. I could see plain enough which side you was on, without SCONICKIN' round arter you much further.

SCOOP, subs. (American).—1. A big haul; an advantage: spec. (journalists’) news secured in advance of a rival, a series of BEATS (q.v.). Also (2) on 'Change, a sudden breaking down of prices, enabling operators to buy cheaply, followed by a rise. As verb. = (1) to make a big haul: and (2) to get the better of a rival.

1899. Detroit Free Press, 22 Sep. Mr. Terada, the editor, is in jail for fourteen months for getting a SCOOP on the government.

1899. Referee, 6 Jan. He is SCOOPING IN THE shekels.

1890. Answers, 25 Dec. Last night he slept in his bed when we walked the streets . . . To think that he should SCOOP us!

1896. Lillard Poker Stories, 26. As a rule he SCOOPED the pot.

3. (common).—To fetch, to fit.

1888. Sporting Life, 7 Dec. It would better SCOOP the situation if it were described as 'goloptious.'

Verb. (whalers').—1. See quot.

1891. Century Mag., 5 S. SCOOPING. The right [whalebone] whale gets into a patch of food or brit (resembling sawdust on the surface of the water) . . . goes through it with only the head out and mouth open. As soon as a mouthful of water is obtained the whale closes its lips, ejects the water, the feed being left in the mouth and throat [Sailors' slang].

ON THE SCOOP, phr. (common).—On the drink, or a round of dissipation.

1893. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, 47. An English milord ON THE SCOOP can't be equalled at blueing a quid.

SCOOT (SKOOT or SKUTE), verb. (common).—To move quickly; ON THE SCOOT = on the run; SCOOTER = a restless knockabout; SCOOT-TRAIN = an express.

1838. J. C. Neal, Charcoal Sketches 'Pair of Slippers.' Notwithstanding his convulsive efforts to clutch the icy bricks, he SKUTED into the gutter.

1839. Hill, Yankee Stories [Barlett]. The fellow sat down on a hornet's nest; and if he didn't run and holler, and SCOOT through the briar bushes, and tear his trowsers.

1848. Lowell, Biglow Papers. An send the Ensines SKOOTIN' to the bar-room with their banners.

1858. Atlantic Monthly, Mar. The captain he SCOOTED round into one port an’ another.
Scorcher.

1869. *Quart. Rev.*, cxxvi. 371. The laugh of the gull as he scoots along the shore.

1871. *Philadelphia Age*, Feb. An Iowa man, instead of going to the expense of a divorce, gave his wife a dollar, and told her to scoot.


1888. *Puck’s Library*, May 18. Scoot down and buy like the devil!

1886-96. *Marshall, He Slumbered* [*Pomes*, 118]. So she scooted from the shanty.

1894. *Sketch*, 461. 1. Once settled there, we scooted around for members, but there was at that time no subscription.

Scorcher, subs. (common).—Anybody or anything severe, eccentric, or hasty. Spec. to scorcher = to ride a bicycle, drive a motor, &c., at top speed: whence scorching = hot (q.v.).

1876. *Hindley, Cheap Jack*, 36. It was a very fine hot day—a regular ‘scorcher.”

1885. *Hawley Smart, Post to Finish*, 361. It’s a scorcher . . . and Mr. Elliston not ‘weighing-in’ with the Caterham money of course makes it rather worse for us.

1889. *Cornhill Mag.*, July, 62. The next day was a scorcher.

1890. *Pennell, Cant. Pilgrimage*, Preface. We were pilgrims, not scorchers.

1890. *Polytechnic Mag.*, 13 Mar., 5, 1. An impromptu scorcher was started by trying to keep behind a really fast cabby to obtain shelter from the wind.


1901. *D. Telegraph*, 7 Jan., 8, 3. As a result of complaints as to the excessive speed at which motor-cars are driven . . . the police have been keeping a sharp look-out for scorchers.

Score, verb. (common).—To get the better of: also to score off one.

Scorf. See Scorf.


1885. *Burton, Thousand Nights*, i. 168. Note 3.—In other copies of these verses the fourth couplet swears BY THE SCORPIONS OF HIS BROW, i.e. the accrocheurs, the beau-catchers, bell-ropes or “agravators.”

Scot, subs. (old).—1. A person easily vexed; esp. one given to resent company sport; the diversion is called getting one out (or round the corner). Also (2) = temper; a PADDY (q.v.); Scottish = fiery, easily provoked. [Grose: ‘A Scot is a bullock of a particular breed which affords superior diversion when hunted; Bee: ‘A butcher’s term’].


1886-96. *Marshall, He Slumbered* [*Pomes*, 118]. In the early evening watches he had started well on Scotchies.

1893. *Crackanthorpe, Wreckage*, 125. Mary, two bitters and a small Scotch to the Commercial Room, and a large Irish for Mr. Hays here.

2. See Scotch-peg.

Phrases.—Scotch-bait= ‘A halt and a resting on a stick as practised by pedlars (Grose); Scotch-casement = the pillory; Scotch-chocolate = ‘brimstone and milk’ (Grose); Scotch-coffee = hot water
flavoured with burnt biscuit; Scotch-fiddle = the itch; to play the Scotch-fiddle = 'to work the index finger of one hand like a fiddle-stick between the index and middle finger of the other' (Dyche, Grosé); Scotch greys = lice; hence head-quarters of the Scots' greys = a lousy head (Grosé); Scotch-hobby = 'a little sorry, scrubbed, low horse of that country' (B. E.); Scotch-mist = a soaking rain (B. E., Grosé); Scotch-ordinary = 'the house of office' (Ray); Scotch-peg = (rhyming) a leg; also Scotch; Scotch-pint = 'a bottle containing two quarts' (Grosé); Scotch-prize = a capture by mistake (Grosé): cf. Dutch; Scotch-seaman-ship = all stupidity and main strength; Scotch-warming-pan = (1) a chambermaid, and (2) a fart (q.v.—Ray, B. E., Grosé); to answer Scotch fashion = to reply by asking another question; cf. Yankee fashion.

1675. Earl of Rochester, Tunbridge Wells, June 30. And then more smartly to expound the Riddle Of all his Prattle, gives her a Scotch fiddle.

1762. London Register [Notes and Queries, 3 S., v. 14.] "The Scotch Fiddle," by M'Pherson. Done from himself. The figure of a Highlander sitting under a tree, enjoying the greatest of pleasures, scratching where it itches.

1834. Michael Scott, Cruise of Midight, 231. What ship is that? This was answered Scotch fashion—What felucca is that?

1835-61. Mayhew, London Lab., i. 357. But mind, if you handle any of his wares, he don't make you a present of a Scotch fiddle for nothing.

1863. Temple Bar, xxv. 76. The Scots greys were frequently on the march in the clothes of the convicts.

1886. Marshall, Pomes, 23. But some buds of youthfull purity, with undisplayed Scotch pegs. Ibid. Giddy (20). With that portion of his right Scotch peg supposed to be his calf.

1900. St. James's Gazette, 9 Apr. 3, r. The superiority of resources on our side is so overwhelming that we must win if only by what the sailors call Scotch Seaman-ship.

1883. Clark Russell, Sailor's Language, 121. Scotchman. A piece of wood fitted to a shroud or any other standing rope to save it from being chafed.

Scotchman, subs. (Colonial).—A florin.

1826. Rider Haggard, Jess, x. Janté touched his hat, spat upon the Scotchman, as the natives of that part of Africa [Transvaal] call a two-shilling piece, and pocketed it. [(1) Because once upon a time a Scotchman made a great impression on the simple native mind in Natal by palming off some thousands of florins among them at the nominal value of half-a-crown.]

Flying Scotchman, subs. phr. (common).—The daily 2 p.m. express from Euston to Edinburgh and the North. Cf. Wild Irishman.

1885. G. Dolby, Dickens as I knew him, 33. A railway carriage which was being dragged along at the rate of fifty miles an hour by the Flying Scotchman.

The Scotchman Hugging the Creole, phr. (West Indian).—See quot.

1835. M. Scott, Tom Cringle, xiv. The Scotchman hugging the Creole; look at that tree. . . . It was a magnificent cedar . . . covered over with a curious sort of fret-work, wove by the branches of some strong parasitical plant . . .

 Scots (The), subs. (military).—The 1st Batt. Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), formerly The 26th Foot: circa 1762.

Scott. See Great Scott.

Scoundrel, subs. (old: now recognised).—1. 'A Hedge-bird or sorry Scab' (B. E.); (2) 'a man void of every principle of honour' (Grosé).
Scour, verb. (old). — 1. To run away: also TO SCOUR AWAY (or OFF). — Grosé.

2. (venery). — To copulate: see GREENS and RIDE.

1656. Fletcher, Martiall, ii. 56. She is not wont to take, but give for SCOURING of her.

TO SCOUR THE DARBIES (or CRAMP-RINGS), verb. phr. (Old Cant). — To go (or lie) in chains [HARMAN (1573), HEAD, B. E., COLES, GROSE].

1668. Dekker, The Beggar’s Curse [GROSART, Works], iii. 203. Then to the quier ken, to SCOUR THE CRAMP-RING.

1707. Shirley, Triumph of Wit, ‘Rum-Works Faithless Maunder.’ Thou the Cramp-rings ne’er did SCOWRE.

1815. Scott, Guy Mannering, xxxviii. No wonder that you SCOUR THE CRAMP-RING and train to the chase so often.


c.1700. Gentleman Instructed, 491 [10 ed., 1732]. He spurr’d to London, and . . . Here he struck up with sharpers, scouerers, and Alsatians.

1712. Steele, Spectator, 324. Bullies and scouerers of a long standing.

1712. Gay, Trivia, iii. 325. Who has not heard the Scouerers midnight fame? Who has not trembled at the Mohock’s name?

Scout, subs. (Oxford Univ.). — 1. A college servant—a valet, waiter, messenger, &c., in one (Grosé).

1750. The Student, i. 55. My scout, indeed, is a very learned fellow.


1841. Hewlett, Peter Priggins, College SCOUT, &c. [Title].

1853. Bradley, Verdant Green, iii. Mr. Robert Filcher, the excellent, though occasionally erratic scout.

1884. Julian Sturgis in Longman’s, v. 65. The old don went back to his chair . . . as his scout came in with a note.

2. (old). — A watchman, or (modern) a spy, esq. a police spy. Hence scout-ken = a watchhouse (TOULTER (1754), GROSE, VAUX).

1800. Parker, Life’s Painter, 116. There’s no horries, traps, scouts, nor beak-runners amongst them.

1821. Egan, Life in London, ii. iii. Turning the corner of Old Bedlam, A scout laid me flat upon my face.


1688. Shadwell, Squire of Alsatia, ii. Sirrah! here’s a scout; what’s a clock, what’s a clock, Sirrah.


4. (old). — A mean fellow; a SCAB (q.v.). — B. E.

1749. Smollett, Rod. Random, xv. Though I be a poor cobbler’s son, I am no scout.

Verb. (Sporting). — To shoot pigeons outside a gun-club enclosure.

TO SCOUT ON THE LAY, verb. phr. (thieves’). — To go in search of booty.

c.1787. Kilmainham Minit [Ireland Sixty Years Ago, 88]. The scrag-boy may yet be outwitted, And I scout again on de lay.

Scowbank, subs. (nautical). — A term of contempt to a sailor (C. Russell).

Scrag (or Crag), subs. (old). — The neck; Colquarron (q.v.): as verb = (1) to hang; and (2) to throttle. Hence SCAGGING
Scrag. 121 Scran.

= an execution: SCRAG-BOY = the hangman; SCRAGGING-POST (SCRAG-SQUEEZER or SCRAG) = the gallows; SCRAGG-EM FAIR = a public execution (GROSE, PARKER, VAUX).

d.1555. LYNDAS, Thrie Estates [E. E. T. S., 4031]. Allace! Master, ye hurt my CRAG.

1579. SPENSER, Shep. Calendar, Feb., 89. Thy Ewes that woont to haue blowen bags, Like wailefull widdowes hangen their CRAGS.

1653. MIDDLETON, Changeling, i, 2. The devil put the rope about her CRAG.

1780. TOMLINSON, Slang Pastoral, 10. What Kiddy's so rum as to get himself SCRAGGD.

1820. London Mag., i, 26. The SCRAGGING-POST must have been his fate.

1827. LYTTON, Pelham, lxxxiii. If he pikes we shall all be SCRAGGED.

1829. The Lay's Lament [Vidocq's Mem., iii. 169]. Snitch on the gang, that'll be the best vay To save your SCRAG.

1834. AINSWORTH, Rookwood, v, 1. I wish I was as certain of my reward as that Turpin will eventually figure at the SCRAGGING-POST.

1836. MILNER, Turpin's Ride to York, i, 3. I shall never come to the SCRAGGING-POST, unless you turn topsman.

1837. BARHAM, Ingoldsby Leg. So out with your whinger at once And SCRAG Jane, while I spificate Johnny.

1838. DICKENS, Oliver Twist, xviii. Indicating, by a lively pantomimic representation, that SCRAGGING and hanging were one and the same thing.

1843. MONCRIEFF, Scamps of London, ii, 3. He was three times lagged, and werry near SCRAGGED.

1893. MILLIKEN, 'Arry Ballads, 61. A crusher's 'ard knuckles a crunching yer SCRAG.

1900. KIPLING, Stalky & Co., 46. Don't drop oil over my 'Fors;' or I'll SCRAG you.

2. (colloquial).—A raw-bones. Hence SCRAGGY = lean; thin (GROSE).

3. (Shrewsbury School).—See quot.

1826. D. Telegraph, 1 Jan., 1. It looked very much as though we should be obliged to put up at SCRAGG'S HOTEL—the Work'us, if you like it better.

SCRAGG'S HOTEL, subs. phr. (tramps').—See quot.

1886. D. Telegraph, 1 Jan., 1. It looked very much as though we should be obliged to put up at SCRAGG'S HOTEL—the Work'us, if you like it better.

SCRAMBLE, subs. (common).—A feed of any kind: usually with a qualifying subs.: as TEA-SCRAMBLE, MUFFIN-SCRAMBLE, TOFFEE-SCRAMBLE, &c.

1901. TRODDLES, 46. 'Rats! . . . didn't you ever have a TOFFEESCRAMBLE?

SCRAN, subs. (beggars').—(1) Food: spec. broken victuals; (2) refuse; also (3, military) = a meal. Hence SCRAN-BAG = a haversack, or TOMMY-BAG (q.v.); ON the SCRAN = begging. BAD SCRAN TO YE! (Irish) = a mild malediction.

1724. Harper, Frisky Molly's Song [FARMER, Musa Pedestris (1898), 41. But ere for the SCRAN he had tipt the cole, The Harman he came in.

1821. Egan, Life in London, 207. If you open your peepers you'll go without SCRAN.
Sertip.  

1 22  

Scrape.  

1841. LEVER, Charles O'Malley, lxxxv. Bad scran to me if I wouldn't marry out of a face this blessed morning just as soon as I'd look at ye.

1851. MAYHEW, London Lab., i. 466. Most of the lodging-house keepers buy the scran of the cadgers.

c.1856. Music Hall Song, 'Uncle Attend to Tommy.' And if he gets no scran, I soon shall see him wollop me As hard as ever he can.

1883. D. Telegraph, 8 Feb., 3, 2. She used to buy the contents of their scran bags of 'em. The broken wittles was no good to them, and they'd let it go cheap.

1893. EMERSON, L1.15/50, xviii. Thin bad scran to her. Is the 'onerable Mrs. Putney in town? The bark again consulted his book.

4. (common).—The reckoning at a public-house.

SCRAP, subs. (common).—(1) A fight; a ROUGH-AND-TUMBLE (q.v.) : also SCRAP-UP: hence SCRAPPING (or SCRAPING-MATCH) = prize-fighting or boxing; SCRAPPERS = a pugilist. Also (2) = a blow: see quot. 1610.

1610. ROWLANDS, Martin Mark-All, 49 (H. Club's Rep., 1874). Scrappes, fatte and glorious bittes: sound blows and bangings. The muggill will tip you fat scraps and glorious bits, the Beadle will well bumbast you.

1885. G. DOLBY, Dickens as I knew him, 102. An effect... resembling a scrap in a game of football.

1886-96. MARSHALL, Sad Heart ['Pomes,' 76]. Why, he can't scrap for nuts.

1887. D. NEWS, 3 Feb., 7, 1. He put his hat down in the hall, and said, "You want to scrap." (Laughter.)—Mr. D'Eyncourt: Scrap! What does that mean?—Defendant: It is some boxing term, sir. He came squaring up to me in a fighting attitude, and then I admit I did the best I could.

1893. EMERSON, Lippo, xvii. I could put up my dooks, so I backed to scrap a cove bigger nor me for a finnif a side. The scrap came off down the river at a place near Erith.

1896. CRANE, Maggie, i. He murmured with interest, 'a scrap, Gee!' He strode over to the cursing circle. Ibid., vi. Dat mug scrapped like a dago. He tau't he was a scraper. But he foun' out different.

3. (old).—'A villainous scheme or plot': TO WHIDDLE THE WHOLE SCRAP = 'to discover the plot' (GROSE).

SCRAPE, subs. (colloquial).—I. Trouble; a difficulty (GROSE).

1741. WARBURTON, Divine Legation, ii. The too eager pursuit of his old enemy has led him into many of these scrapes.

1748. SMOLETT, Rod. Random, ix. He got himself into a scrape by pawning some of his lordship's clothes. Ibid. (1749), Gil Blas [ROUTLEDGE], 188. By this device I got out of the scrape.

1754. Connoisseur, No. 6. I had, indeed, like to have got into some unlucky scrapes.

1767. STERNE, Tristram Shandy, i. 12. This unwary pleasantry of thine will... bring thee into scrapes and difficulties.

1778. SHERIDAN, Rivals, v. 1. Have they drawn poor... Sir Lucian into the scrape.

1790. BRUCE, Source of Nile, ii. 456. The Naybe Musa... found into what a terrible scrape he had got.

1797. M. G. LEWIS, Castle Spectre, v. i. He'd be in a terrible scrape if you began knocking down his walls.

1818. SCOTT, Rob Roy, viii. Johnson, however, was determined that Morris should not back out of the scrape or easily. Ibid. (1819), Lammermoor, viii. Unless you be in the Jacobite scrape already, it is quite needless for me to drag you in.

2. (common).—An obeisance: also as verb = to salute by scraping the feet; SCRAPE-SHOE = a sycophant: see LEG.

1632. MASSINGER [?], City Madam, iv. 1. Live, scrape-shoe, and be thankful.

c.1840. MANSFIELD, School Life in Winchester. When a Prefect wished to go out of School he scraped with his foot till he got a nod from the Master.
1851. Hawthorne, Seven Gables, xi. He took off his Highland bonnet, and performed a bow and scrape.

3. (common).—A shave: hence scraper = (a) a razor, and (b) a barber; and as verb = to shave.

1869. Public Opinion, 19 June. The beard and moustache which the sailors in the Royal Navy will be permitted to wear, thereby doing away with the objection that blue-jackets have to the scraper.

4. (school).—Cheap butter: whence bread and scrape = (a) bread very thinly spread with butter, and (b) short commons. scrape also = short shift.

1873. Broughton, Nancy, xlvii. Some people have their happiness thinly spread over their whole lives, like bread and scrape!

5. (old).—A turn at fiddling: also scraping; as verb = to fiddle; scraper (or cat-gut-scraper) = a fiddler. See cat-gut scraper.

1607. Dekker and Webster, Westward Hoe, v. 1. 'They are but rosining, sir, and they'll scrape themselves into your company presently'... 'Plague a' their cat's-guts and their scraping.'

1611. Chapman, May-day, iv. 1. Strike up, scrapers!


1785. Burns, Jolly Beggars. Her charms had struck a sturdy Caird, As weel's a poor gut-scraper.

6. (old).—A miser: also scraper, scrape-penny, scrape-all, scrapescall, and scrapegood. As verb = to stint, to deny.

1631. G. Herbert, Temple, 'Church Porch.' Never was scraper brave man.


c.1696. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. scrape all, a money-scrivener: also a miserable Wretch, or gripping Fellow.

To scrape the enamel, verb. phr. (cyclists').—To scratch the skin: by a fall.

See acquaintance; leg.

Scraper, subs. (nautical).—A cocked hat (C. Russell).

See scrape, catgut-scraper, elbow-scraper.

Scraping, subs. (old).—See quot.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. scraping. A mode of expressing dislike to a person, or sermon, practised at Oxford by the students, in scraping their feet against the ground during the preachment; frequently done to testify their disapprobation of a proctor who has been, they think, too rigorous.

Scraper-trencher, subs. phr. (old).—A glutton.

1772. Foote, Nabob, iii. So, Mr. scraper-trencher, let's have no more of your jaw.

Scrapy (Scappiness, and Scappily), adj., subs. and adv. (colloquial).—Made up of odds and ends; in driblets; without system.

1872. Eliot, Middlemarch, ii. Balanced... neatness... conspicuous from its contrast with... scappy slovenliness.

1886. Cont. Rev., xlix. 779. [Carlyle] was still a raw, narrow-minded, scappily educated Scotchman.


Scratch, subs. (old Scots').—I. See quot.: also scrap (Coles).

1560. Lindsay, of Pitcottie, Chronicles (Edinburgh, 1883), i. 162. There was one borne quhich had the memberis both of male and female, called in our language ane scratch.
2. (old).—A swaggerer (Halliwell).

3. (old).—The itch (Halliwell). Hence SCRATCHLAND = Scotland: cf. SCOTS GREYS.

4. (old).—A miserly man (Halliwell).

5. (sporting).—In handicaps (a) a starting line for those contestants allowed no odds, (b) the time of starting, (c) a start, (d) contestants starting from the scratch-line. In boxing, a line drawn across the ring (q.v.) to which boxers are brought for a set-to (Grose). Hence TO COME (or BRING) UP TO (or TOE) THE SCRATCH = to be ready, willing.

1810. Moore, Tom Crib, 51. Sprightly to the scratch both buffers came.

1821. Egan, Life in London, i. i. I challenge thee to the scratch! 'Tis one of the Fancy calls!

1825. Jones, 'True Bottom'd Boxer' [Univ. Songst., ii. 96]. He's for the scratch, and come up too in time.

1827. Scott, Two Drovers, ii. "How would you fight then?" said his antagonist; "though I am thinking it would be hard to bring you to the scratch anyhow."

1834. Ainsworth, Rookwood, iv. ii. Bold came each buffer to the scratch.

1857. Bradley, Verdant Green, ii. iv. Wondering ... if the gaining palms in a circus was the customary "flapper-shaking" before toeing the scratch for business.

1880. Athenæum, 4 Sept., 316, 2. A young lady, apparently of about thirteen years of age, who comes on the stage in a short frock, brings a timid and recalcitrant lover to the scratch.

1885. M. Post, 5 Feb. The former starting from scratch, and the latter in receipt of 200 points.

1885. Century Mag., xl. 207. The scratch, or line from which the jump is taken is a joist some five inches wide, sunk flush with the ground.

6. (billiards).—A FLUKE (q.v.).

Adj. (colloquial).—Generic for chance: hap-hazard, hasty, 'first come, first served.' Thus a scratch-crew (-team, or -company) = a crew, &c., got together at short notice and without special selection; scratch-race = a contest, unrestricted by conditions, a 'Go-as-you-please' affair; a scratch-meal = a pick-up (q.v.) meal; &c., &c. Also to scratch along = to manage somehow.


1869. Orchestra, 18 June. There is no English company—not the best—worthy of comparison with Félix's scratch troupe in respect of ensemble, of accurate detail.

1870. Figaro, 15 Feb. I do not much like the look of the scratch company that Messrs. Montague, James, and Thorne have got together.

1874. Collins, Frances, xlii. Frances and Cecilia, coming down, found a hasty luncheon, and everybody busy at it ... When this scratch luncheon was over, everybody went out.

1883. Oliphant, Altiora Pets, i. xvii. 61. A coarse-fibred, stumpy little man ... whose vulgarity would have fatally handicapped any other woman than his lovely and talented wife in the social scratch race.


1888. Harper's Mag., lxvii. 88. I suspect we'll scratch along all right.

Verb. (colloquial).—1. To expunge; to blot-out; spec. (a) to reject a horse, a candidate, &c.; and (b) to retire.
Scratched. 125 Screamer.

1869. W. H. RUSSELL, Diary in India, i. 189. His last act is to try and get his name scratched.

1884. D. Telegraph, 25 August, 3, 4. An acceptance of fourteen has already been cut down to a dozen by the scratching of Jetsam and Loch Ranza. *Ibid.* (1885), 6 Oct. One of his owner's first actions... was to scratch the horse.

1888. D. Chronicle, 3 July. The Eton boys... made up their minds on Wednesday evening to scratch.

1888. Sp. Life, 18 Dec. As she was clearly handicapped out of the race at Wye I had no option but to scratch her.

2. (colloquial).—To scribble: as *subs.* = a scrawl. SCRATCHER (U. S.) = a daybook.

d. 1745. SWIFT [Century]. If any of their labourers can scratch out a pamphlet, they desire no wit, style, or argument.

1772. ELIOT, Middlemarch, lxv. This is Chichely's scratch. What is he writing to you about?

1887. PHIL. LEDGER, 30 Dec. He [a bank teller] would not enter deposits in his scratcher after a certain hour.

PHRASES. — NO GREAT SCRATCH = of little value; OLD SCRATCH (q.v.); TO SCRATCH ONE'S WOOL (tailors') = to try one's memory, to puzzle out; 'SCRATCH my breech and I'll claw your elbow' (KA ME, KA THEE, q.v.); NOT A SIXPENCE TO SCRATCH HIS ARSE WITH = penniless.

1844. Major Jones's Courtship Detailed, 136. There are a good many Joneses in Georgia, and I know some myself that ain't no great scratches.

SCRATCHED, adj. (Old Cant).—Drunk: see SCREWED. [TAYLOR, Water Poet, 1630].

SCRATCHER, subs. (American).—I. An independent elector; a BOLTER (q.v.).

1883. Atlantic Monthly, lxi. 377. To whom a scratcher is more hateful than the Beast.

See Scratch, verb. 2.

SCRAWNY, subs. (American).—A thin, ill-made man or woman; A RASHER OF WIND (q.v.).

1890. Detroit Free Press, 21 June, 5, 3. If the line is to be drawn between the scrummy and the adipose, the scrumries have it. They are full of delightful possibilities.

SCREAMER, subs. (common).—I. An exceptional person or thing: hence SCREAMING = first-rate, splendid: spec. as causing screams of laughter.

1846. THORPE, Backwoods [Century]. If he's a specimen of the Choctaws that live in these parts, they are screamers.

1847. PORTER, Quarter Race, 189. 'Now look out for a screamer!'

1853. WH. MELVILLE, Digby Grand, xx. I am in for a screamer, and the bill for which I am arrested is only a ruse to prevent my leaving England.

1864. HOTTON, Slang Dict, s.v. SCREAMING... Believed to have been used in the Adelphi play-bills: "a screaming farce," one calculated to make the audience scream with laughter.

1874. Siliad, 49. There'll be no child's play in the Russian dug, 'Twill be a screamer, and a frightful tug.

1879. BRADDON, Cloven Foot, vi. "Well," cried the manager, radiant, "a screaming success. There's money in it. I shall run this three hundred nights."

1883. D. Telegraph, 19 Jan., 3, 5. A more amusing half-hour could not be spent than under the influence of this farce, which, in the old Adelphi days would most emphatically have been called a screamer. *Ibid.* (1888), 8 Dec. The 'Deputy-Registrar' is a screamer indeed.

1888. RUNCIMAN, Chequers, 38. She's a screamer, she's a real swell.
1891. Sporting Life, 25 Mar. The piece, which is of the SCREAMING order of farce, certainly produces abundant laughter.

1893. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, 77. Yank on to one gal, a fair SCREAMER.

2. (thieves'). — A thief who, robbed by another thief, applies to the police; in American a SQUEALER (q. v.).

SCREAM, subs. (common).—Whiskey: see OLD MAN'S MILK.

SCREAMER, subs. (colloquial).— Anything harsh or strident. Hence SCREAMY = loud mouthed.

SCREAM. SCREAMER, phr. (Scots').—1. A full supply; whence (2) a drinking bout.

1815. Scott, Guy Mannering, xxv. Naething confuses one, unless it be a SCREAMER at an oration.

SCREEN, subs. (old).—A bank note (GROSE, VAUX). Hence SCREENFACKING = fingering notes; QUEER SCREENS = counterfeit paper; cf. SCREEVE.


1830. Moncrieff, Heart of London, ii. 1. A little SCREENFACKING, that's all.

1834. Ainsworth, Rootwood, 'Nix my Dolly.' Readily the QUEER SCREENS I then could smash.

1840. Lytton, Paul Clifford, xxxi. Stretched for smashing QUEER SCREENS.

SCREEVE (or SCREEVE), subs. (old).—1. Anything written: a begging letter, a testimonial, chalk pavement work, &c. Also (2) a bank note (Scots): cf. SCREEN; SCREEVEYTON = the Bank of England. As verb. = to write, or draw; SCREEVER (or SCREEVEFAKER) = (1) a cheeky beggar (GROSE, VAUX), and spec. (2) a pavement-'artist.'

1821. Haggart, Life, 25. The SCREAVES were in his benjy cloy.

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab., i. 339. Professional beggars are . . . those who 'do it on the blob' (by word of mouth), and those who do it by SCREWING, that is, by petitions and letters. Ibid. i. 341. Such a 'fakement' [a begging petition, &c.], put into the hands of an experienced lurker, will bring the 'amanuensis,' or SCREEVER, two guineas at least, and the proceeds of such an expedition have in many cases averaged £60 per week. Ibid., i. 542. His chief practice was SCREWING or writing on the pavement. Ibid. (1862), iv. 442. The next SCREEVE takes the form of a resolution at a public meeting.

1857. Punch, 31 Jan., 49. It's agin the rules is SCREevin' to pails out o' gaol.

1866. London Miscellany, 3 Mar., 57. 'You'd better be a SCREEVER if they ask you,' said he. 'That'll account for your hands, you know.' "You mean a begging-letter writer?"

1883. Punch, 14 July, 13, 2. Here is a brilliant opening for merry old Academicians, festive flagstone SCREEVERS, and "distinguished amateurs."

1884. World, 16 April, 15, 1. A correspondent writes: "Apropos of SCREEVER . . . does it get its derivation from the Italian scrivere, to write?"

1887. Henley, Villon's Straight Tip, 1. Suppose you SCREEVE or go cheap-jack.

1889. Answers, 27 July, 136, 2. A list of subscribers to a charity is carefully cut out by the SCREEVERS and studied. Ibid. A clerk is frequently called a SCREEVER, but a SCREEVER proper (or improper) is such a remarkable person.

SCREW, subs. (colloquial).—1. An extortioner; a miser. As verb. = to coerce into paying or saving money, or making a promise, yielding one's opinion, vote, person, &c.: also TO SCREW UP (or OUT), and TO PUT ON (or UNDER OR TURN) THE SCREW (B. E., GROSE); SCREWY (or SCREWING) = mean.

c.1696. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. SCREW, TO SCREW ONE UP, to exact upon one, or Squeeze one in a Bargain or Reckoning.

1847. Thackeray, *Vanity Fair*, viii. They both agreed in calling him an old screw, which means a very stingy, avaricious person.

1851-61. Mayhew, *Lond. Lab.*, i. 319. Mechanics are capital customers... They are not so screwy.

1852. Dow, *Sermons*, i. 302. Love strains the heart-strings of the human race, and not unfrequently puts the screws on so hard as to snap them asunder.


1859. Kingsley, *Geoffrey Hamilton*, xxvii. However I will put the screw on them. They shall have nothing from me till they treat her better.

1860. *Cornhill Mag.*, ii. 381. He was an immense screw at school.


1869. Whyte-Melville, *M. or N.*, 61. The utmost speed attainable by a pair of high wheels, a well-bred screw, and a rough-looking driver.


1874. *Times*, 23 July, Speech of Lord Granville. A considerable number of what are vulgarly called screws have been bought at £20 a piece.

1875. Apperley, *Nimrod's Hunting Tour*, 215. Mr. Charles Boulbee, the best screw driver in England. (Note.) This is somewhat technical, and wants an explanation. A lame or very bad horse is called a screw.

1885. D. Telegraph, 12 Sep. He had little doubt of being able to put the screw on me for any amount I was good for.

2. (American collegiate).—(a) An unnecessarily minute examination; and (b) a screw. The instructor is often designated by the same name.—(Hall, *College Words*.)

1876. *Harvard Register*, 378 [Bartlett]. One must experience the stammering and stuttering, the unending doubtings and guessings, to understand fully the power of a mathematical screw.

3. (common).—An old or worthless horse: whence (loosely) anything old. Screw = worn-out, worthless.

1858. Lytton, *What Will He Do with it*, vii. vi. I suppose I was cheated and the brute proved a screw.

1869. Green, *What Will He Do with it*, vii. vi. I suppose I was cheated and the brute proved a screw.


1879. *Times*, 23 July, 'Speech of Lord Granville.' A considerable number of what are vulgarly called screws have been bought at £20 a piece.


4. (common).—See quot. 1851.

1851-61. Mayhew, *Lond. Lab.*, i. 494. I never was admitted to offer them in a parlour or tap-room; that would have interfered with the order for screws (penny papers of tobacco), which is a rattling good profit.

1835. Apperley, *Nimrod's Hunting Tour*, 215. Mr. Charles Boulbee, the best screw driver in England. (Note.) This is somewhat technical, and wants an explanation. A lame or very bad horse is called a screw.
5. (common).—Money earned.
c.1860. *Music-hall Song, 'The G.P.O.'* He often thought of marriage, though his screw was low.

1872. *Figaro*, 18 May. The amateur element ... takes paltry salaries (often none), and keeps down the screw of the actor.

1879. Justin McCarthy, *Donna Quixote*, xvii. They get a good screw at the music-halls, I'm told.

1886. *D. Telegraph*, 25 Sep. £150 per annum is considered quite a good screw for a senior hand.


1892. *Ally Sloper*, 27 Feb., 71, 3. He had now the neat salary of £450 a year, and had come to the conclusion that a person with a screw like that might safely commit matrimony.

6. (old).—A turnkey (Grose): Fr. *raf* and *griffieur*. As *verb.* = to imprison: also TO PUT UNDER THE SCREW; SCREWING = a term of imprisonment.


1869. *Temple Bar*, xxvi. 72. He was a fool to let the screw see he had the snout.

1872. *D. Telegraph*, 4 July. The letter was produced ... It was to the effect that the woman was to try her best with the screws, and that there were plenty of "quids" to get her out of prison by next Monday.

1877. *Five Years' Penal Servitude*, ii. The slang name for all the officials is screws.

1883. Sims, *Plank Bed Ballad*, 5. With screws and a james I was collared.

8. (old).—A prostitute: see TART. Whence, as *verb.* = to copulate: see RIDE (Grose).

9. (common).—A dram; a PICK-ME-UP.

1877. *Five Years' Penal Servitude*, iii. It seems he was in the habit of taking every morning a screw in the shape of a little dose of bitters to correct the effects of the last evening's festivities.

10. (old).—A stomach ache (HALLIWELL).

A SCREW LOOSE, *verb.* phr. (old).--Something wrong (Grose: 'a complete flash phrase').

1821. Egan, *Life in London*, I. vii. The token was sufficiently impressive to remind him that if the loose screw was not attended to the hinges would be ultimately out of repair.
Screwed.

1830. Moncrieff, *Heart of London*, ii. 2. His lordship seems hipped—something wrong in the House last night, I suppose—a screw loose on the opposition benches.

1837. Dickens, *Pickwick*, xlix. My uncle was confirmed in his original impression that something dark and mysterious was going forward, or, as he always said himself, that 'there was a screw loose somewhere.'

1855. Trollope, *The Warden*, viii. There's a screw loose in their case, and we had better do nothing.

1887. *South London Press*, 17 Aug. Whether there was a screw loose in the apparatus, or whether the man possessed nerves of more than ordinary power, I know not; but somehow or other the electricity had no effect.

**Screwed** (or **Scrawny**), adj. (common). —Drunk; tight (q.v.).

**ENGLISH SYNONYMS.** —[Further lists will be found under DRINKS, DRUNK, D.T’s, GALLON-DISTEMPER, LUSH, LUSH-CRIB, and LUSHINGTON.] To be afflicted, afloat, aleeed, all at sea, all mops-and-brooms, in one's armour, in one's altitudes, at rest, Bacchi plenus, battered, be-argered, beery, bemused, a bit on, blind, bloated, blewed, blueed, boozed, bosky, a brewer, bright in the eye, bubbed, budgy, bung-eyed, candy, canon (or cannon), chirping-merry, chucked, clear, clinched, concerned, corked, corkscrewed, corky, corned, crooked, in one's cups, cup-shot, cut, dagged, damaged, dead-oh! disguised, disorderly, doing the Lord (or Emperor), done over, down (with barrel-fever: see GALLON-DISTEMPER), dull in the eye, full of Dutch-courage, electrified, elephant's-trunk (rhyming), elevated, exalted, far gone, feeling funny (or right royal), fettleed (or in good fettle), fighting-tight (or drunk), flawed, floored, fluffed, flum-moxed, flushed, flustered, frustrated, flying-high, fly-blown, fogged (or foggy), fou (Scots), on fourth, foxted, fresh, fuddled, full, full-flavoured, full to the bung, fuzzy, gay, gilded, glorious, grape-shot, gravelled, greetin'-fou', groggy, hanced, half-seas-over, happy, hard-up, hazy, heady, hearty, helpless, hiccup-doo, hickey, high, hockey, hoodman, in a difficulty (see GALLON-DISTEMPER), incog, inspired, jagged, jolly, jug-bitten, kennurd (back slang drunk), all keyhole, kisk, knocked-up, leary, lion drunk, in Liquor-pond Street-loaded, looking lively, lumply, lushy, making indentures with one's legs, malted, martin-drunk, mashed, mellow, miraculous, mixed, moony, mopped, moppy, mortal, muckibus, muddled, mugged, muggy, muzzy, nappy, nase (or nazy), noddy-headed, noggy, obsfucated, oddish, off (off at the nail, or one's nut), on (also on the bend, beer, batter, fuddle, muddle, sentry, skyte, spree, etc.: see FLARE-UP and FLOORED), out (also out of funds, register, altitudes, &c.), overcome, overseen, overshot, over-sparred, overtaken, over the bay, palatic, paralysed, peckish, a peg too low, pepst, pickled, piper-drunk (or -merry), ploughed, poddy, podgy, potted-off, pot-sick, pot-valiant, primed, pruned, pushed, queered, quick-tempered, raddled, rammaged, ramping-mad, rather touched, rattled, reeling (or tumbling), ripe, roaring, rocky, salubrious, scammed, scooped, sewn up, shaky, three (or four) sheets in the wind, shot, shot in the neck, slewed, smeekit, smelling of the cork, snapped, snuffy, snug, so, soaked, sow-
drunk, spiffed, spoony-drunk, spreeish, sprung, squiffed (or squiffy), stale-drunk, starchy, swattled, swiggled, swilled, swin-nied, swine-drunk, swiped (or swipey), swivelly, swizzled, taking it easy, tangle-footed, tap-shackled, taverned (also hit on the head by a tavern bitch, or to have swallowed a tavern token), teeth under, thirsty, tight, tipsy, top-heavy, topsy-boosy, tosticated, under the influence, up a tree, up in one's hat, waving a flag of defiance, wet, wet-handed, what-nosed, whipcat (FLORIO), whittled, winey, yappish (yaupy or yappy). Also, TO HAVE a guest in the attic, the back teeth well afloat, a piece of bread and cheese in the head, drunk more than one has bled, the sun in one's eyes, a touch of boskiness, a cup too much, a brick in the hat, a drop in the eye, got the flavour, a full cargo aboard, a jag on, a cut leg, the malt above the wheat, one's nuff, one's soul in soak, yellow fever. Also, TO HAVE BEEN barring too much, bitten by a barn mouse, driving the brewer's horse, biting one's name in, dipping rather deep, making M's and T's, paid, painting the town red, shaking a cloth in the wind. Also, to wear a barley cap, to cop the brewer, to let the finger ride the thumb, to lap the gutter, to need a reef taken in, to see the devil, to take a shard (or shourd), to shoe the goose, to see one apiece.

French Synonyms.—S'allumer ; s'attendrir ; attraper un allumette ronde, un coup de sirop, or une maculature ; Avoir son affaire, son allumette (son allu-
come un âne (un hanneton, une grive, un Polonais, or trente milles hommes), slasse (or slase), teinté, dans la terrine, en train, dans les vignes (or la vigne) du Seigneur, and vent dessus-dessous (or dedans); faire cracher ses soupapes; se farder; fête la Saint-Lundi; se flanquer un coup d'arrosoir (une cuite, une Culotte, or une fameuse pêle); se fonder; se grimer; se grisoler; nzettre son nez dans le bleu; se mettre en dedans; se mouiller; se paler; se payer; se pincer (or se pincer un coup de sirop or le tasseau); se piquer le nez (le tasseau, or le tube); se poisser; se poivrotter; se pommader; 'rendre son allunzette (or une barbe); ramponner; se Jahr le nez; schniquer; se schlosser; se sculpter une guende a'e bois; slasser; se tinter; ne pas trouver son niveau; voir en a'edans.

1837. Barham, Ing. Leg., 'Witches' Frolic.' Like a four-bottle man in a company SCREW'D, Not firm on his legs, but by no means subdued.

1841. Punch, i. 278. We had a great night in London before I started, only I got rascally SCREWED: not exactly sewed up, you know, but hit under the wing, so that I could not well fly.

1843. Dickens, Martin Chuzzlewit, xxv. She was only a little SCREWED.

1850. Smedley, Frank Fairlegh, 133. If any of our party were in the condition expressed by the mysterious word SCREWED, it certainly was Lawless himself.

185. Thackeray, Newcomes, xlvii. Blest if I didn't nearly drive her into a vegetable cart. I was so uncommon SCROVEY!

1871. All Year Round, 16 Feb., 288. Awfully SCREWED. Been keeping it up with a fast lot at Gypsum.

1895. Reynolds, 18 Aug., 4, 7. A witness suggested that the prisoners were too drunk to know what they were doing.

Mr. Gray: No. We admit being a little bit SCREWED, but we were not so bad as all that.

SCRIBBLER'S LUCK, subs. phr. (common).—See quot. 1898. Pelican, 3 Dec., i1, 2. His purse is pretty full; mine, worse luck, is almost empty. SCRIBBLER'S LUCK, an empty purse and a full hand.

SCRIBE. See ONE-EYED SCRIBE.

SCRIMSHANKER, subs. (military).—A loafer: cf. BLOODSUCKER; whence SCRIMSHANK = to shirk duty.

SCRIMSHAW (or SCRIMSHANDER), subs. (nautical).—See quotes. Also SCRIMSHON and SCRIMSHORN.

18 [?]. Fisheries of U.S., v. ii. 231-2. SCRIMSHAWING. . . is the art, if art it be, of manufacturing useful and ornamental articles at sea. . . . We find handsome writing desks, toilet boxes, and work-boxes made of foreign woods, inlaid with hundreds of other pieces of precious woods of various shapes and shades.

1883. C. Russell, Sailors' Language, s. v. SCRIMSHANDY. An Americanism signifying the objects in ivory or bone carved by whalemen during their long voyages.

SCRIP, subs. (old).—See quot. and BLOT THE SCRIP (GROSE).

c.1696. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, S.V. SCRIP, c. a shred or scrap of paper. 'As the Cully did freely blot the SCRIP, and sipt me 4o Hogs,' c. one enter'd into Bond with me for 40 Shillings.

SCROBY. To be tipped the SCROBY (or CLAWS) FOR BREAKFAST, verb phr. (old).—'To be whipped before the justices' (GROSE).

SCROOF (or SCROOFER), subs. (American).—A parasite: as verb = TO SPONGE (q.v.).

SCROPE, subs. (old).—A farthing: see RHINO (HALL, GROSE).
Scrouger.—(American).—Anything exceptional in size, quality, capacity, &c.

1847. ROBB, Squatter Life, 106. The gals among 'em warn't any on your pigeon creaturs ... but real scrougers—any on 'em over fourteen could lick a bar easy.

c.1852. Traits of Amer. Humour, 265. A drum, and a regular scrouger at that.

Scrougerize.—(venery).—To copulate: see Greens and Ride (RABELAIS).

Scroyle.—(old).—A diseased wretch: Fr. écrouelles = King's evil.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, King John, ii. 2. By heaven, these scroyles of Angiers flout you, kings.

1596. JONSON, Ev. Man, i. 1. To be a consort for every humdrum; hang 'em, scroyles! there is nothing in them in the world. Ibid. (1601), Poetaster, iv. 3. A better, profligate rascal! I cry thee mercy, my good scroile, wast thou?

Scrub.—(old colloquial).—Any mean, or ill-conditioned person, or thing; as adj. = paltry, mean: also scrubbed, and scrubby; scrub-race = a contest between contemptible animals; after FARQUHAR and The Beaux' Stratagem (1707).—B. E., GROSE.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, Mer. of Venice, v. 1, 162. A little scrubbed boy No higher than myself.

1621. BURTON, Anat. of Mel. (1836) i. ii. iii. xv. 201. Or if they keep their wits, yet they are esteemed scrubs and fools, by reason of their carriage.


1656. WITHAL, Dict. [NARES]. Promus magis quam condus: he is none of these miserable scrubs, but a liberall gentleman.

c.1696. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. scrub, a Ragamuffin.

1706. WARD, Hudibras Redivivus, i. vi. 6. Each member of the holy club, From lofty saint, to lowly scrub. Ibid. i. x. 10. Mounted on scrubs that us'd to Scour, Upon a Trot, eight Miles an Hour.

1730. SWIFT, Traulus, i. The scrubbiest cur in all the pack Can set the mastiff on your back. Ibid., Stella, xxviii He finds some sort of scrub acquaintance.

1731. FIELDING, Letter Writers, ii. 2. t. WH. You stoop to us, scrub! 2. WH. You a lord! You are some attorney's clerk, or haberdasher's 'prentice. Ibid. (1749), Tom Jones, viii. iii. He is an errant scrub, I assure you.

1751. SMOLLETT, Peregrine Pickle, lxviiii. You are worse than a dog, you old flinty-faced, flea-bitten scrub.

1766. GOLDSMITH, Vicar of Wakefield, x. We should go there in as proper a manner as possible; not altogether like the scrubs about us.

1814. AUSTEN, Mansfield Park, xxv. I could not expect to be welcome in such a smart place as that—poor scrubby midshipman as I am.

1843. DICKENS, Martin Chuzzlewit, xxxv. No scrubs would do for no such a purpose. Nothing less would satisfy our Directors than our member in the House of Commons.


1852. L'ALLEGRO: As Good as a Comedy, 109. There was to be a scrub race for sweepstakes, in which more than twenty horses had been already entered.

1861. BRADDON, Trail of the Serpent, i. iv. The dumb man was a mere scrub, one of the very lowest of the police-force. Ibid. (1868), Dead Sea Fruit, xxiii. I told you I knew a handy scrub of a man, good at picking up any out-of-the-way book I may happen to want.

1883. ROOSEVELT [Century, xxxvi. 200]. We got together a scrub wagon team of four as unkempt, dejected, and vicious-looking broncos as ever stuck fast in a quicksand.

2. (American Univ.).—A servant.

Verb. (Christ's Hospital).—1. To write fast: e.g., 'Scrub it down.' Also as subs. = handwriting. [Lat. scribere.] See Strive.

2. (colloquial).—To drudge.
**SCRUBBADO, *subs.* (old).—The itch (B. E., Grose).**

**SCRUBBER, *subs.* (Australian).—See quot.**

1888. **BOLDREWOOD, Robbery Under Arms**, xx. We had a scrumptious feed that night.


1900. **KIPLING, Stalky & Co., 7.** 'Isn't it scrumptious? Good old sea!'

**SCRUNCH, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A hard bite; a crushing blow; and (figuratively) a complete effect of tyranny; as *verb.* = to crush, to grind down, to squeeze; **SCRUNCHER** = a glutton.**

1851-61. **MAYHEW, Lond. Lab., 11.** 566. I... scruntched myself into a doorway, and the policeman passed four or five times without seeing on me.

1865. **DICKENS, Mutual Friend, iii.** v. It's the same... with the footmen. I have found out that you must either scrunch them, or let them scrunch you.

1869. **STOWE, Oldtown, 480.** We... shouted Hurrah for old Heber I as his load of magnificent oak... came scrunching into the yard.

1888. **Fort. Rev., N.S., xliii.** 627. At each step there is a scrunch of human bones.

**SCUD, *subs.* (common).—(1) A fast runner; and (2) a HOT SPIN (q.v.).**

1857. **HUGHES, Tom Brown's School-days, 1.** v. I say... you ain't a bad scud.

2. (American). — In *pl.* = money: *see RHINO.*

**Scuddick, *subs.* (old).—The smallest item of value (HALLIWELL): *see* quot. 1823.**

1823. **BEE, Dict. Turf, s.v. Scuddick—*is used negatively; 'not a scuddick'—not any brads, not a win, empty clies. 'Every scuddick gone'; 'she gets not a scuddick from me', does not amend the matter from repetition.**
1843. Moncrieff, Scamps of London, i. 1. Hasn't a mag left—not a scud-dick—is obliged to live on his wits.

Scuff, subs. (thieves').—A crowd.

1879. Macm. Mag., xl. 50r. This got a scuff round us.

Sims, Plank - Bed Ballad [Referee, 12 Feb.]. A scuff came about me and hollered.

Scuffle - hunter, subs. phr. (obsolete).—See quot.

1797. Police of the Met., 54. Those who are distinguished by the nickname of scuffle-hunters prowl about the wharfs, quays and warehouses under pretence of asking employment as porters and labourers, but their chief object is to pillage and plunder whatever comes in their way.

Scufter, subs. (provincial).—See quot.

1886. Graphic, 30 Jan., 130, 1. In the North a constable is or was known as a scufter and a "bulky."

Scug, subs. (Eton and Harrow).—A sneak (q.v.); a play-cad (q.v.).

1880. C. T. Buckland, Eton Fifty Years Ago. Bathing was always in great favour with the Eton boys. A boy who did not bathe was called a scug.

1889. Drage, Cyril, vii. Such a little skug, to use a word in use at my tutor's.

Sculduddery (or sculduggery), subs. (old).—Bawdry; also as adj.

1713. Centlivre, The Wonder, iii. 3. Gibby. To run three hundred mile to this wicked town, and, before I can well fill my weam, to be sent a whorehunting after this black she-devil! . . . there's na sic honest people here, or there wud na be sa mickle sculduddie.

1818. Scott, Midlothian, xvi. Can find out naething but a wee bit sculduddery.


Scull, subs. (University).—1. The head (or master) of a College (Grose). Hence scull-race = an examination.

2. (colloquial).—In pl. = a waterman using a pair of sculls or short oars (q.v.).—Grose.

c. 1704. [Ashton, Soc. Life in Reign of Q. Anne, ii. 144.] A cry of next 'Oars' or 'Sculls'!

3. (old).—'A one-horse chaise or buggy' (Grose).

Scullery-science, subs. phr. (obsolete).—Phrenology.

1836. Chorley, Mem. Mrs. Hemans, i. 255. I did very much aggravate the phrenologist lately by laughing at the whole scullery science and its votaries.

Scull-thatcher, subs. phr. (common).—1. A wig-maker (Grose); and (2) a hatter: see nob-thatcher.

Sculpin, subs. (American).—'A mean or mischief-making fellow [Local slang, New Eng.]' (Century).

Scum, subs. (old : now recognised).—'The Riff-Raff, or Tagrag and Long-tail' (B. E., Grose).

Adv. (old).—Enough (Street Robberies Considered, 20).

Scumber (or scummer), subs. (old).—Excrement: as verb. = to defecate (Cotgrave, 1611, s.v. Chier).


[?]. Ulysses upon Ajax, B.6. The picture of a fellow in a square cap skummering at a privy.

1630. Massinger, Picture, v. 1. Just such a one as you use to a brace of greyhounds, When they are led out of their kennels to scumber.
1658. Musar. Del., 'On Epsom Wells.' Old Ops. . . . Is yellow, not with summer, But safronised with mortal SCUMMER.

SCUMBLE, verb. (artists'). — To glaze a picture.

SCURF, subs. (common). — See quot. 1851.

1851-61. MAvHEW, London Lab., i. 20. They . . . burst out into one expression of disgust. "There's a SCURF!" said one; "He's a regular scab," cried another. Ibid., ii. 262. The Saxon Sceorfa, which is the original of the English SCURF, means a scab, and scab is the term given to the "cheap men" in the shoemaking trade. Scab is the root of our word Shabby, hence SCURF and Scab, deprived of their offensive associations, both mean shabby fellows.

1851. SHAKSPEARE, Merry Wives, v. 5, 20. My doe with the black SCUT.

1664. COTTON, Virgil Travestie (1st ed.), 104. And likewise there was finely put, A Cushion underneath her SCUT.

1704. [Ashton, Social Life, &c., i. 92]. Shut myself in my Chamber, practised Lady Betty Modely's SCUTTLE.

1841. THACKERAY, Comic Tales, ii. 164. But, oh horror! a scream was heard from Miss Binse who was seen SCUTTLING at double-quick time towards the schoolhouse.


1875. W. H. KINGSTON, South Sea Whaler, xiv. SCUTTLING away at a rapid rate.

Verb. (Christ's Hospital, Hertford). — 2. To cry out, under oppression, to attract the attention of the authorities. Hence SCUTTLE-CAT = one who SCUTTLES (obsolete).
3. (venery). — To deflower. Hence, TO SCUTTLE A SHIP = to take a maidenhead.

4. (thieves'). — To stab.

TO SCUTTLE A NOB, verb. phr. (pugilists').—To break a head.

c.1811. Maher, Night before Larry was Stretched. I'll SCUTTLE YOUR NOB with my fist.

1818. Randall, On R.'s fight with Turner. As he offered to SCUTTLE A NOB O'er again.

ON THE SCUTTLE, phr. (common).—On a round of drinking or whoring.

SCUTTLING, subs. (Manchester).—See quotes.

1899. D. Telegraph, 13 Dec. 'SCUTTLING in Lancashire.' SCUTTLING was a practice very prevalent within the county of Lancaster. The offence was committed by a body of young persons, male and female, belonging to one part of the city, who had a real or fancied grievance against another similar body of persons from an adjacent part. The opposing forces were armed with belts with large buckles to them, knives, pokers, stones, and the like, and the mobs so armed turned out at times for a regular affray, and inflicted serious injuries upon one another. Not only did these roughs enter into conflict with others of a similar class, but they frequently attacked unoffending passers-by.

1811. Lancet, 3499, 643. Manchester is becoming notorious for a form of street ruffianism known locally as SCUTTLING. It consists of gangs of youths going about certain districts ostensibly to fight with similar gangs of adjacent districts.

SCUTTLE-MOUTH, subs. phr. (costers').—See quot.

1831-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab., i, 77. The "big trade" was unknown until 1848, when the very large shelly oysters, the fish inside being very small, were introduced from the Sussex coast. The costermongers distinguished them by the name of SCUTTLE-MOUTHS.

SEA. AT SEA, adv. phr. (colloquial).—Puzzled; WIDE (q.v.): cf. HALF-SEAS-OVER.

1864. Cornhill Mag., Nov., 577. 'What is he?' I asked, still more AT SEA.

1889. Polytechnic Mag., 24 Oct., 263. For the first ten minutes the B's were all AT SEA on the rough and peculiarly shaped ground.

PHRASES AND COMBINATIONS. — SEA-CRAB = a sailor (GROSE); SEA-DOG = (1) a privateer (temp. Eliz.), and (2) a sailor: spec. an old SALT (q.v.); SEA-GALLOPER = a special correspondent; SEA-GROCER = a purser; SEA-LAWYER = (1) a shark (GROSE), and (2) a captious or scheming fo'csle hand: whence SEA-LAWYERING = argument with officers; SEA-LEGS = ability to walk the deck of a rolling ship without staggering; SEA-WAG = an ocean-going vessel; SEA-RAT (old) = a pirate: cf. RIVER-RAT; SEA-ROVER = a herring: see ATLANTIC RANGER; SON OF A SEA-COOK = a nautical term of abuse; SEA-CONNIE (or CUNNIE) = (1) the helmsman on an Indian trader, and (2) = a Lascar quartermaster (Clark Russell); SEA-COAL = money.

1835. Dana, Before the Mast, ii. I had not got my SEA LEGS on, was dreadfully sick . . . and it was pitch dark.

1836. Scott, Cringle's Log, xvi. Ay, you supercilious SON OF A SEA-COOK, you may turn up your nose at the expression.

1864. Kingsley, Hillyars, xxiv. It made her stand firmer on her . . . had I been speaking of an English duchess I would have said her SEA LEGS.

1874. Green, Short Hist., 406. The Channel swarmed with SEA-DOGS . . . who accepted letters of marque from the Prince of Conde.
1890. Spectator, 3 May, Rev. of 'Slang and its Analogues.' ... The extraordinary 'bouncer' that a very common request at Lockhart's coffee-houses in London is for 'a doorstep and a sea-rover.'

1899. Whitling, John St., xi. At the words 'doorsteps and sea-rover,' the man at the bar produces a slice of bread and a herring.


1901. Referee, 7 Ap., 1. Great care should be exercised so as to minimise chances of their being able to take two chances for their money, one in the game and the other by 'sea-lawrying.'

1901. Army and Navy Gaz., 3 July, 683, 2. Whether these sea-gallopers—to use Lord Spencer's historical designation—in the battleships will be able to see much of the fun is, we should imagine, doubtful.

Seal, subs. (clerical).—1. See quot.

1853. Dean Conybeare [Edin. Rev., Oct., 295, note]. A preacher is said in this phraseology to be owned when he makes many converts, and his converts are called his seals.

2. (American).—See quot.

1850-2. Stanbury, Salt Lake Exp., 136. In Mormon phraseology, all wives taken after the first are called spiritual wives, and are said to be sealed to the husband under the solemn sanction of the church, and in all respects, in the same relation to the man as the wife that was first married.

3. (venery).—In pl. = the testes: see Cods.

Verb. (venery).—To impregnate; to sew up (q.v.).

Sealer, subs. (old).—'One that gives bonds and judgments for goods and money' (B. E., Grose): see Squeeze-wax.

Seam. See White-seam.

Sear, subs. (old).—The female pudendum: see monosyllable, &c. [Properly the touch-hole of a pistol.] Hence light (or tickle) of the sere = wanton; fond of bawdy laughter (Halliwell).

[?] Commune Secretary and jalousye [Halliwell]. She that is faire, lusty, and yonge, And can comon in termes wyth fyled tonge, And wyll abyde whysperyng in the eare, Thynke ye her tayle is not lyghte of the sere.

1596. Shakspeare, Hamlet, ii. 2, 336. The clown shall make those laugh whose lungs are tickle of the sere.

1620. Howard Defensative [Douce, ii. 230]. Moods and humours of the vulgar sort loose and tickle of the sere.

Season, verb. (venery).—See quot., Greens and Ride.


Seat. See back-seat.

Seat-of-honour (shame or vengeance), subs. phr. (common).—The posteriors.

1725. Bailey, Erasmus, 225. A question ... the most honourable part of a man? One ... made answer ... the part we sit upon; ... when every one cried out that was absurd, he backed it with this reason, that he was commonly accounted the most honourable that was first seated, and that this honour was commonly done to the part that he spoke of.

1749. Smollett, Gil Blas [Routledge], 169. My seat of vengeance was firked most unmercifully.

d. 1796. Wolcot, Pair of Lyric Epistles [Works (Dublin, 1795), ii. 424]. Behold him seiz'd, his seat of honour bare.

1821. Coombe, Syntax, iii. 2. While with his spade the conqueror plied, Stroke after stroke, the seat of shame, Which blushing Muses never name.

1836. Marryat, Midshipman Easy, xvi. The bullet having passed through his seat of honour, from his having presented his broadside as a target to the boatswain.

1856. Punch, xxxi. 213, 2. Now I can vouch that, from the earliest ages to ... those of the present head-master, they have, one and all, appealed to the very seat of honor.

Secesh. See Blue Bellies.
SECOND. See Bow, Chop, Fiddle (adding quot. infra), and String.

1749. Smollett, Gil Blas [Routledge], 378. I am quite at your service to play second fiddle in all your laudable enterprises.

SECOND PEAL. See PEAL.

SECOND-TIMER, subs. phr. (prison).
—A prisoner twice convicted.

SECRET, phr. (old). — Let into the secret: 'When one is drawn in at Horse-racing, Cock-fighting, Bowling, and other Sports or Games, and Bit.' (B. E. and Grose.)

In the grand secret, phr. (colloquial).—Dead (Grose).

SEDGLEY-CURSE, subs. phr. (old).
—See quotes.

1632. Massinger, City Madam, ii. 2. May the great fiend, booted and spurred, With a sithe at his girdle, as the Scotchman says, Ride headlong down her throat.

1633. Fletcher, Tamer Tamed, v. 2. A sedgley curse light on him, which is, Pedro, The fiend ride through him booted and spurred With a sythe at his back.

1636. Suckling, Goblins, i. 1. Now the sedgley curse upon thee, And the great fiend ride through thee Boated and spurr'd, with a sythe on his neck.

d.1660. Howell [Ray, Proverbs, Staffordshire. The devil, &c. . . . This is sedgely curse. Mr. Howell.]

SEE, subs. (common).—In pl. = the eyes (Grose). Also see = the eye.

1827. Lytton, Paul Clifford, lxxii. Strike me blind if my sees don't tout your bingo muns in spite of the darkmans.


Verb. (colloquial).—I. To believe; to credit; to consent: e.g., 'I don't see that.'

1882. Anstey, Vice-Versa, iii. If I were to go back to my governor now, he wouldn't see it. It would put him in no end of a bait.

2. (prostitutes').—To copulate: also to see stars lying on one's back.

PHRASES. To see it out = (1) to finish a matter, (2) to keep up a carouse, and (3) to come to an understanding, or know the reason why; to see one through = to help to a finish; to see a man = to have a drink; to see the devil = to get tipsy: see screwed; to see the back of = to get rid of; to see one coming = to impose on; to see double = (1) to be drunk (see screwed), and (2) to squint; to see one's aunt = to evacuate: see bury a quaker; to see as far into a millstone (or milestone) as . . . = to be as able or cute as . . . ; to see stars (spots or candles) = to be dazed: spec. from a blow. Also see brickwall, elephant, show, &c.

1546. Heywood, Proverbs. She had seene far in a millstone.

1628. Earle, Micro-cosmg., ii. His eyes like a drunkard's see all double.

1692. Dryden, Juvenal, vi. When vapours to their swimming brains advance, And double tapers on their tables dance.

1710. Congreve, Art of Love. From all intemperance keep, Nor drink till you see double, lisp, or sleep.

1716. Addison, Freeholder, 22. I had a mind to see him out, and therefore did not care for contradicting him.
Seed. 139  Seek.

1740. Smollett, Gil Blas (1812), x. Failing into a passion he gave me half-a-dozen boxes on the face . . . that made me see more candles than ever burnt in Solomon's temple. Ibid. (1752), Peregrine Pickle, c. Notwithstanding the disgrace and discouragement they had met with in their endeavours to serve our adventurer, they were still resolved to persevere in their good offices, or, in the vulgar phrase, to see him out.

1857. Dickens, Xmas Stories (Perils of Prisoners), (Household ed.), 46. We saw out all the drink that was produced, like good men and true, and then took our leaves, and went down to the beach.

Seed, subs. (venery). —The semen: see Spendings. Hence seed-plot (or seed-land) = the female pudendum: see monosyllable; run to seed = pregnant, Lumpy (q.v.)

1837. Dickens, Pickwick Papers (1857), 20. Large boots running rapidly to seed.

1891. Ally Sloper, 4 Ap. He had run very much to seed; there was no gloss on his hat or boots, but any amount of it on the sleeves of his coat.

Seedy, adj. and adv. (colloquial). —Generic for depreciation = (1) weak or out-of-sorts in health, (2) worn or out at elbows in dress, (3) poor in pocket, (4) suspicious or shady in character (Grose). Hence, seediness.

Seek. To seek others and lose oneself, verb. phr. (old colloquial). —See quot.

1598. Florio, Worldes of Worde, s.v. Lanternare . . . to play the foole, to seeke others and loose himselfe.
SEEK-SORROW (or -TROUBLE), subs. phr. (old).—A whining malcontent.

1580. Sidney, Arcadia, i. Afield they go, where many lookers be, And thou SEEK-SORROW Claius them among.

1902. Daudet, Sapho [Farmer], xi. She was a seek-sorrow, a sappy mopester, a poor gutless doll.

SEELEY'S PIGS, subs. phr. (nautical).—Pig iron in Government dockyards. [Some of the yards were half paved with pigs, which waste was brought to public notice by Mr. Seeley, M.P. for Lincoln.]

SEE-SAW, subs. phr. (gaming).—A double RUFF (q.v.); a SAW (q.v.): at whist.

SEGGON, subs. (old colloquial).—A term of contempt: spec. a poor labourer. Also SEG-HEAD = a blockhead; SEG-KITE = an overgrown and greedy person [HALLIWELL].


SELL, subs. (common).—A successful hoax; a swindle: see GAMMON. As verb. = to betray; to impose on; to swindle; see BARGAIN. Whence to SELL a PUP = to fool; TO BE SOLD LIKE A BULLOCK IN SMITHFIELD (Grose) = 'to fall badly by treachery'; SOLD AGAIN! = DONE! (q.v.).

1583. Shakespeare, Rich. III. v. 3. Jockey of Norfolk, be not so bold, For Dickon thy master is bought and sold.

1605. Drayton, Mortimeriados. Is this the kindness that thou offerest me? And in thy country am I bought and sold.

1605. Jonson, Volpone, Argument. New tricks for safety are sought; they thrive: when bold, each tempts the other again, and all are sold.

1850. Smedley, Frank Fairlegh, 145. He called it ... 'no end of a something or other' — 'sell,' suggested Freddy. Ibid. (1851), Lewis Arundel, xxiv. You're not going to try and cut out Bellefield ... are you? I wish you would, it would sell Bell so beautifully.

1856. (Tales from Blackwood) Dree-daily Burghs. I had been idiot enough to make my debut in the sporting world ... and as a matter of course, was remorselessly sold by my advisers.

1864. Glasgow Citizen, 10 Dec. People pretend to have read Spenser and Chaucer, and it is rude ... to sell the affable pretender by getting him to remember non-existent passages and minor poems.

1874. Mrs. H. Wood, Johnny Ludlow, i. S., xxvi., 465. It's an awful sell ... no hunting, and no shooting, and no nothing.

1888. Boldrewood, Robbery Under Arms, x. Some day he'll sell us all, I really do believe.


SEMI-BEJAN. See Bejan.

SEMINARY, subs. (venery).—The pudendum: see MONOSYLLABLE. [With a pun on semen = the liquor seminale.]

SEMPER, adj. (Winchester).—See quot.

c.1840. Mansfield, School Life (1866), 233. A very common prefix; e.g., a boy was said to be semper continent, tardy, or extrumps if he was often at Sick House, or late for Chapel, or habitually went up to Books without having looked at his lessons. An official who was always at the College meetings went by the name of SEMPER Testis.
**Send.**

**Send.** To send up, *verb.* *phr.* (American).—To commit to prison; to fully (*q.v.*).

1852. Judson, *Myst. of New York,* III. 7. They'd blow on me for some of my work, and I'd be sent up.

1879. *Scribner's,* viii. 619. Some of them seem rather proud of the number of times they have been sent up.

1888. *Detroit Free Press,* 20 Oct. They sent me up for thirty days.

**To send down (or away),** *verb.* *phr.* (University).—1. To expel; and (2) to rusticate (*q.v.*).

1714. *Spectator,* 596. After this I was deeply in love with a milliner, and at last with my bedmaker, upon which I was sent away, or, in university phrase, rusticated for ever.


1891. *Harry Fludyer,* 8g. Next day they were hauled and sent down.

1891. *Felstedian,* Ap. 32. They sent him down for two terms for smashing a shop window.

**To send in,** *verb.* *phr.* (old).—'To drive or break in: Hand down the jemmy and send it in; apply the crow to the door and drive it in' (*Grose*).

See Coventry; Daylight; Flea in ear; Green River; Owls; Packing; Salt River; Up.

**Send-off,** *subs.* *phr.* (colloquial).—A start; a God-speed. *Send-off notice* = an obituary.

1872. Clemens, *Roughing It,* 332. One of the boys has passed in his checks, and we want to give him a good send-off.

1876. Besant and Rice, *Golden Butterfly.*. . . After the funeral Huggins. . . wrote a beautiful *send-off notice* saying what a loss the community had suffered in Scrimmy's untimely end.

**1889. Pall Mall Gaz.,* 16 Nov., 6. It looks as if Adelina Patti's send-off concert on Monday night would be a very brilliant affair.

1894. Morrison, *Mean Streets,* 132. In the beginning [he] might even have been an office boy, if only his mother had been able to give him a good send-off in the matter of clothes.

1897. *Referee,* 14 Mar. 1, 1. These departers were to be patted on the back, given a good send-off, and helped on the road.

**Sender,** *subs.* (*common*).—A severe blow.

**Sensation,** *subs.* (*common*).—A small quantity; as much as can be perceived by the senses: spec. a half-quarter.

**Sense,** *verb.* (*once literary; now American colloquial*).—To feel; to take in; to understand.

1651. Cartwright, *Poems* [*Nares*]. 'Twas writ, not to be understood, but read, He that expounds it must come from the dead; and undertake to sense it true, For he can tell more than himself e'er knew.

1665. Glanville, *Sceptis,* *Scientifica,* xxii. Is he sure that objects are not otherwise sensed by others, than they are by him?

1885. Merriam, *S. Bowles,* i. 101. He . . . got at the plans of the leaders, the temper of the crowd, sensed the whole situation.

**Sentimental-club (The),** *subs.* *phr.* (literary).—The Athenœum.

**Sentimental-journey.** To arrive at the end of the *sentimental journey,* *phr.* (*common*).—To possess a woman [That, so it is said, being the finish of Sterne's novel—'I put out my hand and caught hold of the fille - de - chambre's ———. Finis'].
Sentinel, subs. (Irish).—A wake candle; a GLIM (q.v.). Fr. une flambarde.

Sentry. On sentry, adv. phr. (common).—Drunk: see Screwed.

Sentry-box. Chelsea Hospital to a Sentry-box, phr. (old).—A fanciful bet.

1891. Lic. Vict. Mirror, 30 Jan., 7, 2. Tom’s hit of the opening round, and led Aaron’s friends to call out in their jubilation: “It’s all your own, my boy; Chelsea Hospital to a Sentry-box.”

Sep, subs. (American cadet).—A cadet joining in September.

Separate, subs. (prison).—See quot. 1877.

1862. Cornhill Mag., vi. 640. [Criminals] count by many thousands... In prison and out of it... doing their separates at Pentonville and wherever they are they develop and increase criminal tendencies, and spread criminal knowledge.

1877. Five Years’ Penal Servitude, v. 333. A new large prison at Dartmoor, in which convicts could be confined in cells to do their separates, as the first eleven or twelve months’ probationary imprisonment is termed.

Seraglietto, subs. (B. E., c.1696).—“A lowly, sorry Bawdy-house, a mere Dog-hole.”

Seraglio, subs. (B. E., c.1696, and Grose, 1785).—“A Bawdy-house; also the Great Turk’s Palace.”

Serene. See All Serene.

Sergeant. See Come.

Sergeant-major, subs. phr. (butchers’).—A fat loin of mutton.

Sergeant-major’s Brandy and Soda, subs. phr. (military).—A gold-laced stable jacket.

Sergeant-major’s Wash Cat, subs. phr. (cavalry).—(1) A new kit; and (2) the troop store-man.

Serpent. Stung by a Serpent, phr. (old).—With child (Ray).

To hold a serpent by the tail, verb. phr. (old).—To act foolishly.

Sentry, subs. (venery).—I. A lover en parade; and (2) a stallion (q.v.): cf. mistress. Hence, service = copulation; to serve = subagitate.

1369. Chaucer, Troilus, v. 1345. If any servant durst or ought by right Upon his lady pitiously compleyne. Ibid. (c.1387), Queen Annelida, 293. He was servaunt unto her ladyship... she had him at her oone will.

1595. Shakspeare, Two Gent. Verona, ii. 4. Too low a mistress for so high a servant. Ibid. (1605), Lear, iii. 4. 87. A serving man... that... served the lust of my mistress’s heart, and did the act of darkness with her.

1609. Beaumont and Fletcher, Scornful Lady, v. 1 Was I not once your mistress, and you my servant?

1609. Jonson, Epicene, ii. 2. Where the first question is—if her present servant love her? next, if she shall have a new servant? and how many:

1611. Chapman, May-Day, v. 2. A woman of good parts... helps maids to services, restores maidenheads, brings women to bed, and men to their bedsides. Ibid. (1612), Widow’s Tears, ii. 4. Madam, I am still the same... not pressing to your bed but your pleasure shall be first known, if you will command me any service.

c.1619. Field and Massinger, Fatal Dowry, ii. 2. The only distinction betwixt a husband and a servant is, the first will lie with you when he pleases, the last shall lie with you when you please.

1635. Davenant, News from Plymouth, ii. 1. He loves and honours ladies; for whose service He’s still a ready champion.
Serve. 143  Set-down.

1685. Crowne, Sir Courtly Nice, ii. 1. You may proclai me at Mercat-cross, how great an Adorer you are of such a Woman’s Charms? how much you desire to be admitted into her Service; that is, how lusty a Centaur you are.

1692. Dryden, Juvenal, x. In form of law, a common hackney-jade Sole heir for secret services is made.

1720. Duryey, PILLS, v. 227. To shew he could a Lady serve, as well as the Hollander.

1772. Bridges, Homer Burlesque, 392. And all the virgins in the town expect they shall be ravished soon... at any time they'll let you serve 'em.

Serve, verb. (old).—1. To rob: e.g., ‘I served him for his thimble’ = ‘I robbed him of his watch’ (Grose and Vaux).

2. See Servant and Time.

3. (thieves‘).—‘To find guilty, convict, and sentence’ (Grose).

4. (old).—To maim; to wound; to punish (q.v.): whence to serve out = to take revenge; to serve out and out = to kill (Grose and Vaux).

1819. Moore, Tom Crib. Whoso’er grew unpolite The well-bred champion served him out.

1821. Egan, Life in London, ii. ii. Squinting Nan, full of jealousy... is getting over the box to serve her out for her duplicity.

1837-40. Haliburton, Clockmaker (1848), 12. Now the bees know how to serve out such chaps, for they have their drones, too.

1853. Bulwer, My Novel, xii. 25. The Right Honourable Gentleman had boasted he had served his country for twenty years... He should have said served her out.

1868. Greenwood, Purgatory of Peter the Cruel, i. 22. I am doomed to become a blackbeetle because of the many of the sort I have hurt and smashed, and more especially because I served this wretched cockroach out.

Set-down, subs. (cricketers’).—1. A determined stand; to get set = to “collar” the bowling.

2. (common).—A grudge; a sustained attack; in argument or conduct. Also dead-set.

Phrases. To set the hare’s head to the goose giblets = to balance matters; to give tit for tat; to set jewels (see quot. 1874); all set = ‘Desperate fellows, ready for any kind of mischief’ (Duncombe).

1607. Dekker and Webster, Westward Hoe, v. 3. They came to Brainford to be merry, you were caught in Birdlime, and therefore set the hare’s head against the goose giblets.

1874. Hotten, Slang Dict., s.v. serving jewels. The taking the best portions of a clever book not much known to the general public, and incorporating them quietly in a new work by a thoroughly original author. The credit of this term belongs to Mr. Charles Reade, who explained that the process is accountable for the presence of some writing by one Jonathan Swift, in a story published at Christmas, 1872, and called The Wandering Heir.

See cap; dead-set; ears; hard-set; shoulder; wheel.

Set-back. See back-set.

Set-down, subs. phr. (colloquial).—1. A snub; an unexpected or overwhelming reply. Also as verb. = to take to task; to rebuff; to get the better of.

1749. Smollett, Gil Blas [Oliphant, New Eng., ii. 166. Among new substantives are a set-down, blinkers, ...].
2. (American tramps'). — See quot.

1909. Flynt, Tramps, 105. He will almost always give a beggar a set-down (square meal).

Set-off, subs. phr. (colloquial).—
1. A contrast; an alternative; a quid pro quo (q.v.)

1749. Smollett, Gil Blas [Routledge], 151. As a set-off against his hen-pecked cowardice... he gave me fifty ducats. Ibid., 249. You will not have much spare room... but as a set-off I promise that you shall be superbly lodged at Lisbon.

1844. Mill, Polit. Econ., III. xii. If the cheque is paid into a different bank, it will not be presented for payment, but liquidated by set-off against other cheques.

d.1868. Brougham [Century]. A poor set-off against constant outrages.

1870. Froude, Caesar, 454. He pleaded his desertion of Pompey as a set-off against his faults.

2. (colloquial). — An adornment; an ornament.

1619. Fletchier, Wile/goose Chase, iii. 1. This coarse creature That has no set-off but his jugglings, His travell'd tricks.

Set-out, subs. phr. (colloquial).—
A company, clique, display, or turn-out—any arrangement, state of things, or event.

1816. Austen, Emma, xlii. 'There shall be cold meat in the house.' 'As you please; only don't have a great set-out.'

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab., II. 46. The whole set-out... pony included, Cost £50 when new.

1837. Dickens, Pickwick (1857), II. "P.C.," said the stranger,—"queer set-out—old fellow's likeness, and P.C.—What does P.C. stand for—Peculiar coat, eh?" Ibid. (1854), Hard Times, i. 8. She must just hate and detest the whole set-out of us.

1856. Whyte Melville, Kate Coventry, iv. As we pulled up in front of the Castle Hotel... "Ere's a spicy set-out, Bill," said one.

Setta, adj. (theatrical).—Seven. Also setter.

1893. Emerson, Lippo, xiv. Then he placed a large piece of boiled bacon and a dish of potatoes and a dish of greens before three road scavengers, and said, "I'll take setta soldi from you gents."

Setter, subs. (old).—1. See quot.; also (modern) a police spy: see Nark (Grose).

1591. Greene, Notable Discovery [Works, x. 15]. The nature of the Setter, is to draw any person familiarly to drink with him, which person they call the bonie.

1598. Shakspeare, 1 Hen. IV., ii. 2, 53. Tis our setter: I know his voice.

1607. Dekker, Jest's to make you Merie [Wks. (Grosart), II. 310]. Your theenies trauelling mort is partly a setter of robberies, partly a theefe herselfse.

1680. Cotton, Complete Gamester, 333. Shoals of huffs, hectors, setters, gilts, pads, biters, &c., may all pass under the general appellation of rooks.

c.1696. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. setters, or Setting-dogs, they that draw in Bubbles, for old Gamesters to Rook; also a Seigeant's Yeoman, or Bailiff's Follower, or Second, and an Excize-Officer to prevent the Brewers defrauding the King.

1714. Memoirs of John Hall (4th ed.), 7. There are also Setters of both Sexes, that make it their Business to go about upon Information, to pry into the Disposition and Avenues of Houses, and bring notice of the Booty.

d.1745. Swift, Last Speech Eben. Elliston. We had setters watching in corners, and by dead walls.

1754. B. Martin, Eng. Dict. (2nd ed.), s.v. Setter... an associate of sharpers to get them bubbles.

1866. Leman, Leyton Hall. Old Crookfinger, the most notorious setter, barnacle, and foist in the city.

2. (auctioneers').—A runner-up of prices; a bonnet (g.v.).

Clock-setter, subs. phr. (nautical).—1. One who tampers with the clock to shorten his watch; also (2) a busy-body, a sea-lawyer (g.v.).—Century.
**Settle.** verb. (common).—I. To knock down; to do for (q.v.).
—GROSE. To settle one's hash (see Hash). Hence settler = (1) a knock-down blow; and (2) a finishing stroke.

1819. Moore, Tom Crib, 15. He tipp'd him a settler.

1827. The Fancy, 'King Tims the First.' That thrust you gave me, Tims, has proved a nettler. Your stab turns out, what I have been, a settler!

1836. Scott, Cruise of the Midge, x5. Like a cannon-shot right against me, giving me such a settler.

1845. Buckstone, Green Bushes, ii. Whoever that lady aimed at, she has certainly brought down. . . . She settled the settler, and no mistake.

1857. Holmes, Autocrat of the Breakfast Table, vi. That slight tension about the nostrils which the consciousness of carrying a settler in the form of a fact or a revolver gives the individual thus armed.

c.1866. Music Hall Song, 'What a fool.' My darling wife and Ma-in-law have nearly settled me.

1877. Five Years' Penal Servitude, iii. 'E see the engine a coming, . . . and chucked hisself bang in front of it, and it soon settled 'im.'

1888. Sportsman, 22 Dec. A mistake at the last hurdles proved a complete settler, and he succumbed by six lengths.

2. (thieves').—To give (or get) penal servitude for life.

**Settlement-in-tail, subs. phr.** (venery).—An act of generation: see Greens and Ride.

**Settler, subs.** (common).—I. A parting drink: see Screwed.

2. See Settle, i.

**Set-to, subs. phr.** (pugilists').—I. A bout at fisticuffs. with, or without, the gloves. Whence (2) = determined opposition (GROSE). Also as verb.

1819. Moore, Tom Crib, 'Account of the Grand Set-to between Long, Sandy and George the Porpus' [Title].

1825. Scott, St. Ronan's Well, xxx. The alacrity of gentlemen of the Fancy hastening to a set-to.

1837. Barham, Inwaldsby Leg., i. 317. As prime a set-to and regular turn-up as ever you knew.

1859. Whitty, Political Portraits, 217. The bludgeon blows of the old Parliamentary set-tos ended in hand-shaking.

1864. London Society, Dec. I generally warms up in the set-to with Judy, and by the time the ghost business comes on, I'm all of a glow.

1879. Payn, High Spirits (Finding His Level). He had had it laid down with turf instead of a carpet, for the greater convenience of his set-tos.

1889. Modern Society, 19 Oct., 1294, i. They settled the affair with a good set-to with raw potatoes.


**Set-up, subs.** (colloquial).—I. Port; bearing; carriage.

1890. T. C. Crawford, Eng. Life, 147. [English soldiers] have a set-up not to be found in any of the soldiers of the Continental armies.

2. (American).—A treat (q.v.) to set-up = to 'stand sam': cf. set-down.

1887. T. Stevens, Around World on a Bicycle . . . They threaten to make him set 'em up every time he tumbles in hereafter.

Adv. (American).—Conceited.

**Seven.** To be more than seven, phr. (common). Wide-awake. Also, more than twelve.

c.1876. Music Hall Song, 'You're more than seven' [Title].

1892. Nisbet, Bushranger's Sweet-heart, 195. Yes, I really do think that the naughty boy is more than seven.

1898. Gissing, Town Traveller, viii. 'We all know that Mr. Gammon's more than seven.'
Sevendible.

Sevendible, adj. adv. (Irish).—'A very curious word, used only in the North of Ireland, to denote something particularly severe, strong, or sound. It is, no doubt, derived from sevendouble—that is, sevenfold—and is applied to linen cloth, a heavy beating, a harsh reprimand, &c.' (Hotten).

Seven-pennorth (or Seven-pence), subs. phr. (old).—See quot. 1821. Egan, Life in London, ii. i. iii. 'My lord, if I am to stand sevenpence [7 yrs transportation], my lord, I hope you'll take it into your consideration.'

Seven-sided animal (or Seven-sided son of a bitch), phr. (old).—'A one-eyed person: as as he has a right side and a left side, a front side and a back side, an inside and an outside, and a blind side' (Grose).

Seven-year, subs. phr. (old).—A long time: proverbial.

1597. Four Elements [Halliwell]. That is the best daunce without a pype that I saw this seven yere.

1579. Mariage of Witt and Wisdome. They ware not so hack this seven yere.

1600. Shakspeare, Much Auo, iii. 3. He has been a vile thief this seven year.

Severely, adv. (colloquial).—A generic intensive: e.g. 'to be left severely alone' = to be altogether neglected.

1854. Whyte Melville, General Bounce, xii. That officer has dined severely, as he calls it, and is slightly inebriated.

Sew. To sew up one's stocking, verb. phr. (C. Reade).—To silence; to confute.

1859. Reade, Love Me Little, xxvi. Eh! Miss Lucy, ... but ye've got a tongue in your head. Ye've sewed up my stocking.

Sewed up, adj. phr. (common).—

1. Pregnant; Knocked-up (q.v.). To sew up = to get with child.

2. (pugilists').—Severely punished: spec. with bloated eyes.

3. (common).—Exhausted; drunk; sick.

1829. Buckstone, Billy Taylor. Kitty. (Aside, and taking out a vial.) This liquid, sent me by Monsieur Chabert, The fire-king, will sew him up.

1836. Dickens, Pickwick, iv. "Busy!" replied Pell; "I'm completely sewn up, as my friend the late Lord Chancellor many a time used to say to me."

1841. Punch, i., 278. We had a great night in London before I started only I got rascally screwed; not exactly sewed up, you know, but hit under the wing so that I could not very well fly.

1847. Robb, Squatter Life, 32. A most excellent first number—just the thing—sew the lower town up.

1850. Smedley, Frank Fairlegh, xiv. "She's in first-rate training, 'pon my word: I thought she'd have sewn me up at one time—the pace was terrific."

1864. C. Russell, Jack's Courtship, xiii. If Alphonso carried his daughter away from England, I should be sewed up, as Jack says, for want of funds to stick to his skirts.

1902. Headon Hill, Caged, xxii. She's about sewn-up ... tired herself out at the game.

4. (nautical).—Grounded: also Sued up.

Sewer, subs. (London).—The Metropolitan and Metropolitan District Railways.

2. (Stock Exchange).—In pl. = The East London Railway shares.
COMMON SEWER, *subs. phr.* (common). — (1) An indiscriminate tippler; (2) the throat; and (3) see quot.

1749. Smollett, *Gil Blas* [Routledge], 90. You may truly be termed a *common sewer* of erudition.


SEY (Se or Say) (back slang).—Yes: pronounced See.

SHAB, *verb.* (old colloquial). — I. To get (or make) shabby, which = (1) ‘in sorry rigging’ (B. E. and Grose), out-at-elbows; and (2) mean, base, SEEDY (q. v.). Whence SHABBAROON (shab- roon, shabrag, or shabster) = a ragamuffin, ‘a mean spirited fellow’ (B. E. and Grose). Also SHABBY-GENTEEL = apiing gentility, but really shabby; TO SHAB OFF = ‘to sneak or slide away’ (B. E.).


1688. Clarendon, *Diary*, 7 Dec. They were very shabby fellows, pitifully mounted, and worse armed.


1698. Fawquhar, *Love and a Bottle*, iv. 3. I would have shabbled him off.


1729. Swift, *Hamilton's Baron*. The dean was so shabby, and look’d like a ninny.

1816. Scott, *Antiquary*, xv. He’s a shabby body.

1823. Moncrieff, *Tom and Jerry*, ii. 6. We haven’t had a better job a long vile nor the shabby genteel lay.

1837. Barham, *Ingoldsby Legends*, ‘Lay of St. Nicholas.’ And how in the Abbey No one was so shabby, As not to say yearly four masses a head.

1840. Thackeray, *Shabby Genteel Story* [Title].

1862. Thackeray, *Philip*, xxii. Her mother felt more and more ashamed of the shabby fly . . . and the shabby cavalier.


2. (old).—To scratch oneself: like a lousy man or mangy dog.

SHABBY-WOMAN (The), *subs. phr.* (literary).—See quot.

1864. Athenæum, 29 Oct., ‘Rev. of Slang Dict.’ There is the shabby woman, a term pointing to the statue of Minerva which guards the portal of the Athenæum, and looks so little like Eve on hospitable thoughts intent,—for since the Athenaeum Club was established, no member has ever afforded the simplest rites of hospitality to a friend.

SHACK, *subs.* (old).—I. A shiftless fellow; a vagabond: also SHACKABACK, SHACKBAG, SHACKRAG, a shakerag.

As verb. = to go on tramp; to idle, to loaf. As adj. (also SHACK-NASTY) = contemptible: cf. SHAG-BAG.

1740. North, *Examen*, 293. Great ladies are more apt to take sides with talking, flattering gossips than such a shack as Fitzharris.

18... Widow Bedott Papers, 34. Her father was a poor drunken shack, and her mother took in washin’.


1865. Good Words, Feby., 125. What makes the work come so heavy at the end of the week, is, that the men are shacking at the beginning.

of idlers in it, ready for anything except working for an honest living—easily earning the cognomen of Alfreton shacks... The date of the origin of the rhyme is probably about 1800.


1866. Oppenheim, False Evidence, xxvi. What would you have me do? shack about with my hands in my pockets all day.


1887. Roberts, Western Avenus. I... and Mitchell were in one of the shacks or huts.

1881. New York Times, 18 Dec. [quoted in Noll, 6 S., v. 65]. Shack.—A log cabin. The average shack comprises but one room, and is customarily roofed with earth, supported by poles.

1882. Century Mag., 511. A shack is a one-story house built of cotton-wood logs, driven in the ground like piles, or laid one upon another. The roof is of sticks and twigs covered with dirt, and if there is no woman to insist on tidiness, the floor will be of pounded earth.

3. (Post Office).—Amisdirected or returned letter.

Shackle, subs. (American).—A raffle.

1885. Western Gaz., 30 Jan. [Notes and Queries, 6 S., xi. 245]. He was asked by a young man to join in a raffle for live tame rabbits.

Shackly (or Shackling), adj. (American).—Rickety; ram-shackle (q.v.).

1872. J. T. Trowbridge, Coupon Bonds, 387. The gate itself was such a shackling concern, a child couldn't have leaned on it without breaking it down.

1876. Century, xxv. 672. An unpainted and shackly dwelling.

1834. Clemens, Huck. Finn., xxii. All kinds of old shackly wagons.

1835. J. W. Palmer, New and Old, 55. Very small mean, slender and brittle-looking, or what old coloured nurses call shackly.


Shack-stoner, subs. phr.—As in quot. [6d.].

1893. Emerson, Signor Lippo, xvii. Oh! I know's em all and can recon 'em up, from a shack-stoner to a cold tater. You see I've been at the stand for twelve years. Ibid., xx. You see, if yer get a rozzor to call yer up he wants a shack-stoner, but if I call 'em up I gets a thrummer a week.

Shad, subs. (American).—A prostitute. See Tart.

Shadbelly, subs. (American).—A Quaker: the Quaker coat from neck to skirt follows the ventral line of the shad—hence shad-bellied = sloping in front like a Quaker coat. Cf. cutaway.

1869. Stowe, Oldtown, 8. He was kind 'o mournfnl and thin and shad-bellied.

1870. Judd, Margaret, i. 13. Three cornered hats, shad-bellied coats, shoe and knee buckles.

Shade, subs. (common).—In pl. = wine-vaults: also as in quot. 1823.

1823. Bee, Dict. Turf, s.v. Shades. The shades at London Bridge are under Fishmongers' Hall... The shades at Spring Gardens is a subterranean ale-shop.

Verb. (thieves').—To conceal; to keep secret.

Shadkin, subs. (American).—A marriage-broker.

Shadow, subs. and verb. (old).—

1. A spy or close attendant: e.g. (1) a detective; (2) see quot. 1869; (3) a bosom friend; and (4) a jackal (g.v.). As verb. = (1) to track, to spy, to dog (g.v.); and (2) to be inseparable.

b. 1859. Providence Jl. [Bartlett]. She was shadowed, and her ways of life ascertained.

1869. Greenwood, Seven Curses of London. She's a dress-woman . . . one . . . they tug out that they may show off at their best, and make the most of their faces. They can't trust 'em . . . you might tell that by the shadder.

1876. New York Herald, 23 Mar. Barr was decoyed . . . by a member of the secret service, who shadowed him.

1888. Pinkerton, Midnight Express, 23. A man had shadowed the detective since his departure from the railway office.

1801. G. F. Griffiths [Tr. Fouard, Christ, The Son of God, i. 238]. He was shadowed by spies, who were stirring up the crowd against Him.

1897. Weekly Dispatch, 24 Oct, 2. 4. They proved to be two well-known and expert burglars . . . and the shadowing was continued for several days, the police hoping to secure the receiver.

1902. Lynch, High Stakes, xxviii. It is not a shadowing expedition. It is a hold-up.


1867. Collins, Public Schools, 187. When a boy is first placed in the school, he is attached to another boy in the same form, something in the relation of an apprentice. The new boy is called the shadow, the other the 'substance.' In the first week the shadow follows the substance everywhere, takes his place next to him in class . . . and is exempt from any responsibility for his own mistakes in or out of school. During this interval of indulgence his patron is expected to initiate him in all the work of the school . . . in short to teach him by degrees to enter upon . . . a responsible existence of his own.

MAY YOUR SHADOW NEVER BE (or GROW) LESS, phr. (colloquial). = May you prosper!

1887. Referee, 2 Jan. The recipients . . . hope that Sara's shadow may never grow less.

Shadrach, subs. (founders'). — A mass of badly smelted iron. [Cf. Daniel, iii. 26, 27.]

Shadscales (or Scales), subs. (American). — See quot.


Shady, adj. and adv. (orig. University: now generally colloquial.) — Generic for decadence and deterioration, moral, physical, and material. Hence, ON THE SHADY SIDE OF [e.g., 40] = beyond (or older) than 40 years of age; TO KEEP SHADY (American) = to keep in the background, to be cautious and reticent.

1852. Bristed, Five Years in an Eng. University, 147. Some . . . are rather shady in Greek and Latin.

1862. Clough, The Bothee of Tober-Na-Voich. Shady in Latin, said Lindsay, but topping in Plays and Aldrich.

1883. Hawley Smart, At Fault, iii. vii. Mr. Andemore engaged in a good many transactions that, though not illegal exactly, were of the kind denominated shady.

1886. D. Telegraph, 11 Sep. The public might be misled into subscribing to a shady undertaking. Ibid. (1888), 30 Nov. Between these, however, and the shadiest pickpocket who calls himself a count there are infinite degrees of assumption and sham.

1897. Marshall, 'Pomes,' 8. If this isn't a shady lot. Ibid., 9. And luck of the shadiest sort.

Shady Spring, subs. phr. (venery).
— The female pudendum: see Monosyllable.

1772. Bridges, Homer Burlesque, 62. Not that for Greece she car'd a f—t, but hated Paris in her heart, because he'd seen her Shady Spring, and did not think it was the thing.

Shaft. To make a shaft or a bolt of it, verb. phr. (old).
—To take a risk for what it is worth; to venture.

1596. Shakspeare, Merry Wives, iii. 4, 24. I'll make a shaft or a bolt on't: slid, 'tis but venturing.

1611. Cotgrave, Dict, s.v. Guerlusset, somewhat like our Shag-Rag, a byword for a beggarely soldier.

Shaft of Cupid (or Delight), subs. phr. (venery).—The penis: see Prick.

1719. Durney, Pills, iv. 72. It is a shaft of Cupid's cut: 'Twill serve to Rove, to Prick, to Butt.

1782. Stevens, Songs Comic and Satirical, 'The Picture.' For Cupid's Pantheon, the Shaft of Delight must spring from the masculine base.

Shaftsbury, subs. (B.E. c.1696). 'A gallon-pot full of wine, with a Cock.'

Shag, subs. (venery).—I. The act of kind; (2) = a performer (q.v.): e.g., 'He's but a bad Shag = 'He's no able woman's man' (Grose). As verb = (1) to copulate: see Greens and Ride; and (2) to frig (q.v.).

To shag back, verb. phr. (hunting).—To hesitate; to hang back; to refuse a fence.

As wet as a shag, phr. (provincial).—As wet as may be. [shag = cormorant].

Shag- (or Shake-) Bag (or Rag), subs. phr. (old).—I. 'A poor shabby fellow' (B.E.); 'a man of no spirit: a term borrowed from the cock-pit' (Grose): originally as in quot. 1611. Also as adj. = mean; beggarly. See Rag.

1588. Marlowe, Jew of Malta. Act iv. Bara. Was ever Jew tormented as I am? To have a Shag-Rag knave to come, &c.

1611. Cotgrave, Dict, s.v. Guerlusset, somewhat like our Shag Ram, a byword for a beggarly soldier.

1612. Chapman, May-day, Act ii. 281 (Plays, 1874). If I thought 'twould ever come to that, I'd hire some Shag-Rag or other for half a sequee to cut's throat.

1615. Exch. Ware at the Second Hand [Halliwell]. A scurrie Shag-Ragge gentleman.

1616. Scot, Certain Pieces, &c. For ... honestie is fellow Shakerag with simplicitie.


1641. Brome, Jovial Crew, iii. Do you talk Shakerag heart! yond's more of 'em; I shall be beggar-mawl'd if I stay.

1665. R. Head, English Rogue. I. ix., 71 (1874). From what Dunghil didst thou pick up this Shakerag, this squire of the body?

1815. Scott, Guy Mannering, i. 269. He was a Shakerag like fellow.

2. (cockers': also colloquial).
—A fighting-cock; and so, by implication, a 'hen of the Game' (q.v.).

Shake.

1771. Smollett, Humphrey Clinker [1900], i. 68. 'I bless God... that Mrs. Tabitha Bramble did not take the field today!' I would pit her... against the best SHAKEBAG of the whole main.

3. (common) a standard of value, usually in the phrase NO GREAT SHAKE = anything of small account.
4. (American) = a show. Also FAIR SHAKE = a tolerable bargain or chance.

1819. Moore, Tom Crib, 41. Though NO GREAT SHAKEs at learned chat.

1820. Byron, Letter [to Murray], 28 Sep. I had my hands full, and my head too just then, so it can be NO GREAT SHAKEs.

1834. Ainsworth, Rookwood, iii.ii. I'll give you a chant composed upon Dick Turpin, the highwayman. It's NO GREAT SHAKEs, to be sure, but it's the best I have.

1847. Chron. of Pineville, 34. Give Bill Sweeny a FAIR SHAKE, and he can whoop blue blazes out of ye.

1848. Durivage, Stray Subjects, 56. The Museum... he didn't consider ANY very GREAT SHAKEs.

1855. Kingsley, Westward Ho, xxx. NO GREAT SHAKEs of a man to look to, neither.

1859. Newspaper Cutting ['S'], 200. 'A SHAKE. Hope no offence; none so meant, mum. A SHAKE's a party as is married and as isn't, if you understand me, mum. 'In keeping,' some calls it.'

1865. Gaskell, Wives and Daughters, xxi. After all, a senior wrangler was NO GREAT SHAKEs. Any man might be one if he liked.

1888. Boldrewood, Robbery Under Arms, xxix. We didn't set up to be ANY GREAT SHAKEs ourselves, Jim and I.

1891. Newman, Scamping Tricks, 47. Here comes the SHAKE.

1898. Pink 'Un and Pelican, 24. He was NO GREAT SHAKEs as a scholar, but he understood racing and human nature.

2. (various). — In pl. = generic for unsteadiness: specifically delirium tremens.

b. 1859. Western Gazetteer [Bartlett]. The springs fail once in a while since the SHAKEs of 1812.

1884. Cornhill Mag., June, 616. Until she is pulled up by an attack of delirium tremens, or, as she and her neighbours style it, a fit of THE SHAKEs.

1898. Man of the World, 7 Dec., 5. When John has a real attack of THE SHAKEs, we fasten the churn handle to him, and he brings the butter inside of fifteen minutes.

1898. Nisbet, Sheep's Clothing, iv. iv. All had experienced the SHAKEs, and so were able to sympathise.

5. (common). — A fad. Also in combination: as the MILK-SHAKE, the VEGETARIAN-SHAKE, &c. SHOOK ON = in love with.

1888. Boldrewood, Robbery Under Arms, xxiv. He was awful SHOOK ON Madg.; but she wouldn't look at him. Ibid., xxxvi. I'm regular SHOOK on the polka. Ibid., xl. A steady-going he's a little—you understand—well, SHOOK on me.

6. (colloquial). — Generic for quick action: e.g., A GREAT SHAKE = a quick pace; IN A BRACE (or COUPLE) OF SHAKEs (OR IN THE SHAKE OF A LAMB'S TAIL) = instantly.

[?]. Huntslyng of the Hare, 96. Th' wente a nobull SHAKEK.

1837. Barham, Ingolds. Leg. (Babes in the Wood). I'll be back in a COUPLE OF SHAKEs.

1841. Punch, i. 135. A couple of agues Caught, to speak vulgarly, IN A BRACE OF SHAKEs.

1854. Martin and Aytoun, Bon Gaultier Ballads, 'Jupiter and the Indian Ale.' Quick! invent some other drink, Or, in a BRACE OF SHAKEs thou standest on Cocytus' sulph'ry brink.

1866. Reade, Cloister and Hearth, xcviii. Now Dragon could kill a wolf in a BRACE OF SHAKEs.
Verb. (venery).—1. See quot., and (2) to masturbate.

[?]. Nominale MSS., Lascivus. Anglice a SHAKERE.

1847. Halliwell, Arch. Words, &c., s.v. SHAKE . . . (5) Flab°. This seems to be the ancient form of shag, given by Grose.

2. (old).—To steal: e.g., TO SHAKE A SWELL = to rob a gentleman; TO SHAKE A CHEST OF SLOP = to steal a chest of tea; TO BE SHOOK OF A SKIN = to be robbed of a purse; HAVE YOU SHOOK? = Have you stolen anything, &c. (GROSE and VAUX).

1859. Kingsley, Geoffrey Hamlyn, xix. I . . . got from bad to worse till I shook a nag, and got bowled out and lagged.

1885. Chambers’s Journal, 21 Mar., 190. Each man on the best stock-horse he could beg, borrow, or SHAKE.

1888. Boldrewood, Robbery Under Arms, xxiv. Some well-bred horse you chaps have been shaking lately. Ibid., xxxiv. I’ve two minds to shake him and leave you my horse and a share of the gold to boot.

3. (common).—To shake hands; generally SHAKE!

1825. Jones, True Bottom’d Boxer [Univ. Songst., ii. 96]. Spring’s the boy for . . . shaking a flipper.

1891. Newman, Scamping Tricks, 59. SHAKE! That’s right. As we understand each other, I will now tell you how things ended.

1892. Lippincott’s, Oct., 501. I’d cure that kid, ef it bust the plan Of the whole durned universe. “SHAKE!” says Dan.

1900. Savage, Brought to Bay, ii. ‘SHAKE, honest Injun!’ said the Texan.

4. (common).—To throw dice, or (printers’) ‘quads’; to gamble (GROSE): see JEFF; and TO SHAKE AN ELBOW (g.v., adding to the latter the following earlier and later quotations).

1613. Webster, Devil’s Law Case, ii. 1. Shaking your elbow at the tabletop . . . and resorting to your whore in hired velvet.


5. (common).—To turn one’s back on; to desert.

Phrases and Colloquialisms.

—More than one can shake a stick at = past counting; Nothing worth shaking a stick at = worthless; To shake a foot (toe, or leg) = to dance; To shake a loose leg (see Leg); To shake together = to get on well or smoothly; To shake up = to upbraid; To shake a fall = to wrestle; To shake a tart = to possess a woman; To shake up = (1) to scold, and (2) to masturbate; To shake a cloth in the wind = to be hanged (GROSE); To shake down = (1) (see SHAKE-DOWN), and (2) to accommodate oneself to, to settle down; To shake the ghost into one = to frighten; To shake the bullet (or red rag) = (1) see BULLET and Red, and (2) to threaten to discharge (tailors); To shake up = to get (American); ‘You may go and shake your ears’ = advice to one who has lost his money’ (RAY).

1602. Shakspeare, Twelfth Night, ii. 1. Go, shake your ears.

[16?]. Holland, Camden, 628. Mabel did shake up in some hard and sharpe termes a young gentleman.

1826. Neal, Peter Brush. I’ve. . . got more black eyes and bloody noses than you could shake a stick at.

[?]. Crockett, Tour, 87. There was nothing to treat a friend to that was worth shaking a stick at.

1830. Buckstone, Wreck Ashore, ii. 1. Gaf. Dance? I haven’t shaken a toe these twenty years.
**Shake-bag.**

1854. Collins, *Hide and Seek*, ii. 1. *I can't shake up along with the rest of you... I am used to hard lines and a wild country.*


1865. Maj. Downing, *May-day in New York*. New York is an everlastin' great concern, and... there's about as many people in it as you could shake a stick at.

1872. Sunday Times, 18 Aug., *Fun and Riddle Club.* It was resolved: The members of this club do retire to their virtuous *shakedowns* to pass the rest of the night in the arms of Morpheus.

1880. Greenwood, *Odd People*, 51. Two or three of missus's younger children... have a *shakedown* on the pot-board beneath her, while father and mother share a mattress in the wash-house.

**Shake-lurk.**

1851-61. Mayhew, *London Lab.*, i. 272. In the better lodging-houses the *shakedowns* are small palliasses or mattresses; in the worst they are bundles of rags of any kind; but loose straw is used only in the country for *shakedowns*.

1853. Dickens, *Great Expectations*, xli. *He... advised me to look out at once for a "fashionable crib" near Hyde Park, in which he could have a *shakedown*.*

1863. Russell, *Diary in India*, i. 90. Five or six of us shook down for the night and resigned ourselves to the mosquitoes and to slumber.

1869. Mrs. Wood, *Roland Yorke*, xxxi. "Where are you going to sleep?"... "I dare say they can give me a shakedown at the mother's. The hearth-rug will do."

1872. D. Telegraph, 20 Mar. At night he had a *shakedown* in an adjacent outhouse.

1893. Emerson, *Lippo*, xi. The butler made a collection for us and gave us a *shakedown* in the stables on some nice clean hay.

1897. Mitford, *Romance of Cape Frontier*, i. v. He had *shaken-down* in Hick's room, and the two had talked... themselves to sleep.

1901. Trodiles, 122. Why not run on and get a *shakedown* there. They'll do us decently and cheap if they are not already full.

2. (American thieves'). — A brothel kept by a *panel-thief* (q.v.).

3. (American). — A rough dance; a *break-down* (q.v.).

**Shake-lurk, sub. phr.** (old Cant). — A begging petition: specifically one on account of shipwreck: *shake-glim* = one for fire.

**Shake-bag, sub. phr.** (venery).— The female pudendum: see *monosyllable*. *Cf. Shagbag, 2.*

**Shake-buckler, sub. phr.** (old). — A swash-buckler; a bully.

*Becon*, *Works*, ii. 355. Such Sim *shake-bucklers* as in their young years fall into serving, and in their old years fall into beggary.

**Shake-down, sub. phr.** (common).—1. An improvised bed. Also as *verb.* = (I) to sleep on a temporary substitute for a bed.

*Miss Edgeworth, Rose, Thistle, and Shamrock*, i. 3. I would not choose to put more on the floor than two beds and one *shakedown*.

1821. Egan, *Real Life*, ii. 164. Sure enough, a *shakedown* is a two-penny layer of straw, and saving the tatters on my back, not a covering at all at all.

1838. Mrs. Hall, *Irish Character*, 137. *A shakedown had been ordered even in Mr. Barry's own study.*
Shaker. 154 Shallow.

1857-61. Mayhew, London Lab., i. 233. The patterer becomes a "lurker,"—that is, an impostor; his papers certify any and every ill that flesh is heir to. Shipwreck is called a shake lurk.

Shaker, subs. (common).—1. The hand: see Daddle.

2. (common).—A shirt: see Fleshbag (Snowdon, Mag. Assist. (1857) 446).

3. (busmen’s).—An omnibus.

Shakerag. See Shagbag.

Shakester. See Shickster.

Shake-up, subs. phr. (colloquial).—A commotion; a disturbance.

Shaky, adj. (colloquial).—Anything questionable: generic—unstable, insolvent, unwell, dishonest, immoral, drunken, ignorant. Shakiness = hesitancy, degeneracy.

1841. Thackeray, Gt. Hoggarty Diamond. Our director was—that is not to be found in Johnson’s Dictionary—rather shaky.

1853. Lytton, My Novel, xi. xvii. I must be off presently to those three shaky voters in Fish Lane.

1854. Whyte Melville, General Bounce, x. Is it not a noble ambition to arrive at terms of apparent intimacy with this shakist grandee?

1858. N. Y. Tribune, 21 Jan. Four...adverse, and several others shaky.


1861. Kingsley, Ravenshoe, xviii. Affairs are getting somewhat shaky there: Welter’s tradesmen can’t get any money.

1890. Allen, Tents of Shem, x. I expect your chances would have been shaky.

1900. Savage, Brought to Bay, iv. A few women, faultless in attire, even if shaky in morals.

Shaler, subs. (common).—A girl.

Shalley-gonahay, subs. phr. (provincial).—A smock-frock (Hotten).

Shallow, subs. (old).—1. An empty-headed Justice of the Peace. [Cf. Shakspeare, 2 Hen. IV. iii. 2.] Whence (2) = a fool; also Shallow-ling and Shallow-pate (B. E. and Grose.)


1646. British Ballman [Harl. Misc., vii. 633. Whores, when they have drawn in silly Shallowlings, will ever find some trick to retain them.

1902. Headon Hill, Caged, xxvi. The local shallows thought this mode of entrance added dignity.

3. (old).—A low-crowned hat; ‘a whip-hat’: whence Lilly-Shallow = a white whip-hat (Grose and Vaux).

4. (costermongers’).—(a) The peculiar barrow used by street traders (also Trolley and Whitechapel Brougham; Fr. une bagnole); and (b) see quot. 1851.

1851-61. Mayhew, London Lab., i. 29. The square and oval shallows are willow baskets, about four inches deep, and thirty inches long, by eighteen broad. Ibid., i. 146. Two or three customers with their shallows slung over their back.

1875. Greenwood, Low Life Depths. Here they are after it—in vehicles for the greater part; in carts and half-carts, and shallows and barrows.

1876. Hindley, Cheap Jack, 184. With a proviso that he did not go travelling in the country with his shallow.

1891. M. Advertiser, 30 Mar. The connexion between Lord Lonsdale’s travels and his capacity to drive anything on wheels from a Pickford’s van to a costermonger’s shallow, is, one would fancy, remote enough.

1896. Sala, London Up-to-date, 45. The free and independent costermonger, with his pal in the shallow.
Sham. 155 Sham.

1899. *Ev. Standard,* 13 March, 8, 2. 'A China Episode.' Mathew Leveret, a peripatetic dealer in crockery ware, was driving his pony and shallow . . . laden with crockeryware of all kinds.

4. (tramps').—See quotas. and Shivering Jimmy.

1851-61. *Mayhew, London Lab.*, i. 262. He scraped acquaintance with a 'school of shallow coves'; that is, men who go about half-naked, telling frightful tales about shipwrecks, hair-breadth escapes from houses on fire, and such like aqueous and igneous calamities. . . . People got 'fly' to the shallow brigade, so Peter came up to London to 'try his hand at something else.'

1869. *Greenwood, Seven Curses of London.* The shallow, or more properly shallow dodge, is for a beggar to make capital of his rags, and a disgusting condition of semi-nudity. . . . A pouncing of the exposed parts with common powder blue is found to heighten the frost-bitten effect.

1877. *Turner, Vagrants, &c.*, 641. I have been a shallow-cove, also a high-flyer.

1893. *Rippon Chronicle,* 23 Aug. 'A Queer Life Story.' Billy Brum has been running shallow at intervals in these parts for the past five years. By running shallow I mean that he never wears either boots, coat, or hat, even in the depths of the most dismal winter.

1898. *Emerson, Signor Lippo,* x. I only do the shallow on the pinch. I shall have to come back to the nigger business, its more respectable. *Ibid.*, x. One thing, I always go 'spectable—clean collar, clean scarf, clean boots. It's far better to go that way than shallow.

1900. *Flynt, Tramps,* 240. One day he is a shallow-cove, or 'shivering Jimmy.'

**TO LIVE SHALLOW,** verb. phr. (thieves').—To live quietly and in retirement, as when wanted (g.v.)

**Sham,** subs. adj. and verb. (old).—Generic for false. As subs. = (1) a cheat, a trick; (2) a substitute, as a pillow-sham, false sleeves, fronts, or cuffs. As adj. = spurious, counterfeit. As verb. = to cheat; to feign: also to cut a sham = 'to play a rogue's trick' (B. E. and Gross); shamocrat = one who apes rank or wealth.

1677. Wycherley, *Plain Dealer,* iii. i. Shammering is telling you an insipid dull lie with a dull face, which the sly wag the author only laughs at himself; and, making himself believe 'tis a good jest, puts the sham only upon himself.

1689. Prior, *To Fleetwood Shepherd.* Your wits that fleer and sham, down from Don Quixote to Tom Tram.

1700. Congreve, *Way of the World,* v. 10. That sham is too gross to pass on me! *Ibid.*, i. The discovery of your sham addresses to her, to conceal your love to her niece, has provok'd this separation.

1722. Steele, *Conscious Lovers,* i. Wearing shams to make linen last clean a fortnight.

1740. North, *Examen,* 231. The word sham is true cant of the Newmarket breed. It is contracted of 'ashamed.' The native signification is a town lady of diversion in country maid's clothes, who to make good her disguise, pretends to be so sham'd. Thence it became proverbial . . . so annex'd to a plot it means one that is fictitious and untrue.

1778. Sheridan, *The Rivals,* i. 1. Why does your master pass on only for ensign?—now if he had sham'd general.

1790. Franklin, *Auto.*, 257. He stayed some time to exercise the men in sham attacks upon sham forts.

1813. Aubrey, *Lives,* 'Henry Blount.' Two young gent. that heard Sr. H. tell this sham . . . rode the next day to St. Albans to enquire . . . 'twas altogether false.

1817. Scott, *Rob Roy,* xxxvii. He shammed ill, and his death was given publicly out in the French papers.

3. (common).—Champagne; boY (g.v.): also shamy.

1849. Thackeray, *Pendennis,* iv. A bottle of sherry, a bottle of sham, a bottle of port and a shass caffy, it ain't so bad, hay, Pen.?

See Abraham; Snake.
Shamble, subs. (old).—In pl. = the legs. Whence Shake your Shambles = Begone! As verb. = ‘to walk awkwardly’; Shamble-legged = shuffling (B. E. and Grosb).

Shambrogue, subs. (old).—The Shamrock. Also Shamroot.

1613. Withers, Abuses Stript and Whipt, 71. And for my cloathing in a mantle goe, And feed on Sham-roots as the Irish doe.

1712. Spectator, 455. I could easily observe . . . the Spanish myrtle, the English oak, the Scotch thistle, the Irish Sham-brogue.

Shameless, subs. (old: B. E., c. 1696).—‘A bold forward Blade.’

Sham-legger, subs. phr. (common).—A man offering worthless stuff for sale cheap.

Shammock, verb. (old).—To loaf (q.v.).

d. 1704. Brown, Works, ii. 184. Pox take you both for a couple of Shammocking rascals.

Shamrock. To drown the Shamrock, verb. phr. (Irish).—To go drinking on St. Patrick’s Day (Mar. 17th).

1888. D. Telegraph, 22 Mar. An Irishman of strong national instincts, and resident, or ‘commorant,’ in Edinburgh, on Saturday last resolved to drown the shamrock in the orthodox fashion.

Shan (or Shand), subs. (Old Cant).—Base coin. Hence as adj. = worthless (Grose and Vaux).

1815. Scott, Guy Mannering, xxxii. ‘I doubt Glossin will prove but Shan* after a’, mistress,’ said Jabot, as he passed through the little lobby beside the bar; ‘but this is a gude half-crown any way.’ *

Shandrydan (or Shandy), subs. (Irish).—A light two-wheeled, one-horsed cart: hence, any old rickety trap.

Thackeray, Irish Sketch Book, xii. Where all the vehicles, the cars, barouches and Shandrydans, the carts, the horse- and donkey-men could have found stable and shelter, who can tell?

1861. Cornhill Mag., v. 440. An ancient rickety-looking vehicle of the kind once known as Shandrydan.

1863. Gaskell, Sylvia’s Lovers, xxix. I ha’ been to engage a Shandy this very morn.

1876. Braddock: Joshua Haggard, iii. An ancient white pony, which the Squire drove himself in a Shandrydan of the chaise tribe, completed the Pentreath stud.

1886. D. Telegraph, 10 Sep. Until an immense procession of buggies, wagonettes, chaise carts, and Shandrydans had rattled by.

1896. Sala, London Up-to-date, 43. I have done the Derby . . . in every style—gigs, landaus, barouches, hansom, Shandrydans . . .

Shandy-Gaff, subs. phr. (common).—Beer and ginger-beer.

1853. Bradley, verd. Green, i. 118. ‘He taught me to grill a devil.’ ‘Grill a devil,’ groaned Miss Virginia. ‘And to make Shandy-Gaff and sherry cobbler, and brew bishop and egg flip: oh, its capital!’

1864 Eton School Days, v. Chorley took him up the river and inducted him into the mysteries of Shandy-Gaff at Surly.


1872. Fun, 10 Aug. ‘A Ditton Ditty.’ So let us quaff Our Shandy-Gaff.

1880. Mortimer Collins, Thoughts in my Garden, ii. 198. They bear about the same resemblance to real literature as Shandy-Gaff to dry champagne.

Shaney (or Shanny), subs. (common).—A fool.

SHANGHAI, subs. (American).— I. A tall dandy [BARTLETT: In allusion to the long-legged fowls from Shanghai, all the rage a few years ago].

1859. *Gt. Republic Mag.*, Jan., 70. I degenerated into a fop, and became a SHANGHAI of the most exotic breed.

2. (Australian).— A catapult: also as verb.

3. (American).— See quot.

SHANK, subs. (B. E. and GROSE).— In pl. = the legs; GAMS (q.v.).

TO SHANK IT (or TO RIDE SHANKS'S MARE, or NAG) = (1) to go on foot or by the MARYLEBONE STAGE (q.v.): and (2) to leave without ceremony (B. E. and GROSE).

1302.11. *Political Songs* [Camden Soc.] 223. He [King Edward I] with the longe SHONKES.

d.1529. SKELTON [DYCE, Works, i. 117]. Your wynde schakyn shankkes .. croyled az a camoke. *Ibid.* 168 [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.* i. 371.]. The word shank had not then the lowering idea of our days; it is applied to the limbs of Christ on the cross.

d.1555. LYNDSDAY, Thrie Estaitis [E.E.T.S. 469].

1598. FLORIO, *Worde of Wordes*, s.v. Gambe, legs or shankes.

1600. SHAKESPEARE, *As You Like It*, ii. 7, 161. His youthful hose, well saved, a world too wide, For his skrunk shank.

1635. [GLAPTHORNE], *Lady Mother Bullen's, Old Plays*, ii. 131. But come, stir your shanks nimibly or Ile hough ye.

1785. BURNS, *Epistle to J. Lapraik, Postscript*. The youngsters took the sands Wi nimble shanks.

1818. SCOTT, *Rob Roy*, xxii. Sitting on the bed, to rest his shanks, as he was pleased to express the accommodation which that posture afforded him.

1843. THACKERAY, *Irish Sketch Book*, xvi. Along the bunks you see all sorts of strange figures washing all sorts of wonderfull rags, with red petticoats and redder shanks standing in the stream.

1847. PORTER, *Quarter Race*, 90. Dick and Jule had to ride shanks' mare.

1855. KINGSLEY, *Westward Ho*, xv. I am away to London town to speak to Mr. Frank!! "To London! how wilt get there?" "On shanks his mare," said Jack, pointing to his bandy legs.

1857. HOOD, *Pen and Pencil Pictures*, 118. Three pairs of woollen socks ... will cherish thy lean shanks, old fellow!

1885. CHAMBERS' JOURNAL, 2 May, 287. Your true swagman detests the sight of a horse ... give him shanks' mare.

1891. LIC. VICT. GAZ., 9 Jan. The distance had choked off those whose only mode of locomotion was shanks' mare.

1891. RUSSELL, *Ocean Tragedy*, 194. I could see his naked yellow shanks.

1891. GLOBE, 5 June, 3, 3. People would be deprived of their habitual method of locomotion. Some would solve the difficulty by staying at home. Others would resort to shanks' pony; and the minority to cabs.
Shanker.

1901. D. Telegraph, 28 Oct., 10, 5. He was much more interested in two old-fashioned animals, the horse and another strange animal enjoying the name—the origin of which he had never yet been able to discover—of Shank's Pony.

2. (colloquial).—The fag end. 1889. Harris, Uncle Remus, xv. Bimeby, 'tords de Shank er de evenin'.

1888. Paton, Down the Islands. The old Kentuckian who in the Shank of the evening was wont to maintain there was no such thing as bad Kentucky whiskey.

Shanker, subs. (vency) 2. A little Scab or Pox on the Nut or Glans of the Yard.' (B. E.).


1731. Swift, Young Nymph Going to Bed. With gentlest touch she next explores Her Shankers, issues, running sores.

1772. Bridges, Homer Burlesque, 491. But Ajax gave him two such spankers, They smarted worse than nodes and Shankers.

Shannon. 'It is said, persons dipped in that river are perfectly and for ever cured of bashfulness' (Grose).

Shant, subs. (tramps').—A quart; a pot: e.g., SHANT OF GATTER = a pot of beer. Also SHANTY.

1851-61. Mayhew, London Lab. i. 232. They have a shant of gatter at the nearest boozing ken.

1893. Emerson, Lippo, v. I should just think you would beg my pardon, and to show you mean it stand a couple of shants of bevarly to square the boys.

Shan't, verb. (colloquial).—Shall not. Now we Shan't be long = It's all right: a general note of satisfaction or agreement: a street catch of the late nineties.

1897. Maugham, Lisa of Lambeth, v. Now we Shan't be long! she remarked.

Shanty, subs. (common).—1. A rough and tumble hut; 2. (Australian and showmen's) a public-house; 3. (a brothel (sailors') and (4) a quart; whence (5) beer money. Also as verb. = (1) to dwell in a hut, and (2) to take shelter.

1848. Cooper, Oak Openings, 26. This was the second season that le Bourdon had occupied 'Castle Meal,' as he himself called the shanty.

1857. Hammond, Wild Northern Scenes, 197. Mark Shuff and a friend . . . shantied on the outlet, just at the foot of Tupper's Lake. Ibid. 212. We shantied on the Ohio.

b. 1859. New York Courier [Bartlett]. The sportsmen . . . brace themselves to meet the rude exigencies of a tramp and shanteeing out for a few days.

1861. Kingsley, Ravenshoe, liv. There was weeping in the reed-thatched hovels of the Don, and in the mud-built shanties of the Dnieper.

1878. Century Mag., Dec., 510. These droll and dirty congeries of shanties and shacks.

1886-96. Marshall, 'He Slumbered' ['Pomes,' 118]. She scooted from the shanty.

1887. All Year Round, 30 July, 67. Inns do not exist in Australia, every house of refreshment is a hotel.' It may be only a wooden shanty up-country.

1889. Haddon Chambers, In Australian Wilds, 53. I knew that there was no public house or shanty within twelve miles.

1890. Dilke, Prob. Greater Britain, iii. 1. Kimberley is still a huge aggregation of shanties, traversed by tramways, and lit by electric light.

1892. Nisbet, Bushranger's Sweet Heart, 34. 'Yes; and did you run that shanty long, Stringy?' For three months and more, and did a roaring trade besides.


1893. Emerson, Lippo, v. Any shanty in your sky-rocket? Ibid., xiv. Then we went out for a shanty, and when we came back Blower and Bottlenose were clearing up.
Shap, subs. (venery). — I. The female pudendum: see monosyllable. Also Shape.

[?]. Owayne Myles [MS. Cott. Calig. A ii. 91]. And some were yn to Shappus And some were vp to the pappus. 


d.1529. Skelton, Elynour Rummyng, 492. An old rybybe . . . had broken her shyn At the the threshold comying in, And fell so wyde open That one myght see her token . . . Said Elynour Rummyng . . . Dy, couer thy shap With sum flyp flap.


2. (Western American).—See quot.

1885. Stavely Hill, From Home to Home. A pair of Shaps, or leather overalls, with tags and fringes down the seams.

Shape, subs. (vulgar).—In pl. (=1) an ill-made man (B. E.), and (2) a tight-laced girl (Halliwell). Hence to show one's shape = (1) to strip: specifically (old) 'to peel (q.v.) at the whipping-post' (Grose), and (2) to turn about and march off; stuck on one's shape = pleased with one's appearance; 'There's a shape for you' = an ironical comment on a skeleton-like person or animal—a rack-of-bones (q.v.); to travel on one's shape = to swindle, to live by one's appearance; to spoil one's shape = to be got with child; shape-smith = a stay-maker; in good shape = quite correct; to cut up (or show) one's shape = to frolic.

1678. Cotton, Virgil Travestie [Works (1725), 74]. My son's so big (which rarely falls) About his —, and Genitals, That I am half afraid lest he Should chance to spoil her Majesty.

d.1704. Brown, Works, ii. 97. The French king who had spoil'd the shape . . . of several mistresses . . . had a mind to do the same by me.

1715. Garth, Claremont, 98. No shape-smith set up shop and drove a trade To contend the wise Providence had made.

1896. Crane, Maggie, vi. Say, Mag, I'm stuck on yer shape.

Verb. (colloquial). — To turn out; to behave.

1369. Chaucer, Troilus, ii. 61. So shop it that hym fil that day a tene In love, for whiche in wo to bedde he wente.

1605. Shakspeare, Cymbeline, v. 5, 346. Their dear loss, The more of you 'twas felt, the more it shaped Unto my end of stealing them.

1888. Boldrewood, Robbery Under Arms, xxxvii. 'Well, I'm in your power, now,' says he, 'let's see how you'll shape.' Ibid., xxii. 'We shall have to shape after a bit.'

1891. Gould, Double Event, 123. I am very anxious to see how my horse shapes.


1898. Gould, Landed at Last, v. 'He shapes as well as ever' . . . 'Moves splendidly.'

1902. Pall Mall Gaz., 7 Feb., 1, 2. We should wait to see how he shaped, before deciding whether he was a personage to be encouraged or taught his place.

1902. Delannoy, £10,000, xxvi. How do you shape? . . . without bed-clothes and with rodent company, or will you give me the letter? Ibid., xxix. He seems to be shaping himself for a straight jacket.

Shappo, subs. (old).—A hat, 'the newest Cant, Nab being very old, and grown too common' (B. E., c.1696); also shappau, shoppo, shofo, shappo [Fr. chapeau].
Shard. To take a shard, verb. phr. (provincial).—To get tipsy: see screwed.

Share, subs. (old).—The pubes.

[?]. Ms. Porhington, 10. Sychone se I nevere ere Stondynge opone share.

1609. Holland, Amnnianus Mareell. [Nares]. Arrayed from the heele to the share in manner of a nice and pretie page.

1624. Burroughs, Method of Physick [Nares]. They cannot make water, the share becometh hard, and hath vehement pain.

Share-penny, subs. phr. (old).—A miser; a skinflint (q.v.)

1606. Wily Beguild. [Hawkins, Eng. Drama, iii. 299]. I'll go near to cozen old father sharepenny of his daughter.

Share, verb. (provincial).—To copulate: see greens and ride (Halliwell).

Shark, subs. and verb. (old).—I. A greedy adventurer; a swindler: also sharker (B. E. and Grove). As verb. (or to live on the shark) = to live by roguery or thieving. Whence shark-gull = a flat-catcher (g.v.); to shark up = to press, to enlist on terms of piracy; sharking = (1) roguery, and (2) greedy, tricky.

1609. Sir Thomas More [Oliphant, New Eng. ii. 8]. There are the new verbs rooke (plunder) and shark (prey).

1596. Shakspere, Hamlet, i. 1. Of unimproved mettle hot and full, Hath in the skirts of Norway, here and there, shark'd up a list of landless resolutes for food and diet.

1599. Jonson, Ev. Man Out of His Humour. Characters... Shift. A threadbare shark... His profession is skeldring and odling. Ibid. (1609) Silent Woman, iv. 2. A very shark; he set me in the nick t'other night at Primero.


1608. Dekker, Belman of London [Grosart, Works, iii. 162]. A true of sharking companions (of which there be sundry consorts lurking about the suburbs of this City).

1609. Rowlands, Knave of Clubs (Hunterian Club's Repr., 1879), 10. Two hungry sharks did traulle Paules, Unt until their guts cride out, And knew not how, with both their wits, To bring one meale about.

1611. Chapman, May-Day, ii. (1874) 288. Though y'are sure of this money again at my hands, yet take heed how this same Lodovico get it from you, he's a great sharker.

1628. Earle, Micro-cosmog. 14. A sharker is one whom all other means have fail'd, and he now lines of himselfe. Ibid. (Bliss) 206. That does it fair and above-board, without legerdemain, and neither sharks for a cup or a reckoning.

d.1639. Wotton, Letter to M. Velserus. "A dirty sharker about the Romish court, who only scribbles that he may dine."

1653. Middleton, Spanish Gipsy, ii. i. A trade brave as a courtier's; for some of them do but shark, and so do we.

1678-1715. South, Sermons, ii. 214. "Wretches who live upon the shark, and other men's sins, the common poisoners of youth."

1748. Smollett, Rod. Random, iii. We returned to the village, my uncle muttering all the way against the old shark.

1760. Johnston, Chrysal, i. iv. Making my fortune a prey to every sharking projector who flattered my vanity with promises of success.

1815. Scott, Guy Mannering, xxx. 'We want our goods, which we have been robbed of by these sharks,' said the fellow.

1857. Trollope, Three Clerks, iii. He expected to pay £200 a year for his board and lodging, which he thought might as well go to his niece as to some shark, who would probably starve him.

1891. Newman, Scampign Tricks, 2. Is part of the stock of such rare old sharks.

1898. Nisbet, Hagar, 8. 'You'd take my money to yourself,' interrupted Dix with irony. 'Not if I know it, you shark!'
2. (old). — ‘A custom-house officer or tide-waiter’ (Grose). Also in pl. = the press-gang.
1828. DOUGLAS JERROLD, Ambrose Gwinnett, i. 3. Gil. A word with you—the sharks are out to-night. Label. The sharks? Gil. Ay, the blue-jackets—the press-gang.

3. (old). — ‘One of the first order of pickpockets. Bow St. term, A.D. 1785’ (Grose).


5. (American College). — At Yale = reckless absence from college duties: of persons and conduct.

6. (Western American). — A lean hungry hog (Bartlett).

Verb. (colloquial). — 1. To fawn for a dinner.
2. See subs.

Sharp, subs. (old). — I. A swindler; 'one that lives by his Witts' (B.E.); a rook (q.v.) the opposite of flat (q.v.): also sharper; cf. sharker (Grose and Vaux). As verb = to cheat; sharpening (or on the sharp) subs. and adj. = swindling; sharper's tools = (1) fools, and (2) false dice (B.E. and Grose). See Bible-sharp; flats-and-sharps.

1688. SHADWELL, Squire of Alsatia [Works (1720), iv. 18]. 'Tats... what's that?' 'The tools of sharper, false dice.'

1690. DRYDEN, Don Sebastian, Epilogue, l. 35. All these young sharps would my grace importune. *Ibid.* (1692), *King Arthur*, Prologue, 38. Among the rest there are a sharpening set That pray for us, and yet against us set.


1706. MRS. CENTLIVRE, Basset Table, iv. 1. But if he has got the knack of winning thus, he shall sharp no more here, I promise him.

1729. Gay, Polya, iii. 5. Death, sir, I won't be cheated. *Cul.* The money is mine. D'you take me for a sharper, sir?

1748. SMOLLETT, Rod. Randon, lvi. Who supported myself in the appearance of a gentleman by sharpening and other infamous practices.

1749. Lucas, Gamesters, 250. She would play altogether on the sharp.

1768. Goldsmith, Good Natured Man, i. How can I be proud of a place in a heart, where every sharper and coxcomb find an easy entrance.

1789. Geo. Parker, Life’s Painter, 142. Sharps... This term is applied to sharpers in general.

1821. Egan, Life in London, i. ii. From autumn to winter, from winter to June, The “flat” and the sharp must still play the same tune.

1830. Lytton, Paul Clifford (Ed. 1854), 190. ‘They are both gone on the sharp to-night,’ replied the old lady.

1837. Warren, Diary of Physician, xi. I began to suspect that he was neither more nor less than a systematic London sharper—a gamester—a hanger-on about town.

1843. Dickens, Martin Chuzzlewit, xxxvii. Tom’s evil genius did not... mark him out as the prey of... those bloodless sharps.


1861. Trollope, Framley Parsonage, xxxiii. What an ass I have been to be so cozened by a sharper.

1872. Besant and Rice, R. M. Mortiboys, xxiv. It is not usual to see men play in your fashion. You have sharpened us, sir—sharped us.’

1886-96. Marshall, Beautiful Dreamer [*Pomes* 65]. The sharps tipped The Lump, and left Pip in the lurch.

2. (old). — A pointed weapon: a sword as contrasted with a foil.


1679. Behn, Feigned Curtizan, iii. These dangerous sharps I never lov’d.
Sharp.

1697. Collier, Essays, 'Duelling.' If butchers had but the manners to go to SHARPS, gentlemen would be contented with a rubber at cuffs.

1763. Foote, Mayor of Garraw, ii. Why lookye, Major Sturgeon, I don't much care for your poppers and SHARPS.

3. (American).—An expert.

c.1889. Scientific Amer. [Century]. One entomological SHARP, who is spoken of as good authority estimates the annual loss at 300,000,000 dols.

Adj. (B. E. c.1696, and Grose). 'Subtil, ready, quick or nimble-witted, forward, of lively apprehension; also Poor and Needy.'

Adv. (colloquial). — To the moment: e.g. 'I'll be there at five o'clock SHARP.'

1847-8. Thackeray, Vanity Fair, xxvii. Captain Osborne . . . will bring him to the . . . mess at five o'clock SHARP.

Mr. Sharp, phr. (traders'). — A similar expression to 'TWO-PUN-TEN' (q.v.), to signify that a customer of suspected honesty is about. The shopman asks one of the assistants, in a voice loud enough to be generally heard, 'Has Mr. Sharp come in yet?' The signal is at once understood, and a general look-out kept (Hotten).

Sharp as the corner of a round table, phr. (common). — Stupid.

Sharp's the word! phr. (colloquial). — 1. 'Of anyone very attentive to his own interest, and apt to take all advantage': sometimes with 'And Quick's the Motion' (Grose); also (2) a call to brisk movement, or ready obedience.

1706. Vanbrugh, Mistake [Old Dram., 448]. Sharp's the word [i.e., watchword].

1708-10. Swift, Polite Conversation, iii. Lady Ansiv . . . They must rise early that would cheat her of her Money; Sharp's the word with her; Diamonds cut Diamonds.

Sharp-and-Blunt, subs. phr. (rhyming). — The female pudendum; the cunt (q.v.): see monosyllable.

Sharp's Alley Bloodworms, subs. phr. (old). — 1. Beef sausages; and (2) black puddings. [A noted abattoir near Smithfield.]


1577. Stanhurst, Ireland, 19. So sharpe set as to eat fried flies, buttered bees, stued snails.

1579-80. Lyly, Euphues [Oliphant, New Eng., 1. 611. He has the following phrases that only just appeared in English . . . Clowish, Sharp set . . .].

d.1742. Somerville, Officious Messenger. The sharp-set squire resolves at last, Whate'er befall him, not to fast.

1749. Smollett, Gil Bias [Routledge], 58. My appetite was sharp-set for a comfortable meal.

Sharpshin, subs. (American).—The smallest quantity.

1854. Kennedy, Swallow Barn [De Vere]. This inconsiderable claim—for it is not the value of a Sharpshin.


See Devil's Sharpshooters.

Sharp Stick, subs. phr. (American).—Persecution; retribution.

1856. Western Scenes [De Vere]. If you stay much longer, the old man will be after you with a Sharp Stick, and I don't know what you'll do to keep him from killing you,
Shatterbrain. 163 Shave.

1871. Trenton State Sentinel, 26 May. The New York Tribune is still after Senators Carpenter, Conkling, and others, with a very sharp stick, for their ridiculous course in the arrest and imprisonment of the Tribune correspondents, for daring to be true to the profession.

Shatterbrain (or Pate), subs. (colloquial).—A giddy person: Shatterbrained (or Pated) = heedless; weak in intellect. See Shitterbrain and Shuttlehead.

Shave, subs. (common).—A narrow escape; a Squeak (q.v.): usually with "close," "near," &c. Whence to make a Shave (or to Shave through) = to get through by the skin of one's teeth.

1844. Puck, 14. Of all the men that with me read There's never one ... But got th' other if he made a Shave on't.

1860. Russell, Diary in India, xxi. "By Jove! that was a near Shave! ... a bullet whistled within an inch of our heads.

1871. Daily News, 7 Mar. In those famous telegrams of the King the expression, "Danke nur Gott!" means "It was a close Shave!"

1876. Burnaby, Ride to Khiva, Intro: I had, as it is commonly termed, a much closer Shave for my life than ... even if I had been taken prisoner by the most fanatical Turkomans in Central Asia.

1885. Field, 4 Ap. It was a desperately close Shave.

1898. Gould, Landed at Last, vii. We've had some narrow squeaks of missing him ... [a] narrow Shave was at York.

2. (common).—A false report; a practical joke; a Sell (q.v.)

1854. Morning Chronicle, 13 Dec. "According to camp reports or camp Shaves, as they are more expressively termed."

1860. Russell, Diary in India, xii. At first a Shave of old Smith, then a well authenticated report.

1874. Siliad, 29. The Shaves are many; so the nests of mares.

1882. D. Telegraph, 3 Oct., 5, 7. Rumours of Turkish troops being landed as our allies adding to the Shaves that hourly came out.

1884. G. A. Sala, Ill. Lon. News, 26 Apr., 311, 3. The legend is probably a mere barrack-room Shave, but it is worth noting. Ibid. (1883), Living London, 115. Shave for hoax first obtained currency during the Crimean War.

3. (Stock Exchange).—A money consideration paid for the right to vary a contract, by extension of time for delivery or payment, &c.

4. (theatrical).—The proportion of the receipts paid to a travelling company by a local manager.

See Shaver.

Verb. (old).—To extort; to strip; to cheat (B. E.). Hence shaving (or Shavery) = (1) usury, and (2) overcharge (with drapers called shaving the Ladies). Also Shaver = (1) a cheat, a swindler; (2) a banker, broker, or money-lender given to usury; and (3) Shaver (q.v.) : whence Shaving-Shop = a Wild-Cat Bank (q.v.); Shaving-Terms = make all you can.

1548. Latimer, Sermons, 200 [Oliphant, New Eng., i, 515. Latimer coins Shavery, something like slavery; to express the robbery of the Church].

1603. Knolles, Hist. Turks. They fell all into the hands of the cruel mountain people, living for the most part by theft, ... by these Shavers the Turks were stript of all they had.

1666. Dekker, Seven Deadly Sinnes (Arber’s) 40. Then have you Brokers yet Shaye poor men by most jewesh interest ... Then have you the Shaving of Fatherlesse children, and of widowes, and that’s done by Executors. Ibid., 39. The next ... was ... a Shauer of yong gentlemen, before euer a haire dare peep out of their chinnes; and these are Vsurers.

1638. Ford, Lady’s Trial, ii, 1. Whoop! the brace are flinch’d, The pair of Shavers are sneak’d from us, Don.
Shaved.

1850. Dickens, David Copperfield, xxiii. 'He pays well, I hope.' . . . 'Pays as he speaks . . . through the nose . . . None of your close shavers the Prince ain't.'

c.1857. Parody on Emerson's Brahma, [Bartlett]. If the stock broker thinks he shaves, Or if the victim think's he's shaved, Let both the rascals have their say, And he that's cheated let him pay.

1862. North Am. Rev., July, 113. This Wall-Street note-shaving life is a new field, a very peculiar field.

1863. Once a Week, viii., 179. We have all heard for instance of an operation called shaving the ladies, yet we doubt if any lady is aware of the very clean shave she is constantly undergoing.

1864. Sala [Temple Bar, Dec., 40]. He is as dextrous as a Regent Street counter-jumper in the questionable art of shaving the ladies.

1870. Life in New York [Bartlett]. Make your money by shaving notes or stock-jobbing, and every door is thrown open; make the same amount by selling Indian candy, and the cold shoulder is turned upon you.


Shaved, adj. (common).—Drunk: see Screwed.

1598. Shakespear, 1 Hen. IV., iii. 2. Bardolph was shaved . . . and I'll be sworn my pocket was picked.

1834. Atlantic Club-book, 1. 138. When I met him, he was about—yes—just about half shaved.

1837-40. Haliburton, Clockmakers (1862), 102. They remind me of Commodore Trip. When he was about half-shaved he thought everybody drunk but himself.

1577. Kendall, Epigrammes [Nares]. Wouldst know the cause why Ponticus Abroad doeth not Rome? It is her use these shavelings still With her to have at home.

1601. Heywood, Death Rob., Earl of Huntington, F.3. Through that lewd shaveling will her shame be wrought.

1630. Taylor, Epig., i. Curse, exorcise with beads, with booke and bell, Polluted shavelings.

1653. Urquhart, Rabelais, ii. xxx. [Note]. Pope Alexander VI. who was ras [a shaveling] was poisoned by another ras [a shaveling] with rat's bane.

d.1657. J. Bradford, Works [Parker Soc. (1898)], ii. 276. That is the prerogative of the priests and shaven shorlings. Ibid., 291. No matter . . . so thou have the favour of the pope and his shavelings.

1694. Motteux, Rabelais, iv. 45. About him stood three priests, true shavelings, clean shorn and polled.

1767. Sterne, Tristram Shandy, vii. 16. A poor soldier shows you his leg, or a shaveling his box.

d.1859. Macaulay, Moncontour. Alas! we must leave thee, dear desolate home, To the spearmen of Uri, the shavelings of Rome.

1883. Green, Conq. of England, ii. 63. Houses guarded only by priests and shavelings, who dared not draw sword.

Shaver, subs. (old).—1. A fellow; a party (spec. (modern) = a more or less precocious youngster (B.E., Martin, and Grose)); (2) a child, but see quot. 1664. Also Shaveling and Shave, verb.

1586. Marlowe, Lew of Malta, iii. 3. Bar. Let me see, sirrah, are you not an old shaver? Slave. Alas, sir! I am a very youth.

c.1597. Wily Beguiled [Hawkins, Eng. Drama, iii. 376]. If he had not been a merry shaver, I would never have had him.

1630. Crimsall, Kind-Hearted Creature [Rox. Ball. (Brit. Mus.) iii. 166]. This bonny Lass had caught a clap it seems by some young shaver.

1635. Cranley, Amanda [Nares]. Thou art a hackney, that hast off beene tride, And art not coy to grant him such a favour, To try the courage of so young a shaver.
Shaver. 165 Shears.

1654. Webster, Appius and Virginia, ii. 2. Was't you, my nimble shaver that would whet Your sword 'gainst your commander's throat?

1655. Hist. of Francion [Nares]. There were some cunning shavers amongst us, who were very well versed in the art of picking locks.

1664. Cotton, Virgil Travestie (1st ed.), 62. And said, My Mother's a mad shaver, No man alive knows where to have her.

c.1685. Broadside Ballad, 'The London Lasses Folly' (Pepys Ball. (Bodleian) iii. 236). Now will I ramble up and down to find out this young shaver.

1698. Farquhar, Love and a Bottle, iii. 1. Who wou'd imagine now, that this young shaver cou'd dream of a woman so soon?

1748. Smollett, Road. Random, ix. He drew a pistol, and fired it at the unfortunate shaver, who fell flat on the ground without speaking one word.

d.1796. Burns, A Dream. Funny, queer Sir John, He was an unco' shaver, For monie a day.

1803. Emerson, Lippo, xvi. Well to see this young shaver pilot your horse to the post was a treat.

2. (common).—A short jacket; a bum-perisher (q.v.)

3. See Shave.

Shaving-brush, subs. phr. (venery).—The female pubic hair: see Fleece and lather.

Shavings, subs. (old).—'The clip-pings of money' (B. E. and Grose).

Shay, subs. (common).—A chaise.

1834. Lytton, Paul Clifford, xxxi. When I puts myself out of the way To obledge you with a shay.

She, subs. (once literary: now vulgar).—A woman: also she-one: cf. he = a man. Hence she-house (Grose) = a house under petticoat rule; she-school = a girls' school.

1602. Shakspeare, Twelfth Night, i. 5, 259. Lady, you are the cruell'st she alive. Ibid. (1605) Cymbeline, i. 3. The she's of Italy should not betray Mine interest and his honour.

1648-55. Fuller, Ch. Hist., vi. 297. Nunneries also were good shee-schools.

d.1650. Crashaw, To his Supposed Mistress. That not impossible she That shall command my heart and me.

1704. Steele, Lying Lover, i. 1. I...gaz'd...till I forgot 'twas winter, so many pretty she's March'd by me.

2. (Charterhouse). — A plum pudding: also shee: cf. he.

Shearer's Joy, subs. thr. (Australian).—Colonial beer.

1892. Gilbert Parker, Round the Compass, 22. It was the habit afterwards among the seven to say that the officers of the Eliza Jane had been indulging in shearer's joy.

Shears. Pair of Shears, subs. phr. (old).—A striking likeness; little or no difference: e.g., 'There's a pair of shears = They're as like as two peas.'
1603. SHAKESPEARE, Measure for Measure, i. 2. There went but a pair of sheers between us.

1623. FLETCHER and ROWLEY, Maid of the Mill. There went but a pair of sheers and a bodkin between them.

1630. OVERBURY, Charact., 34. There went but a pair of sheers between him and the pursuivant of hell, for they both delight in sinne.

1630. TAYLOR, Works, i. 103. And some report that both these fowles have scene their like, that's but a pair of sheers between.

1633. ROWLEY, Match at Midnight. Why there goes but a pair of sheers between a promoter and a knave.

1663. SHED, verb. (provincial).—To piss (q.v.): also to shed a tear.

To shed a tear, verb. phr.—To take a drink: originally to take a dram of real or short (q.v.).

1876. HINDLEY, Cheap Jack, 156. I always made time to call in and shed a tear with him for convenience and 'days o' lang syne.'
She-dragon. 167  Sheep.

She-dragon, subs. phr. (colloquial).—1. A vixen; an elderly termagant.

2. (old).—A kind of wig.

Sheeney (or Sheeny).—I. A Jew; a Yid (q.v.): used by Gentiles and by Jews (jocosely by the latter). Whence (2) a pawnbroker: pawnbroking, like the fruit and fish trade, is mainly (in London at least) in the hands of Jews. Also as adj. = base, Jewish, fraudulent: also Sheen.

1847. Thackeray, Snobs, xiv. Sheenev and Moses are . . . smoking their pipes before their lazy shutters in Seven Dials.


1866. Sala, Trip to Barbary, 16. He was manifestly a Jew . . . a most splendid Sheeney.

c.1870. Broadside Ballad, 'Talkative Man from Poplar.' Last Sunday he went down Petticoat Lane, Talked a Sheeney out of his watch and chain.

1872. Hindley, Cheap Jack, 307. Tell him that the little Sheeney . . . don't forget his kindness.

1889. Horsley, Auto. of Thie[Mac. Mag., xl. 501]. I took the daisies to a Sheeney down the gaff.

1888. Payn, Eavesdropper, ii. ii. ' Can you smash a thick 'un for me?' inquired one, handing his friend a sovereign. 'You're sure it ain't Sheen?' returned the other, with a diabolical grin.

1891. Lic. Vict. Gaz. 3 Ap. Down went the East-enders smothered in gore, and . . . from all parts of the crowd there came shouts of, 'the Sheenies wins!' Ibid. The Sheenies chuckled at the thought of the chosen race once more 'spoil[ing] the Egyptians.' Ibid., 23 Jan. 'Don't like that Sheeney friend of yours,' he said; 'if you don't look out he'll have you.

1893. Emerson, Lippo, xxi. I used to spend a couple of thick 'uns a Friday in fish and greenstuff, and then fill up with oranges and nuts for Sunday, going down the lane for them, buying from the Sheenys.

Sheep, subs. (colloquial).—I. Sheep like pigeon (q.v.) is commonly generic for timidity and basfulness. Thus, as subs. = a simpleton; sheep-faced (or sheepish) = bashful (B. E. and Grosé); sheep's-head = a block-head (B. E., Dyche, and Grosé); sheep-headed = stupid; sheep's heart = a coward; sheep-hearted = cowardly; 'Like a sheep's head, all jaw' = 'said of a talkative person' (Grosé); old sheepguts = a term of contempt.

d.1556. Udal, Fras. Apoph., 122. Those pereones who were sely poore soules . . . wer even then . . . by a common prouerbe called shep'es heads or shepe.


1592. Nashe, Piers Penniless, 45. I haue read ouer thy sheepish discourse . . . and entreated my patience to bee good to thee whilst I read it.

1593. Shakspeare, Com. Errors, iv. 1. Thou peevish sheep. Ibid. (1595), Verona, i. 1. Twenty to one then he is slipp'd already, And I have play'd the sheep in losing him. Ibid. A silly answer, and fitting well a sheep.

1605. Chapman, All Fools, ii. Ah, errant sheep's head, hast thou lived thus long, And darest not look a woman in the face?


1693. Locke, Education, 50. A sheepish or conceited creature.

1749. Smollett, Gil Blas [Rutledge], 216. The sheepish acquiescence of a man who stood in awe of an ecclesiastical rap on the knuckles.
Sheep-biter. 168  Sheep’s-eyes.


1773. Goldsmith, She Stoops to Conquer, i. 1. Reserved and sheepish; that’s much against him.

1775. Sheridan, Rivals, iv. 1. A vile, sheep-hearted blockhead! If I hadn’t the valour of St. George and the Dragon to boot—

1818. Scott, Rob Roy, ix. Why, thou sheep’s heart, how do ye ken but we may can pick up some speerings of your valise.

1835. Dana, Before the Mast, 155 (July 18). They’ve got a man for mate of that ship, and not a bloody sheep.

1863. Reade, Hard Cash, r. 137. He wore a calm front of conscious rectitude; under which peeped sheep-faced misgivings as to the result of their advance: for like all lovers, he was half impudence, half timidity, and both on the grand scale.

1900. Savage, Brought to Bay, vi. California mine manipulators going over ... to shear those fat-witted sheep, the British investors.

2. (Aberdeen Univ.). — See quot.

MacDonald, Alec Forbes of Hownien, ii. 5. At length a certain semi (second-classman, or more popularly sheep) stood up to give his opinion on some subject in dispute.

Phrases and Proverbs.—To wash sheep with scalding water = to act absurdly; to lose a sheep (erroneously ship) for a half-penny worth of tar = to go niggardly about a business; ‘as well be hung for a sheep as a lamb.’

Sheep-biter, subs. phr. (old).—

1. A slinking thief; also sheep-shearer and sheep-napper (the latter spec. = a sheep-stealer); sheep-biting = sneaking.

Sheep’s-clthing.—See Wolf.

Sheep’s-eyes. To cast (or make) sheep’s-eyes (or lamb’s-eyes), verb. phr. (common).—To ogle; to leer (Grose): formerly to look modestly and with diffidence but always with longing or affection. Fr. ginginer; lancer son prospectus.
Sheep's-eyes.  169  Sheets.

1500-13.  SKELTON, Works (DVCE), 121.  When ye kyst a sheep's ie.

1590.  GREENE, Francesco's Fortunes [in Wks. viii., 191].  That casting a sheep's eye at him, away he goes; and euer since he lies by himselfe and pines away.

1600.  T.  HEYWOOD, 1 Ed. IV.  [PEARSON, Works (1874), 1. 51].  Go to, Nell; no more sheep's eyes; . . . these be liquorish lads.

1611.  COTGRAVE, Dict. . . Affectionate wink, a sheep's-eye.

1614.  JOHNSON, Bartholomew Fair, v. 3.  Who chances to come by but fair Nero in a sculler; And seeing Leander's naked leg and goodly calf, cast at him from the boat a sheep's eye an' a half.

1632.  MASSINGER, Maid of Honour, iv. 5.  His brother, nor his favourite, Fulgentio, could get a sheep's eye from you, I being present.

1651.  CARTWRIGHT, Ordinary [NARES].  If I do look on any woman, nay, If I do cast a sheep's-eye upon any.

1673.  WYCHERLEY, Gentleman Dancing Master, iv. 1.  I saw her just now give him the languishing eye, as they call it, that is, the whiting's eye, of old called the sheep's-eye.

1675.  COTTON, Scofter Scoft [Works (1725), 192].  Observing what sheep's-eyes he cast.

1708-10.  SWIFT, Polite Conversation, i.  Pray, Miss, how do you like Mr. Spruce?  I swear I have often seen him cast a sheep's eye out of a Cal's Head at you.

1714.  Spectator, No. 623.  The steward was observed to cast a sheep's eye upon her, and married her within a month after the death of his wife.

1748.  SMOLLETT, Rod. Random, xvi.  There was a young lady in the room, and she threw . . . many sheep's eyes at a certain person whom I shall not name.

1766.  Old Song, 'The Butcher' [The Rattle], 3.  Brisk Dolly, the Cookmaid . . . At whom the young Butcher soon cast a sheep's eye.

1837.  BARHAM, Ingoldsby Leg., ii. 334.  Her Charms will excuse one for casting sheep's eyes at her.

1854.  G. A. LAWRENCE, Guy Livingstone, vii.  He would stand for some time casting lamb's-eyes at the object of his affections—to the amorous audacity of the full-grown sheep he never soated.

1892.  Tit-Bits, 19 Mar., 425, i.  Sowerbutt had a silent regard for Ethel, . . . on more than one occasion . . . furtively casting sheep's eyes at my darling.

Sheepskin, subs. (common).—I.  The diploma received on taking a degree; also (2) a person who has taken a degree; and (3) a deed or similar document [engrossed on parchment].

1843.  CARLTON, New Purchase, i. 203.  I can say as well as the best o' them sheepskins, if you don't get religion and be saved, you'll be lost totally and forever.  Ibid.  This apostle of ours never rubbed his back agin a college, nor toted about no sheepskins,—no, never! . . . How you'd a perished in your sins, if the first preachers had stayed till they got sheepskins!

1853.  DICKENS, Bleak House, xxxii.  The entanglement of real estate in the meshes of sheepskin.

Sheepskin - fiddle, subs. phr. (old).—A drum.  Hence, sheepskin - fiddler = a drummer (Grose).


1781.  MESSINK, Choice of Harlequin, 'Ye Scamps, &c.,' i.  In Tothill-field's gay sheepwalk, like lambs ye sport and play.

Sheepwash, verb. (Winchester).—To duck.

Sheet-alley, subs. phr. (common). — Bed; blanket-fair (q.v.).

Sheets, subs. (old).—Generic for sexual intercourse: thus, the shaking of the sheets = the act of kind (orig. the name of an old country dance).  Also between the sheets = in the act; white-(or cold-) sheets = chastity; stained (or foul) -sheets = fornication; lawful sheets = wedlock; to possess a woman's sheets = to enjoy her.
1600. *Shakespeare, Much Ado, ii. 2.*

*Claud.* Now you talk of a sheet of paper, I remember a pretty jest your daughter told us of. *Leon.* O, when she had writ it and was reading it over, she found Ben-nedick and Beatrice between the sheet. *Ibid.* (1604), *Winter's Tale*, i. 2. The purity and whiteness of my sheets. *Ibid.* (1605), *Cymbeline*, i. 6. Should he make me live... betwixt cold sheets whiles he is vaulting variable ramps? *Ibid.*, ii. 2. The chastity... whiter to... the sheets! That I might touch! *Ibid.*, i. 6. Let copulation thrive; for Gloucester's bastard son Was kinder to his father than my daughters' Got 'twixt the lawful sheets. *Ibid.* (1596), *Hamlet*, i. 2. O, most wicked speed, to post With such dexterity to incestuous sheets. *Ibid.* (1602), *Othello*, i. 3. Iago. He hath not yet made wanton the night... betwixt the sheets, and... window... Cannot... Wax and Bristles is about... to unfurl the fourth, he can jist out-laugh the universe.

1605. *Chapman, Jonson, &c., Insatiate Countess*, ii. You must not think to dance the shaking of the sheets alone, though there be not such rare phrases in't—'tis more to the matter.

1607. *Dekker and Webster, West-ward Hoe*, v. 2. Scrappers appear under the wenches'... window... Cannot... the sheets be danced without your town piping?

1611. *BARRY, Rasu Alley*, v. i. The widow and myself Will scramble out the shaking of the sheets without Musick.

1612. *Chapman, Widow's Tears*, i. 2. *Ew.* I'll have thee tossed in blankets. *Tha.* In blankets, madam? You must add your sheets, and you must be the tosser. *Ra.* Nay then, sir, y'are as gross as you are saucy. *Ibid.* *Ars.* Did not one of the Countess's serving men tell us... that he had already possessed her sheets.

1639. *TAYLOR, Works*, ii. 96. There are many pretty provocation dances, as the kissing dance, the cushion dance, the shaking of the sheets, and such like, which are important instrumentall causes whereby the skilfull hath both clients and custome.

1678. *Gayton, Festivous Notes*, 25. But you Sancho, had the Austrian Donzella betwixt the sheets, where I am afraid you did not behave so well as was wished.

**A SHEET [OR THREE, OR FOUR SHEETS] IN THE WIND (OR WIND'S EYE).—More or less tipsy; HALF SEAS OVER (q.v.): see Screwed.**

1831. *Egan, Real Life*, i. 385. Old Wax and Bristles is about three sheets in the wind.

1847. *Porter, Big Bear*, 172. When he gets three sheets spread, and is tryin' to unfal the fourth, he can jist out-laugh the universe.

1879. *Chambers' Jt.*, 14 June, 383. We had all messed together, and I'm afraid had got rather more than three sheets in the wind, had aboard more than we could carry.

1883. *Stevenson, Treasure of France*, iv. [Longman's Mag., April, 693]. Desprez was inclined to be a sheet in the wind's eye after dinner, especially after Rhône wine, his favourite weakness.

1892. *HENEVY and Stevenson, Three Plays*, 209. *Kit.* What cheer, mother? I'm only a sheet in the wind; and who's the worse for it but me?

**She-familiar, subs. phr. (old).—A kept mistress (HALLIWELL).**

**Sheffield Handicap, subs. phr. (provincial).—A sprint race with no defined scratch (q.v.). The scratch man receives an enormous start from an imaginary flyer (q.v.).**
She-flunkey.  171  Shell.

She-flunkey, subs. phr. (common).—A lady’s maid.

1877.  Five Years’ Penal Servitude, iii. 244. She was a SHE-FLUNKEY, lady’s maid, once—that’s how she knew all about being a swell lady.

Shekel, subs. (common).—In pl. = money: generic: see RHINO.

1885.  Fun, 21 July, 29. Now that Henry Ward Beecher is over here, intent on making SHEKELS! the following anecdote concerning him is worth reviving.

Shef.  On the shelf, phr. (various).—1. (general) = laid aside, in reserve, past service: Fr. braille; 2 (military) = under arrest; 3 (old) = in pawn (GROSE); 4 (thieves’) = transported; 5 (common) = dead: whence OFF THE SHELF = resurrected.

1637.  Gascoigne, Fruits of War, 132 [Chalmers, Eng. Poets, ii. 522, 2, 4]. And I that neuer yet was SET ON SHELF, When any sayld . . . Went after him.

1655.  Heywood, Fortune by Land and Sea. The fates have cast us ON THE SHELF To hang ‘twix air and water.

1821.  Egan, Life in London, ii. ii. Once a distinguished leader of fashion, . . . but he is ON THE SHELF now.

1833.  O’Connell [O’C. Correspondence, 1888, i. 387]. Lord Anglesey now is obliged reluctantly to retire. Blackburne will be put ON THE SHELF.

1842.  Comic Almanack, 324. For though “six, seven, eight,” have got, each of them, nicks, They, at last, lay the gambler undone ON THE SHELF.

1857.  Trollope, Three Clerks, iv. What, pension him! put him on half-pay—SHELF HIM for life, while he was still anxiously expecting . . . promotion.

1870.  Music Hall Song, ‘Hands Off.’ Some fine day, when I’m . . . Put to bed with a spade in the usual way, And yourself ON THE SHELF a neglected old maid.

1894.  Illus. Bits, 7 April, 4. It should be explained here that [it] had been ON THE SHELF some time.

1902.  Hume, Crime of Crystal, i. Tell ‘em to get back into their graves at once . . . we don’t take any folks OFF THE SHELF.

Shell, subs. (military).—An undress jacket: also SHELL-JACKET.


2. (school).—See quot.

1857.  T. Hughes, Tom Brown’s Schooldays, i. 5. The lower fifth, SHELL, and all the junior forms in order.

1867.  Collins, Public Schools, 178 (Westminster). At the end of this room [the schoolroom] there is a kind of semicircular apse, in which the SHELL form were formerly taught, and the shape of which is said to have given rise to this name, since adopted at several other public schools.

1875.  Jean Ingelow, Fated to be Free, xix. The SHELL [Harrow] . . . means a sort of class between the other classes.

3. (venery).—The female pudendum: see MONOSYLLABLE.

4. (old).—In pl. = money: see RHINO. Hence to SHELL out = to pay. Fr. allonger les radis.

Sheilling-out = ‘clubbing money together’ (GROSE).

1591.  Greene, Notable Discovery [Works, x. 38]. The purse, the Bong, The monie, the SHELS.
Shell-back. 172 Shemozzle.

1611. Middleton, Roaring Girl, v. 1. 'Tis a question whether there be any silver shells amongst them, for all their satin outsides.

1729. Moore, Tom Crib, 27. Who knows but if coax'd, he may shell out the shiners.

1811. Middleton, Roaring Girl, v. 'Tis a question whether there be any silver shells amongst them, for all their satin outsides.

1819. Moore, Tom Crib, 27. Who knows but if coax'd, he may shell out the shiners.

1885. Neal, Bro. Jonathan, iii, xxvii. Maybe you'll treat, won't you, if I shell out, fair; all I know o' the matter?

1829. Old Song, 'The Prigging Lay' [Vidocq's Memoirs, iv.]. Quickly draw the bolt of your ken, Or we'll not shell out a mag.

1844. Selby, London by Night, i. 1. By the bye, Shadrack, you must shell out at once for contingencies.

1855. Barnum, Autobiography, 195. At the same time motioning to his trembling victim to shell out.

1860. Cassell's Mag., 4 Jan., 211. The grave shan't keep me quieter than the fifty suverins which Mr. Hewitt . . . will shell out in the morning.

1855. Barnum, Autobiography, 195. At the same time motioning to his trembling victim to shell out.

1882. Braddon, Mount Royal, xxv. We might look upon this little chimozzle as a kind of misunderstanding.

SHELTA. A kind of cryptic Irish spoken by tinkers and confirmed tramps; a secret jargon composed chiefly of Gaelic words disguised by changes of initial, transposition of letters, backslanging and similar devices. [Discovered by C. G. Leland and announced to the world in his book The Gypsies (1882); in 1886 there was a correspondence on the subject in The Academy; in 1889 The Gypsy Lore Society was started and several articles on Shelta appeared in its Journal; finally in Chamber's Encyclopaedia (1902) there is a long account of this once mysterious but now fully explained speech.]

SHELVE, verb. (printers').—To hold over part of the weekly bill; the reverse of Horsing (q.v.).

Shemozzle (Shimozzel or Shlemozzle), subs. (East End).—A difficulty.

1899. Binstead, Houndsditch Day by Day. It was through no recklessness or extravagance that he was in this shemozzle.

1900. From the Front, 183. We might look upon this little chimozzle as a kind of misunderstanding.

1901. J. Maclaren Cobban, Golden Tooth, 170. If Will comes out of this shemozzle.

Verb. (East End).—To be off; to decamp.
**Shenanigan.**

**SHENANIGAN, subs. (American).—**
Bounce; chaff; nonsense; trickery (Bartlett, 1877.)

1893. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, 80.
Never mind their shenanigan.

We're mates all round, an' no more shenanigan.

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**SHERBETTY, adv. (common).—**
Drunk: see screwed.

1893. Lic. Vict. Gaz., 8 Feb. By the time one got to bed Tom was a bit sherbetti.

**SHERIFF.** The chief officer of justice within a county is naturally found in combination: thus Sheriff's picture frame = the hangman's noose: see nubbing-cheat; sheriff's-journeyman = a hangman; sheriff's ball = an execution: whence to dance at the sheriff's ball and loll out one's tongue at the company = to hang; sheriff's bracelets = handcuffs; sheriff's hotel = a prison (Grose).

1824. Egan, Boxiana, iii. 622. All in the sheriff's picture frame the call Exalted high, Dick parted with his flame, And all his comrades swore that he dy'd game.

**SHERY (or Shirry), verb. (old).—**
To run away: also to shirry off (Grose): see absquatulate.

**SHERY-FUG, verb. (University).—**
To tipple sherry.

**SHERY-MOOR, subs. phr. (provincial).—**
A fright [Halliwell: From the battle of Sheriff-muir when 'all was blood, uproar, and confusion'].

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A fright [Halliwell: From the battle of Sheriff-muir when 'all was blood, uproar, and confusion'].

**SHEPHERD, verb. (colloquial).—**
To guard; to keep under surveillance; to chaperon: as a ticket-of-leave man (see Nark, subs. and verb); an unmarried woman, or (mining) as in quot. 1863. Also (football) to head off whilst one's side is running or kicking. At Harrow, shepherd, subs. = every sixth boy in the cricket-bill who answers for the five below him being present.

1863. Once a Week, viii. 507. Having sunk their holes, each about a foot, and placed in them a pick or shovel as a sign of ownership, they devoted themselves to the laborious occupation of shepherding, which consists in sitting by a huge fire with a pipe in your mouth, telling or listening to interminable yarns, . . . grumbling at your present and regretting your past luck, diversified by occasionally lounging up to the sinking party for the purpose of examining the 'tack' thrown up, and criticising the progress made.

1886. Percy Clarke, New Chum, 71. The speculators who sat dangling their legs in their infant pits, shepherding their claims, awaiting with anxiety . . . the run of the vein.

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SHET. See Shut.

**SHEVLE, subs. (obsolete).—** See quot.

1864. D. News, 2 Dec. This is a term recently introduced as a genteel designation for cats' meat, and evidently derived from cheval, French for horse, as mutton from mouton, &c.

**SHICER (or Shice), subs. (thieves').--**
1. Any worthless person or thing: generic for contempt. Also (2)
Shickster. 174 Shifter.

=nothing; NIX (q.v.): e.g. TO WORK FOR SHICE=to get no pay-
ment. Spec. SHICE = base money; and, as adj., (1) spurious,
shabby, bad: also SHICERY and SHICKERY; and (2) = tipsy.

1851-6. MAYHEW, Lon. Lab., i. 472. The hedge crocus is shickery
togged.

are . . . the first to rush to a new field, scrape it of its surface gold
and then too lazy to seek further by deep sinking de-
nounce the rush as a shicer.

1899. BINSTED, Houndsditch Day by Day, 46. She comes over shikker
and vants to go to shlee.

1901. WALKER, In the Blood, 260, 'You're a damned good plucked un, Toby!'
muttered Squiffy, 'an ye're no shicer.'

SHICKSTER (SHICKSER, or SCHICKSTER), subs. (common).—
A woman: specifically (among Jews) = (1) a female servant not
of the Jewish faith; and (2) a woman of shady antecedents.
SHICKSTER-CRABS=ladies' shoes.


1899. BINSTED, Houndsditch Day by Day, 91. 'No Mr. Motzabeger' says
the schveet young shika.

1891. CAREW, Autobiography of a Gipsy, 414. As I was leavin' the court
a reg'lar igh-flying shickster comes up.

SHIF, subs. (back slang).—Fish.

SHIFT, verb. (common).—1. To eat; and especially to drink. Hence
SHIFTER = a drunkard.

2. (old).—To change one's smock; to change one's clothes.

1695. CONGREVE, Love for Love, i. 4. Bid Margery put more flocks in her
bed, Shift twice a week, and not work so hard, that she may not smell so vigorously.

To do a shift, verb. phr. (common).—1. To go away; to change
one's quarters.

1802. National Observer, 27 Feb., 378. But if you arst me, do I ever do a
shift? Am I particular to a fuss? . . . Speaking as one man to
another,—Yuss!

2. (common).—To evacuate.

To shift one's bob. See Bob.

SHIFTER, subs. (old).—1. An in-
triguer: SHIFTY-COVE = a trick-
ster (GROSE). Also (2) = a thief;
(3) a sharper; and (4) a drunkard.
Whence SHIFTY (or SHIFTING) =
tricky (now recognised); SHIFT-
ing = (1) shuffling, stealing,
swindling; and (2) = drinking.

1567. ADELEY, Fraternity of Vagabonds. As well as of rufing Vaca-
bondes, as of beggerley, . . . with a
Description of the Crafty Company
of Cousoners and shifters. [Title.]

1584. ROBINSON, Pleasant Delights [ARBER), 14. Maids must be manerly,
not full of scurility, wherein I see you
excel . . . You are a trim shifter.

1593. SHAKESPEARE, Com. of Errors,
iii. 2, 187. I see a man here needs not
live by shifts.

1598. FLORIO, World of Wordes,
Bazar . . . a shifter, a conicatcher
. . . a haltersacke.

1601. JONSON, Poetaster, iii. 1. Thou
art an honest shifter; I'll have the
statue repealed for thee.

1607. Common Council Enactment,
shifters, people lyvinge by Cozeainge,
Stealinge, and Imbeazellinge of Men's
Goodes as opportunitye may serve them.

1608. WITHALS, Dict. A shifter
whome they call a cunning-catcher.

1610. Mir. for Mags., 144. Nought
more than subtill shiftings did we please,
With bloodshed, craftie undermining men.

1616. Richard Cabinet [NARES].
Shifting doeth many times incurre the
dignitie of reproch, and to be counted a
shifter, is as if a man would say in
plaine tearmes a coosener.
Shifting-ballast. 175  Shilly-shally.

1630. Taylor, Works [Nares].
And let those shifters their own judges be,
If they have not bin arrant thieves to me.

1637. Heywood, Royal King [Pearson, Works (1874), vi. 38]. He scorns to be a changeling or a shift.


2. (thieves').—An alarm : as given by one thief in watching to another ‘on the job.’—Vaux (1812).

Shifting-ballast, subs. phr. (old nautical).—Landsmen on board ship: spec. soldiers (Grose).

Shift-work (or Service), subs. phr. (venery).—Fornication.

Shig, subs. (East End).—In pl. = money: specifically silver. At Winchester shig = a shilling (Mansfield, c.1840).

Shiggers, subs. pl. (Winchester).
—White football trousers costing 10s.: see Shig.

Shikerry. See Shicer.

Shillagalee, subs. (American).—A loafer.

Shilling. To take the King’s (or Queen’s) shilling, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To enlist.

c. 1702. [Ashton, Social Life in the Reign of Queen Anne (1882-3), ii. 203]. The Queen’s shilling once being taken . . . there was no help for the recruit unless he was bought out.

1706. Farquhar, Recruiting Officer, ii. 3. Capt. P. Come my lads . . . the army is the place to make you men for ever. Fear, Captain, give me a shilling; I’ll follow you.

Shilling-shocker (or -dreadful), subs. phr. (literary).—A sensation novel sold at a shilling: a fashion initiated (1887) by The Mystery of a Hansom Cab, by Mr. Fergus Hume: cf. Penny-awful.

1885. Athenæum, 14 Nov., 638. Mr Stevenson is writing another shilling-dreadful.

1887. Ill. London News, 17 Sept., 349, i. The three-volume novel may be dying out, as they tell us; but we have the shilling shocker rampant among us.

1890. Academy, 22 Feb., 130, 2. I have often wondered why the experiences of the Styrian arsenic-eaters . . . has not been utilised by the writer of some three-volume novel or shilling shocker.

Shilly-shally (also shally-shally), verb. phr. (colloquial).—To trifle; not to know one’s mind; to stand shilly-shally = to be irresolute (Grose). Hence shilly-shally (or shilly-shallying) = indecision [Shall I? Shall I?]; shilly-shallier = a trifler.

1630. Taylor, Works, iii. 3. There’s no delay, they ne’re stand shally-I shall I: Hermogenes with Dallila doth dally.

1665. Howard, Committee, iii. Tell her your mind! ne’er stand shilly-shally.

1699. Congreve, Way of the World, iii. 15. I don’t stand shill I, shall I, then; if I say’t, I’ll do’t.


1709. King, Eagle and Robin, 92. Bob did not shill-I-shall-I go, Nor said one word of friend or foe.


1809. Malkin, Gil Blas [Rutledge], 27. I never stand shilly-shally: begone, you are free.

1830. Lytton, Paul Clifford (1854), 177. Your friends starve before your eyes, while you are shilly-shallying about your mistress.
Shimmy. 176

Shindy.

1834. Southey, The Doctor, cv. He was no shilly shallier.

1849. Thackeray, Pendennis, xxvii. I'll have no more letters nor no more shilly-shally.

1883. James Payn, Thicker than Water, xvii. He says he will have no more shilly-shallying, but will you take the Lady or will you not?

1837. MARRYATT, Snarley Yow, xlv. We have nothing here but petticoats and shimmeys.

1856. Dow, Sermons [Bartlett]. As interesting a sight . . . as a shimmy in a wash-tub.

1836. Dana, Before the Mast, 284. We had to furl them again in a snow-squall, and shin up and down single ropes caked with ice.

1838. Neal, Charcoal Sketches, The Fleshy One, xi. ‘Shin it, good man,’ ejaculated a good-natured urchin.


1837. Barham, Ingold. Leg., ii. 351. A ring—give him room, or he'll shin you—stand clear.

1864. Eton School Days, xiii. He could not go out . . . without someone throwing a stone at him, or hissing, or shinning him if he passed near enough.

1837. Egan, Life in London, ii. iii. The Jack Tar is quite pleased with his night’s cruise, and is continually singing out, “What a prime shindy, my messmates!”

SHIMMY (or SHIMMEY), subs. (colloquial).—A chemise. Also (Felled) = a shirt: obsolete.

SHIN, verb. (colloquial).—Generic for action: spec. to walk, to tramp: also TO SHIN IT. Hence TO SHIN UP = to climb; TO SHIN IT (SHIN ROUND, or BREAK SHINS) = to go a round of lenders: whence SHINNER = a borrower; TO SHIN OUT OF = to clear off; TO BREAK ONE’S SHINS (see above); also (2) to be in a hurry; and (3) to fall against, or over, a person or thing; AGAINST ONE’S SHINS = unwillingly (Ray). Also SHINNY (American) = a negro tramp: cf. Hobo.

SHINDY, subs. (old).—1. A dance (Grose): in Western America SHINDIG = a noisy dance.

2. (common).—A disturbance; a quarrel: also SHINTY. Whence (3) a boisterous spree (q.v.).

1831. Egan, Life in London, ii. iii. The Jack Tar is quite pleased with his night’s cruise, and is continually singing out, ‘What a prime shindy, my messmates!’
Shine.

1837. **Barham, Ingoldsby Legends** (1852), 204. — he won't kick up such shinies, Were she once fairly married and off to the Indies.

1841. **Comic Almanack**, 260. Vell, sartingly its vindy; and here's a pretty Shindy.

1847. **Thackeray, Vanity Fair**, ii. xix. There's a regular Shindy in the house; and everything at sixes and sevens.

1864. **Derby-day**, 8. He asked them if they wanted to insult him grossly, and there was a very comfortable little Shindy over it.

1878. **New York Sp. of Times** [Bartlett]. You will find heaps of bogus money here, but bogus men can't shine.

**Shine.** subs. (common).—I. A happening; a TO-DO (q.v.), whether warlike or not; specifically a frolic. Hence (2) = show, or display; and (3) a row, a Shindy (q.v.). To cut a SHINE = to make a show; EVERY SHINE = every one. As verb. = (1) to make a stir, or impression, and (2) to raise or show money; to take the Shine out of = (1) to outwit, and (2) put in the shade; to shine up (or take a SHINE) TO = to make oneself agreeable; to have a fancy for.

1838. **Egan, Boxiana**, i. 23. Who was selected to punish this Venetian for his vain-boasting, that he would take the shine out of Englishmen! *Ibid.* (1842), *By-Blow of the Jug* (Captain Macbeth). To the end of your life cut a shine.

1835. **Haliburton, Clockmaker** i. S., xvi. They fairly take the shine off creation—they are actully equal to cash.

1843. **Major Jones's Courtship**, ii. They were all comin' to me bout it, and shinin' and disputin' so I couldn't hardly hear one from tother.

1847. **Robb, Squatter Life**. To make a shine with Sally I took her a new parasol.

1847. **Thackeray, Vanity Fair**, ii. xxv. A long, thin, queer-looking, oldish fellow—a dry fellow though, that took the Shine out of a man in the talking line.

1848. **Burton, Waggeries**, 78. Quite careless as to what 'diddles and shines' he might cut in future.


1851. **Corb, Mississippi Scenes**, 155. I'm pretty much like the old man, only I took a sort o' shine to old Cass.

1852. **Dickens, Bleak House**, lvii. There'd be a pretty shine made if I was to go a-wisitin them, I think.

1853. **Diogenes**, ii. 46. And take out their shine With a jolly large fine.

1856. **Dow, Sermons**, i. I've seen some evening twilights that take the shine off everything below.

1859. **New York Sp. of Times** [Bartlett]. You will find heaps of bogus money here, but bogus men can't shine.


1864. **Hertford Post**, 14 July. The public . . . will pronounce her the finest and most comfortable boat they have ever visited, and be satisfied that she is bound to shine.

1866. **Major Downing's Letters**, 37. I'm sorry he didn't bring his pitch-pipe with him, just to take the shine of them 'are singers.

1869. **Stowe, Oldtown**, 225. She needn't think she's goin' to come round me with any o' her shines . . . with lying stories about me.

1883. **T. Winthrop, John Brent**, 17 I've tuk a middlin' shine to you, and don't want to see yer neck broke.
1886. Congregationalist, 4 Feb. Mother was always hectorin' me about getting married, and wantin' I should shine up to this likely girl and that.

1836. McClintock, Beedle's Marr. I took a great shine to the schoolma'am.


1842. Egan, Bold Yeoman [Captain Macheath]. Then the High-toby gloque drew his cutlass so fine; says he to the farmer, you or I for the shine.

5. (venery). — In pl. = copulation: see Greens and Ride.

6. (military). — A flash: e.g., from a rifle.

1892. Kipling, Barrack Room Ballads, 'The Young British Soldier.' Shoot low at the limbers an' don't mind the shine.

Shiner, subs. (old). — A coin: spec. a gold piece. In pl. = money: generic: Also SHINO and SHINERY.

1760. Foote, The Minor, ii. To let a lord of lands want shiners, 'tis a shame.

1781. Messink, Choice of Harlequin. 'Ye Scamps, sc.' First you touch the shiners.

1819. Moore, Tom Crib, 27. Who knows but if coax'd he may shell out the shiners.

1834. Ainsworth, Rookwood, iii. i. But when from his pocket the shiners he drew, And offered to 'make up the hundred to two.'

1839. Dickens, Oliver Twist, xix. 'Fagin,' said Sykes, 'is it worth fifty shiners extra, if it's safely done from the outside?'

1848. Durivage, Stray Subjects, 82. In one corner . . . was stowed away a goodly quantum of the shiners.

1857. Reade, Never too Late to Mend, i. We'll soon fill both pockets with the shinerey in California.

1885-96. Marshall, 'Pomes from the Pink' Un, 8. I don't want a shiner that's only splashed.

1892. Chevalier, Idler, June, 549. I've got a little nipper, when 'e talks, I'll lay yer forty shiners to a quid. You'll take 'im for the father, me the kid.

1890. Detroit Free Press, 10 May. Come, down with the shine.

2. (old). — A looking-glass (Grose and Vaux).


1885. Francis, On Angling, 79. A tail black hat, or one of the genus called shiner, I do not recommend.


5. (tailors'). — A boaster. Also SHINE = to boast.

The shiners, subs. (military). — The Northumberland Fusiliers, formerly The 5th Foot. [From smart appearance at the time of The Seven Years' War.]

Shine- (or shiney-) rag, To win the shine-rag, verb, phr. (old). — See quot.

1851-61. Mayhew, London Lab., 20 He lost again, and some one bantering said, 'You'll win the shine-rag, Joe,' meaning that he would be 'cracked up,' or ruined, if he continued.

Shinfeast, subs. (provincial). — A good fire (Halliwell).

Shingle, subs. (American). — A signboard. To hang out (or stick up) one's shingle = to start business; shingle-splitting (obs. Tasmanian), see quot.

1830. Hobart Town Almanack, 89. When a man gets behindhand with his creditors . . . and rusticates in the country . . . he is said to be shingle-splitting.

1848. N.Y. Com. Adv., 24 Dec. Doctors and dentists from the U. S. have stuck up their shingles in Mexico.

1852. Judson, Myst. of New York, xiv. The legal gentleman had no particular office, nor hung he out a shingle anywhere,
Verb. (common). To chastise.

TO HAVE A SHINGLE SHORT; verb. phr. (Australian).—To be crazy; to have a tile loose.

SHINGLE-TRAMPER, subs. phr. (nautical).—A coastguardsman.

SHINING-LIGHT, subs. phr. (common).—An exemplar.

SHINKIN-AP-MORGAN, subs. phr. (old).—A Welshman.

c.1660. Broadside Ballad, 'A Beggar I'll Be' [Farmer, Musa Pedestris (1896), 29]. With SHINKIN-AP-MORGAN, with Blue-cap, or Teague, We into no Covenant enter, nor League.

SHINNER, subs. (old). See quotas.

1585. Nomenclator, 167. An hose, a nether stocke, a SHINNER.

1598. Florio, Worlde of Wordes. Calcette, hosen, or neather stockings, or cinNERS.

See SHIN, verb.

SHINNY (or SHINY), adj. (American).—Drunk: see SCREWED.

SHINPLASTER, subs. (American).

—See quot. 1890.

1845. New York Tribune, 3 Dec. The people may whistle for protection, and put up with what SHINPLASTER rags they can get.

1848. Durivage, Stray Subjects, 135. The cards were dealt, a brace of hands were played, and I won his 'Red Dog' SHINPLASTER.

—LOWELL, Biglow Papers . . .

If greenbacks ain't not just the cheese, I guess there's evils that's extremer; For instance,—SHINPLASTER ideas, Like them put out by Gov'nor Seymour.

1852. L'Allegro: As Good as a Comedy, 60. A greasy citizen. holding out a couple of SHINPLASTERS of single dollar denomination.

1856. Dow, Sermons, i. 309. Hope's brightest visions absquatulate with their golden promises before the least cloud of disappointment, and leave not a SHINPLASTER behind.

1862. Punch, 19 July, Yankee Stories. King Dollar 'ginst us he may turn, But we have King SHINPLASTER.

c.1866. The Disseminator. A grocer of New York, who had set up an opposition to the whole batch of suspended banks, found his SHINPLASTERS returned to him in such quantities, that, on counting over his "money," he found that he had redeemed about 100 dols. more than he had ever issued.

1890. Cent. Dict. s.v. SHINPLASTER . . . A small paper note used as money; a printed promise to pay a small sum issued as money without legal security. The name came into early use in the United States for notes issued on private responsibility, in denominations of from three to fifty cents, as substitutes for the small coins withdrawn from circulation during a suspension of specie payments; people were therefore obliged to accept them, although very few of them were ever redeemed. Such notes abounded during the financial panic beginning with 1837, and during the early part of the Civil War of 1861-5. After the latter period they were replaced by the fractional notes issued by the Government and properly secured, to which the name was transferred.

SHIN-RAPPER, subs. phr. (knackers').—1. A disabling blow on the splint bone; also (2) one who delivers such a blow.

1885. D. Tel., 30 Sep. Every great stable in England had the fear of the poisoner, the SHIN-RAPPER, and the nobbler constantly in view.

SHINSCRAPER, subs. (thieves').—The treadmill: see EVERLASTING-STAIRCASE.
**Ship**

**Ship, subs. (printers’ colloquial).—** A body of compositors working together; one acts as clicker, takes charge and makes out the general bill which is shared and shared alike. [An abbreviation of “companionship.”]

**Verb.** (common.)—1. To dismiss; TO SACK (q.v.) Also (2) to expel; to rusticate (American Univ.); (3) to turn out of bed, mattress on top (Sherborne School); and (4) to turn back in a lesson (Shrewsbury School).

1857. Trollope, *Three Clerks*, xviii. I’m to stay at the office till seven o’clock for a month, and old Fools-cap says he’ll ship me the next time I’m absent half-an-hour without leave.

**Ship blown up at Point Nonplus,** phr. (old).—'Exemplifies the quietus of a man when plucked penniless; or, genteelly expelled. Oxf. Univ. cant' (Grose).

See *Anno Domini*; Home; Pump.

**Ship-husband,** subs. phr. (nautical).—See quot.

1842. Marryat, *Percival Keene*, xviii. He was, as we use the term at sea, a regular ship-husband—that is to say, he seldom put his foot on shore; and if he did, he always appeared anxious to get on board again.

**Ship-in-full-sail,** subs. phr. (rhyming).—A pot of ale.

**Ship of the Desert,** subs. phr. (common).—A camel.

1859. *Notes and Queries*, 4 S. iv. 3 July, 10. By whom was the camel first called “THE SHIP OF THE DESERT?”

**Ship-shape,** adj. (colloquial).—Spick and span; smart above and below: originally ship-shape and Bristol fashion. [Bristol’s fame as a port in early days was far higher than now] (Grose).

1835. Dana, *Before the Mast*, 25 Aug. Everything was ship-shape and Bristol fashion. There was no rust, no dirt, no rigging hanging slack, no fag ends of ropes and 'Irish pendants’ aloft, and the yards were squared ‘to a t’ by lifts and braces.

1848. Dickens, *Domby and Son*, xxiii. Wall’r will have wrote home... and made all taut and ship-shape.

1874. E. L. Linton, *Patricia Kemball*, ii. Though we can go on very well as we are, she must have everything ship-shape and nice when she comes.


**Shirk,** verb. (Eton College: obsolete).—See quot.

1857-64. Brinsley Richards, *Seven Years at Eton* (1883). Shirking was a marvellous invention. Fellows were allowed to boat on the river, but all the approaches to it were out of bounds; we might walk on the terrace of Windsor Castle, but it was unlawful to be caught in the streets of Windsor which led to the terrace... If, out of bounds, you saw a master coming, you had to shirk, which was done by merely stepping into a shop. The master might see you but he was supposed not to see you. The absurdity was... that to buy anything in the shops in High Street, where all the school tradesmen dwelt, we were obliged to go out of bounds.

To shirk in, verb. phr. (Winchester).—To walk into water instead of plunging. To shirk out = to go out contrary to rules. Whence shirkster = one who shirks.

**Shirker,** subs. (hunting).—One who prefers the road to cross-country riding: cf. Skirter.

1885. Field, 4 Ap. Once in a way the roadsters and shirkers are distinctly favoured.

**Shirallee,** subs. (Australian).—Swag (q.v.); a bundle of blankets.
Shirt. 181 Shit.

**Shirt.** To get one's shirt out (or lose one's shirt), *verb. phr.* (common).—To make (or get) angry. Hence, **shirty** = angry, ill-tempered.

1851-61. Mayhew, London Lab., iii. 147. They knocked his back as they went over, and he got shirty.

1897. Maugham, *Lisa of Lambeth*, iii. You ain't shirty 'cause I kissed yer?

**Colloquialisms.**—To bet one's shirt (or put one's shirt on) = to risk all; to fly round and tear one's shirt = to bestir oneself; shirt (or flag) in the wind = a fragment seen through the fly, or through a hole in the breech; 'that's up your shirt' = 'That's a puzzler for you'; 'Do as my shirt does' = 'Kiss my arse!'

c.1707. Ballad of Old Proverbs (Durfey, *Pills, &c.* (1707)), ii. 112. But if she prove her self a Flurt, Then she may do as does my shirt.

*See* also Boiled shirt; Bloody shirt; Historical (or Illustrated) shirt.

**Shirt-sleeve,** *subs. phr.* (Stonyhurst).—A dance: on winter Saturday evenings, and sometimes in the open air at the end of summer term. [The costume is an open flannel shirt and flannel trousers.]

**Shise.** *See* Shice.

**Shit** (or *Shite*), *subs.* (vulgar).—Excrement: as *verb.* = to ease the bowels. Whence, *shit* = violent abuse: generic. Thus *shitsack* = (1) 'a dastardly fellow,' and (2) a Nonconformist (Grose): also *shit-sticks, shit-rag, shit-fellow, &c.*; *shitten* = worthless, contemptible; Shiddle-cum-shite (shittle-cum-shaw or shittle tidee) = nouns or exclamations of contempt; *shit-fire* = a bully; *shitters* = the diarrhoea; *shit-bag* = the belly; in *pl.* = the guts; *shit-house* = a privy; *shit-pot* = a rotten or worthless humbug; *shit-hunter* (or *stir shit*) = a sod; *shit-shark* = a gold-finder; *shit-shoe* (or *shit shod*) = derisive to one who has bedaubed his boot; *shit-hole* = the rectum; and to *shit through the teeth* = to vomit. Also *proverbs* and *proverbial sayings*: 'Shitten-cum-shite's the beginning of love' (proverbial); 'Wish in one hand and shit in the other, and see which will first fill'; 'Only a little clean shit (Scotticè, 'clean dirt')': derisive to one bedaubed or bewrayed; 'He (she, or it) looks as though the Devil had shit 'em flying': of things and persons mean, dwarfed, eccentric, or ridiculous; 'Like shit (sticking) to a shovel': very adhesive indeed; 'To swallow a sovereign and shit it in silver' = the height of convenience; 'Shit in your teeth' (old) = a foul retort on somebody who does not agree with you; 'It shines like a shitten barn-door' (Grose); 'All is not butter the cow sh—ts'; 'Claw a churl by the breech (or culls—Jonson) and he'll sit—in your fist'; 'The devil sh—s upon a great heap'; 'Shitten luck's good luck'; 'Lincolnshire, where hogs sh—soap, and crows sh—fire'; 'Go and eat coke and shit cinders' (popular) = derisive and defiant; 'Thought lay abed and shit himself, and thought he hadn't done it.'
1576. *Mere Tales of Skelton*, ix. Skelton then caste downe the clothes, and the frede dyd lye stark naked: then Skelton dyd shite vpon the freeres nauil.


1617. *Taylor and Shipman*, *Grobianas Nuptials*, Sc. 7 [MS. (Bodleian) 30, leaf 21]. Is shitten cum shites the beginning of love? why then, Tantoblin, thou art happye, Grobiana's thyne, the proverbe gives it thee.


1656. *Muses Recr.* [Hotten], 24. Here have I seen old John Jones, From this hill, shite to yonder stones.

1658. *Phillips*, *Mysteries of Love and Eloquence*, 169. Q. Why is 'sweet mistresse' so usual a complement? A. Because shitten comes shites is the beginning of love.


1678. *Cotton*, *Virgil Travestie* [Works (1725) 80]. Among his Mates, and wishes rather, (And so the Stripling told his Father) For noughty Vermin that would bite him, Or Throstle Neast though't did — — —.


1706. *Ward*, *Wooden World*, 69. 'A Sailor.' No man can ever have a greater contempt for Death, for every day he constantly shits on his own grave. *Ibid.* (1718), Helter Skelter. I say, sir, you're a mean shit-fire.

1707. *Old Ballad*, 'As the Fryer he Went along.' [Durfey, *Pills*, &c. (1707), iii. 130]. The Maid she sh — — , and a Jolly brown T — out of her Jolly brown Hole.

1708-10. *Swift*, *Polite Conversation*, ii. The young Gentlewoman is his Sweet-heart; . . . They say in our Country, that shitten-cum-shite is the beginning of love.

1710. *Broadside Song*, 'The Lass with the Velvet Arse' [Farmer, *Merry Songs and Ballads* (1697), 1. 214]. When E'er she went to sh — — If twas ne'er such a little bit . . . She always wiped it with brown Paper.

1714. *Swift*, *Miscell.*, 'On the Discovery of the Longitude.' Now Ditton and Whiston may both be beer-st on, And Whiston and Ditton may both be be-shit on.

1719. *Durfey*, *Pills to Purge*, iv. 112. Shitten come shite the beginning of love is, And for her Favour I care not a Pin.


1772. *Bridges*, *Burlesque Homer*, 96. May I be trampled, pist, and sh—t on, If I don't think you're right.


1838. *Lucian Redivivus*, *Paradise Lost*, 80. Fearing he had — himself. *Ibid.*, 82. Don't make a bother, Wish in one hand, and — in t'other, And which will fill the first, says I, You'll soon discover if you try.

**Shivaroo**, subs. (Australian). — A spree: see quot.

1888. *Bulletin*, 6 Oct. Both these fair Toby Tosspets are well-known in the Upper Circles of the Beautiful Harbour, and are seen at Government House shivaroo with the regularity of clockwork.
Shiver, subs. (colloquial). — In pl. = the ague; chills.

See Beat and Timbers.

Shivering Jemmy (or James), subs. phr. (streets'). — See quot.

1887. Standard, 20 June, 5, 2. The half-hearted beggars . . . are the 'Shallow Coves' and Shivering Jemmies of London slang.

1900. Flvnt, Tramps, 240. One day he is a 'shallow cove' or a Shivering-Jimmy.

Shivery-shaky, adv. phr. (common). — Trembling; shivery-shakes = chills.

1864. Derby-day, 54. He's all shivery-shaky, as if he'd got the staggers, or the cold shivers.

Sho, intj. (American). — Pshaw!

1851. Seaworthy, Bertie, 36. 'True, as my name's James Ragsdale.'

Shoard. To take a shoard, verb. phr. (provincial). — To get tipsy; see screwed.

Shoat (or Shote), subs. (American). — See quotes.

1871. Hill, Stories [Bartlett]. Seth Slope was what we call Down East a poor shoate, his principal business being to pick up chips, feed the hogs, &c.

1856. Dow, Sermons [Bartlett]. If you . . . make a proper use of your time, happiness, peace, and contentment are yours; if not, you will always be miserable shoats.

Shock, subs. (B. E., c. 1696). —'A Brunt. To stand the shock, to bear the brunt.' Shocking, what is offensive, grating, grievous, and espec. indecent.

Shocker, subs. (common). — Anything to surprise or startle. See Shilling Shocker.

1888. Gould, Golden Ruin, vii. 'This is a surprise . . . but I am heartily glad to see you'. . . 'Thought I should give you a shocker.'

Shocking. See Hat.

Shod. See Shoe.

Shoddy, subs. (colloquial). — 1. Old material—cloth, rags, &c.—ground up or shredded, and re-woven with a new warp. Hence (2) anything of poor quality or pretentious reputation: spec. (in derision) a workman in a woollen factory. Also as adj. = sham. Also derivatives such as shoddyite, shoddyise, &c.

1851-61. Mayhew, London Lab., ii. 34. The fabric thus snatched, as it were, from the ruins of cloth, is known as shoddy.

1854. Spectator, 355. The mixture of good wool and rotten shoddy we call broad-cloth.

1869. Froude, Address at St. Andrews, 12 Mar. We have false weights, false measures, cheating and shoddy everywhere.


1872. Ev. Standard, 11 Dec. 'Ag. Lab. Movement.' There were things that Parliament could do. It could abolish the truck system, whether in shoddy or in cider, and could provide that money should be paid in the coin of the realm.

1880. Ouida, Moths, vii. In New York she and hers were deemed shoddy—the very shoddiest of shoddy—and were looked coldly on, and were left unvisited.

1881. D. M. Wallace, Russia, 176. The Russian merchant's ostentation is . . . entirely different from English snobbery and American shoddyism . . . He never affects to be other than he really is.

1883. Belfast Weekly Northern Whig, 3 Feb. 1, 9. Cloaks lined with ostrich feathers are now in style, but the worst of this fashion is that if a woman leaves it unbuttoned, she is accounted a shoddyite, more anxious for vulgar display than comfort, while if she keeps it buttoned it might just as well be lined with red flannel for no one can see it.


**PHRASES, COLLOQUIALISMS, and PROVERBIAL SAYINGS—**

**To win one's shoes (old tournament) =** to vanquish one's adversary; **To die in one's shoes (or boots) =** to be hanged: see Ladder; **To shoe the wild colt =** to be initiated; **To shoe all round =** to provide hat-band, gloves, and scarf at a funeral; many shoeings being only partial (Grose); **To shoe the wild colt** (q.v.); also **To shoe =** Footing; **To shoe all round =** to provide hat-band, gloves, and scarf at a funeral; many shoeings being only partial (Grose); **To make children's shoes =** to look ridiculous; **To lick one's shoes =** to fawn on; **To make feet for children's shoes =** to copulate; see Greens and Ride; **In another's shoes =** in his place; **To put the shoe on the right foot =** to do what is right and proper; **To tread one's shoe straight =** to do what is right and proper; **To tread one's shoe awry =** (1) to play fast and loose; and spec. (2) to get tipsy; **To shoe the cobbler =** to tap the ice quickly with the forefoot when sliding: see Cobbler's-knock; **To wait for dead men's shoes (see Dead Men's Shoes) =** to throw an old shoe = 'to wish them Luck on their Business' (B. E.); 'The shoe pinches (of untoward circumstances or events); also 'No man knows where the shoe pinches but he who wears it' (B. E.); **Another pair of shoes =** something quite different: Fr. une autre paire de manches; **Over shoes, over boots =** 'in for a sheep, in for a lamb'; 'One shoe will not fit all feet' = 'People nor circumstances are not all alike'; 'He came in hosed and shoe' = 'He was born to a good estate.'

[?] M. S. Lincoln. A. i. 17 f. 149. How that thir Knyghthis have won thair schone.

1583. Chaucer, Caste Tales, 5426. I wol best, wher wringeth me my sho.

1529. Skelton, Colyn Clout. What hath lay men to do the gray gosle fow to sho.


1546. Heywood, 46, sign. C. [Nares]. Now for good lucke cast an old sho after me.

1573-9. Harvey, Letters [Camden Soc. 83 [Oliphant, New Eng., i. 591. Men know where the shoe pinchet; ... substituted for Chaucer's wringeth].

1606. Ret. from Parnassus [Nares]. Linden may shortly throw an old shoe after us.

1609. Shakespeare, Tempest, iii. 2. How does thy hohour. Let me lick thy shoe.

1611. Cotgrave, Dict. [Halliwell]. A woman to play false, enter a man more than she ought, or tread her shoe awry.

1613. Fletcher, Honest Man's Fort., v. 1. Captain, your shoes are old, pray put them off, and let one fling 'em after us.


1630. Taylor, Works, ii. 145. For where true courage roots, The proverb says, Once over shoes, o'er boots.

1633. Marmyon, Fine Compan. [Nares]. Well, mistresse ... pray throw an old shoe after us.

1653. Uquhart, Rabelais, iv., xlv. [Bohn]. Whoever refused to do this should presently swing for it and die in his shoes.

1663. Stapylton, The Slighted Maid, 3o. I'll throw Marc Antony's old shoe after you.

1663. Killigrew, Parson's Wedding [Dodsley, Old Plays (Reed), xi. 499]. Ay, with all my heart, there's an old shoe after you.
Shoe-buckles. 185 Shoemaker.

1682. Behn, Roundheads . . . Hew. “Who, pox! shall we stand making children’s shoes all the year? No: let’s begin to settle the nation, I say, and go through-stitch with our work.”

1708-10. Swift, Polite Conversation, i. Col. . . . Mr. Buzzard has married again! Lady Smart. This is his Fourth Wife; Then he has been SHED ROUND.

d.1734. North, Life of Lord Guildford, ii. 96. He used to say George (his son) would DIE IN HIS SHOES.

1742. Branston [Walpole, Lett. to Mann (1833), i. 180]. At the end of the walk hung a rogue on a gibbet! He beheld it and wept, for it caus’d him to muse on Full many a Campbell, that DIED WITH HIS SHOES ON.

1809. Malkin, Gil Blas [Routledge], 146. I promised to place him in my late mistress’s SHOES.

1842. Taylor, Edwin the Fair, iii. 8. Not alone them that were placed by Edred in the shoes of seculars that by Edred were expulsed.

1861. Dickens, Great Expectations . . . We’ll show ’em another pair of shoes than that, Pip, won’t we?

1868. Brewer, Phrase and Fable, s.v. Shoeing the wild colt. Exacting a fine called ‘footing’ from a new comer, who is called the ‘colt.’ Of course, the play is between the words ‘shoeing’ and ‘footing.’

Shoe-buckles. Not worth shoe-buckles, phr. (old).—Of little account (Ray).

Shoe-horn, verb. (old). — To cuckold.

c.1650. Brathwayte, Barnaby’s Jl. 1723), 45. Venus swore . . . She’d SHOE-HORN her Vulcan’s Forehead.

Shoeing-horn, subs. phr. (old). — A pretext or incitement.

1552-3. Still, Gammer Gurton’s Needle [Dodsley, Old Plays (Reed), ii. 8]. Shall serve as a SHOEING-HORNE, to draw on two pots of ale.

1592. Nashe, Pierce Penilesse [Works, ii. 81]. To have some SHOEING-HORNE to pull on your wine, as a rasher of the colts, or a reddie herring, to stirre it about with a candels ende to make it taste better, and not to holde your peace whiles the pot is stirring.

c.1620. Fletcher and Massinger, False One, iv. 2. They swear they’ll flee us, and then dry our quarters, A rasher of a salt lover is such a SHOEING-HORNE.


16 [?]. Haven of Health, cxxxi. 134. Yet a gamond of bacon well dressed is a good SHOEING-HORN to pull down a cup of wine.

c.1620. Disc. of New Worla’, 68. Then, sir, comes me up a service of SHOEING-HORSES (do yee see) of all sorts; salt-cakes, red herrings, anchovies, and gammons of bacon—and abundance of such pullers-on.

1712. Spectator, No. 536. Most of our fine young ladies . . . retain in their service, by some small encouragement, as great a number as they can of super-numerary and insignificant fellows, which they use like whifflers, and commonly call SHOEING-HORNS. These are never designed to know the length of the foot, but only, when a good offer comes, to whet and spin him up to the point.

1815. Scott, Guy Mannering, xxiv. This, and some other desultory conversation, served as a SHOEING-HORN to draw on another cup of ale.

Shoe-leather! intj. (thieves’).—A cry of warning; ‘Look out!’ Fr. ‘Chou! chou!’ or ‘Acresco!’

Shoemaker. Phrases, &c. ‘Who goes worse shod than the SHOE-MAKER’S WIFE’ (B. E.) = an excuse for the lack of something one ought to possess; IN THE SHOE-MAKER’S STOCKS = ‘pincht with straight shoes’ (B. E.); SHOE-MAKER’S PRIDE = creaking shoes; SHOE-MAKER’S HOLIDAY (see quot. 1793, and cf. CRISPIN’S HOLIDAY).
Shoesmith.

1793. *European Mag.,* 172. There was nothing which he [Oliver Goldsmith] enjoyed better than what he used facetiously to term a *shoemaker's holiday.* . . . Three or four of his intimate friends rendezvoused at his chambers to breakfast about ten o'clock in the morning; at eleven they proceeded, by the City Road and through the fields, to Highbury Barn to dinner; about six o'clock in the evening they adjourned to White Conduit House to drink tea; and concluded the evening by supping at the Grecian or Temple Exchange coffee houses, or at the Globe in Fleet Street. . . . The whole expenses of this day's fête never exceeded a crown, and . . . oftener from three-and-sixpence to four shillings, for which the party obtained good air and exercise, good living, the example of simple manners, and good conversation.

**Shoesmith, subs.** (colloquial).—A cobbler.

**Shoestring, subs.** (American).—A small bet run up to a large amount.

**Shoful (Showfull or Schofel), subs.** and **adj.** (common).—Generic for anybody or anything questionable. Spec. **Shoful, subs.** = (1) base money (also **Shoful money**): whence **Shoful-pitcher** = a dealer in counterfeit; **Shoful-pitching** = *shoving the queer* (q.v.); **Shoful-jewellery** = pinchbeck gauds. Also (2) = a hansom cab (see quot. 1851), and **Shovel (q.v.).**


**Showfulls,** bad money. *Ibid.,* i. 279. A racketty place, sir [of a beer-shop], one of the **showfulls**; a dicky one; a free-and-easy. *Ibid.,* ii. 554. I don't think those **showfulls** (Hansom's) should be allowed—the fact is, if the driver is not a tall man he can't see his horse's head. *Ibid.,* iii. 363. The Hansom's, which are always called **showfulls** by the cabmen. **Showfull,** in slang, means counterfeit, and the **showfull** cabs are an infringement on Hansom's patent. *Ibid. (1856),* *Gt. World of London,* 47. The **showfull-men,** or those who plunder by counterfeits, as coiners and forgers of checks and notes, and wills.

1866. *London Miscellany,* 3 Mar., 57. That . . . is old Finlaison the fence. . . . He used to be a **shoful man** once—dealt in bad money, you know.

1882. *Smythe-Palmer, Folk-Etym.,* s.v. **Showfull of shoful.** A cant term which originated amongst the Jews, and is the Heb. *Shofal* (or shaphal), low, base, vile, the word which David applied to himself when he danced before the ark.

1890. *Tit-Bits,* 15 Mar., 362. There wasn't a **shoful** on the stand; so I works the oracle, and drives him off easy.

1891. *Carew, Auto. of a Gipsy,* 417. Palmer got down and heaved the sackful of **shoful** into the river . . . and **shoful** it were right enough hevery bloomin' bounc. *Ibid.,* 17. **Shoful-pitching,** fawney-rigging and the thousand and one ingenious devices whereby the impecunious endeavour to augment balances at their bankers.

1897. *D. Telegraph,* 14 Sept., 9, 3. There is plenty of room for improvement in the accommodation which 'growlers' and **shofuls** offer to the bicycle.

1899. *Pot and Swears, Scarlet City,* 177. When I had despatched the tele-gram—I found Anthony ensconced in what he called a spicy **showful.**

1901. *Binstead, More Gat's Gossip,* 86. He stopped the shabby **shoful.**

**Shog, subs.** (old).—A jog: also as **verb.** = to be off.

1599. *Shakspere, Hen. V.,* ii. 3, 47. Shall we shog? The King will be gone from Southampton.

**Sholl, verb.** (thieves').—To **bonnet (q.v.)**; to crush the hat over the eyes.

1611. *Florio, Worlde of Wordes,* s.v. Scioare, to cry **shooe, shooe,** as women do to their hens.

1623. *Fletcher and Rowley, Maid in the Mill,* v. i. **Shough, shough:** up to your coop, pea-hen.
Shook on.

SHOOK ON. See SHAKE.

SHOOL, verb. (old).—To loaf; to go on the tramp; to beg. Whence SHOOLING = idling; SHOOLMAN = a loafer or vagabond. Fr. bâtre sa flêche.

1748. Smollett, Roderick Random, xli. They went all hands to SHOOLING and begging.

c.1750. Humours of the Fleet [Ashton, Eighteenth Cent. Waifs, 247]. Now mean, as once profuse, the stupid sot sits by a Runner's side, and SHULES a Pot.

1842. Lover, Handy Andy, xxxiv. 'Oh, you always make out a good reason for coming; but we have nothing for you to-night.' 'Throst, you do me wrong,' said the beggar, 'if you think I came SHOOLING.'

SHOON, subs. (thieves').—A fool; a lout: see BUFFLE.

SHOOT, subs. (colloquial).—I. A shooting party.

1573. Sir T. More, Comfort against Tribulation, fol. 33. We shall now meet for ye SHOOT.


1887. Norris, Major and Minor, xxv. At the great SHOOTS . . . he was wont to be present with a walking-stick in his hand.

2. (builders').—A vacant piece of ground: where rubbish is got rid of.

3. (American).—A fancy.

1847. Robb, Squatter Life. That gal was the prettiest creature I ever took a SHUTE after.

TO SHOOT A BISHOP, verb. phr. (venery).—To have a WET-DREAM (q.v.): also TO SHOOT.

THE SHOOT, subs. phr. (London).—The Walworth-road station on the S. E. & C. Ry. [A large number of workpeople alight there.]

PHRASES.—SHOOT as a generic verb of action is found in frequent combination: as TO SHOOT (JERK or WHIP) THE CAT = (1) to vomit; see CAT (Grose), and (2) to sound a refrain in the infantry bugle call to defaulters' drill, which, it is fancied, follows the sound of the words 'SHOOT THE CAT—SHOOT THE CAT'; TO SHOOT THE CROW = to run off without paying; TO BILK (q.v.); TO SHOOT HORSES (see quot. 1872); TO SHOOT ONE'S LINEN = to jerk and display the cuffs; TO SHOOT ONE'S LINES = to declaim with vigour; TO SHOOT (BOLT or SHOVE) THE MOON = to remove furniture by night to prevent seizure for rent (Grose); see MOON; TO SHOOT ONE'S BOLT = to exhaust one's credit or resources, to come to an end of things; TO GO THE WHOLE SHOOT = to risk all; TO SHOOT OFF ONE'S MOUTH (or JAW) = to abuse; TO SHOOT ONE'S ROE (or MILT) = to emit; TO DO A SHOOT UP THE STRAIGHT = to possess a woman; TO BE SHOT = (1) to make a disadvantageous bet which is instantly accepted (turf), and (2) to be photographed (photographers') : see SNAP-SHOT; TO SHOOT ON THE POST = to make a close win at the finish; TO SHOOT OVER THE PITCHER = to brag of one's shooting; TO SHOOT ONE'S STAR = to die; TO SHOOT THE SUN = to determine the longitude (nautical); TO SHOOT ONE'S GRANNY = to find a mare's nest; to be disappointed; TO SHOOT THE MARKET (Stock Exchange) =

1883. Century Mag., xxxvii. 788. He gave her an ivory wand, and charged her, on her life, to tell him what she would do with it, and she sobbed out she would shoo her mother's hens to roost with it.
‘to make a man a close price in a stock without knowing if there would be a profit or loss on the bargain’ (Atkin, House Scraps); SHOOT THAT [HAT, MAN—anything]! = (1) a mild imprecation, ‘Bother!’; SHOOT THAT! = an injunction to silence: e.g., SHOOT THE SHOP; to SHOOT IN THE EYE = to do an ill turn; TO BE SHOT IN THE NECK = to be drunk; TO SHOOT IN THE TAIL = to copulate, and (2) to sodomise; TO SHOOT TWIXT WIND AND WATER = to pox or clap (B.E. and Gross); and (2) to do the act of kind: also as subs.; ‘I’LL (OR MAY I) BE SHOT IF ——’ = a mild imprecation or strenuous denial. See also SHOT.

1695. Congreve, Love for Love, iii. 15, ‘A Soldier and a Sailor’ [Durfey, Pills (1707), i. 227]. And then he let fly at her, A SHOT TWIXT WIND AND WATER, Which won this fair Maid’s Heart.


1837. Lytton, Ernest Maltravers, i., xv. ‘Excuse’—again began Maltravers, half interested, half annoyed. ‘I’LL BE SHOT IF I DO. Come.’


1855. Brooklyn Journal, 18 Ap. The prisoners ... had shot Under-Sheriff Hegeman in the head ... Mr. Schumacher defended his client by observing that some of the attorneys got as often SHOT IN THE NECK as the Under-Sheriff did in the head.

1867. Bartlett, Americanisms, s.v. Shot. A slang term of recent origin. To say, ‘Shoot that dress,’ is meant to convey the idea that the dress is inferior; that it is not worth much; or, to use another slang expression, ‘it is no great shakes’ after all. Ibid. [Quotation from Danbury News.] Mother. Stand still, Tommy, or I won’t get your hair combed in time for school. Tommy (superciliously). Oh, SHOOT THE SCHOOL. Ibid., New York Herald. One lady ... with derisive scorn ... observed in the language of the day, ‘Oh, SHOOT THAT HAT!’

1870. New Orleans Picayune, 17 Mar. I found this man dead drunk in the gutter ... he offered to fight me, saying that he was not drunk, but only SHOT IN THE NECK.

1872. Echo, 29 July, ‘Railway Porters’ Strike.’ The prisoner urged the men to SHOOT THE HORSES in the vans ... [i.e.] to take the horses out of the vans to prevent them from being unloaded. Prisoner was told if he had any grievances the SHOOTING OF THE HORSES was not the way to redress them.

1876. Burton, Songs [Bartlett]. The slang the gang is using now, You’ll hear from every lip; It’s SHOOT THE HAT! and get it boiled; And don’t you lose your grip.

1878. Yates [World, 16 Jan.] Adjust your curls, your LINEN SHOOT, your coat wide open fling.

1886. Daily News, 8 Oct. The boy who won never did anything in later life. He had SHOT HIS BOLT.

1897. Francis, Saddle and Mocassin. If he could kill Indians SHOOTING OFF HIS MOUTH at them, he’d soon clean them out all there is.

1899. Whiteing, John St., xxi. If it warn’t ready, he give the shove to the ‘OLE SHOOT.

Shooter.

**Shooter**, *subs.* (colloquial). —
Generic. Thus (1) = a revolver: also, according to capacity, a five, six, or seven-shooter; (2) = the guard of a mail coach (old); he was armed with a blunderbuss; (3) = a shooting star; (4) = a shooting-stick (printers'); a piece of hard word or metal used with a mallet for tightening quoins in a chase; (5) = a ball (cricket) bowled full pitch but shooting in close to the ground; and (6) = a black morning coat (Harrow) as distinguished from the tail coat worn by the Fifth and Sixth Forms.

*1633.* G. Herbert, Artillery. But I have also stars, and shooters too.

*1840.* Thackeray, Shabby Genteel Story. He had a word for the hostler about that grey mare, a nod for the shooter or guard.

*1899.* Scarlet City, 107. Miss Winks took the terrible shooter with a trembling hand. ‘You’re sure it's not loaded?’ she ejaculated.

**Shooter’s hill**, *subs.* phr. (venery). — The mons veneris: see VENUS. Hence, to take a turn on shooter’s-hill = to copulate: see GREENS and RIDE.

**Shooting-iron**, *subs.* phr. (common). — A gun or revolver.

*1847.* Porter, Quarter Race, 135. He said his old shooting-iron would go off at a good imitation of a bear's breathing!

*1848.* Burton, Waggeries, 175. This antique shooting-iron had not been visible on board the boat.

*1871.* De Vere, Americanisms. . . . His rifle . . . he loves with almost tender affection . . . and speaks of it as a shooting-iron. . . . The more recent revolver, now quite common in the West, is, on the other hand, his five or six shooter.

*1888.* Harper’s Mag., lxxvi. 78. Timothy . . . drew his shooting-iron . . . cocking it with a metallic click.

*1888.* Boldrewood, Robbery Under Arms, xxx. Hev' ye nary shootin' iron?


**Shop**, *subs.* and *verb.* (colloquial). — I. Generic for a place: of residence, business, manufacture, engagement, or resort (in quot. 1590 = the body); and (2) one’s profession, business or occupation. Spec. (old, and thieves') = (3) a prison (B. E. and Grose): whence, as *verb.* = to imprison, to confine (B. E. and Grose); 4. (army) = a guardroom: also see quot. 1890; and 5. (racing) a place: whence TO BE SHOPPED (or GET A SHOP) = to come in first, second, or third; and (6) to kill, TO BURKE *(q.v.)*. Whence, TO TALK SHOP = to talk business in society: Fr. parler boutique; TO SINK THE SHOP = to refrain from shop-talk; SHOPPY (or FULL OF THE SHOp) = wholly engrossed in business matters; THE OTHER SHOP = a rival (trader, establishment, &c.).

*1548.* Patten, Expd. to Scotl. [Arber (Eng-. Garner, iii. 86)]. They had likewise shopped up themselves in the highest of their house.

*1563.* Foxe, Acts and Monuments [Cattley] iv. 652 [Olivant, New Eng. i. 541. Foxe wishes that More had kept himself in his own shop (profession); hence our ‘talk shop’].

*1590.* Spenser, Fairy Queen, ii. i. 43. Then [he] gan softly feel Her feeble pulse . . . he hoped faire To call backe life to her forsaken shop.
1610. Shakespear, Coriol., i. i. 137. I [the belly] am the storehouse and the shop of the whole body.

c.1617. Howell, Letters, i. iii. 30. The Liver . . . the shop and source of the Blood.

1678. Four for a Penny [Harl. Misc. iv. 147]. A main part of his office [a bumbailiff's] is to swear and bluster at their trembling prisoners, and cry, 'Confound us, why do we wait? Let us shop him!'

1821. Egan, Life in London, ii. iii. Public and other houses were explored without loss of time; and it was a poor shop indeed that did not produce some little amusement.

1838. Dickens, Oliver Twist, xvi. It was Bartlemy time when I was shopped . . . After I was locked up for the night, the row and din outside made the thundering old jail so silent, that I could almost have beat my brains out.

c.1840. A. Cloough, Long Vacation Pastoral. Three weeks hence we return to the shop.

1847-8. Thackeray, Vanity Fair, xxxiv. 'What is the other shop?' said the lady . . . 'Cambridge, not Oxford,' said the scholar. *Ibid.* (1855), *Newcomers*, xliiv. Now, when will you two gents come up to my shop to 'ave a family dinner?'

1853. Bradley, Verdant Green, i. viii. Give us a song! It's the punishment for talking shop, you know.

1855. Gaskell, North and South, ii. I don't like shoppy people.

1860. Punch, xxxix. 177. He's staid and he's solemn, talks shop by the column.

1861. Trollope, Framley Parsonage. If we . . . have no voice of our own, I don't see what's the good of our going to the shop [House of Commons] at all.

1861. G. P. Marsh, Lect. on the Eng. Lang., xi. All men, except the veriest, narrowest pedants in their craft, avoid the language of the shop.

c.1864. Josiah Quincy, Figures of the Past, 193. He sunk the shop; though this same shop would have been a subject most interesting.

1869. Whyte-Melville, White Rose, ii. vii. Actors and actresses seem the only artists who are never ashamed of talking shop. *Ibid.* (1869), M. or N. If you took and shopped . . . I'd go to quod with you if they'd give me leave.

1888. Boldrewood, Robbery Under Arms, xxiv. What sort of a shop is it? Are they getting much gold? *Ibid.*, vi. We'll all be shopped if you run against the police like this.


1890. *D. Chronicle*, 4 Apr., 7, 2. The shop is the name given in the Royal Artillery and the Royal Engineers to the Establishment which turns out the bulk of the officers of those two distinguished corps.

1891. *Lic. Vict. Gaz.*, 3 Apr. Then he went a raker on the favourite for the St. Leger, but the brute was not even shopped.

1892. *Cassell's Saty. Jl.*, 28 Sep., 2. In the long summer months, when the actor is 'resting,' the artiste is frequently out of a shop, as he terms his engagement.

1897. Mitford, Romance of Cape Frontier, ii. iii. And one heard such a lot of war shop talked. *Ibid.*, ii. xxiii. What was this cowardly, egotistical, shoppy preacher to him?

Verb. (workmen's).—To work in a shop; whence *shopped* = (1) in work, also (2) discharged.

1867. *All Year Round*, 13 July, 56. There are many men who would regard themselves as ingrates, were they not to celebrate their being shopped, after having been out of collar, by a spree.

Phrases.—

To shut up shop = (1) to come to an end, to retire; (2) to cease talking: (cf. shop = body, shut up, see *shop* = (workmen's).—To work in a shop; whence *shopped* = (1) in work, also (2) discharged.

1890. *Cassell's Saty. Jl.*, 28 Sep., 2. In the long summer months, when the actor is 'resting,' the artiste is frequently out of a shop, as he terms his engagement.

1897. 'Mitford, Romance of Cape Frontier, ii. iii. And one heard such a lot of war shop talked. *Ibid.*, ii. xxiii. What was this cowardly, egotistical, shoppy preacher to him?

Verb. (workmen’s). —To work in a shop; whence *shopped* = (1) in work, also (2) discharged.

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1836. *Dickens, Sketches, 289.* And what does he want? . . . money? meat? drink? He's come to the wrong shop for that, if he does.


1900. *Tart.* Things seemed all over the shop.

1833. *Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, 63.* Things seemed all over the shop.

1858. *Ainsworth, Jack Sheppard, 11.* Sally Wells, who was afterwards lagged for shoplifting.

1855. *Thackeray, Newcomes,* liii. There are children who are accomplished shoplifters and liars almost as soon as they can toddle and speak.


1857. *Notes and Queries (Ency. Dict.).* Shopocracy . . . belongs to an objectionable class of words, the use of which is very common at the present day.

1855. *Gaskell, North and South.* Shopped for shoplifting.


1857. *Notes and Queries (Ency. Dict.).* Shopocracy . . . belongs to an objectionable class of words, the use of which is very common at the present day.

1855. *Gaskell, North and South.* You were always accusing people of being shoppy.
SHORES, subs. (Stock Exchange).—
Lake Shore Ry. shares.

SHORT, subs. (gaming).—1. A card
(all below the eight) prepared so
that nothing above the eight can
be cut: by which the chances of
an honour turning up are reduced
to two to one: cf. LONG and
BRIEF.

1837. BARHAM, Ingoldsby Legends
(1862), 253. Ye youths, oh, beware, Of
liquor, and how you run after the fair !
Shun playing at SHORTS.

2. (common).—In pl. = knee
breeches; small clothes.

1837. DICKENS, Pickwick, xxxiii. A
little emphatic man with a bald head and
drab SHORTS.

1888. BESANT, Fifty Years Ago, 49.
The little old gentleman . . . follows him
in black SHORTS and white silk stockings.

3. (Stock Exchange).—A
BEAR (q.v.); one who has ‘sold short,’
and whose interest is to depress
the market. As adj. or adv. =
(1) not in hand when contracting
to deliver; or (2) unable to meet
one’s engagements: e.g., ‘SHORT
of Eries, Brighton A’s,’ &c.

1888. D. Telegraph, 13 Oct. The
market continued to improve . . . coupled
with SHORTS covering freely.

1902. D. Mail, 17 Nov., 2, 5. Wheat
opened steady . . . SHORTS covering, and
light acceptances.

4. (school).—In pl. = flannel
trousers; CUTS (q.v.).

Adj. (common).—1. Unadul-
terated; NEAT (q.v.). As subs.
= ‘a dram [spec. of gin] un-
lengthened by water’ (GROSE).

1837. DICKENS, Pickwick Papers
(1857), 388. If you’ll order waiter to deliver
him anything SHORT, he won’t drink it off
at once, won’t he!—only try him!

1841. REDE, Sixteen String Jack, 1.
2. Nelly, toddle to the bar, and be con-
tinually drawing drops of SHORT.

PHRASES and COLLOQUIALISMS.
—To come SHORT HOME = to
be imprisoned; to BITE OFF
SHORT (tailors’) = to dismiss
abruptly, or refuse curtly; to
CUT IT SHORT = to be as brief as
may be; SHORT AND SWEET = a
jesting regret, or sarcastic com-
ment: frequently with the addi-
Short.

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Short-one.

tion, LIKE A DONKEY’S GALLOP;
The short and long (or THE SHORT AND PLAIN) = (1) the whole truth: now usually THE LONG AND THE SHORT: also (2) a couple of persons, one of dwarf and one of giant stature walking together; short and thick, like a WELSHMAN’S PRICK = a person very short and broad in the beam; short of puff = winded; short (or short-waisted) = crusty, irritable; short of a sheet = crazy; for short = for brevity’s sake; a short horse is soon curried’ = a simple matter is soon disposed of; short commons = not too much to eat; short- limbered = touchy; a short shrift and a long rope = instant despatch; a short memory = forgetfulness.

.... Int. of Four Elements [Halliwell]. Yf ye will nedys know at short and longe, It is evyn a woman’s toungue.

1383. CHAUCER, Cant. Tales [OLIPHANT, New Eng. i. 123. We have, this is the short and plain (long and short of it.).

1577. STANIHURST, Desc. Ireland [OLIPHANT, New Eng. i. 599. A man is said to be in talk, short and sweet.

1592. SHAKESPEARE, Mid. Night’s Dream, iv. 2. The short and the long is, our play is preferred. Ibid. (1596), Merry Wives, ii. 1. He loves your wife; there’s the short and the long. Ibid. (1600), As You Like It, iii. 5. I will be better with him and passing short.

1602. MIDDLETON, Blurt, Master Constable, i. 2. The rogue’s made of pie-crust, he’s so short.

1611. JONSON, Cataline, ii. 1. How, pretty sullenness, So harsh and short!

1611. Letter [NARES]. In which service two or three of them CAME SHORT HOME.

c.1617. HOWELL, Letters, i. ii. 15. The French and English Ambassadors, interceding for a Peace, had a short Answer of Philip II.

1636. HEYWOOD, Love’s Mistress, 63. The short and the long of it is, she’s an ugly creature.

1809. MALKIN, Gil Blas [ROUTE-ledge], 219. Don Alphonso cut him short in his explanation.

1837. BARHAM, Ingolds. Leg., ‘Brothers of Birchington.’—Father Dick, So they called him for short.

1870. Washington Watchman [DE VERE]. My little gal’s name is Helen, but we call her Heelen for short.

SHORT-EAR, subs. phr. (American University).—A rowdy: see LAMB.

SHORTER, subs. (old).—One who dwindles the surface and the edges of coins by clipping, filing, shaking together in a bag, precipitation, or other means; a SWEATER (q.v.).

SHORT-HEAD, subs. phr. (racing).—A horse that fails by a short head.

1883. GREENWOOD, Odd People, 109. Fancy him having that horribly anathematized short head all his own, to revile it, and punch it . . . all the while with a firm grip on the cruel twitch attached to its nose.

SHORTHEELS, subs. (old).—A wanton: see TART. Hence, short-heeled = unchaste (GROSE).

1596. CHAPMAN, Blind Beggar [SHEPHEARD, Works (1874) 15]. Well, madam short-heels, I’ll be even with you. Ibid. (1611), May-day, iv. 4. Take heed you slip not, coz, remember y’are short-heeled.

SHORT-LENGTH, subs. phr. (Scots’).—A small glass of brandy; a wee three.

1864. Glasgow Citizen, 19 Nov. Is not the exhilarating short-length of brandy known beyond our own Queen Street?

SHORT-ONE, subs. phr. (old coaching: obsolete).—A passenger whose name was not on the waybill; a SHOULDERSTICK (q.v.); a bit of fish (q.v.).
SHORT-POT, subs. phr. (B. E. c.1696).—‘False, cheating Potts used at Ale-houses, and Brandy-shops.’

SHORT-STAFF. See GENTLEMAN.

SHORT-STICK, subs. phr. (drapers’).—See quot. 1863. Once a Week, viii. 179. All goods again that are sold in the piece run short: SHORT-STICK in fact is a slang term for insufficient lengths.

SHOT, subs. (old: still colloquial).—1. A reckoning; a share of expense (B. E. and GRoSE). Hence (2)=money (generic): as SHOT IN THE LOCKER = money in hand, or at will. Also SHOT-BAG = a purse; SHOT-FREE = nothing to pay: also SCOT-FREE; SHOT-CLOG = a simpleton, tolerated because he is willing to pay reckonings; SHOT-FLAGON = ‘the hosts’ pot, given where the guests have drank above a shilling’s-worth of ale (HALLI-WELL): whence SHOT-POT=one entitled to the SHOT-FLAGON; SHOT-SHIP = a company sharing and sharing alike; SHOT-SHARK = a waiter.

1591. GREENE, Notable Discovery [Works, x. 47]. There he bestowed cheare and ipocras vpon them, drinking hard til the shot came to a noble.

1595. SHAKESPEARE, Two Gentlemen, iii. 5. ‘I’ll to the alehouse with you presently; where for one shot of five pence, thou shalt have five thousand welcomes.

1598. FLORIO, Worlde of Wordes, s.v. Pagare lo scotto, to paie the shot or reckoning.

1606. JONSON, Ev. Man in His Humour, v. 4. Where be then these shot-sharks? Ibid. (1603), Poetaster, i. 1. A gull, a rook, a shot-clog, to make suppers and be laughed at.

1604. DEkker, Honest Whore [Works (1873), ii. 51]. A brace of gulles, dwelling here in the city, came in, and paid all the shot.

1605. CHAPMAN, JONSON, &c., Eastward Ho!, i. 1. Thou common shot-clog, dupe of all companies.

..... Amende for Ladies, 51. Drawer, take your plate. For the reckoning there’s some of their cloaks: I will be no shot-clog to such.

1630. T. ADAMS, Fatal Banket [The Title of the fourth part runs——] ‘The Shot, or the wofull price which the wicked pay for the Feast of Vanitie.’

1715. CENTLIVRE, Gotham Election, iv. We give the treat, but they shall pay the shot.

1800. C. LAMB, Letter [to Coleridge, 6 Aug.]. I have the first volume, and truth to tell, six shillings is a broad shot.

1821. SCOTT, Kenilworth, xix. Are you to stand shot to all this good liquor.

1836. M. SCOTT, Tom Cringle’s Log, ii. I have wherewithal in the locker to pay my shot.

1837. BARHAM, Ingoldsby Legends (1862), 74. He bolted away without paying his shot, And the Landlady after him hurried.

1847-8. THACKERAY, Vanity Fair, xxvi. ‘My wife shall travel like a lady. As long as there’s a shot in the locker she shall want for nothing.

1848. DURIVAGE, Stray Subjects, 57. Depositing the ‘tin’ in his shot-bag.

1851. SEAWORTHY, Bertie, 42. I’ll al’ays do the fair thing, and stan’ shot till we git to Edentown.


1880. SIMS, Three Brass Balls, Pledge xv. It shall never want a friend while I’ve a shot in the locker.

3. (old).—A corpse.

4. (colloquial).—A guess; also (5) = an attempt, a venture.

1844. KINGLAKE, Eothen, viii. 137. I secretly smiled at this last prophecy as a bad shot.

1854. WhYTE-MELVILLE, General Bounce, xiii. But here we are at Tattersall’s; so now so for good information, long odds, a safe man, and a shot at the favourite!
Shot. 195

1857. Bradley, Verdant Green, ii. xi. Without hazarding his success by making bad shots, he contented himself by answering those questions only on which he felt sure.

1861. Hughes, Tom Brown at Oxford. Yes, you would have said so . . . if you had seen him trying to put Jack up behind. He made six shots.

1879. L. B. Milford, Cousins, i. It turned out to be a bad shot.

1892. N. Gould, Double Event, 104. 'Won't you take a shot about Caloola, Mr. Marston?'

1900. Flunt, Tramps, 281. They had just returned from the hop-country, and their money was well poised for another shot at the growler.

Adv. (common).—Drunk: see Screwed. Also shot in the neck: see Shoot.

Verb (horse-copers').—To fake a horse: a dose of small shot gives a temporary appearance of sound-windedness.

To pay the shot, verb. phr. (venery).—To copulate: see Greens and Ride. Also see subs. 1.

c.1630. Broadside Ballad, 'The Jovial Companions' [Bagford Ball]. (Brit. Mus.) i. 88.] He laid her on her back, and paid her the shot without ever a stiver of money.

1635. Broadside Ballad, 'The Industrious Smith' [Rox. Ball. (Brit. Mus.), i. 159]. Old debts must be paid, O why should they not, The fellow went home to pay the old shot.

Intj. (Royal High School, Edin.).—A cry of warning at the approach of a master.

Phrases. Like a shot = quickly, at full drive; shot in the neck = drunk: see Screwed; shot in the tail (or giblets) = got with child; not by a long shot = hopelessly out of reckoning: whence a long shot = a bold attempt or large undertaking. Also see Shoot.

1853. Wh.-Melville, Digby Grand, x. An extremely abrupt conclusion . . . empties every bumper of blackstrap like a shot.

1886-96. Marshall, 'Pomes' [1897], 27. So Zippy went in for a long shot.


1897. Mitford, Romance of Cape Frontier, i. i. Back I went like a shot.

Shot-clog. See Shot, subs. 1.

Shot-Soup, subs. phr. (nautical).—Bad pea-soup.

Shotten-herring, subs. phr. (old).—A term of contempt: spec. a lean meagre fellow (Grose). Hence, shotten-souled = despicable.

1598. Shakspeare, I. Hen. IV. ii. 4. 142. If manhood, good manhood, be not forgot upon the face of the earth, then am I a shotten herring.

1614. Fletcher, Wit without Money, iii. 4. Upbraid me with your benefits, you pilchers, You shotten-souled, slight fellc. 4.

1639. Optick Glass of Humours, 27. His conceit is as lanck as a shotten herring.


1828. Jon. Bee, Picture of London, 33. Shouldering, among coachmen and guards, is that species of cheating their employers in which they take the fares and pocket them, generally of such passengers as they overtake on the road, or who come across the country to the main road, and are not put down in the way-bill.

1886. Athenaeum, 16 Jan., 99, i. Some amusing anecdotes of what was known as shouldering are here related. This generation requires to be informed that the expression meant in coaching days allowing more than the number the coach authorized to carry was to ride in or upon...
Shoulder-clapper. 196 Shout.

it. Of course such a permission meant extra fees and payment to the coachman and guard, and was a direct fraud on the proprietors.

1888. Tristram [Eng. Ill. Mag., June, 623]. Shoulder-clapping in the tongue of coachmen and guards meant taking a fare not on the way-bill, and unknown to the proprietor.

A slip of the shoulder, subs. phr. (old).—Seduction.

See Cold Shoulder, Wheel.

Shoulder-clapper, subs. phr. (old).—A bailiff; ‘a member of the hold-fast club’ (B. E. and Grose); shoulder-clapped = arrested.

1593. Shakspere, Com. of Errors, iv. 2. A back-friend, a shoulder-clapper, one that countermandes The passages of alleys, creeks, and narrow lands.

1604. Dekker and Webster, Westward Hoe, v. 3. What a profane varlet is this shoulder-clapper to lie thus upon my wife.

1611. Chapman, May-day, iv. 2. These . . . pewter-buttoned shoulder-clappers.

1839. Ainsworth, J. Sheppard (1840), 22. ‘The shoulder-clappers!’ added a lady, who . . . substituted her husband’s nether habiliments for her own petticoats.

1886. Sala [Ill. L. News, 19 June, 644]. I do know that a sheriff’s officer used to be called a shoulder-clapper.

Shoulder-feast, subs. phr. (old).—A dinner given to bearers after a funeral (Grose).

Shoulder-hitter, subs. phr. (American).—A bully; a rowdy: spec. a gambling tout.


1871. De Vere, Americanisms, 319. In the West a striker is not only a shoulder-hitter, as might be suspected, but a runner for gambling establishments, who must be as ready to strike down a complaining victim as to ensnare an unsuspecting stranger.

1874. N. Y. Commercial Advertiser, 9 Sept. So long as substantial citizens choose to leave politics to shoulder-hitters, rum-sellers and bummers of every degree, so long will they be robbed at every turn.

1886. Sala [Ill. L. News, 19 June, 644]. A certain variety of the New York rough is a shoulder-hitter.

Shoulder-knot, subs. phr. (common).—A footman.

Shoulder-of-mutton fist, subs. phr. (common).—A coarse, big, broad hand: in contempt.

1876. Hindley, Cheap Face, 17. Sold again, and to a gentleman with a shoulder-of-mutton fist, that has never been washed since he had it.

Shoulder-pegged, adj. (common).—Stiff-armed.

Shoulder-sham, subs. phr. (B. E. c. 1696).—‘A Partner to a File.’

Shout, subs. (formerly Australian: now general).—A turn in paying for a round of drinks. Hence as verb = to stand treat; shouting = a general invitation to drink; to shout oneself hoarse = to get drunk. See Charter the Bar.

1859. Kingsley, Geoffrey Hamlyn, xxxi. I shouted for him, and he for me, and at last I says, ‘Butty,’ says I, ‘who are those chaps round here on the lay?’

1873. Braddon, Bitter End, xxxix. When the lucky digger was wont to shout—that is to say, pay the shot—for the refreshment of his comrades.

1881. Grant, Bush Life, 1. 243. He must drink a nobbler with Tom, and be prepared to shout for all hands at least once a day.

1889. Star, 3 Jan. Good-natured, hearty Welsh diggers thronged in, and were willing to shout for us as long as we would drink.

1900. Nisbet, Sheep’s Clothing, 196. They shouted drinks for all who were present.
**Shouting.**

**Shouting.** All over but shouting, *phr.* (common).—Said of anything obviously finished.

1891. *Lic. Vict. Gaz.*, 20 Mar. At Barnes it was estimated that he had a lead of 150 yards, and at this point, reached in 19 min. 50 sec., it looked all over but shouting.

**Shove, verb.** (venery).—To copulate: see Greens and Ride; as *subs.* = the act of kind. Also (of women) to get a shove in one’s blind- (or the bull’s-) eye. *Shove-straight* (or *Shove-devil*) = the penis: see Prick.

16[?]. Old Ballad, ‘King Edward and Jane Shore’ [Durfey, *Pills* (1707) iii. 20]. Joan could make them groan that Ardently did love her, But Jane Shore... King Edward he did shove her.

1653. Urquhart, *Rabelais*, i. xi. His governesses... would very pleasantly pass their time in taking you know what between their fingers... One... would call it her roger... lusty live sausage, *shove-devil*, &c.


**Phrases.** To shove for (or to be on the shove) = to move, to try for; to shove the moon = to remove secretly, by night: see Moon; to shove the tumbler = ‘to be whipped at the cart’s tail’ (B. E. and Grose); a *shove in the mouth* = a dram (Grose); to shove the queer = to pass bad money; a *shove in the eye* = a punch in the eye: generic; to give the shove = to send packing; to get the shove = to be dismissed: see Bag.


1821. *Egan, Life in London*, ii. iii. I wish’d to be a little curl to Dirty Suke, ... so I go’v’d her a *shove in the mouth*.

1830. *Lyttton, Paul Clifford* (1854), 9. ‘Tom Zobyson is a good-for-naught,’ returned the dame, and deserves to shove the tumbler; but, oh, my child be not too venturesome in taking up the sticks for a blowen.

1834. *Clemens, Huckleberry* Finn., xxxviii. So Jim he was sorry, and said he wouldn’t behave so no more, and then me and Tom shoved for bed.

1893. *Milliken, ’Arry Ballads*, 50. There is always some fun afoot there, as will keep a chap fair on the shove.


**Shove-halfpenny** (also *Shovel-* board, *Shove-* groat, slide-groat, slide-thrift, or *Push-penny*), *subs.* *phr.*—A gambling game, played on a table on which transverse lines have been drawn rather more than the width of a halfpenny apart. The play consists in sending a halfpenny by a smart stroke of the palm from the end of the table so as to make it rest in the compartments formed by the lines. [Ed. VI. shillings, as being smooth and easily pushed, were much in vogue as counters.]

1528. Stanhurst, *Chron. of Ireland*. When the lieutenant and he for their desporte were pleasing at slidegrote or shooyleboard.


1650. Taylor, *Travels of Twelve-pence* [Nares]. With me [a shilling of Ed. VI.] the unthrifts every day, With my face downward, do at *shove-board* play.
Shovel. | 198 | Show.

1801. Strutt, Sports and Pastimes, 16. The game of Shovel-board, though now considered as exceedingly vulgar, and practised by the lower classes of the people, was formerly in great repute amongst the nobility and gentry; and few of their mansions were without a Shovel-board.

1841. Punch, i. 232. The favourite game of Shove-Halffpenny was kept up till a late hour, when the party broke up highly delighted.


Shovel, subs. (common).—A hat, broad-brimmed, turned up at the sides, and scooped in front, as worn by deans and bishops of the Established Church: also Shovel-Hat. Whence Shovel-Hatted.

1833-4. Carlyle, Sartor Resartus, iii. 6. Whereas the English Jonson only bowed to every clergyman, or man with a Shovel-Hat, I would bow to any man with any sort of hat, or with no hat whatever.

1845. ThackeKay, Cornhill to Cairo, ii. The mitred bishops, the big-wigged marshals, the Shovel-Hatted abbés which they have borne. Ibid. (1855), Newcomes, xxvi. She was a good woman of business, and managed the hat-shop for nine years . . . My uncle, the Bishop, had his Shovels there.

1849. Bronte, Shirley, xvi. Looming large in full canonicals, walking as became a beneficed priest, under the canopy of a Shovel Hat.

1853. Lytton, My Novel, xi. 2. The profession of this gentleman’s companion was unmistakeable— the Shovel-Hat, the clerical cut of the coat, the neckcloth, without collar.

1857. Hughes, Tom Brown’s School-days, i. 2. A queer old hat, something like a doctor of divinity’s Shovel.

1864. Alford, Queen’s English, 228. I once heard a venerable dignitary pointed out by a railway porter as ‘an old party in a Shovel.’

1871. Parodies, lxxxi. 297. Now about the same time the people of England were at loggerheads with the Shovel-Hatted gentry that infest the upper house of St. Stephen’s.

2. (common).—A hansom-cab: see Shoful.

3. (nautical).—An ignorant marine engineer.

18 [?]. Engineer (Century). In the early days after the Crimea war, the engineers in the Navy were a rough lot. They were good men but without much education. They were technically known as Shovels.

Phrases. Put to Bed with a Shovel (or Spade) = buried (Grose); ‘He was fed with a Shovel (or Fire-Shovel) = a jeer at a large mouth’ (Grose); ‘That’s before you bought your Shovel’ = ‘You are too previous; ‘That’s up against you,’ ‘ That settles your hash.’

1859. Matsell, Vocabulum, ‘Hundred Stretches,’ 3. With Shovels they were put to bed a hundred stretches since.

Shover, subs. (thieves’).—One who utters base money; a Smasher (q.v.); a Sour-Planter (q.v.): also Shover of the Queer.

1871. Figaro, 20 Feb. He established a saloon in New York which became the headquarters of all the counterfeiters and Shovers of the Queer in the country.

Shove-up, phr. (old).—‘Nothing’ Vaux (1812).

Show, subs. (colloquial).—I. An entertainment; a spectacle (as the Lord Mayor’s Show); (2) one’s business: cf. Shop; and (3) a piece of work. Also Show-box (theatrical) = a theatre.


1592. Shakspeare, Mids. Night’s Dream. The actors are at hand and by their show You shall know all that you are like to know.

1613. Drayton, Poly-Olbion, xv. By this, the wedding ends, and brake up all the show.
**1811.** Moore, *Tom Crib,* 27. One of Georgy's bright ogles was put on the bankruptcy list, with its shop-windows shut; while the other soon made quite as tag-rag a show.

**1886.** Besant, *Children of Gibeon,* i. vi. We ain't a show. Lotty ain't a clown; I ain't a jumping-horse.

**1888.** Haggard, *Mr. Meeson's Will* [ill. Lon. News, Summer No., 28, 3]. Mr. John Short . . . asked him the same question, explaining that their presence was necessary to the show.

**1891.** Newman, *Scamping Tricks,* 65. I would have stopped the slimy.

**1892.** Kipling, *Barrack Room Ballads,* 'The Widow's Party.' What was the end of all the show, Johnnie, Johnnie?

**1899.** Whiteing, *John St.* xx. When the show was shut, I . . . sits down to my toke and pipe.

**1900.** Free Lance, 6 Oct., 20, 2. There goes Amy Lester . . . Just closed with 'The Face in the Lamplight.' That's the third show she's queered this season.

**1886.** Besant, *Children of Gibeon,* ii.xiv. Many young men are ardently desirous of distinction or even notoriety; they will stoop to tomfool tricks if they cannot get a show by any other way.

**1887.** *Our American Cousins,* 267. Do you think there's any—any—any show for me?

**1893.** Emerson, *Lippo,* xii. If I could only have got his show three turns nightly at fifteen pounds a turn!

**1886.** Lillard, *Poker Stories,* 147. They told the management to trot out his wicker demijohn and give the sagebrushers a show.

**1901.** *Trodles and Us,* ii. You stick yourself down in the only decent chair . . . you don't give a fellow a show.

**3. (women's: conventional).—** The first signs of periodicity or parturition.

**PHRASES AND COLLOQUIALISMS.**—To show away (or off) = to give oneself airs; hence showing off = making the most of oneself; to show a leg (nautical) = (1) to turn out; and (2) see leg; to show up = (1) to make an appearance (also to show oneself), and (2) to expose: also as subs. in both senses; to show the door (or the outside of the door) = to dismiss without ceremony; to boss the show = to manage; to show one London = (school) to hold one by the heels upside down; to see London = to hang by the heels: as from a rail, trapeze; to give the show away = to blab; &c. Also see agility; cold shoulder; elephant; heels; leg; teeth; water; white feather.

**1554.** Tytler, *Ed. VI.* [*Oliphant New Eng.* i. 538. Charles V. shows himself at a feast].


**1809.** Malkin, *Gil. Blas.* [Routledge], 12. I boarded her [a kitchenmaid] with so little circumspection that Don Rodrigo . . . twittered me with my low taste; and . . . showed the goddess of my devotions the outside of the door.

**1811.** Hawkins, *Countess and Gertrude* [*Oliphant, New Eng.* ii. 204. Certain phrases are marked to show that they are new; as . . . show himself (at a party).]

**1819.** Moore, *Tom Crib,* 26 . . . Could old Nap himself, in his glory, have wish'd to show up a fat Gemman more handsomely dish'd?

**1830.** Jon. Bee, *Samuel Foote,* lxxix. How far he was justified in showing up his friend Macklin may admit of question.

**1843.** Thackeray, *Snobs,* xi. Instead of showing up the parsons, are we indulging in maulin praises of that monstrous black-coated race.
1870. Huxley, Lay Sermons, 30. It would be unprofitable to spend more time ... in showing up the knots in the ravelled skeins of our neighbours.

1883. Black, Yolande, i. Don't you think it prudent of me to show up as often as I can in the House ... so that my good friends in Slagpool mayn't begin to grumble about my being away so frequently?

1886. Times, 29 Mar. Certain persons in high stations of life would be shown up.

1891. Stevenson, Kidnapped, 287. Both got upon their knees to her; and the upshot of the matter was that she showed both of them the door.

1893. Whiteing, John St., vi. She wants yer to show up at a sort o' bun struggle in 'er room.

1899. Delannoy, £10,000, xxx. I didn't want to give the show away.

1900. Savage, Brought to Bay, i. I'm all right, if I show up at eleven. *Ibid.* Looks as if he could show up well in ... Le Sport.

**Shower, subs.** (colloquial). — A shower-bath.

1889. Answers, 9 Feb. After lunch comes the heavy work of the day. The crew assemble at the boathouse, and after going through exercise in a pair-oared boat, they carry out the eight. Returning to dinner after the refreshing shower, they have a good, plain repast.

**Showing.** A front showing, subs. phr. (military). — Parade at short notice: *i.e.* without time to properly prepare accoutrements and kit.

**Showman, subs.** (theatrical). — See *quot.*

1885. G. Dolby, Dickens as I knew Him, 125. The showmen, as the managers of the theatres and caterers for public amusements are popularly termed.

**Show - Sunday, subs.** phr. (various). — Among the commonalty = Easter Sunday, when if you don't wear something new, 'the rooks will shit on you'; at Oxford, the Sunday in Commemoration Week (a kind of University Parade took place in the Broad Walk of Christ's, but the invasion of Town has stopped it); amongst artists, &c., the Sunday before sending-in day, when the studios are open to visitors and friends.

**Shreds** (or Shreds and Patch-es), subs. (old). — A tailor: see *Snip* (B. E. and Grose).

**Shrieking** (or Whining) Sisterhood, subs. phr. (journalistic). — The world of women reformers: hence, busybodies.

1809. Malkin, *Gil Blas* [Routledge], 208. Yesterday Ambrose stumbled upon one of our whining sisterhood.

1894. Milliken, *'Arry Ballads*, 20. This yere shrieking sisterhood lay ain't 'arf bad.

**Shrimp, subs.** (old). — 1. A drawf; a pigmy: in contempt (Grose).

1833. Chaucer, Monk's Tale, Prol., 67. We borel men been shrynipes; of fylde trees ther comen wrecched ympes.

1582. Stanyhurst, *Æneis* [Arber], 89. A windbeaten hard shrimp, With lanck wan visadge, with rags iags patcherye clowed.

1623. Shakspeare, 1 Henry VI., ii. 3, 23. It cannot be, this weake and writhled shrimp Should strike such terror to his enemies.


1840. Barham, *Ingolds. Leg.* (Aunt Fanny). And all for a shrimp not as high as my hat—A little contemptible shaver like that!!


2. (old). — A prostitute: see *Tart.*

1858. Whiting, *Albino and Bellama*, 52. Vat tough me vil not lye vit pimpes, And pend me's coyne on light-teale shrimpes.
Shrubbery. subs. (venery).—The pubic hair: see Bush.

Shuck, subs. (American).—The lowest standard of value; spec. the paper currency of the Confederate States. [At the close of the Civil War these notes became as valueless as pea-shucks]. Hence, LESS THAN SHUCK = less than nothing; TO CARE (or BE WORTH) NOT A SHUCK = to care (or be worth) little; SHUCKLESS = worthless; SHUCKS! = Nonsense: a contemptuous denial or refusal.

Verb. (American).—To undress; TO PEEL (q.v.).

1847. Robb, Squatter Life [Barlett]. If them thar is all he's got to offer, he ain't worth shucks; and, if you don't lick him you ain't worth shucks either.

1847. Darley, Drama in Pokerville, 68. Mr. Bagly was there with five more barrels [revolver] to do the same for any gentleman who might say 'shucks!'

1848. Jones, Sketches of Travel, 117. I shucked out of my old clothes, and got into my new ones.

1850. Longstreet, Southern Sketches, 31. He'd get mad as all wrath... and the first thing you know'd, he'd shuck off his coat to fight.

c.1852. Traits of Amer. Humour, 56. Arch he hopped down off'n his ole hoss, an' commenced shuckin' hissel fur er fight.

1856. Major Jones's Courtship, 48. One great, big, yellow cow, what wasn't worth shucks to trail.

1888. Detroit Free Press, 5 Dec. Did you ever see a family which amounted to shucks which didn't keep a dog? Ibid., 29 Dec. Might hev bin the biggest lawyer or doctor or preacher in these United States if he hadn't bin so slashin' shuckless.

Shuffle, verb. (Grose).—1. 'To make use of false pretences or unfair shifts.' SHUFFLING-FELLOW (B. E. and Grose) = 'A slippery, shiteing Fellow.'

2. (Winchester).—To pretend; to feign: as TO SHUFFLE sleep. Hence SHUFFLER.

Shum, subs. (American Circus).—In pl. = money: see RHINO.

Shunter, subs. (Stock Exchange).—See quot.

1871. Atkin, House Scraps,... Shunter... one who buys or sells stocks on the chance of undoing his business, on one of the provincial Stock Exchanges, at a profit.

Shurk, subs. (old).—A sharper (B. E.).

Shut. To shut up, verb. phr. (old: now vulgar).—To hold one's tongue; to compel silence; TO DRY UP (q.v.). Also SHUT YOUR NECK (MOUTH, HEAD, or FACE; SHUT-UP! or SHUT IT!): Fr. ferme ta boîte. Hence, TO BE SHUT UP = to be silenced, exhausted, or done for.

1563. Foxe, Acts and Monuments [Cattley], viii. 216. I have shut up your lips with your own book.


1605. Shakspeare, Lear, v. 3. 155. Shut your mouth, dame, Or with this paper shall I stop it?

1614. Jonson, Bartholomew Fair, v. 3. Hold thy peace, thy scurrility, shut up thy mouth.

1856. Stowe, Dred., i. 312. This is the Lord's ground here; so shut up your swearing, and don't fight.

1857. Dickens, Little Dorrit, i. 13. It shuts them up! They haven't a word to answer.

1858. Mursell, Lecture on Slang. When a man speaks, he spouts; when he holds his peace, he shuts up.

1865. Fun, 29 July, 'English Unde-Filed.' I sigh, 'Carina! how I suffer; Be thou my Juliet! Be my queen!' She only says, 'Shut up, you duffer!'
Shut.

1877. Jowett, Plato, III. 6. A mere child in argument, and unable to foresee that the next "move" (to use a Platonic expression) will shut him up.

1886-96. Marshall, Pomes [1897], 54. Oh, shut it! Close your mouth until I tell you when.

1888. Runciman, Chequers, 80. Shut your neck.

1892. Kipling, Barrack Room Ballads, 'The Young British Soldier.' You shut up your rag-box, an' 'ark to my lay.

1895. Pocock, Rules of the Game, I. "Shut your mouth," he said, "or I'll knife you!

1896. Crane, Maggie, ix. 'Shut yer face, an' come home yeh old fool!' roared Jimmie.

1897. Maugham, Life of Lambeth, v. Shut it! she answered, cruelly. Ibid., xi. "Shut up!" said Jim. ... "I shan't shut up."

1901. Trodles and Us, 75. Murray's pleasantry struck us as being untimely, and we told him to shut up.

2. verb. (racing).—See quot.

1890. Krik, Guide to the Turf. To shut up . . . to give up, as one horse when challenged by another in a race.

To be shut of, verb. phr. (once literary: now vulgar).—To be rid of, freed from, quit of. As subs. (HALLIWell) = a riddance.

1596. Nash, Haue with You, To the Reader. And doo what I can, I shall not be shut of him.

1639. Massinger, Unnatural Combat, iii. 1. We are shut of him, He will be seen no more here.

1639. Shirley, Maid's Revenge, ii. 2. We'll bring him out of doors—Would we were shut of him.

d.1704. L'Estrange [BARTLETT]. We must not pray in one breath to find a thief, and in the next to get shut of him.

1847. Chronicles of Pionville, 34. Never mind, doctor, we'll get shut of him.

1848. Mrs. Gaskell, Mary Barton, v. And as for a bad man, one's glad enough to get shut on him.

1888. Boldrewood, Robbery Under Arms, ii. Father was one of those people that gets shut of a deal of trouble in this world by always sticking to one thing.

1891. Stevenson, Kidnapped, 96. What we want is to be shut of him.

1896. Kipling, The Big Drunk Draj'. I never knew how I liked the gray garron till I was shut of him an' Asia.

SHUTS, subs. (Christ's Hospital).—A hoax, a sell (q.v.). As intj. = 'Sold again!'

SHUTTERS. To put up the shutters, verb. phr. (pugilists').

—1. To 'bung up' an opponent's eyes.

2. (common).—To announce oneself a bankrupt; to stop payment.

SHUTTER-RACKET, subs. phr. (old).—'The practice of robbing houses or shops, by boring a hole in the window shutters and taking out a pane of glass.' (Grose and VAUX).

SHUTTLE-BAG. To swallow the shuttle-bag, verb. phr. (provincial).—To get husky.

SHUTTLE-HEAD (-BRAIN, or -W1T), subs. phr. (old).—An eccentric; a scattering. Whence SHUTTLE-HEADED, &c. = flighty, scatter-brained; SHUTTLENESS = rashness, thoughtlessness. Also SHUTTLE-HEAD, &c.

1440. Paston Letters, i. 69. I am aferd that Jon of Sparham is ... SHUTTLE-WYTTED.

1564. Udall, Erasmus, 341. Metellus was so shuttle-brained that even in the middes of his tribuneship he left his office in Rome.

1580. Baret, Alvarie [HALLIWell]. The vain shettlenesse of an unconstant bead.

Shy. 203 Shy.

1601. Nash, Tom Nash his Ghost [Old Book Coll. Misc.]. I would wish these SHUTTLE-HEADS that desire to take in the embers of rebellion, to give over blowing the coals too much.

1625-49. MS. Poem [Halliwell: temp. Chas. I.]. Nor can you deem them SHUTTLE-HEADED fellows Who for the Lord are so exceeding zealous.

1639-41. Rump Songs (1662), i. 7. Is it not strange that in their SHUTTLE-HEAD three Kingdoms ruinous should be buried?

1642-43. Stevenson, Olalla. I wondered what had called forth in a lad SHUTTLE-WITTED this enduring sense of duty.

SHY, subs. (colloquial).—Generic for a piece of action: as a throw, a chance, an attempt, a jibe. As verb. = to do, to make, to throw, and all other verbs of action (Grose and Bee).

1824. Egan, Boxiana, iv. 149. I like to have a SHY for my money.

1827. Scott, Diary, 26 Mar. I cannot keep up with the world without SHYING a letter now and then.

1829-30. Thackeray, Pendennis, lxxv. I went with my last ten florin and had a SHY at the roulette. Ibid. (1854), Newcomes, xvi. There you go, Polly, you’re always having a SHY at Lady Anne. . . . ‘A SHY! how can you use such vulgar words.’

1847. Robb, Squatter Life [Bartlett]. Just to make matters lively, I . . . SHIED a few soft things at her.

1857. Reade, Never Too Late, xv. He . . . SHIED the pieces of glass carefully over the wall.

1859. Lever, Davenport Dunn, xx. Though the world does take liberties with the good-tempered fellows, it SHIES them many a stray favour.

1863-4. Chambers, Book of Days, i. 238. Where the cock belonged to some one disposed to make it a matter of business, twopence was paid for three SHIES at it, the missile used being a broom-stick.

1885. D. Telegraph, 17 Sep. With a grievous ‘clod’ in his hand to SHY at it.

1888. Black, Far Lochaber, vi. He has an abject fear of cats . . . and if he can SHY a stone at one when it doesn’t see him, that is delight.

1889. Norris, Miss Shafts, viii. An honest man has a much better chance on the turf than he has in the City . . . I’ve had a SHY at both.

Adj., adv. and verb. (colloquial).—I. Missing, hard to find: whence SHYCOCK = ‘one who keeps within doors for fear of bailiffs’ (Grose). Hence (2) = ‘coy, squamish, cold, or averse’ (B. E. and Grose). Cf. verb. Also (3) of dubious repute or character. As verb. (in quot. 1796 = a wary man); TO FIGHT SHY of = to keep out of the way, to abstain.

1796. Reynolds, Fortune’s Fool, v. The members rose, lock’d the door, and call’d me a SHYCOCK.

1809. Malkin, Gil Blas [Routledge], 311. We have all our weak side . . . does he wench? . . . Do not FIGHT SHY I beseech you. Ibid (1771), Humph. Clinker (1800), 78. The doctor being a SHY COCK would not be caught with chaff.

1821. Haggart, Life, 30. Although I had not been idle during these three months, I found my blunt getting SHY.


1826. Old Song, ‘Bobby and His Mary’ [Univ. Songst. iii. 1018]. The blunt ran SHY, and Bobby brush’d, To get more rag not fearing.

1840. Barham, Ingolds. Legends (Old Woman Clothed in Grey). That all who espied her, Immediately SHIED her, And strove to get out of her way.


1849. Thackeray, Pendennis, xxv. Mr. Wagg . . . said, ‘Rather a SHY place for a surking county member, ay, Pynsent?’ Ibid. (1860), Philip, xix. The dinner, I own, is SHY unless I come and dine with my friends; and then I make up for banyan days.

1851-61. Mayhew, London Lab. iii. 136. They bring ‘em out, when business is SHY, for a draw, which they always find them answer.
Shyster.

1854. WHYTE MELVILLE, General Bounce, xiii. If 'Sennacherib' breaks down, and Blanche Kettering fights shy, ... have I not still got something to fall back upon?

1860. DICKENS, Uncommercial Traveller, x. 60. Nothing in shy neighbourhoods perplexes my mind more than the bad company birds keep.

1864. H. J. BYRON, Paid in Full, v. Hadn't shy turf-transactions been more than hinted at.

1865. Glasgow Herald, 23 Sept. The guests shy all European topics.

1870. D. Telegraph, 7 Feb. The reader who wades through the rather hopeful jungle of the title-page, will certainly shy at Mr. Beste's preface.

SHYSTER, subs. (American).—1. See quot. 1859.

2. (common) = a swindler, duffer, or vagabond: a generic term (1903) of contempt.

1857. New York Tribune, 13 Mar. The shysters or Tombs lawyers ... sought to intercede for their clients; but the magistrates would listen to no appeals.

1859. BARTLETT, Americanism (1896), 590. s.v. SHYSTER, a set of men who hang about the police courts of New York and other large cities, and practise in them as lawyers, but who in many cases have never been admitted to the bar. They are men who have served as policemen, turnkeys, sheriff's officers, or in any capacity by which they have become familiar with criminals and criminal courts.

1864. D. Telegraph, 26 July. Shyster who goes to bed in his boots.

1871. DE VERE, Americanisms, ... This is the shyster ... Ill-reputed men [who] offer their services to the new-comer, compel him to pay a fee in advance, and then—do nothing. On the contrary, they fight shy of him, and hence they have obtained their name.

1877. MARK, Green Past., xii. They held aloof from ordinary society—looked on a prominent civic official as a mere shyster—and would have nothing to do with a system of local government controlled by 30,000 bummers, loafers, and dead-beats.

1882. McCABE, New York, xxxv. 417-8. If the prisoner has no money, the shyster will take his pay out in any kind of personal property that can be pawned or sold.

1902. BOOTHBY, Uncle Joe's Legacy, 98. The shyster lawyer, the bigamist Henry Druford, and last but not least ... the company promoter.

SICE, subs. (Old Cant).—Sixpence: see RHINO (B. E. and GROSE).

1672. Covent Garden Drollery, 'Greenwich Strowers.' The prizes they took, were a Londoner's groat; A Gentleman's sice, but his skipkennel's pot.

1688. SHADWELL, Squire of Alsatia. [In list of cant words.]

d.1704. BROWN, Works, ii. 266. Some pretty nymphs ... but are sometimes forced to tick half a sice a-piece for their watering.

1707. WARD, Hud. Rediv., ii. iii. 27. For who'd not readily advance a sice to see the Devil dance.

1840. LYTTON, Paul Clifford, iii. As Mrs. Lobkins expressed it, two bobs for the Latin, and a sice for the virtue!

SICK, adj. (colloquial).—In its primary, extended, and old literary sense (as in the Bible and Shakspeare), sick (= disabled by disease or bad health) now borders on the colloquial, having been superseded by 'ill,' whilst sick is confined to vomiting or nausea. There are also exceptional usages. Thus sick (= muddy) wine; sick (= stale) fish; a sick hand (at cards, esp. whist = without trumps); a sick (= pale) look; a sick (= ruffled) temper, &c. Also, 'It makes me sick (or gives me the sick)' = 'I am disgusted with it'; sick as a horse (dog, rat, cat, cushion, or what not) = sick as may be (Grose); sick of the idles (the Lombard fever, or the idle crick and the belly work in the heel, Ray) = 'a pretence to be idle upon no apparent cause'; to speak in the sick tune = to affect sickness; sickly (adv.) = untoward or disgusting; sickrel
(B. E.) = a puny, sickly Creature.' Also (American) = lacking, in need of: as paint-sick, nail-sick: cf. home-sick, mother-sick, sleep-sick, &c. Likewise (venery) sitting up with a sick friend = an excuse for marital absence all night.

1600. Shakspeare, Much Ado, iii. 4, 44. Why, how now? Do you speak in the sick tune?

1626. Sylvester, Du Bartas, i. 7. Such a sleep-sick elf.

1693. Congreve, Old Batchelor, ii. 3. I swear you'd make one sick to hear you.

1708-10. Swift, Polite Cony., i. Poor Miss, she's sick as a cushion, she wants nothing but stuffing.


1809. Malkin, Gil Blas [ Routledge], i8o. Enough to have given a sickener to the inveterate stomachs of a regiment.

1818. Egan, Boxiana, i. 267. Ward's friends were now in high spirits, and the betting went forwards, as it was thought that Dan had received rather a sickener.

1827. Peake, Comfortable Lodgings, i. 2. I took a favourable opportunity to insult him: this morning I gave him a sickener.

1834. Russell, Jack's Courtship, xxxiii. But sometimes you will get a dreary sickener betwixt the Channel and the parallel where the steady breeze is picked up.

1884. Stevenson, Master of Ballantrae, ii. It was plain this lucky shot had given them a sickener of their trade.

SIDE, subs. (common).—SwagGER (q.v.); conceit: thus, to put on side = to 'give oneself airs' ; Fr. se hancher.


1880. Payn, Confid. Agent, xi. The captain sauntered up the mews, with a good deal of side on, which became a positive swagger as he emerged into the more fashionable street.

1880. Hawley Smart, Social Sinners, xiii. He has proved a most apt pupil in the acquisition of what, in the slang of the day, is denominated side, which, translated into dictionary language, meaneth the conceit of the young.

SIDE, subs. (common).—Too much (even of a good thing); a cause of disgust. Cf. Bellyful.
SIDEBOARD, subs. (obsolete).—I. A shirt-collar of the 'stand-up' order. Also (2) in pl. = whiskers, SIDE-WINGS, GILLS (q.v.).

SIDE-POCKET, subs. phr. (American).—An out-of-the-way drinking saloon.

WANTED AS MUCH AS A DOG (or a toad) WANTS A SIDE-POCKET, phr. (old).—'A simile used for one who desires anything by no means necessary' (GROSE). See also WIFE.

SIDE-SIM, subs. phr. (old).—A fool: see BUNDLE.

SIDE-SLIP, subs. phr. (common).—bastard; a BYE-BLOW (q.v.)

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SIDETRACK, verb. (American).—To SHUNT (q.v.); to avoid; to place on one side; to discontinue.

SIDE-LYWR, adj. (old).—Crooked (GROSE).

SIDNEY-BIRD. See SYDNEY SIDER.

SIEGE, subs. (old colloquial).—I. Excrement; faecal matter; (2) a jakes; and (3) defecation: as verb. = to stool (B. E., 1696).

1548. BARCLAY, Eclogues [CUNNINGHAM]. For sure the lord's SIEGE and the rural man's Is of like savour.

1603. JONSON, Sejanus, i. 2. I do not ask you of their urines, Whose smell's most violent, or whose SIEGE is best, Or who makes hardest faces on her stool.

1609. SHAKESPEARE, Tempest, ii. 2. How cam'st thou to be in the SIEGE of this mooncalf? Can he vent Trinculos.

1646. BROWNE, Vulgar Errors. It accompanied the unconvertible part in the SIEGE.

SIEVE, subs. (old).—A loose-spoken person; a BLAB (q.v.): cf. 'As well pour water into a SIEVE as tell him' (RAY).

d.1701. DRYDEN, Mock Astrologer, i. 1. Why then, as you are a waiting-woman, as you are the SIEVE of all your lady's secrets, tell it me.

SIFT, verb. (thieves').—To embezzle small coins: such as might pass through a sieve.

SIFTER, subs. (American).—A drink composed of whiskey, honey, strawberry-syrup, lemon, and ice.

SIGHT, subs. (colloquial).—I. Generic for magnitude (that is, something worth looking at): thus a SIGHT of people = a multitude; a SIGHT of work = untiring industry or 'enough and to spare'; a SIGHT of money = a large amount (BEE). Hence, OUT OF SIGHT = unrivalled, beyond comparison; A SMART (PRETTY, PRECIOUS, POWERFUL, &c.) SIGHT = a great deal; A SIGHT FOR Sore Eyes = something to please: also in sarcasm.

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Sight.


1440-50. Plumpton Papers [Oliphant, New Eng., 1. 268. There are the nouns carving knyves; a sight (number) of people . . .].

c. 14 (?) [Marsh, Eng. Lang., 1. viii. Juliana Berners, lady prioress of the nunnery of Sopwell in the fifteenth century, informs us that in her time 'a bomynable sight of monkes' was elegant English for a large company of friars].

1534. Tyndale, Bible, Heb. xii. 22. Ye are come vnto the Mounte Sion . . . and to an innumerable sight of angels.

1540. Palgrave, Acolastus. Where is so great a strength of money, Where is so huge a sight of mony.

1548. Carleton, New Purchase, ii. 74. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'd a poweiful sight sooner go into retiracy . . . nor consent to that bill.

1547. Hughes, Tom Brown's School-days, ii. vii. It's a precious sight harder than I thought.

1577. Five Years' Penal Servitude, iii. This 'ere Dartmoor is a blessed sight better than Chatham, I can tell you.


1802. Eng.-Theof. 'Frontispiece.' [Truth stripping a fine lady of her false decorations, with one hand removes a painted mask, and with the other pulls away her 'borrowed' hair and head-dress, showing an ugly face, and a head as round and smooth as a bullet. Below there are four little satyrs, one of whom is taking a single sight, or making 'a nose' at the lady; whilst a second is taking a double sight, or 'long nose,' towards the spectator.—N. & O., 5 S., iii. 298.]

1712. Spectator, 354. The 'prentice speaks his disrespect by an extended finger, and the porter by stealing out his tongue.

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends, 'Nell Cook.' He put his thumb unto his nose and spread his fingers out.

1840. Dickens, Old Curiosity Shop, xxxviii. Even Mr. Chuckster would sometimes condescend to give him a slight nod, or to honour him with that peculiar form of recognition which is called taking a sight.

1871. Morning Advertiser, 11 Sept. The fame of mighty Nelson shall not with his compare, Who . . . thrusts his tongue into his cheek, and takes a sight at Death.

4. (American).—As far as can be seen at one time, as the reach of a river, or a bend in a road: thus, in directing a person, 'Go three sights on, and take,' &c. Also a look.

5. (common).—A gesture of derision: the thumb on the nose-tip and the fingers spread fan-wise: also Queen Anne's Fan. A double sight is made by joining the tip of the little finger (already in position) to the thumb of the other hand, the fingers being similarly extended. Emphasis is given by moving the fingers of both hands as if playing a piano. Similar actions are taking a grinder (q.v.) or working the coffee-mill (q.v.), pulling bacon (q.v.), making a nose (or long nose); cocking snooks, &c.
**Sign.**

1875. *Notes and Queries*, 5 S., iii. 208. **TAKING A SIGHT.**—Pictorial illustrations of this gesture prior to the time of the Georges, are, I believe, not very common.

1886. *Household Words*, 2 Oct., 453. [This] peculiar action has, I believe, almost invariably been described as **TAKING A SIGHT.** A solicitor, however, in a recent police case at Manchester, described it as pulling bacon.

**TO PUT OUT OF SIGHT,** **verb. phr.** (common).—To eat; to consume.

**SIGN.** Here may be arranged two or three obsolete colloquialisms—

**SIGN OF A HOUSE TO LET** = a widow’s weeds (Grose); **SIGN OF THE FEATHERS** = a woman’s best good graces; **SIGN OF THE HORNS** = in cuckoldom; **SIGN OF THE PRAUNCER** = the Nag’s Head; **SIGN OF THE THREE BALLS** = a pawnbroker’s; **SIGN OF THE FIVE (TEN OR FIFTEEN) SHILLINGS** = The Crown (The Two Crowns, or The Three Crowns).—Grose (1785); **TO LIVE AT THE SIGN OF THE CATS’ FOOT** = to be hen-pecked.

1567. *Harman, Caveat* (1869), 85. A bene mort hereby at the **SIGN OF THE PRAUNCER.**

**SIGNBOARD,** **subs.** (common).—The face: see Dial.

**SIGN-MANUAL,** **subs. phr.** (old).—The mark of a blow.

1822. *Scott, Fortunes of Nigel*, xxiii. I bear some marks of the parson about me... The man of God bears my **SIGN-MANUAL too,** but the Duke made us friends again.

**SIKES.** See **BILL SIKES.**

**SIL.** See **SILVER-BEGGAR.**

**SILENCE,** **verb.** (old: now recognised).—To knock down; to stun; to kill (Grose). Whence **SILENCER** = a knock-down or stunning blow.

**SILENCE IN THE COURT, THE CAT IS PISSING,** **phr.** (old).—'A girl upon anyone requiring silence unnecessarily' (Grose).

**SILENT-BEARD,** **subs. phr.** (venery).—The female pubic hair: see Fleece.

**SILK,** **subs.** (common).—1. A King’s Counsel; also **SILK-GOWN.** [The canonical K.C.’s robe is of silk; that of a Junior Counsel of stuff.] Hence **TO TAKE SILK** = to attain the rank of King’s (or Queen’s) Counsel. 2. (clerical) = a bishop: the apron is of silk.

1838. *Jerrold, Men of Character* (John Applejohn), viii. The finest lawn [bishop] makes common cause with any linen bands—the **SILKEN APRON** shrinks not from poor prunella.

1853. *Dickens, Bleak House*, i. Mr. Blowers, the eminent **SILK-GOWN.**

1872. *Standard*, 16 Aug., Second Leader. Mr. J. P. Benjamin (an American gentleman) has, in the professional phrase, **RECEIVED SILK**; in other words has been raised to the rank of Queen’s Counsel at the English Bar.

1889. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 6 Nov., 6, i. Some time ago the presence of a learned **SILK** was required in court at eleven o’clock.

1890. *Globe*, 6 May, 6, i. Mr. Reid’s rise has been steady and sure. Called at the age of twenty-five, he **TOOK SILK** only eleven years later, and is now a Bencher of his Inn at the age of forty-four.

**TO CARRY (or SPORT) SILK,** **verb. phr.** (racing).—To run (or **RIDE**) in a race.

1884. *Hawley Smart, Post to Finish*, 219. One thing he was clear about—that there could be no hope of his passing unrecognised if he **WORE SILK** on the Town Moor.
**Silk-petticoat.**


**SILK-PETTICOAT. See Silk-stocking.**


**SILK PURSE.** See *Sow's-ear.*

**SILK-SNATCHER, subs. phr. (Grose).**—'Thieves who snatch hoods or bonnets from persons walking in the streets.'

**SILK-STOCKING, subs. phr. (old).**—A rich man or woman. [Silken hose were regarded as extravagant and luxurious.] Hence, the Silk-stocking Gentry (or Element) = the wealthy classes; and silken = luxurious; Your silkiness! = Mr. Luxury. Also silk-petticoat = a woman of fashion (in quot. 1706 = a whore of price).


1706. *Ward, Wooden World*, 62, 'A Midship-Man.' He will have a Whore ... tho' he pay for it ... Silk-petticoats are not to be had for the uptaking.

**SILKWORM, subs. (old).—**See quot.

1712. *Steele, Spectator*, No. 1564. The fellow who drove her came to us, and discovered that he was ordered to come again in an hour, for that she was a silkworm. I was surprised with this phrase, but found it was a cant among the hackney fraternity for their best customers, women who ramble twice or thrice a week from shop to shop, to turn over all the goods in town without buying anything. The silkworms are, it seems, indulged by the tradesmen; for though they never buy, they are ever talking of new silks, laces, and ribbons, and serve the owners, in getting them customers.

**SILLY, subs. (colloquial).—**A simpleton: also silly-billy (or willy), see quot. 1851, sillyton and sillikin. Hence to knock one silly = to hit out of time, or to affect at possible: *e.g.*, 'She knocked him silly' = 'She sent him off his chump (wits, onion) about her.'

c.1620-50. *Percy Folio MS.*, 199. I ... proffered him a favour; he kist me, and wisht me to beare with his behauior; but hie tro lolly lolly, le silly willy cold not doe, all content with him was spent.

1725. *Bailey, Erasmus*, 536. Sillyton, forbear railing, and hear what's said to you.

1851-61. *Mayhew, Lond. Lab.*, 1. 144. Silly Billy is a kind of clown, or rather a clown's butt; but not after the style of Pantaloon, for the part is comparatively juvenile. Silly Billy is supposed to be a schoolboy, although not dressed in a charity-boy's attire. He is very popular with the audience at the fairs; indeed, they cannot do without him.

c.1876. *Music Hall Song*, 'Blessed Orphan.' They think I am a sillikin, But I am rather knowing.


**SILLY-SEASON, subs. phr. (journalists').—**The parliamentary recess: in the absence of debates, with a real or assumed dearth of news, the newspapers are driven to print all kinds of political and social twaddles: *cf.* gigantic gooseberry, shower of frogs, Lord Rosebery's latest.

1882. *Payn*, *For Cash Only*, viii. Sir Peter's eyes grew big as gooseberries in the silly season, in his earnest intentness.

1883. *G. A. S[ala] [Ill. London News], 22 Sep.*, 275. 'The Silly Season, forsooth! Why September is a month when, perhaps, the daily newspapers are fuller of instructive and entertaining matter than is the case at any other season of the year.'
Signs of the so-called silly season, which has been somewhat delayed this year owing to the political crisis, are now beginning to appear.

Silver, subs. (Stock Exchange).—In pl. = India Rubber, Gutta Percha, and Telegraph Co. shares. [The works are at Silvertown.]

See Penny.

Silver-beggar (or -lurker), subs. phr. (common).—A tramp with briefs (q.v.) or fakements (q.v.) concerning bogus losses by fire, shipwreck, accident, and the like; guaranteed by forged signatures or shams (q.v.) of clergymen, magistrates, &c., the false subscription-books being known as delicates (q.v.). Also still = (1) a forged document, and (2) a note on 'The Bank of Elegance' or 'The Bank of Engraving.'

Silver-cooper, subs. phr. (Scots').—See quot.

Silver-fork, subs. phr. (Winchester: obsolete).—A wooden skewer: used as a chop-stick when forks were scarce (Mansfield, c. 1840).

The Silver Fork School, subs. phr. (obsolete literary).—A school of novelists which laid especial stress on the etiquette of the drawing room: as Theodore Hook, Lady Blessington, Mrs. Trollope, and Lord Lytton. [It is only within the last forty years that the old two-pronged steel fork has been ousted by cheap four-prongs in imitation of silver ware.]

Silver-grays, subs. phr. (American).—At a convention of New York State certain measures being unacceptable, 'many withdrew whose locks were silvered by age,' drawing forth the remark, 'There go the silver grays!' 'The term remains and is the only one now (1859) used to distinguish one branch of the Whig party' (Bartlett).

Silver-hell, subs. phr. (common).—A low-class gambling den: where silver is the usual stake.

1843. Moncrieff, Scamps of London, i. 1. He's the principal partner in all the silver hells at the West End.

Silver-hook. To catch fish with a silver-hook, verb. phr. (anglers').—To purchase a catch in order to conceal unskilful angling: It. pescar col hamo d'argenta (Ray).

Silver-laced, adj. phr. (old).—Lousy: e.g., 'The cove's kickies are silver-laced' = 'The fellow's breeches are covered with lice' (Grose).

Silver-spoon. Born with a silver spoon in one's mouth, adj. phr. (colloquial).—Born rich: It. aver la pera monda (= to have his pear ready pared, Ray).

1830. Buckstone, Wreck Ashore, i. 2. Mag. A branch of the aristocracy, and to be one of that order means a man born to a good place; or, as we say in the vulgar tongue, with a silver spoon in his mouth.

Silver State (The), subs. phr. (American).—Nevada.
Sim

Sim, subs. (Cambridge University).—A Simeonite, or member of the Evangelical section of the Church of England; a Low Churchman. The modern equivalent is Piman. [The Rev. Charles Simeon (1759-1836) was 54 years Vicar of Holy Trinity, Cambridge]: Grose (1785).

1826. W. W. Todd, The Sizar’s Table [Whitley, Cap and Gown, 109]. Some carnally given to women and wine, Some apostles of Simeon all pure and divine.

1851. Bristed, Eng. Univ., 39. While passing for a terribly hard-reading man, and a Sim of the straightest kind with the ‘empty bottles.’

Simkin. See Simpkin and Simple.

‘Simonon, See Persimmon.

Simon, subs. (Old Cant).—1. Sixpence: see Rhino (B. E.; Hall, 1714; Grose).

1885. Household Words, 29 June, 155. The old joke about St. Peter’s banking transaction, when he “lodged with one Simon a tanner.” And this reminds us that Simon is also a slang term for sixpence, and may possibly owe its origin to this play upon the other word.

2. (circus).—A trained horse.

3. (King Edward’s School, B’gham).—A cane: obsolete. [See Acts ix. 43.]

Simon Pure, subs. phr. (old).—The genuine article: also as adj.


1785. Wolcot [P. Pindar], Lyric Odes, x. [Wks. (Dublin, 1793), i. 90]. Flattery’s a mountebank so spruce — gets riches; Truth, a plain Simon Pure, a Quaker Preacher.

1815. Scott, Guy Mannering, lvi. A young seafaring man came forward.—‘Here,’ proceeded the counsellor, “is the real Simon Pure—"

1839. Lever, Harry Lorrequer, xvii. Fearing every moment the arrival of the real Simon Pure should cover me with shame and disgrace.

1871. Spectator, 2 Dec., ‘George Cruikshank.’ Nagler, the author of the Kunstlerlexicon, studying the controversy about the Cruikshanks, read that ‘George Cruikshank was the true Simon Pure’ with the utmost gravity, therefore catalogued him as ‘Pure (Simon),’ calling himself George Cruikshank.

1879. Howells, Lady of the Aroostook, xxv. I should like to see what you call the Simon-Pure American.

1883. Century, xxxvii., 337. The home of the Simon-Pure wild horse is on the southern plains.

Simkin (or Simkin), subs. (Anglo-Indian).—1. Champagne. [A native pronunciation.]

1885. J. W. Palmer, New and Old. A basket of Simkin . . . behind the chariot.

1886. Sala [Ill. Lon. News, 24 July, 90]. There is a good deal of Simkin or champagne consumed in the three Presidencies.

2. (theatrical).—The fool in comic ballets.

See Simple.

Simple, subs. (old).—In pl. = folly (B. E.), hence, as in proverb, ‘To go to Battersea to be cut for the simples’ = to take means to cure of foolishness (Battersea was famous for its herb gardens.). Also Simpleton (Simkin or Simple Simon) = a credulous person (B. E. and Grose): ‘Simple Simon Suck-egg Sold his wife for an addled duck-egg’ (Ray).

c. 1710. Swift, Polite Conversation, i. Indeed, Mr. Neverout, you should be cut for the simples this morning.

1834. Southey, Doctor, cxxvi. What evils might be averted . . . in the Lords and Commons by clearing away bile . . . and occasionally by cutting for the simples.
Simple Arithmetic. See Arithmetic.

Simple Infanticide, subs. phr. (venery). Masturbation: see Frig.

Simpson (or Simson), subs. (obsolete).—1. Water: spec. when used for diluting milk; hence, Mrs. Simpson (or Simpson’s cow) = the pump; ‘the cow with the iron tail.’ Whence (2) = poor milk: see Sky-blue and Chalkers.

1860. Holmes, Professor at the Breakfast Table. It is a common saying of a jockey that he is all horse, and I have often fancied that milkmen get a stiff upright carriage, and an angular movement, that reminds one of a pump and the working of a handle.

1871. Daily News, 17 Ap. He had, he stated on inquiry, a liquid called Simpson on his establishment.

1871. Standard, 11 May. Police Report. If they annoyed him again he would christen them with Simpson, which he did by throwing a can of milk over the police.

1872. Times, 24 Dec. Police Report. His master supplied wholesale dealers, who, he believed, watered it. That was called Simpson. Ibid. Witness generally milked the cows for himself, and then added Simpson at discretion.

1872. Standard, 25 Dec. Simpson is ... universally accepted as the title for that combined product of the cow natural and the “cow with the iron tail.”

1880. Punch, 31 Jan., 48. In the first rank of the Committee of Management of The Householders’ Pure Milk Supply Assn. stands the name of our old friend Simpson—Simpson, who has so often milked the cow with the iron tail, that in the language of the milk walk he has become identified with the animal Simpson-Pump!

Sin, subs. (colloquial).—The Devil: as the incarnation of evil.


d.1626. Bacon, Works (Spedding), x. 324. The proverb ... taken first from a speech of Mucianus, that Moneys are the Sinews of War.

1653. Urquhart, Rabelais, i. xlvi. Coin is the sinews of war.

Sing, verb. (common).—To cry: usually as a threat to a crying child, ‘I’ll give you something to sing for.’

Phrases.—To sing out = (1) to raise the voice; (2) to cry, or call out, from excess of emotion; and (3), see quot. 1815: to sing small = to lessen one’s pretensions, to eat humble pie (Grose); to sing (or pipe) another song (or tune) = to modify one’s conduct, manner, &c; to sing the same song = to repeat the weakness; to sing it = to exaggerate, to swagger, ‘to chant the poker’; to sing out beef (thieves’) = to call out ‘stop thief!’ (Grose). Also proverb, ‘He could have sung well before he broke his left shoulder with whistling.’ See Black Psalm; Placebo; Te Deum.

1383. Chaucer, Cant. Tales, ‘Friar’s Tale.’ Certes, leechours, did he gretes wo; They sholde singen if that they were bent.

Singed-cat.

1609. Heywood, If you know not me [Works, i. 207]. Const. The Queene must hear you sing another song. . . . Eliz. My God doth know I can no note but truth.

1753. Richardson, Grandison, i. 120. I must myself sing small in her company.

1815. Scott, Guy Mannering, xxviii. "But old Meg's asleep now," said another; "she grows a driveller, and is afraid of her own shadow. She'll sing out some of these odd-come-shortlies, if you don't look sharp." Ibid. (Note). *To sing out, or whistle in the cage, is when a rogue, being apprehended, peaches against his comrades.

1819. Moore, Tom Criò, 24. His spunkiest backers were forced to sing small.

1836. Scott, Tom Cringle's Log, i. Who's there? sung out the lieutenant.

1848. Ruxton, Far West, 3. They made 'em sing out.

1885. Clement Scott [Ill. Lon. News, 3 Oct., 339, 1]. There would not be so much reason for complaint, if heroism and virtue were not made to sing small, by the side of this apotheosis of iniquity.

1902. Headon Hill, Caged, xvi. Go and have a wash and sing out for that breakfast.

Singed-cat, subs. phr. (American).
—See quot.

1839. Haliburton, Old Judge, i. 44. That critter is like a singed cat; better nor he seems.

1858. New Orleans Bulletin, May. Parson Brownlow has found an antagonist in the Rev. Mr. Pryne, of Cincinnati . . . We reckon there'll be fun, as a Cincinnati paper says Pryne is a perfect singed cat!


1876. Clemens, Tom Sawyer, 20. You're a kind of singed cat, as the saying is.


d.1635. Corbet, On Dawson, the Butler of Christ Church. And as the conduits ran with claret at the coronation, so let your channels flow with single tiff.

1654. Wits Recreations, 154. Sack's but single broth; Ale's meat, drink, and cloth.

Single-peeper, subs. phr. (old.)—A one-eyed person (Grose).

Single-pennif, subs. phr. (back slang).—A five-pound note: see Finnup.

1891. Carew, Auto. of Gipsy, 416. I gets clean off with the scawfer and 'bout 'er thirty quid in single pennifs and silver.

Single-soldier, subs. phr. (old).
—A private.

1816. Scott, Old Mortality, viii. I'se e'en turn a single sodger myself, or may be a sergeant or a captain.

Singleton, subs. (B. E.).—1. 'A very silly, foolish Fellow.'

2. (old).—A corkscrew: from the name of a Dublin cutler famous for his tempering (Grose).

3. (gaming).—A single card of any suit in a hand: whist. Also a hand containing such a card.

1885. Field, 12 Dec. Nor was it to prove that the lead of a singleton was sometimes good play.

1885. Proctor, How to Play Whist, Pref. Outside . . . modern signalling . . . and the absolute rejection of the singleton lead there is very little difference between the whist of to-day and the whist of Hoyle and Mathews.

Single-woman, subs. phr. (old).
—See quot. and Tart.
Sing-song. 214  Sinner.


1657.  Howell, Londinopolis, 337.  No Stew-holder, or his wife, should let or stay any single woman to go and come freely at all times. No single woman to take money to lie with any man except she lie with him all night till the morrow.

Sing-song (various).—1. (old) = a poem; 2. (common) = a convivial meeting at a public house at which each person is expected to contribute a song; A FREE-AND-EASY (q.v.); 3. (nautical) = a Chinese theatre; and 4. (colloquial) = "crooning." As adj. = musical.

1656-61.  Choyce Drolleries [Essex Worth] [Oliphant, New Eng. ii. 97.  The new substantives are blobber-lips, a SING-soNG (poem)].


1657.  Ritchie, Night Side of London, 192.  The gay have their theatres—the philanthropic their Exeter Hall—the wealthy their "ancient concerts"—the costermongers what they term their SING-Song.

1669.  Greenwood, Seven Curses, 19.  She has her 'young man' and accompanies him of evenings to SING-Song and raffles.

1677.  Tennyson, Queen Mary, ii. 1.  You sit SING-SONGING here.

1809.  Malkin, Gil Bias [Routledge], 100.  I am the idol of my wife, and I have not SUNK THE LOVER in the husband.  Ibid., 283.  I . . . SUNK THE SECRETARY . . . till I should ascertain what solid profit might accrue from all my bows and scrapes.


Sinker, subs. (old).—1. In pl. = base money (Snowden, 1857).

2. (American), see quot.

1900.  Flynt, Tramps, 199.  When he returned with a "poke out" (food given at the door) and a Sinker (dollar).


1613.  Purchas, Pilgrimage, 621.  The sinke of Fez, where every one may be a Vintner and a Bawde.

d.1842.  Channing, Perfect Life, 70.  The sinks of intemperance . . . shops reeking with vapours of intoxicating drink.

3. (common).—A confirmed tippler; and (4) the throat: see Sewer.  Hence TO FALL DOWN THE SINK = to take to drink.

5. (The Leys School).—A heavy feed; a STODGE (q.v.); and (6) = a glutton.

Phrases. — To SINK THE NOBLEMAn (LOVER, &c.) = to suppress, to keep in the background: cf. SHOP; SINK ME! = a mild imprecation.

1772.  Bridges, Homer Burlesqued, 13.  But sink me if I . . . understand.

SINK, subs. (colloquial).—1. A slum; a ROOKERY: also SINK-HOLE.  Also (2) a centre of any-thing disreputable.

1339.  Malkin, Gil Bias [Routledge], 106.  Seasoned exactly to the taste of these OLD SINNERS.
SIP, subs. and verb. (back slang).—PISS (v.).

SIPPER, subs. (common).—Gravy.

SI QUIS, subs. phr. (old).—1. A public notice of ordination. [These commenced “SI QUIS,” “If any”]. Whence (2) a candidate for holy orders; and (3) any public announcement. As verb = to make hue and cry.

1599. HALL, Satires, ii. v. Saws't thou ever siquis patch’d on Paul’s Church door, To seek some vacant vicarage before.

1607. MARSTON, What You Will, iii. My end is to paste up a si quis.

1609. DEKKER, Gulls Horne-Booke, chap. iv. The first time that you venture into Powles, passe through the body of the Church like a Porter, yet presume not to fetch so much as one whole turne in the middle Ile, no nor to cast an eye to si quis doore (pasted and plaistered up with Seru-ing-mens supplications) before you have paid tribute to the top of Powles steeple with a single penny.

1704. Gentleman Instructed, 312.
He may ... si quis me in the next Gazette.

Sir (Sir John or Mass-John), subs. (old).—A parson; spec. (B. E.) ‘a country Parson or Vicar’: see SKY-PILOT (GROSE).
See JOHN.

1380. WICLIFFE, Works [E. E. T. S.], 192. [OLIPHANT, New English, i. 147. The priest Sir John, becomes Sir Jacke ... this change is unusual.]


c.14[?]. Tale of the Basyn [Hazelitt, Early Poet. Poet., iii. 47]. Hit is a preest, men callis Sir John. Ibid. 49. Sir John con wake, And nedis water he must make.

d.1555. Latimer, Works [Century]. They hire a Sir John which hath better skill in playing at tables ... than in God’s word.


1581. SPENSER, Mother Hubb. Tale, v. 390. But this good Sir did follow the plaine word.

1596. LAMBARD, Peramb., 317. A poore Chapell, served with a single Sir John, and destitute both of font and churchyard.

1602. SHAKSPEARE, Twelfth Night, iv. 2. Make him believe you are Sir Thopas, the curate. Do it quickly.

c.1609. FLETCHER, M. Thomas, v. 2. Close by the nunnery, there you’ll find a night-priest, Little Sir Hugh, and he can say his matrimony, Over without book.

1633. JONSON, Tale of a Tub, i. 1. Though Sir Hugh of Pancras, Be hither come to Totten.

1648. HERRICK, Hesperides, ‘The Tythe.’ If children you have ten, Sir John won’t for his tenth part ask you one.

1817. DRAKE, SHAKSPEARE, &c., i. 88. The language of our Universities ... confers the designation of Dominus on those who have taken their first degree of Bachelor of Arts; the word Dominus was naturally translated Sir, and, as almost every clergyman had taken his first degree, it became customary to apply the term to the lower class of the hierarchy.

Sir Garnet, subs. phr. (street’s).—All right, or as it should be. [An echo of the days when Sir Garnet (now Viscount) Wolseley was in the forefront of military matters.]

1886-96. MARSHALL, Une Affaire d’Honneur [‘Pomes,’ 110]. And the start was all Sir Garnet, Jenny went for Emma’s Barnet.

Sir Harry, subs. phr. (old).—A jakes: see Mrs. Jones. To visit (or go to) Sir Harry = to evacuate the bowels.

Sir Hugh’s bones. See Bones.

Sir Jack Sauce. See Jack Sauce and Sauce.

Sir John Barleycorn. See Barleycorn.


Sir Martin WaStaffe, subs. phr. (venery).—The penis: see Prick.—Urquhart.


Sir Martin Wagstaffe, subs. phr. (venery).—The penis: see Prick.—Urquhart.


Sir RaRAH! intj. (old).—An angry, contemptuous, or jesting address: also (modern) Sirree! (or Sirree, Bob!)

1526. Rastell, Hundred Merry Tales, 74. [The Sir is lengthened into Sirra.]


1600. Jonson, Cynthia's Revels, ii. 1. Page, boy, and Sirra: these are all my titles.


1617. MinSHEu, Guide to Tongues. Sirra, a contemptuous word, ironically compounded of Sir and a, ha, as much as to say ah, sir, or sir boy, &c.

1615. Daniel, Hymen's Triumph, 313. Ah, Sirra, have I found you? are you here?

1683. Shadwell, Sg. of Alsatia, ii. Look on my finger, Sirra, look here; here's a famble.

d.1721. Prior, Cupid and Ganymede. Guess how the goddess greets her son: Come hither, Sirra; no begone.

1848. Ruxton, Far West, 3. No Sirre-K; I went out when Spiers lost his animals.

1857. Baltimore Sun, 30 Mar. 'Sir, are you drunk?' The juror . . . in a bold, half-defiant tone replied, 'No, Sirree, Bob!' 'Well . . . I fine you five dollars for the 'Ree' and ten for the 'Bob.'

1900. Drought to Bay, ii. 'So the title is secure?' . . . 'Yes, Sir-Ree!'

SirreCH, subs. (back slang).—A cherry.

Sir- (or Save-) reverence, subs. verb, and intj. (old colloquial).—1. An apology: the commonest of expressions, for nearly six centuries, on mentioning anything likely to offend, or for which an excuse was thought necessary. Whence (2) = excrement, a Turd (q.v.); and as verb = (1) To shit (q.v.), and (2) to excuse oneself. [Lat. salvare reverentiam, whence Sa'Reverence, Sur-reverence, and Sir-reverence.]

1356. Mandeville, Travels, 185. But after my lyttyle wytt, it semethe me, Savynge here reverence, that it is more.

1586. Warner, Alb. Eng., ii. 10. And all for love (Surreverence love!) did make her chew the cudde.

1592. Greene, Blacke Books Messenger [Works, xi. 33]. His head, and his necke, were all besmeared with the soft Sirreverence, so as he stunke worse than a Jakes Farmer.

1593. Shakspeare, Comedy of Errors, iii. 2. A very reverend body: ay, such a one as a man may not speak of, without he say, Sir-reverence. Ibid. (1593), Romeo and Juliet, i. 4. We'll draw you from the mire Of this Sir-reverence, love, wherein thou stickest Up to the ears.

1594. Lyly Mother Bombie, i. 2. Saving a reverence, that's a lie!

1596. Harrington, Metam. Ajax [Letter prefixed to]. The third I cannot name wel without Save-reverence, and yet it sounds not unlike the shooting place.

1605. Jonson, Chapman, &c., Eastward Hoe, iv. 1. We shall as soon get a fart from a dead man . . . Sister, Sir-reverence!

1607. Puritan, iii. 1. A man that would . . . go ungarthered, unbuttoned, nay (Sir-reverence!) untrussed, to morning prayer.

1614. Jonson, Bartholomew Fair, iv. 1. His wife, Sir Revere, cannot get him make his water, or shift his shirt, without his warrant.
1626. FLETCHER, Fair Maid of the Inn, iii. 1. The . . . suitors that attend to usher Their loves, sir-reverence, to your daughter.

1630. TAYLOR, Epig., 40. If to a foule discourse thou hast pretence, Before thy foule words name sir-reverence.

d.1650. FLETCHER, Poems, 10. A puppy licks Manneia’s lipps, the sense I grant, a dog may kiss—— sir-reverence.

1655. Massinger, Very Woman, ii. 3. The beastliest man . . . (sir-reverence of the company)—a rank wholemaster.

1665. HEAD, English Rogue (1874), i. iii. 30. Another time sir-reverencing in a paper, and running to the window with it.

1662. Rump Songs, ii. 47. First with a sir-reverence ushers the Rump.

1703. Ward, London Spy, ii. 38. A narrow Lane, as dark as a Burying Vault, which Stunk of stale Sprats . . . and sirreverence.

d.1704. Brown, Works, ii. 180. Knocking a shiting porter down, when you were drunk, back in his own sir-reverence.


1771. Smollett, Humph. Clinker (1900), i. 66. Asked if he did not think such a . . . mixture would improve the whole mass, ‘Yes . . . as a plate of marmalade would improve a pan of sirreverence.’

1785. Grose, Vulgar Tongue, s.v. reverence. An ancient custom which obliges any person easing himself near the highway . . . on the word reverence being given him by a passenger to take off his hat with his teeth, and without moving . . . to throw it over his head, by which it frequently falls into the excrement . . . A person refusing to obey might be pushed backwards. ibid., s.v. Tartaddlin Tart.

1847. Halliwell, Arch. and Prov. Words, s.v. reverence. A woman of Devon describing something not peculiarly delicate, apologized with “saving your reverence.” This is not uncommon in the country.

SIR SAUCE. See Jack Sauce and Sauce.

SIR SYDNEY, subs. phr. (old).—A clasp knife (Grose and Vaux).

SIR THOMAS GRESHAM. To sup with Sir Thomas Gresham, verb. phr. (old).—To go hungry: see Duke Humphrey.

1628. Hayman, Quilllibet [Epigram on a Loafer]. For often with duke Humphrey thou dost dine, And often with sir Thomas Gresham sup.

See Perthshire Greybreek.

SIR TIMOTHY, subs. phr. (B. E. and Grose).—‘One that Treats every Body, and Pays the Reckonings every where.’

SIR TRISTAM’S KNOT, subs. phr. (old).—The hangman’s noose: see Ladder and Horsecollar.

[?]. WILYAM BULLEIN. Light fellows merrily will call . . . neckweede, or Sir Tristam’s knot.

SIR WALTER SCOTT, subs. phr. (rhyming).—A pot of beer.

SISERARA (SARSARA, SISERARA, SASARARA, &c., subs. (old).—I. A writ of removal from a lower to a higher Court. Hence (2) = a blow, a scolding, an outburst; with a sarsara = with a vengeance, suddenly.

1607. Tourneur, Revenger’s Mag. [Dodsley, Old Plays (Reed), iv. 379]. Pray . . . that their sins may be removed by a writ of error, and their souls fetched up to heaven with a sasara.

1607. Puritan, iii. 3. If it be lost or stole . . . a cunning kinsman of mine . . . would fetch it again with a sesara.

1758. Sterne, Tristam Shandy, vi. 47. I fell in love all at once with a sisereara.

1766. Goldsmith, Vicar, xxii. Gentle or simple, out she shall pack with a sussaraara.

1771. Smolett, Humphrey Clinker, i. 80. I have given the dirty slut a siserary.
Sister.

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Sit-on-a-rock.

1832. Scott [Century]. He attacked it with such a siserary of Latin as might have scared the devil himself.

SISTER, subs. (old).—A disguised whore: see TART.

1607. Dekker, Westward Ho, ii. 2. The serving-man has his punk, the student his nun... the Puritan his sister.

See Brother Smut.

SISTERHOOD, subs. (old).—Harlotry in general.

1821. Egan, Life in London, ii. 1. She certainly must be considered a female... materially different from the sisterhood in general.

Sit, subs. (American printers').—Situation: e.g. OUT OF A SIT= out of a job.

Phrases.—To sit on one's knees= to kneel; to sit under= to attend the ministry of some particular divine; to sit a woman= to keep the night-courtship (q.v.): cf. Bundle; to sit on (or upon)= (1) to take to task, to snub—in anger, contempt, or jest: also sat-upon, adj. = reprimanded, snubbed; and (2) to allow milk to brim in the pan; to sit eggs= to outstay one's welcome; to sit in= to adhere firmly; to sit up= to pull oneself together; to make one sit up= to astonish, disconcert, or get an advantage. See also Bodkin, Skirts.

1474-85. Paston Letters [Arber] 235. [Oliphant, New Eng., i. 341. Our slang use of sit upon is foreshadowed... the King intends to sitte upon a criminal; that is, in judgment.]

[?] Battle of Babrinnes [Child, Ballads, vii. 229. When they can to the hill againe They sitt doun on their knees.

1644. Milton, Of Education. There would then also appear in pulpits other visages, other gestures, and stuff otherwise wrought than we now sit under.

1754. Connoisseur, No. 27. The... audience that sits under our preachers.

1821. Scott, Kenilworth, xxxii. I protest, Rulland, that while he sat on his knees before me... I had much ado to forbear cutting him over the pate.

1830. Southey, Bunyan, 25. At this time he sat (in puritanical language) under the ministry of holy Mr. Gifford.

1852. Notes and Queries, 1 S., iv. 43. It is said a young man is sitting a young woman when he is wooing or courting her.

1855. Thackeray, Newcomes, ii. Each to sit under his or her favourite minister.

1867. C. H. Wall, tr. Moliere, i. 411. The jester shall be sat upon in his turn; he shall have a rap over the knuckles, by Jove.

1880. A. Trollope, The Duke's Children, xxvi. Experience had taught him that the less people demanded the more they were sat upon.

1883. James Payn, Thicker than Water, xxxi. The only person to whom he had ever known Mary distinctly antagonistic... He had seen her sit upon him... rather heavily more than once.

1885. Referee, March 25, 2, 4. In the years gone by when I was good, and used to sit under Newman Hall at Surrey Chapel.

1888. G. Gissing, A Life's Morning, iii. He allowed himself to be sat upon gracefully; a snub well administered to him was sure of its full artistic, and did not fail in its moral effect.

1891. Harry Ludger, 15. I forgot to open last term's bills. I found them yesterday all stowed away in a drawer, and they made me sit up.

1893. Chambers's Jour., 25 Feb., 128. With that sat-upon sort of man... you never knew where he may break out.

1902. Free Lance, 6 Oct., 4, 2. The fashion papers of Paris make even America sit up.

Sith-nom, subs. phr. (back slang).—A month.

Sit-on-a-rock, subs. phr. (American).—Rye whiskey.
**Sit-still-nest.** 219

**Sit-still-nest,** subs. phr. (provincial).—A cow-turd; QUAKER (q.v.); PANCAKE (q.v.).

**Sitter,** subs. (Harrow).—A sitting room; cf. BREKKER, FOOTER, SACER, &c.

**Sitting-breeches.** To wear one's sitting breeches, verb. phr. (old).—"To stay long in company" (Grose): also to sit longer than a hen: cf. to sit eggs.

**Situation,** subs. (racing).—A place.


**Sit-upons,** subs. phr. (common).—Trousers: see Kicks.

1850. Smedley, Frank Fairlegh, 25. I put a piece of cobbler's wax on the seat of Mildman's chair, and ruined his best Sunday-going sit-upons.

1857. Cuthbert Bede, Verdant Green, H. x. I should advise you, old fellow, to get your sit-upons seated with wash-leather.

**Sivvy,** subs. (common).—Word of honour; asseveration: e.g., "'PON MY SIVVY = 'Tis true, Honour bright!" Cf. Davy.

1883. Greenwood, Tag, Rag, and Co. 'Pon my sivvy, if you were to see her pecking, you'd think she was laying on pounds weight in a day instead of losing.

1884. Daily Telegraph, 2 Feb., 3, 1. "You'll 'scuse the cheek I gave you just now, mister," the scowling young gentleman remarked, "but, 'PON MY SIVVY, we took you for the police."

1892. Watson, Wops the Waif, 11. Now I'll be as quiet as a dummy; I will, 'pon my sivy!

**Six,** subs. (old).—1. Beer sold at 6s. a barrel; small beer: cf. FOUR-HALF and (modern) SIX ALE.


1633. Rowley, Match at Midnight, i. 1. Look if he be not drunk! The very sight of him makes one long for a cup of six.

2. (Oxford Univ.).—A privy.

**At-sixes-and-sevens,** phr. (old).—In confusion; at loggerheads (Grose): also to set on seven = to confuse, to disarray.

c.1340. Avowyn of King Arther, 64 [Camden Soc., Eng. Meln. Rom., 89]. Alle in sundur hit [a tun] brast IN SIX OR IN SEUYN.

1359. Chaucer, Troilus, iv. 622. Lat not this wretched wo thyne herte gnawe, But manly, set the worlde ON SIX AND SEVENE.

1396. Nashe, Saffron Walden [Works, iii. 38]. Caring for all other things else, sets his owne estate AT SIXE AND SEUEN.

1397. Shakepeare, Richard II., ii. 2. All is uneven, And everything is left at sixe and seauen.

1598. Florio, World of Words, s.v. Asbaraglio . . . at sixe and seauen, in vain.

1678. Cotton, Virgil Travestie [Works (1725) 73]. But, like a Dame of Wits bereaven, Let all Things go AT SIX AND SEVEN.

1704. Brown, Works, i. 68. May thy Affairs . . . All the World o'er AT SIXES lie AND SEVENS.

1772. Bridges, Burlesque Homer, 481. Whilst things went on AT SIX AND SEVEN, Jove smok'd a serious pipe in heaven.

1781. Gentleman's Mag., li. 367. At sixes and sevens, as the old woman left her house.
Six-and-Eightpence. 220  Sixty-per-cent.

1790. D’Arbley, Diary (1876), iii.
  240. All my workmen in the country are AT SIXES AND SEVENS, and in want of my directions.

1809. Malkin, Gil Blas [Routledge], 432. The affairs of the treasurer . . . are all AT SIXES AND SEVENS.

1816. Scott, Antiquary, xxii. All goes TO SIXES AND SEVENS—an universal saturnalia seems to be proclaimed in my peaceful and orderly family.

Six of one and half a dozen of the other, phr. (common).—Much alike; not a pin to choose between them; 'never a barrel the better herring.'

Six-and-Eightpence, subs. phr. (old).—1. A solicitor: see Green-bag (Grose).


2. (old).—See quot.

c.1696. B. E., Cant. Crew, s.v. Six and Eight-pence, the usual Fee given, to carry back the Body of the Executed Malefactor, to give it Christian Burial.

Six-and-Tips, subs. phr. (Irish).—Whiskey and small beer (Grose).

Sixer, subs. (thieves').—1. Six months' hard labour. Also 2. (prison) see quot. 1877.

1869. Temple Bar, xxvi. 75. The next bit I did was a SIXER.

1877. Five Years' Penal Servitude, iii. 194. He keeps a sharp eye on that man to see he does not "filch" a SIXER, as the six-ounce loaf, served with the dinner, is called.

1886-96. Marshall, Bleary Bill ['Pomes '61]. I see what the upshot will be, Dear me! A SIXER with H.A.R.D.

Sixer, subs. phr. (colloquial). A person six-feet (or more) in height.

C.1886. Scientific American[Century]. The centenarian is a SIX-FOOTER, chews tobacco, and loves a good story.

Sixpence. See Spit.

Sixpenny, subs. (Eton).—A playing field.

1864. Eton School Days, vi. If you are not in SIXPENNY after twelve, I will do my best to give you a hiding wherever I meet you.

Adj. (old).—Cheap; mean; worthless: generic. Hence SIX-penny strikers = petty foot-pads.

1598. Shakspeare, 1 Hen. IV., ii. 1, 82. I am joined with no foot-land rakers, no long-staff SIXPENNY strikers.

1605. London Prodigal, v. I'll not let a SIXPENNY purse escape me.

C.1619. Massinger, &c., City Madam, iii. 1. I know them, swaggering, suburban roarsers, SIXPENNY truckers.

Six-shooter, subs. phr. (common). A six chambered revolver. SIX-SHOOTER HORSE = a swift horse.

1887. Francis, Saddle and Mocassin. A six-shooter horse is a heap better than a six-shooter gun in these cases.

1894. W. M. Baker, New Timothy, 177. "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal"—bowie-knives, SIX-SHOOTERS, an' the like.

1900. Savage, Brought to Bay, viii. With a quiet smile, he loaded his SIX-SHOOTER . . . 'for contingencies.'

Sixty, subs. (common).—Generic for magnitude.


Sixty-per-cent, subs. phr. (old).—A usurer: also CENT-PER-CENT.

1616. Fletcher, Custom of the Country, ii. 3. There are few gallants . . . that would receive such favours from the devil, though he appeared like a broker, and demanded sixty i' th' hundred.

1853. Reade, Gold, i. 1. What you do on the sly, I do on the sly, old sixty PER CENT.
1859. Kingsley, Geoffrey Hamlyn, xiii. "Good night, old mole," said Hawker; "good night, old bat, old parchment skin, old sixty per cent. Ha, ha!"

1889. Marsh, Crime and Criminal, xii. Was he going to develop into a sixty per cent, and offer me a loan?

Six-upon-four, phr. (nautical).—See quot.

1889. Marshall, Crime and Criminal, xii. Was he going to develop into a sixty per cent, and offer me a loan?

Six-upon-four, phr. (nautical).—See quot.

1838. Glascock, Land Sharks and Sea Gulls, ii. 193. It was wicked work with them when it came to be six upon four, in other words, when long cruizes produced short commons.

1885. Household Words, 25 July, 260. In his time there were often six upon four aboard ship, and two banyan days in a week, which being translated is, the rations of four men were served out amongst six, in addition to which, on two days in the week no rations were served out at all.

Six-water grog, subs. phr. (nautical).—Six of water to one of spirit.

1834. Marryat, Peter Simple, xxxv. "Take care I don't send for another helmsman, that's all, and give the reason why. You'll make a wry face upon six-water grog to-morrow, at seven bells."

Size [subs. and verb, and Sizar], subs. (Cambridge Univ. and Trin. Coll., Dublin).—1. See quot.: the grade no longer exists; practically speaking, it has ceased to exist for a century.

1592. Nashe, Piers Penniless, 45. [Oliphant, New Eng., 2, 11. A Cambridge butler sets up a size (allowance of bread); hence come sizars].

1594. Greene, Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay. Friar Bacon's sub-sizer is the greatest blakhead in all Oxford.

1605. Shakspere, Lear, ii. 4, 178. 'Tis not in thee to grudge my pleasures... to scant my sizes.

1606. Ret. from Parnassus [Nares]. So ho, master recorder, you that are one of the devil's fellow commoners, one that sizeth the devil's butteries.

1617. Minshen, Guide unto Tongues, s.v. A size is a portion of bread or drink, i.e., a farthing, which Schollers in Cambridge haue at the butterie; it is noted with the letter S., as in Oxford with the letter Q. for halfe a farthing and q/u. for a farthing; and whereas they say in Oxford to Battle in the butterie booke, i.e., to set downe on their names what they take in Bread, Drinke, Butter, Cheese, &c., so in Cambridge they say to size, i.e., to set downe their quantum, i.e., how much they take on their names in the Butterie booke.

1626. Fletcher and Rowley, Wit at Sev. Weapons, ii. To be so strict a niggard to your Commons, that you're fain to size your belly out with shoulder fees.

1630. Randolph, Aristippus [Hazlitt, Works(1875), 14]. Drinking College tap-lash... will let them have no more learning than they size.

1633. Shirley, Witty Fair One, iv. 2. I know what belongs to sizing, and have answered to my cue in my days; I am free of the whole university.


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Size. To sup at one's own expense. If a man asks you to sup, he treats you: if to size, you pay for what you eat, liquor only being provided by the inviter. Ibid. Sizing-party's. A number of students who contribute each his part towards a supper.

1787. Gentleman's Mag., 1147. The term sub-sizar became forgotten, and the sizar was supposed to be the same as the servitor. Ibid. (1795), 21. In general, a size is a small plateful of any eatable; and at dinner to size is to order for yourself any little luxury that may chance to tempt you... for which you are expected to pay the cook at the end of the term.

1798. Laws of Harvard College [Hall, College Words and Customs, 428]. When they come into town after commons, they may be allowed to size a meal at the kitchen.

18... Hawkins, Orig. of Drama, iii. 271. You are still at Cambridge with your size cue.

1811. Laws of Yale College [Hall, College Words and Customs, 428]. At the close of each quarter the Butler shall make up his bill against each student, in which every article sized, or taken up by him at the Buttery shall be particularly charged.
184. Gradus ad Cantab., s.v. Sizar. The distinction between pensioners and sizers is by no means considerable ... Nothing is more common than to see pensioners and sizers taking sweet counsel together, and walking arm-in-arm to St. Mary's as friends.

1838. Thackeray, Book of Snobs, xiii. The unlucky boys who have no tassels to their caps are called sizers—servitors [sic] at Oxford ... A distinction is made in their clothes because they are poor; for which reason they wear a badge of poverty, and are not allowed to take their meals with their fellow students.

185. Macaulay, Oliver Goldsmith. The sizers paid nothing for food and tuition, and very little for lodging; but they had to perform some menial services from which they have long been relieved. They swept the court; they carved up the dinner to the fellows' table, and changed the plates, and poured out the ale of the rulers of the society.

1851. Bristed, Eng. Univ., 20. 'Go through a regular second course instead of the sizings.' Ibid., 19. Soup, pastry and cheese can be sized for.

1870. Peirce, Hist. Harvard Univ., 219. We were allowed at dinner a cue of beer, which was a half-pint, and a sizing of bread, which I cannot describe to you. It was quite sufficient for one dinner.

1861. O'Curry, Ancient Irish, 1. iv. Public schools where the sons of the lower classes waited on the sons of the upper classes, and received certain benefits (in food, clothes, and instruction) from them in return. In fact the sizarships in our modern colleges appear to be a modified continuation of this ancient system.

1864. Hotten, Slang Dict., s.v. Sizer. Poor scholars at Cambridge, annually elected, who got their dinners (including sizings) from what was left at the upper, or Fellows' table, free, or nearly so. They paid rent of rooms, and some other fees, on a lower scale than the "Pensioners" or ordinary students, and were equal with the "battlers" and "servitors" at Oxford.

1889. Cambridge Univ. Cal., 5. Sizers are generally Students of limited means. They usually have their commons free, and receive various employments.

2. (old).—Half-a-pint (Grose).

3. (colloquial).—Result; state; fact.


1889. Loc. Cit. Gaz., 8 Feb. They don't like to see a man's figure-head battered, that's about the size of it.

1891. Gould, Double Event, 295. 'That's about the size of it,' said Jack, 'and I don't think you could do better.'

1893. Milliken, 'Arry Ballads, 22. 'That's the size of it, Charlie.'

1902. Headon Hill, Caged, xviii. That's about the size of it ... I could have got away.

Verb. (colloquial).—To measure; to gauge; to reckon up: also TO SIZE UP.

1889. Mirk, Inst. Parish Priests [E. E. T. S.], 39. [Oliphant, New Eng., i. 106. The old noun syse is used for measure; hence our to size men on parade.]

1847. Porter, Big Bear, 94. You see, Mr. Porter, I thot I'd size her pile.

1889. Puck's Library, 25 Ap. If you want to know just how thoroughly the community has sized you up, and to get the exact dimensions, ask for the best part in the amateur theatricals.

1891. Marriott-Watson, Web of Spider, xi. I haven't seen your little girl's face yet ... It was dark ... and I hadn't time to size her.

1900. Savage, Brought to Bay, i. The two ... had sized up the other guests as not worth ... powder.

Skedaddle. See Skeer.

Skedaddle, subs. and verb. (common).—As subs. = hasty flight: also skedaddling. As verb. = to scamper off; to scatter; to spill. For synonyms see Bunk.

1861. New York Tribune [Bartlett]. With the South-east clear and General Price retiring into Arkansas in the South-west, we may expect to witness such a grand skedaddle of Secesh and its colored property as was never seen before.

1861. Missouri Democrat, Aug. No sooner did the traitors discover their approach than they skedaddled, a phrase the Union boys up here apply to the good use the Seceshers make of their legs in time of danger.
1862. *New York Tribune*, 27 May, 'War Correspondence.' Rebel *skedaddling* is the next thing on the programme.

1864. *Hotten, Slang Dict.*, 292. Lord Hill wrote [to *The Times*] to prove that it was excellent Scotch. The Americans only misapply the word... in Dumfries—to 'spill'—milkmaidssaying, 'You are *skedaddling* all that milk.'

1874. *Baker, Ismailia*, 211. Their noisy drums had ceased, and suddenly I perceived a general... SKEDADDLE.

1880. *Atlantic Monthly*, xl. 234. We used to live in Lancashire and heard *skedaddling* every day of our lives. It means to scatter, or drop in a scattering way.

1880. *Mortimer Collins, Thoughts in my Garden*, i. 50. The burghers *skedaddled* and the Squire, thanks to his faint-hearted butler, had no chance of using his cavalry sword.

1890. *Gould, Landed at Last*, vii. They pays regular. There's no midnight *skedaddling* about them.

1898. *Gould, Landed at Last*, vii. They pays regular. There's no midnight *skedaddling* about them.

1902. *Headon Hill, Caged*, xxxiv. And the bars, are they cut ready for a *skedaddle*.

**Skeer,** verb. (American).—To scare. Hence SKEERY (SKARY, SCARY) = (1) dreadful; (2) frightened, nervous.


1825. *Neal, Bro. Jonathan*, i. iv. Ye wasn't *skeered*, nor nothin', was ye, tho'.

1841. *The Kinsmen*, i. 150. 'Don't you be SCAREY,' said he.

1848. *Robb, Squatter Life* [Bartlett]. I got a little SCARY and a good deal mad.

1852. *Haliburton, Traits of Amer. Humour*, i. 222. He's the SCARIEST horse you ever saw.

1869. *Blackmore, Lorna Doone*, lix. The horses were a little SKEARY.

1880. *Scribner's Mag.*, Jan., 332. I seen they was mighty SKEERED.

1885. *Hawley Smart, Struck Down*, xi. Women get SKEARY, and desperate afraid of being compromised.

d.1892. *Whittier, Poems [Century]*. I'm SCARY always to see her shake Her wicked hand.

**Skeesicks**, subs. (American).—A good-for-nothing; also like 'dog,' 'rogue,' 'rascal,' in playful address. — *Bartlett.* [Leland (S. J. & C.): 'I take it rather to mean a fidgetty, fussy, little fellow.']

1858. *Evening Star* (Washington), Nov. "Oh, he be d-d I" replied the fellow: "he's the little SKEEZICKS that told me to call for Long." This brought down the house.

1870. *Bret Harte, Miggles [Century]*. Thar ain't nobody but him within ten miles of the shanty, and that ar'... old SKEESICKS knows it.

**Skeet,** verb. (old).—A variant of SCOOT (q.v.); to run, or decamp. As adj. and adv. (old literary) = swift, fleet.


c.1400. *Tale of CAMELYN*, 185. A steede ther sadeled smertely and *sket*.

c.1430. *Desir of Troy* [E. E. T. S.], 1434. This Askathes, the skathill, had sket sons thre.

1848. *Burton, Waggeries*, 17. The critter... *skeeted* over the side o' the ship into the water.

**Skeeter**, subs. (American).—A mosquito.

1852. *Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin*, xx. Law, Miss Feely whip!—[she] wouldn't kill a *skeeter*.

**Skelder**, subs. (old).—A rogue; a SPONGE (q.v.): as verb. = to cheat; to play the sponge: cf. SKELLUM. Hence *skeldering* = swindling; sponging.
1599. Jonson, Ev. Man Out of Humour. His profession is skeldering and odling. Ibid. (1601), Poetaster, iii. 4. A man may skelderye now and then of half a dozen shillings or so. Ibid. i. There was the mad skeldering captain . . . that presses every man he meets, with an oath to lend him money.

1609. Dekker, Gulls Horne-Booke, v. If he be poore, he shall now and then light upon some Gull or other, whom he may skeldery (after the gentle fashion) of mony.

1611. Middleton and Dekker, Roaring Girl, v. i. Soldiers? You skeldering varlets!

1630. Corvat, Crudities. He longs for sweet grapes, but going to steale 'em, He findeth soure graspe and gripes from a Dutch skelum.


1773. Hawkins, Orig. Eng. Drama, iii. 119. If skeldering fall not to decay, thou shalt flourish.

1823. Scott, Peveril, xxxviii. She hath many a thousand stitched to her petticoat; such a wife would save thee from skeldering on the public.

**Skeleton.** A skeleton in the cupboard (locker, closet, house), subs. phr. (colloquial). — A secret source of trouble, fear, or annoyance. Fr. un cadavre.

1855. Thackeray, Newcomes, xvii. Barnes’ Skeleton Closet [Title].

**Skellum** (or **Scellum**), subs. (Old Cant). — A rascal: a vagabond: cf. Skelder.

1611. Corvat, Crudities. He longs for sweet grapes, but going to steale 'em, He findeth soure graspees and gripes from a Dutch skelum.

1630. Taylor, Works, ii. 123. None hold him, but all cry, Lope, scellum, lope!

1683. Pepys, Diary, 3 Ap. He ripped up Hugh Peters (calling him the execrable skellum), his preaching stirred up the maids of the city to bring their bodkins and thimbles.

1690. Pagan Prince. Let me send that skellum to perdition.

1719. Durrey, Pills, i. 210. Now to leave off writing, Skellums pine and grieve, When we're next for Fighting We'll not ask you leave.

1791. Burns, Tam o'Shanter. She tauld thee weel thou wast a skellum, A blethering, blustering, drunken blellum.

**Skelper** subs. (provincial). — Anything big or striking: see Spanker and Whopper. [Skelp = a blow, and as verb. to strike.]

**Skelter.** See Helter-skelter.

**Skensmadam** subs. (provincial). — A show dish, sometimes real, sometimes sham.

**Skerfer** subs. (pugilists'). — A blow on the neck.

**Sket** subs. (thieves'). — A skeleton-key.

**Skevington's - Daughter** (or (-irons)). See Scavenger's-daughter.

**Skew** subs. (Old Cant). — 1. 'A Begger's Wooden Dish or Cup' (B. E. and Grose).

1641. Brome, Jovial Crew, ii. This is Bien Bowse . . . Too little is my skew.

1754. Song (Scoundrels'Dict.). To thy Bugher and thy skew, Filch and Jybes, I bid adieu.

2. (Harrow). — An entrance examination at the end of term: that at the commencement is the 'dab,' after which there is no further chance; a shaky candidate tries the dab first. As verb. = to turn back, to fail.

**Skewer** subs. (American). — 1. A sword. Hence, as verb. = (1) to run through; and (2) to impose on.

1848. Duvivage, Stray Subjects, 147. Our enterprising journal, which had purchased the news, in company with its sharp friends, had been skewered.

2. (common). — A pen. Fr. une griffarde (or griffonante).
**Skew-fisted.**

**Skew-fisted, adj. phr.** (old).—'Awkward, ungainly' (B. E.).

**Skew-gée.** subs. (colloquial).—A squint: as adj. = crooked, skew'd, squinting.

**Skewgy-mewgy.** subs. phr. (nautical).—See quot.

1886. *St. James's Gaz.* 7 Ap. The skipper rejoices in a steady drizzling Jain, which keeps a certain caustic composition, known to yachtsmen by the mysterious name of skewgy-mewgy, damp and active under the scrubbing-brushes and holy-stones of her crew.

**Skewing.** subs. (gilders). In pl. = perquisites; makings (q.v.). [Properly skew (gilders') = to remove superfluous gold leaf, and to make good defects.] Analogous terms are cabbage (tailors'); blue-pigeon (plumbers'); menavelings (beggars'); fluff (railway clerks'); pudding, or jam (common).

**Skew-the-deew.** subs. phr. (common).—A splay-footed person; a bumble-foot (q.v.).

**Skewwow, adj.** (old).—'Crooked, inclining to one side' (Grose): also all askew.

**Skid** (or skiv), subs. (common).—A sovereign: see rhino.

2. (American).—A volunteer; a militiaman.

To put on the skid, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To speak or act with caution.

1885. *Punch,* 31 Jan., 60. I could pitch you a yarn on that text; but I fear I must put on the skid.

**Skiff, subs.** (common).—A leg [?].

1891. *M. Advertiser,* 6 Ap. Now, 16s. 3d. wanted a lot of earning, more especially when a man had to drive an "old crock" with "skinny skiffs."

None of them could deny that the "S.T." cabs were horsed by very old racehorses, bad platers, and what were termed "chin backed horses."

**Skiffle.** subs. (common).—A great hurry: cf. scuffle.

**Skill.** subs. (football).—A goal kicked between posts.

**Skillet.** subs. (nautical).—A ship's cook.

**Skillingers (The).** subs. (military).—The 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons: also "The Old Inniskillings."

**Skilly** (or skilligolee), subs. (formerly nautical and prison: now common).—I. A thin broth or soup of oatmeal and water. Hence (2) anything of little or no value. Skilly and toke = prison fare.

1846. *Marrvat,* Peter Simple, xi. I am not worth a skillagolee, and that is the reason which induces me to condescend to serve his Majesty.


1870. *Chambers's Miscellany,* No. 77, 6. Burgoo, or as it was sportively called, skillagallee, was oatmeal boiled in water to the consistency of hasty pudding.

1871. *Figaro,* 7 Oct. They christened the latter "Cardwell's skilly," and a course of it would soon turn our Life Guards into the lightest of cavalry.

1883. *D. Telegraph,* 19 May, 5, 4. England did not wish her to eat, skilly, and to wear the "parish dress."

1889. *Sportsman,* 2 Jan. The worthy ones who play hole-and-corner with society are made to partake of the toke of contrition, and the skilly of repentance.

1902. *Desart,* Herne Lodge Myst., xvi. The thought of skilly . . . I had very vague ideas . . . came into my mind.

**Skilt.** subs. (common).—In pl. = trousers: see kicks.
Skim, subs. (thieves'). — See quot.

1869. Daily News, 29 July, 'Police Reports.' They thought it contained his skim (money). They took down the bag without waking him, and found that, instead of skim, the parcel contained two revolvers.

Skimble-skamble, subs., adj., and adv. (old colloquial).—Rigmarole, nonsense; wandering, confused; incoherently.

1598. Shakespeare, i Hen. IV., iii, 154. Such a deal of skimble-skamble stuff.

1630. Taylor, Works, Desc. of a Wanton. Here's a sweet deal of skimble-skamble stuff.

Skimmery, subs. (Oxford Univ.). St. Mary's Hall.

1853. Bradley, Verdant Green, viii. I swopped the beggar to a skimmeryman.

1860. G. and P. Wharton, Wits and Beaux of Society, 427. After leaving Westminster School he was sent to immortal skimmery, Oxford.

Skimmington, subs. (old).—I. See quotas: also to ride the skimmington (or [Scots'] the stang). [For a long description see Butler, Hudibras, ii. ii. 585.] Hence (2) a row, a quarrel.

1562. Stowe's London [Strype], B. ii, 258. Shrove Monday at Charing Cross was a man carried of four men, and before him a bagpipe playing, a shawm, and a drum beating, and twenty men with links burning round about him. The cause was his next neighbour's wife beat her husband; it being so ordered that the next should ride about to expose her.

1685. Oldham, Satyrs. When I'm in pomp on high processions shown, Like pageants of lord may'r, or skimmington. 1753. Walpole, Letters, i. 280. There was danger of a skimmington between the great wig and the coif, the former having given a flat lie to the latter.

1785. Grose, Vulgar Tongue, s.v. Riding skimmington. A ludicrous cavalcade, in ridicule of a man beaten by his wife. A man behind a woman, face to horse's tail, distaff in hand, which he seems to work, the woman beating him with a ladle; a smock on a staff is carried before them denoting female superiority. They are accompanied by rough music, frying pans, bull's horns, marrowbones and cleavers, &c.—Abridged.

1822. Scott, Fortunes of Nigel, xxii. Note. The skimmington has been long discontinued in England.

1855. Exeter Police Report, 9 Sep. Summary justice had been done by a skimmington match [sic], on two married persons, whose ill and faithless example had scandalised the neighbourhood.

Skimp, verb. (colloquial).—To stint; to scamp (q.v.). As adj. = insufficient, meagre; skimping (or skimp) = scanty, carelessly made, slightly treated.

1864. Sun, 28 Dec., Review Hotten's Slang Dict. Mr. Hotten has made no mention of a dress that is describable as skimp.

1879. Brewer, Eng. Studies, 444. The work was not skimping work by any means.

1885. Craddock, Proph. Gt. Smoky Mountains, iv. Grey hair drawn into a skimp knot at the back of the head.

1888. Eggleston, Graysons, xix. The woman who has ... schemed and skimped to achieve her attire knows the real pleasure and victory of self-adornment.

Skimshander. See scrimshaw.

Skin, subs. (old).—I. A purse; a pocket-book; any receptacle for money. Thus a queer skin = an empty purse; frisk the skin = 'clean him out' (Grose and Vaux).

1821. Haggart, Life, 15. Young McGuire had taken some skins with a few shillings in each.

1852. Judson, Myst. of New York, vii. The offisare ave frisk me; he ave not found ze skin or ze dummy, eh?

1856. Mayhew, Gt. World of London, iii. The London buzman can keep his pony by abstracting skins from gentlemen's pockets.

2. (old).—A sovereign; 20/-: see Rhino.
3. (old).—In pl. = a tanner (Grose).


5. (American).—A translation; a crib (q.v.); a bohn (q.v.). Also as verb. = to copy a solution; and SKINNER = one using an irregular aid to study.

1851. Bristed, Five Years, 394. Barefaced copying from books and reviews in their compositions is familiar to our students, as much so as skinning their mathematical examples. Ibid., 437. Classical men were continually tempted to skin the solution of these examples.

1855. Irving, Wolfert's Roost, 17. The skinners and cowboys of the Revolution, when they wrung the neck of a rooster, did not trouble ... whether they crowed for Congress or King George.

1851-61. Mayhew, London Labour, 81. Perhaps he gets skinned ... and sells them for what he can.

1869. Bradwood, O.V.H., xix. And a carefully roped and bottled animal, that dropped like a meteor upon the racing public for the Chester cup, skinned the lamb for Mr. Bacon, landed every bet standing in his book.

1882. McCabe, New York, xxxix. 545. Skin-faro the only game played here, offers no chance whatever to the player. In skin-faro the dealer can take two cards from the box instead of one whenever he chooses to do so.

Verb (old colloquial).—I. To rob; to strip; to clean out (q.v.); spec. (racing) to win all one's bets; (bookmakers') skin the lamb (or have a skinner) = to win with an unbacked horse; (2) = to swindle; and (3) = to take toll (q.v.). Hence skin-game (e.g., skin-faro: see quot. 1882) = a swindle; skin-house = a gambling den; skinner = (1) a sharpening cheat, a thief: spec. (American) a looter infesting both camps; (2) a pirate; and (3) a race, which being won by a rank outsider, skins the ring.

1883. Sat. Review, 28 April, 533, 2. His victory proved a gold mine to the professional bookmakers, many of whom did not bet against the horse at all, thus performing the profitable operation technically known in the betting-ring as skinning the lamb.

1883. Graphic, 21 April, 410, 2. The Ring are enormous winners on the race, the majority having skinned the lamb.

1883. Greenwood, In Strange Company. Amongst themselves they are skinners, knock-outs, odd-trick men, and they work together in what ... their profession calls a "swim."

1884. Referee, 10 August, 1, 1. The winner being found in Quilt, who had sufficient support to leave the result anything but a skinner for the bookmakers. Ibid. (1889), 2 June. They had made a
little overtime at an inn near the station, and, by way of grace after meat, gone over the landlord, left him skinned, and the furniture smashed.

1890. Atlantic Monthly, lxvi. 511. There were two sets of these scapegraces—the 'Cow-boys,' or cattle thieves, and the SKINNERS, who took everything they could find.

1891. M. Advtr., 21 Mar. The prisoner was entrusted with two tons of coal to deliver. Sergeant Hiscock, of the V division, watched his movements, and saw him skinning the sacks—that is, removing lumps from the tops and placing them in an empty sack.

1896. Lillard, Poker Stories, 51. Southern planters used to lose money just like fun, and were skinned right and left.

1902. D. Mail, 17 Nov., 6, 1. What they shudderingly designate a skinner was enjoyed by a majority of the layers when old Fairyfield credited Mr. George Edwardes with the Belper Selling Plate.

3. (common).—To strip, TO PEEL (q.v.); and (venery), to retire the prepuce, TO SKIN THE LIVE RABBIT. Whence SKINNER (see quot. 1856).

1856. Mayhew, Gt. World of London, 46. Skinners, or women and boys who strip children of their clothes.

1861. Dickens, Great Expectations, xxxi. Skin the stockings off ... or you'll bust 'em.

1896. Lillard, Poker Stories, 59. I have seen a game player just skin off his watch and ring and studs and play them in.

4. (gaming).—TO PLANT A DECK (q.v.): see CONCAVE, BROADS, and REFLECTOR.

16[?]. Marg. of Huntley's Retreat [Child, Ballads, vii. 271]. He had resolved that day To sleep in a whole skin.

1605. Marston, Dutch Courtezan, iii. 1. Blesse me, I was never so out of my skinne in my life.

5. (common).—To abate a price; to lower a value: cf. SHAVING THE LADIES (S.V. SHAVE).

1611. Bible, 'Authorised Version,' Job xix. 20. I am escaped with the skin of my teeth.

6. (common).—To thrash: also to skin alive.

1888. Detroit Free Press, 22 Dec. 'If yer don't stop your guzzum I'll skin yer alive'... She flourished a skillet at him.

1895. Idler, Aug., 63. I'm sure that her parents would skin her, If they thought that she smiled on my suit.

1902. Headon Hill, Caged, xxxiv. I'd have skinned the 'ussy if I'd caught her prying into my grounds.

OTHER COLLOQUIALISMS AND PHRASES. — BY THE SKIN OF ONE'S TEETH = a narrow escape, the closest of close shaves; TO SKIN OUT = to decamp; TO SKIN THE CAT (gymnasts') = to grasp the bar with both hands, raise the feet, and so draw the body, between the arms, over the bar; LIKE EELS, USED TO SKINNING = of good heart; TO SKIN THE EYES (see KEEP); ALL SKIN AND WHIPCORD = well-trussed; in good condition; IN (or WITH) A WHOLE SKIN = uninjured, with impunity; TO SAVE ONE'S SKIN = to escape unhurt: see Bacon; TO SKIN A FLINT (see Skin-Flint); honest as the skin between his brows (or horns): see Brow; to skin a razor = to drive a hard-and-fast bargain; TO SKIN ONE'S SKUNK = to do one's own dirty work; IN A BAD SKIN = angry (Grose); CLEANSKIN (Australian) = an unbranded beast; cf. Maverick; TO LEAP (or JUMP) OUT OF ONE'S SKIN = to be startled or pleased; IN HER (or HIS) SKIN = evasive as to a person's whereabouts.
Skin.

1616-25. Court and Times Jas. I. Oliphant, New Eng., ii. 71. Amongst Romance words are save his skin, refreshed with money . . .

1664. Cotton, Virgil Travestie (1st ed.), 72. Aeneas, was so glad on’s kin, He ready was t’leap out on’s skin.

1704. L’Estrange, Works [Century]. Dangerous civilities, wherein ’tis hard for a man to save both his skin and his credit.


1708-10. Swift, Polite Conversation, i. Col. Pray, Miss, where is your old acquaintance, Mrs. Wayward. Miss. Why, where should she be? You must needs know; she’s in her skin.

1761. Murphy, Citizen, ii. An old miserly good-for-nothing skin-flint.

1809. Malkin, Gil Blas [Routledge], 26. At these words I was ready to jump out of my skin for joy.

1834. Thackeray, Snobs, xii. I should be ready to jump out of my skin if two Dukes would walk down Pall Mall with me.

1882. Grant, Bush Life, i. 206. These clean skins . . . are supposed to belong to the cattle owner, on whose run they emerge from their shelter.

1888. Phil. Ev. Bulletin, 23 Feb. Another Presidential candidate who is abroad, it will be remembered, utilized a pole daily for skinning the cat.

1888. Boldrewood, Robbery Under Arms, xx. Brought out a horse—the same I’d ridden from Gippsland, saddled and bridled, and ready to jump out of his skin.

1891. Gould, Double Event, 101. The horse was regularly worked, and he looked in splendid health and condition, fit to jump out of his skin, to use a racing term.

1896. Sala, London up to Date, 66. At the election I had no less than seventeen black balls; but . . . I got in by the skin of my teeth.

Skin-flint (or Skin), subs. (old). —‘A griping, sharping, close-fisted Fellow’ (B. E., c.1696, and Grose). As verb (or to skin, or flay, a flint, fly, stone, &c.) = to pinch, to screw, to starve; cf. (proverbial) ‘to skin a flea, and bleed a cabbage’; skinny = mean, stingy; the skinflinteries = The Museum of Economic [now Practical] Geology, Jermyn St., W. See file, flay, fleas, and flint for additional quots.

1653. Urquhart, Rabelais, ii. xvii. And by God, I will have their skincoat shaken once yet before they die.

To curry one’s skincoat, verb. phr. (old). —To thrash.

Skin-disease, subs. phr. (common). —Fourpenny ale.

1869. *Byron, Not such a Fool as He Looks* [French], 12. Sharp old skinfish, downy old robber as he is.

1884. *Century Mag.*, xxxix. 227. He would refer to . . . his former employer as that skin.

1890. *D. Tel.*, 11 May. It was suggested that the obstructive vehicles should stop in front of the Museum of Economic Geology—popularly known as the Skinflinteries.

1888. *Savage, Brought to Bay*, vi. This old skinflint is such a character that you should keep all the working results sealed, till he certifies his own.

**Skinful, subs.** (common). — A bellyful—liquor or food.

1600. *Kemp, Dance to Norwich* [Arber, Eng. Garner, vii.]. [Oliphant, New Eng., ii. 52. A man takes a jump; he may have his skinfull of drink.]

1640-50. *Howell, Letters*, iii. 5. [Howell calls his body a skinfull of bones.]

1773. *Goldsmith, She Stoops to Conquer*, . . . If I were the rascals a crown, They always preach best with a skinful.

1868. W. S. Gilbert, *Bab Ballads*, 'Sir Macklin.' He wept to think each thoughtless youth Contained of wickedness a skinful.

1888. Runciman, *Chequers*, 85. They were reasonably anxious to secure a skinful, and they feared lest my powers might prove abnormal.

1897. *D. Mail*, 25 Sep., 7; 3. The elastic skin man comes over here for the first time, and the Custom House authorities will need to look out that he is not employed for smuggling purposes—he has certainly been known many a time to have his skinful.

**Skink, verb.** (old).—Primarily to draw, serve, or offer drink. Whence as subs. = drink or lap (q.v.); and skinker = (1) a tapster, or waiter (B. E.); (2) a landlord, and (3) see quotes. 1785 and 1847.

1205. Layamon [Madden], 8124. Weoren tha bernes [men], i-scængte mid beore, & tha drihliche gumen, weoren windraken.


1600. Haughton, *Grim the Collier* [Dodsley, Old Plays (Reed), xi. 222]. I must be skinker then . . . They all shall want ere Robin shall have none.

1601. Jonson, *Poetaster*, iv. 3. Alb. I'll ply the table with nectar, and make them friends. *Her.* Heaven is like to have but a lame skinker, then. *Ibid.* (1614), *Bartholomew Fair*, ii. Then skink out the first glass ever, and drink with all companies. *Ibid.* (d.1637), *Verses at Apollo*, vii. 295. Hang up all the poor hop-drinkers, Cries old Sym, the King of skinkers.


1617. Fletcher, *Knight of Malta*, iii. 1. Our glass of life runs wine, the vintner skinks it.

c.1650. Brathwayte, *Barnaby's Jo* (1723), 57. There I toss'd it with my skinkers, Not a drop of Wit remained Which the Bottle had not drained.


1785. Grose, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. Skink . . . to wait on the company, ring the bell, stir the fire, and snuff the candles; the duty of the youngest officer in the military mess.
1818. Scott, Rob Roy, iv. I give my vote and interest to Jonathan Brown, our landlord, to be the King and Prince of skinkers, conditionally that he fetches us another bottle as good as the last.

1831. Lamb, Satan in Search of a Wife, ii. xxvii. No Hebe fair stood cup-bearer there; the guests were their own skinkers.

1847. Halliwell, Arch. Words, s.v. Skink. In a family the person latest at breakfast is called the skink or the skinker, and some domestic office is imposed or threatened for the day, such as ringing the bell, putting coal on the fire, or in other cases, drawing the beer for the family.

1852. Hawthorne, Blithedale Romance, 245. Some old-fashioned skinkers and drawers were spreading a banquet on the leaf-strewn earth.

**Skin-merchant.** subs. phr. (old). —A recruiting officer.

1783. Burgoyne, Lord of the Manor, iii. 2. I am a manufacturer of honour and glory—vulgarly called a recruiting dealer, or more vulgarly still, a skin-merchant.

**Skinned-Rabbit.** subs. phr. (colloquial). —A very spare person.

**Skinner.** 1. See Skin.

2. (sporting). —A bird fat enough to burst its skin when shot.

**Skin-of-the-Creature (or Crater).** subs. phr. (Irish). —A bottle: see Creature.

**Skin-The-Lamb.** subs. phr. (old). —Lansquenet: see also Skin, verb. I.

**Skin-The-Pizzle.** subs. phr. (venery). —The female pudendum: see Monosyllable.

**Skintight.** subs. (common). —A sausage.

**Skintling.** adv. (American). —See quot.

18[?]. Science [Century]. [The bricks are carried in wheelbarrows, and set skintling, or at right angles across each other.


1672. A. Browne, Covent Garden Drolery. The prizes they took were a Londoner’s groat, a gentleman’s size, but his skipkennel’s pot.

1703. Ward, London Spy, vrt. 151. A Courtier’s footman when he meets his Brother Skip in the middle of Covent Garden.

1794. Brown, Works, ii. 120. Pluto’s skipkennels are not so insolent as yours are.

1721. Amhurst, Terre Fillius, No. Z. Every scullion and skipkennel had liberty to tell his master his own.

1729. Swift, Directions to Servants, ‘Footman.’ My lady’s waiting-woman...apt to call you skip-kennel.

1839. Lever, Harry Lorrequer, xi. Conducting himself in all respects...as his...own man, skip, valet, or flunkey.

1842. Tait’s Mag., Oct., ‘Rem. College Life.’ The skip, or according to the Oxford etymology, the man vulture, is not fit for his calling who cannot time his business so as to be present simultaneously at several places.

1845. Thackeray, Pendennis, xx. His wounded tutor, his many duns, the skip and bedmaker who waited on him.

**Verb.** (common). —I. To decamp: see Bunk. Also to skip out (or off), and to do a skip.

1872. Clemens, Roughing It, ix. The Indian had skipped around so’s to spile everything.

1888. Detroit Free Press, 19 Dec. I knew he was getting ready to skip out of town the moment he saw the jig was up.

1889. Aily Sloper, 29 June. This base myrmidon of the law endeavoured to execute his task just as Andrew was about to lead a second bouncing bride to the altar. But Andrew espied him and quietly skipped.
Skip-brain.

1892. Kipling, Barrack-Room Ballads, 'Gunga Din.' With 'is musick on 'is back, 'E would skip with our attack.

1895. Pocock, Rules of the Game, ii. 10. If I had known of this warrant, I'd have gone on my knees and implored him for your dear sake not to skip the train.

2. (common). — To die: see HOP THE TWIG.

1900. Savage, Brought to Bay, xv. The dark pool of blood . . . told its awful story . . . skipped out . . . game to the last, and never flinched.

3. (common).—To read hastily, picking out passages here and there. Hence 4 (University), to shirk work. Also SKIPPER = a hasty reader; and SKIPPABLE = easily and quickly read.

1884. Pall Mall Gaz., 28 Feb. Two classes of readers, however, may get not a little that is interesting out of this book—the, pachydermatous plodder and the judicious SKIPPER.

Skip-brain, adj. (old).—Flighty; volatile; fickle.

1603. Davies, Microcosmus, 30. This SKIP-BRAINE Fancie.

Skipjack, subs. (old).—1. A horse-dealer's jockey (B. E. and Grose).

1568. Fulwel, Like will to Like [Oliphant, New Eng., i. 565. Here we see knave of clubs,スキッパー, snip-snap].

1608-9. Dekker, Lanthorne and Candlelight, x. The boyes, striplings, &c., that have the riding of the jades up and downe are called SKIP-JACKES.

2.—A nobody; a trifler: also SKIPPER.

1592. Greene, Alphonsus, i. What, know'st thou, SKIP-JACK, whom thou villain call'st.

1593. Shakspeare, Taming of Shrew, ii. 1, 341. SKIPPER, stand back; 'tis age that nouriseth.

1611. Cotgrave, Nimbot. A dwarfe, dandiprat, little SKIP-JACKE.

1670. Cotton, Scoffer Scoft [Works (1725), 190]. But till thou hadst this SKIPPER IT got.

Skipper, subs. (Old Cant).—1. A barn (Awdeley, Harmar, Rowlands, Head, B. E., and Grose). Whence as verb. (or TO SKIPPER IT) = to sleep in the straw or in HEDGE SQUARE (q.v.); SKIPPER-BIRD = a barn-rooster or hedge-tramp.

1652. Broome, Jovial Crew, ii. Now let each tripper Make a retreat into the skipper.

1851-61. Mayhew, London Lab., ii. 83. When I get down I go to sleep for a couple of hours. I SKIPPER IT—turn in under a hedge or anywhere. Ibid., i. 336. Here is the best places in England for skipper-birds (parties that never go to lodging-houses, but to barns or outhouses, sometimes without a blanket) . . . 'Key-hole whistlers,' the SKIPPER-BIRDS are sometimes called.

2. (common).—The Devil. For synonyms see BLACK SPY.

3. (B. E. and Grose: still colloquial).—'A Dutch Master of a Ship or Vessell'; in modern use any ship's captain; and (4) a leader or chief in any enterprise, adventure, or business. Hence 5. (general) a master, BOSQ (q.v.), GOVERNOR (q.v.).


1600. Dekker, Show. Holiday [Grosart, Wks. (1873), i. 30]. Do you remember the shippe my fellow Hans told you of, the skipper and he are both drinking at the Swan?

1636. Suckling, Goblins, iv. With as much ease as a SKIPPER Would laver against the wind.


1751. Smollett, Per. Pickle, xxxiv. By the skipper's advice the servants [carried] wine and provision on board.

1854. Whyte Melville, General Bounce, iv. The young skipper exultingly stamped his foot on a deck he could really call his own.

d.1882. Longfellow, Wreck of Hesperus. And the skipper had taken his little daughter to bear him company.


1856. Dow, Sermons, ii. 258. The earth appears as animated as a plate of skippery cheese.

See Skip and Skipjack.

Skipper's-daughter, subs. phr. (common). — A crested wave; a white-cap (or horse).

d.1894. Stevenson, Education of an Engineer. The swell ran pretty high, and out in the open there were skipper's daughters.

Skipping, adj. (Shakespeare). — Light, giddy, volatile.

1594. Shakepeare, Love's Labour Lost, v. 2, 771. All wanton as a child, skipping and vain. Ibid. (1598), Merchant of Venice, ii. 2, 196. Allay with some cold drops of modesty thy skipping spirit. Ibid. (1602), Twelfth Night, i. 5. 'Tis not that time of moon with me to make one in so skipping a dialogue.

Skirry, subs. (old). — A run: also as verb. = to scurry (Parker, 1781).

1821. Haggart, Life, 36. He went into an entry as I skirry'd past him. Ibid., 37. The skirry became general.

Skirt, subs. (common). — In pl. = women (generic). Hence (venery) to skirt (or flutter a skirt) = to walk the streets; to do a bit of skirt = to copulate: see ride and cf. placket, petticoat, muslin, &c.

1899. Hyne, Fur. Adv. Capt. Kettle, xii. If ... you rats of men shove your way down here ... before all the skirt is ferried across, you'll get knocked on the head.

To sit upon one's skirts, verb. phr. (old). — To pursue.

1325-37. Ellis, Original Letters, i. iii. She will sit upon my skyrtes.

1620. Idle Hour [Halliwell]. Cross me not, Liza, nether be so perte, For if thou dost, I'll sit upon thy skirte.

1650. Howell, Familiar Letters. Touching the said archbishop, he had not stood neutrall as was promised, therefore he had justly set on his skirts.

Skirter, subs. (hunting). — 1. See quot; whence (2) a hunter who does not ride straight to hounds, but make short cuts: cf. shirker.

1870. Maine, Ency. Rural Sports, 386. A hound that has a habit of running wide of the pack is called a skirter.

d.1875. Kingsley, Go Hark! Leave cravens and skirters to dangle behind.

Skirt-foist, subs. phr. (old). — A general amorist; a poacher (q.v.).

d.1652. Wilson, Inconstant Lady [Nares]. I think there is small good intended, that Emilia did prefer him. I do not like that skirt-foist.

Skit, subs. (Grose). — I. A jest, a satire: also as verb. (Grose) = 'to wheedle.'

1779. Mrs. Cowley, Who's the Dupe? ii. 2. Come, come, none of your tricks upon travellers. I know you mean all that as a skit upon my edication.
Skitter-brain. 234 Skulker.

1815. SCOTT, Guy Mannering, xxxii. But if he really shot young Hazlewood—but I canna think it, Mr. Glossin; this will be some o’ your skits now—I canna think it o’ sae douce a lad;—na, na, this is just some o’ your auld skits—ye’ll be for having a horning or a caption after him. [*Tricks.]

1884. Graphic, 20 Sept., 299. 1 When will be produced the new Gilbert-Sullivan opera, which is reported to be a skit on "Thought-reading."

1885. D. News, 28 Sep. Of these many are skits at the expense of that un-failing object of Thackeray’s love of banter.

2. subs. (old).—A wanton: see TART.

1583. HOWARD, Def. agst. Superst. Prophecies. [Herod] at the request of a dancing skit stroke off the head of St. John the Baptist.

SKITTER-BRAIN (or -WIT), subs. (common).—A flighty person. Also SKITTERBRAINED, &c.

SKITTING-DEALER, subs. phr. (Old Cant).—A sham dumby.

SKITTLES, intj. (common).—Nonsense!

Other colloquialisms are—all beer and skittles = Everything easy or to one’s liking; all up, as skittles when down = a difficulty, something to tackle or do again.

1864. ORCHESTRA, 12 Nov., 106. ‘To Correspondents.’ Se faire applaudir is not “to make oneself applauded,” and “joyous comedian” is simply skittles.

1886. Kipling, Departmental Ditties, ‘Padgate, M.P.’ ‘Where is your heat?’ said he. ‘Coming,’ said I to Padgate. ‘Skittles!’ said Padgate, M.P.

1889. Lic. Vict. Gaz., 8 Feb. Plunging was not all beer and skittles, as the Viscount had playfully and elegantly observed when a special pot had boiled over.

1890. Pall Mall Gaz., 4 Nov., 3. It would present a useful object lesson to those who think that the artist’s life is ALL BEER AND SKITTLES.

1900. Boothby, Maker of Nations, v. Skittles it would have been and of the most desperate description... I can tell you I was just about played out.

SKIV (or SCIV), subs. (common).—A sovereign; 20/-: see RHINO.

1876. London Figaro, 19 Dec. ‘A Swell on Stalls.’ I am anxious to pay more; indeed, what do I want with change? Assure you I should much prefer to pay half-a-skiv, or even a "sov." for my seat.

1887. Payn, Glow Worm Tales, 246. Please to send me the skiv by return, for I sadly want some comfort.

SKOWBANKER, subs. (Australian).—A loafer; a hanger-on; also SHOWBANKER.

SKOWER. See Scoure.

SKRIMP (or SKRUMP), verb. (provincial).—To steal apples.

SKRIMSHANKER, subs. (military).—See Scrimshanker and add quot. infra.

1890. Tit-Bits, 26 Ap., 35, 1. Of course, besides the dread of being considered a skrimshanker, a soldier dislikes the necessary restraints of a hospital.

1893. Kipling, Many Inventions, ‘His Private Honour.’ If Mulvaney stops scrimshankin’—gets out o’... ‘ospital... I lay your lives will be trouble to you.

SKRUNT, subs. (Scots’).—A prostitute: see TART.

SKUE, subs. (old).—See quot.

1598. Florio, A Worlde of Wordes, Codurza, the rump or skue of a bird.

SKUG. See Scug.

SKULKER, subs. (Grose)—A soldier who... evades his duty; a sailor who keeps below in time of danger; one who keeps out of the way when work is to be done. To skulk, to hide oneself; to avoid labour or duty.'
Skull. 235

Skull, subs. (University).—1. The head of a college; see Golgotha; whence skull-race = a university examination. 2. (American) = any chief, as the President, the head of a business, the captain of a vessel, &c.

My skull’s a fly, phr. (old).—Awake (q. v.); fly (q. v.)

Skull and Crossbones (The), subs. phr. (military).—The 17th (The Duke of Cambridge’s Own) Lancers. [The Regimental Badge.] Also “The Death or Glory Boys”; “Bingham’s Dandies”; “The Gentlemen Dragoons”; and “The Horse Marines.”

Skullduggery. See Sculldugery.

Skull-thatcher, subs. phr. (old).—1. A straw-bonnet maker; hence (2) a hatter; and (3) a wig-maker. Skull-thatch = a hat or wig.

1863. Braddon, Aurora Floyd, xxiv. ‘I’ll find my skull-thatcher if I can,’ said Captain Prodder, groping for his hat amongst the brambles and the long grass.

Skungle, verb. (American).—A generic verb of action: to decamp, to steal a watch, to gobble up food, &c.: cf. Skyugle.

Skunk, subs. (American).—1. A mean, paltry wretch; a stinkard (q. v.).

1841. The Kinsmen, i. 171. He’s a skunk—a bad chap about the heart.

1876. Bret Harte, Gabriel Conroy, i. i. 14. Ain’t my husband dead, and isn’t that skunk—an entire stranger—still livin’?

1884. Referee, 1 June, 7, 3. The bloodthirsty and cowardly skunks, who rob servant girls in America of their money in order to blow servant girls in London to pieces.


1848. Durivage, Stray Subjects, 135. In the second hand of the third game, I made high, low, game, and skunked him, outright again.

Verb. 2. (American Univ.).—To neglect to pay.

Sky (or Ski), subs. (Westminster).—1. See quot. [An abbreviation or corruption of Volsci: the Westminster boys being Romans.]

1867. Stanley, Westminster Abbey, 453. Conflicts between Westminster scholars and the skys of London, as the outside world was called.

2. See Skyrocket.

Verb. (common).—1. To hang, throw, or hit high (e.g., a picture at the Royal Academy: whence the sky = the upper rows of exhibitors; a ball at cricket: hence skyer, or skyscraper = a high hit). Whence (2) to spend freely till all’s blued (q. v.). To sky a copper = to spin a coin.

1802. Edgeworth, Irish Bulls. ‘Billy,’ says I, ‘will you sky a copper.’

1874. Collins, Frances, xxvii. The ball had been struck high in air, and long-field had almost flown into air to meet it, catching it as it came down like a thunder-bolt with his left hand only, and skying it at once with triumphant delight.

1881. Jas. Payn, Grapes from a Thorn, ii. His pictures of the abbey having been skied in the Academy... made his humour a little tart that year.

1884. Sat. Rev., 31 May. The high wind made skysers difficult to judge.

1885. Smart, Post to Finish, 134. Two or three more slashing hits, and then the Rector skived one which his opponents promptly secured.

1886-96. Marshall, Pomes, 40. With the takings safely skived.
"Lost ball!" was cried... When, overhead, supremely skied, I saw that awful ball descending.

2. (Harrow).—1. To charge, or knock down: at football. Also (2) to throw away.

If the sky falls we shall catch larks=a retort to a wild hypothesis: cf. 'if pigs had wings they'd be likely birds to fly.'

2. (common).—Diluted or 'separated' milk.

Sky-blue, subs. phr. (old).—I. Gin (Grose).

Sky-blue farmers are People that go about the country with a false pass, signed by the Church Wardens and Overseers of the Parish or Place that they lived in, and some Justice of the Peace, but the Names are all forged; in this manner they extort money, under pretence of sustaining Loss by Fire, or the Distemper amongst the horned Cattle.

Skygazer, subs. (nautical).—A skysail.

Sky-godlin, adv. (American).—Obliquely; askew.

He will run sky-godlin.

Sky-lantern, subs. phr. (old).—The moon: see Oliver.

Sky-lark, subs. (common).—Originally tricks in the rigging of H. M. Navy; hence any rough-and-tumble horseplay. As verb = to frolic, to play the fool; skylarking = boisterous merriment or fooling; and skylarker = a practical joker.

Sky-farmer, subs. phr. (old).—See quot.: Grose (1785).

Skyfarmer are People that go about the country with a false pass, signed by the Church Wardens and Overseers of the Parish or Place that they lived in, and some Justice of the Peace, but the Names are all forged; in this manner they extort money, under pretence of sustaining Loss by Fire, or the Distemper amongst the horned Cattle.

Sky-gazer, subs. (nautical).—A skysail.
Give warning of what is going on to "all husbands who Skylark around." The precise nature of the diversion, indicated by Skylarking around, is a little foggy; but, taken in conjunction with the context, it is clearly not inconsistent with staying from home until the small hours.


If yer don't find it a 'Oilday Skylark, wy, never trust 'Arry.

**Skylarker, subs.** (old thieves').—
A housebreaker following bricklaying as a blind.

2. See Skylark.

**Skylight, subs.** (nautical).—The eye.

1836. *Scott*, *Tom Cringle's Log*, iii. After a long look through his starboard blinker (his other Skylight had been shut up ever since Aboukir)...

**Sky-parlour, subs.** (common).—A garret (Grose).

1807-8. *Irving*, *Salmagundi*, No. ii. I beg leave to repeat the advice so often given by the illustrious tenants of the theatrical Sky-parlour to the gentlemen who are charged with the "nice conduct" of chairs and tables—"Make a bow, Johnny. Johnny, make a bow."

1821. *Egan*, *Life in London*, II. v. Bob... proposed to see the author safe to his Sky-parlour.

1836. *Dickens*, *Sketches by Boz*, 'First of May.' Now ladies, up in the Sky-parlour; only once a year, if you please. *Ibid.* (1855), Dorrit, i. viii. She has a lodging at the turnkey's. First home there... Sky-parlour.

1847. *Rhodes*, *Bombastes Furioso*, 15. My parlour that's next to the sky I'd quit, her blest mansion to share.

1883. *Dobson*, *Hogarth*, 43. The poor verseman, high in his Grub-Street or 'Porridge-Island' Sky-parlour.

1891. *Herald*, 31 May, 3. i. Sky-parlours may be very well, but I'm certain there is something wrong with my friend's "upper story."


**Sky-pilot, subs. phr.** (common).—A clergyman: see Bible-pounder.

1889. *Sporting Times*, 29 June. The Sky Pilot, having regard to muttered remarks which might be heard emanating from the Englishman, gave his professional opinion that his service was anything divine.

1895. *Le Queux*, *Temptress*, ix. Have you seen the Sky Pilot?

**Skyrocket, subs.** (rhyming).—I. A pocket: also sky.


1898. *Pink 'Un and Pelican*, 237. After thirty-six 'ands 'ad bin all over him,—why, even then we never found his sky.

2. (old).—Eccentricity.

1690. *Dryden*, *Mistakes*, Prol. [Works (Globe), 473]. He's no highflyer—he makes no skyrockets. His squibs are only levelled at your pockets.

**Skyscraper, subs.** (common).—
Generic for height: e.g. (1) a very tall man; (2) a very lofty building: spec. (American) erections sometimes twenty stories high; (3) a triangular sail set above the royals, a sky-sail, Sky-gazer, or Angel's footstool (q.v.); and (4) a skied ball. Hence skyscraping and other derivatives.

1815. *Scott*, *Guy Mannering*, v. Run out the bolt-sprit, up main-sail, top and top-gallant sails, royals, and skyscrapers, and away—follow who can!

1893. *Milliken*, *'Arry Ballads*, 47. It's a bloomin'g skyscraping Topper.
Skypper. See Skipper, subs., sense 1.

Skyte, subs. (Shrewsbury).—See quot. : cf. Scots' skye = fool.

Skyugle, verb. (American).—See quotas.

Slab, subs. (old).—I. A milestone (Bee).

Slab-sided, adj. (colloquial).—Tall; lank; 'up and down' in figure: also slab-sided. 

Slabbering-bit, subs. phr. (old).—A neck-band: clerical or legal (Grose).

Slabberdegullion. See Slubberdegullion.

Slack, subs. (common).—In pl. = overall trousers.
1883. Greenwood, *Odd People.* Unwashed, and in their working slacks and guernseys.

2. (pugilistic).—A smashing or knock-down blow. [Jack Slack, champion 1750-60, was known for his powerful delivery]. Also slack'-un: cf. auctioneer and mendoza.

3. (colloquial).—A slack time.

Verb. (common).—To piss (q.v.): also to slack off.

To hold on the slack, verb. phr. (nautical).—To skulk; to loaf.

**Slack-Jaw**, subs. phr. (American).—Impertinence.


**Slag**, subs. (old).—'A slack-mettled fellow, one not ready to resent an affront' (Grose).

**Slake**, verb. (provincial).—See quot.

1847. Halliwell, *Archaic Words, &c.*, s.v. slake... 3. To lick... vulgarly used in the sense... of to kiss.

**Slam**, subs. (old).—1. A trick (Grose).

2. (cards').—At whist a game lost without scoring: also as verb. = to take every trick: cf. skunk (B. E. and Grose).

[?]. *Loyal Songs [Ency. Dict.]*. Until a noble general came and gave the cheaters a clean slam.

3. (old).—A sloven: also slamkin (Grose: 'One whose clothes seem hung on with a pitchfork'); and (4) any ill-made, awkward, ungainly wretch.


Verb. (common).—1. To brag; spec. (military) to feign drunkenness and boast of many drinks: cf. slum.

2. (strollers').—To patter (q.v.); to talk in the way of trade.


**Slam-Bang.** See slam, adv.

**Slamkin** (slammocks, or slammernkin), subs. (old).—A slut (q.v.). As verb. = to slouch.

**Slammer**, subs. (colloquial).—Anything exceptional: see whopper. Hence slamming (adj.) = large, exceptional.

**Slampam** (slampaine, slampambes, or slampant), subs. (old).—A blow: see wipe. To cut of (or give the) slampambes = to circumvent; to get the better of.

c.1563. *New Custome [Dodsley, Old Plays (Reed), i. 230]*. I wyll cut him of the slampambes, I holde him a crowne, Wherever I meete him, in countre or towne.

1577-87. Holinshed, *Desc. Ireland*, iii. That one rascal in such scornefull wise should give them the slampaine.

1582. Stanhurst, *Encid [Arber]*, 116. Shal hee scape thus? shal a stranger geue me the slampan?

**Slamtrash**, subs. (provincial).—A sloven (Halliwell).

**Slaney**, subs. (thieves').—A theatre.
Slang, subs., adj., and verb. (old: now recognised).—See TERMINAL ESSAY and quotes. As verb = (1) to speak slang; and (2) to scold or abuse. As adj. = (1) relating to slang; (2) = low, unrefined; and (3) = angry: also SLANGY and SLANGULAR. SLANGINESS = the state of being slangy; SLANG BOYS (or BOYS OF THE SLANG) (see quot. 1789); SLANGSTER = a master of FLASH (q.v.); SLANGWHANGER = a speaker addicted to slang; whence SLANGWHANGING, and SLANGWHANG, verb. = to scold; SLANGANDER (American) = to backbite; SLANGOOSING (American) = tittle-tattle, backbiting, esp. of women.

1743. Fielding, Jonathan Wild, 'Advice to His Successor.' The master who teaches them [young thieves] should be a man well versed in the cant language, commonly called the SLANG patter, in which they should by all means excel.

1761. Poote, Lyar. [Oliphant, New Eng., ii. 180. A man begs 'in the College cant' to tick a little longer (remain in debt); this cant was soon to make way for SLANG]. Ibid. (1762), Orators, i. Poote. Have you not seen the bills? Scamper. What, about the lectures? ay, but that's all SLANG, I suppose, . . . no, no.

1785. Grove, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. FLASH LINGO. The canting or SLANG language. Ibid., Giles'. St. Giles Greek, the cant language, called also SLANG, Pedder's French, and Flash.

1789. Parker, Variegated Characters. SLANG BOYS, fellows who speak the SLANG language which is the same as flash and cant.

1796. W. Taylor, Monthly Rev., xx. 543-4. The personages have mostly the manners and language of elegant middle life, removed alike from the ranc of tragedy or the SLANG of farce.

1798. Anti-Jacobin, 5 Mar. Stanzas . . . conceived rather in the SLANG or Brentford dialect.


1809. Malkin, Gil Blas [ROUTLEDGE], 47. He [a doctor] had got into reputation with the public by a certain professional SLANG.

1813. Edgeworth, Patronage, iii. The total want of proper pride and dignity . . . a certain SLANG and familiarity of tone, gave superficial observers the notion that he was good-natured.

1816. Gentleman's Mag., lxxxvi, 418. Unwilling to be a disciple of the stable, the kennel, and the sty, as of the other precious SLANG, the dialect of Newgate.

1817. Coleridge, Biog., ii. xvi. To make us laugh by . . . SLANG phrases of the day.

1819. Robert Rabelais the Younger, Abéillard and Heloïse, 35. For filthy talk and SLANG discourse, They every day grow worse and worse.

1820. Blackwood's Mag., viii. 261. Living on the town, as it is SLANGISHLY called.

1821. De Quincey, Conf. (1862), 234. According to the modern SLANG phrase.

1823. Moncrieff, Tom and Jerry, 5. Flash, my young friend, or SLANG, as others call it, is the classical language of the Holy Land; in other words, St Giles's Greek.

1824. Scott, Redgauntlet, xiii. What did actually reach his ears was disguised so completely by the use of cant words and the thieves'-Latin called SLANG, that even when he caught the words, he found himself as far as ever from the sense of their conversation.

1827. Lytton, Pelham, xlix. We rowed, swore, SLANGED.

1830. Knight, Tr. Acharnians, 186. Drunk he shall SLANG with the harlots.

1837. Hood, 'Ode to Rae Wilson.' With tropes from Billingsgates' SLANGWHANGING Tartars. Ibid. (1849), 36. Tale of a Trumpet. The smallest urchin whose tongue could tang Shock'd the dame with a volley of SLANG.

1840. Hood, Up the Rhine, 62. In spite of a SLANG air, a knowing look, and the use of certain insignificant phrases that are most current in London . . .

1845. N. Y. Com. Advtr., 10 Oct. Part of the customary SLANGWHANGING against all other nations which is habitual to the English press.
1849. KINGSLEY, *Alton Locke*, ii. Be quiet, you fool...you're a pretty fellow to chaff the orator; he'll SLANG you up the chimney before you get your shoes on. *Ibid.* vi. A tall, handsome, conceited, SLANGY boy.


1852. BRISTED, *Up. Ten Thousand*, 205. Here I have been five days...hazing—what you call SLANGING—up-holsterers.


1872. ELIOT, *Middlemarch*, xi. All choice of words is SLANG...Correct English is the SLANG of prigs who write history and essays. And the strongest SLANG of all is the SLANG of poets.

1875. WHITNEY, *Life and Growth of Language*, vii. There are grades and uses of SLANG whose charm no one need be ashamed to feel and confess; it is like reading a narrative in a series of rude and telling pictures instead of in words.

1879-81. SKEAT, *Etymological Dict.*, s.v. SLANG...is from the Norwegian sleng, a slinging, a device, a burden of a song. Slengja, to sling; slengja kieften, to SLANG, abuse (lit. to sling the jaw; SLENG-JENAMN, a slang (i.e., an abusive name); slengje-word, an insulting word; all from slengja, to sling.

1881-9. *Encyclopedic Dict.*, s.v. SLANG. A kind of colloquial language current amongst one particular class, or amongst various classes of society, uneducated or educated, but which, not having received the stamp of general approval, is frequently considered as inegalitarian or vulgar. Almost every profession or calling has its own SLANG...In this sense it means any colloquial words or phrases, vulgar or refined, used conventionally by each particular class of people in speaking of particular matters connected with their own calling. SLANG is sometimes allied to, but not quite identical with *cant*.

1884. H. JAMES, JR., *Little Tour*, 89. As the game went on, and he lost...he...SLANGED his partner, declared he wouldn't play any more, and went away in a fury.


1888. Poor Nellie, 17. Looked awfully SLANGY then? I'm sure she was in a wax.

1898. *Century Dict.*, s.v. SLANG. 1. The cant words or jargon used by thieves, peddlers, beggars, and the vagabond classes generally. 2. In present use, colloquial words and phrases which have originated in the cant or rude speech of the vagabond or unlettered classes, or, belonging in form to standard speech, have acquired or have had given them restricted, capricious, or extravagantly metaphorical meanings, and are regarded as vulgar or inelegant...SLANG as such is not necessarily vulgar or ungrammatical; indeed, it is generally correct in idiomatic form, and though frequently censured on this ground, it often, in fact, owes its doubtful character to other causes.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, vi. A SLANGING MATCH...and the unnameable in invective and vituperation rises, as in blackest vapour from our pit to the sky.

1900. *Nation*, 9 Oct., 289. SLANG in the sense of the cant language of thieves appears in print as early as the middle of the last century [see quot. 1743 supra]. Scott when using the word felt the necessity of defining it; and his definition shows not only that it was generally unknown but that it had not then begun to depart from its original sense.

2. (old).—A leg iron; a fetter (GROSE and VAUX). [Formerly about three three feet long, the SLANG being attached to an iron anklet rivetted on the leg; the SLACK (q.v.) was slung to the waistbelt.] Whence (3) = a watch-chain. In Dutch slang, SLANG = (1) a snake, and (2) a chain.
c.1790. Kilmainham Minit [Ireland Sixty Years Ago, 88]. If dat de slang you run sly, De scrag-boy may yet be out-witted, And I scout again on de lay.

c.1866. Vance, Chickaleary Cove. How to do a cross-fan for a super or slang.

1877. Horsley, Jottings from Jail. Fullied for a clock and slang.

1900. Major Arthur Griffiths, Fast and Loose, xxxiii. If I am caught it’ll mean a bashing’ and the slangs.


4. (old).—False weights and measures (e.g., a slang quart = 1½ pts.). As verb. = to cheat by short weight or measure: also ‘to defraud a person of any part of his due’ (Grose and Vaux).

SLANGING-DUES (see quot. 1785).

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. SLANGING-DUES. When a man suspects that he has been curtailed of any portion of his just right, he will say, There has been slanging-dues concerned.

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab., i. 353. The slanging-coves (the showmen) have . . . been refused.

1887. Henley, Villon’s Straight Tip, 2. Pad with a slang, or chuck a fag.

1888. Hood, Comic Annual, 52. There were all kinds of fakes on the slangs . . . amongst others some Chinese acrobatic work.

TO SLANG THE MAULEYS, verb. phr. (streets’).—To shake hands. [That is to sling (q.v.).]

SLANGRILL (or SLANGAM), subs. (old).—A lout.

1592. Greene, Quip for Upstart Courtier [Harl. Misc., v. 407]. The third was a long leane, olde, slavering slangrill.

1611. Cotgrave, Dict., s.v. Longis. A tall and dull slangam, that hath no making to his height, nor wit to his making; also one that being sent on an errand is long in returning.

SLANT, subs. (colloquial).—1. An opportunity; a chance. [Originally nautical = a favourable wind: e.g., ‘a slant across the Bay.’]

2. (American).—A side blow (Bartlett).

Verb. (thieves’).—1. To run away: see Bolt.

2. (colloquial).—To exaggerate; to ‘draw the long bow’ (q.v.).

3. (racing).—To wager: see Lay.
SLANTENDICULAR, adj. (colloquial).—Indirect; a SLANT (q.v.). Also as adv.

1844. HALIBURTON, The Attache, xxviii. Pony got mad and sent the Elder right slap over his head SLANTENDICULARLY, on the broad of his back, into the river.

1872. De Morgan, Budg. of Paradoxes, 289. He must put himself [in the Calendar] under the first saint, with a SLANTENDICULAR reference to the other.

SLAP, subs. (old).—1. Booty; plunder.

c.1790. Kilmainham Minit [Ireland Sixty Years Ago, 87]. And when dat he milled a fat SLAP, He merrily melted de winners.

2. (theatrical).—Make-up. Also as verb: [cf. SLAP = to rough cast].

1897. Marshall, Pomes, 98. You could just distinguish faintly That she favoured the judicious use of SLAP.

Adj. (colloquial).—First-rate; SMART (q.v.); PRIME (q.v.); also SLAP-UP: cf. BANG-UP (Grose). Whence SLAPPER = anything exceptional: see Whopper; SLAPPING = very big, excellent.

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab., ii. 119. People's got proud now ... and must have everything SLAP. Ibid., 122. A smart female servant in SLAP-UP black.

1855. Thackeray, Newcomes, xxxi. Might it not be more SLAP-UP still to have the two shields painted on the panels with the coronet over.

1859. Matsell, Vocabulum. Kerseymere kicksies ... built very SLAP with the artful dodge.


1880. Ainsworth, Auriol. He's a regular SLAP-UP swell.

1885. Stage, 129. Whitechapel costers, who wore SLAP-UP kicksies.

Adv. (colloquial).—Violently; plump; offhand: also SLAP-BANG, SLAM-BANG and SLAP-DASH. As subs. = (1) careless work, and (2) indiscriminate action; as verb. = to go recklessly to work.

1671. Buckingham, Rehearsal [Arber], 67. He is upon him, SLAP, with a repartee; then he is at him again, DASH, with a new conceit.

1853. Congreve, Old Batchelor, iv. 9. I am SLAP DASH down in the mouth, and have not one word to say.

1705. Vanbrugh, Confederacy, iv. Very genteel, truly! Go, SLAP DASH, and offer a woman of her scruples money, bolt in her face!

1712. Centlivre, Perpl. Lovers, iii. If you don't march off, I shall play you such an English courant of SLAP DASH presently, that shan't out of your ears this twelvemonth.

1717. Prior, Alma, i. 17. And yet, SLAPDASH, is all again, In every sinew, nerve, and vein.

1753. Richardson, Grandison, i. 170. In so peremptory, in so uncere- monious a manner, SLAPDASH as I may say.

1759-67. Sterne, Tristram Shandy, iii. 38. The whips and short turns which in one stage or other of my life have come SLAP upon me.

1809. Malkin, Gil Blas [Routledge], 42. He came down SLAPDASH on all the rest of the dishes.

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends, ii. 143. His horse, coming SLAP on his knees ... threw ... him head over heels.

1853. Lytton, My Novel, iii. vi. It was a SLAPDASH style.

c.1866. Vance, Jolly Dogs. SLAPBANG, here we are again.

1882. Lowell [Century Mag., xxxv. 515]. The SLAPDASH judgments upon artists ... are very characteristic.

1884. C. Reade, Art, 20. He ... executed a marvellously grotesque bow ... this done, he ... strode away again SLAP-DASH.

1885. Weekly Echo, 5 Sep. This most eccentric of quill-drivers gets up his facts in a SLAP-DASH fashion.
**Slap-bang shop.**

18... *Athenæum*, 3197, 146. As a specimen of newspaper SLAPDASH we may point to the description of General Ignatieff as 'the Russian Mr. Gladstone.'

A SLAP (or SLAT) IN THE FACE, phr. (colloquial).—A rebuff; a reproach (BEE).

*See Slop up.*

**SLAP-BANG SHOP, subs. phr. (old).**

1. *See* quot. 1785. Also SLAM-BANG SHOP (BEE).

1785. *Grose, Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. SLAP-BANG SHOP. A petty cook’s shop, where there is no credit given, but what is had must be paid for, down with the ready SLAP-BANG, i.e. immediately. This is a common appellation for a night cellar frequented by thieves.

1856. *Dickens, Sketches by Boz*, ‘Making a Night of it.’ They dined at the same SLAP-BANG every day, and revelled in each other’s company every night.

2. (old).—A stage coach, or caravan (GROSE).

*See Slap, adv.*

**SLAP-JACK. See Flap-jack.**

**SLAPPATY-POUCH** (or **SLATTER-POUCH**), subs. (old).—Beating the arms on the chest to keep warm.

1654. *Gayton, Festivous Notes*, 86. When they were boyes at trap, or SLATTERPOUCH They’d sweat.

1704. *Brown, Works*, ii. 126. We have . . . tir’d our palms and our ribs at SLAPPATY-POUCH.

**SLAP-SAUCE, subs. phr. (old).**—A hanger-on; a toady. As adj. = to SPONGE (q.v.).

1557. *Tusser, Husbandrie*, 188. Ere tongue be too free, Or slap-sauce be noted too saucie to bee.

1653. *Urquhart, Rabelais*, i. xxv. SLAPSAUCE fellows . . . lubbardly louts.

**SLAP-SIDED. See Slab-sided.**

**SLASH, subs. (thieves’).**—An outside pocket [*cf. Grose, s.v. Slip, ‘the slash pocket in the skirt of a coat behind.’*]

*Verb.* (literary).—To criticise severely, sarcastically, or at random; TO CUT UP (q.v.); also TO SLASH IN. Hence SLASHING, subs. = damning criticism; as adj. = trenchent. harsh; SLASHER = a vigorous critic.

d.1859. *De Quincey, Homer*, i. The Alexandrian critics with all their slashy insolence . . . groped about in twilight.

1874. *Mortimer Collins, Frances*, xvii. The slashing writers who delight to cut up a book, especially if the author is a friend or a rival.

1888. *Athenæum*, 14 Jan., 43. He may be called the inventor of the modern slashing article.

**SLASHER, subs. (old).**—1. A bully; a bravo: *see* FURIOUSO (GROSE and MATSELL). Also (2) a pounding pugilist, a HITTITE (q.v.); and (3) *see* SLASH.


4. (old).—A sword.

1815. *Scott, Guy Mannering*, xxxiii. ‘Had he no arms?’ . . . ‘Ay, ay, he was never without Barker and Slashers.

5. (colloquial).—Anything exceptional: *see* WHOPPER. Hence SLASHING = exceptionally brilliant, vigorous, successful, expert, &c. Also as adv., as a slashing fine woman; a slashing good race; and so forth.


**The Slashers, subs. phr.** (military).—The 1st Batt. Gloucestershire Regiment, formerly The 28th Foot. Also “The Old Braggs” and “The Rightabouts.”
SLAT, subs. (old).—Half-a-crown: 2/6; see RHINO (Grose); also (B. E.) SLATE.

Verb. (American).—To throw, beat, or move with violence.

1604. MARSTON, Malcontent. Slatted his brains out, then soused him in the briny sea.

1846. N. Y. Com. Advr., 15 May. Aunt Nancy would retire to the kitchen, and taking up the dipper, would slat round the hot water from a kettle.

c.1859. Lafayette Chronicle [Bartlett]. Suz alive! but warn’t my dander up to hear myself called a flat? down I slat the basket, and upsought all the berries.

1865. Major Jack Downing, 200. With that I handed him my axe, and he slatted about the chamber a spell.

SLATE, subs. (Old Cant).—1. A sheet (DEKKER and GROSE): also (B. E.) SLAT.

1567. HARMAN, Caveat [E. E. T. S.], 76. A kynching morte is a lytle gyrle; the Mortes their mothers carries them at their backs in their slates.

1611. MIDDLETON, Roaring Girl, v. 1. I have, by the Salomon, a doxy that carries a kinchin-mort in her slate at her back.

1622. FLETCHER, Beggar’s Bush, iii. 3. To mill from the Ruffmans commission and slates.

2. (American political).—A preliminary list of candidates recommended to office; a party programme. [In practice a secret understanding between leaders as to the candidates they desire the nominating Convention to adopt.] To SMASH (or BREAK) THE SLATE = to defeat the wire-pullers; TO SLATE = (1) to prepare, and (2) to be included in such a list. SLATE-SMASHER = a leader who ignores the wishes of his party.

1877. N. Y. Tribune, 1 Mar. The facts about the latest Cabinet slate . . . are interesting as showing . . . the course of President Hayes in choosing his advisers.

Verb. (colloquial).—1. To reprimand or criticise; TO CUT UP (q.v.). [Formerly SLAT = to bait.] Hence SLATING (or a SLATE) = a blowing up; severe censure; unsparing criticism.

1890. Kipling, Light that Failed, iv. None the less I’ll slate him. I’ll slate him ponderously in the cataclysm.

SLATER’S PAN, subs. phr. (obsolete).—‘The gaol of Kingston in Jamaica; SLATER is the deputy provost-marshall’ (Grose).

SLATHERS, subs. (American).—Abundance; ‘lashin’s an’ lavin’s.’

1876. Clemens, Tom Sawyer, 75. I am going to be a clown at a circus. They get slathers of money—most a dollar a day.

18[?]. New Princeton Rev. [Century]. Mr. — can repeat slathers and slathers of another man’s literature.
SLAUGHTER, verb. (trade). — 1. To sell at a SACRIFICE (q.v.). Hence SLAUGHTER-HOUSE = a shop or auction-room where goods are bought or sold for what they will bring; SLAUGHTERER = (1) a vendor at cost, and (2) a buyer for re-manufacture; as books for pulp, cloth for shoddy, &c.

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. . . . One East End slaughterman used habitually to tell that wet Saturday afternoons . . . put £20 extra in his pocket . . . Under such circumstances the poor workman is at the mercy of the slaughterman.

SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS. See INNOCENT.


2. (Harrow cricket). — See quot.

1890. Great Public Schools, 95. The upper ground on these days is given up to practice at the nets for the eleven and the 'Sixth Form' game, and to practice in fielding and catching. Boys below the Removés have to fag for them, and these fags are managed by slave-drivers, three or four boys appointed for the purpose.

SLAVEY, subs. (common). — A drudge: male or female; 'a servant of either sex' (Grose). Also (old) slaving-gloke.

1821. Egan, Life in London, ii. 1. The slavey and her master—the surgeon and the resurrection-man—. . . they are 'all there.'

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab., i. 472. The first enquiry is for the missus or a daughter, and if they can't be got at they are on to the slaveys.

1855. Thackeray, Newcomes, xi. The boy Thomas, otherwise called slavey . . . has been instructed to bring soda whenever he hears the word slavey pronounced from above.

1879. Horsley [Macm. Mag., xl. 501]. I piped a slavey come out of a chat, so when she had got a little way up the double, I pratted in the house.

1886. D. Telegraph, i Ap. No well-conducted English girl need be a slavey at all.

1893. Emerson, Lippo, xvi. She knew all the cant, and used to palaver thick to the slaveys.

1901. Free Lance, 16 Mar., 586, i. Joan Burnett . . . has inherited both her mother's and her father's talent, as all will have noticed who saw her play the curiously pathetic slavey in 'The Wedding Guest.'

SLEDGE-HAMMER, verb. (colloquial). — To hit hard; to batter.

1834. Lewis, Letters, 32. You may see what is meant by sledge-hammering a man.

SLEEP, verb. (colloquial). — To provide sleeping accommodation: cf. Room.

1887. Ribton-Turner, Vagrants and Vagrancy, 399. They were to have a double row of beds, 'two tier' high, to admit of sleeping 100 men and 60 women.

TO SLEEP ON BONES, verb. phr. (old). — To sleep in a lap: e.g., 'Let not the child sleep on bones, i.e., in the nurse's lap' (Ray).

TO SLEEP ON BOTH EARS, verb. phr. (old). — To sleep soundly, without a care.

1633. Massinger, Guardian, ii. 2. Sleep you secure on either ear.


1886. Referee, 26 Dec. Our . . . sleeper as the natives prefer to call these much-vaunted American inventions.

SLEEPING-HOUSE, subs. phr. (B. E. c. 1696). — 'Sleepinge House, without Shop, Ware-House, or Cellar, only for a private Family.'

SLEEPING-PARTNER, subs. phr. (Grose). — 1. 'A partner in a trade, or shop, who lends his name and money, for which he receives a share of the profit, without doing any part of the business.'

2. (common). — A bed-fellow.

SLEEPY, adj. and adv. (old). — Much worn; threadbare: e.g., a sleepy pear = a pear beginning to decay; a sleepless-hat = shabby headgear 'with nap worn off' (Grose). See Golgotha.


SLEEPY QUEENS (The), subs. phr. (military). — The Queen's Royal Regiment, late the 2nd Foot.


SLEEVE. Here occur one or two Phrases and Colloquialisms:

To hang on (or upon) a sleeve = to be dependent; to laugh in one's sleeves = to deride or exult in secret (B. E.); to wear one's heart upon one's sleeve = to make no mystery, to be artless; in (or up) one's sleeve = hidden, in reserve, ready for use; to pin to one's sleeve = to flaunt; to hang on another's sleeve = to accept another's authority.

1602. Hooker, Eccles. Polity [Ency. Dict.]. It is not . . . to ask why we should hang our judgment upon the Church's sleeve.


1900. Savage, Brought to Bay. Sir Everard was a close enough old man . . . We, none of us, wear our hearts on our sleeve. Ibid., viii. He is the equal of any man. The sort of fellow who always has something up his sleeve.

SLEEVEBOARD, subs. (tailors'). — A hard word to pronounce; a jaw-breaker (q.v.).

SLEEVELESS, adj. (old). — Fruitless; inadequate; wanting a cover or excuse; 'impertinent or trifling' (Bailey): now only in phrase, 'a sleeveless errand' = (B. E. and Grose) 'a fool's errand, in search of what it is impossible to find,' Chaucer, Test. Love, ii. 334.


1593. Passionate Morrice [Shaks. Soc.], 63. Shee had dealt better if shee had sent himselfe away with a crabbed answere, then so vnmannerly to use him by sleevelesse excuses.

1600. HALL, Satires, iv. 1. Worse than the logogryphes of later times, Or hundreth riddles shak'd to sleevelesse rhymes.
SLEWED, adj. (common).—Drunk: see SCREWED. Also SLUED.

1843. Dickens, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, xxviii. He came into our place one night to take her home; rather slued, but not much.

1855. *Whig Almanack* [Bartlett]. I went to bed slewed last night—didn't dream of such a thing in the morning.

SLEWER, subs. (American).—A servant-girl: cf. Dutch slang *sluer* (or *sloor*) = a poor, common woman.

SLIBBER-SLABBER, adj. (colloquial).—Careless.

SLICE. To take a slice, verb. phr. (venery).—To intrigue; 'particularly (Grose) with a married woman, because a slice off a cut loaf is not missed.'

SLICK, adv. (Old English: then American).—1. Quick; bold; direct; perfect. Whence (2) = clever; plausible; expert; SMART (q.v.). Also SLEEK.

1602. SHAKESPEARE, *Troilus and Cressida*, v. 4, 10. That same young Trojan ass, that loves the whore there, might send that Greekish whoremasterly villain, with the sleeve, back to the dissembling luxurious drab, of a SLEEVELESS ERRAND.

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d. 1612. HARINGTON, *Epigrams*, iii. 9. My men came back as from a SLEEVELESS ERRANT.

1620. FLETCHER, *Little French Lawyer*, ii. To be despatch'd upon a SLEEVELESS ERRAND, To leave my friend engag'd, mine honour tainted.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works*, ii. iii. A neat laundresse, or a hearbwife can Carry a SLEEVELESS MESSAGE now and then.

1633. JOHNSON, *Tale of a Tub*, iv. 4. It [a coat] did play me such a SLEEVELESS ERRAND AS I had nothing where to put mine arms in, And then I threw it off.

1680. BUTLER, *Works*, ii. They are the likelier, quoth Bracton, To bring us many a SLEEVELESS ACTION.


1737-41. WARBURTON, *Div. Leg.*, iii. To save himself from the vexation of a SLEEVELESS ERRAND.

1832. HALIBURTON, *Traits of Am. Humour*, ii. 18. Courtin' is the hardest thing in the world to begin, though it goes on so slick afterwards.

1835. CROCKETT, *Tour down East*, 120. The Senate could not pass Mr. Stevenson through for England . . . He was a-going through right slick till he came to his coat-pockets, and they were so full of papers written by Ritchie that he stuck fast.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingolds. Leg.*, i. 241. The hare, making play, Progress'd right slick away, As them tarnation chaps, the Americans, say.

1841. *Knickerbocker Mag.* [BARTLETT]. Singin' is a science which comes pretty tough at first, but it goes slick afterwards.

1844. *Major Jones's Courtship*, 94. I done it as slick as a whistle.

1847. *Blackwood's Mag.* The railroad company, out of sheer parsimony, have neglected to fence in their line, which goes slick through the centre of your garden.

1856. DOW, *Sermons* [BARTLETT]. Nobody can waltz real slick unless they have the spring-halt in one leg, as horses sometimes have.

1869. STOWE, *Oldtown*, 253. He [read] it off slicker than any on us could; he did—there wa'n't no kind o' word could stop him.

1896. LILLARD, *Poker Stories*, 243. One of the slickest young fellows that ever turned a card . . . could work the shells and the elusive pea like a circus sharper . . .
To slick up, **verb. phr.** (American). — To tittivate (**q.v.**); to smarten; to put in order.

1840. **Clavers, Montacute**, 211. Mrs. Flyer was slicked up for the occasion, in the snuff-colored silk she was married in.

1843. **Carlton, New Purchase**, i. 72. The caps most in vogue then were made of dark, coarse, knotted twine, like a cabbage-net, worn, as the wives said, to save slicking up, and to hide dirt.

1865. **Major Downing, Mayday**, 43. The house was all slicked up as neat as a pin, and the things in every room all set to rights.

**Slick-a-die, subs. phr.** (thieves'). — A pocket-book: see **Dee**.

**Slicker, subs.** (Western American). — An overcoat: spec. a waterproof: also sleeker.

1882. **Roosevelt [Century Mag., xxxv. 864]**. We had turned the horses loose, and in our oilskin slickers covered, soaked and comfortless, under the lee of the wagon.

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1896. **Lillard, Poker Stories**, 150. He is supposed to gather his hat and coat, and slide at once.

1899. **Whiteing, John St., xxi.** Cheese it, an' slide.

2. **(colloquial).** — To backslide; to weaken (**q.v.**): e.g. from a resolution, attitude, or promise. As **subs.** = an error, a falling away; **sliding** = transgression.

1609. **Shakespeare, Meas. for Meas.,** ii. 4. 115. Proved the sliding of your brother A merriment than a vice.

1609. **Ford, Line of Life [Century]**. The least blemish, the least slide, the least error, the least offence, is exasperated, made capital.

**To let slide, verb. phr.** (old colloquial). — To let go; to allow things to take care of themselves.


1420. **Palladius, Hosbondrie** [E. E. T. S.], 64. Lette that crafe slyde.

1593. **Shakespeare, Taming of Shrew**, Induct. i. 6. Let the world slide.

**To do a slide up the board** (or straight), **verb. phr.** (venery). — To copulate: see greens and ride.

**Slide-groat, subs. phr.** (old). — **Shove-halfpenny** (**q.v.**).

1528. **Holinshed, Chron. of Ireland**. The lieutenant and he for their disport were plaieing at slide-grote or shoole-board.

**Slider, subs.** (old). — In **pl.** = drawers.

1700. **Dickenson, God's Prot. Prov. [Century]**. A shirt and sliders.

**Slide-thrift.** See shovel-board.

**Slim, subs.** (Old Cant). — See quot.

1789. **Parker, Variegated Characters.** . . A bobstick of rum slim, a shilling's worth of rum

**Adj.** (colloquial). — Delicate; feeble.

1777. **Jewett, Deephaven**, 169. She's had slim health of late years.

**Adv.** (colloquial). — Resourceful; smart (**q.v.**). [In provincial English slim = sly, cunning, awry: the popular use of the word during the South African War, 1899-1902, largely, if not wholly = mere artfulness.]
SLIME, verb. (Durham School).—
1. To 'cut' games. Also (2) to lounge, to loaf: e.g., 'SLIMEING down town.'

3. (Felsted).—To sneak along; TO DO A SLIME = to take a crafty advantage.

4. (Harrow).—To go round quietly.

1898. WARNER, Harrow School, 282. His house-beak SLIMED and twug him.

SLING, verb. (common).—A generic verb of action. Thus 1 (thieves') = to throw away or pass to a confederate; and 2 (general) to do easily; TO SLING A POT = to drink; TO SLING THE BOOZE = to stand treat; TO SLING A BOB (a tanner—anything) = to give; TO SLING ONE'S HOOK (BUNK, or DANIEL) = to decamp; TO SLING A DADDLE = to shake hands; TO SLING A CAT = to vomit; TO SLING A TINKLER = to ring the bell; TO SLING ONE'S JUICE (or JELLY) = to masturbate; TO SLING A POEM, ARTICLE, or BOOK = to write; TO SLING A HAT = to wave one in applause; TO SLING THE SMASH = to smuggle tobacco to prisoners; TO SLING ABOUT = to loaf; TO SLING INK (or A PEN) = to write: hence INKSLINGER = a clerk or author; TO SLING A FOOT = to dance; TO SLING ONE IN THE EYE = to blacken it; TO KILL A CROW WITH AN EMPTY SLING (RAY) = to gain without effort; TO SLING OFF (or PATTER or JAW) = to talk, to abuse, to insinuate: cf. SLANG; TO SLING A SNOT = to blow one's nose with the fingers: also TO SLING; TO SLING (or JERK) A PART = to undertake a rôle; TO SLING A NASTY PART = to play so well that another would find it difficult to rival it; TO SLING ROUND ON THE LOOSE = to act recklessly; SLING YOURSELF (LET HER SLING !) = 'Bestir yourself.'

1835. CROCKETT, Tour down East, 37. We swung round the wharf; and when the captain told the people who I was, they SLUNG THEIR HATS and gave three cheers.

1864. BROWNE ('Artemus Ward'), Works (1870), 277. The chaps that write for the Atlantic, Betsy, understand their bisness. They can SLING INK, they can. Ibid., 305. You ask me, sir, to SLING SOME INK for your paper.

1873. GREENWOOD, In Strange Company. He . . . swore . . . that if we did not that instant SLING OUR DANIELS . . . he would shy at us every heavenly article of crockery his apartment contained.

1884. CLEMENS, Huckleberry Finn. Teach singing . . . SLING A LECTURE sometimes.

1899. WHITEING, John St., vi. Blow me if I shan't be sold up, too, if I don't SOON SLING MY 'OOK. Ibid., xxi. If ever I ketch yer messin' abaht wi' any o' them, I'll SLING him ONE IN THE EYE.

SLINGER, subs. (common).—A piece of bread floating in tea.

SLINGING, adj. (colloquial).—Covering; indefatigable; effortless.

1857. HUGHES, Tom Brown's School-days, 1. 7. Two well-known runners . . . started off at a long SLINGING trot across the fields.

SLINK, subs. (common).—1. A sneak; (2) a greedy starveling (HALLIWELL); and (3) a cheat. Hence as adj. (or SLINKY) = (1) sneaky, mean; and 2 (America) = thin, lank (BARTLETT).

1816. SCOTT, Antiquary, xv. He has na' settled his account wi' my gudeman the deacon for this twalmonth; he's but slink, I doubt.

18[?]. Chronicles of Pineville, 139 [BARTLETT]. I despise a slink.
2. (old).—A miscarriage; an abortion. Also as verb. = to miscarry.

Phrases. — To slip one's cable (breath, or wind) = to to die: see aloft; to give the slip = to escape unobserved; a slip (or fall) 'twixt cup and lip = a thing not done may spoil in the doing; to slip into = (1) to attack, and (2) to execute with vigour; to slip up = to err, to trip; a slip of the tongue = an inadvertency in speech; to make a slip = to give chastity the go-by: whence see slip, ante 2.

Edwardes, Damon and Pithias [Dodsley, Old Plays (Reed), iv.]. [Oliphant, New Eng., i. 595. Among the verbs are give him the slip...]

1570. LAMBARDE, Peramb. of Kent, 422. Many things happen betweene the cup and the lippe.

1596. Jonson, Ev. Man in Humour, ii. 3. 'Tis no matter... if I cannot give him the slip at an instant.

1599. CHAPMAN, Hum. Day's Mirth [Works (1874), 39]. He gave us the slip before dinner.

1704. BROWN, Works, ii. 14. He had no sooner turn'd his back, but I pluck'd too the wicket, and gave him the slip.

1726. Vanbrugh, Provoked Husband, ii. 1. A plague on him, the monkey has gin us the slip. Ibid., v. 1. While she stood gaping, I gave her the slip.

1751. Smollett, Peregrine Pickle, ixiii. I told him [a doctor] as how I could slip my cable without his direction or assistance.

1772. Bridges, Homer Burlesqued, 109. Both those blades had slipt their wind, and in their rough fir coffins bound, Were safe from brabbles under ground.

1796. Wolcot, P. Pindar, 69. And for their cats that happed to slip their breath, Old maids, so sweet, might mourn themselves to death.

1809. Malkin, Gil Blas [ Routledge ], 177. The sequel proved... that many things fall out between the cup and the lip.

1827. Lytton, Pelham, lxxvii. Oh, oh! Sir Reginald thought of giving me the slip, eh?

1856. Reade, Never Too Late, &c., x. Give him the right stuff, doctor... and he won't slip his wind this time.

1883. Century Mag., xxxvi. 279. Slip up in my vernacular? How could I? I talked it when I was a boy with the other boys.

1886. Field, 25 Sep. In agonies of fear lest our stag should give us the slip.

Slip-along. See slipshod.

Slip-gibbet. (-halter, -rope, -string, or -thrift), subs. phr. (old).—A prodigal; one deserving of (or who has cheated) the gallows (Grose).

[?]. MS. Bright, 170, f. 1. Such a slippstring trick as never till now befell us heretofore.
Slippery.

1593. Marlowe, Lusts' Dominion
[Dodsley, Old Plays (1769), iv. 149.] As
I hope for mercy, I am half persuaded that
this slip-halter has pawned my clothes.

1594. Lvly, Mother Bombie, ii. 1.
Thow art a slipstring I'te warrant.

1611. Cotgrave, Dict. s.v. Young
rascals or scoundrels, rakehells, or slip-
strings.

1619. Fletcher, A King and No
King, ii. Well, slip-string, I shall meet
with you.

1621. Granger, Eccles, 273. Thus
it is in the house of prodigals, drinking
slipthrifts, and Belials.

d. 1637. Dekker, Londens Tempe. We
are making arrowes for my slip-string
sonne.

Slippery. subs. (thieves').—Soap:
Fr. glissant.

Adj. and adv. (old colloquial: now recognised). — Untrust-
worthy; false; wanton. Also slipper, slippery, and slip-skin.
Whence slippery - fellow (or - trick) = 'deceitful' (B. E.):
'one on whom there can be no dependance' (Grose).

1551. J. Brende, Tr. Quintus Curi-
tius, vii. Fortune . . . is slipper, and
cannot bee kept against her will.

[?]. Political Poems [E. E. T. S.],
60. He . . . of his herte . . . hath sliper
holde.

[?]. Taverner, Adag., C. i. Let
this example teach menne not to truste on
the slipperenesse of fortune.

[?]. Parad. of Dainty Devices, E. 3.
Slipper joye of certain pleasure here.

1579. Spenser, Shepheard's Kal.,
Nov. 153. And slipper hope Of mortal
men that swinck and sweate for nought.
Ibid., Sep. Long time he used this slip-
pery prank.

1580. Lvly, Euphues [Oliphant,
New Eng., i. 606. Adjectives are em-
ployed in new senses as a slippery
franke, a broad jest . . . 1].

D. 1579. Puttenham, Works, i. 4.
Because it is more currant and slipper
upon the tongue, and withal tunable and
melodious.

1602. Shakspeare, Othello, ii. 1,
246. A slipper and subtle knave. Ibid.
(1604), Winter's Tale, i. 2. My wife is
slippery. Ibid. (1610), Coriol., iv. 4. O
world, thy slippery turns.

D. 1607. Barnes, Works, 283. I know
they bee slipper that I have to do wyth,
and there is no holde of them.

1619. Fletcher, King and No
King, ii. 1. Servants are slippery: but
I dare give my word for her and her
honesty [chastity].

fence. A pretty slip-skin conveyance to
sift mass into no mass. Ibid. (1641), Prel.
Epis. Some bad and slippery men in
that counsell.

2. (common).—Quick.

We must look slippy about it . . . It's
lucky I haven't far to go.

Slip-shod, adj. (colloquial).—
Careless; slovenly. [That is
'slipper-shod.'] Also slip-along,
slip-slop.

1605. Shakspeare, Lear, i. 5. Thy
wit shall ne'er go slipshod.

1818. Scott, Heart of Midlothian,
i. A sort of appendix to the half bound,
and slip-shod volumes of the circulating
library.

1849. Maitland, Reformation, 559.
It would be less worth while to read Fox's
slip-along stories.

1885. D. Tel., 29 Aug. Stilted
phraseology is preferable to
slip-shod.

Slip-slop, subs. phr. (colloquial).—
1. A blunder. As adj. = slovenly,
inaccurate: cf. slipshod.

1797. D'Arblay, Diary, iv. 14. He
told us a great number of comic slip-slops
of the first Lord Baltimore, who made a
constant misuse of one word for another.

1849. Kingsley, Alton Locke,
xxxviii. His . . . slip-slop trick of using
the word natural to mean, in one sentence,
'material,' and in the next, as I use it, only
'normal and orderly.'

2. (common).—In pl. = Shoes
(or slippers) down at the heels:
also (Norfolk) slip-shoe.
**Slip-thrift.**

Adj. (colloquial).—Here and there; 'all over the shop': also SLIP-SLAP and verb.

1721. CENTLIVRE, *The Artifice*, iii. I ha' found her fingers SLIP-SLAP this a-way and that a-way, like a flail upon a wheat-sheaf.

1890. FARJEON, *Griff*, 105. The dirty, broken bluchers in which Griff's feet SLIP-SLOPPED constantly.

See Slop.

**SLIP-THRIFT.** See SLIP-GIBBET.

**SLIT, subs.** (venery).—1. The female pudendum: see MONOSYLLABLE (HALLIWELL).

1647-8. HERRICK, *Hesperides*, 4. 'Upon Scobble.' Good Sir, make no more cuts i' th' outward skin, One SLIT's enough to let Adultry in.

2. (old).—A pocket.

129. King Horn [E. E. T. S.], 61. Thu most habbe redi mitte Twenti Marc ine thi SLITTE.

**SLITHER, verb.** (common).—1. To slip; to make away; to smooth; and 3. (American) = to hurry.

Also SLITHERY = SLIPPERY (q.v.).

1857. Hughes, *Tom Brown's School-days*, ii. iv. After getting up three or four feet they came SLITHERING to the ground, barking their arms and faces.


18... TENNYSON, *Northern Cobbler*. Once of a frosty night, I SLITHERED and hurted my huck.

1886. Field, 13 Feb. You could not estimate the distance or direction to which your horse might SLITHER.

1901. WALKER, *In the Blood*, 244. They might 'a' SLITHERED with your goods if you 'adn't been so mighty sharp with your hands.

**SLIVE, verb.** (old colloquial).—To sneak or lounge away; to idle, SLIVE-ANDREW = a good-for-nothing; SLIVERLY = artful; SLIVING = idle. To LET SLIVE (American) = to let fly.

1797. CENTLIVRE, *Platonick Love*, iv. I know her gown agen: I minded her when she SLIV'D OFF. Ibid. (1710), *The Man's Bewitched*, iii. The SLIVING baggage will not come to a resolution yet.

1725. BAILEY, *Erasmus*, 41. What are you a SLIVING about, you drone? You are a year a lighting a candle.

1847. ROBB, *Squatter Life*. As soon as I clapped peeper on him I let SLIVER, when the varmint dropped.

**Slobber, subs.** (printers').—Badly distributed ink.

Verb. (colloquial).—1. To kiss effusively. Also as subs. and Slobbering.


d.1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 36. The amatory Slobber which is comforting but low.

2. (colloquial).—To scamp work: also TO Slobber OVER.

**Slobberdegullion.** See Slobberdegullion.

**Slobberer, subs.** (provincial).—1. A slovenly farmer; and (2) a jobbing tailor (HALLIWELL).

**Slobgollion, subs.** (nautical).—'Whaleman's term for an oozy, stringy substance found in sperm oil' (C. RUSSELL).

**Slog, subs.** (common).—1. A blow; and (2) a bout of fisticuffs. As verb. = (1) to hit, or work hard; (2) to PUNISH (q.v.), to pound (pugilists'), and (3) to tackle a matter seriously. Whence SLOGGING-MATCH = a hard fight or tussle; SLOGGER = (1) a pugilist given to hard hitting, and (2) a
steady worker; SLOGGING = a beating, a fight; and TO HAVE A SLOG ON = to put on a spurt. In America the spelling SLUG, SLOGGER, &c., is accepted.

1853. BRADLEY, Verdant Green. His whole person put in Chancery, slung, bruised, fibbed, propped, fiddled, SLOGGED, and otherwise ill-treated.

1857. HUGHES, Tom Brown's School-days, i. v. The SLOGGER pulls up at last . . . fairly blown.

1878. LANG, Ballad of Boat-race. They catch the stroke, and they SLOG it through.

1885. Standard, 1 Dec. He was a vigorous SLOGGER, and heartily objected to being bowled first ball.

1886. Phil. Times, 6 May. There was some terrible SLOGGING . . . Cleary planted two rib-roasters, and a tap on Langdon's face.

1887. Fun, 9 Nov., 201. He had a "merry mill" with a Thames bargee, known as "Jim the SLOGGER," and the SLOGGER . . . got the worst of the scrap.

1891. Times, 14 Sep. 'Capital Punishment.' They top a lag out here [W. Aus.] for SLOGGING a screw.

[?]. E. B. MICHELL, Boxing and Sparring [Century], 162. SLOGGING and hard hitting with the mere object of doing damage . . . earn no credit in the eyes of a good judge.

2. (public schools').—A large portion: spec. a big slice of cake.

SLOGGER, subs. (Camb. Univ.).—i. A boat in the second division: corresponding to the Oxford Torpids.

See SLOG.

SLOP, subs. (colloquial).—i. In pl. = liquid food: spec. weak tea: or 'any thin beverage taken medicinally' (GROSE): also SLIP-SLOP. As adj. = feeble, poor, weak; as verb. = to eat or drink greedily, TO MOP UP (q.v.): also TO SLOP (or SLAP) UP; or TO SLOP IT; SLOP-

PING-UP = a drinking bout; SLOP-FEEDER = a tea-spoon; SLOP-TUBS = tea-things; SLIP-SLOPPY = slushy, watery.


1568. STILL, Gammer Gurton's Needle [DODSLEY, Old Plays (REED), iii. 193]. To SLOP up milk.

1675. COTTON, Burlesque on Burlesque, 187. No, thou shalt feed instead of these Or your SLIP-SLAPS of curds and whey On Nectar and Ambrosia.

1692. DRYDEN, Juvenal, vi. 772. But thou, whatever SLOPS she will have brought, Be thankful.

d.1704. LESTRANGE, Works [Century]. The sick husband here wanted for neither SLOPS nor doctors.

1821. COMBE, Dr. Syntax, i. i. At length the coffee was announced . . . 'And since the meagre SLIP-SLOP's made, I think the call should be obeyed.'

a.1832. EDGWORTH, Rose, Thistle and Shamrock, ill. 2. Does he expect tea can be keeping hot for him to the end of time? He'll have nothing but SLOP-DASH.

1837. BARNHAM, Ingold's Leg., ii. 291. There was no taking refuge . . . On a SLIP-SLOPPY day, in a cab or a bus.

1900. FLYNT, Tramps. Yonkers Slim was going to meet him in Washington with some money, and the bums intended to have a great SLOPPIN'-UP.

2. (nautical).—In pl. = 'Wearing apparel and bedding used by seamen' (GROSE). Hence ready-made clothing. SLOP-SELLER = a dealer in ready-made clothes (GROSE); SLOP-CHEST = a ship's supply of clothes and bedding: usually doled out at cost price; SLOP-BOOK = the register of supplies; SLOP-WORK = (1) the cheapest: hence (2) any work poorly done; SLOPPY = ill-fitting. [Originally 'an outer garment made of linen' (WRIGHT)].
Slop.


1555. Eden, Works [Arber], 327. [Oliphant, New English, i. 535. We hear of mariner's sloopes; this old word for vestes seems henceforth to have been restricted to seamen.]

1772. Bridges, Homer Burlesque, 205. One kept a slop-shop in Rag Fair.

1835-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab., 11. 47. It was good stuff and good make... that's the reason why it always bangs a slop.

1882. Queen, 7 Oct. It must not be imagined that, to be easy, dress must necessarily be sloppy.

1886. D. News., 3 Dec. The harsh oppressive middleman, and the heartless indifferent slopseller have sat for their portraits again and again.

1887. Fish. of U. S., v. 2. 226 [Century]. If a poor voyage has been made, or if the man has drawn on the sloop-chest... [so] as to ruin his credit, he becomes bankrupt ashore.

3. (common).—A tailor.

4. (back slang).—A policeman: a corruption of 'esclop.'

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab. I wish I'd been there to have a shy at the esclops.

c.1870. Music Hall Song [S. J. & C.]. Never to take notice of vulgar nicknames, such at slop, "copper," "rabbit-pie shifter," "peeler."

1886. Sims, Ballads of Babylon... I dragged you in here and saved you, and sent out a gal for the slops.

1887. Fun, 9 Nov., 201. A vanishing point [is] the corner you bunks round when the slops's after yer.

1899. Whiteing, John St., 49. She is Boadicea... a right-down raughty gal leading her alley to battle against the Roman slops.

5. (Christ's Hospital).—A term of contempt.

Verb. (colloquial).—1. To make a mess; to walk or work in the wet.

1888. Murray, Weaker Vessel, xi. He came slopping on behind me, with the peculiar sucking noise at each footstep which broken boots make on a wet and level pavement.

To slop over, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To enter into with enthusiasm, and speak, write, or act like a fool; to put on side (q.v.); to make a mistake.

1859. Browne, Fourth of July Oration [Works (1899), 124]. The prevailin' weakness of most public men is to slop over... They get filled up and slop. They rush things. Washington never slopped over.

1888. Harper's Mag., lxxviii. 818. One of his great distinctions was his moderation... he never slopped over.

Slope, verb. (common).—To run away; to bunk (q.v.). As subs. = an escape: e.g., TO DO A SLOPE.

1844. Haliburton, The Attache, xxvii. They jist run like a flock of sheep... and slope off, properly skeered.

1847. Robb, Squatter Life. The Editor of the "Eagle" cannot pay his board bill, and fears are entertained that he will slope without liquidating the debt.

C.1866. Vance, Chick-a-leary Cove. Now, my pals, I'm going to slope, see you soon again I hope.

1897. Marshall, Pomes, 17. So she sloped from her Brummy.

2. (Old Cant).—See quot.

1610. Rowlands, Martin Mark-all [Hunt. Club Rep. (1874), 38]. Cowch a hogshead... is like an Alminacke that is out of date; now the duch word to slope is with them used to sleepe, and liggen, to lie downe.

Sloper's Island, subs. phr. (London).—A weekly tenement neighbourhood: spec. c.1870 the Artisan's Village near Loughborough Junction, originally in
the midst of fields; now in the centre of a densely populated neighbourhood.

**Slopper, subs.** (The Leys School).
—A slop basin: cf. Footer, Brekker, &c.

**Sloppy,** adj. (colloquial).—Loose; slovenly.

1890. *Academy,* 23 Mar., 218. [To] teach a great number of sciences and languages in an elementary and sloppy way.

**Slosh, subs.** (common).—A drink.


**Slosher, subs.** (Cheltenham College).—A boarding-house assistant: they are charged with superintending dormitories, the evening work, &c.

**Sloch, subs.** (old and still colloquial).—I. A clumsy lout, an idler; hence (2) anything indifferent: usually in phrase 'no sloch'; and (3) an awkward lumpish gait. As verb. = to walk lumpishly or sullenly; sloching (or sloch) = awkward, ungainly, heavy (Grose).


1878. **Whetstone, Promos and Cassandra,** 47. Thou sithie fine sloch.


1714. Gay, *Shepherd's Week,* i. Begin thy carols then, thou vaunting sloch: Be thine the oaken staff, or mine the pouch.


1837. Barham, *Ingolds. Leg.,* ii. 374. In a few minutes his . . . figure was seen sloching up the ascent.

1866. Eliot, *Felix Holt,* Intro. The shepherd with a slow and sloching walk . . . moved aside, as if unwillingly.

1869. Clemens, *The Innocents at Home,* ii. He was always nifty himself, and so you bet his funeral ain't going to be no sloch.


1877. *Century Mag.,* xxv. 176. Looking like a slochful country bumpkin.

1881. O. W. Holmes, *Old Volume of Life,* 58. They looked slochful, listless, torpid—an ill conditioned crew.

1885. *West. Rev.,* cxxv. 85. He had a long, strong, uncouth body; rather rough-hewn sloching features.

1885. **Kendall, Billy Vickers.** He has, in fact, the sloch and dress, Which bullock-puncher stamp him.


1887. Morley Roberts, *Western Avernus.* A rustler . . . means a worker, an energetic man, and no sloch can be a rustler.

1899. Whiteing, *John St.,* xi. It is near bedtime, and those . . . to stay for the night are sloching to the lairs.
4. (common).—A slouch-hat (i.e., a hat with a broad and drooping brim).

1818. SCOTT, Midlothian, xliii. Even the old hat looked smarter . . . instead of slouching backward or forward on the laird's head, as it was thrown on. Ibid., iii. A sailor's cap slouched over his face.


1889. HARPER'S MAG., lxix. Middle-aged men in slouch hats lounge around with hungry eyes.

SLOUR, adv. (Old Cant).—'To lock up; to fasten; to button up one's coat; to make all secure' (GRose).

1834. AINSWORTH, Rookwood, iii. v. No slour'd hoxter my snipes could stay.

SLOW, subs. (old colloquial).—A sluggard; a lazybones.

[?]. M. S. DOUCE, 52 [HALLIWELL]. Lothe to bedde and lothe fro bedde, men schalle know the slow.

Adv. (colloquial).—I. Stupid; spiritless; tedious.

1855. THACKERAY, Newcomes, xlix. The party was what you young fellows call slow.

1869. F. LOCKER, Reply to a Letter. The girls I love now vote me slow.

1874. Siliad, 97. Whither shall we go? The Judge and Jury? No, that's awful slow.

2. (Winchester).—Ignorant of Winchester notions (q.v.).

SLOW-BACK, subs. phr. (old).—A loafer.

1619. FLETCHER, Custom of the Country, i. 2. Yes, they are knit; but must this slubberdegullion have her maidenhead now?

1630. TAYLOR, Laugh and be Fat, 73. Contaminous, pestiferous, preposterous, stygmatical slavonians, slubberdegullions.

1653. URQUHART, Rabelais, i. xxv. Calling them . . . slapsauce fellows, slubberdegullion druggels, lubbardly louts . . .

1656. Mus. Del., 79. He's an oxe, and an asse, and a slubberdegullion.

1663. BUTLER, Hudibras, i. iii. 885. Thow hast deserved, base slubberdegullion, to be served as thou didst vow to deal with me.

SLUED. See SLEWED.

SLUG, subs. (old colloquial).—Generic for sloth. Thus (1) = a drone, a lazybones: also slug-abed, and (now accepted) sluggish; 2. (old) = a hindrance; and (3) = a slow-paced boat, horse, &c., or (B. E.) a dull-edged tool. As adj. (also sluggish and sluggish) = lazy, slow; as verb. = (1) to laze, and (2) to hinder.

1383. CHAUCER, Cant. Tales, 'The Parson's Tale.' Then cometh . . . sluggish slumbering which maketh a man heavy.


14[?]. Political Poems [E. E. T. S.]. 32. The slugge lokyth to be holpe of God that commawndyth men to waake in the world.

1590. SPENSER, Fairy Queen, ii. i. 23, 5. To slug in slouth and sensuall delights. Ibid. (d.1599), State of Ireland. He lay not all night slugging in a cabin under his mantle.

1605. **Bacon, Adv. of Learning**. They are . . . hindrances to stay and **slug** the ship for further sailing. *Ibid.* (1597-1624), *Essays*, 'Of Usury.' Money would be stirring if it were not for this **slug**

1617. **Cotgrave, Dict., s.v. Paresser**. To **slugge** it, to laze it, to live idly.


1635. **Quarles, Emblems** [NARES]. One spends his day in plots, his night in play; another sleeps and slugs both night and day. *Ibid.*, i. 13. Lord, when we leave the world and come to thee, How dull, how **slug** are we.

1641. **Milton, Reformation in Eng.**. It is still episcopacy that . . . worsens and **sluggs** the most learned and seeming religions of our ministers.

1648. **Herrick, Hesperides**, 'To Corinna Going a-Maying.' Get up sweet **slug-a-bed**, And see the dew bespangles herb and tree.

1652. **Shirley, Brothers . . . Car.** Will none deliver me? *Lu*. They are somewhat **slug**.

1659. **Gauden, Tears of the Church**, 381. Which soon grew a **slug**, when once the North-wind ceased to fill its sailes.

1666. **Pepys, Diary**, 17 Oct. His rendezvous for his fleet and for all **sluggs** to come.

1888. **Ency. Brit.**, xii. 199. A **slug** [horse] must be kept going, and an impetuous one restrained.

4. (old).—A dram. Hence **to fire** (or **cant**) A **slug** = to drink (Grose).

1762. **Smollett, L. Greaves**, ii. v. He ordered the waiter . . . to . . . bring alongside a short allowance of brandy or grog that he might **cant** a **slug** into his breadroom.

5. (American).—An ingot of gold; a twenty-dollar piece (*Ency. Dict.*), but in *Century Dict.* 'a gold coin of the value of fifty dollars privately issued in San Francisco during the mining excitement of 1849.'

1890. **San Francisco Bulletin**, 10 May. An interesting reminder of early days in California in the shape of a round fifty-dollar **slug**. . . . But fifty of these round fifty-dollar pieces were issued when orders came from the East prohibiting private coinage.

**Slugger.** See **Slogger**.

**Sluice, verb.** (common).—I. The mouth: also **sluice-house**. As **verb.** : *e.g.*, **to sluice the bolt** (dominoes, gob, or ivories) **to drink heartily**: see dominoes (Grose). Whence **sluicery** = a public-house (Grose).

1840. **Egan, Book of Sports**. Sam's **sluice-house** was again severely damaged.

2. (venery).—The female *pudendum*: see *monosyllable*.

d.1704. **Brown, Works**, ii. 184. That whore, my wife . . . that us'd to open her **sluice** . . . to gratify her concupiscense.

**Verb.** (colloquial).—**To paddle**; **to bathe** (or wet) freely.

d.1859. **De Quincey, Works** (Century). He dried his neck and face which he had **sluicing** with cold water.

1860. **Russell, Diary in India**, i. 4. The great seas . . . **sluicing** the decks with a mimic ocean.

**To sluice off, verb. phr.** (American).—**To divert**; **to lay aside**.

1862. **Congregationalist**, 3 June. Some of present earning must thus be **sluiced off**, to repair the poverty of the past.

**Slum, subs.** (old and thieves').—I. Nonsense; a trick; a swindle: *e.g.*, a sham begging letter, a roll of 'snide' notes, &c. Hence **up to slum** = knowing, not to be **had** (*q.v.*) ; **to fake the slum** = to do the trick. 2 (old) = idle talk (see quot. 1821 and 1823).
As verb. = (1) to trick, to cheat; and (2) to talk idly, or to speak slang.

d. 1821. RANDALL, Diary (Grose, 3rd ed. [1823]). And thus, without more sum, began.

1823. BEE, Dict. Turf, s.v. SLUM—loose ridiculous talk is all sum! ‘None of your sum’ is said by a girl to a blarney-chap... The gypsy language, or cant, is sum... Dutch Sam excelled in slumbery—‘Willus youvus givibus glasso ginibus.’

1851. MAYHEW, Lond. Lab. That was his leading sum, and pretty well he sponged them too. Ibid. (1856), Gt. World of London, 46. Screevers or the writers of sums and fakements.

2. (old).—Originally a room [Grose: also see quotes. 1823, s.v. sense 1 and infra]. Also 3 (modern) = a squalid street or neighbourhood; a rookery (q.v.): usually in pl. with ‘back.’ As verb. = (1) to explore poor quarters out of curiosity or charity; 2 (Univ.) to keep to back streets to avoid observation; and 3 (common) to keep in the background.

1823. BEE, Dict. Turf, s.v. Slum... also the room in which persons meet who talk in that style [see sense 1]; thus we may have ‘the little slum,’ or ‘the great slum,’ ‘a dirty slum,’ or ‘a pretty slum,’ ‘the back slum,’ and a slum in front. Derived from slumber, to sleep, the molls and coves napping nine winks at those places.

1823. MONCRIEFF, Tom and Jerry, ii. 3. Let’s have a dive amongst the cadgers in the back slums in the Holy Land.

1872. BLACK, Adv. of Phaeton, xviii. When one gets clear of the suburban slums and the smoke of Liverpool, a very respectable appearance of real country-life becomes visible.

1884. Referee, 22 June. A wealthy lady went slumming through the Dials the other day.

1885. Echo, 8 Sep. There is little in the author’s observations on slums and slum life that has not been said before.

d. 1894. YATES, London Life, i. ii. Gone is the rookery, a conglomeration of slums and alleys in the heart of St. Giles’s.

1897. MARSHALL, Pomes, 74. It was really a slum, where the greens always hum. Ibid., 97. But it [love] wouldn’t be slummed like a worm in the bud.

4. (thieves’). — A letter, a package: anything in hand.

5. (Punch and Judy). — The call; slum-fake = the coffin; slumming = acting.

1872. BRADDON, Dead Sea Fruit, xiv. The gorer’s awfully coally on his own slumming, eh?

SLUMGULLION, subs. (American).—I. A representative; a servant [Bartlett].

SLUMGUZZLE, verb. (American).—To deceive. Hence slum-guzzling = humbuggery [Bartlett].

SLUMMY, subs. (common).—A servant-girl.

SLUMP, subs. (Stock Exchange and colloquial).—I. A sudden fall: of prices; an ignominious failure: e.g., a slump in Kaffirs. As verb. = to fall heavily (Scots’) slump = all of a piece; to come down with a rush.

1888. HOWELLS, Annie Kilburn, xxv. What a slump!... That blessed shortlegged little seraph has spoilt the best sport that ever was.

2. (common).—A gross amount; the whole: e.g., ‘a slump sum.’ As verb. = to lump, or group together.

d. 1856. SIR W. HAMILTON, Works (Century). The different groups... are exclusively slumped together under that sense.

1870. W. MATHEWS, Getting on in the World, 20. Slumping the temptations which were easy to avoid with those which were comparatively irresistible.
3. (American College). — To recite badly; to fail; to bungle.

**Slung.** Slung out on hands and knees, *phr.* (tailors'). — Instantly dismissed.

**Slur, subs. verb.** (B. E. and Grose). — 1. 'A Cheat at Dice; also a slight Scandal or Affront.' Hence (2) to cheat.

1664. *Butler, Hudibras*, ii. ii. What was the public faith found out for But to slur men out of what they fought for. *Ibid., Remains, Misc. Thoughts.*

1890. *Argus*, 20 Sept., 13, 6. Sundays are the most trying days of all, say the cuisiniers... This man's assistant is called the slusher.

1896. *Paterson, Man from Snowy River*, 162. The tarboy, the cook, and the slushy... with the rest of the shearing horde.

4. (American journalists'). — Indifferent matter; padding (*q.v.*).

**Slut, subs.** (old). — 1. A dirty housewife; (2) = an awkward person or thing; (3) a wench (*q.v.*): cf. *Quean*; (4) a bitch. As *verb* = to befoul; sluttiness (also sluttishness) = neglect; sluttish = (1) wanton; and (2) untidy.

1483. *Chaucer, Cant. Tales*, 'Prologue.' to Canon Yeoman's Tale,' 83. Why is thy lord so sluttish?

1596. *Shakespeare, Merry Wives of Windsor*, v. v. 50. Our radiant queen hates sluts and sluttery.

1615. *Sylvestre, Tobacco Battered*, Don Tobacco's damnable infection slutt-ting the body.

1648. *Herrick, Hesperides*, 'Ex-cesse.' Excess is sluttish; keep the mean; for why? Virtue's clean conclave is sobriety.

1871. *Addison, Spectator*, No. 130. You see now and then some handsome young jades among them [gypsies]; the sluts have very often white teeth and black eyes.

1887. *Henley, Culture in the Slums*. I keeps a dado on the sly.
SLYBOOTS, subs. (old).—A seemingly simple but really clever and designing fellow (B. E. and Grose).

c.1680. NORTH, Lives of the Norths, 169. [Lord Guildford was nicknamed] SLYBOOTS.

1729. ADDISON, Adv. of Abdalla, 32. The frog call'd . . . several times, but in vain . . . though the SLY-BOOTS heard well enough all the while.

SMABBLED (or SNABBLED), adj. (GROSE).—Killed in battle.

SMACK (B. E. c.1686).—1. 'A Twang or ill Taste.'

2. (tailors'). — A liking; a fancy: e.g. 'He had a real SMACK for the old 'un': cf. (old colloquial) SMACKERING = 'a longing for' (BAILEY).

3. (colloquial).—A kiss: also SMACKER. Whence TO S.MACK CALF'S SKIN (COMMOIRI) = to take oath.

1786. BURNS, Jolly Beggars. Ilk SMACK still, did crack still, Just like a cadger's whip.

1809. IRVING, Hist. N. York, 171. The gentlemen gallantly attended their fair ones to their respective abodes, and took leave of them with a hearty SMACK.

1860. DICKENS, Uncom. Traveller, Titbull's Almshouses.' Heard the sound of a SMACK—a SMACK which was not a blow.

SMACK SMOOTH, phr. (colloquial).—' Level with the surface; everything cut away' (GROSE).

1790. DIBDIN, Poor Jack. Though the tempest the topgallant mast SMACK SMOOTH should smite.

SMACKING-COVE, subs. phr. (Old Cant).—A coachman (B. E., BAILEY and Grose).

SMALL, subs. (colloquial).—1. In pl. = breeches: spec. the close-fitting knee-breeches of the 18th and early 19th centuries: also SMALL-CLOTHES [GROSE: 'A girl at the affected delicacy of the present age; a suit being called coat, waistcoat, and—articles or SMALL CLOTHES']

1818. BYRON, Beppo, iv. You'd better walk about begirt with briars, Instead of coat and SMALL-CLOTHES.

1839. DICKENS, Sketches, 'The Last Cabdriver.' His boots were of the Wellington form, pulled up to meet his corduroy knee-SMALLS.

1840. HOOD, Miss Kilmansegg. Wear a negative coat and positive SMALLS.

1869. STOWE, Oldtown, 52. His well-brushed Sunday coat and SMALLS.

2. (Univ. Oxon).—In pl. see quotations. LITTLE-GO is the Cambridge equivalent. Properly 'Responsions.'

c.1840. E. A. FREEMAN [1823-92], Cont. Rev., li. 821. 'Greats,' so far as the name existed in my time, meant the Public Examination, as distinguished from Responsions, Little-go, or SMALLS.

1853. BRADLEY, Verdant Green, xi. The little gentleman was going in for his degree, alias Great-go, alias Greats; and our hero for his first examination in litteris humanioribus, alias Responsions, alias Little-go, alias SMALLS.

1861. HUGHES, Tom Brown at Oxford, x. In our second term we are no longer freshmen, and begin to feel ourselves at home, while both SMALLS and greats are sufficiently distant to be altogether ignored if we feel that way inclined.

1863. READE, Hard Cash ... Julia reminded her that SMALLS was the new word for little go.
Looking forward with annoyance to the rather childish first examination, in Oxford language known as SMALLS.

3. (theatrical). — A one-night performance in a small town or village by a minor company carrying its own "fit-up."

Adv. (colloquial). — Timidly; humbly: e.g. to SING (or SPEAK) SMALL (q.v.).

1865. Dickens, Mutual Friend, xi. For the clearing off of these worthies, Mrs. Podsnap added a SMALL AND EARLY evening to the dinner.

1832. Southey. The Doctor, Interch., xvi. He thought SMALL BEER at that time of some very great patriots and Queenites.

1840. De Quincey, Style [Works, xi. 174]. Should express her self-e-e-teem by the popular phrase, that she did not 'think SMALL BEER OF HERSELF.'

1853. Lytton, My Novel, iv. xii. When I say that sum un is gumptious, I mean—though that's more vulgar like—sum un who does not THINK SMALL BEER of hisself.

SMALL AND EARLY, subs. phr. (colloquial). — An evening party: informal and breaking up at an early hour.

SMALL BEER, subs. thr. (colloquial). — 1. Weak beer; hence (2) trifles. Whence TO CHRONICLE SMALL BEER = (1) to engage in trivial occupations, and (2) to retail petty scandal; TO THINK SMALL BEER OF ANYTHING = to have a poor opinion of it. Also SMALL THINGS. As adj. = petty.

1604. Shakspeare, Othello, ii. 1, 161. To suckle fools and CHRONICLE SMALL BEER.


1712. Addison, Spectator, 269, 8. I allow a double quantity of malt to my SMALL BEER.

1832. Southey. The Doctor, Interch., xvi. He thought SMALL BEER at that time of some very great patriots and Queenites.

1840. De Quincey, Style [Works, xi. 174]. Should express her self-e-e-teem by the popular phrase, that she did not 'think SMALL BEER OF HERSELF.'

1844. Thackeray, Barry Lyndon, xiv. All the news of sport, assize, and quarter-sessions were detailed by this worthy CHRONICLER OF SMALL BEER.

1889. Academy, 25 Sep., 219. Two such chroniclers of SMALL BEER as Boswell and Erskine.

1902. Pall Mall Gaz., 19 Sep., 1. 3. Vogler had reason to think no SMALL THINGS of himself. He was emphatically the popular man of his day; he was followed by enthusiastic admirers.

SMALL CAP, subs. phr. (printers'). — A second or inferior in command; an under overseer.

SMALL CHEQUE, subs. phr. (nautical). — A dram; a drink. To KNOCK DOWN A CHEQUE = to spend all in drink.

SMALL FRY, subs. phr. (colloquial). — Generic (1) for things little; and (2) for things trifling or valueless.

1838. Black, Houseboat, viii. While some of the SMALL FRY popped out their heads to have a look.

SMALL HOURS, subs. phr. (colloquial). — The first three or four hours after midnight: usually 'THE SMALL HOURS of the morning.' Also SHORT HOURS.

1888. Black, Houseboat, viii. While some of the SMALL FRY popped out their heads to have a look.

SMALL POTATOES. See POTATO.

SMALL PILL, subs. phr. (The Leys School). — A diminutive football: used on runs.

SMART, adj. and adv. (colloquial). — Generic for superior, out of the common distinguished. [In senses 1, 2, and 3 there is often, but not necessarily, an implied suspicion of something questionable.]
= lively, witty, pert (B. E.): e.g., a SMART (= clever) BOOK; A SMART (= ready) REPLY; A SMART (= bright) SAYING; A SMART (= sparkling) SPEECH; A SMART (= brisk) LAD, &c. 2. = well-dressed, fashionable, brilliant: e.g., a SMART (= elegant and modish) FROCK; A SMART (= attractive and amusing) SHOW; SMART (= fashionable) SOCIETY: hence SMART, subs. = (1) a dandy (old), and (2) one in advance in the prevailing standard of good taste. 3. = quick, expert, shrewd: e.g., a SMART (= precocious) CHILD; A SMART (= clever) WORKMAN; A SMART (= enterprising) TRADESMAN; A SMART (= capable, active and neat) SOLDIER, SAILOR, HAND, &c. 4 (American) = clever, knavish, and unscrupulous. 5 (prov.) = cold: e.g., a SMART (= biting) MORNING. 6 (colloquial) = uncommon: e.g., SMART (= hard) GOING; SMART (= resolute and lively) HITTING; SMART (= capable) WORK. As adv. = very, large, considerable, vigorously: with such derivatives and combinations as SMARTY (subs.), SMARTNESS (subs.), and SMARTISH (adj.).

[ ? ]. M.S. Cantab., Ft. ii. 38, f. 131 [Halliwell]. The swynehorde toke out a knyfe SMERTE. Ibid., Ft. v. 48, f. 110. SMERTE then she callis a knave.

1383. CHAUCER, Cant. Tales, ‘Gen. ProL’ 149. If men smot it with a yerde SMERTE.

[ ? ]. Book of Frecedence [E. E. T. S], i. 50. When thi seruantes haue do ther werke, To pay thyre hyre lyke thou be SMERTE.


1662. FULLER, Worthies, Wilts, iii. 335. Thomas of Wilton wrote also a SMART Book on this subject.

d.1699. STILTINGFLEET, Sermons, iii. vii. These few words... contain a SMART and serious expostulation.

d.1701. DRYDEN, Works [Century]. After show’ts The stars shine SMARTER.

c.1704. Gentleman Instructed, 470. ‘SIRRah, says the youngest, ‘make me a SMART wig, a SMART one, ye dog!’ The fellow blessed himself: he had heard of a SMART NAG, a SMART MAN, &c., but a SMART WIG was Chinese to the tradesman. Within two days he had a SMART WIG with a SMART PRICE in the box. The truth is, he had been bred up with the groom, and translated the stable dialect into the dressing room.

d.1704. BROWN, Works, ii. 123. I was a SMART child, and a smock-fac’d youth.

1705. VANBRUGH, Confederacy, v. 2. There’s no need to be so SMART upon him...

1715. ADDISON, Drummer, iii. 1. Thou’st very SMART my dear. But see! Smoke the doctor.

1739. TOWNLEY, High Life Below Stairs, ii. The gay sparkling Belle who the whole town alarms. And with eyes, lips, and neck, sets the SMARTS all in arms.

1740. RICHARDSON, Pamela, i. 51. I bought... two pairs of ordinary blue worsted hose that made a SMARTISH appearance with white clocks. Ibid. (1753). Grandison, iv. 292. Our cousin is looked upon amongst his brother libertines and SMARTS as a man of first consideration.

1742. FIELDING, Joseph Andrews, ii. iv. All the SMARTS... were eclipsed in a moment. Ibid., iii. iii. I resolved to quit all further conversation with beaux and SMARTS of every kind.

1753. Adventurer, 100. The scale consists of eight: Greenhorn, Jemmy, Jessamy, SMART, Honest Fellow, Joyous Spirit, Buck, and Blood.

1785. COWPER, Task, iv. 468. And sighs for the SMART comrades he has left.

c.1812. MAHER, The Night Before Larry was Stretched. He fetched a SMART BLOW at his head.

1811. AUSTEN, Sense and Sensibility, xix. I always preferred the church... but that was not SMART enough for my family. They recommended the army, but that was a great deal too SMART for me.

1826. CROKER [Croker Papers, i. 331]. Where there was a SMART young WAITER, whom, however, these two Englishmen used to row exceedingly.
Smart.

1833. MARRYAT, Peter Simple, iv. Come, heave ahead, my lads, and be smart.

1835. HOFFMAN, Winter in the West. There’s a smart chance of cigars there in the bar.

1836. SCOTT, Cruise of Midge, 363. There’s a smart hand... a good seaman evidently by the cut of his jib.

1837. DICKENS, Pickwick Papers, ii. Smart chap that cabman... but... punch his head! Ibid. (1844), Martin Chuzzlewit, xxxiii. Scadder is a smart man, sir... Scadder was a smart man, and had drew a lot of British capital that was as sure as sun-up... Wish he might be sifted fine as flour, and whittled small as chips; that if they didn’t come off that fixing right smart too, he’d spill ‘em in the drink.

1837. DICKENS, Martin Chuzzlewit, xxxiii. Scadder is a smart man, sir... Scadder was a smart man, and had drew a lot of British capital that was as sure as sun-up... Wish he might be sifted fine as flour, and whittled small as chips; that if they didn’t come off that fixing right smart too, he’d spill ‘em in the drink.

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1838-39. HOFFMAN, Web of Spider, xxii. ‘Smart he was, but he had a smarter man against him.’... ‘Yes, but you don’t yet realise how smart.’

1840. WHITE, West End, 19. Among the smart set, and under the surface, little is impossible.

1841. PALL MALL GAZ., 28 NOV., 2, 3. There can be no question that the smart tradesman of to-day thrusts himself upon the general notice with tiresome assiduity.

1843. BRONTE, Shirley, xxiv. This stout lady in a quaint black dress, who looks young enough to wear much smarter raiment if she would.

1844. HALIBURTON, Attache, ix. He has a smart chance of getting a better character.

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1845. STOWE, Dred, i. 209. She had right smart of life in her.

1850. STOWE, Oldtown, 57. She was a little thin woman, but tough as Inger rubber, and smart as a steel trap.

1851. CLEMENS, Huck. Finn, v. 34. I’ll lay for you, my smarty, and if I catch you about that school I’ll tan you good.

1851-61. MAYSHEW, Lond. Lab. The sweep asked him what he was going to have. ‘A two-and-a-half plate and a ha’p’orth of smash.’

1854. OLMSTED, Texas, 301. Each man’s rations consisting of a pint of mouldy corn and a right smart chunk of bacon.

1856. STOWE, Dred, i. 209. She had right smart of life in her.

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1858. KIPLING, Rant of the White Hussars. It was all the Colonel’s fault... He said the regiment was not smart enough.

1859. Answers, 27 July, 141, 1. He knew that if the manuscript got about the Yankees would think it a smart thing to crib it.

1861. KINGSLEY, Ravenshoe, xxxv. He’s a prig, and a smart one, too.

1869. STOWE, Oldtown, 57. She was a little thin woman, but tough as Inger rubber, and smart as a steel trap.

1884. CLEMENS, Huck. Finn, v. 34. I’ll lay for you, my smarty, and if I catch you about that school I’ll tan you good.

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SMART-MONEY, subs. phr. (old).—
1. ‘Given by the King, when a Man in Land or Sea-Service has a Leg Shot or Cut off, or is disabled’ (B. E. and GROSE): hence (2) a fine; and (3) vindictive damages: also smart.

SMART, subs. (colloquial).—1. Iced brandy and water.

2. (common).—Mashed vegetables: potatoes, turnips, and the like (GROSE).

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Smash.

1823. BEE, Dict. Turf, s.v. Smashed... Smashers—passers of bad money were so called during the pest of the old smooth coin. The term was soon extended to bad notes of the Bank of England; and their occupation was called smashing from the resemblance each bore the other in morals.

1834. AINSWORTH, Rookwood, 'Jerry Juniper's Chaunt.' Readily the queer screens I then could smash.

1840. LYTTON, Paul Clifford, xxxi. Stretched for smashing queer screens.

1849. BRONTE, Shirley, ii. Your hellish machinery is shattered to smash on Stilbore' Moor.

1854. FIELD, Drama at Pokerville [BARTLETT]. Put up your benefit for that night: and if you don't have a smash... say I don't understand managing the theatres.


4. (old).—To kick downstairs: e.g., 'The chubbs tote the blosses, they smash, and make them brush.' The sharpeners catch their mistresses on the hop, kick them downstairs and make them clear out (B. E. and GROSE).

SMASHER, subs. (common).—1. Anything exceptional; a settler: see whopper. Whence smashing = crushing.

1832. EGAN, Book of Sports, s.v. All of a heap, and all of a lump, unmistakably doubled up by a smasher.

1851-61. MAYHEW, Lond. Lab., ii. 488. Every coin... was bad—all smashers.

1884. EV. STANDARD, 11 Jan. Paper of a kind commonly used by smashers to wrap up their coins, to prevent their rubbing against each other.

1887. HENLEY, Villon's Straight Tip, i. You pitch a snide, or smash a rag.

2. (common).—To ruin, to go bankrupt: also (military) to be reduced or broke. As subs. (or smash-up) = ruin, destruction, bankruptcy; all to smash = all to pieces, completely.

c. 1847. THACKERAY, Letters, 120. I have made an awful smash at the Literary Fund, and have tumbled into 'Evins knows where.

1849. BRONTE, Shirley, ii. Your hellish machinery is shivered to smash on Stilboro' Moor.

1861. BRADLEY, New Rector, x. There isn't a fellow at school can match me, Miss Moore! I beat them all to smash!

1855. D. Telegraph, 28 Dec. If it comes to out-and-out smash, and selling up.

1887. ST. JAMES'S Gaz., 22 Jan. There was a final smash-up of his party as well as of his reputation.

1855. LE QUEUX, Temptress, iv. May this smash bring me good luck in the future. Ibid., v. I tell you it is pay or smash with me.

3. (pugilists').—To beat badly; to double up (BEE). Hence smasher = a settling blow.

1895. LE QUEUX, TenaireSS, iv. May this smash bring me good luck in the future. Ibid., v. I tell you it is pay or smash with me.

SMECTYMNUS (obsolete).—See quot.

1721. BAILEY, Eng. Dict., s.v. Smectymnus, A word made out of the first letters of the names of five presbyterian ministers, viz., Stephen Marshall, Edmund Culamy, Thomas Young, Mathew Newcomen, and William Spurstow, who wrote a book against Episcopacy, and the Common Prayer, A.D. 1641, whence they and their followers were called smectymnians.
Smeekit, subs. (Scots).—Drunk: see Screwed.

Smell, verb. (old colloquial).—To investigate, to search; to nose (q.v.): also to smell out. Hence smelling committee = an investigating committee. [Bartlett: 'the phrase originated in the examination of a convent in Massachusetts by legislative order.']. See Smeller.

d.1555. Latimer, Sermons, 335. From that time forward I began to smell the word of God, and forsook the school-doctors and such fooleries.

1600. Shakspere, Much Ado, iii. 2. Can you smell him out by that. Ibid. (1602), Twelfth Night, ii. 3. I smell a device. Ibid. (1604), Winter's Tale, iv, 3. I smell the trick of it. Ibid. (1605), Lear, i. 5, 22. What a man cannot smell out he may spy into.

1626. Fletcher, Noble Gentleman, ii. 1. Come these are tricks; I smell 'em; I will go.

1702. Steele, Grief-a-la-Mode, iv. 1. I like this old fellow, I smell more money.

Phrases and Colloquialisms.
—See Cork; Elbow-grease; footlights; grease; inkhorn; lamp; rat; roast.

Smeller, subs. (common).—1. The nose: see Conk (B. E. and Grose): in pl. = nostrils. Also 2 (pugilists') = a blow on the nose; a nosender, q.v. (Bee).

1678. Cotton, Scarronides, 64. For he on Smellers, you must know, Receiv'd a sad unlucky blow.

1840. Cockton, Val. Vox, xxviii. There's a conk! there's a smeller.

1853. Bradley, Verdiart Green . . . Come on, half-a-dozen of ye, and let me have a rap at your Smellers.

1901. Walker, In the Blood, 20. I tipped 'im one on the Smeller as soon as 'e said it.

3. (common).—In pl. = a cat's 'whiskers' (Grose).

4. (common).—A spy; a Paul Pry (q.v.).

Smell-feast, subs. phr. (old).—1. A parasitic glutton; as adj. = sharking for victuals. Also 2 = a point (q.v.)-feast.

1599. Hall, Virgid, vi. i. 47. Nor now no more smell-feast Vitellio, Smiles on his master for a meal or two.

1609. Holland, Ann. Marcell [Nares]. Mercurius called commonly captaine of smell-feasts, for that like unto a dogge . . . wagging his tale, he used to thrust himselfe often into feasts and companies. Ibid. These smell-feast parasites.


1633. Harrington, Epigrams. What manner sprite these smellfeasts had possest.

1648. Herrick, Hesperides, 'Vpon Burr.' Burr is a smell-feast, and a man alone that (where meat is) will be a hanger on.

1653. Urquhart, Rabelais, i. liv. Fat chuffcats, smell-feast knockers, doltish gulls.

d.1704. LeStrange, Works [Ency. Dict.]. An intruder, and a common smell-feast that spunges upon other people's trenchers.

Smelling-cheat, subs. phr. (Old Cant).—1. The nose: see Cheat and Smeller (Harman, Dekker). 2 (Old Cant) = an orchard, garden, or nosegay (Harman, Dekker, B. E., Bailey, Grose).

Smell-smock. See Smock.

Smelly, adv. (colloquial).—Offensively odorous.


Smell-powder, subs. phr. (old).—A duellist (Bee).
**Smelt.**

*Smelt,* subs. (old).—I. A gull: see *Buffle.* Hence (proverbial) ‘Westward for smelts!’ (old colloquial) = on the spree (i.e., in search of conies, male or female).

c.1600. *Weakest to the Wall,* iii. 4. Now mine host rob-pot . . . gudgeon!—smelt, I should say.


1607. *Dekker* and *Webster,* *Westward Ho,* iv. 2. To see how plain dealing women can pull down men! Moll, you’ll help us to catch smelts, too? *Ibid.,* ii. 3. But wenches, with what pulleys shall we slide with some cleanly excuse, out of our husbands suspicion; being gone westward for smelts all night?

1669. *Great Frost* [Arber, *Garner,* i. 85]. Let your news be as country folk bring fruit to your markets, the bad and good together. Say, have none ‘gone westward for smelts’; as our proverbial phrase is.

1635. *Fletcher,* *Love’s Pilgrimage,* v. 2. Talk what you will, this is a very smelt.

2. (Old Cant).—Half-a-guinea (B. E. and Grose).

1822. *Scott,* *Fort. Nigel,* xxiii. You see . . . that noble Master Grahame, whom you call Green, has got the decuses and the smelts.

**Smicker,** verb. (old).—To look wantonly: as adj. = amorous; *smickerling* = amorous inclination; *smickly* = amorously.


1608. *Cobler of Canterbury* [Halliwell]. The smith seeing what a smicker wench the cobler’s wife was . . . wished that he could finde means to have such a one his friend.

d.1625. *Lodge,* *Poems,* ‘Coridon’s Song’ [*Rept.,* 166]. A smicker boy . . . a smicker swaine; That in his love was wanton faine.

1701. *Dryden,* *To Mrs. Steward,* Let. 35. We had a young doctour, who . . . seem’d to have a smickering to our young lady of Pliton.

**Smicket,** subs. (old).—A smack or shift.

1719. *Durfey,* *Wit and Mirth,* . . . Touch but her smicket and all’s your own.

1820. *Coombe,* *Syntax,* ii. 5. The roaring, dancing bumpkins show, And the white smickets wave below.

**Smiggins,** subs. (obsolete prison).—Hulk soup.

**Smile,** subs. (American).—A drink: as verb. = to drink, spec. in company: cf. *shout.*

1855. *N.Y. Tribune,* 31 Jan. The crowd ‘was invited into the Fifth Ward Hotel, and one general smile entirely absorbed the fee.

1858. *Baltimore Sun,* 23 Aug. There are many more fast boys about—some devoted to ‘the sex,’ some to horses, some to smiling, and some to ‘the tiger.’

1870. *Browne,* *Artemus Ward, His Book,* 36, Note. ‘Tods’ a shortening of toddy . . . Recently, however, to smile has taken its place.

1887. *Francis,* *Saddle and Moccasin.* With what exquisite feeling will he graduate his cup from the gentle smile of early morning to the potent smash of night.

**Smiling.** To come up smiling, verb. phr. (common).—To rise superior to the moment.

**Smirk,** subs. (B. E. and Grose).—A finical spruce Fellow. To smirk, to smile or look pleasantly.

**Smish,** subs. (Old Cant).—A chemise; a shirt: cf. *camesa* and *mish* (Grose and Vaux).

**Smite,** verb. (old).—To get money; to rush (q.v.): ‘Academic term’ (Grose).
Smiter.

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Smock.

Smiter, subs. (old).—I. A sword.

1591. Lyly, Endimion, i. 3. It is my simiter; which I by construction often studying to bee compendious, call my simiter.

1611. Cotgrave, Dict., s.v. Cimiterre. A Scymitar, or smyter, a kind of short and crooked sword, much in use among the Turks.

1652. Jonson, Tale of a Tub, iv. 3. Then, Basset, put thy simiter up, and hear; I dare not tell the truth to a drawn sword.

1659. Leg. of Capt. Jones. His fatal simiter thrice aloft he shakes.

2. (old).—An arm (B. E. and Grose).

Smithereens (or Smithers), subs. (common).—Small fragments. All to Smithereens = all to smash (g.v.).

1855. Tennyson, Northern Cobbler, xviii. ‘Smash the bottle to Smithers, the Divi’s in ’im,’ said I.


Smithfield-bargain, subs. phr. (old).—See quots.

1598. Shakespeare, 2 Hen. IV., i. 2, 56. Page. He’s gone into Smithfield to buy your worship a horse. Falst. I bought him in Paul’s, and he’ll buy me a horse in Smithfield; an I could get me but a wife in the stews, I were manned, horsed, and wived.

1621. Burton, Anat. Melan., III. iii. iv. 2. He that . . . buys a horse in Smithfield . . . shall likely have a jade.

1662. Wilson, Cheats, v. 5. If this is not better than a Smithfield bargain — give me so much money, and my horse shall leap thy mare.

d.1704. Brown, Works, iii. 54. By the procurement of these experienced matrons, a marriage is struck up like a Smithfield bargain. There is much higling and wrangling for t’other ten pounds.

1731. Ward, Terrafilius, 4, 29. He can no more speak without breaking the fourth commandment than a Smithfield jockey can sell a horse without giving the purchaser a lye into the bargain.

1753. Richardson, Grandison (1812), vi. 44. Women when . . . are pleaded to give way to a clandestine or unequal address . . . are urged to give way against the notions of bargain and sale, Smithfield bargains you Londoners call them.

1772. Graves, Sp. Quixote, v. xv. The devil take me if I would marry an angel upon the footing of a mere Smithfield bargain.

1776. Foote, Bankrupt, ii. 1. You deposit so much money, and he grants you such an annuity; a mere Smithfield bargain, that is all.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Smithfield bargain. A bargain whereby the purchaser is taken in. This is likewise frequently used to express matches, or marriages, contracted solely on the score of interest, on one or both sides, where the fair sex are bought and sold like cattle in Smithfield.

1881. Davies, Sufi. Glossary, s.v. Smithfield bargain . . . A marriage of interest, where money is the chief consideration: the allusion is to buying a wife in Smithfield. Cf. Breton, Oide Man’s Lesson (1603), p. 7: ‘Fie on these market matches, where marriages are made without affection.’

Smock, subs. (old).—A woman: cf. Petticoat, Placket, Skirt, Muslin, &c. Hence, in combination = pertaining to, or connected with women. Thus smock-age = the use of the sex; smock-alley = the female pudendum: see monosyllable; smock-face = an effeminate; smock-faced = ‘snout-fair’ (B. E.), ‘fair-faced’ (Grose), smooth-faced; smock-night-work (service, or employment) = copulation; smock-loyalty = constancy; smock-treason = adultery; smock-servant = (1) a mistress, and (2) a lover; smock-agent = a bawd; Smockster (smock-merchant, smell-smock, or smock-tearer) = a whoremonger; smell-smock also = the penis, and as adj. = wanton; smock-vermin = a contemptuous address; smock-toy
= a fancy PIECE (q.v.), male or female; SMOCK-SECRET = intrigue; SMOCK-HOLD = tenure during a wife's lifetime; SMOCK-GOVERNMENT (or SMOCK-LED) = petticoat rule; SMOCK-PENSIONER = a male KEEP (q.v.); also SMOCK-SQUIRE; SMOCK-HUNTING = whoring; SMOCK LOOSE = wanton; IN HER SMOCK = intimately; SMOCK-RACE (see quot. 1801); &c. As verb. = to copulate (FLETCHER): see RIDE.

1582. STANVHURST, Æneid, iv. 222. Now this smock-toy Paris with berdlesse company wayted.

1585. Nomenclator, 522. Mulierarius, one given to love women, a SMELL-SMOCK.

1595. SHAKESPEARE, Romeo and Juliet, ii. 4, 109. [Enter Nurse and Peter]. Mer. A sail, a sail! Ben. Two, two; a shirt and a smock. Ibid. (1598), All's Well, ii. i, 30. I shall stay here, the forehorse to a smock. Ibid. (1608), Antony and Cæsara, i. 2, 172. If there were no more women but Fulvia, then had you indeed a cut, and the case to be lamented; this grief is crowned with consolation; your old smock brings forth a new petticoat.

1599. CHAPMAN, Humorous Day's Mirth [SHEPHERD, Works (1874), 35]. He was taken learning tricks at old Lucilla's house, the mister-mistress of all the SMOCK-TEACHERS in Paris. Ibid. (1609), Al Foole, v. i. Some wealth without wit, some nor wit nor wealth, But good SMOCK-FACES. Ibid. (1612), Widow's Tears [SHEPHERD, Works (1874), 314]. Shalt hold thy tenement, to thee and thine heers for ever, in free SMOCKAGE, as of the manner of panderage.

1611. JONSON, Catiline, iv. 5. Sem. There are of us can be as exquisite traitors As e'er a male conspirator of you all. Cet. Ay, at SMOCK-TREASON, matron, I believe you. Ibid. (1632), Magnetic Lady, iv. 2. Keep these women matters SMOCK-SECRETS to ourselves.

1611. COTGRAVE, Dict. s.v. Brigaille. A notable SVELMSMOCKE, or button-mungar, a cunning solicitor of a wenche.

1624. MASSINGER, Renegado, ii. 1. 'Tis but procuring a SMOCK-EMPLOYMENT. Ibid. (1632), Maid of Honour, ii. 2. You are not the man; much less employ'd by him As a SMOCK-AGENT to me. Ibid. iii. 1. Peace, thou SMOCK-VERMIN! Ibid. (1637), Guardian, iii. 5. Now I think I had ever a lucky hand in such SMOCK NIGHT-WORK.

[?]. Cat. of Books of the Newest Fashion [Harl. Misc., v. 287]. SMOCK-Peck'd S—.

1630. TAYLOR, Works, ii. 167. This themive of SMOCK is very large and wide. ... But I thynke best a speedy end to make, Lest for a SMELMSMOCKE some should me mistake.

1653. URQUHART, Rabelais, i. xi. And some of the ... women would give these names, my Roger ... SVELMSMOC ... lusty live sausage.

1657. MIDDLETON, More Dissemblers, &c., i. 4. If thou dost not prove as arrant a SVELMSMOC as any the town affords in a term time I'll lose my judgement.

1663. Unfortunate Usurper[NARES]. SVELMSMOC Sardanapalus would have given The moiety of his kingdom to be his pupil.

1680. DRYDEN, Spanish Friar, ii. 1. Plague ... on his SVELMSMOC-LOYALTY. Ibid. (1692), Juvenal, x. 491. Young Endymion, your smooth SVELMSMOC-FA'ED boy.

d.1704. BROWN, Works, ii. 123. I was a smart child, and a SVELMSMOC-FA'ED youth.

1706. WARD, Wooden World, 69. If ever he's troubled with Dreams ... then truly he oft fancies himself a mauling off the Roast-meat in SMOCK-ALLEY. Ibid. (1709), Works, i. 173. Skilful SVELMSMOC-STERS ... Tell us that Love's a drowthy exercise.

1746. Poor Robin. A whoremaster hath a SVELMSMOC nose which for the most part in process of time proves bridge-fallen.

1801. STRUTT, Sports and Pastimes, 476. SVELMSMOC RACES are commonly performed by the young country wenches, and so-called because the prize is a holland SMOCK, or shirt, usually decorated with ribbands.

1809. MALKIN, Gil Blas [ROUTLEDGE], 136. Pacheco did not know what to make of so SVELMSMOC-FA'ED a young spark.

1879. LECKY, English in 18th Cent., iv. Among other amusements SVELMSMOC-RACING by women was kept up there [Pall Mall] till 1733.
**Smoke.**

**SMOKE, subs. (old).—** 1. A chimney.
Hence (modern) THE SMOKE = any large city; spec. London: also THE GREAT SMOKE.

d. 1687. Petty, Pol. Surv. of Ireland, 9. Dublin hath Houses of more than one SMOAK.

2. (common).—A cigar: also the act of smoking.
DRY-SMOKE = an unlighted cigar or pipe between the lips.

1860. Russell, Diary in India, xxvii. Soldiers . . . lounging about, taking an early morning SMOKE.

c. 1885[?]. Jenny Hill, 'Arry. 'Arry likes a twopenny SMOKE.

3. (colloquial).—Idle talk; vanity; anything of little or no value.
To END IN SMOKE = to serve or come to no useful end.

1594. Shakespeare, Lucrece, 1027. This helpless SMOKE of words doth me no right.

1603-15. Court and Times of Jas. I., 291. [A project] GOES AWAY IN SMOKE.

**Verb. (old).—** I. To examine; to suspect; to observe; to discover; to understand; TO TWIG (q.v.): cf. SMELL, NOSE, &c. Whence SMOKY = (1) suspicious, inquisitive; and (2) = jealous (B. E., GROSE, BEE).

1280. Ancren Riwle, 316. Schrift get schal beon naked; that is naked liche imaked, and nout bisamped feire, ne hendeliche 'SMOKED.' [Confession must be naked, that is made nakedly, not speciously palliated, nor gently touched on.]

1596. Jonson, Ev. Man in His Hum., iv. 8. 'I'faith, I am glad I have SMOKE you yet at last. Ibid. (1622), Masque of Augurs [Works] (Moxon), 230. Sir, we do come from among the brew-houses . . . that's true, there you have SMOKE us.

1598. Shakespeare, All's Well, iii. 6. He was first SMOKE by the old Lord Lafew—when his disguise and he is parted, tell me what a sprat you shall at.

1607. Dekker, Jests, &c. [Grosart, Works, ii. 329]. Kinchen, the coue towres, which is as much as, Fellow, the man SMOKEs or suspects you. Ibid. (1620), Louthorne, &c. The two freebooters, seeing themselves SMOAK'D.

1611. Middleton and Dekker, Roaring Girl [Works] (1873), iii. 220. Wee are SMOAK . . . wee are boyld, pox on her!

1614. Chapman, Odysseys, iv. 337. And yet through all this difference, I alone SMOKE his true person.

1624. Massinger, Renegado, iv. All's come out, sir. We are SMOKE'D for being coney-catchers. Ibid. (1659), City Madam, iii. 1. I'll hang you both . . . you for a purse you cut In Paul's at a sermon; I have SMOAKED you, ha!

1650. Brathwayte, Barnaby's Jl. (1723), 21. An apt one . . . Punk unto a Captain; I embrac'd . . . But Door creak'd and Captain SMOAK'T IT.

1693. Congreve, Old Bach., iii. 6. I begin to SMOKE ye: thou art some forsaken Abigail. Ibid. (1694), Double Dealer, ii. 3. Should she SMOKE my design upon Cynthia I were in a fine pickle.

1705. Vanbrugh, Confederacy, iii. I'm thinking—hum—she'll SMOKE that though. Ibid. (1726), Vanbrugh and Cibber, Prov. Husband, ii. He seems a little SMOKE.

1708-10. Swift, Pol. Conv. i. Pray, madam, SMOKE miss yonder, biting her lips, and playing with her fan.

1715. Addison, Drummer, iii. 1. Thou't very smart, my dear. But see! SMOKE the doctor.

1715-16. Addison, Freesholder [Ency.]. I began to SMOKE that they were a parcel of mummers.

1733. Swift, Ans. to Sheridan's New Simile. With which he made a tearing show; And Dido quickly SMOAK'D the beau.

1753. Foote, Eng. in Paris, i. 1. A SMOAKY fellow this classic. Ibid. (1762), The Liar, i. 1. People in this town are more SMOAKY and suspicious.

1772. Bridges, Burlesque Homer, 75. The witch of Endor, Soon SMOAK'D th' affair, and like a prophet, Got up and told the meaning of it.

1774. Kelly, School for Wives, iii. 5. Who the devil could think that he would SMOKE us in this disguise.

d. 1859. De Quincey, Works, xi. 86. The orator grew urgent; wits began to SMOKE the case, as active verbs—the advocate to smoke, as a neuter verb.
Smoke.

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Smoke.

1877. *Five Years Penal Serv.,* iii.

He stayed in a place doing the grand, and sucking the flats, till the folks began to smoke him as not 'all there.'

1900. *Savage, Brought to Bay,*

The secret reports of the head porter proved that no one could smoke out the aristocratic invalid.

2. (school).—To blush.

3. (old).—To ridicule; to quiz (q.v.). Whence smoker = a mocker, a practical joker; smoking = bantering.


We smook'd the Beaus almost as bad as unlucky schoolboys us'd to do the coblers, till they sneak'd off one by one.

1700. *Congreve, Way of World,* iii.

This is a vile dog; I see that already. No offence! . . . to him, Petulant, smoke him.

1782. *Burney, Cecilia,* vi. 11.

You never laugh at the old folks, and never fly at your servants, nor smoke people before their faces.

1814. *Colman, Poet Vagaries,* 150.

These quizzers, queerers, smokers.

d. 1840. *D'Arblay, Diary* (1842), ii. 69.

What a smoking did Miss Burney give Mr. Crutcheon.

4. (B. E.).—'To affront a Stranger at his coming in.'

5. (venery).—To copulate (Fletcher): see ride.

6. (old).—To raise a dust by beating: cf. to dust one's jacket.

1596. *Shakspeare, K. John,* ii. 1, 139.

I'll smoke your skin-coat, an I catch you right.

7. (Australian).—To decamp: see absquatulate.


He said to the larrikins, . . . 'You have killed him.' 'What!' said one of them, 'do not say we were here. Let us smoke.'

Phrases. Like smoke = rapidly: see like; all smoke, gammon, and spinach = all nothing; 'No smoke, but there's fire' (or 'where there's smoke there's fire') 'of a thing that will out' (B. E.). See knock; pipe; take.


105. Taking money like smoke.

Smoker (or smoke-shell), subs. (common). 1. A chamber-pot: see it.

2. (B. E.).—'A vessel to blind the enemies, to make way for the machine to play.

3. (colloquial).—A smoking-carriage: see smoke 3. Also old = a tobacconist (B. E. and Grose).

5. (old). See quot.

1847. *Halliwell, Arch. Words,* s.v. Smoker. At Preston, before the passing of the Reform Bill in 1832, every person who had a cottage with a chimney and used the latter, had a vote, and was called a smoker.

Smoke-stack, subs. phr. (nautical).—A steam-boat.

1902. *Athenaum,* 8 Feb., 177, i.

The author shows the proper sailor-man's contempt for smoke-stacks, and to this day would sooner travel in a "wind-jammer" than a P. & O. boat—or one of his readers is mistaken.

Smooth, subs. (American).—A meadow; a grass-plot; a lawn.

1870. *Judd, Margaret,* i. 2.

Get some plantain and dandelion on the smooth for greens.

Smotherer, subs. (old).—See quot.

1653. *Urquhart, Rabelais,* iii. iii.

My claw-backs, my smotherers, my parasites.

Smotheration, subs. (American).

1. Suffocation.
2. (American).—A dish (pork or beef) smothered with potatoes [cf. SMOTHER, an old cookery term—‘rabbits SMOTHERED in onions’].

SMOUCH, subs. (old).—1. A low-crowned hat (HALLIWELL).

2. See SMOUS.

Verb. (old).—i. To kiss: as subs. (or SMOUCHER) = a kiss.

1578. Whetstone, Promos and Cassandra, 47. Come, smack me; I long for a SMOUCH.


1600. Weakest to Wall, i. 3. You will love me, SMOUCH me, be my secret friend.

1600. Heywood, i Ed. IV. [Pearson, Works (1874), i. 40]. I had rather than a bend of leather, Shee and I might SMOUGH together.

1606. Ret. from Parnassus. Why now pedant Thalia on her tender lips?

2. (old).—To chouse; to trick; to take an unfair advantage.

SMOUS (or SMOUCH), subs. (old).—A Jew (GROSE). Also (2) a sharper.

1705. Bosman, Description of Guinea, Letter XI. As impertinent and noisy as the SMOUSE or German Jews at their synagogue at Amsterdam.

1760. Johnston, Chysal, i. 228. I saw them roast some poor SMOUCHES at Lisbon because they would not eat pork.

1764. C. Macklin, Man of the World, ii. 1. Ha, ha, ha!... I honour the SMOUSE.

1837. Barham, Ingolds. Leg., ‘Mer. of Venice.’ You find fault mit ma par-gains, and say I’m a SMOUCH.

SMOUTING, subs. (old printers').—See quot: now GRASSING (q.v.).

1688. R. Holme, Academy, &c. Workmen, when they are out of constant work, sometimes accept of a day or two’s work or a week’s work at another printing house; this by-work they call SMOUGHING.

SMOUZE, verb. (American).—‘To demolish; as with a blow’ (BARTLETT).

SMUG, subs. (old).—1. A blacksmith (B. E. and GROSE).

1611. Rowland, Knav of Clubs. A SMUG of Vulcan’s forging trade.

1709. Ward, Works, i. 133. You’re an impudent slut, cries the SMUG at his bellows.

2. (common).—An affectedly proper or self-satisfied person. Hence as adj. (B. E. and GROSE: now accepted) = ‘Neat and spruce.’

3. (school and university).—See quot. As verb. = to work hard.

1888. Goschén, Speech at Aberdeen, 21 Jan. The heinous offence of being absorbed in it [work]. Schools and Colleges... have invented... phrases, semi-classical, or wholly vernacular, such as ‘sap,’ ‘smug,’ ‘swot,’ ‘broke,’ ‘a mugster.’

1889. Lancet, ii. 471. Students... continually at study... absent-minded... often offended at... a joke. They become labelled SMUGS and are avoided by their class-mates.

Verb. (common).—i. To pilfer; to snatch: in quot. 1633 = to sneak into favour. Hence SMUGGINGS (see quot. 1847). SMUGLAY (old thieves’), see quotes. c.1696 and 1785: also SMUGGLER.

c.1633. Fletcher [HALLIWELL]. Thou mayst succeed Ganymede in his place, And unsuspected SMUG the Thund’rers face. O happy she shall climb thy tender bed, And make thee man first for a maidenhead.

c.1696. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. SMUG-LAY. Those that Cheat the King of his Customs by private Imports and Exports.
Smuggle. 273 Snabble.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Smug-lay. Persons who pretend to be smugglers of lace and valuable articles; these men borrow money of publicans by depositing these goods in their hands; they shortly afterwards decamp, and the publican discovers too late that he has been duped, and on opening the pretended treasure he finds trifling articles of no value.

1847. Halliwell, Arch. Words, s.v. Smuggling. Games had . . . times or seasons . . . when any game was out, as it was termed, it was lawful to steal the thing played with . . . 'Tops are in, spin 'em again; Tops are out, smuggling's about.'

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab., ii. 508. I shouldn't mind his licking me; I'd smug his money, and get his halfpence, or somethink. Ibid. After that he used to go smuggling, running away with other people's things.

2. (thieves').—To hush up; (3) to steal; and (4) to apprehend.

1857. M. Chron., 3 Oct. She wanted a guarantee the case should be smuggled, or in other words compromised.

1877. Horsley, Jottings from Jail. Then two or three more coppers came up, and we got smuggled, and got a sixer each.

Smuggle, verb. (old colloquial).—1. To cuddle; to fondle: cf. smuggle.

1698. Collier, Eng. Stage, 6. Smuttiness is a fault in behaviour as well as in religion. Ibid., 24. There are no smutty songs in their plays, in which the English are extremely scandalous.

d.1704. Brown, Works, i. 237. The Judge gravely tells them, Look ye, Ladies we have a smutty Tryal coming on . . . yet the Devil a Lady will flinch.

d.1719. Addison, The Lover, 39. He . . . will talk smut, though a priest and his mother be in the room.

1722. Steele, Conscious Lovers, Prol. Another smuts his scene.

1734. Pope, Satires, Prol. Spite, or smut, or rhymes, or blasphemies.


1857. Punch, 31 Jan., 'The Stone Jug.' A goney . . . As ain't up to our lurks, our flash patter and smut.

2. (various).—(a) A copper boiler (Grose, Vaux, and Hotten); (b) = a grate (Grose; in Vaux=a furnace); (c) = old iron (Grose).

See Brother Smut.

Snaffle. verb. (old).—1. Generic for force: e.g. to rifle or plunder, to arrest, to eat greedily (Grose).

1724. Harper [Harlequin Sheppard, 'Frisky Moll’s Song']. But fileing of a rumbo ken, My Boman is snabbled again.

1752. Smollett, Faithful Narrative, Wks. (1901, xii. 184). The very cull who hath a warrant against me for snabbling his peeter and queer Joseph.

2. (venery).—To copulate: see ride.
Snabby. (or Snab), adj. (American).—Stylish; tasteful; good-looking [Bartlett: ‘a college word’].

Snack, subs. (colloquial).—1. A share; a portion: to go snacks (or to snack) = to share; to divide (B. E., Grose and Bee).

1675. Wycherley, Country Wife, iii. 2. Who is that that is to be bubbled? Faith, let me snack; I ha’n’t met with a bubble since Christmas.

1701. Farquhar, Sir Harry Wildair, iv. 2. Well, Monsieur, ’tis about a thousand pounds; we go snacks.

d. 1704. Lestrange, Works [Century]. If the master gets the better on’t, they come in for their snack.

d. 1704. Brown, Works, ii. 108. The Cardinal d’Estreë being passionately in love with the marchioness de Ceuvres who was supposed to have granted the duke de Sceaux the liberty of riding her placket, was resolved to put in for his snack.

1719. Smith, Highwaymen, i. 85. He and his companions coming to an inn to snack their booty.

1734. Pope, Satires, Prol. All my demurs but double his attacks; at last he whispers, ‘Do, and we go snacks.’

1789. Parker, Life’s Painter, 149. Snack the bit.

c. 1790. Ireland Sixty Years Ago, ‘Kilmainham Minim,’ 87. He merrily melted de winners, to snack wi’ de boys of de pad.

1809. Malkin, Gil Blas [Routledge], 378. You shall go snacks in all that we can squeeze out of the old fellow.

2. (colloquial).—A hasty meal; a bite (q. v.).—Bee.

1763. Foote, Mayor of Garratt, i. I come, son Bruin, we are all seated at table, man; we have but just time for a snack.

1818. Scott, Midlothian, xxviii. The cloth is laid... it is past three o’clock... I have been waiting this hour for you, and I have had a snack myself.

3. (common).—An innuendo; a jibe: e.g. ‘That’s a nasty snack for you.’ As verb. = to quiz; to roast (q. v.). Cf. Snag.


4. (Winchester College).—A racket ball.

Snaffle, subs. (old).—Talk: spec. conversation uninteresting or unintelligible to those present: cf. shop.

Verb. (old).—1. To steal. Whence Snaffle (or Snaffler) = a thief: spec. a highwayman; Snaffling-Lay = highway robbery; Snaffled = arrested.

1724. Harper, ‘Frisky Moll’s Song’ [Harlequin Jack Sheppard]. From prigs that Snaffle the prancers strong.

1751. Fielding, Amelia, i. 3. I thought by your look you had been a clever fellow, and upon the Snaffling Lay at least; but... I find you are some sneaking-budge rascal.

2. (thieves’).—To arrest; to pull up (q. v.).

Snag, subs. (common).—1. A tooth: spec. a long, irregular tooth (B. E. and Grose): also Snaggler: see Grinders. Whence Snag - catcher = a dentist.

1717. Prior, Alma, ii. 148. In China none hold women sweet, except their Snags are black as jet.

2. (common).—An unsuspected hindrance or set-back. [Orig. American = a half sunken tree impeding river navigation.] Hence, as verb. = to embarrass. To catch a snag = to get a rebuff, to get snubbed: cf. Snack.

1881. W. Phillips, Speeches, 38. Stagnant times have been when a great mind, anchored in error, might snag the slow moving current of society.

1901. Free Lance, 30 Nov., 220, 1. The nasty little Snags the average man of business is apt to encounter daily.

3. (old).—A snail (B. E. and Grose).
Snaggle.

TO SNAG ON, verb. phr. (American).—To attach oneself to another.

SNAGGLE, verb. (common). — To angle for poultry.

SNAIL, subs. (colloquial).—A drone: cf.slug. Hence as verb. (or TO GO AT A SNAIL’S PACE OR GALLOP) = to move very slowly.

1582. STANYHURST, Aeneid, iv. 689. This said shee trots on SNAYLING, lyk a toothshaken old hagge.

1621. COOMBE, Dr. Syntax, iii. iii. He, by degrees, would seldom fail T’adopt THE GALLOP OF A SNAIL.

1593. SHAKESPEARE, Comedy of Errors, ii. 2. Thou drone, thou snail, thou slug, thou sot.

1600. SHAKESPEARE, As You Like It, iv. 3. Well, go your way to her, for I see love hath made thee a tame snake.

1612-3. FLETCHER, Captain, i. 3. Admit ’em; but no snakes to poison us with poverty.

1620. HEALY, Disc. New World, 114. The poor snakes dare not so much as wipe their mouths unless their wives bidde them.

1636. CLITUS’S WHIMZIES, 67. For those poore snakes who feed on reversions, a glimpse through the keyhole, or a light through the grate, must be all their prospect.

1638. RANDOLPH, Muses’ Looking Glass [DODSLEY, OLD PLAYS (REED), IX. 228]. But I have found him a poore baffled snake.

1677. COLES, ENG.-LAT. DICTIONARY. A poore snake, 3ries.

3. (tailors’).—A skein of silk.

SNAM, verb. (thieves’).—I. To steal warily: cf. SNEAK.

2. (American).—To beat; to thrash.

18[?]. LEADSTREET, Southern Sketches, 120. Any gal like me... ought to be able to snake any man of her heft.

PHRASES.—TO SNAKE OUT (ALONG OR UP) = to drag or worm out; TO SNAKE IN = to steal in, to draw in; TO GIVE ONE A SNAKE = to vex; TO SNAKE THE POOL = to take the pool (billiards’); A CAUTION TO SNAKES = a matter of surprise, something singular, a revelation (q.v.); SNAKES IN THE BOOTS = delirium tremens; also TO SEE SNAKES; ‘As sure as there’s snakes in Virginny’ = as sure as may be.

1848. LOWELL, Biglow Papers. Pomp he snaked up behind, And creeping gradually close to... Jest grabbed my leg.

1877. BOSTON BULLETIN, Feb. Although they could not open the doors of the Church to him, perhaps he might be snaked in under the canvas.

1883. PHILO PRESS, 2810, 4. Unless some legal loophole can be found through which an evasion or extension can be successfully snaked.

1884. CLEMENS, Huck Finn. Well, it beats me, and snaked a lot of letters out of his pocket.

1893. SCI. AMER., N. S., LXIX. 265. After mining the log is easily snaked out of the swamp.

1897. MARSHALL, Pomos, ‘Her Sunday Clothes,’ 105. Her Sunday best was her week-day worst, ‘Twas simply a caution to snakes.

SNAKE-IN-THE-GRASS, subs. phr. (rhyming).—A glass.

See SNAKE.

SNAKESMAN. See SNEAK.

SNAKE. See SNAK.
Snap. 276 Snap.

1857. Henley, Villon’s Good Night. Likewise you copper’s marks and dubs What pinched me when UPON THE SNAP.

Snap, subs. (old).—1. A sharper; a pilferer; a cheat: spec. a thief claiming a share of booty (in quot. 1731 = a sharking lawyer). Also SNAPPER and SNAPPER-UP. As verb. = to claim a share; TO NAP THE REGULARS (q.v.); ON THE SNAP = (I) waiting a chance of robbery; and (2) (modern) looking out for odd jobs.


1611. Middleton, Roaring Girl [Old Plays, vi. 113]. Then there’s a cloyer, or snap, that dogs any new brother in that trade, and snaps—will have half in any booty.

1622. Fletcher, Spanish Curate, ii. 1. Take heed of a snap, sir; h’s a cozening countenance.

1653. Wilson, James I. Butler, being a subtle snap, wrought so with his companion, with promises of a share, that he got the possession of it.

d.1704. Lestrange, Works [Ency. Dict.]. He had no sooner said out his say but up rises a cunning snap then at the board.

d.1731. Ward, Honesty in Distress. Brother snap . . . here’s a welcome guest.

2. (old).—A scrap; a portion; a share: cf. Snack. Hence a small standard of value: e.g., not a snap = nothing; not worth a snap = worthless.

1661. Awdeley, Frat. Vacaboncles, 4. [Oliphant, New Eng., i. 575]. A man gets a share or snap unto himself; hence comes to go snacks, with the usual interchange of c and p.


3. (common).—A project; a business—any happening: e.g., a cold snap = a sudden spell of cold weather; a soft snap = a pleasant time, a profitable affair;

TO GIVE THE SNAP AWAY = to discover. Also SNAP (theatrical) = a short engagement.

1886. Field, 9 Jan. If we are to be interned for a cold snap it will be a pleasure to think of this Tuesday’s sport.

1887. Francis, Saddle and Moccusin. I want fifty dollars for an hour or two . . . I’ve got a soft snap on, can’t miss it.

1896. Lillard, Poker Stories, 90. I thought you had more business snap.

Adj. (colloquial).—On the spur of the moment; without preparation: as subs. = a chance (or scratch) comer, player, crew, team, &c.). Thus, a snap-division = an unexpected vote; snap-judgment = a verdict hastily got or given; snap-shot = (1) a shot fired without deliberate aim, and (2) a photograph taken unawares. As verb. = to take an instantaneous photograph with a hand camera: also TO SNAP-SHOT.

1860. Russell, Diary in India, i. 346. Our appearance attracted shots from all quarters. Fellows took snaps at us from balconies, from doors, on the roofs of houses.
**Snapped.**

1888. *Nineteenth Century, xxiii.* 253. The previous assent of the Chair to the motion for closure would prevent snap-divisions.

1889-90. *St. Nicholas, xvii.* 1034. A painter ... hit upon the plan of using a hand camera with which he followed the babies about snapping them in their best positions.

1896. Lillard, *Poker Stories,* 130. My ... friend had brought him along as a snap ... I supposed of course that he was all right, or his friend would not have invited him in the game.

**Phrases.** — To snap the glaze = 'to smash shop windows' (Grose); to snap the eye = to wink; on the snap = on the look out, on the mouth (q.v.).


1844. Major Jones's *Courtship,* 102. He got snapt on egg-nog.

2. (old). — 'Taken, caught' (B. E.).

**Snapper,** subs. (old). — 1. A pistol (Grose). Also (2) = a castanet; and (3) = a cracker bonbon.

1587. Harrison, *Desc. of England,* II. 2. Amongst the new substantives are snapper (pistol) butt-end ...

1615. Sandys, *Travels,* 172. Their musicke is answerable; the instruments no other than snappers, gingles, and round bottomed drums.


**The Snappers,** subs. phr. (military). — The East Yorkshire Regiment, formerly The 15th Foot. Also "The Poona Guards."

**Snappish,** adj. (B. E.). — 'Peevish, quarrelsome (a Man); apt to bite (a Dog).'

**Snaphot.** See Snap.

**Snarler,** subs. (common). — A dog.

**Snatch,** subs. (old). — 1. A shuffling answer; an evasive reply.


2. (old). — A hasty meal; a snack (q.v.): also snatch and away.


1585. Nomenclator. Prandium statarium ... Manger debout ou en pied. A standing dinner, which is eaten in haste; a snatch and away.

1623. Massinger, *Duke of Milan,* iii. 2. I fear you'll have cold entertainment ... 'twERE discretion to take a snatch by the way.

3. (venery). — A hasty act of kind; a flyer (q.v.).

1621. Burton, *Anat. of Melan.,* III. ii. v. 3. They had rather go to the stews, or have now and then a snatch as they can come by it, borrow of their neighbours, than have wives of their own. *Ibid.* I could not abide marriage, but as a rambler I took a snatch when I could get it.

**In (or by) snatches,** phr. (colloquial). — By fits and starts; spasmodically: also snatchy.


1865. Dickens, *Mutual Friend,* ii. 4. Transactions of business ... at untimely hours ... and in rushes and snatches.

1883. Cambridge Sketches, 16. The modern style seems short and snatchy; it has not the long majestic sweep of former days.

**Snatch-blatch,** subs. phr. (venery). — The female pudendum: see monosyllable.
**Snatcher.**

A thief; spec. a camp-follower. Snatch-

cly = a pickpocket (Grose).

1599. Shakspeare, Hen. V., i. 2. We do not mean the coursing snatchers only.

1820. Scott, Monastery, i. They would have fallen a speedy prey to some of the snatchers in the neighbourhood.

See Bodysnatcher.

**Snatch-pastry,** subs. phr. (Hali-
liwell).—A greedy fellow.

**Snavel,** verb. (old).—To steal: spec. by snatching or picking (q.v.): cf. Snabble (Bee) and see Running Snavel.

**Sneak,** subs. (common).—A petty thief: also sneak-thief, sneaking-budge, and sneakman: see quot. 1819, Area-sneak, and cf. ramp and rush. Hence morning-sneak = an early bird (q.v.); evening-sneak = a night thief; upright sneak = a thief preying on potboys (B. E., Grose and Vaux). As verb = to pilfer, to steal: spec. ‘to walk about undeniably, to see what may be picked up’ (Bee); sneaking on the sneak = prowling for booty.

1744. Fielding, Jonathan Wild. Wild... looked upon borrowing... as... the genteelst kind of sneaking-
budge. Ibid. (1751), Amelia, i. 3. I find you are some sneaking-budge rascal.

1819. Vaux, Memoirs, s.v. Sneak. The sneak is the practice of robbing houses or shops, by slipping in unper-
ceived, and taking whatever may lay most convenient: this is commonly the first branch of thieving, in which young boys are initiated, who, from their size and activity, appear well adapted for it. To sneak a place, is to rob it upon the sneak. A sneak is a robbery effected in the above manner. One or more prisoners having escaped from their confinement by stealth, without using any violence, or alarming their keepers, are said to have sneak’d ’em, or given it to ’em upon the sneak.

1829. Life and Death of James Wilson. That awful monster, William Burke, like Reynard sneaking on the lurk.

1834. Ainsworth, Rookwood, iii. v. Until at last there was none so knowing, no such sneakman or buz-gloak going.

1897. Marshall, Ponies, 31. My ’Arry sneaks my cady on the sly. Ibid., 32. The elder of the twain had... sneaked a quid. Ibid., 107. Strictly speaking, it was sneaking (He preferred the term ‘convey’).

1899. Whiteing, John St., v. They ain’t no class... Fancies theirselves burglars—Nothin’ o’ the sort—sneak thieves.

1902. Lynch, High Stakes, xx. I believe it will be best... to keep to the sneak-thief theory.

2. (thieves').—See quot.

1873. Greenwood, In Strange Company. Sneaks... are shoes with canvas tops and india-rubber soles.

3. (cricketers').—A ground ball having no pitch whatever; a daisy-trimmer (or cutter); grub; or undergrounder (q.v.).

**Sneakbill.** See Sneaksby.

**Sneak-cup,** subs. phr. (old).—One who shies his drink: hence, a paltry fellow: also sneak-up.

1598. Shakspeare, 1 Hen. IV., iii. 3. How? The prince is a Jack, a sneak-cup.

**Sneaker,** subs. (old).—1. A small bowl (B. E. and Grose): e.g., a sneaker of punch.

2. (cricketers').—A sneak, subs. sense 3.

**Sneaking,** adj. (colloquial).—Un-
avowed; undemonstrative: e.g., a ‘sneaking kindness’ (‘liking,’ or ‘preference’).

1753. Richardson, Grandison, i. 290. You, my dear, shall reveal to me your sneaking passion, if you have one, and I will discover mine.
1812. COOMBE, Dr. Syntax, i. vii. For they possess'd, with all their pother, A SNEAKING kindness for each other.

SNEAKSBY (SNEAKBILL, or SNEAKSBILL), subs. (old). — A sneak : cf. IDLESBY, SURESBY, RUDESBY, LEWDSBY, WIGSBY, &c. (Grose). Also SNEAKING (B. E.) = 'sheepish or mean spirited'; SNEAKBILL (adj.) = sneaking.

1577. KENDALL, Flour of Epigrams. Perchaunce thou deemst me in thy minde Therefore a SNEEKBILL snudge unkinde.

1611. COTGRAVE, Dict. [HALIwell]. A checheface, mecher, SNEAKEBILL, wretched fellow, one out of whose nose hunger drops. Ibid. A meacocke, milk-sop, SNEAKSBIE, worthlesse fellow.

1651. CARTWRIGHT, Ordinary. A base thin-jaw'd SNEAKSBILL, Thus to work gallants out of all.

1653. URQUHART, Rabelais, i. xxv. Scurvy SNEAKSBIES, fondling fops, base loons.

1685. BARROW, Sermons, iii. xxxiv. A demure SNEAKSBY, a clownish singularist.

SNECK-DRAWER, subs. phr. (Scots'). — A latchlifter; a slyboots. SNECK-DRAWING = crafty, cheating.

c.1401. Political Poems, ii. 98. [OLiPHANT, New Eng., i. 192. Among the nouns SNECK-DRAWER; used by Scott.]

d.1796. BURNS, Address to the Deil. And you, ye auld SNECK-DRAWING dog, Ye came to Paradise incog.

1817. SCOTT, Rob Roy, xxxviii. Sydall is an auld SNECK-DRAWER.

SNECK UP ! intj. (old). — Go hang ! Also SNECK UP.

1599. Two Angry Women of Abingdon [NARES]. If they be not, let them go SNECK UP.

1602. SHAKESPEARE, Twelfth Night, ii. 3, 101. We did keep time, sir, in our catches. SNECK UP !

1610. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, Knight of Burning Pestle, iii. 1. Let him go SNECK UP !

1611. CHAPMAN, Mayday, iv. But for a paltry disguise she shall go SNECK UP.

c.1620. HEALEY, Disc. New World, 106. I am in great perplexitie, least my country-women should have any understanding of this state; for if they have, wee may go SNECK UP for any female that will bide among us.

1630. HEYWOOD, Fair Maid of West [PEARSON, Works (1874), ii., 268]. She shall not rise, sir, goe, let your Master SNECK-UP !

1630. TAYLOR, Praise of Hempseed. A Tiburne hempen-candell will e'en cure you: It can cure traitors, but I hold it fit 't apply 't ere they the treason do commit. Wherefore in Sparta it ycleped was SNECK-UP, which is in English gallow-grass.

1638. FORD, Lady's Trial, iii. 2. Dost want a master? If thou dost, I'm for thee; Else choose, and SNECK UP !

1666. Willy Beguil'd [HAWKINS, Orig. Drama, iii. 342]. If my mistress would be ruled by him, Sophos might go SNECK UP.

SNEE. See SNECK-AND-SNEE.

SNEERG, subs. (back slang). — Greens.

SNEERING, adj. (B. E. and Grose). — 'Jeering, flickering, laughing in scorn.'

SNEEZE, subs. (old). — i. Snuff: also SNISH.

2. (common). — The nose: see SNEEZER.

To SNEEZE AT, verb. phr. (common). — To despise; to scorn: usually in phrase 'not to be SNEEZED AT' = worth having or considering.

1820. COOMBE, Syntax, ii. 5. A dame . . . who wish'd . . . to change her name, And . . . would not perhaps have SNEEZED AT mine.

1823. BEE, Dict. Turf, s.v. SNEEZE. A handsome girl with a few thousands tacked to her arse is not to be SNEEZED AT.

1837. BARHAM, Ingolds. Leg., 'The Coronation.' If any bold traitour or inferior craythur SNEEZES AT THAT, I'd like to see the man.
Sneeze-lurker.

1855. Haliburton, Human Nature, 173. My knowledge of horse-flesh ain’t to be sneezed at.

1857. A. H. Elton, Below the Surface, xxvii. My professional reputation is not to be sneezed at.

Sneeze- (or Sneeze- or Snuff-) lurker, subs. phr. (thieves'). — A thief working with snuff, pepper, and the like. To give on the sneeze (or snuff) racket = ‘to dose a man in the eyes, and then rob him’ (Grose).

Sneezer, subs. (common). — 1. Severe weather: as a hard frost or a violent gale. Whence (2) = anything ‘exceptional’ — a stiff glass, a knock-out blow: see Whopper. Also (army) = a martinet.

1855. Haliburton, Human Nature [BARTLETT]. It’s awful to hear a minister swear; and the only match I know for it is to hear a regular sneezer of a sinner quote Scripture.


1902. Dowling, Tempest Driven, xxiv. ‘It will be a sneezer,’ said the boatman.

2. (common). — The nose: also sneeze: see Conk. Whence (3) = a pocket-handkerchief; and (4) = a snuff-box: also sneezing coffer (Grose and Vaux.)

1834. Ainsworth, Rookwood. Fogles and fawnies soon went their way to the spout with the sneezers in grand array.

1838. Dickens, Oliver Twist, xliii. To think of . . . the Artful Dodger going abroad for a common twopenny-halfpenny sneeze-box.

1861. H. Kingsley, Ræwenshoe, xxxv. ‘What is cly-faking,’ said Charles. ‘Why, a prigging of wipes, and sneeze-boxes . . . and such.’


Sneeze, subs. (hawkers'). — A needle. Hence sneell-fencer = a needle-hawker. [Cf. (Scots’) SNELL = sharp.]


Snib, subs. (Scots'). — A prig, q.v. (Grose).

Verb. (venery). — To copulate: see Ride.


2. (old). — A glandered horse (Grose). See also Snigger.

Snickersnee, subs. (nautical). — 1. A knife; and (2) a combat with knives: also snick-and-snee.

c.1617. Howell, Letters, i. i. 41. None must carry a pointed knife about him [in Genoa]; which makes the Hollander, who is used to snick and snee, to leave his Horn-sheath and knife a shipboard when he comes ashore.

1673. Norfolk Drollery, 64. But they'll ere long come to themselves you'll see, When we in earnest are at snick a snee.

1698. Fatal Friendship. What hand that can design a history would copy lowland boors at snick a snee.

d.1701. Dryden, Parallel of Poetry and Painting. The brutal sport of snick-or-snee, and a thousand other things of this mean invention.


1869. Thackeray, Little Billee. ‘Make haste, make haste,’ says Guzzling Jimmy, while Jack pulled out his snickersnee.

Snick-fadge, subs. phr. (thieves'). — A petty thief.
**Snickle.**

*Snickle, verb. (thieves').—To inform; to peach (q.v.).

1859. Matsell, *Vocabulary*. If the cove should be caught in the hock [imprisoned] he won't snickle.

*Snicktag, verb. (thieves').—To go shares.

*Slide (or Snid), subs. (Scots').—I. Sixpence: see rhino.

2. (common).—Anything mean or spurious: as a contemptible wretch, counterfeit coin, &c. As adj. (also sniddy or snidey) = bad, wretched, contemptible, or (army) dirty. Snide-pitching (see quot. 1868).

1868. Temple Bar, xxxiv. 538. Snyde-pitching is passing bad money, and it is a capital racket.

1876. A. Mursell, *Shady Pastorals*. Sometimes the police will help the thieves by getting snide witnesses . . . who will swear anything according to instructions.

1887. Henley, *Villon's Straight Tip*. Or pitch a snide, or klap a yack.

1887. Francis, *Saddle and Mocassin*. These 'ere men don't want none of your snide outfits, but just good bronchos and a waggon, and strong harness.

1891. Carew, *Auto. of a Gipsy*, 416. When I put the acid on it hevery bloomin' hounce was snide. *Ibid.*, 418. Nat said, 'S'trewth when Griffin seen the plate turn up agen, like a snide midgie, his face were a picter.'


1900. Flynt, *Tramps*, 277. "Utica," he said, "if you intend gettin' your breakfast there in the morning, is a sort of a snide place this time of the year."

**Sniffy, adj.** (American).—Disdainful.

**Snifter, subs.** (common).—I. A long-drawn breath.

2. (common).—A dram; a go (q.v.).
Snipe.


1665. *Chapman* [B. Dobell, on Newly Discovered Documents of the Elizabethan and Jacobean Periods (Athenæum, 13 Apr., 1901, 466, 1)]. Tailors and Shoo-makers, and such SNIPPER-ADOS.


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1709. *Ward* Terraflfius [Works, i. 5. 35]. Poor Crespin was laugh'd at thro' the whole parish, ... and the Gentleman and yonder SNIP-CABBAGE his Taylor, commended for their Ingenuity.

1641. *Dryden*, *Hist. of League*, Postscr. Our SNIPPERS go over once a year into France, to bring back the newest mode.

1849. *Kingsley*, *Alton Locke*, xiii. Alton, you fool, why did you let out that you were a SNIP?


8. (American S. Exchange). — A curbstone broker; a GUTTER-SNIP (q.v.).

1870. *Medbery*, *Wall St.*, 131. Solid brokers... scoffingly declare its [the Open Board] members... are simply SNIPES and lame ducks.

Verb. (military). — To fire at random into a camp.

**SNIPPER - SNAPPER**, *subs.* (common). — An insignificant person; a WHIPPER-SNAPPER (q.v.).

1677. *Poor Robin's Visions*, 12. This seeming gentle WHIPPER-SNAPPER vanish't... and I was left alone.

**SNIPPY** (SNIPENNY, SNIPTIOUS, or SNIPPISH), *adj.* (American). — Vain; conceited; pert.

**SNIP-SNAP**, *subs.* (thieves'). — A lawyer; hence (4) a long bill.

**SNIP-SNAP**, *subs.* (thieves'). — A half-smoked cigar.

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1870. *Judd*, *Margaret*, iii. I recollect... overhearing... a sort of grave SNIP-SNAP about Napoleon's return from Egypt... and what not.

**SNIRP**, *subs.* (old). — An undersized, contemptible wretch.

**SNITCH**, *subs.* (thieves'). — 1. In pl. = handcuffs: also SNITCHERS.

2. (old). — 'A Filip on the Nose': also SNITCHEL (B. E.); also the nose.
**Snitched.**

Verb. (thieves').—1. To inform. Hence **snitcher** = an informer. Also (2) = to **nark** (q.v.).—Grose and Bee.

c.1812. John Jackson [quoted by Byron in Don Juan, xi. 19.] Then your blowing will wax gallows haughty, When she hears of your scaly mistake, She'll surely turn **snitch** for the forty, That her Jack may be regular weight.

1819. Vaux, Memoirs, s.v. Snitch; to impeach, or betray your accomplices is termed **snitching upon** them. A person who becomes King's evidence on such an occasion is said to have turned **snitch**; an informer, or tale-bearer, in general, is called a **snitch**, or a **snitching-rascal**, in which case **snitching** is synonymous with nosing or coming it.

1829. The Lag's Lanzent [Vidocq's Menz., 169]. **Snitch** on the gang, that'll be the best vay To save your scrag.

**Snitched**, adj. (horsedealers').—See quot.

1876. Hindley, Cheap Jack... A horsedealer... was showing a farmer a horse that was **snitched**, that is glandered.

**Snite**, verb. (Old Cant).—To wipe: **snite a candle** = to snuff it; **snite his snitch** = wipe his Nose or give him a good Flap on the Face. (B. E.).


1599. Hall, Satires, vi. i. 104. He... wrings and **snites**, and weeps and wipes again.

1701. Grew, Cosmo Sacra, i. v. Nor would anyone be able to **snite** his nose, or to sneeze.

**Sniv**, verb. (Old Cant).—1. To hold one's tongue: e.g. **sniv that!** (Grose). Also 2 (Vaux) = **bender**! (q.v.)

**Snivel**, subs. (colloquial).—Hypocrisy; cant (q.v.): as verb = to complain; to **bleat** (q.v.). Hence **sniveller** (or **snivel-ard**) = a whining malcontent; **snivelling** = hypocritical repentance (B. E. and Grose).

1440. Prompt. Parv., 461. **snivel-ard**, or he that spekythe yn the nose.

c.1520. Coventry Myst., 'Assumption,' 396 [Oliphant, New Eng., i. 397. There is sneveler used in scorn.]

1767. Sterne, Tristram Shandy, ix. 12. 'That **snivelling** virtue of meekness,' as my father would always call it.

1771. Smollett, Humphrey Clinker, Lett. v. I have received a **snivelling** letter from Griffin.

1780. Sheridan, The Camp, i. i. Come forward, you **snivelling**, sneaking sot, you.

1809. Malkin, Gil Blas [Routledge], 224. Indeed am I punished for having preposterously lowered myself to the level of a dirty **snivelling** adventurer.

1886. St. James's Gaz., 9 Feb. The cant and snivel of which we have seen so much of late.

1886. Besant, World Went Very Well Then, ii. Would'st not surely choose to be a sneaking **snivelling** quill-driver in a merchant's office?

1888. Whipple, Essays and Reviews, ii. 117. He **snivels** in the cradle, at the school, at the altar... on the death-bed.

1898. Gould, Landed at Last, xvi. **You snivelling coward.**

**Snivel-nose**, subs. phr. (old).—A niggard (Halliwell).

**Snoach**, verb. (old).—To speak through the nose; to snuffle (Grose).

**Snob**, subs. (old).—1. A shoemaker (Grose); spec. a journeyman cobbler (Halliwell).

1808. J. Mayne, Siller Gun, iii. 133. Counter to a mandate clear, Ane of the **snobs** Vain as a peacock, strutted here, In crimson robes.

1837. Barham, Ing. Leg., ii. 220, note. The Shoemaker, born a **snob**.

2. (old Univ.: then general).—An inferior: see quot.

1822. De Quincey, Conf. (1862), 120. Base snobs who would put up with a vile Brummagem substitute. Ibid. (1849), Eng. Mail Coach (Wks., 1854, iv. 293). If
our dress and bearing sheltered us, generally, from the suspicion of being "raff" (the name at that period for snobs), we really were such constructively, by the place we assumed. [Note.—Snobs, and its antithesis, 'nobs' arose amongst the internal factions of shoemakers, perhaps ten years later [i.e., apparently, c.1815]. Possibly enough, the terms may have existed much earlier, but they were then first made known, picturesquely and effectively, by a trial at some assizes which happened to fix the public attention.]

1824. Gradus ad Cantab., s.v. Snobs. A term applied indiscriminately to all who have not the honour of being members of the university; but in a more particular manner to the profanum vulgus, the tag-rag and bob-tail, who vegetate on the sedgy banks of Camus.

1837. Disraeli, Henrik Temple, vii. xviii. Of all the great distinctions in life none perhaps is more important than that which divides mankind into the two great sections of Nobs and Snobs . . . Captain Armine was a Nob, and the poor tradesman a snob.

1840. Dickens, Old Curiosity Shop, xxxviii. “Pull up, snobby,” cried Mr. Chuckster, addressing Kit, “you’re wanted inside here.” . . . “Ask no questions, snobby.”

c.1845. Hood, Tale of a Trumpet, xxxviii. Whether she listened to Hob or Bob, Nob or Snob.

1845. Thackeray, Newcomes, ii. 177. An English snob with a coat of arms bought yesterday.

1863. Reade, Hard Cash, i. 228. Once more . . . a motley crew of peers and printers . . . of nobs and snobs, fought and scrambled . . . to get rich in a day.

1870. Figaro, 18 July. Is it more cruel for a snob to shoot a sea-bird in the breeding season than it is for a nob to shoot pigeons in the breeding season, thereby starving all their young?

1878. Masque of Poets, 183. The snob Made haste to join the fashionable mob.

3. (colloquial).—A toady ing or blatant vulgarian: see quots. 1843 and 1861. Also as adj. with numerous derivatives: e.g., snobbery, snobbishness, and snobbish; snobbess; snobbish.
Snobbery

Snobbery, subs. (tailors').—Bad work; slack trade, &c. Cf. snob, sense 3 and verb. To hide the snobbery = to conceal imperfections or cover up inferior work.

Snob's-boot, subs. phr. (tailors').—Sixpence: see rhino.

Snob's-cat.—In phr. (Bee) 'like a snob's-cat, full of piss and tantrums.' Cf. barber's cat.

Snob's-duck, subs. phr. (common).—A leg of mutton, stuffed with sage and onions.

Snobstick, subs. (workmen's).—A black-leg; rat, knobstick (q.v.): also snob.

Snock, verb. (American).—To 'land' a blow: e.g., to snock on the gob = to punch one in the mouth.

Snoddy, subs. (common).—A soldier.

Snook, subs. (common).—In pl. = the imaginary name of a practical joker; also a derisive retort on an idle question—snooks!

Verb. (common).—To pry; to watch; to dog (q.v.): also snoop: which also = (American) to pick (q.v.). Hence snook (snoop, snooker, or snoper) = a spy; a sneak; a paul pry (q.v.).

1653. Brome, New Acad., ii. 1. I must not lose my harmlesse recreations Abroad, to snook over my wife at home.

To cut (or cock) snooks, verb. phr. (common).—See sight.

Snooker, subs. (Royal Military Academy).—A cadet-student of the fourth class; a freshman.

Snooze, subs. (colloquial).—I. Sleep: spec. a nap (q.v.): also snoozem; also (2) = a bed: see kip. As verb. (or snoozle) = to nestle; snoozer = (1) a sleepy-head, and (2) a domiciled boarding-house or hotel thief (American); snoozing = sleep; snooze-ken (or snoozing-ken) = (1) a bed, (2) a bed-room, (3) a lodging-house, (4) a brothel; snooze-case = a pillow-slip (Grose, Bee, Vaux). Snoozy (Old Cant) = a night watchman or constable (Grose).

1819. Moore, Tom Crib, 28. What with snoozing, high-grubbing and guzzling like Chloe.

1828. Beckett, Paradise Lost, 39. For when — went to snoozem Their din incessant sure must rouse him.

1847. Bronte, Wuthering Heights, iii. A dog snoozed its nose over-forwardly into her face.

1855. Thackeray, Newcomes, xlix. Snooze gently in thy arm-chair, thou easy baldhead.

1862. Browne, Artemus Ward, His Book[Works (1899), 41. I spose I'd been snoozin half an hour when I was woke up by a noise at the door.

1874. Siliad, 61. Kamdux had snoozed, but now his fat sides shook.

1875. Stevenson, Treas. of Franchard. The same snoozing countrified existence.

1880. Bret Harte, A Quiet Ride. Bully place for a nice quiet snooze—empty stage, sir!

1886. E. Telegraph, 1 Dec. The last surreptitious snooze in which he was wont to revel.

Snopsy (Snops or Snaps), subs. (American).—Gin [i.e., Schnaps].

Snork, verb. (Shrewsbury School).—To excel; to surpass: e.g., to do the whole of an examination paper, or to cap another in argument or repartee.
Snort, verb. (colloquial). — To laugh in derision.

1835. Haliburton, Clockmaker, i. xix. I thought I should have snorted right out two or three times... to hear the critter let her clapper run that fashion.

1855. Major Downing's Letters, 15. We all snorted and snickered.


Snorter, subs. (American). — I. Anything large or exceptional: spec. a gale of wind, a heavy snow-storm: cf. sneezer: see whopper.

1870. Thorpe, Backwoods, 183. 'I'm a roaring earthquake in a fight,' sung out one of the... fellows, 'a real snorter of the universe.'

1891. Marriott-Watson, Web of Spider, xv. 'What's to become of me, then?' asked Ida. 'Well,' he said, 'that's rather a snorter. I dunno' where we could put you.'

1897. Kennard, Girl in Brown Habit, i. Some of these fences are regular downright snorters.

2. (common). — The nose: see conk.

Snot, subs. (vulgar). — I. Nasal mucus. Hence 2 (common) = a contemptible wretch: also (2) snotter and snottie = (naval) a midshipman. Whence as verb, = (1) to blow the nose, and (2) to act scurvily; snottery = filth; snotty = running at the nose, mean, dirty; snotty-nosed = contemptible, filthy; snot-gall (or snotter) = the nose; snot-rag (snottinger, or snotter) = (1) a pocket-handkerchief; and (2) the nose (also snot- and snottle-box): snotter also = a handkerchief thief; snotter-hauling = sneaking of wipes (q.v.); snotted = reprimanded: Fr. mouché.

1598. Marston, Scourge of Villanie, ii. To purge the snottery of our slimy time.

1601. Jonson, Poetaster, v. i. Teach thy incubus to poetize, And throw abroad thy spurious snotteries.

d.1633. G. Herbert, Jacula Prudentium. Better a snotty child than his nose wiped off.

1865. Poor Robin's Alman. Three kisses, four Busses, and five licks under the snot-gall.

1892. Wood, Athena Oxon, ii. The continual importunities of his covetous and snotty wife.

1897. Bailey, Erasmus, ii. 32. Linen rags... retaining still the Marks of the Snot.

1823. Bee, Dict. Turf, s.v. Wipe—a pocket-handkerchief... When this kind of article is in the last stages of consumption they scoff at it, as a snotter.

Snout, subs. (colloquial). — I. The nose: in contempt. 2. = the face: also snout-piece (grose); snout-fair = pretty, comely (Harmann and Grose).

c.1610. Masque of Twelve Months. Lady Pigswiggin the only snout-faire of the fairies.

1621. Burton, Anat. Melan., III. iii. iv. 2. A modest Virgin, well-conditioned, to such a fair snout-piece, is much to be preferred. Ibid., III. iii. 1. 2. He that marries a wife that is snowy fair [?snout fair] alone, let him...

1653. Brome, Court Beggar, ii. 1. Shee be snout-faire, and has some wit. '1653. Butler, Hudibras, i. iii. 357. Her subtle snout Did quickly wind his meaning out.

2. (prison). — Tobacco: see Wright and Trafficking; also (itinerants') a cigar.

Snow, subs. (Old Cant). — Linen: spec. linen hung out to dry: also snowy. Hence snowy-gatherer (or dropper) = a hedge-thief: also snow-dropping (Grose and Vaux).
1877. Horsley, Jottings from Jail. We used to go and snug snowy that was hung out to dry.

**Snowball, subs. (venery).—** I. A seminal globule: see Cream and Letchwater.

1786. Rochester [Works (1718), 87]. Priapus, squez'd, one snowball did emit.

2. (old).—A negro (Groso). Fr. boule de neige.

**Snow-broth, subs. phr. (B. E.).—** 'Snow-water.' Also (modern) = cold lap (q. v.).

1603. Shakespeare, Measure for Measure, i. 458. A man whose blood is very snow-broth.

1796. Burns, Briggs of Ayr. In mony a torrent doun bis snabroow rowes.

1870. Judd, Margaret, i. 6. 'This is none of your snow-broth, Peggy,' said the mother; 'it's warming.'

**Snub, verb. (B. E. and Grose).—** To check, to rebuke.

See Snob.

**Snub-devil, subs. phr. (old).—** A parson.

**Snub-nose, subs. phr. (Grose).—** 'A short nose turned up at the end.'

**Snudge, subs. (old).—** I. A miser; a curmudgeon. Hence as adj. (Snudge-like, or Snudging) = miserly, mean, crabby; as verb = to grasp, to screw; Snugdery = meanness.

1531-47. Copland, Hyeway to Spitel Hous. Scrapynge and snudging without any cease.

1544. Ascham, Toxophilus, i. Your husbandry . . . is more like the life of a covetous snugge that ofte very evil proves.

1553. Sir T. Wilson, Rhetorike. Snudginge wittely rebuked . . . she beeyng greved charged hym . . . that he should saie she was such a pinchpeny as would sell her olde showes for mony.

1562. Lewick, Titus and Gisippus. What man wold judge Titus to have been such a snudge.

1577. Kendall, Flowers of Epig. Thou deemst me in thy minde . . . a sneekbill snudge unkinde.

1579. North, Plut., 135. This bribing wretch was forced for to holde a tipping bothe, most like a clowne or snuche.

1581. Hakluyt, Voyages, i. 240. They may not say, as some snudges in England say, I would find the Queene a man to serue in my place.

1587. Holinshed, Descr. Ireland, iii. Snudging penifathers would take him vp verie roughlie.

1597. Gerard, Herbal, Verses prefixed. Of his faire flowring brats she [Mother Earth] is no snugge.

1600. Dekker, Old Fortunatus [Anc. Drama (1814), iii. 124]. Snudges may well be called jailers.

1602. Heywood, How a Man may Choose a Good Wife from a Bad. My master . . . is such an old snugge, he'll not lose the droppings of his nose.

1604. Motteux, Rabelais, v. xvi. We find that the filthy snugge is yet more mischievous and ignorant than these ignorant wretches here.

2. (old).—A thief concealing himself under a bed (B. E. and Grose).

**Snudge-snout, subs. phr. (old).—** A dirty fellow.

1606. Wily Beggild [Hawkins, Eng. Dr., iii. 393]. That puck-fist, that snudge-snout, that coal-carrierly clown.

**Snuff, subs. (old).—** The drainings of a glass; Heel-taps (q. v.).

1641. Braithwaite, Penitent Pilgrim. Those very snuffs which your excess procured, would have been sweet drops to many . . . who for want of drink have fainted.

**Verb.**—To be testy, easily offended: also to take snuff, or to snuff pepper: see Pepper. Whence in snuff =
in dudgeon; TO GIVE SNUFF =
to reprimand, to rebuke, to scold;
SNUFFY = (1) offended, and (2) = drunk (BEE); as subs. SNUFF = a PET (q.v.). —(GROSE).

1584. Robinson, Pleasant Delights [Arber], 35. Huffing and snuffing deserveth blame.

1593. Hollyband, Dict. To spite, to anger, to take a matter in SNUFF.

1598. Shakespeare, I Hen. IV., i. 3, 41. Who therewith angry, when it next came there, Took it in SNUFF.

1601. Jonson, Poetaster, ii. 1. I take it highly to learn how to entertain gentlefolks of you, at these years, i' faith.

1603. Ibid. (1609), Sz7ent Woman, iv. 2. He went away in SNUFF.

1625. Hall, Thanksgiving Sermon, 29 Jan. Do the enemies of the church rage, and SNUFF, and breathe nothing but threats and death?

1630. Taylor, Laugh. and be Fat, 69. No man's lines but mine you take IN SNUFF.

1688. Cap of Gray Hairs, &c., 113. If in SNUFF and distaste you may fling away from such re infecta, a little patience and good words may do your business.

d. 1704. L'ESTRANGE, Works [Century]. Jupiter took SNUFF at the contempt, and punished him.

1811. Poole, Hamlet Travestie. He knew well enough the game we're after; zooks, he's up to SNUFF.

1823. Byron, Don Juan, xi. 60. 'Tis strange the mind, that fiery particle, should let itself be SNUFF'D out by an article.

1830. Moncrieff, The Heart of London, ii. 1. I nose: up to SNUFF.

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Leg., i. 295. Lady A., who is now what some call up to SNUFF.

1837. Dickens, Pickwick. He was one too many for you warn't he? Up to SNUFF, and a pinch or two over.

1838. Beckett, Paradise Lost, 39. And being up to SNUFF in this, he turns his bottom, and says "kiss."

1876. Hindley, Cheap Jack. Having travelled all my lifetime, was better up to SNUFF than an ordinary man would be at fifty.

1885. Sims, Rogues and Vagabonds. Josh Heckett isn't going to SNUFF IT just for a crack on the head.

1887. D. Teleg., 15 Feb. They will be SNUFFED OUT; nobody will listen to them before seven, or after nine.

1891. Newman, Scam/Sing TricKz, 120. Now it is only fair to say the assistant knew his book, and was up to SNUFF.

**Snuffle, subs.** (B. E. and GROSE).
—In pl. = a cold in the head: as verb. = to speak gruffly or through the nose.

1789. D'Arblay, Diary, iii. 180. First the Queen deserts us; then Princess Royal begins coughing; then Princess Augusta gets the sNUIFFLES.

**Snuffer, subs.** (common).—A preacher. Hence SNUFFLING = canting.

1861. Hughes, Tom Brown at Oxford, xlv. You know I never was a sNUFFLER; but this sort of life makes one serious, if one has any reverence at all in one.

**SNUFFY, adj.** (common).—Tipsy: see SCREWED (GROSE).

**Sng, verb.** (venery).—To copulate: see RIDE.
Snuggery. 289 Soak.

Adj. (common).—Drunk: see Screwed.

All snug, phr. (Grose).—All's quiet.

See Bug.

Snuggery, subs. (common).—A comfortable privacy: as a woman's boudoir, a man's smoking den, a bar-parlour.

1837. Dickens, Pickwick, xlv. 'Vere are they?' said Sam... 'In the snuggery,' rejoined Mr. Weller.

1872. Eliot, Middlemarch, xvii. Knowing... Mr. Farebrother was a bachelor he had thought of being ushered into a snuggery, where the chief furniture would probably be books.

1886. Field, 13 Feb. We in Meath had a pleasant time in Miss Murphy's snuggery.

1898. Pink 'Un and Pelican. Give me the old-fashioned waiter... who becomes a part and parcel of the house. Simpson's, and that older snuggery, the "Cheshire Cheese," have had many such.

Snyder (or Snider), subs. (old).—A tailor: see trades.

c.1600. Weakest to Wall, i. 3. Beest thou a snyder? snip, snap, mette sheers.

So, adv. (colloquial).—1. Drunk: see Screwed. Also so-so.

1809. Malkin, Gil Blas [Routledge], 50. We drank hard, and returned to our employers in a pretty pickle, that is to say so-so in the upper story.

2. (conventional: women's).—Pregnant; lumpy (q.v.).

3. (Ibid.).—In courses, under repair (q.v.).

Intj. (colloquial).—A questioning reply to a positive statement: e.g., 'The King returns to town to-day' 'So?'

So-and-so, subs. (colloquial).—1. Somebody or something indefinite; and (2) in place of a thing forgotten, or which it is not desired to mention: e.g., Mr. So-and-so.

So long, intj. (common).—Good bye!

1902. Lynch, High Stakes, xxxii. I'm off for change of air... So long. I'll see ye later.

So-so, adj. and adv. (colloquial).—Ordinary; mediocre; nothing to speak of.


c.1537. A Pore Helpe [Hazzitt, Early Pop. Poet., iii. 263], 300. A noble teacher, and so-so a preacher.

1857. Shakspeare, Two Gent., i. 2. 'What thinkest thou of the rich Mercatio?' 'Well of his wealth; but of himself, so-so.'

Ibid. (1600), As You Like It, v. i. 29. So so is good, very good, very excellent good; and yet it is not; it is but so-so.

d.1703. Pepys, Diary. She is a mighty proper maid, and pretty comely, but so-so; but hath a most pleasing tone of voice, and speaks handsomely.

d.1704. Brown, Works, i. 173-4. Their outsides wondrous fine, their pockets lined within but so-so.

1797. Lamb, Correspondence, 'Cleridge,' xix. The remainder is only so-so.

1810. Rhodes, Bombastes Furioso. Only so-so. O, monstrous doleful thing!

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends, i. 73. That illustrious lady, who, after leading but a so-so life, had died in the odour of sanctity.

1857. F. Locker, Reply to a Letter. I trembled once beneath her spell Whose spelling was extremely so-so.

1888. Boldrewood, Squatter's Dream, vi. He had... agreed... to sell this year's clip in the colony, as the washing and getting up were only so-so, and wool was high.

Soak, subs. (common).—1. A drinking bout; (2) a hard drinker: also soaker. As verb, = to
steep oneself in drink; to BoozE (q.v.). Whence soaking = hard drinking; soaked = drunk: see ScrewE: to set soaking = to ply the pot (B.E., Bailey, and GroEe).

1700. CongreVe, Way of the World, iv. 10. The Sun’s a good Pimple, an honest soakEr; he has a Cellar at your Antipodes.

d. 1704. Locke, Works [Ency. Dict.]. The tickling of his palate with a glass of wine, or the idle chat of a soaking club.

1709. Dampier, Voyages, i. 419. Scarce a ship goes to China but the Men come home fat with soaking this Liquor [Arrack].

d. 1716. South, Sermons, vi. iii. By a good natur’d man is usually meant neither more nor less than a good fellow; a painful, able, and laborious soakEr.

1766. Goldsmith, Vicar of Wakefield, xxi. You do nothing but soak with the guests all day long.

1772. Bridges, Burlesque Homer, 58. On this th’ old soakEr said no more.

1834. Mayhew, Lond. Lab., 1. 314. Well, sir, suppose it’s a soakEr in the morning . . . then, maybe, after all, it comes out a fine day.

1837. ParsoN, Inside View of Slavery [Bartlett]. When a Southerner intends to have a soak, he takes the bottle to his bedside, goes to bed, and lies there till he gets drunk.

Verb. (common).—1. To pawn: also to put in soak.

2. (anglers’).—To be lavish of bait.

3. (common).—To sit lazily over the fire (Halliwell).

Soaker, subs. (colloquial).—A heavy rain. See Soak.

Soap, subs. (common).—1. Flattery: also soft-soap: cf. soft-sawder. As verb = to flatter; to carney (q.v.); soapy = smooth-tongued.

1840. Widow Bedott Papers, 308. You don’t catch me a slanderin’ folks behind their backs, and then soft soapin’ them to their faces.

1843. Walsh, Speech [Bartlett]. I am tired of this system of placemen soft-soaping the people.

1853. BradEY, Verdant Green. The tailor and robemaker . . . visibly soaped our hero in what is understood to be the shop sense of the word.

1861. Hughes, Tom Brown at Oxford, xxxiii. He and I are great chums, and a little soft-soap will go a long way with him.

1865. DickEY, Dr. Marigold . . . These Dear Jacks soap the people shameful, but we Cheap Jacks don’t.

1892-96. Mayhew, Lond. Lab., 1. 314. Well, Reefer, how are you off for soap?


1884. Mag. Amer. Hist. [Century]. Soap—Originally used by the Republican managers during the campaign of 1880, as the cipher for money in their telegraphic despatches. In 1884 it was revived as a derisive war cry aimed at the Republicans by their opponents.

3. (Royal Military Academy).—Cheese.

Soap-and-bullion, subs. phr. (nautical).—See quot.
Soap-crawler. 291  Sock.

1883. Clark Russell, Sailor's Language, xii. I have known many a strong stomach, made food-proof by years of pork eaten with molasses, and biscuit alive with worms, to be utterly capsized, by the mere smell of soup-and-bouilli. Jack calls it 'soap-and-bullion, one onion to a gallon of water,' and this fairly expresses the character of the nauseous compound.

Soap-crawler, subs. phr. (common).—A toady.

Soap-lock (or curl), subs. phr. (American).—A soaped lock of hair on the temple.

1844. Major Jones's Courtship [Bartlett]. The way my last letter has cradled off the soaplocks, and imperials, and goatlocks . . . is truly alarming.

2. (American).—A rowdy (Bartlett).

Soap-suds, subs. phr. (old).—'Gin and water, hot, with lemon and lump sugar' (BEE).

Soap-trick, sub. phr. (American thieves').—A variety of the well-known purse swindle. A cake of soap is sold for a dollar to a gull who thinks he has that one he has wrapped a five-dollar bill in, and marked himself. Hence soaper = a soap-trick swindler.

Soary, adj. and adv. (American).—Inclined to 'draw the long bow'; high-falutin' (q.v.).

Sober-sides, subs. (colloquial).—A sedate person.

1852. Bronte, Villette, xxviii. You deemed yourself a melancholy sober-sides enough! Miss Fanshawe there regards you as a second Diogenes in his tub.

Sober-water, sub. phr. (common).—Soda-water.

So, subs. (printers').—'Society': non-Soc-man = a rat (q.v.), a blackleg, a non-Union-man.

Socius, subs. (Winchester).—A chum; a companion. As verb = to accompany. [The School precept is Sociati omnes incedunt.]

Sock, subs. (Old Cant).—1. A pocket: 'Not a rag in my sock' = penniless (B. E.).

2. (Eton College).—Edibles of any kind: spec. dainties, tuck (q.v.). As verb = (1) to eat outside regular meals; (2) = to treat (q.v.); whence (3) = to give.

C.1550. Machyn, Diary [Camden Soc.] [Oliphant, New Eng., i. 534. The substantive suckett appears for dainty . . . hence, perhaps, the sock so dear to Etonians.]

1881. Pascoe, Every-day Life, &c. The consumption of sock, too, in school was considerable, and on occasion very conspicuous.

1883. Brinsley Richards, Seven Years at Eton. We Eton fellows, great and small socked prodigiously.

1889. Buckland, Eton Fifty Years Ago [Macm. Mag., Nov.]. My governor has socked me a book . . . A boy has also been heard to ask another to sock him a construe of his lesson.

3. (common).—Credit; jaw-bone (q.v.): also as verb = (1) to get credit, and (2) = to pay also to sock down.

4. (common).—An overgrown baby [Ency. Dict.].

5. (old).—A comedy. [The Sock, an ancient ensign of Comedy; the buskin = tragedy.] Whence sock-and-buskin = (1) the profession (q.v.).

1592. Spenser, Tears of the Muses, 176. Where be the sweet delights of learnings treasure, That wont with Comick sock to beautifie The painted Theaters.

1637. Milton, L'Allegro, 132. Then to the well-trod stage anon, If Jonson's learned sock be on.
Sockdologer.

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Socket.

1808. Malkin, Gil Blas [Routledge], 107. The gentlemen of the sock and buskin are not on the best possible terms with the church. Ibid., 190. My kindred of the sock and buskin. Ibid., 249. I knew perfectly that my sister of the sock and buskin had entrapped this nobleman.

1817. Byron, Beppo, xxxi. He was a critic upon operas, too, and knew all niceties of the sock and buskin.

Verb. (old).—1. To beat; to drub (B. E.); to press hardly: also as subs. : e.g., 'Sock IT him' or 'Give him sock (or socks)','= pitch into him, dress him down.' Whence socker = a heavy blow. Also 2 (American) = to smash a hat over head and ears, to bonnet (q.v.). [Cf. (provincial) sock = to strike hard.]

1890. Kipling, The Oont [Scots Observer]. We socks him with a stretcher-pole, and 'eads him off in front. Ibid., 'C.B.' Drunk and resistin' the guard; 'Strewth but I socked at 'em 'ard.

1883. Lowell, To Mr. John Bartlett [who had sent a 7-lb. trout]. Fit for an Abbot Theleme... He lies there, the socdologer!

1884. Clemens, Huck. Finn. The thunder would go rumbling and grumbling away, and quit—and then rip comes another flash and another socdologer.

Sock, subs. (common).—1. A fool, sloven, or lout: a general term of contempt. Also sockie and sockhead.

2. (originally Harrow: now general).—Association football: cf. rugger. Also soccer.

1896. Tonbridgian, 339. Hartley has been playing very well this season, and has also become a great half-back at soccer.

1897. Felstedian, Nov. 194. In soccer, with old Blues up, we ought to be very strong.

1902. Pall Mall Gaz., 2 Jan., 9, 2. The article, which deals with both forms of the English game—soccer and rugger—proves to the hilt, &c.

Socket, subs. (venery).—The female pudendum: see monosyphalable. See socket-money.


1650. Brathwayte, Barnaby’s Jo. (1723), 93. Her I caught by you know what-a, Having boldly thus adventur’d, And my Sara’s socket entered.

Burnt to the socket, phr. (old).—Dying (Ray).
Socket-money.

Socket-money, subs. phr. (old).—

'Demanded and spent upon Marriage' (B. E.); 2 (Grose) = 'money paid by a married man caught in an intrigue'; 3 (old) = 'a whore's fee' (Grose). Hence socketter = a blackmailer.

1772. Bridges, Burlesque Homer, i. 27. We'll take her, be she wife or whore; But we must likewise come upon ye, By way of costs, for socket-money.

S O D, subs. (common).—1. A sodomist; hence (2) a violent term of abuse.

Sodger. See Soger.

Sodom, subs. (Oxford Univ.).—

1. Wadham College.


Soft, subs. (thieves').—Bank notes (Grose): generic: also soft-flimsy. To do soft = to utter counterfeit notes.

Adj. (old).—(1) Foolish; easy-going (B. E. and Bee); and (2) choice, exquisite (see quot. 1596): originally effeminate. As subs. (softy, or soft-horn) = a simpleton; as adj. (softish, or soft-headed) = weak-minded, silly (Bailey).

d. 1536. Tyndale, Works, ii. 258. [Oliphant, New Eng., i. 428. An Emperor who gave in to the Pope is called a soft man.]

1596. Shakspeare, Hamlet, v. 2, 110. Laertes . . . an absolute gentleman, full of most excellent differences, of very soft society and great showing.

1621. Burton, Anat. Melan., v. 209. What cannot such scoffers do, especially if they find a soft creature on whom they may work. Ibid., 149. He made . . . soft fellows stark noddies.

1809. Malkin, Gil Blas [Routledge], 13. You are young, and seem a little soft.

1828. Bee, Liv. Pict. Lond., 45. If you appear tolerably soft, and will 'stand it,' he perhaps refuses these also, after having rung the changes once more. This is called a double do.

1859. Eliot, Adam Bede, ix. If you've got a soft to drive you, he'll soon turn over into the ditch.

1863. Mrs. Gaskell, Sylvia's Lovers, xv. Nancy . . . were but a softy after all.

1864. Braddon, Aurora Floyd, xvii. 'I've mashed the tea for 'ee,' said the softy.

1888. Mrs. H. Ward, Robert Elsner, iii. He is a kind of softie—alive on one side of his brain, and a noodle on the other.

1897. Marshall, Pomes, 73. Called the beak 'a balmy kipper,' dubbe' him 'soft about the shell.'

1902. Lynch, High Stakes, xxxii. I . . . heard them calling me softy, and other . . . names, before I had fairly turned my back on them.

Phrases. Soft-hearted = yielding, piteous, tender; 'Hard (arse) or soft?' = 'Third class or first?'; soft food = pap; soft = hash; soft is your horn = 'You make a mistake' (Bee); a soft thing = (1) an easy or pleasant task, and (2) a facile simpleton; a bit of hard for a bit of soft (venery) = copulation; soft down on = in love with. See hard-shell; hard-tack; sawder (adding quot. 1844 infra); snap; soap; spots; tack.

1844. Haliburton, Attache, 19. I don't like to be left alone with a gall; it's plagy apt to set me a sawderin', and a courtin'. Ibid. (1853), Human Nature, 311. Sam Slick said he trusted to soft sawder to get his wooden clocks into a house.

Soft-ball, subs. phr. (Royal Military Academy).—Tennis.
SOFT-HORN, subs. phr. (common).—An ass, whether quadruped or biped.

SOFT-HORSE, subs. phr. (racing).—A horse lacking stamina.

SOFTLING, subs. (old).—A voluptuary.


SOFT-SHELL, subs. phr. (obsolete American political).—See quotes and SOFTS and SOFT-SHELL Democrats.

1835. Dana, Before the Mast. All hands are engaged upon it [reefing], and after the halyards are let go, there is no time to be lost—no sogering, or hanging back.

1864. Browne, Works (1870), 257. We certainly don't lack brave sojers—but there's one thing I wish we did lack, and that is, our present Congress.

1899. Whiteing, John St., 217. Won't it be fine to see the sojers on horseback? I hope its the Reds.

2. (nautical).—See quotes.

1835. Dana, Before the Mast, 25. All hands are engaged upon it [reefing], and after the halyards are let go, there is no time to be lost—no sogering, or hanging back. *Ibid.* 117, Note. Soger (soldier) is the worst term of reproach that can be applied to a sailor. It signifies a skulk, a sherk—one who is always trying to get clear of work, and is out of the way, or hanging back, when duty is to be done. “Marine” is applied more particularly to a man ignorant and clumsy about seaman’s work—a green-horn—a land-lubber. To make a sailor shoulder a handspike, and walk fore and aft the deck, like a sentry, is the most ignominious punishment that could be put on him; inflicted upon an able seaman in a vessel of war, would break his spirit down more than a flogging.

1881. Warner, Winter on the Nile, 248. The two long lines of men attached to the ropes ... stretch out ... so far that it needs an opera-glass to discover whether the leaders are pulling or only soldiering.

1883. Clark Russell, Sailor’s Language, xiii. Many an old prejudice survives in sea-language ... soger ... is as strong a term of contempt as one sailor can fling at another, whilst sogering means to loaf, to skulk ... as if ... characteristic of a soldier.

3. (Winchester).—See quot. and PERCHER.
Soiled-dove. 295 Solomon.

1880. Music of a Merry Heart, 55. The books went up and in due time were returned to us after examination, with the most startling faults indicated by a good big cross in the margin, which crosses for some reason, were known as SODGERS.

SOILED-DOVE, subs. phr. (obsolete).—A prostitute: see TART.

SOLACE, subs. (old printers')—A penalty; a fine (MOXON, 1683).

SOLD. See SELL.

SOLDIER, subs. (common).—1. A red herring; and (2) a boiled lobster (GROSE and BEE).

Verb. (Australian).—1. 'To make temporary use of (another man's horse). Thus a man wanting a mount catches the first horse he can, rides it to his destination, and then lets it go' (Century).

2. (old).—To bully; to hector (HALLIWELL).

3. (military). = To do routine work, as cleaning accoutrements, fatigue duty, anything irksome in a soldier's life.

PHRASES and COMBINATIONS.
—SOLDIER'S-BOTTLE (B. E. and GROSE) = a large bottle; SOLDIER'S-MAWND = (1) 'a counterfeit Sore or Wound in the left Arm' (B. E.), and (2) 'a pretended soldier, begging with a counterfeit wound, which he pretends to have received at some famous siege or battle' (GROSE); SOLDIER'S JOY = masturbation; SOLDIER'S POMATUM = a piece of tallow (GROSE); SOLDIER'S THIGH = an empty pocket; A SOLDIER'S WIND = a fair wind either way, consequently (C. RUSSELL) 'a beam wind'; OLD SOLDIER = (1) an empty bottle: cf. MARINE, and (2) see OLD SOLDIER. See COME and FRESHWATER SOLDIER.

1853. KINGSLEY, Westward Ho, xix. The breeze blowing dead off the land was 'a SOLDIER'S WIND there and back again,' for either ship.

SOLEMNCHOLY. subs. (common).—Seriousness; gravity: cf. 'melancholy.'

SOLE-SLOGGER, subs. (common).—A shoemaker.

SOL-FA, subs. (old).—A parish clerk (GROSE).

SOLID, adj. (Century: Am. polit. slang).—United; unanimous. Thus, a SOLID vote = a unanimous vote; THE SOLID SOUTH (American) = the Southern States during reconstruction: from their uniform support of the Democratic party; A SOLID PARTY = a united party; TO MAKE ONESelf SOLID WITH = to come to an agreement with, &c.

1884. Century Mag., xxxvii. 30. We thus succeeded in making ourselves solid with the administration before we had been in a town or village forty-eight hours.

1888. HOWELLS, Annie Kilburn, xviii. I'm solid for Mr. Peck every time.

1898. WALSH, Lit. Curios., 1019. SOLID SOUTH . . . The first occurrence of the phrase in the modern sense may be traced back to circa 1868 . . . The persistent solidarity of action of the Southern States . . . found expression in it as a term of reproach.

SOLITARY, subs. (prison).—Solitary confinement.

1901. WALKER, In the Blood, 156. We done a bit o' SOLITARY once or twice.

SOLO, subs. (Winchester).—A solitary walk, without a socius (q.v.).

SOLOMON (or SOLLOMON). See SALMON.
Solution of Continuity, subs. phr. (venery). — The female pudendum: see Monosyllable (Urquhart).

SOME, subs. and adv. (American).
—Somewhat; a certain amount; a great deal: cf. FEW and see Pumpkin.

1598. Shakspeare, 2 Hen. IV., v. 5. Bate me some, and I will pay you some.

1847. Ruxton, Far West, 54. When a boy, our trapper was 'some'... with the rifle, and always had a hankering for the West.

1849. New York Tribune, 15 May. Admitted by the oldest inhabitant to be 'some' in the way of cold winters.

1856. Knickerbocker Mag., Mar. He was some on horses... immense at ten-pins.

1865. Lillard, Poker Stories, 178. I used to play cards some before I was married.

Something. See DAMP and SHORT.

Somewhere, adv. (vulgar). — Somewhere; about: e.g., 'Somewheres along of fifty quid.'

Son. In combination, thus—Son of Apollo = a scholar (B. E.); son of a bitch (sow, whore, &c.) = a term of violent abuse; son of a bachelor = a bastard; son of a gun (or sea-cook) = (1) a soldier's bastard, and (2) a term of contempt (see quot. 1867); son of Mars = a soldier (B. E.); son of Mercury = a wit (B. E.); son of parchment = a lawyer (B. E.); son of prattlement = an advocate (Grose); son of wax = a cobbler; every mother's son = everybody; a favourite son (see quot. 1888); son of Venus = a wencher.

c. 1330. Auchinleck MS. [Horstmann, Altenglische Legenden, 253]. [Oliphant, New Eng., i. 18. There is the new phrase mani a moder child; whence comes every mother's son.]

1592. Shakspeare, Mid. Night's Dream, i. 2, 80. That would hang us, every mother's son.

1611. Chapman, May Day, ii. 2. The son of a sow-gelder that came to town... in a tattered russet coat... must needs rise a gentleman.

1849. Brown, Works, i. 121. Get thee gone from my door, like a son of a whore. Ibid., iii. 41. Certain sons of parchment called Solicitors and Barristers.

1705. Vanbrugh, Confederacy, iii. 2. Here's a son of a w——.

1748. SmolleTT, Random, iii. Lookee, you lubberly son of a w—e, if you can athwart me...; I'll be foul of your quarter, d—n me. Ibid., xxvii. Lazy lubberly sons of bitches... good for nothing on board but to eat the King's provision, and encourage idleness in the skulkers.

1772. Bridges, Burlesque Homer, 'Publisher to the Reader.' They called one another rogue, rascal, and son of a bitch very cordially.

1830. Lytton, Paul Clifford, x., 'Fighting Attie's Song.' Pass the bingo—of a gun, You musky, dusky, husky son.

1833. Marrvat, Peter Simple (1834), 446. You are the son of a bitch. Ibid., xii. Take that—and that—and that... you damn'd hay-making son of a sea-cook.

1835. Dana, Two Years Before Mast, xiv. He was not the man to call a sailor a son of a b——h, and knock him down with a handspike.


1867. Ad. Smyth, Sailors' Word Book, s.v. Son of a Gun. An epithet conveying contempt in a slight degree, and originally applied to boys born afloat, when women were permitted to accompany their husbands to sea; one admiral declared he literally was thus cradled, under the breast of a gun-carriage.

1888. Bryce, American Commonwealth, ii. 153. A favourite son is a politician respected or admired in his own State, but little regarded beyond it.
SONG, subs. (common).—A trifle; a nominal sum or price: also an OLD (or MERE) SONG.

SONKEY, subs. (common).—A clumsy fellow; a lout: also SONK, SONKY, and SONKIE.

SONNIE (SONNY or SONNIKIN), subs. (common).—An affectionate or familiar address: with no necessary reference to age or relationship. Also (nautical) SONNIWAX or SONNYWAX.

SONG, 1899. Whiteing, John St., xvi. They have that to give which is wanted by EVERY MOTHER'S SON.

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SONG, 1899. Whiteing, John St., xvi. They have that to give which is wanted by EVERY MOTHER'S SON.
2. (old).—A small piece; a thing or matter of little value.

1362. Langland, Piers Plowman (B), xiii. 124. For one Piers the Ploughman hath inpugned vs alle, And sette alle sciences at a soppe saue loue one.

3. (common).—A simpleton; a 'milk-sop.'

A sop in the pan, subs. phr. (colloquial).—1. A dainty; and (2) a favour.

1621. Fletcher, Pilgrim, iii. 7. Stir no more abroad, but tend your business; You shall have no more sops in the pan else.

Soph., subs. (Cambridge Univ.).—A sophister: in U.S.A. sophomore; 'a student beyond his first year' (Grose). The terms are 1st year, Freshman; 2nd year, Junior Soph; 3rd year, Senior Soph. See Harry Soph.

1719. Durfee, Wit and Mirth. I am a jolly Soph.


1839. Goodrich [Webster Unabridged, s.v. Sophomore]. This word, generally considered an American barbarism, was probably introduced at a very early period from the Univ. of Cambridge, England. Among the cant terms at that University as given in the 'Gradus ad Cantab' [1883] we find Sophmor. It is added that Mor = Gr., moria introduced at a time when the Encomium Moriae, the Praise of Folly by Erasmus was so generally used. The ordinary derivation of the word from sophos and moros would seem, therefore, to be incorrect [Abridged].

Sore-fist, subs. phr. (tailors').—A bad workman; cf. To write a poor hand (ibid.) = to sew badly.

Sore leg, subs. phr. (military).—1. German sausage. Also 2. (streets') = a plum-pudding; spotted-dog (q.v.).

Sorrel-pate, subs. phr. (B. E. and Grose).—A red-haired man; carrots (q.v.).

Sorrowful tale, subs. phr. (rhyming).—Three months in jail.

Sorry, adj. (Grose).—'Vile, mean, worthless: a sorry fellow or hussy, a worthless man or woman.'

Intj. (colloquial).—'I beg your pardon.'

Sort, subs. (colloquial).—Sort (= kind) in its colloquial usages is frequently elliptical. Thus, 'That's your sort' (of method, fancy, thing, &c.); 'After a sort' (of fashion—'well enough of its kind'); a good (or bad) sort (of man, fellow, lot, &c.). Out of sorts = (1) seedy (q.v.); (2) = cross, depressed; and (3) = old, destitute. Sorter (American) = sort of.

d.1536. Tyndale, Works, i. 274. [Oliphant, New Eng., i. 433. Sort stands for homo, much as we say he is a bad lot.]

1590. E. Webbe, Travels (Arber), 34. Now to . . . declare vnto you in what sort I impioide my selfe since my first entring into Engand.

1779. D'Arlay, Diary, Jan., To Mr. Crisp.' I was most violently out of sorts: I thought thy tongue and heels could never have been idle.
So-so. 299 Soup.

1782. Burney, Cecilia (1778), v. 308. [Oliphant, New Eng., ii. 192. Men are described as being out of sorts, a new phrase.]

1792. Holcroft, Road to Ruin. Gold. (passim.) That's your sort!

1817. Scott, Rob Roy, xxvi. He has a kind o' Hieland honesty—he's honest after a sort, as they say.

1847. Porter, Big Bear, 126. He was breathin' sorter hard.

1851. Hawthorne, Seven Gables, viii. No wonder you are out of sorts, my little cousin. To be an inmate with such a guest may well startle an innocent young girl.

1859. Thackeray, Virginians, xv. 'You were hurt by the betting just now?' 'Well,' replied the lad, 'I am sort o' hurt.'

So-so. See So.

Sooss, Sossle, &c. See Sozzle.

Sotweed, subs. (old).—Tobacco (Grose). Hence sotweed-dealer and sotweed-planter.

d.1704. Brown, Works, i. 126. When the stew'd sotweed in his mouth has lain so long, till spitting does its virtues drain.

1705. Ward, Hud. Rediv., i. 2, 22. I scarce had fill'd a pipe of sotweed, and by the candle made it hotweed.

1708. Cook, Sot-weed Factor, 2. These sotweed planters crowd the shoar. Ibid. (1730), Sot-weed Redivivus, 9. When aged roan ... left sotweed factor in the lurch.

Soul, not a soul (or souse), subs. (B. E. and Grose).—Nothing.

1761. Churchill, Rosciad, 310. Next came the treasurer of either house, one with full purse, t'other with not a souse.

1812. Colman, Poet. Vag., 30. That, you may tell me, matters not a souse.

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Legends. Not a sou had he got, not a guinea or note.

Soul. Soul in soak, phr. (nautical).—Drunk: see Screwed (Grose).

Soul-case, subs. phr. (Grose).—The body.

Soul-driver, subs. phr. (old).—A parson (B. E.).

Sound, verb. (Grose and Vaux).—To examine; to try (q.v.); to extract information artfully; to pump (q.v.). To sound a cly = to 'try' a pocket.

1597. Shakspeare. Richard III., iii. 1, 169. Go, gentle Catesby, and as it were, far off, sound thou Lord Hastings, how he doth stand affected to our purpose.

1626. Bacon, Negotiating (1887). It is better to sound a person with whom one deals, afar off, than to fall upon the point at first, except you mean to surprise him by some short question.

1768. Goldsmith, Good Natured Man, ii. I have sounded him already at a distance, and find all his answers exactly to our wish.

1885. Ev. Standard, 3 Oct. His Holiness, however, on being sounded on the subject, by the Spanish Ambassador in Rome, declined.

Sound as a roach (trout, bell, &c.), phr. (old).—Perfectly sound. [Roche = rock].


See Goose.

Soup, subs. (legal).—I. A brief for the defence given to a junior in court by the Clerk of the Peace or arraigns.

2. (printers').—Bad ink.

3. (thieves').—Melted plate: also white soup. Whence soup-shop = a fence (q.v.); melting-pots are kept going, no money passing from fence to thief until identification is impossible.

In the soup, adv. phr. (American).—In a pickle, or difficulty; left (q.v.).
**Souper.** 300  **Sow.**

**Souper, subs. (common).** — 1. A cadger for soup-tickets.

2. (thieves'). — A Super (q.v.).

**Sour, subs. (thieves').** — 1. Base silver money. To plant the sour = to 'utter' snide (q.v.) silver; whence sour-planter. See Shover.

1883. Greenwood, Tag, Rag, and Co. The individual mentioned ... was a smasher, or in other words, a dealer in ... sours. *Ibid.*, 34. It is not in paltry pewter sours with which the young woman has dealings, but in dandys which ... mean imitation gold coin.


Adj. (B. E.). — 'Crabbed, surly, ill-conditioned.'

To sour on, verb. phr. (American). — To treat unkindly.

**Sour-ale.** To mend like sour-ale in summer, verb. phr. (colloquial). — To get worse.

**Sour-cudgel, subs. phr. (old).** — A severe beating (Withal, 1608).

**Souse-crown, subs. phr. (B. E.).** — A fool: see Buffle.

**Southerly buster, subs. phr.** (Australian). — A sudden gale from the southward: cf. Brickfielder.

1863. F. Fowler [*Athenaeum*, 21 Feb., 264, i.] The brickfielder is the cold wind or southerly buster which ... carries a thick cloud of dust across the city.

1878. Australian, i. 587. *SOUTHERLY BUSTERS* by 'Ironbark' [Title].

1889. Zillmann, *Australian Life*, 40. It is no mere pastime to be caught in a southerly buster.

1893. The Australasian, 12 Aug., 302, i. You should see him with Commodore Jack out in the teeth of 'the hard glad weather,' when a southerly buster sweeps up the harbour.


**South Jeopardy, subs. phr.** (Grose). — 'Terrors of insolvency. Oxf. Univ. Cant.'

**Sov, subs. (common).** — A sovereign; 20/-: see Rhino.

**Sow, subs. (old).** — 1. A fat woman; hence (2) = a general term of abuse: cf. bitch. Sow-child = a girl baby (B. E. and Grose); sow's baby = a sucking pig.

1702. *Ward, Works*, i. 5, 27. She looks ... like a sow in petticoats.

1725. *Bailey, Erasmus*, 'Epithal. PetrusÆgidius.' The wife [has been called] sow, Fool, Dirty Drab.

**Phrases and Proverbs.** To grease a fat sow on the arse = to be insensible to kindness; to come sailing in a sow's ear (Ray); to get the right (or wrong) sow by the ear = to make a right (or wrong) conclusion (B. E. and Grose); 'You cannot make a silk-purse of a sow's ear = a retort on the impossible' (Ray): cf. 'You cannot make a horn of a pig's tail' and 'An ass's tail will not make a sieve.' See David's sow; hempseed; saddle; wild oats.

1596. Jonson, *Ev. Man in Humour*, ii. 1. He has the wrong sow by the ear, i' faith; and claps his dish at the wrong man's door.

1605. Chapman and Jonson, *Eastward Ho*, ii. i. You have the sow by the right ear, sir.

1664. Butler, *Hudibras*, ii. iii. 580. You have a wrong sow by the ear.
**Sow's-baby.**

d.1731. Ward, *Merry Observations*, June. Those that happen to have the wrong sow by the ear will be very apt to curse the shortness of the Vacation.

1771. Smollett, *Clinker* [Santisbury (1900), i. 81]. You know, my dear friend, how natural it is for us Irishmen to blunder, and to take the wrong sow by the ear.

1834. Marryatt, *Peter Simple*, xii. The man was very well, but having been brought up in a collier, he could not be expected to be very refined; in fact . . . ‘it was impossible to make a silk-purse out of a sow's ear.’

**Sow’s-baby,** *subs. phr.* (old).—Sixpence: *see Rhino and cf. Hog.*

**Sow-belly,** *subs. phr.* (military and naval).—Salt-pork.

**Sow-drunk,** *adj.* (common).—Beastly drunk: *see Drunk* as *David’s-sow.*

1857. Tennyson, *Northern Cobbler.* Soa sow-droonk that thar doesn not touch thy ‘at to the Squire.

**Sozzle (Sosse, Soos, or Sozz),** *subs.* (colloquial).—Generic for lumpishness. Thus (1) = a lout: also soss-belly; (2) a heavy fall; a flop down; (3) a muddle; a mess. As *verb.* = (1) to flop; (2) to toss at random; and (3) to slush about. As *adj.* (or sossbellied) = ponderously fat; soss-brangle = (1) a slattern, and (2) a big horse-godmotherly whore; sossly (or sozzly) = wet, sloppy: sossled = drunk.


1611. Cotgrave, *Dict. s.v.* A great, unweldie, long, mishapen, ill-favoured, or ill-fashioned man or woman; a luske, a slouche; a sosse.

**Spade,** *subs.* (old).—A eunuch: also spado (q.v.). Hence as *verb.* = to unsex.

1612. Chapman, *Widow’s Tears*, v. 5. I’ll have all young widows spaded for marrying again.

To call a spade a spade, *verb. phr.* (old).—To speak plainly; to eschew paraphrasis and ambiguity.

c.1588. *Mar-Prelate’s Epi tome*, 2. I am plaine, I must needs call a spade a spade, a pope a pope.


1725. Bailey, *Erasmus, ‘Phil etymus and Pseudochius’.* But this art is what we dullards call theft, who call a fig a fig, and a spade a spade.

1809. Malkin, *Gil Blas* [Routledge], 147. Don Gonzales . . . could not stomach those beauties who call a spade a spade . . . the rites of Venus must be consummated in the temple of Vesta.
1862. Thackeray, *Philip*, xxiii. Chesham does not like to call a spade a spade. He calls it a horticultural utensil.  

*See Shovel.*

**Spadge.** 302  

**Spanish.**

1871. M. Collins, *Marquis and Merchant*, ii. vii. 203. We have all had our castles in Spain.

**Spalpeen, subs.** (Irish). — A generic term of contempt.

1809-12. Edgeworth, *Love and Law*, i. 4. The spalpeen! turned into a buckeen that would be a squireen, but can’t.

d.1845. Hood, *Irish Schoolmaster*. How many pigs be born to each spalpeen?

1857. Kingsley, *Two Years Ago*, xix. I’ve brought away the poor spalpeen of a priest, and have got him safe in the house.

**Span- (Spandy-, or Spanfire-) new. See Spick-and-Span.**

**Spange, adj. and adv.** (Royal Military Academy). — New; dressy; smart (q.v.): e.g. a spange uniform = a new outfit; or ‘You look spange enough.’

**Spangle, subs.** (obsolete). — A seven-shilling piece: see Rhino (Grose and Vaux).

**Spangle-shaker (or -guts), subs.** phr. (theatrical). — A harlequin.

**Spaniel, subs.** (old). — A parasite: as adj. = servile: as verb. = to fawn, to be obsequious.


1638. Ford, *Fancies*, iii. 3. He unhappy man! whom your advancement Hath ruin’d by being spaniel to your fortunes, Will curse he train’d me hither.

**Spanish.** Spanish, like Dutch (q.v.), Irish (q.v.), &c., contributes to colloquial English. Thus Spanish = (1) money, spec. ready money; in America silver only; and (2) ‘fair words and compliments’ (B. E. and Grose); Spanish - fagot = the sun (Grose); Spanish - gout

1830. Malkin, *Gil Blas* (1812), vii. x. I was gradually lulled with so much wealth, and fell asleep in the very act of building castles in Spain.

Spank, subs. (colloquial). — A sounding thwack: spec. on the buttocks (Grose): also spanker. As verb. = to strike. Whence spanking = a beating.

1772. Bridges, Burlesque Homer, 491. But Ajax gave him two such spankers, they smarted worse than nodes and shankers.

1857. Tennyson, Northern Cobbler. An 'e spanks 'is 'and into mine.

1869. L. M. Alcott, Little Women, xxxviii. Meg led her son away, feeling a strong desire to spank the little marplot.

1885. Queen, 28 Sept. Suggested spanking as a cure for the evil.

Verb. (old). — 1. 'To run neatly along between a trot and a gallop' (Grose), to move quickly and briskly: usually with 'along.'

Spanking, adj. = (1) big, jolly, sprightly: as a spanking lass (Bailey); (2) large, big (Bailey and Grose), stunning (q.v.), whopping (q.v.); and (3) dashing, free-going. Hence spanker = anything of exceptional size, pace, figure, or merit: cf. skelp; 'He's a spanker to go.'

Spanky = showy, smart (q.v.).

1751. Smollett, Peregr. Pickle, ixxvii. His desire being titillated by the contact of a buxom wench... he... suddenly broke out... 'Sblood, I believe master thinks I have no more stuff in my body than a dried haddock, to turn me adrift in the dark with such a spanker.'

1772. Bridges, Burlesque Homer, 501. So spread a table... Whereon she placed a spanking dish.

1790. Dibdin, Sea Songs, '... I've a spanking wife at Portsmouth gate, A pigmy at Goree.

1840. Thackeray, Shabby Genteel Story, v. How knowingly did he spank the horses along. Ibid. (1860), Lovel the Widower. Here a gentleman in a natty gig, with a high trotting horse, came spanking towards us over the common.

1885. Cassell's Sat. Jo., 19 Sep., 802. We spanked along, rapidly accelerating our pace.

2. (thieves'). — To break, to smash: e.g., to spank the glaze (see quot. 1785); also on the spank.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Spank is, to break a pane in a shop window and to snatch some article, having tied the shop door to prevent pursuit (abridged).


2. (nautical). — A fore-and-aft gaff sail on the mizzen mast of a ship or barque (Clark Russell). Hence spanking = sailing swiftly along with the wind so quartered as to keep the spankers full.
See SPANK.

SPARK, subs. (old).—I. A dandy: masc. or fem.: also SPARKLE; (2) a lover, and spec. (American) a sweetheart; and (3) a man or woman of pluck and parts. As verb. = to court, to gallant, e.g., to SPARK a girl, or to SPARK a girl home. SPARKISH = (1) spirited: also SPARKFUL and SPARKY; and (2) = showy, dandified, gay (B. E. and GROSE).

1362. LANGLAND, Piers Plowman [SKeAT], C. xxi. 12. SPRAKLICHE he lokede.

[?]. Robin Hood [CHILD, Ballads, v. 358]. Robbin Hood upon him set With his couragious SPARKES.

1601. JONSON, Poetaster, i. Thy son's a gallant SPARK, and must not be put out of a sudden.

1605. CAMDEN, Remains, 'Languages.' Hitherto will our SPARKFULL youth laugh at their great grandfather's English.

1612. CHAPMAN, Widow's Tears, i. I will wed thee To my great widdowes daughter and sole heire, The lovely SPARKE, the bright Laodice.

1632. MASSINGER [?], City Madam, iv. 2. Shew yourself city-sparks, and hang up money.

1633. MARMION, Antiquary, i. What pretty SPARKLE of humanity have we here?

d.1643. CARTWRIGHT, Ordinary, iii. 5. Save you, boon sparks! Will your please you to admit me.

[?]. Bishop, Marrow of Astrology, 55. When Venus is ill-placed she inclines men to be . . . lustful, followers of wenches . . . a fantastic SPARK . . . coveting unlawful beds . . . ; if a woman, very impudent in all her ways.

1644. WEBSTER, Appius and Virginia [DodSLEY, Old Plays (Hazzlitt), iv. 112]. But stay: behold the peerless SPARKS, whereof my tongue did talk.

1662. Pepys, Diary, 7 Sep. Here I also saw Madame Castlemaine, and the King's bastard, a most pretty SPARKE.

1675. WYCHERLEY, Country Wife, iv. 2. I have been detained by a SPARKISH coxcomb.

1687. BROWN, Works, i. 94, 'The Saints in an Uproar.' Those old-fashioned SPARKS yonder.

1692. LESTRANGE, Æsop [Century]. A daw, to be SPARKISH, trick'd himself up with all the gay feathers he could muster.

1693. DRYDEN, Love Triumph, Prol. 24. No double entendres, which you SPARKS allow, To make the ladies look—they know not how.

1709. WARD, Works, i. v. 6. Some Associate who . . . will very readily swear she is both a Whore and a Pick-pocket, which terrible Accusation soon frights away her SPARK. Ibid. (1711), Don Quixote, 10. The gay Damsel that is taught, By some loose SPARK to know what's what.

1749. FIELDING, Hist. Foundling, viii. ii. I'd rather have the soldiers than officers; for nothing is ever good enough for those SPARKS.

1773. GOLDSMITH, She Stoops, &c., ii. Fly to your SPARK; he'll tell you more of the matter.

1777. SHERIDAN, School for Scandal, i. 2. Their worthy father . . . was . . . nearly as wild a SPARK.

1801. DIBdin, II Bondocani, iii. 3. None of your wishy-washy SPARKS that mince their steps.

1820. IRVING, Sketch Book, 432. A sure sign that his master was courting, or as it is termed SPARKING.

1832. LONGSTREET, Southern Sketches, 120. Some think I ought to get married, and two or three have tried to SPARK IT with me.

1840. BARCHAM, Ingoldsby Leg., 'St. Gengulphus.' A spruce young SPARK of a Learned Clerk Had called on his Lady, and stopped to tea.

1844. THACKERAY, Barry Lyndon, 1. The company of . . . two or three other young SPARKS of the town.

1846. KIRKLAND, West. Clearings, 16. That was the way young men cast sheep's eyes when they went a SPARKING.

1888. EGGLESTON, Graysons, xxxiii. The boys that do a good deal of SPARKING, and the girls that have a lot of beaux don't always get married first.

1897. MARSHALL, Pomes, 48. He found her at supper with some other SPARKS.
Sparkler.

2. (thieves').—A diamond: also SPARKLE. A SPARK-PROP= a diamond breast-pin.

1879. Horsley, Auto. of Thief [Macmillan Mag., xil. 506]. Pipe his SPARK PROP.

Verb. (Australian thieves').—To watch closely.

1901. Walker, In the Blood, 113, All you've got to do is to be sure o' your John, an' learn the time 'e comes round, SPARK him well away and do yer little does in the blooming hinterval.

A SPARK IN THE THROAT, subs. phr. (old).—Chronic thirst (Grose).

Sparkler, subs. — Anybody or anything brilliant, gay, or lively: see Spark.

1713. Addison, Guardian, No. 120. What would you say, should you see a SPARKLER shaking her elbow for a whole night together.

1879. H. W. Warren, Astronomy, 113. [Mercury] keeps so near the sun . . . that very few people have ever seen the brilliant SPARKLER.

Sparrow. Mumbling a Sparrow, phr. (old).—See quot.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Sparrow. A cruel sport practised at wakes and fairs : a booby, hands tied behind, has the wing of a cock-sparrow put into his mouth; without any other assistance than the motion of his lips he is to get the sparrow's head into his mouth; the bird defends itself surprisingly, pecking the mumbler till his lips are covered with blood and he is obliged to desist; to prevent the bird getting away he is fastened to the booby's coat. [Abridged.]

Sparrow-catching, subs. phr. (venery).—Walking the streets; doing a FLUTTER (g.v.).

Sparrowgrass (or Sparagras), subs. (old colloquial).—Asparagus: polite in the 18th Century; now vulgar.

1649. Blythe, Eng. Improver Impir. (1652), 237. [The Hop plant] comes up with several sprouts like SPARROWGRASS.

1667. Pepys, Diary (1879), iv. 307. Brought with me from Fenchurch Street, a hundred of SPARROWGRASS.

1706. Phillips, Dict., s.v. Asparagus, a Plant call'd SPARROWGRASS by the Common People.

1711. Greenwood, Eng. Gram., 190. Sperage, which the vulgar wrest to SPARROWGRASS, or SPARROWGRASS.

1763. Foote, Mayor of Garratt, ii. I should recommend the opening of a new branch of trade, SPARAGRASS, gentlemen.

1801. Southey [C. Southey, Life, ii. 134]. SPARAGRASS (it ought to be spelt so) and artichokes, good with plain butter.

Sparrow-mouth, subs. phr. (old).—‘One whose mouth cannot be enlarged without removing the ears’; as adj. = wide-mouthed: ‘such persons do not hold their mouths by lease but have it from (y)ear to (y)ear’ (Grose).

1621. Burton, Anat. Melan., III. ii. v. 3. She . . . if she do but laugh or smile, makes an ugly SPARROW-MOUTHED face.

1725. Bailey, Erasmus (1877), 31. Can you fancy that black-a-top, snub-nosed, SPARROW-MOUTH, paunch-bellied creature?

Sparrow-tail, subs. phr. (common).—A dress-coat; a SWALLOW-TAIL, CLAWHAMMER (g.v.).

1888. Eggleston, Graysons, xxvi. The lawyers in their blue SPARROW-TAIL coats, with brass buttons, which constituted then [c.1840] a kind of professional uniform.

Spat, subs. (American).—1. A slap; a light blow; and (2) = a petty quarrel; a snarling-match. Also as verb. = (1) to slap; and (2) to dispute, to quarrel. [Webster: ‘A low word.’]

1869. Stowe, Old Town Folks, 33. They were pretty apt to have SPATS.

1870. Judd, Margaret. The little Isabel leaped up and down SPATTING her hands.

1887. Amer. Correspondent, Notes and Queries, 12 Mar., 206. A SPAT between the feminine heads of two families.
**Spatchcock, subs. phr.** (Grose).

1. 'A fowl killed, dressed, and broiled at short notice'; sudden death (West Indies).

2. (military).—To insert hurriedly; to sandwich (q.v.).

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**Speak, verb.** (old thieves').—To steal; also to speak with: see Prig. To make a good (or rum) speak = to make a good (or bad) haul; spoken to = robbed; also spoke to on the screw, crack, sneak, hoist, big, &c. (see the nouns). — Grose and Vaux.

**Phrases.**—Spoken to (thieves') = dying (Vaux); to speak to (colloquial) = to admonish; to speak at the mouth = to talk freely; to say one's say; to speak daggers (see Dagger); 'Ale that would make a cat speak' = strong ale; 'Speaks the parrot' = a taunting reply: cf. Skelton, Speke Parrot; to speak (or talk) big = to boast, to talk loudly; to speak fair = to use soft words.

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1591. Spenser, Virgil's Gnat, ii. This Muse shall speak in bigger notes.

1656. Dugard, Gate Lat. Unl., 701. The voice of striplings before they begin to speak bigg.

1709. Colonial Records, Penn., ii. 501. It was necessary to talk bigg.

1872. Ingelow, Off the Skelligs, xix. 'Papa . . . will you speak to Giles? . . . If this sort of thing is allowed to go on . . . it will perfectly ruin the independance of my character.'

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**Spearmen.** The Delhi Spearmen, subs. phr. (military).—The 9th Lancers.

**Spec, subs.** (common).—1. Speculation (Bee). Hence on spec = on chance; on the hazard of the die.

1834. Southey, Doctor, clxxiii. He had engaged in this adventure (by which better word our forefathers designated what the Americans call a spec) with the hope of increasing his fortune.

1837. Dickens, Pickwick, xxxiv. They said what a very gen'rous thing it was o' them to have taken up the case on spec, and to charge nothing at all for costs unless they got 'em out of Mr. Pickwick.

1837. Kingsley, Two Years Ago xxv. If tradesmen will run up houses on spec in a water meadow who can stop them.

1873. Greenwood, Strange Company. Hundreds . . . had heard [it was] the best spec out.

2. (common).—In pl. = spectacles.

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Leg., 'Knight and Lady.' He wore green specs with a tortoise-shell rim.

1838. Neal, Charcoal Sketches. My ma' was used to put on her specs.

3. (racing).—See quot.

1869. Greenwood, Seven Curses. Throughout lower London, and the shady portion of its suburbs, the window of almost every public-house and beer-shop was spotted with some notice of these specs . . . They all meant . . . a lottery, conducted on principles more or less honest, the prize to be awarded according to the performances of certain horses.

4. (Winchester College).—Anything enjoyable or pleasant; a good thing. On spec = in consequence.

1891. Wrench, Winchester Word Book, s.v. Spec. What a spec! My pitch-up have turned up, and I've got leave out on spec.

5. (Edinburgh Advocates').—The Speculative Society.
Special.

**Special, subs. (old).**—I. A paramour, male or female: cf. PARTICULAR.

c.1350. *Tale of the Basyn* [Hazard, *Early Pop. Poet.* iii. 52], xxii. The wench was his special.

1440. *Prompt. Parv.* 468. *Special,* concubine, the womann (SPECIAL or leman). *Concubina.*

[?]. *Lytell Geste of Robin Hode* [Childe, *Ballads.* v. 123]. Syr Roger of Donkester That was her owne special.

2. (colloquial).—By ellipsis a particular person or thing: e.g., a special train, special Scotch, a special constable, a special edition, &c.

1896. *Lillard, Poker Stories.* 151. We bet our money. They bet all they had, including a roll of bogus bills, called spels, used for that kind of work (railway sharpening), and pocketed all the money.

**Speeler, subs.** (American).—A gambler. Also speel (see quot.).

1896. *Lillard, Poker Stories.* 151. We bet our money. They bet all they had, including a roll of bogus bills, called spels, used for that kind of work (railway sharpening), and pocketed all the money.

**Speg, adj.** (Winchester: obsolete).—Smart.

**Spell, subs.** (colloquial).—I. A turn of work [BAILEY: *A sea term*]. Hence 2. (spec. Australian) a turn of rest. Also (3) a period of love, weather, adventure, sickness, luck, temper, and so forth (see quot. 1869). As verb. = (1) to relieve; and (2) = to rest.


1602. Carew, *Survey of Cornwall,* fol. 11. Their toyl is so extreame as they cannot endure it above foure houres in a day, but are succeeded by spels.

1766. Ward, *Wooden World,* 25. He . . . believes there is no more Sin in taking a spell with a Whore, than in pumping a leaky Vessel.


1823. Jamaica Planters’ Guide, 340. Sometimes there are two ostensible boilers to spell and relieve one another. When one is obliged to be spelled for the purpose of natural rest, he should leave his injunctions to a judicious negro.

1829. B. Hall, *Travels in N. A.* i. 188. A poor old negro . . . offered to give me a spell when I became tired.

1835. Crockett, *Tour Down East,* 90. He had come home from the South, where he had been peddling a spell.

1846. J. L. Stokes, *Disc. in Australia,* ii. 42. In order to spell the oars, we landed at a point on the east side.

1856. Kane, *Arctic Expl.* i. 182. A gentle, misty air . . . makes me hope that we are going to have a warm spell.

**Speck, subs.** (costers').—In pl. = damaged oranges.

**Speeklebelly, subs.** (provincial).—A dissenter. [Hotten: ‘Used in Worcester and the North.’]

**Speech, subs.** (racing).—Information: spec. a tip (q.v.): e.g., to give (or get) the speech. Fr. tuyau.

**Speecher, subs.** (Harrow).—I. Speech-day: usually the first Thursday in July. The speecher = The speech-room: built 1871.

**Speedyman, subs.** (Winchester: obsolete).—The herald of news of a vacancy at New College, Oxford. Whence sped to New College = elected to a scholarship.

**Speel, verb.** (common).—To decamp: see absquatulate. To speel the drum = to make off to the highway.
1865. Major Downing’s Letters, 35. Public affairs go on easier than they did a spell ago.

1869. Stowe, Oldtown, 171. When Hepsy does get beat out she has spells, and she goes on awful, and they last day after day.

1873. Trollope, Australia and New Zealand, i. 84. Having a spell—what we should call a short holiday.

1877. Stowe, Oldtown, 171. When Hepsy does get beat out she has spells, and she goes on awful, and they last day after day.

1880. G. N. Oakey, Victoria in 1880, 114. He spelled upon the ground; a hollow Gum Bore up his ample back, and bade him rest.

1887. C. C. Warner, Pilgrimage, 145. No, I haven’t got a girl now. I had one a spell, but I’d rather do my own work.

1887. Howells, Annie Kilburn, xvi. Don’t you want I should spell you a little while, Miss Kilburn?

1890. Boldrewood, Colonial Reformer, xxiv. 328. There’s a hundred and fifty stock-horses there, spelling for next winter’s work.


Verb. (thieves’).—To advertise: spell in the Lear = wanted (q.v.).

To spell for (or at), verb. phr. (colloquial).—To desire; to hanker after: indirectly.

1821. Coombe, Syntax, iii. iv. Syntax with native keenness felt at what the cunning tradesman spelt.

See Baker; Backward; Spellken.

Spell-binder, subs. phr. (American).—A speaker who holds (or thinks he holds) his hearers ‘spell-bound.’

Spell-ken (Spell or Speelken), subs. phr. (old).—A theatre (Grose and Vaux).

c.1800. Jackson [quoted by Byron in notes to Don Juan, xi. 19]. If you at the spellken can’t hustle, You’ll be hobbled in making a Clout.

1819. Vaux, Memoirs, s.v. Push . . . When any particular scene of crowding is alluded to, they say, the push . . . at the spell doors; the push at the stooping-match.

1823. Byron, Don Juan, xi. 19. Who in a row like Tom could lead the van, Booze in the Ken, or at the spellken hustle?

Spell. To spend the mouth, verb. phr. (old).—To give voice; to talk; and (of dogs) to bark.

1593. Shakspereare, Venus and Adonis, 695. Then do they spend their mouths.

Spend-all, subs. phr. (old).—A prodigal; a spendthrift.

1591. Lylv, Man in the Moone. Thy wife shall be enamoured of some spend-all, which shall wast all as licentiously as thou hast heaped together laboriously.

1598. Florio, World of Words, s.v. Allarga la mano, a spend all, a wast-good.

Spendings, subs. phr. (venery).—Semen; Cream (q.v.). Hence to spend = to ejaculate.

1598. Shakspereare, All’s Well, ii. 3, 296. He wears his honour in a box unseen, That hugs his kicky-wicky here at home, Spending his manly marrow in her arms.


1772. Bridges, Burlesque Homer, 196. With such a tool I thought he’d split her . . . she held it fast, and made it stand, And spend its venom in her hand.

d.1892. Whitman, Children of Adam. My love-spendings.

Spess, subs. (Felsted School).—See quot.

1899. Felstedian, July, 66. Others . . . calling out . . . ‘frightful spesses,’ which word is ‘specimens’
**Spew.**

**Spew, verb.** (venery).—To ejaculate; to spend (q.v.). Whence Spew Alley = the female pudendum: see monosyllable.

d.1680. Rochester, Works, ‘Tunbridge Wells’ (1718), i. 29. Importance, thinks too, tho’ she’d been no sinner to wash away some dregs he had spewed in her.

To spew oaken, verb. phr. (nautical).—A ship spews oaken when the seams start.

**Spew Alley, subs. phr.** (common).—The throat: see gutter lane.

**Sphere, subs.** (athletic).—A football.

**Spice, verb.** (thieves').—To rob: hence, the spice (or high Toby spice) = highway robbery; spicer (or spice-gloak) = a footpad (Grose and Vaux).

c.1800. Jackson [quoted by Byron in Don Juan, Notes to Canto xi.]. On the high Toby spice flash the muzzle.

**Spice-Island, subs. phr.** (old).—1. The rectum; and (2) = a privy; stink-hole bay; dilberry creek (Grose). Whence (3) = any filthy, stinking neighbourhood (Bee).

**Spick-and-span new, adj.** (colloquial).—Quite fresh; brand new: as a ‘spike and chip’ from the workman’s hands. Also spick-and-span; spic-and-span new; span-new; and span-fire new. Also spick-and-span (span, or spandy), adv. = quite; wholly.

1359. Chaucer, Troilus, iii. 1665. This tale ay was span-new to beginne.

1614. Tomkis, Albumazar [Dodsley, Old Plays (Reed), vii. 161]. Of a stark clown I shall appear speck and span gentleman.

1614. Jonson, Barthol. Fayre, iii. 5. Sir, this is a spell against them, spick and span new.

1619. Fletcher, False One, iii. 2. Am I not totally a span-new gallant, fit for the choicest eye?

1628. Ford, Lover’s Melancholy, ii. 1. ‘Tis a fashion of the newest edition, spick and span new, without example.

c.1630. Howell, Letters, i. iv. 2. Blackfrairs will entertain you with a play spick and span new, and the Cockpit with another.

1663. Butler, Hudibras, i. iii. 398. The honour thou hast got is spick and span new, piping hot.

1718. Buckingham, Rehearsal. Why madam, an entire spick and span new piece of doctrine of my own invention.

d.1779. Garrick [W. Cooke, Memoirs of S. Foote, i. 107. From our poetic storehouse we produce a couple spick and span for present use.

1824. Scott, Redgauntlet, xi. In the same doings to make a spick-and-span new world.

1857. Tennyson, Northern Cobbler. Look at the cloaths on ’er back, thebbe ammost spick-span-new.

1877. Trollope, South Africa, ii. vi. The Dutch Boer will not endure over him . . . a spick-and-span Dutch Africander from the Cape Colony.


1888. L. M. Alcott, Hospital Sketches, 319. Thirty gentlemen with spandy clean faces and hands were partaking of refreshment.

**Spicy, adj.** (common).—1. Racy; full-flavoured (q.v.); smutty (q.v.); nutty (q.v.). 2. = showy, handsome, smart (q.v.).

1844. Puck, 14. The milliners’ hearts he did trepan, My spicy, swell small-college man.

1868. Whyte Melville, White Rose, i. xiii. Bless’d if there isn’t Snipe . . . there’s a drummer holding his nag. What a spicy chestnut it is.

Spiddock-pot legs, subs. phr. (old). — Large awkward legs (HALLIWELL).

Spider, subs. (common). — Claret and lemonade.

To swallow a spider, verb. phr. (old). — To go bankrupt (RAY).

Spider-catcher, subs. phr. (B. E.). — ' A Spindle of a Man.' Also (HALLIWELL) = a monkey.

Spider-claw, verb. phr. (venery). — To grasp and roke the testes in the palm and fingers.


Spider-web, subs. phr. (B. E.). — 'The subtillties of Logic, which, tho' artificial to sight, were yet of no Use.'

Spidireen, subs. (nautical). — An imaginary vessel figuring in an unwilling reply: 'What ship do you belong to?' 'The Spidireen frigate, with nine decks, and ne'er a bottom.'

Spiel. See Spieler.

Spierize, verb. (Oxf. Univ. Cant). — To have one's hair cut and dressed. [Spiers was a barber in The High.]

Spiffing, adj. (common). — A generic intensive: of pleasure or admiration: used for anything or anybody out of the common: e.g., a spiffing time of girl; awfully spiff; 'How spiff you look?'; 'How are you?'; 'Pretty spiff'; and so forth. Also spiff, subs. = a swell.

1801. Harry Fludyer, 119. Pat of course looked as if he had just walked out of a ban-box, and the Mater and the girls looked spiffing.

2. (drapers'). — In pl. = a percentage on the sale of old or 'dead' stock.

Spiffed, adj. (common). — Drunk: see Screwed.

Spifflicate (Spifflicate, or Smifligate), verb. (common). — To confound; to crush; to smash (q.v.). Hence spifflication = confusion; annihilation (GROSE). See quot. 1823.

1823. Bee, Dict. Turf, s.v. Spifflicate. To spifflicate a thief is to spill him, or betray the subject of his roguery.

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Leg. So out with your whinger at once And scrag Jane, while I spifflicate Johnny.

1856. R. F. Burton, El. Medina, i. 264. Whose blood he vowed to drink — the Oriental form of threatening spiffication.

1873. Brit. Quart. Rev., lvii. 276. The way in which the learned, racy old Hector smashes and spifficates scientific idiots . . . is delicious.


1901. Walker, In the Blood, 170. Then they threatened to spifficate him if he stirred, and made off.

Spigot, subs. (venery). — The penis: see Prick.

1653. Urquhart, Rabelais, i. iii. Honest widows may without danger play at the close-buttock game with might and main for the . . . first two months . . . If the devil would not have them to bag, he must wring hard the spigot, and stop the bung-hole.
**Spigot-sucker**

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**Spin.**

**Spigot-sucker, subs. phr. (old).—**
 See quot., Lushington, and Knight.


2. (venery).—A mouth-whore; a stand or stall of one who sells such things. Cf. spigot.

**Spike, subs. (tramps').—** A casual ward. Spike-ranger = a trampler from ward to ward.

1866. *Temple Bar*, xvi. 184. Let the spikes be what they may they were a great deal better than the padding-kens.

1897. Quiver, 846. I sat there for two hours anxiously looking for a typical spike-ranger—one who can tell you with amazing accuracy precisely what you may expect at any given workhouse.

**Spike-park, subs. phr. (obsolete).—** The Queen's Bench prison.

**Spill, subs. (old).—** I. A small fee, reward, or gift of money (B. E.).

1726. Avliffe, Parergon. The bishops who consecrated the ground were wont to have a spill or sportule from the credulous laity.

2. (colloquial).—A fall; a tumble. As verb = to throw; to sell; to overturn (Grose and Bee). Also (3) = to betray (Bee).


**To spill stock, verb. phr. (American).—** See quot.

1870. Medbery, *Men, &c., in Wall St.* (Bartlett). To spill stock is to throw great quantities upon the market, sometimes from necessity, but often in order to 'break' the price.

**Spill-good, subs. phr. (old).—** A spendthrift (Minsheu).

**Spillsbury, subs. (old).—** Failure: e.g., 'to come by Spillsbury': cf. Bedfordshire, Peckham, Clapham, &c.

1692. Hacket, *Williams*, i. 208. They might seek their fortune . . . and come home by Spillsbury.

**Spill-time, subs. phr. (old).—** An idler.


**Spilt-milk. To cry over spilt-milk, verb. phr. (colloquial).—** To lament what is past recovery or mending.

1877. New York Tribune, 10 Mar. 'Letter from Washington.' The Democrats . . . are crying, and cursing too, over spilled milk.

1900. Dowling, *Tempest Driven*, vi. There's no use crying over spilt milk. What we have to ask ourselves is: How can it be best faced?

**Spin, subs. (colloquial).—** A brisk run, a smart canter, a spurt. As verb = to go quickly: usually to spin along.


1883. S. Lanier, *Eng. Novel*, 3. The locomotive spins along no less merrily because ten car-loads of rascals may be profiting by its speed.


**Verb. (Royal Military Academy).—** To reject; to plough; to pluck (q.v.). Also to get a spin.

1868. Whyte Melville, *White Rose*, i. x. Don't you funk being spun?
PHRASES. To SPIN A YARN = to tell a story: originally nautical; TO SPIN STREET-YARN = to gad, to LOAF (q.v.); TO SPIN A FAIR THREAD = to busy oneself about trifles (RAY); TO SPIN OUT = to prolong unreasonably; 'She'd rather kiss than SPIN' (of a wanton).

d. 1704. LESTRANGE, Works [Century]. By one delay after another, they SPIN OUT their whole lives.

1779. SHERIDAN, Critic, i. 1. Do you mean that the story is tediously SPUN OUT?

1837. PRESCOTT, Fercl. and Isabella, ii. 13. He endeavoured, however, to gain further time by SPINNING OUT the negotiation.

1885. Observer, 20 Dec. The YARN is spun by Ben Campion, the old salt who was its hero.

SPINDLE, subs. (venery). — The penis: see PRICK.

To MAKE (or SPIN) CROOKED SPINDLES, verb. phr. (old). — See quot.

1598. FLORIO, Worlde of Wordes. A woman that MAKES or SPINS CROOKED SPINDLES, that is, maketh her husband cuckold.

SPINDLE-LEGS (or -SHANKS), subs. phr. (colloquial). — 1. Long, thin legs: hence (2) a tall, slender person; a LAMP-POST (q.v.). Also as adj. (or SPINDLY) = thin, slim (GROSE).

1570. MARR., Wit and Science [DODSLEY, Old Plays (HAZLITT), ii. 336]. But what, if she find fault with these SPINDELE-SHANKS.

1703. STEELE, Tender Husband, i. 1. A Weezel-faced cross old Gentleman with SPINDELE-SHANKS.

1715. ADDISON, Drummmer, i. 1. This SPINDELE-SHANKED fellow.

1723. SWIFT, Mary the Cookmaid's Letter [CHALMERS, Eng. Poets, xi. 433]. My master is a personable man, and not a SPINDELE-SHANKED hody-doddy.

1888. Pop. Sci. Monthly, xxxvi. 556. The effect of all this may be easily imagined—a SPINDLISH growth of rootless ideas.

SPINK, subs. (Royal Military Academy). — Milk: new or condensed.

SPINNING- (or SPIN-) HOUSE, subs. phr. (old). — A house of correction or Bridewell for loose women. [The task work consisted of spinning or beating hemp.] Hence SPINNER = a harlot. [The term is still applied to the prison for disorderly women attached to the Vice-Chancellor's Court at the University of Cambridge.]

1622. FLETCHER, Prophetess, iii. 1. We are no SPINSTERS; nor if you look upon us, so wretched as you take us.

1641. EVELYN, Diary, 19 Aug. As we returned we stepp'd in to see the SPIN HOUSE, a kind of Bridewell, where incorrigible and lewd women are kept in discipline and order.

1662. FULLER, Worthies of England, Kent. Many would never be wretched SPINSTERS were they spinsters in deed, nor come to so public and shameful punishments.

SPINNIKEN (tramps'). — St. Giles' Workhouse; LARGE HOUSE (q.v.).

SPINSRAP, subs. (back slang). — A parsnip.

SPINTEXT, subs. (old). — A parson; spec. a prosy preacher.

1693. CONGREVE, Old Bachelor, i. 1. SPINTEXT! Oh, the fanatic one-eyed parson.

d. 1704. BROWN, Works, ii. 236. Mr. SPINTEXT the preacher, or Mr. Lovelady the chaplain.

c. 1712. WARD, Works (1716), iii. 'Libertine's Answ. to his Uncle.' I . . . cannot but believe you have been at the expence of employing some superannuated SPINTEXT, to rattle off your poor nephew.
Spirit. 313

Spirit. To SPIRIT AWAY, verb. phr. (old).—To kidnap (B. E. and GRoSE). Hence SPIRITER = an abductor.

1675. COTTON, Burlesque on Burlesque, 257. While the poor boy half dead with fear, Writh'd back to view his SPIRITER.

SPIRITUAL FLESH-BROKER, subs. (old).—A parson: see BLACK-SPY (B. E. and GRoSE).

SPIRIT OF HARTSHORN. See HORN.

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1897. Marshall, Pomes, 123. 'You must spit it out a bit!' I yelled, and Ike began once more.

Spitalfield's breakfast. subs. phr. (East London).—No breakfast at all; 'a tight necktie and a short pipe': cf. Irishman's dinner, Duke Humphrey, &c.

Spit-curl, subs. phr. (costers').—A curl lying flat on the temple; a soap-curl (q.v.): see aggerators.

Spite, verb. (Winchester).—See quotes.

c. 1840. Mansfield, School Life (1866), 235. When a boy suffered some injury himself, in order to spite another person; or, having in some way injured another, received punishment, he was said to be spitting Gabell. Dr. Gabell was formerly Head-master, and the extreme inexpediency of attempting to annoy him gave rise to the proverb.

1891. Wrench, Winchester Word Book, s.v. Spite. The word in Wykehamical usage generally connoted the frame of mind rather than the acts in which it finds expression. But the phrase 'to spite Gabell,' describes the act popularly known as 'cutting off your nose to spite your face.'

Spitfire, subs. (old).—A hot tempered person: see furioso (Grose).

1623. Mabbe, Guzman [Oliphant, New Eng., ii. 83. There are the phrases ... a brown study ... fire spitting devils, whence comes our spitfire].

1687. Brown, Works, i. 87. 'Tis some comfort to me ... Bully spitfire, that thou canst not abuse me without falling foul upon my Country.

1695. Congreve, Love for Love, ii. 3. But there's but one virgin among the twelve signs, spitfire, but one virgin.

1891. Marriott-Watson, Web of Spider, xii. Foster was right ... She is a little spitfire.

1899. Hyne, Furth. Adv. Captain Kettle, ix. It was clear that this little spitfire of a sailor, with his handy pistol, daunted him.

Spit-frog, subs. phr. (old).—A small sword.

1630. Taylor, Works. I would not see thy spightfull spit-frog drawn.

1677. Wrangling Lovers. And each a little spit-frog by his side.

Spithead-nightingale, subs. phr. (nautical).—A bo'sun or bo'sun's mate.

Spitter, subs. (common).—Slight rain: see Spit, verb.

Spittle (or Spital), subs. (old).—A hospital or lazaret-house. Hence, spittle-whore (or sinner) = a foundered harlot; a spittle-rogue (or man) = (1) a gaol-bird; and (2) a diseased outcast: whence a general term of contempt.

1580. Barett, Alvearie. Spittle whore, a very common whore.

1607. Davies, Summa Totius, 26. Good preachers that liue ill (like spittle-men) Are perfect in the way they neuer went.

1632. Massinger, Fatal Dowry, iii. r. I will rather choose a spittle sinner ... though three parts rotten. Ibid. (1633), City Madam, iii. 1. Ramb. Rank and rotten, is she not? Shave. Your spittle-rogueships.

Spittoon, subs. (Bee: now recognised).—'An utensil mostly used in public-houses for the reception of smokers' expectorations.'

Splash, subs. (common).—1. Face powder; slap (q.v.). As verb, = to make up (q.v.).

2. (common).—Display; exertion; effort. Hence, splash up = in good style; quick time; bang-up (q.v.).

1885. D. Telegraph, 28 Dec. Enable him to have a rattling good splash for it somehow—break or make.
1835. **Sala** [D. Tel., i Sep., 5, 4]. I should like to see the Australian Cresusses spending their money. Why don’t they cut a splash with their magnificent revenues?

1900. **White**, West End, 16. ‘What a big splash your uncle will make, Atherton,’ said he. ‘Of course it isn’t for me to advise; but if you want him to arrive soon you had better get a real flyer to take your aunt in hand.’

1902. **Kernahan**, Scoundrels, xv. I’ve got the loan of a big hall... and I intend to make a bit of a splash.

**Splasher**, subs. (military). —In pl. =The Wiltshire Regiment, late The 62nd Foot.

**Splatters**. —Hold your splatterers, phr. (tailors’). ‘Hold your tongue!’ **Splatterever** =a braggart; a great talker.

**Splatter-face**, subs. phr. (common). —A broad-faced man or woman; also as adj.


**Splay-foot**, subs. phr. (colloquial). —A person with flat, awkward, or spreading feet: splay-footed = awkward in gait, heavy-footed. **Splay-mouth** = (1) a large, wide, grinning mouth; hence (2) a grimace.

1838-93. **Tarleton**, Jests [Halliwell (1844)]. [Oliphant, New Eng., ii. 13. Amongst the romance words are undecencies... splay-footed.]


1633. **Ford**, Broken Heart, v. 1. The doublers of a hare, or in a morning Salutes from a splay-footed witch.

1692. **Dryden**, Persius. i. Hads’t thou but, Janus like, a face behind. To see the people when splay mouths they make.

d.1704. **Brown**, Works, ii. 271. These solemn splay-mouthed gentlemen, Madam, says I, only do it to improve in natural philosophy.

**Splendiferous**, adj. (colloquial). —Splendid. Also splendacious; splendidous; and splendidious.

1538. **Bale**, Enterlude Johan Bapt. [Harl. Misc., i. 113]. O tyme most joyfull, daye most splendiferous.

1605. **Jonson**, Fox, ii. 1. Worshipful merchants, ay, and senators too... have detained me to their uses by their splendiferous liberalities.


1630. **Taylor**, Works. To the mirror of time, the most refulgent splendiferous reflecting court animal, don Archibald Armstrong.

1855. **Haliburton**, Human Nature, 280. To my mind a splendiferous woman and a first-chop horse are the noblest works of creation.

1856. **Dow**, Sermons, i. 69. The splendiferous splendours that decorate the opposite shore [‘of the gulf of death’].

1863. **Reade**, Hard Cash, xxviii. Where is all your gorgeous attire... I see the splendiferous articles arrive, and then they vanish for ever.

**splice**, verb. (common). —1. To marry: of the agent; and 2. (venery) = to copulate. To be splied = to get married. Also splice, subs. = a wife (Grose).

1751. **Smollett**, Per. Pickle, vii. Trunnion! Trunnion! turn out and be splied, or lie still and be d—ed.

1839. **Ainsworth**, Jack Sheppard (1889), 20. Tomorrow we’ll go to the Fleet, and get splied.

1852. **Bronte**, Villette, xl. We never meant to be splied in the humdrum way of other people.

1857. **Whitty**, Bohemia, i. 205. ‘Is this the confidence of married life?’ ‘Not splied yet you know.’

1858. **Lytton**, What Will He Do With It, iv. ix. If you advise me to be splied, why don’t you get splied yourself... you can be at no loss for a heiress.

1897. **Marshall**, Pomes, 31. He’s fond of something tasty, so to speak. For me and him was splied last Monday week.
Split.

1901. WALKER, In the Blood, 282. Suppose a feller goes on the racket when e's young, what's to prevent 'im splicing 'imself to 'is own daughter when she gets to years o' discretion or indiscretion?

2. (Winchester).—To throw; to fling.

To splice the main brace, verb. phr. (nautical).—To drink: orig. to serve out extra grog. With main brace well-spliced = drunk: see screwed.

Split, subs. (thieves').—1. A detective; a police spy: also as verb. (or to turn split) = to inform; to nose; to snitch (q.v): see nark and cf. verb. sense 1.

2. (acrobats').—In pl. = a sitting posture. the legs extended laterally on the ground. Whence well-split up = long in limb; split-up = a lanky fellow: see lamp-post.

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab., ii. 569. He taught me to put my leg round my neck, and I was just getting along nicely with the splits when I left him.

3. (common).—(a) A small bottle of aerated water; also as adv. = divided: e.g., 'two Scotches and a soda (or small soda) split.' (b) a half glass of spirits; a dram.

Verb. (venery).—To copulate: see ride and cf. split-arse mechanic = a whore. Also beard-splitter = a whore-master; split-mutton = a woman; split-mutton = the penis (Urqhurt).

Phrases.—To make all split = to make a disturbance or commotion; to split along (or go like split) = (1) to stride, to run quickly; and (2) to move or work with vigour; at full split = as hard as may be; to split one's sides (or to split) = to burst with laughter; to split the ears = to deafen; to split hairs = to cavil about trifles, to be over-nice in argument: hence hair-splitter (or splitter) = a precisian (q.v.); the reverse of lump (q.v.); to split on a rock = to fail, to come to grief; to split on one (or to split) = to betray confidence: see subs. I; to split fair = to tell the truth; to split out (thieves') = to separate; to split with one = to quarrel; 'split my windpipe!' = 'a foolish kind of a curse among the Beaux.' (B. E.).

1592. Shakspeare, Mid. Night's Dream, i. 2. I could play Hercules rarely, or a part to tear a cat in, to make all split. Ibid. (1596), Hamlet, iii. 2. To split the ears of the groundlings.

1609. Beaumont and Fletcher, Scornful Lady, ii. 3. Two roaring boys of Rome that made all split.

1611. Middleton, Roaring Girl [Dodsley, Old Plays (Reed), vi. 89]. If I sail not with you both 'till all split, hang me up at the main yard and duck me.

1612. Chapman, Widow's Tears [Dodsley, Old Plays (Reed), vi. 153]. To prepare my next encounter, but in such a way as shall make all split.

1693. Congreve, Old Bachelor, ii. 2. Now I must speak; it will split a hair, by the Lord Harry.

1734. Pope, Satires, vi. 131. Each had a gravity would make you split.

1809. Malkin, Gil Blas [Routledge], 51. I was in danger more than once of splitting my sides with laughing. Ibid., 373. He laughed ready to split his sides. Ibid., 56. They would not split a hair about the loss of a wife.

1837. Barham, Ingolds. Leg., 'Babes in the Wood.' His man being caught in some fact . . . When he came to be hanged for the act split, and told the whole story to Cotton.

1838. Dickens, Oliver Twist, xxv. I might have got clear off if I'd split upon her.
d. 1841. Hook, Sutherlands. Don't let Emmy know that we've split; else she'll be savage with us.

1844. Major Jones's Courtship [Bartlett]. I set the niggers a-drummin' and fifin' as hard as they could split.

1862. Browne, Artemus Ward, His Book (Works 1870), 47. You wood have split your sides larfin to see the old man jump up.

1844. Major Jones's Courtship, lix. Cousin Pete was thar splurgin' about... with his dandy-cut trowsers and big whiskers.

1865. Downing, May Day, 64. There was no end to the one-horse teams, goin' like split all over the city.

1877. Horsley, Jottings from Jail. There is a reeler over there who knows me. We had better split out.

1888. A. L. Gordon, Poems, 'Wolf and Hound.' We had run him for seven miles and more, as hard as our nags could split.

1897. Ouida, Massarenes, i. We won't do that, Boo. Mummy's a bad un to split on.

1899. Whiteing, John St., v. You see if the baby farm was to split on Ikey, he might split on the baby farm.

split-arse mechanic, subs. phr. (venery).—A harlot. Also split-mutton = (1) the penis; and (2) generic for the female sex.

split-asunder, subs. phr. (rhyming).—A costermonger.

split-cause, subs. phr. (old).—A lawyer (Grose): also (B. E.) splitter of causes.

split-fig, subs. phr. (old).—A grocer (B. E. and Grose).

split-foot (or old split-foot), subs. phr. (common).—The Devil.

1848. Lowell, Biglow Papers, ... An' make ole split-foot wince and squirm.

splitting, adj. (colloquial).—Extreme; severe: e.g., a splitting (= very quick) pace; a splitting (= painfully throbbing) head-ache, &c. See split.

1868. Whyte Melville, White Rose, ii. xv. Though stout he was no mean pedestrian; and on he ran at a splitting pace.

Splodger, subs. (common).—A lout. Splodgy = awkward (in gait), coarse (in complexion).

Splosh, subs. (common).—Money: generic: see Rhino.


1902. Boothby, My Strangest Case, 166. I reckon we ain't a-goin' to see no splosh this 'ere trip.

Adv. (common).—Plump.

1891. Harry Fludyer, 47. Such larks when you heard the ball go splosh on a man's hat!

Splurge, subs. (colloquial).—Generic for effort and effect. As verb = to make the most and do the showiest; splurgy = on it (g.v.).

1887. Warner, Pilgrimage, 114. You would be surprised to know the number of people who... splurge out for a year or two, then fail or get tired of it, and disappear.
Spooffe, verb. (colloquial). — To fuss; to bustle. Spoffish (or spoffy) = fussy; bustling; smart. Also spoffy, subs. = a busybody.

1856. Dickens, Sk. by Boz, 'Horatio Sparks.' A little spoffish man with green spectacles. Ibid. (1838-40), Sketches, Tales, vii. He invariably spoke with astonishing rapidity; was smart, spoffish, and eight and twenty.

Spoffskins, subs. (common). — A prostitute: see tart.

Spoil, verb. (various). — In addition to the sense (now accepted) given by Grose (‘to mar, to place obstacles in the way’) there are colloq. usages as follows: — To spoil for = to be eager for: as ‘spoil-ing for a fight,’ and spoiling to be invited; to spoil one’s shape = to be got with child; to spoil one’s mouth = to damage the face. Also in sarcastic combination, spoil-bread = a baker; spoil-broth = a cook; spoil-iron = a smith (Grose); spoil-paper = a scribbler; spoil-pudding = a long-winded preacher (Grose); spoil-sport = an unfriendly or dispirited associate or intruder: hence to spoil sport = (1) to dishearten, and (2) to prevent; spoil-trade = an unscrupulous competitor; spoil-temper = an exacting superior.

1820. Oliphant, New Eng., i. 427. All through the century [16th] new words formed like the spilbred of 1280 (not bread-spiller) were coming in.

1597-8. Haughton, Woman will have her Will [Dodsley, Old Plays (1874), x. 537]. The rogue is waiting yet to spoil your sport.

1611. Holland [Davies, Scourge of Folly, 81]. My Satyre shall not touch such sacred things . . . As some spoile-papers have dearly done of late.

1678. Cotton, Virgil Travestie [Works (1725), 74]. That I am half afraid lest he should chance to spoil her Majesty.

1694. Motteux, Rabelais, iv. xlvi. He spied his wife lying on the ground piteously weeping and howling . . . 'He has spoiled me. I am undone.'

d. 1704. Brown, Works, ii. 97. The French king who had spoil'd the shape . . . of several mistresses . . . had a mind to do the same by me.

1821. Scott, Kenilworth, xxviii. Mike Lambourne was never a make-bate, or a spoil-sport, or the like.

1821. Egan, Life in London, ii. iv. 'Hang you! . . . if you don't hold that are red rag of yours, I'll spoil your mouth.'

1864. Derby Day, 52. It will spoil sport to call in the bobbies.

1901. D. Telegraph, 6 Nov., 'Racing in the Fog.' Fog as a spoil-sport is less recurrent than snow and wind.

Spoke. To put a spoke in one's wheel (or cart), verb. phr. (old). — To do an ill turn. Occasionally (by an unwarrantable inversion) = to assist.

1661-91. Merry Drolleries [Essworth, 1875], 224. He . . . lookt to be made an emperor for't, But the Divel did set a spoke in his cart.

1689. God's Last Twenty-Nine Years Wonders [Walsh]. Both . . . bills were such spokes in their chariot-wheels that made them drive much slower.

1809. Malkin, Gil Blas [ Routledge ], 19. Rolando put a spoke in their wheel by representing that they ought at least to wait till the lady . . . could come in for her share of the amusement.

1855. Thackeray, Newcomes, ix. There's a spoke in your wheel, you stuck-up little Duchess.

1872. Eliot, Middlemarch, xiii. It seems to me it would be a very poor sort of religion to put a spoke in his wheel by refusing to say you don't believe.

1898. Walsh, Lit. Curios., 1930. When solid wheels were used, the driver was provided with a pin or spoke, which he thrust into one of the three holes made to receive it, to skid the cart when it went down hill.

Spoke-box, subs. phr. (colloquial). — The mouth.

1874. Silius, 206. Do I, for this, his brows with wreaths adorn, And lubricate his spoke-box every morn.
Spondulics (Spondoolicks or Spondulacks), subs. (American).
—Money: generic: originally (Century) paper money.

1863. SALA [Illustr. Lond. News, 1863, 8 Dec. 547]. I first became acquainted with the word in the United States just twenty years ago. Spondulics was... an enlarged vulgarisation of greenbacks. It may also have been applied to the nickel cents used in small change.

1876. Harper's Mag., April, 790. Now let's have the spondulicks, and see how sweet and pretty I can smile on you.

1884. CLEMENS, Huck. Finn. I'm derned I'd live two mile out of town... not for his spondulicks.

1897. MARSHALL, Pomes, 113. Spondulics quite sufficient to ensure her a position.

1901. WALKER, In the Blood, 329. 'Thish place fair smells of blooming spondulicks!' said Ikey.

Sponge (Sponger, or Spunge), subs. (old).—1. A parasite (B. E. and Grose); also (2) = 'a thirsty fellow' (B. E.), a drunkard. As verb = to take kicks and lick dishes for a living. Whence SPONGING = (1) CADGING (q.v.); and (2) extortion: e.g., a SPONGING-HOUSE = a bailiff's pound in which arrested debtors were SQUEEZED (q.v.) pending transfer to a regular prison.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, Mer. Venice, i. 2. 101. I will do anything, Nerissa, ere I'll be married to a sponge.

1640. Two Lancashire Lovers, 24. Or from the wanton affection, or too profuse expense of light mistresses, who make choice of rich servants to make sponges of them.

1641. MILTON, Ref. in England, ii. Better a penurious kingdom then where excessive wealth flows into the graceless and injurious hands of common sponges to the impoverishing of good and loyal men.

1697. SOUTH, Sermons, i. xii. How came such multitudes of our own nation... to be spunged of their plate and money?

1709. WARD, Terrestrilus, ii. 9. [Works, i.]. I'll warrant he has been spunging a morning's draught out of the Poor's box.

1727. SWIFT, Richmond Lodge and Marble Hill. Here went the Dean, when he's to seek, To spunge a breakfast once a week.

1749. SMOLLETT, Gil Blas (1812), iii. 'Gil Blas,' said he, 'who is that tall spunger in whose company I saw thee today.'

1762. GODSMITH, Citizen of the World, xxvii. They spunged up my money while it lasted, borrowed my coals and never paid for them, and cheated me when I played at cribbage.

1809. MALKIN, Gil Blas [Routledge], 89. We went there... both in ecstasy at having an opportunity of spunging on a citizen. Ibid. (174). One of your shabby fellows always spunging on his friends.

1843. CARLETON, New Purchase, ii. 240. These preachers dress like big bugs, and go riding about on hundred-dollar horses, a-spungin' poor priest-ridden folks.

1848. THACKERAY, Book of Snobs, xx. Bull passes the season in London, spunging for dinners, and sleeping in a garret near his club.

1849-61. MACAULAY, Hist. Eng., ii. From all the brothels, gambling-houses, and spunging-houses of London, false witnesses poured forth to swear away the lives of Roman Catholics.

1867. BROWNE, Artemus Ward, His Book [Works (1870), 51]. He leaves off workin... and commenis spungin his livin out of other people.

1879. Chambers' Jo., July, 408. He... had no business to come spunging on Mr. King.

1887. HENLEY, Villon's Good-Night, i. You sponges miking round the pubs.

To throw up the sponge, verb. phr. (orig. technical: now general).—To acknowledge de-
feat. [The sponge used in cleansing a combatant’s face was chucked up in sign of submission.]

1899. Hyne, Further Adv. of Captain Kettle, vi. Don’t throw up the sponge until someone else does it for you.

*Sponge-wit*, subs. phr. (old).—A plagiarist.

*Spoof*, subs. (common).—Deception, a swindle: also the *SPOOF-GAME*. Also as verb. (or to play *spoof*).


*SPOOK*, subs. (colloquial).—A ghost. Whence *spookish* (or *spooky*) = ghostly.

*SpooN*, subs. (common).—I. A simpleton: spec. an absurd whole-hearted lover: also *spoonie*; a *rank spoon* = ‘a prating shallow fellow’ (Vaux). Hence (2) = calf-love; e.g., a case of *spoons*. As verb. (to come the spoon, or to be spoons on) = to make love openly, innocently, and ridiculously. Also *spoony* = stupidly fond; *spooniness* = foolish fondness (Grose, Vaux, Bee).

1837. Barham, *Ingolds. Leg.*, ‘Witches’ Frolic.’ But you’ll find very soon, if you aim at the moon, In a carriage like that, you’re a bit of a spoon.

1838. Becket, *Paradise Lost*, 67. And I, at that time not suspicious... Suck’d in her gammon like a spoon.

d.1845. Hood, *Morning Meditations*. A man that’s fond precociously of stirring must be a spoon.

1847. Bronte, *James Eyre*, xv. In short I began the process of ruining myself in the received style, like any other spoonie.

1848. Thackeray, *Vanity Fair*, xxxiv. What the deuce can she find in that spooney of a Pitt Crawley?... The fellow has not pluck enough to say Bo to a goose.

1855. Tom Taylor, *Still Waters*, iii. ‘A coolness, a self-possession... I never should have expected from—from...’ ‘From such a spoon—that’s what you mean, isn’t it?’

1859. Lever, *Davenport Dunn*, lx. Not actually in love... but only *spoony*.

1863. Reade, *Hard Cash*, ProL What a good-natured spoon that Dodd is!

1869. Macm. Mag., Nov., 65. Yes, Captain Waldron averred, he was a *spooney*; that was the right name for a man who let himself be played with as she had played with him.

1885. Hawley Smart, *Struck Down*, xi. A girl would rather make her way out by herself than with a fellow she’s *spoons* on.

1887. Henley, *Culture in Slums*. Was it not prime—I leave you all to guess How prime! to have a jude in love’s distress Come spooning round.

1888. *Harper’s Mag.*, lxxviii. 749. I ought to remember, for I was *spoons on* you myself for a week or two.

1887. Marshall, *Pomés*, 38. ‘Twas an instance... Of the danger attending unlimited spoons.

Verb. (American).—1. To nestle; to lie close; and 2. (venery) = to copulate while lying *spoon-fashion*, i.e., the bowl of one spoon in the other’s.

1888. *Harper’s Mag.*, lxxvii. 49. ‘Now spoon me.’ Sterling stretched himself out on the warm flag-stone, and the boy nestled up against him. Ibid. (1886), lxxiv. 781. Two persons in each bunk, the sleepers *spooning* together, packed like sardines.

3. (cricketers’).—To hit with a ‘slack and horizontal’ bat, causing the ball to rise in the air.

Phrases.—To stick one’s spoon in the wall = to die; see *Hop the Twig*; to fill the mouth with empty spoons = to go hungry (Ray); to take with a big (or little) spoon = to take in large (or small) quantities: see Silver Spoon, and Wooden Spoon.
SPOONAGE, subs. (old).—Liquid food; PAP (q.v.).

1586. WARNER, Albions England, ii. x. And suck she might a teat for teeth, And spoonage too did faile.

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SPOONY DRUNK, adj. phr. (common).—Sentimentally drunk: see SCREWED.

SPOORAN, subs. (venery).—The pubic hair: see FLEECE.

SPOOPS (or SPOOPSIE), subs. (American).—A simpleton: see BUFFLE. Spoop = silly, foolish.

SPORT, subs. (old).—I. Copulation: also the SPORT OF VENUS (or VENEREAL SPORT). Hence as verb. to wanton; SPORTIVE (or SPORTFUL) = lecherous; SPORTSWOMAN (or SPORTING-piece) = a harlot; SPORTSMAN = a MUTTONMONGER (q.v.); SPORTSMAN'S GAP = the female pudendum; SPORTSMAN'S TOAST = 'pointer and stubble'; &c.

1593. SHAKESPEARE, Taming of the Shrew, ii. i, 263. Let Kate be chaste, and Dian sportful. Ibid. (1597), Richard III., i. i. I, that am not shaped for sportive tricks. Ibid. (1598), Sonnets, cxxi. Why should others' false adulterate eyes Give salutation to my sportive blood? Ibid. (1602), Othello, ii. i, 230. When the blood is made dull with the act of sport. Ibid., ii. 3, 17. He hath not yet made wanton the night with her, and she is sport for Jove. Ibid. (1603), Measure for Measure, iii. 2. Ere he would have hanged a man for the getting a hundred bastards, he would have paid for the nursing a thousand: he had some feeling of the sport.

c. 1600. JOHNSON, Frag. Petron. Arbitr Translated. Doing, a filthy pleasure is, and short; And done, we straight repent us of the sport.

1621. BURTON, Anat. Melan. III. ii. 2. When... he did not play the man as he should do, she fell in league with a good fellow, and whilst he sat up late at his study... she... continued at her sport.

1629. MASSINGER, Picture, iii. 6. This ring was Julietta's, a fine piece, but very good at the sport.

1673. COTTON, Scoffer Scoft [1770], 239. He comes i'th' middle of their sport... Took the poor Lovers in the Manner.

1700. DRYDEN, Wife of Bath's Tale. The widow's wish was oftentimes to wed; The wanton maids were all for sport a-bed.

d. 1704. BROWNE, Works, ii. 204. An old fornicatrix, who can part with her money as freely at one sport as she got it at another.

c. 1709. WARD, T— B—'s Last Letter. If... you have not the gift of continence... match your cock with the next fair sportswoman you meet. Ibid. (d. 1731), Terafilius, v. 25. Good enough to solemnize her venereal sports upon a tavern chair. Ibid., 27. She is of the true colour for the sport of Venus. Ibid., Infernal Vision, iii. Or money gained admission to her beard... What she first thought on't, how she lik'd the sport? Whether it pleas'd her well, or if it hurt?

1740. RICHARDSON, Pamela, ii. 35. A poor spoiling-piece for the great.

1772. BRIDGES, Burlesque Homer, 4. In England, if you trust report, whether in country, town or court, The parsons' daughters make best sport.

c. 1796. MORRIS, The Plenipotentiary. As he knew in our state that the women have weight, He chose one well-hung for the sport, sirs.

2. (turf, &c.).—A professional sportsman: a pugilist, bookmaker, jockey, &c.: also SPORTING-MAN. Whence sporting-house = a public-house frequented by sportsmen.

1877. New York Tribune, April. I know two or three thousand sports floating now on the sea of adversity.

1896. LILLARD, Poker Stories, 50. Those were the days, my boy... every sport with stuff in his pockets, and lots of good clothes.

2. (colloquial).—Mischief; horseplay.
Verb. (old).—Generic for display: 'the word... was in great vogue in... 1783 and 1784' (GrOSe); now-a-days still general, but spec. a public school and university usage. Thus to sport (or baulk) a report = to publish far and wide; to sport (= drive) a gig; to sport (= wear) new togs; to sport ivory = to grin; to sport (= exhibit) temper; to sport oak (timber, or to sport in) = to deny oneself to callers by closing an outer door: see Oak; to sport an ægrotat (see ægrotat); to sport off = to do with ease; to sport (= provide) a dinner; to sport literature = to write a book; to sport (= spend) money, one's salary, &c.; to sport (= express) an opinion; to sport a nescio (see nescio); to sport silk (racing) = to ride a race; to sport (= indulge or engage in) smoking, walking, &c. Whence (Winchester) a sporting action = an affected manner, gesture or gait, or a betrayal of emotion. [Cf. sport (var. dial.) = to show, to exhibit.] Sporting (Charterhouse) = clothes worn at the Exeat (q.v.).


1825-7. Hone, Ev.-Day Book, Feb., 22. Shutting my room door, as if I was sported in, and cramming Euc.

1830. Lytton, Paul Clifford (1854), 29. Paul, my ben cull... I doesn't care if I sports you a glass of port.

1848. Thackeray, Book of Snobs, xx. Beaux... of society who sport a lace dickey and nothing besides.

1853. Mrs. Gaskell, Cranford, i. By-and-by, Captain Brown sported a bit of literature.

1859. Kingsley, Geof. Hamlyn, xxxi. I took him for a flash overseer, sporting his salary, and I was as thick as you like with him.

1882. Punch, lxxxii. 147, 2. Anybody can enter here who chooses to sport his blunt.


d:1890. J. H. Newman, Works [Century]. A man... must sport an opinion when he really had none to give.

1896. Lillard, Poker Stories, 246. For two days those fellows sported it on that dollar.

1896. Farjeon, Betray. of John Fordham, iii. 279. Louis had plenty of money to sport; 'd been backin' winners.

1897. Marshall, Pomes, 46. She sported her number one gloss on her hair, And her very best blush on her cheek. Ibid., 68. That O. P. fairy... sports a real diamond ring.

1900. Tod, Charterhouse, 102. The splendour of Exeat garb defies description. It is enough to say that the Carthusian's apparel then is as costly as his purse will buy, and that he calls it sportings.

Spot, subs. (venery).—1. The female pudendum: see monosyllable.

1705. Ward, Hud. Redly., i. x. 18. They hide that tempting spot, That caus'd old Adam's Fall.

2. (American).—Shares (or goods) ready for delivery: that is 'on the spot.'

1902. D. Mail, 17 Nov., 2, 2. The quotation for two months' forward delivery declined 1-16d. to 22 11-16d., but was unchanged at 22 4/16d. for spot.

3. (American gaming).—A dollar: e.g., five spot = five dollars; $5.


Verb. (colloquial).—1. To recognise; to take note of; to discover. Also 2. (thieves')= to detect, to come upon: hence spotter = a detective: Fr. indiqueur: whence spotted = known to the police (Tufts, 1791); and
3. (racing) = to pick out, to choose, to chance upon: e.g., TO SPOT THE WINNER.

1837. Barham, Ingoldsby Leg., II. 16. His pockets, no doubt, Being turned inside out, That his mouchoir and gloves may be put up the sput.

1864. Art. Ward, Among the Mormons [Works, 257]. Even if she [the Goddess of Liberty] don't have to sput the gold stars in her head band.

1887. Henley, Villon's Straight Tip. It's up the sput and Charley-wag.

1889. Notes and Queries, 7 S, vii. 56. Pawnbrokers... before sputs were adopted, used a hook to lift the articles.

1897. Marshall, Pomes, 71. He asked her if she'd seen his watch about; She said... 'It may be half-way up the giddy sput.'

Verb. (old).—To talk, speechify, or declaim for effect (Grose, Vaux, and Bee). Hence sputer = (1) a mouthing talker; whence (2) a fourth-rate speaker or actor. Tospout billy = to earn a living.
by reciting Shakspeare in tap-rooms (BEE); SPOUTING-CLUB = 'a rehearsal club' (GROSE); IN GREAT SPOUT = noisy, in high spirits. Also TO SPOUT INK = to write: cf. SLING INK.

1599. NASHE, Lenten Stuffe [GROSART, Works, v. 232]. Never since I SPOUTED incke, was I of worse aptitude to goe thorow with such a mighty March brewage as you expect.

1610. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, Coxcomb, iv. 4. Pray SPOUT some French, son.

1610. NASHE, Lenten Stuffe [GROSART, Works, v. 232]. Never since I SPOUTED incke, was I of worse aptitude to goe thorow with such a mighty March brewage as you expect.

1673. COTTON, Scoffer Scoft [1770], 202. His mouth will one day be a SPOUT Of Eloquence, without a doubt.

1673. SMOLLETT, Humph. Clinker, To Sir Watkin Phillips, 30 April. Mr. Gwynn do, pray, SPOUT a little the Ghost of Gimlet. His mouth will one day be a SPOUT Of Eloquence, without a doubt.

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Spreads.

1848. MRS. GASKELL, Mary Barton, ix. We had such a spread for breakfast as th' Queen herself might ha' sitten down to.

1873. Greenwood, In Strange Company. Next day I was present at a spread at the Mission Hall of a much more gratifying description.

1897. Marshall, Pomes, vi. 'E didn't even give me an invite to 'is New Year's Spread.

2. (old).—Butter (Grose and Vaux: cf. Scrape).

3. (old).—An umbrella (Grose).

4. (common).—A lady's shawl (Hotten).

5. (Old Cant).—A saddle (Tufts, 1798).

6. (Stock Exchange).—An option; a STRADDLE (q.v.).

Verb. (venery).—To open up (of women), or to lay out (of men) for SERVICE (q.v.).

1692. Dryden, Juvenal, vi. Many a fair nymph has in a cave been spread, and much good love, without a feather-bed. Ibid. What care our drunken dames to whom they spread?

To SPREAD ONESELF, verb. phr. (American).—To push, to come out strong, to SWAGGER (q.v.).

1832. Longstreet, Southern Sketches [Bartlett]. Hose Allen mounted the balcony of the hotel, and rolling up his sleeves, spread himself for an unusually brilliant effort.

1848. Hammond, Wild Northern Scenes, 266. We despatched Cullen to prepare a dinner. He had promised . . . to SPREAD HIMSELF in the preparation of this meal.

1876. Clemens, Tom Sawyer, 46. At school, on great occasions before company, the Superintendent . . . had always made this boy come out and SPREAD HIMSELF.

1887. Francis, Saddle and Moccasin. For the benefit of the tenderfoot he SPREAD HIMSELF.

SPREAD-EAGLE, subs. phr. (old).—1. A posture: arms (wings or fins) and legs extended: e.g., a soldier lashed to the halberts (Grose), or a sailor to the rigging; a fowl split down the back for broiling; fish split and laid out to dry; and (2) a figure in skating imitating the heraldic 'Eagle displayed' [i.e., with wings and legs extended on each side of the body]. As verb. = (1) to tie up for punishment; (2) to prepare poultry or fish for broiling or drying; and (3) in racing to scatter the FIELD (q.v.).

1701. Dryden, Post. History of the League, ix. 469. A kind of spread-eagle plot was hatched, with two heads growing out of the same body.

1855. Dana, Two Years, x. Answer my question, or I'll make a spread-eagle of you! I'll flog you, by G—d! . . . Spread eagles were a new kind of bird in California.

1885. D. Chron., 27 Oct. Caltha spread-eagled her field a long way from home.

1887. Notes and Queries, 7 S., iv. 278. Cod—as well as haddock and ling . . . may be seen spread-eagled across transverse sticks to dry.

1900. Kennard, Right Sort, xxv. Young Rassington's horse shot out like an arrow from a bow, and spread-eagling his field in a style not often seen.

2. (Stock Exchange).—See quots.

18[i?]. Hunt, Merch. Mag. (Century). This term [spread eagle] is frequently used among stock speculators. A broker, satisfied with small profits . . . sells say one hundred shares Eric Railroad stock at fifty-eight, buyer sixty days, and at the same time buys the same quantity at fifty-seven, seller sixty days. The difference is . . . one per cent, which would be so much profit, without any outlay of capital, provided both contracts run their full time. Having sold buyer's option sixty days, and bought seller's option sixty days, the time is equal, but . . . he does not control the option in either case. The buyer can call when he pleases, which will compel the spread-eagle operator to deliver; and the seller may deliver any time,
which would compel the broker to receive. If he had capital to carry the result would not differ from that anticipated; if not he may be caught in a tight place.

1882. **BIDDLE, Stockbrokers, 74.** Spread Eagle is where a broker buys a certain stock at seller's option, and sells the same at seller's option within a certain time, on the chance that both the contracts may run the full time, and he gain the difference.

**Adj.** (American).—Bombastic; espec. in reference to national vanity. Whence **spread-eagle-ism** = patriotic brag. As **verb.** = to play the good American till all is split.


1871. **LOWELL, Study Windows, 375.** We Yankees are thought to be fond of the spread-eagle style.

1873. **Hist. Mag., Sept.** A very singular [volume] . . . with very much of that slam-bang, spread-eagle literature which has made George Francis Train so notorious the world over.

1884. **Clemens, Huck. Finn.** Read the parts over in the most splendid spread-eagle style.

1885. **D. Tel., 29 Nov.** A fact represented by the spread-eagleism of the place in journalistic leaders.

1887. **Fort. Rev., N.S., xli.** 330. When we talk of spread-eagleism, we are generally thinking of the United States.

**Spree,** subs. (old).—I. A frolic. As **verb.** = to carouse; **spreeish** = drunkish: see **screwed** (Grose and Bee).

1821. **EGAN, Life in London, II. v.** Roosters and the 'peep-o'-day boys' were out on a prowl for a **spree.**

1825. **Scott, St. Roman's Well, xx.** John Blower, honest man. as sailors are aye for some spree or another, wad take me ane to see Mrs. Siddons.

1844. **Puck, 14.** The Proctor caught him in a **spree,** Asked his name . . . with courtesie.

1847. **Ireland Sixty Years Ago, 15.** The **spree** would probably have ended in the total sacking of Flattery's house.

1852. **Judson, Myst., &c., of New York, i. 113.** Taking a cruise about town, or going on a **spree.**

1856. **Dow, Sermons, . . .** If a young man creates his own ruination by going it loose and **spreeing** it tight, it is surely a disgrace.

1859. **Punch, xxxvii. 22.** Our friend prone to vices you never may see, Though he goes on the loose, the cut, or the **spree.**

1866. **WINTHROP, Love and Skates.** He . . . took to **spreein'** and liquor, and let down from a foreman to a hand.

1871. **All Year Round, Sep. Out on the rampage, the loose, or the **spree.**

1885. **D. Tel., 16 Nov.** He was always of the devil-may-care sort, fond of **spreeing** about and lively company.

1892. **Kipling, Barrack Room Ballads.** 'Gentlemen Rankers.' Gentleman rankers out on the **spree,** Damned from here to eternity.

**Adj.** (Winchester).—1. Conceited; stuck-up; of persons; (2) smart, stylish, befitting a Wykehamist. **spree-mess** (see quot. c. 1840).

1840. **MANSFIELD, School Life (1866), 72.** At the end of the half-year we used to have large entertainments called **spree-messes,** between Toy-time and Chapel, consisting of tea, coffee, muffins, cakes, &c., the funds for which were generally provided by fines inflicted during Toy-time for talking loud, slamming the door, coming in without whistling (to show that it was not a Master entering), improper language, &c., &c. Sometimes a **spree-mess** was given by the boys about to leave that Half.

1881. **PASCOE, Public Schools.** Deprive a Wykehamist of words . . . such as quill . . . pruff . . . **spree** . . . cad . . . And his vocabulary becomes limited.

**Sprig,** subs. (common).—A young dandy; any well-groomed youngster.

1637. **SHIRLEY, Hyde Park, i. 1.** A **sprig** of the nobility, That has a spirit equal to his fortunes.

1812. **COOMBE, Dr. Syntax in Search of Picturesque, xix.** An arch young **sprig,** a banker's clerk.
**SPRING, verb.** (colloquial).—(1) To bring to notice suddenly; (2) to pay out, to give alms; (3) to provide; and (4) to extort. To SPRING TO = to be able to accomplish, pay, give, &c., &c.

1614. Jonson, Barthol. Fair, v. 3. I may, perhaps, SPRING a wife for you anon.

1856. Mrs. Stowe, Dred, I. 67. He reckoned they were a little bit SPRUNG.

1661. Beaumont and Fletcher, Kn. of Burning Pestle, ii. 2. Sure the devil . . . is in this SPRINGAL.


1692. Dryden, Juvenal, x. Your SPRINGAL, by his beauty curst . . . His form procures him journey-work; a strife Betwixt town madams and the merchant’s wife.

**SPRING-ANKLE WAREHOUSE, subs. phr.** (old).—A prison: spec. Newgate (Grose).

**SPRINGERS (THE), subs.** (military).—The Lincolnshire Regiment, formerly The 10th Foot: the nickname is also borne by the late 62nd Foot.

**SPRINGER-UP, subs. phr.** (HOT- TENT).—A slop-tailor. SPRUNG-UP CLOTHES = garments ‘blown’ together.

**SPRINKLE, verb.** (colloquial).—To christen.

**SPROUT, subs.** (American).—1. A course of severe discipline; a birching. Also 2. (Yale) = a department of study—classics, mathematics, &c.; and 3. (in pl.) = a bunch of twigs. A BUNCH OF SPROUTS = (1) the closed fist, and (2) the chambers of a revolver.

**SPRUG.** To SPRUG UP, verb. phr. (provincial).—To dress neatly; to spruce.

**SPRUNG, adj.** (common).—Drunk: see SCREWED.

1856. Mrs. Stowe, Dred, I. 87. He reckoned they were a little bit SPRUNG.

1770. Judd, Margaret, I. 13. Ex-Corporal Whiston with his friends sallied from the store well-SPRUNG.
SPRUNT. To sprunt up, verb. phr. (American).—To bristle up; to resent suddenly.

SPRUSADO, subs. (nonce-word).—A dandy.

1665. Cont. on Chaucer [Quoted in Todd’s Johnson]. The answer of that sprusado to a judge... a rigid censor of men’s habits; who, seeing a neat, finical divine come before him in a cloak lined through with plush, encountered him.

SPRY, adj. (American).—Active; lively; smart (q.v.).

SPUD, subs. (common).—i. A potato: see Murphy. Hence spuddy (costers’) = a baked-potato man.

1887. Field, 12 Mar. But it was evidently a ‘speed the plough,’ a speed the spuds, and the seeds day.

1901. Troddles and Us, xix. Enough to revolt an Irishman’s pig, and set him against spuds for the rest of his natural life.

1901. Sp. Times, 27 Apr., i. 4. Annie used to fetch the spuds and greens.

2. (common).—A dwarf; a short thickset person.

3. (nursery).—A baby’s hand.

4. (American).—In pl. = money: see Rhineo.

5. (common).—A spade.

SPUDGEL, verb. (American).—To decamp: see Absquatulate.

SPUNK, subs. (old).—i. Mettle; spirit; pluck (Grose). Hence spunkie (Scots) = (a) a plucky fellow, a lad of mettle; and (b) a will o’ the wisp; spunky = spirited; to spunk up = to show fight.

1772. Bridges, Burlesque Homer, 262. Whether quite sober or dead drunk, I know, my dear, you’ve too much spunk.

1773. Goldsmith, She Stoops to Conquer, i. 2. The Squire has got spunk in him.

1784. Burns, Jolly Beggars, Sir Violino, with an air That show’d a man of spunk. Ibid. (1785), Address to the Deil. An’ aft your moss-traversing spunkies, Decoy the wight that late and drunk is. Ibid. (1796), Prayer to St. Reps. Erskine, a spunkie Norland billie.

1789. Parker, Happy Pair [Farmer, Musa Pedestris (1806), 68]. With spunk let’s post our needies.

c.1790. Ireland Sixty Years Ago, 88. We saw de poor fellow was funkin’, De drizzle stole down from his eye, Do we taught he had got better spunk in.

1795. Wolcot (‘Peter Pindar‘), Works, i. 245. In that snug room where any man of spunk would find it a hard matter to get drunk.

1819. Moore, Tom Crib, 24. His spunkiest backers were forced to sing small.

1838. Becket, Paradise Lost, xi. They’ll show more spunk, And fight much better when half drunk.

1853. Landor, Imag. Conv. ‘Wm. Penn and Lord Peterborough.’ Grave dons... grown again as young and spunky as undergraduates.

1869. Stowe, Oldtown, 67. Parsons is men, like the rest of us, and the doctor had got his spunk up.

1896. Lillard, Poker Stories, 143. I admire your spunk... most women faint when they see me.

2. (street and Scots).—In pl. = matches. Spunk-fencer = a match-vendor. Hence = a spark.

1815. Scott, Guy Mannering, xi. A spunk o’ fire in the red room.

3. (venery).—The seminal fluid; mettle (q.v.).

SPUR, verb. (thieves’).—To annoy. To get the spur = to be annoyed: see Needle.

1877. Hoksley, Jottings from Jail. The only thing that spurred me was being such a flat to bring them home.

SPY, subs. (old).—The eye.

1590. Spenser, Fairy Queen, iii. i. 36. With her two crafty spyes she secretly would search each daintie lim.

1609. Shakespeare, Tempest, v. i. 259. If these be true spies which I wear in my head, here’s a goodly sight.
**Squab, subs.** (old).—1. Anything fat, short, and dumpy. Hence (2) a fat sofa or well-filled bed. As adj. (SQUABBY, SQUADDY, SQUATTY, SQUABBISH, &c.) = fat and short, heavy, bulky (in quot. 1756 = short, abrupt).—GROSE. As verb. = to fall heavily, to plump down.

1603. Greene, *News from Heaven and Hell.* A fatte squaddy monke that had been well fedde in some cloyster.

1666. Harvey, *Of Consumption.* Diet makes them of a squabish or lardy habit of body.


1692. L'Estrange, *Aesop.* The eagle took the tortoise up in the air, and dropt him down, squab, upon a rock.


1712. Betterton, *Miller of Trompington.* Nor the squab daughter nor the wife were nice.


1716. Pope, *Letter,* 'To Lady M. W. Montague,' 13 Aug. We shall then see how the prudes of this world owed all their fine figure only to their being a little strainer laced ; and that they were naturally as arrant squabs as those that went more loose.

1759. Goldsmith, *Bee,* No. 2. A French woman is a perfect architect in dress . . . She never tricks out a squabby Doric shape with Corinthian finery.

1756. Walpole, *To Mann,* 25 July, iii. 125. We have returned a squab answer.

1855. Gaskell, *North and South,* xii. Bessie, herself, lay on a squab, or short sofa, placed under the window.

1865. Major Downing, *May-Day.* I had hardly got seated when in came a great, stout, fat, squaddy woman.

1870. Judd, *Margaret,* ii. 11. Ladies in . . . short cloaks, with hoods squabbing behind.

1885. D. Tel., 10 Sep. The squabby stone structure.

**Squab, adj.** (printers').—Broken ' : of type which, after 'setting,' has been knocked so much awry that it is a painstaking job to prevent it going to pi (q.v.).

**Squabbled, adj.** (printers').—'Broken': of type which, after 'setting,' has been knocked so much awry that it is a painstaking job to prevent it going to pi (q.v.).

**Squaddle, verb.** (American).—To decamp; to absquatulate (q.v.).

**Squaddle, verb.** (colloquial).—An inexperienced person; a fledgling. As adj. = callow (q.v.), coy, quiet.

1655. Brome, *Sparagus Garden,* ii. Brit. Is he a trim youth ? Mon. We must make him one, Jacke; 'tis such a squab . . . such a lump.

1689. Nat. Lee, *Princess of Cleves,* iii. 1. Your demure ladies that are so squob in company are devils in a corner.


Verb. (King Edward's School, B'gham).—To squeeze by : also squob: with foot on wall or desk, and back against the victim who is similarly treated on the other side, or pressed against the opposite wall. Also squab-up = to push.

**Squabash, verb.** (old colloquial).—To crush. As subs. = a flattening out; spification (q.v.).

1827. Scott, *Diary,* 17 Jan. His satire . . . squabashed at one blow, a set of coxcombs who might have humbugged the world long enough.

1830. Intelligencer, 11 Ap. Compared with the sarcastic irony which squabashes poor Mr. Nicholas Carlisle.


1837. Barham, *Ingolds. Leg.,* 6 House Warming.' Harry the Sixth who, instead Of being squabashed, as in Shakespeare we've read, Caught a bad influenza, and died in his bed.
SQUAIL (also SQUAILER), verb. and subs. (old).—See quot. 1847. Also SQUAWL.

1651. [HUNI, Bristol, quoted in Notes and Queries, 7 S., iv. 1691. SQUAILING a goose before his door, and tossing cats and dogs on Shrove Tuesday.

c.1696. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. SQUAIL:—To throw awry.

1834. SOUTHEY, Doctor, clxiv. You SQUAIL at us on Shrove Tuesday... and arm us with steel spurs that we may mangle and kill each other for your sport.

SQUAILING a goose before his door, and tossing cats and dogs on Shrove Tuesday.

1847. HALLIWELL, Arch. Words, s.v. SQUAIL. To throw sticks at cocks. SQUAILER, the stick thrown. Mr. Akerman says SQWOILING is used for throwing, but the thing thrown must be some material not easily managed; with a stick sometimes made unequally heavy by being loaded with lead at one end. SQUAILING is often very awkwardly performed, because the thing thrown cannot be well directed; hence the word SQUAILING is often used in ridicule of what is done awkwardly, untowardly or irregularly shaped. "She went up the street SQUAILING her arms about, you never saw the like:" an ill shaped loaf is a SQUAILING loaf; Brentford is a long SQUAILING town; and, in Wiltshire, Smithfield Market would be called a SQUAILING sort of a place.—[Abridged].

1881. D. Tel., 30 Nov. Now that the trees are bare and the leaves have fallen, the idlers of the county towns may perhaps sally forth armed with SQUAILERS, an ingenious instrument composed of a short stick of pliant cane and a leaded knob, to drive the harmless little squirrel from tree to tree, and lay it a victim at the feet of a successful shots.

SQUAIL, subs. (old).—A girl.

1593. HOLYBAND, Dict. Tu es un cainar, thou art a SQUAIL.

1607. MIDDLETON, Michaelmas Term, i. 2. A pretty, beautiful, juicy SQUAIL.

1611. COTGRAVE, Dict., s.v. Obéseau, a young minx or little proud SQUAIL.

1630. TAYLOR, Works. The rich gull gallant Call's her deare and love, Ducke, lambe, SQUALL, sweet-heart, cony, and his dove.

Verb. (B. E.).—'To cry a loud.'

TO LOOK OUT FOR SQUALLS, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To be on guard.

SQUANTUM, subs. (American).—I. The imaginary name of a place 'very far way back' from whence rustics and HAYSEEDS (g.v.) come. Also (2) = a picnic.

SQUARE, adj., verb., and adv. SQUARE, like ROUND (g.v.), has lived many lives in slang: in fact, it has 'boxed the compass,' and now means the antipodes of what it meant in Shakespear's time.

Verb. (old).—I. To disagree, to quarrel or be at variance: hence SQUARER = a quarreller; while OUT OF SQUARE = (1) at variance, and (2) dishonest; TO BREAK (or BREED) SQUARES = to give offence; AT SQUARE = angry, at enmity; TO SQUARE UP TO = to assume a fighting attitude (BEE); TO SQUARE UP AND DOWN = to strut; TO SEE HOW SQUARES GO = to watch events, 'to see how the cat will jump.'

1551. State Trials, 'Gardiner,' 5 Ed. VI. He said he had often SQUARED with me but he loved me never the worse.

1555. R. EDEN to Francisco Lopez [First Books on America (ARBER), 346]. He speaketh not greatly OUT OF SQUARE.


1528. WHETSTONE, Promos and Cassandra, ii. 4. Marry, She knew you and I were AT SQUARE; At least we fell to blows.

1592. SHAKESPEARE, Mid. Night's Dream, ii. 1. And now, they never meet... But they do SQUARE. Ibid. (1593), Tit. And., ii. 1, 100. Are you such fools To square for this. Ibid. (1600), Much Ado, i. 1, 82. Is there no young SQUARER now that will make a voyage with him to the devil. Ibid. (1608), Anthony and Cleop., iii. 11. Mine honesty and I begin to SQUARE.
Square.

1592. **Greene, Quip for Upst. Courtier.** To square it up and downe the streets before his mistresse.

1594. **Hooker, Eccles. Polity,** iii. 1. In St. Paul's time the integrity of Rome was famous; Corinth many ways re-proved; they of Galatia much more out of square.

d.1612. **Harington, Epigrams,** i. 37. Once, by mishap, two poets fell a-squareing.

d.1657. **Bradford, Plymouth Plantation,** 269. At length they . . . resolved to send Mr. Winslow . . . into England, to see how ye squares wente.

1696. **Lestrange, Æsop.** One frog looked about him to see how squares went with their new king. Ibid. I will break no squares whether it be so or not.

1902. **D. Mail, 13 Nov., 3, 4.** The men squared up to each other, and Martin struck Drew a violent blow in the face which felled him.

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2. (colloquial).—To be entirely in agreement, to arrange, to accommodate. Whence ON THE SQUARE (or SQUARELY, adv.) = absolutely dependable; ALL SQUARE (or SQUARES) = all right; SQUARE TO (BY THE SQUARE, or IN SQUARE) = suitable, exact, in amity or agreement; TO KEEP SQUARE = to lead a straight life. Also in combination: amongst others, SQUARE BACKDOWN = a palpable retreat; SQUARE PIECE = a decent girl; SQUARE ANSWER = an unmistakable reply; SQUARE Clobber = respectable clothes; SQUARE CRIB = 'a house of good repute' (Grose); SQUARE TATS = honest dice; SQUARE DRINKER = a steady toper; SQUARE EATER = a hearty feeder; SQUARE THING = the truth: see quot. 1785: also SQUARE HEAD (thieves') = an honest man; SQUARE MEAL = a substantial repast; SQUARE PLAY = fair play; SQUARE-RIGGED = well-dressed, &c., &c.
d.1718. PENN, 'To his Wife and Children' [Century]. Keep upon the square, for God sees you.

1726. VANBRUGH, Provoke Husband, v. i. Marriage is at worst but playing upon the square.

1781. Cowper, Charity, 559. No works shall find acceptance in that day. That squares not truly with the Scripture plan.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Square. All fair, upright and honest practices are called the square, in opposition to the cross. A... person who is considered by the world to be honest, and who is acquainted with family people, and their system of operation, is by the latter emphatically styled a square cove; whereas an old thief who has acquired an independance, and now confines himself to square practices is called, by his old pals, a flash cove who has tied up prigging.

1809. Malkin, Gil Blas [Routledge], 86. I never split hairs, but deal upon the square.

1823. Bee, Dict. Turf, s.v. Square... Anything you have bought, or acquired honestly, is termed a square article; and any transaction which is fairly and equitably conducted, is said to be a square concern.

1826-8. Oliver, Signs and Symbols, 190. You must keep within the compass, and act upon the square with all mankind, for your masonry is but a dead letter if you do not habitually perform its reiterated injunctions.

1864. Browne, Artemus Ward Among the Mormons [Works (1899), 231]. That was the squarest meal on the road except at Weber. Ibid., 288. A good square, lively fete.

1866. Eliot, Felix Holt, xx. If a man's got a bit of property... he'll want to keep things square. Ibid. (1866), xxii. 'Oh, all on the square—civil marriage, church—everything.

1866. London Miscellany, 3 Mar., 57. We don't want no one took in that's on the square. The governor's promised the school as stranger's shan't use the house.

1869. McClure, Rocky Mountains, 30. The transition from the luxurious tables of the East to the square meals of the West is fortunately gradual.


1886. D. Tel., 17 Feb., 5. The question will now come squarely before the House.

1887. Henley, Villon's Straight Tip. Suppose you try a different tack, and on the square you flash your flag.

1896. Lillard, Poker Stories, 240. The games played there were not what are known as square games.

1900. Flynn, Tramps, 278. But I've given many a lad a ride, and I'm always willing to be square to a square plug (fellow).

1901. Walker, In the Blood, 106. His square-clobber or respectable clothes. Ibid., 259. I don't call it actin' on the square to Susie.

3. (colloquial).—To bribe; to pay. Thus TO SQUARE MATTERS = TO pay off: also TO SQUARE THE YARDS (nautical); TO SQUARE UP = TO settle a bill.

1835. Dana, Before the Mast, xxvi. Many a delay and vexation... did he get to pay up the old scores, or 'square the yards with the bloody quill-driver.'

1845. Disraeli, Sybil, III. 2. There will be enough to pay all our debts and pay us all square.

1859. Lever, Davenport Dunn, xi. The horses he had 'nobbled,' the jockeys squared, the owners 'hocussed.'

1879. Huxley [Pop. Sci. Monthly, xxxv. 609]. How D— was squared, and what he got in... these transactions does not appear.

1886. Globe, 10 Mar. They have squandered enormous sums of money in squaring a huge army of committee men, collectors, and other hangers-on.

1893. Emerson, Lippy, v. To show you mean it stand a couple of shants of bevarly to square the boys.

4. (colloquial).—To assume a rigid or set attitude: as TO SQUARE ONE'S SHOULDERS = (1) to stand (or sit) bolt upright, and (2) to show disgust; TO SQUARE ONE'S ELBOWS = TO give free play in driving (Bee); TO SIT SQUARE = TO sit straight; TO SQUARE OUT = TO lay out; TO SQUARE ROUND = TO make room.
Square-cap.

1850. Thackeray, Pendennis, xxxviii. ‘Wanted to fight the Frenchman’; ... and he laughed, and he squared with his fists.

1854. W. Collins, Hide and Seek, i: 12. Here Zack came in with the gloves on; squaring on the most approved prize fighter principles as he advanced.

1861. Dickens, Great Expect., xliii. I planted myself side by side with Mr. Drummie, my shoulders squared and my back to the fire.

1878. Stevenson, Inland Voyage, 50. He who can sit squarest on a three-legged stool, he it is who has the wealth and glory. Ibid., Epil. He again squared his elbows over his writing.

5. Miscellaneous Phrases.
—To square the circle = to achieve the impossible; ‘How go squares?’ = ‘How do you do’; a square peg in a round hole = anything misplaced or incongruous; straight down the crooked lane and all round the square = a humorous way of setting a man on his word; all fair and square = above board, dependable.

Square-cap, subs. phr. (old).—A London apprentice.

1651. Cleaveland, Poems [Nares]. But still she repli’d, good sir, la-bee, if ever I have a man, square-cap, square for me.

Square-face, subs. phr. (common).
—An inferior gin made, chiefly in Germany, for barter with and consumption by savages.

Squarehead, subs. (Australian).—1. Formerly a free emigrant; now (2) a German or Scandinavian.

See Square.

Square-toes, subs. phr. (old).—An old man (Grose); a fogee (q.v.); a precissian (q.v.); also old squaretoes. Hence square-toed = formal, prim, testy.

1771. Smollett, Humph. Clinker (1900), i: 65. He seems to have a reciprocal regard for old squaretoes, whom he calls by the familiar name of Mathew.

1772. Bridges, Burlesque Homer, 23. Old square-toes... Call’d silence; but he first with care lifted his buttocks off his chair.

1860-3. Thackeray, Roundabout Papers, xi. Have we not almost all learnt these expressions of old fools, and uttered them ourselves when in the square-toed state. Ibid. (1862), Philip, xv. I have heard of an old squaretoes of sixty who learned very satisfactorily to dance.

Squareson, subs. (common).—See quot., squishop, and portmanteau-word. Whence squarsonage = a parsonage.

1886. A. Lang, Mark of Cain, ix. He held the sacrosanct position of a squarson, being at once squire and parson of the parish of Little Wentley. Ibid. She left the gray old squarsonage, and went to London.

1888. Living Church, 25 Aug. The ... Rev. W. H. Hoare, of Oakfield, Sussex ... was the original of the well-known expression, invented by Bishop Wilberforce, squarson, by which he meant a landed proprietor in holy orders.

Squash, subs. (shoemakers’).—A lapstone.

Squash, subs. (colloquial).—1. A smash, a soft or flat mass; and (2) a mellay: spec. (Harrow), see quot. 1876. As verb. = (1) to crush or smash: also to go squash = to collapse; and (2) to silence by word or deed. Hence squasher, squashiness, and squashy.

1726. Swift, Gulliver, ii. 1. One of the reapers approaching ... made me apprehend that with the next step I should be squashed to death under his foot. Ibid., ii. 7. My fall was stopped by a terrible squash.

Squat.

1854. Dickens, Hard Times, xi. Wet through and through; with her feet squelching and squashing in her shoes whenever she moved.

1876. Collins, Public Schools [Harrow], 312. The gravel cut the leather case of the ball occasionally, as well as the hands and faces of those who scrambled over it in a squash . . . which Rugby men know as a 'scrummage' and Etonians as a 'rouge.'

1884. Harper's Mag., lxxviii. 80. It seemed churlish to pass him by without a sign, especially as he took off his squash of a hat to me.

3. (Harrow).—Racquets played with a soft india-rubber ball: the ball is also known as a squash.

Squatter, subs. (old colloquial).—1. A settler on public land without title or license; hence (2) any domiciliary usurper. Also (3) in Australia a pastoral tenant of the Crown. Whence squat, verb. = (1) to settle on land without title: e.g., on a common, and (2) as in subs. senses 2 and 3. Derivatives are numerous: e.g., squattage = a squatter's station; squattocracy (squatterarchy or squatterdom) = the world of squatters: spec. rich landowners in pastoral districts: cf. mobocracy, cottonocracy, slaveocracy, &c., &c.

1835. T. A. Murray, Evidence before Legislative Council of New South Wales on Police and Gaols. There are several parties of squatters in my neighbourhood. I detected, not long since, three men at one of their stations in the act of slaughtering one of my own cattle. I have strong reason to suspect that these people are, in general, illicit sellers of spirits.

1840. F. P. Labilliere, Early History of Victoria (1878), ii. 189. The squatters of New South Wales, a class of persons whom it would be wrong to confound with those who bear the same name in America . . . generally persons . . . who have taken unauthorized possession of land. Among the squatters of New South Wales are the wealthiest of the land, occupying, with the permission of the government, thousands and tens of thousands of acres.

1854. Melbourne Morning Herald, 12 Feb., 4, 5. Squatocracy, common name of settler continued to be applied.

1858. Boldrewood, Squatter's Dream, iv. 42. He trusted to pass into the ranks of the squatocracy.
1897. *Austr. Steam Nav. Co. 'Guide Book,'* 29. The term *squatter,* as applied to the class it now designates—without which where would Australia now be?—was not in vogue till 1842.

Verb. (old).—To move briskly or noisily through mud and water.


d.1796. *Burns,* *Address to the Deil.* Among the springs, *Awa' ye squatter'd,* like a drake, On whistling wings.

1815. *Scott,* *Guy Mannering,* xxxiv. That's another breaker ahead, Captain! Will she not *squeak,* think ye?

1834. *Ainsworth,* *Rookwood,* iii. v. Never blow the gab or *squeak.*

3. (old).—To shirk: an obligation, debt, &c.

**Squeaker,** subs. (old).—1. A child: spec. (B. E. and *Grose*) a *bye-blow* (q.v.); also *squealer.*

To *stifle the squeaker* = (1) to procure abortion; and (2) to get rid of a bastard.

2. (old).—In *pl.* = organ pipes (*Grose).*

3. (old).—A pig.

4. (old).—A young bird; a *chirper; a peeper; a squealer* (q.v.).

1876. *Greener,* *The Gun* (1884), 535. Mr. Campbell succeeded in bagging 220 grouse by evening; every squeaker was, however, counted.

**Squeal,** verb. (thieves').—1. To inform; to *peach; to squeak* (q.v.). Hence *squealer* = an informer: see *nark* (*Grose*).


1882. *Century Mag.,* xxxv. 649. The first step . . . is to spread abroad the rumour that this, that, or the other confederate is about to *squeal*; . . . it will be but a few days before one of the rogues will . . . anticipate the traitors by turning State's evidence.

1896. *Lillard,* *Poker Stories,* 52. The planter was clean cornered, but he was working George on a dead sure thing and couldn't *squeal.*

1900. *Flynt,* *Tramps,* 128. If they *squeal,* as the tramp says, they are sure to be rewarded.
Squaller. 336 Squelch.

1902. Lynch, High Stakes, xxiii. When he drew a fare and got well treated, he was not the man to SQUEALER.

SQUEALER, subs. (common).—I. See quot., SQUEAKER, and SQUEAL.

1881. Century Mag., xxxiii. 100. When ready to leave the nest and face the world for itself, it [a young pigeon] is a SQUEALER, or, in market parlance, a squab.

2. (Wellington School). — A small boy.

SQUEEMISH, adj. (B. E.).—'Nice.'

SQUEEZE, subs. (common).—I. Silk.

1877. Horsley, Jottings from Jail. Me and another screwed a place at Stoke Newington, and we pt some SQUEEZE dresses, and two sealskin jackets, and some other things.

2. (common).—A crowd ; a PUSH (q.v.); crowding.

1862. Thackeray, Philip, xxvi. Four and twenty hours of SQUEEZE in the diligence.

3. See SQUEEZER.

Verb. (B. E.).—'To gripe, or skrew hard.' Also (colloquial) = to extort, to coerce, TO BEST (q.v.). As subs. = (1) a hard bargain ; (2) Hobson’s CHOICE (q.v.); and (3) a RISE (q.v.). Whence SQUEEZABLE, SQUEEZABILITY, &c.

1670. Milton, Hist. Britain, vi. He [Canute] squeezed out of the English, though now his subjects, not his Enemies, 72, some say 82, thousand pound.

1809. Malkin, Gil Blas [Routledge], 378. You shall go snacks in all that we can SQUEEZE out of the old fellow.

1852. Savage, Reuben Medlicott (1864), i. 9. You are too versatile and too SQUEEZABLE ... you take impressions too readily.

1850. Peacocke, Descrip. of the East, i. 171. The little officers oppress the people; the great officers SQUEEZE them.

1892. Lowe, Bismarck, ii. 230. The peace-of-mind-at-any-price disposition of that Cabinet had rendered it SQUEEZABLE to any extent.

1900. Flynt, Tramps, 308. And then there is a celebration over having SQUEEZED another Railroad company.

SQUEEZE-EM-CLOSE, subs. phr. (venery).—Copulation : see GREENS.

SQUEEZER (or SQUEEZE), subs. (old).—I. The neck (GROSE and VAUX). Also (2) = the hangman’s noose.

c. 1811. Maher, The Night Before Larry was Stretched. For Larry was always the lad, When a friend was condemned to the SQUEEZER, He’d fence all the togs that he had, Just to help the poor boy to a sneezer.

c. 1866. Vance, Chickaleary Cove. The stock around my SQUEEE of a guiver colour see.

1887. Henley, Villon’s Straight Tip. Until the SQUEEZER nips your scrag, Booze and the blowens cop the lot.

3. (American).—In pl. = playing cards with the values marked in the top left hand margins. Also SQUEEZE, verb., see quot.

1896. Lillard, Poker Stories, 23. Gen. Schenck, like all great poker players, used to SQUEEZE his hand, that is, arrange them so that only the indicators at the corners were visible.

SQUEEZE-WAX, subs. phr. (old).—A surety (B. E. and GROSE).

SQUELCH (or SQUELSH), subs. (old).—A hard hit, a heavy fall; espec. one under something or somebody: also SQUELCHER. As verb. = to crush, to SQUASH (q.v.).

1624. Middleton, Game at Chess, v. 3. This fat bishop hath so overlaid me, So SQUELCH’d and squeezed me.

1663. Butler, Hudibras, i. ii. 933. But Ralpho, who had now begun T’adventure resurrection From heavy SQUELCH, and had got up.

d. 1687. Cotton, Works (1734), 242. And yet was not the SQUELCH so ginger, But that I sprain’d my little finger.
Squench. 337 Squint-minded.

... St. George for England, Part II. But George he did the dragon fell, And gave him a plaguy SQUELCH.

1853. BRADLEY, Verdant Green. There's a squelcher in the bread-basket that'll stop your dancing, my kivey!

1866. [Quoted by BROWNE in Artemus Ward Among the Fenians, 'Preliminary.'] SQUELCHED, exterminated... and extinguished the cantankerous Senators.

1886. J. W. PALMER, After his Kind, 120. Luke gazed shamefaced at the nosegay in his button-hole and was SQUELCHED.

1902. Pall Mall Gaz., 4 Dec., 2, 2. Politicians in Dublin have been experiencing a delirious titillation of the bump of combativeness by an announcement that Mr. Redmond is to descend upon Dundalk with a design to SQUELCH Mr. Healy.

SQUENCH, verb. (vulgar). — To quench.

1600. Contention, i. 59. Fetche pitch and flaxe, and SQUENCH it.

SQUIB, subs. (GROSE). — 1. 'A small satirical or political temporary jeu d'esprit, which, like the fire-work of that denomination, sparkles, bounces, stinks, and vanishes.'

2. (artists'). — A brush.


1731. St. James's Evg. Post [SYDNEY, Eng. in 18th Century, i. 229], 'List of Officers attached to Gaming-houses'...

4. Two Puffs, who have money given them to play with... 6. A SQUIB who is a puff of a lower rank, who serves at half salary while he is learning to deal.

4. (costers'). — In pl. = asparagus.

Verb. (old). — To lampoon.


SQUIFFED, adj. (colloquial). — Drunk: also SQUIFFY: see SCREWED.

1900. Kipling, Stalky & Co., 17. I never got squiffy but once... an' it made me horrid sick.

1901. Walker, In the Blood, 256. He had often been outspoken enough about anybody being SQUIFFY.

SQUIGGLE, verb. (American). — To evade; to wriggle; TO SQUIRM (q.v.).

SQUINNY-EYES, subs. phr. (old). — A squinting man or woman: also SQUIN-EYES, SQUINT-A-PIPES, and SQUINT-A-FUEGO. As adj. = squinting; TO SQUINNY (or SQUIN) = to squint; and (American) to laugh, wink, or smile.

1902. Heywood, How to Choose a Good Wife. Gold can make limping Vulcan walke upright, Make squin-eies looke straight.

SQUINSY. HEMPEN SQUINSY, subs. phr. (old). — A hanging: see HEMPEN FEVER and LADDER.

SQUINT, verb. (tailors'). — To lack: food, material, money, anything.

SQUINTER, subs. (common). — In pl. = the eyes: see GLIM.

SQUINT-MINDED, adj. (old). — Deceitful; crooked; with TWISTED VISION (q.v.).


1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. SQUINT-A-PIPES... said to be born in the middle of the week, and looking both ways for Sunday; or born in a hackney coach, and looking out of both windows; fit for a cook, one eye in the pot, and the other up the chimney; looking nine ways at once.

SQUINT-MINDED, adj. (old). — Deceitful; crooked; with TWISTED VISION (q.v.).

1653. Urquhart, Rabelais, ii. xxxiv. You and I both are far more worthy of pardon than a great rabble of squint-minded fellows, dissembling and counterfeit saints.
Squire.

Squire, subs. (old).—I. A gallant; a woman's man; a SERVANT (q.v.): also LOVE-SQUIRE, and SQUIRE OF DAMES. Hence APPLE-SQUIRE (q.v.) and SQUIRE OF THE BODY = a STALLION (q.v.). As verb. = (1) TO SERVE (q.v.); (2) TO PIMP (q.v.); and (3) to gallant.

1383. Chaucer, Cant. Tales, 5, 884. Our prentis Jankin . . . squiereth me both up and doun, Yet hast thou caught a false suspicion: I wol him nat, though thou were ded to-morwe.

1590. Spenser, Fairy Queen, 2r, 8. And eke himself had craftily devised To be her SQUIRE, and do her service well aguised.

1599. Jonson, Out of Humour. 'Characters—Shift.' His chief exercises are taking the whiff, quirking a cockatrice, and making privy searches for imparters.


1632. Massinger, Emperor of the East, i. 2. Marry, there I'm call'd the Squire of Dames, or Servant of the Sex.

1639. Mayne, City Match, 35. And spoil your Squiring in the dark.

1665. R. Head, English Rogue, i. ix. 71 (1874). From what Dunghill di didst thou pick up this shakerag, this squire of the body?

1675. Wycherley, Country Wife, iv. 3. To Squire women about for other folks is as ungrateful an employment as to tell money for other folks.

1678. Cotton, Virgil Travestie (1770), 90. Turning to look for Dido and her Squire, All in a chamber finely matted, He very fairly spy'd 'em at it.

1708-10. Swift, Polite Conversation, i. Neverout . . . I'll go to the Opera to-night . . . for I promised to Squire the Countess to her Box.

1800. Savage, Brought to Bay, ii. vi. It was no light-minded Squire of Dames who sat alone in the smoking-room.

3. (American).—See quot.

1862. Browne, Artemus Ward, His Book, 'The Octoroon.' It is a middlin fine day, Squire. [Note.—Squire in New England phraseology, a magistrate, or justice; but throughout the States, a very general complimentary title, varied occasionally by major, colonel, general, &c.]

4. (various).—See quot. c.1696 and 1785: also Broom, Gallipot, and Pad.

1868. Shadwell, Squire of Alsatia [Title].

c.1696. B. E., Dict. Cant. Crew, s.v. Squire of Alsatia, a man of fortune, drawn in, cheated, and ruin'd by a pack of poor, lowsy, spunging, bold fellows that liv'd (formerly) in White-Fryers. The Squire, a Sir Timothy Treat-all; also a Sap-pate. Squirish, foolish, also one that pretends to pay all reckonings, and is not strong enough in the pocket. A fat Squire, a rich Fool.

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. Squire of Alsatia. A weak profligate spendthrift, the Squire of the Company; one who pays the whole reckoning, or treats the company, is called Standing Squire.

Squireen, subs. (Irish).—A term of contempt: see quot. Also (general) Squirelet.

1812. Edgeworth, Absentee, vii. Squireens are persons who, with good long leases or valuable farms, possess incomes of from three to eight hundred a year, who keep a pack of hounds, take out a commission of the peace, sometimes before they can spell . . . and almost always before they knew anything of law or justice.

1839. Carlyle, Misc., iii. 56. A Scottish Squirelet, full of gulsyosity and gigmanity.

1857. Kingsley, Two Years Ago, viii. A small Squireen cursed with six or seven hundreds a year of his own, never sent to school, college, or into the army, he had grown up in a narrow circle of Squireens like himself.

1873. Fraser's Mag., May, 647. The family of Bodley belonged to that class of Squirelets . . . of which Devonshire in the days of Elizabeth was very full.

Squireess, subs. (colloquial).—A squire's wife.

1827. Lytton, Pelham, vii. The one milliner's shop was full of fat Squireisses, buying muslin ammunition.
Squirish, adj. (Grose).—Foolish.

Squirm, subs. (public schools').—A small obnoxious boy: cf. Squirt.

Verb. (colloquial).—To wriggle; to shudder: mentally or physically. Whence (American) to get a squirm on = to bestir oneself; and squirmy = (1) crooked, deceitful; and (2) all-overish (q.v.).

1859. Hon. Mr. Pitt [Bartlett]. We have declared an intention, and now, when we come to publish it, some gentleman is suddenly seized with the "retrenchment gripes," and squirms around like a long red worm on a pin-hook.

1857. Holmes, Autocrat, v. You never need think you can turn over any old falsehood without a terrible squirming.

1862. Browne, Artemus Ward, His Book, 44. I give Uriah a sly wink here, which made the old feller squirm like a speared eel.

1874. Siliad, 205. I rage, I squirm . . . I say rude things, but no one cares a bit.

1902. Kernahan, Scoundrels and Co., v. I squirm under the cold kiss that a revolver's ugly lips press to my forehead.

Squirrel, subs. (old).—A harlot; 'because she (Grose), like that animal, covers her back with her tail.'


1844. Major Jones's Courtship, 160. If they won't keep company with squirts and dandies, who's going to make a monkey of himself?

1847. Robb, Squatter Life, 73. It's my opinion that these slicked-up, squirtish kind of fellas ain't particular hard baked, and they always go in for aristocracy notions.

1854. North, Slave of the Lamp, 25. He's a galvanized squirt; and, as the parson said, 'the truth ain't in him.'

2. (public schools').—An obnoxious boy: cf. squirm.

3. (old colloquial).—A spurt.

1759-67. Sterne, Tristram Shandy, iii. 28. How different from the rash jerks, and bare-brained squirts thou art wont, Tristram, to transact it with in other humours.

4. (old).—(a) In pl. = diarrhoea: cf. squiters; and (b) a chemist or apothecary.

1551. Still, Gummer Gurn's Needle, i. 2. Hodge. See, so I am arrayed with dabbling in the dirt! She that set me to ditching, I would she had the squirt.

1678. Cotton, Virgil Travestie (1770), 12. As if . . . troubled with the squitters.

1696. Motteux, Rabelais, 'Pant. Prog.,' iii. Troubled with the thoroughgo-nimble, or wild squirt.

1712. Gay, Trivia, ii. 563. Pleas'd sempstresses the Lock's fam'd Rape unfold; and squirt's read Garth till apozems grow cold.

1874. Siliad, 205. I rage, I squirm

5. (Harvard).—'A showy recitation' (Hall).

Verb. (old).—To blab (q.v.).

To squirt one's dye, verb. phr. (American).—To seize an opportunity.

To do a squeeze and a squirt, verb. phr. (venery).—To copulate: see greens and ride. Also to squirt one's juice.

Squish, subs. (public schools').—1. Marmalade; also (Winchester) = weak tea.

Squishop, subs. (common).—A bishop who is also a landed proprietor: cf. squarson.

Squit, subs. phr. (provincial).—A young woman not over pleasing and small (Halliwell).
Squitters, subs. pl. (common).—Looseners of the bowels: cf. Squirt.

Squo, subs. and adj. (Charter-house).—Racquets played with a soft ball: e.g., Squo-court, Squo-ball, &c.: cf. Squash, 3.

Sres-wort, subs. phr. (back slang).—Trousers.

Sret-sio, subs. (back slang).—Oysters.

'Stab, subs. (printers').—'Establishment': e.g., ON THE 'STAB = in regular work at fixed wages: as opposed to piece-work.

Verb. (venery).—To copulate: also TO STAB IN THE THIGH: see Greens and Ride.

To SHUT THE STABLE DOOR WHEN THE STEED IS STOLEN, verb. phr. (old).—To set a guard after a mischief is done.

STABLE-MY-NAGGIE. To play at STABLE-MY-NAGGIE, verb. phr. (venery).—To copulate: see Greens and Ride.

STAB-RAG, subs. phr. (common).—A tailor: also RAG-STABBER (q.v.): see TRADES.

STAB-SHOT, subs. phr. (billiards').—A stroke where the ball stops 'dead' (or nearly so) on the spot occupied by the object ball.

Stacia. Like STACIA, adv. phr. (provincial).—A term of comparison: e.g., 'to do it LIKE STACIA'; 'as drunk AS STACIA,' &c. (HALLIWELL).

Stack, subs. (common).—A large quantity: e.g., STACKS OF THE READY = plenty of money.

Verb. (gaming).—To 'make' cards in a pre-arranged manner for a crooked game; TO PACK (q.v.); TO STOCK (q.v.).

The cards were STACKED and marked on the back, so that he didn't have any chance at all to win.

Staff, subs. (venery).—The penis: also STAFF OF LIFE and STAFF OF LOVE: see Prick. Hence STAFF-BREAKER (or climber) = a woman.

Staff, subs. (military).—1. In pl. = routine duty at the stables.

2. (racing).—The horses in a racing establishment.

To SHUT THE STABLE DOOR WHEN THE STEED IS STOLEN, verb. phr. (old).—To set a guard after a mischief is done.

1509. Barclay, Ship of Fools (1874), i. 76. WHEN THE STED IS STOLYN, TO SHYT THE STABLE DORE.

STABLE-MY-NAGGIE. To play at STABLE-MY-NAGGIE, verb. phr. (venery).—To copulate: see Greens and Ride.

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1896. Lillard, Poker Stories, 54. The cards were STACKED and marked on the back, so that he didn't have any chance at all to win.

STAFF, subs. (venery).—The penis: also STAFF OF LIFE and STAFF OF LOVE: see Prick. Hence STAFF-BREAKER (or climber) = a woman.

1653. Urquhart, Rabelais, i. xi. One of them would call it her fiddle-diddle, her STAFF OF LOVE ... her Cyprian sceptre.

1686. Dorset, Faithful Catalogue [Rochester, Roscommon, &c. (1718), ii. 33]. Well has his STAFF a double use supplied.
Phrases. To put down (or set up) one's staff = to rest; to take up residence (Ray); to keep staff in hand = to retain possession; to part with one's staff = to get rid of one's substance; to argue from staff to corner = to raise a question other than that under discussion, to draw a red herring across the trail; to have the better (or worse) end of the staff = to get the best (or worst) of a matter: see Stick.

1564. Udall, Apol. Erasmus, 340. A rie thynge it is to see feloes enough of the self same suite, which as often as thei see them selves to have the worse ende of the staffe in their cause, do make their recourse wholly vnto furious brallyng.

1625-30. Court and Times, Chas. I., ii. 94. And so now ours seem to have the better end of the staff.

d.1655 [?]. Adams, Works [Nichols, Puritan Divines, 1851-2], i. 185. If Cleanthes open his shop shall have customers; many a traveller there sets down his staff.

d.1663. Bramhall, Works [Ang. Cath. Lib.], ii. 94. This is an argument from the staff to the corner. I speak of a succession of Holy Orders, and he of a succession of opinions.

1753. Richardson, Grandison, ii. 122. Miss Byron, I have had the better end of the staff, I believe?

1766. Brooke, Fool of Quality, i. 370. There are few men now at liberty near so wealthy as this gentleman who has done us the honour to set up his staff of rest in our house.

1773. Graves, Spiritual Quixote (1808), viii. x. As the evening now came on, and the two pilgrims were much fatigued... they thought it best to set up their staff at the public-house where they had preached.

1782. Walpole, Letters, iv. 326. I did not think a wife was the stall where he would set up his staff.

Staff of Life, subs. phr. (common).—I. Bread.

English Synonyms (see also GRUB). Melton (q.v.); penny-starver (=penny roll); soft-tack (or -tommy); tack; toke; tommy; pannum.

French Synonyms. Artie; arton; boule (prison: also boule de son); bissard (=brown bread); boule zose (thieves' = brown bread); bricheton; briuffe; brignolet; bringue; bronté; cholet; graigaille; grignolet; gringue; gros Guillaume; lartif; lartie; larton; mousseline (= white bread); pierre dure.

2. See Staff.

Stafford Court. To be tried in Stafford Court, verb. phr. (old).—To be beaten or ill-treated. Hence Stafford law = violence, lynch law.

1598. Florio, Worlde of Wordes, s.v. Braccessa license, as we say Stafford's law.

1599. Breton, Wil of Wit, 2, 'The Scholler and Souldier.' Among souldiers, Stafford law, martiall law, killing or hanging, is soon learned.

1611. Cotgrave, Dict., s.v. Il a este au festin de Martin baston, he hath had a triall in Stafford Court, or hath received Jacke Drums intertainment.

1647. Miles Corbet, Speech [Harl. Misc., i. 273]. We have unlawfully erected marshall law, club law, Stafford law, and such lawless laws as make most for treason.

Staffordshire Knots (The), subs. phr. (military).—The 2nd Batt. of The South Staffordshire Regiment, formerly The 81st Foot. [The regimental badge is a knotted cable.]

Staff-striker, subs. phr. (old).—A sturdy beggar; a tramp.

Stag, subs. (old).—I. An informer; a snitch (q.v.): also stagger.
2. (Stock Exchange). — An applicant for shares in new issues, who has no intention of holding, but prefers to forfeit the deposit money if unable to sell at a premium on allotment. Hence (3) any irregular ‘outside’ dealer. Also as verb.

1849. KINGSLEY, Yeast, ii. If the Stock-Exchange and railway STAGGING . . . are not The World, what is? Ibid., xii. The slipperiness, sir, of one STAGGING parson has set rolling this very avalanche.

1871. ATKINS, House Scraps. A stag there was—as I’ve heard tell, Who in an attic used to dwell . . . And being blest, like many I know, With little conscience, and less rhino, Took to that frailest of all frail ways.

1887. HENLEY, Villon’s Straight Tip. You cannot bank a single STAG.


7. (common). — A male. Whence STAG-DANCE = a man’s dance; a BULL-DANCE (q.v.): also STAG-PARTY; STAG-MONTH = the month of a woman’s lying-in; STAG-WIDOW = a man whose wife is in childbed.


1859. KINGSLEY, Geoffrey Hamlyn, v. So you’ve been STAGGING this gentleman and me, and listening, have you

2. (common). — To dun; to beg.

STAGE-FEVER, subs. phr. (colloquial). — A craze for the boards: hence STAGE-STRUCK.

1856. MAE SLOPER (C. G. LELAND), Knickerbocker Mag., April. I lose myself in a party of old bricks, who, under pretence of looking at the picture, are keeping up a small STAG-PARTY at the end of the room.

Adj. (old). — See quot.

1602. DEKKER Sativomastix [HAWKINS, Eng. Dr., iii. 141]. Come, my little cub, do not scorn me because I go in STAG, in buff.

Verb. (old). — I. To find, to watch closely, TO DOG (q.v.): e.g., TO STAG A THIEF = to look on and spoil his game; TO STAG THE PUSH = to watch the crowd; ‘Who’s that STAGGING?’ = ‘Who’s following?’ (GROSE, BEE). Also STAGGER = a spy.

1859. KINGSLEY, Geoffrey Hamlyn, v. So you’ve been STAGGING this gentleman and me, and listening, have you

2. (common). — To dun; to beg.

STAGER (or OLD STAGER), subs. phr. (colloquial). — I. A person of experience: cf. STAGER = a player; whence (2) anything long in use or evidence.
1563. FOXE, Acts and Monuments [CATTLEY] [OLIPHANT, New Eng., i. 549. Amongst Romance words are . . . mummery, old stager . . .].

1748. CHESTERFIELD, Letters, 20 Dec. Here let me, as an old stager on the theatre of the world, suggest one consideration to you.

1809. MALKIN, Gil Blas [ROUTLEDGE], 69. She is an old stager, a veteran in the service of the apothecarie's wife.

1834. FLETCHER, Little French Lawyer, iii. Are we made stales to one another?

1835. RUTLEN, Shepheard's Holyday, sig. G 1. Before I could get earnest of any ones love, To whom I make address, even she would say, You have another mistresse, go to her, I will not be her stale.

STAGGER, subs. (common).—In pl. = a drunken fit.

See Stag, verb.

STAGGERER, subs. (common). — Anything overwhelming; a poser.

1889. Athenæum, 26 Oct., 560. This was a staggerer for Dive's literary 'gent,' and it took him nearly six weeks to get over it and frame a reply.

STAGGERING BOB, subs. phr. (common).—1. A newly dropped calf (HALLIWELL); and (2) meat unfit for human food because the knife has only anticipated death from accident or disease; also (GROSE) STAGGERING BOB WITH HIS YELLOW PUMPS.

STAG-MAG, subs. phr. (theatrical). — A stage manager. Also as verb. = to stage manage.

STAINES, adv. phr. (old).—See quot.

1885. GROSE, Vulgar Tongue, s.v. STAINES, a man who is in pecuniary distress is said to be at STAINES, or at the Bush, alluding to the Bush Inn at that town.

STAIRS. THE STAIRS WITHOUT A LANDING, subs. phr. (thieves').—The treadmill: see EVERLASTING STAIRCASE.

1884. GREENWOOD, Little Ragamuffins. He's lodging now at Coldbaths Fields—getting up the stairs without a landing.

STAKE, subs. (old).—See quot.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. STAKE. A booty acquired by robbery . . . ; and, if considerable, a prime stake, or a heavy stake. A person alluding to anything . . . comparatively . . . invaluable, would say, I consider it a stake . . . a valuable or acceptable acquisition of any kind is emphatically called a stake, meaning a great prize.

Verb. (American).—To provide for.

TO LOSE THE MATCH AND POCKET THE STAKES, verb. phr. (venery).—To be got with child.

STALE, subs. (old).—1. A pretence, a fraud, a theft. As verb. = to deceive, to rob.

1033 [?]. KENNETT, MS. Lansi.d., f.392. A STALE or pretence, a fraud or deceit.

1340. Ayenbyte of Inwyt [E. E. T. S.], 9. Ine these heste is norbode roberie, thiefte, stale and gauel, and bargayn with othen.

2. (old).—Any object of contempt, deception, or ridicule. As verb. = to ridicule or abuse.

c.1400. Chester Plays (Shakspeare Soc.), i. 173. So shall you meete with that stall, That woule my kingdome clayne and call.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, Tam. of Shrew, i. 1. I pray you, sir, is it your will To make a stale of me among these mates?

1620. FLETCHER, Little French Lawyer, iii. Are we made stales to one another?

1623. FORD, Love's Sacrifices, ii. 1. A subject fit to be the stale of laughter.

1635. RUTLEN, Shepheard's Holyday, sig. G 1. Before I could get earnest of any ones love, To whom I made address, even she would say, You have another mistresse, go to her, I will not be her stale.
3. (old).—A decoy; a stalking horse: hence ambush. As verb. = to hide, to lie in wait, to ensnare.


1548. Hall, Union, 'Hen. IV.', f. 31. He ordained certain of his men to give assaulte to the toune of Guisnes while he stode in a STALE to lie in waite for the relefe that might come from Callis.


1577. Hellowes, Fr. of Guevara's Letters, 42. When he happened to fall into the STALL of his enimies.


1588. Greene, Dorastus and Faunia, 38. The lyon never prayeth on the mouse, nor faulcons stoupe not to dead STALES.

1590. Spenser, Fairy Queen, 1. Still as he went, his craftie STALEs did lay, With cunning traynes him to entrap unware.

1593. Shakespeare, Com. of Errors, ii. 1. But, too unruly deer, he breaks the pale, And feeds from home, poor I am but his STALE.

1597. Shakespeare, Poetaster, iii. 1. Make them STALLs to his lewd solecisms and worded trash.

1597. Bacon, Essays, xi. Profess it plainly, and declare it, together with the reasons that move thee to change, and do not think to steal it.

1600. Shakespeare, Much Ado, iv. 1. I stand dishonour'd, that have gone about To link my dear friend to a common STALE.

1611. Milton, Reformation in Eng., i. Common stales to countenance... every Politick Fetch that was then on foot.

5. (Old Cant).—An accomplice: 'a STALE for a foist or pickpocket'; now (also STALL) a confederate working either before (FRONT-STALL or FORE-STALL) or behind (BACK-STALL) the actual thief, to cover his movements, and assist in his escape (see quot. 1785): also STALLSMAN. As verb. = to screen: also to CHUCK A STALL, and TO STALL OFF; also to FENCE (q.v.): whence STALLING-KEN = a mart for stolen goods (HARMAN, B. E., and GROSE): also (HARMAN) = 'a tipping-house.' Also to STALL OFF = to excuse plausibly; to escape wily.

1626. Fletcher, Wit at Several Weapons, ii. 2. Why, thou wert but the bait to fish with, not the prey; the STALE to catch another bird with.

1640. Two Lancashire Lovers, 21. Must an husband be made a STALE to sinne, or an inlet to his owne shame?

1688. Cap of Grey Hairs, &c., 56. If it be a solitary beauty you court, which as yet is intemera tot virgo, so that none beside take to the scent, she will not long be so, for your attendance will be but like the fowlers STALE, the appearance of which brings but others to the net.

4. (old).—A common whore: see TART.

1600. Shakespeare, Much Ado, iv. 1. I stand dishonour'd, that have gone about To link my dear friend to a common STALE.

1641. Milton, Reformation in Eng., i. Common stales to countenance... every Politick Fetch that was then on foot.

1610. Rowlands, Martin Mark-all [Hunt. Club Rept.], 39. STAWLING-KEN, a house to receive stolen goods.

1630. Taylor, Works, 'Brood of Cormorants,' 8. Lives like a gentleman by sleight of hand, Can play the foist, the nip, the STALE, the stand.

1671. Head, English Rogue, 'Canting Song.' So she and I did STALL and cloy whatever we could catch.
1785. **Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. StALL-UP.** To stALL a person up ... is to surround him in a crowd, or in the open street, force his arms up, and keep them in that position while others of the gang rifle his pockets at pleasure, the cove being unable to help or defend himself; this is what the newspapers denominate hustling, practised where the general anxiety to push forward, or to obtain a view, forms a pretext for jostling.

1827. **Lytton, Pelham, lxxxiii.** Plant your stumps, Master Guinea Pig; you are going to stALL off the Daw's baby in prime twig.

1884. **Greenwood, Seven Years Penal Servitude.** I said to my pal, 'CHUCK ME A STALL and I'll have that.' What did I mean? Why, keep close to me and cover what I'm doing.

1885. **Daily Tel., 12 Nov.** Lovely drew out, and STALLING OFF the challenge of the ungenerous Duke of Richmond won by two lengths.

**To stALL ONE'S MUG,** verb. phr. (old).—To be off.

**To stALL A DEBT,** verb. phr. (old).—To forbear it.

*See STALL.*

**STALE BEAR** (or **BULL**), subs. phr. (Stock Exchange).—A BEAR (or BULL) *q.v.* who has long been short of (or has long held) stock.

**STALE-DRUNK, adj. phr.** (common).—A man is said to be STALE-DRUNK when again in liquor before complete recovery from a previous bout: see **SCREWED** (GROSE).

**STALK (THE),** subs. (Punch and Judy).—The gallows: see NUB-BING CHEAT.

**To stALK A JUDY (THE STREETs, &c.),** verb. phr. (venery).—To run a woman down; to quest for MEAT (*q.v.)*; TO GROUSE (*q.v.*).

**STALL,** verb. (Old Cant).—1. To install; to initiate (HARMAN, DEKKER, B. E.).

1567. **HARMAN, Caveat.** When an upright man mete any beggar, whether he be sturdy or impotent, he will demand of him whether ever he was 'STALLED TO THE ROGE,' or no. If he say he was, he will know of whom, and his name yet stalled him. And if he be not learnedly able to shew him the whole circumstance thereof, he will spoyle him of his money, either of his best garment, if it be worth any money, and haue him to the bowse-ing-ken; which is, to some typling house next adjoyninge, and layth there to gage the best thing that he hath for twenty pence or two shillings; this man obeyeth for feare of beatinge. Then dooth this upright man call for a gage of bowse, which is a quarte potte of drink, and powres the same vpon his peld pate, adding these words,—1, *G. P.*, do stalle thee, *W. T.*, to the Roge, and that from henceforth it shall be lawfull for thee to cant, that is, to ask or begge for thi livin in al places.

2. (theatrical).—To take a part.

3. (common).—To lodge, or put up at a public house.

*See STALE.*

**STALLION, subs.** (old).—A whoremonger (B. E.): spec. (GROSE) 'a man kept by an old lady for secret purposes.'

1605. **Chapman, All Fools, iii.** Thou play'st the STALLION ever where thou comest; . . . no man's bed secure; No woman's unattempted by thee.

1622. **Marmion, Holland's Leaguer, i. iv.** Their [women's] unjust desires would ask the labours of some ten STALLIONS.

1678. **Cotton, Virgil Travestie (1770), 32.** And if thou stay'st that Rogue Pygmalion Intends to use thee like a STALLION.

1686. **Dorset, Faithful Catalogue [Rochester, Roscommon, &c., ii. 44].** Ne'er was a truer STALLION to his cost.


Stall-whimper.

1697. VANBRUGH, Provoked Wife, iv. Sir John. That goat; that stallion there, is ready to run me through the guts.

1705. WARD, Hud. Rediviv., ii. ii. 15. And pick his Pocket, to supply Some starving stallion of the Town. Ibid., 'Hypocrisy Lampoon'd.' The Mourning Widow too can play The Hypocrite with Vail on, And most devoutly kneel and pray, Tho' tis but for a stallion.

1772. BRIDGES, Burlesque Homer, 216. As to that copper-nosed rabscallion, Venus's bully-back and stallion.

STALL-WHIMPER, subs. phr. (Old Cant).—A bastard: see BYE-BLOW (B. E. and GROSE).

STAM-BANG, adv. (provincial).—Plump down.

STAM FLASH, verb. phr. (Old Cant).—To cant (B. E. and GROSE).

STAMMEL (or STRAMMEL), subs. (old).—'A brawny, lusty, strapping Wench' (B. E. and GROSE).

STAMMER, subs. (Old Cant).—An indictment (GROSE).

STAMP, subs. (Old Cant).—1. In pl. = the legs; (2) = shoes (HARMAN, B. E., GROSE, and VAUX); and (3) 'carriers' (B. E.). Also STAMPERS. Whence STAMP-DRAWERS = stockings.

1628. MIDDLETON, Widow, ii. 1. Ric. Oh cruel, merciless woman, To talk of law, and know I have no money. Val. I will consume myself to the last stamp before thou gett'st me.

1877. Providence Jo., 5 Feb. The patience with which he waited in the box-office to rake in all the stamps led his audience to form a fair estimate of his appreciation of the Almighty dollar.

1899. HYNE, Further Adven. Captain Kettle, xi. He's the flat. Cranze is the — er— his friend who stands to draw the stamps.

5. (printers').—In pl. = type.

1563. FOXE, Acts and Monuments [OLIPHANT, New Eng., i. 540. Among new substantives are STAMPS (types) . . . the bench (magistrates).

STAMP-CRAB, subs. phr. (common).—A lumpish walker; a BEETLE-CRUSHER (q.v.).

STAMP-IN-THE-ASHERS, subs. phr. (old).—See quot.

1515. De Generibus Ebriosorum, &c. [HODGKIN, Notes and Queries, 3 S., vii. 163. In this treatise occurs names of fancy drinks . . . I select a few of the most presentable slip-slop . . . STAMP-IN-THE-ASHES . . . Swell-nose.

STANCHEOUS, adj. and adv. (Western American).—Strong; durable.

1844. Major Jones's Courtship, 33. I tell you what, it's a mighty stanchious-looking building, and looks far off at a distance when you're going up to it.

STAND, subs. (venery).—1. An erectio penis: also standing-ware; likewise as verb. Thus TO MAKE STANDING ROOM FOR ONE = to receive a man: hence UNDERSTANDINGS = a woman's conquests. See HORN. Also (proverbial) 'STAND always, as the girl said'; cf. NILNISISTANDO. STAND also = a mouth whore.
Stand.

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3. (various).—A cheap-jack’s, coster’s, or street-vendor’s pitch (q.v.). Also (colloquially) a shop (q.v.); a show (q.v.).

1902. Lynch, High Stakes, xxiii. The lady . . . came . . . with the best of home and foreign recommendations, began business at her present “stand,” and has flourished mightily.

4. (theatrical touring). — A visit; a run (q.v.).

1900. Free Lance, 5 Oct., 20, 1. This year I’m going with Grady—north and south—right through the big two week stands.

5. (American). — Situation: e.g., ‘The Astor House is a good stand for a hotel’ (Bartlett).

Verb. (colloquial).—To endure, put up with, forbear.

1383. Chaucer, Miller’s Tale, 644. But stonde he moste unto his owene harm.

1795. Ward, Hud. Rediv., i. ix. 13. After she has stood the thrust To satisfy her Master’s Lust.

Phrases.—Stand is frequently colloquial. Thus to stand ready at the door = to be handy for use; to stand to a child = to act as sponsor; to stand buff (or bluff) = to swear to, to outface, to take the consequences; not a foot (or leg) to stand on = at the end of one’s resources, or one’s repute; to stand in = (1) to take side (or lot) with, to share, and (2) to cost; to stand on one’s hind legs = to show temper, to take in bad part; to stand on one’s head (ears, &c.) = to be in good spirits; to stand up to the rack = to take rough and smooth; to stand up to = to put oneself in fighting attitude (bee): whence a stand-up fight = a bout where the contestants manfully face each other; to stand up with = (1) to dance, and (2) to
act as bridesmaid or groomsman; 
to stand holes (see quot. 1847). 
Also see Pad; Patter; Racket; 
Sam; Treat; Velvet.

.... Townley Mysteries (Camden 
Soc.), 310. They have no fete to stande.

1628. Earle, Microcos [Arber, 32], 
to, 'A Church Papist.' He bates her in 
tires what she stands him in religion.

c.1680. Butler, Hudibras's Epitaph. 
For the good old cause stood Buff 'Gainst 
many a bitter kick and cuff.

1698. Vanbrugh, Prov. Wife, i. 1. 
Would my courage come up to a fourth 
part of my ill-nature, I'd stand Buff to 
her relations, and thrust her out of doors.

1701. Collier, M. Anton. (1726), 
219. To stand Buff against danger and 
death.

1732. Fielding, Misc., ii. i. I must 
even stand Buff and outface him.

1777. Sheridan, Sch. Scandal, ii. 3. 
Ha! ha! ha! that he should have stood 
Buff to an old bachelor so long, and sink 
into a husband at last!

1812. Austen, Mansfield Park, xii.
If you want to dance, Fanny, I will stand 
up with you.

1827. Scott, Diary [Lockhart 
(1839), IX. 146]. It is best to stand Buff 
to him.

1832. Crockett, Tour Down East, 
137. I begun a new campaign at Washing-
ton. I had hard work, but I stood up to 
the rack, fodder or no fodder.

1844. Major Jones's Courtship, 64.
It was the hottest night's work ever old 
Wolf undertook; and it tuck a mighty 
chance of hollerin' to make him stand up 
as well as he did.

1847. Halliwell, Arch. Words, &c., 
s.v. Stand-holes. "I'll stand holes; 
I will hold to my bargain; sometimes thus 
limited, "I'll stand holes till next 
Wednesday." It seems borrowed from 
the game kit-cat, or bandy wicket, at 
which if a player indicate an intention of 
rushing indiscreetly in the opinion of 
another, the latter will fix him to his position 
by roaring out "stand holes."

1848. Thackeray, Vanity Fair, 
xxxiv. He stood up to the Banbury 
Man for three minutes, and polished him 
off in four rounds.

1853. Winthrop, Hist. New Eng-
land, i. 55. Every bushel of wheat meal 
stood us in fourteen shillings.

1872. Holmes, Poet at Breakfast 
Table, i. His face marked with strong 
manly furrows, records of hard thinking, 
and square stand-up fights with life.

1877. Horsley, Jottings from Jail. 
If I lend you these I shall want to stand 
in; but I said I can't stand you at that; 
I will grease your dukes if you like.

Stander, subs. (Old Cant).—A 
sentinel.

1607. Rowlands, Hist. Rogues [quoted by Ripton-Turner, Vagrants, 
&c., 583]. And so was faine to lie among 
the wicked sometimes a stander for the paddler.

Stander-up, subs. phr. (American 
thieves').—A thief whose speciality 
is robbing drunken men under 
prefecture of helping them home.

Stand-far-off (or Stand-fur-
ther-off), subs. phr. (old).—See 
quotas.

1630. Taylor, Works [Nares]. Cer-
taine sonnets, in praise of Mr. Thomas the 
deceased; fashioned of divers stuffs, as 
mockado, fustian, stand-further off, 
and motley.

1665. Fuller, Ch. Hist., vi. 332. 
False miracles, . . . like the stuffe called 
stand-farre-off, must not have the be-
holder too near, lest the coursenesse thereof 
dothe appeare. Ibid. (1662), Worthies 
'Norwich.' In my child-hood there was 
one [cloth] called stand-far-off (the em-
bleme of Hypocrisie), which seemed pretty 
at competent distance, but discovered its 
coarsenes when nearer to the eye.

Stand-further, subs. phr. (pro-
vincial).—A quarrel, tiff, or dis-
agreement: e.g., 'There's quite a 
stand-further between them.'

Standing. See Stand.

To take standing, verb. phr. 
(colloquial).—To accept or en-
dure with composure [as one 
would take a 'high jump' without 
a run in]: hence, without ado.

Like a philosophical American, he took 
it standing, merely remarking to an 
English friend that it was "just as cheap 
as Monte Carlo, and a durned sight 
pleasanter."
Standing-dish. 349 Star.

STANDING-DISH, subs. phr. (colloquial).—Any person or thing making a frequent appearance: e.g., a sponging diner-out; a stock play; &c., &c.

STANDING-PATTERER, subs. phr. (streets').—A street-vendor who, taking a STAND (q.v.), 'slings the patter' to sell his wares: almost obsolete since police control under the Metropolitan Streets' Act, 1867: cf. Running Patterer.

STAND-OFF, subs. phr. (colloquial).—Polarity; a holding off. As adj. = distant, reserved; also STAND-OFFISH and STAND-OFFISHNESS.

1873. Robinson, Her Face was Her Fortune, v. If the landed gentry were STAND-OFFISH ... Miss Shaldon ... was all the more grateful for their reserve.

1888. Ward, Robert Elsmere, i. 2. People generally like the other two much better. Catherine is so STAND-OFF.

1888. D. C. Murray, Weaker Vessel, xxxii. I told him I did not like this pride and STAND-OFFISHNESS between man and man.

1890. Atlantic Mag., lxvi. 672. The preferences of other clients, perhaps equal in number and value, who are fighting with Fabian tactics, make a complete STAND-OFF.

STAND-UP, subs. phr. (colloquial).—1. A meal or SNACK (q.v.) taken standing; a PERPENDICULAR (q.v.).

2. (venery).—An act of coition against a wall, tree, post, &c.; a KNEE-TREMBLER: a PERPENDICULAR (q.v.).

STANG. RIDING THE STANG, subs. phr. (old).—See quotes and Skimmington. Hence STANGEY = a hen-pecked husband.

1782. Callander, Two Ancient Scottish Poems, 154. A custom [is] still prevalent among the country people of Scotland: who obligate any man, who is so unmanly as to beat his wife, to ride astride on a long pole, borne by two men, through the village, as a mark of the highest infamy. This they call RIDING THE STANG; and the person who has been thus treated seldom recovers his honour in the opinion of his neighbours. When they cannot lay hold of the culprit himself, they put some young fellow on the STANG or pole, who proclaims that it is not on his own account that he is thus treated, but on that of another person, whom he names.

1847. Halliwell, Archaic Words, s.v. RIDING THE STANG ... [One] cry or proclamation is as follows:—Ran, Tan, Tan, the sign of the old Tin Can; Stephen Smith's been paying his daughter Nan: He paid her both behind and before, He paid her 'cause she wouldn't be his whore. He lick'd her neither with stake nor stower, But up wi' his fist and knock'd her ower. Now if Steenie Smith don't mend his manners, The skin of his prick shall go to the tanner's; And if the tanner don't tan it well; Skin, tanner, and prick shall go to hell.

1892. Sydney, England and the English, ii. 255. RIDING STANG was another local punishment inflicted occasionally upon the intemperate, particularly in the county of Cheshire.

STANGEY, subs. (common).—1. A tailor: see Trades.

2. (old).—See Stang.

STAR, subs. (common).—1. A white 'blaze' on a horse's forehead.

1845. Longfellow, Spanish Student, iii. 6. Onward, cabillito mio, With the white STAR in thy forehead.


3. (auctioneers').—An article introduced into a sale after the catalogue has been printed; marked in the official copy by a STAR, sense 2.
4. (theatrical).—A distinguished singer or player. Hence TO STAR THE PROVINCES (or THE HALLS) = to go on tour (or make the round of the music halls) as the chief attraction (or as an important TURN, q.v.); STAR-ENGAGEMENT = an important or chief part; STAR-QUELLER = a player whose bad business spoils the efforts of better players.

1903. Referee, 8 Feb., 2, 4 I would like once more to record my astonishment that only STARS have pantomime benefits.

5. (venery).—The female pudendum: see MONOSYLLABLE: also THE STAR OVER THE GARTER: cf. LADY-STAR.

17 (?) Lord Cork, The Bumper Toast. Give me the star that shines over the garter. Ibid. A star . . . is the emblem of Cunt.

Verb. (common).—To strike a window, mirror, &c., so that cracks radiate from a common centre. Also (thieves') = to smash a window and rob its contents: spec. as in quot. 1856, or by striking a dab of putty with a life-preserver: also TO STAR THE GLAZE. Hence DONE FOR A STAR = convicted for window smashing; THE STAR-LAY = window robbery (Grose).

1838. Beckett, Paradise Lost, 16. To mill the glaze, and star the lamps.

1856. G. L. Chesterton, Revelations of Prison Life. Some crack a pane in a shop-front and by passing the wet thumb along, they can direct the crack as they please; then removing the glass they can remove the goods.

1870. Diprose, Laugh and Learn. So, in fractional arithmetic, it is considered highly improper to STAR THE GLAZE, in falling through the sashes of a grapyery, when on the look-out for grapes.

TO BLESS (or THANK) ONE'S STARS, verb. phr. (colloquial).—To thank for one's good fortune.

1633. Marmion, Antiquary, i. I thank my stars he has improved his time.

1706. Ward, Wooden World, 27. He has oft-times thanked his good stars for it.

c.1845. Hood, Pauper's Christmas Carol. Ought not I to bless my stars?

MY STARS! phr. (colloquial).—An exclamation of surprise: also 'My star and garter!'

1726. Vanbrugh, Provoked Husband, iii. My stars! and you would really live in London half the year, to be sober in it.

STAR-BASON, subs. phr. (common).—An impudent-looking fellow (Halliwell).

STARCH. TO TAKE THE STARCH OUT OF, verb. phr. (venery).—I. To receive a man: see Greens and Ride.

2. (colloquial).—To mortify; to humiliate; to abase another's honour or dignity.

1888. Cornhill Mag., 375. The free-born Westerner thinks the blamed Yankee puts on a yard too much style—the Boys don't approve of style—and suavely proposes to take the starch out of him.

STARCHED, adj (B. E. and Grose).—AFFECTED, PROUD, STIFF: also STARCHY. Hence STARCH, subs. = a stiff, formal manner.

1599. Jonson, Every Man Out of Humour, i. i. Look with a good starched face, and ruffle your brow like a new boot.

1704. Swift, To Rev. Dr. Tisdall, 20 Ap. I might . . . talk starchily, and affect ignorance of what you would be at.

1711. Addison, Spectator, 305. This professor is to give the society their stiffening, and infuse into their manners that beautiful political starch which may qualify them for levees, conferences, visits.

**Starcher.** 351  **Star of the Line.**

**STARCHER, subs. (common).—** A stiff white tie.

**STARCHY, adj. (common).—** Drunk: see SCREWED. Also see STARCHED.

**STARE, verb. (Old Cant).—** To swagger; to bully (HALLIWELL: 'a cant term').

**STARE-CAT, subs. phr. (women's).—** A meddlesome or inquisitive neighbour.

**STARE, verb. (Old Cant).—** To swagger; to bully (HALLIWELL: 'a cant term').

**STARE-GAZER, subs. phr. (common).—** An imprecation; 'the devil take you' (HALLIWELL).

**STARE, verb. (Old Cant).—** To swagger; to bully (HALLIWELL: 'a cant term').

**STARF, STARF TAKE YOU, intj. (provincial).—** An imprecation; 'the devil take you' (HALLIWELL).

**STARF-GAZER, subs. phr. (common).—** I. A hedge whore: see TART (GROSE); and (2) a penis in erection. To GO STARGAZING ON ONE'S BACK = to copulate: see RIDE.

C.1704. WARD, Works, 'T[om] B[rown]'s Last Letter.' If . . . the Label of Mortality . . . begins to turn STAR-GAZER, venture half a crown.

3. (old).—'A horse holding its head well up while trotting' (GROSE).

4. (nautical).—An imaginary sail, a SKYSCRAPER (q.v.).

5. (old).—An astrologer: also an astronomer: in contempt or jest. Also STAR-CLERK, STAR-CONNER, STAR-DIVINE, STAR-SHOOTER, and STAR-MONGER. Hence STAR-CRAFT = astrology.

C.1572. GASCOIGNE [CHALMERS, Eng. Poets], 'The Fruites of Warre,' 15. If Mars mooue warre, as starconners can tell.

1583. Bible, Isaiah xlvi. 13. Let now the astrologers, the starregasers, and prognosticatures stand vp.

1599. JONSON, Every Man Out of Humour, iii. 2. Tut, these starmonger knaves, who would trust them.

1621. SYLVESTER, Du Bartas, III. i. 494. If, at the least, star-clarks be credit worth. Ibid., iv. i. 134. So many stars, whose greatnes doth exceed so many times (if star-divines say troth) The greatnes of the earth and ocean both.

1708. SWIFT, Elegy on Partridge: A cobler, star-monger and quack. Ibid. The cobling and star-gazing part.

1742-4. NORTH, Life of Lord Guildford, ii. 253. His lordship received him with much familiarity, and encouraged him to come and see him often . . . The star-gazer was not wanting to himself in that.

18[?]. TENNYSON, Lover's Tale, i. Under the selfsame aspect of the stars (O falsehood of all star-craft) we were born.

**STARING QUARTER, subs. phr. (GROSE).—** 'An ox cheek.'

**STARK-NAKED, subs. phr. (common).—** Neat (q.v.) gin (GROSE): orig. STRIP-ME-NAKED (RAN-DALL, Diary, 1820): also as adj. = unadulterated.

1830. LYTTON, Paul Clifford. His "bingo" was unexceptionable; and as for his star-naked, it was voted the most brilliant thing in nature.

**STARLING, subs. (old colloquial).—**

1. See quots.

11[?]. ROBERT OF GLouceSTER, 563. The King of is tresorie eche yer him sende A certein sume of sterlings, to is liue's ende.

1383. CHAUCER, Cant. Tales, 12, 841. Min holy pardon may you all warice, So that ye offre nobles or starlinges, Or elles silver broches, spones, ringes.

1657. HOWELL, Londonopolis, 25. The lesser payments were in starlings, which was the only coin then current, and stamp'd, which were pence so call'd: the probablest reason that is given, why it was starling money, was, because in the ring or border of the peny, there was a starre stamped.

2. (police).—A marked or 'starred' man.

See Brother Starling.

**STAR OF THE LINE (THE), subs. phr. (military).—** The 2nd Batt. Worcestershire Regiment, late The 36th Foot.
Star-pitch.

Star-pitch, subs. (tramps').—Sleeping in the open; a 'doss in Hedge Square' (q.v.).

Stars, subs. (back slang).—In pl. = sprats.


1777. Act of Congress. "Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United Colonies be thirteen stripes alternately red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

1812. F. S. Key, 'The Star-Spangled Banner.' Oh! say, does that Star-spangled Banner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

1864. Heywood, If You Know not Me [Pearson, Works, i. 213]. Nay, nay, you need not bolt and lock so fast; she is no starter.

Startler, subs. (colloquial).—1. Generic for intensive surprise: see Whopper.

1864. Artemus Ward, Among the Mormons (Works, 1899), 204. To a young person fresh from the land of greenbacks this careless manner of carting off solid silver is rather of a startler.

Start-up, subs. phr. (old).—1. An upstart; 'no-one-knows-who'; also as adj. = obscure; mushroom.

1600. Shakspeare, Much ADO, i. 3. That young start-up hath all the glory of my overthrow.

1653. R. Brome, Queen and Concubine, ii. 1. Upon my life, his marriage with that start-up, that snake this good queen cocker'd in her bosom.

1704. Swift, Tale of a Tub, 1. Two junior start-up societies.

1764. Walpole, Castle of Otranto, iv. Father Falconara's start-up son.

2. (old).—In pl., see quots. 1575 and 1611.

1575. Thynne, Debate, 33. A payre of startypes had he on his feete, That lased were up to the small of the legge; Homelie they were, and easier then meete, And in their soles full many a wooden pegge.

1586-1606. Warner, Albion's Eng., iv. xx. 95. And of the bacon's fat to make his startopes black and soft.

1592. Greene, Quip, &c. [Harl. Misc., v. 329]. But Hob and John of the country, they stept in churlishly in their high startups.
Starvation. 353 State Nicknames.

1599. Hall, Satires, vi. i. And in high start-ups walk’d the pastur’d plaines, To tend her tasked herd that there remains.

1605. Drayton, Eclogues, ix. (1753), 1429. When not a shepherd any thing that could, But greaz’d his start-ups black as autumn’s sloe.

1608. Withal, Dict., 211. In a maner all husbandmen doe weare start-ups, sunt omnes pene agricolw soccati.

1614. Terence in English. Some of my men comes running to me, and pulls of my start-ups, others I see hasting to make readie supper and to lay the cloath.

1629. Massinger, Picture, v. I. Fie upon ’t, what a thread ’s here ! a poor cobler’s wife Would make a finer to sew a clown’s rent startup.

1631. Scott, Kenilworth, xxiv. A stupid lout . . . in a grey jerkin, with his head bare, his hose about his heels, and huge start-ups upon his feet.

1775. Dundas, Speech on American Affairs. I shall not wait for the advent of starvation from Edinburgh to settle my judgment.

1781. Walpole, Letters, ’To Rev. W. Mason,’ 25 April. Starvation Dundas, whose pious policy suggested that the devil of rebellion could be expelled only by fasting.


1851. Mitford, Correspond. of Walpole [Cunningham, viii. 30. Note]. Starvation was an epithet applied to Mr. Dundas, the word being, for the first time, introduced into our language by him, in a speech in 1775 in an American debate, and thenceforward became a nickname.

1869. Century Dict., s.v. Starvation. The word is noted as one of the first (firitation being another) to be formed directly from a native English verb with the Latin termination —ation . . . first used or brought into notice by Henry Dundas, first Viscount Melville.


Stash, verb. (common).—To desist; to set aside; to stow it: e.g., to stash prigging = to turn honest; to stash one’s pat- ter = to hold one’s tongue; to stash the lush = to stop booz-ing (q.v.).

1785. Grose, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. WANTED . . . It becomes the latter [a thief] to keep out of the way . . . until he . . . can find means to stash the business through the medium of Mr. Palmer.

1827. Lytton, Pelham, lxxxii. Stash the lush . . . and toddle off to Ruggins.


1841. Leman Rede, Sixteen String Jack, i. 6. Stash your patter and come along.

State Nicknames. The colloquial designation of various States and peoples of the American Union is as follows:—Badger State = Wisconsin; Bay State = Massachusetts; Bayou State = Mississippi; Bear State = (1) Arkansas, (2) California (Century), and (3) Kentucky (Century); Big Bend State = Tennessee: people = Mudheads; Blue Hen State = Delaware: people = Blue Hen’s Chickens; Blue-Law State = Connecticut: also infra; Buck-eye State = Ohio; Bullion State = Missouri: people = Pukes; Centennial State = Colorado: people = Centennials; Corn-Cracker State = Kentucky: people = Corncrackers; Cracker State = Georgia: people = Crackers; Creole State = Louisiana: also infra;
State Nicknames.

THE DARK AND BLOODY
GROUND = Kentucky; also supra; 
DIAMOND STATE = Delaware; 
also supra; EMPIRE STATE = 
New York; also infra: people = 
KNICKERBOCKERS; EMPIRE 
STATE OF THE SOUTH = Georgia: 
people = CRACKERS; EXCELSIOR 
STATE = New York; also supra; 
FREESTONE STATE = Connecticut; also 
supra and infra; GARDEN STATE = Kansas; also infra; 
GOLDEN STATE = California; also supra; GOPHER STATE = Minnesota; also infra; 
GARDEN STATE = Kansas; also infra; 
GOLDEN STATE = California; also supra; 
EMPIRE STATE OF THE SOUTH = Georgia: 
people = CRACKERS; EXCELSIOR 
STATE = New York; also supra; 
FREESTONE STATE = Connecticut; also 
supra and infra; GARDEN STATE = Kansas; also infra; 
GOLDEN STATE = California; also supra; GOPHER STATE = Minnesota; also infra; 
GARDEN STATE = Kansas; also infra; 
GOLDEN STATE = California; also supra; 
EMPIRE STATE = New York; also supra; 
FREESTONE STATE = Connecticut; also 
supra and infra; GARDEN STATE = Kansas; also infra; 
GOLDEN STATE = California; also supra; GOPHER STATE = Minnesota; also infra; 
GARDEN STATE = Kansas; also infra; 
GOLDEN STATE = California; also supra; 
EMPIRE STATE = New York; also supra; 
FREESTONE STATE = Connecticut; also 
supra and infra; GARDEN STATE = Kansas; also infra; 
GOLDEN STATE = California; also supra; GOPHER STATE = Minnesota; also infra; 
GARDEN STATE = Kansas; also infra; 
GOLDEN STATE = California; also supra; 
EMPIRE STATE = New York; also supra; 
FREESTONE STATE = Connecticut; also 
supra and infra; GARDEN STATE = Kansas; also infra; 
GOLDEN STATE = California; also supra; GOPHER STATE = Minnesota; also infra; 
GARfen STATE = Kansas; also infra; 
GOLDEN STATE = California; also supra; 
EMPIRE STATE = New York; also supra; 
FREESTONE STATE = Connecticut; also 
supra and infra; GARDEN STATE = Kansas; also infra; 
GOLDEN STATE = California; also supra; GOPHER STATE = Minnesota; also infra; 
GARDEB STATE = Kansas; also infra; 
GOLDEN STATE = California; also supra; 
EMPIRE STATE = New York; also supra; 
FREESTONE STATE = Connecticut; also 
supra and infra; GARDEN STATE = Kansas; also infra; 
GOLDEN STATE = California; also supra; GOPPER STATE = Minnesota; also infra; 
GARDEN STATE = Kansas; also infra; 
GOLDEN STATE = California; also supra; 
EMPIRE STATE = New York; also supra; 
FREESTONE STATE = Connecticut; also 
supra and infra; GARDEN STATE = Kansas; also infra; 
GOLDEN STATE = California; also supra; GOPHER STATE = Minnesota; also infra; 
GARDEB STATE = Kansas; also infra; 
GOLDEN STATE = California; also supra; 
EMPIRE STATE = New York; also supra; 
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supra and infra; GARDEN STATE = Kansas; also infra; 
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GARDEB STATE = Kansas; also infra; 
GOLDEN STATE = California; also supra; 
EMPIRE STATE = New York; also supra; 
FREESTONE STATE = Connecticut; also 
supra and infra; GARDEN STATE = Kansas; also infra; 
GOLDEN STATE = California; also supra; GOPHER STATE = Minnesota; also infra; 
GARDEB STATE = Kansas; also infra; 
GOLDEN STATE = California; also supra; 
EMPIRE STATE = New York; also supra; 
SUCKER STATE = Illinois; also 
supra; TURPENTINE STATE = 
North Carolina: people = TAR- 
HEELS: also supra; WEB-FOOT 
STATE = Oregon; WOLVERINE 
STATE = Michigan: people = 
WOLVERINES; WOODEN NUT- 
MEG STATE = Connecticut: also 
supra.

1835. HOFFMAN, Winter in the 
West, 210. There was a long-haired 
HOOSIER from Indiana, a couple of smart- 
looking SUCKERS from Illinois, a keen-eyed, 
leather-belted BADGER from Wisconsin : 
and who could refuse to drink with such a 
company?

1848. New York Herald, 13 June. 
Thank God, in my own State, in the 
BULLION STATE, they did not succeed in 
depreciating our majority.

1849. WHITTIER, Voices of Freedom. 
What means the OLD DOMINION? Hath 
she forgot the day, When o'er her con-
quered valleys swept the Briton's steel 
array? Ibid. Lift again the stately em-
blem on the BAY STATE'S rusted shield, 
Give to Northern winds the pine-tree on 
our banner's tattered field!

1850. ALLIN, Yankee Ballads. The 
EMPIRE STATE is your New York; I grant 
it hard to mate her; Yet still give me the 
NUTMEG STATE, Where shall we find a 
greater?

1856. STOWE, Dred., i. 152. I was 
amused enough, said Nina, with Old 
Hundred's indignation at having got out 
the carriage and horses to go over to what 
he called a CRACKER funeral.

1859. BARTLETT, Americanisms, s.v. 
BEAR STATE. I once asked a Western 
man if Arkansas abounded in bears, that 
it should be designated as the "Bear 
State." Yes, said he, it does; for I never 
knew a man from that State but he was a 
BAR, and in fact the people are all BARISH 
to a degree.

1861. Charleston Mercury, 'War 
Song.' March, march on, brave PALMETTO 
Boys, Sumter and Lafayette, forward in 
order.

1861. Delaware Inquirer, 5 May 
Delaware's honor is in your hands . . . 
BLUE HEN'S CHICKENS to the front! For-
ward! March!
State Nicknames. 355


1865. Wheeler, Dict. s.v. Dark and Bloody Ground (The). An expression formerly much used in allusion to Kentucky, of which name it is said to be a translation. The phrase is an epitome of the early history of the State, of the dark and bloody conflicts of the first white settlers with their savage foes; but the name originated in the fact that this was the grand battle-ground between the Northern and Southern Indians.

1869. Smollett, Gil Blas (1812), ii. iv. We drank hard, and went home in a state of elevation, that is half-seas over.

1872. Eggleston, Hoosier Schoolmaster. It has been in my mind since I was a Hoosier boy to do something toward describing life in the back-country districts of the Western States.

1877. Hale, Adv. of a Pullman, 30. So they whirled relentlessly across the Pan-Handle, by which domestic name that funny strip of Western Virginia is known that shoots up like an inverted icicle between Pennsylvania and Ohio.

1877. Pres. Hayes, Speech [Providence, 28 June]. I ask every lady and gentleman to consider that here and now I give you a hearty Buckeye shake. I said [Louisville, 17 Sep.] The once Dark and Bloody Ground of Kentucky, no longer so, but, as I trust in God, here and elsewhere a land of peace, prosperity, and happiness.

1877. New York Tribune, 6 July. old church in Nassau Street (New York) was dedicated in 1732 . . . The congregation was composed of the wealthiest and most prominent people of Manhattan Island—the veritable Knickerbockers.

To lie in state, verb. phr. (Grose).—‘To be in bed with three regular harlots.’

In a state of elevation, verb. phr. (common).—More or less drunk: see Screwed.

States of independency, subs. phr. (Grose).—‘Frontiers of Extravagance. Oxf. Univ. Cant.’

Stationery, subs. (theatrical).—Free passes; paper (q.v.).

Stave, verb. (American).—To press onwards regardless of everything: generic for vigorous action. Hence Staving = (1) dashing, active, and (2) great, strong, &c.—a general intensive. Staver = anybody or anything exceptionally active, brilliant, or dashing; a Rouser (q.v.). Also to rip (q.v.) and Stave.

1842. Kirkland, Forest Life [Bartlett]. Hilloa, Steve! where are you staving to? If you’re for Wellington, scale up here, and I’ll give you a ride.

1848. Am. Review, June. A president of one of our colleges once said to a graduate at parting, “My son, I want to advise you. Never oppose public opinion. The great world will stave right on!”

States of independency, subs. phr. (Grose).—Frontiers of Extravagance. Oxf. Univ. Cant.’

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1869. Stowe, Oldtown Folks, 117. Miss Asphyxia’s reputation in the region was perfectly established. She was spoken of with applause, under such titles as a staver, a pealer, a roarer at work.

1884. Century Mag., xxxviii. 41. He . . . went staving down the street as if afraid to look behind him.
STAY, subs. (old).—I. A cuckold (Grose).

2. (colloquial).—Half a meal: also STAY-BELLY. Also as verb. (or to stay the stomach).

1610. Jonson, Alchemist, iii. 2. A piece of gingerbread to be merry withal, and stay your stomach lest you faint with fasting.

1899. Whiteing, John St., xi. I could eat both portions four times over, of course, but the meal as it stand is a stay.

Verb. (colloquial).—To endure, last out, or persevere: as an athlete in exercise, a horse in racing, an author in public favour. Hence STAYER = anybody or anything capable of holding on for a long time; STAYING-POWER = capacity for endurance.

1885. D. Tel., 14 Sep. He won at Lincoln . . . and would stay better than Pizarro. Ibid., 11 Nov. Doubts are also entertained concerning her ability to stay the course.

1889. Field, 3 Oct. Monolith has never been thought such a genuine STAYER as to prefer two miles to one.

1898. Gould, Landed at Last, iv. Workman was certainly a horse to inspire confidence, being well-shaped and built like a stayer. Ibid. Not one of my horses has failed through lack of staying power, or because he was not fit.

PHRASES, &c.—To stay put = to remain as placed; to stay with = to court (American); to stay out (Eton: see quot.); come to stay = said of anything meeting a public need, or with approval or favour; to unlace one's stays = to copulate: see Greens and Ride.

1857-64 Brinsley Richards, Seven Years at Eton. Sometimes Blazes had a lazy fit, and put himself on the sick list for a day. This was called stay out, for the reason that one had to stay in.

1870. "Mac," Sketchy Memories of Eton. Many things at Eton were called by misnomers, in the construction of which the lucus a non lucendo principle came out very strong. Thus, when we stayed in, we said we were staying out; when "absence" was called, we had to be present.

1876. Whitney, Sights and Insights, 37. We piled our bags and baskets . . . 'If they will only stay put,' said Emery Ann.

1901. Athenaeum, 13 Ap., 455, 1. The issue . . . of Byron's letters will leave very little doubt in the mind of the reading public of the new century that Lord Byron as a letter-writer has come to stay.

1903. Referee, 8 Feb., 7, 4. No one with half a grain of sense could for a moment question the autocars' many merits, nor their having come to stay and become a great power in the land.

STAY-AT-HOME, subs. phr. (colloquial).—A person of domestic tastes; a HOME-BIRD (q.v.); a HOUSE-DOVE (q.v.); as adj. = fond of remaining at home; the reverse of GAD-ABOUT (q.v.).

1834. Austen, Mansfield Park, v. A talking pretty young woman like Miss Crawford is always pleasant society to an indolent, stay-at-home man.


1863. Gaskell, Sylvia's Lovers, ix. "Cold!" said her father, "what do ye stay-at-homes know about cold?"

1883. Pall Mall Gaz., 2 Nov. The quantity of admiration might make a modest stay-at-home dizzy to contemplate.

STAY-TAPE, subs. phr. (old).—A tailor: see TRADES. [Grose: 'from that article and its coadjutor buckram, which formerly made no small figure in the bills of these knights of the needle'].

STEADY HABITS. THE LAND OF STEADY HABITS, subs. phr. (American).—Connecticut: see STATE NICKNAMES. [Bartlett: 'On account of the staid deportment and excellent morals of the people.']
Steal. See Brewer’s-basket, and Steal.

Steam, subs. (colloquial).—Force; energy; go (q.v.).

Steam-engine, subs. phr. (Manchester).—Potato-pie (Hotten).

Steamer, subs. (old).—A pipe: a swell-steamer = a long pipe (Grose).

Steaming, subs. (military).—A steamed pudding.

Steam-packet, subs. phr. (rhyming).—A jacket.

Steel, subs. (old).—The House of Correction, Coldbath Fields, London (Grose): latterly, any prison or lock-up. [Originally (Hotten) The Bastille].

1896. Lillard, Poker Stories, iii. The most interesting jack-pot in the history of the game, as she is played in the Land of Steady Habits, has been raked into the coffers of the Goddess of Justice in a lively Connecticut borough.

Steal-bar, subs. phr. (old).—A needle. Hence steel-bar driver (or flinger) = a needleman (or woman): spec. a journeyman tailor (Grose). See Trades.

Steel-boy, subs. (Irish).—See quot.

1872. [Thackeray, Barry Lyndon, xvi.] The kingdom of Ireland was at this period ravaged by various parties of banditti; who, under the name of Whiteboys, Oakboys, Steelboys, with captains at their head, killed proctors, fired stacks, houghed and maimed cattle, and took the law into their own hands.

Steel-pen coat, subs. phr. (common).—A dress coat: a swallow-tail (q.v.).

Steenkirk, subs. (old).—' A Muslin neckcloth carelessly put on,' 'from the manner in which the French officers wore their cravats when they returned from the Battle of Steenkirk' [1692], 'afterwards a fashion for both sexes' (B. E. and Grose). Likewise applied to other articles of dress, as wigs, buckles, &c.

Steep, adj. and adv. (colloquial).—A general intensive: cf. tall. Thus a steep (= high) price; steep (= excessive) damages; a steep (= a difficult or forlorn) undertaking; a steep (= heavy) tax, &c. Too steep = too absurd (bad, idiotic, or impudent) for acceptance. Hence, in the same sense precipitous (q.v.). Fr. raide.

1841. Emerson, Essays, t S., 302. Perhaps if we should meet Shakspeare we should not be conscious of any steep inferiority.

1857. Chicago Tribune, 17 Oct. At the election in Minnesota, one hundred and ten Winnebago Indians... voted the Democratic ticket; but the agent thought this was rather steep, so he afterwards crossed that number from the list.
1858. *Baltimore Sun*, 23 Aug. The verdict by twelve of seventeen of a jury giving 150,000 dollars as damages to a Land and Water-Power Company, at the Great Falls of the Potomac...is regarded as decidedly steep.

1882-3. *Froude, Sketches*, 164. Neither priest nor squire was able to establish any steep difference in outward advantages between himself and the commons among whom he lived.

**Steeple**, subs. (old colloquial).—A woman’s head-dress: 14th Century. Also, later, a steeple-crowned hat for either sex (see quot. 1583).

1583. *Stubbes, Anat. of Abuses* (1585), p. 21. Long hats peaking up like the spere or shaft of a steeple, standing a quarter of a yarde above the crowne of their heades, some more, some lesse, as please the phantasies of their inconstant mindes.


**Steeple-Fair**, subs. phr. (old).—The simoniacal mart: in quot. 1599 = St. Paul’s. [Formerly church doors were plastered with all kinds of miscellaneous advertisements: see SQUIS.]

1599. *Hall, Satires*, iii. v. 7. Thou servile foole, why couldst thou not repaire To buy a benefice at steeple-faire.

1666. *Return from Parnassus*, iv. 2. Are not you the young drover of livings Academico told me of that haunt steeple-fairs?

**Steeple-House**, subs. phr. (old Quakers’).—A church (Grose).

d.1690. *Fox, Journal* (Philadelphia), 167. The reason why I would not go into their steeple house was because I was to bear my testimony against it, and to bring all off from such places to the Spirit of God, that they might know their bodies to be the temples of the Holy Ghost.

1837. *Browning, Strafford*. An old doublet and a steeple hat.

1888. *Ency. Brit.,* vi. 469. Some of the more popular of these strange varieties of headgear have been distinguished as the ‘horned,’ the ‘mitre,’ ‘the steeple’—in France known as the ‘hennin’—and the butterfly.

**Steer**, verb. (nautical).—Steer has furnished one or two colloquialisms: thus to steer a trick = to take a turn at the wheel; to steer small = to exercise care or skill; to give a steer = to give a tip (q.v.).

**Steerer.** See Bunco-steerer.

**Steering-committee**, subs. phr. (American political).—A committee of direction; wirepullers (q.v.).

**Steever.** See Stiver.

**Stem**, subs. (colloquial).—In pl. = the legs.

**Stem-winder**, subs. phr. (American).—Anything well-finished: hence, the best of its kind. [Stem-winder = keyless watch: at the time a new and exquisite improvement.]

**Step**, verb. (colloquial).—To make off: also to step it: see a-squalulate. Also (military) = to desert.

To step out, verb. phr. (common).—To die: see aloft.

**Step down and out!** intj. phr. (American).—“Shut up!” “Stow it!” “You’re done!”
Stephen. 359  Stew.

Stephen (or Steven), subs. (old).
—Money: generic. 'Stephen's at home' = 'he's got 'em' (Grose and Vaux).

1834. Ainsworth, Rookwood, 'Double Cross.' I rather fancies that it's news, How in a mill, both men should lose; For were the odds are thus made even, It plays the dickens with the Steven.

ST. Stephen's loaf, subs. phr. (old).—See quot.

1696. Motteux, Rabelais, v. 42. Having said this, he took up one of St. Stephen's loaves, alias a stone, and was going to hit him with it about the middle.

Stepmother, subs. (colloquial).—A horny filament growing up the side of the finger-nail. Stepmother's blessing = a 'hang-nail.'

Stepper, subs. (prison).—1. The treadmill; the everlasting staircase (q.v.).

2. (colloquial).—A high-spirited or full-actioned horse: also regular stepper and high-stepper. Hence anybody or anything more than usually good of its kind. Cf. highflyer.

1868. Furnivall [Book of Precedence (E. E. T. S.) Forewords, xxiii.]. We don't want to deceive ourselves about them, or fancy them cherubs without sterns.

1902. Athenæum, 8 Feb., 176, 3. He was taught nothing, except that jumping to any word of command saved his bows from cuffing, his stern from kicking.

To bring a ship down by the stern, verb. phr. (nautical).—To over officer.

1836. M. Scott, Tom Cringle's Log. Steer clear of the stem of a sailing ship, or the stern of a kicking horse, Tom.

STERN-POST, subs. phr. (venery).—The penis: see Prick.

Steven. See Stephen.

Stever. See Stiver.

Stew, subs. (old colloquial and literary).—1. A fish-pond. Whence 2. (colloquial and literary), in pl. = a brothel, or a street of brothels. Stew (old) = a harlot is rare, and may very well be an effect of ignorance or affectation on the user's part. But stewish (or stewed), adj. = bordelesque, whorish, harlotry (in the worst sense).


1383. Chaucer, Cant. Tales, 'Friars Tale.' Wommen of the stives. Ibid. (C) xxiii. 159. Sleuth . . . wedded one Wanhope, a wenche of the stewes.

C.1520. Hick Scorners [Dodsley, Old Plays (Hazlitt), i. 186]. My mother was a lady of the stews . . . And . . . my father wore an horne.
c. 1520. Mayd Emlyn [Hazlitt, Pop. Poet., iv. 96]. And bycause she looved rydnyge, At the stewes was her abydynge.

d. 1529. Skelton, Bouge of Courte, 400. Now renne muste I to the stewys syde, To wete yf Malkyn, my lemman, haue gete oughte: I let her to hyre, that men may on her ryde.

1530. Palsgrave, Lang. Francoysse, s.v. Stewes, a place for common women, bordeau.

1535. Bible [Coverdale], Ezek. xvi-39. [They] shall breake downe thy stewes and destroy thy brodel houses.

1546. Proclamation [MSS. note by R. Smith quoted by Hearne, Diary, Oct. 12, 1713]. These abominable stew-houses were kept in Southwark... being whitened houses, painted with signes to know them. These bawdy houses were tollerated, and had lawes and orders made for the stew-holders to observe.

1550. CROWLEY, Epigrams. The bawds of the stewes be turned al out; But some think they inhabit all England throughout.

1566. Still, Gammer Gurton's Needle [Dodsley, Old Plays (Hazlitt), iii. 217]. Where is the strong stewed whore?

1573. Baret, Alwearie. The stewes, or place without the wals of the citie where bawderie was kept.

1578. Whetstone, Promos and Cass, i. iv. 3. And shall Cassandra now be termed, in common speeche, a stewe, He and his wild associates spend their hours.

1596. Jonson, Every Man in Humour, i. 1. And here, as in a tavern, or a stewes, He and his wild associates spend their hours.

1597. Shakspeare, Rich. II., v. 3. 16. He would unto the stewes, And from the commonest creature pluck a groome and wear it as a favour. Ibid. (1596), 2 Hen. IV., i. 2. An I could get me but a wife in the stewes.

1599. Hall, Satires, i. 9. Rhymed in rules of stewish ribaldry.

1621. Burton, Anat. Melan., i. ii. ii. 4. A... Priest that, because he would neither willingly marry, nor make use of the stews, fell into grievous melancholy. Ibid., III. ii. i. 2. In Italy and Spain they have their stews in every great city.

1633. Heywood, Eng. Trav., i. 2. His modest house Turn'd to a common stewes.

[?]. Bishop, Marrow of Astrology, 57. Venus denotes in houses, all places belonging to women, as garnished beds, stews.

1650. Sir A. Weldon, Court James I., i. 146. Instead of that beauty he had a notorious stew sent to him.

1683. England's Vanity, 55. You may find them, as Solomon sayes, not in the corner of the streets onely, but thick in the very midst of them, and turning the whole city into a stews.

1733. Pope, Imit. Horace, i. vi. 130. And shall we every decency confound? Through taverns, stews, and bagnios take our round?

3. (colloquial).—Worry; fuss; mental disturbance.

1837. Barham, Ingolds. Leg., 'M of Venice.' And Antonio grew, In a deuce of a stew For he could not cash up, spite of all he could do. Ibid., i. 104. And he, though naturally bold and stout, In short, was in a most tremendous stew.

1838. Beckett, Paradise Lost, 62. Now Adam, in a plaguey stew, Cried 'Zounds and blood, what must we do?'

Verb. (Stonyhurst College).—To study: hence stew-pot = a hard-working student.

To stew (fry or melt) in one's own (or another's) juice (grease, fat, or gravy), verb. phr. (common).—To be left vindictively or resentfully alone.

1383. Chaucer, Cant. Tales, 'Wife of Bath's Prol.' But certainly I made folk such chere, That in his own guese I made him frie.

1596. Shakspeare, Merry Wives, iii. 5. I was more than half-stewed in grease.

1774. Bridges, Burlesque Homer, 8. By Sol's hob hot beams so sore were pelted, That in our grease we're almost melted.
If yonder cooks have not done their duty and got all ready, I will FRY them in their own JUICE.

STEWED QUAKER. See QUAKER.

STIBBER-GIBBER, adj. phr. (Old Cant).—Used as in quot.

STIBBLER, subs. (Scots).—A clerical probationer; a GUINEA-PIG (g.v.). See STICKIT.

STICHEL, subs. (old).—A term of contempt.

c. 1620. Lady Alimony, i 4b. Barren STICHEL I that shall not serve thy turn.

STICK, subs. (old).—I. In pl. = furniture; MARBLES (g.v.); also STICKS AND STONES (GROSE, VAUX, BEE).

1833. Sims, How the Poor Live. To tide over till then is a work of some difficulty, but the sticks and the “wardrobe” of the family have paid the rent up to now.

1883. Greenwood, Tag, Rag, & Co. None will permit him to occupy a room in a private house, unless he has at least a few sticks by way of security for the payment of a week’s rent.

1890. Whitening, John St., ii. What rent kin yer afford . . . have yer got any sticks?

2. (Old Cant).—In pl. = pistols; POPS (g.v.); ‘STOW YOUR STICKS’ = ‘hide your pistols’ (GROSE and VAUX).

3. (colloquial).—An awkward, dull, or stupid person; in contempt. Usually POOR STICK. A RUM (or ODD) STICK = an oddity.

1803. Edgeworth, Belinda, xx. “You . . . will go and marry, I know you will, some STICK of a rival.” . . . “I hope I shall never marry a STICK.”

1814. Austen, Mansfield Park, xiii. I was surprised to see Sir Henry such a STICK; luckily the strength of the piece did not depend upon him.

1847. Bronte, Jane Eyre, xvii. The poor old STICK used to cry out, “Oh you villains childs,” and then we sermonised her on the presumption of attempting to teach such clever blades as we were, when she was herself so ignorant.


1886. D. Teleg., 13 July. A great actor may not exhibit himself as a STICK for half-an-hour together, and claim to redeem his fame by a few magnificent moments.

1899. Kerahman, Scountils, xxi. The STICK will find himself . . . cold-shouldered, and the asumer of ‘side’ may think himself lucky if he be allowed to depart unbaited.

1900. White, West End, z3I. Elsenham’s a STICK.” ‘He is rather,’ said my aunt. ‘But he is heir to one of the oldest earldoms in the kingdom.

4. (thieves’).—A crowbar; a JEMMY (g.v.).

1877. Horsley, Jottings from Jail. “What tools will you want?” “We shall want some twirls and the STICK.”

5. (silversmiths’).—(a) A candlestick; and (b) a candle.

6. (cricketers’).—In pl. = the stumps.

7. (common).—In pl. = the legs; STUMPS (g.v.).

8. (printers’).—A hard or otherwise badly printing ink-roller.

9. (athletic).—In pl. = hurdles. Hence STICK-HOPPER = a hurdle-racer.
Stick. 362 Stick.

10. (nautical).—A mast: e.g., ‘She has handsome sticks’ = ‘She is finely sparred.’

11. (colloquial).—Hesitation; demur. Hence TO STICK AT = to BOGGLE (q.v.).

1678. BUNYAN, Pilgrim’s Progress, vi. When he came to the Hill Difficulty he made no stick at that.

THE STICK, subs. phr. (venery).—A venereal disease: clap, shanker, or pox; LADIES’ FEVER (q.v.).

Verb. (venery).—To copulate: see GREENS and RIDE.

2. (colloquial).—To kill: spec. (India) to spear wild hogs.

PHRASES and COLLOQUIALISMS are numerous. Thus TO BE STUCK ON THE DEAL = to pay too much, to be swindled; TO STICK ON THE PRICE = to overcharge; TO STICK FOR DRINKS = to win the toss; TO STICK IT UP = to get credit; TO STICK UP (a bank, a train, a caravan) = to rob; TO BE STICK ON ONE’S LINES (theatrical) = to forget; TO STICK UP TRICKS (POINTS, RUNS, GOALS, &c.) = to score; TO STICK UP = to take one’s own part, or another’s; TO STICK IN A PIN = to make a note of, to take heed; TO STICK TO = to stand by; TO STICK AT = to be scrupulous; TO STICK AT NOTHING = to be utterly without scruple; TO STICK IN ONE’S STOMACH (or GIZZARD) = to rankle; TO STICK TO = to back through thick and thin, to follow closely; TO STICK ONE’S SPOON IN THE WALL = to die; TO CUT ONE’S STICKS = to decamp; TO HAVE THE FIDDLE BUT NOT THE STICK = to have the means without sense to use them; TO GO TO STICKS AND STAVES (or NOGGIN STAVES) = to go to ruin; TO BEAT ALL TO STICKS = to vanquish utterly; TO STICK A POINT = to settle a matter; TO STICK IN (cricket) = to play carefully, so as to keep up the wicket; TO STICK ONESELF UP = to assert oneself, to SPREAD OUT (q.v.); TO STICK TO ONE’S FINGERS = to remain in possession unlawfully; TO STICK OUT FOR = to contend obstinately; TO STICK AND LIFT = to live from hand to mouth. Also STUCK ON ONE’S SHAPE = pleased with one’s appearance; STICK IN THE MUD = CORNERED (q.v.); STICK FOR THE READY = penniless; STUCK BY ONE’S PAL = deceived, deserted, DONE (q.v.); STUCK IN ONE’S FIGURES (FACTS, or CALCULATIONS) = mistaken, at a loss; DEAD STUCK = completely disappointed, flabbergasted, or ruined; STUCK ON A JUDE = enamoured; STUCK UP = conceited, proud. Also AS CROSS AS TWO STICKS = fully angered; STICK - AND - STONE = everything; cf. ROOT AND BRANCH, STOCK AND BLOCK; IN QUICK STICKS (or CHISEL) = instantly; WRONG END OF THE STICK = (1) the worst of a position; and (2) the false of a story.

‘Any stick (or staff) suffices to beat the dog’ (RAY).

1337. BRUNNE, Handlyng Synne (Hearne), 113. [Castles] are won ilka stik.

1448-60. Paston Letters, 462. Every stone and stick of thereof.

1544. Exped. in Scotland [Arber, Eng. Garner, i. 120]. We brake down the pier of the haven of Perth, and burnt every stick of it.

1564. UDAL, Erasmus’s Apoph., 215. So in fine were thei beaten doune, their citee taken, spoiled, and destroyed bothe sticke and stone.

1569. Marriage of Wit and Science [Dodsley, Old Plays (Hazlitt), ii. 342]. I know a younker that will ease you ... That will not stick to marry you within this hour.
1504. Shakspeare, 2 Hen. VI., iii. 1. The ancient proverb will be well
1505. effected: 'A STAFF is quickly found to be
1506. at a dog.' Ibid. (1598), 2 Hen. IV., i. 2. And yet he will not STICK to say his
1507. face is a face-royal.
1508. 1611. Beaumont and Fletcher,
1509. Knight of B. Peete, ii. 1. And this it
1510. was she swore, never to marry But such as
1511. one whose mighty arm could carry (As
1512. meaning me, for I am such a one) Her
1513. bodily away through STICK and STONE.
1514. 1648-55. Fuller, Church Hist., vi.
1515. 268. This quaternion of subscribers have
1516. STICK's THE POINT dead with me that all
1517. antient English monks were Benedictines.
1518. [16?] Pepys, Diary, iv. 143. To
1519. serve him I should, I think, STICK at
1520. nothing.
1521. 1743. Fielding, Jon. Wild, i. xiii.
1522. It was his constant maxim, that he was a
1523. pitiful fellow who would STICK at a little
1524. rapping for his friend.
1525. d. 1796. Burns, To William Simpson,
1526. Postsc. Folk thought them ruined STICK-
1527. AN-STONE.
1528. 1824. Ferrier, Inheritance, i. 95. She
1529. married a Highland drover or lass-
1530. man, I can't tell which, and they went ALL
1531. TO STICKS and staves.
1532. 1837. Barnham, Ingolds. Leg., 'Lay
1533. of St. Aloys.' Lastly, as to the Pagan who
1534. played such a trick, First assuming the
1535. ownership of a share.
1536. 1840. Dickens, Old Curiosity Shop,
1537. xl. And now that the nag has got his
1538. wind again ... I'm afraid I must cut
1539. MY STICK.
1540. 1841. Punch, i. 136. If we were
1541. speaking of an ordinary man, and not a
1542. monarch, we should have rendered by the
1543. familiar phrase of CUT his STICK.
1544. 1843. Thackeray, Lyra Hibernica,
1545. 'Battle of Limerick.' The best use Tommy
1546. made of his famous battle blade Was to
1547. CUTF his OWN STICK from the Shannon
1548. shore. Ibid. (1862), Phillop, xl. Heard
1549. him abuse you to Ringwood. Ringwood
1550. STICK UP FOR you ... spoke up like a
1551. man—like a man who STICKS UP for a
1552. fellow who is down.
1553. 1846. Stokes, Discoveries in Aus-
1554. tralia, ii. xiii. 502. It was only the pre-
1555. vious night that he had been STUCK UP
1556. with a pistol at his head.
1558. 18. The pawnbrokers have been so often
1559. stuck with inferior instruments that it is
1560. difficult to pledge even a really good violin.
1561. Ibid., iii. 142. Some of the young fellows
1562. STICK IN THEIR PARTS. They get the
1563. stage fever and knocking in the knees.
1564. 1855. Howitt, Two Years in Vic-
1565. toria, ii. 187. Unless the mail came well
1566. armed, a very few men could STICK IT
1567. UP without any trouble or danger.
1569. Silence, or my allegory will GO to NOGGIN-
1570. STAVES. Ibid. (1857), Two Years Ago, i.
1571. In a few minutes Tom came in. "Here's a
1572. good riddance! ... " What?" "Cut
1573. his STICK, and walked his chalks, and is
1574. off to London."
1575. d. 1859. De Quincey, Roman Meals.
1576. All which remained for a decayed poet was
1577. respectfully to CUT his STICK, and retire.
1578. 1860-3. Motley, Un. Netherlands,
1579. ii. 87. One third of the money sent by the
1580. Queen for the soldiers STICKED IN HIS
1581. FINGERS.
1582. 1867. Week in Wall Street, 47. As
1583. soon as the whole class of small speculators
1584. perceived they had been STUCK, they all
1585. shut their mouths; no one confessing the
1586. ownership of a share.
1587. 1872. Besant and Rice, Ready
1588. Money Mortiboy, xlii. "You won't pay
1589. her any more attentions, for you shall come
1590. out of this place in QUICK STICKS," said
1591. Mrs. Bowker.
1592. 1877. Horsley, Jottings from Jail.
1593. Now don't STICK ME UP; meet me at six
1594. to-night.
1595. c. 1880. C. Sheard, Music Hall Song,
1596. 'I'm a Millionaire.' Though some STICK
1597. it UP, now I'll pay money down.
1598. 1881. Grant, Bush Life in Queens-
1599. land. Why, they STICKED UP Wilson's Sta-
1600. tion there, and murdered the man and
1601. woman in the kitchen; they then planted
1602. inside the house, and waited until Wilson
1603. came home at night with his stockman.
1605. 'Why, you are STICKING UP for him now!' said Tom ... astonished at this apparent
1606. change of front.
1607. 1885. Leisure Hour, Mar., 192. Having attacked, or, in Australian phrase, STICK UP the station, and made prisoners of all the inmates.
1885. *Field*, 3 Oct. Two gentlemen, fishing at Aldermaston, stuck to it all day.

1886. *Graphic*, 10 Ap., 399. An actor who forgets his words is said to stick or be corpsed.

1887. G. L. Apperson, *All the Year Round*, 30 July, 68, 1. In times gone by, it was by no means an uncommon occurrence [in Australia] for a coach to be stuck up by a band of bushrangers... But a coach is now seldom interfered with, and to stick up is applied to less daring attempts to rob.

1888. Boldrewood, *Squatter's Dream*, 47. Well, then, I'll cut my stick; you won't want the pair of us.

1890. *Whiteing*, *John St.*, xxvii. Her tiny chum sometimes comes home at night, cross as two sticks, and resists every attempt to cheer her.

1899. Hyne, *Further Adv. Captain Kettle*, vi. When it comes to sticking up the cable station you'll see him do the work of any ten like us.

1900. *Flynt, Tramps*, 131. This is also true of the office-beggar, or sticker as he calls himself.

8. (common).—A knife.

1899. *Whiteing*, *John St.*, iv. There warn't no time to square up to 'im when I see the sticker in his 'and.

6. (tradesmen's: Am.).—An article which won't sell; a shop-keeper (q.v.).

7. (American tramps').—See quot.

1861. Hughes, *Tom Brown at Oxford*, x. This rusty-coloured one is that respectable old stick-in-the-mud, Nicias.


8. (common).—A knife.

1833. Disraeli, *Alroy*, i. 2. On-sight of thee would nerve me to the sticking point.

1606. Shakspeare, *Macbeth*, i. 7, 60. But screw your courage to the sticking place, and we'll not fall.

1880. *Graphic*, 10 Ap., 399. An actor who forgets his words is said to stick or be corpsed.

1887. G. L. Apperson, *All the Year Round*, 30 July, 68, 1. In times gone by, it was by no means an uncommon occurrence [in Australia] for a coach to be stuck up by a band of bushrangers... But a coach is now seldom interfered with, and to stick up is applied to less daring attempts to rob.

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1815. Scott, Guy Mannering, ii. But, alas... he became totally incapable of proceeding in his intended discourse—gaped, grinned, hideously rolled his eyes till the congregation thought them flying out of his head—shut the Bible—stumbled down the pulpit-stairs, trampling upon the old women who generally take their station there—and was ever after designated a stickit-minister.

1893. Crockett, The Stickit Minister [Title].

Stickler, subs. (old).—An obstinate or trifling contender; a zealot; a precission (q.v.): also stiffler. [Orig. an umpire].

d. 1575. Parker [Davies], Works, 252. The drift was, as I judged, for Dethick to continue such stifflers in the College of his pupils, to win him in time by hook or crook the master's room.

1813. Aubrey, Lives, 'William Aubrey.' He was one of the delegates... for the Tryall of Mary, Queen of Scots, and was a great stickler for the saving of her life.

1885. Field, 4 Ap. The Englishman—in his own country greatest of all sticklers for the correct thing in raiment.


Stick-slinger, subs. phr. (thieves'). —See quot.

1828. Bee, Living Picture of London. [He] could not otherwise obtain his share of the plunder than by taking paper from P. i.e., stiff in the form I promise to pay.

1854-5. Thackeray, Newcomes, vi. I wish you'd do me a bit of stiff, and just tell your father if I may overdraw my account, I'll vote with him.

1899. Marsh, Crime and Criminal, xviii. 'I must be unknown... or he would never lend.' 'Can't you do anything on a bit of stiff.'

2. (thieves'). — Forged bank notes.

3. (old).—A corpse: also stiff one (grose).

1871. John Hay, Myst. of Gilgal. They piled the stiffers outside the door—They made, I reckon, a cord or more.

4. (racing).—A horse certain not to run, nor if it run, to win: also dead-un, safe-un, stumer, &c. (q.v.). Bookmakers stiff = a horse nobbled at the public cost in the bookmakers' interest. Also as adj. (Australian) = dead certain to win; e.g., 'Grand Flaneur is stiff for any race for which he may enter.'

1871. "Hawk's-eye," Turf Notes, 11. Most assuredly it is the bookmakers that profit by the safe uns, or stiff uns, as, in their own language, horses that have no chance of winning are called.

1897. [Advt. on front fly of Pomes] The Rialto... Do not invest money Until you read The Rialto. Never on stiff 'uns, wrong 'uns, or dead 'uns.


1900. Griffiths, Fast and Loose, xxxiii. 'Will your pal trust me,' says I. 'Yes, if I send him a bit of a stiff.'

Adj. and adv. (colloquial).—A general intensive: cf. steep, tall, wide, &c. Thus a stiff (= a strong or long) drink; a stiff (= a cramped) style; a stiff (= a formal) manner: also crusty, whence to cut up...
STIFF = to turn testy; a STIFF (= strong and steady) breeze; STIFF (= incredible) news; a STIFF (= difficult) examination; a STIFF (= high) price: cf. STEEP: also, a price (or a market) STIFFENS = goes higher: TO PAY STIFFLY = to pay expensively; a STIFF (= firm, unyielding) market; a STIFF UPPER LIP = courageous; TO CUT UP STIFF = to leave a large estate: cf. WARM and supra.

1608. SHAKSPEARE, Ant. and Cleop., i. 2, 104. Labienus—this is STIFF news—hath with his Parthian force Extended Asia from Euphrates.

1620. FLETCHER, Philaster, iii. 1. With a STIFF gale their heads bow all one way.

1711. ADDISON, Spectator, 119. This kind of good manners was perhaps carried to an excess, so as to make conversation too STIFF, formal and precise.

1784. COWPER, Tirocinium, 671. And his address, if not quite French in ease, Not English STIFF, but frank, and form'd to please.

1855-7. THACKERAY, Misc., ii. 272. The old gent cut up uncommon STIFF.

1885. D. News, 28 Sep. The STIFFNESS of country rates also tends to give firmness to the attitude of staplers.

1893. Harper’s Mag., lxxvi. 447. We now left the carriages and began a STIFF climb to the top of the hill.

1899. WESTCOTT, David Hume, xvi. He's got a pretty STIFF UPPER LIP of his own, I reckon.

2. (venery).—(1) Wanton : e.g., A STIFF QUEAN = a harlot (RAY); and (2) priapic: see STAND. THE STIFF DEITY (OR THE STIFF AND STOUT) = the penis in erection.

1653. URQUHART, Rabelais, i. xi. And some of the women would give these names, my Roger . . . my STIFF AND STOUT. Ibid. (Motteux), iv. v. The STIFF DEITY, Priapus . . . remained sticking in her natural Christmas box.

1720. DURFEY, Pills, &c., vi. 201. And may Prince G——'s Roger grow STIFF again and stand.

STIFFLER. See Stickler.

STIFF-FENCER, subs. phr. (streets'). —A hawker of writing paper.


d.1704. BROWN, Works, iii. 196. Our STIFF-RUMPED Countesses in their silks and sattins.


STIFLER, subs. (thieves').—1. The gallows: also STIFLES: see LADDER and NABBING CHEAT. Hence TO NAB THE STIFLER = to be hanged; TO QUEER THE STIFLER = to escape the rope.

1818. SCOTT, Midlothian, xxiii. I think Handie Dandie and I may QUEER THE STIFLER for all that is come and gone.

2. (provincial).—A busybody (HALLIWELL).

3. (common).—A severe blow.

STIGMATIC, subs. (old).—1. A branded criminal; (2) anyone deformed; and (3) a contemptible wretch.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, 2 Hen. IV., ii. 2, 136. But, like a foul, mis-shapen STIGMATIC.

1601. CHETTLE and MUNDAY, Death of R. Earl of Huntingdon, 76. That prodigious bloody STIGMATIC . . . portendeth still Some innovation, or some monstrous act.

1616. Philomythic [NARES]. Convaide him to a justice, where one swore He had been branded STIGMATIC before.
**Stile.** To help a lame dog over a stile, verb. phr. (common).—To give a hand; to assist in a difficulty; to bunk up. Fr. sauver la mise à quelqu'un.

1546. Heywood, Proverbs. To help a dogge over a stile.

1598. Florio, Worlde of Wordes, 9. A close, a lurking knife, a stille sow, as we say.

1605. Marston, Insatiate Countess, ii. 2. Here's a stile so high as a man cannot help a dog over it.

1630. Swift, Pol. Conv., i. Madam, I know I shall always have your good word; you love to help a lame dog over the stile.

1670. Ray, Proverbs (1893), 168. Help the lame dog over the stile.

1677. Swift, Pol. Conv., i. Madam, I know I shall always have your good word; you love to help a lame dog over the stile.

1857. Kingsley, Two Years Ago, xxv. I can show my money, pay my way, eat my dinner, kill my trout, hunt my becunds, help a lame dog over a stile (which was Mark's phrase for doing a generous thing), and thank God for all.

Let the best dog leap the stile first, phr. (old).—'Let the best take lead' (Ray).

**Still,** subs. (undertakers').—A still-born infant. Also (American firemen's) = a still alarm: i.e., an alarm given other than by the regular signal service.

**Still-sow,** subs. phr. (old).—See quot.

1598. Florio, Worlde of Wordes, 9. A close, a lurking knife, a stille sow, as we say.

1657. Middleton, More Dissemblers Besides Women, iii. 2. That malice Wears no dead flesh about it, 'tis a stinger.

1873. O. W. Holmes, Address on opening Fifth Av. Theatre. The stingling lash of wit.


**Stinger,** subs. (common).—Generic for anything exceptional: e.g., a heavy blow, a sharp rebuke, a vexatious occurrence, &c., &c. Hence STINGING = keen, sharp, telling.

1613. Webster, Devil's Law Case, iv. 2. That's a stinger: be a good wench, be not daunted.

1630. Swift, Pol. Conv., i. Madam, I know I shall always have your good word; you love to help a lame dog over the stile.

1598. Shakspeare, Merry Wives, iv. 2. Still swine eat all the draf.

**Stilting,** subs. (thieves').—See quot.

1884. Greenwood, Little Ragamuffins. You are a nice sort of chap to try your hand at stilting!" (first-class pocket-picking).

**Stilton (The),** subs. phr. (common).—The correct thing: a variant of the cheese (q.v.).

**Stimble,** verb. (provincial).—To urinate; to piss (q.v.).—Halliwell.

**Sting,** verb. (old).—To rob; to trick (Grose and Vaux). 'That cove is fly; he has already been stung' = 'The man is on his guard; he has been robbed before.'

**Sting-bum,** subs. phr. (old).—A niggard (B. E. and Grose).

**Stinger,** subs. (common).—Generic for anything exceptional: e.g., a heavy blow, a sharp rebuke, a vexatious occurrence, &c., &c. Hence STINGING = keen, sharp, telling.

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1873. O. W. Holmes, Address on opening Fifth Av. Theatre. The stingling lash of wit.


**Stingo,** subs. (old).—Strong liquor: spec. humming ale (q.v.).—B. E. and Grose.

1638. Randolph, Hey for Honesty, ii. 6. Come, let's in, and drink a cup of stingo.

1661. Merry Droollaries [Oliphant, New Eng., ii. 98. Among the substantives are . . . stingo, brimmer, Jew's harp].

1650. Brathwayte, Barnaby's Jl. (1723), 125. I drank stingo With a Butcher and Domingo.

1667. Praise of Yorkshire Stingo, 29. Such stingo, nappy, pure ale they have found.
**STINGY, adj. (B. E.).**—'Covetous, close-fisted, sneaking.'

In general application, a term denoting a person of small means, avaricious, or pinching in the expenditure of small sums.

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**STINK, subs. (old).**—1. Any disagreeable exposure: spec. (thieves') see quot. 1785. To *STIR UP A STINK* = to expose; and as *verb.* = to have a bad reputation.

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**STINKARD, subs. (old).**—A mean wretch; also STINKER: a general term of contempt. Hence *STINKARDLY* = mean.

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**STINKER, subs. (Old Cant).**—1. A black eye (GRose).

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**STINK-A-PUSS,** subs. phr. (provincial).—A term of contempt (HALLIWELL).

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The advent of the STINK-CAR was almost as mournful a feature in the proceedings as was the mob of habitual bookmakers "resting" by the bars.

**Stinkfinger.** To play at STINKFINGER, verb. phr. (venery).—To grope a woman; 'to go BIRDS-NESTING' (q.v.).

**Stinkibus,** subs. (old).—Bad LAP (q.v.); ROT-GUT (q.v.).

1706. Ward, Wooden World, 70. He shall gulph thee down the rankest STINKIBUS with as good a Gusto as a Teague does Usquebaugh, and not be a Dolt the worse for it.

**Stinking Fish.** To cry STINKING FISH, verb. phr. (common).—To run down one's own affairs; 'to foul one's own nest' (RAY).

**Stinkious,** subs. (old).—Gin: 18th century.

**Stinkomalee,** subs. (obsolete).—See quot. 1864. Hotten, Slang Dict., s.v. STINKOMALEE, a name given to the then New London University by Theodore Hook. Probably because some cow-houses and dunghills stood on the original site. Some question about Trincomalee was agitated at the same time. It is still applied by the students of the old Universities, who regard it with disfavour from its admitting all denominations.

**Stinky,** subs. (military).—A farrier.

**Stipe,** subs. (common).—A stipendiary magistrate.

**Stir,** subs. (thieves').—A prison: also STIRABEN (gypsy).

1851-61. Mayhew, Lond. Lab., t. 469. I was in Brummagen, and was seven days in the new STIR.

1857. Marshall, Pomes, 123. I didn't hear the reason why the lad was booked for STIR.

1901. Referee, 23 Ap., 9, 3. Mr. Patrick M'Hugh, M.P. for North Leitrim, has gone to STIR for six months for a seditious libel.

2. (common).—A crowd; a PUSH (q.v.).

**To have plenty to stir on,** verb. phr. (colloquial).—To be wealthy.

See STUMPS.

**Stirrup-oil,** subs. phr. (old).—A sound beating; a drubbing.

1677. Coles, Eng.-Lat. Dict. To give one some STIRRUP-OYL. Aliquem fustigare.

**Stir-up-Sunday,** subs. phr. (clerical).—The Sunday before Advent. [The collect for the day commences: 'Stir up, we beseech Thee, O Lord.']

**Stitch,** subs. (old).—1. A tailor: see TRADES (B. E. and GROSE).

2. (common).—Clothing: e.g., 'not a dry STITCH about her.'

1888. Field, 4 Ap. With every STITCH of clothing wet, and no facilities for drying them.

**Phrases.**—To go through STITCH = to accomplish, to bring to a finish; TO GO A GOOD STITCH = to go a good way; STOP STITCH WHILE I PUT A NEEDLE IN = a proverbial phrase applied to any one when one wishes him to do anything more slowly (HALLIWELL).

1611. Cotgrave, Dict., s.v. Passe-partout, a resolute fellow, one that goes THROUGH-STITCH with every thing hee undertakes, one whose courses no danger can stop, no difficultie stay.

1631. Chettle, Hoffman, f. iii. Now wee are in, wee must GOE THROUGH STITCH.

1653. Urquhart, Rabelais, l. xlvii. And in regard of the main point that they should never be able to GO THROUGH STITCH with that war.

1677. Coles, Dict. To go thorow-STITCH with the work, opus perage.
1678. Cotton, Virgil Travestie (1770), 91. Who means to conquer Italy, Must with his Work go thorough stitches and not be running after bitches.

1684. Bunyan, Pilgrim's Prog., ii. 148. I promise you, said he, you have gone a good stitch: you may well be aweary; sit down.

Verb. (venery).—To copulate (Dorset): cf. Sew up = to get with child, Needle = penis, and Needle-case = female pudendum: see Greens, Prick, Monosyllable, and Ride.

Stitch-back, subs. phr. (B. E.).—Very strong ale; Stingo (q.v.).

Stitch-louse, subs. phr. (common).—A tailor: also Prick-louse. See Trades.


Stive, verb. (old).—To crowd, to make hot in a sultry atmosphere. Stived up = stifled.

1865. Downing, Mayday in New York. "Oh, marcy on us," said a fat lady, who was looking for a house, "this I'll never do for my family at all. There's no convenience about it, only one little stived-up closet. . . . And the bed-rooms, —she would as soon sleep in a pig-pen, and done with it, as to get into such little, mean, stived-up places as them."

1870. Judd, Margaret, ii. 8. 'Things are a good deal stived up,' answered the Deacon.

1876. Eliot, Daniel Deronda, liv. I shall go out in a boat . . . instead of stiving in a damnable hotel.

Verb. (American).—To run; to move off [Bartlett: 'a low word used in the Northern States'].

See Stew.

Stiver (Steever, Stinner, &c.), subs. (old).—1. A Dutch coin value 1d.; hence (2) a small standard of value, a straw, a fig (q.v.); and (3) generic for money. Hence Stiver-cramped = needy (Grose).


1639. Taylor, Works, ii. 3. Through thy protection they are monstrous thrivers, Not like the Dutchmen in base doyts and stivers.

c.1630. Broadside Ballad [Bagford (Brit. Mus.), i. 88]. He . . . paid . . . the shot Without ever a stiver of money.

1693. Dampier, Voyages. They will not budge under a stiver.

1700. Farquhar, Constant Couple, i. 1. I there had a Dutch whore for five stivers.

1853. Lytton, My Novel, ix. 3. Entre nous, mon cher, I care not a stiver for popularity.

d.1891. Lowell, Fitz Adam's Story. 'There's fourteen foot and over,' says the driver. 'Worth twenty dollars if it's worth a stiver.'


1902. Lawson, Children of the Bush, 94. I ain't got a lonely steever on me.

Stizzle, verb. (Tonbridge School).—To hurt.

Stock, subs. (old).—1. Cheek; impudence; Brass (q.v.).

2. (old).—Anything inert: hence = (1) a fool, a blockhead (q.v.), and (2) in contempt: spec. in compounds (mostly recognised) such as laughing-stock, jesting-stock, courting-stock, &c. Whence stockish = silly, lumpish; stockishness = stupidity.

1593. Shakspeare, Taming of Shrew, i. 1, 31. Let's be no stoics nor no stocks. Ibid. (1598), Merchant of Venice, v. 1, 81. Nought so stockish, hard, and full of rage.

1607. Beaumont and Fletcher, Woman Hater, iii. 3. All accounted dull, and common jesting-stocks for your gallants.
1624. **Fletcher, Rule a Wife**, iii. 5. Thou art the stock of men, and I admire thee.

1630. **Jonson, New Inn**, i. 1. And therefore might indifferently be made the courting-stock for all to practise on.

1766. **Brooke, Fool of Quality**, iii. Such a stock of a child, such a statue! Why he has no kind of feeling either of body or mind.

1778. **Sheridan, Rivals**, iii. 1. What a phlegmatic sot it is! Why, sirrah, you're an anchorite!—a vile insensible stock.

1837. **Browning, Strafford**, iii. 3. Friend, I've seen you with St. John—O stockishness! Wear such a ruff, and never call to mind St. John's head in a charger.


1725. **Bailey, Erasmus**, 181. Before I came home I lost all, stock and block [orig. sors et usura = capital and interest].

1861. **New York Tribune**, Oct. In other words, Tammany Hall is sold out stock and fluke to Fernando Wood.

**Phrases.**—To take stock in = to have faith in; to take stock of = to scrutinize, to size up (q.v.); on the stocks = in hand, in preparation.

1704. **Brown, Works**, iv, 42. I am told Mr. Dryden has something of this nature new upon the stocks.

1865. **Dickens, Mutual Friend**, ii. In taking stock of his familiarity, worn . . . clothes, piece by piece, she took stock of a formidable knife in a sheath at his waist.

1889. **Harper's Mag.**, Oct., 'Lit. Notices.' Captain Polly gives the right hand of fellowship to two boys, in whom nobody else is willing to take stock, and her faith in them saves them.

**See Broad; Water.**

**Stock-blind, adj.** (colloquial).—Quite blind; blind as a stock or block: cf. stone-blind.


**Stockdollager.** See Stockdollager.

**Stock drawers, subs. phr.** (old).—Stockings (B. E. and Grose).

**Stock Exchange Terms.** [The following list is imperfect, but it contains the better known and older colloquialisms. The Stock Exchange, admittedly a 'close' corporation, is, in fact, so close that not only was direct official information refused, but also an appeal to be put into communication with some member interested in Stock Exchange colloquialisms was declined. Perhaps, however, subscribers will be good enough to help to a supplementary list as an Appendix.]—**Ales** = Messrs. S. Allsopp and Sons shares; **Apes** = The Atlantic and North Eastern Railway first mortgage bonds; **Ayr-shires** = Glasgow and South-Western Railway stock; **Baby Wee-Wees** = Buenos Ayres Water Works shares; **Bays** = Hudson Bay Company shares; **Berthas** = London Brighton and South Coast Railway stock; **Berwicks** = North Eastern Railway Ordinary stock; **Bones** = (1) North British 4 per cent. Ist Preference shares: see Bonettas, and (2) Wickens, Pease and Company shares; **Bonettas** = North British 4 per cent. 2nd Preference shares; **Bottles** = Barrett's Brewery and Bottling Company shares; **Brums** = London and North Western Railway stock (formerly London and Birmingham Railway); **Bulgarian Atrocities** = Varna and Rut-
Stock Exchange Terms. 372 Stock Exchange Terms.

chuk Railway 3 per cent. Obligations; Caleys = Caledonian Railway Ordinary stock; Cas-
hels = Great Southern and Western of Ireland Railway stock; Cats = Atlantic Cable 2nd Preference stock; Chats = London Chatham and Dover Railway stock; Chinas = Eastern Extension Australian and China Telegraph shares; Claras = Caledonian Railway Deferred and Ordinary stock; Coffins = The Funeral Furnishing Company shares; Cottons = Confederate Bonds; Creamjugs = Charkoff-Kremensching Railway bonds; Dinahs = Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Ordinary stock; Dogs = Newfoundland Land Company shares; Doras = South Eastern Railway Ordinary “A” stock; Dovers = South Eastern Railway Ordinary stock; Ducks = Aylesbury Dairy Company shares; Floaters = Exchequer bills; Gorgonzola Hall = The House (q.v.); Goschens = The 2¾ per cent. Government Stock; Guinness’s = Guinness and Company shares; Haddocks = North of Scotland Railway Ordinary stock; Kaffirs = generic for South African Mining shares; whence Kaffir Circus = the South African Market in a state of excitement; Kisses = Hotchkiss Ordnance Company shares; Knackers = Harrison, Barber, and Company shares; Leeds = Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Ordinary stock; Mails = Mexican Railway shares: see MEGS; Matches = Bryant and May’s shares; MEGS = Mexican Railway 1st Preference shares: see Mails; Mets = Metropolitan Railway Co. shares; middles = Midland Railway Ordinary stock; Monas = The Isle of Man Rail-

way shares; Muttons = Turkish Loans of 1865 and 1873; New Billingsgate = The House (q.v.); New Plates = English Bank of the River Plate shares: see Old Plates; Noras = Great Northern Railway Deferred Ordinary stock; Nuts = Barcelona Tramway shares; Old Plates = London and River Plate Bank shares; Pigtails = Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China shares; Pots = Staffordshire Railway stock; Sarahs = Staffordshire and Lincoln Railway Deferred stock; Sarah’s Boots = Sierra Buttes Gold Mining Company shares; Sardines = Royal Sardinian Railway shares; Sewers = East London Railway shares; Silvers = India Rubber, Gutta Percha, and Telegraph Company shares; Sunshades = The Sunhares Extension Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railway Company shares; Terrors = Northern Territories Co. shares; Vestas = Railway Investment Company Deferred stock; Virgins = Virginia New Funded Bonds; Whipsticks = Dunaberg and Witepsk Railway shares; Westralians = generic for Western Australian Mining shares. Also see Bear; Bucket-shop; Bull; Cocky; Fiddle; Fourteen-Hundred; Futures; Guttersnipe; Hammer; House; Jam-tart; Kerystone-broker; Kidney; Lame-duck; Let-up; Load; Long; Omnium; Orchid; Peg; Picker-up; Put; Raid; Rush; Scalp; Scoop; Set-up; Shoot; Short; Shunter; Stag; State; Sweater; Swimming; Tapes; Tapeworm; Ten-up; Tight; Twist; Unload; Waddle; Water; Wash-sale; Wireworm.
STOCKING. In one's stockings (or stocking-feet), adv. phr. (colloquial).—Without shoes.

1809. IRVING, Knickerbocker, 168. The mistress and chambermaid visited the house once a week ... leaving their shoes at the door, and entering devotedly in their stocking-feet.

1854-5. THACKERAY, Newcomes, viii. Binnie found the Colonel in his sitting-room, arrayed in what are called in Scotland his stocking-feet.

STOCKING, subs. phr. (common).—The privities, male and female.

STOCK-JOBBING, a sharp, cunning-cheating Trade of Buying and Selling Shares of Stock in East India, Guinea and other Companies; also in the Bank, Exchequer, &c.

1785. GROSE, Vulg. Tongue, s.v. STOCK JOBBERS. Persons who gamble on the Stock Exchange pretending to buy and sell public funds, but only betting that they will be at a certain price at a particular time; possessing neither stock to be sold, nor money to make good the payments, known [as] bulls, bears and lame ducks.—[Abridged.]

STOCKPORT-COACH, subs. phr. (old).—A horse with two women riding sidewise.

STOGY, adj. (colloquial).—Generic for coarseness: thus STOGY-SHOES (or STOGIES) = heavy shoes; STOGY-CIGAR = a rough coarse cigar.
Stoke, verb. (common).—To eat: spec. (1) to eat without appetite; and (2) TO WOLF (q.v.).

1901. Troddles, 47. To my mind, Troddles STOKE-UP on bread-and-butter pudding to such an extent that I wondered how on earth he could... expect to... drag himself about... after it.

Stoll, verb. (North Country Cant).
—1. To understand (HoTTEN).

2. (common).—To tipple; TO BOOZE (q.v.). STOLLED=drunk: see SCREWED.

Stomach, subs. (old colloquial).—Generic for disposition: e.g., (a) spirit, compassion; (b) courage, temper; and (c) pride. Hence A PROUD STOMACH = a haughty disposition; STOMACH-GRIEF = anger. As verb. = (1) to endure, to encourage, (2) to resent, to disgust; TO STICK IN THE STOMACH = to remember with anger or disgust; STOMACHFUL=(1) stubborn, and (2) angry; STOMACHY = proud, irritable.

1383. Chaucer, Cant. Tales, 'Friars Tale,' 143. STOMAK ne conscience ne know I noon.

1553. Sir T. Wilson, Art of Rhetoric. STOMACK grieve is when we take the matter as hot as a toaste.

d.1556. Udal [Ellis, Lit. Letters, 4]. Your excellence herte and noble STOMAKE.

d.1563. Bale, Select Works, 313 When he had STOMACHED them by the Holy Ghost... He went forward with them... conquering in them the prince of this world.

1570. Ascham, Scholemaster. 123 Many learned men have written... with great contrarietie and some STOMACKE amongst them selues.

1582. Hakluyt, Voyages, ii. 23 King Richard, moued in STOMACKE against King Philip, never shewed any gentle countenance of peace & amitie.

c.1589. Greene, Alphonsus, iii. If that any STOMACH this my deed, Alphonsus can revenge my wrong with speed.

1596. Jonson, Every Man in Humour, iii. 2. O plague on them all for me!... O, I do STOMACH them hugely.

1601. Shakspeare, Hen. VIII., iv. 2, 34. He was a man of an unbounded STOMACH.


1641. Baker, Chronicles, 50. He was able to pull down the high STOMACHS of the Prelates.

1677. Wycherley, Plain Dealer, iii. 1. If I had but any body to stand by me, I am as STOMACHFULL as another.

d.1704. Browne, Works, ii. 70. I have not had an opportunity till now, of telling you what STICKS IN MY STOMACH.

1821. Scott, Pirate, xviii. Truths which are as unwelcome to a PROUD STOMACH as wet clover to a cow's.

1856. Motley, Dutch Repub., i. 76. The priests talk... of absolution in such terms that laymen can not STOMACH it.

1857. Dickens, Little Dorrit. He has a proud STOMACH, this chap.

1866. Howells, Venetian Life, vi. If you wipe your plate and glass carefully before using them, they need not STOMACH you.

Stomach-timber, subs. phr. (old).
—Food: cf. BELLY-TIMBER.

1820. Coombe, Syntax, ii. vii. As Prior tells, a clever poet... The main strength of every member Depends upon the STOMACH TIMBER.

Stomach-worm, subs. phr. (old).
—Hunger: 'the STOMACH-WORM gnaws' = I am hungry (Grose)

Stone, subs. (vulgar).—In pl. = the testes. Hence STONE-HORSE = a STALLION (q.v.); STONE-PRIEST = a lascivious cleric; STONE FRUIT = children. TO TAKE A STONE UP IN THE EAR (venery) = to play the whore; TWO STONE UNDER WEIGHT (or WANTING) = castrated.

1598. Florio, World of Wordes, s.v. Coglioni, the STONES or testicles of a man.
c. 1600. Haughton, Grim the Collier, v. But ne'er hereafter let me take you With wanton love-tricks, lest I make you Example to all stone-priests ever. To deal with other men's loves never.

c. 1600. Merry Devil of Edmonton, iv. 1. The stone-priest steals more venison than half the country. Ibid., iv. 2. I would to God my mill were an eunuch, And wanted her stones, so I were hence.

1602. Marston, Ant. and Melida, ii. 1, 3. My grandfathers great stone-horse, flinging up his head, and jerking out his left leg.


1608. Merry Devil of Edmonton [Dodsley, Old Plays, xi. 155]. The villainous vicar is abroad in the chase this dark night: the stone-priest steals more venison than half the county.

1609. Jonson, Silent Woman, v. x. The stone-priest steals more venison than half the country. Ibid., iv. 2.

1611. Cotgrave, Dict., s.v. Entier... cheval entier, a stone-horse. Ibid., s.v. Couillon, stone, or that wants not his stones. Ibid., s.v. Couillon, a cod, stone, testicle, cullion.

1622. Marmion, Holland's Leaguer, v. 4. When her husband has followed strange women, she has turned him into a bezar [goat], And made him bite out his own stones.


1678. Cotton, Virgil Travestie (1770), 68. I hate a base cowardly drone, Worse than a Rigil with one stone.

1704. Brown, Works, i. 60. My spouse, alas! must flaut in silks no more, Pray heav'n for sustenance she turn not whore; And daughter Betty too, in time, I fear, Will learn to take a stone up in her ear.

Adj. (old).—In combination = quite; wholly: e.g., stone-blind, stone-cold, stone-dead, stone-still, &c.: cf. stock (B. E. and Grose).

c. 1330. Romance of Seven Sages [Weber, Metrical Romances, iii.]. [Oliphant, New Eng., i. 16. Among the adjectives we find blind so ston. Ibid. The substantive qualifies the adjective as stane still (p. 141).]

[?]. Percival, 841. Ever satt Percyvelle stone-stille, And spakke nothyng.

[?]. Rom. of Partenay [E.E.T.S], 312. The Geant was by Gaffray don bore, So discomfite, standehe, and all cold.

1597. Shakespear, Richard III., iv. 4, 227. The murderous knife was dull and blunt Till it was whetted on thy stone-hard heart.

1605. Jonson, Volpone, i. 1. He cannot be so stupid, or stone-dead.

1609. Davies, Humour's Heaven on Earth, 47. For the contagion was so violent (The wil of Heau'n ordaining so the same) As often strook stone-dead incontinent.

1618. Sylvester, Du Bartas, v. i. 434. The Remora fixing her feeble horn into the tempest-beating vessel's stern, Stayes her stone-still.


1856. Eliot, Mr. Gilfil, xviii. I thought I saw everything, and was stone-blind all the while.

Colloquialisms.—To kill two birds with one stone = to do (or achieve) a double purpose: cf. (Foxe) 'to stop two gaps with one bush'; To leave no stone unturned = to spare no endeavour; To mark with a white stone = to single out as lucky or esteemed; To live in a glass house and yet throw stones = to lay oneself open to blame or attack.

1623. Mabbe, Spanish Rogue (1660). He threw stones on my housetop, but when he found his own [tiles] to be of glass, he left his flinging.

1650-5. Howell, Letters, 91. He who hath glasse windows of his own, should take heed how he throwes stones at those of his neighbours.

1656. Hobbes, Liberty (1841), 117. T. H. thinks to kill two birds with one stone, and satisfy two arguments with one answer.

1657. Dryden, Aeneid, ii. 133. New crimes invented, Left unturn'd no stone To make my guilt appear, and hide his own.
Stone-bee. See Bee.

Stone-broke (Stone-y or Stony-broke), adj. phr. (common).—
Penniless; Hard-up (q.v.); Pebble-beached (q.v.).

1897. Harry Fludyer, 122. Pat said he was stoney or broke or something but he gave me a sov., which was ripping of him.

Stone-dooublet (-Jug, -Pitcher, or -Tavern), subs. phr. (old).—
A prison: spec. Newgate (B. E., Grose, and Vaux). Also Jug (q.v.).

1653. Uронhart, Rabelais, iv. xii. In danger of miserably rotting within a Stone Doublet, as if he had struck the King.

d.1704. Brown, Works, ii. 300. Once more... observe... for I am not at leisure to trifle any longer with you: otherwise a Stone Doublet is the word.

1834. Ainsworth, Rookwood, 'Jerry Juniper's Chant.' In a box of the Stone-jug I was born.

1836. Dickens, Sketches by Boz, 'Prisoner's Van.' Six weeks and labour... and that's better than the Stone Jug anyhow. Ibid. (1838), Oliver Twist, viii.

"Was you never on the mill?" "What mill?" enquired Oliver. "What mill? why the mill—the mill as takes up so little room that it 'll work inside a Stone-jug."

Stone-fence, subs. phr. (common).—Brandy and ale; Breaky-leg (q.v.).

1862. E. MacDermott, Pop. Guide to Int. Exhib., 1862, 185. An American bar where visitors may indulge in... eye-openers, Stone Fences, and a variety of similar beverages.

Stone-wall, subs. (Australian).—
1. Parliamentary obstruction: also as verb. Hence (2) verb. = to obstruct business at any meeting, chiefly by long-winded speeches; and (3) to play a slow game at cricket, blocking balls rather than making runs.

1774. Bridges, Burlesque Homer, 180. Thus swimmingly the knave went on, And Killed Two Birds with Every Stone.

Stone-wall, subs. (Australian).—
1. Parliamentary obstruction: also as verb. Hence (2) verb. = to obstruct business at any meeting, chiefly by long-winded speeches; and (3) to play a slow game at cricket, blocking balls rather than making runs.

1876. Victorian Hansard, Jan., xii. 1837. Mr. G. Paton Smith wished to ask the honourable member for Geelong West whether the six members sitting beside him (Mr. Berry) constituted the 'stone wall' that had been spoken of? Did they constitute the Stone Wall which was to oppose all progress.

1885. Campbell Praed, Head Station, 35. He is great at Stone-walling tactics, and can talk against time by the hour.

1900. Kennard, Right Sort, xxii. I lay claim to no such exalted pretensions... although I flatter myself I can see through a Stone Wall as clearly as most people. Still that's not saying much.
Stoobs, subs. (back slang).—Boots.

Stop, verb. (pugilists').—To ward off; to parry.

Stop-hole Abbey, subs. phr. (Old Cant).—See quot.

Stopper, subs. (common).—A finisher (q.v.); a settler (q.v.): see Whopper.

1836. Dana, Before the Mast, 304. The last resort, that of speculating upon the future, seemed now to fail us, for our discouraging situation, and the danger we were really in (as we expected every day to find ourselves drifted back among the ice) "clapped a stopper" upon all that.

1887. Field, 19 Feb. Here we come immediately upon a stopper, unless it can be happily shunted.

Stopping Oyster. See Oyster.

Storrac, subs. pl. (rhyming).—Carrots.

Storekeeper, subs. (American).—An unsaleable article: a shopkeeper (English), which see.


1840. Barham, Ingolds. Leg. I wrote the lines... owned them; he told stories.

1848. Thackeray, Vanity Fair, xliv. Becky gave her brother-in-law a bottle of white wine, some that Rawdon had brought with him from France... the little story-teller said.

1887. Referee, 17 April. As they can't all be true some of them must be stories.

Blind story, subs. phr. (old).—A pointless narrative.

1699. Bentley, Phal., Pref., 64. He insinuates a blind story about somebody and something.

1762-71. Walpole, Virtue’s Anec. Paint. (1786), ii. 75. This story which in truth is but a blind one.

See Upper Story.

Stoter (or Stotor), subs. (Old Cant).—A violent blow: e.g., 'Tip him a stoter in the haltering place' = 'Give it him under the left ear' (B. E. and Grose). Hence a settler (q.v.).

Stoupe, verb. (old).—To give up [Halliwell: 'A cant term'].

Stout, subs. (B. E.).—1. 'Very strong Malt-drink' [Latham: Note to quot. 1720 in Swift, Works (1744): 'a cant word for strong beer'].

2. (Stock Exchange).—In pl. = Guinness’s shares.

Stout across the narrow, phr. (common).—Full bellied; corpulent.

1901. Troddles, xix. Troddles really is rather stout across the narrow, you know.

Stove-pipe (or Stove-pipe-hat), subs. phr. (common).—A tall hat; a chimney-pot (q.v.). Fr. tuyan de poêle.

1867. Galaxy, 632. Pickpockets rejoice in neatly fitting suits, spotless linen, sparkling pins and ornaments, and stove-pipe hats, tall and glossy... worn jauntily on one side.

Stow, verb. (Old Cant).—1. To hold one's tongue; to keep quiet; to leave off: e.g., 'Stow it!' = 'Be quiet'; 'Stow your whidds and plant 'em; for the cove of the Ken can cant 'em' = 'Take care what you say, for the Master of the House understands you' (Harmain, B. E., Grose, and Vaux). Also Stowmarket (Bee).

1838. Dickens, Oliver Twist. 'Stow that gammon,' interposed the robber.

1887. Gilbert, Ruddigore. But 'tain't for a British seaman to brag, so I'll just stow my jawin' tackle, and belay.

Stozzle, verb. (American).—To drink. Hence stozzled = drunk; see screwed.

End of Vol. VI.